

01/11/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Assassinations, Women; Journalists; Mining - Guapinol; WHRDs; Political Prisoners; Corruption - US; Migration - TPS; Drug Trafficking - Armed Forces; and the Path to a Social Outbreak

Jeff Ernst published an article in the Guardian on the situation of JOH post-Tony Hernández trial and the prison murder. "The murder is the latest embarrassment for the US state department, which continues to ignore the haze of allegations around the Honduran government while pushing the country to cooperate in Donald Trump's regional crackdown on migration. (...) "The first message is for those who are linked to drug trafficking in Honduras related to Tony Hernández, or Juan Orlando Hernández and their whole group – to show them that they or their family members will be murdered if they continue providing evidence," said Dr Joaquín Mejía, a human rights lawyer who has studied violence in Honduras."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/01/honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-prison-murder-drug-trial>

The protests against the JOH regime continue and among the most fervent protesters are once again students. It is, therefore, especially worrisome that two student leaders were murdered in the last three days. The 18 year-old high school student, Oscar Mencía was last seen in his high school cafeteria on Oct 29 and found dead in Tegucigalpa same day.

Yesterday, the 25 year-old Leonardo Daniel Castillo Lagos, member of the University Student Movement (MAU), was assassinated.

The day before, the indigenous Miskito Libre leader from Gracias a Dios and his wife were murdered (see yesterday's e-mail). Defensores en Línea reports that he had received death threats and unsuccessfully demanded support from the protection mechanism.

OACNUDH laments their murder and according to them, he should have benefited from collective protection measures granted to the National Platform for Indigenous Matters of Honduras whose board member he was.

COFADEH's Berta Oliva describes the current situation as one of total defenselessness and denounces the activity of death squads.

<https://criterio.hn/aparece-asesinado-lider-estudiantil-del-tecnico-luis-bogran/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1190270930712268800>

Attention, graphic image: <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1190445424366227458>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/asesinan-a-lider-social-y-su-esposa-en-la-mosquitia-quien-habria-solicitado-medidas-de-proteccion/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1190394596267905025>

<https://tiempo.hn/bertha-oliva-hay-escuadrones-de-la-muerte/>

Radio Progreso reports on the role of women in the protests against the JOH regime.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/mujeres-se-autoconvocan-en-demanda-de-la-salida-de-joh/>

The journalist Claudia Sosa covered last week's protests and its repression when she herself was tear-gassed.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1076-lanzan-gas-lacrimogeno-contra-periodista-de-canal-6-en-plena-transmision>

The journalist Milton Benítez received threats after investigating dealings of Grupo Atlántida.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1075-amenazas-en-su-contra-denuncia-periodista-luego-de-ser-querellado-por-institucion-bancaria>

There are some more hopeful news regarding the Guapinol case. After the transfer to the jail in Olanchito (see yesterday), the national and international pressure also led the judge to announce a revision of the measures imposed on the seven environmental defenders.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/no-hay-razones-juridicas-para-privar-de-libertad-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1190368739478425602>

CESPAD published an analysis on women human rights defenders and the construction of a new socio-environmental movement in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/01/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-mujeres-insurgentes-tejiendo-un-nuevo-movimiento-socio-ambiental-en-honduras/>

Radio Progreso writes about the struggle to free the political prisoner Gustavo Cáceres.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ministerio-publico-se-ensana-contra-presos-politicos-gustavo-caceres/>

ContraCorriente speaks with Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez about corruption, the role of congresswomen, the renewal of the MACCIH and the newest impunity pact.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/11/01/los-diputados-no-solo-buscan-protegerse-tambien-conseguir-dinero-para-ser-reelectos-diputada-doris-gutierrez/>

Due to the widespread corruption, the JOH regime once more failed to get access to the Millennium Challenge funds.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3597-corrupcion-otra-vez-deja-fuera-a-honduras-de-fondos-donados-por-cuenta-del-milenio>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-aplazada-nuevamente-en-la-cuenta-del-milenio-por-la-corrupcion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-mejora-indicadores-de-cuenta-del-milenio-pero-reprueba-renglon-sobre-control-de-corrupcion.html>

The JOH regime, meanwhile, tries to paint a good picture of itself and claims that it is to be congratulated for the prolongation of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) of Hondurans in the US.

The National TPS Alliance challenges this narrative.

<https://criterio.hn/extienden-tps-para-honduras-y-otros-paises/>

<https://criterio.hn/tepesianos-desmienten-que-gobierno-de-juan-hernandez-haya-hecho-gestiones-para-su-beneficio/>

Radio Progreso reports on the role of the Armed Forces in drug trafficking.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/droga-con-sello-de-dos-alas-perteneceria-a-militares-hondurenos-segun-agente-de-inteligencia/>

---

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/honduras-va-camino-a-un-estallido-social-segun-sociologo-eugenio-sosa/>

02/11/19

Honduras Daily: Students; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Journalists; Berta - Impunity; Armed Forces; Violence; and Failed Abstinence

After the recent murder of two student leaders active in protests against the JOH regime, Pasos de Animal Grande writes of the possible presence of death squads in Honduras.

It is not reassuring that the Military Police announced to investigate the cases.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2598-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-podrian-estar-operando-para-matar-estudiantes-que-protestan-en-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2599-quien-mato-a-oscar>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/varios-equipos-especiales-investigando-misterioso-rapto-y-muerte-de-estudiantes-asegura-la-pmop.html>

The Lawyers Association of Honduras called on the MP and CONADEH to protect the lawyer of the murdered inmate Nery Orlando Sanabria (linked to Tony Hernández), Omar Enrique Dubón.

<https://tiempo.hn/colegio-de-abogados-omar-dubon-corre-grave-peligro/>

On yesterday's International Day to Stop Impunity in Crimes against Journalists, OACNUDH published a press release highlighting the important work of journalists and social communicators and the difficult context for them in Honduras. This year, OACNUDH documented two assassinations of journalists and two further assassinations of social communicators and in all cases, there is no progress in the investigation.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1190720885897990145>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3600-onu-pide-alto-a-crmenes-y-persecucion-contra-periodistas-hondurenos>

44 months without justice. 44 months ago, Berta Cáceres was murdered and the intellectual authors still benefit from impunity.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1190646579960713222>

El Tiempo continues to cover the disputes inside the Armed Forces which led four colonels being suspended last month. Joprodeh demanded protection for them.

<https://tiempo.hn/joprodeh-amparo-coroneles-disponibilidad-csj-1/>

El Libertador has documented 170 mass killings this year in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3599-emergencia-en-honduras-con-masacre-anoche-van-170-en-2019>

---

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1271-politicas-de-abstinencia-para-reducir-los-indices-de-embarazo-en-adolescentes>

03/11/19

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; COPINH - Germany; Corruption - Extractivism; Penitentiary System; and Saving Hope

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/2019/11/1910\\_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/1910_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf)

Berta Zúniga, coordinator of COPINH, met with a group of German parliamentarians to discuss the respect of free, prior and informed consent and to demand the capture of the intellectual authors of the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/copinh-se-reune-con-parlamentarixs-alemanes/>

Trial will be opened against the former SERNA vice-minister Norman Gilberto Ochoa Henríquez for irregularly handing out the environmental license for the hydroelectric project La Ensenada in La Ceiba, Atlántida in 2010 negatively affecting the Garífuna communities Sambo Creek and Corinto.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/146-octubre2019/5049-admiten-prueba-del-mp-y-senalan-juicio-contr-ex-viceministro-de-serna>

Human rights organizations denounce that Honduras' prisons still remain "crime academies" even after the construction of so-called maximum security prisons and the investment of millions of Lempiras in failed rehabilitation policies.

<https://tiempo.hn/160-millones-costado-rehabilitacion-reclusos-organismos-ddhh/>

---

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rescatemos-la-esperanza/>

04/11/19

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Banks, Alerts; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Indigenous Peoples, Opposition, Militarization; MACCIH; Penal Code; Violence against Women; COPINH - Río Blanco; and the Tarantulas Have Never Left

"Two years ago, In November 2017, over ninety of the world's largest banks promised to strengthen their joint commitments under the Equator Principles, a set of rules for banks on how to finance big infrastructure projects in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. (...) This coming November 18 2019, the Association of Equator banks will decide at their annual meeting in Singapore what their commitments under the revised Equator Principles ('EP4') will look like. Worryingly, the draft EP4 points towards proceeding with 'business as usual'. If the final EP4 reflects this draft, it will not put an end to Equator banks' financing of climate disaster projects, not comprehensively secure the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and not deal with other major shortcomings of the Equator Principles. (...) We therefore call upon your organisation to endorse the open letter below, asking Equator Banks to Act with Ambition and Courage, by publishing new Equator Principles that will no longer allow the financing of disaster projects."

<https://www.equatorbanksact.org/home>

CESPAD sent out an alert regarding the mining activities of MINOSA in Azacualpa, La Unión, Copán, where they started the exhumation of a cemetery again to extend their mining activities.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/04/alerta-en-azacualpa-aura-minerals-continua-exhumando-cementerio-en-busca-de-mas-oro/>

The vice-minister of security, Luis Fernando Suazo, informed about the "advances" in the investigation in to the murder of Magdaleno Meza (see last week). According to him, the reason why the JOH regime is not behind the murder is because it would be too obvious...

<http://elpulso.hn/la-unica-relativa-respuesta-sobre-asesinato-de-magdaleno-del-subsecretario-de-seguridad/>

The MP charged JOH's presidential commissioner on climate change, Marlon Oniel Escoto Valerio, with usurpation and aggravated damage against the indigenous Pech community of Culuco, Olancho and against the environment.

The same day, a judge ordered alternative measures imprisonment for the Nationalist activist Fernando Anduray. He is accused for a crime against the environment. Anduray was among other things the former director of the National Persons Registry (RNP).

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2019/11/04/presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-marlon-escoto-por-usurpacion-de-tierras-al-pueblo-pech/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1191468935394275328>

<https://criterio.hn/dictan-medidas-sustitutivas-y-prohiben-salir-del-pais-a-fernando-anduray/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/dictan-medidas-distintas-a-la-prision-a-fernando-anduray-acusado-por-delitos-ambientales.html>

In Congress, Libre read a statement calling for a national strike against the JOH regime and to get rid of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/en-el-congreso-nacional-libre-convoca-a-paro-nacional-para-sacar-a-joh/>

JOH, meanwhile, is strengthening the loyalty of the Armed Forces. El Libertador and Criterio report that he granted them a 4 billion Lempira program on "Agriculture Development" through a executive decree...

Even La Prensa critically reports on this.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3602-insolito-gobierno-da-4-mil-millones-a-militares-para-produccion-agricola>

<https://criterio.hn/conozca-el-decreto-que-otorga-a-las-fuerzas-armadas-4000-millones-para-proyectos-agricolas/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1332104-410/ilogico-califican-asignar-fuerzas-armadas-programa-agricola-honduras>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/es-un-irrespeto-a-la-institucionalidad-que-militares-manegen-fondos-agricolas-dice-julieta-castellanos.html>

The MACCIH met with US embassy staff as well as representatives of the IMF.

Already in October, the MACCIH had various meetings with embassies and other dignitaries, all calling for a renewal of its contract. So far, the JOH regime pretends to not listen.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1191496297464942593>

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1191436073785802754](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1191436073785802754)

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/continuidad-de-la-maccih-esta-en-riesgo-sectores-corrup-to-quieren-que-salga-del-pais/>

Congress decided to prolong the vacatio legis of the new Penal Code for another six months, i.e. like this it would come into force on May 10, 2020.

The Association of Community Media Outlets of Honduras (AMCH), meanwhile, warns about the negative consequence on freedom of expression of the Penal Code.

The CNA once more demanded that it should never come into force.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2600-nuevo-codigo-penal-presion-ciudadana-hizo-retroceder-seis-meses-a-congreso-nacional>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1332091-466/ampl%C3%A1dan-por-seis-meses-m%C3%A1s-la-vacatio-legis-para-el-c%C3%B3digo-penal>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1275-amch-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-una-amenaza-para-los-medios-comunitarios>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1332106-466/cna-reitera-que-nuevo-c%C3%B3digo-penal-no-debe-entrar-en-vigencia-nunca>

CEM-H invited yesterday to a National Forum on Access to Justice for Women and the Budget Dedicated to Women.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2601-la-justicia-esta-muy-lejos-21-mil-denuncias-de-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-por-ano-en-honduras>

COPINH published a video of a recent solidarity meeting in Río Blanco.

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/video-rosalina-encuentro-solidaridad-con-rb/>

"The murders of four students, two active members of the Libre Party and the kidnapping and torture of a magisterial leader in the same week, clearly show that in Honduras the tarantulas have never left and continue to attack."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/11/04/editorial-las-tarantulas-nunca-se-han-ido/>

05/11/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Mining - Guapinol; Campesinx; OFRANEH; COPINH; Journalists; Students; Penal Code; Penitentiary System; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Armed Forces; Forced Disappearance; Corruption - Narcopolítica; National Police; Budget; and LGBTQ Migrants

Honduran human rights organization together with CEJIL invite to a forum today in Tegucigalpa on the situation of human rights defenders and the challenges of the Inter-American Human Rights System.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/mesa-seguimiento-invita-foro-situacion-personas-defensoras-derechos-humanos-honduras>

The court revision of the measures imposed on the seven environmental defenders from Guapinol was scheduled for yesterday afternoon.

OACNUDH announced that it would accompany the hearing.

But then, the hearing was suspended.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/no-existen-meritos-para-que-los-defensores-de-guapinol-esten-en-la-carcel/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1191748622989348864>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1191840667674259456>

Also yesterday, the preliminary hearing in the criminalization case of three campesinos from the Empresa Asociativa Campesina 11 de marzo took place in Siguatepeque.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-realizo-audiencia-preliminar-en-caso-de-la-empresa-campesina-11-de-marzo/>

General coordinator of OFRANEH, Miriam Mirana, spoke with IM-Defensoras about the unbearable situation of the Garífuna people in Honduras. At least 16 Garífuna have been murdered so far this year.

OFRANEH published a press release demanding a stop of the killings.

They also held a protest rally.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/11/miriam-miranda-nuestro-pueblo-enfrenta-un-plan-de-exterminio/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/11/05/basta-ya-de-asesinatos-contr-el-pueblo-garifuna/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1191758894357450755>



<https://twitter.com/GildateleSUR/status/1191854187715403777>

The daughter of Berta Cáceres, Laura Zúniga Cáceres, received a human rights award from the National Council of Spanish Lawyers.

<http://www.elpais.hn/2019/11/05/hija-de-berta-caceres-es-galardonada-por-el-consejo-general-de-la-abogacia-espanola>

Journalist César Obando denounces online harassment and military surveillance. Obando is the correspondent of Radio Progreso and Radio Globo.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1079-vigilancia-y-hostigamiento-desde-redes-sociales-denuncia-periodista-cesar-obando>

Student leaders and activists denounce their ongoing persecution and systematic state violence.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3605-exlideres-universitarios-denuncian-en-conadeh-violencia-sistematica-estatal>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1276-gissel-grandez>

OACNUDH welcomes the extension of the *vacatio legis* of the new Penal Code and offers its support to harmonize the Penal Code with international standards.

The social and political opposition continues to demand that the Penal Code won't come into force at all.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1191816256162336771>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/naciones-unidas-aplaude-decision-para-ampliar-vacatio-legis-del-codigo-penal.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2602-diputados-opuestos-nuevo-codigo-penal-no-debe-entrar-en-vigencia-ni-un-segundo>

Another inmate in the so-called maximum security prison El Pozo was murdered.

In the last two years, the Honduran prison population grew by 13%.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3604-12-dias-despues-de-magdaleno-matan-otro-reo-en-el-pozo>

<https://tiempo.hn/muerte-de-otro-recluso-en-el-pozo-de-ilama-santa-barbara/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1332394-466/reos-carceles-honduras-analisis>

The above murder took place less than two weeks after the assassination of Magdaleno Meza (Nery Orlando López) in the same prison. With some delay, InSight Crime now also reports on it. "An alleged drug trafficker whose ledgers proved key to convicting the Honduran president's brother was brutally murdered in prison, leading to speculation that he would have been able to link drug money to the president himself. Notes in Nery Orlando López's ledgers recorded cocaine shipments to Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández and included entries with the initials of President Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-prison-murder-silences-trafficker-with-links-president/>

The criticism of JOH's gift to the Armed Forces (see yesterday) continues.

Some see it as a sign of weakness of the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/es-hora-de-preguntar-y-exigir-respuestas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-las-fuerzas-armadas-no-se-produce-nada-lo-unico-que-se-produce-es-muerte-y-sangre-bertha-oliva/>

<http://elpulso.hn/fondos-para-militares-muestran-debilidad-de-juan-orlando-belinda-martinez/>

COFADEH continues to demand an investigation into the forced disappearance of Manuel Bautista Salvador 23 months ago.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-comite-de-desaparicion-forzada-mantiene-alerta-urgente-sobre-desaparicion-de-manuel-de-jesus-bautista/>

The initial hearing in the Narcopolítica corruption case will take place on November 12.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1332358-410/caso-narcopolitica-honduras-medidas-cautelares-falsificacion-norberto-antonio-quezada-suazo>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/medidas-cautelares-a-otro-senalado-en-caso-narcopolitica.html>

A police agent was arrested yesterday in Copán.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/atic-captura-agente-policial-acusado-de-violacion-en-copan.html>

Icefi held a public forum yesterday on the 2020 budget and its failure to respond to the challenges Honduras faces.

<https://criterio.hn/presupuesto-de-honduras-deberia-tener-vision-de-derechos-humanos-y-priorizar-salud-y-educacion/>

"Studies show LGBTQ migrants are among the most vulnerable, more likely to be assaulted and killed, especially trans migrants. Of Central American LGBTQ migrants interviewed by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in 2017, 88 percent were victims of sexual and gender-based violence in their countries of origin; two-thirds suffered similar attacks in Mexico. Yet the Trump administration is returning LGBTQ migrants seeking asylum in the U.S. to face assaults, kidnapping and death in Mexican border cities while they await U.S. court hearings."

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/border-baja-california/story/2019-11-03/trump-administration-leaving-vulnerable-lgbt-migrants-to-wait-in-mexico>

06/11/19

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol; Campesinos; JOH - Armed Forces, Drug Trafficking, Lobo, IMF; Femicide; Penal Code; Migration - US; Public Health; and a Central American Podcast

The hearing in the case of the criminalized defenders from Guapinol was taken up again yesterday after Tuesday's suspension. The judge denied the request to allow the environmental defenders to await trial in freedom. "The lawyer Omar Menjivar, a member of the defense team, indicates that Judge Vallecillo argued that there is a possibility that environmentalists will be sentenced to a serious penalty, which would encourage the accused to escape, and they also could join again the organization to which they belong. "That is an arbitrariness on the part of the judge, the defendants in this case do not belong to a criminal organization, she herself ruled this out when she declared a final dismissal for the crime of unlawful association, now she contradicts herself," says lawyer Omar Menjivar."

The defense announced to challenge this decision.

CEJIL denounces that international observers were not allowed to attend the hearing.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/jueza-niega-libertad-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/niegan-medidas-distintas-a-la-prision-a-los-defensores-del-agua-y-de-la-vida-de-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1192130806241726464>

The criminalization trial against campesino Carlos Giovanni Cáliz López from the Empresa Asociativa Campesina 9 de Julio was suspended for the second time (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-segunda-vez-suspende-juicio-oral-y-publico-contr-campesino-de-la-9-de-julio/>

The criticism of the four billion Lempiras gift of the JOH regime to the Armed Forces won't stop (see also these two last days). CESPAD offers a helpful analysis of the legal background and highlights the lack of transparency and accountability.

Another political analyst explains how it mainly serves to buy off the loyalty of the Armed Forces (see also yesterday).

La Vía Campesina Honduras denounces it and demands the derogation of the underlying executive decree.

Rafael Alegría summarized it as follows: "It is a political move to strengthen an armed institution to underpin and strengthen a regime seriously questioned by corruption, organized crime and drug trafficking."

Various professional networks such as the Association of Agronomists of Honduras (CINAH) also demand its derogation.

And even the Commercial and Industrial Chamber of Tegucigalpa (CCIT) is against JOH's plan.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/06/analisis-mas-recursos-sin-rendicion-de-cuentas-las-fuerzas-armadas-y-los-4-mil-millones-para-el-desarrollo-agricola/>

<http://elpulso.hn/es-una-forma-del-presidente-de-lograr-la-lealtad-de-las-ffaa-julio-navarro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-consiente-a-secretario-de-defensa-y-a-las-ffaa-para-quequedarse-en-el-cargo/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-via-campesina-exige-derogacion-inmediata-del-decreto-que-otorga-la-conduccion-del-agro-a-las-ffaa/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1278-la-militarizacion-del-agro-en-honduras-posicionamiento-de-la-via-campesina-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/burlas-consultas-falsas-y-jugada-politica-en-aprobacion-de-4-mil-millones-a-las-fuerzas-armadas-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ina-y-la-sag-quequedaran-bajo-el-control-de-las-ffaa-por-ordenes-de-joh-segun-dirigente-campesino/>

<https://criterio.hn/colegios-agroforestales-piden-derogacion-de-decreto-que-da-millones-a-las-fuerzas-armadas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ccit-esta-en-contra-de-que-joh-de-dinero-a-militares-para-cultivar-la-tierra/>

"Two brothers — longtime political powerbrokers in a northeastern region of Honduras that is a major maritime and aerial drug route — have been arrested in a case that exposes further ties between the country's traffickers and politicians. Roberto and Seth Paisano Wood were taken in a joint operation between the Attorney General's Office and anti-drug authorities in northern Honduras (...) The brothers are part of a powerful political family in Gracias a Dios. Roberto has long been an operator in the National Party, while Seth was a congressman for the Liberal Party."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/brothers-arrest-narco-politics-honduras-drug-corridor/>

Radio Progreso congressman Jorge Lobo, son of former president Pepe Lobo, about the death threats against him and his father and about how JOH tries to keep the National Party aligned with his interests.

Jorge Lobo presented a bill in Congress to form a special commission to investigate those people mentioned in the Tony Hernández trial.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/diputado-jorge-lobo-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-me-ejecutarian-a-mi-padre-o-a-mi-sino-no-callamos/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/pepe-la-oposicion-tiene-los-votos-para-aprobar-el-decreto-y-que-se-investigue-a-los-mencionados-en-el-juicio-de-tony-hernandez/>

"The biggest problem of the IMF is that it does not count deaths, nor disappeared, nor jailed people, no migrants, no raped and beaten women, which are the result, among other things, of regressive economic and social policies, many of which have been endorsed by their own officials. Moreover, even as it happens in Honduras, it does not count corrupt or drug traffickers; rather, it consults and negotiates with them."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/203094>

According to the Center for Women's Studies (CDM), about 70% of all femicides in Honduras are committed by organized crime, the rest by current or former partners of the women. Over 90% of the cases remain in impunity.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/crimen-organizado-principal-responsable-de-asesinatos-de-mujeres-en-honduras.html>

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) criticizes a recent non-binding decision by the Supreme Court asking Congress to withdraw a reform to the Penal Code which would decriminalize defamation.

The same day, the Constitutional Chamber rejected a constitutional challenge by the CNA against the Penal Code.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sip-lamenta-recomendacion-de-la-corte-suprema-de-honduras-sobre-difamacion.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/declaran-inadmisibles-recursos-inconstitucionalidad-interpuestos-cna/>

Lisa Haugaard published an important comment on the safe third country agreement between the US and Honduras. "A New York jury convicted Tony Hernández, the brother of Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, of drug trafficking on October 18, 2019. In the course of the trial, New York prosecutors labeled President Hernández "a co-conspirator," (...) The next day, the U.S. Embassy's highest official appeared at Honduras' armed forces day parade. A State Department official declared Honduras "a reliable ally." (...) a team of U.S. Department of Homeland Security and State Department officials arrived the next week to hammer out an agreement. Was the agreement to stop massive corruption in Honduras? Was it to call for a purge of drug trafficking-connected officials? Was it to urge the government to stop repressing protests and jailing human

rights and environmental activists? No. It was to figure out how to implement the agreement establishing Honduras as a “safe third country””

[https://medium.com/@lisah\\_31342/honduras-a-safe-third-country-for-corrupt-officials-5bdecd55d978](https://medium.com/@lisah_31342/honduras-a-safe-third-country-for-corrupt-officials-5bdecd55d978)

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) legally challenged article 57 of the legislative decree 106-2018 concerning the Framework Law of the Social Protection System. "With the reform of Article 57 of the Framework Law, the rights to social security, health and property are violated in terms of the free decision by persons affiliated to IHSS to dispose of their funds."

<https://criterio.hn/cmh-presenta-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-al-articulo-57-contenida-de-la-ley-marco-del-sistema-de-proteccion-social/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1332577-466/interponen-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contrareforma-a-ley-marco>

---

<https://nius.podbean.com/>

07/11/19

Honduras Daily: La Tigra - Repression; JOH - Assassinations, Drug Trafficking, Judicial Power; Mining - Guapinol; Students; HRDs - IACHR; Drug Trafficking - Lobo; IMF; and Honduras - Military Country

Residents of Tegucigalpa and neighboring villages took up the protests again in defense of the National Park La Tigra. They demand that the mayor Nasry Asfura complies with his promise for a town hall meeting on the controversial project in the national park. But instead, the protests were repressed by state security forces.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1284-reprimen-a-la-comunidad-que-defiende-la-reserva-natural-del-parque-nacional-la-tigra-y-le-exigen-al-alcalde-nasry-asfura-que-no-sea-un-mentiroso-y-haga-el-cabildo-abierto-que-prometio>

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensores-de-la-tigra-realizan-contradel-proyecto-habitacional-bosques-de-santa-maria-son-reprimidos/>

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-reactivan-protestas-contraproyecto-habitacional-de-la-tigra-pero-son-reprimidos/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1192485273013231618>

<http://elpulso.hn/pobladores-del-hatillo-anuncian-seguiran-con-mas-acciones-en-defensa-de-la-tigra/>

"IUDPAS, the research arm of the UNAH, details that the trials in New York, the approval of the Departmental Fund, the search for impunity, the penitentiary crisis and the remilitarization of the State, via the failure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) show that the democratic state is in crisis."

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/iudpas-militarizacion-del-estado-es-el-fracaso-de-la-democracia.html>

The Human Rights Board, a network of Honduran human rights organizations, expressed grave concern about the current situation in Honduras. They have documented six murders of students between 17 and 25 years old in this year's protests called for by the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare. They have documented an additional 5 assassinations of social and opposition leaders and activist since the verdict against Tony Hernández.

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-ola-de-crimenes-tras-acusaciones-de-hernandez-con-el-narcotrafico/http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/483-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-preocupada-por-la-materializacion-de-atentados-y-actos-de-violencia-contra-lideres-sociales-estudiantiles-y-de-oposicion-politica>

Radio Progreso spoke with Philosophy, Sociology and Political Science professor Rubén Aguilar Valenzuela about the failed war on drugs and the drug trafficking nexus of JOH. "Although Aguilar is convinced that the investigations by the US justice system will continue against the Honduran ruler, he does not believe that they will be developed in a short time, but that, the strategy for a possible trial would be to let his controversial mandate end, then begin a process to judge it."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/legalizando-y-regulando-las-drogas-se-reducira-impacto-del-narcotrafico-entrevista/>

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana denounces that the Judicial Power in Honduras is at the total disposition of JOH. He also highlights the important distinction that Honduras has a narco-government, which not automatically means that it is a narco-state. "The Prosecutor of the Southern District Court said it clearly: it is a narco government and not a narco state because being a narco State would include you, me and the rest of the people who are elements of the State. It is a narco government, that is to say, the government is in charge of politics, the government is made up of the three powers of the State and the bodies that are in charge of planning and executing the policy, that is where drug trafficking has become entrenched."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/poder-judicial-esta-a-disposicion-del-presidente-dice-ex-fiscal-general/>

OACNUDH expressed concern that the National Jurisdiction Judge Lisseth Vallecillo refused to grant conditional release for the seven environmental defenders.

The defense team presented a Habeas Corpus for them.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1192462998050365443>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2605-no-permitio-presencia-de-defensores-en-audiencia-jueza-obstinada-en-mantener-en-prision-a-defensores-de-guapinol>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1283-equipo-legal-en-el-caso-guapinol-y-el-comite-municipal-de-defensa-de-bienes-comunes-y-publicos-presenta-recurso-de-habeas-corpus-en-favor-de-los-siete-defensores-criminalizados-por-la-defensa-del-agua-y-la-vida>

A group of former student leaders had a meeting this week with CONADEH in which they demanded the investigation into the assassinations of all the young Hondurans murdered in these last ten years for exercising their right to protest.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2603-jovenes-demandan-proteccion-ante-crmenes-por-ejercer-su-derecho-a-manifestarse>

Defensores en Línea published an overview of yesterday's forum on the situation of HRDs in Honduras and the Inter-American Human Rights System.

The main conclusion was that the JOH regime continues to fail to comply with the protection measures granted by the IACHR for HRDs.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/incumplimiento-de-sentencias-internacionales-es-parte-de-la-impunidad-estatal/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1285-estado-hondureno-incumple-con-sus-obligaciones-de-proteccion-defensores>

The IACHR, meanwhile, published a press release together with OACNUDH expressing concern about the situation of HRDs in the region. "In Honduras, the murders and other acts of violence committed against defenders that occurred in the context of the demonstrations and strikes called by the health and education sector, which took place in different parts of the country in recent months, are of concern. According to the information gathered, state security forces would have used an excessive level in the use of force when deterring protests. Four people died from gunshot wounds, including a minor."

<https://oacnudh.hn/cidh-y-las-presencias-de-onu-derechos-humanos-reiteran-su-llamado-para-la-creacion-de-un-ambiente-propicio-y-seguro-para-quienes-defienden-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-region/>

The convicted son of the former president Pepe Lobo, Fabio Lobo, wrote a letter writing that he was ill-advised by his lawyer to declare himself guilty.

He challenged his sentence of 24-years in prison from 2017.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1332994-466/fabio-lobo-carta-manuel-rettea-abogado>

<https://tiempo.hn/fabio-lobo-apela-sentencia-narcotrafico-ny-senala-negligencia/>



FOSDEH criticizes that a recent IMF delegation did not take into account the view of civil society organizations.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-muestra-inconformidad-con-fmi-por-no-pedir-opinion-a-organizaciones-civiles/>

---

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/11/07/pais-de-militares/>

In this military country, Pinu congressman Luis Rolando Redondo Guifarro denounces new attempts to grant impunity for members of the Armed Forces through the new Penal Code.

In San Pedro Sula, at least four youths were murdered by men in military uniforms.

<https://criterio.hn/diputado-denuncia-que-cn-elimino-los-delitos-de-lesa-humanidad-a-militares/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/eliminacion-del-nuevo-codigo-penal-delitos-contrala-humanidad-cometidos-por-militares/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/horrible-sujetos-con-ropa-militar-masacran-a-otros-cuatro-jovenes-en-barrio-de-san-pedro-sula/>

08/11/19

Honduras Daily: MP; Campesinos; Post-Electoral Repression; Militarization; Journalists; La Tigra - Repression; National Police; US - HR, Migration; Forced Displacement; Dengue; Economy; and Honduran Censorship – Unslayable

The persecution of the former head of forensic medicine Julissa Villanueva continues - the MP suspended her for three weeks without pay for "abusing freedom of expression"...

<https://confidencialhn.com/venganza-chinchilla-suspende-sin-goce-de-sueldo-a-exjefa-forense-por-ejercer-libertad-de-expresion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/chinchilla-suspende-sin-goce-de-sueldo-a-exjefa-forense-por-ejercer-libertad-de-expresion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-suspende-a-julissa-villanueva-tres-semanas-sin-goce-de-sueldo/>

After six years of criminalization, six campesinos from the CNTC had the charges against them provisionally dismissed.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/11/07/sobreseimiento-para-seis-campesinos-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

As part of the post-electoral repression in 2017, dozens of protesters were arrested and criminalized, at least two remain in prison, others await trial outside of prison. Among the latter is Jhony Andrés Salgado, whose trial starts next Wednesday.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/jhony-salgado-enfrenta-juicio-injusto-y-vergonzante/>

COFADEH's general coordinator Bertha Oliva comments on the newest attempt to grant impunity to the Armed Forces through a reform of the Penal Code (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/estamos-en-un-momento-de-la-historia-de-honduras-mas-critico-que-se-registra-bertha-oliva/>

A journalist from MetroTV from Choluteca was attacked by state security forces when covering a protest in San José Canadá, Iztoca regarding the access to drinking water.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2606-periodista-de-metrotv-es-agredido-durante-trasmision-en-vivo-de-una-protesta-por-defensa-del-agua>

Pasos de Animal Grande published further details on Thursday's protest in defense of the La Tigra National Park (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2607-le-echa-la-culpa-al-ministerio-publico-alcalde-se-resiste-a-realizar-cabildo-abierto-sobre-parque-nacional-la-tigra>

The former police agent Denis Javier González was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the murder of the priest Cárcamo González in January 2017.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5082-quince-anos-de-reclusion-para-ex-policia-por-homicidio-de-militar>

US Chargé d'Affaires met with the Honduran Human Rights Secretary Carla Cueva.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1192962364678852610>

El Pulso writes that the migration agreements between the US and the JOH regime allows for temporary work visas for more than 17'000 Hondurans, but deported Hondurans are preemptively disqualified from apply for such a visa.

<http://elpulso.hn/hondurenos-podran-trabajar-en-ee-uu-en-periodos-de-zafra/>

"Internal displacement in the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) is a serious and growing issue. However, the complex drivers and triggers of displacement in the region, many of

which overlap or are interlinked, make it difficult to capture reliable data with which to fully gauge its magnitude.

This report presents the current situation in terms of data on internal displacement in the NTCA. Drawing on research and other reports on the topic it highlights the persistent data gaps in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and identifies the data needed to capture and understand the phenomenon and inform policy and programming responses."

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/painting-the-full-picture-displacement-data-gaps-in-the-ntca>

"Evelyn Zorrilla, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) regional epidemiologist for Mexico and Central America, explains how MSF responded to the outbreak of dengue fever in Honduras this year and why the disease behaved in an unusual way." To the question "Why didn't the number of cases decrease in an expected way?", Zorrilla answered: "It was a mixture of factors. First, this part of Honduras is an endemic dengue fever zone and it wasn't prepared to respond to this situation. The alerts for a new outbreak were not activated in time."

<https://www.msf.org/honduras-msfs-response-dengue-fever-emergency>

ConfidencialHN writes that the IMF subtly admitted that Honduras suffers from a economic crisis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fmi-admite-sutilmente-que-honduras-esta-en-crisis-economica/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-inflacion-en-honduras-llega-al-3-3-entre-enero-y-octubre-de-2019.html>

---

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1287-artistas-hondurenos-condenan-censura-de-pelicula-slayer>

09/11/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists; JOH - Armed Forces, MACCIH, Drug Trafficking; Homicide Rate - Femicide; Forced Displacement; Education - JOH; and Recovering Rule of Law

Gustavo Andino, director of Maya TV, denounces that a critical program, "Blind Justice" was withdrawn from Facebook.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1081-censuran-programa-en-red-social-por-abordar-temas-criticos-gubernamentales>

Two men with links to the Los Valle drug cartel were murdered this week; after the murder of Magdaleno Meza in El Pozo, these are two further murdered drug traffickers with links to the Tony Hernández case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3610-en-menos-de-72-horas-asesinan-a-dos-hombres-vinculados-a-los-valle>

JOH now unconvincingly claims that the Armed Forces are not managing the funds for the agricultural development program.

The same day his Nationalist congressman Milton Puerto Oseguera said that the Armed Forces took up the challenge of managing the funds because they are capable of it...

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-se-contradice-asegura-que-ffaa-no-manejaran-dinero-para-programa-agricola/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-asegura-ffaa-no-manejara-fondos-del-sector-agro/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-ffaa-ha-aceptado-reto-de-manejar-fondos-agricolas-es-porque-tiene-la-capacidad-milton-puerto.html>

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/441886/hernandez-militares-control-agricola>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/militares-hondurenos-en-la-mira-por-aceptar-tareas-agricolas-del-ejecutivo.html>

At the same time, the discussion regarding a new attempt by Congress to grant impunity to the Armed Forces continues.

<https://tiempo.hn/pinu-eliminam-delitos-lesa-humanidad-cn-desmiente/>

The Parliamentary Front in Support of the MACCIH fears that the JOH regime is willing to assume the political cost of not renewing MACCIH's contract.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-esta-dispuesto-a-asumir-costo-politico-de-no-renovar-a-la-maccih-segun-frente-parlamentario.html>

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, Honduras' homicide rate has increased slightly this year and the number of femicides has increased substantially.

<https://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-tasa-homicidios-honduras-2019-1/>

Karol Bobadilla from the Forum of Women for Life denounces that the JOH regime labels the majority of femicide cases as based in passionate or personal problems while the majority of cases is not even being investigated.

<https://tiempo.hn/foro-mujeres-autoridades-femicidios-no-investigan-1/>

"UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, welcomes the commitment by six Central American countries and Mexico to strengthen their efforts to address and prevent forced displacement in their region, in

line with the spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility set out in the Global Compact on Refugees."

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/11/5dc6849c4/unhcr-welcomes-commitment-central-american-states-mexico-address-forced.html>

La Prensa reports of the increase in the number of pupils who don't finish their primary and secondary education.

Juan Almendárez published a helpful essay on the problems with the Honduran education system. "The purpose of this essay is to present the educational reality and structural violence that crush the development of a critical pedagogy. For this purpose we have taken the 4 pillars of UNESCO's education for the 21st century, the 10 principles of education by Henry Giroux, and the unfair social and violent reality of Honduras making the realization of the 4 pillars of education impossible."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/1333435-410/m%C3%A1s-de-18000-estudiantes-abandonan-las-aulas-de-clases>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/203133>

El Libertador denounces that the JOH regime and the Education Secretariat spent more than 1.6 million Lempiras on holidays for school directors in Spain - the school directors who benefited were those who brought their students to the National Stadium on September 15 to greet JOH instead of participating in the alternative protest march on Honduras' "independence" day.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3611-con-viaje-a-espana-premian-a-directores-por-desfiles-del-15-de-septiembre>

---

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/padre-moreno-necesitamos-recuperar-el-estado-de-derecho-en-honduras/>

10/11/19

Honduras Daily: WHRDs; Social Movements; MACCIH; Penal Code; Spain; Economy; and Prison Escapes

"Honduras is a dangerous place for human rights defenders. Over 120 environmental activists were killed in Honduras between 2010 and 2017 (according to conservative figures), and many others are continuously threatened, attacked or imprisoned. For women, the risks multiply in a context where the impunity rate for violent crimes against women is 95%. (...) Here is a compilation of some important insights from four female activists in Honduras. It was produced by Robin Pierro, edited by Analog Content, and published by OpenDemocracy in partnership with the Fund for Global Human Rights. Watch the short video below to hear the demands of these four WHRDs from their international allies:"

<https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/four-female-activists-tell-us-what-they-need-from-their-international-allies/>

CESPADs summarizes the two-day "Encounter of Peoples and Communities: Towards an Intercultural State of Honduras".

Day 1: <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/09/tienen-una-deuda-con-los-pueblos-originarios/>

Day 2: <http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/10/hay-que-seguir-articulando-la-organizacion-y-el-pensamiento/>

Another article in the corporate press highlights the uncertainty around the future of the MACCIH.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1333621-410/continuidad-de-la-maccih-en-honduras-es-incierta>

Proceso Digital cites various experts welcoming the prorogation of the vacatio legis of the Penal Code while continuing demanding reforms.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/prorroga-del-codigo-penal-de-honduras-es-buena-senal-pero-debe-reformarse.html>

The Spanish cooperation agency inaugurated a sewage and a water treatment plant in Gracias, Lempira. Both JOH and the Spanish ambassador were present.

<https://tiempo.hn/gracias-lempira-espana-habilita-planta-de-tratamiento-de-agua-y-potabilizadora/>

Honduran exports shrunk by 7%.

<https://radiohrn.hn/en-7-caera-volumen-de-exportaciones-agricolas-hondurenas/>

Three inmates were able to escape.

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-fugan-tres-reos-de-batallon-de-naco-gudiel-y-mcneil-no-quieren-renunciar/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1333632-466/se-fugan-tres-privados-de-libertad-del-anexo-de-el-pozo-i>

11/11/19

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - OFRANEH, Militarization; Femicide; JOH - Protests, Political Opposition; Military Police; and More White Smoke

Miriam Miranda, OFRANEH's general coordinator, will receive the Human Rights Award from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

German: [https://www.fes.de/oas/portal/pls/portal/filefunctions.download/PLAKON/VERANSTALTUNG/239785/F-12688960/Flyer\\_FES\\_Menschenrechtspreis\\_271119.pdf](https://www.fes.de/oas/portal/pls/portal/filefunctions.download/PLAKON/VERANSTALTUNG/239785/F-12688960/Flyer_FES_Menschenrechtspreis_271119.pdf)

COPINH denounces that the farm land of the agricultural development plan controlled by the Armed Forces is "by accident" in those territories threatened by extractive projects. "Freeing the military from their responsibility for crimes against humanity is the strategy used to impose projects through violence against those who fight against the looting of their land".

Defensores en Línea writes about the symbolic and the real power of the Armed Forces. "However, in the current situation of the Armed Forces, committed to an impostor government and the dynamics of organized crime, we must discuss whether the transfer of 4 billion Lempiras for agricultural production means an important task of command, a compensation for their dog-like loyalty or the continuation of the transfer of political power. In the experience of COFADEH during the last 40 years of existence that question is answered with the third option. The delegation of control of agriculture to the military is the continuity of a process of transfer of political power that restarted in July 2009 with the coup d'état."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1193983955499962368>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-poder-simbolico-y-real-a-los-militares/>

Women's rights and feminist organization challenged Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla on the use of the additional 50 million Lempiras approved to investigate femicides. So far, not a single investigator has not been appointed.

<https://radiohrn.hn/colectivos-de-mujeres-en-que-ha-invertido-la-fiscalia-50-millones-asignados-para-investigar-femicidios/>

There seems to be a confusion regarding a grand national strike. Manuel Zelaya says that it will take place in the coming days and that the United Opposition Coalition are currently working on a report.

Salvador Nasralla is about to officially register his party Savior/Salvador of Honduras (PSH).

At the National Party, meanwhile, the current president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, said that he would be the next president.

<https://tiempo.hn/manuel-zelaya-desmiente-la-cancelacion-del-gran-paro-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-cancela-paro-nacional-contra-hernandez-y-la-programa-para-2020/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/con-mas-de-90-mil-firmas-sera-inscrito-partido-salvador-de-honduras.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/voy-a-ser-el-proximo-presidente-de-honduras-dice-mauricio-oliva-en-gira-politica.html>

According to Proceso Digital, Libre is analyzing a possible alliance with the Liberal Party and other opposition parties for the next elections.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/libre-analiza-alianza-con-partido-liberal-y-no-con-nasralla-dice-diputado-de-oposicion.html>

An appeals court revoked the dismissal of proceedings against five Military Police agents and open trial against them for breaking and entering as well as torture.

<https://confidencialhn.com/revocan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-cinco-policias-militares-acusados-por-torturas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/revocan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-y-dicta-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-cinco-policias-militares.html>

FUSINA claims that they have seized and burnt 1836kg of cocaine this year, 1256 of which in the Moskitia region.

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1193896668623708162>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1193974658313457665>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fusina-incinera-mas-de-mil-200-kilos-de-cocaina.html>

12/11/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; COPINH; JOH - Corruption, Drug Trafficking, Military Police; Political Prisoners; Journalists - Penal Code; Migration - Children; Extractivism - La Tigra, Militarization; MP - Armed Forces, UNDP; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; Water; Remittances; and the Inconsistencies of the OAS

COPINH published a video of the recently published report on the, so far, only accused intellectual author of the murder of Berta Cáceres, David Castillo.

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/video-presentacion-del-perfil-de-david-castillo/>

This past weekend, a student delegation from UNAH visited Río Blanco in solidarity with the community which faces ongoing harassment and attacks.

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/estudiante-de-la-unah-a-rio-blanco/>

ConfidencialHN published a new article on corruption by the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-saqueo-recursos-de-fideicomiso-agricola-para-financiar-campana-de-2017/>

Army captain Santos Orlando Rodríguez Orellana was one of the first who publicly made the link between drug traffickers and Tony Hernández. He now fears being legally persecuted by the JOH regime.



<https://tiempo.hn/indagan-en-el-mp-si-hay-acusaciones-contr-el-capitan-santos/>

COFADEH denounces the use of the Military Police by the JOH regime to follow, harass and intimidate the social and political opposition.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-pmop-mantiene-seguimiento-constante-a-opositores-politicos/>

Yesterday, the hearing in the case of the political prisoner Gustavo Adolfo Cáceres continued and a result is expected for tomorrow.

Defensores en Línea also reports on the ongoing harassment and the threats against former political prisoners in Pimienta, Cortés, who had been arrested during the post-electoral repression but were let go in May 2018.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-14-de-noviembre-se-conocera-fallo-en-el-caso-del-pres-o-politico-gustavo-caceres/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/continua-hostigamiento-vigilancia-y-amenaza-contr-criminalizados-de-pimienta/>

On November 1, journalist and host of the “Ecos de la Mosquitia” daily news program on Catholic radio broadcaster Kupia Kumi, Buenaventura Calderón, was murdered (see previous e-mails). The Committee to Protect Journalists demands that the Honduran authorities conduct a swift and thorough investigation into his killing, determine if the attack was related to his reporting, and bring the perpetrators to justice.

<https://cpj.org/2019/11/radio-host-buenaventura-calderon-shot-dead-in-hond.php>

The president of the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) says that he has information that the Penal Code would be reformed so to decriminalize crimes against honor.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/delitos-contr-el-honor-serian-despenalizados-segun-presidente-del-colegio-de-periodistas.html>

"The 3-year-old girl traveled for weeks cradled in her father's arms, as he set out to seek asylum in the United States. Now she won't even look at him. After being forcibly separated at the border by government officials, sexually abused in U.S. foster care and deported, the once bright and beaming girl arrived back in Honduras withdrawn, anxious and angry, convinced her father abandoned her. He fears their bond is forever broken. "I think about this trauma staying with her too, because the trauma has remained with me and still hasn't faded," he said, days after their reunion. This month, new government data shows the little girl is one of an unprecedented 69,550 migrant children held in U.S. government custody over the past year, enough infants, toddlers, kids and teens to overflow the typical NFL stadium. That's more children detained away from their parents than any other country, according to United Nations researchers. And it's happening even though the U.S.

government has acknowledged that being held in detention can be traumatic for children, putting them at risk of long-term physical and emotional damage."

There is also a 27min film on this topic by FRONTLINE and AP.

<https://apnews.com/015702afdb4d4fbf85cf5070cd2c6824>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/kids-caught-in-the-crackdown/>

Pinu has spoken to the protesters defending the La Tigra National Park and set up a commission to investigate. "According to deputy Doris Gutiérrez, who met with the director of the Prosecutor's Office of the Environment, the results of the investigation should lead to arrest warrants against the officials who granted the building permits, since it has been shown that the Bosques de Santa María project affects water resources and the forest area of La Tigra National Park."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/anuncian-requerimientos-fiscales-por-aprobacion-del-proyecto-habitacional-en-la-trigra/>

ConexiHn reports on the fear of even more criminalization of human rights and environmental defenders as a consequence of the military control of the agricultural development plan (see e-mails of the previous days).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1293-plan-agricola-militar-acrecentara-la-criminalizacion-en-departamentos-con-proyectos-extractivos>

The MP successfully accused a former army colonel for damaging the environment.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5101-fiscalia-del-ambiente-obtiene-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contr-excoronel-por-danos-a-la-laguna-el-cacao-jutiapa-atlantida>

The UNDP signed an agreement with the MP to strengthen its work on citizen security.

<https://twitter.com/PNUDHN/status/1192876961342857217>

The president of the Commerce and Industry Chamber of Cortés asks for a renovation of the MACCIH agreement.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-no-renovacion-del-convenio-de-la-maccih-traeria-un-enorme-retroceso-jorge-faraj.html>

Drinking water rationing in Tegucigalpa will continue for the five coming months.

<http://elpulso.hn/extremos-rationamientos-por-falta-de-agua-en-la-capital/>

The three recently escaped inmates were re-captured.

<http://elpulso.hn/recapturados-reos-fugados-ayer/>

The Honduran Central Bank expects that the amount of remittances sent to Honduras this year will be five billion Lempiras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bch-asegura-que-la-captacion-de-remesas-sera-de-cinco-mil-millones-de-dolares-al-cerrar-2019/>

"In Bolivia, violence spread in the streets of various states after the opposition accused incumbent President Morales of manipulating the results of the October 20 elections. The OAS Electoral Mission reported possible irregularities, and both the Permanent Council and the Secretary General pressed the government to authorize an audit of the electoral procedures and a vote recount. Morales consented to both requests. The same accusations of electoral irregularities were made two years ago in the Honduran presidential election, but a coalition of states headed by the United States swiftly recognized President Hernández – delegitimizing the OAS electoral mission and the Secretary General's call for new elections. Those same countries have now pressed Morales, first for a recount of votes and later for new elections. When the OAS Electoral Mission confirmed the existence of electoral irregularities on November 10, the Bolivian military withdrew support for the government, prompting Morales's resignation – an outcome radically different from that in Honduras."

<https://aulablog.net/2019/11/12/the-oas-and-the-crises-in-bolivia-and-chile-power-politics-and-inconsistencies/>

13/11/19

Honduras Daily: WHRDs - Femicide; Bajo Aguán; Political Prisoners; HRDs; MACCIH - US, Penitentiary System; Armed Forces - Israel; Agriculture, Palm Oil; Corruption - Energy; and a Corruption Summit

The two human rights defenders Mirtha Gutiérrez and Angélica Álvarez together with another defender and a lawyer in the Guapinol case were harassed by the Military Police Tuesday night.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/11/alertadefensoras-honduras-hostigamiento-policial-contra-las-defensoras-mirtha-gutierrez-y-angelica-alvarez-integrantes-de-proteccion-internacional/>

"A group of women defenders of environmental rights, land rights and the rights of indigenous peoples in Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico denounced this Monday in the European Parliament the increase in feminicides and sexual assaults due to their work."

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20191111/471526345644/activistas-latinoamericanas-denuncian-ante-la-ue-el-aumento-de-feminicidios.html>

Campeño leader Santos Torres and his family were attacked in the Panamá community in the Bajo Aguán. They suffered bullet wounds and were transferred to a medical center in Tocoa.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-atentan-contra-dirigente-campesino-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

The hearing in the case of the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo was postponed to December 2.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/suspenden-audiencia-de-procedimiento-abreviado-porque-el-mp-aun-no-tiene-una-resolucion/>

Defensores en Línea reports on a recent gathering by human rights organizations and social movement on the challenges in defending human rights in Honduras. The event was organized by REDEHSUR, HEKS and COFADEH and focused on the south of Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensores-y-defensoras-de-ddhh-definieron-acuerdos-en-conversatorio-regional/>

Some two months ago, the OAS announced to evaluate the work of the MACCIH. This caused some concern as another excuse to postpone the renewal of the MACCIH agreement. After the announcement nothing happened until yesterday, when the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, announced that they just installed a evaluation body which will present its result in 25 days or sooner.

Journalist Jeff Ernst raises some important questions. "An evaluation is positive, but this invites many questions. Will the evaluation be done by objective observers? How is it possible to complete a comprehensive eval in 25 days? Why wait till the last minute?"

[https://www.oas.org/es/centro\\_noticias/comunicado\\_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-102/19](https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-102/19)

<https://criterio.hn/el-7-de-diciembre-se-sabra-si-la-maccih-sigue-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1194796786180866048>

The US Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Michael G. Kozak, tweeted: "We support Honduran civil society in calling for the Honduran government to renew @OEA\_MACCIH's mandate so it can continue its important work strengthening Honduran institutions to fight #corruption and #impunity in #Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1194716488646696961>

Meanwhile in Honduras, the MACCIH continues its work and sent recommendations to Congress' president Mauricio Oliva regarding the National Penitentiary System Bill.

<https://www.oas.org/documents/spa/press/Oficio-No.291-2019-MACCIH-Recomendaciones-Propuestas-de-Reforma-Ley-Sistema-Penitenciario-Nacional.pdf>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/maccih-entrega-al-cn-propuesta-de-reformas-a-la-ley-del-sistema-penitenciario.html>

La Prensa reports that Israel has become Honduras' main arms seller. In the last ten years, Honduras bought arms worth \$105 million, 29% of which came from Israel and 20% from the US. "In addition to buying conventional weapons, the Government must pay Israel \$ 48,987,378 (23% of the \$ 209 million agreement) for equipment, software and training for the development of a cybersecurity project for the National Directorate of Research and Intelligence (DNII)." Among them are spyware software from NSO Group to access WhatsApp messages and calls.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1334236-410/israel-primer-proveedor-armas-honduras>

Meanwhile the protest against the newly mandated role for the Armed Forces in agriculture continues.

Campesino organization presented a constitutional challenge against the executive decree by JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/hernandez-siembra-discordia-y-abre-choque-entre-campesinos-y-militares/>

<https://tiempo.hn/campesinos-presentan-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-pcm-052/>

Both El Libertador and Criterio report on an abandoned irrigation project in the Jamastrán Valley, Paraíso worth 650 million Lempiras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3616-gobierno-abandona-multimillonario-equipo-y-maquinaria-agricola-2>

<https://criterio.hn/en-abandono-insumos-y-maquinaria-para-proyecto-de-riego-en-valle-de-jamastran-el-paraiso/>

Congress approved a bill to strengthen Honduras' palm oil sector.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cn-aprueba-ley-de-palma-aceitera.html>

Libre denounces corruption in various energy projects.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/varias-empresas-de-maletin-tienen-contratos-de-energia-que-no-aprobara-el-cn-revela-diputado-sarmiento.html>

---

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2019/11/12/presidente-de-la-fifa-llegara-a-honduras/>

14/11/19

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Berta - Trial; Bajo Aguán; MACCIH - US; Spain; US - National Police; Agriculture; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Penal Code; and the Demands of Honduras' Youth

"This day in the courts of El Progreso, in the department of Yoro, a resolution was presented declaring the ABSOLUTION of Gustavo Cáceres, political prisoner of the narco-dictatorship in Honduras, accused of crimes he never committed and for which he was held in prison for 19 months after having been arrested during demonstrations against electoral fraud in Honduras in November 2017."

"In El Progreso, Yoro continues the judicial process against Jhony Salgado, unjustly accused of the crimes of illegal carrying of a commercial weapon and for improper use of police clothing during the general election crisis of 2017. His trial was rescheduled for 2020. His family and organizations demand his definitive freedom."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/11/14/absuelto-gustavo-caceres-presos-politico-de-la-narcodictadura-de-honduras/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/en-libertad-presos-politico-gustavo-caceres/>

COPINH informed that this coming december 2, the sentences for the 7 men found guilty of murdering Berta Cáceres will be known - over one year after their conviction.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1195051202167349249>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/el-2-de-diciembre-sera-lectura-de-sentencia-a-implicados-en-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres.html>

Yesterday, I linked to an article by Criterio on the attack against Santos Marcelo Torres Ruiz in the Bajo Aguán region. Now, Criterio writes: "The Agrarian Platform in a note sent to Criterio.hn clarified that Santos Marcelo Torres Ruiz is not a campesino and that he has been denounced repeatedly to lead an armed group in the Community of Panama located in the Bajo Aguán region, in the department of Colón in the north of Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/atentan-contra-santos-torres-acusado-de-liderar-un-grupo-armado-en-el-aguan/>

CESPAD conducted a survey in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula about the perception of corruption and the role of the MACCIH. "The results of the survey show citizens who considers corruption to be high and which has flooded all areas of political and institutional life in Honduras. (...) But it is in this "apocalyptic scenario of corruption and impunity", measured with other variables that are described in the report in detail, that citizens value the MACCIH and support its continuity. After 4 years of work, the MACCIH is widely known to Honduran citizens. Only 14% of the population has not heard of the MACCIH (...) However, the Special Fiscal Unit Against Impunity for Corruption (UFECIC), the national counterpart of the MACCIH, is barely known by 31% of the population".

The president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta, does not send out reassuring signals when he says that the question of the MACCIH is not one of life and death.

He claims that even before the MACCIH there was success in fighting corruption.

According to JOH, its fate will depend on the evaluation which finally started this week.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/14/en-medio-de-una-percepcion-apocaliptica-de-la-corrupcion-las-y-los-hondurenos-le-apuestan-a-la-continuidad-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-le-apuestan-a-la-continuidad-de-la-maccih-segun-encuesta/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidente-csj-permanencia-maccih-no-de-vida-o-muerte/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hemos-tenido-avances-contra-la-corrupcion-antes-y-despues-de-la-macci-rolando-argueta.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-asegura-que-dependera-de-evaluacion-para-que-continue-la-maccih-en-honduras/>

US congressman and chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Eliot Engel, tweeted: "Bipartisan lawmakers in U.S. Congress continue to believe that the immediate extension of #MACCIH in #Honduras is the most effective way to fight corruption. The clock is ticking."

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1194998562767167490>

As part of the project "Strengthening access to justice for the communities of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples of Honduras" by the Spanish development cooperation agency AECID, there will be a special prosecutor's office for indigenous peoples in Tea by 2020.

<https://criterio.hn/tela-contara-con-una-fiscalia-especial-de-etnias-en-el-2020/>

Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf met with the JOH regime yesterday. "Productive meeting with officials from the Government of Honduras today. Honduras has been a trusted and helpful partner as we work together to build asylum capacity and strengthen border security and information sharing in the region."

[https://twitter.com/DHS\\_Wolf/status/1195076959769964559](https://twitter.com/DHS_Wolf/status/1195076959769964559)

US chargé d'affaires Colleen Hoey participated in the inauguration of a police post in La Ceiba.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1195125485275156480>

The police, meanwhile, shot and hurt protesters demanding the reparation of a street in Danlí, Paraíso.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-policia-dispara-contra-pobladores-que-exigen-reparacion-de-calle-en-danli/>

Javier Suazo published a helpful analysis of the agricultural sector going back to the 1992 agrarian reform to help us better understand the current controversy regarding the involvement of the armed forces in the agriculture development plan.

Pasos de Animal Grande published additional details on the constitutional challenge against the plan.

The Armed Forces, meanwhile, sent out not-so-veiled-threats against campesinxs opposed to the plan.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/203241>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2611-honduras-interponen-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-para-evitar-que-militares-manegen-el-agro>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-militar-asegura-que-tiene-identificados-a-quienes-se-oponen-a-programa-agricola/>

The four men directly implicated in the murder of Magdaleno Meza in the El Pozo prison in October faced a first hearing on Wednesday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/realizan-audiencia-inicial-contr-presuntos-asesinos-del-socio-de-exjefe-narco-tony-hernandez/>

El Tiempo reports that the citizens initiative demanding the derogation of the Penal Code presented by CNA cannot be handed over to Congress due to "inconsistencies in fingerprints".

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-no-procede-iniciativa-cna-derogar-nuevo-codigo-penal1/>

---

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1294-el-reclamo-de-la-juventud-hondurena>

15/11/19

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ - Attacks, Migration - US; Drug Trafficking; Organized Crime; Extortion; and Lack of Respect

Trans woman and LGBTQ activist Alejandra Vega was brutally attacked in San Pedro Sula and had to be hospitalized in the intensive care unit. "The physical aggression was accompanied by verbal aggressions in which the aggressor made explicit reference to her condition of gender and her activism as a [human rights] defender."

Nationalist congressman David Chávez Madison tweeted homophobic comments against the journalist Jeff Ernst who has been closely reporting on the Tony Hernández trial.



<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/11/alertadefensoras-honduras-delito-de-odio-y-brutal-agresion-fisica-contra-alejandra-vega-defensora-de-los-derechos-lgbt-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1082-diputado-emite-comentarios-homofobicos-contra-periodista>

The Norwegian Refugee Council published a new report on "The impact of violence on LGBTI people in the North of Central America".

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Protection%20Snapshot%206%20-%20English%20-%20September%202019.pdf>

"President Trump's requirement that asylum seekers remain in Mexico while they await hearings in the United States is creating a new humanitarian crisis. Yet it isn't generating nearly the outrage and media scrutiny that his horrific family separations did. But now a deeply dismayed asylum officer has authored a remarkable manifesto that was obtained by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), as part of an investigation Merkley is conducting of Trump's asylum policies. The manifesto indicts the "Remain in Mexico" program from the inside in sweeping and scalding terms, describing it as illegal under U.S. law, a violation of the United States' international human rights obligations and arbitrarily implemented to deliberately punish people for seeking asylum here."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/11/12/scathing-manifesto-an-asylum-officer-blasts-trumps-cruelty-migrants/>

The head of the National Defense Secretariat, Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya, praises the work of the Armed Forces in combating drug trafficking and highlights the importance of US collaboration.

<http://elpulso.hn/gobierno-reafirma-que-solo-cuatro-por-ciento-de-la-droga-pasa-por-honduras/>

Two associates of the former police commissioner Jorge Barralaga (he was arrested in 2017 accused of money laundering) were sent to pre-trial detention.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/dictan-prision-preventiva-a-socios-del-clan-del-exsubcomisionado-jorge-barralaga.html>

Honduras continues to suffer from high rates of extortion and the National Anti-Maras and Anti-Pandillas Force (FNAMP) just presented two new forms of extortion.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fnamp-advierte-sobre-las-nuevas-formas-para-extorsionar-en-honduras.html>

"Not even Covi respects the government by Juan Hernández"

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3619-ni-covi-respeta-al-gobierno-de-juan-hernandez>

<https://confidencialhn.com/covi-recurre-al-chantaje-no-quitara-puas-de-peajes-a-pesar-de-orden-de-retirarlas/>

16/11/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Journalists; Femicide; Political Prisoners; and Growing Poverty

The Honduras Solidarity Network published a helpful English translation of an update by COPINH on the Berta Cáceres trial and the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case.

<https://www.facebook.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork/posts/2437177316338114>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2614-tribunal-dara-lectura-a-la-pena-contra-los-responsables-materiales-en-caso-de-berta-caceres>

The journalist César Obando Flores from Diario Colon.hn and Radio Progreso correspondent suffered an attempted kidnapping in Tocoa, Colón. Obando Flores is a beneficiary of special protective measures granted by the IACHR. He had previously suffered various acts of aggression and harassment by state security forces for his journalistic work.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2615-grave-riesgo-desconocidos-intentan-secuestrar-al-periodista-cesar-obando-en-el-aguan>

Reporteros de Investigación published a series of articles on femicides in Choloma, Cortés, where on average 20 women were murdered per year since 2013.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/11/01/una-ciudad-donde-matan-mas-mujeres/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/11/05/mapa-interactivo-de-seis-anos-de-femicidios-en-choloma/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/11/07/aca-violan-matan-entierran-mujeres-ni-la-policia-ni-los-militares-entran/>

The National Committee for the Liberation of Political Prisoners in Honduras celebrates the acquittal of Gustavo Cáceres (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/celebramos-la-libertad-por-sentencia-absolutoria-de-gustavo-caceres/>

Various basic goods became more expensive this last week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/varios-productos-de-la-canasta-basica-registran-aumento-durante-esta-semana/>

17/11/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Social and Political Opposition, Corruption; Bajo Aguán; Mining - Guapinol; National Police; Military Police; and the State of the MACCIH and UFECIC

Another social and labor leader was murdered in Honduras. Jorge Alberto Acosta, president of the loan and credit cooperative at the labor union Sitraterco, was shot dead in La Lima.

The Human Rights Secretariat reacted with a press release demanding an investigation.

<https://tiempo.hn/dirigente-de-sitraterco-acribillado-dentro-de-billares-en-la-lima/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/secretaria-de-ddhh-pide-investigacion-sobre-muerte-de-dirigente-sindical-en-norte-de-honduras.html>

COFADEH denounces that the councilor from Marcala, La Paz, Marlon Calles, received another death threat.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-regidor-de-marcala-recibe-nota-donde-le-dicen-estas-muerto/>

ContraCorriente uncovers that the JOH regime payed the travel expenses of journalists to travel to Israel to favorably report on the opening of the Honduran commerce and cooperation office in Jerusalem.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/11/16/casa-presidencial-pago-viaticos-de-periodistas-que-viajaron-a-israel/>

Campesinxs belonging to MARCA denounce that there is a new armed group in the Bajo Aguán. Some 50 armed assailants forcefully entered the San Esteban farm yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/campesinos-denuncian-que-surge-nuevo-grupo-armado-en-el-aguan/>

COFADEH visited the criminalized defenders from Guapinol who are held in pre-trial detention in Olanchito, Yoro.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-visito-a-los-ambientalistas-de-guapinol-recluidos-en-olanchito/>

Eight people, among them two police agents, were arrested for illegally searching a house.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1335326-410/detienen-a-dos-polic%C3%ADas-y-seis-civiles-por-falso-allanamiento-en-santa>

El tiempo reports that in an encounter between the Military Police and inhabitants of the El Pedregal neighborhood in Tegucigalpa, the former started to shot at the latter.

<https://tiempo.hn/militares-dispararan-a-vecinos-de-la-colonia-el-pedregal/>

CESPAD published a report on the MACCIH and UFECIC, their work, the presented corruption cases and the challenges they face.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/17/la-ufecic-maccih-en-el-combate-de-la-corrupcion-e-impunidad-en-honduras/>

18/11/19

Honduras Daily: Social Opposition; OFRANEH; Journalists; WHRDs; Corruption - Impunity, Environment; Migration - US; and No to Extractivism

OACNUDH expressed grave concern regarding the murder of labor leader Jorge Alberto Acosta (see yesterday's e-mail). OACNUDH reiterates a call by UN Special Rapporteur Michel Forst that Honduras "prioritize the fight against impunity for murders, attacks and threats against defenders".

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that Acosta had received death threats previously to his assassination and that he should have benefited from state protection.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1196541452534333446>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2617-estaba-acogido-en-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-dirigente-del-sitraterco-fue-asesinado-este-fin-de-semana-en-la-lima-cortes>

OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda denounces a new act of harassment and intimidation against the Garífuna community in Vallecito.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1196209866890784770>

Human rights organizations demand an investigation by the Special Prosecutor's Office for HRDs, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Workers into the recent threats against Radio Progreso correspondent Cesar Obando Flores (see recent e-mails).

ConfidencialHN denounces that the Protection Mechanism withdrew their protection from journalist Lidieth Díaz without credible arguments.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2618-fiscalia-de-proteccion-recibio-denuncia-sobre-intento-de-secuestro-y-amenazas-reiteradas-contra-el-comunicador-cesar-obando-flores>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/presentan-denuncia-por-amenazas-contra-corresponsal-de-radio-progreso/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/quitan-proteccion-a-periodista-lidieth-diaz-sin-argumentos-creibles/>

For the coming Universal Periodic Review of Honduras in 2020, PBI published a report on "Women defenders of land, territory and the environment".

ContraCorriente published an interview with Andrea Nuila, a member of the feminist collective Luchemos on the situation of violence in territorial conflicts, including drug trafficking, and how this intensifies violence against women.

[https://pbi-honduras.org/sites/pbi-honduras.org/files/file\\_attachments/PBI%20-%20Report%20UPR%20Honduras%202020\\_0.pdf](https://pbi-honduras.org/sites/pbi-honduras.org/files/file_attachments/PBI%20-%20Report%20UPR%20Honduras%202020_0.pdf)

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/11/16/ser-mujer-en-un-pais-controlado-por-el-narcotrafico-y-los-militares-entrevista-con-andrea-nuila-de-luchemos-hn/>

The MP presented a constitutional challenge against the most recent attempt by Congress to give its members immunity (see recent e-mails on the Impunity Pact).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1335689-466/mp-presenta-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-la-inmunidad-parlamentaria>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-interpone-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-el-fuero-parlamentario/>

A judge decided to open trial against Nationalist leader and former RNP secretary Fernando Anduray for illegal deforestation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/formalizan-causa-penal-contra-fernando-anduray-por-descombrar-bosques/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/medidas-cautelares-a-fernando-anduray-por-descombros-ambiental.html>

In an interview with Voz de América, the general secretary of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Vinicio Cerezo, calls for a joint review and reconsideration of the recently signed migration agreements with the US.

El Herald reports that the US, meanwhile, is preparing the implementation of these agreements. In a draft published on Monday, the US is describing the agreements as safe third country agreements even though this was disputed previously.

<https://www.voanoticias.com/a/vinicio-cerezo-ejecutivo-del-sica-aboga-por-un-acuerdo-migratorio-conjunto-en-el-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/5170355.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/mundo/1335635-466/eeuu-alista-reglamento-de-acuerdo-migratorio-con-honduras-el-salvador-y-guatemala>

In a public town hall meeting, 97% of the present people of Namasigüe, Choluteca, said no to mining and large-scale solar energy projects. Out of the 15'000 people from the community, almost 12'000 voted.

<https://criterio.hn/97-de-la-poblacion-de-namasigue-dice-no-a-la-mineria-y-fotovoltaicas/>

19/11/19

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression - Impunity; Extractivism; MACCIH; Violence - National Party; Unemployment; BCIE; and No More Honduran Soap

There were barely any investigations into the assassinations of protesters conducted by state agents after the 2017 electoral fraud. Defensores en Línea reports that last week, the hearing of a Military Police agent accused of having murdered David Octavio Quiroz on December 15, 2017 was suspended.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-suspende-audiencia-contra-policia-militar-acusado-del-homicidio-de-un-manifestante-durante-la-crisis-post-electoral-de-2017/>

ConexiHon interviewed three defenders involved in last weekend's consultation in Namasigüe, Choluteca in which 97% of the inhabitants said no to mining and large-scale solar energy projects (see yesterday's e-mail).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1304-la-defensora-del-territorio-maria-pastrana-denuncia-los-problemas-sociales-que-han-sufrido-en-las-comunidades-de-costa-azul-y-alrededores-por-la-instalacion-de-las-plantas-fotovoltaicas-en-el-municipio-de-namasiguee-choluteca>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1302-leonardo-amador-presidente-del-patronato-de-la-comunidad-de-los-prados-explica-sobre-el-proceso-de-auto-consulta-municipal-en-namasiguee-choluteca>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1303-el-padre-luis-alberto-rios-explica-la-importante-necesidad-de-declarar-el-municipio-de-namasiguee-libre-de-proyectos-extractivos-y-fotovoltaicos-por-los-problemas-ambientales-y-de-salud-que-dejan-en-la-poblacion>

In a visit to the OAS in Washington DC, the Honduran Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla highlighted the important collaboration between the MP and the MACCIH. Both OAS' Secretary General and the US embassy in Honduras agree.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1335980-410/oscar-chinchilla-maccih-ministerio-publico-honduras-corrupcion->

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1196955889623805953>

[https://twitter.com/Almagro\\_OEA2015/status/1196916743735824384](https://twitter.com/Almagro_OEA2015/status/1196916743735824384)

El Pulso spoke with Migdonia Ayestas, the director of UNAH's Violence Observatory, about the situation of violence in the country. According to her, the homicide rate will be higher this year than in 2018 and the number of mass murders has already surpassed the one from 2018 (59 compared to 43 last year).

<http://elpulso.hn/2019-superara-tasa-de-homicidios-del-2018/>

Lesbia Aracely Interiano, the sister-in-law of Nationalist congressman and minister of Community Development, Water and Sanitation (Idecoas), Nelson Márquez, was found murdered in her car.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-cunada-del-secretario-de-agua-y-saneamiento-en-la-zona-occidental-hondurena/>

<https://hch.tv/2019/11/19/asesinada-dentro-de-su-carro-hallan-a-cunada-del-diputado-nelson-marquez/>

According to FOSDEH, 60% of Honduras's youth in the productive age is unemployed

<https://hondudiario.com/2019/11/19/el-60-de-los-jovenes-del-pais-estan-desempleados/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/solamente-cuatro-de-cada-diez-egresados-universitarios-encuentran-empleo/>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) signed an agreement worth 725'400 Euros to conduct a feasibility study on a cable car in Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-dona-a-la-alcaldia-capitalina-725-mil-euros-para-estudios-sobre-instalacion-de-teleferico/>

---

<http://elpulso.hn/unilever-de-centroamerica-traslada-produccion-de-jabones-a-guatemala/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-banco-central-evade-responder-por-salida-de-unilever-de-honduras/>

20/11/19

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ; Gender Violence; HRDs - Protection Mechanism, US; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - Impunity Pacts, Narcopolítica; MACCIH; FoE; Migration - US; Tourism; Economy;

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the situation of Alejandra Vega Balenciaga, coordinator of the Feminist Trans Organization (AFET), who was brutally attacked on November 9.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2619-en-espera-de-justicia-por-ataque-recibido-se-encuentra-la-defensora-trans-alejandra-vega-balenciaga>

ContraCorriente published an investigation into sexual violence inside civil society organizations in Honduras. They interview 4-8 representatives of 17 civil society organizations on the topic.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/11/18/violencia-sexual-en-organizaciones-de-sociedad-civil-mas-alla-del-discurso/>

COFADEH raises the alarm about the situation of human rights defender and local councilor from Marcalam La Paz, Marlon Enrique Calles Domínguez. He has been receiving threats since February 2018, but they have grown in the last two weeks, among them a direct death threat.

The protection mechanism has now advised him to leave the country instead of offering protection so that he can continue defending the woods and water sources.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-de-derechos-humanos-en-riesgo-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/mecanismo-de-proteccion-pide-a-regidor-que-salga-del-pais-en-vez-de-protegerlo/>

Another HRDs and labor leader, Jorge Alberto Acosta, was murdered last weekend (see previous e-mails). Now, four US congresswo/men condemned his murder. "Acosta's assassination is just one of a recent brutal wave of killings, threats, kidnappings, beatings, torture, and disappearances of labor and social movement activists in Honduras, directed at Afro-Indigenous women, campesinos, teacher unionists, opposition political activists, supportive journalists, and many others. (...) Rather than legitimize and support the Honduran government, the Trump Administration should publicly denounce these killings, kidnappings, and forced disappearances. Rather than treat the migrants who seek to flee this terror like dangerous invaders, we must welcome them as asylees."

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/congressmembers-schakowsky-pocan-mcgovern-and-garcia-denounce-assassination-of-honduran-trade-unionist/>

<https://criterio.hn/congresistas-estadounidenses-condenan-asesinato-de-sindicalista-hondureno/>

After the brutal murder of the inmate and ally of Tony Hernández, Magdaleno Meza, some weeks ago in the El Pozo maximum-security prison, its director was fired. He now asks for political asylum fearing for his life.

<https://confidencialhn.com/director-de-carcel-el-pozo-esta-pidiendo-asilo-tras-crimen-de-magdaleno-meza/>

Criterio denounces that Congress, in opposition to Libre, Pinu and part of the Liberal Party, just approved another impunity pact shielding corrupt officials from investigations by the MACCIH's Honduran counterpart UFECIC.

Congress' Nationalist president Mauricio Oliva tries to spin the table claiming that only the MACCIH and UFECIC really benefit from impunity, but not congresswo/men...

<https://criterio.hn/oficialismo-en-el-congreso-nacional-aprueba-nuevo-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1336302-466/reformas-a-la-ley-del-tsc-limitan-labor-de-la-fiscal-%C3%ADa-y>

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-que-tienen-inmunidad-son-la-maccih-y-ufecic-los-diputados-tienen-fuero-legislativo/>



In the Narcopolítica corruption case, trial was opened against another suspect, Norberto Quezada Suazo.

<https://twitter.com/UFECIC1/status/1197263770210459653>

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-narcopolitica-juez-decide-procesar-a-antonio-quezada-suazo/>

Evangelical priest and member of the purging committee, Alberto Solórzano, made unhelpful comments about the MACCIH once more highlighting his alignment with JOH.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/la-maccih-no-puede-estar-siempre-hay-que-tener-dignidad-dice-pastor-alberto-solorzano.html>

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) denounces the dismissal of forensic doctor and former head of forensic medicine Julissa Villanueva Barahona as a violation of freedom of expression. Villanueva has been a critique of the JOH regime and she also took up the case of a murdered departmental head of ATIC, who the ATIC itself tried to present as a suicide (see previous e-mails).

ConfidencialHN lists further problems inside the ATIC that should raise alarm.

<https://criterio.hn/despido-de-julissa-villanueva-es-un-atentado-a-libertad-de-expresion-cmh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-cancela-julissa-villanueva-me-quieren-callar-del-todo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscal-general-despide-a-exjefa-forense-julissa-villanueva-por-revelar-ilicitos-en-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/agente-de-la-atic-mato-a-dos-personas-en-accidente-automovilistico-en-la-capital/>

"The Trump administration issued a rule on Monday that would allow it to send migrants seeking protections in the US at the southern border back to Guatemala under an agreement brokered earlier this year. Former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, who spearheaded the agreement, has billed it as a way to help the country build up its capacity to process migrants seeking protections under both international torture agreements and asylum. But under the rule issued Monday, the agreement will be used to deport migrants to Guatemala and, eventually, to El Salvador and Honduras, which have signed similar agreements with the US. Hundreds of thousands have fled violence and the lack of economic opportunity in the region, known as Central America's Northern Triangle, over the past year."

"In the final days before launching a controversial plan to send asylum-seekers arriving at the US border to Guatemala, Department of Homeland Security officials were still scrambling to figure out critical details, including how those seeking protection would obtain shelter, food, and access to orientation services, according to government briefing materials obtained by BuzzFeed News."

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/11/19/20970868/asylum-rule-agreement-guatemala-el-salvador-honduras-safe-third-deport-dhs-doj>

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/trump-asylum-guatemala-dhs-safe-third-plan>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-descubierto-otra-mentira-del-regimen-honduras-sera-tercer-pais-seguro-y-recibira-deportados-de-ee-uu/>

Giorgio Trucchi takes a critical look at the impact of the 2017 bill to boost tourism in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-ley-de-fomento-al-turismo-en-honduras-un-fracaso/>

Radio Progreso interviews the former head of the National Bank, Hugo Noé Pino, on the economic situation of Honduras. "Honduras does not advance, it is in the same situation it has been in recent years and that obviously means unemployment, high cost of living, poverty and all these evils that afflict the Honduran people."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/gobierno-de-joh-ha-desmontado-la-institucionalidad-del-estado-segun-analista/>

21/11/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Social Opposition; Political Prisoners; Students; MACCIH; Corruption - Impunity; Migration - US; Violence; and JOH and the Business Sector

Another social communicator was murdered in Honduras. Johana Avarado, working for Channel 45 in Catacamas, Olancho, was assassinated yesterday morning. "People close to the deceased, said that Johana was with other media outlets covering a story when unknown individuals and without saying a word took her life in full public view near the MP of Catacamas."

OACNUDH denounces her murder, demands an investigation and better protection for journalists.

<https://tiempo.hn/matan-a-comunicadora-social-mientras-cubria-noticias-cerca-del-mp-de-catacamas/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1197704300509708288>

US Congresswoman Pramilla Jayapal denounces the murder of labor leader Jorge Alberto Acosta (see previous e-mails). "The assassination of Honduran trade unionist Jorge Alberto Acosta is a tragedy, and part of a disturbing trend against the country's labor movement. The Trump Administration must denounce this act and others like it."

<https://twitter.com/RepJayapal/status/1197545207446867974>

Karen Spring published an update on the situation of political prisoner Edwin Espinal three months after his release from prison. "Every week, Edwin goes to the courthouse to sign a ledger that is supposed to show to the Honduran judiciary that he has not left the country and that he is still present to face the charges against him. His court date is set for May 14 and 15, 2020. As for myself, I continue my work supporting the other political prisoner cases. Within the first 6 months following the 2017 electoral crisis, all were released except five including Edwin. Now, only one political prisoner remains in jail; over 170 people still face charges and are forced to sign regularly

at courthouses around the country. I am also doing human rights work related to the criminalization of people awaiting trial. Some are being harassed continuously by Honduran military and police."

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/11/21/an-update-from-karen-spring-published-in-the-springwater-news-in-simcoe-county-canada>

The criminalization of students is a common theme in Honduras. Six of them have been suffering legal persecution since 2015 and just this week, another initial hearing in their case was postponed prolonging their legal battle.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2623-mas-de-cuatro-anos-de-esperas-dilatorias-inexplicables-en-juicio-contr-la-unah-en-juzgado-de-lo-contencioso-administrativo>

According to Radio Progreso, the fate of the MACCIH remains very unclear and two out of the three state powers already publicly said that Honduras is able to fight corruption without the support of the MACCIH.

At the same time, a second survey (after last week's by CESPAD) just showed that the great majority of Hondurans want the MACCIH to stay.

The survey by IUDPAS also highlights the general distrust in government institutions.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-peligro-renovacion-de-convenio-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/75-de-hondurenos-quiere-que-la-maccih-se-quede-revela-encuesta-del-iudpas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/investigacion-de-iudpas-revela-desconfianza-en-instituciones-y-alta-confiabilidad-en-la-maccih.html>

This week, the Nationalist majority of Congress approved another impunity pact involving the organic law of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) (see previous e-mail). The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that it encourages crime and limits the investigation of congresswo/men.

The head of the TSC, meanwhile, claims that the reform to its organic law will improve the fight against corruption...

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-denuncia-que-reformas-al-tsc-fomenta-la-delincuencia-y-limita-investigaciones.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reforma-a-ley-del-tsc-fortalece-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion-y-hay-que-aplaudirla-jose-juan-pineda.html>

"A Honduran man flew from El Paso, Texas, to Guatemala City on a nearly empty Boeing 737 on Thursday, the first foreign asylum seeker sent back under a U.S. agreement designating Guatemala as a so-called safe third country for people fleeing persecution."

"The Trump administration's new agreement with Guatemala violates U.S. and international law on the right to seek asylum and poses a serious risk to the safety of those seeking protection in the United States, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) warned today."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-guatemala/u-s-sends-guatemala-first-honduran-migrant-under-asylum-deal-idUSKBN1XV1WM>

<https://phr.org/news/u-s-governments-new-safe-third-country-deal-with-guatemala-puts-asylum-seekers-at-grave-risk-phr/>

The 60th mass killing of this year took place in Puerto Cortés yesterday claiming seven lives.

<https://tiempo.hn/ascienden-a-7-los-muertos-de-masacre-en-puerto-cortes/>

<https://criterio.hn/masacre-numero-60-deja-seis-personas-asesinadas-en-honduras/>

---

<https://criterio.hn/crisis-economica-y-social-hara-que-empresarios-se-sumen-al-clamor-general-rodil-rivera-rodil/>

22/11/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists; JOH - Armed Forces; Campesinx; Electoral Reforms; MACCIH; MP; Corruption - Impunity; Violence against Women; Public Health; and No Water, no Energy

C-Libre published an alert after Thursday's murder of social communicator Johana Alvarado (see yesterday's e-mail). She was the sixth murder victim this year of people working in the media sector.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1084-en-catacamas-asesinan-a-comunicadora-social-sexta-victima-de-2019>

Last Wednesday, the Armed Forces received the first 12.5 million Lempiras out of the disputed and controversial 4000 billion Agriculture Development Program for Honduras (PDAH).

<http://elpulso.hn/militares-reciben-la-primera-parte-del-proyecto-pdah/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with the survivors of the El Tumbador massacre from November 15, 2010. COFADEH has been accompanying them in their quest for justice and presented the case together with other organizations to the Inter-American Human Rights System last year.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-la-primera-que-maten-ya-nos-fuimos-todas-sobreviviente-masacre-de-el-tumbador/>

By the end of the year, a new Electoral Bill will be presented to Congress. Radio Progreso fears for a bill without real, profound reforms.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/preparan-nueva-ley-electoral-sin-reformas-profundas/>

OACNUDH met with the MACCIH and lauded its work.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1197906108146503680>

Public prosecutors sent out a open letter in support of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. According to them, he is exposed to external pressure for the MP's fight against corruption. At the same time, Chinchilla has always been a close ally of JOH and the MP's corruption cases have failed to investigate the president himself.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5151-comunicado-de-funcionarios-del-ministerio-publico-en-apoyo-a-la-gestion-del-fiscal-general-de-la-republica>

<https://twitter.com/UFECIC1/status/1198045655765307392>

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/fiscales-denuncian-campana-contram-p-y-respaldan-gestion-de-chinchilla.html>

Even El Heraldo cannot deny Congress' attempts anymore to protect itself from investigations. "In less than 60 days, the National Congress has shown four times that it seeks at all costs to shield some sectors, including politicians, linked to acts of corruption."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1336574-466/contundente-rechazo-a-reformas-a-la-ley-del-tribunal-superior-de-cuentas>

Libre congresswoman Fabia Orellana accused a deputy congressman from the same party of attempted rape.

<https://confidencialhn.com/acusan-a-diputado-suplente-de-libre-por-intento-de-ultraje-sexual-contracompanera/>

Vice-president Ricardo Álvarez cites the recent dengue health crisis with over 150 deaths as reason enough to fire the current Secretary of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores.

<https://tiempo.hn/ricardo-alvarez-brote-dengue-motivo-suficiente-para-pedir-renuncia-ministrasalud/>

---

<https://tiempo.hn/ahora-patuca-iii-no-entra-en-operaciones-porfalta-de-agua/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/postergan-hasta-mayo-de-2020-habilitacion-de-proyecto-hidroelectrico-patuca-iii/>

24/11/19

Honduras Daily: COFADEH; COPINH; Extractivism; Violence against Women; JOH - State Security Forces, Economy, Opposition, Reelection; MP; Migration - US; Health; Drought; Finger Prints; and the False Myth of Clean Energy

This coming Saturday, COFADEH commemorates its 37th anniversary.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-aniversario-37/>

COPINH organized a gathering of peoples this weekend to learn from each other in the different struggles and to show solidarity.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1198251933745733632>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1198434278692065281>

The municipality of Tocoa, Colón has invited its inhabitants for a open town hall meeting on the mining concessions in their territory. It will take place this Friday and social movements have called for a declaration of a municipality free of mining.

<https://www.diariocolon.com/mi-municipio/tocoenos-pediran-en-cabildo-abierto-expulsion-de-minera/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the lack of access for women suffering violence in the south of Honduras due to real and administrative closed doors at the MP and the courts.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2620-mujeres-del-sur-de-honduras-encuentran-puertas-cerradas-para-el-acceso-a-la-justicia>

Criminal lawyer German Liconá denounces that crime rates grow in Honduras in lock with the raising budget for state security forces.

The former defense minister Edmundo Orellana denounces that many hitmen are purged members of the police force.

Trial will be opened against four preventive police agents for illegal detention. They illegally arrested a young man, hit him on several occasions and then planted a fire arm on him.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-criminalidad-crece-en-la-medida-que-crecen-las-fuerzas-del-orden-german-licona/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/gran-cantidad-de-sicarios-en-honduras-proviene-de-la-policia-segun-ex-ministro-de-defensa.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/auto-formal-procesamiento-cuatro-policias-acusados-detencion-ilegal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/formalizan-causa-penal-contr-a-cuatro-policias-por-agredir-a-a-un-joven/>

In the recent weeks, three big employers announced to leave Honduras. The former head of the business lobby COHEP, Aline Flores, holds the current administration responsible for this.

The former president of the Central Bank of Honduras announces a further decrease of foreign investment in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/empresas-se-van-del-pais-por-culpa-del-gobierno-aline-flores/>

<https://tiempo.hn/hugo-noe-pino-preve-disminucion-inversion-extranjera-2020/>

The newspaper El Libertador calls in its editorial on the opposition to force JOH out of office, the time is "now or never".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3625-editorial-y-portada-el-libertador-impreso-oposicion-hoy-o-nunca>

The Nationalist president of Congress and aspiring president of Honduras, Mauricio Oliva, told El Tiempo that JOH told him in confidence that he would not seek another reelection...

<https://tiempo.hn/mauricio-oliva-esta-sera-ultima-gestion-joh-no-buscara-reeleccion/>

Last week ended with a letter of support by public prosecutors of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla (see Saturday's e-mail). ConfidencialHN published a more critical review of Chinchilla's work highlighting his close ties to JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-despido-de-villanueva-fiscales-cierran-filas-en-apoyo-al-cuestionado-chinchilla/>

The political comedian Hasan Minhaj dedicated his latest program to the US migration policy. Nothing new, but maybe helpful to communicate with non-experts.

"As record numbers of migrants flee perilous conditions in Central America's Northern Triangle, Hasan looks at all the unscrupulous ways the Trump Administration is trying to block them from seeking asylum in the United States."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PWpNIxk6Wc>

This year's dengue rate has reached over 100'000 cases and 157 people have died.

<https://radiohrn.hn/mas-de-101-mil-100-casos-de-dengue-se-contabilizan-en-honduras/>

Some 70% of the corn harvest may have been lost due to the drought.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/fenagh-reporta-perdidas-del-70-en-cultivos-de-maiz-por-sequia.html>

The JOH regime poses a significant database the fingerprints of Honduran citizens. Nevertheless, the National Persons Registry announced a new project to update the data bank and use it, among other things, for citizens initiatives.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-cuenta-con-banco-de-80-millones-de-huellas-digitales.html>

---

<https://avispa.org/latinoamerica-el-falso-mito-de-las-energias-limpias/>

26/11/19

Honduras Daily; Journalists; ADEPZA; Violence against Women; Drug Trafficking - US, Mining, JOH; Extractivism - Guapinol; Migration - US; MACCIH; Corruption - IHSS; MP; National Police; Poverty; Penitentiary System; and the Tegucigalpa Water Crisis

In less than a week, a second social communicator was murdered in Honduras. José Arita was assassinated yesterday in Puerto Cortés. He lead a local TV program called "The Hour of Truth".

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asesinan-a-comunicador-social-en-puerto-cortes.html>

Three HRDs from Zacate Grande were arrested by the police yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/adepza/status/1199171436889411585>

Yesterday was the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women. OACNUDH published a press release and its Secretary General addressed the world in a video message.

In Honduras, women's rights and feminist organizations held a protest rally.

"In Honduras, this struggle becomes more important due to the extreme violence that every 18 hours kills a woman. All in the face of an aggressive State that guarantees impunity. The year has not finished yet but the statistics already count at least 270 women killed this year. In just one percent of the crimes the killer is known or an investigative process began."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1199052129052348416>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1199003018039119873>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1199186414589505536>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/no-mas-mujeres-asesinadas-justicia/>



<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/11/comunicado-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-25-de-noviembre-memoria-y-luchas/>

Video: <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1306-exigen-frente-al-mnisterio-publico-investigue-y-no-queden-en-la-impunidad-asesinatos-contras-las-mujeres>

Video: <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/37-lgtbi/1307-indira-mendoza-honduras-el-pais-mas-asesino-de-america-latina>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mas-del-90-de-femicidios-se-encuentran-en-impunidad.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mujeres-protestan-en-la-capital-y-exigen-un-alto-a-la-violencia-contras-las-feminas.html>

The head of SOUTHCOM, Adm. Craig Faller, arrived in Honduras yesterday "to discuss security cooperation".

Once more confirming the worrisome official US position, he presented the Legion of Merit award to the head of the Armed Forces for his contribution in fighting drug trafficking...this just a month after the Tony Hernández trial which once more and from an official US-side made abundantly clear the involvement of the JOH regime and the Armed Forces in drug trafficking.

This ceremony was widely criticized by civil society organizations in Honduras and the US.

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1198939155583115264>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1199135937114124289>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/comando-sur-de-eeuu-condecora-con-medalla-legion-al-merito-a-jefe-de-las-ffaa.html>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1199161897104347142>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1199185617139056640>

The MP conducted the Operation Arcane yesterday. They investigated companies of heavy machinery, mining and sale of petroleum products for drug trafficking links.

Aqui Abajo published a great overview of the operation and highlighted an important mining case affected by it. "Today, November 25, 2019, the Honduran Public Prosecutor's Office and the Military Police carried out eight raids of houses located in the northern and western departments of Cortés and Copan. During these raids, 7 individually owned businesses, 20 real-estate properties, 13 limited companies, and 320 vehicles were inspected and many were apprehended by authorities. (...) INCOBE, the company named in the Prosecutor's communiqué, is a heavy machinery and transportation company that holds one of the largest contracts with Aura Minerals, a mining company legally incorporated in the U.S. and Canada. Aura Minerals currently operates the San Andres mine in La Unión in the western department of Copan. (...) Not only is Aura Minerals' heavy machinery contractor INCOBE linked to drug trafficking but the security company, Servicios Especiales de Seguridad (SESER) that Aura Minerals contracts to provide security to the San

Andres mine, has also been linked to illicit activities." SESER former assistant manager José Javier Benítez Rosa was even named in the Tony Hernández trial.

Aqui Abajo concludes its article with an important observation. "These raids attempt to give the impression that the Public Prosecutor's Office is finally prosecuting money laundering activities and drug traffickers. However, many in Honduras believe that these actions are not only 'too little, too late' but that they are also another "state-sponsored drug trafficking" strategy to eliminate or neutralize figures that have key information, money laundering ties or business links to President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who fears extradition to the U.S. himself."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5157-operacion-arcano-aseguran-empresas-de-maquinaria-pesada-mineria-y-venta-de-derivados-del-petroleo-por-estar-vinculadas-a-crimen-organizado>

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/11/25/north-american-mining-company-aura-minerals-linked-to-drug-trafficking-in-honduras>

An inmate murdered last month in the high-security prison La Tolva just a day before the murder of Magdaleno Meza was now exposed as a right-hand man of the former mayor, drug trafficker and JOH ally Alexander Chande Ardón.

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-recluso-asesinado-en-la-tolva-era-la-mano-derecha-del-exjefe-narco-chande-ardon/>

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons of Tocoa published a press release denouncing the situation in Tocoa, Colón that came along with the imposition of a "unjust economic model". The social movement is in opposition to the Guapinol mining project and hopes that this Friday the people of Tocoa will come together in a town hall meeting to reject the project (see also yesterday).

<https://www.diariocolon.com/mi-municipio/inseguridad-y-terror-viven-pobladores-de-guapinol-a-pocos-dias-de-cabildo-abierto-en-tocoa/>

"Homeland Security officials said Friday that they will expand the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program [commonly known as Remain in Mexico program] to the Tucson region, one of the last major areas on the border that has not been diverting asylum seekers to Mexico to await their U.S. immigration court hearings."

At the same time, more and more asylum seekers stuck at on the Mexican side of the border in disastrous conditions are sending their kids alone across the border. "These cases illustrate the human toll of the Trump administration's policy and suggest the United States, Mexico and the United Nations were unprepared to handle many of the unforeseen consequences."

Meanwhile in Honduras, family members of disappeared migrants presented a constitutional challenge against the so-called Safe Third Country agreement between the US and the JOH regime.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/remain-in-mexico-to-shuttle-migrants-from-tucson-to-el-paso/2019/11/22/2f56a484-0cb3-11ea-8397-a955cd542d00\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/remain-in-mexico-to-shuttle-migrants-from-tucson-to-el-paso/2019/11/22/2f56a484-0cb3-11ea-8397-a955cd542d00_story.html)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/in-squalid-mexico-tent-city-asylum-seekers-are-growing-so-desperate-theyre-sending-their-children-over-the-border-alone/2019/11/22/9e5044ec-0c92-11ea-8054-289aef6e38a3\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/in-squalid-mexico-tent-city-asylum-seekers-are-growing-so-desperate-theyre-sending-their-children-over-the-border-alone/2019/11/22/9e5044ec-0c92-11ea-8054-289aef6e38a3_story.html)

<https://criterio.hn/familiares-de-migrantes-desaparecidos-presentan-recurso-de-amparo-contra-acuerdo-de-tercer-pais-seguro/>

CESPAD compares the public support for the fight against corruption in 2015 during the Torch Marches and today, faced by a possible exit of the MACCIH. "This brief review of two surveys shows that the MACCIH enjoys a majority of social support today. Its current support reveals that the consolidated anti-corruption fight in 2015 remains alive in spite of the fact that the movements that supported it have diminished and that their flags no longer fly high as in the past. Their reduced opposition shows that the MACCIH, despite its limitations and adversities derived from a threatening and castrating context for the then anti-corruption struggle, has not impeded the significant progress achieved which has raised the confidence of the citizens in its work."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/11/25/analisis-las-demandas-ciudadanas-del-2015-y-el-apoyo-a-la-extension-de-la-maccih-una-comparacion-entre-dos-hitos/>

Yesterday, another hearing took place in the IHSS corruption case. In this sub-case, former board members are accused of illegally transferring more than 600 million Lempiras.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5158-a-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-exdirectivos-del-ihss-acusados-por-trasferencia-irregular-de-mas-de-600-millones-de-lempiras>

The deputy Attorney General Daniel Sibrián Bueso presents the MP in a row of Tweets as a body well equipped to go after bad behavior of public officials.

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1199016527623798785>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1199017041828691968>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1199017454770503686>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1199018666009870336>

A police official shot dead a young man in Agua Caliente near Zacapa, Santa Bárbara under unclear circumstances. El Tiempo writes that the police arrested the man for "walking under the influence" and already detained, he was hit by a bullet shot in the air by the police official.

Two active police members remain in pre-trial detention accused of various crimes.

<https://tiempo.hn/santa-barbara-un-policia-dispara-al-aire-y-mata-a-joven-que-fue-arrestado/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5156-en-prision-continuaran-dos-policias-de-inteligencia-y-seis-acompanantes-acusados-de-varios-delitos>

Ismael Zepeda, economist at FOSDEH, criticizes the high poverty rates in Honduras and questions the use of the budget by the JOH regime to tackle it.

<http://elpulso.hn/el-presupuesto-aumenta-pero-se-siguen-teniendo-los-mismo-indices-de-pobreza-ismael-zepeda/>

Three prison guards were arrested after an inmate escaped from the so-called high-security prison La Tolva.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sujeto-recluido-en-la-carcel-la-tolva-se-escapa-a-traves-de-un-tambo-de-basura/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1337288-466/detienen-a-tres-agentes-penitenciarios-por-fuga-de-un-presos-en-morocel%C3%AD>

Criterio reports on illegal activities by the mayoralty of Tegucigalpa and a subsidiary of an Ecuadorian company paid 238 million Lempiras to clean water pipes.

<https://criterio.hn/sale-a-la-luz-contrato-que-evidencia-proceso-de-privatizacion-del-agua-en-la-capital/>

26/11/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists - FoE; HRDs - ADEPZA, Marcala; MACCIH; Budget; Drug Trafficking; Armed Forces; Violence; JOH; and Thank You Miriam

One day after the assassination of social communicator José Arita in Puerto Cortés (see yesterday), more information was made public. He was on the way home from presenting his program "Time of Truth" when he was murdered. In the program he had denounced the lack of transparency by the local mayor and he announced a coming program on the new Penal Code "which only benefits criminals".

The Inter-American Pres Society condemns the murder.

Seven journalists and social communicators have already been assassinated this year in Honduras. Reporteros de Investigación highlights the impunity in these cases, taking the example of Gabriel Hernández.

Interestingly, the same day La Prensa published an article on the investigation into the murder of journalist Ángel Alfredo Villatoro in 2012. According to the investigation, his murder was ordered by Los Cachiros and the former president Pepe Lobo was aware of the order and his son, convicted drug trafficker Fabio Lobo was one of the intellectual authors who ordered it.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1085-al-salir-de-programa-asesinan-a-periodista-en-puerto-cortes>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/>

[2625-estado-sin-respuestas-quienes-matan-a-los-periodistas-en-honduras](#)

<https://www.sipiapa.org/notas/1213626-la-sip-condena-asesinato-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1311-el-estado-hondureno-sigue-inactivo-para-investigar-asesinatos-de-periodistas-c-libre>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/11/26/linea-mortal-seis-periodistas-asesinados-en-11-meses-en-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1337730-410/ipad-clave-crimen-periodista-hondureno-angel-alfredo-villatoro-criminalidad-violencia-honduras>

Radio Progreso reflects on the significance of freedom of expression in times of authoritarianism.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-libertad-de-expresion-en-tiempos-de-autoritarismo/>

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert after the arrest of human rights defender María Hernández and two colleagues from ADEPZA (see yesterday). They were arrested when they voluntarily presented themselves to face a criminalizing trial for usurpation. María Hernández had her young daughter with her when she was arrested.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/11/alertaurgente-honduras-detencion-arbitraria-y-criminalizacion-de-maria-hernandez-de-adepza/>

OACNUDH expresses concerns about the situation of environmental defender and Libre councilor Marlon Calles Domínguez from Marcala (see also last week).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1199330547635499008>

Javier San Vicente describes the last battle by "organized corruption" to get rid of the MACCIH and UFECIC "to guarantee their total impunity".

The US, meanwhile, slightly raises its voice. Michael G. Kozak, Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, tweeted: "The government of #Honduras has taken no action to renew the mandate of @OEA\_MACCIH, which plays a vital role in combating corruption and improving governance in Honduras."

The US House Foreign Affairs Committee responded: "Chairman @RepEliotEngel: Democrats and Republicans in Congress could not agree more. Long past time for a clean extension of @OEA\_MACCIH mandate."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/11/26/todos-contra-la-maccih-corrupcion-organizada-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

[https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/119933707071343001\\_6](https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/119933707071343001_6)

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/subsecretario-para-asuntos-del-hemisferio->

[occidental-de-eeuu-pide-renovacion-de-la-maccih.html](http://occidental-de-eeuu-pide-renovacion-de-la-maccih.html)

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1199441242586861570>

"Honduras' proposed budget for 2020 reduces support to the country's most needy – while protecting the military and security agencies – and, particularly if the debate on priorities is not made more inclusive, risks exacerbating already high political tensions and chronic economic mismanagement. On the revenue side, the draft budget shows a drop in tax revenues from 18 percent of GDP in 2019 to 16.5 percent – which, ICEFI has found, is not justified by technical analysis of the circumstances. Government spending – excluding payment on the national debt but including transfers to funds and trusts – equaled 19.7 percent of GDP, compared to 21.5 percent in 2019. (ICEFI estimates that the average government spending in Central America in 2019 will be 18.5 percent.) This drop will affect most public entities, particularly in social spending."

<https://aulablog.net/2019/11/26/honduras-facing-the-budget-challenges/>

The MP informed about a successful trial against the former police commissioner Jorge Barralaga and the wife of drug trafficker Wilter Blanco, Montse Fraga.

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1199454895427989505](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1199454895427989505)

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-culpables-a-exjefe-policial-y-una-dama-defensa-cuestiona-fallo-por-falta-de-argumentos/>

The head of the Armed Forces René Orlando Ponce Fonseca will retire on December 20.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nuevo-jefe-de-las-ffaa-saldra-de-la-23-promocion-asegura-jefe-castrense.html>

Fusina tries to explain the renewed increase in the homicide rate with the transfer of heads of criminal organizations to so-called maximum-security prisons...

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/traslado-de-reos-de-alta-peligrosidad-disparo-homicidios-en-61-segun-fusina.html>

ConfidencialHN writes about a possible trap set by the JOH regime to the political opposition using the idea of a constituent assembly to prolong the stay in power of JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-prepara-la-trampa-a-libre-para-convocar-a-la-constituyente-y-montar-su-dictadura/>

"With its prize, the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation recognizes Miriam Miranda's tireless struggle for human rights and environmental protection. The prize will be presented on November 27, 2019 at a public ceremony in Berlin."

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITlhC8ZNxOM&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITlhC8ZNxOM&feature=emb_title)

27/11/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Agua Zarca, COPINH; HRDs; Journalists; Electoral Fraud - Repression; Penitentiary System; Corruption - Congress, Mayors; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Electoral Reforms; and Drug-Testing Congress

Next Monday, the sentencing of the seven material authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres is scheduled. The sentencing will be accompanied by a global action calling for justice.

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/accion-global-02-12-2019/>

In a information bulletin, COPINH published an update on the Gualcarque Fraud Case and they linked to a investigation by a Dutch newspaper which found that the development bank FMO pays some 4.6 million Euros to its lawyers to defend FMO against the legal challenges by COPINH - multiple times more than they are willing to pay the community of Río Blando in compensation for the violence and death that followed the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project.

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/boletin-causa-bera-caceres-27-11-2019/>

COPINH was recognized by the National Council for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders as an organization that promotes ancestral indigenous rights.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2019/11/27/reconocen-al-copinh-como-promotor-de-derechos-ancestrales/>

Abel Pérez, Santos Hernández and María Hernández, the three HRDs from Zacate Grande belonging to the human rights organization ADEPZA (Abel is even its president) arrested three days ago (see previous e-mails), were already in front of a judge yesterday. Their criminalization was prolonged and they received alternative measures to imprisonment including signing in at the court on a regular basis.

A bit further north, in Tutule, La Paz, the campesino Carlos Geovanni Cáliz López had the charges dropped against him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/medidas-sustitutivas-a-la-prision-dictan-a-defensores-de-zacate-grande/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-integrante-de-la-base-campesina-9-de-julio/>

OACNUDH "profoundly laments the assassination" of the journalist José Arita (see previous two days).

The Human Rights Secretariat also commented on the increase in assassinations of journalist and social communicators this year and demands efficient investigations into the causes of the crimes.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1199734924535836673>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/secretaria-de-ddhh-pide->

[investigacion-eficiente-para-llegar-a-autores-de-grupos-en-vulnerabilidad.html](https://www.investigacion-eficiente-para-llegar-a-autores-de-grupos-en-vulnerabilidad.html)

Two years ago, the JOH regime set in place the first steps for the electoral fraud of 2017 (the "crashing" of the computer systems).

University students took to the streets to remind the national and international public about this. They were repressed by state security forces.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1199699758920667145>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/jovenes-universitarios-y-policias-se-enfrentan-en-la-capital-hondurena.html>

Violent repression by state security forces has been normalized in Honduras in the last years. A forum dedicated to this topic on Monday with the presence of national and international human rights experts and OACNUDH called on the government to abstain from these practices and protect and guarantee the right to protest.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-debe-garantizar-el-derecho-a-la-protesta-social-expertos-internacionales/>

El Pulso published an article on the insecurity in Honduras' prisons and the violent deaths of inmates. "The former minister of security in the administration of the former president, Manuel Zelaya Rosales, Jorge Alberto Rodas Gamero, said that "the biggest mistake was to have delegated functions to police and military". He also criticized that "there are no professionals educated in prison management employed in the prisons"."

<http://elpulso.hn/seguridad-en-las-carceles-de-honduras/>

The Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare and other civil society organizations and professional bodies named Congress as the main obstacle in fighting against corruption and impunity in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-es-el-principal-obstaculo-para-remover-la-corrupcion-e-impunidad-en-honduras/>

The MP arrested the mayor of Choloma on corruption charges.

<http://elpulso.hn/detienen-a-alcalde-de-choloma-por-tres-delitos/>

<https://criterio.hn/capturan-por-supuesta-corrupcion-a-alcalde-choloma/>

"U.S. President Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Tuesday that he will designate Mexican drug cartels as terrorists over their role in drug and human trafficking." I wonder what that means for co-conspirators with drug cartels in the Honduran government...

<http://news.trust.org//item/20191126224902-ce307/>



The Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, rejected the ideas voiced on Twitter by JOH's advisor Ebal Díaz to change Honduras from a presidential to a parliamentary system. The political opposition also denounced the idea as a ploy to further prolong JOH's stay in power.

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-toma-distancia-de-joh-mientras-sea-presidente-del-congreso-no-se-cambiara-la-forma-de-gobierno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-no-acepta-el-sistema-parlamentario-que-propone-hernandez-para-perpetuarse/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-denuncia-trama-para-que-el-congreso-elija-al-presidente-de-la-republica.html>

---

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ley-antidoping-para-funcionarios-tiene-limitada-posibilidad-de-ser-aprobada-segun-jari-dixon.html>

28/11/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Journalists; Corruption - Impunity; Penitentiary System; Drug Trafficking; Electoral Reforms; Business; National Party; and Development without the IMF

Miriam Miranda, coordinator of OFRANEH, received this week the Human Rights Award from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (see also previous e-mails).

On this occasion, she also gave an interview to DW on the situation in Honduras and the threats faced and the deaths suffered by Garífuna communities.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2626-miriam-miranda-primera-hondurena-galardonada-con-premio-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-fes-alemania>

<https://copinh.org/2019/11/abrazamos-a-nuestra-hermana-miriam/>

[https://twitter.com/dw\\_espanol/status/1200080637622915074](https://twitter.com/dw_espanol/status/1200080637622915074)

COFADEH has documented nine assassinations of persons linked to media outlets this year - all of them rest in impunity. In the yearly report of Reporters without Borders, Honduras is ranked 146 out of 180, a ranking worse than after the coup d'état.

Of the 82 journalists murdered since 2001 (the majority since 2009), there have been arrests in only seven cases.

In one case, the assassination of Alfredo Villatoro in 2012, new information came to light this week (see previous e-mail). The Minister of Security, Julián Pacheco, does not want to hear of it.

Even Proceso Digital writes that "journalists see the execution of their profession as ever more difficult in Honduras".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/2019-aumenta-lista-de-asesinatos-contra-periodistas-en-honduras/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/mas-de-80-periodistas-y-comunicadores-han-sido-asesinados-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pacheco-califica-de-rumores-y-especulaciones-nuevas-pistas-sobre-muerte-de-alfredo-villatoro/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/periodistas-ven-cada-mas-dificil-ejercer-su-profesion-en-honduras.html>

The head of UFECIC, Javier Santos, denounces that two important corruption cases presented by the MACCIH and UFECIC, Pandora and the Open Arch, have been in a state of appeal for over a year - longer than the Penal Code allows.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3631-justicia-hondurena-duerme-a-pandora-y-la-arca-abierta>

"The mothers of young people, prosecuted for alleged links with the Mara 18, denounced to Reporteros de Investigación that they fear for the lives of their children, deprived of liberty in the Ilama prison, Santa Barbara, known as El Pozo. (...) The mothers claim that on several occasions their children have been left in a tear gas chamber, exposed to shelling in enclosed spaces and that they are afraid to report reprisals when they have to visit the prison again."

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/11/28/quisieron-envenenarlos-en-el-pozo-denuncian-madres/>

The MP informs about the judicial detention of the head of a money laundering structure linked to the Los Valle drug cartel.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5179-operacion-relevo-ii-detencion-judicial-contracabecilla-de-estructura-financiera-de-los-valle-valle-y-tres-personas-mas-por-millonario-blanqueo-de-capitales>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuatro-detenido-ha-dejado-el-operativo-contrala-estructura-financiera-de-los-valle-valle/>

The discussions brought forward by the idea to change Honduras to a parliamentary system continue.

<http://elpulso.hn/cambio-de-sistema-presidencial-es-un-distractor-omar-rivera/>

<https://tiempo.hn/raul-pineda-honduras-ha-tenido-17-constituyentes/>

El Libertador reports on divisions inside the business lobby COHEP. The Federation of Farmers and Cattle Holders of Honduras (Fenagh) rejected attending a reunion denouncing the lack of support by COHEP against the Agriculture Development Plan giving the Armed Forces the oversight of a 4

billion Lempiras project (see previous e-mails).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3630-apoyo-de-sikaffy-al-gobierno-crea-conflicto-entre-socios-del-cohep>

There are also growing division in the National Party, especially as next year's primary comes closer.

The mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfuera, also threw his hat in the race.

<https://confidencialhn.com/division-en-el-oficialismo-ricardo-alvarez-y-sus-leales-no-acudiran-a-la-convencion-nacionalista/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sanchez-asegura-que-lideres-nacionalistas-fueron-invitados-a-la-convencion-del-fin-de-semana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tito-asfura-admite-que-lanzara-su-precandidatura-presidencial-por-el-movimiento-sin-cabeza/>

Javier Suazo wishes for a new development model for Honduras, one which excludes the IMF. "Honduras is in urgent need of an alternative development model to the current one, accompanied by a new political project that integrates the participation of a diverse range of economic actors (industrialists, for example) and a variety of social-based organizations. However, the deepening of neoliberal policies and their consequences will leave little room to achieve this change, once the political opposition reaches power, so you have to build a public agenda to gradually dismantle the morass of laws, regulations, programs, projects and institutions, left by the current government."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/203534>

29/11/19

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Guapinol, Corruption; Berta - Trial; Women - Violence, Reproductive Rights; Post-Electoral Violence; MACCIH; Corruption - SAG, Infrastructure; US - National Police; JOH - Armed Forces, National Party, Spain; Migration; the Marriage of Church and State

In a open town hall meeting, the inhabitants of Tocoa, Colón declared their territory free of mining. No less than 33 mining concessions have been handed out in this area, giving rise to conflicts best, and most worrisome, exemplified in the case of Guapinol.

OACNUDH accompanied the process as an observer.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/tocoa-se-declara-libre-de-mineria-en-medio-del-repudio-a-sus-autoridades-municipales/>

<https://criterio.hn/tocoa-es-declarada-libre-de-mineria-pero-proyecto-conflictivo-sigue-firme/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1200611800833613825>

This Monday, the MP investigated corruption and links to organized crime of a company linked to the Aura Minerals mining company, INCOBE (see Tuesday's e-mail). Yesterday, the MP informed that several of the accused will be held in pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5186-mp-logra-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-senalados-de-la-operacion-arcano-cuyas-empresas-de-maquinaria-pesada-mineria-y-venta-de-derivados-del-petroleo-estarian-ligadas-a-crimen-organizado-2>

The Judicial Power informs about the upcoming reading of the sentences for the material authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres. The reading will start on Monday at 2pm.

In a press release, CEJIL demands that the sentencing should reveal the criminal structure behind Berta's assassination.

Amnesty International launched a urgent action asking people to send e-mails to the Attorney General demanding justice, including the investigation into the intellectual authors.

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1200543598980276224>

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-sentencia-contra-autores-materiales-berta-caceres-debe-esclarecer-estructura-criminal-detras>

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/get-involved/take-action/verdad-y-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

OACNUDH welcomes the bill proposed by women's rights and feminist organizations for an Integral Law against Violence against Women.

The National Institute for Women (Inam) promoted a social pact between media outlets and civil society organizations for a human rights approach in covering violence against women.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1200446894482370561>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3636-firman-pacto-social-para-rescatar-dignidad-de-hondurenas-victimas-del-crimen>

C-Libre presented a report on the right to access of information (or the lack thereof) from a sexual and reproductive rights approach.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1317-investigacion-revela-que-el-estado-no-brinda-la-informacion-completa-sobre-derechos-sexuales-y-reproductivos>

"Two years after the electoral fraud in Honduras, Carlos Paz, Director of the Cáritas Social Ministry of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula, argues that when justice is sought in the country for victims of human rights violations, they encounter an evasive environment. With a justice service completely folded to power, with a Public Ministry that is not committed to the search for truth, research and access to justice."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/a-dos-anos-del-fraude-electoral-acceso-a-la-justicia-es-inalcanzable/>

El Pulso published a helpful article giving an overview of some of the obstacles put in the way of the MACCIH by the JOH regime.

<http://elpulso.hn/los-obstaculos-que-han-querido-detener-a-la-maccih/>

The Supreme Court opened trial against the current head of the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat (SAG), Mauricio Guevara Pinto, and emitted alternative measures to imprisonment - but he can still remain in office.

<https://tiempo.hn/juez-decide-procesar-ministro-sag-sin-suspension-del-cargo/>

CoST Honduras highlights problems with three infrastructure projects worth 6.9 billion Lempiras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/cost-cuestiona-poca-informacion-de-tres-proyectos-de-infraestructura-en-honduras.html>

The US embassy tweeted that thanks to the support by the US State Department (INL), the Honduran police successfully combated kidnappings.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1200449882999414784>

A judge accepted an appeal by four colonels for questioning JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/admiten-recurso-a-favor-de-altos-oficiales-de-las-ffaa-destituidos-por-criticar-a-joh/>

Two more articles look at the division inside the National Party which celebrates its convention this weekend in Danlí. Four leading representatives won't attend.

It seems as only the groups behind JOH will participate.

Congress' Nationalist vice-president Gladis Aurora López, meanwhile, just said that she would welcome another term by JOH.

Then JOH tweeted that he wants the National Party to regulate the reelection in their bylaws limiting it to two terms.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/partido-nacional-llegara-dividido-a-convencion/>

<http://elpulso.hn/partido-nacional-realizara-su-convencion-en-medio-de-fuertes-divisiones-a-lo-interno/>

<https://criterio.hn/convencion-nacionalista-sera-solo-de-seguidores-de-joh-video/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-es-el-referente-de-honduras-vicepresidenta-del-legislativo-a-favor-de-otra-reeleccion-de-hernandez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-pide-limitar-la-reeleccion-en-estatutos-partidarios-del-pn/>

JOH will travel to Spain to attend the climate summit COP25.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presidente-hernandez-participara-en-cumbre-cop25-en-espana.html>

76.1% of Central American migrants arriving in Mexico fled violence.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/acnur-76-1-de-los-migrantes-de-centroamerica-dejaron-su-pais-por-violencia.html>

"When various churches bless the State, or bless it without criticizing their officials, or remain silent when the State, in the case of Honduras, is led by people whose relations with drug trafficking have been proven by the US justice system, then they are giving a signal to society that religion and the state protect each other."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cuando-se-arriesga-la-dimension-social-de-la-iglesia/>

30/11/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Militarization, National Party; Children - Labor, Migration; Penal Code; HIV; Education - Spain; and the World Indigenous Caucus

"Two years of electoral fraud, two years and illegality won the battle, a whole project that is imposed based on the force of arms, the political support of interventionist governments such as the United States and thanks to the dark forces that move under the corridor of organized crime. An alliance that seems unbreakable or difficult to undermine. (...) Two years later, they unpack again from their "box of Pandora" the distracting theme of the so-called National Constituent Assembly and keep the main opposition political leaders entertained discussing political reforms that will never come to fruition under the current regime. On the contrary, the National Party and its government will continue to take advantage of the situation to promote political reforms that fit their electoral interests in order to continue to have control and not lose what they have been building under the umbrella of illegality."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-ilegalidad-se-impone/>

One pillar of the JOH regime is the Military Police and they just released a 30-seconds promotion video claiming great success in their six years of existence.

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1200781386875121664>

Criterio reports on yesterday's National Party convention. Of the four Nationalist big wigs that had announced not to attend (Ricardo Álvarez, Pepe Lobo, Roberto Ramón Castillo and Mauricio Oliva), the latter showed up after all. JOH presented him and the mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura, as primary candidates for the race for the Nationalist ticket next year. JOH also threatened

Nationalist leaders with separating them from the public positions if they "attack the unity of the National Party".

<https://criterio.hn/en-alusion-a-ricardo-alvarez-herandez-amenaza-con-correr-de-su-gobierno-al-que-siembre-division-en-el-partido-nacional/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3637-joh-advierte-a-lideres-nacionalistas-que-pretendan-hacerle-zancadilla>

Various human rights organizations expressed grave concern about the high rate of child labor in Honduras. Some 80% of children suffer from some form of exploitation. The number of children working even increased compared to previous years.

<https://criterio.hn/explotacion-infantil-va-en-aumento-en-honduras/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/unos-400-mil-ninos-son-obligados-a-trabajar-en-honduras/>

The same article by Criterio also highlights that even though the topic was only in the headlines in 2014, there are still many unaccompanied minors leaving Honduras. So far this year, more than 21'000 children have been deported back to Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/explotacion-infantil-va-en-aumento-en-honduras/>

The head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) Odir Fernández denounces that their work is impeded by corrupt circles. The most recent example is the rejection of the citizen's initiative demanding that the new Penal Code does not come into force.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/los-corruptos-obstruyen-nuestras-acciones-dice-jefe-de-investigaciones-del-cna.html>

The HIV infection rate in Honduras rose by 7% since 2010.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1338641-410/honduras-vih-sida-onu-sindrome-inmuno-deficiencia-adquirida>

The Honduran foreign minister Lisandro Rosales signed a cooperation with a Spanish university to allow Honduran students to get a master's degree there.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-firma-convenio-con-universidad-espanola-para-que-hondurenos-estudien-maestrias.html>

The Honduran indigenous Lenca community leader and social communicator Donatila Girón Cáliz will represent for a year the indigenous peoples on the world stage.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/integrante-de-la-redhilpaz-asume-presidencia-mundial-del-caucus-indigena/>