

01/05/18

May Day - Repression; MP - Elections; Corruption - de Lobo, IHSS; Migration - TPS; JOH; and a New Electoral Law

Radio Progreso congratulates the Honduran labor movement for being one of the most combative, but it also warns of some labor union leaders to close to the political power and only after personal benefits.

Salvador Nasralla participated presenting himself as the first president to march with the workers.

ConfidencialHN published a 10-min video of the march.

Criterio reprinted a press release by the main labor unions and the FNRP listing its main demands.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4386-hoy-primero-de-mayo-01-mayo-2018>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/01/nasralla-asegura-que-llega-a-la-marcha-obrera-como-el-presidente-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/01/trabajadores-hondurenos-se-movilizan-sin-propuestas-para-frenar-neoliberalismo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/01/conozca-las-peticiones-que-las-centrales-obreras-presentarian-este-1-de-mayo/>

After the marchers in Tegucigalpa arrived at the location for the final speeches, state security forces started to repress them using tear gas. At the time of writing, ConexiHon reported seven arrests and a fierce attack by the TIGRES special forces against the 25-year old Esdras Meza. Reporteros de Investigación takes a closer look at the smoke projectiles used against the protesters.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/651-represion-policia-militar-impide-cierre-de-manifestacion-del-1ero-de-mayo>

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4387-bombas-lacrim%C3%B3genas-y-toletes-impone-r%C3%A9gimen-de-joh-este-uno-de-mayo>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/01/policia-de-honduras-reprime-salvajemente-a-trabajadores-en-su-dia/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/01/usaron-armas-quimicas-capaces-de-ocasionar-incendios-para-reprimir-movilizacion-del-1-de-mayo/>

<http://www.nonlethaltechnologies.com/pdf/DS/MP-4S-CS.pdf>

It has been announced by political analysts weeks ago that Óscar Chinchilla will present himself for a second term. He always denied. Yesterday, the nominating committee announced that he is one of the 27 candidates...

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez reiterates that for her the nomination process and the election is just a show.

And Xiomara Castro says that JOH has already elected the Attorney General he wants.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/04/30/sorpresa-oscar-chinchilla-quieme-repetir-en-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-ya-se-esta-negociando-en-el-cn-la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/el-nuevo-fiscal-general-ya-lo-eligio-juan-orlando-hernandez-asegura-xiomara-castro.html>

The CNA wants the magistrates having granted the appeal by Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo investigated for prevarication.

The MP, meanwhile, appeals the decision by the Appeals Court.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama-cna-pide-investigar-por-prevaricato-a-miembros-de-corte-de-apelaciones.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1174216-466/ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-apelar%C3%A1-fallo-que-deja-virtualmente-libre-a-rosa-elena-bonilla>

The brother of the former IHSS director Marco Zelaya, Carlos Zelaya, was arrested in the US. He is accused of being involved in the IHSS corruption case.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/01/corte-de-estados-unidos-hermano-de-mario-zelaya-lavo-un-millon-de-dolares-en-sobornos-y-fondos-malversados-del-ihss/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/01/por-lavado-de-dinero-capturan-en-ee-uu-a-hermano-de-mario-zelaya/>

Criterion published the open letter by 17 US congresswo/men to the Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen asking for a 18-month prolongation of TPS for Hondurans.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/01/congresistas-piden-ampliacion-de-tps-para-honduras-y-senalan-inestabilidad-provocada-por-crisis-electoral/>

On Monday, JOH met with a US delegation to speak about human rights (see also yesterday). Radio HRN published an article with some of JOH's comments regarding the meeting. JOH claimed that his government has done a lot for human rights, but they failed to "communicate it properly"...

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/05/01/honduras-apuesta-a-reducir-homicidios-a-11-por-cada-100000-habitantes/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1174215-466/tribunal-supremo-electoral-prepara-un-proyecto-de-nueva-ley-electoral>

02/05/18

HRDs; MADJ; May Day - Repression; Journalists; (Re)Elections - Electoral Reforms, Repression; HR Violations; Political Opposition; MP - Elections; Corruption - Catholic Church, CNA, IHSS; Migration - TPS; US; Congress; ID; Mayors; and the Situation of Honduras' Labor Unions

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs will talk at a public event tomorrow in Tegucigalpa organized by CEJIL and the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2134271803480273>

Nina Lakhani reports for the Guardian from Honduras on the most recent criminalization case against environmental defenders. The local protest against a hydroelectric project on the Jilamito river accompanied by MADJ has seen five inhabitants - "a teacher, hardware-store owner, farmers and the newly elected municipal mayor" - brought to court for defending their land.

Radio Progreso held an interview with one of the accused, the mayor of Arizona, Noldo Chacón.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/02/honduran-dam-protesters-face-trial-in-ongoing-crackdown-against-defenders>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4389-justicia-hondure%C3%B1a-e-hidroel%C3%A9ctrica-se-ensa%C3%B1a-con-alcalde-de-arizona-atl%C3%A1ntida>

Félix Cesario reports the following on yesterday's May Day protests and its following repression: "In almost 40 years of being an active part in the May Day mobilizations in Honduras, absolutely never ('jamás de los jamases') have I seen such repression filled with hate, cruelty and

brutality like I've seen this May Day: black, olive green and blue. Never." Wilfredo Méndez, director of Ciprodeh, says that with the renewed repression, the JOH regime clearly shows its lack of political will to respect recommendations by the UN and the OAS.

There are additional reports on the repression by Pasos de Animal Grande, with a focus on the tools of repression, and C-Libre.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mayo-represion-de-un-gobernante-infiltrado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/01/regimen-de-honduras-ya-le-perdio-el-respeto-a-la-onu-y-oea-en-materia-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2113-honduras-gases-uso-excesivo-de-la-fuerza-y-detenciones-en-el-primer-de-mayo>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/860-reprimen-a-los-trabajadores-en-la-manifestacion-del-dia-internacional-del-trabajador>

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/375856/marcha-trabajadores-represion-policia-orlando-herandez>

C-Libre denounces various instances of repression against journalists, camera operators and photographers by state security forces on May Day. Since 2001, 75 journalists have been murdered, 65 of them in the last eight years. Only six cases were successfully resolved, which leaves us with an impunity rate of 92%.

UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression has published together with rights expert a joint declaration "to mark World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, [emphasizing] the essential role of independent media in democratic societies, and express grave concern about physical attacks on journalists, as well as surveillance, marginalization and squeezing out of independent outlets around the world."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/impedimento-informativo/861-periodistas-agredidos-por-militares-durante-cobertura-informativa>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/02/conadeh-solo-han-investigado-seis-de-los-75-crimenes-contra-la-prensa-de-honduras/>

<http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23026&LangID=EN>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/02/onu-osce-cidh/>

The civil society platform Electoral Observation N-26 presented its final report yesterday in which it calls for a "profound integral reform to the political and electoral system" in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/02/en-su-informe-final-on-26-propone-reformas-electorales-profundas/>

On Tuesday I attached the English report by the Coalition against Impunity on the post-electoral violence. Apparently, this was not the final version, the one attached today is.

See Attachment

Bertha Oliva met with the director of the International Platform against Impunity, Anabella Sibrián, to discuss the human rights situation in the country.

Radio Progreso reminds us that back in 2015, the IACHR named the violent situation and the general insecurity coming partly from the National Police, the Military Police and the Armed Forces as one of the most grave human rights problems in Honduras. The situation has not improved, rather the post-electoral violence has marked a new low.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-esconde-las-violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-denuncia-la-plataforma-internacional-contra-la-impunidad/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4388-la-profundizaci%C3%B3n-de-una-crisis-permanente-de-derechos-humanos-02-mayo>

Manuel Zelaya announced a march by the Opposition Alliance against the JOH regime for tomorrow.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/02/zelaya-convoca-a-movilizaciones-este-viernes-contra-el-gobierno-de-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-convoca-a-protestas-tras-represion-contra-los-trabajadores/>

The nomination committee decided not to prolong the application period for the position of Attorney General and their deputy. That means, the process will continue with the 27 applicants who had presented their interest by Monday.

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana believes that the last minute application of the current Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chichilla is only a distraction.

Defensores en Línea summarizes the discussions of a forum last week organized by the Coalition against Impunity on the nomination process.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/02/junta-de-proponentes-decide-no-dar-prorroga-para-postulacion-a-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/postulacion-de-actual-fiscal-chinchilla-solo-es-un-distractor-segun-edmundo-orellana.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/foro-defensores-de-ddhh-disertaron-sobre-la-eleccion-de-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-en-un-marco-de-impunidad/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the second out of three articles on the corruption case involving the Honduran cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/02/le-traigo-una-peticion-del-cardenal-2-3/>

Members of the Parliamentary Front in Support of the MACCIH met with the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) to also offer their support for the CNA.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/02/frente-de-apoyo-a-la-maccih-brinda-respaldo-a-oficina-anticorrupcion/>

US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton comments on the arrest of Carlos Alberto Zelaya Rojas in the US.

In the same IHSS case, the former president Pepe Lobo now wants to call former comments of his as "jokes".

<https://tiempo.hn/heide-fulton-eeuu-no-sera-refugio-de-los-que-intentan-escapar-de-la-justicia-hondurena/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-no-sera-refugio-de-los-que-escapan-de-justicia-y-tampoco-servira-para-lavar-dinero-heide-fulton.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/porfirio-lobo-sobre-el-desfalco-del-ihss-mentira-nadie-sabia-nada-de-eso/>

US Congressman Ro Khanna tweeted in support of Honduran migrants: "We cannot allow our Honduran neighbors to be sent back into grave danger. Violence in Honduras dramatically increased after the US-supported coup there in 2009. Protecting those families who have taken refuge here is the least we can do."

<https://twitter.com/RepRoKhanna/status/991701339662102528>

"Just days before the federal government decides whether or not it will strip legal protection for tens of thousands of Hondurans living in the United States, the Boston City Council passed a resolution Tuesday

urging Congress to stop financially backing police and military operations in Honduras until the Central American country investigates human rights violations by law enforcement."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/05/02/boston-city-council-asks-for-government-accountability-honduras/uTXglXUZW1P5Dg3sr4KJZJ/story.html>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez continues to criticize a planned pay rise for congresswomen.
Ninci Perdomo published her latest installment of the Parliamentary Chronicles.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/02/califican-de-desproporcionado-el-incremento-al-salario-de-los-diputados/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1174584-466/sigue-en-pie-ajuste-salarial-para-diputados>

<http://elpulso.hn/muertos-de-risa/>

Congress pushes the idea of a new identity card coupled with a new identification system for Hondurans. According to the deputy director of the RNP, both the EU and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) are supporting the project.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1174583-466/en-tres-etapas-el-congreso-nacional-pondra-en-marcha-la-nueva-identidad>

The former mayor of Reitoca, Víctor Manuel Meza, was found guilty of six murders and two attempts of murder.
Another former mayor, Jorge Neptaly Romero from Talanga, faces a trial on June 4.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/02/or-seis-delitos-de-asesinato-declaran-culpable-a-exalcalde-de-reitoca/>

<https://tiempo.hn/declaran-culpable-a-alcalde-de-reitoca-por-seis-asesinatos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/excalde-de-talanga-a-juicio-oral-el-4-de-junio-por-imputacion-de-diversos-delitos.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/02/sindicalismo-atraviesa-momentos-de-crisis-y-perdida-de-protagonismo-eugenio-sosa-video/>

03/05/18

MADJ; Political Prisoners; LGBTI; Journalists - US; HRDs; Fusina; Militarization - Schools; MP - Elections; EEH; Dialogue; Israel; Corruption - de Lobo, IHSS, Liberal Party, Judicial Power; and a Honduran Dissociation

MADJ published an alert yesterday as the community of Pajuiles was being surrounded by the police and TIGRES special forces threatening an eviction of their protest camp against the hydroelectric project by HIDROCEP. The Pajuiles community and four more in the region should benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR. Even worse, the day before, a judge denied the motions by the government and HIDROCEP to establish a permanent police presence to guarantee free movement and to evict the camp.

According to reports by Radio Progreso and Defensores en Línea, the state security forces used tear gas to disperse the inhabitants and at least one person was arrested.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-reprime-a-pobladores-de-pajuiles-para-hacer-ingresar-maquinaria/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4390-con-apoyo-de-polic%C3%ADas-y-militares-empresa-hidrocep-irrumpe-en-comunidades-de-pajuiles-tela>

Defensores en Línea spoke with Jhony Andrés Salgado Fuentes, who was held as a political prisoner for over four months. He is still being criminalized, but he now can await trial outside prison.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jhony-salgado-ya-sali-de-ese-infierno-me-defendere-en-libertad/>

María Castro Serantes published a portrayal of the human rights defender Indyra Mendoza, "a life in defense of the LGBTI movement in Honduras".

<http://elpulso.hn/indyra-mendoza-una-vida-por-la-defensa-del-movimiento-lgtbi-en-honduras/>

The US embassy celebrates the World Press Freedom Day with Honduran women journalists. There is no word of criticism of the JOH regime's action towards limiting press freedom nor that Honduras fared worst so far in the index by Reporters without Borders during his time in office. Great Britain, meanwhile, expressed its concern about the violence against journalists in the country and demanded that the government does more to protect them. Furthermore, the British ambassador lauded the work of the independent media, especially mentioning the journalist Dina Meza.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/heide-fulton-celebra-dia-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-con-destacadas-periodistas-hondurenas.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-entre-los-paises-violadores-a-la-libertad-de-prensa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/reino-unido-expresa-preocupacion-por-violencia-contra-periodistas-hondurenos.html>

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Michel Forst, met with CONADEH yesterday. He also met with Human Rights Secretary Karla Cueva and the article by Radio HRN is a perfect example of how far away the portrayal of the human rights situation by the JOH regime is from reality.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/relator-ddhh-de-onu-se-reune-con-comisionado-de-derechos-humanos-de-honduras.html>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/05/03/destacan-avances-en-tema-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-el-pais/>

ConfidencialHN accuses the Fusina to repeatedly publish inconsistent data about its work.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/03/por-enesima-vez-fusina-presume-incoherencias-numericas-durante-exposicion-de-resultados/>

Some 300 members of the police and military police were delegated to protect four colleges and 13 schools.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/03/policias-y-militares-inician-operativos-en-zonas-aledanas-a-colegios/>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, the MACCIH and COHEP have formed an observatory network for the selection process of the Attorney General and their deputy.

See Attachment

El Pulso continues to cover the problems around the Energy Company Honduras (EEH). According to their analysis, the promises made by the government regarding the privatization did not materialize.

<http://elpulso.hn/cortes-constantas-cobros-desproporcionados-en-la-factura-y-falta-de-reembolso-empanan-imagen-de-eeh/>

UN representative Igor Garafulic and the Spanish ambassador tried once more to promote the idea of a dialogue.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/03/representante-de-la-onu-y-embajador-de-espana-piden-a-politicos-sentarse-a-dialogar/>

The Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras congratulates the JOH regime to have aligned itself with the US by not condemning the announced transfer of its embassy to Jerusalem. In the same press release, they now request that Honduras will transfer its own embassy.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/03/confraternidad-evangelica-de-honduras-pide-a-joh-que-traslade-embajada-a-jerusalen/>

Cáritas Honduras, FOSDEH and the Democracy without Borders Foundation denounce the decision by an appeals court to partially absolve the former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo (the decision was taken one week ago and has been widely covered in the last e-mails).

<https://tiempo.hn/organizaciones-hondurenas-califican-como-una-bofetada-a-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-caso-de-rosa-de-lobo/>

InSight Crime took up the arrest of Carlos Zelaya in the US. "The US arrest of a man tied to a graft scheme involving of Honduras' largest government institutions is a clear sign of the limits to Washington's leniency with its regional allies as well as a demonstration of the Honduran government's inability to prosecute corrupt elites."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/us-arrests-honduras-elite-allegedly-laundering-corruption-proceeds/>

The Liberal Party publicly denounced the Impunity Pact promoted by the JOH regime to shield the corrupt elite from the CNA and the MACCIH.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2817-partido-liberal-condena-pactos-de-impunidad-del-gobierno-hondureno>

Yesterday, the trial against the six former members of the Judiciary Council continued. They are accused of no less than 600 acts of corruption.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2816-honduras-exconcejales-vuelven-a-juzgados-por-600-delitos-de-corrupcion>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/03/disociacion-del-hondureno-aqui-no-pasa-nada/>

180503_MP-Elecciones.jpg

Political Prisoners; COFADEH; Migration - TPS; Political Opposition; MP - Elections; Domestic Violence; Electoral Reforms; Public Health; Israel; and the Presidents' Sons

Good news from Honduras: "Minutes ago, a judge ordered that 8 of 21 political prisoners will be let out of prison. The charges against them have not been dropped but they will be free while awaiting trial. They are all from the community of Pimienta. 7 are held in terrible conditions in maximum security prison, El Pozo and Lourdes, the only female political prisoner is held in Tela. Over the next few days, the 8 will be released." (hat tip to Karen)

This decision was taken after months of international pressure including international civil society delegations traveling to Honduras to find out about the situation of the political prisoners.

COFADEH denounces that its monthly public commemoration of the forcefully disappeared was harassed by the Military Police. They took pictures of the participants and intimidated them. COFADEH, nevertheless, read its press release which denounces the renewed attacks by state security forces against Hondurans this week; be it on May First or later in the week in Pajuiles against inhabitants protesting against a hydroelectric project. All of this is happening under the eye of an international community that should be on high alert, at least since the post-electoral violence showed once more the true face of the regime to the public.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-militar-perfila-planton-del-cofadeh/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-el-rostro-del-cinismo-internacional/>

What has been feared for some time became reality yesterday, the Trump administration canceled the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Honduras. "Tens of thousands of Hondurans who have lived in the United States for up to two decades must prepare to leave, government officials announced Friday, a decision that effectively spells the demise of a humanitarian program that has protected nearly half a million people who had sought refuge from unstable homelands. (...) Hondurans in the program have until January 2020 to get their affairs in order and depart." The US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton claims that this decision won't affect the US-Honduras relationship. Manuel Zelaya proposes to cancel the contract with the US for their Palmerola airbase.

There is widespread coverage of the decision in the Honduran media landscape.

The media outlets close to the government emphasize that Hondurans have time until 2020 to get a legal status and that JOH and his wife promises to help them.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/04/us/honduras-temporary-protected-status.html>

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/05/trump-administration-could-send-57000-hondurans-to-one-of-the-worlds-most-dangerous-places/>

<https://tiempo.hn/la-embajada-de-los-estados-unidos-en-honduras-se-pronuncia-sobre-la-cancelacion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1175091-466/cancelaci%C3%B3n-del-tps-no-afectar%C3%A1-relaciones-bilaterales-entre-honduras-y-estados-unidos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/tras-anulacion-de-tps-zelaya-propone-cancelar-base-estadounidense-de-palmerola/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-pide-cancelar-tratado-militar-y-uso-de-palmerola-por-cancelacion-del-tps/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/04/honduras-secretaria-de-relaciones-exteriores-disfraza-la-cancelacion-del-tps-como-una-ampliacion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2819-ee-uu-da-fuerte-reves-al-socio-cancela-tps-a-56-mil-hondurenos>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1175075-471/hondurenios-con-tps-tienen-hasta-el-05-de-enero-de-2020-para-regularizae-estatus>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tepesianos-tendran-tiempo-suficiente-para-buscar-otro-estatus-migratorio-segun-excanciller-hondureno.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1175141-466/juan-orlando-hern%C3%A1ndez-estos-18-meses-ser%C3%A1n-otra-oportunidad-para-seguir-luchando>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/primera-dama-lamenta-cancelacion-de-tps-y-se-compromete-a-ayudar-a-tepesianos.html>

As previously announced, the Opposition Alliance took to the streets again yesterday to protest against the illegal reelection, but also the violent repression by state security forces on May Day.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2821-militares-cerraron-paso-a-movilizacion-de-oposicion-este-viernes>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aliancistas-vuelven-a-protestar-contrasupuesto-fraude-electoral.html>

The political analyst Víctor Meza denounces the way in which the current Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla was proposed for another five-year term as evidence of a rigged game.

Radio Progreso comes to a similar conclusion and explains in a new article how the political class tries to guarantee its continuous control over the MP.

According to the nomination committee, only seven candidates presented the required documents, the others have three more days to hand them in.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/que-chinchilla-acepte-que-lo-propuso-un-patronato-o-un-pastor-desconocido-es-vergonzoso/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4392-clase-pol%C3%ADtica-mueve-sus-piezas-para-seguir-con-el-control-del-ministerio-p%C3%ABlico>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1175188-466/solo-7-candidatos-para-fiscal-general-presentaron-toda-la-informaci%C3%B3n>

Human rights defender Gilda Rivera denounces an attempt by a Nationalist congressman to compare the gravity in Honduras of domestic violence against women and against men. Based on this he then demanded prison sentences for women being violent against their male partners. Rivera explains that the current law against domestic violence already recognizes that men can be victims of domestic violence and that the congressman's proposal only serves to minimize the suffering of women by domestic violence.

The same day, the vice-president of Congress, Bernardo Enrique Medina Yllescas, was accused of domestic violence by the MP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/feminista-dice-que-pedir-carcel-para-mujeres-que-agredan-hombres-es-una-ridiculez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/esposa-del-diputao-habla-luego-de-generar-oden-de-captura/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/libran-orden-de-captura-contra-vicepresidente-del-parlamento-de-honduras-por-violencia-intrafamiliar/>

The sociologist Eugenio Sosa explains how the National Party has shown does itself does not take serious the national dialogue. By directly proposing electoral reforms in Congress (see last week), it circumvented the dialogue which was supposed to elaborate them together. Sosa also challenges the political opposition to get a clear idea on the reelection, i.e. do they want it gone or should it be legitimized through a plebiscite.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/oposicion-debe-definir-si-pretenden-eliminar-o-legitimar-la-reeleccion-sociologo/>

Two Congressional vice-president demand that the University Hospital improves its structure and call for new investments to guarantee a quality health service for Hondurans.

Even though Suyapa Figueroa, the president of the Medical Association Honduras (CMH), welcomes the demand, she also mentions the failure to have learnt from past errors. She demands a thorough analysis of the situation of the hospital and its role in Honduras public health system. The same hospital still charges for its services, even though the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court deemed it illegal. Human rights and consumer protection organizations demanded the MP to investigate the hospital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/diputados-exigen-reduccion-de-burocracia-y-mejora-de-atencion-a-pacientes-en-heu1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/urge-mejorar-la-calidad-de-atencion-en-el-hospital-escuela-suyapa-figueroa/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2818-hospital-escuela-sigue-cobrando-a-pacientes-denuncian-activistas>

Honduras plans to do so, Guatemala now did it; they moved their embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

<http://elpulso.hn/guatemala-comienza-traslado-de-embajada-a-jerusalen/>

Another former president seems to have problems with his son. Córdova's son, Carlos Roberto Suazo Zacapa, was arrested with his own son with \$74'800 in their pockets. They claim, it is from selling property.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/04/detienen-a-hijo-y-nieto-del-expresidente-roberto-suazo-cordova-con-una-fuerte-suma-de-dolares/>

05/05/18

MADJ; MP - Elections; Garífunas; HRDs; Journalists; LGBTI; Electoral Reforms; Migration - TPS; and No Press Freedom Day in Honduras

This week, the communities in Pajuiles suffered various attacks from state security forces for their right to protest against a hydroelectric project (see e-mails from Thursday and Friday). To denounce the attacks and the militarization of their communities, they blocked the highway C-13 yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/05/pobladores-de-pajuiles-y-guaymas-paralizan-carretera-ca-13/>

Unexpectedly, the current Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla and the former Supreme Court judge Vilma Morales withdrew their candidacy for the position of Attorney General. Both of them did not nominate themselves, but were nominated by organizations. In the case of Chinchilla it was the Evangelical Cofraternity and other civil society organization close to JOH and who are also part of the purging committee. Morales, meanwhile, was nominated by AHDIS. It was widely expected that the JOH regime would force through Chinchilla in a rigged process or then Morales, who is also a National Party ally. According to Radio Progreso, there are still two candidates left with "blind obedience" to JOH regime, Doris Imelda Madrid and Abrahán Alvarenga. And even now, there is still the possibility of a second term of Chinchilla, because he would be automatically reelected if no candidate gets sufficient votes in Congress...

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2822-ultima-hora-se-rebelan-vilma-y-chinchilla-quedan-fuera-de-candidatos-a-fiscal-general>

<https://tiempo.hn/vilma-morales-sale-de-la-lista-de-postulantes-a-fiscal-general/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4394-un-fiscal-a-la-medida-05-mayo-2018>

Tomorrow, a court in Trujillo is expected to issue a final ruling in the case of two murdered young Garífunas by members of the Naval Forces in 2015.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/05/05/los-garifunas-exigimos-justicia-para-jovenes-asesinados-por-la-fuerza-naval-en-diciembre-de-2015/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports of an encounter of Honduran human rights organizations with the UN Special Rapporteur Michel Forst. The organizations handed over a public letter to Forst about the difficult situation of HRDs in Honduras.

Two human rights defender and feminists from the Center for Women's Rights (CDM), Erika García and Diana Guillén, are currently in Spain to talk about their work and the situation in Honduras. CDM reproduced an interesting interview with the two women.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2116-defensores-y-defensoras-de-ddhh-demandan-protocolos-especializados-para-investigar-ataques>

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/erika-garcia-y-diana-guillen-mas-feminismo-frente-a-la-dictadura-en-honduras/>

CONADEH published a declaration by the IACHR Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants and Latin American ombudsman offices on their concern regarding the forced displacement of journalists in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ombudsman-y-cidh-expresan-preocupacion-por-desplazamiento-forzado-de-periodistas.html>

ContraCorriente spoke with Diego Pérez Damasco about his recent book Unstoppable, a radiography of LGBTI organizations and media outlets as

well as their rights status across Latin America.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/05/una-comunidad-imparable/>

Edmundo Orellana writes about the particularities of the Honduran "democracy" and what challenges a substantial reform faces.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/05/democracia-y-estado-de-derecho-estilo-honduras/>

CEJIL condemns the cancellation of the TPS for Hondurans.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/655-cancelacion-del-tps-para-casi-60-000-hondurenos-afectara-duramente-la-region>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ee-uu-cancela-tps-a-56-mil-hondurenos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande thoroughly explains why there is nothing to celebrate in Honduras on the World Press Freedom Day.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2115-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-periodistas-y-medios-de-comunicacion-independientes-en-honduras-no-tuvieron-nada-que-celebrar>

06/05/18

Political Prisoners; HRDs; MADJ; COPINH; OFRANEH; Migration - TPS; MP - Elections; Drug Trafficking; Corruption - US; Internet; and the Paradox of Tear Gas

On Saturday, eight political prisoners were released. While still criminalized, they now can await trial outside prison.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/05/libertad-para-los-presos-politicos-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/en-libertad-quedan-ocho-manifestantes-de-la-alianza/>

C-Libre denounces that the members of the Police and the TIGRES special forces detained the human rights defender Norberto López Melgar for filming the violent eviction of the protest camp in Pajuiles. This took place on the World Press Freedom Day...

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/impedimento-informativo/862-policias-detienen-a-defensor-que-grababa-represion-a-ciudadanos>

In the same case as mentioned above, the Social and Popular Movement Platform of Honduras (PMSPH) demands that the MP investigates Jason Hawit, the owner of the hydroelectric company HIDROCEP which caused the protests. The inhabitants of Pajuiles also asks for a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur Michel Forst who currently is in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/05/piden-que-el-mp-acuse-al-empresario-jason-hawit-por-comprobados-danos-y-contaminacion-a-las-aguas-del-rio-mezapa/>

On Saturday, COPINH welcomed the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Michel Forst.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/el-copinh-recibio-este-dia-sabado-a-michel-forst-relator-especial-de-derechos-humanos-de-las-naciones-unidas-en-medio-de-su-visita-oficial-al-pais/>

OFRANEH held a protest to demand justice in the case of Yosvin Palacio Lino y Elvis Armando García Martínez, two young Garífuna men murdered by members of the Naval Force (see also yesterday). Two and a half years after the murders, the trial is expected to end tomorrow.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2117-fallo-dejara-en-evidencia-al-estado-de-honduras-garifunas-le-apuestan-la-justicia-y-militares-a-la-impunidad>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle writes about the TPS and mentions an important geopolitical factor. The Trump administration consciously delayed its decision regarding the TPS last year to after the election in support of the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/06/a-seguridad-nacional-otros-apuros-de-trump-y-el-tps/>

Other media outlets have taken the news that both Morales and Chinchilla won't be candidates anymore for the new Attorney General (see also yesterday for more detailed information). That leaves 26 candidates, of which five will be pre-selected by the nomination committee. In the end, Congress will have to choose the final candidate (El Tiempo writes with a simple majority, but then adds 86 votes which would be a 2/3 majority).

<https://tiempo.hn/chinchilla-y-moralez-quedan-fuera-fiscal-general/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/06/fiscal-general-de-honduras-desiste-de-repetir-en-el-cargo/>

El Heraldo reports on frustrated investigators and justice workers because arrested drug traffickers won't cooperate with them rather wanting to use their confessions for the US authorities to reduce their sentences there.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1175664-466/por-qu%C3%A9-los-extraditables-hondure%C3%B1os-no-revelaron-sus-secretos-antes-de-llegar>

The US canceled the visa of the former member of the Judiciary, Julio Barahona, after the MP announced an investigation for corruption against him.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/06/ee-uu-cancelo-la-visa-al-exconcejal-julio-barahona-por-corrupcion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1175660-466/estados-unidos-le-cancela-la-visa-a-exconcejal-julio-barahona>

The number of Internet users in Honduras grew from 2.5 to 2.6 million from December 2016 to September 2017.

<http://elpulso.hn/crece-uso-de-internet-en-honduras/>

<https://jacobinmag.com/2018/05/tear-gas-protests-riot-control-police>

07/05/18

LGBTI; HRDs; Journalists; JOH; Renewable Energy; Maras; Corruption - Coalianza, de Lobo; MACCIH; Migration - TPS; MP - Elections; ENEE; and Street Battles...with Words

The LGBTI community already suffered seven assassinations this year in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/37-lgtbi/657-deuda-de-justicia-mantiene-gobierno-hondureno-hacia-la-comunidad-lgtbi>

The National Human Rights Defenders Network of Honduras documented 1232 attacks against HRDs in Honduras in 2016 and 2017, a significant increase to previous years. Honduras is responsible for 37% of all attacks at the Meso-American level, the highest per capita rate and the second highest in total numbers after Mexico.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/192712>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on irregularities surrounding the police

protection granted for the journalist Jairo López in the south of Honduras. Apparently, police authorities are actively sabotaging the protection for the journalist.

State security forces intimidated and threatened UNE TV journalist Víctor Rodríguez when he covered protests by the Opposition Alliance last Friday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2118-jefes-policiales-en-rebeldia-quien-le-corre-las-escoltas-al-periodista-jairo-lopez>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/863-policias-y-militares-hacen-levantamiento-de-perfiles-y-agreden-a-periodista-de-une-tv>

JOH has been in power already 3024 days in total, first as president of Congress, then as president. FOSDEH economist Ismael Zepeda looks at various indicators to show the failures of his government. The poverty rate rose between 2010 and 2017 from 60% to 64.3% and the rate of open unemployment (TDA) from 3.9% to 6.9% while the percentage of those employed on only receiving the minimal wage rose from 55.8% to 73.9%... On the same occasion, El Libertador writes that JOH failed to deliver on his biggest promise, security.

Maybe this recent arrest will help with that: a 86-year old man, who is too weak to hold the registry sign, was arrested for a break-in.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/07/los-primeros-100-dias-del-tercer-mandato-de-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2825-3-020-dias-de-gobierno-y-joh-no-halla-formula-de-seguridad>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/07/policia-captura-anciano-de-86-anos-acusado-de-allanamiento/>

Human rights violations are not only linked with mining and agribusiness, but in the case of Honduras more and more with renewable energy projects. There are the well-known problematic hydroelectric projects, but also lesser known problems around solar energy projects in the south of Honduras. The Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (Codeh) now signed a cooperation agreement with a association promoting renewable energy projects. I am quite skeptical about this.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/para-dar-fe-a-comunidad-internacional-empresarios-firman-acuerdo-con-oficina-de-ddhh/>

The JOH regime announced the creation of a new special force against maras and pandillas.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/07/al-cumplir-cien-dias-regimen-de-joh-anuncia-fuerza-nacional-antimaras-y-pandillas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/consejo-de-defensa-aprueba-la-fuerza-nacional-antimaras-y-pandillas.html>

Four years ago, the then president of the privatizing body Coalianza illegally voted in Congress usurping the function of a congressman. The trial against him is supposed to begin this October.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/en-octubre-juzgaran-a-excomisionado-de-coalianza-por-usurpar-funciones-de-diputados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/por-usurpacion-programan-juicio-oral-para-octubre-a-excomisionado-de-coalianza.html>

Former president Pepe Lobo hopes that his wife will be released from prison soon, after a controversial decision by an appeals court allowing her to await trial in freedom. On the occasion Lobo reiterated that his wife was "sacrificed" to divert attention away from powerful actors in the current government.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/pepe-reitera-que-los-cinco-jinetes-del-apocalipsis-entregaron-a-su-esposa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-proceso-incoado-rosa-elena/>

Luis Zelaya, the president of the Liberal Party, traveled to Washington to meet with OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro to talk about the situation of the MACCIH.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/luis-zelaya-viaja-a-washington-para-reunirse-con-almagro-y-tratar-temas-de-maccih.html>

The former president of the Central Bank, Hugo Noé Pino, partly blames the JOH regime for the end of the TPS. With its discourse of "everything goes well in Honduras" it helped prepare the ground for the decision made by the Trump administration. JOH, meanwhile, announced that he will travel to Washington.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/actitud-complaciente-de-honduras-no-logro-trato-especial-para-impedir-cancelacion-del-tps/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/presidente-herandez-anuncia-viaje-a-eeuu-para-explorar-opciones-para-migrantes-hondurenos.html>

Another political analyst believes that the JOH regime has total control over the nomination process and then election at Congress of the new Attorney General.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/negociacion-previa-entre-tripartidismo-avalara-rapida-seleccion-de-proximo-fiscal-analista/>

The analyst Rodulio Perdomo links the crisis at the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) with the excessive energy prices of the Energy Company Honduras (EEH). He proposes a social audit for the EEH to guarantee that it "doesn't suck dry the Honduran people".

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/cuestionan-cobros-elevados-de-proveedor-privado-de-electricidad/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/06/batallas-de-libertad-en-un-pais-violento/>

08/05/18

Political Prisoners; MADJ; CCC; Journalists; MP - Elections; Migration - US; Corruption - de Lobo; Electric Energy; Public Health; National Police; Electoral Reform; Penitentiary System; Mayors; and Vaccinating Congresswo/men

Defensores en Línea writes about the remaining 13 political prisoners with a focus on Edwin Espinal. Today, a review hearing will take place in his case, in the army headquarters...

Criterio spoke with one of the recently release, but still criminalized, political prisoners, Santos Ramón Quiroz. He speaks of constant harassment and persecution by the police and unidentified cars.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/esta-lucha-es-por-todos-los-presos-politicos-del-pais-edwin-espinal/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/08/policia-hostiga-e-intimida-a-los-presos-politicos-recien-liberados/>

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Michel Forst, visited the protest camp in Pajuiles, which suffered various attacks by state and non-state forces in the recent past. He also met with the leadership of MADJ, the human rights organization accompanying the

communities taking part in the protest.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/08/Mart%C3%ADn-Fern%C3%A1ndez-La-visita-del-relator-Forst-denota-la-fragilidad-y-reconoce-la-crisis-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-Honduras>

The Alignment against Continuity (CCC), which was formed last year to protest against the illegal reelection attempt of JOH, held a press conference yesterday. They denounce the ongoing imposition of a political, economic and military dictatorship in Honduras through powerful actors aligned with the National Party. They reiterate the demand to the international community to form a UN-backed Independent Investigation Commission which using the findings of the report by the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras as a starting point. Six more demands were stated, among them the nullification of the election and an end to the militarization of public security in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/grupos-facticos-continuan-empenados-en-imponer-ilegalmente-una-dictadura-politica-economica-y-militar-en-honduras/>

The journalist Gilda Silvestrucci denounces that she continues to be harassed on social media and she received new threats these last days. Criterio published a long interview with the Honduran investigative journalist Wendy Funes who won this year's Freedom of Expression Award.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2120-vas-a-amanecer-rociada-de-tiros-le-dicen-a-la-periodista-gilda-silvestrucci-en-mensajes>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/08/me-canse-de-pensar-para-otras-personas-wendy-funes-ganadora-del-libertad-de-expresion-2018/>

Radio Progreso highlights the importance of the election of an independent and skilled Attorney General and what past failures to do so meant for the investigation of past human rights violations, e.g. the forced disappearances in the 1980s. Edmundo Orellana warns that if these conditions once more are not fulfilled, the election of the new Attorney General may cause even higher impunity rates in Honduras. Even though he declined on several occasions, there are still powerful sectors pushing for a second term for Óscar Chinchilla

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4395-la-elecci%C3%B3n-del-fiscal-general-y-las-deudas-hist%C3%B3ricas-con-las-v%C3%ADctimas-08-mayo-2018>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/advierten-que-junta-de-proponentes-podria-generar-mayor-impunidad-en-el-pais/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1176336-466/exjefe-de-la-cicig-en-guatemala-nadie-sabe-lo-caliente-de-la>

"In the past six months, the Trump administration has moved to expel 300,000 Central Americans and Haitians living and working legally in the United States, disregarding senior U.S. diplomats who warned that mass deportations could destabilize the region and trigger a new surge of illegal immigration."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-embassy-cables-warned-against-expelling-300000-immigrants-trump-officials-did-it-anyway/2018/05/08/065e5702-4fe5-11e8-b966-bfb0da2dad62_story.html?noredirect=on

The MP emitted two new arrest warrants against former public officials for fraud, abuse of authority and the falsification of documents. These crimes are linked to concessions for the main Honduran airports.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/07/libran-requerimiento-contrad-dos-exfuncionarios-por-delinquir-en-concesion-de-aeropuertos/>

According to the head of investigations at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Odir Fernández, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo paid 3 million Lempiras to a real estate company linked to the Los Carchiros. He goes

on to say that they believe that all in all she amassed 94 million Lempiras.

An appeals court rejected both an appeal by the defense team of de Lobo asking for her release from prison to await trial and an appeal by the General Procuratory of the Republic (PGR) demanding that the initial accusations of money laundering and embezzlement of public funds are being reinstated against her.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/08/rosa-elena-bonilla-pago-l-3-millones-a-una-inmobiliaria-de-los-cachiros-con-fondos-sustraidos-del-estado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/desestiman-recursos-a-favor-y-en-contra-de-la-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sin-lugar-declaran-recursos-de-reposicion-rosita-seguira-en-la-carcel/>

The JOH regime held an emergency meeting which resulted in a 24 hours deadline for the Energy Company Honduras (EEH) to stop with its abusive pricing practices.

He even warns of an intervention.

<http://elpulso.hn/joh-da-24-horas-a-eeh-para-detener-abusos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/hernandez-emplaza-a-energia-honduras-a-resolver-reclamos-de-clientes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/joh-intervendra-energia-honduras-mediante-decreto-de-emergencia/>

The dean of UNAH, Francisco Herrera, requested an audit of the budget of the University Hospital (HEU) from 2012 onwards by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA).

According to congressman Mario Noé Villafranca, who heads the Health Commission, there is some fear in Congress of having the HEU audited. At the same time, nurses held a protest outside Congress to demand better working conditions.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/unah-pide-a-oficina-anticorrupcion-auditar-al-hospital-escuela-universitario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-pide-al-cna-que-les-audite-su-gestion-en-el-heu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/parlamentario-no-se-explica-del-porque-temen-investigar-gestion-del-heu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/enfermeras-profesionales-protestan-en-el-parlamento-por-mejores-condiciones-laborales/>

Norman Alonso Mondragón was fired from the police after he refused to repress protesters. He now fears for his life and asks for protection.

José Rodríguez Rivera, who lost his ability to walk during a prison sentence, denounces being persecuted by the National Police who intends to associate him with a criminal gang.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/08/policia-norman-mondragon-pide-proteccion-en-el-cofاده-porque-teme-ser-asesinado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/hondureno-denuncia-persecucion-sistematica-de-la-policia-nacional/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva held a meeting yesterday with TSE magistrates and representatives of the corresponding congressional committee to discuss electoral reforms. No word was said that these discussions should be part of a nation-wide dialogue.

There was also a commission created to discuss a completely new electoral law. This idea was rejected by the head of the Liberal Party due to the participation of the TSE, but the Nationalist-controlled Congress ignored the protest.

The TSE, discredited for its role in the last elections in the eyes of the political opposition, intends to play a very active role.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/parlamento-analiza-discutir-futura-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/piden-discutir-el-fraude-antes-de-una-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/el-tse-dice-que-tiene-listos-varios-proyecto-para-una-nueva-ley-electoral/>

Fusina once more raided the Támara prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/08/honduras-fusina-realiza-operativos-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara/>

Employees of the mayoralty of Tegucigalpa denounce various human rights violations at their place of work, e.g. intimate body searches.

<https://tiempo.hn/trabajadores-de-la-alcaldia-de-tegucigalpa-denuncian-violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/cn-aprueba-mocion-para-vacunar-a-diputados-contra-el-h1n1.html>

09/05/18

HR Violations; Political Prisoners; Penitentiary System; HRDs; Bajo Aguán; Journalists; Hydroelectricity; CNTC; Judicial Power; Corruption - de Lobo, IPP; Public Health; Electric Energy; Youth; Congress; Churches; Fire Arms; and a Liar

As a reaction to the human rights violations of the JOH regime as part of the post-electoral violence, a call for divestment has been launched. The call entails funding for the Honduran security forces as well as investment to "to international finance institute loans to Honduras meant to support industries that are damaging the social fabric, displacing communities, and destroying the environment." The campaign further demands that the Honduran regime takes the following steps: " i) Investigate and prosecute incidents in which protesters were killed following the re-election of President Juan Orlando Hernandez; ii) Withdraw the Military Police, responsible for the majority of those killings, from crowd-control functions and immediately begin phasing them out. Created in 2013 when Juan Orlando Hernandez was head of the Honduran Congress, the Military Police were meant to be a temporary force. Instead, the force has steadily grown; and iii) Prosecute attacks on and murders of journalists, opposition leaders, and human rights activists."

The call is accompanied by a short video.

<http://www.divesthonduras.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8--HJYHSbdw>

Rights Action reports on yesterday's hearing in the case of the political prisoner Edwin Espinal: "[He] had his hearing today in a military controlled "court-room" on a military base (Cuartel General Las Cabanas, Tegucigalpa) and the judge took almost no time at all to deny him bail whatsoever, left alone house arrest, etc. Edwin -jailed in a military prison- was not present in the so-called "hearing". The judge only allowed a few people (officials from the UN, Canadian & US embassies) to enter the courtroom, aside from the lawyers. No human rights observers or media allowed."

ContraCorriente started a special section to report on the political prisoners. Part of this is a collection of photos of family members

showing their imprisoned loved ones.

In the first article of this section, ContraCorriente journalist Jennifer Ávila looks at the use of the term political prisoners. Some fall through the cracks because of the government's successful attempt to call some of the arrested persons gang members and human rights organization fear defending them could lead to the further criminalization and denigration of human rights organizations.

In a second article, Jennifer Ávila speaks to some of the recently released political prisoners who now await trial outside prison walls.

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/denied-bail-edwin-espinal-political-prisoner-in-a-honduran-military-prison-on-trumped-up-charges>

<https://contracorriente.red/que-paso-tras-la-crisis-post-electoral/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/03/los-que-no-cuentan-como-presos-politicos/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/09/el-escarmiento-de-pimienta/>

CONADEH expressed its concern about the lack of response by the JOH regime regarding complaints of mistreatments of inmates.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/conadeh-pide-al-estado-atender-denuncias-de-maltratos-hacia-privados-de-libertad/>

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs Michel Forst visited after COPINH and MADJ also Radio Progreso and ERIC. Radio Progreso emphasizes the importance of his visit to Honduras under the current circumstances. They also list some of the recommendations they gave him on his way, e.g. strengthening the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4396-una-oportuna-visita-09-mayo-2018>

Michel Forst then travelled to Tocoa, Colón to meet with COPA, the Permanent Human Rights Observatory in the Bajo Aguán and the San Alonso Foundation.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/09/organizaciones-del-bajo-aguan-se-reunen-con-el-relator-de-las-naciones-unidas-michael-forst/>

Criterio and El Libertador also reports on the death threats against journalist and TeleSur correspondent Gilda Silvestrucci (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/09/46891/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2827-arrecian-amenazas-de-muerte-contra-periodista-hondurena-gilda-silvestrucci>

Avispa Midia reports on the experience of two communities at near the Caribbean coast, Plan Grande and Betulia, with hydroelectricity. The inhabitants of Plan Grande have control over their "community energy" source, while the project in Betulia was imposed with all the negative consequences.

<https://avispa.org/una-hidroelectrica-para-la-autonomia/>

Luis Alonso Tejeda Orellana, Arturo Salinas and Yecenia Padilla Orellana, three Lenca campesinos affiliated with the CNTC, suffered a new attempt to have them criminalized. A judge in La Paz formally opened trial against them for usurpation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/formal-procesamiento-contra-campesinos-lenca-acusados-de-usurpacion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an interview with the human rights defender and former magistrate Tirza Flores about the Honduran judicial

system.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2121-ex-magistrada-el-sistema-de-justicia-esta-totalmente-controlado-por-el-poder-politico-y-economico>

The lawyers of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo still try to have her await trial outside of prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/desestiman-audiencia-de-cambio-de-medidas-a-ex-primera-dama-defensa-denuncia-irregularidades/>

<https://tiempo.hn/rechazan-revision-de-medidas-en-el-caso-de-la-exprimera-dama/>

The directors at the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP) wanted to hide irregularities by demanding to be excluded from the Transparency Law. The Constitutional Chamber dismissed this attempt.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/09/corte-suprema-deniega-amparo-presentado-por-directivos-de-periodistas-para-ocultar-informacion/>

The National Nurses Association announces strike actions if the JOH regime does not answer to its demands in the next 48 hours.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/ultimatum-si-en-48-horas-el-gobierno-no-cumple-con-lo-pactado-las-enfermeras-iran-a-paro/>

But JOH is still very busy dealing with the Energy Company Honduras (EEH) which now made public five concessions after having been accused of abusive pricing (see also yesterday).

Other parties also made this a topic in recent statements.

The MP announced to investigate EEH.

The private business lobby COHEP, meanwhile, is worried that this campaign could turn away foreign investment.

Criterio accuses JOH of a double discourse when it comes to the EEH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/joh-promete-eliminar-doble-factura-y-cobros-promediados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/diputado-pronostica-que-abusos-de-eeh-provocaran-una-rebelion-ciudadana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/si-cobran-mas-de-la-cuenta-por-energia-electrica-estan-robando-diputado-liberal/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/ministerio-publico-inicia-investigacion-de-oficio-contra-consorcio-de-energia.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/cohep-alerta-que-salida-de-energia-honduras-ahuyentaria-inversion-extranjera/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/09/pese-a-quejas-de-usuarios-joh-ratifica-contrato-a-eeh/>

Youth organization held a rally outside Congress to demand a legislative agenda more aligned with their priorities.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/comunicados/juventud-hondurena-exige-su-derecho-a-la-participacion-en-la-toma-de-decisiones/>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest instance of her parliamentary chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/cuchicheos-y-silbatinas/>

Alberto Solórzano steps down as president of the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras (CEH).

But he remains a member of the purging committee.

Oswaldo Canales was elected as his successor at CEH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/termina-ciclo-de-depurador-1-en-la-presidencia-de-confraternidad-evangelica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/09/alberto-solorzano-renuncia-a-dirigir-confraternidad-evangelica-seguira-como-depurador/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidente-confraternidad-evangelica-canales/>

Congress discussed and approved the Fire Arms Bill.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aprueban-en-el-cn-lista-de-armas-artefactos-y-explosivos-que-seran-prohibidos.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1176747-466/contin%C3%BAa-admisi%C3%B3n-de-la-nueva-ley-de-armas-en-el-congreso-nacional>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/~rprog/index.php/comunicaciones/coberturaespecial/premio-rafto-2015/item/4398-la-caravana-es-suya-se%C3%B1or-trump>

10/05/18

Campe sinxs - CNTC; Political Prisons; Migration - TPS; Militarization; Congress; MACCIH; Electric Energy; Public Health; Fire Arms; National Police; and Singing in the USA

Luis Pacheco, a member of the campesino organization CNTC in Olancho was found murdered on Tuesday after having (been) disappeared on Monday. Yesterday, I linked to a new case of criminalization against members of the same organization which currently faces more than 1000 legal cases for their struggle for land and the environment.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=230970490989501&set=a.153104838776067.1073741828.100022296557871&type=3&ref=mentions>

Defensores en Línea announces the liberation of another three political prisoners, i.e. that they can await trial outside prison. According to the article, 10 political prisoners.

Defensores en Línea also reports on the situation of Edwin Espinal, who was denied defending himself outside prison on Tuesday (see also yesterday). Jennifer Ávila published another article on the situation of the political prisoners. This one looks at Johnny Salgado, who was able to leave prison less than two weeks ago. Salgado talks about the arrest and the harassment and violent behavior of the police. Salgado has so far been the only one of the eight political prisoners released in El Progreso. The article then continues to report on the situation of Gustavo Cáceres who still is imprisoned.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/otros-tres-presos-politicos-recobran-su-libertad/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/10/corte-de-san-pedro-sula-deja-en-libertad-otros-tres-presos-politicos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/juez-decidio-que-el-defensor-de-ddhh-edwin-espinal-siga-en-la-tolva/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/10/el-progreso-donde-la-policia-retrocedio/>

Radio Progreso writes about the cancellation of the TPS by focusing on the root causes driving Hondurans to seek refuge in Honduras, "the Honduran political, social and economic hell" whose main source of fire they see in the JOH regime.

Two former US ambassador to Honduras and Panama respectively denounce

the cancellation of TPS in the Washington Post.
Radio HRN reports on the effects of the decision on the remittances sent to Honduras.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4399-la-cancelaci%C3%B3n-del-tps-y-la-incertidumbre-hondure%C3%B1a-10-mayo-2018>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4400-preocupa-a-organizaciones-y-familias-cancelaci%C3%B3n-del-tps-para-hondure%C3%B1os-en-eeuu>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-trump-administration-shoves-honduran-immigrants-back-into-danger/2018/05/09/c4682c98-530d-11e8-abd8-265bd07a9859_story.html?noredirect=on

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/05/10/con-la-cancelacion-del-tps-remesas-podrian-bajar-hasta-en-200-millones-de-dolares/>

Having used the states security forces on several occasions to come to and to stay in power, it seems logical that the National Party attempts once more to give soldiers and members of the police force the right to vote.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/10/diputado-pide-que-se-reforme-la-constitucion-para-que-los-militares-y-policias-ejerzan-el-sufragio/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1177028-410/presentan-mocion-fuerzas-armadas-polic%C3%ADa-puedan-votar-elecciones>

Another National Party congressman asks for the reduction of Congress to 90 members and their deputies.

<https://tiempo.hn/presentan-propuesta-de-ley-para-que-el-congreso-solo-lo-integren-90-diputados/>

El Libertador publishes the letter by Luis Zelaya to OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro asking for an "absolute, unrestricted, express and manifest support of all of us" for the MACCIH.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2828-exclusiva-luis-zelaya-y-almagro-se-reunen-en-washington-para-tratar-crisis-hondurena>

Fredy Perdomo writes about the five false promises by JOH regarding the Energy Company Honduras (EEH).

According to the economist Julio Raudales, the situation in Honduras has gone from bad to worse since EEH started its operations two years ago. There are also attempts to have the contract with the EEH declared unconstitutional.

The head of ENEE, meanwhile, was shouted down at a Q&A in Olancho by Hondurans unhappy with the current situation.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/10/las-cinco-falsas-promesas-de-joh-sobre-eeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/10/sil-la-eeh-no-ha-cumplido-en-2-anos-se-debe-pensar-en-rescindir-su-contrato-economista/>

<https://tiempo.hn/virgilio-padilla-contrato-de-la-eeh-provoca-inseguridad-energetica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/10/declaran-non-grato-a-gerente-de-la-enee-en-olancho/>

Congresses' vice-president Denis Castro Bobadilla requests an immediate intervention at the University Hospital (HEU).

UNAH dean Francisco Herrera recognizes that things have to improve at the HEU.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/10/vicepresidente-del-parlamento-exige-asistencia-inmediata-para-el-hospital-escuela/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/10/rector-de-la-unah-reconoce-la-necesidad-de-mejorar-el-heu/>

A recent article stated that the new fire arms bill was approved in the third and last round of discussion in Congress. But according to El Heraldo, only 28 out of 130 articles have been approved.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1177041-466/honduras-las-licencias-y-los-permisos-de-armas-ser%C3%A1n-intransferibles>

In a nation-wide raid, a former police sub-commissioner was detained. Ramón Gonzales Ramos is accused of abuse of authority and illegal detention.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/capturan-exoficial-de-policia-acusado-de-abuso-de-autoridad-en-la-capital-hondurena.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2826-cantora-karla-lara-girando-por-el-norte-acordamos-vivir-cantando>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/aprueban-mocion-para-promocionar-lectura-diaria-de-la-biblia-en-escuelas.html>

11/05/18

HRDs - Women, Criminalization; Campesinx; Mining; Extractivism; Political Prisoners; Political Opposition - Dialogue; National Police; Militarization; Corruption - de Lobo; Judicial Power; Public Health; MP - Elections; Maras; Transparency; and Bible Study

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, held his end of mission statement after a two-week visit to Honduras. "Having carefully considered the information received from the Government, civil society and other stakeholders, I regret to conclude that, despite strong efforts to establish an effective mechanism of protection, the vast majority of human rights defenders in Honduras are not able to operate in a safe and enabling environment. (...) I would like to conclude by saying that there is still a gap between international engagement and domestic implementation. I would like to express my continued commitment to provide technical support to the Honduran authorities. As we celebrate this year the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on human rights defenders, I would like to invite the Honduran government to take strong actions against impunity and for the recognition of the role that human rights defenders play here in Honduras and across the world." Forst emphasized at the end of his presentation that he will return to Honduras to help find solutions to the numerous human rights violations he was made aware of.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23063&LangID=E>

<http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23063&LangID=S>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/relator-de-la-onu-asegura-que-regresara-a-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/11/defensores-de-derechos-humanos-estan-en-grave-peligro-en-honduras-michael-forst/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/relator-de-onu-pide-a-honduras-medidas-urgentes-para-proteger-a-defensores.html>

The Meso-American Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders published a report on the attacks against WHRDs in 2015 and 2016.

<http://im-defensoras.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/INFORME-DE-AGRESIONES-A-DEFENSORAS-2015-2016-FINAL-DEF.pdf>

The Observatory for the Protection of HRDs of the OMCT and FIDH demands that the Honduran State stops criminalizing the HRD Eduardo Urbina who recently was granted refugee status in Costa Rica.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/659-omct-fidh-exige-poner-fin-a-hostigamiento-judicial-contra-defensor-hondureno-refugiado-en-costa-rica>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-criminalizacion-detencion-y-liberacion-del-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-eduardo-urbina-miembro-del-meu/>

Vía Campesina denounces that 25 Honduran campesino families are forced to pay more than 6 millions in court fees for big landowners after the families themselves were evicted from land they had lived on for over three decades and had land titles for...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2122-campesinos-desalojados-de-sus-tierras-deben-pagar-costas-del-juicio-en-su-contra-por-mas-de-6-millones-de-lempiras>

MADJ welcomes the decision by a Honduran court to order an immediate stop to the exhumations taking place in the cemetery of Azacualpa under pressure of the Minosa mining company.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/11/Azacualpa-Mediante-amparo-ordenan-parar-las-exhumaciones-en-el-cementerio-1>

Juan Almdares explains how the neoliberal development model has failed in Honduras and how one of its main victims are indigenous and Garífuna communities through dispossession and violent evictions.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/192832>

Radio Progreso offers an update on the situation of the political prisoners in Honduras in its weekly newsletter.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4406-presos-pol%C3%ADticos-de-pimienta-ara%C3%B1an-justicia-hondure%C3%B1a>

Salvador Nasralla reiterates his wish to create a new party in a press conference.

Eva Fernández, who joined the Opposition Alliance from the National Party, also announces to create a new party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/nasralla-reitera-que-creara-un-nuevo-partido-politico/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-nueva-trinchera-de-nasralla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/corazon-azul-creara-un-partido-tras-ser-ninguneada-en-la-alianza-opositora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/eva-fernandez-anuncia-la-creacion-de-un-nuevo-partido-para-ayudar-a-inmigrantes/>

Nasralla announced together with Luis Zelaya from the Liberal Party that they would return to the national dialogue.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/honduras-luis-y-nasralla-regresan-a-la-mesa-del-dialogo-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/11/46977/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-confirma-que-retomara-el-pre-dialogo-nacional/>

Five police agents were suspended for abuse of authority. This was announced after a video surfacing online showing a brutal arrest by the five police agents. ConfidencialHN emphasizes that the five belong to the newly trained police force, i.e. post-purge.

El Libertador reports that the New York Police Department offers assistance to the Security Secretariat in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/suspenden-a-agentes-policiales-formados-por-omar-rivera-y-carlos-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/secretaria-de-seguridad-reconoce-brutalidad-policia-y-promete-sancionar-agresores/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/policia-suspenden-a-cinco-agentes-que-aparecen-en-video-propinando-golpiza-a-ciudadanos-en-roatan.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2829-policia-de-new-york-apoyara-tecnicamente-seguridad-hondurena>

JOH greets the motion by a National congressman to give the armed forces and police a right to vote (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/hernandez-quiere-madurar-idea-de-que-voten-policias-y-militares/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/presentan-proyecto-de-decreto-para-que-militares-y-policias-puedan-votar.html>

Today, we will find out if the former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo can await her trial outside of prison. Her lawyer is quite confident. For Radio Progreso, meanwhile, her liberation would be further proof of the two-faced Honduran justice system.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/hasta-manana-se-sabra-si-esposa-de-pepe-podra-defenderse-en-libertad12/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4404-caso-de-ex-primera-dama-desnuda-forma-de-aplicar-justicia-en-honduras>

OFRANEH takes up this critique by Radio Progreso in a new article which shows how the Honduran justice system works against the interest of the indigenous and Garífuna communities.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/05/11/existe-la-aplicacion-de-justicia-para-los-pueblos-indigenas-en-honduras/>

El Pulso dedicates an article to the difficult situation of people with HIV/AIDS in Honduras. The president of the Honduran Association of People with HIV died waiting for medical treatment.

<http://elpulso.hn/presidente-de-asociacion-de-personas-con-vih-muere-en-espera-de-tratamiento-en-honduras/>

The first round of the selection process for the new Attorney General is over. The nomination committee will now select five candidates out of the 25 and have Congress chose from them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/culmina-primera-etapa-25-aspirantes-esperan-convertirse-en-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2830-conozca-los-aspirantes-a-defender-intereses-del-pueblo-hondureno>

Proceso Digital published additional information on the new National Anti-Maras and Pandillas Force.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/tecnologia-e-informacion-regional-para-combatir-a-pandillas.html>

The JOH regime announced the creation of a Inter-Institutional Board for Transparency to "consolidate an open, transparent, agile, responsible

and efficient State"...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-anuncia-instalacion-de-mesa-por-la-transparencia.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/10/diputado-del-partido-nacional-mociona-para-que-en-las-escuelas-se-ensene-sobre-la-biblia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/11/diputados-quieren-que-se-lea-la-biblia-en-escuelas-hondurenas/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1177305-466/honduras-moci%C3%B3n-de-lectura-de-la-biblia-en-escuelas-provoca-pol%C3%A9mica>

12/05/18

Corruption - de Lobo, Judicial Power; Migration - TPS; CONADEH; Political Opposition; MP - Elections; TIGRES; and Honduran Brain Drain Towards...China

Against some of the expectations, the former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo has to stay in prison awaiting her trial.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/12/juzgado-resuelve-mantener-en-prision-a-rosa-elena-bonilla-de-lobo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2831-honduras-la-rosa-seguira-presa-tras-rechazarle-fianza-de-16-millones>

<https://tiempo.hn/rosa-elena-bonilla-seguira-presa-jueza-nego-el-cambio-de-medidas/>

A verdict in the case against the former members of the defunct Judiciary Council is expected for next Friday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/12/jueza-anticorrupcion-fallara-hasta-el-proximo-viernes-por-caso-de-exconcejales-que-dilapidaron-dinero/>

Padre Melo wrote an OpEd for The Hill on the cancellation of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) and how this means a "forced return to violence and foreseeable death" for many Hondurans.

<http://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/387394-honduran-lives-at-risk>

Criterio summarizes parts of CONADEH's yearly report. The human rights ombudsman received 9'629 complaints of human rights violations in 2017.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/12/conadeh-recibio-en-el-2017-casi-10-mil-denuncias-por-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos/>

Manuel Zelaya started talking again about the possibility of a constituent assembly and a popular consultation to hold one.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/12/mel-usara-comandos-insurreccionales-para-realizar-consulta-e-instalar-la-constituyente/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alianza-de-oposicion-protesto-en-contra-de-la-cancelacion-del-tps/>

Proceso Digital published some additional details on the candidates for the Attorney General position.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/funcionarios-y-ex-funcionarios-del-mp-y-de-la-justicia-entre-los-aspirantes-a-fiscal.html>

El Heraldo published a special Mother's Day PR piece on the TIGRES special unit.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1177522-466/zeylin-pineda-la-madre-tigre-s%C3%ADmbolo-de-amor-y-valent%C3%ADa-en-una>

<http://elpulso.hn/fuga-de-cerebros-hondurenos-a-china/>

13/05/18

Political Prisoners; UNAH - Criminalization; Corruption - de Lobo, Catholic Church; Dialogue; Poverty - Single Mothers; and a Democracy MADE IN USA

Jennifer Ávila dedicates the newest article in her series on the situation of the political prisoners to Edwin Espinal and Raúl Álvarez. She presents Edwin's long trajectory as a social activist and focuses on the point that both he had already been the target of the Honduran police before. Raúl, meanwhile, was a police agent. The judge trying them as known as a Nationalist judge and he has been accused on various occasion for prevarication and to delay appeal processes.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/13/en-la-mira-de-la-policia/>

Defensores en Línea brings back an important topic to our attention. There are still over 200 students criminalized by the UNAH and the Honduran judicial system for taking part in the student protests last year.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-alma-mater-que-impulsa-a-los-defensores-de-la-unah/>

De Lobo's lawyer submitted an application of amparo against the anti-corruption judge Vera Barahona after she had decided last week not to let de Lobo await trial outside prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/13/presentan-recurso-de-apelacion-para-pedir-liberacion-de-ex-primera-dama/>

UN representative Igor Garafulic tries again, this time with the help of the Spanish ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick, to bring Libre back to the national dialogue.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/13/53537/>

Ondina Maldonado Zavala writes about gendered poverty in Honduras with a special focus on the situation of single mothers.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/13/madres-solteras-hondurenas-la-cara-de-la-desigualdad-y-creciente-pobreza-del-pais/>

The Italian newspaper L'Espresso has recently uncovered a corruption case involving the Honduran cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez. The same cardinal held a mass yesterday asking Hondurans to stop thinking of their country as the most corrupt...

<https://tiempo.hn/cardenal-rodriguez-hace-peticion-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/12/la-democracia-de-los-gorilas/>

14/05/18

COPINH; HR; HRDs; Political Prisoners; IACHR; MP - Elections; Dialogue - Constituent Assembly; Political Opposition; Corruption - de Lobo; Public Health - HIV/AIDS; Penitentiary System; and a Pay Rise in Congress

COPINH started a two-week long Europe tour yesterday to present their current situation as well as the state of the case of Berta Cáceres. For the latter point, the delegation is accompanied by a member of GAPE to inform about their report on the investigation.

<http://es.euronews.com/2018/05/14/la-hija-de-la-activista-hondurena-asesinada-berta-caceres-se-querella-en-europa>

https://www.eldiario.es/politica/Berta-Caceres-inicia-Europa-justicia_0_771323182.html

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/14/hija-de-berta-caceres-reclama-justicia-en-europa/>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras presents its annual report today in Tegucigalpa at 10am at the Hotel Plaza del General.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/photos/a.1837227203184736.1073741830.1828470140727109/2141342492773204/?type=3>

Several human rights organizations took up the end of mission report by UN Special Rapporteur Michel Forst. They rightly feel vindicated by his findings that Honduras has in the last decade become one of the most dangerous countries for human rights defenders.

At the same time, COFADEH regrets that Forst does not dare giving name to the main culprit of the current situation.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/662-relator-michel-forst-colusion-entre-poderosos-intereses-han-convertido-a-honduras-en-pais-peligroso-para-defensores>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sobre-la-declaracion-del-relator/>

Defensores en Línea continues to report on the unbearable situation of the political prisoners in Honduras. They spoke with Maynor Ariel Reyes Mejía, who recently was released. He speaks of psychological terror, uncalled stints in the isolation cell, once for 26 days without seeing daylight or the chance to clean oneself. There still remain ten political prisoners.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-carcel-de-el-pozo-un-infierno-para-los-presos-politicos/>

The IACHR announced to strengthen the special protection measures (medidas cautelares).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/14/cidh-anuncia-medidas-para-fortalecer-eficiencia-del-mecanismo-de-medidas-cautelares/>

COHEP, the Student Anti-Corruption Coordination (CEA), the MACCIH and the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras announced the creation of "Public Eye" (Ojo Público) to observe the selection process of the Attorney General and their deputy.

The Economist looks at the recent and upcoming Attorney General elections in the Northern Triangle. For Honduras, they conclude the following: "In Honduras the battle [against corruption] may already be lost. The president, Juan Orlando Hernández, controls most of the country's institutions, including the judiciary."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/14/conforman-nueva-organizacion-para-vigilar-eleccion-del-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/crean-una-red-para-promover-transparencia-en-eleccion-de-fiscales-en-honduras.html>

<https://www.economist.com/news/americas/21742153-attorneys-general-countries-northern-triangle-have-made-war-corruption>

Yesterday, representatives of the government, the Liberal Party and Salvador Nasralla met at the UN again after a month long break. UN representative Igor Garafulic reminds everyone again about the agenda of the national dialogue, the human rights violations during the post-electoral conflict, the pre- and post-electoral crisis (e.g. fraud)

and electoral reforms.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/politicos-vuelven-a-reunirse-en-sede-de-la-onu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/piden-a-mesa-de-trabajo-y-comisiones-parlamentarias-convivir-para-fortalecer-predialogo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reinician-las-mesas-preparatorias-del-dialogo-que-impulsa-la-onu.html>

The former Attorney General, Edmundo Orellana, speaks out in favor of a constituent assembly. Not as a panacea, but as a helpful tool to overcome the current political crisis. According to him, the current constitution is a failed patchwork which needs a complete overhaul.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/asamblea-constituyente-solucionara-crisis-politica-edmundo-orellana/>

Salvador Nasralla, meanwhile, continues to explain his reasoning for forming a new party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/pedir-voz-y-voto-con-un-nuevo-partido-politico-no-es-ser-desleal-salvador-nasralla/>

De Lobo's defense team continues to present her as the victim of an injustice and they go after the judge now (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/sin-delitos-la-detencion-y-enjuiciamiento-de-dona-rosa-se-vuelve-ilegal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/honduras-acusan-criminalmente-a-la-jueza-anticorrupcion-vera-barahona2/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presentan-otro-amparo-a-favor-de-rosa-lobo-en-caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama.html>

HIV/AIDS patients held a protest rally outside of the Health Secretariat to demand support facing a lack of medical treatment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/pacientes-con-vih-sida-exigen-farmacos-para-contrarrestar-la-mortal-enfermedad/>

The deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) claims that the health problems at the prisons are now under control.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/aunque-red-sanitaria-anda-mal-sistema-penitenciario-se-jacta-de-haber-resuelto-crisis-de-salud/>

Congresswo/men gave themselves a 42'000 Lempiras pay rise and their heads of parties even get 73'000 Lempiras more. Libre and Pinu voted against the pay rise.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/14/confirman-aumento-de-45-mil-lempiras-para-parlamentarios-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/14/honduras-un-aumento-de-73-mil-lempiras-reciben-los-jefes-de-bancada-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1178141-466/diputados-hondure%C3%B1os-ahora-est%C3%A1n-entre-los-mejor-pagados-de-centroam%C3%A9rica>

15/05/18

Berta - Agua Zarca, FMO; MADJ - Pajuiles, Hlamito; HR; HRDs - National Police, UN; Mining; MACCIH; MP - Elections; National Police; Congress; Fire Arms; and Challenging Bible Study
The Constitutional Chamber decided yesterday to allow the former SERNA

vice-minister Darío Roberto Cardona to await trial outside prison. He is accused of illegally approving the environmental license of Agua Zarca. This decision comes just moments after a court in La Esperanza decided to acquit its former mayor Martiniano Domínguez for illegally granting the operation license to Agua Zarca. These decisions highlight what has been denounced by COPINH since Berta's assassination, that impunity reigns in this case.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/15/Absuelto-Dar%C3%ADo-Cardona-ex-vice-ministro-de-la-SERNA-implicado-en-caso-Agua-Zarca>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2836-caso-berta-caceres-pez-gordo-se-defendera-en-libertad>

Meanwhile in Europe, Berta Zúniga Cáceres is about to travel from Brussels to the Netherlands to present a complaint at the development bank FMO held "co-responsible for the harm done to the Lenca people".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/663-hija-de-berta-caceres-denunciara-banco-que-financio-agua-zarca>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/hija-de-berta-caceres-inicia-gira-por-europa-para-pedir-justicia-y-verdad.html>

On May 14, an employee of the disputed HIDROCEP company threatened a 16-year old member of MADJ with a fire arm. The teenager Fredy Ariel Díaz Molina is part of the protest camp against the planned hydroelectric project in Pajuiles, Atlántida.

Witness for Peace published an important update on the situation in Pajuiles. "The first week of May brought a series of dramatic events in Pajuiles, including the long-awaited conclusion of the preliminary hearing against ten of the criminalized community members, a massive police force descending on the community to escort heavy machinery and construction materials to the illegal construction project on the Río Mezapa, the repression of a march the following day, and a visit from the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders."

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/15/ALERTA-Con-arma-en-mano-empleado-de-HIDROCEP-amenaza-a-integrante-del-MADJ-en-Pajuiles>

<http://witnessforpeace.org/la-lucha-es-constante-updates-from-pajuiles/>

A second protest accompanied by MADJ takes place in Arizona, Atlántida. One year ago, the local communities have set up a protest camp to defend the river Jilamito against a hydroelectric project by the company INGELSA.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/15/Jilamito-365-d%C3%ADas-marcando-el-camino-de-la-dignidad-y-la-justicia>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras (OACNUDH) presented its annual report yesterday. The reports highlights the difficult situation of HRDs in the country and it makes clear that the protection mechanism does not live up to its name, even more, the Honduran state actively weakens its work by not allowing OACNUDH to give technical support (see point 47.). OACNUDH reiterates its recommendations regarding the post-electoral crisis as well as its call to demilitarize public security. Joaquín Mejía calls the current situation "the intensification of a permanent human rights crisis".

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W9XJ9bopb_Q9DWIfeuSaB23NVLLerkzR/view

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/15/la-profundizacion-de-una-crisis-permanente-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2126-oacnudh-solicita-al-estado-de-honduras-investigaciones-prontas-sobre-las-denuncias-de-violaciones-a-los-ddhh>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/onu-destaca-violacion-ddhh-en-honduras-tras-comicios-y-pide-desmilitarizacion.html>

The protection mechanism was also a central topic in a new article by Pasos de Animal Grande. The four representative of human rights organizations at the mechanism's Protection Council denied meeting JOH on May 14. They published an open letter saying that they won't do so as long as he continues to attack HRDs.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2125-representantes-de-organizaciones-de-ddhh-ante-consejo-de-proteccion-no-asistieron-a-reunion-con-joh>

The lawyers representing four human rights defenders who suffered an attack by police agents last September are worried about the ongoing postponement of the trial against the police officials held responsible for ordering the attack.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2124-preocupa-a-abogados-el-atraso-del-juicio-contr-a-oficiales-que-torturaron-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos>

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs Michel Forst plans an exhaustive report on the situation of HRDs for the 73rd session of the General Assembly. "To this end, I have prepared a "Questionnaire on the situation on human rights defenders" (in English, French and Spanish), which I am hereby sending to civil society organisations and other stakeholders, that will inform the report and the country-by-country analysis."

See attachments

Inhabitants of Valle de Siria denounce health problems as a consequence of past mining activities in the valley. This is especially topical given that the same inhabitants now face a new project, a geothermic one, fearing new negative consequences for them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/15/denuncian-enfermedades-por-contaminacion-en-valle-hondureno/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nuevo-proyecto-de-muerte-para-el-valle-de-siria/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/15/piden-frenar-permiso-de-muerte-ambiental-autorizado-en-valle-de-siria/>

The US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton expressed concerns about the failure of the JOH regime to nominate the new head of the MACCIH.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/15/embajada-de-ee-uu-expresa-su-preocupacion-ante-el-no-nombramiento-del-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-preocupado-por-tardanza-de-honduras-en-nombrar-jefe-de-maccih.html>

El Pulso reports on last week's conference on the selection process of attorney generals in Guatemala and Honduras. The article focuses on the contribution by Ramón Cadona, director of the International Jurists Commission for Central America, who explained how the setup of the Honduran process is influenced by impunity and powerful interests and does not live up to international standards.

The Democracies without Borders Foundation launched an online platform to denounce irregularities about the 25 candidates for the position of Attorney General.

<http://elpulso.hn/guatemala-y-honduras-dos-luchas-contr-la-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/15/crean-plataforma-para-la-recepcion-de-informacion-de-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/fdsf-habilita-plataforma-de-denuncia-para-proceso-de-seleccion-de-fiscal-general.html>

The purged police sub-commissioner José Orlando Leiva Natarén had some of his possessions seized. Apparently, the FBI is also investigating him. Reporteros de Investigación reports on the irregularities in the death of a 28-year old investigative police agent.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/15/quitan-bienes-a-oficial-depurado-de-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1178479-466/la-oficina-federal-de-investigaci%C3%B3n-le-sigue-la-pista-en-miami-al>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/15/agente-de-investigacion-se-accidento-despues-de-ser-sancionado-en-la-escuela-de-investigacion-criminal/>

After the official approval of the pay rise for congresswo/men yesterday, Libre congresswo/men decided not to accept it for themselves. The pay rise is explained by some observers as a compensation for the decision to start auditing the departmental development funds received by congresswo/men.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/15/diputados-de-partido-libre-rechazan-aumento-otorgado-por-directiva-del-congreso-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/incrementos-salariales-de-diputados-moneda-de-cambio-para-sustituir-subsidios.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1178500-466/el-salario-de-los-diputados-rebasa-los-100-mil-lempiras-con-otros>

Congress made changes to three articles of the new Fire Arms Control Bill. The three articles regulate the registration of arms by the Armed Forces.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1178490-466/honduras-modifican-tres-art%C3%ADculos-de-nueva-ley-de-portaci%C3%B3n-de-armas>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/15/interpondran-recurso-de-amparo-contra-mocion-legislativa-que-atenta-contra-el-estado-laico/>

16/05/18

LGBTI; OFRANEH; HRDs; JOH - Vida Mejor; Corruption - de Lobo, IPP, CNA; Economy; Congress; Migration - Deportation; and Please, Don't Talk About Corruption

Today is the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. On this occasion, Expediente Público and Contracorriente published a graphic-novel short story accompanied with two texts on the situation in Honduras.

<http://www.expedienteabierto.org/ea/index.php/ep/item/15-17-de-mayo-dia-mundial-contra-la-homofobia-la-transfobia-y-la-bifobia>

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda for an update on their situation one year after the publication of the report "Pillage of the Garífuna Territories in Honduras: Impacts of Extractivism and Touristic Expansion". Miriam reports of ongoing pressure reaching unsustainable levels coupled with the criminalization of their members.

Naúm Lalin, member of OFRANEH, denounces the lack of justice for Honduras' afro-Descendant and indigenous communities and he warns that this could lead to their disappearance.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/192920>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/16/falta-de-legalidad-y-justicia-llevara-a-extincion-de-comunidades-indigenas-ofraneh/>

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) held a forum yesterday in Honduras on the protection mechanisms for human rights defenders.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/16/fes-y-oacnudh-empoderan-hondurenos-en-auxilio-internacional-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2837-hondurenos-conocen-auxilio-internacional-en-derechos-humanos>

Vienna Herrera published a great report on the weaknesses of JOH's social benefit program Vida Mejor highlighting how the promise of a better life is meant rather for the corrupt than the poor.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/05/13/una-vida-mejor-para-la-corrupcion-y-no-para-los-pobres/>

Even though a court decided that the former First Lady, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo has to remain in prison awaiting trial, another court now ordered the return of previous seized goods and properties to her.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2838-honduras-devuelven-bienes-incautados-a-rosita>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/16/devuelven-los-bienes-a-rosa-elena-bonilla-de-lobo-por-redaccion-criterio-redaccioncriterio-hn-tegucigalpa-los-13-bienes-inmuebles-que-le-fueron-incautados-por-la-oficina-de-bienes-incautados-oabi/>

Criterio published a long article offering an overview of the irregularities around the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/16/directivos-de-periodistas-se-escudan-en-un-ilicito-para-burlar-la-ley-de-transparencia/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) announced six new lines of investigation.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-anuncia-lineas-investigacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nueva-linea-de-investigacion-por-corrupcion-que-involucra-a-funcionarios-actuales-anuncia-el-cna.html>

FOSDEH reports on the state of the Honduran economy using info graphics.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2018/05/honduras-y-su-realidad-expresada-en-imagenes/>

<http://elpulso.hn/crecimiento-economico-de-honduras-es-insuficiente-para-revertir-los-indices-de-pobreza/>

With the background information of FOSDEH's info graphic, e.g. the rising poverty level, it is no surprise at all that the pay rise members of Congress gave themselves causes protest.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/16/fosdeh-cuestiona-astronomico-incremento-a-diputados-del-parlamento-hondureno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/16/con-unos-60-diputados-que-tengamos-es-suficiente-wilfredo-mendez/>

The number of deported Hondurans grew by 33.7% in the period from January 1 to May 11 compared to last year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-incrementa-en-33-7-la-deportacion-de-hondurenos-hasta-primer-quincena-de-mayo.html>

Last week, the Honduran cardinal claimed that Honduras is not really one

of the most corrupt countries. Now, JOH blames the media for talking about corruption too much, but not enough about organized crime... Maybe ConfidencialHN can help here. It just published a long article on one of JOH's indispensable functionary, Jesús Arturo Mejía, and his links to the accused drug trafficker Ramón Matta Waldurraga.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/16/joh-se-molesta-porque-los-medios-hablan-mas-de-corrupcion-y-no-de-criminalidad-organizada/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-critica-a-medios-porque-pocos-se-atreven-de-hablar-de-crimen-organizado-y-prefieren-debatir-corrupcion.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/16/jesus-mejia-uso-influencias-para-firmar-contratos-con-empresas-de-ramon-matta-waldurraga/>

17/05/18

HRDs -- UNAH, Surveillance, Campaign; Journalists; Berta - FMO; LGBTI; MADJ; HR; Armed Forces - HR Violations; US - Security Assistance; Militarization; MACCIH - JOH; Corruption - CNA; Migration - TPS; MP - Election; Electric Energy - Privatization; Congress; Debt; and the 10th Anniversary of the Public Prosecutors' Hunger Strike

ADEPZA, a human rights organization from Zacate Grande, denounces new attacks against its coordinator Pedro Canales.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/adepza-denuncia-nuevos-ataques-contra-el-defensor-pedro-canales/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the newest day in court in the case against the three police officials held responsible for the attack against four HRDs and a group of students last September.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2127-kilometrica-audiencia-desprestigiar-a-defensores-de-ddhh-para-no-ir-a-la-carcel-es-el-ultimo-cartucho-de-oficiales-enjuiciados>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2130-abogados-acusadores-si-la-jueza-se-apega-a-derecho-los-oficiales-de-policia-iran-a-prision>

The Defense Secretariat denied Pasos de Animal Grande information about the purchase of surveillance equipment from the UK due to reasons of "national security" calling on the Secrecy Law...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2128-por-seguridad-nacional-secretaria-de-defensa-niega-informacion-sobre-compra-de-equipo-de-espionaje-a-gran-bretana>

Pasos de Animal Grande speaks with Heidy Alachán from the Coalition against Impunity about their campaign to make visible the work of HRDs.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2132-campana-yo-defiendo-pretende-visibilizar-los-riegos-que-viven-los-defensores-de-ddhh-para-que-no-se-repitan-hechos>

The Liberal congressman Yuri Sabas denounces that the protection mechanism for journalists is very selective, i.e. it does not protect journalists denouncing corruption.

<https://tiempo.hn/yuri-sabas-proteccion-a-periodistas/>

FMO reacts with a press release to COPINH's visit to the Netherlands and the announcement of legal actions taken against them.

<https://www.fmo.nl/news-detail/23ce0757-bff0-4ec4-bd03-3f7d880362f1/fmo-s-reaction-to-the-announcement-of-legal-action-against-fmo>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_SNTa1COtg

In the last decade, more than 280 members of the LGBTI community violently lost their lives in Honduras and over 90% of these cases rest in impunity.

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras published a press release on the occasion of yesterday's International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. OACNUDH lists several demands for the JOH regime, among them to investigate without delay hate crimes against members of the LGBTI community.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/17/impunes-280-crimenes-contra-diversidad-sexual-conadeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/17/informe-oficial-registra-280-crimenes-contra-la-comunidad-lgtbi-en-la-ultima-decada-en-honduras/>

https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH?notif_id=1511194926820113¬if_t=page_fan

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-el-dia-contra-la-homofobia-la-onu-urge-a-combatir-la-violencia-y-la-discriminacion/>

MADJ presents five important points to understand the struggle in defense of the Jilamito river in Arizona, Atlántida.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/17/5-puntos-para-conocer-y-entender-la-lucha-en-jilamito-Atl%C3%A1ntida>

JOH reacts to the annual report of the OACNUDH by diverting attention away from his regime. He even goes on to denigrate HRDs who are not willing to see that there are also non-state actors violating human rights, such as gangs.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/17/ante-presion-para-el-nombramiento-de-vocero-de-la-macch-joh-pide-respeto-a-la-soberania/>

Congressman Luis Redondo presented a motion demanding a stop to the promotion of members of the Armed Forces as long as it has not been thoroughly investigated who is responsible for the human rights violations in the post-electoral crisis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/piden-al-parlamento-no-condecorar-a-militares-acusados-de-violar-derechos/>

Sandra Cuffe published an important article on the recent crackdown against protesters in Pajuiles by US-trained TIGRES special forces. The article continues to cover the training and financial support the TIGRES unit received since its creation in 2013.

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/44502-us-trained-special-forces-joined-police-crackdown-on-dam-protesters-in-honduras>

As announced some days back, the Patriotic Alliance congressman Enrique Medina Yllescas now presented a bill to reinstate mandatory military service.

COFADEH warns of the consequences of accepting this bill.

Vice-president Ricardo Álvarez says that he opposes the idea.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/parlamentario-propone-la-reinstauracion-del-servicio-militar-obligatorio/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/17/diputado-de-alianza-patriotica-presenta-proyecto-de-ley-para-el-retorno-del-servicio-militar-obligatorio-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-entre-mas-militarizacion-mas-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/vicepresidente-de-honduras-se-opone-al-servicio-militar-obligatorio/>

JOH fell back on his sovereignty discourse, after the US chargé d'affaires dared to mention the slow process to nominate a new head for the MACCIH.

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana fears that the MACCIH is on the brink of being disappeared.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/17/ante-presion-para-el-nombramiento-de-vocero-de-la-maccih-joh-pide-respeto-a-la-soberania/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/joh-pide-a-ee-uu-y-comunidad-internacional-que-respeten-soberania/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/mientras-el-gobierno-siga-con-actitud-nalgas-prontas-eeuu-nos-seguira-irrespetando/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-maccih-esta-a-punto-de-desaparecer-advierte-edmundo-orellana.html>

There is a new wave of defamatory attacks against the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). Because its director Gabriela Castellanos dared speaking out publicly against the attacks against the office, she is now accused of politicizing the CNA...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/ex-investigador-lamenta-la-actual-politizacion-del-cna/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/cna-analizara-conducta-politizada-de-gabriela-castellanos-y-odir-fernandez/>

The Nation published an article by Lauren Carasik on how the decision by the Trump administration to cancel TPS further worsens the situation in Honduras - a situation of poverty and authoritarianism supported by US foreign policy.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/trumps-cruel-foolly-canceling-tps-for-hondurans-will-fuel-more-violence/>

The public audiences in the selection process for the new Attorney General take place on May 28, 29 and 30.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/proponentes-crean-norma-que-regira-las-audiencias-para-escoger-al-nuevo-fiscal/>

El Pulso reports on the start of the privatization wave in the electric energy sector in Honduras, which dates back to the Carlos Roberto Reina administration in 1994. The negative effects of his work are still felt today.

<http://elpulso.hn/cuando-se-privatizo-la-energia-electrica-en-honduras/>

Congresswo/men belonging to the political opposition react differently to their pay rise. Some want to return the money, some use it for projects in their departments.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/17/mientras-liberales-justifican-sueldazo-diputada-del-pinu-lo-rechaza/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/doris-gutierrez-jorge-calix-y-carlos-zelaya-devuelven-aumento-salarial-que-recibieron-como-diputados.html>

Public debt rose by over \$300 million in the first four months of 2018.

<https://tiempo.hn/deuda-externa-de-honduras-aumento-mas-de-300-millones-de-dolares-en-el-primer-trimestre-de-2018/>

<http://elpulso.hn/historia-de-la-huelga-de-fiscales-de-2008/>

18/05/18

WHRDs; Femicide; HRDs; Berta - Agua Zarca; Militarization; MACCIH; Corruption - de Lobo, Judicial Power, Pani, INA; MP - Election; Tourism - Land Grab; Congress; Education - Bible, UNA; and JOH's Dying Cows

Various human rights, campesino and feminist organizations met on May 8 and 9 in La Paz to discuss the situation of indigenous, Garífuna, campesina women and women in general in Honduras. They published a joint declaration with twelve demands for the JOH regime.

<http://www.cemh.org.hn/declaratoria-encuentro-de-mujeres-indigenas-campesinas-y-garifunas-derechos-de-las-mujeres-y-la-defensa-de-los-cuerpos-tierra-territorio/>

The number of femicide slightly increased in the first four months this year compared to 2017.

<https://tiempo.hn/muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-este-ano-ya-ascienden-a-127/>

In its weekly analysis, Radio Progreso highlights the report by Michel Forst as further proof of ongoing human rights violations in Honduras with HRDs as one of the primary targets. They also challenge the Human Rights Secretary Karla Cueva, asking if she even read the report.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4414-informe-especialrelatoronu-evidencia-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4413-se%3%B1ora-ministra-karla-cuevas-%C2%BFya-ley%C3%B3-la-declaraci%C3%B3n-de-fin-de-misi%C3%B3n-del-relator-especial-michel-forst?-15-mayo-2018>

COPINH published some info graphics on the role of international financial institution in perpetuating the human rights violations around the Agua Zarca project. Interestingly, Proceso Digital continues to report on COPINH's Europe advocacy tour.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/el-financiamiento-de-los-bancos-permitio-alargar-la-presencia-dentro-del-territorio-lenca-de-desa-y-del-conjunto-de-problematicas-que-hay-alrededor-de-esta-empresa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hija-de-bertha-caceres-acusa-a-banco-holandes-de-negligencia-en-asesinato-de-su-madre.html>

Defensores en Línea published a second article warning about the attempt to reintroduce mandatory military service in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/emerge-oposicion-a-la-mocion-sobre-servicio-militar-obligatorio/>

The Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) at American University has a one-year pilot project about the MACCIH. They just published their fourth The MACCIH Monitor, which appears every two months. The newest edition covers the time from March 1 to April 30, 2018. The first line of their analysis already says it all: "MACCIH is under serious threat".

Two days ago, Edmundo Orellana said that the MACCIH is on the brink of disappearance (see yesterday), and yesterday Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez said that corruption is winning against the MACCIH.

Another worrisome sign comes from the former head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). Dagoberto Aspra claims that the MP is strong enough to fight corruption without the MACCIH...

See attachment

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/18/la-maccih-esta-en-cuidados-intensivos-la-corrupcion-esta-ganando-doris-gutierrez/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mp-puede-enfrentar-casos-de-corrupcion-sin-el-acompanamiento-de-la-maccih-segun-exmiembro-del-cna.html>

An appeals court confirmed the preventive imprisonment of former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. The CNA greets this decision.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/18/corte-de-apelaciones-confirma-auto-de-prision-contr-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/18/juez-decide-que-rosa-elena-bonilla-y-compania-seguiran-en-la-carcel/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-considera-oportuna-decision-judicial-de-mantener-en-prision-a-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

The resolution in the case against the former members of the extinct Judiciary Council is expected for tomorrow. The six former members are accused of a total of over 600 cases of public embezzlement.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/18/reprograman-para-el-lunes-la-resolucion-de-los-exconcejales-de-la-judicatura/>

The MP announced to investigate possible acts of corruption at the National Children's Endowment (Pani).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/18/ministerio-publico-investigara-1-denuncias-de-corrupcion-en-el-pani/>

The former director of the National Agriculture Institute, José Erasmo Portillo Fernández, was acquitted for lack of evidence. He was accused of illicit enrichment.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/18/exdirector-del-ina-erasmo-portillo-sale-libre-por-falta-de-pruebas/>

CONADEH announced that they will take into account denouncements of domestic violence when looking at the candidates for Attorney General. I guess this should be considered progress, but the fact that it has to be stated explicitly still says a lot.

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/conadeh-advierte-a-postulados-a-fiscal-general-que-tomaran-en-cuenta-denuncias-por-violencia-intrafamiliar.html>

Inhabitants of Roatán filed a complaint against the director of the Honduran Tourism Institute and the mayor of Roatán for making profits with appropriated land.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/18/denuncian-alcalde-de-roatan-y-alto-funcionario-de-apropiarse-de-terreno/>

Radio Progreso denounces the pay rise decided at Congress. It helps explain why 8 out of 10 Honduran citizens have no confidence in Congress and the political parities.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4409-el-p%C3%ADrico-aumento-18-mayo-2018>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4410-jugosos-salarios-para-diputados-en-un-pais-empobrecido>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/18/47133/>

The organization Librepensamiento (Freethinking) Honduras presented a constitutional challenge after Congress decided to introduce Bible reading in public schools.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2840-librepensadores-defienden-educacion-laica-en-honduras>

The election of JOH ally Marlon Escoto to the position of dean at the National Agriculture University (UNA) was nullified by a court because the election process was not deemed rightful.

<https://tiempo.hn/anulan-eleccion-de-marlon-escoto-como-rector-de-la-una/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/18/honduras-siguen-muriendo-las-vacas-bajo-dominio-de-la-oabi/>

19/05/18

Military Police - Repression; Basic Goods; Judicial System; Forensic Medicine; and Selling Military Clothing on Social Media

The Military Police repressed protests against rising electricity prices in Choluteca using tear gas. C-Libre denounces that they also directly threatened HRDs and journalists accompanying the protest and reporting on it.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/864-nuevamente-represion-contra-manifestantes-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodistas-en-la-ciudad-de-choluteca>

The Honduran government rose fuel prices by more than a Lempira, making them the most expensive in Central America according to ConfidencialHN. Since the beginning of the year, the price of the basic goods basket rose by 220 Lempiras to over 8000 Lempiras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/19/honduras-gasolina-superior-cuesta-mas-de-100-lempiras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2842-carnaval-de-aumentos-a-combustibles-y-canasta-basica-en-honduras>

In 2017, 1577 sought out the help of CONADEH due to a lack of access to justice and due process.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cerca-de-mil-600-personas-denunciaron-falta-de-acceso-a-la-justicia-ante-el-conadeh.html>

His family mourned and buried the 54-year old Luis Alonzo Díaz, who supposedly had died in a car accident. It later turned out that Forensic Medicine made a mistake in the paper work and the family had buried someone else, while Alonzo Díaz was recovering in the hospital...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/19/por-negligencia-de-medicina-forense-familia-vela-y-entierra-cadaver-equivocado/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/detienen-a-individuo-por-vender-indumentaria-militar-mediante-redes-sociales.html>

20/05/18

Political Prisoners; Campesinxs - Armed Forces; Journalists; Corruption - de Lobo; National Police - Rural Police; Economy; Political Parties; and Pay Rises for Everyone...Except Teachers

Edwin Espinal has now been in prison for over four months. The group Free Edwin Espinal offers an overview of the situation of the political prisoners.

<https://freedwinespinalibertad.blogspot.ch/2018/05/the-struggle-for-honduran-political.html>

Presumed members of the Armed Forces murdered three campesinxs in Warunta in the Moskitia.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/20/supuestos-militares-masacran-a-tres-agricultores-en-la-mosquitia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ffaa-investigacion-muerte-de-tres-personas-en-gracias-a-dios-tras-enfrentamiento-con-soldados.html>

The journalist Cesia Mejía was presumably fired from the channel TSI because she dared covering corruption cases linked to the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/20/periodista-cesia-mejia-confirma-su-despido-de-tsi/>

de Lobo's defense team tried once more to get her out of prison.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1179969-466/presentar%C3%A1n-recurso-de-reposici%C3%B3n-a-favor-de-rosa-elena-de-lobo>

Already 200 members of the National Police Force have been relegated to the so-called Rural Police. This is presented as a reaction to the increased crime rate in rural areas.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1179974-466/crean-polic%C3%ADa-rural-por-migraci%C3%B3n-de-c%C3%A9lulas-delictivas-al-interior>

The Commerce and Industries Chamber of Tegucigalpa (CCIT) demands answers by the Central Bank regarding the devaluation of the Lempira.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/20/pedirán-explicaciones-al-gobierno-hondureño-por-devaluación-de-la-monedas/>

According to El Heraldo, four new political parties are about to be formed in Honduras.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1179975-466/cuatro-nuevos-partidos-tocan-las-puertas-del-tribunal-supremo-electoral>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/20/corporacion-municipal-de-catacamas-olancho-se-receta-fuerte-aumento-de-salarios-y-dietas/>

21/05/18

Indigenous Peoples - Miskitu; Journalists; US; Corruption - Judicial System; Militarization; Drug Trafficking; Public Health; Congress; Fire Fighters; MP - Election; and a New Way for Honduras

The murder of three Miskitu campesinxs by soliders in Warunta in La Moskitia caused widespread protest. The Miskitu Indigenous People Unity (MASTA) published a press release denouncing the murder and demands the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from its territory.

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva sees in the murder further evidence how the murder of civilians has become normalized in Honduras.

CIPRODEH also condemns the murder.

The MP announced an investigation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/honduras-enardecidas-protestas-tras-asesinato-de-tres-agricultores-misquitos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/matar-civiles-en-honduras-se-volvio-una-rutina-denuncia-cofadeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/21/ciprodeh-condena-el-asesinato-de-tres-miskitos-a-manos-de-militares/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/honduras-ministerio-publico-investiga-el-crimen-de-los-tres-misquitos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscalia-investiga-de-oficio-muerte-de-tres-personas-en-la-mosquitia.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande highlights one of the most central weaknesses of the protection mechanism: the protection is supposed to come from the police. The journalist Jairo López should have benefited from the mechanism since last year, but instead the police is hiding less and less its real intention, to harass him.

Avispa Media reports on the high murder rate of journalists in both Honduras and Mexico accompanied by an impunity rate over 90%.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2133-persecucion-implacable-siguen-hostigamientos-de-la-policia-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez>

<https://avispa.org/23056-2/>

Six human rights defenders were recently in the US to meet with US Senators and members of Congress to ask them for support in the release of the political prisoners, to end US security assistance, to approve the Berta Cáceres Bill and to form an independent commission to investigate the post-electoral violence.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/21/gobierno-de-estados-unidos-es-responsable-de-la-crisis-en-honduras-delegacion-de-lideres-religiosos/>

The judge Vera Barahona decided to officially open trial against the six former members of the defunct Judiciary Council. Nevertheless, they don't have to await trial in prison and they already announced to appeal the decision by the judge.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/21/miembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura-se-defenderan-en-libertad/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1180219-466/dictan-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-exconcejales-pero-se-defenderan-en-libertad>

Coup general and president of the Patriotic Alliance presents the mandatory military service as the solutions to societal woes, such as youth unemployment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/romeo-asegura-que-el-servicio-vocacional-obligatorio-combatira-el-ocio-de-los-ninis/>

El Pulso published an article on Sergio Neftalí Mejía Duarte, the first Honduran drug trafficker extradited to the US who got a life sentence.

<http://elpulso.hn/cadena-perpetua-a-narco-hondureno-extraditado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/condenan-a-cadena-perpetua-a-narco-hondureno-sergio-mejia-duarte/>

Employees of psychiatric hospitals in Honduras announced a general assembly for today to discuss strike actions due to unpaid pay checks. ConfidencialHN highlights some of the failed promises made by UNAH when it took over control of the University Hospital in 2012-

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/21/hospitales-psiquiatricos-anuncian-paro-indefinido-por-incumplimiento-de-pago/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/a-pesar-de-tener-tomografos-en-buen-estado-heu-hace-negocios-con-clinicas-particulares/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva presents the pay rise for congresswo/men as a done deal.

Labor union leader Carlos H. Reyes proposes that congresswo/men should be treated as temporary employees with an hourly wage.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/aunque-reclaron-el-aumento-de-sueldo-no-tiene-marcha-atras-presidente-del-legislativo1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aumento-a-diputados-es-justo-y-no-hay-vuelta-atras-sentencia-mauricio-oliva.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/los-diputados-deben-ganar-salario-por-hora-dice-carlos-h-reyes.html>

Criterio reports on the discussion in Congress about the new law regulating Honduras' fire fighters and how Nationalist congresswo/men want to centralize power in this institution as well.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/21/nacionalistas-no-ceden-en-querer-nombrar-comandante-de-bomberos-en-pretendida-nueva-ley/>

The Nominating Committee for the selection of the Attorney General published the protocol they claim to use for the public audiences taking place from May 28-30.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/publican-protocolo-oficial-de-las-audiencias-a-candidatos-para-fiscal-general.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/21/periodista-pide-inscribir-el-partido-nueva-ruta-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/21/solicitan-la-inscripcion-de-dos-nuevos-partidos-politicos-ante-el-tse/>

22/05/18

Berta - Agua Zarca; Forced Disappearance; Impunity; Garífunas; MADJ - Pajuiles; Journalists; Corruption - Impunity Pact; Dialogue; Constituent Assembly; US; Hydroelectricity; Public Health; Airport; and a Bird Tax

"Desarrollos Energéticos S.A. (DESA), the renewable energy firm responsible for the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project in Honduras, has retained the international law firm of Amsterdam & Partners LLP to assist with issues relating to the Honduran government's prosecution of two DESA executives accused of responsibility for the 2016 murder of high-profile activist Berta Cáceres."

<https://www.amsterdamandpartners.com/amsterdam-partners-llp-retained-by-desarrollos-energeticos-s-a-desa-to-advise-on-agua-zarca-case/>

COFADEH, as part of the Coalition against Impunity, prepared a report for the UN Committee on Forced Disappearance, which currently examines Honduras.

In the report, they highlight the recent case of the 23-year old Manuel de Jesús Bautista, who disappeared after having been arrested by the Military Police last December.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-presento-informe-de-desaparicion-forzada-al-comite-de-naciones-unidas/>

See Attachment for their recommendations

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2134-gobierno-de-joh-es-responsable-de-practicar-la-desaparicion-forzada-en-honduras-durante-la-crisis-post-electoral>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/22/cofadeh-presenta-informe-ante-comite-contra-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-naciones-unidas/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/669-organizaciones-de-ddhh-exigen-respuestas-por-desapariciones-de-ayer-y-hoy-al-estado-hondureno>

Radio Progreso explains how the recent reports of both the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs should suffice to finally take legal and administrative actions against those responsible for the use of extreme violence by the Military Police, the Armed Forces and the National Police during the post-electoral crisis. SO far this has not happened, rather those denouncing the situation are being threatened and criminalized. Even worse, Congress approved the promotions of two high officials held responsible for the atrocities, René Orlando Ponce Fonseca and Raynel Enrique Fúnes Ponce.

Meanwhile, the UN-led dialogue announced that they plan to create a Human Rights Committee to investigate the post-electoral violence.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4418-otra-prueba-del-desprecio-del-r%C3%A9gimen-hacia-las-v%C3%ADctimas-22-mayo-2018>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/mesa-tecnica-creara-comision-de-ddhh-que-investigara-hechos-poselectorales.html>

A court found ten soldiers responsible for the murder of the two young Garífuna men in December 2015 - three for the murder directly and the remaining seven for complicity.

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with Garífuna leader Celso Guillén, who has been repeatedly arrested and threatened for his struggle against Canadian investors disputing their land. He believes the arrests and threats are part of a strategy to "psychologically wear them out" so that they stop resisting.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/05/22/sentencia-condenatoria-a-militares-implicados-en-asesinatos-de-jovenes-garifunas-en-iriona/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4419-condena-para-militares-que-asesinaron-a-j%C3%B3venes-garifunas>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/193024>

MADJ published an interview with its member Albertina López, who lives in Pajulies and faces criminalization for defending the Mezapa river.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/22/Albertina-L%C3%B3pez-En-nuestro-10-aniversario-llamamos-a-la-poblaci%C3%B3n-a-organizarse>

C-Libre documented three cases alone this month of attacks and persecution of HRDs and journalists on social media.

C-Libre denounces that personal information and information dossiers were stolen from the car of the journalist Ronny Martínez while he was broadcasting.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/intimidacion/865-se-reactivan-los-ataques-por-redes-sociales-a-defensores-y-periodistas>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/robo/866-manipulan-camara-de-seguridad-de-canal-de-tv-y-sustraen-documentos-de-del-interior-del-vehiculo-de-periodista>

Former Attorney General warns us about focusing too much on the corruption charges against the former First Lady Rosa Elena de Lobo. According to him, this serves to turn the attention away from the fact that Congress approved an Impunity Pact to safeguards themselves from investigations.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/22/aumento-a-diputados-es-cortina-de-humo-para-tapar-caso-de-la-maccih-edmundo-orellana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/22/la-sana-aplicada-a-ex-primera-dama-es-un-mensaje-claro-para-pepe-lobo/>

Defensores en Línea compares the two forms of dialogue promoted in Honduras and Nicaragua.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-dialogo/>

Libre congressman Mauricio Sandoval presented a draft bill calling for a Constituent Assembly.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presentan-iniciativa-de-ley-al-cn-para-convocar-a-una-asamblea-nacional-constituyente.html>

The Global Sisters Report interviewed Sister Rosa Maria Troches, who together with five other Hondurans visited the US last week to talk with members of Congress about the situation in Honduras. On their way back to Honduras they were accompanied by a US human rights delegation for their second visit to Honduras after January 2018.

<http://globalsistersreport.org/blog/q/ministry/q-sr-rosa-maria-troches-spreading-word-honduran-repression-53936>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4420-delegaci%C3%B3n-de-estados-unidos-regresa-a-honduras-ante-preocupaci%C3%B3n-por-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

La Tribuna reports on a planned \$400 hydroelectric project, El Tornillito in Villanueva, Cortés.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/22/400-millones-invertiran-hidroelectrica-tornillito/>

ConfidencialHN published another article on the deficiencies at the University Hospital concentrating on the lack of CT scans and how patients are sent to private medical centers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/22/cuestionan-fallos-y-saboteos-de-tomografos-en-el-hospital-escuela/>

A private airplane registered in the US crashed yesterday morning shortly after take off. No one died. Apparently, it is not really clear that the who was on the plane on why they had been in Honduras. The cleaning up was not up to international standards and Honduras may have to respond to that.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/22/honduras-se-accidenta-avion-privado-en-el-aeropuerto-toncontin1/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1180560-466/video-momento-en-el-que-avi%C3%B3n-accidentado-en-tegucigalpa-toc%C3%B3-la-pista>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/22/decenas-de-civiles-fueron-los-primeros-en-socorrer-a-tripulantes-de-avion-accidentado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/22/velo-de-misterio-cubre-aeronave-accidentada-hoy-en-honduras/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1180472-465/qui%C3%A9n-es-el-due%C3%B1o-del-avi%C3%B3n-que-se-sali%C3%B3-de-la-pista>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1180641-466/honduras-podr%C3%ADa-recibir-demanda-internacional-por-no-seguir-protocolos-para-levantar-escombros>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/22/pericazo-hondurenos-deben-pagar-impuestos-por-tener-aves-en-casa/>

23/05/18

Political Prisoners; COPINH; HR Violations; Lencas; Miskitu; LGBTI; Militarization; Israel; National Police; MACCIH - Efficient Collaboration; FoE; Electric Energy - EEH; Bird Tax; Education - Bible Study; Drug Trafficking; and Doing Journalism in Honduras

A Canadian and US human rights delegation traveled to Honduras on May 22 to advocate for the release of the political prisoners held by the Honduran regime. When they arrived at the airport, they were detained and interrogated for four hours before being allowed to enter the country. Once in the country, they held a press conference at COFADEH yesterday.

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/canadianus-delegation-is-detained-and-interrogated-for-4-hours>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/delegacion-internacional-de-ddhh-fue-retenida-4-horas-al-ingresar-a-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2136-gobierno-retiene-e-interroga-por-cuatro-horas-a-delegacion-canadiense-que-llego-a-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/delegacion-internacional-de-ddhh-exige-liberacion-de-los-presos-politicos-en-honduras/>

A delegation by COPINH is currently in Europe to inform about their situation and the current state of the investigation into Berta Cáceres' assassination as well as to present the report by GAIPE. This week they were for three days in Switzerland and at the UN, they meet with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. Berta Zúniga Cáceres and Miguel Angel Urbina (GAIPE) also gave a 20-min interview to TresPuntos Noticias.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/copinh-se-reune-con-el-alto-comisionado-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu-zeid-raad-al-hussein-en-ginebra/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l5Cuao-E8Y>

Sadly, it came as no surprise that the JOH regime taking part in the national dialogue announced that they oppose the formation of a commission to investigate the post-electoral violence. JOH's secretary Ebal Díaz told the public that it is the responsibility of the State to investigate and they don't want a parallel investigation. This is very cynical, as there is not even an official state investigation. UN representative Igor Garafulic challenges Díaz by highlighting that the commission would accompany the state's investigations. Nasralla said that he would withdraw again from the dialogue if there is no commission.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2846-regimen-hondureno-opuesto-a-investigacion-de-crmenes-politicos>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ministro-diaz-en-contra-de-crear-comision-paralela-que-estudie-violaciones-a-ddhh-en-protestas-postelectorales.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/garafulic-aclara-que-decidieron-crear-comision-que-acompane-investigacion-de-casos-de-ddhh-no-que-la-suplante.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/23/nasralla-amenaza-con-retirarse-del-predialogo-ante-negativa-gubernamental-de-investigar-crmenes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-abandona-la-mesa-del-predialogo.html>

Indigenous Lencas in the community Tierras del Padre, Francisco Morazán fear an eviction by a landowner, even though they are in possession of their ancestral land titles.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/terateniente-quiere-desalojar-a-indigenas-lenca-de-tierras-del-padre/>

According to Pasos de Animal Grande, the three soldiers who shot three Miskitu campesinos last Saturday in Warunta in the Moskitia still have not been detained and not even suspended. Reporteros de Investigación makes a link to the events in May 2012 in Ahuás.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2135-militares-que-dispararon-contra-misquitos-no-han-sido-puestos-a-la-orden-de-los-tribunales>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/23/policias-militares-asesinaron-a-indigenas-misquitos-por-evadir-senal-de-alto/>

Fernando Reyes writes about the struggles of the LGBTI community in Honduras, one of the most violent countries for them. The article is accompanied by various photos.

<http://elpulso.hn/dia-contra-la-homofobia-en-honduras-una-lucha-historica-que-avanza/>

BuzzFeed published an article on the Guards of the Fatherland program - a militarization program directed at children. Or, as BuzzFeed writes: "The Army Says It's Just Teaching Kids Karate. Others Call It Indoctrination."

This program is one of the more visible faces of the re-militarization of the Honduran society. Another one, is the reintroduction of a mandatory military service. Human rights defenders held a press conference yesterday rejecting the idea and warning of its consequences.

https://www.buzzfeed.com/karlazabludovsky/the-army-says-its-just-teaching-kids-karate-others-call-it?utm_term=.hg4DD07KD#.hfv332JN3

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/670-con-un-tajante-no-responden-organizaciones-a-reintegrar-el-servicio-militar-obligatorio>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/23/retornar-al-servicio-militar-obligatorio-es-nefasto-afirma-defensor-de-ddhh/>

HispanTV reports on the military cooperation between Honduras and Israel.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/377940/dictaduras-israel-cooperacion-militar>

Defensores en Línea reports on the ongoing threats against Máximo Ramos who had denounced the illegal behavior of police agents in August 2016. ConfidencialHN interviewed the former police official Norman Mondragón, who believes that he had been purged for defending the rights of his fellow members of the police and the Honduran citizens and, therefore, opposing the repression by the JOH regime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-traves-de-mensajes-ofrecen-dinero-por-ciudadano-que-denuncio-a-policias-y-militares-torturadores/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/23/me-estan-persiguiendo-por-defender-derechos-humanos-ex-policia-depurado/>

One of the key bills promoted by the MACCIH is the Efficient Collaboration Bill. It has been stalled for over a year and the political opposition blames the National Party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/23/opositor-asegura-que-nacionalistas-impiden-aprobacion-de-ley-de-colaboracion/>

Libre congresswoman Scherly Arriaga presented a bill calling for the outright derogation of the so-called Muzzle Law, the Article 335-B of the reformed Penal Code.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/23/diputada-de-libre-presenta-iniciativa-para-derogar-totalmente-la-ley-mordaza/>

UNETV journalist Mauricio Rivera claims that Arturo Corrales is directly involved with the Energy Company Honduras (EEH) and the privatization of the Honduran energy sector. In the same interview with Correo del Sur, Rivera also mentions several recent attacks and threats against journalists.

<http://www.correodelsur.hn/2018/05/21/periodista-mauricio-rivera-senala-directamente-al-senor-arturo-corrales-en-el-negocio-de-energia-honduras-y-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte/>

After the announcement of a so-called bird tax (Pericazo), the public outcry led the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) to reconsider it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/23/honduras-tras-fuerte-reprimenda-director-de-la-autoridad-forestal-deroga-pericazo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/23/gobierno-de-honduras-suspende-pago-de-registro-de-loros-y-guaras/>

A round table on the bill wanting to introduce bible study in schools was installed at Congress yesterday. Former UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos denounces this as a distraction of other important national topics. She also counts the discussion about the reintroduction of mandatory military service (see above) as a distraction.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-instala-dialogo-para-promover-lectura-de-biblia-en-escuelas-y-exrectora-lo-califica-como-distraccion.html>

The MP announced that the plantation found in April in Gualaco, Olancho was indeed a coca plantation.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/confirman-que-plantacion-encontrada-en-gualaco-si-era-hoja-de-coca.html>

Radio Progreso writes about the limitations faced by journalists for doing their work properly. Among them are a lack of training, labor rights and solidarity between journalists as well as the concentration of power in a few main media outlets.

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4422-el-oficio-del-periodismo-en-nuestro-pa%C3%ADs-23-mayo-2018>

24/05/18

COPINH; FPIC; Forced Disappearance; Miskitu; Mining; HRDs; LGBTI; Corruption - National Party, CNA, de Lobo; USAID - Judicial Power; EU - Coffee; Political Opposition; Drug Trafficking; Forests; ID Card; and Congress' Journalists

COPINH shared some photographic impressions about its meetings in Geneva with the Office of the President of the UN Human Rights Councils, the Special Procedures of the UN, the Permanent Missions and the public presentation of the GAIPE report.

Yesterday, they continued their two-week tour in Madrid.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/se-termina-visita-del-copinh-a-ginebra-con-importantes-compromisos-de-parte-de-las-autoridades-de-la-organizacion-de-naciones-unidas/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/copinh-en-madrid/>

OFRANEH warns that the JOH regime presented a new version of its Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) bill to the International Labor Organization (ILO). The elaboration of this bill was heavily criticized in Honduras by OFRANEH, COPINH and others and on the international level, UN Special Rapporteur on indigenous Rights, Vicky Tauli Corpuz,

found serious problems with it.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/05/24/honduras-nociva-version-de-ley-de-consulta-pretende-imponer-el-ejecutivo/>

COFADEH denounces that the Honduran state has not investigated any of the new forced disappearance cases since 2011. This was made evident by the report presented by the JOH regime at the UN Committee against Forced Disappearance this week. Furthermore, it was highlighted that the Honduran legislation is not up to international standards.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ningun-caso-de-desaparicion-forzada-reportado-desde-2011-ha-sido-investigado-por-el-estado/>

The Seattle Times reports on the murder of three indigenous Miskitu men by soldiers. The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras called for an impartial investigation into the murders. The body of one of the three men was exhumed yesterday.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/call-for-investigation-into-killing-of-3-by-honduran-troops/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/realizan-exhumacion-de-cuerpo-de-uno-de-los-misquitos-fallecidos-en-enfrentamiento-con-militares.html>

Radio Progreso reports on new environmental damages caused by the mining company Inversiones Pinares in Ceibita in Tocoa, Colón. The company was previously known as Emco Mining Company and belongs to Lenir Pérez and Ana Facussé.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4423-minera-provoca-da%C3%B1os-severos-al-r%C3%ADo-guapinol-en-tocoa-col%C3%B3n>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a beautiful portrayal of Miriam Miranda as part of the I Defend campaign. Miriam is the general coordinator of OFRANEH and she has dedicated her life to the defense of Garífuna land and human rights.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2138-miriam-miranda-un-legado-de-lucha-y-sacrificio-por-el-pueblo-garifuna>

The Deputy Minister of Human Rights, Marcela Castellanos, tells El Pulso what the Human Rights Secretariat is doing for the LGBTI community.

<http://elpulso.hn/secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-promueve-el-respeto-hacia-la-comunidad-lgtbi/>

Months after the MACCIH highlighted possible acts of corruption by Congresswomen, the MP presented the initiation of prosecution against two National congressmen, Tomás Zambrano who also is Congress' Secretary and Román Vilella. They are accused of falsifying documents, abuse of authority and more. These accusations are linked to the commonly known Impunity Pact.

Rolando Argueta, president of the Judicial Power, claims that this shows that no one is above the law...

Both men said that they will prove their innocence.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2847-diputados-nacionalistas-acusados-por-mision-anticorrupcion-de-honduras>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1181350-466/la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-nombrar%C3%A1-juez-que-llevar%C3%A1-caso-contrad>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/24/todos-los-ciudadanos-acusados-de-presuntos-delitos-deben-ser-investigados-argueta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/24/diputados-acusados-por-la-maccih-prometen-demostrar-su-inocencia-en-los-tribunales/>

The former head of the Legal Unit at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Juan Carlos Berganza, continues to denigrate the current work of the CNA and especially its director Gabriela Castellanos.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/24/exjefe-investigador-aplaza-actual-gestion-del-consejo-nacional-anticorrupcion/>

The Constitutional Chamber admitted a habeas corpus in favor of the former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. They designated a judge to her case to investigate the alleged ill treatment from which she is suffering.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/24/1aceptan-recurso-de-exhibicion-a-favor-de-rosa-bonilla-de-lobo/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1181192-410/habeas-corpus-exprimeradama-rosa-elena-lobo-honduras>

USAID signed a cooperation agreement with Honduras' Judicial Power to "strengthen the administration of justice in Honduras".

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/24/poder-judicial-y-usaid-firman-convenio-de-cooperacion/>

Proceso Digital reports that the EU will finance a program to improve the quality of Honduran coffee with 5.6 million Euros.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-le-apuesta-a-aumentar-la-calidad-de-cafes-especiales-con-apoyo-de-ue.html>

El Pulso interviewed Ricardo Salgado, the international relations secretary at Libre. He highlighted the importance to continue to talk about the electoral fraud and the post-electoral violence to not forget and to help that it won't be repeated.

<http://elpulso.hn/ricardo-salgado-ser-coherente-en-la-politica-es-fundamental/>

InSight Crime has taken up the life sentence against a Honduran drug trafficker in the US (see previous e-mail this week). "A US court handed down a life sentence to a Honduran drug trafficker linked to the Sinaloa Cartel — just the second time that a life term in prison has been given to a Honduran kingpin."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-life-sentence-honduras-partner-el-chapo-sets-precedent/>

The Environmental Law Institute Honduras (IDAMHO) writes in its bi-monthly newsletters about the "forest fires, the bravery of the fire fighters and the apathy of the forest authorities".

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/0445034a-7958-4268-b5e9-fe20e864d8d3/La_Gaceta_Verde_67_MARZO_ABRIL_2018.pdf

According to the Finance Minister Rocío Tábora, the new identity card will cost \$50-60 million and will be covered by international cooperation funds as well as national funds.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/23/costo-de-nueva-identidad-costara-entre-50-y-60-millones-de-dolares-finanzas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/24/calles-aledanas-al-parlamento-seran-cerradas-mientras-galardonan-periodistas/>

25/05/18

Political Prisoners; HR Violations; UNAH - Criminalization; IACtHR; Journalists - FoE; Garífunas; Forced Disappearance; MP - Elections; Corruption - US, CNA; Migration - US; Extraditions; Public Health; and Congress' Busy Agenda

The US-Canadian human rights delegation was able to visit the political prisoner Edwin Espinal after it having been denied for months.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bajo-fuerte-lluvia-delegacion-canadiense-logra-entrar-a-la-tolva/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/es/denuncias/item/2140-delegacion-canadiense-encontro-en-condiciones-deplorables-al-presos-politico-edwin-espinal>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/25/despues-de-tanto-rogar-y-exigir-la-visita-a-edwin-espinal-se-hizo-realidad/>

Cesario Padilla published an important article on how the JOH regime is trying on different levels to "white-wash and make forget" the post-electoral human rights violations.

The most recent step is the discursive smoke screen build around the rejection to create a commission to investigate the human rights violations. JOH officially announced an international campaign to have the UN recognize that non-state actors are violating fundamental rights in Honduras...

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/673-un-gobernante-ilegal-busca-lavar-y-borrar-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/05/25/honduras-lanzara-ofensiva-para-que-onu-reconozca-que-grupos-no-estatales-violan-los-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/25/honduras-lanzara-ofensiva-onu-reconozca-grupos-no-estatales-violan-los-ddhh/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4424-r%C3%A9gimen-rechaza-creaci%C3%B3n-de-comisi%C3%B3n-de-investigaci%C3%B3n-de-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

Defensores en Línea brings back to our attention that still 19 students and a journalist are being criminalized by the JOH regime and the UNAH authorities for their protests last year. One of them is the journalism student José Manuel, who aspires to be the first journalist in his family and from the indigenous Lenca region San Rafael, Intibucá.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sueno-y-pesadilla-estudiar-periodismo-en-la-unah/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/metanse-y-matenlos-la-orden-emitida-para-atacar-a-universitarios-ahora-expulsados/>

Some months ago, a group of human rights organizations formed the Follow-Up Board on the Compliance with the Sentences by the IACtHR. On Thursday, they launched another call to the JOH regime to comply with the sentences in the Luna López vs. Honduras case from 1998 and the sentence regarding the prison fire in San Pedro Sula in 2004.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/672-organizaciones-recuerdan-al-estado-hondureno-que-debe-cumplir-con-sentencias-de-corte-interamericana>

On the occasion of Honduras' Day of the Journalist, a group of journalists protested outside the MP to demand justice for the violent repression by state security forces outside the Casa Presidencial seven years ago.

Radio Progreso interviews journalist Thelma Mejía.

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras highlights the important role of journalists to inform and sensitize society about human rights. The office goes on to say how difficult this essential task is in Honduras, denouncing attacks against journalists as well as the high impunity rate

in these cases. It also calls for the derogation of the so-called Muzzle Bill, Article 335-B of the reformed Penal Code, which violates freedom of expression.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/confunden-a-periodistas-con-terroristas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/24/mujeres-periodistas-exigen-justicia-por-agresiones-de-guardias-presidenciales-video/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/24/a-siete-anos-de-su-agresion-mujeres-periodistas-de-honduras-siguen-esperando-justicia/>

<http://radioprogreso.hn/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4425-en-honduras-se-ejerce-un-periodismo-de-alto-riesgo-seg%C3%BAAn-periodista-thelma-mej%C3%ADa>

See Attachment

Probably as a product of national and international pressure, Congress' president Mauricio Oliva suddenly announced that the Article 335-B will not be part of the new Penal Code. This means it is still in place throughout this year, but not anymore once the new Penal Code comes into force. The Penal Code, whose content is treated like a state secret, is currently with JOH and should be published in La Gaceta afterwards. The way Oliva presented this decision could not have been more cynical. He called it "as a token of appreciation for the journalists on their day". The president of the Journalists Association Honduras (CPH) says that this is not a gift, but rather a correction of a past mistake. Vice-president Ricardo Álvarez said that it should have never been created in the first place.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/oliva-anuncia-que-el-nuevo-codig1o-penal-no-incluire-la-ley-bozal/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/es/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2141-cuento-gastado-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-promete-derogacion-del-articulo-335-b>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/derogacion-del-335-b-no-es-un-regalo-sino-una-rectificacion-cph.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/vicepresidente-de-honduras-reconoce-que-el-articulo-335-b-jamas-debio-existir/>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras welcomes the the successful trial against the murderers of the two young Garífuna men in December 2015.

See Attachment

Defensores en Línea published another article on this week's examination of Honduras by the UN Committee on Forced Disappearances in Geneva.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-35-anos-no-aparece-la-justicia-para-los-detenidos-desaparecidos/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) requested that seven candidates for the Attorney General position are dropped from the selection process due to past offenses.

A similar demand comes from the coordinator of the criminal courts, Mario Díaz.

The online news outlet Revistazo, meanwhile, launched the homepage Fiscalleaks to inform about the candidates and the selection process. The homepage already includes seven pieces of analysis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/segun-el-cna-siete-aspirantes-a1-fiscal-general-deben-ser-inhabilitados/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-denuncia-que-siete-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general-no-cumplen-requisitos.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/piden-expulsar-a-los-aspirantes-a-fiscal-que-hayan-delinquido/>

<http://fiscaleaks.com/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/fiscaleaks-una-puerta-para-conocer-a-los-que-aspiran-a-dirigir-la-fiscalia.html>

In April, US Congresswoman Norma Torres presented an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to fight corruption in Central America. This amendment has now been approved and asks the Defense Department to create a list of corruption functionaries of Central American governments.

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-introduces-bill-crack-down-corruption-northern-triangle>

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/propuesta-de-torres-para-fortalecer-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupci-n-en-am>

<https://tiempo.hn/senado-de-eeuu-pide-levantar-lista-de-funcionarios-corruptos-en-honduras/>

CNA's head of investigation Odir Fernández counters Thursday's attack by a former CNA official (see yesterday's e-mail). According to Fernández, the Code of Criminal Procedure gives the CNA the possibility to investigate cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/odir-fernandez-afirma-que-la-ley1-respalda-las-investigaciones-del-cna/>

Padre Melo is currently in the US to talk about the situation of Honduras and migrating Hondurans. KALW radio aired two segments about and with him.

<http://kalw.org/post/bay-area-coalition-rallies-priest-facing-danger-honduras>

<http://kalw.org/post/honduran-priest-explains-exodus-migrants-his-country>

The Honduran businessman José Miguel "Chepito" Handal was found guilty of money laundering in 2017. Now a Honduran court accepted a request by the US for his extradition, but only after his sentence in Honduras is over.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/chepito-handal-sera-extraditad11tado-a-eeuu-cuando-cumpla-su-condena-en-honduras/>

Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Medical Association Honduras (CMH), accuses the UNAH authorities to have generate the crisis at the University Hospital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/25/unah-provoco-crisis-en-hospital-escuela-para-negociar-con-la-salud/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/25/la-recargada-agenda-del-congreso-nacional/>

OACNUDH expresa su satisfacción por la conclusión del Proceso Judicial por el asesinato de dos jóvenes Garífunas ocurrido en diciembre de 2015

Tegucigalpa, 25 mayo de 2018. La Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (OACNUDH) en Honduras saluda gratamente la conclusión del proceso judicial relativo al esclarecimiento de los hechos del 27 de diciembre de 2015, en los cuáles fueron asesinados dos jóvenes, Yosvin Palacios y Elvis Armando García, ambos miembros del pueblo Garífuna, en el sector conocido como la Barra del Puerto de Iriona, Colón. Tras la realización del juicio oral durante ocho días en el mes de mayo del presente año, el Tribunal de Sentencia de Trujillo, Colón condenó a diez efectivos navales por el asesinato. Según el Ministerio Público, los dos jóvenes “fallecieron a raíz de múltiples disparos ocasionados por parte de los soldados del Segundo Batallón de Infantería de la Marina asignados a este sector, los que abrieron fuego en contra de la humanidad de las víctimas rsuponiendo erróneamente rquer éstos ser encontrabanr en rlabores de narcomenudeo”¹.

El trabajo de investigación, procesamiento y sanción de este delito representa un paso muy importante por parte del Ministerio Público, y en particular de la Fiscalía de Etnias, y del poder judicial, con respecto al acceso a la justicia y la lucha contra la impunidad en casos que afectan a miembros de pueblos indígenas. La Oficina desea destacar la importancia que los procesos penales desarrollados para la investigación y la sanción de delitos cometidos contra integrantes de pueblos indígenas, garanticen la inclusión de enfoque diferenciado en relación a la pertenecía de las víctimas a pueblos indígenas, siendo para ello central contar con la participación de la Fiscalía Especial de Etnias y Patrimonio Cultural, en la conducción de las investigaciones y el desarrollo de los procesos.

¹ MP, *Fiscalía de Etnias obtiene Fallo Condenatorio contra 10 efectivos navales por Homicidio de dos jóvenes Garífunas*. Disponible en: <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/72-may/3023-fiscalia-de-etnias-obtiene-fallo-condenatorio-contra-10-efectivos-navales-por-homicidio-de-dos-jovenes-garifunas>.



La Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los derechos humanos (OACNUDH) felicita en su día a las y los periodistas de Honduras.

Cada 25 de mayo se conmemora el Día del Periodista en Honduras, un día para celebrar los principios fundamentales de la libertad de expresión, reflexionar sobre la situación de la libertad de prensa en el país, defender los medios de comunicación de los ataques contra su independencia, y recordar a las y los periodistas que han perdido la vida en el cumplimiento de sus labores.

Las y los periodistas desempeñan un rol estratégico en el proceso de informar y sensibilizar a la sociedad sobre los derechos humanos. Este papel es un gran desafío para realizar su tarea con profunda responsabilidad social, conscientes de su capacidad de incidir en la agenda pública, al tiempo de colaborar con el desarrollo de la sociedad. Por ello, para la OACNUDH es fundamental que las y los periodistas estén informados, comprometidos y capacitados desde una perspectiva que contemple los estándares internacionales de derechos humanos.

Los ataques contra periodistas vulneran los derechos humanos de las personas y socavan la libertad de información y expresión en las sociedades. La impunidad en esos casos es generalizada, hecho que empeora una situación ya de por sí terrible. En su reciente visita al país a principios del mes de mayo, el Relator Especial sobre la situación de defensores de derechos humanos, Michel Forst, mostró su preocupación sobre la situación de la prensa hondureña; "Durante mis reuniones con periodistas y comunicadores sociales, he escuchado con preocupación sus testimonios y su experiencia de acoso, intimidación y violencia en manos del ejército y la policía nacional por filmar o cubrir protestas, en particular durante la crisis postelectoral y en relación con manifestaciones de estudiantes. Los periodistas también han compartido su experiencia de haber sido objeto de campañas de descrédito y difamación, así como de amenazas de muerte, muchos de los cuales viven en una situación financiera precaria por no beneficiarse de contratos de trabajo permanentes. Llamaron mi atención la Ley de Secretos Oficiales y cómo esta limita su acceso a la información oficial".

La libertad de expresión es esencial para la velar por la transparencia y responsabilidad de las instituciones estatales. Es por ello, que en una fecha tan significativa como hoy, y en seguimiento a una de las recomendaciones realizadas previamente por la Oficina, la OACNUDH celebra el anuncio realizado por el Presidente del Poder Legislativo de una reforma legislativa para derogar el artículo 335 B del Código Penal, un avance de alta importancia en las garantías que el Estado debe brindar sobre libertad de expresión.

Desde la OACNUDH, hacemos un llamado al Estado Hondureño para que en el marco legal nacional le garantice a las y los comunicadores el poder ejercer su labor de una manera responsable y segura, sin limitar su derecho a la libertad de expresión y el acceso a la información.

La OACNUDH reitera su apoyo a la prensa hondureña en la defensa de la libertad de expresión e insta a las autoridades nacionales, a la sociedad civil, a los medios de comunicación y a la población en general a que se comprometan a hacer todo lo posible para que las y los periodistas de todos los medios presentes en Honduras puedan ejercer su labor de forma libre y digna. Cuando se puede hablar sin riesgo, toda la población se beneficia.

26/05/18

COPINH; Journalists - Impunity; JOH - Bible; MP - Elections; Children's Rights; Human Rights Violations - A State's Privilege?

COPINH ended its next station on a five country Europe visit and traveled from Spain to Germany. In Spain, they met among other institutions with the State Secretary for International Cooperation and the president of the General Council of Spanish Advocates.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/reunion-en-madrid-con-el-secretario-de-estado-de-cooperacion-internacional-para-iberoamerica-fernando-garcia-casas/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/el-copinh-se-reune-con-la-presidenta-del-consejo-general-de-la-abogacia-espanola/>

Radio Progreso reflects on the system that maintains impunity in the case of murdered journalists and how journalists can improve their security by strengthening social ties among themselves.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/nuestra-palabra/item/4428-entre-la-impunidad-y-el-olvido-26-mayo-2018>

JOH publicly endorses the reading of bibles in Honduras' school and tries to spin the definition of a secular state. The Teachers and Students Association (APEH) held a protest in La Ceiba in defense of a secular state and education.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/26/hernandez-respalda-y-dice-estar-listo-para-la-lectura-de-la-biblia-en-las-escuelas-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/26/joh-respalda-adoctrinamiento-religioso-en-escuelas-publicas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2850-planton-de-estudiantes-y-maestros-en-la-ceiba-reclama-educacion-sin-religion>

The public audiences in the selection process for the new Attorney General will start tomorrow and take three days. So far, there is no sign that the candidates challenged by the CNA will not take part (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/26/aspirantes-a-fiscal-inician-audiencias-publicas-el-proximo-lunes/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1181920-466/este-lunes-inician-audiencias-publicas-para-elegir-fiscal>

EFE spoke with World Vision Honduras director Jorge Galeano about the situation of children in Honduras. According to him, an already vulnerable group, children are even made more vulnerable in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-ninez-en-honduras-vive-en-situacion-vulnerable-segun-world-vision.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-violacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-privilegio-de-los-estados/>

27/05/18

LGBTI - US; Corruption - IHSS; Poverty; JOH's Cabinet; Deportation; Penitentiary System; and the Men Who Inspired JOH

El Pulso reports that a Honduran trans woman died in the US in the hands of ICE.

<http://elpulso.hn/hondurena-trans-muere-en-manos-de-ice/>

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-detainee-honduras-passes-away-new-mexico-hospital>

The Supreme Court informed that the corruption cases against former IHSS functionaries will go to court. ConfidencialHN lists cases against 14 people.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/27/expediente-de-exdirectivos-del-ihss-pasa-a-juicio-oral-y-publico/>

Criterio cites an Oxfam study which found that even though Honduras invested annually some 1.4 billion Lempiras in poverty reduction between 2010 and 2017, poverty actually increased to 68%. It does not help that fuel prices rose for a tenth week in a row.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/27/estudios-senalan-que-tres-millones-y-medio-de-familias-hondurenas-viven-en-pobreza/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/27/precios-de-los-combustibles-en-honduras-aumentaran-mas-a-partir-del-lunes/>

JOH gave more power to the two deputy secretaries at the Presidential Secretariat.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1182155-466/dan-megapoderes-a-dos-subsecretarios-del-poder-ejecutivo>

The number of deported Hondurans grew by over 41% compared to 2017 and almost reached the levels of 2015 again.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportacion-de-hondurenos-en-2018-se-incrementa-en-41-4.html>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) has now its own special security force.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/27/inp-ya-cuenta-grupo-reaccion-penitenciaria/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/27/honduras-el-ranger-de-lempira-que-domino-el-capital/>

28/05/18

LGBTI; Bajo Aguán; MADJ; COPINH; Forced Disappearance; Femicide; Women's Rights; Human Trafficking; FoE; MP - Elections; Poverty; MACCIH; Corruption - Soptravi, IHSS, US; Dialogue; Public Sector; Congress; and a Precarious Economy

The LGBT Association Arcoiris suffered an attempted break in at their main office and two of their security cameras were stolen.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2143-asediada-la-organizacion-lgtb-arcoiris-por-desconocidos-que-intentan-ingresar-a-la-fuerza>

The Agrarian Platform denounces the eviction of campesino families from the Tumbador plantation in Trujillo, Colón. The eviction was conducted by Dinant security guards in collaboration with the Armed Forces.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/05/honduras-desalojan-familias-campesinas.html>

MADJ commemorates its foundation 10 years ago. On this occasion, it published an interview with indigenous Tolupan leader and MADJ member José María Pineda from San Francisco de Locomapa.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/28/Jos%C3%A9-Mar%C3%ADa-Pineda-a-10-a-%C3%B1os-el-MADJ-es-un-espacio-de-lucha-donde-cabemos-todos-y-todas>

COPINH's delegation in Europe arrived its final destination, Berlin.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/copinh-en-berlin/>

Coming Thursday, the trial against the family of Donatilo Jiménez takes place in La Ceiba. Jiménez, a labor leader at the CURLA university was disappeared on April 8, 2015 and instead of supporting his family, the authorities at CURLA filed a complaint against his family for defamation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-juicio-oral-y-publico-familia-de-sindicalista-desaparecido-querelladas-por-exigir-justicia/>

Jessica Isla writes against the normalization of femicide after the murder of two young women together with their small children last Sunday. In La Ceiba, a national encounter against gender violence took place with the participation of various human rights organizations. The Police Investigation Bureau (DPI), meanwhile, promises more effective investigations into crimes against women.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-cuento-de-la-criada-y-las-senales-de-un-femigenocidio/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1182166-410/maestra-asesinada-el-progreso-hijo-yoro-aydil-gabriela>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1182248-410/mujer-asesinada-olancho-amamantaba-matan-violencia-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/676-conexihon-invitado-al-encuentro-nacional-contra-la-violencia-de-genero>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/dpi-promete-mas-efectividad-para-investigar-crimenes-contra-mujeres/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/crimenes-contra-mujeres-tienen-53-de-efectividad-en-la-investigacion-dice-director-de-la-dpi.html>

Yesterday was the International Day of Action for Women's Health and in Honduras, women's rights organizations denounced the ongoing criminalization of the use of emergency contraceptive pills (PAE).

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/pronunciamiento-del-grupo-estrategico-por-las-pae-en-el-dia-internacional-de-la-salud-de-las-mujeres/>

Erlin Armando Mejía Andino was part of the Indignados movement, but now he is in exile in Sweden. He denounces that there is a red of human traffickers active in Honduras and politicians as well as high-level members of the Armed Forces and the National Police are active in it. Reporteros de Investigación is in possession of document backing up his claims and started further investigations.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/05/28/hondureno-asilado-en-suecia-denuncia-red-de-trata-con-militares-y-politicos/>

ConexiHon reports on a recently held forum on the state of freedom of expression in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/677-realizan-foro-sobre-estado-de-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is doing PR work for the JOH regime (and itself) by claiming that the social program Vida Mejor helped 30'000 families out of extreme poverty. She further claims that poverty dropped to less than 60%. Government-independent sources, such as FOSDEH, report a poverty level of almost 70%.

Criterio just published an interview with FOSDEH economist Ismael Zepeda about poverty in Honduras and why it is on the rise.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/bid-asegura-que-los-asistencialismos-del-gobierno-han-reducido-la-pobreza/>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2018/05/honduras-y-su-realidad-expresada-en-imagenes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/28/pobreza-agobia-a-hondurenos-porque-estan-a-tres-puyas-ismael-zepeda/>

Yesterday, the public audiences in the selection process for the new Attorney General started. ConfidencialHN recorded some of the statements made by the candidates. There are more audiences today and tomorrow.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/inician-audiencias-publicas-de-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/aspirante-a-fiscal-general-propone-fortalecer-mp/>

Julieta Castellanos warned yesterday of the negative effects if the MACCIH were forced to leave Honduras.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1182483-466/sectores-advierten-que-ser%C3%ADa-negativo-frenar-a-la-maccih>

The CNA presented new lines of investigation into presume corruption cases at the defunct Public Works, Transport and Housing Secretariat (Soptravi).

Their investigation also highlights links to drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/cna-denuncia-supuesta-corrupcion-en-la-extinta-soptravi/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/28/cna-denuncia-que-un-solo-dia-soptravi-firmo-ocho-contratos-con-empresa-del-crimen-organizado/>

In the IHSS case, the trial against the former board member of the IHSS, Benjamín Bográn, was postponed to September.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/reprograman-juicio-contra-ex1director-del-cohep-benjamin-bogran/>

InSight Crime reports on the recently approved amendment in the US House of Representatives to fight corruption in Central America (see also last week). The article concludes by addressing the situation in Honduras: "The situation in Honduras, however, is shaping up to be even more convoluted than that of Guatemala. It has to do with control mechanisms that US Congress has already approved, including certifications in the Alliance for Prosperity plan created during the administration of former US President Barack Obama. The plan puts conditions on aid disbursement for the advancement of anti-corruption and anti-crime efforts.

In 2017, however, the effectiveness of these certifications came into question. The US State Department approved the release of aid to Honduras, certifying that its government had been "fighting corruption and supporting human rights" in the aftermath of a severely contested election marred by fraud allegations that saw President Juan Orlando Hernández assume office for a second term.

Although legislative measures such as those recently approved have given a voice to nascent efforts to tie the hands of corrupt officials, Washington's contradictory messages raise doubts about their real effectiveness."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-congress-approves-continued-monitoring-central-america-graft/>

The seventh (!) pre-dialogue took place under the auspices of UN representative Igor Garafulic. He promised that coming Wednesday there will be another meeting to talk up discussions about human rights again. National Party president Reinaldo Sánchez told ConfidencialHN that his party is also willing to discuss the possibility of a constituent assembly.

Vice-President Ricardo Alvarez is against it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/politicos-seguiran-hablando-de-ddhh-el-proximo-miercoles/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/crear-comision-para-acompanar-en-investigaciones-de-ddhh-surgio-del-predialogo-de-onu.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/el-partido-nacional-no-tiene-problemas-en-hablar-de-una-constituyente-reinaldo-sanchez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/28/vicepresidente-de-honduras-no-apoyaria-una-constituyente/>

Reacting to the pay rise for Congresswo/men, public sector employees demand a 2000 Lempiras pay rise as well.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/28/empleados-publicos-de-honduras/>

Nincy Perdomo awaits with her newest edition of the Parliamentarian Chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-2224052018/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/28/honduras-el-pais-donde-la-banca-se-capitaliza-a-costas-de-la-depreciacion-de-su-moneda/>

29/05/18

MACCIH; Tolupanes; HRDs; Political Prisoners; Journalists; MADJ; Corruption - Sopravi, Cardinal, US; Femicide; National Police; FoE; Campesinas; Electoral Reforms; MP - Elections; Labor Rights; Privatization; Forensic Medicine; Education - Bible; and a Post-Mortem Attack

ConfidencialHN reports that the Constitutional Chamber declared the contract with the MACCIH partially unconstitutional. Congress must now debate and modify the articles highlighted by the court as unconstitutional. The article ends saying that the MACCIH has to suspend its activities in the meantime...

Radio HRN and La Prensa confirm this. Even worse, La Prensa writes about the possibility to also disappear the Special Prosecutor Unit against Corruption and Impunity (Ufecic).

Curiously, the same day US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton praised the work of the MACCIH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/sala-constitucional-declara-por-unanimidad-parcialmente-inconstitucional-la-maccih/>

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/05/29/sala-constitucional-acepta-parcialmente-el-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-presentado-contra-la-maccih/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1182812-410/csj-admite-forma-parcial-recurso-inconstitucional-contra-maccih-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/excelente-trabajo-de-la-maccih-fortalece-las-instituciones-hondurenos-dice-heide-fulton.html>

The indigenous Tolupan in San Francisco Locomapa, Yoro face threats by both the police and employees of the INMARE company for resisting the illegal cutting of wood in their forest.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4431-ind%C3%ADgenas-tolupanes-bajo-amenazas-por-defender-el-bosque>

The four human rights defenders attacked by the police last September while accompanying UNAH students were awarded with a sign of recognition

for their work by the Human Rights Roundtable.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2145-cuatro-defensores-y-defensoras-de-ddhh-torturados-por-altos-oficiales-de-policia-reciben-homenaje-y-solidaridad>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-y-defensoras-atacados-por-policias-reciben-un-solidario-homenaje/>

Family members of the political prisoners still held in La Tova denounce that their loved ones are being mistreated.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-de-presos-recluidos-en-la-tolva-denuncias-malos-tratos/>

The journalist Ronny Martínez suffered for the second time in just three months from an attack against his car.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2144-creo-que-por-ser-critico-al-gobierno-periodista-ronny-martinez-recibe-segundo-ataque-a-su-vehiculo>

MADJ continues to publish interviews with some of its members on the occasion of its tenth anniversary.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/05/29/%C3%81ngela-Murillo-a-10-a-%C3%B1os-del-MADJ-llamo-a-las-mujeres-a-que-levantemos-nuestras-voces-y-despertemos-s%C3%B3lo-organizadas-lo-vamos-a-lograr>

El Pulso published some more information on the newest corruption investigation by the CNA at the defunct Public Works, Transport and Housing Secretariat (Soptravi) (See also yesterday's e-mail).

<http://elpulso.hn/cna-denuncia-corrupcion-en-proyectos-de-pavimentacion-de-soptravi-2010-2014/>

The widow of the former Honduran ambassador to the Vatican reiterates her complaint against the Honduran Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez for corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/viuda-de-exdiplomatico-reitera-denuncia-contra-cardenal-oscar-andres-rodriguez/>

InSight Crime interviewed US Congresswoman Norma Torres, "whose recent legislative amendment seeks to end corruption and other related illegal practices" in Central America.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-rep-norma-torres-we-want-to-really-understand-who-is-corrupt/>

The director of the Center of Women's Studies Honduras (CEM-H) denounces the increase in femicide and the lack of a coordinated response by the state. She demands that the MP, forensic medicine as well as the DPI and ATIC come up with a strategy entailing the investigation up to the sentencing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/cem-h-solicita-ampliar-las-unidades-investigativas-de-femicidios/>

Two police agents were arrested for mistreating a child in a police station. The second article contains the video of the mistreatment. In the presence of US representatives, Security Minister Julián Pacheco opened two new offices of the National Police intended to strengthen its investigative capabilities.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/identifican-y-capturan-a-policias-que-agredieron-menor/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/secretaria-de-seguridad-promete-sancionar-a-policia-que-torturo-menor/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2851-policia-inaugura-modernas-oficinas-de-investigacion-criminal-en-honduras>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1182842-466/crean-unidad-de-perfilacion-criminal-de-la-dpi-honduras>

Last week, Congress' president Mauricio Oliva promised that the Article 335-B won't be part of the new Penal Code. Human rights defender and director of C-Libre, Edy Tábor, is skeptical about this promise and cautions us to be vigilant. Congress, meanwhile, nominated a committee for the derogation of the article.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/derogacion-del-335-b-la-propuesta-de-oliva-para-congraciar-periodistas-c-libre/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/680-una-promesa-mas-organizaciones-vigilantes-ante-promesa-de-derogar-el-335-b>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-nombra-comision-para-derogar-el-articulo-335b-del-codigo-penal-que-afecta-a-periodistas.html>

Margarita Bueso, the coordinator of UN Women in Honduras, laments that the Honduran state fails to improve access for women small-scale farmers to land. One challenge are antiquated laws which only grant men the ownership of land.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/solicitan-al-estado-facilitar-a-mujeres-el-acceso-a-tierras/>

The former TSE president Augusto Aguilar lists some of the electoral reforms needed in Honduras, among them a two-round presidential election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/expresidente-del-tse-enumera-las-reformas-electorales-mas-importantes/>

Wilfredo Méndez, director of Ciprodeh, does not mince words when it comes to the selection process of the new Attorney General: "The public audiences are horseplay and nonsense" and the nomination committee is "a joke".

FiscaLeaks, meanwhile, highlights the lack of legal knowledge of the candidates.

And nine of the 24 candidates have been accused of irregularities.

The Student Anti-Corruption Coordination (CEA) demands a prolongation of the process to better evaluate the candidate.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/el-proceso-de-seleccion-de-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-es-una-burla-wilfredo-mendez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/fiscaleaks-evidencia-el-bajo-conocimiento-juridico-de-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1182826-466/nueve-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general-de-honduras-han-sido-denunciados>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/29/cea-pide-ampliar-plazo-de-eleccion-para-evaluar-con-lupa-candidatos-a-fiscal/>

Radio Progreso writes about the dangerous work environment for Maquila employees. As part of Monday's International Day of Action for Women's Health, Codemuh denounced the situation of the women working in Honduran Maquilas.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4432-en-condiciones-riesgosas-laboran-obreras-en-maquilas-hondure%C3%B1as>

While water services have already been privatized in San Pedro Sula, Choloma and Puerto Cortés, people in Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela still resist. Radio Progreso writes about new attempts to organize themselves.

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4430-plantean-procesos-de-organizaci%C3%B3n-para-evitar-municipalizaci%C3%B3n-del-agua-en-honduras>

Forensic Medicine once more handed over the wrong body to a grieving family.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/29/centro-de-medicina-legal-y-ciencias-forenses-entrega-otro-cadaver-equivocado/>

The Ecumenical Women for the Right to Choice published a press release in defense of the secular state and, therefore, opposing the mandatory bible study in Honduras' school.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/biblias-en-las-escuelas-no-debemos-regresar-al-tiempo-de-la-colonia/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ataque-a-la-memoria-del-ambientalista-carlos-escaleras/>

30/05/18

MACCIH; Corruption - Congress; Indigenous Peoples; COPINH; Mining; Renewable Energies; HRDs; JOH - Int. Cooperation; EU; National Police - US; Dialogue - HR Violations; Poverty; and No More Tattoos

The Constitutional Chamber presented its official verdict on the MACCIH yesterday evening: the MACCIH is constitutional, but its work has to be in line with the Honduran constitution.

Just hours before the decision, US chargé d'affaires warned that the future of Honduras will depend on the decision by the Constitutional Chamber.

A press release in support of the MACCIH also came from OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro.

It is still not clear to me, if this ruling also affects the MP's anti-corruption unit UFECIC. The official challenge was launched against the MACCIH, but out of this came a challenge against UFECIC claiming that it has no legal basis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/declaran-constitucional-la-maccih-pero-le-piden-ajustarse-a-ley-hondurena/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sala-constitucional-resuelve-que-convenio-de-la-maccih-esta-apegado-a-la-constitucion-hondurena/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/embajada-de-estados-unidos-se-pronuncia-a-favor-de-la-maccih-y-ufecic/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/30/ee-uu-espera-con-ansias-los-fallos-de-la-corte-sobre-la-maccih-y-ufecic/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/30/embajada-eeuu-ufecic-ha-demostrado-herramienta-efectiva/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/30/almagro-afirma-su-apoyo-para-que-la-maccih-investigue-y-sancione-a-los-corruptos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/piden-a-personas-diferenciar-entre-justicia-y-populismo-penal1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/dirigentes-liberales-reaccionan-ante-acciones-contra-ufecic/>

Political analyst Jorge Yllescaz highlights the ongoing attack by the corrupt elite to maintain their system as seen in the attacks against the MACCIH, UFECIC and CNA.

The same warning comes from the Parliamentarian Front in Support of the MACCIH...

...and CNA's head of investigation, Odir Fernández.

Víctor Meza agrees, but still hopes that civil society will rise to challenge.

InSight Crime also reports on this, but their analysis is based on the information available on Tuesday (just as my e-mail yesterday) and has not taken account of the ruling by the Constitutional Chamber.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/analista-advierte-cruzada-en-honduras-para-favorecer-la-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/30/redes-de-corrupcion-evidencian-determinacion-de-acabar-con-la-institucionalidad-que-persigue-el-delito/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sectores-corruptos-son-los-que-quieren-desestabilizar-la-maccih-dice-odir-fernandez.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/victor-meza-corruptos-buscan-construir-blindaje-institucional/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-congress-mounts-legal-attack-against-anti-graft-body/>

The Supreme Court nominated the judge trying the corruption case against the two National congressmen Tomás Zambrano and Román Villeda. But the judge they nominated, Rafael Bustillo Romero, is a Nationalist. The Nationalist Party at least does not hide what it thinks about this investigation. Its head in Congress, Mario Pérez, criticizes that the MACCIH is focusing on such "small things" instead of going after "the big cases".

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/designan-juez-natural-en-caso-de-congresistas-acusados-de-corrupcion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-juez-conocera-caso-de-dos-diputados-nacionalistas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/magistrado-nacionalista-sera-juez-de-supuestos-implicados-en-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/que-no-se-enfoquen-en-cosas-pequenas-pide-diputado-mario-perez-a-maccih-y-ufecic.html>

An indigenous community in Montaña Verde, Lempiras, fear the imposition of a REDD+ program in their forest.

<https://copinh.org/2018/05/ante-la-posible-amenaza-del-control-militar-en-la-montana-sagrada-de-la-comunidad-indigena-de-montana-verde-justificado-en-lo-que-creemos-el-impulso-del-supuesto-control-ambiental-del-proyecto-redd/>

Criterio reproduced an interview with Laura Zúniga Cáceres taking place in Europe as part of a delegation by COPINH presenting the current situation of COPINH, the trial in the case of Berta Cáceres as well as the GAIPE report.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/30/laura-zuniga-caceres-hay-mecanismos-de-impunidad-en-el-proceso-del-asesinato-de-mi-madre/>

JASS presented a new report on the deadly effects of the extractive sector on women in Honduras.

Heather Gies reports for the Guardian on the situation in Azacualpa, "where as many as 350 bodies have already been exhumed" by the transnational mining company, Aura Minerals.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2146-extractivismo-una-fuente-letal-de-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-honduras>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/28/honduran-villagers-take-legal-action-to-stop-mining-firm-digging-up-graves-for-gold>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/30/honduras-minera-canadiense-destruye-cementerio-en-busca-de-oro/>

The president of the Honduran Association for Renewable Energy, Elsia Paz, goes at it again. She denounces smear campaigns by NGOs against

renewable energy projects claiming that their leaders are only enriching themselves. She denies that Honduras criminalizes environmental HRDs and goes even so far as to directly attack Berta Cáceres. She claims among other things that she did not deserve the Goldman Prize and did it for the money.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/26/elsia-paz-presidenta-la-asociacion-hondurena-energia-renovable/>

As part of the campaign I Defend to inform about the important work of HRDs in Honduras, Pasos de Animal Grande published a portray of Gaspar Sánchez and his three struggles: the Lenca identity, the environment and sexual diversity.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2149-identidad-lenca-medio-ambiente-y-diversidad-sexual-las-tres-luchas-de-gaspar-sanchez>

JOH met with the ambassadors of the EU, Spain, France and Germany with a focus on the promotion of investment, tourism and Honduras' candidacy to preside the 73rd UN General Assembly...has any one heard of a thing called human rights?

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/hernandez-dialoga-con-embajadores-europeos-sobre-cooperacion.html>

The EU announced projects worth 68 million Euros in the rural areas of the Corredor Seco.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/30/ue-destinara-68-millones-euros-corredor-seco/>

A police agent is accused of violating a 13-year old girl in a police post.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/policia-preventivo-viola-nina-dentro-de-posta-en-ciudad-espana/>

Witness for Peace dedicates a blog post to the future collaboration of the former New York mayor (and now Trump "legal advisor") Rudolph Giuliani, the New York Police Department and the National Police Force in Honduras.

<http://witnessforpeace.org/broken-windows-in-honduras-giuliani-and-nypd-contracted-as-consultants-for-honduran-security-forces/>

In the eighth pre-dialogue session, the participants decided to invite Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla to inform about the state of the investigations into the post-electoral violence.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/predialogo-de-onu-invitar-a-al-mp-para-que-informen-sobre-casos-de-ddhh.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1183190-466/el-fiscal-general-se-sumara-a-las-mesas-tecnicas-del-predialogo>

According to a new study by Icefi, the VAT increase from 12 to 15 percent led to an increase in poverty. They found that an additional 15'000 families became poor, i.e. approximately 66'000 people. Two days ago, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) praised the social program Vida Mejor (see Tuesday's e-mail). Already then, this view was challenged and now the economist Fernando García raises further doubt about the IDB's statement. JOH, meanwhile, signed an agreement with the Capital Foundation (Fundak) to get technical support for Vida Mejor.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/30/incremento-de-isv-general-al-15-sumio-en-la-pobreza-a-66000-personas-en-honduras-icefi/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/30/bono-10-mil-y-bolsa-solidaria-no-sacaran-de-pobreza-a-hondurenos/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fallo-sobre-constitucionalidad-de-maccih-no-limita-su-trabajo-ni-el-de-ufecic-csj.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/fallo-sobre-maccih-contiene-trampas-que-merman-funciones-de-la-ufecic-denuncia-diputado-sabillon.html>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/05/31/lea-sentencia-la-csj-constitucionalidad-la-maccih/>

The Observatory for the Protection of HRDs, a project of the OMCT and FIDH, demanded yesterday that the trial against the three police officials charged with five crimes against four HRDs and eight students must lead to a conviction.

<http://www.omct.org/es/human-rights-defenders/urgent-interventions/honduras/2018/05/d24905/>

El Pulso traveled to Morocelí, El Paraíso, to the La Tolva prison last week. They accompanied the US-Canadian human rights delegation which for the first time got access to the political prisoner Edwin Espinal.

Back in April, a delegation by the Alliance for Global Justice and La Voz de los de Abajo traveled to Honduras for 10 days. They now published a detailed report of their findings. One main theme of the report is the situation of the political prisoners in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/prisioneros-de-crisis-electoral-en-la-tolva-sin-agua-y-sin-sol/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1svA-IDZ9CuNYIHBiNLCTY4B4rrbFG7W4/view>

After Congress' president Mauricio Oliva has already announced that the article 335-B won't be part of the new Penal Code, the Supreme Court now also recommends its derogation.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2856-poder-judicial-pide-a-congreso-hondureno-eliminar-ley-mordaza>

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-derogacion-articulo-335-b/>

ConfidencialHN published the ranking by FiscalLeaks about the candidates for the position of the Attorney General. They also published a short profile of the top five contestants. But previous experience has shown, that in Honduras the best not always win. Back in 2013, the current Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla did not even pass the tests, but because JOH wanted him, the procedure was changed to make him the winner.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/31/se-perfilan-primeros-candidatos-con-opcion-a-dirigir-el-mp/>

The former IHSS director Mario Zelaya asked for the support of the US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton in proving that no theft of 7 million Lempiras took place at the IHSS which caused 3000 deaths for the lack of medicine. Good luck with that...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/31/mario-zelaya-pide-apoyo-de-fulton-y-niega-muertes-provocadas-por-saqueo-al-ihss/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/mario-zelaya-pide-a-la-encargada-de-la-embajada-de-eeuu-realizar-auditoria-forense-al-ihss.html>

The Association of Judges for Democracy denounces the way the Judicial Power selects judges and magistrates.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/31/corte-suprema-sigue-carrera-de-desaciertos-en-nombramiento-de-jueces/>

Liberal congressman Elvin Santos denounces irregularities in Congress regarding the tax amnesties for state companies.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/31/pugilato-verbal-entre-legisladores-por-extension-de-amnistias/>

Libre announced to survey its departmental and municipal bodies about five topics, such as their view on a constituent assembly.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/31/dirigentes-de-libre-participaran-en-ejercicio-democratico-interno/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-consulta-popular-temas-aquejan-hondurenos/>

It seems, if you are a homophobe, you always find a way to voice your opinion. Nationalist congressman David Chávez said that he is against a constituent assembly because it opens the window for same-sex marriages. According to him, those promoting a constituent assembly "are against god's laws and moral and ethical values".

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/05/31/la-constituyente-es-impulsada-por-personas-contrala-normativa-de-dios-diputado-nacionalista/>

JOH's Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz announces a new attempt to regulate the presidential reelection.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1183506-466/presentar%C3%A1n-iniciativa-para-regular-reelecci%C3%B3n>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle shares his reflection on the debate about mandatory bible study as part of public education in Honduras. He wonders if congresswo/men who currently are conspiring against the MACCIH are the right people to promote Christian values.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/31/quien-educo-a-tomas/>

44.7% more Hondurans were deported this May than in May 2016.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mayo-cierra-con-un-incremento-de-44-7-en-las-deportaciones-de-hondurenos.html>

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4436-universidad-debe-ser-instrumento-para-el-cambio-social-en-centroam%C3%A9rica-afirman-expertos>

http://radioprogreso.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/4435-analizan_retos_de_la_comunicacion_investigacion_y_formacion_para_la_transformacion_de_centroamerica