

01/09/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Criminalization; Journalists; Violence; and an Ode to a Homeland in Pain

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the two witnesses presented by the MP in the Guapinol case wound up in major contradictions and there was a clear attempt to present the HRDs as a criminal structure. In one case, a witness said that he was held up by the HRDs who were masked and heavily armed, at the same time he was able to identify all of them with name and surname even though he is not even from Guapinol.

Ignoring such contradictions, the judge decided on pre-trial detention and the seven HRDs were sent back to the Támara prison.

Both OFRANEH and COPINH denounced this decision.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2555-mp-erratico-con-testigos-que-se-contradicen-para-criminalizar-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/01/dictan-prision-preventiva-a-ambientalistas-de-guapinol-los-remiten-a-carcel-de-tamara/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1168141872948240384>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1168374887242752000>

Just a day after the murder of another journalist in Honduras (see yesterday), the car of the social communicator Miguel Tróchez was set on fire in Santa Bárbara, Santa Bárbara. Previously, Tróchez had sought help from the police denouncing that he was being extorted.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/01/extorsionan-e-incendian-vehiculo-a-comunicador-social-en-santa-barbara/>

Another mass murder took place yesterday - the fifth in just one week.

In a blame-the-victim-attempt, the head of the Armed Forces, René Orlando Ponce Fonseca, claims that 85% of mass murders are linked to illicit activities.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/01/masacre-numero-49-deja-cinco-muertos-en-omoa-cortes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1315020-468/cinco-masacres-en-una-semana-los-sucesos-registrados-en-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/jefe-de-la-ffaa-85-de-las-masacres-sucedan-por-vinculos-con-actividades-ilicitas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/01/oda-insomne-a-la-extrana-patria-dolorosa-que-se-quiere-celebrar/>

02/09/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Criminalization; Journalists; Berta - Trial; Protests; Corruption - Pandora, de Lobo; Electoral Reforms; Migration - Mexico; Israel; Dengue; and Corrupt First Ladies
Pasos de Animal Grande and Radio Progreso published more details on Sunday's hearing against the HRDs from Guapinol which ended with them sent to pre-trial detention. In total, 31 HRDs were criminalized. The charges against 12 of them were dropped in a previous hearing, but there is still an appeal by the MP pending. Now, 8 were sent to pre-trial detention. 10 are still awaiting hearings and one of them, Roberto Antonio Argueta, was murdered last Wednesday.

The MP published a press release on the most recent hearing.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2556-prision-para-defensores-de-guapinol-decreta-jueza-en-audiencia-inicial>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/estado-hondureno-criminaliza-y-encarcela-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4740-fiscalia-regional-del-bajo-aguan-a-tamara-ocho-personas-por-privacion-injusta-de-la-libertad-e-incendio-agravado>

OACNUDH "profoundly laments the death of journalist Edgar Joel Aguilar, murdered this Saturday, August 31"(see also previous e-mails). They demand a swift and impartial investigation and remind the JOH regime that in its recent visit, the UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights found that impunity in cases of attacks against HRDs and journalist is the rule rather than the exception.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1168593663942975488>

<https://tiempo.hn/oacnudh-pide-investigar-prontamente-asesinato-del-periodista-edgar-aguilar/>

COPINH published a short update on the Berta Cáceres case demanding a written sentence guaranteeing integral justice, a trial against David Castillo and an investigation of the Atala Zablah family.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1168680385213059073>

State security forces repressed a protest in El Hatillo, north of Tegucigalpa, against a new housing project in the core area of the La Tigra National Park.

El Libertador published an investigative article on the project.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/02/policia-reprime-a-pobladores-que-exigen-la-cancelacion-de-proyecto-habitacional-en-la-tigra/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-desaloja-violentamente-a-vecinos-que-protestan-contra-deforestacion-en-el-hatillo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3504-la-tigra-investigacion-de-el-libertador-que-estremecio-a-la-prensa-hondurena>

The MACCIH and UFECIC request the definitive seizure of goods and properties bought by the accused in the Pandora Corruption case allegedly with state funds.

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-015.MACCIH-y-UFECIC-solicitan-privacion-definitiva-de-nuevos-bienes-de-origen-ilicito-en-Caso-Pandora.pdf>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-solicita-privacion-dominio-para-implicados-caso-pandora/>

Former president Pepe Lobo continues on his mission trying to convince everyone that his wife, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, is innocent.

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-revela-que-justicia-no-quiso-admitir-pruebas-a-favor-de-su-esposa-para-ser-absuelta/>

ContraCorriente published a critical article of the current electoral process for the election of the representatives of the new electoral bodies. The article focuses on the role of Oracle whose contract is highly beneficial for the company and was approved during the congressional insurrection by Libre.

The Liberal Party denounces a rigged process and they withdrew their candidates.

But the Liberal Party is split and at least one representatives stays in the process.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/02/congreso-nacional-que-contrato-ilegalmente-a-empresa-oracle-elegira-a-autoridades-electorales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/02/partido-liberal-se-retira-del-proceso-de-seleccion-de-representantes-de-organos-electorales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pl-retira-candidaturas-para-entes-electorales-desde-hoy-estan-construyendo-un-fraude/>

<https://tiempo.hn/maribel-espinoza-proceso-de-seleccion-del-cne-esta-manipulado1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-obedecere-a-luis-interventor-liberal-del-rnp-no-se-retirara-de-audiencias-a-cargos-electorales/>

The family of a Honduran migrant who died at the hand of the Mexican police is preparing a legal case against the State of Mexico.

<http://elpulso.hn/demanda-contr-el-estado-mexicano-por-la-muerte-de-un-migrante-hondureno/>

The Israeli prime minister and JOH announced that the recent opening of a commercial office in Jerusalem will be followed by the opening of a Honduran embassy.

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-abrio-oficina-en-jerusalem-y-se-prepara-a-abrir-una-embajada/>

<https://tiempo.hn/the-times-de-israel-ceremonia-por-oficina-comercial-honduras-realizo-en-bufete/>

At least 117 people have died from Dengue in Honduras so far this year.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1315382-410/honduras-dengue-secretaria-de-salud-muertes-2019-grave>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/02/primeras-damas-caras-de-la-corrupcion-en-america-latina/>

03/09/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Extractivism - HRDs; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Journalists; Protests - La Tigra, La Jutosa; Labor Rights; Israel - Armed Forces; Penitentiary System; Electoral Reforms; and the Setup of a Dictatorship

COPINH will hold a press conference this morning at 10:30am in Hotel Honduras Maya in Tegucigalpa presenting the recently published report on Roberto David Castillo Mejía (see also previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1169033338650341376>

Report: <http://www.ghrc-usa.org/2019/08/davidcastilloreport/>

CEJIL published a press release demanding a stop to the extractive policies of the JOH and that it guarantees the human rights of the people suffering from those policies. CEJIL is linking up this demand with the recent recommendations made by the UN Working Group on Human Rights and Business.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-debe-frenar-politica-extractivista-y-garantizar-derechos-humanos-poblaciones-riesgo>

OACNUDH, meanwhile, launched another social media campaign in support of human rights defenders.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1168889394947940352>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1168888641873207300>

"Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández assumed the presidency as a so-called crime fighter that the United States could collaborate closely with to fight corruption and violence, but that dream has gradually unraveled amid mounting criminal allegations against him. (...) For years, President Hernández was able to make allies in Washington believe that he was confronting some of Honduras' most pressing problems head-on, including corruption, insecurity and organized crime. Over time, however, the mounting criminal allegations against him have knocked down this facade,

calling into question how much of a “strategic partner” Hernández really is in the fight against organized crime.”

Meanwhile in the US, a public prosecutor requested that 14 testimonies against JOH's brother Tony Hernández will be admitted to court.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/criminal-allegations-unravel-honduras-president-crime-fighting-facade/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pediran-admision-de-14-testimonios-que-hundiran-en-la-carcel-a-tony-hernandez/>

Reporteros de Investigación reports on the situation of journalists in Copán, where in the last years seven journalists had been murdered. The last one, Joel Aguilar, was assassinated last week.

But the situation is bad throughout Honduras. According to Pasos de Animal Grande, on average every five days, a Honduran journalist suffers an attack.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/03/7-periodistas-asesinados-en-zona-de-narcopolitica/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2557-article-19-condena-el-asesinato-del-periodista-edgar-joel-aguilar>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2558-cada-5-dias-un-periodista-es-violentado-en-honduras>

CESPAD published an alert regarding a difficult situation in the north of Tegucigalpa, in El Hatillo, where people protest against a housing project destroying an important water source of the capital and located in a national park (see also yesterday's e-mail).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/09/03/alerta-lujosa-residencial-destruira-importante-fuente-de-agua-de-tegucigalpa/>

El Tiempo reports on protests by inhabitants of La Jutosa in Choloma, Cortés, against the exploitation for sand of the La Jutosa river.

<https://tiempo.hn/se-intensifican-las-protestas-en-contra-de-la-la-explotacion-del-rio-la-jutosa-en-choloma/>

Giorgio Trucchi reports on anti-labor union violence in Honduras, the country with the third most attacks against union members in Latin America.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/201917>

"The Central American nation of Honduras held a ceremony marking the opening of its trade office in Jerusalem on Sunday in the office of a law firm across the hall because its own premises were not yet ready." (see also yesterday's e-mail)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/honduran-trade-office-opening-was-not-held-at-actual-trade-office/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/03/apertura-de-oficina-comercial-de-honduras-en-jerusalen-no-se-realizo-en-la-oficina-comercial-real/>

In his visit to Israel, JOH also went to see the construction of the maritime ship "General José Trinidad Cabañas", a \$56 million purchase by the Honduran navy.

<https://tiempo.hn/israel-entregara-honduras-nave-maritima-ametralladoras-canones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-hondurenos-mueren-por-falta-de-medicinas-joh-se-compra-un-buque-por-mil-250-millones/>

An inmate in the Támara prison was murdered.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ultiman-a-privado-de-libertad-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara/>

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellano does not mince words. According to him, without real electoral reforms, the next elections may open the gates to hell in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/edmundo-orellana-sin-reformas-electorales-estaremos-puertas-del-infierno-1/>

"The dictatorial regime of Juan Orlando Hernández is not limited to his person, it is any structure that needs to be dismantled in order to begin a transition stage that will lead us to a new democratic process. But this requires the articulated and mobilized commitment of a critical and active citizenship that does not continue to expect that the uncertain winds of the North wear down the supporting foundation of the Honduran dictatorship."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/radiografia-de-una-dictadura/>

04/09/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Tolupanés - Impunity; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - de Lobo, Pandora; UFEIC; Penal Code; Drought; Russia; and Creating Another Honduras

COPINH uploaded two videos on yesterday's presentation of the report "Violence, Corruption & Impunity in the Honduran Energy Industry: A Profile of Roberto David Castillo Mejía" (see also previous e-mails). According to Berta Zúniga, "[t]he report helps to reveal the criminal structure that has benefited from this concession to make a profit, a pattern that has been seen not only with Agua Zarca but with other energy projects in Honduras". The lawyer Víctor Fernández added: "The corrupt model of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project is the model followed by the majority of extractive projects awarded after the 2009 coup".

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/videos-foro-perfil-david-castillo/>

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/video-conferencia-de-prensa-04-09-2019/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1169297951941902336>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1169345228412739588>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/04/david-castillo-habria-comprado-una-lujosa-casa-en-ee-uu-con-pago-por-asesinar-a-berta-caceres/>

Six years have passed since the triple homicide of indigenous Tolupán leaders Armando Fúnez Medina, Ricardo Soto Fúnez and María Enriqueta Matute. MADJ demands an end to the impunity in their case, i.e. the prosecution of the intellectual authors and integral justice.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/09/04/carta-abierta-alto-a-los-asesinatos-y-castigo-para-los-autores-intelectuales-de-los-crime-nes-contra-el-pueblo-tolupan-exigimos-respuestas-integrales-para-nuestras-tribus/>

Another relative of JOH, his cousin and former police officer Mauricio Hernández Pineda, was indicted in the US for drug trafficking. "Manhattan U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said: "Today's charges against a high-ranking former Honduran National Police officer are disturbing. Honduras has long been a corridor for drug traffickers to ship their drugs to the United States from South America. As alleged, Mauricio Hernandez Pineda betrayed his obligations as a police officer to uphold his country's laws and prevent trafficking through his country, and instead facilitated the shipments of tons of cocaine that eventually made its way to the U.S. Hernandez Pineda will soon have to answer for his alleged crimes in a U.S. court.""

Hernández Pineda was purged from the police force last year - or as they presented it, let go for reasons of restructuring - but he was not investigated for drug trafficking in Honduras.

In an attempted at wishful thinking, Criterio writes that his indictment may lead to an extradition of JOH.

Interestingly, Proceso Digital succeeded in reporting on this without making any link to JOH.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-national-police-officer-charged-conspiring-import-cocaine-united-states>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3509-a-la-carcel-otro-familiar-del-gobernante-ee-uu-acusa-por-narcotrafico-a-primo-de-joh>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/04/fiscalia-de-nueva-york-primo-de-mandatario-de-honduras-tambien-narcotraficante-junto-a-otros-funcionarios-y-aca-lo-habian-depurado-pero-por-reestructuracion/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/04/policia-de-honduras-depuro-a-policia-primo-del-gobernante-pero-nunca-lo-investigo-por-narcotrafico/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/04/cargos-contra-mauricio-hernandez-cc-6-alertan-a-joh-de-posible-orden-de-extradicion-en-su-contra/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/exoficial-de-la-policia-hondurena-acusado-de-conspirar-para-introducir-cocaina-a-eeuu.html>

The former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo was sentenced to 58 years in prison and the payment of a 1.27 million Lempiras penalty. Saúl Escobar, meanwhile, got 48 years in prison.

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1169360209837535233>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/04/exprimera-dama-de-honduras-condenada-a-58-anos-de-reclusion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/condenan-a-58-anos-de-carcel-a-ex-primera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla1/>

Reporteros de Investigación announced that they obtained documents showing that the Pandora corruption case expanded to Panama.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/04/red-transnacional-pandora-panama/>

Coincidence or not, the same day, the MP's anti-corruption arm UFECIC celebrated its two-year anniversary.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4748-ufecic-cumple-dos-anos-de-arduo-trabajo-y-excelentes-resultados-en-combate-frontal-contra-la-corrupcion>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) warns that against some announcements made by its president, Congress won't make the necessary changes to the Penal Code.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/congreso-no-cambiara-temas-fundamentales-en-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-advierte-el-cna.html>

El Pulso reports on the drought and its devastating effects, for example the loss of almost one third of the maize harvest.

<http://elpulso.hn/sequia-a-nivel-nacional/>

El Libertador reports that a Russian delegation made a lightning visit to Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3508-exclusiva-seguridad-rusa-hace-visita-relampago-al-gobierno-de-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1209-las-mujeres-rebeldes-vamos-a-construir-otra-honduras-miriam-miranda>

05/09/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH Río Blanco; Guapinol - Criminalization; UN - FPIC; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Journalists; Armed Forces - US; Electoral Reforms; Drought; and Open Government Shrouded in Secrecy

COPINH sent out an alert as once more a member of the Madrid family, Donato Madrid, destroyed part of the cultivation belonging to the members of the Río Blanco community. They alerted the police, but none came.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1169742673730768896>

Defensores en Línea denounces that the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) disobeyed a judicial order to transfer the criminalized HRDs from Guapinol to the prison in Olanchito, Yoro. Instead, the INP sent them to the maximum-security prison La Tolva in Morocelí, El Paraíso.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/desobedeciendo-orden-judicial-inp-traslada-a-defensores-de-guapinol-para-carcel-de-maxima-tortura/>

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz reacts to the recent declaration of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights on Honduras. She takes up their preoccupation regarding the possible approval of a "deficient" Consultation Bill.

<http://unsr.vtaulicorpuz.org/site/index.php/es/press-releases/299-honduras-gtedh>

Tony Hernández' lawyer denies that the recently indicted police official Mauricio Hernández Pineda (see yesterday and second link) is his cousin.

Member of the Purgig Committee, Carlos Hernández, tries to explain why Mauricio Hernández Pineda was not accused for illicit activities.

<https://tiempo.hn/niegan-conexion-familiar-entre-tony-y-expolicia-mauricio-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oficial-de-policia-acusado-por-ee-uu-influyo-para-frenar-extradicion-de-narcotraficantes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-honduras-no-se-tuvo-pruebas-para-incriminar-a-expolicia-mauricio-hernandez-acusado-en-eeuu.html>

Pepe Lobo, meanwhile, launched another attack on his successor JOH. "Sooner or later Juan Orlando Hernández" will pay for the damage he has done to the country.

<https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-tarde-o-temprano-joh-pagara-lo-hecho-1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-la-va-pagar-el-turno-le-va-llegar-pepe-denuncia-linchamiento-contra-su-esposa/>

C-Libre published an alert regarding the situation of journalist Miguel Ángel Tróchez. He received death threats and was a victim of extortion and then on September 1, his car was set on fire (see also previous e-mail).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1060-amenazas-extorsion-y-quema-de-vehiculo-sufrio-comunicador-en-santa-barbara>

<https://tiempo.hn/comunicador-sufre-atentado-santa-rosa-de-copan/>

An active army member was found guilty of being accomplice to a double homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4752-fedcv-y-atic-logran-condena-contra-sargento-del-ejercito-por-doble-asesinato-y-vinculado-al-sicariato>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/declaran-culpable-a-sargento-activo-de-doble-asesinato-y-sicariato.html>

Criterio reports that the US will build four military barracks at the José Enrique Soto Cano in Palmerola, Comayagua worth \$21 million.

As the US is also building a new embassy in Honduras, Proceso Digital writes that "[t]he US is getting stronger in Honduras".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/05/ee-uu-confirma-construccion-de-cuarteles-militares-en-palmerola/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-mantiene-inversion-de-21-millones-para-construccion-de-cuarteles-en-base-aerea-de-soto-cano.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/eeuu-se-hace-mas-fuerte-en-honduras.html>

The public hearings of the candidates for the new electoral bodies and the RNP came to a close yesterday. Radio Progreso reports on the ongoing internal disputes in the different parties regarding their own nominations. "For his part, the former magistrate of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), Augusto Aguilar, says that politicians have given an example of how this type of process should not occur, because in the end, the evaluation process has not been respected, making it clear that it was utterly useless."

The Social Citizen Platform for Honduras denounces that this process does not guarantee at all clean elections and that it does not take account of the expectations of the Honduran people.

The platform proposed yesterday an alternative nomination and selection process.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/conflictos-internos-de-partidos-impiden-eleccion-de-nuevos-representantes-electorales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/05/proceso-de-eleccion-de-nuevos-organos-electorales-no-garantizan-elecciones-limpias/>

<https://tiempo.hn/plataforma-ciudadana-platea-forma-elegir-autoridades-organos-electorales/>

JOH declared a national emergency, officially to tackle the drought.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/05/hernandez-aprueba-una-nueva-emergencia-ahora-por-la-sequia/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/05/ogp-gobierno-cerrado-con-reserva-en-32-instituciones-y-penas-con-prision-para-avalar-ley-de-secretos/>

06/09/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Criminalization; Indigenous Peoples - Extractivism; Journalists; Migration - US; Penal Code; Corruption - CAH; Water; Electoral Reforms; Israel; and the Tragicomedy of the Honduran Energy System

OACNUDH expressed concern regarding the failure to comply with a judicial order in the criminalization case against seven HRDs from Guapinol. They were transferred to a high-security prison against the order of the judge (see also yesterday's e-mail).

A group of German parliamentarians wrote a letter to the Honduran Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla also expressing concern.

Radio Progreso reports that upon the call of an alleged Colonel, the seven HRDs were transferred from Olanchito to the La Tolva prison without even their shirts on.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1170096003019673601>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1169854413759860737>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/06/parlamentarios-alemanes-piden-a-fiscal-general-que-actue-en-el-caso-de-guapinol/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/arbitrariamente-envian-a-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2559-trasladan-ilegalmente-a-una-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad-a-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/06/violan-orden-de-jueza-y-mandan-a-la-tolva-a-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

ConexiHon reports that some 20% of all concessions for mining and energy projects are in indigenous territories in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/1212-137-concesiones-mineras-y-de-energia-invasen-territorios-indigenas-en-honduras>

The third journalist in less than a week suffered an attack yesterday. Marlon Zelaya denounces that at 1:00am two unknown persons set on fire his motorbike and destroyed the windows of his car. He believes the attack is linked to his reporting. It is the second attack against him this year.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3510-alerta-atentan-contra-otro-periodista-en-occidente-de-honduras>

www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/comunicador-social-denuncia-atentado-en-santa-rosa-de-copan.html

In an interview with Radio Progreso, Mariana Zaragoza from the Ibero-American University of Mexico, says that Mexico and the Central-American countries have given in to the interest of the Trump administration in matters of migration.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/gobiernos-ceden-a-la-voluntad-de-trump-y-dan-la-espalda-a-los-migrantes/>

35 civil society organizations wrote a joint letter to Congress demanding that the new Penal Code does not come into force this November.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/06/35-organizaciones-piden-al-congreso-nacional-que-el-codigo-penal-no-entre-en-vigencia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sociedad-civil-solicita-que-no-entre-en-vigencia-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

A former president of the Lawyers' Association of Honduras (CAH) and six others were sentenced for corruption. While welcoming this, Criterio denounces that at the same time a similar crime at the Pension Institute for Journalists remains unpunished.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/06/condenan-por-desfalco-en-ente-de-pension-de-abogados-mientras-en-el-de-periodistas-continua-impunidad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/culpables-seis-imputados-en-millonario-desfalco-colegio-abogados/>

El Pulso reports on the ongoing water crisis in Tegucigalpa due to the lack of rain and the general drought.

<http://elpulso.hn/calvario-sin-agua-en-la-capital-de-honduras/>

Jared Olson reports for NACLA on the discussions around electoral reforms in Honduras focusing Libre. "Honduran democracy, some would say, is already doomed to failure. But recognizing that doesn't prevent people like Lenín Laínez, a 24-year-old representative for the LIBRE party, from believing that the best—and the only—way to fight the regime is by working through the corrupted system itself. Laínez is one of LIBRE's two diputados for the Intibucá department—the other is Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres, daughter of the murdered environmentalist. He is also the youngest member of Honduras's National Congress, and speaks glowingly of the electoral reform. He holds faith that

the peaceful route of elections and electoral reform can oust JOH. But that faith seems overwhelmed by bitterness over the depth of government corruption. It's the reason, he says, so many have taken to the streets in often, volcanic displays of anger."

<https://nacla.org/news/2019/09/05/flame-opposition-honduras>

El Heraldo reports that Honduras will receive Israeli aid after this weeks opening of a commercial office in Jerusalem and JOH's visit to the country.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1316655-466/israel-favorecera-a-honduras-con-donaciones-y-asistencia>

"Patuca is one of the municipalities with the least electricity in Honduras. With more than eighty hamlets without electricity, a new state hydroelectric plant in the area also does not ensure its connection. In the country with the least electricity in Central America, contracts for renewable projects without being construction paint a scenario of energy speculation."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/05/la-tragicomedia-electrica-de-honduras/>

08/09/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; COPINH - Río Blanco; JOH - Drought, Denigration; Guapinol - CONADEH; Students; Penal Code; Armed Forces; 20 Years of Cofamipro

OFRANEH denounces the murder of Mirna Suazo, president of the community board of the Garífuna community Masca near Omoa, Cortés.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/09/08/repudiamos-asesinato-de-mirna-suazo-presidente-patronato-de-masca/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1317167-410/matan-presidenta-patronato-masca-omoa->

COPINH sent out an alert as community members in Río Blanco were attacked with stones and sticks.

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/alerta-rio-blanco/>

MADJ juxtaposes the criminalization of environmental defenders and the declaration by the JOH regime of a national emergency due to the drought. "While social fighters in Honduras are being imprisoned, criminalized and their assassinations remain in impunity, the government of Juan Orlando Hernández has declared an emergency due to the drought facing the country due to the lack of rain. The announcement is made by the government in the middle of the environmental conflicts that it has generated by the sale and delivery of the territories without following the established processes and disrespecting the international agreements of which Honduras is a subscriber. (...) To a large extent, the responsibility of the drought that the country faces today, is from institutions such as the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), the Municipal Environmental Unit (UMA) of each municipality where these projects are installed, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

(Mi Ambiente) and the same government of the Republic that through its policies has promoted the sale and delivery of the territory for its looting that later turns into a drought for its peoples. The double standard and the double discourse of Juan Orlando Hernández is increasingly noticeable, on the one hand he tries to show his concern for the problems facing the country but on the other, he continues to be a decisive actor so that the crises are increasingly deep and with more negative effects for the people." COFADEH denounces the general misuse of the criminal justice system to criminalize HRDs.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/09/07/gobierno-de-honduras-emite-emergencia-por-sequia-en-el-pais/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-perversidad-de-la-prision/>

And as if to offer proof of this, the minister of Mi Ambiente, José Galdames, claimed that "mostly illegally formed NGOs collect a war tax" from mines...

<https://radiohrn.hn/ongs-cobran-impuesto-de-guerra-a-empresas-mineras-miambiente/>

CONADEH announced in a press release that they would investigate why the seven HRDs from Guapinol were transferred to the high-security prison against a judge's orders (see last week's e-mails).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2561-un-coronel-lo-ordeno-defensores-de-guapinol-estran-en-rpoa-intima-en-la-tolva>

Two years ago, Honduras saw widespread students protests and their violent repression and judicial persecution. Media coverage has decreased since then, but many of the students are still being criminalized. On Friday, a judge decided to open trial against 18 of them.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/carta-de-libertad-a-fausto-calix-y-formal-procesamiento-para-18-estudiantes-de-unah.html>

The Network of Journalists and Social Communicators of Santa Bárbara held a public forum on the grave consequences of the new Penal Code on journalism in Honduras. "Several social communicators express their concern that the Penal Code goes against freedom of expression and will restrict their rights as communicators, will limit the approach of issues such as corruption, violation of human rights, illegal activities from powerful actors, and restrict the access to information. The most worried are those who investigate, who do independent journalism, work in alternative media and who do not represent the interests of politicians, since according to them they will be persecuted and even imprisoned for their work."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2560-red-de-periodistas-y-comunicadores-sociales-de-santa-barbara-rechaza-atentado-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-nuevo-codigo-penal>

A patrol car by the Armed Forces crashed into a woman in Cofradía, Cortés. She died and her son, who was with her, denounced that the patrol car first tried to drive away again. HCH uploaded a video by its reporter of the death which raises a lot of question regarding the military patrol. They seemed to have persecuted an ambulance car with two bags of litchi (fruit) in it...

<https://tiempo.hn/femina-muere-arrollada-por-una-patrulla-militar/>

<https://hch.tv/2019/09/07/mujer-muere-atropellada-por-patrulla-militar-en-cofradia-cortes/>

The Committee of Family Members of Disappeared Migrants from El Progreso (Cofamipro) commemorates its 20th anniversary.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cofamipro-y-sus-caravanas-en-sus-20-anos/>

09/09/19

Garífuna; La Tigra - Repression; Labor Rights - US; Migration - US; and Hernández' Travels

On Sunday, the Garífuna community leader Mirna Suazo was murdered (see also yesterday). IM-Defensoras sent out an alert.

OACNUDH demands a swift and impartial investigation.

ATIC started to investigate.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/09/alertadefensoras-honduras-asesinan-a-mirna-teresa-suazo-lideresa-comunitaria-y-defensora-del-territorio-garifuna/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1171175989369626624>

<https://tiempo.hn/atic-inicia-investigacion-para-esclarecer-crimen-presidenta-garifuna-mirna-suazo/>

Last week, protests started outside Tegucigalpa in defense of the La Tigra National Park and its importance as a water source for the capital. These protests continued and spread.

Yesterday, state security forces violently repressed them.

Defensores en Línea denounced that live bullets were fired against them.

OACNUDH insisted that the Honduran authorities respect the right to free expression and the right to peaceful assembly. They expressed their concern regarding the excessive use of force and the use of live bullets.

Yesterday evening, the investors of the housing project at the source of the protests announced to suspend it, but not cancel it.

The head of MiAmbiente, the Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mining Ministry, José Galdámez, claims that the project has all the permits and the environmental license.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/09/en-diversas-tomas-pobladores-protestan-contra-proyecto-habitacional-de-la-tigra/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3514-indignante-policia-hondurena-reprime-salvajemente-a-defensores-de-la-tigra>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-dispara-contra-defensores-del-agua-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/09/policia-de-honduras-dispara-sus-armas-contra-pobladores-que-defienden-el-derecho-al-agua/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1171169594297503744>

Photos: <https://twitter.com/radioamericahn/status/1171186166743339008>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1171191432255868934>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/09/anuncian-la-suspension-pero-no-la-cancelacion-del-proyecto-habitacional-de-la-tigra/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mientras-este-en-miambiente-no-se-autorizara-ningun-proyecto-que-afecte-nucleo-de-la-tigra-asegura-ministro.html>

"Last month, U.S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) and Andy Levin (D-MI) sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Acting Secretary of Labor Patrick Pizzella. Fifty-five Members of Congress expressed their deep concern regarding the Government of Honduras' continued violation of Chapter 16 (the labor chapter) of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the subsequent Honduras Monitoring and Action Plan (MAP). The letter calls for the U.S. government to send a strong message to the Government of Honduras that the United States takes trade agreement enforcement seriously and expects the Government of Honduras to ensure that the right to freedom of association and to collectively bargain is respected generally and in compliance with Honduras' obligations to the United States under CAFTA."

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-grijalva-levin-lead-letter-calling-on-honduras-to-halt-labor-violations/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/09/congresistas-de-ee-uu-exigen-a-honduras-detener-las-violaciones-laborales/>

The US chargé d'affaires, meanwhile, met with the Honduran foreign minister Lisandro Rosales.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1171191216874184706>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/canciller-dialoga-de-migracion-y-convenio-de-la-maccih-con-colleen-a-hoey.html>

Various media outlets report that the JOH regime agreed in a recent meeting in the US with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan for Honduras to become a safe third country for Cuban and Nicaraguan refugees...

Foreign minister Rosales denies this.

Meanwhile in the US: "A U.S. judge in California on Monday reinstated a nationwide halt on the Trump administration's plan to prevent most migrants from seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico

border. U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar ruled in Oakland that an injunction blocking the administration's policy from taking effect should apply nationwide."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/09/honduras-acepta-ser-tercer-pais-seguro-para-cubanos-y-nicaraguenses/>

<https://tiempo.hn/univision-honduras-acepta-ser-tercer-pais-seguro-para-cubanos-nicaraguenses/>

<https://tiempo.hn/puede-honduras-convertirse-en-un-tercer-pais-seguro-esperan-reaccion-del-gobierno/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/canciller-lisandro-rosales-descarta-a-honduras-como-tercer-pais-seguro-de-eeuu.html>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/california/articles/2019-09-09/judge-reinstates-nationwide-halt-on-trump-asylum-policy-plan>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/09/juez-bloquea-plan-de-trump-contra-inmigrantes-que-piden-asilo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/08/los-viajes-de-compras-de-joh-y-el-atoro/>

10/09/19

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - FPIC; COPINH; La Tigra - Repression; JOH - Drug Trafficking, FoE, Int. Funding, US; Migration - US; Electoral Reforms; Penal Code; Budget; and a Bloody Dictatorship

Both COPINH and OFRANEH warn about a bill discussed yesterday in Congress violating the ILO Convention 169 by undermining the right of the indigenous peoples to decide over their land.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1171486260700962818>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1171558330164285440>

COPINH published a video of indigenous Lenca defender Rosalina Domínguez from Río Blanco denouncing the recent attacks suffered by her and the Río Blanco community in these last months - the most recent one last Saturday (see previous e-mail).

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/video-rosalina-ulterior-ataque-en-rio-blanco/>

The Bureau for Police Disciplinary Matters (Didapol) announced to investigate the state repression on Monday against the protesters against a housing project in the National Park La Tigra. The use of live bullets was denounced by human rights organizations (see yesterday's e-mail).

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-investigacion-a-policias-que-dispararon-contra-los-defensores-de-la-tigra/>

InSight Crime published the third of four article on "the tenure of embattled Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández". "The fall of the Valles has reconfigured criminal dynamics in western Honduras, a remote mountainous region bordering El Salvador and Guatemala that counts the departments of Copán, Santa Bárbara, Ocotepeque and Lempira, and has traditionally served as a route for all types of contraband, including drugs. It is also where President Juan Orlando Hernández and his brother Tony, who was accused this past year in a New York court of being a key link between politicians and organized crime in Honduras, got their start in national politics. The Hernández brothers were born in Gracias, a colonial city in the department of Lempira. Both represented Lempira as congressmen."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/wild-west-honduras-home-to-narcos-politicians/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/10/el-salvaje-oeste-en-honduras-cuna-de-narcos-y-politicos/>

ConfidencialHN denounces attempts by the JOH regime to silence critical voices during the upcoming September 15 marches.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-regimen-castigara-con-dureza-a-docentes-y-alumnos-que-griten-fuera-joh-durante-desfiles/>

Criterio reports on attempts by the JOH regime to get access to the Green Climate Fund.

The Secretary of the Development and Social Inclusion Secretariat (Sedis) met with the German Secretary for Economic Cooperation and Development.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/10/gobierno-corrupto-de-honduras-pide-apoyo-para-acceder-al-fondo-verde-para-el-clima/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3518-titular-de-sedis-se-reune-con-secretario-de-desarrollo-de-alemania>

The new chargé d'affaires offered a photo op to JOH and his wife.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1171570284396208129>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1171581668047630339>

<https://radiohrn.hn/presidente-hernandez-recibe-a-la-nueva-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-los-estados-unidos/>

Congress elected the representatives of the two new electoral bodies, the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE), while also confirming the representatives of the National Persons Registry (RNP). The political opposition is split about the outcome, Libre seems satisfied that their representatives were chosen, Pinu criticizes the electoral process as fraudulent.

But Manuel Zelaya also said that electoral reforms are still needed.

Already on a roll, Congress also confirmed the representatives of the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP).

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/fuerzas-politicas-se-reparten-cargos-electorales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/10/tras-acuerdo-de-tres-partidos-se-eligen-nuevas-autoridades-electorales/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/eleccion-de-autoridades-electorales-es-un-paso-importante-pero-faltan-reformas-mel-zelaya.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/10/diputados-aprovechan-acuerdos-para-nombrar-nuevos-comisionados-del-iaip-y-sub-procuradora/>

Refugees International published its second report card on the Trump administration's performance on refugee and humanitarian protection. "Last year, President Trump and his administration received a failing grade. This year is no different; indeed, performance has only gotten worse. The Trump administration continues to undermine U.S. refugee law and longstanding U.S. humanitarian policy through cruel practices toward families seeking asylum, weakening the U.S. asylum process, and crippling the U.S. Refugee Admissions program. Overseas, President Trump continued restrictions on lifesaving humanitarian aid—including aid to refugee women and girls—failed to lead efforts to end conflicts inflicting humanitarian suffering, and separated the United States from broad-based global efforts to improve global responses on migration and refugees."

<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2019-administration-report-card>

The business lobby COHEP once more voiced preoccupation regarding the new Penal Code demanding reforms before it comes into force.

The president of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta also voiced concern.

<https://tiempo.hn/cohep-nuevo-codigo-penal-no-se-acerca-a-la-realidad-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/rolando-argueta-preocupante-nuevo-codigo-penal-rebaje-penas-delitos-graves/>

The discussion about the 2020 general budget started yesterday.

<https://tiempo.hn/presentan-anteproyecto-de-presupuesto-para-ejercicio-fiscal-2020/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/una-dictadura-sangrienta/>

11/09/19

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Guapinol - Criminalization; Golpe - Drug Trafficking; Political Prisoners; Public Sector - Education, Healthcare; La Tigra; US; MACCIH - US; Penal Code; and Please Praise Me

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the July edition of its monthly human rights monitor. Those wishing to receive the report in a separate e-mail can subscribe using the following e-mail address:

foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/1908_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

Family members of the imprisoned HRDs from Guapinol traveled to Morocelí, El Paraíso to visit their loved ones.

Back home, inhabitants occupied the access to the mining project.

In a recent visit to Honduras, Daniel Cerqueira, the coordinator of the Human Rights and Natural Resources Program at the Due Process Law Foundation spoke with Pasos de Animal Grande about the abuse of judicial tools to criminalize HRDs.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/familiares-se-reencuentran-con-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-criminalizados-en-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/11/pobladores-de-tocoa-se-toman-acceso-a-proyecto-minero/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2565-segun-experto-internacional-mecanismos-judiciales-don-utilizados-como-herramientas-para-criminalizar-defensores>

In the aftermath of the coup d'état, social activist Emerson Geovany Martínez was detained and accused of terrorism and more. He was released after one day having suffered acts of torture. Now, ten years later, he was detained out of the blue and the police cited the arrest warrant from 2009. COFADEH is now accompanying legally.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/reabren-criminalizaciones-politicas-del-2009/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network published some helpful quotes from US court documents on the link between the coup d'état and drug trafficking. "The [US] Government will establish that the defendant [Tony Hernandez] described the 2009 coup as a development that enhanced the likelihood of additional lucrative drug trafficking and further impunity, viewed each of the national elections as a motive for engaging in additional drug trafficking to generate proceeds that could be used to fund campaigns, and relied on the individuals who won many of the elections to protect him and his co-conspirators from arrest and persecution." "In approximately the summer of 2009, the defendant [Tony Hernandez] told CW-3 [co-witness 3, Alexander Ardón, also charged in US with drug trafficking, former mayor in El Paraiso, Copan for many years], in substance, that the coup had improved the prospects for their drug-trafficking partnership because it was more likely that CC-3 [Co-Conspirator 3, former President Pepe Lobo] and CC-4 [Co-Conspirator 4, President Juan Orlando Hernandez] would be in positions to protect and assist them by winning their National Party campaigns for President and President of the Congress, respectively."

<https://www.facebook.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork/>

"On August 9, the Honduran government released two political prisoners who had been in a military-run prison for the past year and a half for their participation in opposition protests. NACLA spoke with one of the prisoners and his partner about his experience and the ongoing resistance movement in Honduras."

In a second interview, Edwin speaks about the condition in the maximum-security prison La Tolva - in the same prison, the 7 HRDs from Guapinol are currently held (see above).

<https://nacla.org/news/2019/09/05/political-prisoners-honduras-protests>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-tolva-carcel-para-presos-politicos-y-ambientales-en-honduras-entrevista/>

The Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare calls for new protests for today as a response to the harassment and repression at the workplace suffered by their members.

<http://elpulso.hn/33142-2/>

Teachers in Choluteca accompanied by the platform demand the cancellation of an intervention body in the local education sector. They denounce abusive behavior as well as favoritism towards Nationalist activists.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/docentes-de-choluteca-estan-exigiendo-se-cancele-junta-interventora/>

Javier Suazo published an analysis on the ongoing privatization attempts in the healthcare sector and the role of the Economic and Social Council (CES).

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/202074>

ContraCorriente published an analysis (including various photos) of the protests in defense of the National Park La Tigra (see previous e-mails)

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/11/el-poder-y-la-lucha-por-el-agua-en-la-tigra/>

Another Honduran delegation will travel to the US to meet with the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan. On this occasion, the US embassy praises the JOH regime a "committed and productive partner"...

At the same time, US congresswo/men continue to criticize the official US position.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1171914274450608133>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/canciller-rosales-viajara-a-eeuu-a-reunirse-con-secretario-de-seguridad.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/11/norma-torres-llama-narcotraficante-a-joh-y-cuestiona-por-que-trump-quiere-convertir-a-honduras-en-tercer-pais-seguro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congresista-de-ee-uu-critica-a-trump-por-imponer-al-narco-de-joh-acuerdo-de-tercer-pais-seguro/>

Chargé d'affaires Colleen Hoey met with the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla and highlighted the important work of the MACCIH.

The MACCIH, meanwhile, received a US delegation from the Center for Democracy in the Americas (CDA).

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1171892063413112833>

https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1171728089707159554

According to the Nationalist congressman Mario Pérez, Congress will modify the Penal Code, but it will still come into force in November. While the decriminalization of crimes against honor is to be welcomed, the derogation of criminal responsibility for legal entities raises questions.

<https://tiempo.hn/codigo-penal-cohep-logra-eliminacion-la-figura-penal-personas-juridicas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/congreso-hara-reformas-al-nuevo-codigo-penal-pero-mantiene-su-entrada-en-vigencia-para-noviembre.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/10/rieditorial-el-dictador-impone-desfiles-para-su-tributo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/11/secretaria-de-educacion-quiere-que-estudiantes-rindan-pleitesia-a-un-narcotraficante/>

12/09/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Guapinol - Criminalization, Denigration; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC; La Tigra; Violence against Women; MACCIH; Corruption - IHSS, Oliva; Penal Code; US; Budget; Electoral Reforms; and Teenage Pregnancy

In the Berta Cáceres case, two police investigators Juan Carlos Cruz and Miguel Arcángel Rosales were accused of tempering with evidence. They challenged the accusation and now the Appeals Court in Comayagua accepted the challenge. The MP believes that this was a mistake.

COPINH denounces that they were let go and demands investigations into why they tampered with evidence, to the benefit of whom, maybe the same people now responsible for their freedom. They condemn it as just another act perpetuating impunity in the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4801-el-ministerio-publico-a-la-ciudadania-en-general-informa>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1172305068776968192>

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Commons and Public Goods accompanied by national human rights organizations held a press conference yesterday informing about the situation of the detained HRDs from Guapinol.

They denounce that the HRDs have suffered torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

They reiterated their demand that the criminalized defenders are transferred to the prison in Olanchito, Yoro.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-del-agua-y-la-vida-han-sido-victimas-de-tortura-tratos-cruels-inhumanos-y-degradantes-por-el-inp/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-aqui-se-acaba-la-vida-si-no-hacemos-lo-que-tenemos-que-hacer/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/exigen-traslado-inmediato-de-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-a-centro-penal-de-olanchito-yoro/>

At the same time, i.e. three days ago, the Mi Ambiente Minister José Antonio Galdames continues to attack social movements and NGOs claiming that they causing mining companies to leave the country by illegal activities.

OFRANEH denounced the statements.

Interestingly, and probably unrelated, yesterday Galdames was reassigned to head the office coordinating money from the Green Fund for the Climate. Criterio believes that his reassignment is linked with his role in the protests regarding the residential project at the La Tigra National Park (see below).

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2019/09/10/honduras-en-riesgo-de-perder-empresas-mineras-que-quedan>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1172145505515839489>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/12/joh-destituye-a-secretario-de-miambiente-castigo-por-retractarse-en-proyecto-de-la-tigra/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mueven-a-galdames-de-miambiente-al-instituto-de-conservacion-forestal.html>

The communities surrounding La Tigra called for a popular assembly on September 17.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/12/comision-pro-defensa-de-las-comunidades-de-la-tigra-convocan-a-asamblea-con-todas-las-comunidades/>

<https://tiempo.hn/residencial-en-la-tigra-afectaria-a-un-ecosistema-unico-opina-experto/>

OFRANEH continues to denounce the attempt by the JOH regime to force through a problematic consultation law. According to OFRANEH, it violates the recommendations made by UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1172203399934296064>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1172165272473612295>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1172137281534201859>

Ten years ago, Honduras prohibited the use of Emergency Contraceptive Pill. "As of 2014, Doctors Without Borders together with other organizations has participated in the working group for the approval of a comprehensive care protocol, dedicated to survivors of sexual violence in Honduras. Its approval is pending since October 2017 because the pills remain prohibited and they are an essential part of the protocol." ContraCorriente spoke with Rafael Contreras of Doctors Without Borders about the situation in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/12/en-tres-anos-medicos-sin-fronteras-ha-atendido-2048-sobrevivientes-de-violencia-sexual-sin-acceso-a-la-pae/>

UFECIC is hiring and now they handed over the 237 applications to multiparty selection committee consisting of the MACCIH, the MP, and also the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).

MACCIH's speaker Ana María Calderón participated in a forum on "Money Laundering and its Links with Corruption Investigations". There she said: "Yes, there is institutional weakness, we find ourselves in a difficult context where international collaboration is needed."

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-016.MACCIH-entrega-expedientes-de-nuevos-postulantes-a-UFECIC-a-la-Comision-de-Seleccion-y-Certificacion.pdf>

https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1172148348196937735

The same ASJ is criticized by El Heraldo for the construction of what has to be assumed their new headquarter to the detriment of their neighbors.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1318260-466/asj-no-detiene-abuso-en-la-villa-universitaria>

The former IHSS director Mario Zelaya faces another corruption trial. Yesterday, a preliminary hearing took place in which he is accused of eight instances of corruption.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4796-mp-formalizara-acusacion-contramario-zelaya-por-ocho-delitos-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) claims that UFECIC is investigating the president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, for corruption.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ufecic-investiga-a-mauricio-oliva-por-corrupcion-segun-cna.html>

CEDOH held a forum on "The New Penal Code and the Current Situation in Honduras".

The back and forth regarding the taking force of the Penal Code continues. Now Congress' vice-president Antonio Rivera Callejas claims that it could be postponed for 3-4 months.

According to the CNA, the new Penal Code would also limit the extradition of Honduran citizens to the US.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/12/permitir-que-nuevo-codigo-penal-entre-en-vigencia-seria-temerario-cedoh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/vacatio-legis-de-nuevo-codigo-penal-se-puede-ampliar-en-tres-o-cuatro-meses-segun-vicepresidente-del-cn.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nuevo-codigo-penal-limitara-extradiciones-y-ahoracapos-buscaran-pagar-penas-en-honduras-segun-cna.html>

Some days ago, it was made public that there are talks between the JOH regime and the US to declare Honduras a safe third country (see previous e-mails). This was denied, but now WOLA denounces: "On September 12, representatives from the United States and Honduras governments are set to negotiate a potential "safe" third country agreement, one that will reportedly require asylum seekers who first traveled through Honduras on their journey to the United States to return to Honduras to apply for protection. (...) On September 12, representatives from the United States and Honduras governments are set to negotiate a potential "safe" third country agreement, one that will reportedly require asylum seekers who first traveled through Honduras on their journey to the United States to return to Honduras to apply for protection."

Honduran Foreign Minister Lisandro Rosales met with the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

<https://www.wola.org/2019/09/u-s-honduras-safe-third-country-negotiations/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-y-eeuu-a-punto-de-firmar-acuerdo-tercer-pais-seguro.html>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1172224215484964865>

The 2020 budget, 20 billion Lempiras higher than the current one, is being criticized by various sectors.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3523-mientras-economia-cae-gobierno-de-joh-pide-mas-dinero-a-hondurenos>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1318436-410/cohep-presupuesto-pone-peligro-pensiones-gobierno-honduras>

The UNAH Institute on Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) demands more profound electoral reforms.

Salvador Nasralla denounces that with the current situation, the National Party has guarantee for another electoral fraud in their favor.

The Secretary General of the OAS, meanwhile, greets the current electoral reforms, i.e. the new electoral bodies.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/iudpas-demanda-al-cn-profundizar-en-las-reformas-electorales.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-joh-ya-tiene-garantizado-un-nuevo-fraude/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/oea-saluda-a-nuevas-autoridades-electorales-de-honduras.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/36-ninez-y-juventud/1219-honduras-mas-de-73-ninas-se-convirtieron-en-madres-precozmente-al-dia>

13/09/19

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - Tolupanes, FPIC; La Tigra; UNAH; Military Police; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Migration - US; Penitentiary System; Drought; EU; and Matamoro's Next Chapter

Nine criminalized Tolupanes HRDs fear being sent to pre-trial detention. "The lawyers of the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ), an organization that supports this struggle, have denounced that the process has been characterized by the bias of justice institutions in favor of the forest-exploiting company. The State of Honduras continues to feed its historical debt with this people, stripping it of its natural resources, denying its right to equal justice and even denying fundamental rights such as health and education, as well as its right to peace and a healthy environment."

Gerzon Padilla published the second part of an analysis on the general situation of the Tolupanes in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/09/13/alerta-en-riesgo-de-ir-a-prision-9-indigenas-tolupanes-defensores-del-bosque/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/09/13/las-montanas-o-la-muerte-el-drama-de-los-tolupanes-en-honduras/>

30 years ago, the International Labor Organization (ILO) approved the Convention 169 which since then has become an important judicial tool for the protection of the indigenous peoples worldwide. OFRANEH denounces that 30 years later, the JOH regime continues to undermine their right and it condemns the newest attempt by a severely lacking Consultation Bill (see also previous e-mails).

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/09/13/30-anos-del-convenio-169-de-la-oit-y-la-destruccion-de-la-consulta-previa-a-manos-del-estado/>

The JOH regime continues to send mixed messages regarding the fate of the residential project in the La Tigra National Park. Tegucigalpa's mayor Nasry Asfura now says that it won't be canceled and that it has all the required permits. Environmental defenders and local inhabitants challenged this assertion.

Reporteros de Investigación discovered more irregularities regarding this and four further projects in La Tigra going back to 2010.

A protest took place yesterday in Tegucigalpa and the inhabitants of El Hatillo announced new occupations if there won't be a popular consultation.

<http://elpulso.hn/no-se-cancelara-el-proyecto-bosques-de-santa-maria-aseguran-autoridades/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/13/cinco-permisos-de-construccion-en-la-tigra/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1318630-466/marchan-contrapol%C3%A9mico-proyecto-habitacional-en-la-tigra>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pobladores-de-el-hatillo-amenazan-con-nuevas-tomas-si-municipalidad-se-niega-a-un-cabildo-abierto.html>

About a week ago, there was some good news that the charges against one of the criminalized students back from 2017 were dropped. Now, an appeals court confirmed the charges against the remaining students, over 20 of them, and they face trial for usurpation. HRDs denounce this as a grave judicial setback.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1220-retroceso-judicial-corte-de-apelaciones-arremete-contrae-studiantes-de-la-unah-y-defensores-de-ddhh>

The trial against JOH's brother Tony Hernández is set to start on October 2. Yesterday, a preliminary hearing took place.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1318667-410/eeuu-termin%C3%B3-etapa-previa-al-juicio-contratony-hern%C3%A1ndez>

"Today [yesterday], a U.S. delegation led by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Deputy Under Secretary James McCament, joined by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Hugo Rodriguez, and a Honduran delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Lisandro Rosales, as well as Minister of Security Julian Pacheco and Minister of Labor Carlos Madero, completed a series of productive meetings in Washington, D.C. on a broad range of topics related to border security, irregular migration, combating migrant smuggling and transnational criminal organizations, and expanding avenues for legal migration."

The ad-interim director of ICE, Matthew Albence, met with the first lady Ana García de Hernández at a Honduran care center for returning migrants.

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2019/09/13/joint-statement-between-us-government-and-government-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1172651392512585728>

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/palabras-director-interino-ice-matthew-albence-primera-dama-ana-garcia-de-hernandez-centro-atencion-migrante-retornado/>

A military police official was arrested presumed guilty of sharing information with Maras.

<https://tiempo.hn/capturan-teniente-de-la-pmop-por-presuntamente-facilitar-informacion-a-mareros/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1318622-466/capturan-a-militar-presunto-informante-de-la-mara-salvatrucha>

A tunnel was found near the so-called maximum security prison El Pozo.

<https://tiempo.hn/descubren-tunel-en-santa-barbara-que-conectaria-con-el-pozo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1318588-466/al-menos-tres-kil%C3%B3metros-de-profundidad-mide-t%C3%BAnel-hacia-el-pozo-i>

Photos: <https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1318561-468/fotos-as%C3%AD-es-el-profundo-t%C3%BAnel-descubierto-cerca-de-el-pozo-i>

Honduran campesinxs voice their great concern regarding the lack of water. This situation may continue up until November. The dams around the Central District, meanwhile, hold water to guarantee the already rationed service to mid-October.

No surprise is Honduras considered one of the worst affected countries by the climate crisis.

<http://elpulso.hn/campesinos-preocupados-por-la-falta-de-lluvia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-de-gran-hambruna-en-honduras-por-sequia-y-perdidas-de-cultivos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/cambio-climatico-tiene-de-rodillas-a-honduras/>

The president of the Central Committee of the National Party (CCPN), Reinaldo Sánchez, was in Brussels visiting the EU headquarters. He presented an official request that the EU sends observers to the primary election of the National Party.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-solicita-a-eu-enviar-mision-de-observacion-para-sus-elecciones-internas.html>

JOH ally and playing an important role in the electoral frauds in Honduras as the president of the TSE, David Matamoros Batson has been awarded the position of commissioner at the National Telecommunication Commission (Conatel), i.e. he now regulates media outlets. What could go wrong...

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/13/de-ser-acusado-de-fraude-electoral-a-regular-las-telecomunicaciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/david-matamoros-batson-nombrado-como-nuevo-comisionado-conatel/>

14/09/19

Honduras Daily: 9/15; Extractivism - Mining; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Water; and Budgetary Corruption

Honduras celebrates today its 198th "independence" day. Since the coup d'état in 2009, there always have been two marches - an official one controlled by the JOH regime (see also previous e-mails of the last few days) and one by Honduras' social movements. The Alignment against Continuity ones more convoked a march "to demand again the end of the dictatorship by organized crime".

Radio Progreso reflects of the significance of sovereignty in a Central American context. "We must understand the construction of sovereignty from a new model of development and well-being, based on dignified relationships, harmony and respect between human beings and with mother nature. When we have built a new fabric of social and political coexistence, nature will provide human beings with everything necessary for the dignified reproduction of life, while human beings reach a dignified level and worthy of respect that produces what they need to live based on full respect for human rights and the rights of nature."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-carias-marchan-con-morazan-vamos-a-batallar/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/soberania-derechos-humanos-y-de-la-naturaleza/>

In an town hall meeting, the people of Yorito, Yoro declared their community free of mining. The JOH regime has forced four concessions on the community and for about a year, the inhabitants of Yorito have been protesting against a mining project by CEASA.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/yorito-nuevo-municipio-libre-de-mineria/>

The Pro Honduras Network published additional details on Friday's last pre-trial meeting in the Tony Hernández case (see also yesterday). "Prosecutors responded by ensuring that they will demonstrate during the trial through concrete evidence that Tony Hernández and his brother (Juan Orlando Hernández) used political power to provide protection to several of Tony's drug trafficking partners in exchange for money to finance their political campaigns (...) As the trial approaches, things get more complicated for Tony; if he continues to plead not guilty, he could face up to two life sentences for the charges he is accused of. The only way he has left to reduce his years in prison is to plead guilty before October 2 and begin to collaborate with US justice, providing information that help prosecutors build cases against other co-conspirators."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/14/tony-hernandez-a-las-puertas-de-una-cadena-perpetua/>

SANAA has further restricted the drinking water supply.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/suministro-de-agua-potable-ahora-sera-cada-siete-dias-por-bajo-nivel-de-represas.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1318807-466/calendario-de-agua-para-septiembre-suministro-ser%C3%A1-cada-7-d%C3%ADas-en-la>

The head of the Medical Association of Honduras, Suyapa Figueroa denounces that the raise in the budget only serves the corrupt elite to steal more public funds.

<https://tiempo.hn/suyapa-figueroa-aumento-presupuesto-corruptos-saquear-fondos/>

15/09/19

Honduras Daily: 9/15 - Repression, FoE, Alternatives; FPIC - UN; Migration - Mexico; Militarization; and No International Democracy Day in Honduras

Yesterday's alternative "independence" day march organized by social movements and civil society was heavily repressed from the start, even when the protest was still gathering people. A part from Tegucigalpa, Criterio and El Tiempo also report on repression in San Pedro Sula and Choluteca.

There were also reports of protests signs in the official state march protesting against the narco-dictatorship.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/15/regimen-de-honduras-conmemora-fiestas-patrias-con-salvaje-represion-contra-protesta-ciudadana/>

<https://tiempo.hn/la-policia-nacional-lanza-gas-lacrimogeno-a-la-marcha-de-libre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-gasea-y-cierra-el-paso-a-hondurenos-opositores-que-marchaban-en-sps/>

Photos: <https://criterio.hn/2019/09/15/las-imagenes-de-la-represion-y-el-rechazo-popular-a-las-fiestas-del-15-de-septiembre/>

Video: <https://twitter.com/CLibrehn/status/1173273040278474754>

Video: <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1173284145897693184>

C-Libre denounces that to further limit protests, the JOH regime published a ministerial agreement (Nr. 0754-SE-2019). It consists of 33 articles, which highlight a series of prohibitions and sanctions for those who "utter insults against the image and honor of the authorities of the three State Powers as well as departmental and municipal authorities".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1063-crean-reglamento-para-acallar-voces-opositoras-este-15-de-septiembre>

The social movement Atlántida of Life and Dignity published a press release calling for a different Honduras and a different Atlántida. They dream of "Atlántida department that builds its own sustainable development through social justice, involving the entire departmental population, from the smallest communities to the largest towns, with emphasis on the most vulnerable families in need of solidarity".

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/comunicado-movimiento-atlantida-con-vida-y-dignidad/>

OFRANEH accuses the UNDP of "violating the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, by deliberately claiming that the socialization of the Consultation La - copied from the law of Peru - was a consultation".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1173255301933481987>

Mexico has deported 18'000 Honduran children so far this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/2019-mexico-deporta-al-menos-18000-ninos-hondurenos-hasta-la-fecha/>

The head of the Armed Forces René Orlando Ponce Fonseca continues to push for voting by the state security forces.

<https://tiempo.hn/rene-ponce-fonseca-sufragio-ffaa-importante-para-la-democracia/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/paso-en-la-vida-democratica-considera-jefe-castrense-que-policias-y-militares-ejerzan-sufragio.html>

<https://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/>

16/09/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Contamination; COPINH - Trial; La Tigra; Corruption - IHSS, Mayors; Migration - Police, IACHR; National Police - TIGRES, Protests; Penitentiary System; Judicial System; Congress; Drug Trafficking; and Honduras Goes Black

These recent weeks have focused on the newest wave of criminalization of the HRDs from Guapinol. Pasos de Animal Grande published an important article on one of the reasons why the local communities started to organize and peacefully demand the exit of the mining project. Since 2016, they have been protesting the contamination of their water sources, especially the Guapinol River by toxic sediments coming from the mining activities.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2567-guapinol-contaminacion-de-la-minera-carcel-y-criminalizacion-del-estado>

COPINH published a helpful infographic on David Castillo based on the recent report "Violence, Corruption & Impunity in the Honduran Energy Industry: A Profile of Roberto David Castillo Mejía" (see also previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1173721468657643527>

The communities defending the La Tigra National Park will hold an open town hall meeting today. They expect the attendance of the mayor of Tegucigalpa as well as the head of the Institute for Forest Conservation (ICF).

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/16/defensores-de-la-tigra-desarrollaran-cabildo-abierto-donde-esperan-a-tito-asfura/>

Yesterday, the evidentiary hearing in the newest chapter of the IHSS corruption case took place. It involves 14 former board members.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4818-mp-propondra-pruebas-contra-exdirectivos-del-ihss-acusados-por-trasferencia-irregular-de-mas-de-600-millones-de-lempiras>

A Nationalist mayor, Teonela Paisano Wood, was detained with 280'000 Lempiras on her.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/16/detienen-alcaldesa-nacionalista-de-brus-laguna-con-280-mil-lempiras/>

After the creation of a border police in El Salvador, Honduran foreign minister Lisandro Rosales said that Honduras would not create such a unit for Honduras but it thinks about increasing the number of police agents already stationed in border regions.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-recuerda-autonomia-para-aumentar-sus-policias-en-fronteras.html>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) conducted a working visit to the United States' southern border on August 19–23, 2019. The visit sought to observe the situation of human rights, concerning conditions of reception at the border; access to asylum and international protection procedures; conditions of detention for migrants and the practices associated with such detention; migration and asylum procedures; and due process guarantees and judicial protection. All these conditions were to be evaluated with an emphasis on the principles of family unity and best interest of the child."

<https://reliefweb.int/report/united-states-america/iachr-conducted-visit-united-states-southern-border>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/16/cidh-hace-recomendaciones-luego-de-visita-a-frontera-sur-de-estados-unidos/>

A former preventive police agent was found guilty of homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4821-sentencia-condenatoria-contra-ex-policia-preventivo>

Some months ago, TIGRES special forces laid down their work in protest against the ordered repression of the Honduran people. The Bureau of Disciplinary Police Matters (Didadpol) now announces that discharge hearings will be held against 92 agents.

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-audiencias-de-descargo-contr-92-agentes-por-la-rebelion-policial/>

The JOH regime bought a new police tow-truck to counter occupations by protesters.

<https://radiohrn.hn/policia-nacional-adquiere-camion-remolcador-para-liberar-vias-durante-manifestaciones/>

The deputy director of the National Penitentiary System does not want to hear about human rights violations in Honduras' prisons.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/inp-asegura-que-no-se-les-violenta-derechos-a-privados-en-modulos-de-maxima-seguridad.html>

The JOH regime tends to throw the creation of special units at certain problems, e.g. creating FNAMP to combat maras. They seem to try the same thing now on the judicial level. After several deadly accidents, the president of the Supreme Court contemplates creating a Transit Court.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/poder-judicial-contempla-creacion-de-juzgados-en-materia-ambiental-y-de-transito.html>

Nincy Perdomo published the newest edition of the Parliamentary Chronicles, this time in collaboration with Edgardo Mancía.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-101112-09-2019/>

The trial of Ramón Matta Waldurraga for drug trafficking in the US has been postponed to October.

<https://tiempo.hn/fiscalia-new-york-sentecia-ramon-matta-waldurraga/>

"Most of #Honduras is without electrical energy. Apparently the cause of the national black out is unknown. One crisis after another & the poorest pay the highest price including from the severe water shortages & rationing in Tegucigalpa #HondurasEnCrisis"

ENEE reported that by 5:15pm, the energy grid was up and running again.

According to the Central-American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), some 30% of Hondurans still lack access to electricity.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1173671171063259136>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1319298-466/apagon-energia-honduras-nicaragua>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/un-30-de-hondurenos-no-cuenta-con-servicio-de-electricidad-segun-presidente-del-bcie.html>

17/09/19

Honduras Daily: La Tigra - Repression; Guapinol - Criminalization; Berta - Movie, Impunity; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Economy; LGBTQ - Military Police; Corruption - Garífuna, IHSS; MACCIH; US - Labor; Drinking Water - Education; Violence; World Bank; and Overcoming the Patriarchy

Yesterday's protest in defense of the La Tigra National Park was violently repressed and state security forces used live bullets.

OACNUDH expressed concern.

Before the repression, it was concluded it a meeting with the mayor of Tegucigalpa that in two months time an official town hall meeting would take place.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/17/tras-reunion-con-alcalde-capitalino-policia-reprime-con-bala-y-bombas-lacrimogenas-a-defensores-de-la-tigra/>

Photo: <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1174030348566421505>

Video: <https://twitter.com/GildateleSUR/status/1174014418419671040>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1174131285041790978>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/le-dan-largas-por-dos-meses-mas-a-conservacion-de-la-tigra.html>

More than 200 national, regional and international human rights organizations condemned in a joint press release the criminalization of HRDs from Guapinol, which includes the pre-trial detention of 8 defenders (see last week).

CESPAD published an analysis on the strategies used by the mining company to criminalize the defenders.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/mas-200-organizaciones-nacionales-regionales-e-internacionales-condenamos-criminalizacion-defensores>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/09/17/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-que-estrategias-utiliza-la-empresa-minera-para-criminalizar-a-las-y-los-defensores-del-agua-en-guapinol-y-san-pedro/>

A Catalan TV station aired the documentary "The Seeds of Berta" on Berta Cáceres and it can be watched online.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1174053484594962440>

<https://www.ccma.cat/tv3/alcanta/latituds/les-llavors-de-berta-caceres/video/5912827/>

Berta's mother met OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro. He reiterated the importance of the investigation of the murder "to the fullest truth and justice". He also called for better protection for Berta's family members and HRDs and environmental defenders in general. He failed to mention COPINH.

https://twitter.com/Almagro_OEA2015/status/1174018552170471426

"As his final extradition orders were being read and signed, a drug trafficker known as "El Negro" Lobo paced in his small holding cell. He was minutes away from becoming the first Honduran citizen legally extradited to the United States in over a century. The extradition, on May 8, 2014, was about to change the course of drug trafficking history in Honduras, and not just for Lobo and his fellow traffickers sent after him. (...) More extraditions followed. Hernández said that since he's been president, more than 40 traffickers had been sent to face justice in the United States or turned themselves in to authorities in third countries. (...) But as extraditions accelerated there were indications that Hernández was getting nervous. He feared that his brother, Tony, could become the subject of a US extradition request. According to court documents released in his brother's case, Hernández told close associates that he "was considering eliminating extradition" for that reason. (...) In the end, US prosecutors didn't even need to make an extradition request for either. On November 23 of last year, DEA agents arrested Tony when he landed at Miami International Airport. Ardón turned himself in to authorities in February after negotiating with US prosecutors and DEA agents. When Tony Hernández goes to court in October, Ardón will likely be on the stand. "Why was it that Juan Orlando set this machine in motion?" asked the embassy official. "I don't really have a good answer." What is clear is that extradition may be President Hernandez's undoing."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/how-his-extradition-policy-exposed-honduras-president/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/17/politica-de-extradicion-de-joh-podria-ser-su-propia-perdicion/>

The former president of the Central Bank of Honduras, Hugo Noé Pino, criticizes JOH's economy policies.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-vivira-tsunami-economico-sin-precedentes-por-voracidad-de-joh/>

The LGBT organization Cozumel Trans denounces a series of aggression and attacks against an inmate and threats against a HRD visiting the person by the Military Police. "The situation of persons deprived of liberty in Maximum Security and militarized Prisons is worrying overall risk since the regulations in this area prohibit the military presence in the prison system".

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/17/policia-militar-en-la-carcel-te-vamos-a-disparar-en-los-ojos/>

FOSDEH demands an exhaustive auditing of the security tax (tasa de seguridad).

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-exige-una-exhaustiva-auditoria-a-los-fondos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad/>

La Prensa reports on corruption at the National Agrarian Institute leading to the distribution of protected land affecting indigenous communities.

In a second article, they show the attempts by the indigenous Garífuna community of Triunfo de la Cruz to protect their land , especially the National Park Punta Izopo, against intruders.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1319460-410/corrupcion-como-pinata-repartieron-reservas-tela-la-ceiba-honduras>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1319458-410/garifunas-defienden-punta-izopo-machetes-escopetas-pistolas-tela-honduras>

Another trial was successfully opened against the former IHSS director Mario Zelaya for corruption.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4828-se-emite-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-en-contras-de-mario-zelaya-acusado-de-ocho-delitos-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutierrez handed over a letter to Luis Almargo in representation of the Parliamentarian Front in Defense of the MACCIH. They demand the renewal of MACCIH's contract and transparency and participation in its evaluation.

<https://twitter.com/fosdeh/status/1173999145524301824>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/17/coalicion-ciudadana-pide-a-almagro-ampliar-vigencia-de-la-maccih/>

The Honduran ambassador to the US, María Dolores Agüero Lara, met Trump in the White House to present her credentials.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1174087058572369920>

<https://tiempo.hn/oficial-maria-dolores-aguero-lara-embajadora-honduras-en-eeuu/>

A representative of the US Labor Department is currently in Honduras to participate in a tripartite meeting with the government, business and labor representatives.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1174128029695696897>

Criterio denounces that the mayoralty of the Central District hired the company Hidalgo e Hidalgo to install smart water meters leading to a price rise.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/17/denuncian-que-empresa-hidalgo-pondra-contadores-inteligentes-para-subir-la-tarifa-del-agua/>

The water crisis, meanwhile, continues to spread. El Pulso reports that 75% of all Honduran schools are without drinking water.

<http://elpulso.hn/posible-crisis-sanitaria-por-falta-de-agua-en-centros-escolares/>

ContraCorriente reports on the shortsighted approach to combating violence in Choloma, imposing a curfew.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/17/toque-de-queda-en-choloma-como-solucion-a-la-violencia/>

A Honduran delegation met with the World Bank in Washington DC.

<http://elpulso.hn/delegacion-del-gobierno-presenta-avances-de-pais-ante-banco-mundial/>

"Berta Cáceres said that the Honduran dictatorship has different forms of domination and to strengthen itself has not only allied itself with the most predatory capitalism and racism, but also with the patriarchy that has relegated women to a subaltern position to men. (...) For this reason, feminisms not only liberate women, but also men, and, in this sense, the latter have a fundamental responsibility in deconstructing the hegemonic model of patriarchal masculinity and moving towards alternative and egalitarian masculinities. The men of the social and progressive movements of the country have a greater responsibility because the authoritarianism of the regime cannot be denounced if we do not radically change our macho attitudes within our organizations, at work or at home."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-lucha-por-la-democracia-es-la-lucha-contra-el-patriarcado/>

18/09/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - UN; MACCIH - US; Migration - US, Deportation; Drought; Penal Code; Corruption - UFECIC, Congress; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Child Labor; and a New Envío

COPINH informed that the trial against the presumed intellectual authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres, David Castillo, will continue on September 25, next Wednesday. It is still the preliminary hearing which should then lead to the trial itself.

COPINH reiterated that all of the intellectual authors should be investigated and brought to trial.

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/se-reanuda-audiencia-de-castillo/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1174377731972313088>

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert denouncing the attacks against the HRDs Elizabeth Medina and Katherin Cruz. The two women were documenting the violent repression by state security forces against protesters in defense of the La Tigra National Park on Tuesday. The police threw a tear gas bomb on purpose in front of Medina and accused her of being a "fake human rights defender of lazy people and Maras"; a colleague of her was threatened with a gun. Cruz, meanwhile, was illegally detained by the police.

The head of OACNUDH, Maria Soledad Pazo met with the human rights organization ACI Participa which suffered many attacks in the last months.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/09/alertadefensoras-honduras-obstruccion-al-libre-ejercicio-de-defensa-de-ddhh-intimidacion-retencion-arbitraria-y-agresiones-contras-las-defensoras-elizabeth-medina-y-katherin-cruz/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1174448172644687872>

The US Chargé d'Affaires met with the MACCIH and UFECIC as well as the Attorney General.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1174456755620909064>

The US embassy published a press release on a recent visit by Trump to the US-Mexican border where he thanked the efforts by Central American governments for their collaboration to curb "illegal migration".

Meanwhile, there are still contradicting messages regarding the JOH regime signing a safe third country agreement.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/los-estados-unidos-trabaja-con-sus-aliados-centroamericanos-para-enfrentar-la-migracion-ilegal/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-honduras/u-s-seeking-to-make-cuban-asylum-seekers-stay-in-honduras-minister-idUSKBN1W22W4>

In total, over 85'000 Hondurans have been deported this year and another 2200 are expected this week.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3532-mas-de-dos-mil-migrantes-hondurenos-seran-deportados-esta-semana>

The Lawyers Association of Honduras (CAH) is also in favor of extending the "vacatio legis" of the Penal Code, i.e. that it comes into force later than November.

The head of the judicial power, Rolando Argueta, had previously voiced his support for this. Yesterday, he was challenged by the president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/colegio-de-abogados-tambien-respalda-extender-la-vacatio-legis-del-codigo-penal.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/oliva-a-argueta-es-exagerada-la-propuesta-mejor-estudien-ya-el-codigo-penal/>

UFECIC challenges the decision to have the charges against the two main suspects in the Caja Chica del Hermano corruption case dismissed, one of them being the brother of Pepe Lobo.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ufecic-presenta-amparo-en-sala-constitucional-en-caso-caja-chica-del-hermano.html>

Criterio accuses Congress of once more having violated parliamentary procedures by approving a multi-million dollar debt for ENEE and by allowing San Pedro Sula to take up more debt.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/18/congreso-movil-oficialismo-impone-aprobacion-de-millonarios-contratos-para-deuda-de-la-enee-y-alcaldia-sampedrana/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sin-explicaciones-cn-aprueba-155-millones-dolares-enee/>

HRD and former UNAH dean Juan Almeyda links the current water crisis and drought in Honduras with its particular extractive, violent development model. "This structural and historical violence of the country, takes every day more cynic and violent forms that threaten the lives of children and families. It consists no longer only of throwing tear gas bombs, increasing hunger and misery, but it is characterized by massacres, terrorist and racist acts against the oppressed sectors".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1222-licencia-para-matar>

In the last weeks, InSight Crime has published a series of articles on JOH and his drug trafficking links or as they called it, "The Downfall of Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández".

JOH, meanwhile, still pretends that it is all a big conspiracy against him.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/insight-crime-series-the-downfall-of-honduras-president-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-hubieran-pruebas-concretas-no-habria-la-figura-de-la-conspiracion-en-el-caso-de-mi-hermano.html>

Radio HRN reports that child labor has increased in Honduras.

<https://radiohrn.hn/total-indefension-en-cien-mil-aumenta-el-numero-de-ninos-explotados-laboralmente/>

ERIC published the newest edition of Envío which looks at what happened in the 10 years since the coup and the JOH regime, the evaluation of the MACCIH, the youth movement, and more.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vilGkceEI94nBphg4WE_XkY21ttlycIp/view

19/09/19

Honduras Daily: Armed Forces - Assassination; HRDs; Journalists - UNESCO; Indigenous Peoples - Climate Change; Guapinol; US; Drought; JOH - Drug Trafficking; and a Higher Education Budget

The MP arrested a young member of the Armed Forces accusing him of the murder of the 17-year old Eblin Noel Corea Maradiaga in the beginning of the year. It took place during the protests by the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare.

OACNUDH welcomes his arrest and demands more investigations and prosecution of human rights violations.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4844-mp-captura-a-militar-activo-acusado-del-asesinato-de-un-menor-de-edad-tras-protestas-en-yarumela-la-paz>

<https://tiempo.hn/capturan-militar-supuesto-asesino-de-joven-durante-protesta-la-paz/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1174897011377823744>

COFADEH and others published a report on the situation of human rights and land defenders in the La Paz department.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/informe-DEFENSORESTIERRA.pdf>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on self-censorship by journalists and social communicators in Santa Bárbara in fear of threats and worse.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2569-periodistas-en-santa-barbara-se-autocensuran-en-algunos-temas-debido-a-la-inseguridad-del-pais>

"Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, has condemned the killing of broadcast journalist Edgar Joel Aguilar in the town of La Entrada in western Honduras on 31 August."

<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-director-general-urges-investigation-murder-broadcast-journalist-edgar-joel-aguilar>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unesco-condena-asesinato-de-periodista-en-el-occidente-de-honduras-y-pide-investigacion-del-caso/>

"In an unprecedented move, more than 200 representatives of Indigenous Peoples, workers, academia, environmental and human rights groups adopted a landmark declaration [1] calling on governments and corporations to urgently tackle the climate emergency in order to ensure the survival of humanity."

Berta Zúniga, general coordinator of COPINH, also spoke at this event.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/24345/200-environmental-and-human-rights-leaders-pledge-to-tackle-climate-emergency-together/>

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/copinh-en-cumbre-de-los-pueblos-justicia-climatica/>

The Committee for the Defense of the Commons and Public Goods will be awarded this year's Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award. The committee plays an active role in the local protest against a mining project in Guapinol for which dozens of HRDs have been criminalized and 8 are held in a high-security prison in pre-trial detention.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-premio-letelier-moffitt-sera-otorgado-a-defensores-del-agua-y-la-vida-de-tocoa/>

<https://ips-dc.org/about/letelier-moffitt-human-rights-awards/>

Another day, another photo op for the JOH regime offered by the US. Yesterday, the first lady Ana García de Hernández met with the US Chargé d'Affaires.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1174866762921385984>

Due to the lack of water, there is also a decrease in hydroelectric energy production. The JOH regime now announced an emergency plan.

<http://elpulso.hn/falta-de-agua-tambien-afectara-produccion-de-energia/>

The JOH continues on his path of presenting himself as a victim by a political opposition using the situation of his brother...

According to ConfidencialHN, his constant media presence is a sign of fear.

<https://tiempo.hn/juan-hernandez-momento-duro-para-mi-familia-oposicion-ha-aprovechado-situacion-de-tony-1/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-inicia-nuevo-recorrido-mediatico-y-habla-de-su-hermano-tony/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aparicion-constante-de-joh-en-los-medios-demuestra-su-miedo-por-el-juicio-de-tony/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tony-vendio-narcohelicoptero-a-socio-y-sera-evidencia-en-ee-uu-para-hundirlo-en-prision/>

<https://tiempo.hn/colprosumah-pide-al-gobierno-aumentar-el-presupuesto-2020-al-sector-educativo/>

20/09/19

Honduras Daily: CNTC - Int. Delegation; Tolupanes; LGBTQ; La Tigra; Journalists; Armed Forces - Assassination; Corruption - Astropharma, Narcopolítica; Drug Trafficking - JOH; US; Education; Budget; and Climate Justice

15 campesino families linked to the CNTC fear being evicted from their land in Bijao near Choloma, Cortés. A judge ordered their eviction for yesterday. They have been on this land for three years. According to them, they have proof granted by the Property Institute (IP) that defines the land as ejidal in nature and without registered owners, and that they have completed all the necessary procedures before the National Agrarian Institute (INA) requesting property titles.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/09/20/alerta-15-familias-campesinas-en-riesgo-de-ser-desalojadas/>

Also in Cortés, but in the Potrerillos municipality, 13 campesinxs linked to the CNTC were acquitted in another case of criminalization.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/09/20/absueltos-13-campesinos-y-campesinas-acusados-de-usurpacion-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

At the same time, an international delegation is in Honduras from the Basque Country to observe the situation of land defenders and campesinxs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/condiciones-criticas-enfrentan-los-defensores-de-la-tierra-y-los-territorios-en-honduras/>

The indigenous Tolupán from San Francisco Locomapa have been suffering a year-long criminalization campaign. In a third judicial process, nine of them appeared in a measures review hearing on September 13 where they feared pre-trial detention. But the hearing was suspended after their defense team had challenged the judge. ConexiHon reports that a new judge is about to be nominated.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1227-esta-semana-nombran-juez-del-caso-de-tolupanes-criminalizados-por-tercera-vez>

<https://wp.radioprogresohn.net/criminalizacion-y-amenazas-continuan-contra-pueblo-tolupan/>

The deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) suspended the conjugal visit for members of the LGBTQ community.

<https://confidencialhn.com/subjefe-penitenciario-recurre-a-la-homofobia-al-prohibir-visitas-conyugales-a-diversidad-sexual/>

For weeks, the communities around the La Tigra National Park have been demanding the cancellation of a controversial housing project inside the park which additionally would negatively affect Tegucigalpa's water supply. This week, their protest was severely repressed (see previous emails). In a meeting with the mayoralty and the Mi Ambiente Secretariat, they did not come to an agreement.

<http://elpulso.hn/sin-acuerdo-autoridades-y-pobladores-que-defienden-la-tigra/>

JOH's presidential minister Ebal Díaz legally persecutes the Radio Globo journalist Lidieth Díaz. He pressed charges against her for libel and defamation.

<https://tiempo.hn/confirmado-ebal-diaz-querello-a-la-periodista-lidieth-diaz-por-difamacion-y-calumnias/>

On Thursday, the MP reported about the arrest of the soldier held responsible for the murder of the 17-year old Eblin Noel Corea Maradiaga (see yesterday). He has been sent to pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4848-detencion-judicial-para-militar-acusado-del-asesinato-de-menor-de-17-anos-durante-manifestaciones-en-yarumela>

<https://tiempo.hn/detencion-judicial-para-militar-acusado-de-asesinar-a-menor-en-yarumela/>

The MP highlights irregularities in the Astropharma corruption trial against a powerful Nationalist family.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1175141757597683712

In the Narcopolítica corruption case, the Nationalist politician and former official in the Lobo administration, Miguel Pastor, was acquitted of various crimes but he was sent to pre-trial detention for money laundering and bribery.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/20/justicia-hondurena-se-comienza-a-acomodar-a-favor-de-miguel-pastor/>

<https://tiempo.hn/prision-preventiva-miguel-pastor-narcopolitica/>

The Pro Honduras Network published more details on the upcoming trial against Tony Hernández in New York.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/20/fiscales-del-distrito-sur-de-new-york-se-preparan-para-hundir-a-tony-herandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/periplo-de-joh-por-medios-es-para-alejar-posible-persecucion-penal-de-ee-uu-en-su-contra/>

"High-level representatives from the governments of the United States and Honduras met this week in Tegucigalpa to discuss how to enhance collaboration in the areas of law enforcement and information-sharing, bolster regional border security, strengthen migration protections, and increase temporary legal employment opportunities in the United States."

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-united-states-honduras/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-reconoce-progreso-de-honduras-en-materia-de-seguridad-y-migracion.html>

According to Colprosumah, 70% of the physical education infrastructure is on the brink of collapse.

At the same time, some 70'000 children did not enroll in any school. The number of enrolled children has increased until 2014, but since 2015, it is on a decline.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-70-por-ciento-de-la-infraestructura-del-sistema-educativo-publico-nacional-esta-colapsada/>

<http://elpulso.hn/por-que-el-sistema-educativo-no-es-atractivo-para-los-padres-de-familia/>

FOSDEH published a first analysis of the newest general budget or as they call it, "new wines in old wineskins".

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/09/primeras-observaciones-del-fosdeh-al-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-de-honduras-para-el-ano-2020/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-advierte-que-pobres-financiaran-presupuesto-de-2020-perdon-de-impuestos-supera-los-40-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

Miriam Miranda, OFRANEH's general coordinator: "Today [yesterday] the week of the World Strike for the climate begins, we will not be able to save humanity as long as we do not stop irrational decision makers. In Tegucigalpa, a housing project is imposed onto the largest water source in the area, #SalvemoslaTigra."

"It is not the climate that must change, we must change this irrational, voracious, disrespectful model of "development" against other living beings, destroyer of nature and the life that has been imposed on us. This model is killing humanity."

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1175040131767656448>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1175042378597576704>

21/09/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH; JOH - Corruption; Penitentiary System - LGBTQ; Violence against Women - Penal Code; Libre; and Rain

COPINH sent out an alert denouncing the arbitrary detention of members of the Colomoncagua community by soldiers.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1175570707763355649>

ConfidencialHN reports based on a protected witness that the JOH regime through the bought journalists for 4.5 million Lempiras through the former communications minister and sister of JOH, Hilda Hernández. She died in December 2017 in a helicopter accident.

<https://confidencialhn.com/testigo-protégida-y-colaboradora-de-hilda-hernandez-delata-a-periodistas-que-habrian-recibido-dinero-del-partido-nacional/>

An inmate held for extortion was found dead in the Támara prison.

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) claims that it was suicide.

<https://hch.tv/2019/09/21/sin-vida-hallan-a-reo-presos-por-extorsion-en-la-carcel-de-tamara/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/recluso-se-suicida-en-el-interior-de-la-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara.html>

El Tiempo also covers the new prohibition of homosexual conjugal visits to Honduras' prison (see also yesterday). In a defamatory attack, deputy director German McNeil said that it would serve to stop "licentiousness".

<https://tiempo.hn/inp-prohibevisitas-conyugales-homosexuales-centros-penitenciarios/>

EFE spoke with the Honduran human rights defender and director of the Civil Society Group Jessica Sánchez about the new Penal Code and its negative effects on the most vulnerable groups, especially when it comes to protect women from violence.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ong-ve-en-codigo-penal-hondureno-retroceso-en-lucha-contra-violencia-machista.html>

Criterio published an interview with Xiomara Hortensia Zelaya, daughter of Xiomara and Manuel Zelaya, who recently announced that she will run for president.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/21/ee-uu-ha-convertido-a-honduras-en-un-laboratorio-para-las-nuevas-formas-de-colonizacion-en-america-latina-pichu-zelaya/>

After Thursday's and Friday's rain showers, the situation has improved a bit in Tegucigalpa.

<http://elpulso.hn/leve-mejora-en-nivel-de-represas-con-tormentas-de-jueves-y-viernes/>

22/09/19

Honduras Daily: Criminalization - Zacate Grande, Guapinol; Berta - Documentary; National Police; Penitentiary System; Dengue; JOH; and the Lack of Climate Justice in Honduras

Defensores en Línea denounces the arrest of the HRD María Hernández from Playa Blanc on Zacate Grande. There was an arrest warrant emitted against her since November 2018. She and many others are being criminalized by the landowner Jorge Luís Cassis Leiva.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/capturan-a-defensora-de-zacate-grande/>

The criminalized HRDs from Guapinol have already passed almost a month in prison, 22 days of which in the maximum-security prison La Tolva. The JOH regime has failed so far to resolve two Habeas Corpora in favor of them.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2570-27-dias-llevan-en-prision-defensores-de-guapinol>

COPINH published a link to download the documentary "The Seeds of Berta Cáceres" (see last week).

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/documental-las-semillas-de-berta-caceres/>

During a police stop, a young woman was shot in the head by a police agent. She fights for her life. Due to the outcry on social media, the police emitted a press release confirming that a young woman was shot, but not giving any details about who shot. Rather, they reflect saying that the driver of the car was drunk.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/22/policia-hiere-de-gravedad-a-adolescente-durante-operativo/>

The National Committee on the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (CONAPREV) participated at an international forum in Mexico where they denounced the situation of the Honduran penitentiary system.

<https://tiempo.hn/conaprev-en-mexico-honduras-no-respeta-derechos-de-detenidos-ni-reos/>

The number of confirmed deaths by Dengue rose to 142.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ascienden-a-142-las-muertes-por-dengue-grave-en-honduras.html>

JOH arrived in New York yesterday for the UN summit.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-llega-a-nueva-york-para-participar-en-74-asamblea-de-la-onu.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-planeta-se-mueve-y-muere/>

<https://tiempo.hn/hija-berta-caceres-destaca-10-guerreras-contra-cambio-climatico/>

23/09/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; Zacate Grande; Berta - Trial; Armed Forces - Assassination; COBRAS; Corruption - JOH, La Tigra, Astropharma; Migration - US; Electoral Reforms; JOH; and Tattoos in Honduras

Yesterday afternoon, COPINH sent out an alert that members of the Madrid Family stopped COPINH members threatening to burn their cars. COPINH was accompanying MEXican and US filmmakers.

Five hours later, COPINH informed that they were able to leave. They denounce that over 20 complaints against the Madrid Family have already been filed at the MP to no avail.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1176231306071609350>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1176303568892157952>

IM-Defensoras denounces the arrest and criminalization of HRD María Concepción Hernández belonging to the human rights organization ADEPZA (see also yesterday).

Giorgio Trucchi summarizes the situation in Zacate Grande as "an infinite cycle of criminalization".

Defensores en Línea was able to speak with María after her arrest. She expressed concern about her 8-year old son who was with her during the arrest.

Yesterday, her hearing took place and she was released with alternative measures to pre-trial detention, i.e. she has to sign a document at the court every two weeks, is not allowed to leave the country nor go the land in question. The trial will start on October 9.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/09/alertadefensoras-honduras-detencion-y-criminalizacion-contra-maria-concepcion-hernandez-defensora-del-territorio-integrante-de-adepza/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/zacate-grande-y-el-ciclo-infinito-de-criminalizacion-de-defensores-y-defensoras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/maria-hernandez-desconozco-por-que-me-detienen/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/23/continua-la-criminalizacion-de-los-defensores-de-la-tierra/>

Last week, the soldier held responsible for murdering the 17-year old Eblin Noel Corea Maradiaga in this year's protests was arrested (see previous e-mails). Amnesty International sees this only as a first step and writes: "It is essential that the authorities determine the responsibility of the commanders who led the operation that resulted in the death of this young man and that they investigate all other cases of repression at the hands of the Honduran security forces".

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2019/09/honduras-detencion-de-militar-justicia-por-muerte-de-joven/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1229-caso-eblin-corea-capturan-a-militar-acusado-de-autor-material-mandos-superiores-deben-responder>

During the time of the protests, COBRAS special forces laid down their arms announcing that they don't want to repress the people anymore. On June 21, police authorities announced that they came to an agreement, but Reporteros de Investigación now reports that the COBRAS agents were deceived.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/09/23/traslados-y-acoso-contra-comando-cobra-cupula-policial-mintio-e-ignora-al-conadeh/>

Tomorrow, the preliminary hearing against David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres case will continue.

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/se-reanuda-audiencia-de-david-castillo/>

65% of Hondurans say that the government is the most corrupt institution, this is 15% more than in 2017.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3537-mas-del-60-de-hondurenos-cree-que-joh-es-corrupto>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-la-mitad-de-hondurenos-tienen-poca-credibilidad-en-poderes-legislativo-y-ejecutivo.html>

ConfidencialHN reports that the controversial housing project in the La Tigra National Park also suffers from corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/proyecto-habitacional-en-la-tigra-no-solo-implica-delitos-ambientales-tambien-hay-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exsecretario-de-recursos-naturales-mando-a-secretividad-dictamenes-de-licencias-ambientales-para-favorecer-a-poderosos/>

The MP raises its voice in the Astropharma corruption case. "For the second time, the #MP asks the Court for a complete copy of the judgment and the record of the trial hearing of the ASTROPHARMA case, since, unbelievably, these have not been delivered. We are waiting to receive them, an essential element, to file the appeal".

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1176250874802450433

Latin American Daily Briefing has a helpful overview of the push by the Trump administration to have Central American governments sign safe third country agreements.

The Norwegian Refugee Council criticizes the US migration policies which negates asylum and support to Central Americans.

<https://latinamericadailybriefing.blogspot.com/2019/09/us-el-salvador-migration-agreement-sept.html>

<http://www.nrc.org.co/2019/09/23/estados-unidos-no-enfrenta-la-profunda-crisis-de-su-propio-vecindario/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2571-secretario-general-de-consejo-noruego-para-refugiados-estados-unidos-y-varias-naciones-europeas-son-ahora-los-escuadrones-del-entierro-del-antiguo-derecho-al-asilo>

Libre representative Eduardo Enrique Reina was nominated as the head of the new Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) for one year.

<http://elpulso.hn/magistrados-llegan-a-acuerdo-para-dirigir-presidencia-del-tje/>

<https://tiempo.hn/carlos-enrique-reina-sera-el-primero-en-asumir-presidencia-del-tje/>

One of JOH's supposed prestigious projects, the Government Civic Center shows various defects and its inauguration was postponed for another nine months.

JOH is currently in New York, where he tries to get access to funds meant to combat climate change.

At the same time, he participated in the meeting on religious freedom childishly convened by Trump at the same time as the main plenary meeting on climate change for all the climate change denying countries...

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3536-hallan-3-000-fallas-en-centro-civico-pasan-inauguracion-para-2020>

<https://tiempo.hn/juan-hernandez-en-nueva-york-en-busca-de-los-fondos-verdes-de-la-onu/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/inicio/1321284-465/presidente-hernandez-asiste-a-historia-reunida-convocada-por-trump>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/22/world/americas/honduras-tattoos-ms13.html>

24/09/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Corruption; COPINH; MACCIH - Pandora; Adepza; Garífuna - IACHR; HRDs - EU; National Police; Migration; JOH - Drug Trafficking; and the Once Powerful Ones

The initial hearing against David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres case was scheduled to continue yesterday. But without giving any reason, the defense team requested another rescheduling. The judge granted this and COPINH denounced it as "an arbitrary and irregular action" that will further delay the process.

Later the same day, the MP published a press release informing that they have proof linking Castillo to Geovanny Bustillo, who was found guilty of assassinating Berta. They have phone conversations and text messages in which they plan the murder and they also have proof that Castillo paid the hitmen 500'000 Lempiras.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1176663819088781312>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4867-prueba-pericial-vincula-cruce-de-mensajes-entre-expresidente-de-desa-y-uno-de-los-condenados-por-crimen-de-berta-caceres>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/24/vaciado-telefonico-establece-que-se-pagaron-500-mil-lempiras-por-asesinar-a-berta-caceres/>

Coincidence or not, also the same day, the MACCIH informed that a hearing will take place this week in the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1176588899390500866>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the lack of protection by the protection mechanism for COPINH communities, especially the one in Río Blanco which suffers ongoing harassment and attacks (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2573-un-foco-infeccioso-de-impunidad-amenaza-la-vida-de-indigenas-lencas-en-rio-blanco>

The MACCIH and UFECIC presented yesterday their 13th corruption case, "Corruption on Wheels". It concerns the embezzlement of public funds through Banadesa - the funds were supposed to go to the controversial social program Bono 10 mil. Analysts have raised for a long time the problem with this social program and that it is being used by the JOH regime as a political tool. Seven former public officials are accused of having stolen at least 11.4 million Lempiras between June 2013 and May 2014.

Four of them have already been detained...

...and then received alternative measures to pre-trial detention in record speed.

ConfidencialHN presents the case as further proof of corruption by the National Party.

https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1176581548881170434

<http://elpulso.hn/corrupcion-sobre-ruedas-el-nuevo-caso-presentado-por-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-usaron-banadesa-para-drenar-fondos-bono-10-mil-funasol-capital-semilla1/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1321636-466/as%C3%AD-se-sustrajeron-fondos-del-bono-10-mil-para-adquirir-veh%C3%ADculos-de>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ufecic-y-atic-ejecutan-allanamientos-en-la-capital-hondurena.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/en-libertad-se-defenderan-implicados-en-caso-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefa-anticorrupcion-admite-a-reganadientes-que-partido-nacional-esta-vinculada-a-corrupcion/>

El Libertador reports that three accused in the Pandora corruption case handed themselves in.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3540-hoy-tres-pandoros-se-entregan-a-justicia-hondurena>

In a press release, ADEPZA denounces the ongoing wave of criminalization against its members, the case of María Hernández being the most recent one (see the e-mails of the last three days).

<https://zacategrande.blogspot.com/2019/09/comunicado-de-prensa-del-23-septiembre.html>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) condemns the prevalence of murders and other forms of violence against Garifuna women in Honduras, due to their gender and ethno-racial origin. The IACHR calls on the Honduran State to implement comprehensive strategies to prevent these events, protect Garifuna women at risky situation and fulfill their obligation of due diligence to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible, as well as offer integral reparation to all victims. According to information in the public domain, during the month of September four murders of Garifuna women have been reported. Mirna Teresa Suazo Martínez, president of an organization of the Community of Masca in Omoa, was murdered on September 8 by unidentified subjects; Gilma Cacho, and her daughter, Fiori Amaya, from the Garifuna municipality of Santa Rosa de Aguán in Colón, were murdered on September 6; and Nayda Reyéz Jiménez, who was killed on September 7 in the community of Bajamar, Puerto Cortés. The Commission also warned with concern the murder of Belkis García, which occurred in January of this year. Her body would have been found with signs of sexual violence in the Garifuna Community of Sambo Creek in La Ceiba Atlántida."

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2019/238.asp

"The European Union (EU) and its member states are falling short on their commitment to support and protect human rights defenders (HRDs) who are facing mounting deadly threats and attacks, a new Amnesty International report out today shows. The report 'Defending Defenders? An Assessment of EU Action on HRDs' reveals that EU support can and does offer vital protection to HRDs worldwide, but it is too often silent on human rights abuses in certain countries, leaving human rights defenders in serious danger."

The role includes a whole chapter on Honduras.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/eu-must-do-more-to-counter-mounting-global-attacks-on-human-rights-defenders/>

El Pulso challenges Omar Rivera, member of the purging committee and the Society for a More Just Society (ASJ), on his narrative that the recent incident in which a police agent shot a young girl in the head (see previous e-mail) are isolated cases.

<http://elpulso.hn/disparar-primero-y-preguntar-despues-hechos-aislados/>

<https://tiempo.hn/didadpol-investiga-policia-del-reten-disparo-contra-celenia-duron/>

The Norwegian Refugee Council published the portrait of a Honduran refugee "kidnapped, deported, displaced and reunited with his family".

Last year, 3526 Honduran students canceled their university registration to flee Honduras instead.

The UNHCR, meanwhile, asks Honduras for the approval of a bill to protect those displaced by violence.

<http://www.nrc.org.co/2019/09/24/secuestrado-deportado-desplazado-y-reunificado/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/migrantes/1230-mas-de-3mil-estudiantes-cancelaron-su-matricula-por-migrar-en-2018>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/acnur-honduras-requiere-aprobar-ley-para-proteger-desplazados-por-violencia.html>

In a raid by the MP and UFECIC, Carol Alvarado, a close friend of JOH's wife Ana Rosalinda García Carías, was targeted.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cierran-cerco-a-joh-allanan-y-aseguran-casa-a-cuadro-de-confianza-de-ana-garcia/>

At the same time, ConfidencialHN reports that properties by Tony Hernández are sold in Honduras in expectation of them being confiscated.

<https://confidencialhn.com/85579-2/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3534-honduras-lastimeros-grupos-de-poder-en-tiempos-de-cc4-y-chonguengue>

25/09/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; IACHR - Repression; Extractivism - Solar, Deforestation; Migration - US; JOH - Corruption; Environmental Law; and Failed Responses to Violence

Once more, a judge in the Berta Cáceres case sided with the accused and yesterday the hearing of David Castillo was postponed to October 10.

On Tuesday, the MP informed about evidence linking Castillo directly to the assassination (see yesterday's e-mail). Now, his defense attorney publicly challenged the evidence.

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/video-suspenden-audiencia-contra-david-castillo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/falsa-llamada-incrimina-david-castillo-asesinato-bertha-caceres-segun-abogado/>

In a IACHR session, Honduran human rights organization and social movements denounced "the repression, violence and criminalizing policy implemented by the State of Honduras to deter, disintegrate and completely eliminate social protest in the country. According to the information presented by the organizations, government actions have left nine people killed, 88 injured and more than 200 people criminalized so far in 2019."

C-Libre focused on the role of the police, an institution that came to serve only the interests' of the regime.

The south in and around Choluteca has especially been targeted by repression. ContraCorriente launched a new series on the situation in Honduras southern departments starting with "The Southern Bastion in Flames", Choluteca.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cidh-organizaciones-denuncian-represion-brutal-y-sistematica-protestas-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3542-policia-institucion-al-servicio-de-casa-presidencial-c-libre>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/17/la-llama-de-bastion-del-sur/>

ContraCorriente published an investigative report on corruption around large-scale solar plants in the south of Honduras and how they displace people and generate conflict.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/18/sol-de-sobra-y-falta-de-energia-por-corrupcion/>

Radio Progreso reports on the deforestation of the "green lung" of San Pedro Sula, El Merendón mountain range.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/imparable-deforestacion-del-merendon/>

For some time now, there was speculation about a safe third country agreement between the US and Honduras. And even though they changed the name, something that sounds very much like a safe third country agreement was signed yesterday.

"The Trump administration signed an agreement Wednesday that could require immigrants coming to America through Honduras to seek asylum there, regardless of whether they're seeking help from the United States under international torture agreements or the asylum system. The administration signed a similar agreement with El Salvador on Friday and another with Guatemala in July. Neither has gone into effect yet. Together, the three countries are the source of most migrants crossing the southern border. The terms of Wednesday's agreement, which are not yet public, allow the US to send migrants back to Honduras, in addition to El Salvador and Guatemala, if they did not seek asylum or other protections in those countries first, according to a senior Department of Homeland Security official. It remains unclear why Honduran officials agreed to the deal, which was signed as Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández faces prosecution in the US for allegedly accepting campaign contributions from drug traffickers."

"For all practical purposes, people fleeing violence, insecurity, and corruption could now face a deadly set of options if seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border: get sent to Honduras, Guatemala, or El Salvador," said Geoff Thale, Vice President for Programs at the Washington Office on Latin America. "Asylum seekers are fleeing lethal conditions in these very countries. Potentially forcing them back to regions unprepared to keep them safe is more than cruel: it's perverse."

Former president Manuel Zelaya summarized the agreement as follows: "The US are the problem of Honduras, not its solution".

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2019/09/25/joint-statement-between-us-government-and-government-honduras>

Spanish: <https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/declaracion-conjunta-gobierno-estados-unidos-gobierno-honduras/>

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/25/20883831/trump-asylum-honduras-agreement>

<https://www.wola.org/2019/09/honduras-asylum-deal-trump/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/25/estados-unidos-es-el-problema-de-honduras-y-no-la-solucion-mel-zelaya/>

JOH presented himself in New York as a victim of persecution.

He claims that NGOs are trying to destabilize his government.

He also attacked Zelaya playing to his US audience and claiming he collaborates with Maduro.

Zelaya accuses him of lying and manipulating the public opinion.

<https://radiohrn.hn/presidente-hernandez-denuncia-ser-victima-de-persecucion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ongs-y-politicos-sin-escrupulos-boicotean-su-gobierno-segun-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-ante-la-onu-nicolas-maduro-y-su-socio-mel-quieren-desestabilizar-a-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-zelaya-joh-sigue-mintiendo-y-manipulando-la-opinion-publica/>

ConfidencialHN reports on how money stolen in the Pandora corruption case was transferred to the controversial political strategist JJ Rendón who advised JOH's presidential election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dinero-de-pandora-fue-utilizado-para-pagar-servicios-a-controvertido-estratega-jj-rendon/>

In the newest edition of La Gaceta Verde, the Environmental Law Institute of Honduras (IDAMHO) makes the link between the current water crisis and a lack of information and public participation in the management of common resources. They also cite the IACtHR on the link between personal well-being and environmental protection.

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/21ddc3ae-e648-41fa-8130-fd95a7eeeb16/Gaceta_Verde_75_Julio_Agosto_2019.pdf

"If there were a legitimate interest in drastically reducing violence and crime, it would be recognized that, as indicated by the United Nations Development Program, "different threats to citizen security must be addressed through differentiated responses that take into account their level of organization and the spaces in which they operate: the home, the school or the public sphere ". This implies recognizing that violence cannot be reduced to a public security problem, but is

associated with multiple factors of social, economic, environmental and political inequality, and that it is based on structures of inequality and dispossession that affect the human rights of poorer people. It is clear that in Honduras the regime needs violence to justify the militarization and control of citizenship through a criminal law that turns the political and social opposition into an enemy, and to guarantee the imposition of the extractive model and the impunity of its links with drug trafficking."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/masacres-y-populismo-de-seguridad/>

26/09/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Berta - US; COPINH; HRDs - EU; Campesinx; Criminalization; FPIC; HR Situation; Armed Forces; Corruption - Wheels, Environment; Labor Unions; Disability; Budget; and a Fantastic Job

The journalist Thelma Mejía denounces an attack against journalist and Radio Progreso correspondent Sandra Maribel Sánchez.

Later, it was made public that there was an attempted kidnapping of her.

Pasos de Animal Grande has documented 54 cases of threats, attacks and criminalization against journalists so far this year.

And if journalists are not directly attacked, their TV and radio presence is cut if they become too critical as documented in Santa Barbara.

https://twitter.com/thelma_mejia/status/1177423766290391041

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/26/intentan-secuestrar-a-la-periodista-sandra-marybel-sanchez/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2574-gases-lacrimogenos-contr-la-prensa-para-disuadir-cobertura>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2575-no-seguir-linea-politica-es-la-principal-causa-de-cierre-de-espacios-en-tv-y-radio-en-santa-barbara>

Berta Zúniga met with US congresswomen who joined her demand for justice for Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/Ilhan/status/1176961923264450563>

<https://twitter.com/AyannaPressley/status/1176998051933753344>

Laura Zúniga, meanwhile, took part in an international forum on "The Environment and Human Rights".

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/copinh-en-congreso-internacional-medio-ambiente-y-derechos-humanos/>

The EU-LAT Network published "Recommendations to the EU and its Member States for the protection of human rights defenders in Latin America".

https://eulatnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Policy_Brief_A4_ENGLISH_pliego.pdf

COFADEH presented to the IACHR the case of the campesino group 9 de Julio in Las Huertas, near San Pedro de Tutule, la Paz. They suffered 25 violent evictions in the last years.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-pide-a-la-cidh-pronunciarse-sobre-desalojos-violentos-y-conoce-denuncia-del-caso-9-de-julio/>

On September 10, Emerson Geovany Martínez was arrested out of the blue (see e-mail from the next day). He was charged with various alleged crimes (e.g. illicit association) going back to 2009 when he took part in protests during the post-coup repression. Without his knowledge, an arrests warrant was out on his name for ten years. With the accompaniment of COFADEH, he was freed this week and a judge dropped all the charges.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/diez-anos-despues-emerson-revivio-una-pesadilla/>

OACNUDH discussed the importance of free, prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples with the Honduran government.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1177345282700382209>

An international human rights delegation organized by Mundubat spent the last week in Honduras. Yesterday, they published a press release on their findings. "First, we express our concern about the violation of human rights of various kinds (which we will mention later), which is occurring in a certain political and economic context that is not favorable to the protection of fundamental rights but rather favors impunity. (...) Second, we have been able to verify through our field work, a growing concern for the violation of human rights related to social and economic dimensions, such as access to land and the enjoyment and protection of common goods/natural resources and the environment. (...) Third, we have been able to verify through our field work, a growing concern for the violation of human rights related to civil and political dimensions."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Comunicado-prensa-Misi%C3%B3n-de-Observaci%C3%B3n-Honduras-sept.-2019.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/26/hay-una-creciente-preocupacion-por-la-vulneracion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

Pre-trial detention for the soldier Junior Adán García Banegas has been confirmed. He is accused of having murdered the 17-year old Eblin Noel Corea Maradiaga as part of widespread state repression of protests.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4886-mp-logra-prision-preventiva-contra-militar-por-crimen-de-menor-de-17-anos-durante-manifestaciones-en-yarumela>

In the newest Corruption on Wheels case, another accused can await trial outside custody.

And there is no a public discussion about the costs of sandwiches...

<https://tiempo.hn/corrupcion-sobre-ruedas-promotora-tarjeta-la-cachureca-defendera-en-libertad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/implicada-en-pandora-y-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas-se-presenta-a-la-justicia-le-dan-medidas-sustitutivas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/corrupcion-sobre-ruedas-revuelo-por-compra-de-siete-mil-sandwiches-con-l-800-mil-del-bono-10-mil/>

The MP presented arrest warrants against the head of the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG), Mauricio Guevara, and the speaker of the National Party, Fernando Anduray Díaz, both for environmental crimes.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/26/mp-presenta-requerimiento-contraministro-de-la-sag-y-fernando-anduray-por-delitos-ambientales/>

El Pulso reports on the situation of labor unions in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-sindicalismo-ausente-en-los-acontecimientos-reivindicativos/>

"Honduras is one of the most violent countries in the world, but not necessarily only because of its homicide rate. Little is said about the survivors of violence who remain in the country suffering from a disability, in the country that has no data on its population with disabilities."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/09/23/honduras-un-pais-productor-de-discapacidad/>

The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (Icefi) voiced concerns about the 2020 budget regarding "inconsistencies in tax collection, as well as a continued fall in social spending items, contrasting with the serious living conditions suffered by the majorities of this country".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/26/subestimados-ingresos-y-recortes-en-gasto-social-marcan-el-presupuesto-de-honduras-para-2020-icefi/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1321895-466/trump-se-deshace-en-halagos-para-juan-orlando-nosotros-vamos-a-estar>

27/09/19

Honduras Daily: MADJ - Tolupán; Journalists - Forced Displacement, Corruption; JOH - Drug Trafficking; US; Lencas; Corruption - Rosenthal; Poverty; Drought; Extractivism - Mining, La

Tigra; Migration - US, Deportations, Remittances; Judicial Power; ATIC; ID Cards; and Thank You Gilberto

Yesterday, MADJ reported the indigenous Tolupán defender Milgen Idán Soto Ávila missing. He has been gone missing on Monday when he made his way from San Francisco Locomapa to a protest camp in defense of their land and forest.

He was found dead yesterday afternoon, everything indicates to a murder.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/09/27/reportan-desaparicion-de-indigena-tolupan-integrante-del-movimiento-amplio-en-san-francisco-locomapa-yoro-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1177724846911959041>

Radio Progreso, C-Libre and journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez held a press conference yesterday after a failed kidnapping attempt against her (see yesterday's e-mail. "In her statements Sanchez said it was clear that the threats come from the Armed Forces and its repressive policy installed in the country. In addition, she held the government of Juan Orlando Hernández responsible for the violence and vulnerable situation in which the citizenry finds itself."

Sandra showed strength during the press conference emphasizing that she won't leave the country and continues to do critical journalism.

OACNUDH expressed its solidarity and demands an exhaustive investigation.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/radio-progreso-denuncia-intento-de-secuestro-contra-periodista-sandra-maribel-sanchez/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/09/alertadefensoras-honduras-tentativa-de-asesinato-secuestro-contra-sandra-maribel-sanchez-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodista-de-radio-progreso/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sandra-maribel-sanchez-tras-atentado-el-sujeto-tenia-cuerpo-de-militar-y-se-expresaba-como-tal/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/27/no-me-voy-del-pais-y-seguire-haciendo-periodismo-critico-sandra-marybel-sanchez/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1177604667024580608>

Radio Progreso reports on the forced displacement of journalists in Honduras. CONADEH has already documented 15 cases this year as a consequence of death threats.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/aumenta-numero-de-periodistas-desplazados-por-amenazas-a-muerte/>

There are ongoing problems at the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP) but the situation continues to be covered almost exclusively by Criterio.

The head of the, rather corporate, Journalist Association of Honduras (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, attacked Libre and PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez because they dared to oppose a decree granting impunity to the directorate of the IPP.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/27/dirigentes-de-periodistas-se-escudan-en-libertad-de-expresion-para-evadir-justicia/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/27/presidente-del-cph-declara-enemigos-a-bancada-de-libre-y-a-diputada-doris-gutierrez/>

The New York Time reports on next week's trial against Tony Hernández focusing on the "looming presence" of JOH. "When a former Honduran congressman goes on trial next week in Manhattan, charged with conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, his older brother will be absent from the courtroom but will loom large over the case. That older brother, Juan Orlando Hernández, is the president of Honduras, and an ally of President Trump on immigration and security, which are Washington's top priorities in the region. But even as President Hernández agreed on Wednesday to a deal that will allow the United States to force some migrants to seek asylum in Honduras — a cornerstone in Mr. Trump's plan to curb migration — federal prosecutors were preparing to present evidence that the Honduran president was a member of the drug trafficking conspiracy his brother was charged in."

The newest column by Victor Meza seems to fit perfectly here:

"Metamorphosis

I do not mean the famous book by the Czechoslovak author that describes the sinister transformation of a man into an insect. My descriptive claim is another, is that which has to do with the curious process of transformation of a political party, that is to say a collective human instance, in a kind of mafia group that assaults the structures of the State and turns them into mechanisms of looting and robbery of public funds."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/26/world/americas/honduras-drug-trafficking-trial.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/27/metamorfosis/>

The Trump administration must have thought that the above NYT article calls for another photo op for JOH.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1177694674536062977>

The Network of Indigenous Lenca Defenders from La Paz (REDHIL-PAZ) published a press release denouncing their situation of harassment, criminalization and violent evictions and demanding the respect of their rights.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ante-constantes-violaciones-redhil-paz-exige-respeto-a-sus-derechos/>

A Honduran judge decided yesterday that the state only has to return 10% of the goods seized from the Rosenthal family, i.e. the state keeps goods and properties worth some \$900 million.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3544-gobierno-se-queda-con-90-por-ciento-de-bienes-de-los-rosenthal>

<https://tiempo.hn/yani-ante-fallo-ataque-a-mi-madre-es-afrenta-memoria-de-mi-padre1/>

The Norwegian Refugee Council published an analysis on "The Impact of Violence on the Right to Adequate Housing in the North of Central America".

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Protection%20Snapshot%205%20-%20English%20-%20July%202019_original_0.pdf

"After five years of drought, poor farmers are finding it hard to make ends meet, making it likely that more will head to cities in search of work or further north to the United States"

<http://news.trust.org/item/20190927063451-szxlj/>

Congress approved reforms to the General Mining Act of 2013 - the reformed articles were previously deemed unconstitutional and Proceso Digital claims that now they comply with international standards. They additionally write: "Likewise, prior to the exploitation request, the mining authority will request the municipal corporation to conduct an open town council consultation within a period not exceeding 90 days, the decision that is adopted will be binding for the granting of the concession."

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cn-aprobo-reformas-por-adicion-de-varios-articulos-a-la-ley-de-general-de-mineria.html>

CESPAD published an analysis of the situation around the National Park La Tigra starting in the 1980s and ending in today's protests.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/09/27/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-el-parque-nacional-la-tigra-bajo-el-asedio-empresarial-y-el-ascenso-de-la-lucha-territorial/>

Yesterday, the US and Honduras signed three additional agreements on migration.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-y-honduras-suscriben-tres-acuerdos-mas-en-materia-migratoria.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1322364-466/honduras-firma-dos-acuerdos-m%C3%A1s-con-eeuu-para-afrontar-la-migraci%C3%B3n-irregular>

Over 85'000 Hondurans have been deported from the US and Mexico so far this year.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1322385-471/m%C3%A1s-de-85000-hondure%C3%B1os-fueron-deportados-de-m%C3%A9xico-y-eeuu-en-2019>

Proceso Digital reports that 89.6% of all remittances sent to Honduras come from the US.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-89-6-de-las-remesas-que-recibe-honduras-proviene-de-estados-unidos.html>

Radio Progreso interviewed the president of the International Commission of Lawyers for Central America Ramón Cadena. He highlights the lack of judicial independence in general and the bias of many judges.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/justicia-en-c-a-esta-en-manos-de-jueces-parciales-senala-jurista-internacional/>

It has been over a year since the death of Sherill Yubissa Hernández Mancía, a departmental head of ATIC, which has been presented ever since as a suicide by the ATIC. Women's rights organizations and especially the former head of forensic medicine Julissa Villanueva disputed this narrative. Now, the MP claims that their investigation concluded that it was a suicide.

Villanueva denounces this as a new attempt to cover up the truth.

<https://tiempo.hn/ministerio-publico-concluye-que-la-jefa-de-la-atic-se-suicidio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/julissa-villanueva-mp-sigue-ocultando-asesinos-sheril-atic/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-usa-a-la-prensa-tradicional-para-tergiversar-que-el-crimen-de-sherill-yubissa-fue-un-suicidio/>

This month, the RNP started the project Identificate (Identify Yourself) with the aim of handing out 6.6 new identity cards by the end of 2020. The projects will cost some \$63 million.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1322453-410/nueva-identidad-muertos-no-podran-votar-registro-nacional-personas-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/muere-un-destacado-defensor-de-los-ddhh-de-las-comunidades-campesinas/>

28/09/19

Honduras Daily: Tolupeán - Assassination; Women's Rights; Transparency; Corruption - CPH; Migration - US; and Live and Death in Tourism

OACNUDH "condemns the violent death after his disappearance on Monday from defender Tolupan Milgen Soto and stands in solidarity with his family, friends and the community".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1178045832635002880>

Women and feminist organizations took to the streets to demand respect for their right and to decide over their own bodies.

<https://hch.tv/2019/09/28/el-movimiento-feminista-protesta-exigiendo-se-respeten-sus-derechos-respetos-sexuales-y-productivos/>

On the International Day on Access to Information, OACNUDH reminds Honduras about its importance as a pillar of free and democratic societies and it also highlights a 2018 recommendation to the JOH regime: "Review the legislation [and] regulations that hinder the right to access information, address the concentration of ownership of the media through the reform of the Telecommunications Law and decriminalize defamation and slander". In a different report, UN Special Rapporteur Michel Forst also called for the derogation of the Secrecy Law.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1177991784577687552>

Criterio continues to highlight problems at the Association of Journalists of Honduras (CPH) regarding the Social Pension Institute for Journalist (IPP) (see also yesterday). On Saturday, the directorate of the CPH demanded the expulsion of two retired journalists for daring to demand more transparency in the IPP case.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/28/cph-amenaza-con-expulsar-a-periodistas-que-piden-transparencia-ente-de-pensiones/>

The Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan tweeted about the agreements he signed with Honduras on Friday (see also yesterday's e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/DHSMcAleenan/status/1177722930576416772>

<http://www.albasud.org/noticia/es/1139/muerte-y-vida-de-las-ciudades-modelo-tur-sticas-honduras>

29/09/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; Reitoca; US; MACCIH - Canada; and the Baleada Festival

COPINH sent out an alert after a new attack by a member of the Madrid family against the Río Blanco community. "Rosalina Domínguez, community leader, approached Donato [Madrid] and told him to walk away and stop bothering those who worked, that was when Donato Madrid grabbed her by the collar of the shirt and tried to hit her with the machete on the neck, clearly trying

to kill her. Rosalina managed to defend herself and a group from the community managed to get Donato off the premises where they were working."

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/atentan-contra-la-vida-de-rosalina-de-rio-blanco/>

For months, the indigenous Lenca people of Reitoca have been protesting against the imposition of a hydroelectric project. This weekend, they denounced a new attack against them, someone poisoned their water source with herbicide.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/29/intentan-envenenar-a-pobladores-de-reitoca/>

<https://tiempo.hn/agua-envenenada-comunidad-sabanetas-150-personas/>

The US Congressman Peter Welch visited Honduras this weekend.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1178463226973052928>

Canadian ambassador James K Hill lauds the work of the MACCIH.

<https://twitter.com/JKHillCDA/status/1177286190044733441>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/festival-de-la-baleada-2019-comida-musica-y-buena-animacion/>

30/09/19

Honduras Daily: Tolupán - Assassinations; Berta - Impunity, Río Blanco; Durg Trafficking - JOH; IACHR; MACCIH; Migration; Judicial Power; and Leo and La Moskitia

"Nine cowardly murders between 2013 and February 2019 seemed to be an alarming, repudiable and insurmountable balance sheet of the historical conflict generated by businessmen and the Honduran institutionality in the indigenous Tolupán people. But the violent deaths of Armando Fúnez Medina, Ricardo Soto Fúnez, María Enriqueta Matute, Luis de los Reyes Marcía, Eracimo Vieda Ponce, Santos Matute, Fermín Romero, Juan Samael Matute and José Salomón Matute never caused the State of Honduras to act promptly and appropriately to avoid the continuation of the bloodbath so that a new victim was claimed: his name Milgen Idán Soto Ávila, 29 years old."

Criterion reports that a day after Soto Ávila was found dead, another indigenous Tolupán leader was murdered. Unknown assailants shot Adolfo Redondo of the Las Vegas de Tepemechín tribe near Victoria, Yoro.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/09/30/quienes-son-los-asesinos-del-pueblo-tolupan/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/30/confirman-asesinato-de-otro-lider-tolupan-en-yoro/>

Ten months have passed since seven men were found guilty of the assassination of Berta Cáceres, but there still exists no written sentence against them.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1178721174139932673>

IM-Defensoras published an alert after Saturday's newest attack against Lenca defender and COPINH member Rosalina Domínguez (see also yesterday's e-mail).

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/09/alertadefensoras-honduras-atentado-contra-la-vida-de-rosalina-dominguez-lideresa-de-la-comunidad-de-rio-blanco-e-integrante-del-copin/>

Tomorrow, the trial against JOH's brother Tony Hernández will start in New York. As said before, with him on the bench, although not physically, is JOH himself.

Univision published another important article on the case, JOH and "the mountains of Honduras where drug traffickers ruled".

Also this month, two more drug trafficking cases will be in trial, one against another former congressman, Fredy Nájera, and one against Juan Ramón Matta Waldurraga.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/pruebas-en-juicio-contra-tony-hernandez-podria-tener- Graves-repercusiones-para-joh/>

English: <https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/open-secret-the-mountains-of-honduras-where-drug-traffickers-ruled>

Spanish: <https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/las-montanas-de-honduras-desde-donde-los-narcos-presuntamente-ayudaron-al-presidente-hernandez>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3547-octubre-de-sentencias-tres-figuras-hondurenas-aterradas-por-ee-uu>

Last year, the IACHR visited Honduras and they will present their finding in a report this Thursday.

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1178712358140698624>

After Canada yesterday, it is time for the EU to laud the work of the MACCIH and call for the prolongation of its contract.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ue-ve-avances-contra-corrupcion-en-honduras-y-pide-extender-mandato-de-maccih.html>

The Guardian reports on the most recent migration agreement between the Trump administration and El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. "The US has signed agreements to send vulnerable asylum seekers to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador – experts describe the plan as a recipe for disaster".

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/27/honduras-central-america-asylum-seekers-us-guatemala-el-salvador>

A driver of a judge was found to be involved in extortion.

In a press release, the Judicial Power announced to investigate if more of its staff is involved in criminal actions.

The same day, ConfidencialHN reports on a claimed witch hunt by the Judicial Power against a public prosecutor who dared to investigate corruption in the judicial system.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/09/30/detienen-motorista-de-jueza-por-delito-de-extorsion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/poder-judicial-anuncia-investigara-mas-empleados-vinculados-delincuentes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jueces-corrupitos-conspiraron-para-enviar-al-presidio-a-fiscal-que-los-investigaba/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1322830-410/mesoamerica-leonardo-di-caprio-mesoamerica-cinco-grandes-bosques>