

01/06/18

MACCIH; HRDs; UNAH; HR; MADJ; National Police; Corruption - Cardinal; MP - Elections; Electoral Reforms; Fiscal Policy; Violence; and Looking Across the Borders

Another day, another statement regarding the anti-corruption bodies in Honduras. While the contract with the MACCIH was declared constitutional, there was doubt about the situation of the MP's anti-corruption body UFECIC (see yesterday). The president of the Judicial Power, Rolando Argueta, somehow cryptically says that the ruling (and even when it would have come to the opposite conclusion) "does not cancel, renders void or makes disappear none of the cases by UFECIC". But he does not say that either UFECIC or the MACCIH continue to work the cases... The MACCIH announced that it will respect the ruling but won't further comment on it. Its former head, Juan Jiménez Mayor, meanwhile, criticizes the decision by the Constitutional Chamber. According to him, it limits the space for the MACCIH to work in. InSight Crime concludes that "[t]he ruling gives the public appearance of having protected the anti-graft body from a legal attack, likely in an attempt to quell concerns from the international community and Honduran civil society. But in reality, it threatens the existence and functioning of UFECIC, which allows for real coordination between MACCIH and the Attorney General's Office."

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/01/ufecic-es-constitucional-pero-debe-someterse-a-ley-hondurena-argueta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/01/la-maccih-respetara-el-fallo-del-poder-judicial-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/05/31/fallo-de-la-corte-suprema-es-promovido-por-personas-procesadas-por-corrupcion/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-court-ruling-undermine-anti-graft-body/>

Last September, the police attacked four HRDs and eight students on the UNAH campus. Three police officials had to go to trial for ordering the attack. The trial was accompanied by irregularities and it was postponed various times, but yesterday the court suddenly decided to definitively dismiss the charges against the officials. The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras, which has accompanied the trial over the months, "expresses profound dismay" about this decision. According to the lawyer of the HRDs and students, the judge ignored the proof they had presented. ASOPODEHU warns that this ruling further endangers the work of HRDs in Honduras. Wilfredo Méndez, director of Ciprodeh, calls the decision repugnant. Criterio spoke with the HRD Carlos del Cid who had suffered the attack by the police. He denounces that the police and the armed forces are untouchable, because they represent JOH's power base.

See Attachment

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2157-vergonzoso-sobreseimiento-a-favor-jefes-policiales-violadores-de-derechos-humanos>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2155-peligrosa-resolucion-de-jueza-coloca-en-mas-peligro-a-los-defensores-y-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/01/sentencia-de-jueza-que-libera-a-policias-torturadores-es-repudiable-wilfredo-mendez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/01/en-honduras-los-policias-y-militares-son-intocables-porque-sostienen-el-regimen-de-joh-carlos-del-cid/>

The above case is linked to the student protests last year. And if the ruling would not be enough, the University Council decided on Thursday against the reintegration of 24 students to UNAH. They are still banned for five years for making use of their right to protest.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2153-oidos-sordos-a-la-ley-autoridades-de-la-unah-se-resisten-a-reintegrar-a-clases-a-24-estudiantes-expulsados-por-5-anos>

Having read the two previous section, the announcement by the Honduran Human Rights Secretary Karla Cueva to work closely with the UN human rights system to improve the situation in Honduras seems very cynical.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1183812-466/honduras-reafirma-que-trabajara-con-oficina-del-alto-comisionado-de-ddhh-de-onu>

MADJ continues to publish interviews with its members on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Today, they speak with Lucila Lemus from Arizona, Atlántida, who is part of the protest against the hydroelectric project by INGELSA.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/01/Lucy-Lemus-A-10-a%C3%B1os-del-MADJ-hemos-despertado-y-seguiremos-adelante-no-pensamos-dar-un-paso-atr%C3%A1s>

COFADEH challenges a sentence acquitting police agents thought responsible for the murder of Mario Orlando Sequeira Canale in May 2010.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/parte-acusadora-presenta-recurso-de-casacion-por-el-asesinato-de-mario-sequeira/>

Reporteros de Investigación prints a letter by Martha Alegría Reichmann to the MP from last Thursday. Alegría Reichmann, the widow of the former Honduran ambassador to the Vatican, accuses the Honduran Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga of corruption.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/06/01/si-me-matan-que-no-quede-impune-como-el-caso-del-chofer-del-cardenal-oscar-andres-rodriguez/>

The selection committee for the Attorney General position officially excluded six candidates for the next round.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/01/junta-proponente-excluye-a-seis-candidatos-a-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

As had been announced, the Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz presented to Congress a bill regulating the presidential reelection. He emphasized that they do not want unlimited term limits, but rather the possibility of a one-time reelection. 86 votes will be necessary for the reform, the National Party has 61 congresswo/men.

Pinu president Guillermo Valle, meanwhile, demands prison sentences for all functionaries and former functionaries who collaborated in forcing through the illegal reelection.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2858-presidente-hernandez-termina-en-esta-ocasion-y-no-va-aspirar-a-otra-candidatura-ebal-diaz>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ejecutivo-entrega-iniciativa-al-cn-para-que-se-reglamente-la-reeleccion-presidencial.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/guillermo-valle-pide-carcel-para-todos-los-que-buscan-legalizar-la-reeleccion-en-honduras/>

According to the Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábora, Honduras forgoes about 6% of its GDP due to tax exemptions for big companies...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/01/perdon-de-impuestos-a-grandes-empresas-consume-el-seis-por-ciento-de-la-produccion-nacional/>

According to the Security Secretariat, the number of mass-killings dropped from 25 to 16 in the first five months of 2018.

And the National Party claims that alcohol is the main cause of mass-killings...

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1183800-466/seg%C3%BAAn-seguridad-en-un-40-se-han-reducido-las-masacres-en-2018>

<https://tiempo.hn/ingesta-alcohol-causa-masacres-en-honduras/>

Looking at the international reaction to the grave situation in Nicaragua, one wonders why this did not happen last November in Honduras, e.g. a statement by the EU Parliament or the announcement by the IACHR to create a independent expert commission to support the investigations in Nicaragua. Where was the international pressure on Honduras to establish such a commission?

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P8-TA-2018-0238&language=EN&ring=P8-RC-2018-0244>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2018/121.asp>

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/113.asp



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.

02/06/18

FPIC; HRDs; MACCIH; Corruption - de Lobo; National Police - Purge; Violence - Youth; Penitentiary System; and the History of the Miskitu Kings

OFRANEH accuses both the Honduran regime and the UNDP of willfully ignoring or not knowing the 2016 report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli Corpuz, on the Honduran FPIC draft bill (see second link) because they went on to send on a "revised" version of the report to the ILO on February 28 this year. Even worse, the ILO questions now the right of indigenous peoples of self-determination in a comment on the draft bill.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/06/02/la-oit-derecho-a-veto-y-la-libre-determinacion-de-los-pueblos/>

<http://unsr.vtaulicorpuz.org/site/images/docs/special/2016-honduras-unsr-comentarios-anteproyecto-ley-consulta-sp.pdf>

The acquittal on Friday of three police officials for ordering the violent repression of HRDs and students continues to cause widespread dismay and rejection. The OACNUDH already commented on it on Friday (see yesterday's e-mail) and in the meantime COFADEH, C-Libre and CIPRODEH also denounced it. One common theme is the horrible signal this sends to state security forces prone to attack HRDs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fallo-de-jueza-es-carta-blanca-para-que-policias-y-militares-agredan-a-defensores-de-ddhh/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/684-policias-que-torturaron-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-quedan-libres>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/683-gaseada-la-justicia-castigo-para-defensores-sobreseidos-los-policias>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/noticias/alerta-policias-son-absueltos-por-el-estado-de-honduras-en-el-caso-de-defensorases-8-septiembre-2017/>

Much has been written about the ruling of the Constitutional Chamber regarding the anti-corruption bodies in Honduras. I think the recent statement by the head of investigations at the CNA summarizes it best: "In the fight against corruption, which has not made great progress, the ruling of the Constitutional Chamber on the MACCIH actually means that we have regressed light years".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/01/fallo-sala-constitucional-sobre-la-maccih-en-realidad-hemos-retrocedido-anos-luz-en-el-combate-de-la-corrupcion/>

Even though all the attempts by the defense team of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo to get bail failed, a court still

decided that some of the seized properties have to be handed back to her. The Administrative Office for Seized Goods (OABI) has now announced that they will hold back 16 million Lempiras in cash found at one of her mansions.

<https://tiempo.hn/la-oabi-le-retiene-16-millones-de-lempiras-a-la-ex-primera-dama-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

The purge of the National Police Force began two years ago. El Pulso organized a dialogue between Hermes Ramírez of the PGR, Migdoia Ayestas of the university institute IUDPAS and Omar Rivera of the purging committee itself. The participants discussed "the open question of the police purge in Honduras".

<http://elpulso.hn/a-dos-anos-de-la-depuracion-policial/>

Just hours after the spokesperson of the National Police praised themselves for an alleged reduction in mass-killings, another one took place.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/02/otra-masacre-ejecutan-y-queman-tres-personas-en-valle-de-amarateca/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/02/funcionario-de-seguridad-reportta-disminucion-de-masacres/>

A new report by the university institute IUDPAS found that the main factor determining the chance of being a victim of violence is age, i.e. to be young. In the last eight years, 26'403 children, teenager and young adults were murdered.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ser-joven-es-factor-de-riesgo-para-ser-victima-de-la-violencia-en-honduras.html>

At least three inmates were transferred to a hospital in Choluteca because they had shown symptoms of dengue. A second article in El Herald writes about 200 inmates with signs of unexplained intoxication.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tres-reos-del-centro-penitenciario-fueron-trasladados-al-hospital-general-del-sur-por-sintomas-de-dengue.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1183991-466/200-reos-se-intoxicacion-en-una-penitenciar%C3%ADa-en-choluteca-al-sur-de>

<http://elpulso.hn/historia-de-los-reyes-misquitos/>

03/06/18

Indigenous Peoples; MACCIH; Forced Disappearance; Penitentiary System; Journalists; Public Health; Israel; and the Forgotten Army of Morazán

The National Network of Women Defenders in Honduras (RNDDH) denounces an attack against HRDs in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán. The mayor Marlon Osorto drove armed men to a protest against a hydroelectric project by PROGELSA to repress its participants. According to the protesters, the approval of the environmental license for the project was illegal and the project itself violates ILO Convention 169 because there was no FPIC.

Already back in January, the protesters were attacked by the Military Police, leaving two wounded with gun wounds in their foot and hand.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2158-alcalde-de-reitoca-llego-con-personas-armadas-de-machetes-y-pistolas-para-atacar-protesta-pacifica-contra-hidroelectrica>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2687-militares-disparan-contra-ambientalistas-opuestos-a-hidroelectrica-en-honduras>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana is convinced that the initial intention of the Constitutional Chamber had been to declare the MACCIH unconstitutional. Because this would have caused too much of an international backlash, they changed tactics and went after UFECIC. After a Tweet by US chargé d'affaires they backtracked once more. The result is a verdict full of "patchwork arguments distorting legal institutions and ignoring fundamental principles of the rule of law". The real impact of the verdict will depend on the new Attorney General and the corrupt elite will turn their attention to their selection now.

According to the journalist Sandra Marybel Sánchez, Congress' president Mauricio Oliva intends to get rid of the UFECIC to bury the investigation against the 60 something congresswo/men. Sánchez bases her analysis on a high-level source at the MP who told her that Oliva tried to get access to the investigation at the MP. When denied, he sought help from the judges at the Constitutional Chamber and with unknown speed they approved his petition.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/03/sentencia-forzada/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/03/mauricio-oliva-necesita-desmantelar-la-ufecic/>

A judge in La Ceiba decided that demanding justice is not equal to defamation. In the case of the forcefully disappeared union leader Donatilo Jiménez Euceda, his wife had been accused of defamation by his employee, the CURLA university. Last Thursday, a court decided to drop the charges.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/buscar-justicia-no-es-difamacion/>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) reacted with a press release to Saturday's news reports that over 200 inmates showed signs of intoxication. According to the INP, they hospitalized some inmates claiming they have dengue and they are about to evaluate the remaining inmates with signs of dengue.

Later, a doctor at the South Regional Hospital told Proceso Digital that only one of the eight inmates brought to them had dengue. The rest suffered from stomach virus.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/03/inp-culpa-al-dengue-por-enfermar-reos-en-centro-penal-de-choluteca/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reos-con-dengue-fueron-internados-en-el-hospital-regional-del-sur/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/problemas-gastricos-y-no-dengue-presentaban-reos-de-penal-de-choluteca.html>

Google News Lab held workshops with Honduran journalists.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/03/google-lab-news-capacita-a-periodistas-de-honduras/>

The employees at the Psychiatric Hospital Santa Rosita announced a strike for today because the health authorities had failed to pay outstanding payouts from last year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/trabajadores-de-hospital-santa-rosita-se-paralizan-a-partir-de-manana.html>

Proceso Digital reports that a former Israeli army official was murdered in Catacamas, Olancho. The man had a Honduran citizenship since 1976.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/asesinan-en-olancho-a-exoficial-del-ejercito-israeli.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-ejercito-olvidado-de-morazan-13/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-ejercito-olvidado-de-morazan-22/>

04/06/18

Impunity; Berta - Trial, COPINH; HRDs; MACCIH; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC; MP - Elections; Renewable Energy; Congress; Education - Bible Study; Public Health; Corruption - Cardinal, Journalists; JOH; US - Marines; and Stupid Dictatorships

OACNUDH published a press release exhorting the Honduran authorities to conduct "fast, impartial, independent and transparent" investigations into the post-electoral human rights violations and to include the victims in the process. OACNUDH expresses concern that it has received complaints of harassment by victims seeking justice.

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/04/autoridades-deben-incorporar-a-las-victimas-en-las-investigaciones-a-las-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-oacnudh/>

The Sierra Club published a great article by Sandra Cuffe overing an overview of the trials relating to the Agua Zaraca project and the murder of Berta Cáceres: "The president of Desarrollos Energéticos S.A. (or DESA), the hydroelectric company behind the controversial dam, and other executives are among the nine men in jail pending trial for the March 2016 murder of Cáceres; the trial for most of those alleged perpetrators is expected to begin this year. But before that case starts, another set of trials are already underway—trials that are less well known outside of Honduras but, in their way own way, just as important since they address the initial measures that sparked the years of community resistance and state violence leading up to the killing."

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/officials-trial-for-authorizing-dam-linked-bertha-c-ceres-s-murder>

COPINH published a final press release about its 17-day delegation to Europe which included the visit of five countries.

<https://copinh.org/2018/06/el-copinh-comunica-el-cierre-de-su-gira-por-europa/>

Juan Almeyda raises and tries to answer some very important question regarding the situation of HRDs in Honduras: "What is the problem of violence against HRDs? Who are the perpetrators of this violence? What are the causes and why should we defend HRDs? Who is responsible for the criminal policy of the State? Why does this happen in a false democracy under a military occupation by the United States?"

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/193290>

The MP reacted with the publication of an exhaustive analysis to the ruling by the Constitutional Chamber. It highlights the contradiction of recognizing the constitutionality of the MACCIH while at the same time questioning its executive branch, the Ufecic

The lawyer Rasel Tome coincides with other observers that this "absurd ruling" is the result of US pressure. The JOH regime intended to get rid of the MACCIH, but several tweets by the US chargé d'affaires forced them to make superficial concessions going after Ufecic instead.

The lawyer Adán Tomé raises further questions about the ruling and even claims that the judges overstepped their boundaries.

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana shares this view.

Former UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos also criticizes the Constitutional Chamber.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/04/si-la-maccih-es-constitucional-es-ilogico-pensar-que-la-creacion-de-la-ufecic-no-lo-sea-ministerio-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/04/exdiputado-acusa-al-partido-nacional-de-querer-liquidar-la-maccih/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/04/piden-procesar-a-miembros-de-sala-constitucional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/sala-constitucional-se-extralimito-al-interpretar-convenio-maccih-ufecic-exfiscal-orellana.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pronunciamento-de-sala-constitucional-baja-credibilidad-en-lucha-anticorrupcion-castellanos.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1184589-466/pol%C3%ADticos-a-favor-y-en-contra-sobre-informe-del-ministerio-p%C3%ABlico>

Honduras' indigenous peoples and Garífunas announced protest marches for the coming days against the intentions of the JOH regime to introduce in Congress a disputed bill to regulate FPIC in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2159-marchas-de-protesta-anuncian-los-pueblos-indigenas-y-garifuna-contra-ley-de-consulta-previa>

The 18 remaining candidates for the Attorney General position will be further tested by the selection committee starting tomorrow. This Friday, the candidates who had received complaints will have an opportunity to defend themselves. In total, the committee has received ten complaints, four of which were against candidates that are no longer in the race.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/04/pruebas-de-confianza-para-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general-inicial-el-miercoles/>

UNAH is launching a new institute to investigate renewable energies.

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-crearan-instituto-energia-renovable/>

Nincy Perdomo published the first parliamentary chronicles of this month

which cover among other things the discussions around the new gun law and the derogation of Article 335-B of the Penal Code.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-2931052018/>

The president of the board of the teacher's union Colprosumah, Roberto Troches, requests a pay rise for teachers. He denounces that inflation is eating away at their salaries so much so that the initial salary for a teacher is 5000 Lempiras lower than in 2009.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/04/mientras-el-policia-y-militar-tienen-uniformes-los-ninos-en-las-escuelas-caminan-descalzos/>

Both the Association of Professionals and Students (APEH) and the human rights scholar Joaquín A. Mejía Rivera speak out against the mandatory bible study in public schools.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/04/la-apeh-se-pronuncia-por-el-respeto-al-estado-y-la-educacion-laica-los-derechos-humanos-y-la-no-discriminacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/04/a-proposito-de-la-propuesta-de-la-lectura-de-la-biblia-en-las-escuelas/>

Reporting directly from the IHSS, ConfidencialHN questions the official line that there is no public health crisis. They report on the difficulty to just get an appointment, which could take months and once you arrive, they still lack medication.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/04/derechohabientes-intentan-conseguir-cita-medica-en-el-ihss-interventores-dicen-que-no-hay-crisis/>

ConfidencialHN continues to cover all the irregularities around the Honduran Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/04/uselo-y-tirelo-cardenal-expulso-a-sacerdote-que-lo-ayudo-con-mucho-dinero/>

Criterio published further proof of Dagoberto Rodríguez, the president of the Journalist Pension Fund (IPP), having broken the law by not transferring state funds to the IPP.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/04/presidente-de-periodistas-quebranta-la-ley-del-instituto-de-pensiones/>

JOH travels to the US tomorrow to talk about the possibility to regulate the status of Hondurans who just lost TPS.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-viajara-a-ee-uu-el-miercoles-para-hablar-del-tps-y-seguridad.html>

The U.S. Southern Command informed that "[a]pproximately 300 U.S. Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Southern Command, the rapid response force assigned to U.S. Southern Command, arrived in Latin America, June 1. (...) The Marines and Sailors of SPMAGTF-SC are scheduled to work in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia to build upon the success of last year's SPMAGTF-SC deployment."

<http://www.southcom.mil/News/PressReleases/Article/1539627/release-marine-task-force-deploys-to-latin-america/>

<http://elpulso.hn/fuerza-de-tarea-marina-de-eeuu-se-moviliza-al-caribe-centroamericano/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/metropoli/13-metropoli/honduras-entre-paises-por-los-que-se-moviliza-fuerza-de-tarea-de-eeuu-para-ayuda-por-desastres.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/deshaciendo-el-derecho/>

COMUNICADO DE PRENSA



OACNUDH exhorta a las autoridades a fortalecer la incorporación de las víctimas en procesos de investigación de violaciones de derechos humanos en el contexto de las elecciones de 2017 de acuerdo al derecho a la justicia, la verdad, la reparación y la no repetición.

Hoy, 4 de junio, ya se han cumplido un poco más de seis meses desde la declaración del estado de excepción en el contexto de las protestas post-electorales.

Como OACNUDH recabó en su informe "Las violaciones a los derechos humanos en el contexto de las elecciones de 2017 en Honduras",¹ publicado en marzo de 2018, al menos 23 personas, un agente de policía y 22 civiles perdieron la vida de manera violenta durante las manifestaciones o en su dispersión, varias de estas como resultado de la intervención de las fuerzas de seguridad hondureñas; más de 100 personas resultaron heridas, algunas de forma grave, con la consiguiente discapacidad; más de 1,350 personas fueron detenidas por violar el toque de queda, y por lo menos 118 personas han enfrentado cargos penales por su presunta participación en delitos cometidos durante las protestas, de las cuales cinco continúan en prisión preventiva; durante la captura y su detención, varias personas sufrieron malos tratos; defensores y activistas sufrieron intimidaciones y hostigamientos, así como ataques en contra de su integridad física; al día de hoy, un joven continúa desaparecido, presuntamente después de su captura por parte de las fuerzas de seguridad hondureña en el departamento de Cortes.

OACNUDH sigue alentado a las autoridades estatales a "llevar a cabo investigaciones rápidas, imparciales, independientes y transparentes" sobre todas las denuncias de violaciones de los derechos humanos atribuidas a las fuerzas de seguridad, para determinar la responsabilidad criminal de los hechos. En este sentido, la Oficina reitera su plena disposición para apoyar las autoridades en los esfuerzos para investigar y esclarecer las violaciones de derechos humanos a través de la cooperación técnica.

OACNUDH ha recibido denuncias de familiares y víctimas que en su búsqueda del derecho a la verdad y la justicia, han enfrentado no sólo el dolor por la pérdida de sus seres queridos o los daños sufridos, sino también acoso y desprestigio. La Oficina saluda su entereza y valor y exhorta a las autoridades a fortalecer la incorporación de las víctimas y sus familiares, en procesos de investigación, garantizando su acceso a la información tanto sobre dichos procesos, así como sobre servicios jurídicos, médicos, psicológicos que puedan necesitar. OACNUDH continuará apoyando la legítima búsqueda de justicia, a través de su diálogo con autoridades, víctimas y sus familiares, sus representantes legales y defensores de los derechos humanos.

La Oficina reitera su llamado a las autoridades para que implementen las recomendaciones del Informe, con el objetivo de esclarecer los hechos ocurridos, garantizar la justicia, brindar reparaciones a las víctimas y garantizar la no repetición.

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ANPsszR-1DuwBkSHBG7euMp1wiVJrh1k/view>

05/06/18

MACCIH; Lawyers; Journalists; Femicide; MADJ; Extractivism - Hydroelectricity; FoE; Tasa de Seguridad; Corruption; MP - Election; Education - Bible Study; Migration - TPS; Congress; and Ecuador 1, Honduras 0

Radio Progreso has a valuable short summary on the entities and individuals behind the attacks against the anti-corruption bodies in Honduras.

The CNA announced that they will file a complaint against the five magistrate at the Constitutional Chamber for breach of legal duty ("prevaricato").

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana fears that the ruling has consequences even beyond the anti-corruption fight affecting any possible collaboration with international bodies.

Several Honduran NGOs and the CNA published a joint press release denouncing the "nefarious resolution" by the Constitutional Chamber.

The only thing OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro has to say about all this: we will continue to work with Honduras in the fight against corruption and impunity...

<http://radioprogreso.net/multimedia/NuestraPalabra/2018/Junio/05/Index.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/05/denunciaran-por-prevaricato-a-los-magistrados-de-la-sala-constitucional-gabriela-castellanos-video/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/de-prevaricato-denuncia-el-cna-a-jueces-de-sala-de-lo-constitucion-por-fallo-de-la-maccih.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/por-atribuirse-funciones-que-no-competen-magistrados-podrian-tener-los-legales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/oficina-anticorrupcion-cree-que-sala-constitucional-cometio-una-aberracion-juridica-sobre-caso-maccih/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/06/05/almagro-oea-seguira-trabajando-honduras-lucha-la-corrupcion/>

A lawyer working at the National Person's Registry (RNP) was murdered yesterday in front of her father and son in Comayagüela. It is the second murder of a lawyer in less than a week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/ultiman-abogada-en-la-primera-avenida-de-comayagüela/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/asesinan-a-una-abogada-en-el-interior-de-vehiculo-en-comayagueela.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande highlights how much the JOH regime fails to protect the journalist César Silva. Last February, someone tried to stab him during a live coverage outside a hospital. A month before, he was hit by soldiers during another live coverage of a protest. Instead of investigating these cases, the MP called him last week asking him to re-do a statement because they had lost it...

The police attacked the journalist Nancy Perdomo this past weekend when she covered a protest by Libre. A police water tank shot water at her directly.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2160-quien-quiere-que-maten-a-cesar-silva>

<https://tiempo.hn/tanqueta-policial-agredio-a-periodista-hondurena-que-cubria-protesta-de-libre/>

According to the Women's Movement for Peace "Visitación Padilla", 160 women violently lost their lives in Honduras already this year and these acts of femicide rest unpunished in 96% of all cases.

<https://tiempo.hn/segun-visitacion-padilla-el-96-de-los-femicidios-estan-en-la-impunidad/>

MADJ continues to present some of its members as part of its ten-year anniversary commemoration. Today, they present the lawyer Ariel Madrid.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/05/Ariel-Madrid-A-10-a%C3%B1os-del-MADJ-he-aprendido-el-valor-del-conocimiento-y-de-la-acci%C3%B3n-popular>

The international forum "In Defense of Mother Earth: Acts of Resistance and Hope" took place in Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2161-modelo-extractivista-y-ciudades-modelos-son-los-generadores-de-violencia-y-despojo-en-las-comunidades>

Defensores en Línea reports from La Paz on the protests around the hydroelectric project Aurora 1, which belongs to the group of projects pushed through in the aftermath of the 2009 coup d'état.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-modelo-extractivista-del-actual-regimen-generador-de-division-zozobra-y-riesgo/>

Congress derogated last night the controversial Article 335-B of the new Penal Code.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/05/congreso-nacional-deroga-el-articulo-335-b/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/06/05/derogan-polemico-articulo-335-b/>

FOADEH director Mauricio Díaz challenges the JOH regime to have its security spending audited, especially the use of the funds coming from the tasa de seguridad.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/piden-revisar-el-uso-correcto-del-presupuesto-en-la-tasa-de-seguridad/>

Ten years ago, four public prosecutors started a 38-day hunger strike to highlight their difficult situation investigating corruption cases. El Pulso reports on the events then and makes the link to today's situation.

<http://elpulso.hn/huelga-de-fiscales-de-2008-el-inicio-de-10-anos-de-crisis-politica/>

El Heraldo reports that a complaint was filed against one candidate for the position of the Attorney General for possible links to drug trafficking.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1184943-466/denuncian-que-aspirante-a-fiscal-general-ten%C3%ADa-nexos-con-narco>

Criterio reports on hundreds of Hondurans protesting outside Congress in defense of the secular state. This is a reaction to attempts by some conservative forces to introduce mandatory bible study in public schools. The Secretary of Education, Marcial Solís, does not want to take a position and says that he will respect whatever Congress will decide...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/05/cientos-de-hondurenos-salen-a-marchar-por-la-defensa-del-estado-laico/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/hondurenos-marchan-en-defensa-del-estado-y-la-educacion-laica.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/05/mejor-volvamos-a-la-clase-de-moral-y-civica-y-no-leer-la-biblia-en-las-escuelas-padre-carlos-rubio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/secretario-de-educacion-pide-no-ver-como-tabu-la-lectura-biblica-en-escuelas-publicas/>

"U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announces today that current beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under Honduras' designation who want to maintain their status through the

effective termination date of Jan. 5, 2020, must re-register between June 5, 2018, and Aug. 6, 2018."

This news was published just one day before JOH and the first lady travel to the US.

<https://www.uscis.gov/news/news-releases/re-registration-period-now-open-hondurans-temporary-protected-status-0>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/tepesianos-hondurenos-tendran-20-dias-en-agosto-para-reinscribirse-en-el-tps-que-sera-cancelado-en-2020/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenos-en-el-mundo/1184945-471/presidente-hernandez-buscara-la-legalizacion-de-tepesianos-en-eua>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/primera-dama-se-reunira-con-tepesianos-y-visitara-albergue-con-menores-migrantes-hondurenos.html>

Congresswomen of UD and the Patriotic Alliance protest that their voices aren't heard in Congress when it comes to setting the agenda.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/05/diputados-de-alianza-patriotica-y-ud-a-punto-de-abandonar-directiva-del-legislativo/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-2017/36-proceso-electoral/diputados-de-alianza-patriotica-se-retiran-de-junta-directiva-del-cn.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/maria-fernanda-espinosa-gana-presidencia-de-ag-de-la-onu/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ecuatoriana-gana-votacion-a-lizzy-para-presidir-asamblea-de-la-onu/>

06/06/18

HRDs - MILPAH, OFRANEH, UNAH, Reprisals; MACCIH; Miskitu; FoE; Lawyers; Extractivism; MADJ; Electoral Reform; Congress; MP - Elections; Corruption - Education; Minimum Wage; Drug Trafficking; Infrastructure; GPI; and Forever Young

The human rights network REDHIL-Paz denounces the recent attack on June 3 against the Lenca HRD and MILPAH member Hermin Lopez. His only mode of transport, a motorbike, was stolen during a meeting and then destroyed. REDHIL-Paz sees it as a clear sign of persecution of a HRD.

Defensores en Línea has an additional article on the difficult situation in La Paz, where REDHIL-Paz is active, for human rights organizations and defenders.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/redhil-paz-denuncia-atentado-contradefensor-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-la-paz-se-discrimina-a-defensores-de-ddhh-y-se-criminaliza-a-campesinos-que-demandan-tierras/>

The Garífuna leader Malvin Norales was detained by the police yesterday morning. He plays an important role in the defense of the Garífuna community Puerto Castilla against a planned ZEDE.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/06/06/detencion-de-lider-garifuna-malvin-norales-y-las-presiones-de-las-zede-ciudades-modelo-en-puerto-castilla/>

Last September, four HRDs accompanied eight UNAH students when they were brutally attacked by the police. Three police officials were held responsible for the attack but after a prolonged trial (for being postponed constantly), a judge decided last week to acquit the officials. The National Human Rights Board now presented a complaint against this judge at the Supreme Court for abuse of authority and breach of the duties of public servants.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2162-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-denuncia-a-jueza-que-absolvio-a-oficiales-de-policia-que-torturaron-a-defensores>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/688-mesa-de-ddhh-exige-examen-de-conducta-para-jueza-que-absolvio-a-policias>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2863-presentan-denuncia-anticorrupcion-contra-magistrados-de-corte-hondurena>

The ISHR published a report on the reprisals suffered by HRDs cooperating with UN bodies in 2017. The report also mentions cases from Honduras.

<http://www.ishr.ch/news/reprisals-un-and-states-must-do-more-prevent-and-address-reprisals-0>

As had been announced, the CNA filed an official complaint against the five magistrate at the Constitutional Chamber for breach of legal duty ("prevaricato").

Congress, meanwhile, rejected a petition by Libre congressman Sergio Castellanos to start an impeachment procedure, a so-called "juicio político", against the five magistrates.

The Parliamentarian Front in Support of the MACCIH denounces the verdict by the Constitutional Chamber and reiterates its support for the anti-corruption bodies in Honduras.

It is highly problematic that given the situation in Honduras, IMF director Christine Lagarde gave JOH a PR opportunity with a joint meeting and announcing its support for Honduras to fight corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/06/cna-denuncia-ante-el-mp-a-magistrados-que-firmaron-fallo-de-la-maccih-video/>

<https://tiempo.hn/abogados-en-caso-maccih-sala-de-la-csj-excedio-sus-atribuciones-mp-debe-de-actuar/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/06/congreso-nacional-rechaza-juicio-politico-contra-magistrados-de-sala-constitucional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-congreso-deniega-juicio-politico-a-magistrados-de-la-sala-de-lo-constitucional.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/06/frente-parlamentario-de-apoyo-a-la-maccih-rechaza-sentencia-de-la-sala-constitucional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-frente-parlamentario-pide-defender-a-la-maccih-ufecic-y-cna/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-en-honduras-contara-con-el-apoyo-del-fmi.html>

A group of Miskitu women together with MASTA demanded justice outside the MP for the murder of three Miskitu men by soldiers on May 19.

<http://elpulso.hn/familiares-de-victimas-de-warunta-reclaman-justicia-ante-fiscalia-de-las-etnias/>

ConexiHon celebrates the derogation of Article 335-B, but also highlights that there are still other laws in place, such as the Cybersecurity Law or the Secrecy Law, which are highly problematic. The former Nationalist congressman and the promoter of Article 335-B tries to save face.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/687-al-fin-derogado-el-articulo-335-b>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alvarez-dice-que-nunca-tuvo-mala-voluntad-con-articulo-335-b-y-alaba-rectificacion-del-cn.html>

Two lawyers were murdered in the last week in Honduras. According to CONADEH, at least 150 lawyers violently lost their lives in Honduras since 2002, at least 130 of them since 2010. More than 90% of all these

murders rest unpunished.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/al-menos-150-abogados-muertos-violentamente-en-honduras-desde-2002.html>

Defensores en Línea reports on the fear in the Siria Valley of a planned geothermic project.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/valle-de-siria-enfrenta-amenaza-de-un-nuevo-proyecto-de-muerte/>

MADJ presents another one of its members as part of its ten-year anniversary. The 21-year old Aura Fernández helps in legal and human rights matters.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/06/Aura-Fern%C3%A1ndez-A-10-a%C3%B1os-del-MADJ-la-mayor-satisfacci%C3%B3n-es-poder-disfrutar-de-las-ense%C3%B1anzas-populares-y-saber-que-estamos-de-lado-correcto-de-la-historia>

Radio Progreso spoke with the constitutional lawyer Ramón Barrios who believes that Ebal Díaz's attempt to regulate the reelection is a ruse by the National Party to white-wash the illegal reelection of JOH.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/reglamentar-reeleccion-es-lavar-la-presidencia-ilegal-de-joh-dice-analista/>

El Pulso's Congress reporter Nincy Perdomo sheds some lights on yesterday's decision by the Patriotic Alliance and UD to Congress' governing board (see also yesterday's e-mail). The UD congressman and Congress' vice-president Mario Noé Villafranca announced that he would only return to the governing board if the government were to comply with its promise to build an cancer hospital.

<http://elpulso.hn/aph-ud-jd/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/06/vicepresidente-del-legislativo-no-volvera-a-la-directiva-mientras-no-construyan-hospital-oncologico/>

Yesterday, it said that one candidate for the Attorney General position is suspected of having ties with drug trafficking, now the CNA says there are at least two.

All candidates, meanwhile, had their psychometric and toxicological tests yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/06/directora-del-cna-reafirma-nexos-de-2-candidatos-a-fiscal-con-el-crimen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/06/candidatos-a-fiscal-general-estan-conformes-con-pruebas-de-confianza/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aspirantes-a-cargo-de-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-se-someten-a-pruebas-de-confianza.html>

A corruption court ruled that the former vice-minister of Education José Alejandro Ventura has to await trial in his house.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/06/dictan-arresto-domiciliario-para-exsecretario-de-educacion/>

COHEP president warns about the effects of an increase in the minimum wage...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/06/incremento-salarial-pondria-en-riesgo-a-empresas-hondurenas-cohep/>

JOH met with the ad-interim director of the DEA in the US.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1185265-466/juan-orlando-hern%C3%A1ndez-plantea-a-estados-unidos-un-reajuste-a-estrategia-de>

Some time back the street infrastructure fund Fondo Vial was disappeared. Now, the JOH regime replaced it with the Bureau for the Conservation of the Road Infrastructure Assets (DCPV).

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1185266-466/fondo-vial-ahora-ser%C3%A1-una-direcci%C3%B3n-de-invest-honduras>

Honduras lost twelve positions in the Global Peace Index.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-baja-12-puntos-revela-el-indice-de-paz-global-2018.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tomas-nativi-eternamente-joven-revolucionario-y-humano/>

07/06/18

COPINH; HRDs - UNAH; LGBTI; UNAH; ZEDE; Mining; Corruption - MACCIH, Congress, de Lobo; MADJ; Forced Disappearance; Drug Trafficking - Rosenthal; Congress; MP - Elections; Coffee - JOH; Penitentiary System; Electric Energy; US - JOH; and Honduras' Richness

COPINH mourns the death of its life-long member José Asunción Martínez, who died a natural death yesterday morning.

<https://copinh.org/2018/06/companero-asuncion-presente/>

Reporteros de Investigación got access to the confidential plan used by the police last September to violently evict the UNAH students which were accompanied by HRDs. Just last week, a court dropped the charges against the responsible police officials and human rights organizations now filed a complaint against the judge. This additional information may serve to show the intent of the police officials.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/06/07/jefe-de-policia-nacional-de-honduras-planifico-desalojo-en-el-que-torturaron-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos/>

Honduran LGBTI activists demand help from the Honduran State to have the body of Roxana Hernández repatriated. She died in her third try to reach the US in the hands of ICE.

<http://elpulso.hn/activistas-lgtb-de-eeuu-exigen-al-gobierno-de-honduras-repatriacion-de-mujer-transgenero/>

Good news from the Constitutional Chamber. It ordered UNAH to re-integrate 24 students who had been expelled for participating in protests last year.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dan-ultimatum-para-reintegro-de-universitarios-expulsados/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/2164-sala-constitucional-de-la-csj-ordena-a-la-unah-matricular-a-24-estudiantes-expulsados>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/csj-ordena-reintegro-de-30-estudiantes-que-fueron-expulsados-por-tomas-en-unah.html>

Alán Cruz Torres, coordinator of the human rights organization ADEPZA in Zacate Grande, denounces that the JOH regime has been progressively militarizing the area around Amapala these last years in preparation of forcing through a ZEDE there.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/gobierno-militariza-ampala-con-el-plan-de-asegurar-las-ciudades-modelos/>

The inhabitants of Olanchito, Yoro reacted to the threat posed by five mining concessions in their area by declaring their community free of

mining in a public gathering.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/olanchito-se-une-a-los-municipios-libre-de-mineria/>

The political analyst Víctor Meza held a talk on "the offensive of the corrupt" to dismantle the Honduras' anti-corruption system. UNAH lecturers published a press release expressing their concerns regarding the ruling by the Constitutional Chamber on the constitutionality of the MACCIH and its possible effects on Ufecic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/analista-advierte-que-la-ofensiva-de-los-corruptos-esta-en-marcha/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/docentes-de-derecho-aseguran-que-respaldan-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-que-ejerce-la-maccih/>

The two Nationalist congressmen accused of corruption, Tomás Zambrano and Román Villeda, attended yesterday their first hearing to give their statements.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/dos-directivos-del-congreso-deberan-acudir-a-audiencia-judicial-por-fe-de-errata/>

The former first lady's legal team continues to have remedies of Amparo sent out in favor of her.

<https://tiempo.hn/presentan-dos-recursos-de-amparo-a-favor-del-cunado-de-la-ex-primera-dama/>

MADJ presents another one of its members as part of its ten-year anniversary. The 23-year old Koritza Ortez helps in legal and human rights matters.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/06/Koritza-Ortez-A-10-a%C3%B1os-del-MADJ-las-comunidades-me-han-ense%C3%B1ado-a-luchar-con-una-sonrisa-siempre>

Defensores en Línea reports on the hope of Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador's family that he will reappear having disappeared six months ago after an arrest.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-las-esperanzas-viva-y-una-busqueda-silenciosa/>

The Rosenthal family tries to turn the table by announcing an international demand against the Honduran State for closing various companies belonging to their holding company Continental. The Rosenthal family has been linked to drug trafficking activities in Honduras and two of their family members are serving prison sentences in the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/familia-rosenthal-demandara-internacionalmente-al-estado-de-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/familia-rosenthal-anuncia-demanda-internacional-contra-el-estado-de-honduras.html>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva successfully got the protesting vice-presidents back in the governing board by promising them to be part of the commission for the election of the Attorney General...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/integran-a-vicepresidente-legislativo-en-comision-para-eleccion-del-nuevo-fiscal/>

There is a second worrying development regarding the election of the Attorney General (see above for the first one). The civil society representative in the nominating committee has unilaterally been nominated to be an anti-corruption judge. It seems as if there was an attempt to get rid of her from the nominating committee. Nevertheless, she announced that she would not accept the offer to become a judge.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/miembro-de-junta-proponente-renuncia-a-impartir-justicia-como-jueza-antiextorsion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/miembro-junta-proponente-rechaza-nombramiento/>

10'000 coffee growers held a protest rally in Tegucigalpa against the political interference by the JOH regime in their institutions such as Ihfcafe.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2867-disputa-de-poder-entre-joh-y-oliva-detras-de-movilizacion-de-caficultores>

<https://tiempo.hn/cafetaderos-cn-exigen-apoyo-sector/>

The president of CONAPREV holds the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) responsible for the ongoing calls coming out of Honduran prisons.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/07/piden-que-hondutel-administre-las-llamadas-telefonicas-en-centros-penales/>

The Energy Company Honduras (EEH) has successfully lobbied the National Party, the Patriotic Alliance and the Liberal Party to implement a prepaid system for electricity.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/07/otro-trancazo-para-el-pueblo-ahora-pagara-la-luz-adelantada/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/congreso-nacional-aprueba-tarjeta-prepago-para-comprar-electricidad.html>

After meeting with the IMF (see yesterday's e-mail), JOH met yesterday with the US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/06/07/eeuu-reafirma-apoyo-honduras-aumentar-la-seguridad-prosperidad/>

<http://elpulso.hn/riqueza-hn/>

08/06/18

Military Police; Journalists; COFADEH; Hydroelectricity; Palm Oil; Extractivism; Labor Unions; Corruption - MACCIH, US, Congress; MP - Elections; Churches; Poverty; Public Transport; Coffee; (In)Security; US; and the Voice Governing Honduras

Reporteros de Investigación reports on sexual violence by the Military Police at Honduras' schools.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/06/08/asi-comete-delitos-sexuales-la-policia-militar/>

Last month, a group of women journalists protested outside the MP to demand justice for violence against them by the armed forces in 2012. The MP continuously failed to inform about the investigation and even made use of the Secrecy Law last December to hide information. Now, the MP says that the investigation is not secret and they will take actions against the accused soldiers in the coming days.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2165-mp-niega-que-el-caso-de-ataques-a-mujeres-periodistas-por-parte-de-militares-de-casa-presidencial-este-en-secretividad>

Félix Cesario wrote an open letter in support of COFADEH and its work.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-estado-de-estrellas-militares/>

The Appeals Court revoked the alternative measures to imprisonment for the former deputy secretary at SERNA and order his imprisonment. Marco Jonathan Laínez Ordoñez is accused of abuse of authority for illegally granting a license to the Aurora II hydroelectric project.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/revocan-medidas-sustitutivas-y-piden-encarcelar-a-ex-subsecretario-de-la-serna/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ordenan-revocar-medidas-sustitutivas-por-prision-preventiva-a-exfuncionario-de-serna.html>

Forest Heroes published a score card of the Latin American palm oil sector which clearly shows that contrary to all their PR campaigns, Diant is one of only 6 completely failing Latin American palm oil companies with the fourth worst score.

<http://www.forestheroes.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Behind-the-Global-Curve-A-Scorecard-of-the-Latin-American-Palm-Oil-Sector.pdf>

Radio Progreso looks back on this week's forum "Defending Those who Defend Mother Earth" with a special focus on the role of women.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-resistencia-de-las-mujeres-en-la-defensa-del-territorio-y-el-derecho-a-la-consulta-de-las-comunidades-analizan-en-foro-internacional/>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on an shocking recent development around the international company Fyffes. Due to numerous complaints about labor rights violations in Honduras and Costa Rica, it got suspended from the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) in May 2017. Nevertheless, Fair Trade USA just awarded this April its fair trade certificate to Fyffes Honduran subsidiary Suragroh...

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/193381>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana denounces that both JOH and OAS's General Secretary Luis Almagro have an interest in nominating a new spokesperson for the MACCIH.

In its weekly series of articles, Radio Progreso looks back on this week's development in Honduras' anti-corruption struggling by interviewing Fátima Mena of the Parliamentary Front in Support of the MACCIH.

Political analyst Víctor Meza presents this week's events as the newest manifestation of an ever growing perception of regression.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ni-el-gobierno-ni-almagro-tienen-intencion-de-nombrar-vocero-en-maccih-segun-edmundo-orellana.html>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/elites-corruptas-tiemblan-con-la-ufecic-senala-abogada-fatima-mena/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/08/la-hora-del-retroceso/>

Víctor Meza also believes that the recent decision in the US Congress to demand a list of corrupt Central Americans has the corrupt Honduran elite worried.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/las-acciones-de-congresistas-estadounidenses-preocupan-a-corruptos-hondurenos-victor-meza/>

In the corruption case against two Nationalist congressmen, the judge decided that the two men can await trial outside prison but they are not allowed to leave the country.

<https://tiempo.hn/diputados-tomas-zambrano-y-roman-villeda-deberan-acudir-a-firmar-cada-viernes-a-la-csj/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1185645-466/proh%C3%ADben-salir-del-pa%C3%ADs-a-los-dos-diputados-tom%C3%A1s-zambrano-y-rom%C3%A1n>

Edmundo Orellana summarizes the problem with the current nomination process of the new Attorney General. Due to the power balance in Honduras, we ended up with a situation in which the National Party congresswo/men elect a Attorney General and their deputy who then should proceed to investigate the corruption allegations against them and their president...

FiscaLeaks published another portray of a candidate for the position of Attorney General. They present Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso as the one closest to the current Attorney General, but he lacks experience in penal and penal procedures measures.

Women's organizations demand that the new Attorney General will finally live up to the challenges posed by the shocking numbers of femicide in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/el-problema-de-los-diputados-es-que-el-actual-fiscal-ya-no-es-potable-edmundo-orellana/>

<http://revistazo.biz/Fiscileaks/index.php/reportajes/40-daniel-sibrian-candidato-cercano-al-poder-pero-con-poca-experiencia-penal>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/08/las-preguntas-que-el-nuevo-fiscal-general-de-honduras-debe-responder-a-las-mujeres/>

In its Plenary Assembly of June, the Bishops of the Episcopal Conference in Honduras expressed their concern about the state of the county and warned of the fallacy that Honduras has returned to "normal" since the electoral fraud. Rather, they say, public dissatisfaction increases day by day while trust in the public institutions and its leaders decreases. The bishops also point out that bible study in schools won't end corruption in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/iglesia-catolica-alerta-sobre-insatisfaccion-ciudadana-hacia-la-institucionalidad-hondurena/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/08/no-es-leyendo-la-biblia-como-acabaremos-con-la-corrupcion-conferencia-episcopal-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2868-iglesia-catolica-exige-dialogo-y-recuperacion-del-estado-en-honduras>

The Military Pension Institute ordered the eviction of some 100 people from a marginalized neighborhood in Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/militares-ordenan-desalojar-pobladores-de-modesta-colonia-en-tegucigalpa/>

The recent days were accompanied by a discussion about a possible rise in tariffs for public transport.

The Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz discarded this option for the time being.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/usuarios-repudian-grosero-aumento-al-transporte-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/gobierno-hondureno-descarta-aumento-a-las-tarifas-del-transporte/>

ConfidencialHN reports on infights at Ihcafé linked to this weeks protests by coffee growers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/08/cuestionado-lider-cafetalero-realiza-cruzada-para-garantizar-se-impunidad/>

"For nearly a decade straight, citizens in Latin America and the Caribbean responding to an annual survey have consistently said that they feel less safe than their counterparts in any other region of the world, underscoring the complexity of the region's security situation and the challenges faced in trying to improve it."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/latin-america-citizens-worlds-most-insecure-report/>

Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco praises Honduras as a role model for the region in fighting insecurity and organized crime...

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ministro-pacheco-asegura-que-honduras-se-posiciono-como-lider-regional-en-combate-a-la-inseguridad.html>

ContraCorriente highlights how two recent events relating to the MACCIH ruling and the election of the Attorney General show once more who really calls the shots in Honduras...the US.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/07/la-voz-que-decide-en-honduras/>

09/06/18

HR Violations; Corruption - Congress; MP - Elections; Coffee; Penitentiary System; Dialogue; Violence; Deportation; and Another World is Possible

The Honduran State was criticized by the ILO's Rules Committee for grave human rights violations, a lack of protection for HRDs as well as a lack of investigations and reports regarding the murder of more than 20 teachers and indigenous, labor, environmental and campesino leaders.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/09/honduras-nuevamente-senalada-por-la-oit-por-violaciones-laborales-y-los-derechos-humanos/>

Radio Progreso summarizes the recent events concerning the anti-corruption bodies in Honduras the following way: "All sectors of the country committed to the fight against corruption and impunity have spoken with much consternation of the resolution of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court, a resolution, which according to lawyers and jurists, has no substance ["no tiene ni pies ni cabeza"] but is a clear political message that the corrupt and unpunished are not willing to give up their position which offers them great benefits at the expense of corruption."

<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/multimedia/NuestraPalabra/2018/Junio/09/Index.html>

Yesterday, I already wrote that the two congressman accused of corruption, Tomás Zambrano and Román Villeda, can await their trial outside prison. Furthermore, they were not suspended from their function as congressman, meaning that they continue to be active in Congress, even though their corruption charges are linked to their activities in Congress...

Oscar Miguel Marroquín reacts succinctly but appropriately: "Enough now"

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/09/en-libertad-y-sin-suspension-de-sus-cargos-se-defenderan-diputados-acusados-en-el-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/09/ya-basta/>

FiscaLeaks continues to present some of the aspiring Attorney Generals with more details. Today, it is the turn of Lidia Estela Cardona Padilla. She is a two times magistrate at the Supreme Court and helped pave the way for the illegal reelection of JOH.

<http://revistazo.biz/Fiscaleaks/index.php/reportajes/42-lidia-estela-cardona-protagonista-en-fallo-que-allano-camino-a-la-reeleccion>

El Pulso helps explaining the current unrest of coffee growers. There is a fault line between small coffee growers wanting the abolition of a 318 Lempiras fee for every quintal of coffee and the Honduran Coffee Institute (Ihcafé) which wants to raise it.

<http://elpulso.hn/division-de-criterio-entre-productores-de-cafe-por-el-destino-del-fondo-cafetero/>

Four inmates escaped from the juvenile detention center Renaciendo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/09/honduras-se-fugan-cuatro-menores-de-la-carcel-juvenil-renaciendo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tegucigalpa-por-un-agujero-se-fugan-cuatro-menores-del-centro-renaciendo/>

The National Party blames everyone else for the unsuccessful national dialogue even though they were the ones opposing the one substantial decision coming out of the dialogue, the independent investigation of the post-electoral human rights violations.

<https://tiempo.hn/pn-preocupado-porque-sectores-politicos-no-quieren-resolver-crisis-politica-del-pais/>

Three young men lost their lives in another mass-killing in Honduras. Proceso Digital links to all 19 mass-killings of 2018.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asesinan-a-tres-jovenes-en-canchitas-de-colonia-la-esperanza-en-la-capital.html>

The number of deported Hondurans rose by 54.4% in the first five months of 2018 compared to the previous year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/deportacion-de-hondurenos-aumenta-54-4-en-primeros-cinco-meses-del-ano.html>

Radio Progreso reports on a successful implementation of a community-based renewable energy project in Camagüey, Atlántida.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/comunidad-camaguey-en-atlantida-un-ejemplo-de-soberania-territorial/>

10/06/18

Corruption; Violence; Public Transport; and Promises

On Friday, the US agreed to extradite former Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli to his home country to be tried for corruption. A 1905 extradition treaty means Martinelli can only be tried for the crimes alleged in the request in Panama. This is relevant for Honduras, as Martinelli has been a close friend of the Honduran financial elite and the leadership of the National Party. The week before, US Congress asks the Defense Department to write up a list of corrupt officials and individuals from the Northern Triangle. COFADEH denounces that at the same time, JOH is welcomed in Washington.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-corruptos-viajan-a-washington/>

The 22-year old university student Douglas Rafael Méndez was murdered yesterday. According to his family, we went to buy beer with friends when a unknown man asked them for one. They said no and the man started shooting at them, killing Méndez and hurting two more. El Heraldo writes that it was a robbery and one student did not want to hand over his things.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/10/por-no-dar-una-cerveza-sujeto-embravecido-mato-a-universitario/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1186318-466/joven-universitario-muere-durante-asalto-en-residencial-plaza>

Last week, the Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz prominently promised that there won't be any rise in public transport fees this week. The president of the National Transport Institute confirms this, adding that the price rise will come next week...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/10/manana-no-hay-aumento-al-transporte-pero-la-otra-semana-si-comisionado-nacional-del-transporte/>

As on various previous occasions, Salvador Nasralla promised "something big in the coming days".

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/10/nasralla-pronostica-que-viene-algo-grande-en-los-proximos-dias/>

11/06/18

Mining; Journalists; HRDs - Protection, Award; MADJ; Forced Disappearance; Corruption - JOH, Cardinal; MP - Elections; Dialogue; Libre; Maras; Drug Trafficking - US; Poverty; Soccer; Congress; and HRDs Under Attack in Guatemala

Pasos de Animal Grande uncovered a campaign by the mayoralty of Tocoa and a mining company to buy of journalist so that they don't cover the local resistance against mining projects.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2169-partida-presupuestaria-para-periodistas-silencia-el-tema-de-la-mineria-en-tocoa-colon>

The digital newspaper Reporteros de Investigación (RI) suffered a denigration attack. Their logo was misused in trying to link them with organized crime. Pasos de Animal Grande highlights that this attempt started just hours after a publication by RI on the sexual misconduct by two Military Police agent at a Honduran school.

C-Libre denounces that the police detained the social communicator Fabio Hernán Vallecillo last Friday for 24 hours. He had covered a police operation witnessing the rough-handling of a group of youth when he was detained as well.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2168-falsos-positivos-se-estarian-activando-contra-periodico-digital-reporterosdeinvestigacion-com>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/intimidacion/868-usurpan-logotipo-de-periodico-digital-y-lo-vinculan-con-el-crimen-organizado>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/detencion-arbitraria/869-policia-nacional-detiene-a-periodista-que-realizaba-cobertura-informativa-a-operativo>

The MP nominated a leading public prosecutor to head the Special Prosecution Bureau for the Protection of HRDs, Journalist, Social Communicators and Justice Operators (FEPRODDHH). Already back in 2013, the MP created a special unit for high impact crimes which had - pun intended - no impact at all.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2167-nombran-fiscales-para-investigar-delitos-contra-sectores-prottegidos-por-la-ley-de-proteccion>

The Women's Movement for Peace "Visitación Padilla" was awarded the Georg Fritze prize by a German protestant church.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/690-un-premio-y-una-sonrisa-en-cumpleanos-de-gladys-lanza-reconocen-internacionalmente-trayectoria-de-movimiento-de-mujeres-visitacion-padilla>

MADJ continues presenting various of its members on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. The 24 year old Diego Aguilar was born in Tegucigalpa but moved to San Pedro Sula to work in training and research for MADJ.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/11/Diego-Aguilar-A-10-a%C3%B1os-del-MADJ-el-pa%C3%ADs-necesita-que-estemos-a-la-altura-del-compromiso-%C3%A9tico-y-organizado>

Defensores en Línea commemorates Tomás Nativí Gálvez who was forcefully

disappeared together with his friend Fidel Martínez 37 years ago. His disappearance together with many others during this period led his wife Bertha Oliva to found COFADEH.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/tomas-nativi-un-hombre-y-una-promesa-juramos-vencer/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-juventud-debe-retomar-el-ejemplo-de-lectores-incansables-como-tomas-nativi-y-herminio-deras/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) requested the investigation of two functionaries of the JOH regime. The article only mentions one of the functionaries, an employee of the Agriculture and Livestock Secretary (SAG).

Maybe the second one is Brenda Flores, a regional director at the Pension and Retirement for Public Officials Institute (Injupemp). ConfidencialHN reports that she allegedly asked her employees for financial support for activities by JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/tribunal-de-cuentas-solicita-investigar-a-dos-funcionarios-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/no-es-obligatorio-funcionaria-pide-dinero-a-empleados-para-financiar-actividades-de-joh/>

ConfidencialHN published part two of an investigation of another irregularity involving the Honduran Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/cura-expulsado-por-cardenal-pide-indemnizacion-de-74-millones/>

FiscaLeaks continues to present the aspiring candidates for the position of Attorney General. Today, they present the lawyer Juan Carlos Barrientos Paniagua who has close ties to one of the most influential Liberal Party families.

Last week, FiscaLeaks portrayed Daniel Arturo Sibrian Bueso. El Pulso now also dedicates him an article, claiming that he - the current assistant of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla - is the favorite to replace Chinchilla.

The nomination committee will present their list of the final five candidates to Congress next week.

<http://revistazo.biz/Fiscaleaks/index.php/reportajes/43-juan-carlos-barrientos-el-abogado-y-notario-de-los-santos>

<http://elpulso.hn/quien-es-daniel-arturo-sibrian-bueso-el-delfin-de-oscar-chinchilla-para-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/proponentes-entregaran-a-mas-tardar-la-proxima-semana-lista-final-de-candidatos/>

The ninth (!) round of the pre-dialogue took place yesterday. Once more, not much came out of it. A request by the Liberal Party to make the dialogue binding "was received" by the Presidential Secretary Ebal Díaz and they will react to it soon...

Apparently, the MP informed the participants about its investigations into the post-electoral human rights violations. But so far only Proceso Digital reported on this writing that the MP "cleared the doubts of all participants" which is highly unlikely.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/liberales-proponen-viajar-a-eeuu-para-pactar-acuerdo-vinculante/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-brinda-informe-sobre-muertos-en-crisis-poselectoral.html>

Manuel Zelaya denounces an attempt by the Armed Forces to label them as terrorists.

Proceso Digital accompanied this with an additional denigrating article against a Libre protest in support of the MACCIH.

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/36-proceso-electoral/mel-pide-a-ffaa-no-vincular-a-comandos-insurreccionales-de-libre-con-terrorismo.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/advertencia-sobre-posibles-atentados-terroristas-es-normal-dice-portavoz-de-las-ffaa.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/ff-aa-no-esta-confirmado-que-existan-grupos-de-insurreccion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/36-proceso-electoral/simpatizantes-de-libre-provocan-danos-en-manifestacion-en-bulevar-morazan.html>

Yesterday, a trial started against supposed heads, partners and members of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/inician-juicio-contracabecillas-y-socios-de-la-ms-13-entre-ellos-el-exalcalde-de-talanga/>

Another Honduran has been sentenced in the US for drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/11/condenan-a-un-hondureno-a-nueve-anos-de-carcel-en-ee-uu-por-colaborar-con-el-narco/>

By portraying a young Honduran mother, Radio Progreso gives a face to the poverty in Honduras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/vivir-a-medias-11-junio-2018/>

ContraCorriente published a beautiful article with accompanying photos on soccer in Honduras - a country not qualified for the world soccer championship.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/11/la-metafora-del-futbol-en-un-pais-sin-mundial/>

Even though she was attacked by the National Police covering a protest two weeks ago, Nincy Perdomo returned to Congress to write her weekly Parliamentary Chronicles.

<http://elpulso.hn/tremenda-batahola/>

"Guatemala: Seven human rights defenders killed in four weeks"

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/06/guatemala-seven-human-rights-defenders-killed-in-four-weeks/>

12/06/18

Political Prisoners; National Police - Repression; Mining; Hydroelectricity; UNAH; Journalists; Corruption - SAG; MP - Elections; MADJ; Labor Rights; Child Labor; Drug Trafficking; Public Health; and Growing Basic Goods Prices

The Platform of Social and Popular Movement of Honduras reminds us about the ongoing suffering by the remaining five political prisoners in Honduras as well as the prosecution and harassment of the released ones who still face charges.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2018/06/honduras-golpe-electoral-y-presos.html>

The National Police violently repressed a peaceful protest by the transport sector against the high fuel and toll costs. All in all, the police arrested 13 protesters and one protester had to be brought to the emergency room after having been beaten by the police. The head of the transit police tried to justify their actions.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-publica/870-desalojo-violento-a-protesta-de-trasportistas-deja-13-detenidos-y-un-herido>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/justifican-supuesta-agresion-contra-rastrero-durante-huelga-en-carretera-ca5/>

Another police commissioner, Elder Madrid Guerra, held responsible for violent repressions and worse by human rights organization died yesterday without having been brought to justice.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fallece-elder-madrid-un-torturador-menos-un-caso-en-la-impunidad-mas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-en-tegucigalpa-el-excomisionado-de-la-policia-y-general-depurado-elder-madrid-guerra/>

It has been a week since the municipal building in Tocoa, Colón has been occupied. The inhabitants demand that the mayor will hold a town hall meeting to declare their municipality free of mining (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/12/pobladores-de-tocoa-colon-siguen-esperando-a-la-corporacion-para-declarar-el-municipio-libre-de-mineria/>

2018 started with a successful protest by indigenous Lenca against a hydroelectric project in Reitoca. But on January 30, soldiers violently evicted them hurting Miriam Sorto and Andrés Gutiérrez who had to be brought to medical centers in Tegucigalpa. Nevertheless, the protests has continued in the last five months. The construction company even withdrew its machines, but the fear of a renewed attempt still looms large.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/reitoca-sigue-en-pie-de-lucha/>

About two weeks ago, the Constitutional Chamber ruled that the expulsion of some 20 students linked to last years protests was unconstitutional. This represents an important victory of the student movement as Radio Progreso highlights. Nevertheless, two demands are still unmet: i) a public apology by the then dean Julieta Castellanos which includes reparations of the damage suffered by the students; and ii) a revision of the UNAH's internal regulation to get rid of any part violating the right to education.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/una-sentencia-que-da-la-razon-al-estudiantado-universitario-12-junio-2018/>

Brenda Flores, a regional director at the Pension and Retirement for Public Officials Institute (Injupemp), withdrew a complaint against the journalist Carlos Martínez, who uncovered that she had asked employees for financial support for activities by JOH (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/archivan-querella-contra-periodista-interpuesto-por-directora-regional-de-injupemp/>

Yesterday, an anti-corruption court started to take testimonies in the corruption case at the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG) (see also yesterday).

The MP emitted an arrest warrant against the former head of the SAG as well as the directors of two foundations, Dibattista and Todos Somos Honduras. They are accused of robbing 100 million Lempiras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/inicia-desfile-de-testigos-por-masiva-corrupcion-en-agricultura-y-ganaderia12/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/emiten-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-exsecretario-de-agricultura-y-complices-por-corrupcion/>

9 of the remaining 18 candidates for the position of Attorney General have to answer to the nominating committee for various complaint filed against them at the MP.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1187012-466/al-banquillo-nueve-aspirantes-a-fiscal-por-denuncias-en-el-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico>

MADJ presents another of its young activists as part of its 10-years anniversary.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/12/Mario-Iraheta-A-10-a%C3%B1os-el-MADJ-y-sus-experiencias-de-lucha-han-sido-mis-verdaderas-aulas-universitarias>

The International Trade Union Confederation ranks Honduras once more in the worst category "No guarantee of rights".

<https://www.ituc-csi.org/ituc-global-rights-index-2018>

World Vision Honduras director Jorge Galeano expressed his concern about the high percentage of child labor in Honduras. They think that about 400'000 children work in different sectors in Honduras, the majority (54%) in agriculture.

The vice-president of Coffee Exporting Association (Adecafeh) fears the effects of child labor on their possibility to export Honduran coffee.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/alerta-sobre-uso-de-mano-de-obra-infantil-en-honduras1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-12-de-los-ninos-hondurenos-trabajan-y-world-vision-pide-mas-atencion.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/trabajo-de-menores-pone-en-riesgo-exportacion-de-cafe1/>

JOH informed about the meeting he recently had in Washington with the interim director of the DEA. JOH told him about a growing pressure of drug traffickers in the Moskitia and the Atlantic coast.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/joh-esta-preocupado-por-la-presion-de-los-narcos-en-la-mosquitia-hondurena/>

The president of the Medical Association Honduras denounces that more than 1500 employees in public hospitals still have not received the promised pay adjustments.

<http://www.proceso.hn/salud-y-sociedad/5-salud-y-sociedad/colegio-medico-denuncia-que-mas-de-1-500-galenos-no-han-recibido-reajuste-salarial.html>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/canasta-basica-y-salarios-relacion-desigual-en-la-realidad-hondurena/>

13/06/18

Tolupan; Post-Electoral Crisis - Repression, Ways Forward; Corruption - Pandora, Health Secretariat, Banasupro; Miskita; Femicide; Church; Employment; Constitutional Assembly; National Police; and No Country for Students

Ramón Matute, an indigenous Tolupan leader affiliated with MADJ, was attacked with a machete by another member of the community in San Francisco Locomapa.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-nuevo-ataque-contra-lider-indigena-del-madj/>

Amnesty International published a new report on the post-electoral human rights violations. "Protest prohibited: Use of force and arbitrary detentions to suppress dissent in Honduras" documents how the authorities used excessive force and arbitrary or prolonged pre-trial detention, among other measures, to suppress the wave of demonstrations that followed the elections on 26 November 2017 and to discourage further dissent."

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/06/honduras-authorities-are-denying-due-process-to-people-arrested-during-post-election-protests/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/696-informe-de-amnistia-internacional-denuncia-persistencia-en-violaciones-a-ddhh-luego-de-crisis-post-electoral>

CESPAD and the Alignment against Continuity (CCC) invite to a public forum next Wednesday, June 20, in Tegucigalpa: "After the Electoral Fraud: Possible Ways Out of the Current Political Crisis in Honduras".

See Attachment

A new corruption scandal erupted in Honduras. Initially, the MP went after two public officials at the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG). Then, they informed the public about further investigation into two foundations and yesterday, the MACCIH revealed that no less than 38 public officials and congresswo/men are involved in what is called the Pandora Case. They are accused of stealing 282 million Lempiras of public money.

It also makes international headlines. AP News reports that the money was used to fund political parties, "including the 2013 campaign of President Juan Orlando Hernandez".

ConfidencialHN published more details of the investigation. Part of the money was used to finance the National Party credit card, the so-called Cachureca, which made its round before the 2013 election.

The corruption scandal also involves the Liberal Party, which received over 100 million Lempiras.

They reacted with a press release announcing an emergency meeting. The National Party also emitted a press release trying the bad apples argument.

JOH pretends not knowing much about the case in a public appearance.

The MP requested the arrest of the Liberal congressman Elvin Santos Ordoñez and the Nationalist congressman Edgardo Martínez.

In total, the case so far involves one current Liberal and four current National congresswo/men.

ConfidencialHN explains how exactly the money was diverted using the two foundations.

<http://elpulso.hn/38-funcionarios-vinculados-al-caso-pandora/>

<https://apnews.com/1edcfa750d8f4cf2b09f035b4e1ad149>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/13/caso-pandora-vinculan-38-funcionarios-en-multimillonario-saqueo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-pandora-maccih-sacude-a-la-clase-politica-con-nueva-denuncia-de-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/13/partido-liberal-de-honduras-recibio-mas-de-100-millones-por-multimillonario-robo-estatal/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/13/con-dinero-saqueado-de-la-sag-joh-financio-la-tarjeta-cachureca/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/13/partido-liberal-convoca-a-reunion-de-emergencia-para-discutir-denuncia-de-la-maccih-y-anuncia-su-colaboracion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/13/ante-caso-pandora-partido-nacional-dice-que-rechaza-cualquier-acto-de-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/13/esperare-a-informarme-mas-sobre-lo-que-ha-denunciado-la-maccih-para-pronunciarme-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/13/piden-orden-de-captura-contra-elvin-santos-y-un-exfuncionario-por-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/13/elvin-santos-rodolfo-irias-navas-william-chong-wong-y-jacobo-regalado-entre-los-requeridos-por-el-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/13/asi-fue-el-robo-de-dinero-de-agricultura-y-ganaderia-por-oeneges/>

In a corruption case involving the Health Secretariat, ATIC arrested 12 people, among them the former Nationalist congressional candidate Karla "Karlita" Alfaro.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/13/arresto-de-excandidata-a-diputada-nacionalista-destaca-en-redada-anticorrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/13/honduras-arrestan-a-funcionarios-de-salud-por-presunta-corrupcion/>

And if this were not enough, in a third case involving the National Supplier of Basic Goods (Banasupro) further public officials were arrested.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/13/capturan-a-exgerente-y-a-otros-exfuncionarios-de-banasupro-acusados-de-corrupcion/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1187267-466/capturan-a-exgerente-de-banasupro-santos-ubaldo-cerrato-por-fraude-y-abuso>

ConexiHon published a detailed article on how the armed forces try to cover up the murder of three indigenous Miskita men on May 19.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/692-el-silencio-de-warunta-militares-encubrieron-asesinatos-de-tres-misquitos>

Radio Progreso shows how the Honduran State holds responsibility in cases of femicide by failing to act on complaints of domestic violence.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/yeni-otra-victima-del-estado-de-honduras/>

Radio Progreso highlights the importance of the public letter by Honduras' bishops on the political crisis in Honduras (see last week). "The word of the Honduran bishops couldn't be more appropriate than in such a moment of uncertainty and danger of the extreme manipulation of religion to justify the excesses of so much corrupt politics".

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/palabra-de-la-iglesia-13-de-junio-2018/>

According to the National Industries Association (ANDI), only 700'000 Hondurans have formal work.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/12/apenas-700-mil-hondurenos-tienen-un-trabajo-formal-segun-asociacion-de-industriales/>

Congress' Constitutional Matters Commission spoke with different sectors about the possibility of a constitutional assembly.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/uncategorized/academia-y-sociedad-civil-coinciden-en-constituyente-originaria/>

A police agent was arrested accused of kidnapping. The purging committee handed the MP over 1600 files of former police suspected of illicit acts.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1187322-466/capturan-a-polic%C3%ADa-hondure%C3%B1o-presuntamente-vinculado-a-secuestro>

<https://tiempo.hn/depuradores-entregan-al-ministerio-publico-mas-de-1600-expedientes-de-expolicias-sospechosos-de-actos-ilicitos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/onv-unah-226-universitarios-asesinados/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1187245-410/honduras-1522-estudiantes-murieron-violentamente-desde-2010>

**Convergencia
CONTRA EL
CONTINUISMO**



TIENEN EL AGRADO DE INVITARLE A LA
PRESENTACIÓN DEL INFORME:

"DESPUÉS DEL FRAUDE ELECTORAL: LAS POSIBLES SALIDAS A LA ACTUAL CRISIS POLÍTICA EN HONDURAS"



**20 DE JUNIO DEL 2018
HORA: 9:00AM - 11:30AM
HOTEL PLAZA EL LIBERTADOR
SALÓN DEL LIBERTADOR**



14/06/18

FPIC; Tolupan; LGBTI; Corruption - Pandora, Health Secretariat, IHSS, Congress; MACCIH; MP - Elections; US - Ambassador, Migration, Trump and Kidnapping by the Police

Avispa Midia reports on a gathering held by the Garífunas in Honduras, where they voted to reject the current bill on Free, Prior and Informed Consent proposed by the Honduran regime. Especially Article 2 of the proposed bill is very troublesome. It says that consultation does not imply a right to vote...

<https://avispa.org/estado-de-honduras-lleva-a-votacion-proyecto-de-ley-de-consulta-que-niega-derecho-a-veto-de-los-pueblos-con-respaldo-de-la-oit/>

MADJ published some more information on the attack against the indigenous Tolupan leader and MADJ member Ramón Matute in San Francisco de Locomapa, Yoro. The article especially highlights the background of the ongoing conflict and the deafening silence of the Honduran institutions.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/14/Tribu-tolupana-ante-inminente-desgracia-frente-al-silencio-institucional>

Today, a court in San Pedro Sula is expected to emit its verdict in a case against six army officials and soldiers accused of attacking the trans-woman Mónica Shakira Reyes.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/14/Dictar%C3%A1n-fallo-contra-6-militares-que-atacaron-a-integrante-de-poblaci%C3%B3n-LGTBI>

El Libertador published an overview of the 38 accused and the charges they face.

The head of the Liberal Party in Congress, Elvin Santos, presents the accusations against him in the Pandora corruption case as politically motivated.

El Libertador, meanwhile, published a confidential document in the hands of the MP on the accusations against Elvin Santos.

And the former Liberal magistrate at the TSE, Enrique Ortez, claims that the National Party has the main responsibility of the Pandora case.

The president of the Central Executive Committee of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya Medrano, announces that they won't defend people, but they will defend the Liberal Party.

He goes on to say that the corruption charges made public concern solely the administration of Elvin Santos.

The former Secretary of Finance, William Chong-Wong, also claims he is innocent as the only thing he did was transfer money from one place to another as ordered by the different ministries.

Carlos Hernández, the president of the Association of a More Just Society (ASJ), presents the Pandora case as proof that the system in Honduras works. Even more, he claims that it is the fulfillment of JOH's campaign promise. Coming from a JOH ally, this is quite cynical as there is abundant proof already from the IHSS case linking it to the financing of the National Party and so far this has not affected JOH and his closest allies.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2878-elvin-santos-padre-e-hijo-destacan-en-la-lista-de-corrupcion-del-caso-pandora>

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/14/Caja-Pandora-Con-saqueo-a-fondos-de-la-SAG-se-financi%C3%B3-el-partido-nacional>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/elvin-santos-denuncia-que-denuncias-de-corrupcion-son-una-jugada-politica2/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2880-al-descubierto-las-cuentas-de-elvin-santos-en-gestion-del-partido-liberal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/el-autor-materia-e-intelectual-de-toda-la-trama-pandora-es-el-partido-nacional-enrique-ortez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/14/yo-no-voy-a-defender-personas-yo-voy-a-defender-al-partido-liberal-luis-zelaya/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2879-caso-pandora-solo-implica-administracion-de-elvin-santos-partido-liberal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/exsecretario-de-finanzas-hondureno-sostiene-que-no-robo-dinero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/depurador-pide-reconocer-que-el-sistema-con-todas-sus-falencias-funciona/>

The former candidate for Congress for the National Party, Karla "Karlita" Alfaro, was released with alternative measures to imprisonment after being arrested for a corruption case at the Health Secretariat (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/14/en-libertad-de-defendera-excandidata-a-diputada-nacionalista-involucrada-en-pago-irregular-de-becas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/excandidata-a-diputada-nacionalista-se-defendera-en-libertad/>

A former protected witness for the MP in the IHSS corruption case now faces himself a payment request for over 1'150'000 Lempiras by his former wife.

<http://elpulso.hn/requerimiento-de-pago-en-contra-de-uno-de-los-tetos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/teto-debera-pagar-a-exesposa-mas-de-un-millon-de-lempiras-para-evitar-embargo-de-bienes/>

Ramón Enrique Barrios of the Alliance for Peace and Justice claims that the MP will release another 15 arrest warrants against current and former members of Congress.

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/36-proceso-electoral/ministerio-presentara-en-los-proximos-15-dias-requerimiento-fiscal-para-10-diputados-afirma-apj.html>

The former UNAH dean Julietta Castellanos claims that the Pandora case represents a strong reappearance of the MACCIH which gives Honduras hope. Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez also welcomes the new case highlighting that it represents only the tip of the iceberg.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/la-maccih-rersurgio-con-un-acto-que-nos-da-esperanza-julieta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/14/lla-caja-de-pandora-es-la-punta-del-iceberg-doris-gutierrez/>

El Pulso presents another aspiring Attorney General, the current Solicitor General (a position he only still has because Congress failed to elect his replacement), Abraham Alvarenga. He was a congressman from 2006-2010 and the deputy congressman of no other than JOH from 2010-2014.

<http://elpulso.hn/abraham-alvarenga-urbina-de-suplente-de-joh-a-possible-fiscal-general/>

El Libertador announces that Francisco "Paco" Palmieri will be the new US ambassador to Honduras. He has a past in Honduras and has close ties to Arturo Corrales.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2881-francisco-palmieri-virtual-nuevo-embajador-de-ee-uu-en-honduras>

"A Honduran man who was separated from his family after he had crossed the United States border into Texas with them last month strangled himself in his holding cell, according to Customs and Border Protection officials, public records and media reports."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/10/us/border-patrol-texas-family-separated-suicide.html>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle started a three-part series on Trump and his politics going from the global to the regional to the Honduran context.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/14/cumbres-y-soledades-del-poder/>

And another four police agents were attested for kidnapping.

<https://tiempo.hn/caen-policias-delito-de-secuestro/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/capturan-a-cuarto-policia-acusado-del-delito-de-secuestro.html>

15/06/18

MADJ; FPIC; Mining; Penal Code; National Police; Corruption - Pandora, National Police; Maras; MP - Elections; Women's Rights; Penitentiary System; Diplomacy; and the Role of Church

In a press release, MADJ demands a stop to the violence against the Tolupan people by corrupt leaders of FETRIXY who promote the theft of the natural resources belonging to the Tolupan people by an unscrupulous business sector and the support of the public authorities.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/15/MADJ-%C2%BFHasta-cu%C3%A1ndo-la-violencia-en-contra-del-sector-honesto-del-pueblo-tolup%C3%A1n>

El Pulso took up the discussions about the newly introduced Free, Prior and Informed Consultation Bill and the protest against it. It also explains how Honduras ratified the ILO Convention in 1995 only to start working on a FPIC Law in 2012. In 2016, this work became more concrete with the involvement of the UNDP, but the result was both opposed by Honduran indigenous organizations such as COPINH and OFRANEH as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights. Nevertheless, on May 23, the JOH regime introduced the bill in Congress.

About 400 people representing the Garífunas, meanwhile, met in Trujillo to jointly formulate their opposition to the bill in the current form denouncing that represents a grave threat to the survival of their people.

<http://elpulso.hn/que-pasa-con-la-nueva-ley-de-consulta-previa-e-informada/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/06/15/pueblo-garifuna-define-su-posicionamiento-respecto-a-la-ley-de-consulta-previa-libre-e-informada-impuesta-por-el-estado-de-honduras/>

This week, Pasos de Animal Grande already reported once on how the municipality of Tocoa together with the mining sector tries to invisibilize the local protest against mining projects. Now, a new article highlights how the mayor Adán Funez directly hinders the work of the departmental CONADEH representative Juan Frañó as well as of the journalist and Radio Progreso correspondent César Flores.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2172-estrategias-de-ablandamiento-contra-toma-de-alcaldia-vigilancia-y-obstaculizacion-del-trabajo-de-delegado-de-conadeh>

About two weeks ago, human rights organizations welcomed the derogation of the Article 335-B of the new Penal Code as it would have violated the freedom of expression. Nevertheless, another article creates similar problems and it still is in place. Article 335-A criminalizes social protests calling them terrorist acts. Libre congressman Juan Barahona believes that this article served as the basis to capture and imprison post-electoral protesters. The new Penal Code officially only becomes law next year, but many observers say that its problematic parts are already applied.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2173-aunque-no-esta-vigente-nuevo-codigo-penal-ya-se-esta-aplicando-articulo-que-criminaliza-la-protesta-social>

The National Police arrested one of its own for supposedly kidnapping a protected witness. ConfidencialHN raises the possibility that he was rather arrested because he was the spokesperson of the protest of some sectors inside the National Police against the post-electoral violence last year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/15/venganza-arrestan-a-exguardaespalda-de-exjefe-policia-ramon-sabillon/>

ContraCorriente summarizes this week's newest corruption revelation as another opening of a "box of corruption close to the president". The article highlights "the circle of corruption" that surrounds JOH.

Oscar Miguel Marroquín challenges the MACCIH to go after JOH as "thinking that everyone in the National Party is corrupt except Juan Orlando Hernández is virtually impossible".

InSight Crime cites various experts raising doubts if these newest revelations will lead to any meaningful results.

ConfidencialHN published new documents highlighting how the corruption case evolved.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/15/se-abrio-otra-caja-de-corrupcion-cercana-al-presidente/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/15/hasta-cuando-la-maccih-dejara-de-arropar-a-juan-hernandez/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-anti-corruption-probe-implicates-president-opposition/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/15/vida-de-potentados-asi-fue-la-ruta-del-saqueo-multimillonario-de-la-sag-por-inocentes-convenios/>

The Appeals Court in Tegucigalpa rejected an appeal by the former police commissioner Jorge Alberto Barralaga Hernández and opened a trial against him for corruption. According to Criterio, the appeal was already rejected in January, but only made public now.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/15/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contr-excomisionado-barralaga-y-la-pareja-de-wilter-blanco/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/15/exjefe-policial-y-pareja-de-capo-extraditado-seguiran-encarcelados/>

InSight Crime reports: "Evidence presented in a Honduras court that a former mayor's campaign was partly financed by the MS13 — the first such case in the country — is a new sign pointing to the gang's increasing infiltration of local politics across the region."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-trial-ties-between-mayor-ms13-first-time/>

Next week, the nominating committee is expected to present the five final candidates for the position of Attorney General. Nine out of the 18 remaining candidates had complaints filed against them which further decreased the confidence in this process. Radio Progreso offers an overview of the process so far and the problems with it.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/aspirantes-denunciados-pierden-credibilidad-en-eleccion-de-titulares-del-ministerio-publico/>

CEM-H with the support of Mundubat presented to the public a new university course on feminist economics dedicated to the great feminist leader Melba Reyes Gómez who died last year.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/15/mesoamericanas-en-resistencia-inauguran-diplomado-en-economia-feminista-melba-reyes-gomez/>

El Pulso reports on the inhuman situation in Honduras' prisons. More than 19'000 persons are incarcerated, a number growing every day, and a big part of them lack basic living conditions such as access to drinking water. According to the article, inmates in the "high-security" prisons get by by drinking water from plastic bags.

<http://elpulso.hn/carceles-de-maxima-seguridad-la-tolva-y-el-pozo-son-abastecidas-de-agua-en-bolsas/>

Honduras nominated a new ambassador for Germany.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/juramentan-a-la-exministra-de-comunicaciones-como-embajadora-de-honduras-en-alemania.html>

With all the discussions around the bill to have mandatory bible reading in public schools, Radio Progreso reflects on the role of the church in society and emphasizes how Honduras' constitution promotes the separation of State and Church.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/biblia-iglesia-y-sociedad/>

16/06/18

LGBTI; Mining - Protest, Collapse; MP - Elections; Poverty; US; and Distracted by Soccer

A court in San Pedro Sula found six soldiers guilty of breach of the

duties of public servants. Back in 2014, the trans-woman Mónica Shakira was attacked a man and the soldiers failed to help her.

<https://tiempo.hn/militares-culpables-por-no-ayudar-a-travesti-agredido-por-doctor/>

After 11 day of a peaceful occupation, the protesters succeeded to bring the local authorities to the table in Tocoa, Colón to discuss a public meeting to decide on mining projects in the region. The first meeting with the local authorities is supposed to take place tomorrow.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2174-termina-toma-en-toca-presion-ciudadana-logra-sentar-a-autoridades-locales-para-hablar-de-cierre-de-mineras>

A mining collapse in Retiro, Olancho led to the death of four miners. An additional five miners were hurt.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/16/obreros-mueren-tras-derrumbe-en-mina-de-olancho/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1188297-466/derrumbe-en-una-mina-deja-cuatro-muertos-y-cinco-heridos-en-olancho>

El Pulso a step-by-step explanation of the selection and election process of the Attorney General and their Deputy.

<http://elpulso.hn/como-se-elige-al-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-de-honduras/>

The Association for the Defense of Basic Goods in Honduras (ADECABAH) warns of a price rise for some 60 food items in the coming days. Additionally, the back and forth regarding the price of public transport seems to have ended by the official announcement that the price will be defined this coming week. One week ago, the JOH regime first announced that the prices won't rise, only to announce a day later that they won't rise during this, i.e. last, week... And of course, there is the almost weekly price rise in fuel. El Pulso asks Julio Raudales about the reasons for this.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-mas-de-60-productos-alimenticios-aumentaran-su-precio-en-los-proximos-dias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/16/honduras-anuncian-inminente-aumento-a-tarifas-del-transporte/>

<https://tiempo.hn/la-proxima-semana-se-definira-la-nueva-tarifa-del-transporte-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/por-que-suben-los-combustibles/>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published the second part of a three-part series on Trump and the effects of his policies on the global, regional and Honduran level.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/16/la-utilidad-de-la-incoherencia-y-la-vulgaridad-para-asustar/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-planeta-en-una-pelota-el-peligro-de-la-distraccion-16-junio-2018/>

17/06/18

Corruption - Pandora, Banasupro; MP - Elections; Journalists; and Pandora in Honduras

One of the main suspect in last week's revealed Pandora corruption case, the former Secretary of Finance, William Chong Wong, died on Sunday morning. He had suffered from cancer in the last years.

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana believes that the Pandora case shows how political will is a determining factor when it comes to fighting corruption and that the MP, i.e. UFECIC, and the MACCIH can

still bring to the light corruption cases if they act independently of the other state powers. But for this to happen, they should benefit from popular support. Therefore, ^hHe wonders why the revelation did not lead to more popular outcry as once more funds destined to a vulnerable group (in the IHSS case the sick, here campesinxs) got robbed by a corrupt political elite.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/17/muere-el-exministro-de-finanzas-william-chong-wong/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pn-muerte-de-william-chong-wong/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/17/y-la-indignacion-popular/>

A court is expected to present the resolution of the initial hearing in the Banasupro corruption case.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/proximo-martes-se-conocera-resolucion-de-audiencia-inicial-para-implicados-en-casos-de-corrupcion-en-banasupro.html>

FiscaLeaks reports on growing rumors that Abraham Alvarenga, the current Procurator General of the Republic (PGR) and former Nationalist congressman, will become the next Attorney General. As El Pulso already noted (see last week), he has close ties to JOH. He even started his law career working for the law firm of JOH in Gracias, Lempiras. FiscaLeaks presents a further candidate. Hermes Omar Moncada is the personal assistant of the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Edgardo Argueta Pérez, who is also the president of the nominating committee for the new Attorney General...

<http://revistazo.biz/Fiscaleaks/index.php/reportajes/46-alvarenga-se-perfila-como-candidato-con-mayores-posibilidades-de-ser-fiscal-general>

<http://revistazo.biz/Fiscaleaks/index.php/reportajes/44-hermes-moncada-el-candidato-del-conflicto-de-interes>

The director of Radio Católica in Olanchito died in a car accident.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/17/honduras-muere-en-accidente-de-transito-el-director-de-radio-catolica1/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/16/la-tarjeta-roja-de-la-caja-de-pandora/>

18/06/18

HRDs; FPIC; Post-Electoral Repression; Hydroelectricity; MACCIH; Corruption - MP, US, Cardinal, Pandora; JOH - US; FUSINA; Dialogue; Penitentiary System; IMF; and Another Honduras is Possible

Front Line Defenders and other human rights organizations launched last November the HRD Memorial website and database " to commemorate all the human rights defenders (HRDs) who have been killed since the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders came into effect in 1998."

<https://hrdmemorial.org/about-the-project/>

<https://hrdmemorial.org/location/honduras/>

Oxfam took up the newest threat to Honduras' indigenous communities in the form of the FPIC draft bill: "Latest consultation bill draft in Honduras strips indigenous communities of their right to free, prior, and informed consent on deals that affect their lands and livelihoods."

<https://politicsofpoverty.oxfamamerica.org/2018/06/is-this-the-last-chance-for-honduras-to-protect-indigenous-consultation-rights/>

US Secretary Pompeo emphasized the "need to hold security forces accountable for alleged human rights abuses, particularly in the aftermath of the November 2017 elections" in a meeting with JOH (see also further down).

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/06/283310.htm>

A new article by Defensores en Línea offers an overview of the resistance by the Lenca community in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán against a hydroelectric project by PROGELSA and SERMACO. The latter belongs to the head of the Liberal Party in Congress, Elvin Ernesto Santos. He has just been accused of being part of the Pandora corruption case. Already back in 2015, the inhabitants of Reitoca and neighboring communities organized themselves in opposition to the project.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lencas-de-reitoca-rechazan-proyecto-hidroelectrico/>

In another visit to the US, JOH was asked by the US Secretary Pompeo to nominate a new spokesperson for the MACCIH (see also further down). Just hours later, Luiz Antonio Guimarães was presented as the new MACCIH spokesperson...

Guimarães is a former Brazilian public prosecutor and General Procurator in São Paulo.

This Thursday, the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies of the American University in Washington will present their report on the first two years of the MACCIH in Tegucigalpa. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion including the ad-interim MACCIH spokesperson Ana María Calderón Boy, Libre congressman Yahvé Sabillón, the head of the investigative unit at the CNA Odir Fernández, and the founder of the Anti-Corruption Student Coordination Gabriela Blen. The most recent corruption case by the MACCIH, the Pandora case, continues to inspire reflections by various political commentators.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/departamento-de-estado-urge-a-hernandez-nombre-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1189086-466/luiz-antonio-guimar%C3%A3es-es-el-nuevo-vocero-de-la-maccih>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1189089-466/qui%C3%A9n-es-luiz-antonio-guimar%C3%A3es-marrey-el-nuevo-vocero-de-la-maccih>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1189106-466/luiz-ant%C3%B4nio-guimar%C3%A3es-marrey-hab%C3%ADa-acusado-a-lula-da-silva-en-el>

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/maccih-piedra-en-el-zapato-de-los-corrutos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/pandemonio/>

The UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Diego García-Sayán, expressed his concern about the participation of suspected corrupt officials in the race for the next Attorney General. He further denounced that civil society had been excluded from the process.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23207&LangID=E>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/700-experto-de-la-onu-preocupado-por-exclusion-de-sociedad-civil-en-eleccion-de-fiscal-general-hondureno>

The US announced to withdraw the visa of 16 congresswo/men suspected of corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/juan-hernandez-viaja-a-washington-en-medio-de-noticias-de-desvisados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/cada-pais-decide-quien-es-grato-o-no-grato-expresidenta-del-poder-judicial1/>

Criterio likens the still to be opened corruption investigation against the Honduran Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga as another possible "box of the Pandora".

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/otra-caja-de-pandora-podria-abrirse-en-la-iglesia-catolica-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/habla-la-viuda-estafada-maradiaga-sabe-todo-lo-que-hace-el-obispo-pineda/>

The original Pandora corruption case continues to cause infights in the Liberal Party. Elvin Santos accused Luis Zelaya of blackmailing and feeding false information to the MACCIH.

Zelaya, meanwhile, said that the Elvin was high on emotions when he had said these things.

The head of ENEE and National Party activist Jesús Mejía blames the MACCIH for the death of the former Secretary of Finance William Chong Wong. He had suffered of cancer for many years and died last week just days after the MACCIH highlighted his participation in the Pandora case. He went on to threaten the head of the CNA, Gabriela Castellanos, with prison...

Another article by ConfidencialHN shows that he may very well be only protecting himself. ConfidencialHN highlights various irregularities surrounding him and his position.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/elvin-santos-acusa-de-chantajista-a-luis-zelaya-y-de-haber-sorprendido-a-la-maccih-con-informacion-falsa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-pandora-llega-elvin-santos-se-defiende-y-acusa-a-luis-zelaya-de-chantaje/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/las-emociones-traicionan-a-elvin-santos-luis-zelaya/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/luis-zelaya-dice-entiende-situacion-emocional-y-el-estres-que-atravesia-elvin-santos.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/activista-nacionalista-arremete-contrala-maccih-por-muerte-de-exfuncionario1/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jesus-mejia-considera-que-chong-wong-murio-por-el-dano-que-le-causaron-acusaciones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/ciberpelea-gerente-de-la-enee-amenaza-con-carcel-a-directora-anticorrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/jesus-mejia-usurpo-funciones-del-exgerente-de-hondutel-para-firmar-contrato-con-carriers/>

JOH traveled once more in less than a month to the US to meet with US Secretary Pompeo. "They discussed how to improve regional security, strengthen government institutions, and combat corruption. The Secretary stressed the importance of the Organization of American States' Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) and the urgent need for a new head of this body so it can continue to work effectively. (...) and the need to hold security forces accountable for alleged human rights abuses, particularly in the aftermath of the November 2017 elections."

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/06/283310.htm>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/departamento-de-estado-urge-a-hernandez-nombre-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

Félix Cesario, journalist and HRDs who survived the 1980s in Honduras, draws our attention to the significance of a FUSINA press release two weeks ago. In it, they warn about so-called "insurrection commandos" and Cesario fears that this could prepare the ground for false-positives, i.e. the murder of Hondurans presented as terrorists.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/699-se-moderniza-el-espionaje-militar>

The pre-dialogue is about to start its tenth round this week and both Nasralla and Luis Zelaya still await that the National Party finally accept a binding dialogue and an international mediator. The National Party, meanwhile, is about to present a counter offer this Wednesday.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/nasralla-y-luis-zelaya-aun-esperan-que-hernandez-accepte-un-dialogo-vinculante/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/asesor-de-nasralla-espera-que-el-gobierno-accepte-firmar-pacto-vinculante-en-eeuu/>

Honduran authorities announced that they captured three of the seven inmates that had escaped from the prison in Yoro.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/recapturan-tres-de-siete-reos-que-escaparon-de-carcel-en-yoro/>

The former minister Gustavo Alfaro announced that Honduras may sign a new agreement with the IMF this October.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/exministro-alfaro-preve-firma-de-un-nuevo-acuerdo-con-el-fmi-para-octubre.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/18/otra-honduras-es-posible/>

19/06/18

Honduras Daily: MADJ; Berta - Trial; Torture; MACCIH; Corruption - US, Pandora; MP - Elections; Post-Electoral Repression; National Police; US; Debt; Poverty; BID; Political Art; Run JOH, Run

MADJ sent out an alert yesterday regarding the protest against the hydroelectric project in Pajuiles, Atlántida. The National Police showed up once more at the protest camp accompanying the businessman responsible for the project, Jason Hawit. Instead of protecting the local inhabitants, who should benefit from protective measures granted by the IACHR, the police helped bring the company materials to the construction site.

https://www.facebook.com/MovAmplioHn/?hc_ref=ARTxawHTiN674c_DuOg3Llzj5GrxGFyQBaglnNOq2isjZBnpj87fvejCpSSWpN4p0&fref=nf

The trial against the material authors of the murder of Berta Cáceres has been scheduled for September (10-28).

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/19/juicio-oral-y-publico-de-los-autores-materiales-del-crimen-de-bertha-caceres-sera-en-septiembre/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1189479-466/en-septiembre-sera-el-juicio-del-crimen-de-bertha-caceres>

An international expert mission by the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) arrived in Honduras on Monday to investigate the situation in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2176-mision-internacional-verificara-practicas-constitutivas-de-tortura-o-malos-tratos-en-honduras>

Apparently, JOH and OAS' Secretary General Luis Almagro made some behind the scenes agreement on Monday evening before announcing Luis Antonio Guimarães Marray as the new MACCIH spokesperson. Almagro seems to have

intended with the agreement to calm the Honduran government, while at the same time further limiting the space for the MACCIH and silencing its spokesperson.

El Pulso published a portrayal of Marray. Even though he seems objectively qualified, El Pulso stresses the importance to go beyond just mere qualifications and there we find that he has close ties to the political right in Brazil, especially the PSDB.

Wilfredo Méndez, HRD and director of CIPRODEH, highlights how Marray's nomination followed after a call by the US to JOH.

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellano agrees.

The US chargé d'affaires Heide Fulton congratulated JOH "for taking the initiative to reaffirm his administration's commitment to fight corruption and impunity by welcoming the new MACCIH spokesperson"...

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/19/con-el-addendum-parece-que-se-quiere-silenciar-al-nuevo-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<http://elpulso.hn/los-vinculos-de-luis-marrey-nuevo-vocero-de-la-maccih-con-la-derecha-brasilena/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/19/mientras-tengamos-gobernantes-corruptos-sin-dignidad-eeuu-seguira-decidiendo-por-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/19/nombramiento-de-vocero-de-la-maccih-significa-que-gobierno-de-joh-esta-bajo-presion-de-ee-uu-edmundo-orellana-video/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/19/ee-uu-felicita-a-joh-tras-nombramiento-del-jefe-de-la-maccih/>

According to Edmundo Orellano, the corrupt elite in Honduras fears more the loss of a visa to the US than a trial for corruption. The US announced on Monday, that they withdrew the visa of some 16 congresswo/men (see also yesterday).

The historian Edgar Soriano does not dismiss the possibility that many more "pawns" will fall in the corruption scandals in Honduras. "The [US] State Department has a plan to safeguard the institution structure in the eyes of the public and restructure the political landscape..." He calls for a "popular front" demanding that the heads of these corruption scandals fall.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/19/los-corruptos-temen-mas-quedar-sin-visa-que-a-una-acusacion-edmundo-orellana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/19/preven-sacrificios-de-peones-para-salvaguardar-intereses-de-eeuu/>

Pasos de Animal Grande gives a voice to the campesino sector who has been especially negative affected by the Pandora corruption scandal as money from the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat was stolen.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2177-malestar-en-el-sector-campesino-por-el-desvio-de-fondos-de-la-sag-en-caso-pandora>

Radio Progreso summarizes the election for the Attorney General the following way: "The next election of the Attorney General of the State will be remembered as the most questioned and illegitimate in the history of the country due to the evident interests at stake and the movements, negotiations and manipulations of the institutionality to place at the head of the MP someone who do not represent a threat to power." The president of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, told Proceso Digital that Honduras does not currently meet the conditions for electing an Attorney General.

ConfidencialHN found out that the former Supreme Court magistrate Lidia Estela Cardona traveled with JOH to the US to meet with OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro before announcing the new MACCIH spokesperson. This may be significant, because Cardona is currently running for the position of the Attorney General.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn/la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-y-el-conflicto-de-intereses/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-hay-condiciones-en-el-pais-para-eleccion-del-fiscal-dice-luis-zelaya.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/el-brasileño-luis-marrey-guimaraes-es-el-nuevo-jefe-de-la-maccih/>

Honduran civil society is taking up a recent statement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as a call for action. Pompeo told JOH to have the responsibility of state security forces during the post-electoral crisis investigated (see also yesterday).

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-no-logro-aclarar-muertes-pre-y-post-electorales-segun-defensores-dedd-hh/>

A recent murder trial highlights the two-tier judicial system in Honduras. The MP demanded that the former police director Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla appears in court as a witness, but they failed to locate him...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2178-cuando-la-justicia-cierra-los-ojos-tribunal-de-sentencia-no-encuentra-al-tigre-bonilla>

"The US is withdrawing from the United Nations human rights council, the Trump administration announced on Tuesday, calling it a "cesspool of political bias" that targets Israel in particular while ignoring atrocities in other countries."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/19/us-quits-un-human-rights-council-cesspool-political-bias>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/19/estados-unidos-se-retira-del-consejo-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu/>

According to the Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábor, internal and external debt reached over 42% of GDP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/19/deuda-publica-de-honduras-alcanza-el-42-por-ciento-del-pib-finanzas/>

A step rise in electricity prices may further exacerbate poverty in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/19/gobierno-hondureño-justifica-fuerte-aumento-a-la-energía-eléctrica/>

Honduras signed a \$60 million loan agreement with the BID.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-firma-convenio-por-60-millones-con-bid-para-mejorar-convivencia-ciudadana.html>

The two Honduran social activists and artists Karla Lara and Melissa Cardoza started a tour in Europe.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2886-cantora-feminista-hondureña-karla-lara-se-toma-europa>

Just look at the pictures.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/18/joh-sigue-con-la-ofensiva-diplomática-a-favor-de-tepesianos-%d6%b9/>

20/06/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - ASJ; FPIC; Corruption - UFECIC, Congress, World Bank, Labor Unions, NGOs; MACCIH; Dialogue; JOH - US; Migration; Forced Displacement; US; Poverty; and Gentrification in Tegucigalpa

COPINH denounces that the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ), an

NGO with close ties to the JOH regime and mostly US-funded, launched a homepage dedicated to Berta Cáceres. "It is public knowledge that the work of the ASJ has never shared the principles of struggle of Berta Cáceres and COPINH, on the contrary, its desire to whitewash the image of the illegitimate government of JOH, during which they murdered our companion, and its loyal promotion of the measures promoted by US interference in Honduras are a clear example of the position diametrically opposed to the position of a popular and belligerent organization such as COPINH. (...) We publicly disavow the use of the name and image of our Berta Cáceres by the ASJ and its media Revistazo..." Just yesterday, the director of ASJ, Carlos Hernández, said that the US "does not interfere in internal politics" of Honduras...

<https://copinh.org/2018/06/desautorizamos-la-utilizacion-de-berta-caceres-por-parte-de-la-asj-y-revistazo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/20/copinh-y-familia-de-berta-caceres-desautorizan-a-asj-y-revistazo-com-de-utilizar-su-imagen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/20/somos-pediguenos-segun-dirigente-civil-ee-uu-no-intervine-en-politica-hondurena/>

OFRANEH published a new article on the controversy about the introduction of the Prior Consultation Bill in Congress.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2018/06/20/honduras-honduras-tiene-sentido-efectuar-consultas-sino-tenemos-derecho-a-decidir-sobre-nuestros-territorios/>

Radio Progreso dedicates its daily 'Nuestra Palabra' to the public prosecutor Luis Javier Santos. He belonged to the four prosecutors who went on hunger strike in 2008 to denounce the corruption and the lack of resources to fight it at the MP. After an almost deadly attack against him and years in exile, he returned to Honduras to continue his struggle against corruption and now coordinates UFECIC. According to Radio Progreso, his life and the lives of his team are anew in danger due to their work.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/luis-javier-santos-el-fiscal/>

The former congressman Augusto Cruz Asensio asks the US embassy to hand him back his US visa. He is one of the 16 former and current congresswo/men who had their visas withdrawn for possible acts of corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/20/cruz-asensio-pide-a-representante-de-ee-uu-que-le-restituya-su-visa-ya-que-no-es-corrupcto/>

The Guatemalan investigative news portal reports on the funding of corrupt projects in Guatemala and Honduras by the World Bank and its private financing body IFC. The Honduran bank Ficohsa is also involved.

<https://www.no-ficcion.com/project/banco-mundial-y-su-financiera-ifc-han-apoyado-la-corrupcion-en-centroamerica>

<http://elpulso.hn/banco-ficohsa-y-el-bm-son-senalados-por-periodico-guatemalteco-de-financiar-a-empresas-acusadas-de-corrupcion/>

Oscar Miguel Marroquín wonders why Honduras' labor union do not react to the widespread corruption cases, why they don't take to the streets in protest.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/20/en-honduras-las-centrales-obreras-ciegas-sordas-y-mudas-ante-la-corrupcion/>

The JOH regime expected 88 NGOs to register to get access to public funds. Only 12 did so.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/20/solo-12-de-88-oeneges-se-han-registrado-para-acceder-a-dinero-publico/>

The former Nationalist congressman Rodolfo Zelaya claims that the MACCIH is not impartial because it directs all its energy against one party - supposedly the National Party. He demands that the new spokesperson looks at corruption cases involving other parties.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/20/cuestionan-sesgo-de-la-maccih-y-piden-investigar-gobierno-de-mel/>

Once more, the JOH regime denied to make the results of the dialogue binding.

They argued that no time should be lost to travel to New York to sign a binding agreement as the decision on electoral reforms are more urgent. Observers of Honduras are well aware, that it was the National Party who had no hurry to implement the 2013 EU recommendation for electoral reforms...

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/20/gobierno-rechaza-ir-a-eeuu-para-firmar-acuerdo-de-vinculacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/partido-nacional-pide-no-perder-tiempo-en-predialogo-y-que-se-impulsen-las-reformas-electorales.html>

JOH met with US Vice President Mike Pence yesterday. "[T]he two leaders reaffirmed their grave concern about the destabilizing impact of the crisis in Venezuela and the need to restore the country to democracy." And now hint of cynicism...

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/readout-vice-president-mike-pences-meeting-president-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/20/hernandez-habla-en-ee-uu-de-restaurar-la-democracia-en-venezuela/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pence-y-hernandez-abordan-el-narcotrafico-corrupcion-y-migracion.html>

Congress' Family Commission met to discuss the current emergency situation Honduran migrants face by the family-separating policy of the Trump administration. They will request a meeting with the US embassy in Honduras. Trump, meanwhile, signed an executive order to stop the separation of families.

<http://elpulso.hn/reunion-de-la-comision-de-familia-del-cn-por-crisis-migratoria/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2018/jun/20/tender-age-trump-children-separations-detention-shelters-latest-news-updates-live>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/20/trump-firma-orden-ejecutiva-para-ponerle-fin-a-separacion-de-familias-migrantes/>

COFADEH dedicates the World Refugee Day to the topic of forced displacement, a main driver of migration from Honduras. They spoke with Nubia Velásquez, the mother (or grandmother) of the student Eduardo Urbina, who had to flee to Costa Rica for facing threats in Honduras. Eduardo also wrote an article about his situation. Conadeh recognizes that the main causes for forced displacement are death threats, assassinations and extortion.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-desplazamientos-forzados-y-refugios-es-una-epidemia-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dia-mundial-de-la-persona-refugiada/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/20/amenazas-a-muerte-principal-causa-de-desplazamientos-forzadosconadeh/>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published the third and final part of his series on Trump and his effect on the world, the region and Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/20/amenaza-y-oportunidad-de-la-crisis-que-provocara-trump-3/>

Radio Progreso reports on the situation of the children living, working, begging and juggling in Honduras' streets.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-miseria-y-el-abandono-los-ha-llevado-a-ser-ninos-artistas-de-la-via-publica/>

ContraCorriente published a great article on the gentrification of Tegucigalpa's historic center.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/20/la-expulsion-cool-de-los-pobres-del-centro-de-tegucigalpa/>

21/06/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - ASJ; MADJ; Political Prisoners; FPIC; MACCIH; Corruption - Pandora, Congress; MP - Elections; National Police - HR, Corruption; Armed Forces; US; and Decent Work for Domestic Workers

Yesterday I wrote about the intended appropriation of Berta Cáceres and her struggle by the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ). While COPINH fervently denounced this, ASJ doubled down by publishing a picture on Twitter (mis)using Berta's elderly mother as legitimization for their actions.

And if in doubt about their closeness to the US, just hours later their chargé d'affaires published a tweet with the same persons and their outgoing HR officer Jason Smith. Apparently Smith received a recognition by ASJ for his work on human rights...this whole affair is beyond cynical.

<https://twitter.com/asjhn1/status/1009499060909330432/photo/1>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1009564713703936000/photo/1>

Radio Progreso warns of the sharpening of the conflict around the hydroelectric project by Hidrocep in affecting various communities in Tela, Atlántida. Together with MADJ, the communities oppose the project, but face growing repression by state security forces helping the company to impose the project.

In Germany and Austria, human rights and solidarity organizations wrote an open letter to the Austrian company Geppert Hydropower for delivering the turbines for the project.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/se-agudiza-conflicto-en-pajuiles-tela-por-construccion-de-represa-hidroelectrica/>

In German:

<https://hondurasdelegation.blogspot.com/2018/06/offener-brief-tiroler-turbinenbauer-in.html>

The National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners held a protest outside the MP. They denounce that the judge accompanying Fusina, Claudio Aguilar, is biased against the young men having dismissed the proof presented by their lawyers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/21/denuncian-persecucion-del-juez-claudio-aguilar-contra-presos-politicos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-de-los-presos-politicos-exigen-cese-a-la-persecucion-politica-y-libertad-para-sus-parientes/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/21/en-planton-frente-al-ministerio-publico-exigen-cese-a-la-persecucion-contra-los-presos-politicos/>

COPINH published their version of the draft bill for free, prior and informed consent in opposition to the one introduced by the National

Party in Congress.

<https://copinh.org/2018/06/anteproyecto-de-ley-de-consulta-libre-previa-e-informada-cpli-version-popular/>

The MACCIH announced the employment of two more international prosecutors and five more investigators.

Chuck Call, director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, published a blog post on the first two years of the MACCIH. He writes about its successes, but also highlights the campaign against it. "Especially since elections last November – whose process and outcome were widely questioned – the government and political elites have redoubled efforts to clip MACCIH's wings in multiple underhanded ways. (...) President Hernández is part of the whole-of-government campaign to undermine MACCIH."

Call recently was in Honduras to present their work on the MACCIH and spoke with ConfidencialHN.

Criterio published a long article on their presentation and their report (you can find the report with the fourth link).

Based on the report, InSight Crime concludes: "The MACCIH cannot win. Between the meddling by the government and the OAS, congressional and courtroom manipulation, and the impossible standard set by its cousin, the CICIG, the mission has been set up to fail. That is not to say it has not had success. (...) And as the report says, the MACCIH has actually gotten more convictions than the CICIG had in its first two years. But therein lies the trap. The Hondurans who clamored for the MACCIH want the mission to do cases, and they won't be satisfied with just anyone in jail. Trying to meet that expectation is a recipe for failure every time, especially with all the inherent obstacles in Honduras. The challenge for the MACCIH is not just to dodge efforts to get rid of it or debilitate it, but to shift expectations away from big, splashy cases and get down to the hard work of building resilient independent judicial institutions that can do the work when it eventually leaves."

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/maccih-anuncia-la-llegada-de-dos-fiscales-internacionales-y-cinco-investigadores-mas.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1190278-466/la-maccih-anuncia-la-contrataci%C3%B3n-de-siete-investigadores-internacionales>

<https://aulablog.net/2018/06/21/honduras-maccih-at-two-years/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/21/presentan-informe-dos-anos-de-maccih-avances-y-desafios1x/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/21/el-congreso-la-corte-y-almagro-han-sido-los-tropezos-de-la-maccih-segun-informe-de-clals/>

https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/upload/MACCIH_Spanish_final.pdf

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/how-honduras-maccih-loses-even-when-it-wins/>

The president of the Honduran Economists Association claims that Honduras loses some 20 billion Lempiras per year due to corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/21/corrupcion-en-honduras-deja-perdidas-por-20-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

Lidia Álvarez Sagastume was nominated as the judge to try the Pandora case. As with previous corruption cases, she is close to the National Party and she was recommended by the Evangelical Confraternity. It must be feared that once more the MACCIH uncovers a big case which gets undone in Honduras judicial system.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2889-caso-pandora-sera-juzgado-por-magistrada-que-aprobo-reeleccion-de-joh>

<https://tiempo.hn/juez-natural-en-caso-pandora/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) calls out to the responsible judge to sentence according to the law the two Nationalist congressmen involved in the impunity pact. Tomás Zambrano and Román Villeda are accused of abuse of authority, breach of duties of public servants, falsification of documents and offences against the system of government. They changed a law, according to them by accident, favoring corrupt politicians.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/21/organizaciones-civiles-piden-fallo-apegado-al-derecho-en-caso-fe-de-errata1/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-pide-apegarse-a-la-ley-a-juez-que-conoce-caso-pacto-de-impunidad-contra-diputados.html>

Already some weeks back, human rights organizations and social movements demanded a postponement of the election of the Attorney General, as the entity responsible for the final decision, Congress, has numerous members facing corruption trials. Neither the international community (at least publicly), nor the NGOs close to the regime took up this demand. Now that the US is making similar demands, ASJ suddenly presents it as reasonable idea...

The IACHR, meanwhile, insists that the nominating committee "prepare[s] a list of candidates under strict international human rights standards in order to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the next head of the Public Prosecutor's Office throughout the selection process."

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/21/miembro-de-asj-insiste-en-postergar-seleccion-de-proximo-fiscal/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-urge-a-honduras-a-garantizar-los-estandares-internacionales-de-independencia-e-imparcialidad-en-la-seleccion-de-fiscal-general-de-la-republica/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/705-cidh-llama-a-elegir-fiscal-del-mp-bajo-estandares-estrictos-de-derechos-humanos>

The delegation by the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) met with Human Rights Secretary Karla Cueva. She spoke of supposed advances in human rights training for police agents and soldiers. The article does not mention the widespread human rights violations by state security forces and the lack of investigating them, such as the most recent ones during the post-electoral crisis.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/06/19/delegacion-de-la-organizacion-mundial-contra-la-tortura-instruccion-en-derechos-humanos-a-policias-y-militares-es-fundamental/>

A former Honduran police official was arrested in Miami. The US accuses him of money laundering while in active duty.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/21/arrestan-en-ee-uu-a-exoficial-de-policia-acusado-por-lavar-dinero/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1190205-410/eeuu-pronuncia-sobre-detencion-exoficial-polic%C3%ADa-jose-leiva-nataren-corrupcion-honduras>

Oscar Miguel Marroquín juxtaposes the spending on the Armed Forces in Honduras and the high poverty levels reminding us of efforts in the 1990s to eliminate the Armed Forces in poor Latin American countries.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/21/opcion-entre-morir-de-hambre-o-continuar-manteniendo-al-ejercito-esta-planteada/>

El Heraldo reports about coming bilateral talks between Honduras and the US.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1190281-466/honduras-y-estados-unidos-analizar%C3%A1n-futuro-de-tepesianos-en-15-d%C3%ADas>

Civil society and women organizations demand that the JOH regime ratifies the ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/21/sociedad-civil-y-mujeres-organizadas-exigen-al-gobierno-que-ratifique-el-convenio-de-la-oit-sobre-las-empleadas-del-hogar-video/>

22/06/18

Honduras Daily: WHRDs; HRDs; Garífunas - IACtHR; Corruption - Congress, Pandora; MP - Elections; MACCIH; Electoral Reforms; JOH; Art; and Three 'Cracies to Rule Them All

Four women's rights and feminist networks (Plataforma 25 de Noviembre, Somos Muchas, Coalición Todas, and Tribuna de Mujeres Gladys Lanzas) denounce the "culture of death" in Honduras.

<http://derechosdelamujer.org/desde-la-desobediencia-pronunciamiento-contrala-cultura-de-muerte-en-honduras/>

Defensores en Línea highlights the commonalities of the struggles in the three southern departments of Honduras, La Paz, Valle and Choluteca. HRDs there face deforestation, appropriation of their water sources by companies, eviction from their land and criminalization for resisting.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-luchas-de-los-pueblos-de-la-paz-valle-y-choluteca-son-comunes/>

Three years ago, the IACtHR sentenced the Honduran State for violating the rights of the Garífuna communities El Triunfo de la Cruz and Punta Piedra. Nevertheless, the JOH regime has so far not complied with the sentence.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/estado-sigue-incumpliendo-sentencia-a-favor-de-comunidades-garifunas/>

The Due Process Law Foundation invites to a panel discussion on corruption in the Northern Triangle next Wednesday in Washington.

<http://dplf.org/es/news/corrupcion-y-derechos-humanos-en-el-triangulo-norte>

The first hearing in the case against the two Nationalist congressman (see yesterday) was postponed to next Wednesday. In another case involving congresswo/men, the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) informed that only 230 of the 768 former and current congresswo/men adequately reported about their spending of the funds received for social work.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/reprograman-para-el-miercoles-audiencia-contrad-dos-parlamentarios/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hasta-el-proximo-miercoles-se-conocera-fallo-en-caso-pacto-de-impunidad.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/solo-230-de-768-congresistas-que-recibieron-dinero-publico-han-presentado-liquidacion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tsc-tiene-en-su-poder-liquidaciones-por-fondo-departamental-de-230-diputados-de-un-total-de-768.html>

Congresswo/men are also involved in the Pandora corruption case. Now a reform they agreed upon in 2013 may come back to haunt them. Back then they changed Article 184 of the Penal Code to prohibit alternative measures to imprisonment in various cases such as extortion, homicide, money laundering, terrorism and crimes against the state. Nevertheless, their legal representatives now try to have this article declared unconstitutional.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/involucrados-en-caso-pandora-ahora-temen-a-la-ley-rasel-tome/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/diputados-y-exfuncionarios-acusados-comienzan-a-dilatar-proceso-del-caso-pandora/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/lluvia-de-recursos-contr-a-articulo-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal-para-evitar-prision-preventiva.html>

Many observers highlight the importance of the Attorney General election for a successful future anti-corruption struggle in Honduras. ContraCorriente offers a welcome summary of the process highlighting two sorts of candidates: those who currently face legal charges and those who are very close to people in power. Of the 18 remaining candidates, 9 voted for the National Party in the 2017 primary elections, 4 for the Liberal Party and the remaining 5 did not turn up in the census. Libre announced that they won't participate in the election. Even Congress' vice-president Mario Noé Villafranca now concedes that there aren't currently the best circumstances to elect an Attorney General given that various congresswo/men face corruption charges.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/22/la-eleccion-del-fiscal-entre-la-bruma-de-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/libre-reitera-que-no-participaran-en-la-escogencia-del-fiscal-general/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/vicepresidente-del-legislativo-no-ve-conveniente-escoger-nuevo-fiscal-mientras-juzgan-a-sus-companeros23/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-es-el-momento-para-que-el-congreso-nombre-un-nuevo-fiscal-general-diputado-villafranca.html>

The Canadian government welcomes in a public statement the nomination of Luiz Antonio Marrey Guimaraes as the new spokesperson for the MACCIH. In the same press release, they further welcome the structural changes made to the MACCIH as part of a deal between JOH and OAS' Secretary General Luis Almargo. This is rather disturbing, as many observers interpret the changes as a further reduction of their operating space.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2891-canada-pide-a-los-hondurenos-que-apoyen-la-maccih-y-la-ufecic>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/canada-da-la-bienvenida-a-nuevo-vocero-de-la-maccih.html>

The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) announced the publication of reform proposals for Honduras' electoral system in the coming days. They claim that they count with the support of the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/reformas-sociedad-civil-busca-sustituir-tse-por-un-consejo-nacional-electoral/>

The former inhabitants of the Godoy settlement in Tegucigalpa call out to JOH after they have been living on the streets for 15 days. In total 26 families, including 42 children, lost their homes due to an order coming from the Military Pension Institute (IPM).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/22/votamos-por-usted-apoyenos-damnificados-de-la-godoy-claman-por-ayuda-de-joh/>

ContraCorriente spoke with the Chilean filmmaker and producer Beatriz Rosselot about her work, but also the conditions to produce documentaries in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/22/la-militancia-del-documental/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cleptocracias-cacocracias-y-twiterocracias-22-junio-2018/>

23/06/18

Honduras Daily: Corruption; LGBTI; Torture; Armed Forces; Electoral Reforms; Poverty; Economy; and Something New, Something Old and Three Lawyers

MADJ called out for a protest on Tuesday, June 26 in support of the MP's Fiscal Unit against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC). They demand that the unit also goes after JOH for the various corruption cases already linked to him and especially his 2013 campaign. The day before, on Monday, there will be a public discussion at the UNAH about the popular movement against corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/23/convocan-a-movilizacion-y-planton-en-respaldo-a-la-ufecic-y-para-exigir-acusacion-contra-joh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the successful legal campaign by MADJ to get justice for the transwoman Mónica Shakira Reyes who was heavily beaten in front of six members of the Armed Forces failing to help her and one soldier even hitting her as well. On June 16, the soldiers were found guilty by a court in San Pedro Sula.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2181-madj-logra-condena-contra-militares-que-agredieron-a-integrante-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi>

The expert delegation by the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) finished its four-day visit to Honduras on Friday. As part of their preliminary findings, they denounce the use of "blows, dry or wet asphyxia, threats, sensory deprivation, sexual abuse and long periods of incommunication" in Military Police custody and in Honduras' prisons. State authorities, meanwhile, try to hide this information on the use of torture.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2180-conclusiones-preliminares-de-mision-internacional-autoridades-estan-escondiendo-la-informacion-sobre-la-practica-de-tortura-en-honduras>

Oscar Marroquín started a seven-part series on the murders of the Honduran Armed Forces. He starts with a commemoration of Isis Obed Murillo who was murdered during the post-coup d'état protests.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/23/memorias-del-glorioso-ejercito-hondureno-1-de-7/>

There is mounting pressure from the business lobby towards Congress to agree on electoral reforms.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/23/iniciativa-privada-pide-a-politicos-que-se-pongan-de-acuerdo-para-discutir-reformas-electorales/>

For 20 years, the Agape church and the organization Ecumenical Women for the Right to Decide handed out food to the hundreds of waiting Hondurans at the University Hospital. This week, for the first time, they were denied access to the hospital.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/06/23/iglesia-denuncia-que-en-el-hospital-escuela-les-impidieron-acceso-para-dar-comida-a-parientes-de-enfermos/>

El Tiempo reports that 90% of all small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) close after only two years for lack of finance and technical assistance.

<https://tiempo.hn/mipymes-cierran-falta-apoyo/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-transicion-en-la-administracion-del-cah-en-tres-actos/>

24/06/18

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Congress; MP - Election; Budget; Electoral Reforms; Forced Displacement; Cooperation - Spain; and Honduras vs. Ecuador - Not Over Yet

This past weekend, the president of the Supreme Audit Court, Ricardo Rodríguez, commented on the corruption investigation against former and current congresswo/men (see also previous e-mails). Criterio has a good overview.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/24/unos-800-diputados-estarian-siendo-investigados-por-la-ufecic/>

Also this weekend, the nominating committee to select the five final candidates for the position of the Attorney General met. Coiproden's coordinator Wilmer Vásquez reiterates that an Attorney General elected now, i.e. by a Congress whose members are investigated for corruption, would only fit the demands of Honduras' corrupt elite.

<https://tiempo.hn/este-fin-semana-se-reune-junta-proponente-para-escoger-nomina-al-mp/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-busca-un-fiscal-general-a-la-talla-de-los-corruptos-dice-coordinador-de-coiproden.html>

According to the Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábora, the Honduran government has only executed 27% of its annual budget so far.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/24/gobierno-afirma-que-solo-ha-ejecutado-el-27-por-ciento-del-presupuesto-de-2018/>

El Tiempo reports on the most recent electoral reform proposals by the Association for a More Just Society. The article opens: "Members of civil society [i.e. ASJ] and authorities of the American Embassy agreed on some electoral reforms that could be applied in the country's political system." They propose, among other things, to replace the TSE by a National Electoral Council. Electoral reforms will also be discussed as part of the pre-dialogue facilitated by Igor Garafulic, the UN representative in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/proponen-reformas-electorales-que-plantan-eliminacion-del-tse/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1191105-466/reformas-electorales-en-el-predialogo-honduras>

The head of the UNHCR in Honduras, Lorena Nieto, told Proceso Digital that Honduras needs international assistance in tackling the problem of forced internal displacement.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/honduras-necesita-ayuda-internacional-para-atajar-causas-del-desplazamiento.html>

As part of the debt conversion program with Spain (administrated by the BCIE), Honduras got four child care centers in the Central District.

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/06/24/espana-entrega-cuatro-centros-cuidado-infantil/>

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/06/24/canciller-ecuatoriana-no-respeto-acuerdos-honduras/>

25/06/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - EU; FPIC; HRDs; Corruption - US, Pandora; MP - Election; MACCIH; Lawyers; Dialogue; Transport Sector; Minimum Wage; and Honduras' Network of Power

50 members of the European Parliament published an open letter

expressing their concerns about about the human rights situation in Honduras, encouraging "the Honduran government to swiftly undertake an effective, independent and transparent investigation into the allegations of human rights breaches by security forces during the post-electoral period." They then go on to reiterate their demand for a "full and thorough investigation" into the murder of Berta Cáceres and "to review (...) and if needed, to revoke, any concession, contract, licence or any other benefit granted to the Agua Zarca project for violating their duty to undergo a free and informed prior consultation."

See Attachment

Ollantay Itzamná reports on the efforts by the Honduran as well as the Guatemalan government to circumvent the right to decide as part of free, prior and informed consent. They model their interpretation of the ILO convention 169 on the Peruvian law for 2011 which was mainly informed by a neoliberal development model and names the State as the final arbiter.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/193702>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the critique by the Journalists Association Honduras (CPH) and the Honduran Press Association (APH) of the deficiencies the failings of the protection mechanism for HRDs, journalists and justice operators.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2182-gremios-de-periodistas-senalan-que-no-observan-interes-del-estado-hondureno-en-fortalecer-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion>

The US has now officially canceled the 38 visas of the people accused of being involved in the Pandora corruption case. Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez speaks of a "moral sanction".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2893-honduras-desvisado-elvin-santos-y-37-mas-de-caso-pandora>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/suspension-de-visas-estadounidenses-a-funcionarios-es-una-sancion-moral/>

In the same case, the MP wants to have the 38 arrested and their goods seized.

The defense teams of the accused, meanwhile, continue to reinterpret Honduras' law, especially Article 184 of the Penal Code.

While the law was alright just four years ago when mostly the same congresswo/men approved it, now everything is wrong with it.

This caused some cynical reactions.

The coordinator of MADJ, Víctor Hernández, warns of the consequences of this new attempt at an impunity pact.

The defense team of the former mayor of Yoro, Arnaldo Urbina, uses a different tactic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/piden-capturar-a-complices-de-pandora-y-el-aseguramiento-de-bienes-por-saqueo-de-la-sag/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/piden-no-politizar-peticion-para-derogar-controvertidas-figuras-penales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/abogados-piden-respetar-los-tratados-internacionales-y-la-presuncion-de-inocencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/la-historia-demuestra-que-hasta-el-mas-poderoso-tarde-o-temprano-estara-abajo-sociologo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/declarar-inconstitucionalidad-del-184-no-garantiza-libertad-de-implicados-en-trama-pandora/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/25/corte-podria-retrasar-fallo-sobre-articulo-184-para-adormecer-casos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/ufecic-abusa-de-su-autoridad-al-pretender-juzgar-dos-veces-al-exalcalde-de-yoro/>

The nominating committee presented the five final candidates for the position of the Attorney General: Lidia Estela Cardona, Daniel Sibrián Bueso, Hermes Moncada, Carlos Cáliz and Abraham Alvarenga.

As in the past, these are not the best candidates according to the ranking by FiscaLeaks. They are on the following positions (out of 24): 15, 5, 17, 16 and 19.

In the last week, I reported on several occasions on the candidates. This is what I wrote about these five:

Cardona: She is a two times magistrate at the Supreme Court and helped pave the way for the illegal reelection of JOH.

Sibrián Bueso: He is the one closest to the current Attorney General, but he lacks experience in penal and penal procedures measures.

Moncada: She is the personal assistant of the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Edgardo Argueta Pérez, who is also the president of the nominating committee for the new Attorney General. No one seems to have cared about the conflict of interest.

Cáliz: I have nothing on him, maybe he is the token Liberal candidate.

Alvarenga: He was a congressman from 2006-2010 and the deputy congressman of no other than JOH from 2010-2014.

Already a week ago, rumors surged that Alvarenga will become the new Attorney General. With his nomination, this becomes more probable.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/junta-proponente-revela-nomina-final-de-candidatos-a-fiscal/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1191465-466/junta-proponente-elige-listado-de-cinco-aspirantes-a-fiscal-que-enviar%C3%A1-a/>

<http://fiscaleaks.com/>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1191483-466/qui%C3%A9nes-son-los-cinco-aspirantes-a-fiscal-elegidos-por-la-junta-proponente>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/25/procurador-de-la-republica-y-hombre-de-confianza-de-joh-el-virtual-fiscal-general-de-honduras/>

The new head of the MACCIH, Luiz Marrey Guimarães arrived in Honduras.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1191447-466/nuevo-vocero-de-la-maccih-ya-se-encuentra-en-honduras>

The lawyer Daniel Torres Herrera was shot down in Tegucigalpa. He was transported to the emergency room and it is not yet clear if he survived.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/atentan-contr-a-abogado-en-la-capital-hondurena.html>

UN representative Igor Garafulic believes that the pre-dialogue (after its 11th round!) may soon become a true national dialogue.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/anuncian-que-el-predialogo-pronto-ascendera-a-dialogo-nacional/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/a-finales-de-esta-semana-vamos-a-lanzar-el-gran-dialogo-nacional-preve-garafulic.html>

Mototaxi drivers protested in Tegucigalpa demanding more security.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/25/conductores-de-mototaxi-protestan-en-la-salida-al-oriente-de-tegucigalpa/>

According to the president of the Honduran Economists Association, Julio Raudales, 50% of Hondurans earn less than minimum wage.

<http://radiohrn.hn/2018/06/25/solamente-el-cinco-por-ciento-de-los-asalariados-en-el-pais-recibe-el-salario-minimo/>

Marvin Barahona published a report on "Elites, networks of power and the political regime in Honduras, 1990-2017" with the support of ERIC and Oxfam. On Radio Progres's homepage, you can see the presentation of the report. During the presentation, Oxfam's representative George Redman speaks of the creation of a legal and institutional architecture favoring Honduras' elites.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/redes-y-lealtades-detras-del-poder-2018/>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-ajedrez-del-poder-en-honduras-redes-y-lealtades/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/25/oxfam-en-honduras-se-ha-creado-una-estructura-legal-que-beneficia-a-las-elites/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/25/honduras-esta-herida-por-siete-punales-perversos-padre-melo/>

26/06/18

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Political Prisoners; Torture; Garífunas; Miskitas; Forced Disappearance; MP - Elections; Poverty; and Strong-Men Politics

COFADEH just published a new report called "David against Goliath - A Diagnostic on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Honduras".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Diagnostico-David-contra-Goliat.pdf>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-criminalizacion-y-leyes-nocivas-para-ejercer-su-labor-graves-riesgos-que-corren-los-defensores-en-honduras/>

The Canadian section of Amnesty International reports on the situation of the political prisoner Edwin Espinal.

<http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/courage-protest-and-man-called-edwin>

CPTRT has received 95 complaints of torture from May 2017 to May 2018. The majority of the complaints come from inmates.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/26/honduras-cptrt-ha-recibido-95-denuncias-de-torturas-contra-privados-de-libertad/>

Christopher Clark wrote a great piece on the use of community radio stations by the Garífuna in Honduras in defense of their land.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2018/06/honduras-indigenous-garifuna-use-radio-to-fight-for-their-land/>

The Miskita leader Edy Mcnab reminds us that while the most recent murder of three Miskita men is going to court, the 2012 massacre in Ahuas involving DEA agents rests in impunity.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/26/lider-misquito-lamenta-impunidad-en-masacre-ejecutada-por-la-dea/>

COFADEH requested information on three recent cases of forced disappearance (two in 2011, one in 2017) from the MP in San Pedro Sula. They denounce that the MP failed to conduct exhaustive investigations.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-mp-aun-sigue-sin-resolver-casos-de-desaparicion-forzada-en-la-zona-norte/>

On Monday evening, the selection committee published the list of the final candidates for the position of the Attorney General. I gathered some information on all in yesterday's e-mail. For more information and to consult their work proposal, you can go to the

homepage of the Judicial Power.

OACNUDH published a press release expressing its concern about the lack of publicity in the selection of the five final candidates. It calls on Congress to conduct an exhaustive analysis of their profiles.

Furthermore, they raise the problem that the Attorney General will be elected by various congresswo/men facing corruption charges. This does not seem to bother the selection committee as they officially handed over their list of the five final candidate to Nationalist congressman Tomás Zambrano who currently is being tried for changing a bill to grant impunity to congresswo/men...

But even worse things could await Honduras, if it is true what ConfidencialHN reports. As has been said since the beginning of this process, Óscar Chinchilla may very well continue another mandate as Attorney General. There was a constant back and forth in the beginning, but then Chinchilla said that he wasn't interested. Now, ConfidencialHN reports that JOH and Congress' president Mauricio Oliva couldn't decide on a joint candidate to replace Chinchilla and he will stay on. The deputy would be replaced by one of the two Liberal candidates and Lidia Estela Cardona would become the new Procurator. Congress must decide tomorrow, so will see soon if this really is the case.

Again according to ConfidencialHN, there was a dispute between JOH and Oliva, the former wanting to have Chinchilla stay on.

The fact that Congress already tomorrow is supposed to elect the new Attorney General is another worrying sign. Officially, they have until the end of August to do so and many observers criticize this unwarranted hurry.

<http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/PSFG/Paginas/PerfilesDeCandidatos.aspx>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2894-conozcalos-de-tres-nacionalistas-y-dos-liberales-saldran-fiscales-de-honduras>

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/26/naciones-unidas-preocupada-porque-algunos-procesados-por-corrupcion-examinaran-la-nomina-de-candidatos-a-fiscal/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alto-comisionado-de-onu-expresa-preocupacion-por-falta-de-publicidad-en-proceso-de-eleccion-del-fiscal.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/26/diputado-acusado-por-la-maccih-de-manipular-leyes-recibe-la-nomina-de-los-candidatos-a-fiscal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/26/se-consuma-la-conspiracion-oscar-chinchilla-repetira-en-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/26/conflicto-en-el-nacionalismo-pugna-entre-joh-y-mauricio-oliva-para-reelegir-a-chinchila-en-fiscalia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/iudpas-cuestiona-la-prisa-para-elegir-al-nuevo-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

Last month, a disputed erupted regarding the amount of poverty in Honduras. A new study financed by the Spanish cooperation agency AECID now finds that poverty in Honduras increased by 1.5% even though the JOH regime spent \$174 million for its Vida Mejor program.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pobreza-en-honduras-aumento-1-5-pese-a-millonaria-inversion-segun-estudio.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/26/asesor-de-transporte-noquea-al-presidente-de-la-adecabah/>

27/06/18

Honduras Daily: Golpe; Torture; MP - Elections; Corruption - Impunity Pact, UFEVIC, Congress; Electoral Reforms; LGBTI; Moskitia; Fiscal Policy; Drug Trafficking; US - Armed Forces; Deportation; and No "Vida Mejor" for Women

On the ninth anniversary of the coup d'état, Radio Progreso challenges the so-called international community for giving legitimacy to the JOH regime. While they try to hide behind technicalities regarding the veracity of electoral fraud during the November 26 elections, "nobody can justify without falling into irresponsibility and cynicism that the main fraud is still the re-election of a president when the Constitution, so widely violated, continues to establish that under no circumstances someone who has been president may be for a second term." Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle also dedicates an article to the anniversary, writing about continuity and rupture.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/reeleccion-sigue-siendo-el-gran-problema-a-resolver-27-junio-2018/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/27/continuidad-y-ruptura-en-honduras-2009-2018/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published another important article on Tuesday's presentation by the CPTRT on the use of torture in Honduras (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2184-segun-cprt-hay-una-estrategia-de-tortura-y-terror-del-estado-contra-a-la-sociedad-hondurena>

El Pulso published short portraits of the five final candidates for the position of Attorney General. They also link all of them to people in power: Alvarenga - JOH, Cálix - Cuéllar (Deputy Attorney General), Sibrián - Chinchilla (Attorney General), Moncada - Argueta (President of the Judicial Power), Cardona - Pepe Lobo and Oliva (former president and president of Congress).

The election is supposed to take place today - against protest from national and international actors, highlighting that a Congress full of congresswo/men accused of corruption is not the best entity to elect a new Attorney General. El Pulso explains how the election is organized, e.g. two thirds of congresswo/men have to agree on the same candidate. InSight Crime has a good overview of why Congress in the current state should not be able to elect a new Attorney General.

But it is not just Congress, but the candidates themselves that are a problem. The National Anti-Corruption Council denounces that three of the five have open charges against them, mostly linked to corruption. Criticism comes even from the business lobby organization COHEP. Libre reiterates that it won't participate in the election.

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana recommends the same thing to the Liberal Party and believes that Chinchilla may stay on ad-interim for a while.

<http://elpulso.hn/quien-sera-el-nuevo-fiscal-general/>

<http://elpulso.hn/como-se-llevo-a-cabo-la-seleccion-de-los-cinco-candidatos-para-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-congress-corruption-scandal-casts-doubt-attorney-general-selection/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-advierte-que-tres-aspirantes-a-fiscal-general-tienen-sendas-denuncias-en-mp.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/27/empresario-cuestiona-poca-transparencia-de-proponentes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/27/libre-no-participara-en-la-reparticion-del-ministerio-publico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jorge-calix-si-el-pn-nombra-fiscal/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/27/este-jueves-pueden-elegir-el-fiscal-general-adjunto-edmundo-orellana-mercado/>

A judge decided yesterday to drop the charges against Nationalist congressman Tomás Zambrano Molina while at the same time maintaining them for the Nationalist congressman Román Villeda Aguilar in the case of the Impunity Pact.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/27/juez-exonera-a-tomas-zambrano-y-ratifica-medidas-cautelares-a-roman-villeda/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dictan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-diputado-nacionalista-tomas-zambrano/>

MADJ held a rally outside the offices of UFECIC, the anti-corruption body of the MP. MADJ, itself celebrating its tenth anniversary, wanted to show public support for the work by UFECIC, who is headed by Luis Javier Santos, one of the three public prosecutor on hunger strike in 2008. MADJ also demands that UFECIC opens investigations into the "enormous corruption" promoted by the Concessions Law as well as the "chain of corruption" set in motion for the illegal reelection of JOH.

<https://www.movimientoamplio.org/single-post/2018/06/27/A-10-a%C3%B1os-de-lucha-El-MADJ-respalda-el-trabajo-de-la-UFECIC-y-exige-m%C3%A1s-avances-en-la-investigaci%C3%B3n-de-los-principales-corruptos-del-pa%C3%ADs>

A new report by Marvin Barahona published this week (see Tuesday's e-mail) explains how economic power translated in political power and vice-versa in the last 40 years in Honduras. Radio Progreso takes the case of Nationalist congressman Irías Navas to show how it works.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-dinosaurios-del-congreso-nacional-y-las-elites-de-poder-en-honduras/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez highlights "suspicious similarities" between the proposal for electoral reforms by the National Party and the ones by the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/27/sin-reformas-constitucionales-de-nada-sirve-hablar-de-cambios-en-ley-electoral/>

Proceso Digital reports that at least 267'000 Central-American members of the LGBTI community currently live in the US having fled violence at home.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/unas-267-000-personas-lgbti-de-centroamerica-viven-en-eeuu-por-la-violencia.html>

Jennifer Avila reports for ContraCorriente about the growing problem of "eco-trafficking" in the Moskitia, the theft of rare woods and wildlife.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/26/la-moskitia-hondurena-un-paraiso-para-el-ecotrafico/>

Radio Progreso denounces the widespread use of tax exemptions for businesses. The report by Barahona found that just between 2012 and 2016, the Maquiladora industry benefited from over 8.5 billion Lempiras in tax exemptions and the agro-industrial sector from more than 1.5 billion Lempiras.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/exoneraciones-fiscales-una-practica-abusiva-que-impide-una-recaudacion-tributaria-equitativa/>

A former police official has been sentenced to 12 years in prison in the US for drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/27/jueza-estadounidense-condena-a-12-anos-de-carcel-a-exoficial-de-policia-que-colaboro-con-el-capo-don-h/>

The US training ship Eagle will arrive in Honduras tomorrow to "reaffirm

the links of friendship and cooperation between the Armed Forces of the US and Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/27/buque-escuela-eagle-de-guardia-costera-estadounidense-llega-por-primera-vez-a-honduras/>

According to the International Migrants Observatory in Honduras (OMIH), the number of deported Hondurans has increased by 50% in the first four months of 2018.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/27/sube-en-un-50-por-ciento-el-numero-de-deportados-a-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/26/mujeres-de-honduras-siguen-siendo-pobres-con-la-vida-mejor/>

28/06/18

Golpe - Political Prisoners, Protest; State Violence; ADEPZA; HR Violations; MP - Elections; Corruption - IHSS, CAH; Women's Rights; US; and the Human Rights Situation in Honduras' South

Several national and international organization commemorated the ninth anniversary of the coup d'état in Honduras.

Radio Progreso shows how the beneficiaries of the coup d'état are the same that profit today, the same that still control the state and the economy today, the same that are behind the murder of Berta Cáceres and others.

Giorgio Trucchi published an interview with Bertha Oliva, the coordinator of COFADEH.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-mismos-nueve-anos-despues/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/golpe-civico-militar-nueve-anos-despues/>

<https://copinh.org/2018/06/a-9-anos-del-golpe-de-estado-de-2009-no-permitiremos-que-avance-la-tirania/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/28/golpe-de-estado-de-2009-elevo-la-conciencia-politica-de-los-hondurenos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2896-a-nueve-anos-del-golpe-de-estado-honduras-hervidero-de-problemas>

The US-Canadian Honduras Solidarity Network as well as a group of European solidarity organizations published statements including demands to release the political prisoners and for exhaustive and independent investigations of the human rights violations during the post-electoral crisis of 2017.

<http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/2018/06/28/honduras-nine-years-of-resistance-and-repression/>

https://www.facebook.com/cadeho.alemania/media_set?set=a.765616746974320.1073741866.100005780044194&type=3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DciGJNmT--c&feature=youtu.be>

See Attachments

Defensores en Línea reports that state security forces violently repressed a protest in Tegucigalpa with tear gas.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policias-atacan-a-manifestantes-en-el-noveno-aniversario-del-golpe-de-estado/>

ContraCorriente published a new ethnographic piece of journalism in collaboration with Colectivo Línea84. The article looks at the violent consequences for everyday Hondurans of militarized state action against organized crime. "Specifically, at the end of 2016, through a series of

three operations called Typhoon, the Hernández government conducted more than 100 raids, arrests, seizures and captures throughout the country. The operatives were declared a success. However, this success was accompanied by death squads, enforced disappearances, assassinations, torture and exile."

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/28/hijo-del-tifon/>

The human rights organization ADEPZA and their community radio La Voz de Zacate Grande are under new attacks by big landowners. They are intimidated via text messages and there are campaigns to denigrate ADEPZA and to divide the community. Furthermore, the armed forces located in the area are constantly harassing the young.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/terratenientes-amenazan-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-zacate-grande/>

The NGO Lawyers without Borders Canada (ASF-Canada) presented a new five-year project for Honduras: "Justice, Governance and the Struggle against Impunity in Honduras (2018-2023)". ASF-Canada has been working in Honduras since 2013, mostly with COFADEH and CIPRODEH.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/711-asf-canada-inicia-proyecto-para-victimas-de-violaciones-a-ddhh-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/abogados-sin-fronteras-lanza-un-proyecto-de-acceso-a-la-justicia-para-las-victimas-de-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

CEJIL publicly voiced its concerns regarding the deficiencies of the nomination and election procedure for a new Attorney General. It calls out to the Honduran State to thoroughly revise the process as there is enough time until the end of August to do so. The Democracy, Peace and Security University Institute (IUDPAS) published a press release demanding that congresswo/men charged with corruption do not participate in the election. As with previous recommendations by, for example, the IACHR, Congress ignored them. Nevertheless, Congress failed to get any candidates elected, as only 63 voted in favor of Hermes Omar Moncada as Attorney General and Daniel Sibrian Buezo as Deputy Attorney General (the election needs a two-thirds majority). It is difficult to interpret this result, as the consequence of a non-election would be to have Chinchilla stay on ad-interim. Some even speak of having him on for another five years, which would be against the law. While Chinchilla has been praised by many observers, he is still JOH's man and he has not so far dared to go after the president himself nor to those closest to him. Before the selection process even started, there were already rumors that the Nationalists will try to have Chinchilla stay on. The failed election in Congress was accompanied by protests by Libre congresswo/men. Later on yesterday, El Tiempo reported that the Liberal Party and the National Party agreed to reelect Chinchilla and one of the five final candidates would become his deputy.

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/28/honduras-debe-respetar-estandares-internacionales-en-la-eleccion-de-fiscal-general/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cejil-preocupado-por-proceso-para-elegir-fiscal-general-y-adjunto-en-honduras.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/piden-a-diputados-implicados-en-casos-de-corrupcion-que-queden-fuera-de-eleccion-de-fiscal-general/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/28/jugada-bipartidista-quema-a-los-dos-primeros-aspirantes-a-fiscal-chinchilla-por-otros-5-anos1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/28/diputados-gritan-en-el-congreso-que-no-participaran-en-seleccion-de-fiscal/>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-propondra-reeleccion-del-actual-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/yuri-sabas-dice-que-partido-liberal-respaldara-unicamente-al-actual-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla.html>

The brother of the former IHSS director Mario Zelaya, Carlos Zelaya, declared himself guilty of money laundering in the IHSS case in a US court.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/28/hermano-de-exdirector-del-ihss-se-declara-culpable-por-lavar-dinero-en-ee-uu/>

<https://tiempo.hn/hermano-de-mario-zelaya-culpable-lavado/>

The former directors of the Lawyers Association Honduras (CAH) continue to have to await their trial in custody. They are accused of stealing some 500 million Lempiras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/28/desestiman-liberacion-de-implicados-en-saqueo-al-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras/>

Pasos de Animal Grande has some additional information on the important study by CEM-H, Las Hormigas, CESPAD and Oxfam on the social benefit program Bono Vida Mejor. The program has already been criticized for its highly partisan spending, i.e. mostly Nationalist activists benefit, the study now additionally shows how it negatively affects women by cementing certain role models and increasing their workload.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2187-gobierno-ha-utilizado-el-bono-vida-mejor-para-someter-mas-a-las-mujeres-y-favorecer-a-sus-activistas-politicos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Bono-Vida-Mejor-VERSION-4-WEB.pdf>

US vice president Mike Pence met with the presidents of the Northern Triangle holding them responsible for the "migration crisis" of the US.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pence-eeuu-enfrenta-una-crisis-migratoria-y-la-mayoria-son-centroamericanos.html>

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1192576-466/triangulo-norte-y-vicepresidente-de-eeuu-mike-pence-abordaran-temas-de-seguridad>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-zona-sur-de-honduras-es-un-reflejo-del-pais-portatil-de-ruben-blades/>

29/06/18

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Golpe; HRDs; Torture; Ahuas; Miskitu; MP - Elections; Corruption - IHSS; US; Public Health; Political Parties;

As a preparation for the coming trial against eight men accused of having murdered Berta Cáceres, COPINH offers a webinar on June 10 to learn about ways to support the trial from members of COPINH and their legal team.

<https://copinh.org/2018/06/copinh-invita-al-siguiente-webinar/>

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Honduras commemorates nine year of resistance on the ninth anniversary of the coup d'état. "We have no choice but to fight, said Berta Cáceres, and taking her strength and that of all the others murdered, imprisoned, disappeared, migrated, hidden, and from all those who speak up, point out, accuse, organize, defend and fight, all rebellious, creative, beautiful, we remind ourselves: NI GOLPES DE ESTADO NI GOLPES A LAS MUJERES."

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As part of their diagnostic on the protection of human rights defenders, COFADEH published a list of seven threats or encirclements ('cercos): i) the extractive threat, ii) the divine threat, iii) the media threat, iv) the judicial threat, v) the militarization threat, vi) the populist threat, and vii) the international threat. Furthermore, the article includes a list of various laws negatively affecting HRDs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-se-empoderan-para-enfrentar-a-la-triple-aaa-y-sus-siete-espadas/>

An international expert delegation by the World Organization against Torture (OMCT) visited Honduras from June 18 to 22. While they already held a press conference last week in Honduras, they now also published their official statement on their findings. "The mission has gathered multiple and consistent allegations of acts that could constitute torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (hereinafter, ill-treatment)".

<http://www.omct.org/es/monitoring-protection-mechanisms/statements/honduras/2018/06/d24945/>

The murder of three Miskitu men by Honduran soldiers some weeks ago, also brought back to the public attention the Ahuas case. This week, a Honduran court decided to acquit the only remaining Honduran police officer accused in the case. This means that no one has been charged for the murder of the four people, one of them being a pregnant woman.

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/29/absuelven-a-unico-policia-acusado-por-asesinatos-en-operativo-con-la-dea-en-ahuas/>

In the murder case of the three Miskitu men, a judge sent one of the soldiers to prison to await trial.

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/apresan-a-militar-que-mato-a-tres-misquitos-en-gracias-a-dios/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/detencion-judicial-para-militar-acusado-de-asesinar-a-tres-misquitos.html>

I previously wrote that a reelection of the Attorney General would be against the law. FiscaLeaks now writes that Article 23 of the MP Law allows for this. But the law as well as the constitution also states that the Attorney General and their Deputy must be elected from a list of five candidates proposed by a selection committee. This begs the question if for a reelection, the Attorney General also must be on this list. Given that there were efforts in the beginning of this procedures to have Chinchilla nominated as a candidate, I tend to believe this is the case and the reelection as proposed by the National and Liberal Party still is legally problematic.

Radio Progreso seems to agree. In an emergency meeting Congress reelected Óscar Fernando Chinchilla for five more years as the Attorney General and the Liberal Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso as his deputy. Radio Progreso calls the process illegal and according to them, the US has been pushing behind the scenes for the reelection of Chinchilla.

Legal scholar Joaquín Mejía lists three reasons why Chinchilla should not have been reelected: a legal-constitutional reason, a legal-international reason and a moral reason.

JOH and Congress' president Mauricio Oliva celebrate the reelection. So do their civil society allies, the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).

And it seems pertinent to point out that this reelection was only possible because the old bipartisan system seems to be still alive. ConfidencialHN even claims that congresswo/men were bought to vote for the reelection.

During the same congressional session, the National Party activist Lidia Estela Cardona was elected as the General Procurator of the Republic.

<http://revistazo.biz/Fiscaleaks/index.php/reportajes/49-oscar-chinchilla-frente-a-la-posibilidad-de-ser-reelecto-fiscal-general>

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/congreso-reelige-a-oscar-fernando-chinchilla-por-cinco-anos-de-forma-ilegal/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2018/06/29/razones-ante-la-eleccion-reeleccion-del-fiscal-general/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/29/joh-y-mauricio-oliva-celebran-la-releccion-de-oscar-chinchilla/>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1192683-410/oscar-chinchilla-rebaso-expectativas-asj-ministerio-publico>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/29/oscar-chinchilla-es-reelecto-en-el-congreso-mediante-un-violatorio-proceso/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/exparlamentario-califica-como-pacto-de-impunidad-alianza-bipartidista-para-reelegir-a-chinchilla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/revelan-cheques-que-serian-girados-a-parlamentarios-que-voten-por-el-fiscal-chinchilla1/>

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/29/la-nacionalista-lidia-estela-cardona-es-electa-como-la-nueva-procuradora/>

A court found three accused in the IHSS corruption case guilty: Mario Zelaya, Ramón Bertetty and Juan Carlos Maradiaga Ortiz.

In another trial related to the IHSS case, José David Cardona Gómez was sentenced to six and a half years in prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/condenan-a-mario-zelaya-y-dos-imputados-mas-en-el-caso-jc-maradiaga-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/dictan-nueva-condena-para-saqueadores-del-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/condenan-a-seis-anos-de-carcel-a-implicado-en-megafraude-al-ihss/>

The US donated a medical boat to the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO).

<http://elpulso.hn/gobierno-de-los-ee-uu-dona-lancha-medica-a-copeco/>

Congress approved 400 million Lempiras for the University Hospital (HEU).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/congreso-aprueba-fortalecer-el-heu-con-mas-de-400-millones-de-lempiras/>

Salvador Nasralla went to the TSE yesterday to inscribe his new party, El Salvador de Honduras (a pun on his name and the word saviour).

<https://confidencialhn.com/2018/06/29/nasralla-tendra-un-nuevo-partido-surge-el-salvador-de-honduras/>

30/06/18

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Privatization; MP - Elections; Corruption - Pandora; Economy; IMF; and Where Have All the Weapons Gone?

Journalists covering Friday's sentencing of Juan Carlos Madariaga in the IHSS corruption case were first threatened and then attacked by his family members.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/alertas/amenazas/872-en-sala-de-juicio-oral-y-publico-familiares-de-imputado-amenazan-y-agranden-a-periodistas>

Radio Progreso continues to published articles inspired by the recent report by Marvin Barahona on networks of power in Honduras. The newest article looks about their use of privatizations and concessions to maximize their wealth.

<http://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/redes-de-poder-maximizan-sus-ganancias-privatizando-servicios-publicos-y-concesionando-bienes-naturales/>

The UN Human Rights Office in Honduras (OACNUDH) published a second press release about its concerns regarding the election process for the position of the Attorney General.

ContraCorriente published an info-graphic on Chinchilla's reelection.

Pasos de Animal Grande describes his reelection as a sign of further concentration of power in the hands of JOH as Chinchilla has been a life-long ally of his.

See Attachment

<https://criterio.hn/2018/06/30/falta-de-legalidad-en-la-eleccion-del-fiscal-general-podria-debilitar-al-ministerio-publico-oacnudh/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2018/06/29/el-ministerio-publico-del-fiscal-reelecto-en-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2190-a-pesar-de-la-gestion-desastrosa-bipartidismo-y-sectores-oscuros-reeligen-a-fiscal-general>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2190-a-pesar-de-la-gestion-desastrosa-bipartidismo-y-sectores-oscuros-reeligen-a-fiscal-general>

El Heraldo reports that a judge is about to sign the arrest warrants for those implicated in the Pandora corruption case.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1193103-466/trasciende-supuestas-%C3%B3rdenes-de-captura-contra-se-%C3%B1alados-en-caso-pandora>

El Pulso published an article by the president of the Economists Association Honduras, Julio Raudales, on the depreciation of the Lempira.

<http://elpulso.hn/tipo-de-cambio-y-desarrollo/>

The Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábora, announced a collaboration with the IMF on fiscal transparency.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-y-fmi-socializan-codigo-de-transparencia-fiscal.html>

<http://www.laprensa.hn/economia/1192992-410/fmi-respalda-politicas-fiscales-monetarias-honduras>

According to a new report, Honduras decommissioned some 13'000 fire arms between 2011 and 2016, but only 7'000 of them were destroyed.

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1193172-466/honduras-decomis%C3%B3-13-mil-armas-y-destruy%C3%B3-solo-7-mil-entre-2011>

OACNUDH expresa su preocupación en relación al reciente proceso de elección del Fiscal General

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 29 de junio de 2018.

La Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Honduras (OACNUDH), expresa su consternación por la debilidad del reciente proceso de elección del Fiscal General.

La OACNUDH, así como la Relatoría Especial sobre la independencia de magistrados y abogados de las Naciones Unidas han reiteradamente llamado a las instituciones a garantizar y hacer efectivos los principios de publicidad y transparencia, que contribuyen a fortalecer la confianza ciudadana en la institucionalidad del país. La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, además, llamó al Estado hondureño a evitar “discrecionalidades por parte de quienes participan en la selección” y evitar que la selección se realice con base a interés particulares y partidarios.

La OACNUDH también observa con preocupación, que la falta de observancia de la normativa constitucional y del principio de legalidad durante esta elección podría debilitar al Ministerio Público y asimismo a la institucionalidad nacional, en detrimento de los esfuerzos para superar la crisis política que está atravesando el país. La OACNUDH reitera su disposición a proporcionar asistencia técnica al Estado de Honduras para superar los retos existentes.