

01/12/19

Honduras Daily: COFADEH; Labor Unions; Femicide; Violence; Penitentiary System; Poverty - UN; Airports; and a Disunited National Party

COFADEH commemorated last Saturday its 37th anniversary. "In these 37 years, we have never been discouraged," Bertha Oliva, General Coordinator of the Committee of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees in Honduras (COFADEH), told [www.defensoresenlinea.com](http://www.defensoresenlinea.com), at the Hogar contra el Olvido, the site erected in memory of the disappeared and detained of the decade of state terrorism in Honduras."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-estos-37-anos-nunca-nos-hemos-desanimado-bertha-oliva/>

Honduras' trade union organizations united in the Network against Anti-Syndical Violence denounced on November 29, 2019 that they are victims of serious attacks against their lives for defending the labor rights of union members. They also denounced that that the JOH regime plays an accomplice role that fosters impunity for such acts.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2627-red-contra-la-violencia-sindical-denuncia-graves-ataques-contra-sindicalistas-por-defender-derechos-laborales-de-los-trabajadores>

Reporteros de Investigación continues to cover the alarming number of femicides in Choloma,

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/12/02/la-madrugada-sin-final-en-choloma/>

UNAH's Violence Observatory once more announced that this year's homicide rate will be higher than in 2018. Additionally, they informed that 55% of the murders concerns Hondurans below 30 years.

<https://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-55-de-muertes-violentas-en-honduras-son-de-ninos-y-jovenes/>

Hugo Maldonado, president of Codeh, told El Tiempo that 52% of all inmates have not yet been sentenced and should be awaiting trial outside prison. Honduras counts some 22'000 inmates, a number constantly increasing. Last year, it was around 20'500.

<https://tiempo.hn/codeh-52-de-reos-no-condenados-deberian-defenderse-en-libertad/>

UNDP promotes in Honduras "integrated development solutions" to tackle child malnutrition. "Child malnutrition is a complex issue rooted in social, economic and environmental factors. "The challenge for us as a community is to join forces," says Dr. Teresa de Jesus, who works at the health centre. "Focusing only on health will not work, family income and housing conditions also limit a child's development and increase the risk for undernourishment."

<https://medium.com/@UNDP/groundbreaking-data-tackles-child-malnutrition-in-honduras-3c219a2736cb>

"The large international companies of the airport sector are not interested in investing and taking over the administration of the airports of San Pedro Sula, Roatan and La Ceiba, which should have a new operator by October 2020."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1338884-410/tres-empresas-nacionales-disputan-aeropuertos-honduras>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/el-cachureco-esta-jodido-vicepresidente-cuestiona-aparente-unidad-nacionalista/>

02/12/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; Extractivism; Femicide; HRDs - Protection; JOH - Spain, National Party, Militarization; Penal Code; Poverty; Public Health - Dengue; Remittances; and We Don't Have no Education

After one year, the sentencing of the seven convicted material authors of the assassination Berta Cáceres took place yesterday. "[T]he four paid hitmen – Elvin Rapalo, Edilson Duarte Meza, Óscar Torres, and Henry Javier Hernández – were each given 34 years for the murder. They were also sentenced to 16 years and four months for the attempted murder of Gustavo Castro, a Mexican environmentalist who was shot in the same attack but survived by playing dead. Sergio Ramón Rodríguez, the communities and environment manager for Desa, and Douglas Geovanny Bustillo, a former Desa security chief and ex-US trained army lieutenant, were given 30 years and six months for their participation in the murder. Mariano Díaz Chávez, a US-trained special forces major who served with Bustillo, was found guilty by omission and given 30 years. (...) "From the outset, the path to justice has been painful, as our rights as victims have not been respected. These sentences are a start in breaking the impunity, but we're going to make every effort to ensure that all those responsible – the company executives and state officials identified in the trial – are prosecuted," said Bertita Zúñiga, Cáceres' second-eldest daughter."

After the sentencing, Berta's children read a statement outside the court highlighting that impunity has not ended with just the sentencing of the material authors and demanding the investigation of the Atala family and other suspected intellectual authors.

OACNUDH recognized the importance of the sentences, but also highlighted that it is only a first step.

The days was accompanied by worldwide solidarity messages demanding "Justice for Berta".

The MP, meanwhile, celebrated itself.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/02/berta-caceres-murder-sentencing>

<https://copinh.org/2019/12/lectura-sentencia-causa-berta/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ninguna-sentencia-sin-nombres-de-asesinos-intelectuales-es-capaz-de-hacer-justicia-a-la-vida-y-causa-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2628-penas-minimas-para-militares-y-gerente-de-hidroelectrica-des-a-que-participaron-en-crimen-contr-a-berta-caceres>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1201639958383079424>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1201640103543750656>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1201640305763790853>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1201640373212368902>

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/JusticiaParaBerta?src=hash>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5193-penas-de-50-anos-cuatro-meses-30-anos-seis-meses-y-30-anos-de-reclusion-contr-a-asesinos-de-la-lider-ambientalista-berta-caceres>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1201629715624275968>

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda is currently in Brussels to talk about the situation in Honduras, the threats against the Garífuna people and the lack of protection for human rights defenders.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1201616239308742658>

ConexiHon reports on last week's open town hall meeting leading to the declaration of Tocoa as free of mining. There has been a rise in such declaration in the recent years and in the region, seven more municipalities have already done so.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1318-balance-politico-de-la-lucha-popular-en-el-aguan>

Cristina Alvarado from the Women's Movement for Peace denounces that in the last 15 years, over 6000 women were murdered in Honduras (almost 5000 of which in the last ten years since the coup d'état) and in 96% of the cases impunity reigns. "There is no investigation, there are barely 40 investigation agents specialized in protocols of analysis for femicide, but they also cover other types of crimes so they are spread throughout the country. Another element is judicialization, because if not done correctly, the crimes remain unpunished."

So far this year, 365 women were murdered.

<http://elpulso.hn/96-por-ciento-de-impunidad-en-los-crimenes-contr-a-las-mujeres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2629-femicidios-no-paran-porque-el-estado-de-honduras-no-tiene-voluntad-politica-para-castigar-a-los-culpables>

Honduran human rights organization discussed yesterday the insecurity of human rights defenders.

Criterio writes that at least 30 HRDs have been murdered this year.

According to Hedme Castro, director of ACI-Participa, the situation is worse than in the 80s. Josué Murillo, director of the Panamerican Foundation for Development (Fpad) presents the Honduran protection mechanism as inadequate for the needs of human rights defenders. Jaime Flores from Casa Alianza denounces that the protection mechanism mainly serves to whitewash the JOH regime in front of international human rights bodies.

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-de-derechos-humanos-de-honduras-en-la-linea-de-la-muerte/>

<https://criterio.hn/situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-esta-peor-que-la-decada-de-los-anos-80s/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lamentan-falta-de-efectividad-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion-a-periodistas-y-defensores-de-ddhh/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-honduras-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-existe-para-lavarle-la-cara-al-gobierno/>

JOH's attendance at the COP in Madrid was accompanied by a protest letter to the Honduran embassy in Spain denouncing "the narco-dictatorship" under the JOH regime.

During his participation, JOH asked for a refinancing of Honduran debt "to invest in mitigation projects".

<https://twitter.com/RMigradas/status/1201489745114742784>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-que-reprime-a-manifestantes-y-ambientalistas-esta-en-la-cop25/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-aprovecha-cumbre-del-clima-para-pedir-refinanciamiento-de-deuda-externa-hondurena/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1338962-410/honduras-renegociar-deuda-cambio-climatico-cop25->

Political analyst Fernando García told ConfidencialHN that the National Party has suffered severe blows for its links to drug trafficking and the recent convention showed that some public Nationalist figures want to mark distance to JOH.

Even JOH's advisor Marvin Ponce said that the National Party "is worn down".

<https://confidencialhn.com/decadencia-del-partido-nacional-surge-por-vinculos-con-narcos-segun-analista/>

<https://tiempo.hn/marvin-ponce-si-pn-no-se-une-probablemente-pierda-elecciones-2021/>

Proceso Digital presents the Armed Forces as a key actor for Univision published the newest

investigation by David C Adams and Jeff Ernst in the drug trafficking connection of the JOH regime focusing in detail on the murder of Nery López Sanabria a.k.a. Magdaleno Meza Funez in a Honduran prison. "The victim, Nery López Sanabria, was a 37-year-old drug trafficker whose ledgers were used in a New York trial a few days earlier to convict Juan Antonio 'Tony' Hernández, a younger brother of Honduras's president, on drugs and weapons charges. (...) López never testified in the trial as he was jailed in Honduras. However, he had been in discussions with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency for several months prior to his murder, according to four lawyers familiar with his efforts to cooperate with the U.S. officials. Some of those lawyers now wonder aloud if his cooperation with the DEA – and high-level political connections - may have gotten him killed. (...) But, despite losing López, the possible case against President Hernández keeps building, experts say. Several alleged co-conspirators remain at large, while other alleged major traffickers have been busted in recent weeks."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/what-did-nerly-know-a-prison-murder-in-honduras-deepens-suspicious-of-government-involvement-in-drug-trafficking>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1203152153470210048>

"The head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Honduras, René Orlando Ponce Fonseca, justified the re-election of President Juan Orlando Hernández, arguing that the majority of the population approved it, violating with this statement given to a radio station, the principle of being apolitical and non belligerency of the armed forces a few days before his term ends." The JOH regime returns the favor with ever increasing defense and security spending. FOSDEH warns that this consumes up important parts of the 2020 budget. The newest acquisition, a \$56 million patrol boat, is currently on its way from Israel.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2636-jefe-de-estado-mayor-conjunto-de-las-ffaa-justifica-reeleccion-del-presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-se-hace-una-encuesta-la-mayoria-de-la-poblacion-diria-que-esta-de-acuerdo-con-la-reeleccion-jefe-castrense.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-advierte-que-gasto-publico-en-defensa-y-seguridad-consumiria-presupuesto-de-2020/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/navega-hacia-honduras-lujoso-patrullero-comprado-por-hernandez-a-israel/>

COPINH published an infographic highlighting the impunity in the Berta Cáceres case when it comes to the intellectual authorship.

A petition was launched to call for investigation, prosecution and sentencing of the intellectual authors.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1202994830126792704>

<https://copinh.org/2019/12/peticion-online/>

Radio Progreso covers the path towards the declaration of a territory free of extractive industries in Tocoa which had a first conclusion on November 29 with the successful public town hall meeting.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/tocoa-la-lucha-contra-un-modelo-que-explota-desplaza-y-criminaliza/>

OACNUDH signed a memorandum of understanding with the Human Rights Secretariat which allows the former to give technical assessments to the latter.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1203017864455892992>

In its newest video presenting young human rights defenders, OACNUDH presented Aura Fernández from MADJ.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202993486250881026>

The decision by the Nationalist-controlled Congress to form their own commission to evaluate the MACCIH caused widespread rejection. "For the congressman of Pinu, David Reyes, the appointment of the legislative commission to investigate the actions of the MACCIH is a gross maneuver and vulgarization of the issue, and he says that the more than 80 congresswo/men who have been singled out and accused in investigations of the UFECIC are showing signs of fear." The National Party, meanwhile, presents itself as someone fighting for transparency....

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/congreso-nacional-no-tiene-moral-para-investigar-a-la-maccih-segun-frente-parlamentario/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/abrir-el-libro-completo-de-la-corrupcion-pide-a-la-maccih-el-jefe-de-bancada-nacionalista.html>

"The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for the work done by the Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), which since its creation in 2016 at the invitation of the Honduran government, has been making a significant contribution to the prevention and fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras and to the strengthening of the Rule of Law in the country. The European Union and its Member States are among the most important donors to MACCIH. In January 2020 the mandate of MACCIH will expire. The EU calls on the Honduran government to renew the mandate in its entirety."

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/06/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-extension-of-the-mandate-of-the-mission-to-support-the-fight-against-corruption-and-impunity-in-honduras-maccih/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ue-pide-a-honduras-que-renueve-la-maccih.html>

In the Narcopolítica corruption case, a court ordered alternative measures to imprisonment for the accused Marvin Aguilera Flores. His hearing will take place on December 16.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-presenta-ante-los-tribunales-el-ultimo-implicado-en-caso-narcopolitica.html>

The US praises the work of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla for fighting corruption.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1202976783106281475>

<https://tiempo.hn/embajada-eeuu-ratifica-apoyo-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla/>

"Honduras inaugurated this Friday the Migratory Statistical Center that will allow to establish a profile of its emigrants to formulate integral policies in the thematic and a Platform of Attention, with support of the International Organization for Migrations (OIM)."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1340187-410/honduras-centro-estadistico-organizacion-internacional-de-migrantes>

"The network of institutions for the defence of the human rights of children in Honduras COIPRODEN, within the framework of 30 years of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, presented a report on the problems faced by children in the country."

<http://elpulso.hn/en-los-ultimos-20-anos-13042-ninos-y-ninas-han-sido-asesinados/> the coming electoral period with the primaries next year and the presidential election in 2021. By the end of the year, a new head of the Armed Forces will have been nominated.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nueva-cupula-militar-debera-hacer-frente-a-proximas-elecciones.html>

After a suspicious rejection by the RNP of a first batch of signatures collected against the new Penal Code, various civil society organizations started a second round of collection.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/organizaciones-reinician-recoleccion-de-firmas-para-abrogar-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

Some basic goods have seen a price rise at the beginning of this month.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-incremento-en-algunos-productos-de-la-canasta-basica-en-inicio-de-la-temporada-navidena/>

The number of people having died from dengue in Honduras rose to 172.

At the same time, the vice-minister of Health, Nery Cerato, expressed that the health budget for the coming year is not sufficient.

<https://tiempo.hn/se-registran-172-muertes-por-dengue-grave-lo-que-va-2019/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-presupuesto-no-es-suficiente-para-atender-servicios-sanitarios/>

A record number of remittances will have been sent to Honduras this year, \$5.4 billion, a 12.7% increase compared to 2018.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1339152-410/captacion-remesas-sera-5400-millones-dolares-honduras>

Some 1.2 million Honduran children and teenagers are not attended by the school system.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/mas-de-un-millon-de-ninos-no-tienen-acceso-a-sistema-escolar/>

03/12/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Campesinos; Garífunas; COFADEH; JOH - Corruption, National Party, Opposition, Militarization; MACCIH - US; Corruption - IHSS, Narcopolítica, IPP; Penitentiary System; Political Reforms; BID; and Leaving No One Behind

The IACHR reacted to Monday's sentencing of the material authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres. They also highlight the importance to go after the intellectual authors.

US Congressman Hank Johnson tweeted: "I stand alongside Berta's family & the countless advocates & champions fighting on the front lines every day for the protections of Hondurans, and as a Member of Congress, I will continue standing with them to achieve a better, safer Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1202054826848186368>

<https://twitter.com/RepHankJohnson/status/1201898519096954880>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/temen-en-honduras-el-cierre-del-caso-de-berta-caceres-tras-condena-a-acusados.html>

Two young campesino land defenders, sixteen year old Celso Tejeda and Johny Martínez, from San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz, died in a traffic accident.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-lamenta-la-perdida-de-jovenes-defensores-de-la-tierra-en-la-paz/>

"On November 3, Prosecutor's Office for Ethnicity issued a tax injunction in relation to the La Ensenada hydroelectric plant, which the families of Marcelino Ponce's heirs have been trying to build for many years on the Cuyamel River, in the Garífuna community of Sambo Creek. It took the prosecutor's office nine years to issue the tax injunction against the former vice minister of the former Secretariat of Natural Resources (SERNA), Sr. Norman Gilberto Ochoa Henríquez, who issued the environmental license for the project within 40 days, without a prior consultation of the Sambo Creek community. (...) Although the La Ensenada hydroelectric dam was not built, the process of auctioning the Cuyamel River Basin continued its course, varying the objective. The hydroelectric plant was converted into a 70 megawatt thermoelectric plant based on bunker C, which was installed without an environmental license between two protected areas. (...) The absence in Honduras of environmental audits by the State, and the sinister handing out of licenses,



has generated disastrous results for the environment and the communities that protect them, who are processed, persecuted and even murdered."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/12/03/el-rio-cuyamel-piratas-de-las-termicas-y-el-derecho-a-la-consulta-previa/>

Giorgio Trucchi interviewed COFADEH's general coordinator Bertha Oliva on the 37th anniversary of COFADEH last Saturday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nadie-pudo-parar-la-busqueda-de-verdad-y-la-exigencia-de-justicia/>

JOH's presidential advisor Ebal Díaz got into a Twitter feud with the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Gabriela Castellanos.

But Díaz may very well try to divert attention from new accusations against him - he was registered as the secretary of the NGO FUNDEIH, which played a crucial part in draining off public funds in a corruption case investigated by the MACCIH and UFECIC. ConfidentialHN presents Díaz as a man with a lot of knowledge on the JOH regime and its shady dealings. "Consequently, Díaz Lupián has a lot of information that could compromise his partner Juan Orlando Hernández as head of the criminal organization and that confirms the investigations carried out by both media outlets on how multimillion dollar amounts of money were stolen that helped the nationalist leader win the first electoral process and become one of the most powerful men in Honduras."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3641-cna-responde-a-ebal-los-diaz-estan-contados>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1339338-466/pleito-ebal-diaz-honduras-cna-twitter>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ebal-diaz-fungio-como-secretario-de-oenege-de-joh-y-ana-rosalinda-que-dreno-dinero-publico/>

El Libertador printed a helpful analysis by Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle on the state of the National Party

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3642-analisis-el-partido-nacional-en-degradacion-agonica>

Salvador Nasralla, meanwhile, announced that the opposition is not dormant but rather preparing the a national strike.

<https://criterio.hn/la-oposicion-no-esta-dormida-salvador-nasralla/>

"Since 2003, Honduras has undergone a process of re-militarization of society and the State that deepened with the coup d'état. The justification was the fight against violence and criminality, but the real objective was and is for the military to support a narco-dictatorial political project represented by Juan Orlando Hernandez. In exchange, the Armed Forces, especially its leadership, receive impunity for corruption and human rights violations committed, a carte blanche to control

without accountability large portions of the public budget and greater control over the institutionality of the State. (...) The increase in violence indicates that the militarization of public security is not the answer, on the contrary, it only deepens authoritarianism, human rights violations, corruption and impunity. It is necessary to understand that violence is associated with various factors of social, economic, cultural and political inequality, which will continue to deepen if they are not addressed with public policies that place human dignity at the center."

And on this topic, the head of the Armed Forces offers the joke of the month: During the 40 years he has been in the Armed Forces, never has there been any political interference...

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-espejismo-de-la-militarizacion-y-la-violencia/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3639-honduras-la-hora-del-general-y-la-cancion-desesperada-de-juan>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nunca-ha-habido-injerencia-de-la-clase-politica-en-las-ffaa-defiende-general-ponce-fonseca.html>

The head of the Criminal Justice Observatory at the MACCIH, Cecilia Cortés, will leave her position by the end of the year.

CESPAD published a synthesis on the expectations by the public of the work of the MACCIH, its successes and its weaknesses, and the obstacles in its way.

<https://tiempo.hn/jefa-maccih-se-va-me-hubiera-encantado-llegar-mas-lejos/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/02/analisis-castigos-a-altos-funcionarios-involucrados-en-actos-de-corrupcion-la-mayor-expectativa-sobre-la-maccih/>

A bipartisan letter from US congressmen demand the extension of the MACCIH.

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/2019/12/bipartisan-house-leaders-call-for-extension-of-honduras-anti-corruption-commission>

<https://criterio.hn/lideres-de-la-camara-de-representantes-de-ee-uu-piden-la-extension-de-la-maccih/>

Trial was set for March 2-13, 2020 against 14 former IHSS board members.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/148-noviembre2019/5199-a-juicio-exdirectivos-del-ihss-por-millonarias-trasferencias-irregulares>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/exdirectivos-del-ihss-a-juicio-en-marzo-de-2020-por-millonaria-transferencia-irregular.html>

The MP demanded to go to trial in the case of the former mayor of Tegucigalpa and the former secretary for Public Works, Miguel Pastor. The case is part of the Narcopolítica case by the MACCIH and UFECIC.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-elevar-a-juicio-oral-causa-penal-contramiguel-pastor-y-complices-por-narcopolitica/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/narcopolitica-a-juicio-oral-y-publico.html>

Criterio published new information on the corruption at the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/ente-de-pensiones-de-periodistas-compra-terreno-sobrevalorado-en-casi-1-3-millones/>

At least three inmates died in a prison "riot" at the youth detention center Renaciendo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-muertos-y-varios-heridos-deja-reyerta-en-carcel-de-menores-renaciendo/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1339447-410/-muertos-amotinamiento-centro-menores-renacer-tegucigalpa>

Congress' Special Multi-Party Commission decided that the small parties won't be present at the vote-counting tables (Mesas Electorales Receptoras (MER)) anymore. In the past, they trafficked their positions at the table to larger parties, mostly the National Party, which then controlled the outcome of the table.

Some smaller parties have seen their legal status cancelled, but they appealed the decision.

<http://elpulso.hn/mel-de-acuerdo-con-las-alianzas/>

<http://elpulso.hn/partidos-pequenos-en-el-blanco/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (BID) will work with Honduras on a security scheme to confront climate change.

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-esquema-de-seguro-para-que-honduras-enfrente-el-cambio-climatico-es-analizado-por-el-bid/>

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<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202044631166443520>

04/12/19

Honduras Daily: Campesinos; Zacate Grande; Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; Militarization - Children; Journalists - IACHR; Libre; UN - Youth; Corruption - NGOs, CNA, La Tigra; Electoral Reforms; MACCIH; UFECIC; Penitentiary System; and the Honduran Role Model?

A third young campesino land defender died yesterday of the consequences of the traffic accident (see yesterday's e-mail): Edilson Fúnez, he was 19-years old.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/fallece-tercer-defensor-de-la-tierra-victima-de-accidente/>

Inhabitants from Zacate Grande denounced that during a protest this December 4, on the road to Coyolito, in the department of Valle, members of the Military Police came to attack them while peacefully protesting for their land. Among those attacked were two local HRDs and social communicators, Gerardo Aguilar and Roxana Corrales. The Military Police agents tried to take away their equipment. This took place one week after the most recent act of criminalization against three defenders from Zacate Grande.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2633-gobierno-de-joh-reintala-el-terror-policia-militar-agrede-a-manifestantes-de-la-comunidad-de-zacate-grande>

Monday's sentencing of the material authors of the assassination of Berta Cáceres continues to be accompanied by international statement. Three US Congresswo/men, all supporting the Berta Cáceres Act calling for the suspension of U.S. funding to the Republic of Honduras for its police and military operations, Hank Johnson, Jan Schakowsky and Mark Pocan, issued the following statement: "While these sentences are a step in the right direction, it's only a first, small step. Although the killers who pulled the trigger on that fateful day in March 2016 may be facing a measure of justice, those who hired these hitmen and are the true architects of Berta's murder, are still free. In its ruling, the Court noted the participation of executives and directors of the DESA company in the planning and financing of her murder. Today, we recognize progress in the pursuit of justice for Berta but stand strong with her family and friends in seeking true justice. True justice includes trial and punishment of all those responsible for her murder, including the executives of the company building the dam, DESA, who were the masterminds and financiers of the plot."

EU parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo also calls for the investigation and prosecution of the intellectual authors and denounces the widespread impunity in Honduras.

The EU High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles welcomes Monday's sentencing.

Radio Progreso dedicates its daily column to the case. "The men who shot Berta Cáceres are identified, prosecuted and sentenced. The intellectual authors of the crime are unpunished, and are within reach of justice if it wants to act. The investigation must continue among DESA's highest shareholders. (...) As long as the power structures that killed Berta remain intact, women will continue to be threatened. Berta's path is a frontal struggle against patriarchy, and from that conviction her spirit calls for a tenacious struggle to break with the impunity that protects intellectual killers. The conviction of the material murderers is a step forward. But from the perspective of the men of power, it is a mirage. It makes us believe that justice has already been done."

<https://hankjohnson.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-johnson-schakowsky-pocan-issue-statement-sentencing-bertha-c-ceres-s>

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1202129326730285057>

[https://twitter.com/eu\\_eeas/status/1202186568401870848](https://twitter.com/eu_eeas/status/1202186568401870848)

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/un-paso-falta-la-macolla-intelectual/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-impunidad-no-termina-con-la-sentencia-familia-de-berta-caceres/>

OACNUDH recognizes the work of OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda for defending the rights of the Garífuna people, but also for fighting against the human rights violations suffered by the Honduran people in general. OACNUDH also mentions the favorable court rulings of the Inter-American Human Rights System in the case of Triunfo de la Cruz and Punta Pierda, rulings which remain mostly unaddressed by the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202347779869282305>

Even though media coverage has decreased after the initial shock about the militarization program for children, Guardians of the Fatherland, the program continues. ContraCorriente highlights the religious aspect of the program and how it seems to be the materialization of "God and Fatherland". "In the last 20 years, Nationalist governments have promoted the incursion of the Armed Forces in the management of public security, first as a deterrent to criminality and, over the years, in tasks of attacking organized crime and preventing violence in conflictive neighborhoods. From seeing them guarding public buses, we went on to see them in tasks such as the civic and ethical formation of children. In 2010, these actions were formalized through a program called Guardians of the Fatherland, in which for 4 years they took the children from the schools to the battalions to give them civic and religious classes. From 2014 to 2019 the program has had some changes and now, through civil liaisons, Guardians of the Fatherland operates in public schools nationwide. Over 17 years, the program has covered approximately 12% of the Honduran child population. Of the civil society bodies that accompany the program most are the churches. It is worth mentioning that the Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras is one of its main partners."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/12/04/guardianes-de-la-patria-la-huella-militar-y-religiosa-en-la-ninez-de-un-pais-violento/>

The IACHR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression condemns the murder of journalist José Arita which took place on November 25.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1319-relatoria-especial-condena-asesinato-de-periodista-jose-arita-en-honduras-e-insta-a-investigar-relacion-con-su-actividad-periodistica>

Deputy Libre congressman Alonso Rubí received death threats by employees of Congress.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/diputado-suplente-de-libre-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte-tras-dar-declaraciones-en-el-cn/>

OACNUDH is portraying young HRDs. Marcela Arias: "accompanying women victims of violence

is instructive and painful because we see how women victims of whom no one speaks are excluded and discriminated against."

Ariel Diaz: "An extremely serious cultural-structural obstacle for young #DDHH defenders is adult centrism itself that goes hand in hand with machismo, androcentrism and misogynist practices."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202266936912097282>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202265413784154112>

In a press release, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces the "systematic attacks" for its fight against corruption by the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1202303281864814592>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-joh-se-siente-perseguido-por-el-cna/>

The Supreme Audit Tribunal (TSC) found irregularities in the books of NGOs managing state funds from the disputed Departmental Fund.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1339799-410/investigacion-oenegs-manejaron-fondos-millonarios-honduras>

Libre congressman Jorge Cálix presented a bill calling for an investigation into the disputed housing project in the La Tigra National Park which led to widespread protests and police repression some weeks ago.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-el-limbo-proyecto-bosques-de-santa-maria/>

El Pulso published an overview of the debate about the electoral reforms going back to the recommendations by the EU from 2013 which have not yet been implemented.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-apuesta-es-por-nuevas-reformas-electorales-para-2021/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva presents the MACCIH as being married with the executive power. According to him, if they want to stay married, he will decide about this...

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana Mercado called this statement "arrogant" and highlights the lack of knowledge about this important issue by Oliva. The MACCIH can continue by a simple yes by JOH.

<https://radiohrn.hn/mauricio-oliva-la-maccih-es-un-matrimonio-con-el-poder-ejecutivo-el-cn-solo-santifica/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/continuidad-de-la-maccih-depende-de-matrimonio-con-el-poder-ejecutivo-oliva.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/de-prepotente-califica-edmundo-orellana-a-mauricio-oliva-sobre-santificar->

[convenio-con-la-maccih/](#)

The MACCIH's national counterpart UFECIC, meanwhile, announced new investigations and its head, Javier Santos, emphasized its independent work from the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. Santos also criticized a Honduran specialty that they have to await investigations by the TSC before taking up their own which can take years.

<https://tiempo.hn/ufecic-lineas-investigacion-por-actos-corrupcion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/en-ninguna-parte-del-mundo-el-mp-investiga-despues-del-tsc-dice-jefe-de-ufecic.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ufecic-calla-sobre-posibles-requerimientos-contr-el-jefe-del-ejecutivo-nacionalista/>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) announced to study the reports on 21'000 inmates after the new Penal Code comes into force to see if the inmates with minor crimes could be released.

<https://tiempo.hn/inp-reos-podrian-salir-libre-hasta-entrada-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

"Was the 2009 coup d'état a laboratory test of what has happened since then in Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia?"

<https://criterio.hn/la-historia-tiende-a-reproducirse-por-ciclos-mas-que-por-imitaciones-leticia-salomon/>

05/12/19

Honduras Daily; Tolupanes; Berta - Trial; COFADEH; Violence against Women - WHRDs; HRDs - Reitoca, Youth; US; MACCIH - CICIG; Corruption - Airport; Migration - US; Poverty; Economy; Penitentiary System; and Domestic Workers

Two Tolupán defenders, Randy Magdiel Rivera Ávila and Juan Ángel Santos, were detained on Wednesday in San Francisco Locomapa, Yoro, and held for 27 hours. "They were arrested for a complaint filed by Oscar Filander Armijo Uclés, former general of the Armed Forces and a landowner, without a warrant or search warrant."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2634-tras-27-horas-detenidos-tolupanes-son-llevados-a-audiencia-en-juzgados-de-yoro>

Various national, regional and international human rights organizations organized in Observation Mission of the Berta Cáceres Case published a join press release emphasizing the ongoing debt of the Honduran State for the assassination of Berta. "From the Mission we continue observing the judicial processes linked to the murder of Berta Cáceres and we note with grave concern that, to date, only the general manager of DESA, David Castillo, has been investigated as a intellectual author of the crime and his process has been characterized by a series of delays, as well as smear

campaigns, threats and attacks against COPINH and the Lenca people during the legal process. In this regard, we recall that impunity will continue to exist until progress is made in the identification, trial and punishment of all persons involved in the intellectual authorship of the facts. At the same time, as indicated by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), we urge the authorities to initiate the corresponding process in order to revoke the concession of the Gualcarque River, which remains a source of risk to the life and integrity of the Lenca people and the COPINH communities."

<https://www.cejil.org/es/estado-honduras-sigue-deuda-asesinato-berta-caceres>

OACNUDH congratulates COFADEH for its 37th anniversary and highlights its "unrelenting struggle for the victims of forced detention and their loved ones".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202700330804350977>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/un-hogar-contra-el-olvido/>

What started in Childe has found its way to Honduras, a protest against violence against women in the form of a public intervention.

[https://twitter.com/JASS\\_Meso/status/1202760478126202880](https://twitter.com/JASS_Meso/status/1202760478126202880)

<https://criterio.hn/ola-feminista-de-lastesis-llega-a-honduras/>

"The Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras) reported that according to preliminary data from its registry, in 2018, 1747 aggressions against women human rights defenders El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua were recorded, an increase over previous years; in 2017, 1558 aggressions were recorded, and by 2016, 1462. The IM-Defensoras detected that for the period 2017-2018, the defenders of land, territory and the environment continue to be the most attacked (1,014), followed by those who defend the right to truth, justice and reparation (666)."

<https://otrosmundoschiapas.org/en-tiempos-convulsos-las-defensoras-mesoamericanas-seguimos-sembrando-semillas-de-cambio-29n-dia-internacional-de-las-mujeres-defensoras/>

Indigenous Lenca defenders from Reitoca held a protest rally denouncing their judicial persecution and receiving death threats for resting the imposition of a hydroelectric project.

<https://www.hispanTV.com/noticias/honduras/443784/ambientalistas-horrenda-persecucion-asesinato>

OACNUDH continues its video series on young human rights defenders from Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202600033675366400>

The Latin American Working Group (LAWG) published a short brief on the situation in Honduras



and Guatemala with policy recommendations for the US. "In Guatemala and Honduras, corrupt officials in executive branches and legislatures are putting into place laws and policies to limit oversight and action by judicial authorities, human rights defenders, civil society activists, and journalists to expose and protest abuses, while sweeping away obstacles to their own corruption. As the situation deteriorates rapidly, the White House focus on migration is almost exclusively driving U.S. government diplomacy towards the two countries, as well as towards El Salvador."

<https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/LAWGEF-Guatemala-Honduras-memo-December-2019.pdf>

Yesterday morning, the Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Michael G. Kozak, tweeted: "Honduras's leaders know that corruption has no place in Honduras— that's why they invited @OEA\_MACCIH in to work w prosecutors. Now is the time to renew the mandate. No one is above the law."

Just hours later, the Honduran Congress, i.e. the Nationalist majority and its allies, once more showed that they are above the law by announcing their own special commission to evaluate the MACCIH, days before the OAS is supposed to present their evaluation and just six weeks before the end of its mandate.

The OAS announced to present its evaluation on Monday.

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1202588930476007425>

[https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1202667648145854464](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1202667648145854464)

<https://criterio.hn/con-partidos-afines-congreso-nacional-investigara-actuaciones-de-la-maccih/>

<https://tiempo.hn/controversia-diputados-evaluaran-maccih-decide-congreso-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-oea-presentara-informe-evaluativo-el-proximo-lunes/>

CESPAD and the Lawyers without Borders organized a forum on the MACCIH and CICIG around the question of the effectiveness of their fight against corruption. "According to the analyst, civil society should concentrate on renewing the mandate of the MACCIH and, once it is achieved, promote legislative reforms that facilitate the work in the fight against corruption."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/05/maccih-y-cicig-que-tan-efectivas-han-sido-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/maccih-y-cicig-que-tan-efectivas-han-sido-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion/>

Congress gave the administration and operation of the Toncontín airport to Emco S.A. de C.V. without a bidding process. Emco already has the concession for the new Palmerola airport and its president is Lenir Pérez, the son-in-law of the deceased palm oil magnate Miguel Facussé.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1340041-410/sin-licitacion-congreso-cede-emco-operacion-erpuerto-toncontin-honduras>

"In the Forced Return to Danger report, LAWG and other civil society organizations outline the disturbing impacts of the agreements on asylum seekers' protection and well-being, and the likelihood that they will violate U.S. and international refugee law. The memo highlights the ways in which the agreements completely ignore the distinct but concerning realities that fuel forced migration and displacement of thousands of individuals from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador."

By now, at least four migrants, among them two Hondurans, have been deported to Guatemala as part of the Third Safe Country agreement.

Meanwhile in Honduras, a legal challenge against the agreement with the US was presented yesterday.

<https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/Forced-Return-to-Danger-STC-Civil-Society-Memo-12.4.19.pdf>

<http://www.prensacomunitaria.org/en-silencio-guatemala-recibe-3-migrantes-centroamericanos-en-el-marco-del-tercer-pais-seguro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1339966-466/presentan-recurso-contra-acuerdo-de-tercer-pais-seguro-en-honduras>

Some Hondurans use up some 40% from the minimum wage for paying the electricity bill. Even worse, new price rises are expected for January.

<http://elpulso.hn/advierten-de-aumento-en-la-factura-de-la-enee-en-enero/>

Javier Suazo looks back at the unsuccessful history of the privatizing body Coalianza in Honduras, which will be closed soon. The current director of the business lobby COHEP, Armando Urtecho, summarized it as follows: "The only country where the Public-Private Alliance (PPP) failed was in Honduras...there is only one road that was not made by them, but by the United States." Coalianza was a political body from the start controlled by Nationalist politicians.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/203673>

At least 11 inmates were murdered this year, compared to four in 2018.

The MACCIH had recently presented recommendations to Congress to improve the Honduran penitentiary system, among them the demilitarization of the prisons.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1339986-466/homicidios-carceles-honduras>

<https://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/desmilitarizar-y-ajustar-seguridad-vital-en-reforma-penitenciaria-maccih.html>

"98% of domestic work is carried out by migrant and indigenous women."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-98-del-trabajo-domestico-es-ejercido-por-mujeres-migrantes-e>

[indigenas/](#)

06/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking, Militarization; Berta - Impunity; Extractivism; UN; HRDs; MACCIH - Congress, EU; Corruption - Narcopolítica, US; Migration; and Honduras' Youth

Univision published the newest investigation by David C Adams and Jeff Ernst in the drug trafficking connection of the JOH regime focusing in detail on the murder of Nery López Sanabria a.k.a. Magdaleno Meza Funez in a Honduran prison. "The victim, Nery López Sanabria, was a 37-year-old drug trafficker whose ledgers were used in a New York trial a few days earlier to convict Juan Antonio 'Tony' Hernández, a younger brother of Honduras's president, on drugs and weapons charges. (...) López never testified in the trial as he was jailed in Honduras. However, he had been in discussions with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency for several months prior to his murder, according to four lawyers familiar with his efforts to cooperate with the U.S. officials. Some of those lawyers now wonder aloud if his cooperation with the DEA – and high-level political connections - may have gotten him killed. (...) But, despite losing López, the possible case against President Hernández keeps building, experts say. Several alleged co-conspirators remain at large, whole other alleged major traffickers have been busted in recent weeks."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/what-did-nerly-know-a-prison-murder-in-honduras-deepens-suspicions-of-government-involvement-in-drug-trafficking>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1203152153470210048>

"The head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Honduras, René Orlando Ponce Fonseca, justified the re-election of President Juan Orlando Hernández, arguing that the majority of the population approved it, violating with this statement given to a radio station, the principle of being apolitical and non belligerency of the armed forces a few days before his term ends." The JOH regime returns the favor with ever increasing defense and security spending. FOSDEH warns that this consumes up important parts of the 2020 budget. The newest acquisition, a \$56 million patrol boat, is currently on its way from Israel.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2636-jefe-de-estado-mayor-conjunto-de-las-ffaa-justifica-reeleccion-del-presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-se-hace-una-encuesta-la-mayoria-de-la-poblacion-diria-que-esta-de-acuerdo-con-la-reeleccion-jefe-castrense.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-advierte-que-gasto-publico-en-defensa-y-seguridad-consumiria-presupuesto-de-2020/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/navega-hacia-honduras-lujoso-patrullero-comprado-por-hernandez-a-israel/>

COPINH published an infographic highlighting the impunity in the Berta Cáceres case when it

comes to the intellectual authorship.

A petition was launched to call for investigation, prosecution and sentencing of the intellectual authors.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1202994830126792704>

<https://copinh.org/2019/12/peticion-online/>

Radio Progreso covers the path towards the declaration of a territory free of extractive industries in Tocoa which had a first conclusion on November 29 with the successful public town hall meeting.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/tocoa-la-lucha-contra-un-modelo-que-explota-desplaza-y-criminaliza/>

OACNUDH signed a memorandum of understanding with the Human Rights Secretariat which allows the former to give technical assessments to the latter.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1203017864455892992>

In its newest video presenting young human rights defenders, OACNUDH presented Aura Fernández from MADJ.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1202993486250881026>

The decision by the Nationalist-controlled Congress to form their own commission to evaluate the MACCIH caused widespread rejection. "For the congressman of Pinu, David Reyes, the appointment of the legislative commission to investigate the actions of the MACCIH is a gross maneuver and vulgarization of the issue, and he says that the more than 80 congresswo/men who have been singled out and accused in investigations of the UFECIC are showing signs of fear." The National Party, meanwhile, presents itself as someone fighting for transparency....

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/congreso-nacional-no-tiene-moral-para-investigar-a-la-maccih-segun-frente-parlamentario/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/abrir-el-libro-completo-de-la-corrupcion-pide-a-la-maccih-el-jefe-de-bancada-nacionalista.html>

"The EU and its Member States reiterate their support for the work done by the Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), which since its creation in 2016 at the invitation of the Honduran government, has been making a significant contribution to the prevention and fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras and to the strengthening of the Rule of Law in the country. The European Union and its Member States are among the most important donors to MACCIH. In January 2020 the mandate of MACCIH will expire. The EU calls on the Honduran government to renew the mandate in its entirety."

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/06/declaration-by-the-high->

[representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-extension-of-the-mandate-of-the-mission-to-support-the-fight-against-corruption-and-impunity-in-honduras-maccih/](#)

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ue-pide-a-honduras-que-renueve-la-maccih.html>

In the Narcopolítica corruption case, a court ordered alternative measures to imprisonment for the accused Marvin Aguilera Flores. His hearing will take place on December 16.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-presenta-ante-los-tribunales-el-ultimo-implicado-en-caso-narcopolitica.html>

The US praises the work of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla for fighting corruption.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1202976783106281475>

<https://tiempo.hn/embajada-eeuu-ratifica-apoyo-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla/>

"Honduras inaugurated this Friday the Migratory Statistical Center that will allow to establish a profile of its emigrants to formulate integral policies in the thematic and a Platform of Attention, with support of the International Organization for Migrations (OIM)."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1340187-410/honduras-centro-estadisticico-organizacion-internacional-de-migrantes>

"The network of institutions for the defence of the human rights of children in Honduras COIPRODEN, within the framework of 30 years of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, presented a report on the problems faced by children in the country."

<http://elpulso.hn/en-los-ultimos-20-anos-13042-ninos-y-ninas-han-sido-asesinados/>

08/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - US, Extradition, Militarization; FPIC; Journalists - Impunity; Corruption - IPP, Airport; Libre; Hydroelectricity; and Homage for Two Honduran Women

US president Trump praised JOH: "President Hernández is working with the United States very closely (...) and we are winning after years and years of losing. We are stopping drugs at a level that has never happened."

This does not square with the view of the rest of the world of the JOH regime as a narcogovernment or in the words of Alberto Arce, "Honduras is a narco-political poem".

At the same time, the US Department of State warned that "they will immediately suspend the entry visas of corrupt officials in Latin America. (...) The measure would be extended, for example, to the next of kin of the officials of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, who are involved in acts of corruption."

<https://twitter.com/dadams7308/status/1203532076148043776>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/palabras-de-trump-a-hernandez-son-reconocimiento-a-su-lucha-por-parte-de-un-amigo.html>

[https://www.eldiario.es/internacional/hace-falta-declarar-Honduras-narcoestado\\_0\\_840616907.html](https://www.eldiario.es/internacional/hace-falta-declarar-Honduras-narcoestado_0_840616907.html)

<https://anticorruptiondigest.com/2019/12/09/us-visa-crackdown-on-corrupt-latin-american-officials/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3645-ee-uu-no-mas-viajes-de-compras-ni-a-disney-para-lideres-corruptos-de-honduras>

There is some talk about new extradition requests by the US. The Nationalist leader Roberto Ramón Castillo says there are 8 requests for public officials of the JOH regime.

The press speaker of the police, Jair Meza, says there are 10 requests on which they are already working.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigente-nacionalista-advierte-que-ee-uu-tiene-listo-ocho-requerimientos-contra-funcionarios-hondurenos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-10-personas-son-pedidas-en-extradicion-por-ee-uu-quienes-son/>

The constitutional lawyer Juan Carlos Barrientos criticizes recent statements by the head of the Armed Forces René Ponce Fonseca regarding JOH's illegal reelection (see last e-mail).

<https://criterio.hn/al-jefe-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-se-le-salio-la-saya-cachureca-juan-barrientos/>

FOSDEH criticizes the 2020 budget and its focus on defense and security spending. "It seems as if Honduras is at war".

They presented five alerts regarding the budget: i) an ever increasing budget while the socioeconomic situation further deteriorates; ii) a budget which does not address the needs of the poor; iii) it violates the constitution when it comes to the under-funding of UNAH; iv) it further decreases access of information; and v) the budget for "financial services of the central administration" is worth 11'200 million Lempiras with no oversight.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2637-fosdeh-financieramente-parece-que-honduras-esta-en-guerra>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/12/se-aproxima-una-tormenta-o-sequia-perfecta-cinco-alertas-y-10-propuestas-al-presupuesto-2020/>

Two members of the Armed Forces are accused of sexual violence against a woman in Taipei, Taiwan.

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/acusan-a-dos-militares-hondurenos-de-agredir->

[sexualmente-a-una-mujer-en-taipei.html](http://sexualmente-a-una-mujer-en-taipei.html)

CESPAD published an analysis of the application of free, prior and informed consent in Honduras summarized as follows: "Between non-compliance with the Convention and a regulation that protects extractivist interests in Honduras".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/08/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-a-30-anos-de-la-ratificacion-del-convenio-169-de-la-oit-entre-el-incumplimiento-del-convenio-y-una-reglamentacion-que-resguarda-los-intereses-extractivistas-en-hondu/>

Six years ago, the social communicator Juan Carlos Argeñal was murdered. "For the family of the social communicator, today marks yet another year of absence and impunity. Time has passed and the State continues with the debt of justice since it covers up those responsible for the murder". Argeñal had uncovered a 40 million Lempiras corruption case at a regional hospital.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-ventanas-abiertas-en-el-caso-de-juan-carlos-argenal/>

Criterio denounces the impunity of the heads of the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) when it comes to the irregularities at the Social Security Fund for Journalists (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/escudo-de-impunidad-de-dirigentes-de-periodistas-avalado-por-el-poder-ejecutivo/>

El Libertador published additional information on the handover of the operation concession of the Toncontín airport to Emco by Congress. The act has been denounced as corruption. There are also irregularities around the concession for the Palmerola airport. Congress tries to shift the responsibility on the executive branch.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3644-empresarios-reclaman-ilegal-concesion-de-toncontin-y-palmerola>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-legislativo-no-aprobo-ampliacion-de-concesion-de-palmerola-sino-el-ejecutivo/>

Ana Rosa Baquedano, sister of Libre councilor of Catacamas, Olancho, Héctor Anibal Amador Baquedano, was shot dead inside her store. Just five months earlier, the mother amador Baquedano was found dead at her home.

<https://tiempo.hn/hermana-de-regidor-de-olancho-muere-luego-atacada-a-disparos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1340562-466/matan-a-disparos-a-hermana-del-regidor-de-catacamas-olancho>

After years of delay, the hydroelectric plant Patuca III may soon start its first tests.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1340693-410/patuca-iii-generacion-energ%C3%ADa-produccion>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/homenaje-a-dos-mujeres-hondurenas-universales/>

09/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; HR - HRDs - Impunity; MACCIH - US, Congress; Corruption - CNA; Penitentiary System; Transparency; and Better Journalism

After the successful trial against JOH's brother Tony Hernández, a possible key witness, Nery Orlando López Sanabria a.k.a. Magdaleno Meza Fúnez, was brutally murdered in a Honduran maximum-security prison. The assassination, filmed on video, is seen as a threat to all possible collaborators against the JOH regime. Already then, there were calls for the protection of the lawyers of Meza Fúnez. Yesterday, one of his lawyers, José Luis Pinto, was murdered...just one day after Univision published new information about the case (see yesterday's e-mail).

<https://criterio.hn/asesinan-a-abogado-defensor-de-magdaleno-meza/>

Graphic image: <https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-defensor-de-magdaleno-meza-en-la-zona-occidental-hondurena/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/acribillan-a-abogado-en-interior-de-cafeteria-en-copan.html>

Today is the International Human Rights Day. The main theme presented by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, is "Youth standing up for human rights".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1204168836494303232>

<https://oacnudh.hn/dia-de-los-derechos-humanos-10-de-diciembre-de-2019-declaracion-de-la-alta-comisionada-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-derechos-humanos-michelle-bachelet/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2638-senala-alta-comisionada-de-la-onu-las-juventudes-han-estado-muy-activas-en-este-ano-defendiendo-el-planeta-de-la-crisis-del-cambio-climatico>

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders presents the campaign "Together we defend".

<https://togetherwedefend.org/>

"Nearly 20 murders of human rights defenders mark a bloody 2019, with the complicity of those who are in charge of investigating these crimes, that to date there are no processes that lead the guilty to be tried and convicted. This was denounced by the Verifying Space of the National



Protection System [for HRDs] against the MP, demanding respect and protection for the exercise of human rights, since many times this work ends up in criminalization and jail." 200 complaints were filed at the mechanism which resulted in only 15 investigations.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1323-fiscalia-especial-de-proteccion-cierra-y-no-investiga-denuncias-de-agresiones-contra-defensores>

The human rights defender Pedro Amador from Ecumenical Action for Human Rights (AEDH) denounces a heat campaign against him by a Nationalist lawyer on social media.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2640-activista-y-abogado-del-partido-nacional-instrumentaliza-campana-de-odio-contra-el-defensor-de-los-ddhh-pedro-amador>

Yesterday was the International Day against Corruption and the US once more asked the renewal of the mandate for the MACCIH.

The same demand also comes from the Coalition for the Renewal of the MACCIH.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro highlights the important work of the MACCIH.

The head of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), meanwhile, publicly criticized the MACCIH yesterday claiming that a cooperation between them did not materialize.

Presidential advisor Marvin Ponce said that JOH and the foreign minister want to renew the mandate, but other groups inside the National Party don't.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/estados-unidos-pide-renovacion-maccih/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/09/coalicion-demanda-intercambio-de-notas-para-la-renovacion-del-mandato-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/coalicion-por-la-renovacion-de-la-maccih-emplaza-a-joh/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/almagro-defiende-accionar-de-la-maccih-y-alardea-con-sus-resultados.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/firmamos-un-convenio-con-la-maccih-pero-no-ha-existido-cooperacion-se-queja-magistrado-del-tsc.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-y-canciller-me-han-dicho-quieren-renovar-la-maccih-no-asi-otros-sectores-del-pn-marvin-ponce.html>

At the same time, the pressure on Congress raises, after the Nationalist-majority supported by its allies announced to create their own evaluation commission. The representative of the Pinu Party already left the commission again and the Liberal Party asks the same from its members.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/tomas-ramirez-se-retira-de-la-comision-que-investiga-actuaciones-de-la-maccih.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/tomas-ramirez-se-retira-de-la->

[comision-que-investiga-actuaciones-de-la-maccih.html](http://comision-que-investiga-actuaciones-de-la-maccih.html)

MADJ: "Today is the international day against corruption and many of us ask ourselves, why are these days commemorated if the evil that we are trying to eliminate is becoming more and more prevalent in our societies? (...) Honduran society has waited with infinite patience for the progress of investigations and trials of government corruption cases, with greater force since the political appearance of the UFEVIC. With a handful of high-ranking officials behind bars, several former public officials on the run and an infinite number of open files without investigative advances, prosecutors and judges are entangled in the web of access to structured justice from historical corruption and the narco-state. (...) It is clear that corruption is the basis of the capitalist, fundamentalist and conservative economic model; therefore, the anti-corruption policies adopted by international agreements are only an incentive in the face of the profound political and social crisis linked to drug trafficking and the narco-state. It is one of the pillars that sustains the State and, in the particular case of Honduras, the criminal structure into which they have turned the state gear directed by not only corrupt officials but also criminals who are internationally recognized and pointed out as drug trafficking professionals. Due to the conditions of Honduras, the fight against corruption obligatorily goes through the urgent and frontal dismantling of the structure of the National Narco Party, its tentacles in each State institution, its criminal ways of operating, to clean up the current scenario of those who are the provocateurs and who sustain the various deep crises of the country in which the one caused by institutionalized corruption is only one of these. And for this, it must be clearly assumed beyond the role of international bodies, political lobbies, pacts and inter-party negotiations."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/12/09/editorial-la-corrupcion-la-lucha-del-gato-y-del-raton/>

The National Anti Corruption Council (CNA) uncovered a new case involving the former head of the National Electric Energy Company (ENNE), the Nationalist Jesús "Cuqui" Mejía. They accused him of defrauding ENEE of 12 million Lempiras between 2016-2019. These revelations are especially important as Hondurans suffer from some of the highest electricity prices in the region.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3651-denuncian-a-cuqui-mejia-por-planillas-fantasma-en-la-enee>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-jesus-mejia-creo-planillas-fantasmas-enee-dreno-l-11-millones/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1204154730576039937>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1204136447676231685>

OACNUDH expressed grave concern about the violent death of four inmates in the youth detention center Renaciendo last week (see previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1204154707834474496>

For 2020, the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) wants to work on a revision of the

disputed Secrecy Law.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3649-comisionados-de-informacion-publica-van-por-ley-de-secretos>

"For several years now, journalism and freedom of expression have been more and more under threat than ever, especially for those communicators and journalists who make alternative, anti-system communication and who swim against the current with proposals for the construction of a more just society. Of course, the informative and alternative communication bets produce more threats than satisfactions because they disrupt all the great interests that the political and business classes have over a nation as small and impoverished as that of Honduras. (...) We urge colleagues in Honduran journalism and communicators not to be sold or bought but to grow in solidarity and identity with our profession that leads us to be worthy of recognition based on independence, freedom of expression, respect, dignity and journalistic ethics, and above all to defend the Freedom of Expression, the free exercise of journalism and the operation of the free press in the country."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-dificil-tarea-de-hacer-periodismo-alternativo/>

10/12/19

Honduras Daily: Corruption - US; MACCIH - US JOH - Drug Trafficking; HRDs - ADEPZA; TIGRES; Armed Forces; Extraditions; Penitentiary System; Debt; BID; and 20 Extinguished Lights in Dark Times

Today, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission at the US Congress will hold a hearing on human rights and corruption in Honduras. "Witnesses will examine the overall human rights situation in Honduras, including the causes of rights abuses and the relationship between human rights violations and corruption, and will offer recommendations for congressional action."

<https://humanrightscommission.house.gov/events/hearings/human-rights-and-corruption-honduras>

The JOH regime reacted to the call from the US to renew the mandate of the MACCIH reiterating that "the sovereign government of Honduras (...) will base its decision on the results of the international evaluation".

The Nationalist-controlled Congress first announced to create their own evaluation commission (see previous e-mails) and yesterday officially recommended to get rid of the MACCIH.

70 congresswo/men voted in favor, 52 against, 4 did not vote and 1 abstained. "The vote came after a special commission, made up of seven deputies from the governing party, presented a report arguing that the agreement reached with the OAS should not be ratified because it violates the independence of the controlling, investigative and judicial bodies."

<https://twitter.com/CMendozaHN/status/1204493522189115392>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/extension-de-la-maccih-se-basara-en-resultados-de-la-evaluacion-internacional-cancilleria-hondurena.html>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1204618235431280640>

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-oficialistas-votan-para-que-el-convenio-de-la-maccih-no-sea-ratificado/>

Univision published a 2min-video on the murder of Nery Orlando López Sanabria a.k.a. Magdalena Meza, and who may be behind it.

On Monday, one of the lawyers of Meza was murdered as well (see yesterday's e-mail). His second lawyer now fears for his life.

<https://www.univision.com/shows/noticiero-univision/quien-ordeno-el-asesinato-de-nery-lopez-socio-del-hermano-del-presidente-hondureno-video?hootPostID=37913ab30e2dfc80866d8f55d5ea00c>

<https://confidencialhn.com/meza-revelo-que-investigador-privado-lo-presiono-para-que-ayudara-a-tony-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/apoderado-legal-de-magdaleno-meza-denuncia-que-teme-por-su-viva-tras-muerte-de-colega/>

ConexiHon informs about the most recent attack against human rights defenders from Zacate Grande (see also previous e-mail).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1327-defensores-denuncian-violaciones-a-los-ddhh-que-sufrieron-miembros-de-adepza>

The TIGRES agent who where let go from their job sued the Honduran State for 80 million Lempiras.

<https://tiempo.hn/agentes-tigres-destituidos-demandan-estado-l-80-millones/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/agentes-tigres-despedidos-interponen-demanda-por-mas-de-l-80-millones-contra-el-estado.html>

Tito Livio Moreno Coello was announced as the new head of the Armed Forces.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-se-enrumba-a-su-dictadura-nombra-a-tito-moreno-como-jefe-de-ffaa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1341213-466/tito-livio-moreno-coello-es-el-nuevo-jefe-del-estado-mayor-conjunto>

There are 36 open extradition requests in Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1341218-410/extraditables-36-ordenes-captura-pendientes-ejecutar-honduras>

There was a riot in the Támara prison after the announcement to transfer 42 inmates.

<https://tiempo.hn/mcneil-habra-mas-traslados-reos-carceles-de-maxima-seguridad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fusina-niega-trifulca-durante-traslado-de-42-reos-al-penal-de-minima-seguridad-de-el-porvenir/>

The Honduran external public and private debt rose by 3.9% and reached 29.2% of GDP.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/la-deuda-de-honduras-crece-3-9-y-suma-8-979-millones-en-tercer-trimestre.html>

JOH signed a loan with the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) to build a trauma hospital.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/hernandez-sanciona-decreto-de-prestamo-con-el-bid-para-construccion-de-hospital-en-la-capital.html>

"With the murder of 20 human rights defenders and the imprisonment of eight environmentalists for defending the right to water, Honduras commemorates the International Human Rights Day - December 10 - a situation that, together with the consequences of drug trafficking and organized crime, places the population in a state of "intensive care," according to experts in the field."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-honduras-20-defensores-fueron-asesinados-en-2019/>

11/12/19

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; US; Militarization; COPINH; Journalists; MACCIH; Corruption - Lobo, IHSS; Inequality; Lawyers; Penal Code; and Machismo Murders

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the November 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/2019/12/1911\\_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/1911_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf)

Yesterday, an important hearing on Honduras, human rights and corruption took place in Congress at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in the presence of the two co-chairs Republican congressman Christopher Smith and Democratic congressman James McGovern. The whole hearing can be seen on the official homepage of the commission (see first link). There were various important things said worth highlighting. Republican congressman Smith spoke of Honduras as a "country plagued by political corruption" and he said the focus is on "the action of the administration of Juan Orlando Hernández, including up to the highest levels". On a recent IACHR visit to Honduras, Democratic congressman

James P. McGovern said that "I think it is fair to say that the Commission would not go into a country unless there was deep deep concern about what was happening in that country". He spoke of corruption in Honduras as "pervasive, systematic, baked into the operating system".

Next to the importance of the MACCIH and the renewal of its mandate, various witness highlighted the importance work of OACNUDH in a country where human rights defenders are the targets of threats, harassment and worse. "The United States should also strongly support the office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in Honduras with its current leadership which plays a crucial role in documenting the abuses and providing technical support".

Eddy Tábor, director of C-Libre, called on the reconsideration of security and military assistance by the US highlighting the use of state security forces to violently repress peaceful protests up to right out assassinating them and to intimidate and harass human rights defenders. Asked by congressman McGovern in which other cases apart from the Berta Cáceres case, the US Congress should to more, the cases of Guapinol, Reitoca, Los Prados and the situation in the Bajo Aguán and the Atlántida region, where various hydroelectric projects are imposed, where mentioned as well as the situation of the political prisoners.

McGovern also criticized the too narrow approach of the US to Central America, focused on migration and drugs and called for a more holistic approach. Much more was said and it is worthwhile to listen to the complete hearing.

<https://humanrightscommission.house.gov/events/hearings/human-rights-and-corruption-honduras>

<https://www.lawg.org/comunicado-de-prensa-lawg-publica-informe-y-ofrece-testimonio-ante-el-congreso-de-los-estados-unidos-sobre-la-corrupcion-y-las-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

The role of the Armed Forces was mentioned on various occasion in the hearing (see above) and if to highlight their problematic role, the outgoing head René Orlando Ponce Fonseca reiterated his statements about the presidential reelection (see previous e-mail).

The newly appointed head, Tito Livio Moreno Coello, was the former general commander of the Military Police and his nomination is seen as a further strengthening of the JOH regime.

<https://tiempo.hn/rene-ponce-hable-con-la-verdad-todos-avalardon-la-reeleccion-1/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nuevo-jefe-ffaa-apoyamos-al-actual-presidente/>

Laura Zúniga Cáceres participated yesterday in the Social Climate Forum in Madrid to talk about the struggle by the Lenca people to defend Mother Earth.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1204782622251081730>

Journalist Lidieth Díaz denounces that the life of her husband and director of Radio Globo, David Romero Ellner is more than ever in danger. Romero Ellner has been imprisoned since March after being convicted of defamation. Lidieth Díaz denounces that there is a plan in place to have him murdered.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3652-la-vida-de-david-hoy-mas-que->

[nunca-esta-en-riesgo-lidieth-diaz](#)

<https://tiempo.hn/lidieth-diaz-denuncia-hostigamiento-mcneil-contradavid-romero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/interponen-denuncia-contramcneil-en-la-defensoria-del-pueblo-por-hostigamiento-contradavid-romero/>

On Tuesday, the Nationalist majority of Congress voted against the renewal of the MACCIH's mandate (see yesterday's e-mail). The same day, the very recently created congressional commission to evaluate the MACCIH (see last week), already handed in their report (first link below).

Nevertheless, this commission lacks the legal and ethical power to conduct research and make recommendations regarding the mandate of the MACCIH according to lawyer and congresswoman Fátima Mena.

The Liberal Party rejected the report.

In a joint press release, Pinu and Libre demanded the renewal of the mandate.

The recently created Platform of Media Outlets against Corruption and Impunity condemned the actions by Congress. It highlighted the lack of political will to confront corruption and impunity. JOH now says that he will decide in January.

<http://elpulso.hn/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Informe-Maccih-del-CN-convertido.pdf>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-congreso-nacional-carece-de-moral-para-referirse-a-la-maccih-frente-parlamentario/>

<https://criterio.hn/liberales-condenan-y-rechazan-informe-del-congreso-nacional-sobre-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-opositores-exigen-la-renovacion-del-convenio-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/plataforma-de-medios-condena-actuacion-del-congreso-nacional-respecto-a-la-maccih/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nos-vemos-en-enero-joh-se-plegaria-a-propuestas-de-no-renovar-convenio-de-la-maccih/>

The MACCIH and UFECIC request the seizure of goods belonging to the brother of former president Pepe Lobo, Ramón Lobo Sosa, as part of the Petty Cash of the Brother corruption case.

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-018.Equipo-integrado-MACCIH-UFECIC-solicita-privacion-definitiva-de-bienes-de-origen-il%C3%ADcito-en-Caso-Caja-Chica-del-Hermano.pdf>

In the IHSS corruption case, a new trial was set for February against its former director Mario Zelaya.

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1204835530741026817](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1204835530741026817)

"For almost a decade, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has positioned equality as the foundation of development. Today we see once again the urgency of making progress in the construction of Welfare States, based on rights and equality, that grant their citizens access to comprehensive and universal systems of social protection and to essential public goods, such as health and quality education, housing and transport. The call is to build social pacts for equality," said Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the regional organization, during the launch of the Social Panorama of Latin America 2019.

<https://criterio.hn/la-region-ha-subestimado-la-desigualdad-cepal/>

The National Lawyers Association (CAH) denounces the "zero effectiveness" in investigating the assassinations of lawyers.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/colegio-de-abogados-condena-poca-politica-efectiva-de-investigacion-en-muerte-de-profesionales-del-derecho.html>

The CNA handed in over 12'000 signatures against the coming into force of the new Penal Code.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1341366-466/cna-entrega-iniciativa-para-que-no-entre-en-vigencia-el-codigo-penal>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-entrega-al-cn-iniciativa-con-mas-12-mil-firmas-contra-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal.html>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ser-macho-mata/>

12/12/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; OFRANEH; MACCIH; HRDs; Drug Trafficking - US; Militarization; Electoral Reforms; Corruption - La Ceiba, Airports, Journalists; Migration - US; Climate Change; and Alice in Corruption Land

The German congresswoman Heike Hänsel wrote an open letter to Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla asking for the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of the intellectual authors in the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://criterio.hn/diputada-alemana-pide-a-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla-castigar-asesinos-intelectuales-de-berta-caceres/>

OFRANEH denounces an attack Amada López, member of OFRANEH's governing board and Garífuna spiritual leader. Her house was shot at on Tuesday morning . This took place in the Masca community, where in the last half a year, two Garífuna leaders had been murdered. El Salto published an extensive interview with OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda.



<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2019/12/12/atentan-contra-lideresa-garifuna-en-masca/>

<https://www.elsaltodiario.com/honduras/entrevista-miriam-miranda-golpe-de-estado-2009-garifuna-derechos-territorio-defensoras>

The official evaluation body by the OAS has handed in its report on the MACCIH. It recommends the prolong the current mandate of the MACCIH without modifications.

Journalist Jeff Ernst summarizes the obstacles found by the report in one word: Congress.

EU ambassador Alessandro Palmero said it would be "opportune" to renew the mandate.

JOH said they will analyze it and present an answer in January.

The Nationalist congressman, Edwin Gómez, meanwhile, presented a bill to get rid of the MACCIH.

The business lobby criticizes that Congress gives a bad image to Honduras.

<https://www.oas.org/documents/spa/press/Informe-de-Evaluacion-del-Trabajo-de-la-MACCIH.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/oea-recomienda-continuidad-de-la-maccih-pero-deja-abiertas-posibilidades-de-enmiendas/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1205290975851098114>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/12/12/las-evaluaciones-a-un-convenio-incomodo/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/embajador-de-la-ue-cree-que-es-oportuno-renovar-mision-de-oea-en-honduras.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-reitera-que-se-evaluara-informe-sobre-la-maccih.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/diputado-edwin-gomez-presenta-iniciativa-para-derogar-el-convenio-de-la-maccih.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-senala-que-parlamentarios-dan-mala-imagen-a-la-comunidad-internacional-al-prescindir-a-la-maccih/>

OACNUDH condemns the recent threats and digital attacks against human rights defender Pedro Joaquín Amador (see previous e-mail).

OACNUDH also received in their offices the indigenous Lenca leader Donatila Girón Cáliz who was recently chosen to head the Indigenous Caucus at the world stage for the coming year.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1205237318166163470>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1205271710368489473>

Foreign Policy published an article on how the U.S. war on drugs is empowering corrupt elites in

Honduras. "Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández is mired in controversy, accused of fraudulently rigging the 2017 election in his favor. And yet the Trump administration remains a strong supporter of his government due to its backing for Washington's immigration and drug policies. Traveling through the Honduran interior reveals the extent of the country's descent into chaos. It isn't a war zone in the traditional sense; insurgents aren't targeting foreigners or engaging in attacks that kill indiscriminately. But the countryside is home to rampaging soldiers and gangs, along with police who routinely harass locals."

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/11/in-honduras-the-u-s-war-on-drugs-is-empowering-corrupt-elites/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-guerra-contra-las-drogas-de-los-ee-uu-esta-potenciando-a-las-elites-corrumpas-en-honduras/>

To further buy the support of the state security forces, the JOH regime had Congress approve after just one debate the pensions for members of the Armed Forces and the police as well as firefighters.

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueba-aumento-pensiones-militares-policias-bomberos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-existen-indicios-de-la-vinculacion-de-maras-con-fuerzas-politicas/>

The Follow-Up Mission by the European Union on electoral reforms presented yesterday its report. The JOH regime has only addressed a few of the recommendations.

<https://tiempo.hn/ue-honduras-solo-atendio-algunas-recomendaciones-materia-electoral-1/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-solo-atendio-algunas-recomendaciones-electorales-senala-mision-de-ue.html>

The CNA accuses the former mayor and former councilors of La Ceiba of embezzling 20.8 million Lempiras.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1205205252020015106>

Criticism regarding the recent irregular concession to Emco to operate the Toncontín airport continues (see previous e-mails). La Prensa reports that Honduras will lose some 150 million Lempiras annually.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1341713-410/150-millones-lempiras-anuales-perdida-estado-canon-toncontin-honduras>

Reporteros de Investigación presents the recently created Platform of Media Outlets against Corruption and Impunity.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/12/12/nace-plataforma-de-medios-contra-la-corrupcion/>

So far this year, 29'000 Hondurans have asked for asylum in Mexico - almost half of all the asylum requests in Mexico this year

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3653-exodo-mas-de-29-mil-hondurenos-han-pedido-asilo-en-mexico-en-2019>

"All over the world, policy makers are trying to balance humanity with efficiency and stability. They need to identify refugees who have a legal right to stay and integrate them as contributors to their new home country; manage the needs of these new arrivals without forgetting the demands of host populations; and return those who do not qualify for humanitarian protection to countries of origin safely and securely and in respect of their human rights. However, it is disturbing to find a set of policies that are at the same time cruel, ineffective and destabilizing. Yet that is what the U.S. has achieved at the southern border. The cruelty is evident in the trauma and treatment of those seeking asylum. The ineffectiveness is clear in the backlog that has been created in the legal system. And the instability is rippling through politics north and south of the border."

A US delegation from Homeland Security, meanwhile, came to Honduras again to "specify details of the agreements signed in September".

<https://www.newsweek.com/trumps-southern-border-policy-combines-crisis-cruelty-heres-how-fix-it-opinion-1476564>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1205199739312099328>

Javier Suazo critically analyses the proposal by the JOH regime made in Madrid at the COP that Honduras would not service its external debt for two years and invest this money in reforestation, agriculture, etc.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/203795>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/alicia-en-el-pais-de-la-corrupcion/>

13/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking, US; Mining; Political Prisoners; COPINH; MACCIH - US; Corruption - TSE; Electric Energy; Poverty; Budget; Privatization; and the Everyday Struggle for Human Rights

The situation in Honduras grows more worrisome by the day. Shortly after the Tony Hernández trial, a key witness who wanted to collaborate with the US, the drug trafficker Nery López Sanabria a.k.a. Magdalena Meza, was brutally murdered inside the so-called maximum-security prison El Pozo, on camera, a warning for all. His defense team then asked for protection. This week, just days after Univision covered the story of Meza again, a member of the defense team, lawyer Jose Luis Pinto, was murdered (see previous e-mails). After Meza's murder, the then director of El Pozo,

Pedro Idelfonso Armas, was suspended. He also immediately asked for protection. Now, he was murdered as well...is there any remaining doubt that someone is tying up loose ends here. Criterio reports that in June 2016 Armas was accused of aiding two inmates as the then deputy director of the Santa Rosa de Copán prison. Nevertheless, he was promoted to director of El Pozo. Maybe this past accusation helped to control him.

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/asesinan-al-director-de-una-prision-de-maxima-seguridad-de-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3656-alerta-ultiman-a-director-de-el-pozo-presente-en-crimen-de-magdaleno>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-director-de-el-pozo-en-choluteca-estaba-reunido-con-magdaleno-antes-de-ser-ultimado/>

<https://criterio.hn/director-de-el-pozo-habia-sido-acusado-de-facilitar-la-fuga-de-dos-privados-de-libertad/>

Pasos de Animal Grande covered this week's hearing in Washington on Honduras. "In Haugaard's testimony, she makes the recommendation to the U.S. government to immediately distance itself from the government of Juan Orlando Hernández. The same recommendation was sent to other members of the international community and she encourages them to support human rights defenders and anti-corruption activists who fight tirelessly to defend the rights of the Honduran people."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2644-lawg-solicita-a-gobierno-de-estado-unidos-distanciarse-del-presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez>

Trocaire published a short 6min video on the activities by Aura Minerals in Azacualpa. "Rivers are being poisoned, and even graveyards are being dug up in the pursuit of raw minerals. Even the dead can't rest peacefully in the town of Azacualpa, Honduras, as a Canadian mining company digs up bodies for gold, despite the objections of family and community members. This short film from Trócaire visits the community of Azacualpa to hear their story, and explains why Trócaire is campaigning for a UN treaty that would force international companies to respect human rights in their operations."

<https://vimeo.com/365482741>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with the mother of the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo, Maricruz Portillo. She wishes for more accompaniment of her son's case so that he won't be forgotten and to increase the chance of a more independent judgment.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2643-madre-de-rommel-autoridades-quieren-apresurar-una-condena-para-mi-hijo>

Laura Zúniga Cáceres received yesterday the Human Rights Award of the Spanish Lawyers

Association.

<https://twitter.com/MariaEugeniaGay/status/1205213870786318346>

While Congress tries to defend its own evaluation report of the MACCIH and the OAS published the official one (see previous e-mails and second link), various group in Honduras fear for the future of the anti-corruption body and call for protests.

"[Salvador] Nasralla [rightly] believes that the one who has the power to renew the MACCIH agreement is President Hernandez, but Hernandez must obey a supreme chief who is the one who orders the MACCIH to continue that is why the tactic is that congresswo/men are sacrificed before public opinion as those who are against the mission, so that Hernandez can renew the agreement and remain as a symbol of the fight against corruption, but Nasralla believes that this serves to whitewash his image."

<http://elpulso.hn/tema-de-la-macchi-es-una-tactica-politica-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/piden-a-la-ciudadania-salir-a-las-calles-para-defender-la-maccih/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/sin-paro-nacional-pierden-los-pobres-salvador-y-mel-no-pierden-porque-no-son-pobres-nasralla.html>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/para-mantener-impunidad-corruptos-dan-tiro-de-gracia-a-la-maccih/>

US Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Michael G. Kozak: "We agree with the recommendation of the joint Honduran government and OAS evaluation report to renew the @OEA\_MACCIH mandate without changes so it can continue its important work in #Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1205654656736780288>

"The CNA filed today before the MP a new complaint against the plenum of the former magistrates of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) for the period 2014-2019, for the crime of fraud in the rental of scanners that were not used as stipulated in the contract signed with an individual Honduran merchant, generating an economic loss of more than L. 41 million."

<https://criterio.hn/el-cna-denuncia-por-fraude-a-exmagistrados-del-tse/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1341944-466/cna-denuncia-a-exmagistrados-del-tse-por-alquiler-de-escaner>

Radio Progreso covers the ongoing irregularities regarding electric energy in Honduras.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/piden-renegociar-contratos-energeticos-para-reducir-costos-de-la-energia/>

"Honduras is a country that produces people with disabilities: poverty, chronic malnutrition in minors, high rates of violence, diabetes, traffic accidents, among others, are the major causes of physical, visual and mental disability," said Jorge Andino, former member of the National Union of the Blind of Honduras (UNCIH).

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/pobreza-convierte-a-honduras-en-un-pais-productor-de-personas-con-discapacidad/>

The Nationalist-controlled Congress approved the disputed 2020 budget. Libre voted against it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprueba-el-presupuesto-general-para-el-proximo-ano-el-282-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3655-honduras-pago-de-deuda-es-prioridad-en-presupuesto-para-2020>

<https://criterio.hn/por-falta-de-equidad-y-excesivo-gasto-en-defensa-y-seguridad-libre-no-aprueba-presupuesto-para-el-ano-2020/>

While the end of the controversial privatizing body Coalianza was announced this week, the JOH regime has already announced a new body, the Superior Council for Public Private Partnerships...

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-confirma-cierre-de-coalianza-y-anuncia-nueva-entidad-en-un-plazo-de-seis-meses/>

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<https://peacewatch.blog/2019/12/12/la-defensa-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-una-lucha-de-todos-los-dias/>

14/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Garífunas; MACCIH - US; Migration; Budget; MP; Fiat Lux

CODEH's director Hugo Maldonado reacts to the murder of the suspended director of the El Pozo prison (see yesterday). "Maldonado believes that the way in which the hitmen murdered Armas, whose face they disfigured, is a clear message from criminal structures."

<https://confidencialhn.com/consideran-que-muerte-de-jefe-carcelario-es-un-mensaje-claro-del-crimen/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asesinato-de-abogado-y-director-de-el-pozo-es-mensaje-claro-que-la-rencilla-va-a-continuar-segun-el-codeh.html>

DW published a short video on the struggle of the Garífuna women in Honduras.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfzT5RH2rfk&feature=youtu.be>

Hondurans took to the street to demand the renewal of the MACCIH's mandate.

"The decision by the National Congress is causing tremendous controversy, first, to investigate the performance of the MACCIH, second, to approve an almost express report of their investigation, third, to ask the executive not to approve the extension of its period, and to finish off, already introduced an initiative that seeks to eliminate the decree that gives life to the MACCIH."

The Honduran newspapers picked up the most recent tweet by Kozak calling for the renewal.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/444461/protesta-hernandez-corrupcion-impunidad-maccih>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.net/blindaje-de-los-corruptos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/una-vez-mas-eeuu-recomienda-renovacion-maccih-1/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-se-pronuncia-nuevamente-a-favor-de-la-renovacion-del-convenio-maccih-sin-cambios.html>

A Honduran and a Salvadorian family were deported from the US to Guatemala.

<https://radiohrn.hn/familias-hondurenas-deportadas-de-estados-unidos-son-enviadas-a-guatemala/>

The 2020 budget includes a 150 million Lempiras credit for the "voluntary retirement" of Hondutel employees.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1341950-466/congreso-autoriza-l-150-millones-a-hondutel-para-prestaciones>

The MP inaugurated the Expedited Integrated Centre for Interinstitutional Justice (CEIN) in Comayagua.

It was supported by the Eurojusticia program by the EU and the Spanish Cooperation Agency. The Spanish ambassador was also present.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/149-diciembre2019/5231-se-inaugura-centro-integrado-expedito-de-justicia-interinstitucional-cein-en-la-ciudad-de-comayagua-13-de-diciembre-de-2019>

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1205538356999966723](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1205538356999966723)

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/empresa-asociativa-campesina-9-de-julio-ya-no-estara-mas-a-oscuras/>

15/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking, National Party; Penitentiary System; and the Two Teachers of Modern Corruption

"While all this happens on the surface, under our feet, beyond the black waters that run through the contaminated veins of the country a perverse plan is executed, Magdaleno was the first (of which we warned), then one of the lawyers and later the witness of the murder, the director of the "El Pozo". Who in Honduras wants all of them dead? Uff, very complicated! And although nothing can save the condemned, the gringos can assure two more years, although in the end all roads lead to Rome or New York. Juan is not saved even by the dragon's spheres."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3659-honduras-choque-de-toros-o-juicio-del-orlandismo>

As the National Party gets more into primary election mode, there is more criticism towards JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/juan-orlando-es-un-buen-gobernante-pero-abandono-a-los-nacionalistas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/en-el-partido-nacional-hay-sapos-y-muchos-nacionalistas-han-sido-abandonados-por-el-gobierno-diputado-rivera.html>

Five inmates were assassinated in the so-called maximum-security prison La Tolva by another inmate with a gun.

15 inmates have so far been assassinated inside the two "maximum-security" prisons.

At the same time, 33 inmates escaped from the youth detention center Renaciendo.

The deputy director of the National Penitentiary System (INP), German McNeil, announced "new measures"...

<https://confidencialhn.com/cinco-muertos-deja-reyerta-en-el-penal-de-ultra-alta-seguridad-de-moroceli/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/cinco-muertos-en-amotinamiento-en-carcel-de-la-tolva.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1342335-410/polic%C3%ADa-desconoce-sanguinario-mato-compa%C3%B1eros-ms13>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1342248-466/la-muerte-burla-la-m%C3%A1xima-seguridad-de-las-c%C3%A1rces-de-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-escapan-unos-33-infractores-del-correccional-juvenil-renaciendo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mcneil-anuncia-nuevas-medidas-en-carceles-de-maxima-seguridad/>

Rafael Callejas Romero and Juan Orlando Hernández



<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-alegatos-de-corruptos/>

16/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Penitentiary System; MACCIH; Migration - US; and the New Military Leadership

The former police commissioner Henry Osorto claims that the deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) German McNeil made the call to the director of the El Pozo prison, Pedro Armas, to have Magdaleno Meza taken out of his cell and murdered (see previous e-mails). Armas has also been murdered last week, making it the third murder in just over a month in this case.

"Attorney Carlos Chajtur, the legal representative of Magdaleno Meza's family, says he is totally unaware of the progress made in the investigation of the intellectual authors of his client's murder."

<https://confidencialhn.com/exjefe-policial-afirma-que-mcneil-llamo-al-director-del-pozo-que-sacara-a-magdaleno-para-ser-ultimado/>

<http://elpulso.hn/expolicia-osorto-canales-vaticino-que-matarian-a-jefe-del-penal-donde-acribillaron-a-magdaleno-y-adelanta-posible-nueva-victima/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/denuncian-que-justicia-protege-a-los-autores-intelectuales-del-asesinato-de-magdaleno-meza/>

OACNUDH expressed profound concern about the recent assassination of five inmates in the La Tolva prison (see yesterday). It reminds Honduras about its duty to protect the human rights of all people which includes taking measures to protect their lives. OACNUDH also calls for an independent investigation.

Conaprev calls for the demilitarization of the prison system and the destitution of the heads of the INP.

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces that hitmen go freely in and out of the so-called maximum security prisons.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1206602432073097217>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-pide-al-estado-investigacion-exhaustiva-sobre-reos-asesinados-en-la-tolva.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/conaprev-pide-desmilitarizar-los-centros-penitenciarios-y-una-investigacion-imparcial-por-muertes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/conaprev-carceles-maxima-seguridad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/conaprev-pide-destitucion-inmediata-de-las-autoridades-del-sistema-penitenciario/>

<http://elpulso.hn/en-las-carceles-de-maxima-seguridad-los-asesinos-entran-como-pedro-por-su-casa-doris-gutierrez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mesa-penitenciaria-pide-renuncias-emergencia-y-apoyo-de-la-onu/>

Dozens of Honduran and international human rights organizations published a joint press release warn about "developments that threaten continuity of the MACCIH in Honduras" and urge for a renewal of its mandate.

<https://www.cejil.org/en/human-rights-organizations-alert-against-developments-threaten-continuity-maccih-honduras-urge>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/congreso-nacional-trabaja-fortalecer-impunidad-senala-ex-diputado/>

"The U.S. is preparing to send asylum seekers to Honduras, even if they are not from the Central American country, and effectively end their chances of seeking asylum in the United States, according to documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times. Under an agreement signed in New York on Sept. 25 by Kevin McAleenan, at the time the secretary of Homeland Security, and Honduras' foreign minister, María Dolores Agüero, adults and families seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border could be sent to Honduras without the chance to seek asylum in the U.S."

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2019-12-16/us-poised-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-honduras>

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<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/conformada-nueva-junta-de-comandantes-de-las-fuerzas-armadas.html>

17/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Political Prisoners; Extractivism - Reitoca, FPIC; OFRANEH - EU; Penitentiary System; Corruption; Forced Displacement; Violence; and Happy Birthday Radio Progreso

An additional 4 alleged associates of Tony Hernández were indicted on drug charges in New York. They are accused of conspiring with "corrupt Honduran officials".

"Prosecutors say some were present at the meeting when El Chapo reportedly delivered to Tony a \$1 million bribe destined for his brother, #Honduras Pres. Juan Orlando Hernández."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3662-caso-tony-ee-uu-acusa-a-mexicanos-y-guatemaltecos-por-nexos-con-narcos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vinculan-al-exjefe-narco-hondureno-tony-hernandez-con-el-cartel-de-sinaloa-del-chapo-guzman1/>

<https://twitter.com/PJAsmann/status/1207034846675177472>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1342722-471/ee-uu-acusa-a-cuatro-extranjeros-vinculados-al-narco-tony-hern%C3%A1ndez>

Tomorrow, the charges against the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo will be reviewed by a judge.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2646-defensa-de-rommel-solicitara-que-juez-recalifique-delito>

The inhabitants of Reitoca occupied the building of the mayoralty in protest against a hydroelectric project. The occupation is a reaction to the failed promises by the local mayor. The project has been accompanied by irregularities, the former deputy secretary of natural resources, Marco Jonathan Láinez Ordóñez, is accused of illegally granting the environmental license for the dam. CESPAD published a short video on the struggle by the inhabitants of Reitoca.

<https://criterio.hn/por-proyecto-sobre-rio-petacon-pobladores-se-toman-municipalidad-de-reitoca/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1207070681718034434>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/17/reitoca/>

COPINH denounces a new attempt by the Central American Development Bank (BCIE) and the Honduran business lobby to undermine the ILO Convention 169 on free, prior and informed consent.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1206997227555700736>

A group of EU-parliamentarians wrote an open letter to the ambassador of the EU to Honduras expressing concern about the criminalization and persecution of human rights defenders in Honduras highlighting the case of Miriam Miranda, general coordinator of OFRANEH. They also question the effectiveness of some of the EU's projects in Honduras given the ongoing dire situation of HRDs.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1207020136227577857>

The JOH regime declared a state of emergency and suspended the prison authorities and further militarized the Honduran penitentiary system. They will have control for the next six months. This goes in the opposite direction of recent recommendations by the MACCIH to demilitarize the prisons.

The head of the human rights organization Casa Alianza, Guadalupe Ruelas, fears that the defenselessness of inmates will further increase and transparency further decrease.

There is widespread criticism for this decision and it is worth highlighting two things. First, especially the so-called maximum-security prisons, where the most assassinations took place this

year, were already heavily militarized under the promise that they should stop exactly what has now been happening under their control these last months. Even more, it gives the JOH regime through its allies in the Armed Forces even more control and given the recent assassinations of witnesses to the Tony Hernández case, this is especially worrisome. Second, once more, JOH ally and "civil society leader" Omar Rivera feels the urge to praise the decision to militarize the prisons...

<https://criterio.hn/militarizan-y-suspenden-autoridades-de-centros-penitenciarios-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3661-militares-toman-control-de-sistema-penitenciario-en-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/seis-coroneles-un-oficial-policia-dirigiran-el-sistema-penitenciario/>

<https://criterio.hn/indefension-de-privados-de-libertad-aumentara-con-militares/>

<http://elpulso.hn/emergencia-en-el-sistema-penitenciario-del-pais/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sociedad-civil-aplaude-intervencion-militar-en-carceles-defensores-de-ddhh-la-cuestionan.html>

"In conclusion, the fight against corruption, under the current conditions, has no possibility of developing efficiently and sustainably from the national institutionality, because it is captured by networks of corruption and impunity which have turned the State into an instrument at its service. The most profound changes will come from below, from citizen mobilization and political action which can provoke substantive changes in the political elites and the political system. In the meantime, the presence of international bodies, such as the MACCIH, is of fundamental importance in order to move forward."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/17/analisis-como-los-protagonistas-de-la-corrupcion-secuestraron-al-estado-de-honduras-desde-adentro/>

Voice of America spoke with the regional representative of the UNHCR for Central America and Cuba, Giovanni Bassu, on forced displacement in the region.

<https://www.voanoticias.com/a/acnur-no-se-habla-bastante-desplazamiento-centroamerica/5209513.html>

After record numbers, the official Honduran homicide rate decreased in the last year, but the numbers are widely questioned due to the control over them by the police and the general lack of transparency. It is therefore especially noteworthy that the current situation in Honduras does not allow the JOH regime to falsely present another success story and they had to concede that even their official homicide rate increased this year.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/en-dos-puntos-aumentaron-los-homicidios-este-ano-segun-la-policia.html>

Radio Progreso celebrates 63 years of accompanying the Honduran people.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/radio-progreso-celebra-63-anos-de-acompanar-al-pueblo-hondureno/>

18/12/19

Honduras Daily: HRDs; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Penitentiary System - Militarization; Femicide; Dengue; Migration - US; ZEDEs; IMF; Budget; and the International Day of the Migrant

ACI-Participa published its yearly report on the situation of human rights defenders in Honduras. They documented 29 murders of HRDs and 499 attacks against HRDs between January and November 2019.

See attachment

Aqui Abajo published a great overview of the recent two murders in Honduras' so-called maximum-security prisons linked with the Tony Hernández case and the JOH regime. This two murders then lead to further killings as highlighting in these e-mails and lead to Tuesday's announcement to further militarize the prisons (see below).

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2019/12/18/new-york-drug-case-connected-to-scandal-and-murder-inside-honduran-prisons>

The New York Times picked up the further militarization of Honduras' prison system (see yesterday's e-mail).

In Honduras, meanwhile, the criticism of this move continues. "The murder of at least five people in an alleged riot at the maximum security prison "La Tolva" or "El Pozo II", makes it clear again that the only safe thing in the mega prisons created by the regime is death. The regime sold the false idea that these prisons would improve the coexistence of persons deprived of liberty considered dangerous and would effectively control them, since despite being under the custody of the State, they continued their criminal activities from inside the prisons. With this logic, the prison function was militarized, which meant handing over custody and control of maximum security prisons to the military; however, to date, the military has once again proved to be incompetent."

Criminal lawyer Raúl Suazo says that Honduras is violating international standards.

The Board to Follow-Up on Sentences and Resolutions by the Inter-American Court on Human Rights comes to the same conclusion.

CONADEH announced that it would accompany the intervention.

Conaprev demands to be part of the supervision as well.

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2019/12/17/world/americas/ap-It-honduras-prisons-emergency.html>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/carceles-de-maxima-seguridad-y-militares/>

<http://elpulso.hn/comision-interventora-del-instituto-penitenciario-de-honduras-refleja-crisis-en-el-pais/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-militarizacion-del-sistema-penitenciario-honduras-incumple-con-estandares-internacionales-de-ddhh-en-materia-penitenciaria/>

<http://elpulso.hn/conadeh-acompanara-supervision-de-la-intervencion-de-las-carceles/>

<https://tiempo.hn/conaprev-pide-estar-como-veedor-en-la-intervencion-de-las-carceles/>

OACNUDH published a press release expressing grave concern for the "persistent violent murders of women and girls".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1207353178422960128>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/onu-pide-el-cese-urgente-de-la-muerte-violenta-de-mujeres-y-ninas-en-honduras.html>

"Honduras' Health Ministry Tuesday published an epidemiological report revealing that 177 people have died from dengue during 2019, a figure which includes 101 cases of children."

<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/more-than-100-children-killed-by-dengue-in-honduras-during-2019-20191217-0023.html>

Contra Corriente published a OpEd by José Antonio Silva, the coordinator of Doctors without Borders in Tegucigalpa, on why Honduras is not a safe country for people in search of protection.

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/12/18/honduras-no-es-un-lugar-seguro-para-alguien-que-busca-proteccion/>

RT published a discussion on the Zones for Employment and Economic Development (ZEDEs), the so-called charter cities, with Emy Padilla, director of Criterio.hn, Ismael Zepeda, economist at FOSDEH, and Lucía Vijil, investigator at CESPAD.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zaM-S2ztP4&feature=youtu.be>

The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (Icefi) continues to highlight problems with the 2020 budget, from a lack of transparency to cuts in education and healthcare spending. Defense and security spending, meanwhile, is seen as "sacred" and cannot be touched.

<https://criterio.hn/icefi-lamenta-que-presupuesto-2020-de-honduras-contenga-recortes-en-educacion-y-salud/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseveran-que-presupuesto-de-seguridad-y-defensa-es-sagrado-porque-no-se-puede-tocar/>

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<https://oacnudh.hn/dia-internacional-de-los-migrantes-18-de-diciembre-de-2019-los-estados-deben-colocar-los-derechos-humanos-en-el-centro-de-las-politicas-y-debates-migratorios-istan-expertos-de-la-onu/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1207338367031136257>

19/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking, US, Churches, Economy, Libre; Militarization; Political Prisoners; LGBTQ; Extractivism; Migration; IMF; Corruption - IP; Vallecito - An Example to Follow

InSight Crime finally picked up the assassinations that followed the conviction of JOH's brother Tony Hernández.

While this information keeps making its round, it seems not to have reached all places yet. Or how to explain that US officials just meet again with co-conspirator 4, a.k.a. JOH, in Washington...

Back in Honduras, JOH's ally and former general commander of the Military Police took officially over as the Joint Chief of Staff.

At the same time, the backlash against the JOH regime grows stronger as exemplified by the newest statement by the Episcopal Conference of Honduras. "The Bishops members of the Honduran Episcopal Conference, in a message to the Honduran people on the occasion of the Christmas period, emphasize that the actions of the state powers cause scandal and shame."

Last but not least, the business lobby COHEP denounces that Honduras suffers from a economic crisis due to "political conflicts".

As a reaction, JOH tries to criminalize the political opposition.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/us-drug-trial-bloody-trail-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1343374-466/joh-reunion-chad-wolf-washington->

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1207865837366853632>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1343361-410/assume-nuevo-jefe-fuerzas-armadas-honduras-titolivio-moreno>

<https://criterio.hn/actuaciones-de-los-poderes-del-estado-provocan-escandalo-y-verguenza-conferencia-episcopal/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/conflicto-politico-deja-ano-critico-a-la-economia-hondurena-dice-lider-empresarial.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/ordenan-capturar-activista-libre-mortero-wilson/>

The further militarization of Honduras' prison system continues to be met with widespread criticism, especially regarding the violation of international human rights standards.

The Military Police, meanwhile, celebrates itself on Twitter.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/militarizacion-del-sistema-penitenciario-honduras-incumple-estandares-internacionales-derechos>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1207711272852176904>

The criminalization of the political prisoner Rommel Herrera Portillo continues. A court decided yesterday against a shortened procedure and ordered a public hearing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/elevan-a-juicio-oral-causa-contradocente-arrestado-por-supuesto-intento-de-quemar-embajada-de-ee-uu/>

Two outside walls of the Los Dolores church in Tegucigalpa were painted in rainbow colors. The church denounced it as a lack of respect, while the LGBTQ community denies being behind the painting.

<https://tiempo.hn/pintan-banderas-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-en-la-iglesia-los-dolores/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/grupos-lgtbi-niegan-estar-detras-de-pintado-de-banderas-de-diversidad-sexual-en-iglesias.html>

Community and indigenous leaders from Marcala successfully organized the local community to have a permit for deforestation suspended.

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-de-marcala-logran-suspender-tala-de-madera-en-microcuenca-hidrografica/>

A record number of 104'099 Hondurans have been deported this year, 22'916 of whom minors. That is double the amount of minors deported than in 2014, when the region spoke of a crisis of unaccompanied migrants on the way to the US.

<https://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/honduras-suma-104-mil-99-deportados-entre-ellos-22-mil-916-menores.html>

The IMF approved in a first revision the Stand By agreement with Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/directorio-del-fmi-aprueba-primera-revision-de-acuerdo-stand-by-con-honduras.html>

ConfidencialHN reports on corruption in the bidding process by the Property Institute (IP) for the management of the new car registry.

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-corrupcion-en-licitacion-que-realizara-el-instituto-de-la-propiedad-por-nuevo-software/>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/vallecito-ejemplo-de-soberania-resistencia-y-dignidad/>

20/12/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - US; JOH; Penitentiary System; Militarization; Extractivism; MACCIH - Germany; National Party; Poverty; and Economic Uncertainty

The US designated the Nationalist Honduran Congressman and JOH ally Oscar Ramon Najera and his son Oscar Roberto Najera Lopez due to their involvement in "public corruption related to the Honduran drug trafficking organization Los Cachiros".

"The sanctions against Najera and his son are the latest in a series of political embarrassments for the ruling National Party in Honduras (...) Najera's name has long been linked to corruption in Honduras and has also been mentioned in several recent drug trafficking cases. (...) n his closing argument, prosecutor Emil Bove described Najera as "a close friend" of Tony Hernandez "who was a part of setting all of this up so that the Honduran government could be used to protect drug traffickers." When Hernandez was arrested at Miami International Airport in November 2018, he had Najera's contact information in his phone. Photos found on the phone also showed Najera in a hot tub with Hernandez. Another photo showed Najera with Juan Orlando Hernandez."

The Honduras Solidarity Network rightly asks: "Congressman Oscar Najera & son ban from US. But what about all the other problems he has caused? Land conflicts & murder in Aguan Valley? Drug trafficking? Why does US back Honduran gov't & public prosecutor's office that doesn't hold traffickers & corrupt to account?"

COPINH highlights also his role in promoting extractive projects.

The TSC announced to investigate an investigation including into an NGO managed by the congressman.

Óscar Ramón Najera, meanwhile, went on the attack and called the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, a liar.

<https://www.state.gov/public-designation-due-to-involvement-in-significant-corruption-of-honduran-congressman-oscar-ramon-najera/>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/honduran-congressman-sanctioned-by-trump-administration-for-drug-corruption>

<https://criterio.hn/oscar-najera-recibio-apoyos-de-los-cachiros-a-cambio-de-evitar-su-extradicion-univision/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1208111277236793345>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1208126904018067456>

<https://tiempo.hn/tsc-investigara-oscar-najera-fondos-manejo-ong/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/najera-dice-pompeo-es-irresponsable-y-mentiroso-y-ese-gringo-me-va-a-tener-que-pedir-disculpas.html>

In a talk with Radio Progreso, security expert Celso Alvarado, presents Honduras in the midst of a reorganization of its drug trafficking structures. "The fact that people with direct links to witnesses in the case of Tony Hernandez's trial are mysteriously turning up murdered indicates that there is not only a struggle for control of the territory, but also revenge for statements made at the trial".

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/honduras-esta-en-medio-de-un-reacomodamiento-del-narcotrafico-dice-analista/>

El Libertador claims that Trump did not want to meet with JOH during this week's visit to the US while he met with Guatemala's outgoing president Jimmy Morales.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3664-trump-posa-con-jimmy-morales-y-da-la-espalda-a-joh>

ConfidencialHN published a video of the statement made by JOH during the official presentation of the new military leadership.

<https://confidencialhn.com/realizan-ceremonia-de-traspaso-de-mando-en-cupula-de-las-ffaa-de-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-viene-un-apoyo-sin-precedentes-de-las-ffaa-en-la-economia-del-pais-hernandez.html>

The third day of total control by Fusina of the Honduran prison system and already the first very grave incident. Criterio reports that at least 13 inmates died in the prison in Tela, Atlántida, and Fusina refuses to share information about what happened.

By the evening, El Herald reported on at least 20 dead inmates, while Fusina continues to confirm only three.

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-13-muertos-y-15-heridos-en-carcel-de-tela-atlantida/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fracasa-intervencion-de-ffaa-unos-13-muertos-deja-reyerta-en-el-penal-de-tela/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1343615-466/muertos-tela-centro-penal-carcel-amotinamiento-reyerta>

<https://hch.tv/2019/12/20/a-20-asciende-el-numero-de-muertos-en-el-centro-penal-de-tela/>

The people of El Negrito, Yoro are preparing a plebiscite on the question of a closed season for exploiting the forest ("veda forestal"). They announced to collect 8000 signatures to present to Congress. Already back in 2014, El Negrito became the first municipality to declare itself free of mining.

Last month, Tocoa, Colón, also declared itself free of mining. Radio Progreso now writes that the municipality now cannot renew the mining license for the disputed company Inversiones Los Pinares nor for any other mining company.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/el-negrityoro-se-prepara-para-realizar-un-plebiscito/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/declaratoria-libre-de-mineria-prohibe-renovacion-de-licencias-a-inversiones-los-pinares/>

The Parliamentary Group Germany-Central America from the German Bundestag wrote an open letter to Mauricio Oliva congress' president, highlighting the important work of the MACCIH and asking for the renewal of its mandate.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2647-grupo-parlamentario-aleman-centroamericano-abogan-para-la-maccih-no-desaparezca>

<https://criterio.hn/en-carta-a-mauricio-oliva-grupo-parlamentario-aleman-pide-renovacion-de-la-maccih/>

The Todos por el Cambio movement inside the National Party presented their own primary candidate, Jorge Lobo, son of former president Pepe Lobo.

<http://elpulso.hn/jorge-lobo-escogido-como-precandidato-presidencial-del-movimiento-politico-de-su-padre/>

According to Fosdeh, 70% of working Hondurans receive less than the minimum salary.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/el-70-de-las-personas-que-tienen-empleo-no-gana-salario-minimo-cuestiona-fosdeh.html>

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<http://www.fosdeh.com/2019/12/incertidumbre-una-constante-2019-2020/>

21/12/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Investigation; Bajo Aguán; Penitentiary System; and When Migrants Disappear

The Intercept published an investigative article by Danielle Mackey and Chiara Eisner into the intellectual authorship of the Berta Cáceres murder. "In preparation for the trial of the assassins, the Honduras Public Prosecutor's Office extracted thousands of private call logs, SMS, and WhatsApp messages from their phones. The call log evidence was examined by an independent expert, and it showed that the assassins had communicated through a compartmentalized chain that reached the highest ranks of leadership of the company whose dam she had been protesting. Those messages, analyzed below, provide a striking window into the plot to kill Cáceres."

<https://theintercept.com/2019/12/21/bera-caceres-murder-plot-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1208495670069518341>

COPA sent out an alert denouncing an attack on their office. The back door of the office building was destroyed an important information was stolen putting the defenders belonging to COPA at risk.

See Attachment

Fusina finally confirmed yesterday that the number of murdered inmates in the Tela prison was not three as they previously had said, but rather 18. According to ConfidencialHN, the real number could even be higher.

La Prensa reports that the murdered inmates were of low-risk and only three of them had been sentenced.

Family members had started to gather in front of the prison by yesterday morning demanding answers.

Fusina, meanwhile, claimed that they had not yet taken control of the Tela prison when the massacre took place.

Human rights defender Dina Madrid disagrees saying that the Military Police has controlled the prison for almost a year.

An intervention committee will now evaluate all employees of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP).

There have been at least three mass-killings in Honduran prisons this year with a death toll of 26 inmates.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-fusina-confirma-21-asesinatos-en-reyerta-del-penal-de-tela/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/fotogalerias/honduras/1343800-411/18-reclusos-asesinados-baja-peligrosidad-mas-cres-carcel-tela-honduras?i=1>

<https://tiempo.hn/masacre-en-carcel-de-tela-familiares-se-aglomeran-y-quieren-respuestas/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1343802-410/quince-horas-angustia-frio-desvelo-afueras-penal-tela-violencia-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/fusina-junta-interventora-habia-tomado-penal-tela/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dina-madrid-fusina-maneja-sistema-penitenciario/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1343803-466/junta-interventora-evaluar%C3%A1-a-todo-el-personal-del-instituto-nacional-penitenciario>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/este-2019-se-registran-tres-masacres-con-26-muertos-en-carceles-hondurenas.html>

"They live with violence, abuse, poverty, government neglect, pain and loneliness. They live and resist, all in order not to lose hope that one day they will stop embracing the framed photographs and personally be able to feel their skin again and hear the voice of their disappeared. A report by

the National Union of Committees of Relatives of Disappeared Migrants of Honduras records at least 740 migrants who have disappeared since the 1990s after taking the migration route. The number continues to rise, since according to other data from the General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants, on average five migrants per month stop communicating with their families after leaving the country."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/12/21/sin-ellos-no-hay-navidad/>

22/12/19

Honduras Daily: Penitentiary System; Drug Trafficking; Militarization; and the Violence Question

I am a bit lost for words. A second mass killing took place in another Honduran prison in less than a week. 19 inmates were assassinated in the minimum-security prison El Porvenir, 100km northeast of the Tegucigalpa.

Fusina confirmed 18 deaths.

They also try to present themselves as the victims claiming that the "criminal escalation" impedes them from taking over the control of the Honduran prison. This, once more, ignores the fact that the Military Police has been "in control" of some prison for quite some time (see also yesterday's e-mail).

The mass-killing in the Tela prison, meanwhile, claimed its 19th victim, as one inmate died in the hospital from his wounds.

OACNUDH expressed deep concerns.

Padre Melo warns: "Prison massacres, witness cleansing and militarization are part of the policy of extermination and official terror. And yet there are those who claim that they are just inmates killing each other. What a naive and dangerous opinion! The sad thing is that this is only just beginning".

Luis Suazo, deputy Minister of Security, has his own theory. "What has happened in recent days in the prisons are systematic, orchestrated and well-planned attacks by organized crime to expose Honduras, and to draw the attention of human rights organizations"

<https://confidencialhn.com/carniceria-humana-unas-16-personas-son-asesinadas-en-el-penal-de-el-porvenir/>

<https://tiempo.hn/identifican-reos-muertos-carcel-el-porvenir1/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1343932-466/descontrol-en-carceles-19-reos-muertos-en-centro-penal-de-el-porvenir>

<https://tiempo.hn/fusina-18-ascienden-reos-muertos-carcel-el-porvenir12/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-hacen-las-victimas-fusina-denuncia-que-el-crimen-les-impide-asumir-sistema-carcelario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/fusina-quiere-evitar-junta-interventora-tome-centros-penales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sps-suman-19-victimas-masacre-carcel-tela/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1208963307299885057>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-onu-esta-gravemente-preocupada-por-violencia-en-las-carceles-de-honduras.html>

<https://twitter.com/Melosjmoreno/status/1208940400477691904>

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionario-de-seguridad-creo-que-masacre-es-para-llamar-atencion-de-organismos-de-ddhh/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-esta-removiendo-personal-penitenciario-que-estaban-en-planillas-de-criminales-luis-suazo.html>

In the midst of this, it is easy to forget that just three days ago, the US designated JOH ally and sitting Nationalist congressman Óscar Nájera due to his involvement in "public corruption related to the Honduran drug trafficking organization Los Cachiros"...

<https://tiempo.hn/asj-honduras-no-responde-llamado-senalamiento-oscar-najera/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/senalamiento-de-eeuu-a-oscar-najera-demuestra-que-honduras-no-lucha-contracorrupcion-lester-ramirez.html>

Political analyst Tomás Andino warns of another military coup in Honduras to be expected in 2021.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2649-tomas-andino-las-fuerzas-armadas-estan-llevando-a-cabo-un-golpe-militar-en-camara-lenta-en-honduras>

"Whenever protesters fight with police, burn vehicles, or smash windows, a familiar chorus rings out, from a safe distance: Why can't they be nonviolent, like Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, or Martin Luther King Jr.? With anti-government protests raging around the world since the summer, this common refrain has returned. Even United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, while reminding governments to allow free assembly and expression, said protesters must "follow the examples of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and other champions of nonviolent change." This creates a double standard: Protesters are expected to remain nonviolent, even in the face of attacks by powerful, heavily armed governments. Yet no matter what protesters do, governments always portray them as "thugs" or "criminals" to legitimize violent crackdowns, as in Iran in recent weeks. The FBI accused King himself of inciting violence."

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/05/hong-kong-protests-chile-bolivia-egypt-force-police-violence-is-sometimes-the-answer/>

23/12/19

Honduras Daily: Penitentiary System; Corruption; MACCIH; ENEE; and Black Powder and (White) Christmas

The situation in Honduras' prisons, especially the two recent massacres, caused national and international condemnation. CEJIL condemns that at least 42 inmates were murdered in the last three week and denounces that the State has failed to guarantee the right to live and personal integrity of inmates. They also express concern that the further militarization of the prisons seems to be the answer for the JOH regime exposing inmates to additional human rights violations. The well-renowned human rights defender Juan Almeyda Bonilla presents Honduras' prisons as "centers of death".

And Casa Alianza denounces that the massacres were planned to spur the privatization of the prisons.

Human rights organizations demand the creation of a special commission representing various sectors. "According to their proposal, the commission should make urgent recommendations on the serious situation facing the prison system as a result of more than 40 violent deaths of prisoners in recent days and due to the lack of institutional credibility emanating from public security and justice operators."

Fusina, meanwhile, restricts the food family members can bring to their loved ones for the Christmas meal.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-condenamos-masacres-al-menos-42-personas-privadas-libertad-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensor-de-ddhh-lamenta-que-las-carceles-se-convirtieron-en-centros-de-muerte/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/casa-alianza-denuncia-que-las-masacres-son-planificadas-para-privatizar-carceles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-el-estado-hondureno-perdio-la-gobernabilidad-del-sistema-carcelario/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/masacres-en-carceles-refleja-incapacidades-del-estado-en-materia-penal/>

<https://criterio.hn/demandan-crear-comision-de-alta-credibilidad-que-se-encargue-de-centros-penales-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cprt-solicita-mesa-amplia-dirigida-por-la-comision-interamericana-de-ddhh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3669-autoridad-penitenciaria-restringe-menu-navideno-para-reos-en-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/inp-privados-libertad-carcel/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an investigation on how the men behind the IHSS corruption case and the Narcopolítica case led to the death of doña Sandra.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/12/23/a-dona-sandra-la-mataron-los-hombres-de-la-corrupcion-del-ihss-en-colusion-con-la-narcopolitica/>

The OAS published a press release announcing talks between the General Secretary and Honduras on the MACCIH this Friday.

Eugenio Sosa, senior analyst at CESPAD, writes about the uncertain future of the MACCIH focusing on its two recent evaluations, the real one by the OAS and the one by an illegitimate Nationalist congressional commission.

[https://twitter.com/thelma\\_mejia/status/1209303380969082882](https://twitter.com/thelma_mejia/status/1209303380969082882)

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1344211-466/honduras-y-oea-dialogar%C3%A1n-para-avanzar-en-siguiente-etapa-de-la-maccih>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/12/23/analisis-el-futuro-de-la-maccih-entre-la-incertidumbre-y-dos-evaluaciones/>

Finance minister Rocío Táborá announces a new intervention of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

Its labor union disagrees with this decision.

<http://elpulso.hn/viene-nueva-intervencion-a-enee-y-sindicalistas-se-oponen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/intervencion-de-enee-no-es-solucion-para-solventar-la-crisis-economica-denuncia-sindicato/>

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<https://criterio.hn/porque-la-costumbre-y-tradicion-de-los-catrachos-de-usar-polvora-en-navidad-y-ano-nuevo/>

<https://criterio.hn/quemaduras-por-polvora-se-han-reducido-en-mas-del-90-durante-la-ultima-decada/>

24/12/19

Honduras Daily: MACCIH - Transparency; Penitentiary System; Journalists; and Looking for Light in the Darkness

Monday's press release by the OAS (see yesterday and first link below), caused different reactions. Journalist Dagoberto Rodríguez Coello writes: "The MACCIH will become an advisory and support body for a much broader inter-institutional anti-corruption body, composed of MP, CSJ, TSC, among others."



Proceso Digital has a headline "The MACCIH stays!".

El Libertador, meanwhile, writes what we actually know so far, that the discussion on the continuity of the MACCIH continue this Friday.

[https://www.oas.org/es/centro\\_noticias/comunicado\\_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-115/19](https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-115/19)

<https://twitter.com/darocohn/status/1209512482697629696>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/la-maccih-se-queda.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3670-este-viernes-oea-y-gobierno-discuten-siguiente-etapa-de-maccih>

The executive director of the Commerce and Industries Chambers of Cortés (CCIC), Pedro Barquero, demands the derogation of the Secrecy Law as well as that the MACCIH and the CNA investigate the use of the Security Tax (tasa de seguridad).

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/ccic-insiste-en-derogar-ley-de-secretos-e-investigar-utilizacion-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad.html>

The IACHR and OACNUDH published a joint press release expressing concern about the situation in Honduras' prisons and calling on the State to protect the lives of the inmates.

They also offer assistance in elaborating a diagnostic of the Honduran penitentiary system.

There are now 2000 soldiers and police agents dispatched for the control of the prisons.

The new head of the Armed Forces, general Tito Livio Moreno Coello, promises a well-functioning prison system in six months...

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1209534826434453504>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/honduras-tiene-la-obligacion-de-proteger-ddhh-de-los-reclusos-senalan-cidh-y-onu.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/la-cidh-y-acnurdh-ofrecen-asistencia-a-honduras-para-diagnostico-de-carceles.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/un-contingente-de-2000-militares-y-policias-resguardan-las-carceles-mision-imposible/>

<https://tiempo.hn/funciones-misiones-fusina-normalizar-crisis-penitenciaria-1/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-seis-meses-tendremos-un-sistema-penitenciario-bien-estructurado-haremos-bien-la-tarea-dice-jefe-castrense.html>

C-Libre denounces a recent attack on a cameraman by two security guards.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1089-seguridad-privada-impide-a->

[camarografo-filmar-en-colegio-capitalino](#)

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/el-pueblo-que-vivia-en-tinieblas/>

25/12/19

Honduras Daily: MACCIH; Penitentiary System; Security Tax; Solar Energy; and Migrant Children Alone in Jail

The executive director of CESPAD, Gustavo Irias, also reacted to the announcement of new talks between the OAS and JOH regarding the MACCIH (see previous e-mails). "Back to reality, the intention of Hernández and Almagro is to renew the mandate of the MACCIH by removing it from the criminal investigation with the UFECIC. In reality, it would be another MACCIH that would be in harmony with the protection built by the corrupt elite in recent months."

<https://twitter.com/GustavoIrias/status/1209914313256906756>

Another inmate was found dead in the so-called maximum-security prison La Tolva. The circumstances of his death are not clear yet.

Criminal lawyer Carlos Arévalo declared that the executive power is responsible for the massacres this month in Honduras' prisons.

Fusina, meanwhile, presented the first results of their intervention: seized weapons, phones, USB sticks, etc.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-de-manera-misteriosa-otro-recluso-al-interior-del-presidio-de-moroceli/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-la-tolva-encuentran-recluso-muerto-este-25-de-diciembre.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-el-ejecutivo-estaria-detras-de-las-masacres-en-el-sistema-penitenciario/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1344478-466/pozo-tamara-progreso-decomisos-carceles-fusina-honduras-objetos-prohibidos>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1209949031960629248>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1209952576915025921>

Radio HRN reports that the Security Tax will collect some 3 billion Lempiras next year, the biggest part coming from a fee on financial transactions.

<https://radiohrn.hn/en-2020-casi-3000-millones-de-lempiras-aportaran-cinco-sectores-a-la-tasa-de>

[seguridad/](#)

Large-scale solar energy projects in Honduras have caused various problems so far, be it irregularities in their concessions or forced displacement for their construction. At the same time, they are highly subsidized. The 12 plants in Valle and Choluteca cost ENEE over 2 billion Lempiras between August 2015 and December 2017.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1344477-410/2370-millones-lempiras-ene-ene-pago-incentivos-solares-honduras>

"How the 14,000 Migrant Children in Federal Custody Will Spend Christmas"

<https://time.com/5485344/migrant-children-christmas/>

26/12/19

Honduras Daily: Penitentiary System - Torture; Drug Trafficking - US; MACCIH; Armed Forces - Chile; Migration; Minimum Wage; Violence; and How the Honduran Disability Community Uses Digital Solutions

El Libertador uncovered that among the murdered inmates in the El Porvenir prison this week was Wilson Eduardo Valladares, the alleged murder of Yester Hernández, brother of JOH. We had been murdered on December 29, 2008. Valladares's wife had claimed his innocence for over ten years saying that the DNA evidence indicated that he had not participated in the murder.

The death toll of the massacre in the Tela prison, meanwhile, rose to 20 inmates.

The inmate found dead in the so-called maximum-security prison La Tolva (see yesterday) was apparently strangled by two cell mates.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3673-presunto-asesino-de-hermano-de-joh-ejecutado-en-masacre-de-penales>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-privado-de-libertad-que-resulto-herido-en-rina-ocurrida-en-centro-penitenciario-de-tela/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1344596-466/a-20-asciende-la-cifra-de-muertos-por-reyerta-en-c%C3%A1rcel-de>

<https://tiempo.hn/fusina-establecen-como-mataron-reo-carcel-moroceli/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1344634-466/reo-muerto-tolva-sospechosos>

The human rights organization CPTRT denounces the torture of female inmates by members of the Armed Forces.

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-fusina-torturo-a-varias-mujeres-en-el-centro-penal-de-el-progreso/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cprt-militares-azotan-con-alambres-a-mujeres-en-la-carcel-de-el-progreso/>

Two former Honduran police official will face trial for drug trafficking in New York in March 2020.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dos-exoficiales-de-policia-presos-en-ee-uu-por-nexos-con-narcos-seran-sentenciados-en-marzo-de-2020/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/expolicias-avila-meza-y-zelaya-romero-iran-a-juicio-en-marzo-de-2020-en-eeuu.html>

Monday's cryptic press release by the OAS about talks starting today between the OAS and JOH on the MACCIH continues to raise concerns (see previous e-mails this week). The Coalition for the Renovation of the MACCIH demands the renewal of its mandate but without changes. In the case of changes made to the mandate, it would go to Nationalist-controlled Congress, which is hostile to the MACCIH.

JOH's allies, meanwhile, continue to undermine the MACCIH. The Evangelical Confraternity announced that the MACCIH should only be renewed for a short time as "our institutions have learned a lot".

The possible Nationalist presidential candidate and mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura, accuses the MACCIH of foreign interference.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2650-coalicion-por-la-renovacion-de-la-maccih-alterar-convenio-de-la-maccih-significa-no-renovar-su-mandato>

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-renovacion-de-la-maccih-pero-sin-cambios-en-su-convenio/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/confraternidad-evangelica-pide-que-maccih-sea-renovada-por-poco-tiempo.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/da-pena-que-personas-de-otros-paises-venga-a-poner-orden-opina-edil-asfura-sobre-la-maccih.html>

The Chilean news outlet investigates the activities of the Chilean army in Honduras. "In an interview with El Mostrador TV, former anti-corruption judge of the special mission in Honduras [he worked as a judge for the MACCIH], Daniel Urrutia, stated on December 19 that there is an active presence of the Chilean Army in that country, but that, while he was there, there was never clarity about the task they were carrying out. "They said training," he added."

<https://m.elmostrador.cl/noticias/sin-editar/2019/12/26/que-hace-el-ejercito-chileno-en-honduras/>

Up to this year, the record year for deportations was 2014 with 81'000. 2019 saw 105'000 Hondurans deported.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-cierra-2019-batiendo-propio-record-de-deportados.html>

The business lobby COHEP announces an increase in the minimum wage for the coming year. At the same time, some 60% of the working population in Honduras does not even receive a minimum wage.

<https://tiempo.hn/reajuste-salario-minimo-sera-350-850-lempiras-partir-enero/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/dirigente-obrero-denuncia-que-el-60-de-empresas-no-pagan-salario-minimo.html>

Honduras is expected to close 2019 with a murder rate of 42.8 per 100'000 inhabitants, 1.4 points higher than in 2018. This is the official murder rate based on police statistics which are widely seen as unreliable and the real rate is likely even higher.

<https://tiempo.hn/tasa-de-homicidios-con-428-por-cada-100-mil-habitantes-cerrara-el-ano-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3672-honduras-masacre-208-y-32-asesinatos-dejo-celebracion-navidena>

"Studies on how many disabled people live in Honduras are scarce. Results of a survey by the National Statistics Institute (INE), carried out in September 2002, showed there are 177,516 people with disabilities in the country. Academic studies tell a different story. They estimate that the number of people in Honduras with disabilities is closer to 381,287. These differing reports prevent the government, institutions, and civil society from effectively thinking through how ensure that services are accessible to those with disabilities."

<https://www.ictworks.org/honduran-disability-community/>

27/12/19

Honduras Daily: MACCIH; JOH - Protests; Journalists; Penitentiary System - Torture; Unemployment; Dengue; and the Task of Waking Up

Yesterday the talks started between the OAS General Secretary and the JOH regime on the renewal of the MACCIH mandate. Almargo once more talked of the "construction of a stronger system" which could imply changes to the mandate. In this case, the contract would not be decided over by JOH, but rather by the Nationalist-controlled Congress which already had announced its opposition. The talks are lead by a so-called negotiation commission. Journalist Dagoberto Rodríguez Coello lists some of its members from the Honduran side: "Lisandro Rosales Banegas (foreign minister), Abraham Alvarenga Urbina (presidential advisor), Ebal Diaz Lupian (minister of the presidency), Miriam Estela Guzmán (SAR), Ethel Suyapa Deras Enamorado (CNBS)".

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) warns of the possibility to have its mandate change. Journalist Emy Padilla writes of "the new farce by Hernández and Almargo".

Foreign minister Rosales announced that by mid-January we will find out more.

Meanwhile, the undermining of the MACCIH continues. TSC magistrate José Juan Pineda claims that the only the MP is successful in combating corruption, not the MACCIH.

[https://twitter.com/Almagro\\_OEA2015/status/1210616444196663303](https://twitter.com/Almagro_OEA2015/status/1210616444196663303)

<https://criterio.hn/hernandez-y-almagro-deciden-modificar-convenio-de-la-maccih/>

<https://twitter.com/darocohn/status/1210583559288827904>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-alerta-que-modificacion-al-convenio-de-la-maccih-podria-generar-mas-impunidad/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1210739535522328583>

<https://criterio.hn/la-nueva-etapa-de-la-maccih-la-nueva-farsa-de-hernandez-y-almagro/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1344917-410/en-enero-se-definir%C3%A1n-alcances-del-convenio-con-la-maccih>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/mp-es-quien-ha-dado-resultados-y-no-la-maccih-dice-magistrado-del-tsc.html>

Tegucigalpa's mayor and JOH ally Nasry Asfura prohibited the burning of papier-mâché JOHs and Tony Hernández for the new year festivities.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asfura-prohibe-quema-de-monigotes-con-imagenes-de-juan-orlando-y-tony-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/capitalinos-no-podran-quemar-monigotes-de-joh-y-tony-como-ano-viejo/>

Next to the possible murderer of JOH's brother (see yesterday), the prison massacre also claimed the lives of inmates sentenced for the murder of the two journalists Anibal Barrow and Alfredo Villatoro.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3675-sicarios-de-periodistas-villatoro-y-barrow-asesinados-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/condenados-por-crmenes-contra-periodistas-barrow-y-villatoro-entre-asesinados-en-el-porvenir.html>

The new head of the Armed Forces, Tito Livio Moreno, denies that members of the Armed Forces participated in torture in the El Progreso prison (see yesterday's e-mail).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ningun-militar-maltrato-a-privadas-de-libertad-asegura-jefe-castrense.html>

It is always a favored time of governments to present bad news during the end of year holidays hoping not many people will pay attention. The National Aqueduct and Sewerage Service

(SANAA) just announced to lay off 300 employees. Furthermore, they should only receive 65% of the employee benefits instead of the 100% granted by the Labor Code.

At the same time, ENEE employees took to the street protesting against announced lay-offs.

<http://elpulso.hn/alrededor-de-300-empleados-del-sanaa-seran-despedidos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-300-personas-seran-despedidas-del-sanaa-sin-el-pago-completo-de-indemnizacion-laboral/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/miembros-del-stenee-se-toman-bulevar-suyapa-y-denuncian-masivos-despidos.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/stenee-pide-derogacion-provocaria-despido-1200-empleados/>

Honduras has the second highest death toll due to dengue in Latin America. 177 people died this year of dengue. Per capita, Honduras has by far the highest rate.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-segundo-pais-con-mas-muertes-por-dengue-en-america/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1344888-410/honduras-segundo-lugar-en-dengue-en-am%C3%A9rica>

"In our Honduras, living in sleep is the most stable state. The most uncomfortable and destabilizing thing is waking up. The point is not to sleep, because we have been asleep for a long, long time. The point is to wake up. There are people and groups whose job is to keep people asleep. They are the numbing [adormecedores] ones. Their job is not just to numb people. It's to keep people from waking up. "The sleeping people will never be united" seems to be the slogan of the numbing ones."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/lo-mas-subversivo-en-honduras-el-oficio-de-despertar/>

28/12/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Death Squads, US, Military Police, Militarization, Violence, Corruption; Penitentiary System; and the Last Fuel Price Increase...

Reporteros de Investigación presents the most recent information highlighting possible death squads activities in Honduras. These last months, once again, people protesting the JOH regime as well as possible witnesses to its crimes have been assassinated.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/12/28/las-masacres-son-una-politica-gubernamental-de-extermio/>

"Just days after former Honduran congressman Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández was convicted on drug and weapons charges in the United States, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in Honduras Colleen Hoey was photographed smiling and laughing alongside his brother, President Juan Orlando Hernández. The photo-op was followed by a comment from Michael Kozak, the U.S. State Department's Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, who called the administration of

President Hernández a “reliable partner.” The photograph and comment were typical for the pat-on-the-back and turn-a-blind-eye U.S. strategy in Central America—basically propping up whatever head of state will do the United States’ bidding. President Hernández represents short-term stability and somebody willing to bow to U.S. economic and political interests, no matter his alleged involvement in protecting and accepting bribes from drug traffickers and stealing million of dollars worth of state funds. (...) The Central American nation has long been a focal point of U.S. efforts to spread its influence throughout Latin America. In 2016 and 2017 alone, the US government bestowed Honduras with almost \$400 million dollars (...) But this assistance hasn’t always helped ensure good practices. Some of the funds have gone directly to militarized police units like the Tigres, a force created in 2012 specifically to fight organized crime that has been dogged by corruption allegations involving some of the country’s most high-profile drug traffickers. The money has also been funneled into the National Police, even while former police chief Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla Valladares, among other high-ranking police officers, is alleged to have played a central role in facilitating drug trafficking and been involved in extrajudicial murders. (...) While the United States does not hold all of the blame for the current state of Honduras, there’s no denying how destructive its continued support, financial or otherwise, has been for a large share of Hondurans."

<https://elfaro.net/en/201912/internacionales/23866/What-Are-the-Consequences-of-Continued-US-Support-for-Honduras.htm>

Colonel Willy Oseguera Rodas has taken over the command of the Military Police.

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1211002274580967425>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asume-nuevo-comandante-de-la-policia-militar-en-honduras.html>

The \$54 million patrol boat the JOH regime had bought from Israel arrived in Honduras yesterday.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3677-llega-buque-militar-que-cuesta-1-300-millones-a-hondurenos>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/llega-a-la-bahia-de-puerto-cortes-guardacostas-adquirido-en-israel.html>

The 70th mass killing took place in Honduras yesterday claiming the lives of an unknown man and two young women (22 and 13 years old).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1345073-466/a-tres-d%C3%ADas-de-finalizar-el-2019-honduras-registra-70-masacres>

The president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, denounces the reactivation of the National Convergence Forum (see first link) as a ruse to undermine the work of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA).



<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-inicio-de-segunda-etapa-de-maccih-el-gobierno-relanza-el-fonac.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/reactivacion-del-fonac-es-mandado-para-quitarle-fuerza-al-cna-segun-suyapa-figueroa.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-del-colegio-medico-advierte-que-fonac-hara-comparsa-con-el-ejecutivo-por-casos-de-corrupcion/>

An inmate fled from the prison in Marcala, La Paz.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-fuga-peligroso-reo-de-carcel-de-marcala-la-paz.html>

...for this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/combustibles-sufriran-una-nueva-alza-antes-de-cerrar-el-2019/>

30/12/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Campesinx; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Militarization, Penitentiary System; MACCIH; Migration - US; Extortion; Water; and Growing Hope in Vallecito

OFRANEH denounces an attack on Karla Ignacia Piota Martínez, sister of the general coordination member of OFRANEH, Amada Martínez. Piota Martínez was shot seven times and her life is in the air. OFRANEH also denounces that the official motive for the crime is presented as "personal enmities" - this only serves to cover the truth about the situation in Masca, Cortés, where the crime took place.

IM-Defensoras denounces that "[t]his is the fourth incident in which people around Amada have been attacked or killed. On December 12, her house was shot at, and Paula Alvarez was injured in the incident. Before that, three people were killed, including Garifuna defender Mirna Suazo."

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1211257731803492352>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/12/alertadefensoras-honduras-intentan-asesinar-a-la-defensora-garifuna-karla-piota-martinezintegrante-de-ofraneh/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the ongoing threats against campesino leader and indigenous Lenca defender Sebastián Reyes, the regional secretary of the CNTC in La Paz.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/denuncian-amenazas-contrasecretario-regional-de-cntc-la-paz/>

The Pro Honduras Network uncovered in court documents a link between the convicted drug trafficker Emilio Fernandez Rosa alias "Don H" and a previous deputy minister of security, Armando Calidonio Alvarado. The latter went on to become the mayor of San Pedro Sula. "The information contained in the document from the Southern District Court of New York supports the

statements made by Captain Santos Orellana, former National Police Commissioner Henry Osorto and former National Police Director Ricardo Ramirez Del Cid, who said that Oscar Álvarez and Armando Calidonio supported drug cartels while serving as Minister and Deputy Minister of Security, respectively."

<https://www.prohondurasnetwork.com/l/gh/>

<https://criterio.hn/armando-calidonio-es-senalado-como-uno-de-los-socios-de-don-h/>

Radio Progreso writes about the re-militarization of the Honduran society as a response by the JOH regime for its lack of legitimacy.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ante-carencia-de-legitimidad-politica-joh-remilitariza-sociedad-hondurena/>

Carlos Leiva, CIPRODEH's director, warns that "people who handle information and who are still in prison are in grave danger".

ConfidencialHN published additional information of the alleged torture and sexual violence by members of the Military Police against women inmates (see also last week).

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/la-gente-que-maneja-informacion-y-que-aun-estan-en-carceles-corre-grave-peligro-director-de-ciprodeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policias-militares-ultrajaron-a-una-privada-de-libertad-en-carcel-de-el-progreso-requeriran-a-jefe-del-operativo/>

Business leader and outspoken critique of the JOH regime, Juliette Handal, asks the international community not to accept changes to the MACCIH's mandate (see previous e-mails).

Even the former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, joined the discussion. He sees the renegotiation of the mandate as part of a larger discussion between the JOH regime and the OAS General Secretary Luis Almargo regarding the latter's reelection bid. This situation is "bad news for Honduras" according to Jiménez Mayor.

Nasralla speaks of an impunity pact between JOH and Almargo and voices once more the idea of a nationwide strike.

There is also more criticism towards the reactivation of Fonac. There seems to be an agreement among the social and political opposition that this aims at undermining and weakening the CNA, MACCIH and UFECIC (see previous e-mail).

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-a-comunidad-internacional-que-no-accepte-condiciones-ante-renovacion-de-la-maccih/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-vuelve-a-cuestionar-encuentros-oea-gobierno-en-torno-a-la-maccih.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-que-el-convenio-de-maccih-honduras-negocia->

[apoyo-a-reeleccion-de-almagro-jimenez-mayor.html](https://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3678-sociedad-civil-afin-al-regimen-hernandez-trama-contr-cna-ufecic-y-maccih)

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-advierte-manipulacion-ante-renovacion-de-maccih-esta-dispuesto-a-liderar-paro-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-afianzamiento-del-pacto-de-impunidad-entre-joh-y-almagro-ante-renovacion-de-maccih/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3678-sociedad-civil-afin-al-regimen-hernandez-trama-contr-cna-ufecic-y-maccih>

La Prensa reports that this year, some 650 Hondurans tried to cross the US-Mexican border every day, more than three times as much as in 2018.

Hugo Maldonado, director of CODEH, told media outlets that there will be a new migrant caravan taking off in January.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1345245-410/unos-650-hondure%C3%B1os-al-d%C3%ADa-intentaron-cruzar-a-eeuu>

<https://tiempo.hn/convocan-nueva-caravana-enero-rumbo-estados-unidos/>

"Not many people besides immigration law wonks had probably heard of "Section 1325," before Julián Castro called for repealing it during the first Democratic presidential primary debate this summer. The law in question makes it a federal crime to enter the U.S. without permission — turning an immigration offense into a criminal one. President Donald Trump used a policy of "zero tolerance" for breaking that law to justify separating families at the border, but under George W. Bush and Barack Obama before him, 1325, along with illegal reentry — coming back after being deported — was already being used to jail and deport more and more immigrants. In fact, immigration-related crimes now make up the majority of all federal criminal prosecutions."

<https://theintercept.com/2019/12/28/book-review-immigration-detention-history-policy/>

The transport sector denounces having had to pay 40 million Lempiras in extortion money this month alone. So far this year, at least 125 people working in the transport sector have been murdered.

<https://tiempo.hn/sector-transporte-pago-mas-de-l40-millones-por-extorsion-en-diciembre/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/transportistas-denuncian-que-han-pagado-mas-de-l-40-millones-por-extorsion-en-diciembre.html>

The rationing of water will continue at least until May 2020 in Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3679-crisis-rationamientos-de-agua-se-extenderan-hasta-proximo-invierno-en-capital-hondurena>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1345410-410/agua-llegar%C3%A1-una-vez-cada-siete-d%C3%ADas-a-capitalinos-hasta-mayo-de>

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<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1211780443906985984>

31/12/19

Honduras Daily: Tolupanes; OFRANEH; Capnesinx; MACCIH; Migration - US; Drug Trafficking; Taxes; and New Year's Wishes

The indigenous Tolupán Efraín Martínez Martínez was found murdered in Montaña de la Flor on Monday.

<https://tiempo.hn/encuentran-muerto-a-lider-de-la-montana-de-la-flor-en-orica/>

<https://twitter.com/SamanthaTheI/status/1212042433439191040>

OFRANEH published a short video on the most recent attacks and assassinations of the Garífuna people in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1212052455887900672>

El Libertador published more information on a possible new migrant caravan taking off on January 15.

Laura Carlsen investigates the root causes of Honduran migration. "I went down to Honduras to ask grassroots leaders these questions. Also, to find out what's behind the rise in the popular movement over the past year and, most of all, whether it can provide a way out of the downward spiral the country has been in since the coup of 2009. I found a country facing an acute crisis on all levels—a political crisis of legitimacy that has destroyed faith in the leaders and led to violent repression of protest as the government implodes, an economic crisis with over 60% of the population living in poverty and extreme poverty, and a crisis in security as organized crime groups control urban territory, corporations take over resources, and corrupt security forces and paramilitaries routinely attack the citizenry with practically no legal consequences. There is also a deeper, more ineffable crisis: many Hondurans see no future in their own country."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3682-exodo-nueva-mega-caravana-saldra-de-honduras-este-15-de-enero>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/12/31/as-honduras-collapses-its-people-are-forced-to-flee/>

COFADEH and La Vía Campesina Honduras denounce the most recent death threats against indigenous Lenca campesino leader Sebastián Reyes Bardales (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-y-lvc-preocupados-por-amenazas-contr-el-secretario->

[general-de-la-cntc/](#)

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellano denounces that the JOH regime is trying convert the MACCIH in just another of its tools to stay in power.

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3681-maccih-de-acompanamiento-al-regimen-o-justicia-hondurena>

In the same article, Carlsen also addresses US support of the JOH regime, especially questionable after the Tony Hernández trial. "Inexplicably, many progressive politicians and Washington NGOs protested the original announcement of suspension of aid to Honduras, with little explanation of how aid to an illegitimate and unpopular government in crisis would help the country. US aid historically— and especially under a Trump administration— has never been impartial or beneficent to the receiving Central American countries. All the Honduran grassroots leaders I talked to were very clear—U.S. aid props up the JOH government and works against us. (...) Instead of turning a blind eye to the Honduran crisis, Congress should stop propping up a man his own people call a dictator. As the Honduran government continues to attack protestors and target activists, it should quickly approve the Bertha Cáceres Act, named for the feminist environmental activist murdered for defending a river slated to be dammed. The Act calls for the immediate suspension of security aid."

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/12/31/as-honduras-collapses-its-people-are-forced-to-flee/>

Ramón Matta Waldurruga was arrested in Colombia and may be extradited to Honduras. He had previously been in prison in the US for two years for drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/matta-waldurruga-podria-ser-extraditado-a-honduras-tras-ser-requerido-en-colombia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/matta-waldurruga-es-requerido-en-aeropuerto-colombiano/>

Honduras collected 2 billion Lempiras less in taxes this year than budgeted.

<https://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/directora-del-sar-confirma-caida-de-dos-mil-millones-de-lempiras-en-meta-de-recaudacion.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefa-tributaria-reconoce-que-hubo-una-baja-en-recaudaciones-de-hasta-dos-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

10 wishes by Radio Progreso for 2020 as "dreaming does not cost anything".

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/nuestros-deseos-para-2020-sonar-no-cuesta-nada/>