

01/10/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Impunity; Dr Trafficking - JOH; Journalists - Crminalization; Electoral Reforms; and Rich but Unuseful

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, published presented his newest report to the UN focusing on HRDs and impunity. In the case of Honduras, it highlights the ack of coordination between the protection mechanisms and investigative bodies and the general focus on material authors of crimes as seen in the case of Berta Cáceres. He concludes: "This is insufficient to combat impunity and is problematic, as it does not identify powerful groups which may be behind human rights violations. Such failure also increases mistrust of justice systems."

<https://undocs.org/en/A/74/159>

In today's trial, Tony Hernández' brother and sister-in-law will be present in New York.

They all claim his innocence.

El Heraldo and ConfidencialHN report that the state attorney trying the case has warned the court about the strategy by the defense to have several pieces of evidence dismissed.

Expediente Público published a two-part investigation into JOH and his links to criminal structure. The first article focuses on JOH's planes, possible bought with drug money, and the second article focuses directly on Tony Hernández and his government accomplices.

ConfidencialHN, meanwhile, writes that the US Justice Department requested an investigation into a group of politicians and businessmen linked to Tony Hernández.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/01/tony-herandez-sera-respaldado-por-su-hermano-juan-arnaldo-herandez-en-el-juicio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/un-hermano-la-esposa-y-una-hija-acompanaran-a-tony/>

<https://tiempo.hn/familiares-de-tony-es-inocente-hasta-que-se-demuestre-lo-contrario/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1323138-466/juicio-tony-herandez-fiscalia-estrategia-defensa-pruebas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tony-buscara-bloquear-a-agente-de-la-dea-que-hundio-a-los-narcosobrinos-venezolanos/>

<https://expedientepublico.org/aeronaves-de-la-familia-herandez-alvarado-una-historia-de-sociedades-criminales/>

<https://expedientepublico.org/presuntos-complices-de-tony-una-historia-de-beneficios-y-corrupcion-entre-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ee-uu-investiga-a-socios-hondurenos-de-tony-por-nexos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

In a survey, six out of ten Honduran journalists said that they were victims of online threats and harassment.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/seis-de-cada-10-periodistas-hondurenos-ha-sido-victimas-de-amenaza-digital-segun-encuesta.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with the journalist Lidieth Díaz. She had been accused by JOH's secretary Ebal Díaz for slander but a court dropped the charges at the end of September.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2577-periodista-de-radio-globo-intento-de-querrela-es-otro-hostigamiento-para-cerrar-el-medio>

Libre congressman Jari Dixon holds the National Party responsible for not including a two-turn presidential election in the electoral reforms.

<https://tiempo.hn/jari-dixon-nacionalistas-no-tiene-voluntad-para-aprobar-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ineptos-y-con-dinero/>

02/10/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Drug Trafficking - JOH; MACCIH; and Ten Years of Persecution

"43 months have passed since the murder of our compañera Berta Cáceres, 43 months of not giving up in this search for justice. 43 months of resisting this system that tries to hide the truth and keep murderers in impunity. 43 months of rebellion, dignity and struggle."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1179442996602949632>

After months of anticipation, the trial against JOH's brother Tony Hernández started yesterday. The Pro-Honduras Network offers a live coverage of the trial, which Aquí Abajo helpfully summarized and will continue to do so for the remainder of the trial. Yesterday, the 18 jurors were selected and sworn in and the prosecutor and the defense gave their opening statements. The prosecutor - "Mentioned that Juan Antonio Hernandez and Juan Orlando Hernandez as being involved in drug trafficking" - "Mentioned that Juan Orlando Hernandez had received millions of dollars of bribes including from El Chapo, which Tony Hernandez helped deliver to his brother" - "Made a specific point to mention Juan Orlando Hernandez as the President of Honduras but also a co-conspirator to traffic drugs into the U.S. Part of the material that the Prosecutors will present is a weapon that has Juan Orlando Hernandez's name engraved on it" - "Made a clear argument that the main reason that Tony was able to operate as a drug trafficking in Honduras was because of the protection given by his brother, JOH. Tomorrow, this will be proven by one of the first witnesses".

The trial was covered widely by the national and international press focusing on the part of JOH receiving drug money. JOH tried to challenge this by alleging in a press release that the prosecutor never really said that he, JOH, received anything.

Journalist Jeff Ernst tweeted: "Either all the journalists who were present at the court are liars, or it is true that the prosecutor said that President Hernandez had received millions of dollars from drug traffickers." And then he also published excerpts of the transcript.

InSight Crime titled its coverage "The US Drug Trial Evidence That Could Topple the President of Honduras" focusing on "evidence and players in the trial that could end a presidency".

The jurors received a list with some 60 names of persons of interest for the trial. On this list is also the current Energy Secretary and, more importantly, the former head of the presidential campaign of JOH, Roberto Ordoñez.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/2/day-1-juan-antonio-tony-hernandezs-trial-in-new-york>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/02/joh-obtuvo-1-millon-de-el-chapo-confirma-publicacion-de-la-corte/>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/el-chapo-entrego-1-millon-a-tony-hernandez-para-su-hermano-el-presidente-hondureno-segun-fiscal-de-nueva-york>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3550-medios-del-mundo-destacan-que-joh-recibio-millones-del-narcotrafico>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1323600-466/joh-casa-presidencial-ningun-fiscal-acuso-juicio-de-tony-hernandez>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1179540662720647168>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1179543952158068737>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/02/acusaciones-son-menos-serias-que-alicia-en-el-pais-de-las-maravillas-joh/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-drug-trial-evidence-could-topple-president-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/02/son-60-los-mencionados-en-el-juicio-contr-a-tony-hernandez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nombre-de-roberto-ordonez-exjefe-campana-joh-aparece-juicio-tony/>

Radio Progreso summarized what has kept JOH in power these last years, i.e. his three "oxygen valves". "The first oxygen valve, and the one with the greatest capacity to grant air, is the installation of the electoral process as a way out of the political crisis that has been dragging on since the November 2017 elections, and probably much earlier. (...) The issue here is that the dictatorship led by Juan Orlando Hernández has received a boost from the Honduran political network in his eagerness to place the electoral route as a way to resolve the crisis. (...) The second oxygen valve comes from the administration of the United States government that reached its peak in the short but symbolic encounter between Trump and Juan Orlando Hernández at one of the UN sessions in New York. There is no doubt that it was the encounter between two gangsters. (...) The third oxygen valve that keeps the dying dictatorship alive is the opposition of the social movements, with a lot of commitment at the base, and a coherent and radical discourse, but caught in the tangles

of mistrust, prominence, suspicion, and therefore easy victims of the fierce repression driven by the dictatorship."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/valvulas-de-oxigeno/>

The UK praises the work of the MACCIH and hopes for the extension of its mandate.

<https://twitter.com/UKinHonduras/status/1179493339349032960>

ContraCorriente spoke with the recently liberated political prisoner and long time human rights activist Edwin Espinal.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/10/01/edwin-espinal-han-sido-diez-anos-de-persecucion/>

02/10/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; IACHR - HR; Tolupanes; and No Questions!

The preliminary hearing against David Castillo will continue next Thursday, October 10, at 9am in Tegucigalpa. The hearing against David Castillo was supposed to be held on September 25, but it was suspended because his defense said he could not appear, without justifiable argument. The judge decided to reschedule it. According to COPINH, the evidence that links him to the murder is clear and these actions are part of a search to delay the process against him and hide the truth.

InSight Crime concluded after the first day of trial against Tony Hernández that "prosecutors won't be afraid to also point the finger at President Hernández for his alleged role in his brother's drug conspiracy". Day two continued in this vein.

Prosecutors presented evidence "from a supposed 'drug ledger' seized last year which allegedly documents part of the cocaine dealing by" Tony Hernández. (...) The notebooks also detail payments to someone identified as "JOH," which are the initials widely associated in Honduras with Juan Orlando Hernandez, as well as his "employees." Univision requested a comment from President Hernandez regarding the ledgers but did not receive an immediate response."

There was also a testimony by the drug trafficker 'El Rojo' who told the court that he trafficked 140 tons of cocaine with Tony Hernández. Honduras Culture and Politics did the math. "140 metric tons is 140,000 kilograms of cocaine. Cocaine sells for a mean street price of \$14,500 per kilogram in San Diego, CA 140,000 kilograms at \$14, 500 per kilogram is more than \$2.03 billion."

JOH allegedly received \$40'000 from El Rojo for his congressional campaign.

In a conversation with Radio Progreso, political analyst Raúl Pineda states that the main objective of the investigation by the US prosecutors is JOH and that there will be another trial, one against JOH, after the end of his presidency.

Nationalist congresswo/men, meanwhile, come to the defense of JOH.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/alleged-el-chapo-bribe-honduras-president-sets-stage-us-drug-trial/>

English: <https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/prosecutors-present-drug-ledger-with-notes-of-drug-shipments-that-allegedly-mention-the-president-of-honduras-and-his-brother>

Spanish: <https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/fiscal-presentara-una-narcolibreta-con-annotaciones-de-envios-de-drogas-que-supuestamente-implican-al-presidente-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/03/libreta-que-involucra-a-joh-y-tony-hernandez-es-una-de-las-pruebas-que-tienen-los-fiscales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dia-2-el-rojo-revela-trafficaba-tony-mario-calix-un-diputado-pn/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/03/joh-recibio-40-mil-dolares-de-el-rojo-para-campana/>

<https://hondurasculturepolitics.blogspot.com/2019/10/tony-hernandez-trial-day-2-some-basic.html>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-objetivo-de-la-investigacion-de-fiscalia-en-eeuuno-es-tony-sino-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/diputados-nacionalistas-defienden-joh-acusaciones-juicio-tony/>

The IACHR published a new report on the situation of human rights in Honduras. "This report is based on observations made during the in loco visit to the country conducted from July 30 to August 3, 2018, along with other visits by the IACHR and its Thematic Rapporteurships, in the framework of the monitoring tasks the Commission carries out to fulfil its mandate, using various mechanisms at its disposal including hearings, precautionary measures, petitions, and cases. (...) Honduras is facing critical levels of impunity and provides inadequate, insufficient assistance to victims and their families. The lack of access to justice has led to a structural impunity that perpetuates serious human rights violations—and, in some cases, encourages repeated instances of those violations. Civil society organizations told the IACHR of the existence of what they see as “selective justice.” They argue that this system acts late and fails to respond effectively to human rights violations, and also favors the interests of actors linked to public, political, and economic power. Various challenges persist that weaken independence and impartiality, including the lack of enough safeguards to ensure the independence of judge supervision mechanisms. The Supreme Court continues to exercise excessive control of the system to both appoint and remove judges."

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2019/245.asp

Report in Spanish: <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/Honduras2019.pdf>

Meghan Krausch writes for the Progressive about the recent murder of two indigenous Tolupán in Honduras (see e-mails last month).

<https://progressive.org/dispatches/Honduran-indigenous-protesting-logging-killed-Krausch-191002/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that journalists making use of the transparency portal of the Institute of Access to Public Information suffer harassment and persecution.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2578-periodistas-tienen-temor-a-ser-perseguidos-si-usan-el-portal-de-solicitud-de-informacion-del-iaip>

04/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Lobo, El Tigre, Waldurraga; Journalists - Guapinol; MADJ - Atlántida; Migration - US; and Congratulations

The trial against Tony Hernández continued yesterday, day three of the trial took place. Aquí Abajo published a summary of day 2, which came out after my e-mail yesterday.

Yesterday, the interrogation of Víctor "El Rojo" Díaz Morales continued. According to him, JOH and Pepe Lobo received \$100'000 in 2009 for their election campaigns in response to protection of his drug trafficking business and protection from extradition.

He also mentioned further drug traffickers giving money to JOH. Alexander Ardon, Rodolfo Irías Navas, Javier Rivera and Leonado Rivera.

One of them, Alexander Ardon, will be on the stand next Monday.

On day 3, we also found out more about Tony Hernández's middle-man, Mario José Calix Hernandez. He "is charged in three counts in a separate Superseding Indictment" and he is a "[f]ormer vice mayor of Gracias, Lempira (JOH's home town)" (...) Mario José Calix Hernandez is not only Tony Hernandez's middle-man but he is also, just like Tony Hernandez, a man connected to powerful individuals in the Honduran government".

"Edmundo Orellana [former attorney general], who spoke with Criterio.hn said that so much has been said about President Juan Hernández, it does not necessarily mean that he will be prosecuted, but what has been said, is so serious, that it would be very unlikely that the US federal justice system was not already evaluating the start of a lawsuit against him."

Criminal lawyer Ramón Barrios agrees.

And according to Orellana, Tony Hernández will most almost certainly be found guilty.

The defense, meanwhile, continues to label everything presented as lies.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/4/day-two-tony-hernandezs-trial-in-new-york>

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1180143096622919680

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1180166302985572357

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1180281633989173248

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/narcotraficante-cuenta-como-pago-100-000-para-financiar-campanas-de-presidentes-hondurenos>

<https://tiempo.hn/dia-3-el-rojo-revelo-actividades-cantidades-detalles-juicio-tony/>

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/4/state-sponsored-drug-trafficking-who-is-tony-hernandezs-middle-man-mario-jose-calix>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/04/no-se-descarta-que-joh-sea-enjuiciado-en-los-estados-unidos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/04/juicio-de-tony-hernandez-abrira-investigacion-para-el-presidente-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/04/tony-hernandez-sera-condenado-edmundo-orellana/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1324106-466/conclusiones-de-la-defensa-de-tony-hernandez-en-tercer-d%C3%ADa-de-juicio>

Former president Lobo confessed yesterday to the media that his US visa had been canceled two years ago.

At the same time, he said to be willing to go to the US to testify.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/04/pepe-lobo-confiesa-que-ee-uu-le-quito-la-visa-desde-hace-dos-anos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/juicio-de-tony-pepe-dice-estar-dispuesto-a-declarar-en-ny-si-eeuu-lo-solicita/>

The former police director Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla has also been linked to Tony Hernández - somethings he denies and he even denies having had links to JOH.

<https://radiohrn.hn/tigre-bonilla-yo-no-he-tenido-una-relacion-directa-con-tony-hernandez/>

While all of the above took place, the sentenced Honduran drug trafficker Juan Ramón Matta Waldurruga, who declared himself guilty, was released in the US for time served.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1323987-466/eeuu-matta-waldurruga-libre-tras-condena-de-dos-a%C3%B1os-que-ya-cumpli%C3%B3>

The mining company Inversiones Los Pinares publicly threatened the journalist César Obando Flores for his coverage of repression suffered by local inhabitants opposing the mining project at the hands of soldiers protecting the mining company.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1066-nuevamente-minera-ataca-a-medio-de-comunicacion>

"This October 3, 2019, La Ceiba was the scene of the birth and official launch of the departmental structure “Atlántida with life and dignity”, after almost two months of efforts, alliances and approaches between various actors and sectors around the common objective: to work in order to ensure quality of life for the population of the department and strengthen their capacity for participation and decision when it comes to their natural assets and other aspects of their social and political life in general."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/10/04/atlantida-con-vida-y-dignidad-nace-estructura-departamental/>

Radio Progreso spoke with the coordinator of the Jesuits Central American Migrant Network, Karla Rivas, about the recent signature of migration agreements with the US. "The first thing we know is that we don't know everything, and based on that there are many things to say."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-acuerdo-gobierno-de-honduras-asume-lenguaje-de-represion-contra-migrantes/>

"Long live solidarity, the rebellious embrace and the struggle for life! Long live the hope and rebellion of the communities, to whom the present prize we receive today corresponds!, shouted out members of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Commons and Public Goods of Tocoa, upon receiving the [Letellier-Moffitt Human Rights] award granted by the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, United States."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/con-gratitud-y-compromiso-recibe-premio-letellier-moffitt-comite-ambienta-de-tocoa/>

06/10/19

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Protests; Extractive Industries - Women; Corruption - Wheels; Dengue; and Migrations Agreements

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/2019/10/1909_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

The trial against Tony Hernández has rested over the weekend and will continue today. Aquí Abajo, meanwhile, has published another helpful summary of day 3 of the trial.

Univision published "the 10 most astonishing revelations" of the trial so far, e.g. the alleged attendance of JOH at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa together with two drug traffickers.

Back in Honduras, Criterio reports that next to the official line of defense in court, Tony Hernández, JOH and his wife Ana García de Hernández have prayer groups filling up their Twitter feeds.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/4/day-three-president-juan-orlando-hernandezs-joh-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/las-10-revelaciones-mas-asombrosas-conocidas-hasta-ahora-sobre-el-caso-de-narcotrafico-contra-tony-hernandez>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/05/cadenas-de-oracion-invaden-redes-sociales-de-la-pareja-presidencial-de-honduras/>

Given last week's revelations and confirmations, there are new calls for protests in Honduras against the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1180920621607178240>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-llama-manifestarse-dia-sentencia-final-tony-ny/>

OFRANEH's general coordinator Mirjam Miranda spoke with the Spanish newspaper Público. "If women do not support the defense of natural resources the planet will go to hell".

<https://www.publico.es/sociedad/miriam-miranda-mujeres-no-apoyamos-defensa-recursos-naturales-planeta-ira-carajo.html>

The initial hearing in the newest MACCIH corruption case Corruption on Wheels will take place tomorrow.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/este-martes-es-la-audiencia-inicial-en-caso-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas.html>

"The changing climate and push towards urbanization mean that more and more people will be vulnerable to dengue fever. (...) The Philippines, Bangladesh, and Honduras are dealing with major, seemingly uncontrollable outbreaks. Others have popped up in Palau, Nepal, Guam, the Cote D'Ivoire, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, and in other places throughout the tropics. There's no question about it: Dengue is having an active year."

<https://www.directrelief.org/2019/10/this-is-the-worst-dengue-year-in-nearly-a-decade-it-may-get-worse-from-here/>

"Thick mist surrounds the so-called immigration agreement that the US and Honduras signed a few days ago in the name of the consolidation of cooperation and bilateral relations. It was an agreement imposed by the northern country as part of its anti-immigrant policies in order to stop the massive irregular migration of citizens of the world who are looking for better opportunities for their families and others fleeing violence and forced displacement. Foreign Minister Lisandro Rosales said, in the few statements he has offered on the subject, that Honduras is the only country that has signed four agreements on: Border Security, Biometric Information, Migration, employment and Investment. That is why they qualify it as a comprehensive agreement. He announced that the action plan will be built within the next two months. With this agreement, which citizens are completely unaware of, but knowing the interests of the United States, they continue to take a wrong look at the issue of migration."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/acuerdo-migratorio/>

07/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, National Party, Protests, US; LGBTQ; Berta - Trial; Journalists; Armed Forces; MP; Migration - US; and a Seed of Change

The second week of trial against Tony Hernández started yesterday. Monday started with an expert testimony on Honduras by the historian Darío Euraque. Then it was time of one of the key witnesses, Alexander Ardón, the former mayor of El Paraíso, Copán and confessed drug trafficker.

Ardón describes the meeting in which 'El Chapo' Guzmán gave \$1 million to JOH's 2013 presidential campaign and he spoke of further payments to JOH, the former president Lobo and other politicians - \$2 millions in 2009, \$1.5 million in 2013. "All payments Ardón made to politicians were in exchange for protection "against prosecution and law enforcement," according to the prosecution. In fact, no investigation was ever opened against Ardón in Honduras even though his participation in drug trafficking has been widely known throughout the country since at least 2011."

Ardón also said that he bribed three Nationalist congressmen from Copán so that they would vote for JOH to become president of Congress in 2010.

Ardón also mentioned the former head of police Juan Carlos "Tigre" Bonilla, who had already been mentioned last week.

As the week before, he denied it.

Criterio spoke with the former army captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana who was discharged three years ago when he publicly denounced the links between drug trafficking and Tony Hernández.

JOH held a press conference in Honduras denying the testimony of Ardón.

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/sigue-el-juicio-del-hermano-del-presidente-hondureno-testigos-claves-declaran-en-el-caso-de-narcotrafico-contratony-hernandez>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/juicio-en-nueva-york-testigo-cooperante-describe-pago-de-1-millon-de-el-chapo-guzman-para-la-campana-del-presidente-de-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3552-alexander-ardon-ayudo-en-cuatro-fraudes-electorales-al-partido-nacional>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1181377876186271744>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1324705-410/alexander-ardon-tigre-bonilla-juicio-tony-hernandez-joh-narcotrafico->

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ministros-tenian-informacion-de-las-actividades-ilicitas-de-alexander-ardon-asegura-el-tigre-bonilla.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/07/en-el-iii-batallon-de-infanteria-se-entrenaban-a-narcos-santos-rodriguez-orellana/>

<http://elpulso.hn/34636-2/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-lo-declarado-por-el-delincuente-ardon-es-cien-por-ciento-falso/>

"A document presented by the Prosecutor's Office of the Southern District revealed that 15 people of the National Party are related to the trial and the activities that are subject to prosecution, among them Juan Orlando Hernández, confirming what the Honduran people had known for certain for several years : The National Party is a criminal structure indisputably linked to drug trafficking."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/10/07/narcodictadura-al-descubierto-y-la-urgencia-de-movilizacion/>

The Citizen Platform for Honduras led by Salvador Nasralla and Luis Zelaya called for protests to oust JOH.

Protests outside UNAH were repressed by the state security forces.

Radio Progreso, meanwhile, is critical of the potential of the opposition to join forces. "The analyst Tomás Andino says that there is a problem of organization and of interest at the moment. Andino believes that we must bet on unity, to leave aside political interests and focus all the strength to fight against the regime and demand its immediate exit."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/07/plataforma-de-oposicion-clama-por-la-insurreccion-popular-hasta-sacar-a-la-narco-dictadura/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1181321918890295296>

<https://wp.radioprogresohn.net/oposicion-muestra-incapacidad-para-unirse-en-demanda-a-la-salida-de-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/07/hay-que-sacar-a-joh-y-adelantar-elecciones-mel-zelaya/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-confirma-que-convocara-a-protestas-despues-de-sentencia-de-tony-hernandezz/>

OFRANEH comments on the role of the US and its war on drugs in all of this. "In Honduras, a war has been waged not really against drugs but against the people, which have been confronted with a wave of violence, aggravated by an induced failed state, which has been bleeding out the population for a decade. (...) Everything seems to indicate that in the last decade the drug cartels and political parties have merged in Honduras, the strong rumors have been confirmed by the South Court of the District of New York, where relatives of the last two presidents parade at the same time as the list of those involved is growing, highlighting the existing complicity between organized crime and political parties, a situation that has apparently been treated with enormous benevolence by the US authorities."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/10/07/honduras-la-farsa-de-la-guerra-contra-las-drogas-y-la-narcodemocracia/>

El Tiempo reports that a member of the LGBTQ community was found assassinated in Puerto Cortés.

<https://tiempo.hn/puerto-cortes-hallan-sin-vida-y-con-senales-de-tortura-a-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi/>

The MP presented a challenge at the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court against a ruling by an appeals court from this August to drop the charges against two police investigators accused of tempering with evidence.

The trial against David Castillo is scheduled to continue on Thursday.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4894-mp-presenta-accion-constitucional-de-amparo-contr-resolucion-que-anula-proceso-contr-policias-involucrados-en-el-caso-berta-caceres>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-presenta-amparo-ante-resolucion-que-anula-proceso-contr-policias-en-caso-berta-caceres.html>

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/10-octubre-audiencia-castillo/>

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) warns that journalists continue to face threats for their work in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-sip-advierte-que-ejercer-el-periodismo-en-honduras-sigue-siendo-peligroso.html>

A member of the Armed Forces was sent to jail to await accused of homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/145-septiembre2019/4898-a-las-celdas-del-primer-batallon-envian-a-militar-por-homicidio-de-un-ciudadano>

The former head of forensic medicine Julissa Villanueva has been cited by the MP four times to give declarations on various subjects. Villanueva has been very vocal about the irregularities around the death of a regional ATIC head, a death presented as a suicide by ATIC and now the MP as well, but denounced as a murder by Villanueva. She also has been cited for comments made about the lack of judicial independence during a visit of a UN Special Rapporteur.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/07/ministerio-publico-acorralla-con-citatorios-a-exdirectora-de-medicina-forense/>

<https://tiempo.hn/al-menos-cuatro-citatorios-recibio-la-doctora-julissa-villanueva/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exjefa-forense-denuncia-acoso-laboral-ordenada-por-fiscal-general-chinchilla/>

The US has published a fact sheet on its recent migrations agreements with Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

<https://twitter.com/USAenEspaol/status/1181289087900229632>

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/rosalina-semilla-de-cambio/>

08/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, CC-5, Protests; Berta - Impunity; Armed Forces; Palm Oil; Corruption - de Lobo; and Emptying Prisons?

Aqui Abajo published the summary of Monday's proceedings in the Tony Hernández case.

Yesterday, the testimony of the former mayor of El Paraíso, Copán and confessed drug trafficker Alexander Ardón continued.

Ardón explained how JOH was informed and approved the \$1 million from Chapo Guzmán.

Ardón additionally testified that he supported JOH's campaign in the departments Lempira and Copán with \$500'000 and \$1.6 million respectively.

New revelations from Ardón are linked to the Honduran police. According to him, in 2014, the then head of police Ramón Sabillón was fired by JOH to protect his brother.

Radio Progreso spoke with the former police commissioner Aldo Oliva about Ardón's testimony and his interpretation. Oliva agrees and he highlights the role of the purging committee in getting rid of police officials who came into the way of JOH and his brother.

Last but not least, Ardón also testified to have supported the National Party, i.e. Lobo and then JOH, in electoral frauds.

Day five of the trial ended with the presentation of a video and the testimony of a DEAD agent who participated in Tony Hernández' arrest in November 2018.

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that through this trial the Honduran presidency has become one big PR company defending the president.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/7/day-four-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandezs-joh-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<http://elpulso.hn/este-es-el-interrogatorio-a-alexander-hernandez-en-el-quinto-dia-de-juicio-contra-tony-hernandez/>

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1181594795002748928

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1181594279845793794

<https://wp.radioprogressohn.net/ex-alcalde-afirma-que-joh-utilizo-dinero-del-narcotrafico-para-sus-campanas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3554-joh-destituyo-a-director-de-policia-para-proteger-a-tony-chande>

<https://tiempo.hn/dia-5-ardon-revela-la-trama-del-despido-del-general-sabillon-y-la-captura-de-los-valle-valle/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/comision-depuradora-jugo-papel-importante-en-la-separacion-de-oficiales-que-obstaculizaban-operaciones-del-cartel-de-los-hernandez-excomisionado-aldo-oliva/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3552-alexander-ardon-ayudo-en-cuatro-fraudes-electorales-al-partido-nacional>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-con-dinero-del-chapo-joh-compro-los-votos-rurales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/finaliza-el-dia-5-tony-era-un-objetivo-de-la-dea-antes-de-su-captura/>

Videos: <https://radiohrn.hn/divulgan-videos-del-interrogatorio-que-le-hace-la-dea-a-tony-hernandez-cuando-fue-detenido-en-miami/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2580-casa-presidencial-ahora-es-una-oficina-de-relaciones-publicas-para-defender-al-presidente-de-acusaciones-de-narcotraficantes>

Day 5 of the trial also revealed that CC-5 (co-conspirator 5) is the Secretary of Energy Roberto Ordóñez.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/08/juicio-en-nueva-york-cc-5-es-roberto-ordonez/>

The Alignment against Continuity (CCC) called for new protest actions today in Honduras "in order to get rid of the narco dictator Juan Orlando Hernández and his criminal structure, to immediately reach an agreement for the installation of a transitional government".

In Congress, Libre congresswo/men demanded the resignation of JOH.

Libre also started to collect signatures for an impeachment.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/08/convergencia-contra-el-continuismo-lanza-convocatoria-nacional-por-dignificar-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/convocatoria-nacional-por-dignificar-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/08/diputados-de-libre-exigen-salida-de-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-recolectara-firmas-para-solicitar-un-juicio-politico-contra-joh1/>

The MP requests 20 years in prison for two former member of the Armed Forces found guilty of double homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4902-mp-solicita-20-anos-de-prision-contra-dos-exmilitares-condenados-por-doble-de-asesinato-y-asociacion-ilicita>

Friends of the Earth published a report on the Berta Cáceres case linking it to the need for binding laws on transnational companies and human rights.

<https://www.foei.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/10-FoEE-Berta-Caceres-ESP-mr-2.pdf>

Mongabay published an exhaustive article on the Honduran palm oil sector and how it takes control of water sources and protected areas.

<https://es.mongabay.com/2019/10/palma-de-aceite-en-honduras-seca-dos-areas-protegidas/>

The defense team of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo challenged the 58-year prison sentence against her last month.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-casacion-a-favor-de-rosa-de-lobo-por-causa-caja-chica-de-la-dama/>

The general director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) Rosa Irene Gudiel Ardón said that at least 5000 inmates with sentences of less than 5 years may be released by the end of the year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-menos-5-mil-privados-de-libertad-podrian-quedar-en-libertad-este-ano-segun-inp.html>

09/10/19

Honduras Daily; Campesinx; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Protests, US, Impunity; Political Prisoners; Femicide; Int. Solidarity; Migration - US; MP; and an Historic Opportunity

The campesino activist Marcos Tulio Cruz Cruz was found murdered with signs of torture in Sonaguera, Colón. On Tuesday evening, two heavily armed men in military uniform had stormed his house threatening his mother and daughter, hitting his brother and taking him with them. Another brother of his, Rigoberto Durán Cruz, was an active member of the Human Rights Observatory of the Aguán and COPA, but had to withdraw after persecution and death threats. He continued, though, to support victims of violence on an individual level. Now they murdered his brother.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/09/alerta-asesinado-encuentran-a-campesino-secuestrado-por-hombres-vestidos-de-militares/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/10/10/asesinado-en-un-basurero-encuentran-a-lider-campesino-que-habia-sido-raptado-en-colon-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/09/asesinan-campesino-defensor-de-la-tierra-en-sonaguera-colon/>

Aqui Abajo published the summary of day five in the Tony Hernández trial.

There was no session yesterday.

Univision published another article on the initial interview by the DEA of Tony Hernández after his arrest. "In a DEA "interview," shortly after his arrest in Miami on drug trafficking charges last November, former Honduran congressman, Tony Hernández, made an attempt at cooperation. But, he ended up making several statements that corroborate the testimony of witnesses now testifying against him at his trial in New York."

In Honduras, the lawyer and former public prosecutor Omar Menjívar demands that the MP start an investigation based on all the information coming from the Tony Hernández trial.

JOH, meanwhile, goes after media outlets publishing "irresponsible misinformation" in Honduras. He also got Nationalist activist to march for him and "ask god" that Tony Hernández will be found not guilty.

Public employees denounced that they were forced to participate.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/8/day-five-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/lmy-life-has-already-been-destroyed-what-the-brother-of-the-president-of-honduras-said-in-dea-interrogation>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2581-abogado-omar-menjivar-fiscal-general-ya-debio-instruir-una-investigacion-con-lo-que-ha-salido-en-el-juicio-en-las-cortes-de-eua>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1068-casa-presidencial-califica-de-desinformacion-irresponsable-cobertura-de-medios-en-caso-juan-antonio-hernandez>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/09/nacionalistas-marcharan-hoy-para-pedirle-a-dios-que-tony-hernandez-sea-declarado-inocente/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1182026543473709056>

Radio Progreso denounces the repression by state security forces of protests against the JOH regime.

Students started an occupation of the faculty of medicine at the UNAH.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/policia-reprime-protesta-pacifica-que-reclamaba-salida-de-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/opositores-marchan-en-la-capital-hondurena-exigiendo-renuncia-del-presidente.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estudiantes-se-toman-facultad-de-ciencias-medicas-exigen-mas-cupos/>

Summing up the trial so far, Avispa Midia chose the caption "Honduras, a drug state with US support".

<https://avispa.org/honduras-narco-estado-con-respaldo-de-eeuu/>

The trial also brought new information about the murder of anti-drug trafficking expert Alfredo Landaverde in 2011. Landaverde held a reputation as a tireless activist against corruption, and was one of the best-known voices calling on the government to clean up the country's notoriously dirty police forces. Now, his widow Hilda Caldera demands a new investigation.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/hilda-caldera-exigimos-investigacion-seria-en-crimen-de-landaverde-entrevista/>

"State agencies such as the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CONAPREV) and the Mario Mendoza Psychiatric Hospital have provided evaluations and recommendations regarding the detention of the young Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo, from which it can be concluded that on the one hand, the young teacher should not be deprived of his freedom in a maximum security prison and on the other hand, he should receive psychological treatment in conditions of freedom."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-tolva-mecanismo-de-castigo-del-regimen-para-los-opositores-politicos/>

Women's rights and feminist organization demand a higher budget for the investigation of femicides in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-que-se-designe-mayor-presupuesto-para-investigar-casos-de-femicidios-en-honduras/>

The European Solidarity Network with Honduras met for the second time and published a joint statement of solidarity with "the struggles of indigenous peoples, peasants, workers, students, women, the LGBT* community and other popular sectors for a dignified life, for the defense of their territories and autonomy, and for the right of mother nature".

See attachment

"New Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) investigation finds highly consistent accounts and medical evidence of targeted violence in Mexico and Central America; U.S. policies compound asylum seekers' trauma."

<https://phr.org/news/the-scars-match-the-stories-asylum-seekers-medical-evaluations-corroborate-violence-and-persecution/>

The former head of forensic medicine Julissa Villanueva has been cited by the MP four times to give declarations on various subjects. Villanueva has been very vocal about the irregularities around the death of a regional ATIC head, a death presented as a suicide by ATIC and now the MP as well, but denounced as a murder by Villanueva (see also Tuesday's e-mail). She sent out a message of strength after receiving these citations and stated that she won't be intimidated.

<https://tiempo.hn/julissa-villanueva-fiscal-general-cree-que-me-va-a-intimidar/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/09/la-muerte-de-la-agente-de-la-atic-tiene-temblando-a-estructura-coludida-con-el-narcotrafico/>

"We are facing a surely unique opportunity in our recent history. What has been said for many years of the relationship between political sectors, especially nationalists, although not uniquely, with drug trafficking stopped being a rumor. (...) We are then faced with the opportunity for all that rot of politicians to come to light, and a door opens that will lead us to a new scenario, slowly but

persistently, to enhance politics, and allow a new generation of politicians to emerge with the decision to rethink and design the construction of an authentic rule of law. (...) Some sectors say that we should not play into the hands of the dictatorship, and therefore not go out to the streets at this time, while other sectors say that there is no time to lose, that we must go out to the streets. This should not be a source of confrontations. The worst that can happen is that each position seeks to disqualify and annul the other position, because thus the opposition would be doing an invaluable favor to the dictatorship, which is clearly the only enemy in common."

The former attorney general Edmundo Orellana proposes a constituent assembly.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/oportunidad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asamblea-constituyente-propone-edmundo-orellana-para-reconstruir-honduras/>

10/10/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Zacate Grande; Political Prisoners; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Protests, Press, IMF, Sinaloa; Campesinx; National Police; Migration; MP; Children; Fiscal Policy; Penal Code; and Through the Eyes of the IACHR

A hearing against David Castillo was scheduled for yesterday morning in the Berta Cáceres case. Prior to the hearing, the MP published a press release presenting Castillo as guilty.

Before the hearing even started, COPINH sent out an alert that armed men threatened and hit members of COPINH demanding justice for Berta outside the court. They even stole some of their belongings such as blankets. The police stood nearby and did not do anything.

Later inside the court room, it was prohibited to take notes even though it was a public hearing.

And then, minutes before the hearing was supposed to begin, COPINH denounced that the defense of David Castillo won't attend. "We understand that the only strategy that the defense has at this time is to delay the process against Castillo since the evidence against him is clear".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4911-coimputado-confeso-que-presidente-de-desa-pago-por-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres>

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/cronologia-de-hoy/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1182339497163399169>

The criminalization of human rights defenders in Zacate Grande continues. Yesterday, Wilmer Donacio Rivera Cabrera was arrested based on a ten-year old arrest warrant for public disobedience.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-defensores-de-zacate-grande-denuncian-nueva-persecucion-judicial/>

The National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners held a protest outside the MP yesterday demanding the freedom of Gustavo Adolfo Cáceres Ayala and Rommel Herrera Portillo.

In the case of Rommel, a hearing took place to revise his pre-trial detention.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mp-debe-presentar-desistimiento-en-el-caso-judicial-del-presopolitico-gustavo-caceres/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/hoy-se-revisaran-medidas-en-el-caso-de-rommel-herrera-portillo/>

Day 6 of the trial against Tony Hernández took place yesterday in New York. Univision prepared in preparation an helpful who is who guide.

Before the day in court started, a juror was dismissed - probably because a photo was taken of them on Tuesday. Journalist Jeff Ernst also reports that four Mexican came to the court yesterday intimidating people with "their presence and behavior".

The defense interrogated the DEA agent who was present during Tony Hernández's arrest (see Wednesday's mail for the prosecution's interrogation of him).

The trial also made public that already this past April, the US Department of Justice asked for support by the MP to investigate Tony Hernández.

Radio Progreso spoke with political analyst Raúl Pineda about the consequences of the trial in Honduras and for the JOH regime.

Pinu, meanwhile, joined Libre to demand the impeachment of JOH.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/who-is-who-in-the-drug-trafficking-trial-against-tony-hernandez-brother-of-the-president-of-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1182350014011588608>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/118246489749959065>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/10/expolicia-confeso-implica-mas-a-tony-hernandez-en-negocio-del-narcotrafico/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3557-ee-uu-pidio-colaboracion-a-fiscalia-hondurena-en-caso-tony>

<https://tiempo.hn/eeuu-solicito-a-honduras-abundante-informacion-sobre-tony-hernandez/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/raul-pineda-debil-oposicion-mantiene-a-joh-en-el-poder-entrevista/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/10/bancada-del-pinu-se-suma-a-libre-para-pedir-juicio-politico-para-joh/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the protests against the JOH regime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-vamos-a-seguir-caminando-hasta-lograr-sacar-la-dictadura/>

"The trial against Juan "Tony" Antonio Hernández, accused of large-scale drug trafficking, places on the discussion table the role of the media and their journalists in the coverage of or approach to issues related to drug trafficking and organized crime. (...) [J]ournalists and researchers Claudia Mendoza and Wendy Funes point out that the press failed to talk about drug trafficking and its

implications for journalism, while the government and drug trafficking co-opted the media for their business with narco-politics."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/narcotrafico-coopto-a-la-prensa-hondurena-entrevista/>

In a second article, Radio Progreso investigates the link drug trafficking - judicial system, i.e. how the former controls the latter.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/estructuras-criminales-controlan-la-justicia-en-honduras-entrevista/>

Javier Suazo published an important article on the role of the IMF in all of this. "The IMF is silent about corruption in the country, and continues to support the execution of the economic stabilization and structural adjustment policy of the illegitimate government of Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH), regardless of costs for the country and population in the future. But also, it is silent about the allegations of drug trafficking and money laundering, where senior government officials, deputies, businessmen, soldiers and leaders of trade organizations are involved. For the IMF, a country is trusted if it complies with the recommended policies, regardless of whether this is a Narco State."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/202619>

"Beyond the specific implications for Honduran politics, the trial is exposing the details of how the Sinaloa Cartel has operated in Central America over the past decade. The cartel held meetings and offered seven figure bribes to high level politicians and businessmen. In doing so, criminals and traffickers have been promised protection and impunity."

<https://boz.substack.com/p/latin-america-risk-report-10-october>

OACNUDH laments the murder of campesino activist Marco Tulio Cruz (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1182325304578252801>

An active member of the police force, who belonged to the MS-13 mara was sentenced to over 11 years in prison for extortion.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4915-fiscales-antiextorsion-logra-condena-de-expolicia-y-pide-se-senale-audiencia-preliminar-contr-empleado-judicial>

"Advocates have sounded the alarm about the dangers of Remain in Mexico program as report reveals at least 340 instances of rape, kidnapping, torture and other violent attacks" against people returned from the US to Mexico.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/oct/10/us-migrants-return-mexico-border-towns-violent-crimes>

With the support of CIPRODEH, the former head of forensic medicine, Julissa Villanueva challenges the citations she received from the MP (see this week's e-mails).

<http://ciprodeh.org/hn/index.php/noticias-principales/466-se-presenta-queja-por-limitaciones-arbitrarias-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-por-parte-de-las-autoridades-del-ministerio-publico-contra-la-servidora-julissa-villanueva>

According to a survey by the Security Secretariat, 16% of Honduran girls experiment sexual violence and 32% physical violence.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/10/el-16-de-las-ninas-de-honduras-experimenta-violencia-sexual-segun-encuesta/>

FOSDEH challenges the fiscal benefits granted to the extractive industry.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/posicionamiento-fosdeh-fiscalidad.pdf>

The head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Odir Fernández, fears that with the new Penal Code, past successes of the MACCIH and UFECIC could be undermined.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/con-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal-la-maccih-y-ufecic-no-tienen-sentido-dice-odir-fernandez.html>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/honduras-a-la-luz-del-informe-de-la-comision-interamericana-de-derechos-humanos/>

11/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Repression; Political Prisoners; Berta - Trial; MACCIH; Migration - US, Women; Child Pregnancy; and the Moment of Truth

Aqui Abajo published the summary of Thursday's proceedings in the trial against Tony Hernández.

Yesterday, the testimony of the former extradited police officer, Geovani Rodriguez, continued and the testimony of Devis Maradiaga Rivera, one of Los Cachiros, began. The latter said that he handed over \$50'000 to Tony Hernández in 2014 to help him launder the money through the JOH regime. Maradiaga Rivera has audio and video files of the meeting. He also said that he communicated with JOH through an intermediary.

Criterio published one of the videos.

According to his testimony, he also received protection from the Nationalist congressman Oscar Najera. He also bribed the police, prosecutors, judges and politicians, including \$250'000 to JOH directly and an unspecified amount to the current Minister of Security Julián Pacheco Tinoco.

He further mentioned the former president Pepe Lobo.

Last but not least, he spoke about the alleged plan to murder JOH. "Rivera Maradiaga said he met with another major Honduran drug trafficking clan, Los Valles, where a plot to assassinate Hernández's brother, the newly elected president Juan Orlando Hernández, was discussed. Rivera Maradiaga said Los Valles wanted to kill the president because they felt betrayed after they allegedly supported his election in 2013 with large cash contributions in exchange for protection. "Once he arrived at the presidency, he no longer answered the calls," Rivera Maradiaga told the court. Later that year, Rivera Maradiaga said he was contacted by a National Party congressman, Reynaldo Ekonomo, who told him that Juan Orlando Hernández had learned about the plot and offered to help clarify the matter directly with the president in a phone call."

Radio Progreso spoke with criminologist Leticia Salomón who says that Honduras has to be seen as a drug state.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/10/day-six-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-johs-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<http://elpulso.hn/cachiro-asegura-haber-entregado-dinero-a-tony-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/11/tony-hernandez-fue-grabado-por-lider-de-los-cachiros-cuando-hacia-pacto-con-ellos/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1182679665204482050>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1325863-466/juicio-tony-hernandez-los-cachiros-testigo-pepe-lobo-protector-cargamentos-de-droga>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/juicio-a-tony-hernandez-testigo-cooperante-habla-de-supuesto-complot-para-asesinar-al-presidente-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/11/cachiro-senala-de-narcotrafico-a-tony-hernandez-pepe-lobo-y-oscar-najera/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/leticia-salomon-debemos-ver-a-honduras-como-un-narco-estado-entrevista/>

Finance student Saraí Rodríguez participated in Wednesday's protests against the JOH regime. He denounced that TIGRES special forces attacked and beat him and then threw him on the ground on a tear gas canister.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/agentes-tigres-atacan-a-estudiante-que-se-manifesto-contra-joh/>

The hearing of the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera will continue on Monday. A judge ordered a psychological evaluation about his health.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-espera-la-libertad-de-rommel/>

COPINH denounces the renewed suspension of the trial against David Castillo (see yesterday).

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/comunicado-castillo-criminal-dilatacion-demuestra-su-vinculacion/>

The Coalition for the Renewal of the MACCIH demands that JOH immediately renews the agreement the agreement with the anti-corruption body.

The demand was accompanied by a report on "why the MACCIH was born and why it needs to continue".

The Spanish ambassador celebrated the National Holiday of Spain yesterday and on this occasion asked for the continuation of the MACCIH.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/11/ciudadania-demanda-al-presidente-hernandez-renovar-el-convenio-de-la-maccih/>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/10/porque-nacio-la-maccih-y-porque-debe-continuar/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diplomacia-espanola-celebra-dia-nacional-de-espana-y-pide-continuidad-de-la-maccih.html>

"Since January, the U.S. government has ordered 16,000 migrants under 18, including nearly 500 infants, to wait with their families in Mexico for U.S. immigration court hearings, a Reuters analysis of government data found."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-babies-exclusive-idUSKBN1WQ1H1>

"Despite U.S. Asylum Ban, Honduran Women Fleeing Violence Remain Undeterred"

<https://theintercept.com/2019/10/08/us-asylum-ban-honduras-women-violence/>

"In Honduras, where all forms of termination of pregnancy are penalized, survivors of sexual violence are forcibly made into mothers. 819 girls between 10 and 14 years became mothers, according to data from the Secretary of Health in 2017, all of them as a result of a sexual rape. The Honduras legislation says that any sexual act with children under 14 years constitutes a violation and in most cases the aggressors are adult men, relatives or acquaintances of the victims."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/36-ninez-y-juventud/1241-legislacion-hondurena-fuerza-la-maternidad-infantil>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/11/la-hora-de-la-verdad/>

12/10/19

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Journalists; Drug Trafficking - JOH; MACCIH; Violence; Drinking Water; and the Miskitos at the IACtHR

Another Garífuna woman was murdered in Honduras. Unknown assailants came to the house of the teacher Maria Digna Montero in Cusuna near Iruña, Colón and killed her.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1183149252219936769>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1183174891207581696>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/ultiman-a-maestra-garifuna-en-iriona-colon.html>

The TV presenter Kerin Francisco Cerna Hernández was shot dead yesterday evening in Copán Ruinas.

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-varios-impactos-de-bala-matan-a-presentador-de-television-en-copan/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1326014-466/honduras-matan-a-presentador-de-televi%C3%B3n-en-cop%C3%A1n-ruinas>

Aqui Abajo published another helpful summary of the Tony Hernández case. Due to a holiday on Monday, the trial will continue on Tuesday with three more testimonies. It is expected that the trial will conclude afterwards.

Journalist Emily Palmer writes: "The government expects to wrap its case against Tony Hernandez on Tuesday. So what do we have so far? Mostly, just the testimony of cooperators. With several exceptions, it will boil down to if the jury believes them or not."

Radio Progreso is hopeful. "This serious situation that puts Honduras back in the international view should generate some positive consequences for the country that has lost all institutional capacity to attack the drug traffickers that have operated at ease in the country. The challenge is to dedicate work towards strengthening the institutional framework, but it is a task that corresponds to the citizens of Honduras who are being called to act in a responsible manner by granting their representation to the right people so they can drive to the country towards better paths."

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/11/day-seven-honduran-presidents-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/12/tony-hernandez-tenia-fotos-de-helicopteros-y-fardos-de-dolares-en-su-celular/>

<https://twitter.com/emilyepalmer/status/1182818494968225797>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-juicio-de-nueva-york-y-la-responsabilidad-ciudadana/>

CESPAD published a chronology of some of the MACCIH's achievements as the start of "a series of publications and public events to contribute to the public discussion about the great corruption and its relation to the violation of human rights in the context of the renewal of the MACCIH's mandate".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/12/cronologia-debe-extenderse-el-mandato-de-la-maccih/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/demandan-renovacion-del-convenio-de-la-maccih-en-honduras/>

At least 99 workers of the transport sector have been murdered so far this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-unos-99-transportistas-han-sido-asesinados-en-el-presente-ano/>

The rationing of drinking water continues in Tegucigalpa and there is fear regarding the lack of reserves for 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/sanaa-agua-rationamiento-reserva-2020/>

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights presented a demand at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the case of Honduran Miskito divers. "The IACHR concluded that the State violated the rights to personal integrity of 34 Miskito divers who suffered accidents due to the deep dives that caused them to suffer from decompression sickness".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2582-caso-fue-traspasado-a-la-corte-idh-cidh-senala-que-el-estado-de-honduras-violo-el-derecho-a-la-vida-de-buzos-miskitos>

13/10/19

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; Campesinx; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Penitentiary System; and a Visit by the DEA

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert after the murder of the Garífuna woman María Digna Montero (see yesterday). María was part of the Intercultural Bilingual Education working group of OFRANEH.

OFRANEH published a press release denouncing that in the last two months, six Garífuna women have been murdered without any substantive investigation by the authorities.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/10/alertadefensoras-honduras-asesinan-a-la-defensora-garifuna-maria-digna-montero-integrante-de-ofraneh/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/10/13/pronunciamiento-exterminio-de-las-liderezas-y-miembrxs-de-las-comunidades-garifunas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/miriam-miranda-rimen-maestra-colon-nos-estan-matando/>

Campesino leader Héctor Orlando Velásquez was arrested yesterday in Siguatepeque for usurpation, the main crime to criminalize land defenders.

Accompanied by COFADEH, they succeeded to get him alternative measures to imprisonment the same day and he can await his hearing on October 23 outside prison walls.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lider-campesino-es-capturado-en-siguatopeque/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/13/cofadeh-logra-liberacion-de-lider-campesino/>

The prosecutor and the defense of Tony Hernández came to an agreement to show the complete video of his arrest.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/13/fiscalia-y-defensa-de-tony-hernandez-acuerdan-presentar-video-completo-de-su-arresto-en-miami/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscalia-y-defensa-acuerdan-mostrar-segmentos-modificados-en-video-a-tony-hernandez.html>

Inmates at a women's prison denounce that they have to hand over all their electronic devices.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/10/13/privadas-de-libertad-denuncian-que-les-quieren-quitar-sus-aparatos-electricos/>

<https://hch.tv/2019/10/13/hoy-deben-entregar-los-reclusos-a-nivel-nacional-todo-aparato-electrico-con-el-que-cuenten-en-sus-celdas-segun-lo-indica-una-circular/>

El Heraldo reports that a DEA delegation arrived for a one-week visit in Honduras.

The police said it is for training purposes.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1326270-466/secretar%C3%ADa-de-seguridad-aclara-con-qu%C3%A9-fin-atterriz%C3%B3-avioneta-de-la-dea>

<https://confidencialhn.com/llega-avion-de-la-dea-a-honduras-la-policia-asegura-que-es-para-capacitar-personal/>

14/10/19

Honduras Daily: Campesino; Garífuna; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US, MP, Church; MACCIH; Journalists; FDI; Penitentiary System; IMF; and Crime Time

Another campesino activist was arrested in Siguatepeque on Sunday (see yesterday's e-mail).

Unlike Héctor Orlando Velásquez, Pedro Amaya from El Achotal was not released the same day, but rather sent to the Támara prison. COPINH denounces that he had previously been criminalized and sentenced to four years in prison for working the land.

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/denuncia-a-prision-companero-por-cultivar/>

OACNUDH laments the murder of Garífuna defender María Montero (see last two e-mails) and demands a thorough investigation.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1183873192236113922>

The trial against Tony Hernández will continue today. There are three more witnesses and then it is the defense's turn and the question remains if Tony Hernández himself will also testify.

In Honduras, the Social Citizen Platform demanded that the MP emit an arrest warrant against JOH for drug trafficking, illicit association and money laundering.

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/testificara-tony-hernandez-el-juicio-al-hermano-del-presidente-hondureno-entra-en-la-ultima-semana>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-orden-de-captura-contr-gobernante-de-honduras-por-narcotrafico/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1326456-466/salvador-nasralla-denuncia-ante-el-ministerio-publico-consejo-de-defensa-y-seguridad>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/plataforma-social-ciudadana-interpone-denuncia-contr-el-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad.html>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle looks at the relationship between Trump and JOH, or as he writes, between "the emperor and his governor".

<https://criterio.hn/el-emperador-y-su-gobernador-amor-simbiotico-de-juan-y-donald/>

The MP published an emphatic press release presenting itself as a successful anti-drug trafficking body.

Criterio summarized this effort as the MP "defending itself like a cat belly up".

ConfidencialHN calls it a PR stunt to wash the image of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4931-comunicado-la-verdad-en-los-hechos>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-de-honduras-se-defiende-como-gato-panza-arriba/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-busca-justificar-planchones-al-emitir-orden-de-captura-contr-capos-presos-en-ee-uu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-atic-jamas-actuo-por-narcopista-operada-por-tony-hernandez-en-olancho/>

The Catholic Church also joined the debate. The Honduran Episcopal Conference emitted a press release in which they denounce the collusion between drug traffickers and state institutions.

<https://criterio.hn/iglesia-catolica-de-honduras-condena-colusion-de-los-politicos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/iglesia-catolica-llama-a-superar-pagina-dolorosa-que-vive-honduras/>

With the pressure mounting to renew the contract with the MACCIH, CESPAD continues its coverage with a new analysis on the complex relationship between the MACCIH and civil society.

According to the coordinator of FOSDEH, Mauricio Díaz, the 13 corruption cases presented by MACCIH have led to a social damage of 444 million Lempiras. These funds stolen from public bodies have caused a grave deterioration of institutionality in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AC-CESPAD2019.pdf>

<http://elpulso.hn/institucionalidad-se-ha-perdido-por-la-abundante-corrupcion-fosdeh/>

C-Libre published additional information on the murder of social communicator Kerin Francisco Cerna last Friday in Copán (see Sunday's e-mail). He has been critical of the JOH regime and the behavior of the National Police. It was also the second murder from this region of Honduras in less than two months.

Another journalist, Santiago López, denounces that the MP and other public institutions don't act upon a death threat received by him one month ago. López is also from Copán.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1069-joven-comunicador-es-asesinado-en-copan>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1070-periodista-cuestiona-falta-de-accion-tras-interponer-denuncia-por-amenazas>

According to the Central Bank, foreign investment in Honduras dropped by 39.3% in the last six months.

<https://criterio.hn/inversion-extranjera-en-honduras-cae-en-39/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/inversion-extranjera-en-honduras-cae-39-3-en-seis-meses-por-crisis-politica.html>

Six prison guards of the maximum-security prison El Pozo were arrested with 245'000 Lempiras in their possession.

An inmate was able to flee during a medical visit to the hospital.

<https://radiohrn.hn/capturan-a-seis-agentes-penitenciarios-que-pretendia-introducir-lps-245000-a-el-pozo-i/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/custodios-penitenciarios-se-dejan-quitar-reo-que-era-trasladado-hospital-mario-mendoza/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/reo-escapa-de-custodios-penitenciarios-cuando-iba-a-ser-atendido-en-hospital-mario-mendoza.html>

An IMF delegation will visit Honduras in two weeks.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/una-mision-del-fmi-visitara-honduras-para-revisar-el-nuevo-programa-economico.html>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/10/14/tiempo-de-crimenes-un-juicio-sobre-el-control-narco-en-honduras/>

15/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Congress, MP, Banks; OFRANEH; Tolupanes; Women's Rights; Militarization; Libre; Penal Code; Penitentiary System; and Political Finance

The trial against Tony Hernández continued with three more witnesses. As the defense did not present any witness and Tony Hernández did not testify, there only remain the concluding arguments which will take place tomorrow. In its great summary of day 8, Aquí Abajo highlights the following key details. "- Tony allegedly lied to the DEA/US Government when he met with them in October 2016. He lied about his relationship with drug traffickers including Leonel Maradiaga Rivera (from Los Cachiros), "Don H", "El Rojo", Mario Calix Hernandez and others. - Tony informed other drug traffickers like Chang Monroy that he could obtain and sell any type of weapon that other traffickers wanted. Tony sold weapons and ammunition to Chang Monroy who noted that the ammunition had lot numbers on them, which was odd because its an indication that they came from a government institution(s). - Tony Hernandez sold 40 M-16 guns to Chang Monroy, who then sold them to the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico. - Chang Monroy was asked why he originally lied about knowing Tony Hernandez upon his arrest. His response: "I was scared because I'm like other drug traffickers that are violent, but no other drug trafficker has a brother that's the President of a country that controls the police and the military.""

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/15/day-eight-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-johs-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1184155216389853185>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/dia-clave-para-tony-hernandez-el-juicio-llega-a-su-fin-y-el-jurado-decidira-el-veredicto>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/narco-guatemalteco-declara-haber-comprado-cocaina-con-la-marca-tony-hernandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3560-fbi-expone-a-tony-por-mentir-a-justicia-de-ee-uu>

Back in Honduras, the JOH regime and the National Party try everything to shift attention away from the trial.

Of course, it helps if the US embassy offers a photo-op to Congress' president Mauricio Oliva...

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-pone-en-practica-la-caja-china-en-el-congreso/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-recesion-economica-anunciada-por-el-gobierno-podria-ser-una-caja-china/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1184245102048436225>

And the MP continues its PR campaign (see also yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4933-la-verdad-en-los-hechos-ministerio-publico-tambien-ha-dirigido-aseguramientos-y-capturas-de-familiares-socios-y-testaferros-de-extraditados>

Radio Progreso calls for a investigation into the Honduran banking system for money laundering linked to drug trafficking.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/se-debe-abrir-investigacion-al-sistema-financiero-hondureno-por-senalamiento-de-lavado-de-activos-del-narcotrafico-coinciden-analistas/>

OFRANEH links the most recent assassination of indigenous Garífuna defender Digna Montero with the failure of the JOH regime to comply with a sentence by the Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACtHR).

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/10/15/el-asesinato-de-la-maestra-garifuna-digna-montero-y-el-incumplimiento-de-la-sentencia-de-la-corte-idh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the impunity reigning in the murder cases against indigenous Tolupán defenders from San Francisco Locomapa.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2584-indigenas-tolupanes-han-decenido-huir-despues-de-los-ultimos-tres-asesinatos>

Human rights defender and representative of a group of religious women for the right to decide, Ana Ruth Cárcamo, denounce that defenders from Guatemala were denied entry into Honduras to participate at an event on women's rights.

During the event, Cárcamo explained how the situation for Honduran women and girls regarding violence and insecurity is the worst of all Central American countries.

<https://criterio.hn/autoridades-niegan-entrada-a-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-aduana-con-el-salvador/>

<https://criterio.hn/situacion-de-violencia-y-vulnerabilidad-de-la-mujer-en-honduras-es-la-mas-alta-de-c-a/>

"Little more than a year has passed after a group of senior military commanders surrounded the indigenous community of Reitoca, south of Francisco Morazán, mounting a strong repressive operation against the villagers, who oppose the launch of the hydroelectric dam by the company

Promotora de Generación de Energía Limpia SA (PROGELSA), a project built without the consultation of the community. After a series of attacks, the residents filed complaints at the Special Prosecutor's Office for Ethnicities and Heritage, but the Ministry of Defense began a process of concealment and protection of the identities of senior military officials responsible for the operation carried out on January 30, 2018."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/secretividad/1243-con-ley-de-secretos-encubren-militares-agresores-de-indigenas-en-reitoca>

Libre congresswo/men were attacked by the congressional security guards for bringing posters for a protest into Congress.

<https://criterio.hn/guardias-del-congreso-nacional-agreden-a-diputados-de-libre/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) together with other organizations filed a complaint at UFECIC denouncing that corruption took place when the new Penal Code was approved.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-denuncia-supuesta-corrupcion-legislativa-al-aprobar-el-codigo-penal/>

The prison guards arrested with some 250'000 Lempiras (see yesterday) were released again.

<https://hch.tv/2019/10/15/en-libertad-quedan-policias-penitenciarios-a-quienes-decomisaron-lps-250-mil/>

"Political financing: forgotten electoral reforms and privileged space for networks of corruption"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/15/coyuntura-financiamiento-politico-las-reformas-electorales-olvidadas-y-espacio-privilegiado-de-las-redes-de-corrupcion/>

16/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, MACCIH; Migration - US, Women, Deportations; Corruption - Congress; Penal Code; Extractivism; BID; Armed Forces; and the People Honduras Needs?

The Tony Hernández trial concluded yesterday with the closing statements by the prosecution and the defense. Today, the judge will instruct the jury and then the case will be given to them for deliberations.

Criterio published an article by Emy Padilla focusing on the cocaine smuggled from and through Honduras.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/16/day-nine-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-johs-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1184509634725502979>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1184650423468212224>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscal-enumera-supuestos-sobornos-de-narcotraficantes-a-presidente-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/las-toneladas-de-cocaina-movidas-desde-y-por-honduras/>

CESPAD makes a link between the trial and the renewal of the MACCIH. "The previous point leads to the conclusion that the "Tony Hernández" case and the interests of the US government could be creating an adverse context for the renewal of the MACCIH agreement. In this context, the mobilization of citizens and civil society organizations are decisive to ensure that MACCIH continues in the country."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/16/coyuntura-el-caso-tony-hernandez-y-la-renovacion-del-mandato-de-la-maccih/>

"When we talk about migrant women, the first challenge is to render them visible, understand their motives, the risks they face, and their circumstances. If we wish to fully understand the situation that migrant women from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras confront, the first obstacle we need to face is the lack of gender-disaggregated data."

<https://www.righttofoodandnutrition.org/migrating-survival-conversation-between-women-guatemala-honduras-and-mexico>

Trump tweeted yesterday: "Guatemala, Honduras & El Salvador have all signed historic Asylum Cooperation Agreements and are working to end the scourge of human smuggling. To further accelerate this progress, the U.S. will shortly be approving targeted assistance in the areas of law enforcement & security."

Shortly afterwards, Secretary of State Pompeo published a press release saying that "the State Department informed Congress of my intention to resume specific US foreign assistance funds for El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1184601794799964161>

<https://medium.com/@USAenEspanol/ee-uu-reanuda-asistencia-exterior-espec%C3%ADfica-para-el-salvador-guatemala-y-honduras-1ed1e4af806d>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-reanuda-asistencia-exterior-para-honduras-el-salvador-y-guatemala/>

<https://tiempo.hn/eeuu-reanuda-asistencia-economica-a-honduras/>

In September, a record number of Hondurans, 87'337, were deported by air, land and sea. The previous record was from 2014.

On this occasion, it makes sense to highlight an OpEd by Oscar Chacón, a co-founder and executive director of Alianza Americas, who visited Honduras as part of a delegation in August. "Over and over again, during our visits, I heard similar accounts of persecution and violence at the hands of the government. Then, last month, I was horrified to hear the Trump administration announce a new

migration cooperation agreement with Honduras that would force asylum-seekers to seek protection there."

<http://elpulso.hn/en-septiembre-se-rompio-record-de-hondurenos-deportados/>

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/10/15/honduras-migration-crisis-violence-donald-trump-column/3974297002/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that Congress had another go at an impunity pact, this time it took the form of the Special Law for the Allocation, Execution, Liquidation and Accountability of Public Funds for Social, Community Projects and Social Programs.

<https://criterio.hn/nueva-ley-blinda-a-diputados-corruptos-que-malversaron-fondos-cna/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueba-polemica-ley-especial-fondo-departamental/>

Civil society organizations handed over more than 7000 signatures demanding that the new Penal Code won't come into force next month.

<https://criterio.hn/codigo-penal-creado-por-delincuentes-para-proteger-delincuentes/>

The people of Gualaco, Olancho declared their municipality free of mining.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-cabildo-abierto-gualaco-se-declara-libre-de-mineria/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (BID) approved a \$59.5 million loan to Honduras to combat poverty.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-bid-presta-a-honduras-59-5-millones-de-dolares-para-reducir-la-pobreza.html>

ConfidencialHN reports on a press release by a group of army officials accusing its head, René Ponce Fonseca, to allow the political interference of JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/acusan-a-jefe-de-ffaa-de-ser-sumiso-al-regimen-de-joh-piden-castigo-por-traicion-a-la-patria/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rebelion-batallones-se-movilizan-ante-purga-en-altos-mandos-de-las-ffaa-de-honduras/>

"The people we need are those who don't wait for things to be given or who are satisfied with the crumbs that politicians give them, but who mobilizes to fight for their rights, and who understands that what they receive without effort never has the same value as what is achieved as a result of a shared struggle."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cual-es-el-pueblo-que-necesita-el-pais/>

17/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Business; LGBTQ - Migration; Deportation; Corruption - Congress; Water; G-16; ATIC; Armed Forces; and Forced Military Service

The jury deliberated all day yesterday.

Radio Progreso rightly asks "What now?" and places the bet that "the next chapter of Honduran history will be written by citizens in coordination with the other social, political and business sectors".

JOH, meanwhile, continues to claim his and his brother's innocence and presents all the evidence against them as lies. The JOH regime even sent a letter to the US State Department protesting that Honduras is being presented as "a sophisticated state-sponsored organization that distributed cocaine for years" in the trial...

JOH also comments on the weapon engraved with his name a photo of which was presented during the trial.

Last but not least, JOH claims that he had asked the then US ambassador James Nealon to organize an interview between his brother and the US State Department when the first "rumors" appeared regarding Tony's drug trafficking activities.

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/10/17/day-ten-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-johs-brother-tony-hernandez-on-trial-in-new-york>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/inicia-deliberaciones-el-jurado-del-caso-de-narcotrafico-de-tony-hernandez-en-nueva-york>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/que-sigue/>

<https://criterio.hn/cancilleria-envia-nota-de-protesta-al-departamento-de-estado-por-alusiones-en-el-juicio-a-tony-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/hernandez-admite-tenencia-de-arma-de-fuego-grabada-con-su-nombre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-arma-con-mi-nombre-esta-bajo-custodia-de-guardia-presidencial/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1327379-466/juicio-tony-hernandez-jeames-nealon-joh-departamento-estado-honduras>

CESPAD highlights the links between the business elite and organized crime.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/16/coyuntura-la-conexion-entre-las-elites-politicas-economicas-y-el-crimen-organizado/>

OACNUDH sent a message of solidarity with Honduras' LGBTQ community.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1184915698973396993>

Coming Tuesday, there will be a public forum on the forced migration of members of the LGBTQ community.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/469-conversatorio-migraciones-invisibles-poblacion-lgbtiti-en-honduras>

After a record month in September, the number of deported Hondurans continues to rise having reached more than 90'000 so far this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportacion-de-hondurenos-aumento-41-hasta-septiembre-y-suman-90-mil-109-los-retornos.html>

There are more details on Congress' newest attempt to grant its members impunity (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-de-honduras-reactivan-la-inmunidad-parlamentaria-y-se-blindan-penal-y-administrativamente/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueba-polemica-ley-especial-fondo-departamental/>

Given the low water storage level, the next summer may be even worse for the people of Tegucigalpa.

Water continues to be rationed for the time being.

<http://elpulso.hn/se-estima-un-verano-con-peores-rationamientos-en-la-capital/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sanaa-anuncia-que-continuaran-los-rationamientos-de-agua-en-la-capital.html>

Proceso Digital reports that the G-16 supports the JOH regime in its plans to tackle the economic downturn.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/g-16-trabajara-con-honduras-para-afrontar-desaceleracion-economica.html>

Family members of Sherill Yubissa Hernández demand to see the documents of the investigation by the MP in her death. Her family as well as the former head of forensic medicine Julissa Villanueva believe that it was murder, while the ATIC and then later the MP claims that it was suicide. Both the family members and Villanueva have received death threats for insisting on Hernández having been murdered.

<https://criterio.hn/familiares-de-sherill-yubissa-hernandez-piden-expediente-al-mp/>

<https://tiempo.hn/familia-sherill-yubisa-exigen-al-mp-reabrir-el-caso/>

Defensores en Línea has more details on the internal disputes in the Armed Forces (see yesterday's e-mail).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rebelion-contra-el-regimen-o-pugnas-internas-al-interior-de-las-ffaa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ffaa-justifica-que-purga-de-altos-oficiales-fue-por-violentar-la-legislacion-militar/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ffaa-removio-a-coroneles-por-violentar-jerarquia-y-unidad-de-mando-en-ff-aa/>

ConexiHon reports about another attempted by the National Party to reintroduce mandatory military service in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1248-insisten-en-barbarie-de-retornar-al-servicio-militar-obligatorio>

18/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Protests, US, Journalists; Mining - Guapinol; Political Prisoners; and Sweet Dreams

Guilty. Tony Hernández was found guilty on all four accounts. "Former Honduran Congressman Tony Hernández Convicted In Manhattan Federal Court Of Conspiring To Import Cocaine Into The United States And Related Firearms And False-Statements Offenses".

"Hernández, 41, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. He is due to be sentenced January 17."

The Honduran diaspora in New York celebrated outside the New York court.

JOH reacted on Twitter, denouncing the decision, rejecting any future action trying "to sully the name of Honduras" based on this verdict. He also presented his government as an ongoing strong ally to fight drug trafficking...

Similar statements regarding the US-Honduras relationship came from the foreign minister Lisandro Rosales.

By the time of writing this, almost all articles on the start page of El Heraldo and La Prensa relate to the trial - it gets more difficult for the allied press of the JOH regime to silence this issue.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-congressman-tony-hernandez-convicted-manhattan-federal-court-conspiring>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/jury-finds-tony-hernandez-brother-of-honduran-president-guilty-of-drug-trafficking>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1185266430368976896>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1185241024475598848>

<https://criterio.hn/conozca-las-reacciones-tras-la-condena-a-tony-hernandez/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/eeuu-y-honduras-se-mantienen-en-lucha-frontal-contra-el-narcotrafico-dice-canciller.html>

Protests erupted in Honduras demanding the end of the JOH regime when the news broke. Major highways were blocked in several parts of the country.

The general coordinator of COFADEH, Bertha Oliva, reacted by saying that that "now the time came of those offended by the violence unleashed by drug trafficking, it is the turn of the Honduran people to demand the exit of the usurper of power".

Libre also called for protests and for new elections "to get rid of the drug traffickers and corrupt".

The protests were heavily repressed.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1185367921129742336>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-es-el-turno-de-los-ofendidos-y-de-las-ofendidas-es-el-turno-del-pueblo-hondureno/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-convoca-a-protestas-permanentes-para-sacar-del-poder-a-juan-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-norteamericana-desnuda-y-condena-red-de-narcotrafico-que-dirige-al-estado-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/comienzan-protestas-que-exigen-salida-de-hernandez-por-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/movilizacion-de-la-oposicion-es-desalojada-con-masivo-gas-lacrimogeno/>

Four US congresswo/men, Jan Schakowsky, Hank Johnson, Pramila Jayapal and Mark Pocan, issued a joint statement. "The Trump Administration must end its support of the repressive and corrupt Honduran regime of Juan Orlando Hernández. (...) The Trump Administration must immediately stop funding the corrupt Honduran police and military and stop celebrating President Hernández as a friendly ally and partner in the drug war. (...) We need to condemn the Honduran government's continued use of live bullets and poisonous tear gas to disrupt opposition protests and call for an end of its criminalization of dissent by grassroots environmental defenders - such as those from Guapinol. That is why 74 Members of Congress and counting support H.R. 1945, the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, which calls for an immediate suspension of U.S. funding for Honduran security forces until their government investigates, and brings to justice, perpetrators of violence and unrest in Honduras."

Nevertheless, InSight Crime concludes an article on the conviction with: "While Tony Hernández's conviction is extraordinary, it's likely not enough to remove the shadow of narco-politics that still looms over the country's business elites and government, including the president himself. These criminal structures still stand and will continue to do so as long as the United States views the sitting president — who was named as a co-conspirator in his brother's drug conspiracy — as an ally worthy of US security assistance."

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-johnson-jayapal-and-pocan-issue-statement-on-honduras/>

Spanish: <http://defensoresenlinea.com/schakowsky-johnson-jayapal-y-pocan-emitan-declaracion-sobre-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/congresistas-exigen-a-trump-suspender-apoyo-al-gobierno-corrupto-de-joh/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/tony-hernandez-conviction-honduras/>

ConexiHon focuses on the revelations that came out of the trial regarding the murder of various journalists in Honduras and their relation with Tony Hernández.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/1250-tony-hernandez-narcodiputado-vinculado-en-el-asesinato-de-periodistas-hondurenos>

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons and Public Goods of Tocoa received the National Carlos Escaleras Award for leading the struggle against the mining project by Inversiones Los Pinares in Guapinol. The US congresswo/men mentioned their important struggle in the press release above.

The same social movement recently also received the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Awards (see previous e-mail) and their were congratulated by US Senator Patrick Leahy and US congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/entregan-premio-nacional-carlos-escaleras-a-comite-municipal-de-defensa-de-los-bienes-comunes-y-publicos-de-tocoa/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/senador-y-congresista-de-estados-unidos-respaldan-lucha-en-defensa-del-rio-guapinol/>

The political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo was allowed to leave the maximum-security prison after a doctor found he suffers from a severe depression. He was transferred to a psychiatric hospital.

<https://criterio.hn/envian-a-hospital-siquiatrico-a-joven-acusado-de-incendiar-embajada-de-ee-uu/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/juez-ordena-remitir-al-hospital-siquiatrico-a-imputado-de-quemar-embajada-de-eeuu.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/los-que-suenan-con-la-renuncia-del-presidente-pueden-seguir-sonando-ebal-diaz.html>

19/10/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Protests, Repression, US, Armed Forces; Penitentiary System; and Carlos Escaleras, Presente

The assassination of the indigenous Garífuna in Honduras continues. OFRANEH denounces that Oscar Francisco Guerrero Centeno was murdered yesterday. He was part of a group of people

supporting the family of the recently murdered Garífuna activist Mirna Suazo after they received threats.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/10/20/nuevo-asesinato-de-defensor-del-territorio-garifuna/>

El Pulso spoke with Steve Dudley, co-director of Insight Crime, about the Tony Hernández trial, the role of the US in Honduras and its aftermath. He does not believe that the trial will suffice to have JOH himself indicted.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-testimonios-en-la-corte-no-son-suficiente-para-incriminar-a-un-presidente-entrevista-a-steve-dodley-de-insight-crime/>

The opposition leader Manuel Zelaya, Salvador Nasralla and Luis Zelaya met yesterday and later the same day, they announced the creation of an opposition coalition to get rid of JOH.

As a first joint action, they announced nation-wide protests for tomorrow.

Also the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare called for a united Honduran people to oppose the JOH regime.

ContraCorriente published a photo essay of the newest protests.

<https://criterio.hn/se-reunen-mel-zelaya-luis-zelaya-y-salvador-nasralla-sera-la-articulacion-de-la-oposicion/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-se-crea-coalicion-opositora-para-sacar-del-poder-a-la-narcodictadura/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3568-honduras-se-consolida-unidad-de-oposicion-para-sacar-a-trafficantes-de-droga>

<https://tiempo.hn/crean-la-coalicion-de-unidad-opositora-y-llaman-a-todos-los-sectores-a-unirse/>

<https://criterio.hn/plataforma-llama-a-la-unidad-a-los-hondurenos-para-exigir-la-renuncia-de-hernandez/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/10/18/la-llama-de-la-protesta-vuelve-a-las-calles/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that once more live bullets were shot at protesters injuring at least one person in Tegucigalpa.

Instead of reporting on the repression, the JOH-allied newspapers criminalize protesters in their articles.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1185584261509681152>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reprimen-de-nuevo-a-opositores-al-regimen-de-hernandez/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1327985-410/detienen-13-supuestos-saqueadores-tegucigalpa-protestas-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/saqueos-quema-de-vehiculos-y-destruccion-en-protestas-de-la-oposicion-en-honduras.html>

Yesterday, less than 24 hours after the guilty verdict, the US embassy praised the "close relationship and collaboration" between the Honduran and US government...

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1185615263443701771>

And the JOH regime paraded its Armed Forces through the streets,

<https://criterio.hn/militares-muestran-poderio-que-no-usan-para-combatir-el-narcotrafico/>

The prison guards who tried to bring 245'000 Lempiras into the El Pozo have now been suspended (see e-mails from the beginning of this week).

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/agentes-penitenciarios-que-intentaron-ingresar-l-245-000-a-el-pozo-serian-destituidos.html>

Several Honduran human rights organizations organized in a body following-up on IACtHR rulings denounce that the murder of the HRD Carlos Escaleras Mejía still remains unpunished 22 years after the fact.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/22-anos-del-asesinato-carlos-escaleras-permanece-impunidad-ataques-contra-personas-defensoras-ddhh>

20/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Protests, Lobo; Healthcare; Political Prisoners; Zacate Grande; Penal Code; MACCIH; and National Joy

Univision looks at the effects of the Tony Hernández trial on the JOH regime. The answer is not clear and much will depend on the US, which once more shows its division of labor when it comes to Honduras. Representing the Judicial Power, Prosecutor Emil Bove described Honduras as a state where drug traffickers linked to JOH and the National Party are fully protected from investigations and arrests. At the same time, representing the State Department, chargé d'affaires Colleen Hoey offered JOH a photo op just a day after the trial ended.

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/como-queda-el-presidente-de-honduras-tras-la-condena-a-su-hermano-por-narcotrafico-en-eeuu>

The criminalization and denigration of the protests continues. The OAS unconvincingly claims that current protests in Latin America are linked to Cuba and Venezuela. But even though their press release is from five days ago and does explicitly not mention Honduras, the JOH-alligned press now offers headlines implying that the OAS condemned Venezuela-sponsored protests in Honduras...

The Armed Forces threaten that they won't allow "disorder and chaos".

And the president of the National Party, Reinaldo Sánchez, thinks aloud about forbidding the words "coup d'état" and "constituent assembly".

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-081/19

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1328072-410/oea-advierte-que-ola-de-protestas-son-generadas-por-venezuela-y-cuba>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/protestas-sociales-en-paises-de-la-son-alentadas-por-venezuela-y-cuba-oea.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-se-permitira-desorden-y-caos-en-manifestaciones-advierte-jefe-de-las-ffaa.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/rene-ponce-nada-fuera-de-la-ley-ff-aa-para-eso-estan/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/reinaldo-sanchez-dice-que-golpe-de-estado-y-constituyente-no-ocurriran-en-el-pais.html>

Former president Pepe Lobo reappeared on social media demanding the creation of a congressional commission to investigate the people mentioned in the Tony Hernández trial especially emphasizing the role of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/pueblo-hondureno-tiene-derecho-a-saber-si-joh-usa-su-cargo-como-escudo-pepe-lobo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1328197-466/pepe-lobo-pide-al-congreso-nacional-investigar-a-pol%C3%ADticos>

Healthcare workers announce new possible strikes for today as a reaction to threatened suspension of colleagues of them for participating in a protest.

<https://radiohrn.hn/enfermeras-auxiliares-anuncian-paro-nacional-a-partir-de-este-lunes/>

Today, the preliminary hearing in the case of the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera takes place. Last week he was allowed to get psychological treatment at a hospital and to leave the maximum-security prison.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/internamiento-provisional-es-una-medida-de-emergencia-para-rommel-baldemar/>

Defensores en Línea offers an overview of the tense situation in Zacate Grande where human rights defenders from ADEPZA and REDEHSUR suffer threats, attacks and criminalization.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/zacate-grande-hostigamiento-y-amenazas-en-playa-blanca/>

The protest against the coming into force of the new Penal Code continue. El Pulso once more highlights how it would lead to a reduction in penalties for drug trafficking and corruption.

<http://elpulso.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-reduce-penas-por-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

Tomorrow, the Coalition for the Renewal of the MACCIH invites to a forum to present their arguments for why the MACCIH should stay in Honduras.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/472-invitation>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-veredicto-que-produce-alegria-nacional/>

21/10/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; JOH - Protests, Armed Forces, National Police; Zacate Grande; IACtHR; MACCIH; Public Health; Poverty; BID; and a State Department Visit

COPINH denounces that the Madrid family destroyed one hectare of maize sown by the indigenous Lenca community in Río Blanco with the dangerous pesticide Paraquat. "We demand that the MP, the National Police and the Special Prosecutor of Ethnicity take action once and for all in the face of these attacks against the integrity of our community in Río Blanco, since these attacks jeopardize their food sovereignty and with that The life of community families."

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/familia-madrid-envenena-maiz-rio-blanco/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1186418330346905600>

Since the verdict against Tony Hernández, the protests against the JOH regime have taken up steam again in Honduras. El Libertador reports on protests in at least 10 out of 18 departments.

ConfidencialHN reports on repression in Tegucigalpa.

And the Secretary of Education threatened teachers participating in protests.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3570-insurreccion-de-hondurenos-empezo-a-cobrar-fuerza-hoy-en-varias-ciudades>

<https://confidencialhn.com/manifestantes-resultan-afectados-por-gas-lacrimogeno-durante-toma-en-bulevar-ffaa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-educacion-amenaza-con-aplicar-la-ley-a-docentes-que-protesten-contra-el-regimen/>

The head of the Armed Forces, René Ponce Fonseca, recently made some not-so-veiled threats against protesters and further statements regarding the role of the Armed Forces (see yesterday's e-

mail and second link). According to El Libertador, he violated the constitution through these statements.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3571-honduras-temeraria-advertencia-de-jefe-militar-implica-delito-de-traicion-a-la-patria>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-las-ff-aa-esta-dispuesto-a-quedarse-30-anos-en-el-poder/>

Yesterday, it was then the turn of the police to threaten protesters.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1328460-410/conferencia-prensa-policia-nacional-honduras-acciones-protesta>

Defensores en Línea published a second article on the situation in Zacate Grande (see also yesterday), this time focusing on the collusion of the police and big land owners.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-policia-se-colude-con-terrateniente-para-actuar-contra-defensores-en-zacate-grande/>

Coming November 6, the Board to Follow-Up on Sentences by the Inter-American Human Rights System against the State of Honduras will hold a public forum focusing on cases involving human rights defenders.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-6-de-noviembre-sera-el-foro-para-seguimiento-de-sentencias-dictadas-contra-honduras-por-el-sistema-interamericano/>

The MACCIH handed over its next progress report, the seventh, to the OAS.

OACNUDH congratulated Ana María Calderón for her work at the MACCIH.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/vocera-de-la-maccih-entrega-septimo-informe-a-secretaria-general-de-la-oea.html>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1186401824573661185>

The National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH) came to an agreement with the Secretary of Health (see yesterday).

<https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-acuerdo-secretaria-salud/>

El Pulso reports on the price increase of various food items of the basic goods basket.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-precio-de-la-canasta-basica-al-alza-el-salario-estancado/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) presented yesterday a national strategy for the Honduran government on combating money laundering and financing terrorism.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-recibe-del-bid-estrategia-nacional-contralavado-de-activos-y-financiamiento-al-terrorismo.html>

Representatives of the US State Department will visit Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/lisandro-rosales-departamento-estado-honduras/>

22/10/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta; MACCIH; National Police - HRDs; Military Police; Mining - MINOSA; JOH - Journalists, Opposition, Protests; US; and the Hernández Brothers

OACNUDH accompanied OFRANEH in a visit to Garífuna territory invaded by palm oil and live stock businesses.

General coordinator of OFRANEH, Miriam Miranda, denounces that their people is being assassinated. This year alone, at least 17 indigenous Garífuna were murdered in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1186735453401169920>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1252-nuestro-pueblo-esta-siendo-asesinado-basta-ya-de-asesinarnos-miriam-miranda>

In Berlin, a wall painting of Berta Cáceres and Marielle Franco was presented to the public.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2587-mural-en-memoria-a-berta-caceres-y-marielle-franco-en-berlin>

The US chargé d'affaires met with the MACCIH, praised its work and insisted on the renewal of its mandate.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1186824077341855745>

21 police officials and agents, 15 of which belong to the National Anti-Mara and Pandilla Force (FNAMP), were arrested accused of various crimes, among them torture.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4970-21-agentes-del-orden-son-acusados-por-violacion-a-los-derechos-humanos>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1186700068453343233

In May 2017, the police agent Daniel Torres heavily beat the human rights defender Pedro Joaquín Amador. Having waited for over two years for a trial, the initial hearing against Torres was again postponed yesterday to 2020 because the his lawyer...mixed up some dates.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2588-los-retrasos-de-la-justicia-posponen-juicio-contrapolicia-que-agredio-defensor-de-ddhh>

Five Military Police agents were arrested for allegedly selling drugs they themselves have stolen from a drug bust.

<https://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/capturan-a-policias-militares-por-desviar-cocaina-decomisada-en-choluteca.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/arrestan-a-cinco-militares-por-pretender-trafficar-droga-decomisada-en-choluteca/>

After some months of partial quiet, the mining company MINOSA started again its attempt to exhume a graveyard in Azacualpa, Copán, to mine for more gold.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2589-honduras-aura-minerals-minosa-esta-por-volver-a-exhumar-ilegamente-cadaveres-del-camposanto-de-azacualpa>

C-Libre denounces that journalist Lily Valladares suffered from a tear gas attack when covering the protests against the JOH regime.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1071-periodista-afectada-por-gas-lacrimogeno-lanzado-en-represion-a-protestas>

Radio Progreso spoke with the political analyst Eugenio Sosa about the need of a joint political opposition with a strong base in the social movements to get rid of JOH.

The opposition parties already agreed on a shared position (see Sunday's e-mail). Yesterday, a delegation traveled to the US to denounce the situation in Honduras.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/oposicion-debe-organizar-lucha-ciudadana-contrala-dictadura/>

<https://hondudiario.com/2019/10/22/comision-de-oposicion-viaja-a-washington-para-exponer-problematika-del-pais/>

They also announced that the protests will continue.

The JOH regime, meanwhile will continue to repress them. Additionally, the Labor Secretary claimed yesterday that the protests endanger "some 17'0000 temporal jobs".

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/diputado-de-la-oposicion-asegura-que-las-manifestaciones-continuaran-a-nivel-nacional.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/protestas-ponen-en-riesgo-unos-17-mil-empleos-temporales-dice-ministro-del-trabajo.html>

A US delegation started a series of meetings in Honduras yesterday and they will stay until the end of the week. The focus is the recent migration agreements which according to the Honduran Foreign Secretary Lisandro Rosales should come into force in the next 60 days.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1328805-410/honduras-eeuu-avanzan-implementacion-acuerdos-asilo-migracion>

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2019/october/the-hernandez-brothers>

23/10/19

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; JOH - Protests, Repression, Outlook; Journalists; Security Tax; Mining - Guapinol; Zacate Grande; LGBTQ - US; Corruption - Wheels; MP; MACCIH; Drug Trafficking; and Who was Right?

A new campaign was launched to call for the liberation of all political prisoners in Honduras. "The continued criminalization of activists in Honduras has led to 10 political prisoners being held pre-trial in prison and at least 173 people who face prosecution for their participation in protests or their opposition to the regime. Among the political are the 7 environmental defenders of the Guapinol community who are held in the military-controlled maximum-security prison La Tolva and one in the La Ceiba Prison, and the teacher Rommel Herrera who was just transferred from La Tolva to a psychiatric hospital due to a severe mental health crisis after almost 5 months of pretrial detention under inhuman conditions." One of them, Gustavo Cáceres, "held in the prison in El Progreso despite having a medically diagnosed serious cognitive disability", will face trial the coming Monday in El Progreso.

<https://afgj.salsalabs.org/freegustavo/index.html>

Both the political opposition and social movements have called for nation-wide protests today.

COFADEH called out to the international community to inform them about the newest wave of repression since the guilty verdict of Tony Hernández and to denounce the role of the US, Canada and the EU in maintaining the dictatorship.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1187194219653451783>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-cofadeh-hace-un-llamado-a-la-accion-internacional/>

C-Libre gives an overview of the repression by state security forces since last Friday.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1072-represion-a-protestas-luego-de-fallo-condenatorio-contr-ex-diputado>

Radio Progreso explains what kind of government Honduras needs. One which does not lie, which does not understand electoral politics as a business, which respects the democratic rules and the rule of law, etc.

Javuer Suazo thinks about the challenges ahead for the new opposition coalition. "The leaders of the opposition to the dictatorship of the national party led by JOH, must make an effort to show these types of economic actors the benefits of a democratic transition for the country, with JOH outside the government; but more than that, involve them in the construction of a new, more participatory and equitable development model."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-gobierno-que-hoy-necesitamos/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/202806>

The bike of the journalist Santiago López was set on fire outside his house on October 21. He has been receiving threats for the last two weeks, but he did not receive any attention by the MP.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2590-flojera-del-estado-hondureno-podria-propiciar-un-desenlace-fatal-contr-la-vida-del-periodista-santiago-lopez>

Only 5% of the money collected through the security tax in the last seven years were used for violence prevention.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3575-apenas-5-del-tason-para-prevenir-la-violencia-en-honduras>

Once more, a judge ordered the transfer of the criminalized human rights defenders from Guapinol out of the maximum-security prison La Tolva to the prison in Olanchito. Previous orders have been ignored by the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/Conexihon/status/1187138868753117187>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1187155514012196864>

HRDs from Zacate Grande held a protest rally outside the MP in Nacaome against their criminalization.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1253-zacate-grande-exige-cese-a-la-criminalizacion-de-las-y-los-defensores-del-territorio>

<https://zacategrande.blogspot.com/2019/10/comunicado-adepza-del-23-de-octubre-del.html?m=1>

"US immigration officials deleted surveillance footage of a transgender asylum-seeker who died while in custody last year, according to internal emails reviewed by BuzzFeed News. Attorneys say the evidence was crucial in a pending wrongful death lawsuit. (...) The Honduran native died in ICE

custody on May 25, a little over two weeks after she requested asylum, on May 9, at the San Ysidro port of entry that connects San Diego to Tijuana. Hernández had traveled to the border as part of a caravan of Central American immigrants in the spring of 2018 that drew the ire of President Trump. The New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator said her cause of death was multicentric Castleman disease due to complications of AIDS."

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/adolfoflores/ice-surveillance-video-transgender-asylum-seeker>

A judge opened trial against all of the accused in the Corruption on Wheels case.

Nevertheless, they can await trial outside prison (unlike all the criminalized HRDs and political prisoners as highlighted above).

<https://twitter.com/UFEIC1/status/1187142955724881922>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-libertad-se-defenderan-implicados-en-caso-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas.html>

The German, Canadian and US embassies visited the MP together with USAID, US State Department representatives (INL) and the Honduran organization Association for a More Just Society (ASJ).

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1187142655253405696

"Time progresses, the deadlines for the end of the Mission against Corruption and Impunity (MACCIH) agreement are approaching and the evaluation of the Mission continues to be handled with high levels of discretion. So far nothing is known about the evaluation: its content, methodology, participating actors and real implications."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/23/coyuntura-16-de-noviembre-se-reanuda-o-no-el-convenio-con-la-maccih/>

In Honduras, there is currently a trial against the former police commissioner Jorge Barralaga and Montse Paola Fraga Duarte, wife of the extradited drug trafficker Wilter Blanco. In the seventh day of the trial, the MP presented a criminal structure which moved more than 2.5 billion Lempiras.

<http://elpulso.hn/mas-de-dos-mil-quinientos-millones-de-lempiras-sin-justificar-movio-excomisionado-barralaga-segun-mp/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/a-quienes-dio-la-razon-la-sentencia-contra-tony-hernandez/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2586-instituciones-estatales-cierran-filas-alrededor-de-joh-despues-de-condena-de-su-hermano-en-usa>

24/10/19

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Journalists, US, Protests, Business; Political Prisoners; Corruption - Impunity Pact; Penal Code; Campesinxs - Bajo Aguán; Migration - US; Economy; and the Human Face of Corruption

Protesters outside the National Penitentiary System demand the transfer of the imprisoned human rights defenders from Guapinol (see yesterday).

ConexiHon also spoke with their lawyer Carlo Jiménez about the case.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1254-el-pueblo-de-guapinol-exige-frente-al-instituto-nacional-penitenciario-que-trasladen-a-las-y-los-defensores-que-se-encuentran-recluidos-por-defender-el-rio>

<https://criterio.hn/instituto-penitenciario-debe-sacar-de-la-tolva-a-los-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

Video: <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1256-instituto-penitenciario-debe-cumplir-orden-de-trasladar-a-los-defensores-del-rio-guapinol>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1255-el-abogado-carlo-jimenez-defensor-de-las-y-los-defensores-del-territorio-criminalizados-por-defender-el-rio-guapinol-explica-sobre-la-resolucion-del-traslado-de-los-12-companeros-privados-de-su-libertad-arbitrariamente-en-la-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad-la-tolva-y-trasladarlos-a-la-carcel-de-olanchito-tras-verificar-el-incumplimiento-de-la-orden-emitida-el-13-de-septiembre>

Journalist Emily Palmer writes about her experience in covering the Tony Hernández trial. "A narco-trafficking case implicated the Honduran first family, including the president. I got used to seeing them tweeting at me — along with ordinary Hondurans grateful for straightforward coverage."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/24/reader-center/honduras-narco-trafficking-hernandez.html>

InSight Crime published their four takeaways from the trial. The article concludes with a statement on the role of the US. "The United States may have convicted a few members of the narco-politics structure in place in Honduras, but it hasn't yet answered for helping create the conditions that allowed such a structure to exist in the first place."

Historic labor leader and member of the coordinating committee of the Alignment against Continuity (CCC), Carlos H. Reyes, also denounces the US support for the JOH regime.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle reflects on the US-Honduras relationship and wonders if now is the moment, "the last chance [for the US] to take distance and redeem itself".

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/takeaways-us-trial-honduras-president-brother/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-departamento-de-estado-de-eeuu-apoya-y-sostiene-al-regimen-de-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3576-honduras-caida-libre-del-regimen-la-logica-del-gringo-y-la-del-capital>

Meanwhile, the protests and the repression continue.

El Tiempo reports of beaten journalists and repressed HRDs.

The Coalition of the University Community also demands the resignation of JOH.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/movilizacion-para-dignificar-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-y-tigres-reprimen-al-pueblo-y-respaldan-al-dictador/>

<https://tiempo.hn/protestas-tegucigalpa-farmacias-quemadas-personas-heridas-periodistas-golpeados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vuelven-a-atacar-protesta-opositora-contra-el-regimen-de-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/coalicion-universitaria-exige-renuncia-de-joh/>

The business elite organized in COHEP, meanwhile, proposed a national agreement to solve the crisis while not addressing the underlying problems Honduras faces.

<https://criterio.hn/dejennos-trabajar-bajo-el-mismo-sistema-de-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-apuesta-por-continuidad-de-joh-al-frente-del-ejecutivo-y-pide-dialogo-a-todos-los-actores/>

The National Committee for the Freedom of the Political Prisoners published a press release denouncing that the MP has lost all objectivity when it comes to the political prisoners and it lacks independence. "On several occasions, for 20 months, we have been denouncing the use of vague and ambiguous criminal figures, who do not meet the requirements of international human rights law, to criminalize political opponents, who express their critical opinions against him who assumed power through weapons. (...) [W]e denounce that once again family members and human rights defenders who are part of this committee are subject to a smear campaign, since October 17, 2019. Linking them to drug trafficking cartels."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ministerio-publico-roba-articulos-decomisados-a-los-presos-politicos/>

Jeff Ernst published a helpful series of Tweets on the newest Impunity Pact by Congress (see previous e-mails).

The two underlying decrees are now published in La Gaceta.

The MACCIH denounced that it further deteriorates their working conditions.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1187522136828796928>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329231-466/publican-en-la-gaceta-decretos-que-blindan-a-diputados-ante-requerimientos>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/blindaje-de-diputados-obstaculiza-lucha-anticorrupcion-maccih.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329175-466/el-blindaje-a-ong-y-fundaciones-paraliza-70-investigaciones>

The corrupt elite in Honduras does not only have this new law, but also the new Penal Code which aims to reduce sentences for corruption. The Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, tries to explain why this is a good thing...

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/las-penas-por-corrupcion-no-pueden-estar-por-encima-de-los-homicidios-dice-mauricio-oliva.html>

The campesino leader Héctor Orlando Velásquez had the charges against him definitively dropped. At the same time, three more campesinos of the same group still have alternative measures to imprisonment and are awaiting trial.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/libertad-definitiva-para-lider-campesino-logra-cofadeh/>

The MP claims to have arrested the material author of the murder of three campesinos - José Olivero Nolasco Ardón, Marcos Enrique Gonzáles and Oscar Daniel Sánchez Bautista - in the Bajo Aguán region in 2012.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/4991-umviba-reporta-la-prision-preventiva-contra-presunto-asesino-de-tres-campesinos-del-aguan>

El Heraldo reports that Honduras and the US decided on the implementation of the four migration agreements signed recently.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329199-466/en-secreto-reglamentan-los-acuerdos-migratorios-entre-honduras-y-estados-unidos>

Radio HRN reports that the informal economy in Honduras has increased by 160% in the last 15 years.

<https://radiohrn.hn/en-160-se-ha-elevado-empleo-en-economia-informal-en-ultimos-15-anos/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/24/el-rostro-humano-de-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

25/10/19

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol; Penitentiary System; LGBTQ; Students; MACCIH; JOH - Protests, Repression, US, Opposition; Drug Trafficking; Migration - US; and Community Media

Various international human rights organizations wrote an open letter (with several embassies in the cc) to the National Penitentiary Institute demanding the transfer of the criminalized defenders from Guapinol (see e-mails of the last two days).

https://www.cejil.org/sites/default/files/honduras_2019.10.25_carta.pdf

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/25/alerta-instituto-nacional-penitenciario-se-niega-a-obedecer-orden-judicial-y-retiene-en-la-tolva-a-defensores-de-guapinol/>

And while the defenders remain in the high-security prison, another inmate was murdered and one gravely hurt.

<https://tiempo.hn/trasciende-amotinamiento-en-la-tolva-ii-se-habla-de-tres-muertos12/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1329718-410/muerto-herido-deja-conato-amotinamiento-tolva-moroceli-el-paraiso-honduras>

The UN expert on discrimination of the LGBT community Víctor Madrigal-Borloz speaks of a "vicious hate cycle" increasing the exclusion and marginalization of LGBT people.

In Honduras, the Committee for Sexual Diversity held a press conference and demanded the recognition of same-sex marriage.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/posts/2561059067468209>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2591-comite-de-la-diversidad-sexual-demanda-del-estado-de-honduras-el-reconocimiento-del-matrimonio-igualitario>

24 more students who have been criminalized since the student protests in 2017 have received their "cartas de libertad".

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/extienden-cartas-de-libertad-para-24-estudiantes-acusados-por-tomas-en-la-unah.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/entregan-24-cartas-de-libertad-a-estudiantes-acusados-por-tomas-en-la-unah/>

The MACCIH published a press release expressing their profound concern regarding the newest impunity pact adopted by Congress (see previous e-mails).

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-017.MACCIH-expresa-su-preocupacion-por-contenidos-de-la-Ley-de-reactivacion-del-Fondo-Social-Departamental.pdf>

The Alignment against Continuity (CCC) will meet today to discuss Thursday's protests and coming actions.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-represion-solo-exhibe-a-la-dictadura/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an additional article on Thursday's repression including a video.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2592-policia-emplea-uso-excesivo-contra-manifestantes-que-demandan-salida-del-presidente-de-la-republica>

The US embassy once more met with JOH and tweeted about it, this time even mentioning human rights.

Michael Kozak, Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the State Department, called the JOH regime a "reliable partner".

At the same time, the Central America Donors Forum took place in Tegucigalpa and the State Department reprinted the speech held by its Assistant Secretary for Central America, Hugo Rodriguez.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1187833930537426944>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1329579-410/honduras-socio-confiable-departamento-estados-unidos-michael-kozak->

<https://www.state.gov/engines-of-economic-growth-the-role-of-the-private-sector-in-international-development/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exrector-de-la-unah-exige-a-ee-uu-que-deje-de-intervenir-en-los-asuntos-internos-de-honduras/>

The social and political opposition, meanwhile, traveled to the US to meet with Senate and Congress offices.

<https://tiempo.hn/washington-senadores-de-eeuu-escuchan-a-dirigentes-de-la-oposicion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-eeuu-sabe-que-poder-ejecutivo-legislativo-judicial-ffaa-narcotraficantes/>

El Heraldo reports on the case of the former congressman Fredy Nájera who presented himself to the US Justice system, declared himself not guilty, then guilty and then withdrew it again and blamed his lawyer.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329681-466/fredy-najera-narcotrafico>

"The Trump administration has begun testing a secretive program here that aims to speed up the deportation of asylum-seeking migrants after they cross the U.S.-Mexico border. The pilot program — known as Prompt Asylum Claim Review — streamlines the asylum process so that migrants who are seeking safe refuge in the United States will receive a decision in 10 days or less, rather than the months or years it currently takes, according to Customs and Border Protection officials. The reviews are largely to determine if Central American migrants can be sent back to their homelands."

ContraCorriente published a portrait of some of the forcefully returned to Honduras.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-administration-testing-rapid-asylum-review-deportation-process-in-texas/2019/10/24/caa91a62-f5d8-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96_story.html

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/10/24/las-tres-heridas-del-torcido/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-encuentro-centroamericano-medios-populares-alternativos-y-comunitarios-denuncian-persecuciones-y-amenazas/>

26/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; COPINH - Río Blanco; Mining - Guapinol; Armed Forces – UN;

Yesterday, another inmate was murdered in the high-security prison El Pozo. The victim, Nery Orlando López Sanabria (who used another name, Magdaleno Meza Funez), was considered a partner of no other than Tony Hernández.

The so-called "narcolibretas" used in the trial as proof belonged to him. In it, he mentioned JOH various times. His lawyer had denounced previous attempts against his client while in prison.

He holds the JOH regime responsible for the murder.

A video showing the extremely violent murder of López Sanabria soon made the rounds - it seems as if the prison guards knew about what was going to happen.

Prison authorities suspended the director and announced an investigation.

<https://criterio.hn/en-carcel-de-honduras-asesinan-a-socio-del-narcotraficante-tony-hernandez/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1188178716188434432>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-en-el-pozo-a-magdaleno-meza-socio-del-exjefe-narco-tony-hernandez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/muerto-el-pozo-autor-narcolibretas-presentadas-juicio-tony-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329782-466/el-v%C3%ADnculo-entre-supuesto-narco-asesinado-en-el-pozo-l-y-tony>

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-reo-el-pozo-responsables-german-mcneil-gobierno/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1188224689929412612>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1329819-466/video-as%C3%AD-mataron-dentro-de-el-pozo-i-a-magdaleno-meza-narco>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329880-466/intervienen-c%C3%A1rceles-el-pozo-i-y-ii-y-suspenden-a-sus-directores>

COPINH denounced another attack by the Madrid family against COPINH members. They threatened with arms a solidarity mission traveling to Río Blanco.

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/alerta-rio-blanco-26-octubre-2019/>

Radio Progreso published a helpful overview of how the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) has disobeyed judicial orders since last September to transfer the criminalized defenders from Guapinol. This week a second order was issued, but so far to no avail (see previous e-mails).

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/autoridades-penitenciarias-se-niegan-a-cumplir-traslado-de-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that soldiers were transported in two trucks with UN written on it.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1188181673361530880>

27/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Political Prisoner; OFRANEH; Students; and ASJ's Hammer

The murder of Magdaleno Meza Fúnez in the maximum security prison El Pozo continues to occupy the headlines (see yesterday). OACNUDH laments the murder of the two inmates (another inmate was murdered the same day) and highlights that both inmates had previously requested their transfer fearing for their lives.

CONADEH describes the general situation in Honduras' prisons as grave and in urgent need of attention.

Migdonia Ayestas, the head of UNAH's Violence Observatory, speaks of prisons self-governed by inmates in collusion with prison authorities.

At El Pozo and La Tolva, the Military Police have taken over control.

But critics denounce this as a show for the public. The important question is the clearly visible selective murder of a former associate of Tony Hernández.

The Vice-Minister of Security, Luis Suazo, unconvincingly tries to explain why a prison guard opened the door the inmates stormed in to murder Meza Fúnez.

At the same time, he says that the so-called "narcolibretas" by Meza Fúnez and used in the Tony Hernández case were fake - a bit too convenient...

Meza Fúnez' lawyer disputes this.

He also reiterates that the assassination was planned and that he holds the JOH regime responsible.

El Heraldo presents the second inmate seen in the video during the talk between Meza Fúnez and the director of El Pozo. It is a presumed drug trafficker from Colombia, Fermín García Isaza.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1188449506377064449>

<https://tiempo.hn/conadeh-situacion-de-centros-penales-es-grave-y-requiere-atencion-urgente/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/siguen-autogobiernos-de-reos-en-carceles-bajo-colusion-de-autoridades-penitenciarias-ov-unah.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1329958-466/polic%C3%ADa-militar-asume-control-de-el-pozo-i-y-la-tolva-tras>

<https://radiohrn.hn/criticos-intervencion-de-carceles-es-puro-show-el-asesinato-de-magdaleno-meza-es-selectivo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asesinato-de-magdaleno-y-si-no-hubieran-abierto-la-puerta-seguridad-explica-por-que/>

<https://tiempo.hn/seguridad-se-debe-investigar-asesinato-de-magdaleno-se-sospecha-de-narcotestigos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/narcolibretas-si-existen-y-maliciosamente-no-figuran-en-el-expediente-dice-abogado-omar-dubon.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-de-magdaleno-narcolibretas-si-existen-conversacion-de-whatsapp-esta-incompleta/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1329943-466/crimen-de-magdaleno-meza-fue-planificado-afirma-abogado-chajtur>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1329993-466/ferm%C3%ADn-isaza-el-colombiano-que-presenci%C3%B3-asesinato-de-magdaleno-meza>

Today the public hearing of the political prisoner Gustavo Adolfo Cáceres takes place - almost two years after his arrest.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/gustavo-caceres-primer-presopolitico-sometido-a-juicio-oral-y-publico/>

Criterio spoke with Miriam Miranda, general coordinator of OFRANEH. She denounces the persecution of the Garífuna people by drug traffickers and organized crime resulting in 17 deaths so far this year, six of them women community leaders.

<https://criterio.hn/narcotrafico-y-crimen-organizado-atacan-los-pueblos-garifunas-de-honduras-miriam-miranda/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published more information on the 25 students who received their 'cartas de libertad' on Friday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/especiales/protesta-social-unah/item/2593-25-estudiantes-de-la-unah-reciben-carta-de-libertad-definitiva-despues-de-aceptar-una-conciliacion>

As always, if there is a problem, such as displayed by the murder of Magdaleno Meza Fúnez, the Association of a More Just Society (ASJ) proposes a cleaning up ("depuración").

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/asj-pide-depuracion-en-el-inp-y-cuestionan-integridad-de-personal.html>

28/10/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Mining - Guapinol; Political Prisoners; COPINH - Río Blanco; MACCIH; Corruption - Impunity Pacts; National Police; Forced Displacement; and Plastic Pollution in Central America

Univision published an overview in English on the recent murder of Magdaleno Meza Fúnez, a.k.a. Nery López Sanabria (see e-mails of the last two days). The two reports highlight some interesting events around López Sanabria. "Before the trial, lawyers for Lopez Sanabria say their client was visited without their prior knowledge or authorization by a Miami private investigator, Chase Lalani, who was employed by the Hernández family. Others who were approached by Lalani say he misrepresented himself as working for the U.S. government. Lalani denied misrepresenting himself during a brief conversation with Univision in New York."

The MP, meanwhile, announced that they have identified four suspects of the murder.

At the same time, the JOH regime aided by their media allies try to present López Sanabria as a troublesome inmate, as someone who actively tried to escape prison.

Regarding the lack of security in the maximum-security prisons, congressman Denis Castro Bobadilla told Hondudiario: "Maximum security can only be found in the Presidential Palace and the Central Bank of Honduras".

For human rights defender Edy Tábora, the murder of López Sanabria is a further sign of the "narco-government" ruling in Honduras.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/accused-drug-trafficker-murdered-in-prison-hit-was-alleged-partner-of-brother-of-honduran-president>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/5012-requerimiento-fiscal-para-responsables-de-asesinato-en-carcel-de-ilama-santa-barbara>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1330375-410/el-perfil-de-los-cuatro-reos-acusados-del-crimen-de-magdaleno-meza>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/magdaleno-pretendio-salir-libre-con-cartas-falsas-y-pretendia-escapar-por-tunel-dice-viceministro-suazo.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-suazo-a-la-oposicion-no-le-interesa-muerte-de-magdaleno/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1330263-468/magdaleno-meza-lopez-sanabria-narcotrafico-pozo-honduras-tony-herandez>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2019/10/honduras-maxima-seguridad-solo-hay-en.html>

<https://criterio.hn/asesinato-de-madgaleno-meza-activa-las-alarmas-ante-un-narco-gobierno-edy-tabora/>

The faculty of law and social science professors at the UNAH wrote an open letter to Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla asking for an investigation into JOH and drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/profesores-de-derecho-piden-a-fiscal-que-investigue-a-joh-y-si-no-puede-que-renuncie/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/claustro-de-docentes-de-derecho-exigen-a-chinchilla-que-investige-a-sindicados-en-narcotrafico/>

The defense of the seven criminalized defenders from Guapinol presented their third Habeas Corpus to the Constitutional Chamber for illegal detention and the ongoing reluctance of the prison authorities to transfer them.

Family members and accompanying human rights organization convoked media outlets for a press conference today at 10:30am.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/por-detencion-ilegal-en-la-tolva-presentan-habeas-corpus-en-favor-de-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1263-aumenta-el-riesgo-de-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-al-permanecer-en-la-tolva-defensa>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1188964086039678977>

The National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoner published a press release yesterday, the day of the public hearing of Gustavo Cáceres.

The hearing started at 10am and then the MP immediately asked for its suspension because two witnesses did not show up. There were two contradicting testimonies by the police agents who arrested Gustavo in December 2017. A psychologist testified that Gustavo suffers from brain damage resulting in him behaving like a child between six and nine years. Gustavo himself also testified and his defense team requested an end to pre-trial detention, but this was denied. The hearing continues on November 11.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-innumerables-injusticias-sufridas-el-presos-politico-gustavo-caceres-se-enfrenta-a-un-juicio-desigual/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-noviembre-continuara-juicio-contras-el-presos-politico-gustavo-caceres/>

COPINH denounced Saturday's attack on a solidarity mission visiting Río Blanco (see previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1189011166166691840>

US Congressman Eliot Engel wants a renewal of the MACCIH agreement.

An analysis by CESPAD, meanwhile, shows that the three state powers in Honduras are actively working against such a renewal.

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1188908349586317312>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/10/28/coyuntura-blindajes-dilaciones-y-artimanas-los-tres-poderes-del-estado-contra-la-continuidad-de-la-maccih/>

In a record time, the newest impunity pact approved by Congress became law.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) filed a constitutional challenge.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1261-en-vigencia-decretos-legislativos-que-otorgan-la-inmunidad-parlamentaria>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-interpone-recursos-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-el-codigo-penal-y-ley-del-fondo-departamental/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-interpone-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-codigo-penal-y-fondos-departamentales.html>

A former police agent was sentenced for the murder of three people.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/5015-mas-de-73-anos-de-reclusion-solicita-el-mp-contra-expolicia-miembro-de-una-banda-de-asaltantes>

Violence is forcefully displacing some 320'000 people in Honduras and El Salvador and the UNHCR fears that the number will rise further.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/violencia-en-honduras-y-el-salvador-genera-320-000-desplazados-segun-acnur.html>

"River of Trash - How Plastic Pollution Is Making Central American Communities Uninhabitable"

<https://theintercept.com/2019/10/27/plastic-pollution-guatemala/>

29/10/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Opposition, Police, Business, Lobo, US; Mining - Guapinol; Berta - Impunity, Corruption; Journalists; Political Prisoners; Penal Code; Corruption - Impunity Pacts; Migration - US, TPS, Children, Disabilities; and a History Lesson

Leader of the teacher's federation COPEMH and member of LIBRE Jaime Rodriguez was reported disappeared on Monday.

Yesterday evening he was found alive. "Rodriguez was assaulted last night, tortured & left to die on banks of Choluteca river in Tegucigalpa. He has a deep wound in his neck. This is a military-style operation similar to those used in 1980s".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-familia-denuncia-desaparicion-del-lider-social-jaime-rodriguez/>

<https://criterio.hn/jaime-rodriguez-expresidente-del-copemh-esta-desaparecido/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1189380944743911424>

<https://hch.tv/2019/10/29/aparece-amarrado-golpeado-pero-con-vida-el-dirigente-magisterial-jaimerodriguez/>

<https://hch.tv/2019/10/29/ni-un-paso-atras-las-primeras-declaraciones-de-jaimerodriguez-luego-de-estar-desaparecido-mas-de-24-horas/>

El Libertador reports that all the TIGRES agents and officials who refused to further repress the Honduran people in December 2017 were fired.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3587-depuracion-cancelan-policias-por-negarse-a-reprimir-hondurenos>

MADJ explains the role of the business lobby COHEP "in the narco-dictatorship country".

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/10/28/editorial-el-cohep-en-el-pais-de-la-narcodictura/>

Former president Pepe Lobo claims that there is a plan to assassinate him by the current administration.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1330593-466/pepe-lobo-asegura-que-el-gobierno-orden%C3%B3-su-asesinato>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/expresidente-lobo-revela-que-le-advirtieron-que-desde-el-estado-lo-quieren-matar.html>

US Senator Ben Cardin comments on the current situation in Honduras: "Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez's alleged connections to narco-trafficking are extremely concerning given the outcome of this trial. Hondurans are demanding accountability. To preserve the rule of law & regional stability, they must be heard."

<https://twitter.com/SenatorCardin/status/1187814172714848257>

A sign-on letter was launched to demand the revocation of the pre-trial detention of the Guapinol defenders.

More international pressure is needed as the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) continues to disobey court orders.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5RwviYA1LZ0JggrxpGehI-3cR67SI5YsabfACcDg4TNHbwg/viewform?usp=send_form

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2594-desobediencia-sin-castigo-instituto-nacional-penitenciario-tiene-prisioneros-a-defensores-de-guapinol-en-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad>

Almost one year has passed since the conviction of the material authors of Berta's assassination without there being a sentence and the wait for the prosecution of the intellectual authors also continues.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1189311158668451840>

Proceso Digital reports that in three days it will be decided if the Gualcarque Fraud case will be elevated to a public hearing.

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/en-tres-dias-decidiran-si-elevan-a-juicio-oral-caso-fraude-sobre-gualcarque.html>

Human rights defender Wilfredo Méndez González informed the Inter-American Human Rights System that the imprisoned journalist David Romero is in grave danger due to all the information he has on drug trafficking and the corrupt Honduran regime.

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-que-periodista-david-romero-esta-en-peligro-de-muerte/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mendez-denuncia-inminente-atentado-contradirector-de-radio-globo-recluido-por-ordenes-de-joh/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with the lawyer Omar Menjívar, part of the defense team of the political prisoner Gustavo Adolfo Cáceres. Menjívar denounces that the MP should have never gone after Gustavo as the event for which he is accused does not even constitute a crime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mp-nunca-debio-ejercer-la-accion-penal-contrael-presopolitico-gustavo-caceres/>

The Supreme Court recommends that the new Penal Code remains in "vacatio legis" for six more months.

Congress seems to agree.

<https://tiempo.hn/pleno-de-la-csj-seis-meses-mas-a-la-vacatio-legis-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1330653-466/congreso-nacional-anuncia-ampliacion-de-la-vacatio-legis-del-codigo-penal>

The MP now also challenges the newest impunity pact.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/5018-ministerio-publico-presenta-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contradecreto-legislativo-que-reactiva-el-fondo-social-departamental>

<http://elpulso.hn/ley-de-fondos-departamentales-seria-inconstitucional-segun-el-ministerio-publico/>

"Mick Mulvaney, chief of staff of Donald Trump, admitted last Thursday [October 17] that the government withheld financial aid for El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala to force them to limit the number of migrants arriving in the US. Once the 'third safe country' pacts were signed, financial aid flowed again."

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/politica/el-gobierno-admite-que-retuvo-dinero-al-triangulo-norte-a-cambio-de-endurecer-sus-leyes-migratorias-es-eso-ilegal>

The Honduran Foreign Secretary Lisandro Rosales claims that the TPS for Hondurans in the US will be extended for 9 months.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1330626-410/tps-ampliara-meses-automaticamente-canciller-lisandro-rosales-honduras>

"The American Civil Liberties Union said Thursday that the Trump administration separated 1,556 more immigrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border than has previously been disclosed to the public. The majority of the children were ages 12 and under, including more than 200 considered "tender age" because they were under 5 years old."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/aclu-says-1500-more-migrant-children-were-taken-from-parents-by-trump-administration/2019/10/24/d014f818-f6aa-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96_story.html

"Asylum seekers with disabilities waiting in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico for their United States asylum applications to be processed face obstacles to getting basic services, Human Rights Watch said today. Mexico's government should identify and ensure services for people with disabilities and chronic health conditions."

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/29/mexico-risks-border-those-disabilities>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1266-diputado-nacionalista-ignora-historica-lucha-que-derogo-servicio-militar-obligatorio>

30/10/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Opposition; Mining - Guapinol; Corruption - Gualcarque, Impunity Pacts; FoE; Church; IACHR; Maras; Penitentiary System; Migration; and Solidarity with Río Blanco

The Alignment against Continuity (CCC) calls for a national day of protest today.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jornada-nacional-de-protesta-popular/>

Defensores en Línea gives an update on teacher and social leader Jaime Atilio Rodríguez, who was found badly wounded after having been forcefully disappeared (see yesterday). COFADEH speaks of a political attack against him.

The Human Rights Roundtable held a press conference yesterday denouncing possible new attacks on the social and political opposition.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jaime-rodriguez-fue-victima-de-un-ataque-politico/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1330814-466/rafael-alegr%C3%ADa-denuncia-que-expresidente-de-copemh-sufri%C3%B3-secuestro-pol%C3%ADtico>

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-de-derechos-humanos-alerta-potenciales-atacados-contra-miembros-de-la-oposicion/>

Some 100 national, regional and international human rights and solidarity organizations signed a joint statement to demand the release of pre-trial detention of the human rights defenders from Guapinol.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/100-organizaciones-nacionales-e-internacionales-urgen-revisar-medidas-guapinol-garantizar-que>

In the Gualcarque Fraud case, a judge denied to change the measures imposed on five of the accused.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/niegan-cambio-de-medidas-a-imputados-en-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque.html>

There is now also international criticism regarding the newest impunity pact. WOLA denounces it as a "serious backlash in the fight against corruption in Honduras".

FOSDEH published an analysis of the new law, which in its full name is called "Special law for the management, allocation, execution, liquidation and accountability of public funds for social, community, infrastructure and social programs".

<https://www.wola.org/es/2019/10/ley-reactivacion-fondo-social-departamental-lucha-corrupcion-honduras/>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/10/comentarios-tecnicos-del-fosdeh-sobre-el-nuevo-fondo-de-desarrollo-departamental/>

The controversial cybersecurity bill - the National Law on Cybersecurity and Protection Measures in the Face of Acts of Hate and Discrimination on the Internet and Social Networks - is currently in its final debate in Congress. Journalists and HRDs see in it another attack on freedom of expression.

<https://criterio.hn/ley-de-ciberseguridad-de-honduras-es-ambigua-y-se-enmarca-en-el-odio/>

Defensores en Línea portrays the priest Florentino Hernández from El Triunfo, Choluteca, who, by standing on the side of the people, is under pressure from the church authorities. The Bishop of Choluteca ordered his transfer, but Hernández refused.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/padre-florentino-hernandez-mi-compromiso-es-con-la-liberacion-de-mi-pueblo/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-sacerdote-que-se-niega-abandonar-a-su-pueblo-que-lucha-contra-la-mineria/>

Next Wednesday, a forum on the challenges of the Inter-American Human Rights System takes place in Tegucigalpa.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/proximo-6-de-noviembre-foro-de-la-mesa-de-seguimiento-de-sentencia-emitidas-por-la-corte-idh-contra-honduras/>

Criterio reports on how Maras and organized crime approach Honduran children.

<https://criterio.hn/narcotrafico-acecha-a-ninez-de-honduras/>

The Honduran penitentiary system continues to make bad headlines. In a shootout, six inmates were injured in the El Porvenir prison.

La Prensa reports that in the two so-called maximum security prisons El Pozo and La Tolva, 10 inmates have so far been murdered, i.e. in a bit more than two years. During the same period, an additional three inmates were murdered in the Támara prison.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reos-heridos-en-balacera-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1330916-410/el-pozo-la-tolva-mataron-diez-presos-menos-anos-criminalidad-violencia-honduras>

The World Migration Organization published its newest report on their assistance on migrants voluntarily returning come from Mexico. In one year, this concerned less than 3000 people.

https://rosanjose.iom.int/SITE/sites/default/files/Reportes/avr_17_oct_2019_spanish.pdf

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/encuentro-de-comunidades-lenca-en-solidaridad-con-rio-blanco/>

31/10/19

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Guapinol, Pajuiles; Libre; COPINH - Río Blanco; Post-Electoral Repression; Penitentiary System; Migration; Corruption - La Ceiba; Transparency; and Palmerola

After two court orders, three Habeas Corpi and an international campaign, the seven defenders from Guapinol were finally transferred from La Tolva to the Olanchito jail.

The demand for their freedom continues and just yesterday, US Senator Jeff Merkley expressed grave concern regarding their security and the fact that they are being criminalized.

<https://twitter.com/EdwinLibertad/status/1189975593917530117>

<http://elpulso.hn/defensores-de-guapinol-son-trasladados-de-carcel/>

<https://criterio.hn/senador-jeff-merkley-preocupado-por-defensores-de-guapinol/>

In another case of extractivism which led to the criminalization of environmental defenders - the hydroelectric project by Hidrocep - the initial hearing of the 12 defenders was postponed for the second time.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/10/31/suspenden-audiencia-por-la-causa-pajuiles-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/suspenden-audiencia-contradefensores-de-pajuiles-en-honduras/>

The Libre coordinator in Gracias a Dios, Buenaventura Calderón, and his wife Maribel Bolian were shot dead in Puerto Lempira.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asesinan-de-varios-disparos-a-dirigente-de-libre-y-a-su-esposa-en-gracias-a-dios.html>

COPINH published a time-line of the attacks the community in Río Blanco suffered this year - there were eleven attacks since April.

<https://copinh.org/2019/10/ataques-rio-blanco-2019/>

Pasos de Animal Grande wrote a summary of a recent forum on the ongoing impunity for the human rights violations during the post-electoral repression in 2017.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2597-inconformidad-del-proceso-electoral-del-2017-fue-castigada-con-persecucion-judicial>

One of the injured inmates from El Porvenir (see yesterday) died in the hospital.

<http://elpulso.hn/un-muerto-tras-motin-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/muere-privado-de-libertad-que-resulto-herido-tras-en-reyerta-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir.html>

Front Line Defenders raised alarm regarding a motion presented in Congress on October 15 which would aim to criminalize "the promotion" of migration. The text is written in such a manner that it could lead to the criminalization of HRDs providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pronunciamiento-front-line-defenders-expresa-seria-preocupacion-ante-la-nueva-mocion-que-busca-extender-las-policia-militar-y-ampliar-los-casos-de-extradicion-en-honduras/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) informs about a 72.2 million Lempiras corruption case involving the mayoralty of La Ceiba.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1331172-466/cna-denuncia-desv%C3%ADo-de-72-millones-de-lempiras-en-alcald%C3%ADa-de-la>

The Presidential Commissioner on Transparency, Alfredo José Cantarero Callejas, was found dead in his apartment. Criterio speaks of a possible suicide.

<https://criterio.hn/trasciende-suicidio-de-comisionado-presidencial-de-transparencia-de-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/10/25/palmerola-el-centro-logistico-del-olvido/>