

01/03/18

Corruption; HRDs; Berta - HRDs, Commemoration; (Re)Elections - US, Repression; MADJ; Impunity Pact; MP; IACtHR; Labor Rights; and Apostle Thomas in Honduras

After having been highlighted in many reports on corruptions in the past years, the former First Lady Rosa Elena de Lobo has now been arrested. The MACCIH investigates a 12 million Lempiras withdrawal from the Office of the First Lady just days before her husband's term ended. And this is just one of several investigations against her by the MACCIH and the Special Prosecutor Unit against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC).

After being heard by a judge, de Lobo was sent to the women's prison in Támara, Francisco Morazán.

ATIC seized her properties.

The MACCIH held a press conference yesterday informing about their investigation and the arrest.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) also highlights its role in the investigation.

They also demand that this is only the beginning of a more thorough action against the corruption networks in Honduras.

Criterio reports that de Lobo used the bank Ficohsa for the "atypical transactions".

In a third article, Criterio lists some of the usages of the stolen money.

JOH reacted with a press release promising judicial independence.

Criminologist Arabesca Sánchez sees her arrest as part of the recent high profile corruption cases in Central America.

<http://elpulso.hn/capturan-a-exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/28/envian-carcel-tamara-la-ex-primera-dama-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/residencias-terrenos-rosa-elena-lobo-atic/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2732-cerebro-de-la-red-caja-chica-de-la-dama-esposa-de-expresidente-hondureno>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-cna-ex-primera-dama-rosa-elena-lobo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-exhorta-que-captura-de-exprimera-dama-sea-el-inicio-para-desarticular-redes-corruptas.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/28/ex-primera-dama-blanqueo-los-fondos-publicos-traves-banco-ficohsa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/28/ex-primera-dama-pago-colegiaturas-cirugias-familiares-fondos-saqueados-al-estado-maccih/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/28/caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama-maccih-revela-que-dinero-drenado-por-bonilla-fue-para-pagos-personales/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/02/28/tras-detencion-de-ex-primera-dama-joh-promete-respetar-independencia-de-poderes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/detencion-de-bonilla-de-lobo-se-suma-a-casos-emplomaticos-de-centroamerica-arabesca-sanchez.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the first day in court against the three police officials accused of ordering the attack against human rights defenders and students in September 2017.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2051-en-audiencia-de-imputado-hoy-victimas-de-policias-torturadores-esperan-carcel-para-victimarios>

The Guardian reports that "Latin American countries are poised to agree the world's first legally binding convention to protect environmental defenders at a conference in Costa Rica."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/28/latin-america-poised-to-agree-worlds-first-legal-pact-for-nature-defenders>

The possibility of such a convention is also linked to the murder of Berta Cáceres which two years ago sent shock waves through the world. Yesterday, the political opposition commemorated her and demanded the elimination of the concession for the Agua Zarca project.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/28/bancada-libre-inicia-conmemoracion-segundo-aniversario-asesinato-berta-caceres/>

US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky criticizes the meeting between the US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, with JOH. She tweeted that "[t]he United States and its emissaries should stand with the people of Honduras who demand democracy, not the leaders who attempt to thwart it. This is shameful."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/28/congresista-democrata-condena-reunion-nikki-haley-hernandez/>

C-Libre denounces the recent repression against a protest outside of the UN in Honduras.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/reprimen-manifestaci%C3%B3n-frente-naciones-unidas-en-tegucigalpa>

MADJ celebrates the conviction of Carlos Roberto Luque Varela for the murder of the three Tolupán leaders Ricardo Soto Fúnez, Armando Fúnez and María Enriqueta Matute in August 2013.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/02/28/Justicia-para-el-pueblo-tolup%C3%A1n-Condanan-a-45-a%C3%B1os-de-c%C3%A1rcel-al-asesino-de-tres-ind%C3%ADgenas-integrantes-del-MADJ>

Congress further discussed the Impunity Pact yesterday and there seems to be a lot of (created?) confusion.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/temen-que-reforma-a-ley-de-presupuesto-arrope-a-condenados-por-corrupcion.html>

El Pulso spoke with Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez about the coming elections of the Attorney General and her views on Óscar Chinchilla.

<http://elpulso.hn/doris-gutierrez-oscar-chinchilla-se-ha-fortalecido-desde-la-llegada-de-la-macchih/>

AIDA celebrates a recent decision by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to recognize the right to a clean environment as a basis for human existence.

http://www.aida-americas.org/es/release/corte-interamericana-establece-precedente-historico-para-la-proteccion-de-los-derechos-humanos?utm_source=2018+February+Newsletter+%28ESP%29+&utm_campaign=Feb2018+Bolet%C3%83%C2%ADn&utm_medium=email

After two months, the strike at the banana plantations of Chiquita Brands in Honduras continues. Now C-Libre denounces that the company fired 77 workers for their peaceful protest for collective bargaining rights.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/empleados-despedidos-por-realizar-manifestaciones-en-defensa-de-contrato-colectivo>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4266-dudas-y-dudas-28-febrero-2018>

02/03/18

HRDs - UNAH, MAS, Protection; Berta - Impunity; Corruption; MP; Impunity Pact; Women's Rights; Workers' Rights; Lawyers; National Party; and Prison Wedding

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to report on the trial against three police officials held responsible for the attack against human rights defenders and university students in September 2017. The judge decided against judicial detention and the three police officials can await trial on March 13 in freedom and not suspended from their positions.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2052-jueza-le-dio-un-si-a-la-impunidad-oficiales-torturadores-no-fueron-a-prision-y-permaneceran-en-sus-altos-cargos>

Defensores en Línea spoke with the family members of Luís Fernando Ayala, the 16-year old human rights defender at MAS who was brutally murdered two weeks ago. They demand justice for him and are accompanied by COFADEH on this quest.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familia-exige-que-crimen-de-menor-mutilado-no-quede-en-la-impunidad/>

The IACHR and the UN Human Rights Offices in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico announced to deepen their joint action to advance an effective implementation of a mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders in the Americas.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2097747993799321>

UNAH students held a protest demanding justice for Berta Cáceres, but they were repressed by the police with tear gas.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/01/policia-honduras-lanza-gas-se-enfrenta-piedras-estudiantes-universitarios/>

ConfidencialHN reprints the press release by the MACCIH on its investigation of the former First Lady, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo (see yesterday).

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle writes a critical commentary on these recent events, putting her arrest in perspective and linking it also to the recent visit of US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/01/maccih-sindica-a-banco-ficohsa-en-lavado-de-dinero-hecho-por-ex-primera-dama/>

<http://elpulso.hn/conferencia-de-prensa-maccih-captura-de-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/01/cuando-ya-no-estas-ahi-la-vision-profundis-la-rosa-mistica/>

ContraCorriente believes that de Lobo's arrest prepared the ground for Oscar Fernando Chinchilla's reelection as Attorney General.

Radio Progreso agrees, but laments that the campaign to promote his reelection has not pay enough attention to the question of impunity which defined his five years in office.

Political analyst Raúl Pineda writes that Chinchilla will stay the Attorney General because "he is a friend of the system and he suits the political elite.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/03/01/caso-ex-primera-dama-aplana-camino-reeleccion-del-fiscal/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4270-una-captura-que-profundiza-campa%C3%B1a-para-reelegir-a-fiscal>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/01/chinchilla-continuara-la-fiscalia-le-conviene-la-clase-politica/>

At least eleven Nationalist congresswo/men sought out the Special Prosecutor Unit against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC) to find out if they are being investigated regarding the Impunity Pact.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/01/11-diputados-nacionalistas-se-presentan-ante-ufecic-pacto-impunidad/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2735-temor-invade-a-diputados-nacionalistas-por-fantasma-en-fe-de-erratas>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputados-nacionalistas-llegan-a-ufecic-para-conocer-investigaciones-que-son-objeto.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1156846-466/diputados-se-presentan-a-la-ufecic-para-saber-si-son-investigados-por>

COFADEH's Berta Oliva laments that Honduras will commemorate the coming International Women's Day "in the middle of a dictatorship poised to especially subjugate the voice of determined woman, the organized woman, the woman demanding change and who is capable to make the world tremble."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mensaje-de-bertha-oliva-estamos-viviendo-un-gran-retroceso-como-mujeres-y-como-sociedad/>

The strike at the transnational Chiquita Honduras has been going on for 63 days now. It took a turn to the worse when the company announced to fire 77 employees and suspend another 700 for more than six months.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4269-en-el-valle-de-sula-huelga-bananera-se-extiende-mientras-transnacional-se-niega-negociar>

The lawyer Saddle Karina Araque Machado was murdered yesterday in Puerto Cortés.

<https://tiempo.hn/abogada-puerto-cortes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asesinan-a-una-abogada-en-puerto-cortes.html>

The National Party celebrated its 116th anniversary and Radio Progreso takes a critical look at its past and presence.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4268-escoba-hist%C3%B3rica-01-marzo-2018>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/01/privados-libertad-carcel-pozo-contraen-nupcias/>

03/03/18

Berta - Commemoration, Investigation, Hydroelectricity; HRDs; Femicide; Military Police; Corruption; Penitentiary System; Economy; and Honduras vs. Ecuador Part II

Honduras and the world commemorated yesterday the life of Berta Cáceres who was murdered two years ago. Among the voices calling for justice and an end to impunity were Amnesty International as well as EU-LAT network and CIDSE, which is made up of 57 European and international organizations. The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras emitted a press release highlighting the responsibility of the Honduran state to investigate. And so does the US.

The international media also covered it. El País printed a report by Berta's daughter Berta Zúniga of the day she received the phone call about her mother's murder.

I link to some further commemorations and calls for justice.

Galel Cárdenas published a poem.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/03/honduras-failure-to-identify-those-behind-bertha-caceres-murder-puts-other-activists-at-risk/>

<http://www.cidse.org/newsroom/press-release-justice-for-berta-caceres-protection-for-the-defense-of-human-rights-in-latin-america.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-dos-de-marzo-la-primera-plana-para-berta-caceres-despierta-humanidad-no-hay-tiempo/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/oacnudh-continua-expresando-su-apoyo-a-la-familia-de-berta-caceres-y-su-acompanamiento-en-los-esfuerzos-por-la-busqueda-de-la-verdad/>

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/02/ee-uu-isnta-al-gobierno-honduras-lleve-la-justicia-los-asesinos-berta-caceres/>

https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/03/01/america/1519941026_243077.html

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/03/we-will-achieve-real-justice-for-berta-caceres/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/4274-berta-de-marzo>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/191384>

<https://nicaraguaymasespanol.blogspot.ch/2018/03/berta-dos-anos-de-tu-siembra-tus.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4273-a-dos-a%C3%B1os-del-crimen-contra-berta-c%C3%A1ceres-contin%C3%BAa-voces-de-justicia>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-dos-anos-de-su-asesinato-exigen-mayores-avances-en-la-investigacion-del-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/191378>

The pressure by Berta's family, Honduran human rights organization and the international community has been strong for two years and as a reaction to that (or more cynically, as a way to divert the attention away from the international calls to the JOH regime criticizing its human rights record and as another argument for the reelection of the Attorney General), the MP announced yesterday out of the blue that David Castillo, President of DESA (the company behind Agua Zarca) and a former Military Intelligence Officer, was arrested for the murder of Berta. COPINH believes that the arrest is thanks to the work and pressure created by the national and international organizations and explicitly states that it is not thanks to the MP which rather tried to cover up the truth.

Nina Lakhani has already reported on the arrest for the Guardian. DESA reacts by denouncing the arrest.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/70-mar-2018/2672-atic-captura-a-presidente-ejecutivo-de-la-empresa-desarrollos-energeticos-desa-por-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1157040-466/capturan-a-implicado-en-muerte-de-la-ambientalista-berta-c%C3%A1ceres>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2018/03/la-posicion-del-copinh-ante-la-captura.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/03/02/una-captura-se-la-presion-popular/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2738-autor-intelectual-de-asesinato-a-berta-cobraba-sueldos-en-ffaa-y-enee>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/02/berta-caceres-death-murder-ex-honduran-military-intelligence-officer-arrested>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/02/desa-denuncia-campana-para-arrestar-al-supuesto-autor-del-crimen-de-berta/>

<https://tiempo.hn/desa-pide-liberar-supuesto-autor-intelectual-muerte-berta-caceres/>

Berta's family demands a report by the MP about the 49 hydroelectric projects in Santa Bárbara, Intibucá, Lempira and La Paz denounced by Berta as illegal.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/02/familia-bertha-caceres-pide-informe-49-proyectos-hidroelectricos-fueron-denunciados-asesinato-video/>

ConexiHon covers Thursday's day in court in the case of the three police officials held responsible for an attack against human rights defenders and students in September 2017. ConexiHon criticizes that the officials are allowed to await the trial in freedom.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/589-la-impunidad-se-pone-a-la-orden-de-policias-que-agredieron-a-defensores-y-estudiantes>

El Pulso spoke with Suyapa Martínez of the Women's Rights Study Center of Honduras (CEM-H) about femicide and the responsibility of the Honduran state.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-femicidios-la-ultima-frontera-perdida-del-estado/>

JOH handed over 45 new vehicles to the Military Police "to increment its operative capacity", that is to the institution held responsible for murdering Honduran citizens in the post-electoral crisis.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/02/joh-da-insumos-para-reforzar-la-militarizacion-en-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pmop-es-determinante-para-que-honduras-sea-ejemplo-internacional-en-seguridad-hernandez.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1157152-466/presidente-entrega-patrullas-camiones-y-chalecos-a-la-polic%C3%ADa-militar>

The former president Pepe Lobo was not allowed to attend the audience of his wife Rosa Elena de Lobo who faces corruption charges.

The MP, meanwhile, reaffirmed the accusations against her, nine in total.

And some Nationalist congresswo/men showing their real color denounce a "witch hunt" for "alleged" corruption.

InSight Crime finds clear words regarding the case against de Lobo: "The arrest of the former first lady of Honduras is another nail in the coffin for the Lobo family, the scapegoat of Honduras' elites, as President Juan Orlando Hernández attempts to legitimize his government, ingratiate himself with US President Donald Trump and demonstrate his commitment to the fight against corruption."

De Lobo's lawyer say that she received death threats when arriving at the prison last Wednesday.

TSC magistrate Ricardo Rodríguez wonders why the MP did not act back in 2015 when they presented them a report on corruption involving de Lobo.

Oscar Marroquín asks when they finally will arrest JOH.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/02/expulsan-a-expresidente-de-honduras-de-la-audiencia-de-su-esposa11/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1156955-410/porfirio_lobo-rosa_elena_de_lobo-honduras

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/02/cuestionan-expulsion-de-pepe-lobo-de-audiencia-de-exprimera-dama11/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/02/cuatro-zapatos-para-la-escuela-de-la-aldea/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/02/reafirman-acusaciones-contra-exprimera-dama/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/02/nacionalistas-denuncian-caceria-de-brujas-por-senalamientos-de-presunta-corrupcion/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-sacrifices-allies-legitimacy-arrest-former-first-lady/>

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncian-amenazas-muerte-ex-primera-dama-rosa-elena-lobo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tsc-encontro-responsabilidad-penal-en-investigacion-a-rosa-de-lobo-en-caso-praf.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/02/cuando-sera-capturado-joh/>

The head of Dinaf, Lolis Salas, announced a series of investigation into the habit of past administration to sell children of inmates.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/dinaf-investiga-venta-de-ninos-de-privadas-de-libertad-en-administraciones-pasadas.html>

The US praises the Honduran-Guatemalan (and soon El Salvadorian) border union.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-ve-union-aduanera-guatemala-honduras-como-el-futuro-de-la-economia.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-pide-a-ecuador-retirar-candidatura-a-asamblea-de-onu-segun-diario.html>

A dos años del asesinato de Berta Cáceres:

OACNUDH reitera la urgencia de profundizar la investigación para el esclarecimiento de la verdad y la sanción de todos los responsables.

Tegucigalpa 2 de marzo 2018.- La Oficina del Alto Comisionado de los Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas en Honduras (OACNUDH), en el marco del segundo aniversario del asesinato de la defensora de derechos humanos y ambientalista Berta Cáceres y tentativa de asesinato del ambientalista Gustavo Castro desea expresar lo siguiente:

Reiteramos la responsabilidad del Estado de investigar este caso, con la debida diligencia lo cual conlleva la obligación del Estado de realizar una investigación que sea expedita, independiente, pronta y exhaustiva, que agote la extensión de las diferentes autorías y grados de participación, permitiendo conocer la verdad de los hechos y la reparación de las víctimas y sus familiares.

El Estado además deberá garantizar el derecho de las víctimas a participar en el proceso, lo cual implica que tengan acceso y capacidad de actuar en todas las etapas e instancias de dichas investigaciones y procesos judiciales a través de la figura de acusación privada.

En este sentido, la Oficina considera importante que el ente de investigación y persecución penal pueda dar respuesta en un plazo razonable a las solicitudes presentadas por la acusación privada, incluyendo el requerimiento presentado el pasado mes de octubre sobre posibles autorías intelectuales a la luz de hallazgos encontrados en documentación compartida, mediante orden judicial. La Oficina reconoce el incremento gradual del acceso a la información en relación a las diligencias investigativas, no obstante, se siguen observando fuertes desafíos en materia de transparencia en cuanto a la falta de claridad sobre los criterios seguidos para determinar de la secretividad de la información.

La Oficina desea recordar que la limitación de este acceso debe imponerse en la medida estrictamente necesaria para garantizar la plena efectividad de la participación de la acusación privada.

Como parte de las medidas de no repetición, la Oficina considera fundamental que el Estado de Honduras en atención a las recomendaciones de los órganos de tratados y procedimientos especiales de Naciones Unidas, adopte las medidas que permitan superar las debilidades institucionales y normativas que persisten en el país para que los pueblos indígenas puedan tener un acceso efectivo a la justicia y obtener una protección judicial de sus derechos, incluyendo la protección de sus territorios y recursos naturales.

Como ya fue señalado por la Relatora Especial sobre Pueblos Indígenas, el Estado Hondureño tiene la obligación de desarrollar y fortalecer mecanismos específicos y permanentes que permitan a los pueblos indígenas presentar sus demandas y obtener una reparación por violaciones a los derechos sobre sus tierras y recursos conforme al Convenio núm. 169 de la OIT y la Declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas.

La Oficina reitera la obligación del Estado de establecer un marco normativo e institucional que garantice el goce de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas, siendo la consulta previa un pilar fundamental para tal fin. Igualmente importante es investigar los posibles actos de corrupción y abuso de autoridad que hayan posibilitado la adjudicación de recursos naturales en detrimento del derecho a la consulta y consentimiento libre, previo e informado.

Aparejado a esta obligación estatal, la Oficina invita a que las empresas incorporen gradualmente los Principios Rectores de Naciones Unidas sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos, que garanticen el respeto de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas, sus tradiciones, prácticas y procedimientos de decisión, particularmente en proyectos que puedan tener una afectación a sus medios de vida y territorios.

La OACNUDH continúa expresando su apoyo a la familia de Berta Cáceres y su acompañamiento en los esfuerzos por la búsqueda de la verdad, reitera al Ministerio Público su ofrecimiento de colaboración para avanzar en el esclarecimiento del crimen e identificar las responsabilidades tanto materiales como intelectuales.

Finalmente, OACNUDH reconoce y apoya el rol fundamental de la labor de las personas defensoras de derechos humanos en una sociedad democrática, recordando al estado la obligación de tomar medidas que garanticen un entorno seguro y propicio para la no-repetición de ataques y crímenes de esta naturaleza.

04/03/18

Berta - Trial; HRDs; Corruption - de Lobo, Congresswo/men, Catholic Church; Labor Rights; Economy; and Corruption as a Governance System

Roberto David Castillo Mejía, the head of DESA, was arrested two days ago accused of being involved in the murder of Berta Cáceres. He has to await trial in prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/la-carcel-presunto-autor-intelectual-beta-caceres/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1157255-466/en-audiencia-de-declaracion-imputado-noveno-implicado-en-crimen-contraberta-caceres>

Defensores en Línea re-tells the events of September 8, 2017, when the police brutally attacked human rights defenders and UNAH students, the former accompanying the latter in an attempt to preserve the respect for human rights. In last week's audience, a judge decided that the accused police officials may remain in their position and await trial in freedom.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-dia-que-defender-y-denunciar-violaciones-a-ddhh-fue-delito/>

On Monday, the judge Vera Barahona will announce if the case against the former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo and her brother-in-law Mauricio Mora will go to trial.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/03/sin-la-presencia-de-ex-primeradama-el-lunes-se-emitira-fallo-judicial-que-definira-su-futuro/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1157383-410/rosa_elena_lobo-exprimera_dama-honduras-expresidente_porfirio_lobo-

The former public prosecutor Edmundo Orellana Mercado interprets the recent visits by Nationalist congresswo/men to the Special Prosecution Unit against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC) as a threat. Officially, the congresswo/men went there to find out if they are being investigated, but Orellana Mercado believes it mostly served to intimidate the staff.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/03/visita-diputados-nacionalistas-la-ufecic-accion-evidentemente-amenazante-edmundo-orellana/>

The Italian newspaper continues to publish new evidence of corrupt behavior by the Honduran Cardinal, Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga. The case goes back to 2012 and the victims were Martha Alegria Reichmann and her husband Alejandro Valladares, the Honduran ambassador of 22-years to the Vatican. He died at the end of 2013. Criterio reproduced the article in Spanish.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/03/periodico-italiano-publica-nuevo-reportaje-supuesta-corrupcion-del-cardenal-rodriguez-maradiaga/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/03/los-cargos-contrabrazo-derecho-del-papa/>

Even though the strike at Chiquita Honduras has been going on for almost 70 days, media coverage so far was limited to Radio Progreso. Now, after the announcement by the company to fire and suspend employees, there seems to be more interest in this important struggle. Even CONADEH reacted saying that it may lead to serious violations of human rights. Bananas are an important Honduran export good, whose value reached \$522.5 million in 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/agudizacion-del-conflicto-en-empresa-bananera-podria-derivaren-graves-violaciones-a-ddhh-advierte-conadeh.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/03/68-dias-de-paro-en-bananera-chiquita-honduras-company-por-cambios-en-beneficios-laborales/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/03/exportacion-agricola-crece-42-5-millones/>

The Costa Rican ambassador to Honduras, Eugenio Trejos, told Proceso Digital that Central America should think about a regional custom's union. Guatemala and Honduras already have one and El Salvador is about to join.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/centroamerica-debe-tener-una-union-aduanera-completa-dice-embajador-costarricense-en-honduras.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4276-la-corrupci%C3%B3n-es-el-sistema-de-gesti%C3%B3n-p%C3%BAblica-03-marzo-2018>

05/03/18

Berta - Impunity; (Re)Elections - EU; MILPAH; Corruption - de Lobo, Catholic Church; Fire Arms; PAC; Deportation; and Surrogacy in Honduras?

COPINH presents detailed information about the recently arrested Roberto David Castillo Mejía and calls for the arrest of the intellectual authorship of Berta's assassination.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.ch/2018/03/el-ultimo-imputado-por-el-asesinato-de.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/04/quien-noveno-implicado-capturado-caso-berta-caceres/>

The EU Electoral Observation Mission will present its final report today.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/04/union-europea-presentara-este-lunes-informe-final-la-observacion-electoral-2017/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jefe-de-ue-informe-elecciones-generales/>

"First they took away our valley and now they want us gone from the mountains they have sent us to; where are we supposed to live?" This asks Hilario Hernández, member of the indigenous Lenca organization MILPAH.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/indigenas-lencas-de-la-paz-preocupados-por-grandes-concesiones-en-sus-montanas/>

According to Criterio, the former president Pepe Lobo was informed by the OABI that he has to leave his house in El Chimbo, Santa Lucia, Francisco Morazán in the coming 30 days.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/04/oabi-le-ordena-pepe-lobo-desaloje-casa-chimbo/>

Reporteros de Investigación translated another article by the Italian newspaper L'Espresso about the corruption allegations against the Honduran Cardinal Oscar Maradiaga.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/04/una-viuda-denuncia-al-cardenal-maradiaga-fraude-por-su-culpa-he-perdido-todo-mi-dinero/>

Congress will discuss this week the Firearms Control Bill.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/proxima-semana-inicia-discusion-de-la-version-final-de-ley-de-armas.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nueva-ley-de-control-de-armas-mejorara-controles-de-registro-de-usuarios-mario-perez.html>

According to the former congressman Virgilio Padilla, there is an attempt to take back the Anti-Corruption Party PAC and hand it over to Salvador Nasralla again.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/04/crean-movimiento-de-rescate-para-quitarse-el-pac-a-marlene1/>

The number of deported Hondurans has increased by over 14% in the first two months of 2018 compared to last year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportaciones-de-hondurenos-se-incrementan-en-14-11-en-2018-segun-datos-oficiales.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/ley-de-vientres-de-alquiler-una-posibilidad-real-en-honduras.html>

06/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security, Criminalization; MACCIH; Berta - Impunity; (Re)Elections - EU; Militarization; Solar Energy; Hydroelectricity; Corruption - de Lobo; JOH's Cabinet; MP; Women's Rights; Drug Trafficking; and Corruption and Violence against Journalists

Additionally to writing this news-roundup every morning, I am currently visiting a one-year MA-Program at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) in Brighton, UK. As part of my final dissertation, I will investigate the online communication patterns of Central American human rights defenders with a security perspective. There is no data on this to get a baseline I set up an online survey.

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Spanish: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=es>

English: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=en>

ConexiHon spoke with Betty Vásquez, the coordinator of the Santa Barbara Environmental Movement (MAS), about the increased repression and criminalization of HRDs after the electoral fraud.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/592-criminalizacion-de-ambientalistas-en-santa-barbara-aumento-despues-de-las-elecciones>

The former prosecutor at the MACCIH, Julio Cesar Arbizu, told Radio Progreso in an interview that high officials of the JOH regime had gone to Washington to talk to OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro while being investigated for corruption to hamper the investigation as well as the investigation into the murder of Berta Cáceres. Arbizu also contemplates

the possibility of an agreement between JOH and Almargo to keep the former in power. Arzibu insists that the OAS actively obstructed their work in Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/05/secretario-de-oea-acordo-continuidad-de-juan-orlando-y-obstaculizo-desde-washington-investigaciones-en-complicidad-con-personajes-corruptos/>

Amnesty International comments in a press release on the arrest of Roberto David Castillo, the executive president of Desarrollos Energéticos S.A. (DESA), for his involvement in the killing of Berta Cáceres that it "must be followed by further action against those behind the killing of Berta Cáceres".

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/honduras-arrest-of-desa-executive-must-be-followed-by-further-action-against-those-behind-the-killing-of-berta-caceres/>

The Electoral Observation Mission of the EU presented yesterday their final report. I haven't seen so far a link to the report, but Criterio reproduced its 15 recommendations. Everything you'd expect from a body not daring (anymore) to question the legality of the elections is in there, e.g. improvement of the electoral census, more neutral coverage by the main media outlets and their independence, gender equality,...All necessary steps but it does not live up to at all to the events between November 26 and today. It rather further serves to whitewash the fraud and the JOH regime.

It is, therefore, no surprise that the National Party welcomed the report accusing it to follow the line of the US.

And accordingly, the political opposition criticizes the report.

The former TSE magistrate Arístides "Tito" Mejía agrees that the recommendations do not correspond to the grave situation Honduras is living in.

According to the former chancellor under Zelaya, Milton Jiménez Puerto, the head of the EU mission, Marisa Matías, showed two faces. As a functionary she read the recommendations made by the report, but on a more personal level she also showed that she grasped the gravity of the events having taken place in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/05/conozca-las-15-recomendaciones-hoy-la-union-europea-honduras-materia-electoral/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2739-europa-excluye-de-reformas-a-la-autoridad-de-crisis-electoral>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/05/mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-la-union-europea-presenta-informe-final1/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/05/nacionalistas-se-congratulan-por-soso-informe-de-la-union-europea/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1157943-466/partido-nacional-apoya-el-informe-final-de-la-misi%C3%B3n-de-la-uni%C3%B3n>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/libre-critica-informe-de-la-ue-y-dice-que-sigue-misma-linea-de-eeuu.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/informe-de-la-moe-ue-no-tiene-validez-porque-no-tienen-el-conocimiento-tecnico-nasralla.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/05/recomendaciones-la-union-europea-no-trascendentes-la-grave-situacion-vive-honduras-aristides-mejia-video/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/la-ue-no-fue-suficientemente-categorica-en-su-informe-aristides-mejia.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/05/representante-la-union-europea-hablo-dos-terminos-milton-jimenez/>

Reinvigorated by the lack of international response to the electoral fraud, JOH tries to realize another of his dreams, to raise FUSINA to

the constitutional level. Some years back he tried to do the same thing with the Military Police and failed in Congress. In the meantime, his regime promised on the international level on several occasions that the Military Police is only temporary, while at home he strengthens it. As the Military Police is part of Fusina, he seems to try once more to make the Military Police more permanent.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-pide-al-cn-consolidar-fusina-mediante-decreto-legislativo.html>

ConexiHon published the second part of its investigation of the eviction taking place in Namasigüe, Choluteca against inhabitants protesting against the solar energy project Los Prados.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/593-cronica-del-despojo-fotovoltaica-los-prados-segunda-parte>

MADJ and the inhabitants of Pajuiles, Tela, will commemorate on March 22 the one-year anniversary of their "honorable camps for water and life", which they build in defense of the Mezapa River against the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/03/05/Marzo-1-a-a%C3%B1o-de-la-valiente-lucha-de-los-Campamentos-Dignos-en-Pajuiles-Tela>

The sitting judge decided to send the case of former First Lady Rosa Elena de Lobo and her brother-in-law to court. They are accused of money laundering and embezzlement of public funds.

11 properties of her have been seized.

According to La Prensa, she owns a house in Miami worth 10.4 million Lempiras and bought in 2017.

Radio Progreso offers a critical interpretation of de Lobo's arrest and the coming trial against her.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/05/dictan-auto-formal-procesamiento-prision-preventiva-rosa-elena-bonilla-cunado/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/05/unas-11-propiedades-han-sido-confiscadas-a-la-esposa-del-expresidente-lobo/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1157927-410/rosa_elena_de_lobo-compro-casa-miami-corrupcion-caja_chica-mi_rosa

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4277-sospechas-genera-captura-de-ex-primera-dama-rosa-elena-de-lobo>

JOH has a new PR minister, María Andrea Matamoros - the daughter of the president of the TSE, David Matamoros Batson who turned two blind eyes on the electoral fraud...

<http://elpulso.hn/15423-2/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/05/juramentan-como-ministra-asesora-de-comunicaciones-a-andrea-matamoros/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/juramentan-a-maria-andrea-matamoros-como-nueva-ministra-asesora-de-estrategia-y-comunicaciones.html>

Even though many sectors close to JOH are pushing him, the current Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla denies seeking a reelection.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/05/fiscal-general-de-honduras-niega-buscar-la-reeleccion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla-reeleccion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscal-chinchilla-no-busco-reeleccion-y-agradecio-reconocimiento-al-trabajo-del-mp.html>

The Center for Women's Studies informs about the session it held together with other human rights organization at the IACHR on the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in Central America.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/informe-situacion-de-derechos-sexuales-y-reproductivos-de-ninas-y-mujeres-en-centroamerica/>

ATIC and the MP conducted another operation against Los Cachiros drug cartel and arrested nine people.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/05/capturan-nueve-testaferros-socios-familiares-los-cachiros/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/591-corrupcion-profundiza-violencia-contra-periodistas>

07/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security; (Re)Elections - Political Prisoners, Forced Disappearance, EU, JOH; Penitentiary System; Berta - Trial; Militarization; Campesinx; Corruption - de Lobo, Seizures; Judicial Power; Fiscal Policy; and Life in Prison

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The Urgent Action launched to call for the freedom of Edwin Espinal and other political prisoners published a very worrisome update on their situation: "On March 3rd, day #46 of his unjust incarceration, political prisoner Edwin Espinal began a hunger strike to demand that he and other prisoners be taken to see a physician. There is a flu-like virus circulating in the military-run, maximum security "La Tolva" prison. Edwin and other prisoners have been refused medical attention for several days.

There is an extreme water shortage inside the La Tolva prison where two political prisoners - Edwin Espinal and Raul Eduardo Alvarez - are imprisoned. This morning, all prisoners throughout the jail had access to water for FIVE minutes. This means that 1000 prisoners had to flush and use toilets, get and store drinking water, and shower in the five minutes that the water was available. Outside of the time that water is

available, prisoners are forced to limit bathroom use because toilets are located inside the shared, enclosed cells. Plastic bottles are not permitted inside the jail making it impossible for prisoners to adequately save drinking water for their consumption throughout the day. After the water was turned off after five minutes this morning, throughout the prison, in unison inmates began to bang on the walls and make noise in any way possible. In some areas of the prison, prison guards shot tear gas into the common areas that are shared by approximately 200 people.

The horrific and dire conditions inside Honduran prisons is of no secret to the Honduran and foreign governments. The construction of military-run maximum security prison have only worsened these conditions particularly since its so difficult for national and international human rights organizations to enter the jail. These conditions can only be described as torture."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/preso-politico-edwin-espinal-esta-en-huelga-de-hambre-para-exigir-atencion-medica/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/urgente-policia-penitenciaria-usa-gas-lacrimogeno-contra-presos-edwin-espinal-sigue-su-huelga-de-hambre/>

Defensores en Línea reports of the difficult situation of the family of Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador, who was disappeared after being arrested by the Military Police on December 3, 2017.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sigue-la-angustia-de-los-familiares-de-manuel-de-jesus-a-tres-meses-de-su-desaparicion-forzada/>

I now have access to the final report by the Electoral Observation Mission by the EU (hat-tip to Andrea). Its summary starts like this: "The general elections of 2017, attended by parties and candidates from across the political spectrum, occurred in a context of strong polarization exacerbated by the candidacy of outgoing President Juan Orlando Hernández, following a ruling by the Supreme Court that declared the prohibition of the presidential re-election inapplicable and provoked a strong rejection of the opposition. After a campaign marked by the inequality of resources and coverage in the media in favor of the ruling party, the election day, well organized, it passed peacefully and the scrutiny went on in conditions of respect for the will of the voters, with strong presence of representatives of the main parties at the polling stations. The Supreme Court Electoral implemented a system of publication of electoral results that facilitated its verification by candidates and citizens.

The EU EOM regrets and condemns the death of at least 22 people during post-election protests and reiterates His call to the Honduran authorities to respect the right to peaceful demonstration." The report never speaks of fraud (except citing the political opposition) and now even claims that the shutdown of the server, which was followed by a unbelievable trend reversal in favor of JOH, was a purely technical problem (page 6).

Criterio published the reaction in form of a press release by Libre. The main media concentrates on a comment by the EU mission to create a special commission to follow up on their recommendations.

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/06/informe-de-la-union-europea-no-menciona-fraude-electoral-ni-nuevas-elecciones-anunciadas-por-almagro-partido-libre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-informe-ue-fraude/>

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/370437/union-europea-elecciones-presidenciales-fraude-herandez-nasralla>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/nasralla-desestima-informe-de-la-union-europea-por-deficiencias-tecnicas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/06/union-europea-senala-parcialidad-de-medios-de-comunicacion-de-honduras-a-favor-de-hernandez/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1158256-465/uni%C3%B3n-europea-crear%C3%A1-comisi%C3%B3n-para-impulsar-las-reformas-electorales>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/esperemos-que-no-quede-en-papel-mojado-las-recomendaciones-de-la-ue-sobre-las-reformas-electorales-luis-zelaya.html>

Joaquín A. Mejía Rivera addresses the question of the lack of legitimacy of JOH.

<https://joaquinmejiaivera.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/a-usted-senor-hernandez-le-falta-lo-mas.html>

As already mentioned above in the section about the political prisoners, there is currently a tuberculosis outbreak in the Honduran penitentiary system. Family members of inmates in the "high-security" prison El Pozo denounce various cases of TB.

ConfidencialHN reports that also La Tolva and the women's prison in Támara are affected.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/06/44498/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/epidemia-de-tuberculosis-afecta-los-penales-de-la-tolva-el-pozo-y-carcel-femenina/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2742-honduras-reos-son-altamente-propensos-a-enfermedades-mortales>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/conaprev-confirma-brote-de-tuberculosis-en-reos-de-carcel-el-pozo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/inp-confirma-40-casos-de-tuberculosis-en-carceles-del-pais-todos-bajo-tratamiento.html>

It is cynical how the Honduran elite reacts to the arrest of DESA director Roberto David Castillo. Elsie Paz, director of the Honduran Renewable Energy Association (AHER), who in the past compared COPINH to a Mara (see second link), said that "this situation is causing a great deal of frustration, feelings of powerlessness, and pain for all Hondurans"...

Olivia Zúniga makes an apt comparison between his treatment and the one of political prisoner Edwin Espinal. The former accused of being part of the operation behind the murder of Berta Cáceres and with links to the drug trafficker Rivera Maradiaga, the latter criminalized for protesting against electoral fraud. Guess who awaits trial in a "maximum security" prison...

The date of his initial audience, meanwhile, has been changed to tomorrow. CEJIL published a press release on the arrest and coming trial.

According to them, it backs up the work done by GAIPE which highlighted the collaboration between DESA and the Honduran state in criminalizing and repressing the resistance against Agua Zarca.

InSight Crime also reacts to the arrest calling it a "step in the right direction" but also highlighting that it "represents just one part of a much larger network of individuals involved in the crime who are still at large."

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/energy-sector-in-honduras-requests-the-immediate-release-of-desa-executive-300609389.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/como-es-tratado-por-la-justicia-hondurena-roberto-david-castillo-y-como-es-tratado-edwin-espinal/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/asesora-de-hidroel%C3%A9ctricas-compara-con-%E2%80%9Cmareros%E2%80%9D-miembros-del-copinh>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/cambia-de-fecha-la-audiencia-inicial.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/captura-de-castillo-es-un-nuevo-paso-hacia-la-justicia-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-flores/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/arrest-intellectual-author-caceres-murder-honduras/>

As expected, JOH's attempt to raise Fusina to the constitutional level causes a lot of reactions. Ciprodeh's Wilfredo Méndez denounces it as a further power concentration in the hands of JOH. Security analyst Víctor Meza calls it a "judicial aberration".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/06/para-que-juan-hernandez-tenga-el-poder-absoluto-solo-falta-ponerle-precio-a-algunos-diputados-liberales-y-de-libre/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/joh-pacto-con-cupulas-para-elevar-fusina-a-categoria-constitucional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/darle-rango-constitucional-a-fusina-es-una-aberracion-juridica-victor-meza/>

At the end of the month, campesinxs of the grupo campesino 8 de febrero will face a judge for their land recuperation efforts in San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-finales-de-marzo-audiencia-inicial-contra-campesina-indigena-que-lucha-por-recuperacion-de-tierra/>

It is possible that with a change to the law regulating seizures of property, the tools to combat corruption will be further weakened in Honduras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/argueta-coincide-con-otros-juristas-sobre-revision-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alianza-patriotica-confiscacion-de-bienes/>

The lawyer of the former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo is on the offensive accusing the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) of lying. De Lobo, meanwhile, gets a special prison cell.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/abogado-de-rosa-de-lobo-tilda-de-mentirosos-a-oficina-anticorrupcion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1158263-466/instituto-nacional-penitenciario-construir%C3%A1-celda-especial-para-rosa-elena-por-amenazas>

Supreme Court president Rolando Argueta presented the six priorities for the Judicial Power in its Strategic Institutional Plan 2017-2021.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/argueta-celebra-que-solo-103-mil-expedientes-están-en-mora/>

According to calculations by Fosdeh, Hondurans pay 18 out of every 100 Lempiras in taxes, making it the highest tax burden in Central America.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/06/hondureños-pagan-18-de-cada-100-lempiras-en-impuestos-al-estado-de-honduras/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/06/presion-tributaria-en-honduras-ronda-el-18-del-pib-siendo-asi-el-indice-mas-alto-de-centroamerica-fosdeh/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-vida-en-la-carcel/>

08/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security, Women HRDs; UN; Femicide; Women's Rights; IACHR; (Re)Election - Repression, Vote Buying, UN; Extractivism; Militarization; FoE; Corruption - Seizures, IHSS; Berta - Trial; Fiscal Policy; MP; Penitentiary System; Japan; Israel; and the Honduran Nightcrawler

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The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights finds clear words on Honduras at the 37th session of the Human Rights Council: "n Honduras, I am alarmed at the surge in threats and intimidation against human rights defenders, journalists, media workers, and social and political activists. My Office will release a report in the coming days detailing excessive use of force and mass arrests in response to protests which took place following the 2017 November elections, and the Council will be briefed on 21 March."

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/37th-session-human-rights-council-item-2-annual-report-and-oral-update-high>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2059-naciones-unidas-es-alarmante-la-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

El Libertador reports on the murder of Yenni Carolina Ferrera Funes whose case came to court yesterday. Before her death, she has filed four complaints for domestic violence and one for intrafamily violence against Oscar Humberto Velásquez Mejía but she was not helped. On March 20, 2016, she was murdered in front of her daughter. There is evidence as well as testimonies holding Oscar Humberto Velásquez Mejía responsible for the murder, but human rights organizations and her family fear that the case will rest in impunity due to the economic status of Velásquez Mejía and his contacts to the former police sub-commissioner Héctor Iván Mejía. The fear was exacerbated when yesterday's trial was postponed because the authorities "lost" the case files.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2745-pierden-expediente-de-mujer-asesinada-por-primo-de-exoficial-hector-ivan-mejia>

Jessica Sánchez, coordinator of the Civil Society Group (GSC), denounces the lack of attention women's issue get from the JOH regime. For years they have been denouncing the violence they live and suffer from but there is no adequate governmental response.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/07/mujeres-son-mas-del-50-de-la-poblacion-y-solo-reciben-el-5-del-presupuesto/>

Honduras is a case study in a report on the closing space of women human rights defenders by BerkeleyLaw and the Urgent Action Fund.

https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/UAF_UCB_REPORT.WEB-FINAL.pdf

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) presented at its last session in Bogotá the report "Toward a Comprehensive Policy to Protect Human Rights Defenders".

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/039.asp

Radio Progreso reports on the human cost of the post-electoral crisis. A video of the recently held session at the IACHR in Bogotá on the post-electoral crisis in Honduras is now also available online.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4280-tesis-post-electoral-tiene-costos-humanitarios-alt%C3%ADsimos-para-honduras>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wgIL-bpMvs&index=11&t=0s&list=PL5QlapyOGhXuLZonmAfYVnY2MzM6-qcUr>

Vicor Meza of the Documentation Center Honduras (CEDOH) analyzed the vote buying patterns in both the 2013 and 2017 elections. While he saw a decrease from 10.2% to 4.7%, this is explained by a shift in the modus operandi of political patronage from direct vote buying to granting special benefits, such as the Vida Mejor program.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/07/clientelismo-y-politica/>

The former presidential candidates Luis Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla met again with the UNDP representative and UN coordinator in Honduras, Igor Garafulic.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/07/expresidenciables-se-reunen-con-representante-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

The Transnational Institute (TNI) produced a report together with COPINH, OFRANEH and Jubileo Sur Americas on "Extractivism and Communitarian Resistance in Honduras" looking at the struggles of the Lenca and Garífuna as well as the Bajo Aguán.

<https://www.tni.org/es/publicacion/extractivismo-y-resistencia-comunitaria-en-honduras>

Radio Progreso reminds us about the history of the "Martial March".

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4279-marzo-martirial-07-marzo-2018>

Pasos de Animal Grande highlights an important recommendation made by the EU - the derogation of Article 335B of the reformed Penal Code. This article criminalizes the work of critical journalists.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2057-segun-la-union-europea-honduras-debe-ofrecer-garantias-de-libertad-de-expresion>

Criterion reproduces the bill by Patriotic Alliance congressman Denis Castro Bobadilla to reform the law regulating the seizure of goods and properties. Some civil society observers fear that the reform is intended to further weaken anti-corruption tools in Honduras.

The bill is also rejected by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). The CNA denounces it as part of a more general trend by Honduran politicians to obstruct its work.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/07/conozca-el-proyecto-de-reforma-a-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2746-cna-sobrino-de-denis-castro-seria-favorecido-con-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1158485-466/cna-revela-el-lado-oscuro-atr%C3%A1s-del-intento-de-reforma-la-ley>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/07/cna-denuncia-artificios-de-los-politicos-para-limitar-el-accionar-en-el-combate-a-la-corrupcion/>

In the IHSS corruption case, the MP requests 20 years of prison for Mario Antonio Rojas Rodríguez.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/07/piden-20-anos-de-carcel-para-exfuncionario-involucrado-en-saqueo-del-ihss/>

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-ihss-mp-mario-rojas-tio-mario-zelaya/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a press release by the MP highlighting the links of Roberto David Castillo Mejía with PRODERSA and the organized crime. Castillo Mejía, the director of DESA, was recently arrested in relation to the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2056-gerente-de-desa-presos-por-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres-socio-de-prodersa-asegurada-por-vinculos-con-cachiros>

Liberal congressman Mauricio Villeda presented a bill in Congress demanding the derogation of a law exempting big media outlets from paying taxes.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/07/mauricio-villeda-presenta-proyecto-para-derogar-ley-que-exime-de-impuestos-a-medios-de-comunicacion/>

The selection-election process for the next Attorney General has begun.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/07/poder-judicial-apertura-el-proceso-de-seleccion-del-fiscal-general/>

Conaprev presented a report on the deficiencies of the Honduran penitentiary system. They also call for a de-militarization of the prisons.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/07/sistema-penitenciario-cuesta-a-los-hondurenos-mas-de-mil-200-millones-tegucigalpa-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/07/conaprev-pide-desmilitarizacion-de-centros-penitenciarios/>

The Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Policy of Japan, Mitsunari Okamoto, announced a security cooperation with Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/japon-busca-mecanismos-para-fortalecer-seguridad-de-honduras-vice-ministro-okamoto.html>

Similar words come from Israel.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-e-israel-revisan-cooperacion-en-seguridad-educacion-y-agricultura.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-juego-de-espejos-de-hch/>

09/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security, UNAH; Women's Rights; Hydroelectricity - MADJ, Lencas; Berta - Trial; Corruption - de Lobo, MP, Seizures; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; Militarization; Violence; Catholic Church; Fiscal Policy; Public Debt; and a Honduran Jaguar

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The Human Rights Roundtable condemns in an open letter the decision by a judge to protect police officials accused of being responsible for the attacks against human rights defenders and UNAH students in September 2017.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2060-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-condena-proteccion-del-estado-de-honduras-a-oficiales-que-torturaron-a-defensores-y-estudiantes>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/comunicados/mesa-de-derechos-humanos-condena-proteccion-a-violadores-de-derechos-humanos-contra-defensores-y-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-por-parte-de-la-secretaria-de-seguridad-falta-de-debida-diligencia-del/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/08/mesa-de-derechos-humanos-condena-proteccion-a-violadores-por-parte-de-la-secretaria-de-seguridad/>

Various articles were dedicated to Honduras' women and their struggles on yesterday's International Women's Day.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle dedicates an article to Berta Cáceres and Margarita Murillo.

The MP commemorated the day with a nationwide operation against domestic violence.

The National Party in the person of congressman Edgardo Martínez, meanwhile, demands a mandatory mammography for women over 40, shockingly laying bare how men intend to control women's bodies even on the International Women's Day.

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-tiene-nombre-de-mujer/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/08/hondurenas-en-paro-internacional-de-mujeres-8m/>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/03/08/8-de-Marzo-Mujeres-portadoras-de-justicia>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4284-mujeres-doblemente-violentadas-en-honduras>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/para-exigir-justicia-por-las-mujeres-asesinadas-feministas-marchan-en-tegucigalpa/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/item/4283-no-m%C3%A1s-patriarcado>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/08/berta-y-margarita-vidas-y-muertes-paralelas-de-dos-guerreras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/para-combatir-agresores-de-mujeres-ejecutan-operacion-debora-ii/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/08/ejecutan-operativo-para-aprehender-a-agresores-de-mujeres/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/08/diputado-presenta-proyecto-de-ley-que-exige-examen-de-mamografia-a-mujeres-mayores-de-40-anos-que-soliciten-empleo/>

CEJIL and MADJ celebrate the decision by the IACHR to grant special protection measures to the communities around the Mezapa River in Pajuiles, Atlántida. The IACHR emphasizes that the access to water is an inherent part of the right to health. Furthermore, it expresses its concern regarding the threats and harassment the inhabitants face for their peaceful protest against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cidh-ordena-protger-comunidades-pajuiles-honduras>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/03/08/CIDH-ordena-medidas-cautelares-para-comunidades-en-Pajuiles-Honduras>

In a second struggle against a hydroelectric project, the Lenca people in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán declared themselves free of extractive projects after months of resistance against the company PROGELSA.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4282-mediante-decisi%C3%B3n-soberana-reicota-francisco-moraz%C3%A1n-se-declara-libre-de-proyectos-extractivos>

As with many previous court dates before, the initial audience against David Castillo has been postponed, but it should take place today.

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/copinh-informa-8-de-marzo-audiencia.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/08/expediente-berta-caceres-altos-ejecutivos-de-desordenaron-al-militar-castillo-el-asesinato-por-grandes-perdidas-de-financiamiento-extranjero/>

Radio Progreso explains how the arrest of former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo raises some important questions about the institutional setup of the Honduras government, e.g. what to do with governmental post without constitutional rank but which control considerable amounts of money? What kind of prevention mechanisms are needed?

De Lobo's defense team, meanwhile, claims that the sitting judge may be biased because she worked for the anti-corruption unit at the MP before.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4281-del-chimbo-al-tambo-08-marzo-2018>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/conflicto-de-intereses-afectaria-caso-judicial-de-exprimera-dama/>

El Heraldo reports that the MP is currently preparing a second wave of corruption accusations against former functionaries and family members of current functionaries.

One of the accused is Nationalist congressman and former Infop director David Chávez.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1158869-466/el-ministerio-p%C3%ABlico-prepara-m%C3%A1s-acusaciones-por-actos-de-corrupci%C3%B3n>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/07/acusan-a-david-chavez-de-compra-sobrevalorada-de-21-millones-cuando-estuvo-en-infop/>

Just as the National Anti-Corruption council two days ago, the MACCIH now also voices concern about the propose reform the law regulating seizures of goods and properties and its impact on the anti-corruption struggle.

The University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) claims that the reform only serve to stop the MP from combating corruption and impunity.

Some of those favoring the reform, criticizes that the current law gives to much power to the Honduran government.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/maccih-esta-preocupada-por-posibles-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2748-unah-segundo-frenazo-a-combate-de-corrupcion-en-congreso-nacional>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/insolito-incautadores-alegan-que-bano-chino-barato-era-de-oro/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/los-orates-opinan-sin-saber-de-derecho-constitucional-vicepresidente-del-parlamento/>

El Pulso speaks with political analyst Víctor Meza about the difficulty of a dialogue with a "government completely lacking public legitimacy".

<http://elpulso.hn/victor-meza-estamos-frente-un-gobierno-totalmente-carente-de-legitimidad-publica/>

According to the head of the Armed Forces, Rene Ponce, they will be further strengthened.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/para-combatir-la-criminalidad-joh-seguira-repotenciando-las-ffaa/>

Based on government statistics, San Pedro Sula is not the third deadliest city anymore in the ranking of the Mexican NGO CCSPJP. They rank it number 26 and Tegucigalpa number 35.

<http://elpulso.hn/san-pedro-sula-del-tercer-lugar-al-puesto-26-en-el-ranking-de-ciudades-violentas-en-el-mundo/>

The National Catholic Register reports on grave sexual misconduct allegations against the Honduran Bishop Juan José Pineda.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/former-seminarians-allege-grave-sexual-misconduct-by-honduran-bishop-pineda>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/antiguos-seminaristas-alegan-grave-conducta-sexual-del-obispo-hondureno-pineda/>

<http://elpulso.hn/a-pesar-de-investigacion-en-su-contra-medio-catolico-alerta-mala-conducta-financiera-y-sexual-de-obispo-pineda-de-tegucigalpa/>

For weeks, there has been a back and forth about a new tax of 1.5% for companies making more than 10 million Lempiras. JOH now claims he found common ground with the business sector.

According to El Libertador, the compromise may be that only companies making over 300 million Lempiras have to pay the tax.

La Prensa reports that the private sector could save 1.3 billion Lempiras.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/joh-pide-a-parlamentarios-tratar-con-carino-reformas-al-1-5-por-ciento-de-impuesto-extra/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/08/expresidente-del-cohep-descarta-derogacion-del-1-5-por-ciento-extra-a-empresarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/08/hernandez-no-acepta-derogacion-enviara-reforma-al-congreso-para-reducir-gradualmente-el-1-5-del-isr/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2749-empresarios-que-venden-hasta-300-millones-no-pagaran-impuesto-en-honduras>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1158884-410/reforma-1-5-empresas-inversion-empleo-cohep-juan_carlos_sikaffy-juan_orlando_hernandez

Public debt in Honduras has reached \$7 billion.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/08/de-siete-mil-millones-de-dolares-es-la-deuda-publica-externa/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/07/descubren-que-felino-mas-grande-de-america-tambien-habita-region-centro-norte-de-honduras/>

10/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security; Hydroelectricity; Solar Energy; Women's Rights; Corruption - de Lobo; Penitentiary System; Labor Rights; (Re)Elections - EU, UN; Lawyers; Poverty; Militarization; and the Resistance of Honduran Women

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The indigenous Lenca communities in Reitoca, Alubarén, La Venta, San José and Pespire have been resisting a hydroelectric project since January 18, 2018. On January 30, the Military Police attacked their peaceful protest camp hurt two defenders with bullets. COFADEH denounces that one of them may lose her leg due to an infection spreading from the bullet wound. The project is a collaboration between SERMACO and PROGELSA, the latter being financed from Italy.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-alerta-estado-de-emergencia-en-reitoca/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pobladores-de-reitoca-denuncian-que-el-estado-los-quieren-dejar-sin-agua/>

A camp build up over two years ago to resist the imposition of a solar energy plant against the will of the local people has been lit on fire by four unknown men on Wednesday in Namasigue Choluteca.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/alerta/incendian-campamento-de-resistencia-contra-empresa-solar>

Pasos de Animal Grande offers some impressions from the International Women's Day in Honduras and it reproduces a press release by the Coalition against Impunity on the occasion.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2061-respeto-a-sus-derechos-y-justicia-para-5-000-asesinadas-demandaron-en-el-dia-internacional-de-la-mujer>

The former assistant of Rosa Elena de Lobo was arrested, apparently he had been involved in acts of corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/09/capturan-mano-derecha-de-rosa-elena-bonilla/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/tras-supuestos-senalamientos-exasistente-de-primera-dama-se-entrega-a-la-justicia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/secretario-privado-rosa-elena-de-lobo-caja-chica-de-la-dama/>

After a tuberculosis outbreak in Honduras' penitentiary system (see previously this week), the Honduran Medical Association asks the MP to intervene.

Pressure also comes from family members demanding medical attention for their loved ones.

And if this were not enough, inmates in El Porvenir protested against the lack of adequate food in the prison.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/piden-al-ministerio-publico-que-intervenga-en-crisis-sanitaria-en-las-carceles-hondurenas1/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/presionaran-al-instituto-penitenciario-para-facilitar-atencion-medica-a-los-afectados-por-tuberculosis/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/sera-cierto-sistema-penitenciario-asegura-que-da-un-manjar-a-privados-de-libertad/>

Police forces evicted the workers at Chiquita Brands Honduras who have been on strike for weeks and already had suffered questionable legal actions by the company.

The workers denounce that the state security forces used tear gas and live bullets.

CONADEH demands an intervention by the Labor Secretariat.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/09/reprimen-y-desalojan-a-trabajadores-de-la-bananera-chiquita-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/denuncian-cruenta-represion-en-desalojo-a-trabajadores-de-bananera1/>

<https://tiempo.hn/chiquita-honduras-desalojo-conadeh-huelga/>

The report by the Electoral Observation Mission of the EU has already criticized by the opposition parties individually. Now they came together once more as the Opposition Alliance and rejected the report by the EU.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/09/alianza-de-oposicion-de-honduras-declara-non-grata-a-mision-de-la-union-europea/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2750-non-grata-europa-sigue-en-honduras-linea-de-washington>

According to El Heraldo, preparatory meetings for the national dialogue will take place next week.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1159144-465/mesas-preparatorias-con-partidos-pol%C3%ADticos-se-instalan-este-lunes>

Marco Ramiro Lobo, who runs for president at the Lawyer Association Honduras (CAH) denounces that some 600 persons were illegally inscribed as lawyers to vote for his opponent from the Fatherland and Justice Front.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/09/marco-ramiro-lobo-denuncia-inscripcion-ilegal-de-600-personas-para-votar-en-eleccion-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras-audio/>

Guadalupe Ruelas raises concern about the increasing number of minors living on the streets of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/sube-la-cifra-de-menores-de-edad-que-duermen-en-las-calles-hondurenas/>

As on many occasions before, the head of the Armed Forces, René Orlando Ponce Fonseca, said that now it is not the time to withdraw the Military Police.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-es-momento-para-que-policia-militar-deje-de-apoyar-labores-de-seguridad-dice-jefe-castrense.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/03/09/en-honduras-las-mujeres-no-paran-solo-resisten/>

11/03/18

Political Prisoners; MADJ; Berta - Trial; Hydroelectricity; Femicide; Penitentiary System; Lawyers; Chile; and a Mental Exam for Congressmen

Coming Friday, the Honduras Solidarity Network will hold a one-hour webinar on the situation of political prisoners in Honduras. You can register following the link below.

<http://www.anymeeting.com/PIID=ED54DA84874A3E>

MADJ denounces that soldiers went looking for MADJ member Ualdina Santos in Yusa near Tela, Atlántida. He plays an important role in the local resistance against a mining project.

The same day, another MADJ member, Ramón Matute, suffered an attack by an employee of the businessman Wilder Domínguez accused of illegally harvesting wood on an area belonging to the Tolupán people.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/03/10/ALERTA-Militares-tras-luchadora-social-del-MADJ-en-Sector-Florida-Atl%C3%A1ntida>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/03/honduras-atentan-contrala-vida-ramon.html>

After the initial audience, a judge decided to sent to trial the DESA director Roberto David Castillo Mejía and he also ordered preventive imprisonment. Castillo Mejía is accused of being one of the intellectual authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/10/envian-a-carcel-de-tamara-a-supuesto-autor-intelectual-de-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/10/mandan-a-la-carcel-a-implicado-en-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://tiempo.hn/formal-procesamiento-roberto-david-castillo-berta-caceres/>

Prison authorities found a tunnel in the youth detention center

Renaciendo built by the Mara 18 to prepare a mass prison escape. Two prison guards were arrested for trying to smuggle drugs, money and cell phones into the Támara prison.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/10/descubren-tunel-por-donde-se-fugarian-miembros-de-pandilla-18/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/encuentran-tunel-en-centro-de-internamiento-de-menores-renaciendo.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/10/capturan-policias-penitenciarios-tratando-de-ingresar-dinero-y-drogas-a-tamara1/>

Reporteros de Investigación covers the press conference held at COFADEH about the worrying situation in Reitoca (see yesterday). Some 7600 indigenous Lenca resist a hydroelectric project fearing for their survival in the area.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/10/proyecto-hidroelectrico-en-reitoca-es-un-genocidio/>

On average, every day a woman was murdered in Honduras in the last 16 years. 32% of these 5800 women, violently lost their lives in the last four years.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/10/una-mujer-por-dia-murio-violentamente-en-los-ultimos-16-anos/>

Anny Ochoa of the Fatherland and Justice Front was elected as the new president of the Lawyers Association Honduras (CAH). Yesterday I linked to an article denouncing irregularities in the electoral process favoring her.

<https://tiempo.hn/anny-ochoa-presidenta-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/anny-ochoa-es-la-nueva-presidenta-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras.html>

JOH traveled to Chile for Sebastián Piñera's inauguration.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/10/juan-orlando-anda-en-chile-para-presenciar-nuevo-gobierno-de-pinera/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/10/honduras-y-chile-aliados-historicos-en-comercio-seguridad-y-cooperacion/>

The president of the Honduran Medical Association, Suyapa Figueroa, found the rights word to the proposal by the Congressman Miguel Edgardo Martínez, on the International Women's Day (!), to force women over 40 to have a mammography (see Friday's news roundup). Figueroa demands a mental health test for congressmen to check if they are fit for office. The proposal by Martínez caused further negative reactions.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/piden-a-congresistas-que-se-hagan-examen-de-prostata-y-lucidez-mental1/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/10/diputados-hondurenos-deberan-hacerse-examen-de-prostata-y-de-cerebro-para-seguir-en-sus-cargos/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/09/piden-a-diputadas-no-dejar-pasar-ley-que-discrimina-a-mujeres-mayores-de-40-anos11/>

12/03/18

Political Prisoners; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; Berta - Trial; Corruption - de Lobo; Mexico; Liberal Party; IMF; and 24 Years a Lacking Independence

Defensores en Línea denounces that the family members of the political prisoners held in El Pozo and the women's prison in Tela are being harassed and they have not been able to see their relatives for the last two months.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/malos-tratos-reciben-familiares-de-los-presos-politicos-en-el-pozo-al-querer-visitarlos/>

The Opposition Alliance rejects the beginning of the technical working sessions (mesas técnicas) of the dialogue set for today. They reiterate that the circumstances for a dialogue are not given as long as the result of the dialogue is not binding and they are the product of a mediation.

UN coordinator in Honduras, Igor Garafulic, announced that he will meet with the Opposition Alliance on Wednesday.

JOH, meanwhile, presents it all as a big success.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/11/alianza-opositora-denuncia-estrategia-de-dialogo-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alianza-rechaza-onu-dialogo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/onu-alianza-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/11/joh-esta-satisfecho-con-la-instalacion-de-la-mesa-tecnica-del-dialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/expectativa-en-honduras-por-instalacion-de-mesa-tecnica-de-dialogo.html>

COPINH published two new blog posts, one with information about David Castillo and the other with an update on the trial (see also yesterday's news roundup).

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/quien-es-roberto-david-castillo-mejia.html>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/concluyo-la-audiencia-inicial-contra.html>

The former president Pepe Lobo speaks for the first time publicly about the arrest of his wife Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. According to him, five people met at the Casa Presidencial deciding to give up on her. On the one hand, he says that she is innocent (she solely committed an "administrative error"), on the other hand, he announces that more well-known people will fall.

Furthermore, Lobo claims that the money found at "my" house was their saving which they kept at home after they accounts were closed due to the arrest of their son Fabio Lobo for drug trafficking.

El Heraldo published some new leads in the case against de Lobo.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/11/en-casa-presidencial-se-acordo-entregar-a-mi-rosa-pepe-lobo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/porfirio-lobo-revela-orden-capturar-esposa-vino-casa-presidencial/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1159616-410/pepe_lobo-rosa_elena_de_lobo-primera_dama-maccih-corrupcion

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/11/caso-de-mi-esposa-es-administrativo-y-debe-solucionarse-por-esa-via-pepe-lobo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/11/dinero-encontrado-en-mi-casa-es-porque-nos-cerraron-todas-las-cuentas-pepe-lobo/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1159566-466/vinculan-a-ong-dirigida-por-un-mexicano-con-rosa-elena-bonilla>

During his visit to Chile, JOH held a meeting with Mexico's president

Enrique Peña Nieto.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/11/hernandez-y-pena-nieto-dialogan-sobre-migracion-seguridad-y-comercio/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1159489-410/mexico-honduras-comercio-migracion-juan_orlando-pe%C3%B1a_nieto

Today, the trial of Liberal congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya will start. He is accused of murder and attempted murder. He was found not guilty in the past, but the MP filed a successful complaint and the trial will be repeated.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputado-fredy-najera-se-presenta-este-lunes-a-juicio-oral-y-publico.html>

An IMF delegation will visit Honduras between April 3-13.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1159541-466/la-misi%C3%B3n-del-fmi-confirma-visita-al-pa%C3%ADs-del-3-al-13>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4287-ministerio-p%C3%ABlico-10-marzo-2018>

13/03/18

(Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue; Liberal Party; Corruption - de Lobo; Femicide; Trade; Employment; Rabies; and the Honduran Sugar Harvest

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights published its report on the "[h]uman rights violations in the context of the 2017 elections in Honduras". "The analysis conducted by the OHCHR Office in Honduras reveals that the State's response to the post-electoral protests led to serious human rights violations. OHCHR found that elements of the security forces, especially the Military Police of the Public Order and the Army, used excessive force, including lethal force, to control and disperse protests, leading to the killing and wounding of protesters as well as passers-by. At the time of completing this report, on 27 January, OHCHR had registered that at least 23 people were killed in the context of the post-electoral protests, including 22 civilians and one police officer. Based on its monitoring, OHCHR considered that at least 16 of the victims were shot to death by the security forces, including two women and two children, and that at least 60 people were injured, half of them by live ammunitions." The report continues to denounce illegal mass arrests, ill-treatment of arrested people, illegal house raids and a wave of threats and intimidations against "journalists, media workers, social and political activists". It denounces the impunity as no state security forces have been charged. Reuters reported on the report citing U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini: "The already fragile human rights situation in Honduras, which suffers from high levels of violence and insecurity, is likely to deteriorate further unless there is true accountability for human rights violations, and reforms are taken to address the deep political and social polarization in the country". ConfidentialHN published a short interview with Maria Soledad Paso, the representative of the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras. Padre Melo highlights the importance of this report in revealing the criminal role of the JOH regime. In the defensive, the Human Rights Secretary Karla Cueva told the press that they had investigated 22 cases and handed over to the MP. And just to highlight how the main press reports on this. El Heraldo uses the caption "Vandalism" for a paragraph focus on the intentional and lethal use of force by state security forces...

English:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/HN/2017ReportElectionsHRViolations_Honduras_EN.pdf

Spanish:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ANPsszR-1DuwBk5HBG7euMp1wiVjrh1k/view>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/03/alto-comisionado-de-la-onu-para-los.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-honduras-election/u-n-blames-honduras-security-forces-for-killing-electoral-protesters-idUSKCN1GO22F>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/oficina-de-la-onu-pide-castigo-para-asesinos-de-manifestantes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/12/informe-de-oacnudh-contribuye-a-revelar-el-papel-criminal-del-estado-de-honduras-ismael-moreno-video/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/pasan-al-ministerio-publico-22-expedientes-de-casos-de-denuncias-post-electoral.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1159912-466/acnudh-la-crisis-pol%C3%ADtica-dej%C3%B3-23-personas-fallecidas-en-el-pa%C3%ADs>

Ebal Díaz, presidential secretary, presents the first day of the dialogue as a success.

Igor Garafulic, UN representative in Honduras, did not call yesterday's meeting a dialogue, rather a pre-dialogue to test the political will.

This process will continue on Wednesday.

Salvador Nasralla, meanwhile, called it an exploration reiterating that binding agreements must come from it and that the electoral fraud has to be brought to the table.

Padre Melo asks the political opposition to call to the voice of the people and not sit down for a dialogue as long as the culprits for the murder of protesters have not been held accountable.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle presents a script for the dialogue.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/nos-dijimos-de-todo-pero-en-un-tono-respetuoso-secretario-de-la-presidencia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/acercamientos-politicos-seguiran-el-proximo-miercoles/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/onu-considera-como-avance-asistencia-de-luis-y-nasralla-para-instalar-dialogo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/12/informe-de-oacnuhd-es-desfavorable-para-el-regimen-de-joh-salvador-nasralla-video/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/si-salen-con-papadas-no-hay-dialogo-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/12/oposicion-no-puede-sentarse-a-dialogar-olvidando-la-voz-del-pueblo-padre-melo/>

See attachment

The Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera did not show up to trial - he is accused of murder - and so the Judicial Power released an arrest warrant for him. And just to highlight the contrast once more: there are currently political prisoners in Honduras awaiting trial in prison accused of breaking a window, while someone accused of murder can walk freely.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/libran-orden-de-captura-contraparlamentario-extraditable-fredy-najera/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ordenan-capturar-fredy-najera-no-presentarse-juicio/>

The JOH regime tries to distance itself in a press release from the statement by the former president Pepe Lobo. The latter told the press

on Monday that his wife was sacrificed after a meeting held at the casa presidencial.

Marvin Ponce announces that at least 10 more functionaries will be arrested. But he has been wrong in the past with these kinds of predictions.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/12/gobierno-hondureno-se-desmarca-de-fuertes-acusaciones-del-expresidente-lobo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reunion-a-que-refiere-expresidente-lobo-para-entregar-a-su-esposa-no-existio-dice-ebal-diaz.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/marvin-ponce-requerimientos-funcionarios-honduras/>

So far this year 62 Honduran women were violently murdered, almost the same as last year (64).

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-ov-unah-informa-3-bajaron-las-muertes-violentas-mujeres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/de-enero-a-marzo-han-muerto-62-mujeres-violentamente-en-honduras.html>

El Heraldo reports that Honduras will take part in the "free" trade agreement Pacific Alliance with Chile, Peru, Mexico and Colombia.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1159856-466/honduras-formar%C3%A1-parte-de-la-alianza-para-el-pac%C3%ADfico>

JOH continues to promise the creation of ten thousands of new jobs.

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1159884-410/joh-revision-15-impuesto-generacion-empleos>

Honduras announces to vaccinate over a million dogs and almost 70'000 cats against rabies.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/12/mas-de-un-millon-de-perros-y-68-mil-gatos-seran-vacunados-contr-la-rabia-a-nivel-nacional/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/03/12/hijos-y-esclavos-del-canaveral/>

14/03/18

Berta; (Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue; Journalists; Labor Rights; Corruption - Seizures, de Lobo, IHSS; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; JOH; Congress; and Roaming Private Security Companies

The New York Times own editorial board writes about "Deadly corruption in Honduras". They believe that the arrest of DESA director Roberto David Castillo Mejía in the murder case of Berta Cáceres "offers a glimpse into the links between government, military and business elite in a culture of corruption". They also hold the US partly responsible for future murder of human rights defenders: "Mr. Hernández may not be directly involved in the murder of Ms. Cáceres. But for the United States to demand that her murder be solved while cynically enabling the corrupt politics behind it makes it more likely that hers will not be the last killing."

Both COFADEH and OFRANEH published new articles on the case.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/13/opinion/honduras-corruption-bertha-caceres.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2018/03/13/editorial-corrupcion-mortal-en-honduras/?action=click&contentCollection=Opinion&module=Translations®ion=Header&version=es-LA&ref=en-US&pgtype=article>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/donde-guarda-prision-uno-de-los-asesinos-intelectuales-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/03/13/berta-caceres-un-crimen-de-estado-relacionado-con-la-consulta-previa/>

Radio Progreso greets Monday's report by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras on the human rights violation by the JOH regime as "a report that confirms the dictatorial turn of the Nationalist regime".

Pasos de Animal Grande dedicates an article to one recommendation by the UN body, to reform the Military Police Law.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4288-un-informe-que-ratifica-el-derivo-dictatorial-del-r%C3%A9gimen-nacionalista-13-marzo-2018>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2062-piden-que-el-congreso-nacional-restrinja-operaciones-de-la-pm-en-el-trabajo-de-la-policia-civil>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/191569>

The coordinator of the Opposition Alliance, Manuel Zelaya, told the press that he won't participate in a "media spectacle to legitimize the Juan Orlando government". He then listed six conditions for their participation.

A key demand is that the results of the mediation are binding.

Salvador Nasralla, meanwhile, will send a representative to find out if there are the conditions for a dialogue.

According to Luis Zelaya, there was an agreement that there will be three mediators, one for every party...

ConfidencialHN spoke with three political analysts about the dialogue and they agree that a clear agenda is needed.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/zelaya-exige-seis-condiciones-para-asistir-a-dialogo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/13/todos-estamos-de-acuerdo-con-el-dialogo-pero-con-joh-o-sus-empleados-no-nos-sentamos-mel-zelaya/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/13/dialogo-debe-tener-un-mediador-cuyas-resoluciones-sean-vinculantes-y-obligatorias-mel-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-reafirma-sus-condiciones-para-participar-en-dialogo-y-no-se-sentaran-con-hernandez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nasralla-analiza-si-la-onu-es-ruta-al-dialogo-mel-dice-no-asistira-porque-no-cree.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1160233-466/luis-zelaya-di%C3%A1logo-tendr%C3%A1-a-un-mediador-por-cada-partido>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/analistas-hablan-sobre-el-predialogo-y-la-estrategia-de-mel/>

Edy Tábor, C-Libre's director, presented a report on attacks against journalists and social communicators in Honduras. They found 59 attacks on against freedom of expression during the post-electoral crisis.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/598-c-libre-es-alarmante-la-falta-de-respuesta-institucional-ante-violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-en-contexto-post-electoral>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/13/agresiones-van-directamente-contralos-periodistas-dice-c-libre-en-su-informe-sobre-libertad-de-expresion/>

Juan Almeyda, director of CPTRT, published a note of solidarity with the striking workers at Chiquita Honduras and calls for more international support for them. The strike has been going on for over two months and last week they were violently repressed by state security forces.

Radio Progreso published another article on the strike, highlighting a new concern by the protesters. They fear that Chiquita Honduras collaborates with the JOH regime to have their labor union SITRATERCO

disappeared.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/191565>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4289-transnacional-bananera-quiere-desaparecer-el-sitraterco-denuncian-obreras-hondure%C3%B1as>

For about a week now, there has been a debate about a reform to the law regulating seizures of goods and properties. Observers from the anti-corruption side fear that it further weakens their work. Yesterday, the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana joined the discussion saying that a reform to the law is needed, but not the one proposed by the congressman from the Patriotic Alliance.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/exfiscal-hondureno-reconoce-que-debe-revisarse-la-ley-de-privacion/>

Former National Human Rights Commissioner Ramón Custodio claims that the arrest of Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo was illegal because people participated in her arrest who are not part of the judicial system.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/la-detencion-a-rosa-elena-bonilla-es-ilegal-ramon-custodio.html>

Another person in the IHSS corruption case has to await trial in prison. Again, in is no one high up in the pecking order.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/envian-a-la-carcel-a-madre-de-palillona-del-ihss/>

<https://tiempo.hn/prision-preventiva-la-palillona-ihss/>

The ad-interim head of the MACCIH, Ana María Calderón, met with Luis Almargo.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/13/almagro-dialogo-con-vocera-interina-de-la-maccih-sobre-principales-casos-de-investigacion/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/almagro-y-calderon-hablan-sobre-casos-de-corrupcion-que-investiga-la-maccih/>

After another week of bad press coverage, the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) denounces that there is a disinformation campaign against them.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/sistema-penitenciario-denuncia-campana-de-desinformacion/>

The JOH regime is on a PR offensive. Its director for the Plan 20/20, Peter Fleming, asks Hondurans to talk positively about their country, making incredible claims such as that they created already 7000 jobs in the first two months of 2018 and 159'000 jobs in 2017.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/13/director-de-plan-2020-pide-a-hondurenos-hablar-bien-del-pais/>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest edition of her parliamentary chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-03-68/>

<https://tiempo.hn/enrique-yllescascas-empresas-seguridad/>

15/03/18

HRDs - UNAH, US; (Re)Elections - Repression, JOH, Dialogue, Fraud, US; Mining; Corruption - de Lobo; MACCIH; Militarization; Fire Arms; UNDP; Journalists; Church; MP; Public Health; National Police; Remittances; and Gramsci in Honduras

On Tuesday, the initial audience in the case against three police officials took place. They are accused of being responsible for the attack against human rights defenders and students last September. Pasos de Animal Grande reports that the lawyers of the police officials intimidated the human rights defenders and questioned their work. The audience will continue today.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2063-en-audiencia-inicial-altos-jefes-policiales-pretendieron-deslegitimar-labor-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-que-torturaron>

JASS has organised together with the Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative an interesting discussion with women defenders from Honduras: "Resistance and Resilience: Women Defenders and the Political Crisis in Honduras". The event will take place in New York on Friday at 4:30pm. It will be livestreamed and can be watched following the link below.

<https://livestream.com/accounts/781730/events/8109492>

COFADEH accompanied the student Urbina Ayala to Costa Rica last December as he feared for his life persecuted by the Military Police. He now asked for asylum there.

The main media, meanwhile, presents him as a vandal having burnt a military truck. But in the same article, they mention that he may not even have been in the country during the incident...but that wouldn't make a good headline.

Defensores en Línea continues to give a human face to the victims of state violence in the post-electoral crisis. Zet Jonatán Araujo was found dead on December 5, after having been arrested by the police the previous day. Deeply shocked, his mother eating and died mourning for her son.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ni-arrestado-ni-deportado/>

<https://tiempo.hn/costa-rica-camion-militar-tegucigalpa/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/de-dolor-se-estan-muriendo-familiares-de-asesinados-politicos/>

Radio Progreso follows up with another commentary inspired by UN Human Rights Office in Honduras report. Yesterday, they remarked that the report clearly highlights the dictatorial turn of the JOH regime. Now they explain the actions taken by Pepe Lobo and JOH to whitewash the coup of 2009 and 2017. Lobo created under international pressure the Human Rights Secretariat. JOH closed it and then under international pressure again opened it as if he never had closed it in the first time. Worse, he got praise by the international community for this move. So Radio Progreso warns us not to be fooled again.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4290-los-cuentos-de-juancito-el-lobo-y-la-cueva-14-marzo-2018>

Honduran human rights defender and director of Ciprodeh, Wilfredo Ménez, tells ConfidencialHN that he believes that Libre should participate in the dialogue but only if it tackles subjects such as the human rights violations and the fraud. By not putting this on the agenda, the UN may very well become part of "grim political games".

The political analyst Rodil Rivera is also critical about the chances for a successful dialogue but he stresses the need for international pressure.

The different political parties to the dialogue, meanwhile, presented their suggestions for mediators. All of them suggested former presidents.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/la-unica-salida-de-la-crisis-politica-es-un-nuevo-proceso-electoral-wilfredo-mendez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/si-dialogo-nacional-es-mal-conducido-no-dara-los-resultados-esperados/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/14/expresidente-zedillo-cerezo-mujica-gonzalez-dirigira-dialogo/>

The Center for Documentation Honduras has shown the importance of vote buying in the electoral process. The head of the Clean Politics Unit (indirectly) reacts to that by praising its work yesterday: they succeed in the reduction in spending on electoral propaganda by candidates. He did not even try to deny the vote buying but rather said that they are a "vaccine" not a "cure" for corruption.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/justifican-ineptitud-de-unidad-de-politica-limpia/>

Today, Honduran and US human rights defenders will present a report in the US on the human rights situation in post-electoral Honduras and the US response.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/crisis-en-honduras-y-la-respuesta-de-los-eeuu/>

The State of Honduras has granted 302 mining concessions on an area spawning almost 2'200 square kilometers. There are an additional 193 requests for concessions pending at Inhgeomin. Both CEHPRODEC's director José Luis Espinoza and human rights defender Reina Rivera question the mining as development strategy by the JOH regime. Espinoza further criticizes that the majority of the mining concessions were granted without prior consultation of the local communities. Wilfredo Méndez believes that the exploitation of natural resources has become a industry of death in Honduras. A case in point is the situation in La Florida near Tela, Atlántida, where the armed forces are harassing the local communities resisting a mining project.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/14/honduras-registra-302-concesiones-mineras-cortes-y-olancho-encabezan-la-lista/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/califican-concesiones-mineras-como-una-errada-estrategia-de-desarrollo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/14/explotacion-de-recursos-naturales-es-una-industria-de-muerte-en-honduras-wilfredo-mendez-video/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/14/44834/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2064-militares-intimidan-a-pobladores-que-se-oponen-a-la-mineria-en-el-departamento-de-atlantida>

The National Anti-Corruption Council denounces that the former president Pepe Lobo tried to intimidate the judge of the initial audience of his wife.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2753-expresidente-pepe-lobo-busca-intimidar-a-la-juez-que-juzga-a-su-esposa>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-denuncia-actos-de-intimidacion-del-ex-presidente-pepe-lobo/>

The countries financing MACCIH reiterated their support for the mission. Furthermore, they write that they "support the idea to strengthen and elevate the role of the spokesperson of the mission". Various congresswo/men set up the Parliamentarian Front in Support of the MACCIH some weeks ago. Yesterday, they represented themselves to the public presenting request such as the derogation of the Secrecy Law and the approval of the Efficient Collaboration Bill. Luis Almagro announced that he accepts the resignation of Martha

Pachiotti and he won't renew the contract of Jacobo Domínguez. Both MACCIH employees were accused of racist and xenophobic remarks.

<https://tiempo.hn/paises-cooperantes-maccih-vocero-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/relanzan-colectivo-parlamentario-de-apoyo-a-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/14/diputados-seguiran-apoyando-a-la-maccih-en-el-frente-parlamentario/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/14/destituciones-en-la-maccih-oea-por-racismo-y-xenofobia/>

JOH nominated a retired general as the new commissioner president of the intervention committee at the National Agriculture University.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/14/militar-dirigira-universidad-de-catacamas/>

Nationalist Congressman presents a possible change to the fire arms regulation as a success. His proposed change would reduce the maximum amount of fire arms allowed to be registered by a Honduran citizen from five to three...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/celebran-avances-sobre-regulacion-de-armas-de-fuego/>

The UNDP signed a cooperation agreement with the Honduran business lobby COHEP "to reduce poverty and generate income sources".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/14/para-generar-empleos-y-combatir-la-pobreza-cohep-y-pnud-firman-acuerdo/>

ConexiHon published a manual by CECOPI for social communicators.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/599-lanzan-manual-para-reporteras-populares>

Galel Cárdenas reflects on the role of the Catholic church and the evangelical churches in maintaining JOH in power. One part of the Catholic Church, meanwhile, actively opposes the JOH regime. Caritas just published an editorial called "A Path Towards Hope" summarizing the events of the last six months and showing a way forward.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/601-cuanto-sobreviviran-la-dictadura-y-la-jerarquia-eclesiastica-minadas-por-la-corrupcion>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/14/los-grupos-de-poder-tiemblan-por-la-posibilidad-de-perder-el-manto-de-la-impunidad-caritas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/caritas-largo-y-lento-pero-el-dialogo-ha-comenzado.html>

Radio Progreso offers an update on the election process for the new Attorney General.

The Coalition against Impunity warns in a press release of the possible reelection of Óscar Chinchilla, who they present as the man of JOH and the US.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4292-abierto-proceso-para-espinoso-camino-de-elecci%C3%B3n-de-fiscal-general>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2065-coalicion-contrala-impunidad-partido-nacional-y-grupos-de-poder-quieren-reelegir-a-actual-fiscal-general>

Different civil society actors in El Progreso, Yoro, created a platform to fight against the privatization of health services.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4291-crean-plataforma-de-lucha-contraprivatizaci%C3%B3n-de-la-salud>

La Prensa reports that the leadership of the National Police Force will take a polygraph test pretending this could somehow alleviate the charges made against them regarding links to drug trafficking.

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1160546-410/cupula-polic%C3%ADa-honduras-pruebas-pol%C3%ADgrafo-wilter_blanco

Remittances to Honduras continue to rise.

<http://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/las-remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-en-los-primeros-dos-meses-del-ano-aumentaron-un-9-4.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/fragilidad-clase-politica/>

16/03/18

(Re)Election - Repression, JOH, , Dialogue, Opposition Alliance; Hydroelectricity; FoE; Corruption - de Lobo; Fire Arms; US; Fiscal Policy; and in Defense of Natural Resources

Heather Gies offers important information on the criminalization and defamation campaign against youth activist Eduardo Enrique Urbina Ayala, who fearing for his life had to flee the country (see also yesterday). Based on the findings of the report by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, Joaquín A. Mejía Rivera writes an open letter to Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla reminding him of his responsibility and highlighting five findings of the report which should serve as a starting point for the MP's investigation. ConfidencialHN reports that the JOH regime wants to prioritize the investigation into private property damage when it comes to the post-electoral crisis, rather than the human rights violations of state security forces.

<http://upsidedownworld.org/archives/honduras/honduran-activist-framed-vandalism-faces-ongoing-misinformation-campaign/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/15/estudiante-eduardo-urbina-esta-en-costa-rica-esperando-tramite-de-asilo-politico/>

<https://joaquinmejia.rivera.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/carta-abierta-al-senor-fiscal-general.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/15/funcionario-minimiza-muertes-de-manifestantes-y-destaca-danos-en-propiedad-privada/>

Allen Cordero, director of the School of Sociology at the UCR in Costa Rica, believes that the recent reports by international bodies is further proof that JOH's Honduras is a "dictatorship in a democratic guise". He criticizes the position taken by Costa Rica for not speaking out against the events in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/15/honduras-es-una-dictadura-con-fachada-democratica-allen-cordero/>

The pre-dialogue at the UN office in Tegucigalpa will go into its third round on Sunday. El Heraldo spoke with Igor Garafulic on the progress of the talks.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1160881-466/igor-garafulic-esta-tercera-reuni%C3%B3n-es-una-se%C3%B1al-de-fortaleza-y-de>

Different media outlets, among them also ConfidencialHN, report that Nasralla, once more, seems to have enough. Just hours later, he said that his statements were misinterpreted.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/15/nasralla-se-larga-de-la-alianza-opositora-porque-no-quiere-saber-nada-de-nada/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-manuel-zelaya-la-alianza/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-arguye-que-lo-que-dijo-en-el-video-es-como-cuando-alguien-se-va-de-la-casa.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the ongoing repression suffered by the members of a protest camp in Pajuiles in defense of the river Mezapa and the mountain range Nombre de Dios. The struggle has been going on for over a year and in the newest incidence on March 13, state security forces once more attacked the camp.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2066-represion-sin-tregua-en-la-mirada-de-la-policia-la-comunidad-de-pajuiles>

Congress's president Mauricio Oliva announced that the debate about the controversial Muzzle Bill, a bill pretending to regulate Internet content, will continue.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-anuncia-que-retomara-camino-para-aprobar-o-no-ley-mordaza.html>

A judge decided to formalize the accusation against the former assistant of Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo for money laundering and embezzlement. de Lobo's lawyer, meanwhile, chose to confront the head of investigation of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) on social media after the former informed about how the former president Pepe Lobo intended to pressure the case's judge.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/15/formalizan-acusacion-contrax-asistente-de-la-ex-primeradama-de-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/15/retan-a-jefe-investigador-de-oficina-anticorrupcion-que-debata-sobre-el-caso-de-ex-primeradama/>

Congress approved in a first debate the two out of 134 articles of the Fire Arms Control Bill.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/15/honduras-avanza-discusion-de-nueva-ley-de-portacion-y-control-de-armas12123/>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle reflects on how the change in the position of the US Secretary of State will affect their Honduras policy.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/15/chisme-y-circo-en-la-casa-blanca-nuevos-despidos-y-nombramientos-en-el-gabinete/>

El Pulso offers an overview of the debate around the 1.5% income tax on companies and its possible derogation.

<http://elpulso.hn/joh-busca-una-posible-exoneracion-del-1-5-del-isr/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4293-nuestros-pueblos-y-sus-bienes-naturales-15-marzo-2018>

17/03/18

HRDs; FPIC; Drug Trafficking; MP; Corruption; (Re)Election - Repression, Canada; Fire Arms; Public Health; Happiness; and Women's Graffiti in Honduras

In the post-electoral crisis, 43 requests were made to the Protection Mechanism for human rights defenders.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2067-mecanismo-de-proteccion-ha-recibido-43-solicitudes-en-la-crisis-post-electoral>

Avispa Midia published a critical 20-page inquiry into the nature of ILO Convention 169 and free, prior and informed consent: "Autonomy for Peoples or Legalization of Exploitation?".

https://ia601506.us.archive.org/26/items/convenio169_webedition/convenio169_webedition.pdf

The Liberal congressman and fugitive after not showing up at a trial, Fredy Nájera, apparently went to the US to hand himself over to the US justice system. He is accused of drug trafficking there, while in Honduras he is accused of murder and attempted murder.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/16/diputado-extraditible-liberal-fredy-najera-se-entrega-a-justicia-de-ee-uu/>

<http://elpulso.hn/fredy-najera-se-entrego-a-la-justicia-de-los-ee-uu/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1161169-410/diputado-hondure%C3%B1o-fredy_najera-narco-fiscal%C3%ADa_nueva_york-eua-extradicion-

Wilfredo Méndez, director of Ciprodeh, is highly critical about the (re)election process for the Attorney General and he questions the possibility of civil society actors to intervene in a "done deal". This sentiment is backed up by the Coalition against Impunity, which denounced illegal back-room deals as part of the electoral process. They also question the meeting for civil society actors called for today. They believe that organizations close to the JOH regime will try to legitimize the process.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/16/denuncian-agenda-oscura-para-obtener-siete-anos-mas-de-impunidad/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/607-maniobra-ilegal-para-elegir-al-fiscal-denuncia-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad>

The MP conducted the operation Dragon III and went after corrupt employees of the judicial system. ConfidencialHN reports on highly questionable behavior by a former public prosecutor and now anti-corruption judge, Vera Barahona, as well as the current head of the Special Prosecutor Unit against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC), Luis Santos.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/16/honduras-buscan-enjuiciar-a-operadores-de-justicia-por-abuso-de-autoridad/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/16/jueza-anticorrupcion-y-jefe-de-ufecic-hacen-peligrar-imparticion-de-justicia0/>

Defensores en Línea reports on acts of intimidation by state security forces in Gualjoquito, Santa Bárbara. The armed forces claim that a group of young people has been conducting "acts of vandalism" since the electoral fraud. The Military Police uses this as an excuse to spread fear in the community.

A group of UNAH teachers published a press release denouncing the criminalization and persecution of UNAH student Eduardo Urbina Ayala who had to flee to Costa Rica last December (see e-mails from this week). They underline that this is not an isolated case.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/gualjoquito-en-el-ojo-militar/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/16/persecucion-contra-eduardo-urbina-no-es-un-hecho-aislado-docentes-de-historia-de-la-unah/>

Canada expressed its concerns about the human rights violation in Honduras highlighted by the UN Human Rights Office report.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/canada-reitera-preocupacion-por-violacion-a-ddhh-tras-elecciones-de-honduras.html>

Radio Progreso offers an overview of this week's gun law debate in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4297-discuten-ley-de-armas-sin-atacar-generadores-de-violencia-en-honduras>

Radio Progreso reports on the initiative formed in El Progreso to defend public health.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4300-defender-la-salud-17-marzo-2018>

According to the newest World Happiness Report, Honduras ranks 72 out of 156, one of the worst scores in the region. The report looks also at migration and they find that Hondurans have the highest potential to migrate, i.e. 47% of respondents contemplate it.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2752-honduras-entre-los-paises-mas-tristes-del-mundo-finlandia-el-mas-feliz>

<http://unsdsn.org/news/2018/03/14/finland-wins-double-gold-in-world-happiness-report-2018/>

<http://elpulso.hn/dolls-clan-berta-caceres/>

18/03/18

Political Prisoners; (Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue; Corruption; Penitentiary System; Drug Trafficking; MP; Debt; Labor Rights; and Hondurans - On their Knees for Work

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint program by the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) and the FIDH, launched an urgent action in favor of the political prisoner Edwin Róbelo Espinal.

On Monday, there will be a Global Day of Action to demand freedom for all political prisoners in Honduras.

<http://www.omct.org/es/human-rights-defenders/urgent-interventions/honduras/2018/03/d24769/>

<https://afgj.org/contact-honduran-authorities>

<https://afgj.org/contact-us-canadian-authorities>

The director of Medical Forensic, Julissa Villanueva, announced that they have concluded the investigation of the 23 post-electoral assassinations which the UN Human Rights Office highlighted. The political opposition speaks of 36 murders based on numbers by various human rights organizations.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/17/medicina-forense-concluye-investigacion-sobre-asesinatos-de-opositores/>

The pre-dialogue at the UN in Honduras continues today.
The back and forth of Salvador Nasralla causes widespread confusion.
Xiomara Castro told the public that the representatives Nasralla will send for today do not represent her.

COFADEH believes the main aim of the dialogue is to legitimize an imposing regime. COFADEH further speaks of a "big international effort to justify the Honduran dictatorship" and it highlights parallels to the PR strategy used by Honduras in the 1980s.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/este-domingo-se-realizara-tercer-encuentro-entre-representantes-politicos-y-la-onu.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/xiomara-castro-salvador-nasralla-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/salvador-debe-rectificar-su-posicion-y-ser-coherente-con-la-alianza-mel-zelaya.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-dictadura-ridicula/>

The IACHR published a resolution on corruption and human rights.

<http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/decisiones/pdf/Resolucion-1-18-es.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/16/cidh-publica-resolucion-sobre-corrupcion-y-derechos-humanos/>

ConfidencialHN reports that three inmates escaped from the Támara prison yesterday.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/17/se-escapan-tres-reos-de-la-carcel-de-tamara-por-la-puerta-grande/>

Reporteros de Investigación published some more details on the Liberal congressman Freddy Najera, who handed himself over to US authorities after being accused of drug trafficking.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/17/narcodiputados-y-narcofuncionarios-recibieron-dinero-para-proteger-el-paso-de-la-droga-dea/>

One part of civil society in Honduras elected a representative for the board proposing candidates for the Attorney General position. It is Melissa Elvir from the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ). This NGO has been highlighted in the past for its closeness to the JOH regime.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/17/sociedad-civil-tendra-su-representante-en-la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-fue-propuesta-por-asj/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sociedad-civil-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

The Finance Secretariat projects that the external debt will reach 270% of GDP by 2019.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/17/peligroso-deuda-externa-de-honduras-se-incremento-en-un-270-por-ciento/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/17/en-1200-millones-de-dolares-aumentara-deuda-publica-en-periodo-2017-2019/>

The deputy secretary of the labor union CGT, Benjamín Vásquez, demands the derogation of the Work by Hour Law.

<http://hondudiario.com/2018/03/16/ley-de-trabajo-por-hora-debe-ser-derogadabenjamin-vasquez/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/16/asi-se-pide-empelo-en-honduras-trabajador-besa-el-anillo-al-alcalde-de-el-progreso/>

19/03/18

Political Prisoners; (Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue; Corruption; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; and Commemorating Óscar Arnulfo Romero

Today is the Global Day of Action to demand freedom for all political prisoners in Honduras.

<http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/2018/03/18/global-day-of-action-free-honduran-political-prisoners/>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle wrote an open letter to the Costa Rican president in the case of Eduardo Urbina. Urbina had to flee Honduras after being harassed and repressed by state security forces. Furthermore, a criminalization campaign was launched against him and he fears being deported from Costa Rica to Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/18/carta-al-presidente-otton-solis-sobre-eduardo-urbina/>

Yesterday, the third meeting to prepare a possible dialogue took place at the UN. The next round of conversations will take place on April 5. One demand of Salvador Nasralla, which he had voiced on several occasions, was that the results of a dialogue would be binding. Apparently, he was successful.

But just moments later, a comment by Ebal Díaz, the Minister of the Presidency, raises questions again.

Nasralla's participation, i.e. the participation of his delegate, caused disappointment in Xiomara Castro accusing him of legitimizing the JOH regime.

Manuel Zelaya reminds him of the agreement signed between him, Libre and Pinu. While he agrees with the objectives of Nasralla, as Castro he does not believe Nasralla chose the right way to reach them by participating in the dialogue under the current circumstances. It seems important to highlight here that when the main media reports on the situation between Nasralla and the rest of the Opposition Alliance, it represents it as an unsurmountable dispute, while alternative media outlets show that it is rather a dispute about tactics, not the general strategic goals.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/18/hasta-el-5-de-abril-proseguiran-los-acercamientos-para-el-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/18/negociadores-de-nasralla-piden-que-el-dialogo-sea-vinculante/>

<https://tiempo.hn/politicos-iniciativas-pre-dialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/reinicia-dialogo-nasrallista-presenta-proyecto-decreto-vinculante-y-nacionalistas-dicen-que-debe-ser-sin-condiciones.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mesa-de-dialogo-no-puede-dar-ordenes-al-cn-mp-o-al-poder-judicial-dice-ebal-diaz.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/18/salvador-esta-faltando-a-su-palabra-xiomara-castro-advierde-que-dialogo-legitima-a-joh/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/18/zelaya-recuerda-a-nasralla-que-debe-cumplir-el-pacto-que-firmo-con-la-alianza/>

InSight Crime presents the elections of General Attorneys in all three countries of the Northern Triangle as a possible setback in the fight against corruption. In the case of Honduras, InSight Crime highlights that the names of possible candidates made public so far are mostly close allies of JOH, "whose legitimacy as leader is questioned after an electoral process marked by accusations of fraud."

Reproducing the article by InSight Crime, Criterio adds that it takes too sunny a view on the current Attorney General. Various human rights organizations and social movements denounce his failure to go after powerful actors.

<https://es.insightcrime.org/noticias/analisis/cambio-de-fiscales-en-el-triangulo-norte-podria-ser-un-retroceso-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/18/cambio-de-fiscales-en-el-triangulo-norte-podria-ser-un-retroceso-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcionhay/>

The MACCIH, slowly feeling like a broken record player, repeats once more the importance of the Efficient Collaboration Bill, a bill that has been sabotaged by Nationalist congresswo/men for over a year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-insiste-en-importancia-de-aprobar-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz.html>

Yesterday, ConfidencialHN reported on three men breaking out of the Támara prison. It maybe just have been one, but Proceso Digital now reports that he was a former police officer.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-fuga-expolicia-presos-de-tamara.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/18/inician-conmemoracion-de-38-anos-del-asesinato-de-monsenor-romero-en-el-salvador/>

20/03/18

(Re)Elections - Repression, UN, Dialogue; Political Prisoners; Berta - Agua Zarca; HRDs; Corruption; Homicide Rate; MP; Public Health; World Bank; Mayors; Penitentiary System; NGOs; and the New Highway Police

COFADEH will hold a press conference today at 10.30am at its offices to inform about the situation of the student Eduardo Urbina, who had to leave Honduras last December after being harassed and threatened. The students association AEH published a press release in solidarity with Eduardo. As did the a group of university history teachers.

See Attachment

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/asociacion-de-estudiantes-de-historia-aeh/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-docentes-carrera-de-historia-unah/>

The Alignment against Continuity (C.C.C.) welcomes the report published

by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras on the post-electoral human rights violations. They see the report as a vindication of the reports by national human rights organization such as COFADEH and demand that based on the presented information a Independent Investigative Commission will be created. Furthermore, they reiterate that the JOH regime is illegitimate and demand a return to the constitutional order through new elections.

See Attachment

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-demanda-la-investigacion-independiente-de-casos-de-violaciones-a-ddhh-post-electoral/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/posicionamiento-a-partir-del-informe-de-la-oficina-del-alto-comisionado-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/611-una-comision-independiente-que-investigue-violaciones-a-ddhh-luego-de-crisis-electoral-demanda-convergencia>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/convergencia-contr-el-continuismo-solicita-creacion-de-comision-que-investigue-las-violaciones-a-ddhh-en-crisis-postelectoral.html>

Nincy Perdomo believes that the pre-dialogue revealed three things so far. First, Salvador Nasralla and Luis Zelaya have come closer. Second, at the same time, Nasralla's and Zelaya's position diverged (the scope of which is debatable). Third, JOH has profited from this, as he disappeared to some extent from the line of fire.

Luis Zelaya presents three points that came out of the pre-dialogue. The announcement to create a commission accompanied by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras to investigate the post-electoral human rights violations . The agreement that the results of the dialogue must be binding. The need for three mediators, as no agreement on just one was possible.

Regarding the independent commission, a comment by the Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva does not bode well. Lets check if you can spot the problem: "We adopted with all seriousness and responsibility, as a government, the task to create an independent national team."

<http://elpulso.hn/predialogo-onu-hn/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/luis-zelaya-apuesta-por-el-dialogo-para-destrabar-crisis-politica/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/para-garantizar-ddhh-gobierno-assume-creacion-de-equipo-independiente.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/19/participantes-del-pre-dialogo-se-comprometen-a-promover-ley-que-de-caracter-vinculante-a-acuerdos/>

As part of the Global Day of Action for the freedom of political prisoners in Honduras, there was a rally held in Tegucigalpa. TSi Honduras published a video on it on Youtube. And teleSUR also reported on it.

Adrienne Pine presents a portrait of one of the political prisoners, Edwin Espinal, and calls out to the international community to take action. Criterio spoke with the lawyer representing the political prisoners. Even El Heraldo could not ignore it, but they wrote of "alleged political prisoners".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxpAaQ064NM>

<https://videos.telesurtv.net/video/708863/honduras-denuncian-violaciones-de-ddhh-a-presos-politicos/>

<https://nacla.org/news/2018/03/19/serving-time-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-de-los-presos-politicos-demandaron-su-libertad-frente-al-mp/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/19/presos-politicos-estan-pagando-condena-por-adelantado-benedicto-santos-video/>

<https://tiempo.hn/familiares-de-los-presos-politicos-exigen-liberacion-violaciones-derechos-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1161702-466/manifestantes-piden-al-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-liberar-a-21-supuestos-presos-pol%C3%ADticos>

The former mayor of Intibucá, Martiniano Domínguez Meza, appeared in front of court yesterday. He is accused of abuse of authority regarding the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project.

The audience was postponed by the judge to April 5 and 6.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/mandan-a-juicio-a-exalcalde-por-abuso-de-autoridad-sobre-represa-agua-zarca/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/audiencia-suspendida-y-reprogramada.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on further irregularities in the case against the three police officials accused to be responsible for the attack against human rights defenders and students in September 2017. The three officials were using their mobile phones to communicate by text throughout the testimony by the victims of their ordered violence, violating the rule that there is no communication during trials.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2068-caso-08-de-septiembre-de-2017-victimas-de-torturas-y-otros-abusos-policiales-testificaron-ante-jueza>

Taking the case of the "Congresswo/men Network" as an example, Edmundo Orellana speaks of a selective legalization of corruption for the corrupt elite, especially the corrupt political elite.

Today, some of the highlighted congresswo/men should appear at 11am at the MP

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/19/impunidad-legal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2759-ultima-hora-inician-proceso-a-influyentes-diputados-del-pacto-de-corrupcion>

<https://tiempo.hn/siete-diputados-y-una-excongresista-serian-investigados-por-la-ufecic-fe-de-erratas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputados-declararan-ante-ufecic-por-fe-de-errata-el-6-de-abril-y-se-molestan-por-no-secretividad-del-caso.html>

According to the UNAH Violence Observatory, the homicide rate in Honduras last year was 43.6 per 100'000 inhabitants.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/a-pesa-de-baja-en-tasa-de-crmenes-honduras-sigue-siendo-un-pais-violento1/>

ConfidencialHN published more information of the setup of the nominating committee for the (re)election of the Attorney General and their deputy. InSight Crime published an English version on its article on the importance of the general attorney elections in the Northern Triangle when it comes to fighting corruption (I sent out the Spanish version yesterday).

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/nombran-otra-representante-para-seleccionar-al-fiscal-general/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/unah-nombra-su-representante-ante-la-junta-que-elegira-al-nuevo-fiscal/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/change-northern-triangle-attorneys-general-could-facing-setback-fight-against-corruption/>

Some 500 doctors announced strike actions for this Thursday if the JOH regime doesn't pay them their outstanding wages.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/advierten-paro-de-labores-en-el-gremio-medico-por-mentiras-gubernamentales/>

A close ally of JOH, his chief of staff Ramón Hernández Alcerro, will leave his position to become the new Central American Director of the World Bank...

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/estrecho-colaborador-de-joh-sera-director-para-centroamerica-mexico-y-venezuela-en-el-banco-mundial/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/hernandez-alcerro-oficializa-su-retiro-del-gobierno-para-ocupar-cargo-en-el-bm.html>

The mayor of Arizona, Atlántida, Carlos Arnaldo Chacón, has been accused of illegally appropriating public land. In the meantime, another former mayor, Óscar Kilgore was acquitted. He had been accused of illicit enrichment.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/formalizan-acusacion-criminal-contralcalde-hondureno-por-apropiarse-unos-terrenos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/dictan-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-alcalde-de-arizona-atlantida.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/las-palabras-oscar-kilgore-al-salir-la-carcel-dia-del-padre/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/19/oscar-kilgore-sale-en-libertad-tras-ser-absuelto-por-enriquecimiento-ilicito/>

ConfidencialHN highlights the sorry state of the health facilities inside the Honduran prisons.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/19/mientras-joh-construye-carceles-a-granel-reos-son-atendidos-en-miserrimas-clinicas/>

In the coming weeks, some 250 NGOs are expected to get certified by the Finance Ministry in order to develop social projects with state money.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/19/certificaran-ong-manegan-fondos-salud-educacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/entra-en-accion-la-nueva-policia-de-carreteras-en-honduras.html>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1161875-410/polic%C3%ADa-carreteras-reduciran-accidentes-viales>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/19/30-patrullas-240-agentes-inicia-policia-carreteras/>



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21/03/18

MACCIH; UN; (Re)Elections - Repression, UN, Dialogue, Opposition Alliance, Campaigning; UNAH; National Police; Public Health; Israel; Congress; Drug Trafficking; and COPINH - 1993 to 2018

According to Radio Globo, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court admitted an unspecified complaint by a group of lawyers against the MACCIH.

The complaint is directed against the agreement on which the MACCIH is based.

According to El Tiempo, the complaint comes from the lawyers representing the "Congresswo/men Network" highlighted for corruption. Both Libre and the Liberal Party reject the admission of the complaint.

For human rights specialist at ERIC, Joaquín Mejía Rivera, this represents just the newest attack against the MACCIH - attacks that will continue until the mission completely stops working.

The group of congresswo/men supporting the MACCIH called for an emergency meeting today.

The same day, Congress approved in an abbreviated manner a reform to the law regulating seizures of goods and properties. Many observers feared that this reform further weakens the possibility to go after corruption.

The National Party failed to condemn the renewed attack against the MACCIH...political will anyone?

Apparently yes, there is political will to stop any meaningful anti-corruption measures. The former state prosecutor Edmundo Orellana highlights that there is no legal reason to have admitted the complaint against the MACCIH, only political ones.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/20/admiten-recurso-contrala-mision-anticorruccion-de-la-oea-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/20/corte-admite-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contrala-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-admite-recurso-contramaccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/20/partidos-libre-y-liberal-rechazan-admision-de-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contrael-convenio-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/20/declarar-inconstitucional-la-maccih-seria-contradecir-lo-que-ya-la-csj-aprobo-al-admitirla-joaquin-mejia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/comision-parlamentaria-de-apoyo-a-la-maccih-convoca-a-reunion-urgente-para-este-miercoles.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aprueban-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nacionalistas-son-impulsadores-de-luchas-anticorruccion-en-base-al-respeto-de-la-ley-reinaldo-sanchez.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/recurso-contraconvenio-de-la-maccih-carece-de-interes-legitimo-edmundo-orellana.html>

In the last session at the Human Rights Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented its annual report on the human rights situation in Honduras.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/annual-report-united-nations-high-commissioner-human-rights-human-rights-situation-0>

COFADEH held a press conference yesterday together with the family of Eduardo Enrique Urbina Ayala. They informed about his current situation and presented the actions done in his case so far.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-acciones-realizadas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-suerte-del-estudiante-eduardo-urbina/>

Radio Progreso continues to highlight another report, the one by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras on the post-electoral human rights violations. This time, Radio Progreso focuses on the actors of the human rights violations named in the report. Even though it is the soldier/police man pulling the trigger, responsibility also lies with the men on top. In this case these are the General Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya, the General Julián Pacheco Tinoco and Colonel Óscar Reyes Paz. America - The Jesuit Review also covers the UN report focusing on the effects of the repression on human rights defenders.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4301-%C2%BFqui-%C3%A9nes-son-los-responsables-de-los-asesinatos-documentados-por-el-alto-comisionado?-20-marzo-2018>

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/03/20/activists-go-underground-un-reports-excessive-force-honduras>

The National Party continues to send very mixed messages about one of the main demands for the dialogue, that its results are binding. El Heraldo spoke with the Spanish ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick de la Vega who participated in all three rounds of the pre-dialogue.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sin-comprometerse-a-aprobar-nada-a-ciegas-bancada-del-pn-respalda-a-ebal-diaz-por-dialogo.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1162208-466/guillermo-kirkpatrick-de-la-vega-las-partes-quieren-una-garant%C3%ADa-de-que>

Manuel Zelaya announced an assembly of the Opposition Alliance against the Dictatorship for April 15 to decide about its future.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/20/anuncian-asamblea-para-definir-el-futuro-de-la-alianza-opositora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/20/zelaya-convoca-a-asamblea-para-decidir-el-futuro-de-la-alianza-de-oposicion-contra-la-dictadura/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-asamblea-general-alianza-de-oposicion-salvador-nasralla/>

According to the commissioner Kelvin Aguirre from the Clean Politics Unit, they now can account for 144 million Lempiras in campaign spending for the 2017 general elections. ConfidencialHN raises some questions regarding this money. The National Party reports that they spent in November 2017 almost 114 million Lempiras of a total of 130 million Lempiras for "Transport, Food and Other Things".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/20/unos-144-millones-ha-contabilizado-unidad-fiscalizadora-de-campanas/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/20/por-que-el-partido-nacional-y-libre-no-hicieron-una-efectiva-rendicion-de-cuentas/>

ConexiHon published new information about the irregular spending of public money by then UNAH-dean Julieta Castellanos in 2017. Apparently, she spent more than two million Lempiras in just one week for defamation and criminalization campaign against protesting students.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/613-ex-rectora-despilfarro-fondos-de-la-unah-en-campana-de-odio-contra-estudiantes>

Police agents contemplate striking if they don't get holidays during Easter Week.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/20/escala-basica-de-la-policia-amenaza-con-paro-de-labores-si-no-les-dan-descanso-durante-semana-santa/>

The Honduran Medical Association sets the JOH regime another deadline. If they won't receive a positive response on outstanding paychecks in the next 24 hours, they will go on strike.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/20/ultimatum-gremio-medico-advierte-paralizacion-del-sistema-de-salud/>

El Heraldo reports on the realization of an arms deal (helicopter and drones) with Israel based on a visits by the head of the National Defense Secretariat Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya to Israel two weeks ago where he met with its counterpart Avigdor Lieberman.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1161896-466/israel-dotar%C3%A1-a-la-fuerza-naval-de-honduras-de-equipo-a%C3%A9reo-y>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest installment of her Parliamentarian Chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-131503-2018/>

In its annual report on international drug trafficking, the US State Department highlights "widespread" corruption as a challenge to combat drug trafficking.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/latin-america-falls-short-anti-crime-efforts-us-state-department/>

<https://copinhonduras.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/copinh-25-anos-de-lucha-y-revolucion.html>

22/03/18

HRDs - IACHR, Trial; MILPAH; MACCIH; US; Corruption; Penitentiary System; Public Health; and Abandoned Children

The IACHR granted special protection measures for the human rights defender and coordinator of MASSVIDA, Germán Chirinos Gutiérrez, after having suffered persecution and a recent death threat.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-otorga-medidas-cautelares-a-defensor-del-ambiente-de-la-zona-sur/>

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to cover the trial against the three police officials.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2072-pruebas-irrefutables-contraltos-oficiales-deben-dar-condenas-de-mas-de-100-anos-de-prision>

Radio Progreso reports on the resistance by the indigenous Lenca in Simpinula, La Paz and their successful struggle for community land rights. This came with a cost and so far more than ten members have received death threats and they are being criminalized. MILPAH sub-coordinator Víctor Vásquez is active in Simpinula and he told Radio Progreso that he was ordered to appear at the MP already 18 times.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4304-simpinula-la-paz-un-ejemplo-de-soberan%C3%ADa-territorial-en-honduras>

Tuesday was another setback for the anti-corruption struggle in Honduras (see also yesterday's e-mail) in the form of a legal attack against the MACCIH and a reformed law weakening its tools. The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) criticizes both. Its head of investigation believes that the attack against the MACCIH was part of a strategy to divert attention away from the controversial reform. I doubt that as both topics have been mostly covered simultaneously.

The Parliamentarian Front un Support of the MACCIH emitted a press release denouncing the attack against the MACCIH. Political analyst Olban Valladares highlights how the newest attack against the MACCIH, once more, goes against the promises made by the JOH regime on the international stage.

Víctor Meza believes that if the court goes on to decide against the MACCIH, this would represent a deadly blow to the mission.

The sub-coordinator of the US Wilson Center, Eric Olson, told Criterio that the eyes of the world are on the MACCIH and its fate in Honduras.

Hugo Noé Pino wonders how the international cooperation sector will react to these new attacks.

The US embassy expresses concerns about the "recent actions to counteract anti-corruption efforts in Honduras".

The former COHEP president Eduardo Facussé calls out to the Honduran people to get rid of the corrupt politicians.

Yesterday, a forum took place in Honduras on the "perspectives and challenges for the anti-corruption struggle in Honduras". On this occasion, a new platform was presented to the public: Citizens against Corruption.

And everything summarized in a cartoon.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/21/jefa-de-oficina-anticorrupcion-condena-las-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/recurso-contrala-maccih-fue-para-distraernos-y-aprobar-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-odir-fernandez.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/21/desarticulacion-la-maccih-frente-parlamentario/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/frente-parlamentario-apoya-a-la-maccih-y-califica-de-sospechosa-actitud-de-csj.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/21/acciones-contrala-maccih-dejan-mal-parado-a-joh-ante-los-ojos-del-mundo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/21/si-la-corte-falla-en-contrade-la-maccih-sera-un-golpe-mortal-para-la-mision-victor-meza/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/21/los-ojos-del-mundo-estan-sobre-el-tema-de-la-maccih-eric-olson/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/21/la-maccih-y-el-contraataque-de-la-corrupcion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/embajada-de-eeuu-preocupada-por-acciones-que-debilitan-lucha-contracorrupcion-en-honduras.html>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/21/empresario-pide-a-politicos-corruptos-que-dejen-de-robar/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/21/lanzan-espacio-denominado-ciudadania-contrala-corrupcion/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/21/piden-sociedad-combatir-la-corrupcion-honduras-apoyar-mision-la-oea/>

<https://tiempo.hn/la-toon-de-chavez-red-de-secuaces/>

US Congresswoman and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi writes after a meeting with COFADEH's Bertha Oliva: "It was a pleasure to welcome human rights activist Bertha Oliva to the US Capitol on Friday to discuss the disturbing conditions facing the people of Honduras. We are inspired by her courage and dedication."

In Minnesota, state legislator " unveiled a measure calling for Congress to support the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, a congressional proposal that would halt security aid to the country until human rights violations have ended and perpetrators have been reprimanded."

<https://mobile.twitter.com/NancyPelosi/status/976539801108271105>

<http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-lawmakers-urge-congress-to-withdraw-security-funding-from-honduras/477562043/>

El Libertador reports on Congress' approval of the Impunity Pact II (see also above and yesterday).

The JOH regime announced via Twitter that they will first look at the reform to the law regulating seizures of goods and buildings before it comes into force.

Luis Zelaya challenges JOH to do the right thing.

The TSC presented a new report on the IHSS corruption case to the MP which should lead to new legal accusations of former functionaries.

The former Education Minister from 2010-2012, José Alejandro Ventura Soriano, has to await his trial for abuse of authority in prison.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2760-diputados-hondurenos-aprobaron-anoche-pacto-de-impunidad-ii>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/ejecutivo-analizara-las-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio-aprobadas-por-el-cn.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/luis-zelaya-sugiere-al-presidente-hernandez-vetar-ley-de-privacion-como-muestra-que-quiere-combatir-impunidad.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/15898-2/>

<http://elpulso.hn/prision-preventiva-para-ex-ministro-de-educacion-alejandro-ventura/>

<https://tiempo.hn/prision-ex-ministro-de-educacion/>

A trial against a young man had to be suspended because he caught tuberculosis at La Tolva, one of the two 'high-security' prisons. The medical forensic David Castro Bobadilla warns that he won't get better as long as he won't received adequate food and medical treatment. Fusina searched the Támara prison yesterday. The article is accompanied by a lot of photos.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/21/suspenden-juicio-contr-imputado-porque-contrajo-tuberculosis-en-la-tolva/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/21/militares-realizan-operativos-dentro-de-carcel-hondurena/>

In two separate articles on Criterio, Suyapa Figueroa, the president of the Honduran Medical Association (CMH) presents the sorry state of the Honduran health system. She also criticizes the role of the WHO and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in supporting the JOH regime forcing through reforms harming the public health system such as the Social Protection Framework Law.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/21/no-hay-medicamentos-ni-quiropanos-en-los-centros-de-salud-y-hospitales-del-estado-video/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/21/apj-condena-la-aprobacion-de-las-reformas-a-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dinaf-hay-120-ninos-declarados-abandonados/>

23/03/18

Libre; Corruption - General, IHSS; MACCIH; National Police; MADJ; Mining; (Re)Elections - Repression, Dialogue; Bajo Aguán; MP; Penitentiary System; IAIP; Journalists; and a Documentary: Women in Defense of their Land

Olivia Marcela Zúniga Cáceres, Libre congresswoman and daughter of Berta Cáceres, has received death threats on Facebook.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/amenazas/713-amenazas-de-muerte-por-discurso-politico-de-diputada-de-oposicion>

Radio Progreso highlights how the JOH regime uses decrease in media attention due to the upcoming Easter Week (semana santa) "to complete various assignments, all linked to corruption and impunity": i) freeing allies (the former mayor of San Pedro Sula, Oscar Kilgore, was just acquitted after facing corruption charges and it is feared that the same happens with Lena Gutiérrez); ii) attack the MACCIH (see e-mails last two days); iii) approve/reform further laws weakening the anti-corruption struggle (see e-mails last two days); iv) denigrate the head of the anti-corruption unit at the MP, Javier Santos.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4305-los-encargos-de-semana-santa-22-marzo-2018>

The TSC confirms recent investigations by ConfidencialHN on an additional 600 million Lempiras corruption case at the IHSS. The main media started reporting on it as well.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/22/tribunal-de-cuentas-da-la-razon-a-confidencialhn-sobre-denuncias-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/21/se-destapa-otro-escandalo-sobre-corrupcion-en-el-ihss-con-programamodernizacion-financiera/>

http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1162901-410/irrecuperables-600_millones-saqueados-ihss-mario_zelaya-ramon_bertetty-jose_zelaya

Three US Senators from both parties send a joint open letter to the US Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan expressing their concern regarding the situation of the MACCIH in Honduras. The recent attacks against the MACCIH and the weakening of its tools through legal reforms leaves the Senators with "serious misgivings about ongoing efforts to combat impunity in Honduras."

This resonates a bit with a statement by the US embassy from Tuesday, but the Senators follow up their concerns with actual demands for the US government.

The US embassy also held a press conference on the topic calling the reforms a setback.

Eric Olson, sub-director of the Woodrow Wilson Center, emphasizes that the US does not like sending millions of dollars to Honduras which are lost there due to corruption.

JOH seems to react, letting open the possibility to veto the reforms to the law regulating seizures of goods and properties.

Seven Liberal congresswo/men who voted in favor of the legal reforms now face disciplinary actions.

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/3-22-18%20RM%20Letter%20to%20Deputy%20Sullivan%20Re%20MACCIH.pdf>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/22/ee-uu-asegura-estar-preocupado-por-acciones-que-favorecen-la-corrupcion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1162859-466/reformas-a-la-ley-de-privaci%C3%B3n-son-un-paso-atr%C3%A1s-afirma-estados>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/22/el-pueblo-de-estados-unidos-no-esta-de-humor-para-seguir-enviando-dinero-a-perderse-en-honduras-eric-olson/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/22/ante-arrinconada-estadounidense-herandez-ablanda-postura-con-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-podemos-retroceder-dice-presidente-herandez-en-torno-a-efectividad-de-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/luis-zelaya-quiere-expulsar-a-diputados-por-aprobar-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio-elvin-santos-le-llama-a-poner-los-pies-en-la-tierra.html>

A street vendor accuses the police agents belonging to the Investigative Police Bureau (DPI) of having murdered her 18-year old. The police claims he was already dead.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/22/acusan-a-elementos-policiales-de-matar-a-joven-en-san-pedro-sula-honduras-video/>
son.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/22/vendedora-de-comida-culpa-a-policias-por-muerte-de-su-hijo-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-nacional-asegura-que-joven-ya-estaba-muerto-en-barrio-el-centro-de-sps/>

MADJ commemorates 365 days of resistance in Pajuiles against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/03/22/MANIFIESTO-DE-PAJUILES-365-d%C3%ADas-defendiendo-el-agua>

CIPRODEH and FOSDEH organized with the help of Oxfam an encounter between environmental organizations from El Salvador and Honduras to exchange experience on anti-mining struggles.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/noticias/salvadorenos-comparten-experiencia-de-lucha-contra-la-mineria-con-pares-hondurenos/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/614-salvadorenos-comparten-experiencia-de-lucha-contra-la-mineria-en-honduras>

Criterio takes up the recent report presented at the UN Human Rights Council on Honduras which emphasizes once more the need to investigate the human rights violations committed by state security forces during the post-electoral crisis.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/22/acnudh-insto-de-nuevo-a-honduras-a-investigar-las-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-el-contexto-post-electoral/>

Radio Progreso summarizes the discourse around the dialogue so far - a dialogue that has two very different interpretations coming either from the JOH regime or the political opposition.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4307-honduras-a-las-puertas-de-un-di%C3%A1logo-sin-condiciones>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a visit by an US civil society delegation to the Bajo Aguán.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2073-delegacion-de-eua-llega-a-honduras-a-investigar-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-de-las-fuerzas-represivas-del-estado>

The director of prosecutors at the MP, José Arturo Duarte, resigned "for personal reasons".

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/22/renuncia-jefe-de-fiscales-del-ministerio-publico-de-honduras/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/22/renuncia-a-su-cargo-como-director-general-de-fiscalia-el-abogado-jose-arturo-duarte-portillo/>

Radio Progreso reports on the situation in the only women's prison in Honduras - a prison built for 300 women housing more than 700 and over 70 children, who were born there.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4306-una-llamada-de-indignaci%C3%B3n-que-busca-cambios-a-un-sistema-obsoleto>

Criterio denounces that the Journalist Association Honduras (CPH) intends to nominate one of its members as the commissioner of the Institute for Access to Public Information even though they played a dubious role in this area when it came to information regarding their social security institute (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/22/directivos-de-periodistas-pretenden-cargo-en-iaip-aunque-ocultan-informacion/>

And the problems at the IPP seem to continue.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/22/directivos-de-periodistas-usurpan-funciones-de-legisladores/>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/documental-mujeres-en-defensa-de-sus-territorios-en-honduras/>

24/03/18

UN; Political Prisoners; MACCIH; FoE; Hydroelectricity; HRDs; Impunity; Fire Arms; Education; MP; JOH; Liberal Party; US; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; Deportations; and 25 Years of Resistance

The Special Rapporteur on the situation for human rights defenders will carry out an official visit to Honduras from 2 to 12 May 2018. The UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner calls for inputs for this visit.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/VisitHonduras2018.aspx>

The National Committee on the Liberation of Political Prisoners in Honduras gives an update on the current situation. They also announce that they will meet with the Special Rapporteur from the IACHR coming to Honduras on April 3 and 4, 2018.

On last Monday's Global Day of Action demanding freedom for political prisoners in Honduras over 3000 and 4000 e-mails were sent out respectively to the Honduran and US/Canadian governments.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/libertad-para-presos-politicos-deber-obligacion-y-necesidad/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/infografia-de-los-presos-politicos-de-honduras/>

<https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/thank-you-for-your-solidarity-initial.html>

<https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.co.uk/2018/03/gracias-por-tu-solidaridad-informe.html>

This week's attack against the MACCIH continues to stir up rejection. Juliette Handal, the former president of COHEP, calls it a "shameless and intolerable mockery of the Honduran people". Defensores en Línea reports on the letter by the three US senators on the recent legal attacks against the anti-corruption struggle in Honduras. ConfidencialHN interprets the recent cryptic announcement by JOH reacting to the US pressure as a veto to the reform to the law regulating the seizure of goods and properties. El Libertador reports something similar. The Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) at American University launched last year a one-year pilot effort which will aim to understand the MACCIH in the context of anti-corruption and impunity initiatives in Honduras. Please find attached their third monitor report.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/23/plan-maquiavelico-contrala-maccih-es-una-burla-y-ataque-hacia-el-pueblo-juliette-handal/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/senadores-plantean-sus-preocupaciones-con-el-departamento-de-estado-sobre-los-acontecimientos-recientes-en-honduras/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/23/joh-va-por-el-veto-a-las-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2761-ee-uu-dice-a-joh-que-no-esta-de-acuerdo-con-blindaje-de-corruptos>

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/monitoring-maccih.cfm>

See attachment

The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression at the IACHR published its annual report.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/docs/anual/2017/docs/AnexoRELE.pdf>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/03/la-relatoria-especial-para-la-libertad.html>

Radio Progreso reports on the one-year anniversary of the protest camp in Pajuiles, Tela, where the local communities resist a hydroelectric project by the company HIDROCEP.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4310-pese-a-las-amenazas-a-muerte-y-persecuci%C3%B3n-penal-comunidades-del-atl%C3%A1ntico-resisten-a-proyectos-extractivos>

Apparently, the MP intends to create a special public prosecutor for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and further media employees.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/23/crean-en-honduras-fiscalia-para-proteger-defensores-periodistas-y-operadores-de-justicia/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/23/celebran-creacion-de-fiscalia-defensora-de-periodistas/>

Defensores en Línea reminds us of José Manuel Flores Arguijo, a teacher and social activist, who was murdered eight years ago and whose murder, as many others, rests unpunished.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/23-de-marzo-de-2010-nos-dispararon-a-la-conciencia/>

Jonathan Blitzer writing for the New Yorker makes the connection between lax US gun laws and the violence in the Northern Triangle.

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-link-between-americas-lax-gun-laws-and-the-violence-that-fuels-immigration>

ConfidencialHN reports on irregularities when it comes to the nominating process of new teachers.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/23/cuestionan-cancelacion-abrupta-del-concurso-de-docentes/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/23/secretario-de-educacion-promete-nuevo-concurso-de-seleccion-de-docentes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/23/secretaria-de-educacion-de-honduras-hara-nueva-seleccion-de-docentes/>

The MP nominated José Salgado Montalván as its new director of public prosecutors.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/23/juramentan-a-nuevo-director-general-de-fiscalia/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/23/jose-mario-salgado-montalvan-jura-como-nuevo-director-de-fiscales/>

Criterio reports on a protest by Honduran migrants in Chiapas, Mexico, demanding the resignation of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/23/migrantes-hondurenos-marchan-y-exigen-renuncia-de-hernandez-en-tapachula-mexico/>

Relations are heating up between different fractions inside the Liberal Party. The former presidential candidate Luis Zelaya threatens to reveal collaborations between Liberals and Nationalists.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/23/luis-zelaya-amenaza-con-revelar-componendas-entre-cachurecos-y-liberales/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/23/elvn-santos-no-responder-las-amenazas/>

Brian Nichols, responsible for trade at the US embassy in Honduras, gave an interview to Diario Matutino and spoke about the US support for the anti-corruption efforts, Trump's interest to consolidate actions against drug trafficking and more.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/23/nichols-honduras-debe-trabajar-en-corrupcion-violacion-de-derechos-humanos-y-crimen-organizado/>

Nichols also spoke about the dialogue and that the US supports it. The UN representative Igor Garafulic tries to convince Manuel Zelaya to participate.

<https://tiempo.hn/brian-nichols-estados-unidos-apoya-el-dialogo-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/igor-garafulic-invita-mel-predialogo/>

The number of deported Hondurans in the first two months of 2018 increased by 15% compared to 2017.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ascienden-a-13-mil-471-los-hondurenos-deportados-a-mediados-de-marzo.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4308-copinh-celebra-25-a%C3%B1os-de-luchas-y-acompa%C3%B1amiento-a-los-pueblos-ind%C3%ADgenas-lencas>

25/03/18

Corruption; JOH; Economy; Labor Rights; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; and System Change

CONADEH emphasizes the important role of the international cooperation for an effective and direct fight against corruption and impunity.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/cooperacion-internacional-es-necesaria-en-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-e-impunidad-conadeh.html>

The former chancellor and then liaison officer between Honduras and the MACCIH, Arturo Corrales, is apparently leaving the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/24/se-va-del-regimen-arturo-corrales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2763-honduras-arturo-corrales-tercer-toro-renuncia-al-gobierno>

Back in January, the Wall Street Journal reported that World Bank ease of doing business ranking may have been politically motivated. The case in point was Chile.

Now, Daily News reports on further cases, among them Honduras. "On the other hand, though the IMF has painted a rosy picture that Honduras has stabilized the economy, restored confidence, paved the way for growth and poverty reduction, more than 60% of the population is in conditions of poverty; official unemployment is 7.4%, not counting the thousands that work in the poor tertiary sector; public investment levels have

only ranged between 1% and 2% of GDP. It was done to support the neoliberal Juan Orlando Hernández who opened the doors to privatizations for the benefit of the national oligarchy and the transnational corporations that dominate the economy." (hat-tip to John)

<https://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21735076-embarrassingly-they-are-raised-and-then-answered-by-its-chief-economist-world>

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2018/03/24/features/146439/world-bank-imf-confess-their-sins>

Radio HRN attacks and denigrates the strikers at Chiquita Honduras.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/24/perdidas-millonarias-en-bananera-deja-huelga/>

The French ambassador Pierre-Christian Soccoja speaks out in favor of the pre-dialogue and asks the international community to support it.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/comunidad-internacional-debe-apoyar-avances-del-predialogo-sugiere-embajador-de-francia.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/24/oscar-arnulfo-romero-hay-que-cambiar-de-raiz-todo-el-sistema/>

26/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security; Militarization; Corruption - Budget, IHSS; US; Political Opposition; and an Attempt at Sense-Making

I'd like to remind you about the online-survey that I am currently conducting for my Master dissertation at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). I will investigate the digital communication patterns of Central American human rights defenders from a security perspective. Thank you to all that already participated. So far, the participation has been rather low and I decided to prolong the submission date to Sunday, April 8, midnight Central-American time.

If you find the time to participate in the coming two weeks, that would be great. Even more, if you also get a chance to share it with your Central American contacts, as the uptake there has been even lower. I understand if it is not possible. In that case, I'd appreciate a one-liner per e-mail just saying that a) you have no time, b) digital security is not a priority topic, c) you don't feel comfortable filling out an online survey on the topic, or d) other reasons. This would help me a lot already.

Spanish: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=es>

English: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=en>

Criterio reports on the still ongoing militarization program at schools, "Guards of the Fatherland".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/25/militares-invaden-centros-educativos-para-imponer-programa-guardianes-de-la-patria/>

It is still not known if JOH will veto the recent reforms to the law regulating seizures of goods and properties. El Heraldo claims he will do so after Easter.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1163645-466/sociedad-civil-tambi%C3%A9n-pide-vetar-reforma-a-la-ley-de-privaci%C3%B3n-de>

FOSDEH raises various red flags regarding the management of Honduras'

budget.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/25/fosdeh-presenta-senales-de-alerta-sobre-el-manejo-del-presupuesto-en-honduras/>

El Pulso portrays the company presumably involved in the newest case involving the IHSS corruption case: Empresa Sistemas Abiertos S.A. de C.V. of the POPA group. According to their article, this is already the third corruption case in recent history the company gets linked to.

<http://elpulso.hn/sistemas-abiertos-del-grupo-popa-una-empresa-con-largo-historial-de-corrupcion/>

Both Criterio and ConfidencialHN report that the US Congress cut assistance for the Norther Triangle by 12% from \$697 million to \$615 million.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/25/ee-uu-recorta-y-condiciona-fondos-para-honduras-y-paises-del-triangulo-norte/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/24/reducen-en-12-por-ciento-la-ayuda-financiera-al-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/>

Criterio looks at the fissures inside the political opposition and highlights how they only serve the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/24/mientras-herandez-se-afianza-en-el-poder-y-mel-y-luis-zelaya-se-enfrentan-en-una-guerra-de-tuits/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/25/de-la-alucinacion-inducida-por-el-veneno-de-las-tarantulas/>

27/03/18

Journalists; Hydroelectricity; HRDs; MACCIH; Corruption - IHSS; (Re)Elections - Dialogue; MP; Public Debt; IMF; and The River of the Dead

C-Libre denounces that Military Police agents attacked the journalist Carlos Wayne who covered a protest in Choloma on Sunday. Pasos de Animal Grande has some further information about the attack which included deleting his material.

Pasos de Animal Grande goes on to list recent cases of state violence against journalists and how the MP fails to go after them.

In another case, the journalist Jairo Lopez has suffered defamation attacks for a while. The newest one goes a step further including his wife and daughter.

There has been a very negative trend during the JOH regime when it comes to the possibility to work for small media outlets and independent journalists. One example is the increased difficulty to get accredited to cover Congress.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/impedimento-informativo/802-policia-militar-golpea-y-despoja-a-periodista-de-su-equipo-de-trabajo>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2077-periodista-sufre-electrochoques-golpes-y-palabras-soeces-para-obligarlo-a-borrar-material-sobre-represion>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2075-en-el-mp-esta-dormido-el-caso-de-periodistas-golpeados-por-policia-y-el-ejercito>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2076-campanas-de-desprestigio-contra-el-periodista-jairo-lopez-ahora-incluyen-a-su-esposa-e-hija>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2074-prensa-independiente-es-la-mas-afectada-con-censura-periodistica-para-ingresar-a-los-entes-estatales>

The inhabitants of Pajuiles near Tela, Atlántida, have taken their protest against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP to the highway between La Ceiba and Trujillo.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/26/pobladores-de-pajuiles-se-toman-carretera-en-tela-exigiendo-el-cierre-de-proyecto-hidroelectrico/>

In its series on human rights defenders, Pasos de Animal Grande presents Yessica Trinidad, the director of the National Network of Women Defenders (RNDDH).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2078-yessica-trinidad-ser-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-implica-muerte>

Edmundo Orellana fears about the future of the MACCIH and the anti-corruption body at the MP, UFECIC. InSight Crime reports on the continuing attacks in Guatemala and Honduras against the anti-corruption bodies and their tools: "The most recent attempt to challenge the constitutionality of MACCIH has the potential to terminate the commission altogether. The future of MACCIH is now in the hands of the Supreme Court, which is packed with allies of current President Juan Orlando Hernández, who himself has faced allegations of corruption." Maybe the Pope will be able to help...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/26/maccih-y-ufecic/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/central-america-elites-continue-onslaught-anti-graft-commissions/>

<https://tiempo.hn/directora-del-cna-gabriela-castellanos-es-invitada-por-el-papa-francisco-al-vaticano/>

The newest corruption case at the IHSS involves at least 15 people among them former functionaries and businesswo/men according to La Tribuna.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/26/decenas-implicados-nuevo-destape-ihss/>

El Pulso spoke with Ebal Díaz, the presidential minister, about the pre-dialogue. Once more, he fails to give a clear answer to the question if the results coming out of a possible dialogue will be binding. In a second interview, El Puslo spoke with former public prosecutor and Libre congressman Jari Dixon. He reiterates the need for an international mediator with the ability to decide on binding obligations if Libre were to participate.

<http://elpulso.hn/ebal-diaz-como-podemos-obligar-a-don-manuel-zelaya-a-sentarse-no-podemos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/jari-dixon-no-podemos-volver-a-caer-en-la-trampa-del-gobierno-de-los-famosos-dialogos-mentirosos/>

El Heraldo reports that a member of the MACCIH will observe the election of the Attorney General.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1163915-466/la-maccih-ser%C3%A1-veedora-de-la-elecci%C3%B3n-del-fiscal-general-y-adjunto>

Fosdeh warns about a new financial instrument available to the JOH regime, so-called Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/26/finanzas-de-honduras-podrian-entrar-en-riesgo-con-la-emision-de-certificados-de-deposito-global/>

Radio HRN reports about the imminent IMF visit to Honduras.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/03/26/el-fmi-llegara-al-pais-para-examinar-las-finanzas-hondurenas/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/03/26/el-rio-de-las-muertes/>

28/03/18

Corruption; MACCIH; (Re)Elections - Impunity, Dialogue; HRDs; COPINH; Private Security; Armed Forces; Poverty; Economy; OABI; Congress; Suicide; and Waiting for a Trial

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) announces that in the coming days it will present two new lines of investigations to the MP involving high functionaries of the JOH regime.

Reacting to this announcement, the former Liberal magistrate at the TSE Enrique Ortez Sequeira believes that many congresswo/men who are part of the so-called Impunity Pact will be "crucified" after the Easter Week.

The CNA's director Gabriela Castellanos, meanwhile, has meet the Pope and hopes this gives her some backup for the anti-corruption struggle in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2767-cna-tiene-en-la-mira-peces-gordos-del-gobierno-hondureno>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2769-crucifixion-espera-a-diputados-del-pacto-de-impunidad>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/27/despues-de-semana-santa-capturaran-a-diputados-nacionalistas-enrique-ortez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/27/directora-del-cna-y-el-papa-coinciden-en-combatir-la-corrupcion-y-en-la-inclusion-de-las-mujeres/>

<https://tiempo.hn/papa-francisco-corrupcion-en-honduras-cna-gabriela-castellanos/>

Julieta Castellanos demands answers by OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro regarding the MACCIH. She highlights some unresolved issues, such as the claim that 25% of the MACCIH's staff are apparently employed in Washington DC.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/27/el-senor-luis-almagro-nos-debe-una-explicacion-exrectora-de-la-unah/>

Radio Progreso highlights the fact that even though at least three important bodies published reports about human rights violations by state security forces in the post-electoral crisis (CONADEH, the Coalition against Impunity and the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras), the MP its General Attorney Óscar Chinchilla have failed so far to produce any meaningful results in this matter.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4314-seguimos-esperando-se-%C3%B1or-fiscal-general-27-marzo-2018>

Two days ago, the presidential minister Ebal Díaz claimed that he spoke with both Manuel Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla regarding the dialogue. Both men deny this. Zelaya and Nasralla, meanwhile, met at the airport yesterday and some hoped for a rapprochement, but Zelaya later said that there won't be an agreement between the two as long as Nasralla participates in the dialogue under the current situation.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/27/zelaya-sostiene-que-no-volvera-a-reunirse-con-nasralla-mientras-siga-en-el-dialogo-de-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-elbal-diaz-alianza-de-oposicion/>

The trial against the three police officials held responsible for an attack against human rights defenders and students in September 2017 is now planned to continue on April 6.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2080-carlos-del-cid-queremos-que-envien-a-prision-a-los-oficiales-de-policia-porque-estan-obstruyendo-el-proceso>

COPINH celebrated its 25 years of existence and commemorated Berta with a large gathering from March 22-24. Giorgio Trucchi published a short video of this "Encounter for Life and Justice".

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with Rodolfo Gómez from Río Blanco about the current situation there.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3zbt9uLsM4>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2079-25-aniversario-del-copinh-comunidades-lencas-no-retroceden-en-la-defensa-de-sus-territorios>

"A new report says that a lack of regulation of private security companies in Latin America is having negative impacts on security and at times facilitates criminal activities, underscoring how the region's booming private security industry can contribute to already high levels of crime and violence. (...) In many countries, private security forces outnumber public ones. In Brazil, there are four private security officers for every one public officer. The ratio is five to one in Guatemala and almost seven to one in Honduras, the report found." Proceso Digital reports that clandestine private security companies own more than 500'000 weapons.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/unregulated-private-security-firms-fuel-latam-crime-violence-report/>

<https://www.thedialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Security-for-Sale-FINAL-ENGLISH.pdf>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/companias-de-seguridad-clandestinas-manejan-mas-de-500-mil-armas.html>

El Pulso reports on the recently bought drones by the Honduran Armed Forces from Israel. The five drones Skylark III will arrive in June in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/conozca-al-skylark-el-drone-israeli-que-compro-el-ejercito-hondureno/>

Cepal finds in its newest report that the poverty levels in Honduras are above 60%. This coincides with the Honduran NGO FOSDEH which recently reported a poverty level of 68%.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/27/60-de-cada-100-hondurenos-viven-en-la-extrema-pobreza-cepal/>

FOSDEH analyst Ismael Zepeda believes that the lack of transparency when it comes to public finances in Honduras makes the country unattractive for foreign investment.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/27/falta-de-transparencia-hace-que-honduras-no-se-atractiva-para-las-inversiones-fosdeh/>

ConfidencialHN reports on irregularities at OABI, the Administrative Office for Seized Goods.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/26/empresa-cuasa-se-convirtio-en-la-caja-chica-de-maria-eugenia-mourra/>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/26/me-han-dejado-sin-casa-y-no-se-donde-vivir-hondureno-lamenta-confiscacion-de-terreno/>

Congress has failed to pay its quota to the International Interparliamentary Union since 2013.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/27/congreso-hondureno-debe-mas-de-1-6-millones-a-la-union-interpalamentaria-internacional/>

The number of suicides rose by 31% in Honduras last year.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/03/27/los-casos-suicidios-honduras-aumentaron-31-2017/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/27/por-enesima-vez-posponen-sentencia-de-callejas-ahora-sera-hasta-el-12-de-septiembre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/septiembre-rafael-leonardo-callejas-fifagate/>

29/03/18

HRDs - Digital Security, Spain; Liberal Party; Political Prisoners; JOH; Corruption - Departmental Fund, de Lobo, Protest; Basic Goods; HIV/AIDS; and Irregularities with the General Budget

I'd like to remind you about the online-survey that I am currently conducting for my Master dissertation at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS). I will investigate the digital communication patterns of Central American human rights defenders from a security perspective. Thank you to all that already participated. So far, the participation has been rather low and I decided to prolong the submission date to Sunday, April 8, midnight Central-American time.

If you find the time to participate in the coming week, that would be great. Even more, if you also get a chance to share it with your Central American contacts, as the uptake there has been even lower. I understand if it is not possible. In that case, I'd appreciate a one-liner per e-mail just saying that a) you have no time, b) digital security is not a priority topic, c) you don't feel comfortable filling out an online survey on the topic, or d) other reasons. This would help me a lot already.

Spanish: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=es>

English: <https://hrdonlinecommunication.limequery.com/852432?lang=en>

Two Honduran human rights defenders, Consuelo Soto and Pedro Landa, were in Madrid between March 13-14 to talk about the situation in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/28/activistas-de-derechos-humanos-denuncian-en-espana-vulneraciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

Nelson Edilberto Martínez Meléndez, a well-known social leader and board member (patronato) for the Liberal Party in the village Las Minas in the south of El Progreso, Yoro, was murdered yesterday.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2772-asesinan-dirigente-comunal-en-el-norte-de-honduras>

http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1164294-410/matan_dirigente-dirigente_comunal-el_progreso-yoro

Radio Progreso reports on the worsening situation of the political prisoners in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4319-en-condiciones-precarias-est%C3%A1n-presos-pol%C3%ADticos-denuncian-sus-familiares>

Inhabitants in Choluteca went to the streets yesterday to demand the resignation of JOH.

Javier Calderón Castillo writes about the "corruption, impunity and violence" two months in to the illegal second term of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/28/pobladores-de-choluteca-vuelven-a-salir-a-las-calles-a-exigir-la-salida-de-hernandez/>

<https://www.celag.org/corrupcion-impunidad-y-violencia-en-honduras/>

FOSDEH explains how the Departmental Development Fund is used as a political proselytism tool without any oversight. They estimate that since its inception in 2006, 4.8 billion Lempiras were distributed through the fund.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/28/fondo-departamental-es-un-instrumento-de-proselitismo-politico-sin-controles-ni-auditorias/>

The former president Pepe Lobo has until tomorrow to leave the house in El Chimbo, Santa Lucia before it will be seized by OABI.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/28/plazo-para-que-pepe-lobo-abandone-la-casa-de-el-chimbo-vence-el-viernes/>

Proceso Digital reports on a group of young Hondurans protesting against the corrupt political elite.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/jovenes-exigen-alto-a-la-corrupcion-en-salidas-de-tegucigalpa.html>

Radio Progreso speaks with Adalid Irías, a representative of the consumer protection organization Adecabah, about the continuously rising costs for basic goods in Honduras and the need for a strong consumer protection policy from the government.

In an article by Criterio, Irías further denounces how the Honduran public suffers from higher electricity costs and takes the blame for the errors made at ENEE.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4320-consumidores-exigen-reduccion-de-precios-de-canasta-basica>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/28/recuperacion-de-la-enee-sale-a-costillas-del-pueblo-asociacion-de-consumidores/>

El Heraldo reports that on average three people per day get infected with HIV in Honduras.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1164412-466/tres-personas-se-infectan-a-diario-con-vih-en-honduras>

FOSDEH found that congresswomen committed crimes by making arbitrary changes to the 2018 General Budget of the Republic.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/28/congreso-nacional-ha-incurrido-en-delitos-de-tipo-civil-y-penal-al-trastocar-el-presupuesto-fosdeh/>

30/03/18

IACHR; Violence; Red Cross; Photography; and the Return of Judas

Not just the IMF will arrive in Honduras next week, Proceso Digital reports that also the IACHR rapporteur Joel Hernández will visit Honduras in April 2. His visit is presented as a formality to present himself - he was elected as a commissioner last June. The "real" visit will then take place in June this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/relator-de-la-cidh-llegara-el-2-de-abril-a-honduras-en-visita-protocolaria.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/funcionario-de-la-cidh-joel-hernandez/>

The murder of the young medical student Silvia Vanessa Izaguirre on a bus towards Tegucigalpa shocked Honduras.

The National Police claims to have already captured one of the culprits.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2773-honduras-consternada-violan-y-matan-a-universitaria>

<https://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-lamentan-el-asesinato-de-doctora-en-trujillo-en-redes-sociales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cae-uno-de-los-sujetos-que-mato-a-la-estudiante-medicina-en-colon/>

El Heraldo spoke with the regional director of the Red Cross, Juan Pedro Schaerrer. The Red Cross has been installed in Honduras since 2012.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1164613-466/violencia-sigue-generando-consecuencias>

El Pulso presents a photography collective which includes three Hondurans from San Pedro Sula.

<http://elpulso.hn/proyecto-urbano-las-historias-detras-de-la-fotografia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/judas-regreso-convertido-en-funcionario-corrup-to-para-traicionar-a-honduras-gabriela-castellanos.html>

31/03/18

National Police - Repression; HRDs; and More Violence

C-Libre denounces that police agents shot at and hit protesters in Choluteca. They arrested seven men, three of the minors, and even though five of them were hurt, they did not get medical attention. A journalist covering the protest, Mauricio Rivera from UNE-TV, sought out the police station where they were held but he was denied any information.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/803-represion-policia-dispara-contra-manifestantes-y-niega-el-acceso-a-informacion-a-periodista>

The Costa Rica Human Rights Association (ACODEHU) denounces that the JOH regime requested the extradition of student leader and human rights defender Eduardo Urbina from Costa Rica.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/03/30/acodehu-denuncia-que-regimen-de-honduras-pide-a-costa-rica-extradicion-de-eduardo-urbina/>

In less than 48 hours, a second female doctor was murdered in Honduras. The Medical Association Honduras (CMH) calls JOH's security policy an "absolute failure" in a press release.

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/30/honduras-asesinan-segunda-doctora-en-menos-de-48-horas/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1164777-466/asesinan-a-una-doctora-en-el-interior-de-su-farmacia-en-tela>

<http://confidencialhn.com/2018/03/30/colegio-medico-critica-politica-de-seguridad-de-joh-tras-asesinato-de-estudiante/>