

01/01/20

Honduras Daily: Femicide; Migration; Education; and the Charter Cities Return

Already on the first day of 2020, five women were murdered in Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/suman-cinco-las-mujeres-asesinadas-en-honduras-en-el-primer-dia-de-2020.html>

70'275 Hondurans were deported last year from Mexico. Some 27'000 are still awaiting entry into the US in Mexico.

<https://tiempo.hn/alden-rivera-mexico-deporto-a-70275-hondurenos-en-2019/>

82'438 school children dropped out of school in 2019, more than in the previous year. Since 2015, the number has increased by at least 42%.

<https://tiempo.hn/mas-de-82-mil-deserciones-escolares-se-registraron-en-2019/>

Here we go again: "Patri Friedman is sick of the jokes about floating tax havens. About a decade ago, the former Google software engineer (and grandson of Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman) co-founded the Seasteading Institute, a nonprofit with the stated aim of developing a model for self-governing offshore communities. The idea was to allow people to set up more laissez-faire laws for themselves on mobile, artificial islands resting in international waters. An invaluable experiment, he calls it now. Also: "Baggage." The institute's Silicon Valley backers most prominently included Peter Thiel, the conservative billionaire and future Trump adviser, and traded in no small part on Thiel's imprimatur. But the effort was as impractical as it sounds, and it drew criticism from local leaders and good-government groups as a form of neocolonialism. In 2018 locals defeated a commercial spinoff's attempt to establish a seastead off the coast of Tahiti. Seasteading, like vampirism, is now on the unofficial list of topics not to raise with Thiel, who hasn't written the institute a check in at least five years. Nonetheless, he's become the anchor investor for Friedman's new venture capital firm, which is trying to create some similar-sounding communities on land. Pronomos Capital, which Friedman incorporated in August, is supposed to bankroll the construction of experimental cities on vacant tracts of land in developing countries. Pronomos is set up like a venture fund, making investments in local organizations that do the work of securing government approvals, finding tenants, and hiring retired U.K. judges to enforce the new legal framework, to be based on British common law. The firm says it's discussing semi-autonomous cities of varying sizes with foreign and local businesspeople in countries where officials have seemed receptive to exempting them from area laws, including Ghana, Honduras, the Marshall Islands, Nigeria, and Panama. A given community could start as small as an industrial park, Friedman says. Most will be aimed at foreign businesses seeking friendlier tax treatment."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-20/silicon-valley-seasteaders-go-looking-for-low-tax-sites-on-land>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1212168095336452101>

02/01/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; FPIC; US; Dengue; Post-Electoral Violence; Penitentiary System; Libre; Fires; Forced Displacement; and a New Decade

Berta Cáceres was assassinated 46 months ago and COPINH continues to demand justice.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1212802091296710656>

OFRANEH shows how the JOH regime lied in a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) regarding oil exploitation in the Miskita region. They claimed that they consulted the Miskita people but they just conducted a socialization of the project after having granted it.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1212847072199806977>

The LA Times asks if the Trump administration supports democracy in Latin America. "The contrast between its handling of election fallout in Honduras and the nearly identical scenario in Bolivia offers a stark lesson in how the Trump administration approaches the region. Even as votes were still being counted in Honduras in December 2017, the U.S. congratulated Juan Orlando Hernandez on victory. The endorsement, which came despite OAS recommendations for new balloting because of rampant election fraud, shocked numerous Latin American leaders as well as Democratic lawmakers in the United States. In a briefing at the time, a senior State Department official falsely contended that the OAS was changing its assessment about malfeasance and that the U.S. recognition of Hernandez was appropriate. The U.S. stance was widely seen as a reward for Hernandez, a right-wing politician who has played by the U.S. rules and heaped praise on President Trump. He had complied with U.S. demands to help cut off the flow of immigrants into the United States. And days after the election, Honduras became one of only a handful of countries that voted with the U.S. in the United Nations in support of Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv. Trump has continued support for Hernandez, who visited senior administration officials in Washington last month despite having been named by federal officials as a co-conspirator in his brother's drug-trafficking trial. A Manhattan court in October found Tony Hernandez guilty of running a "state-sanctioned" multimillion-dollar operation funneling drugs into the United States. Juan Orlando Hernandez has denied involvement. The U.S. approach to Bolivia after its presidential election Oct. 20 could not have been more different."

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-01-01/trump-democracy-latin-america>

"Rising temperatures are increasing the range of disease-bearing mosquitoes globally. But in Honduras, the effects are compounded by government dysfunction and criminal gangs." And there was already the first death due to Dengue in 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/29/world/americas/honduras-dengue-epidemic.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/honduras-registra-la-primera-muerte-sospechosa-por-dengue-del-2020/>

MADJ commemorates Wilmer Adalberto Paredes Gámez, who was murdered on January 1, 2018, as part of the post-electoral violence. Two weeks before, he had been brutally beaten together with other young protesters by state security forces. Wilmer was responsible for the security of the local protests and was a special target of state repression. Two years later, his death remains unpunished as do all other murders and crimes by the JOH regime of this period.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/01/02/wilmer-paredes-2-anos-de-su-legado/>

Criminal lawyer Abel Orellana questions the usefulness of the ongoing transfers of inmates from one prison to another.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/traslado-de-reos-reaviva-violencia-en-carceles-y-es-ilegal-segun-analistas.html>

Libre announced that Xiomara Castro will run in the primaries to become the official candidate for the 2021 elections.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/xiomara-castro-acepta-ser-candidata-presidencial-de-libre-afirma-juan-barahona.html>

According to Honduras' firefighters, the amount of fires they responded to in 2019 increased substantially compared to 2018, e.g. forest fires by over 30%.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuerpo-de-bomberos-registro-un-gran-incremento-de-incendios-durante-2019/>

Proceso Digital reports on forced displacement in Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/desplazamiento-por-extorsion-una-huella-viva-en-honduras.html>

Radio Progreso sees some hope for Honduras in the coming decade.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/la-decada-del-cambio-y-la-esperanza/>

03/01/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Violence; Femicide; MACCIH; Extractivism; Migration - US; Penitentiary System; and a Short History of the Honduran Press

OFRANEH published an update on the state of Ignacia Piota Martinez. She was attacked and shot at seven times on December 28 in the Garífuna community Masca, but now is stable in a hospital in San Pedro Sula. "Ignacia, 70 years old, was the sister of the late Mirna Suazo Martinez, who was serving as President of the Masca Board of Trustees, murdered on September 9 in addition to the attempted murder of Paulina Alvarez on December 12 and the murder of Oscar Francisco Guerrero Centeno on October 10, which is an indicator of the enormous violence directed against the remnants of the Garifuna population in the community of Masca."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/01/03/racismo-en-honduras-nuevo-ataque-contralideresa-garifuna-en-masca/>

A young man claims that after having served as a protected witness for the MP and the DPI in drug trafficking cases he was abandoned and betrayed by them.
The Security Secretariat disputes this.

<https://tiempo.hn/testigo-protegido-en-caso-de-narcos-denuncia-traicion-de-la-dpi-y-mp/>

<https://tiempo.hn/seguridad-argumenta-que-version-testigo-protegido-falsa/>

Padre Melo warns that the very violent ending of 2019 in Honduras could be "a premonition of even harder times" due to a further consolidation process by the JOH regime.
2019 also has made evident once more the failed security policy of the regime.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/advierten-escenarios-de-violencia-como-parte-del-proceso-de-pacificacion-del-gobierno-de-joh/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-honduras-fracaso-politica-de-seguridad/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/suazo-acepta-que-durante-2019-hubo-un-repunte-en-la-tasa-de-homicidios/>

Deputy Secretary of Security, Luis Suazo, promises advances in investigating femicides in Honduras.

Already on Day 1 of 2020, five women were murdered in Honduras. The impunity rate for femicide is in the high 90s and now Suazo claims that the five femicides will be resolved in the next five days...

<https://tiempo.hn/seguridad-femicidios-2020-tienen-vinculos-pandillas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1346187-466/luis-suazo-femicidios-ser%C3%A1n-resueltos-en-los-pr%C3%B3ximos-d%C3%ADas>

Next Tuesday, the discussions between OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro and the JOH regime continue regarding the future of the MACCIH. Radio Progreso warns again about the possibility of a shady deal between Almagro and JOH (see also last week).

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/a-cambio-del-voto-de-honduras-para-reeleccion-en-la-oea-se-negocia-el-futuro-de-la-maccih/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1346212-410/conversaciones-en-torno-a-la-maccih-se-retoman-el-martes>

CESPAD looks back at 2019 and the socio-environmental struggle in Honduras. "In the first

section, the main events of the situation are described, evaluating the increase and reactivation of the socio-environmental struggle, detailing the reaction of the regime and the coercive force of the State and an effort to understand the current moment of territorial struggle and the correlation of forces. In the second section, an assessment is made of the main acts of resistance that have arisen in the situation, emblematic cases of criminalization and murders against territorial leadership, the important struggle of Honduran women and the non-capitalist alternatives that have been woven from the socio-environmental movement. And finally, the third section identifies and poses the challenges of the movement in the face of 2020."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/01/03/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-hacia-donde-avanza-la-lucha-socio-ambiental-en-honduras-un-balance-de-la-coyuntura-del-2019/>

"The US government has started sending asylum seekers back to Nogales, Mexico, to await court hearings that will be scheduled roughly 350 miles (563km) away in Ciudad Juárez. Authorities are expanding a program known as Remain in Mexico that requires tens of thousands of asylum seekers to wait out their immigration court hearings in Mexico. Until this week, the government was driving some asylum seekers from Nogales, Arizona, to El Paso, Texas, so they could be returned to Juárez. Now, asylum seekers will have to find their own way through dangerous Mexican border roads." Already 403 Hondurans have been deported from Mexico and the US in the first three days of 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jan/02/us-asylum-seekers-mexico-arizona-remain>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/suman-403-los-hondurenos-deportados-en-2020.html>

Sociologist Víctor Meza thinks about the Honduran penitentiary system. "I often wonder if there really is a prison "system" in Honduras. The question is valid, judging by the characteristics and operation of the so-called "prisons" or "detention centres" that exist in the country. If we assume that a system presupposes a certain internal order, coherence among its components and institutional complementarity, the answer would be negative: there is no prison system in our country. What there is, at most, is a set of detention centers, most of which do not meet the material conditions or functional ingredients to be considered as such."

Fusina announced that they transferred 49 inmates from the prison in La Ceiba to other places.

<https://criterio.hn/el-sistema-penitenciario/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-49-reos-de-carcel-caribena-fueron-movilizados-a-otros-penales-de-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/trasladan-a-49-reos-de-la-carcel-de-el-porvenir-atlantida-a-otros-centros-penales.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/01/03/una-breve-historia-del-periodismo-escrito-de>

[masas-en-honduras/](https://www.masas-en-honduras.com/)

04/01/20

Honduras Daily: HR Situation; Indigenous Peoples; Deforestation; MACCIH; Penitentiary System; Femicide; and the Honduran Napoleon

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the December 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/2020/01/1912_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

The indigenous Pech leader Santos Felipe Escobar Garcia was kidnapped and then found dead yesterday.

Less than a week ago, the indigenous Tolupán leader Efraín Martínez Martínez had also been murdered (see previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1213507733049225216>

<https://tiempo.hn/colon-hallan-sin-vida-a-lider-de-la-comunidad-pech/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-una-semana-fueron-ejecutados-dos-lideres-indigenas/>

The Network of Indigenous Lenca Human Rights Defender from La Paz (REDHIL-PAZ) denounced in a press release together with COFADEH that "[he] felling of the forest without any renewable public policy is affecting the region, causing climate change and water shortage, as well as the criminalization of those who denounce these facts".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/preocupante-crimen-forestal-en-la-paz/>

Lawyer and advisor to Salvador Nasralla, Antonio García, warns of a "macabre plan" by the JOH regime to get rid of the MACCIH. "[I]t is a macabre plan of the government, because on the one hand it says we will make a super MACCIH, we will improve it based on lessons learned, so that it is more effective, that is the justification, but as there is a new agreement it is obligatory, according to the legal system of Honduras that it goes back to the National Congress, because it would be something different and what is signed or negotiated by the Executive, must be ratified by the Legislative, because it is an international agreement (...) in the end Congress will kill the MACCIH and the president will say that he wanted the Mission, but that he is respectful of the Honduran legal system".

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-de-un-plan-macabro-del-gobierno-para-que-maccih-no-siga-en-honduras1/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/reformas-al-convenio-de-maccih-es-plan-macabro-para-que-no-se-apruebe-segun-tony-garcia.html>

According to ConfidencialHN, the former head of the penitentiary system, Rosa Gudiel, fled Honduras together with her kids after having received death threats.

Deputy Security Minister Luis Suazo, meanwhile, shows his real face when it comes to his view on inmates. He denounced that "[t]hese criminals take advantage of the spaces that the law gives them, the rights and guarantees that exist in international systems. They take it as a weakness of our system and take advantage of it for their own benefit". He is, among other things, talking about the possibility to speak to a lawyer and get medical treatment...

<https://confidencialhn.com/huye-de-honduras-exjefa-del-sistema-penitenciario-denuncia-amenazas-de-muerte/>

<https://tiempo.hn/seguridad-investigacion-abogados-medicos-asociacion-reos-1/>

On Friday, the same deputy security minister made great promises regarding the investigation of femicides (see yesterday's e-mail). Women human rights defenders are not as hopeful and they continue to denounce the lack of access for women to the judicial system as well as the ineffectiveness of investigations into femicides.

<https://tiempo.hn/defensoras-denuncian-falta-justicia-mujeres-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/feministas-lamentan-poca-efectividad-en-la-investigacion-de-feminicidios.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1346361-410/honduras-segundo-lugar-en-feminicidios>

<https://confidencialhn.com/napoleon-catracho-joh-habla-de-consolidar-deudas-de-los-pobres-de-honduras-mientras-cabalga-finos-caballos/>

06/01/20

Honduras Daily: Campesinx; Journalists; Hydroelectricity - Pajuiles; MACCIH - US; Migration - US; Violence; Climate Change - Water; Employment; Judicial Power; HIV; and Debt Relief without Teeth?

CESPAD sent out an alert regarding the criminalizing trial against MUCA leader Alexis Ulloa Flores. His case goes back to 2009, then in 2017 a judge finally decided to drop the charges, but the MP challenged the decision and he was arrested again on December 31, 2019.

The Agrarian Platform also denounces the persecution of Ulloa Flores who is a beneficiary of special protective measures by the IACHR.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/01/06/alerta-a-audiencia-inicial-lider-del-movimiento-de-unificacion-campesina-del-aguan-muca/>

See attachment

The two journalists Eddie Andino and Mai Ling Coto were impeded from doing their work by police agents, the later even being physically assaulted by police agents during a live transmission. The journalist Dolores Valenzuela filed a complaint at the MP after having received death threats. She thinks they are linked to her struggle to defend the La Tigra National Park.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1092-de-forma-agresiva-policia-impide-cobertura-a-periodistas>

<https://tiempo.hn/periodista-denuncia-amenazas-muerte-ante-mp/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/comunicadora-y-defensora-de-ddhh-denuncia-amenazas-de-muerte-ante-el-mp.html>

HispanTV visited the people in Pajuiles who have been resisting for two years a hydroelectric project by Hidrocep.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/445995/lucha-comunidades-recursos-naturaleza>

The Coalition for the Renewal of the MACCIH, a civil society alliance, reiterated their demand and also once more highlighted the problem with a new agreement instead of a renewal which would give Congress the last word.

In the US, congressman Eliot Engel included in his new year's wishes "a clean extension" of the MACCIH and linked to the bipartisan letter supporting this demand.

<https://criterio.hn/coalicion-por-la-renovacion-de-la-maccih-dice-no-a-un-convenio-nuevo/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1214240377873600514>

"Invoking the deaths of migrant children in Border Patrol custody and proclaiming solidarity with health care providers, freshman Rep. Lauren Underwood, Democrat of Illinois, urged her House colleagues in late September to vote for a measure that she said would help with a public health emergency at the border. "The humanitarian and medical situation on our southern border has reached crisis levels," Underwood said. (...) Yet the bill that Underwood was pushing would not actually obligate any improvements in medical care. Instead, it would create a mammoth health and biometric database — accessible to immigration agencies known to create false records that the government later uses against migrants, who are unable to challenge or even see these tainted reports in asylum and other immigration proceedings. Agencies also use migrants' personal information to track them down for deportation."

<https://theintercept.com/2020/01/04/border-patrol-cbp-migrant-health-database/>

In the first mass killing of 2020, a former Nationalist mayor together with his son and two other

men were murdered in Esquipulas del Norte, Olancho.

The police, meanwhile, first tried to claim that they died in a car accident. They died in an ambush in which the driver was shot and then the car crashed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/primer-masacre-de-2020-asesinan-a-exalcalde-nacionalista-y-tres-mas-en-comunidad-olanchana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-descarta-masacre-contra-exalcalde-nacionalista-y-acompanantes-sostiene-que-fue-accidente/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ex-alcalde-olanchano-y-tres-personas-mueren-tras-emboscada/>

JOH reiterated his demand first made at the recent COP in Madrid to have longer pay-pack periods for loans by international institutions and then use the money to build dams.

<https://tiempo.hn/la-propuesta-gobierno-organismos-bid-bm-bei-para-construir-represas/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that "[i]mpacts of climate change including extremely low levels of water in dams that supply households in Tegucigalpa, are being used as a reason to privatize water management in capital of #Honduras. Residents resist the IDB-funded privatization that is based on corrupt & illegal acts".

Gabriel Rubí, the head of Copeco, meanwhile, said that the water levels for Tegucigalpa are so low that it will only last for the three first month and not until May as previously said.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1214352842338660352>

<https://tiempo.hn/preven-agua-para-primeros-meses-2020-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bid-y-bm-prestaran-48-millones-para-pagar-pasivo-laboral-del-sanaa-anuncia-edil-asfura.html>

According to the business lobby COHEP, 17'000 new jobs were created in the private sector and 16'000 in the public sector in 2019.

<https://radiohrn.hn/burocracia-crecio-en-2019-fueron-creadas-16000-plazas-mas/>

Mario Díaz, coordinator of the Sentencing Tribunals, announced the inauguration of its fifth tribunal in the hope that it helps with the judicial backlog.

<https://confidencialhn.com/inauguran-la-quinta-sala-de-sentencias-para-reducir-pesada-mora-judicial/>

Honduras has 37'696 people living with HIV/AIDS.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-registra-mas-de-37-mil-casos-de-vih-sida.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-senala-que-sistema-financiero-hace-oidos-sordos-a-ley-de-alivio-de-deuda/>

07/01/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking, Opposition; Electoral Reforms; Penitentiary System; Indigenous Peoples; Minimum Wage; US; Lawyers; National Police; and more Femicides

The defense of Tony Hernández successfully requested the postponement of Tony's sentencing. It is now scheduled for February 24.

JOH's presidential adviser Marvin Ponce presents Tony in an interview just as a young man who made the wrong friends...

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3686-atencion-tony-hernandez-recibira-sentencia-hasta-febrero-proximo>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1347138-466/postergan-para-el-24-de-febrero-lectura-de-sentencia-de-tony-hern%C3%A1ndez>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/justicia-de-eeuu-exagero-con-tony-hernandez-porque-nunca-fue-un-gran-narcotraficante-marvin-ponce.html>

There has been some talk again about a national strike in opposition to the JOH regime. Former Nationalist president Pepe Lobo thinks about participating in order to get rid of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/mel-zelaya-asegura-que-va-por-el-paro-nacional-y-un-frente-amplio-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-no-descarta-sumarse-al-paro-nacional-para-sacar-del-ejecutivo-a-joh/>

CESPAD published an analysis of the Clean Politics Law.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/01/07/la-ley-de-politica-limpia-y-el-dinero-prohibido-que-bulle-en-las-campanas-politicas-en-honduras/>

Wilfredo Méndez warns that with taking over complete control over the prisons, the Armed Forces will further hide the real death toll of prison massacres and share less information about the situation of inmates in general.

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-ffaa-escondra-las-cifras-de-las-muertes-en-las-carceles-de-honduras/>

The MP informed about two successful trials in the case of two murdered indigenous Lenca in

2016.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5253-dictan-sentencia-condenatoria-contra-homicida-de-miembro-de-pueblo-indigena>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5245-fiscalia-de-etnias-y-atic-obtienen-condena-por-asesinato-de-indigena-lenca>

The business lobby COHEP wants a new mechanism to set the minimum wage.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-pide-a-ejecutivo-y-trabajadores-nueva-metodologia-para-calcular-salario-minimo/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-cohep-senala-de-incentivos-perversos-aumentos-salariales/>

To carry up favor with the Trump administration, the JOH regime decided to declare Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

Meanwhile, another US official announced a visit to the country, the interim Secretary of National Security, Chad F. Wolf.

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-designa-a-hezbola-como-organizacion-terrorista/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/secretario-de-seguridad-de-ee-uu-llegara-a-honduras-el-miercoles.html>

The lawyer Javier Edgardo Escobar Rivera was murdered in Santa Rosa de Copán.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/muerto-encuentran-abogado-en-hotel-de-copan.html>

The MP requested 18 years of prison for the former police commissioner Jorge Alberto Maradiaga Barralaga for money laundering.

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-solicita-18-anos-de-carcel-para-exsubcomisionado-jorge-barralaga/>

In the newest multiple murder in Honduras, three women were killed in Cololaca, Lempira.

<https://criterio.hn/nueva-masacre-deja-tres-mujeres-asesinadas/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/asesinan-a-abuela-nieta-y-empleada-domestica-en-lempira-honduras/>

08/01/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - National Police, JOH; State Security Forces; Corruption; JOH; US; HRDs - La Tigra; Violence; ENEE; Migration - Spain; and a Drone-Free-Zone?

Aqui Abajo has a great new article on US support for the "Honduran police implicated in drug trafficking". "The U.S. support for the construction and maintenance of a narco-state in Honduras increased after the 2009 U.S. and Canadian-backed coup d'état. U.S. support for "state-sponsored drug trafficking," intentional or not, came in many forms - the Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) that includes training and financial support to the Honduran military, police and state intelligence institutions, the Alliance for Prosperity, USAID projects, and more.

Diplomatically and politically, the U.S. supported the two National Party governments under Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo who is named as co-conspirator 3 (CC3) in the same New York drug case and support for two (illegal) Presidential terms of co-conspirator 4 (CC4), the current Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH). Under President Obama, the U.S. Congress appropriated more than \$2 billion in aid through CARSI to assist the region's law enforcement institutions and justice systems. The Trump administration has maintained Obama's security framework for Central America but has focused more on diverting migrants away from the border, ramping up border security, and supporting programs that allegedly address migration. (...) Through testimonies of five confessed drug traffickers collaborating with the prosecution - all of whom were TH and JOH's drug business associates - it became part of the public record that the Honduran National Police provided security to drug traffickers and drug shipments over several years. Federal prosecutors found photos on the phone that was confiscated from TH when arrested in the Miami airport. The photos show how police vehicles and state security personnel escorted drug shipments across Honduras on behalf of drug traffickers."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2020/1/8/united-states-supports-honduran-police-implicated-in-drug-trafficking>

Related to the Tony Hernández case, after the murder in a so-called maximum-security prison of a key witness, Magdaleno Meza, his legal defense team asked for protection. They did not receive it and one lawyer was also murdered. Another one, Carlos Chajtur, once again asked for protection and yesterday denounced that the Protection Mechanism again denied his request. The Human Rights Secretariat reacted saying that his case is handled by CONADEH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/desestiman-medidas-de-proteccion-para-apoderado-de-magdaleno-meza/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/estado-de-honduras-niega-ofrecerle-proteccion-por-amenazas-contra-su-vida-denuncia-abogado-chajtur.html>

The MP informed about no less than four trials against members of the police and the Armed Forces for "crimes against life".

The MP in San Pedro Sula informed that in the last three years, 16 members of the police force and 11 Military Police officers were found guilty of human rights violations.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5259-senalan-cuatro-juicios-contra->

[policias-y-un-capitan-del-ejercito-encausados-por-delitos-contra-la-vida](#)

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5258-16-policias-y-11-militares-condenados-por-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-en-san-pedro-sula>

In a third press release - someone is trying to present their work in a good light - the MP of San Pedro Sula also writes that they presented 58 accusations for corruption against mayors, councilors, the police and other public officials. There were 30 convictions. This also refers to the last three years.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5254-30-condenas-y-procesos-contra-14-alcaldes-ha-logrado-la-fiscalia-anticorrupcion-de-sps>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/fiscalia-anticorrupcion-de-sps-logro-30-condenas-y-procesos-contra-14-alcaldes.html>

Next year is an election year in Honduras and Javier Suazo sees four possibilities for JOH to stay in power, directly or through someone else, e.g. Mauricio Oliva, the current president of Congress.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/204095>

Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf arrived in Honduras yesterday (see also yesterday's e-mail).

He arrived "for a bilateral meeting on regional migration and security. Honduras has been a strong partner in the region and we look forward to continuing our joint progress in the region."

<https://twitter.com/SpoxDHS/status/1215085193339527169>

<https://twitter.com/SpoxDHS/status/1214646057512165377>

<https://tiempo.hn/secretario-de-seguridad-de-eeuu-en-honduras-para-revisar-acuerdo-de-asilo/>

Both Animal de Pasos Grandes y Defensores en Línea published more information on the recent threats against journalist and human rights defender Dolores Valenzuela as well as the three defenders Tatiana Lara, Christopher Castillo and Manuel Amador for their defense of the La Tigra National Park (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2651-defensa-de-la-tigra-podria-ser-la-causa-de-amenazas-contra-cuatro-personas-defensoras-del-ambiente>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-periodista-y-ambientalista-dolores-valenzuela-denuncia-campana-de-odio-en-su-contra-por-defender-la-tigra/>

El Libertador reports that at least 60 Hondurans have been murdered in the first week of 2020, at least 10 of them women.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3688-alarmante-60-hondurenos-asesinados-en-primeros-siete-dias-de-2020>

ConfidencialHN reports on the creation of an intervention committee for the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-ordena-intervencion-de-la-enee-podria-ser-dirigida-por-militares/>

Migration to Spain from Honduras increased by 15% last year.

<https://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/en-15-4-aumento-en-2019-la-migracion-de-hondurenos-hacia-espana.html>

<https://criterio.hn/con-tantos-requisitos-y-prohibiciones-es-mas-facil-volar-un-avion-que-un-drone-en-honduras/>

09/01/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Migration - US; Berta - Impunity; MACCIH; Corruption - FIFA, Open Arch; ENEE;

The US Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf met directly with JOH yesterday (see previous e-mails). He tweeted about a "[g]ood discussion with President Hernandez and his cabinet on security and prosperity issues. We finalized the details of the ACA [safe third country agreement and look forward to implementing in the coming weeks".

The US embassy published his complete public presentation. It seems as the recent past with the Tony trial, electoral fraud, the assassinations of dozens of protesters by state security forces supported by US funds has never happened. "Your partnership touches nearly every corner of the United States government, but the Department of Homeland Security is especially fortunate to enjoy such a strong and productive bilateral relationship with you. (...) Mr. President—I commend your forward-leaning efforts to improve public security to attract greater investment to Honduras."

Then there were also remarks on US investment. "The recently launched U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, or DFC, under CEO Adam Boehler, is committed to supporting economic growth in Honduras and expanding bilateral partnerships with your government. The DFC currently has over \$235 million invested in Honduras, including \$135 million in financing of the first geothermal power plant in the country."

ConfidencialHN reports that JOH boasted having stopped four Iranians from illegally entering Honduras...

https://twitter.com/DHS_Wolf/status/1215351720173113344

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/acting-dhs-secretary-wolfs-remarks-with-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/01/09/acting-secretary-wolf-visits-honduras-finalize-key-agreements>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-asegura-a-ee-uu-que-detuvo-a-cuatro-iranies-que-pretendian-ingresar-a-honduras/>

As part of the above agreements, Honduras will soon receive citizens from Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Basil and Nicaragua who have requested asylum in the US.

Meanwhile some 27'000 Hondurans are waiting their asylum decision at the US boarder.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1347757-410/honduras-recibira-migrantes-cinco-nacionalidades-asilo-refugio-estados-unidos>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/unos-27-mil-hondurenos-esperan-respuesta-de-asilo-en-frontera-sur-de-eeuu.html>

InSight Crime picked up the discussions around the newest revelations in the Berta Cáceres case involving the private messages. "Private call logs, SMS, and WhatsApp messages unearthed by the Honduran Public Prosecutor's Office revealed that the hit squad "communicated through a compartmentalized chain that reached the highest ranks of leadership" of Desarrollos Energéticos SA (DESA), the company building the Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam, the Intercept reported on December 21. (...) The messages suggest that those involved in the plot to murder Cáceres knew that they had enough friends in high places to ensure that the odds of them facing justice were slim to none. They spoke clearly of their intentions in messages, discussing details of the "mission," bribes to be paid and weapons to be exchanged to carry out the crime. As things stand now, the elites that felt they could deliberately plan and carry out a high-profile murder with impunity were completely right."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/private-messages-further-link-honduras-elites-berta-caceres-murder/>

CESPAD published a public forum on the MACCIH and JOH's dealings with its renewal.

"According to Gustavo Irías, Director of CESPAD, the fight undertaken by sectors of Honduran citizens for the renewal of the MACCIH mandate has entered a new, more complex phase, which represents serious risks for a backward step in the fight against corruption. "The signing of a new agreement that seeks to ignore the new anti-corruption institutions built by the MACCIH, in an effort by the corrupt elite to evade criminal prosecution"."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/01/09/cespad-realiza-foro-de-espaldas-a-la-ciudadania-un-nuevo-convenio-para-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-negocia-nuevo-convenio-para-la-maccih-a-espaldas-del-pueblo/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/piden-continuidad-de-la-mision-de-la-oea-contra-la-corrupcion-en-honduras.html>

The sentencing of the former Honduran president Rafael Leonardo Callejas in the US for a FIFA corruption case was postponed to May 11, 2020.

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1215456459850440705

The constitutional chamber accepted a challenge by UFECIC in the Open Arch corruption case against a decision by a judge to dismiss evidence incriminating a group of congresswo/men.

<https://confidencialhn.com/admiten-recurso-a-favor-de-ufecic-ante-evidencias-desestimadas-por-causa-penal-contradiputados/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sala-constitucional-ordena-se-escuche-audio-y-video-que-fueron-desestimados-en-arca-abierta.html>

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC) wants the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) under its supervision.

<https://confidencialhn.com/proponen-que-enee-pase-a-la-ccic-para-que-la-estatal-pueda-recuperarse-economicamente/>

10/01/20

Honduras Daily: MACCIH - US; Corruption - Pandora; US; Migration - US, Internal Displacement; ENEE; Drug Trafficking; and the Forced Displacement of Women

In a new bipartisan letter, this time from the US Senate, Senators Menendez, Rubio, Leahy, Durbin and Kaine express their support for the "swift renewal" of the MACCIH "without any changes to its mandate".

The Coalition for the Renewal of the MACCIH thanked them for their support.

And even the media close to JOH could not ignore the letter.

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/01-09-20%20RM%20Rubio%20letter%20to%20WHA%20re%20MACCIH.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/senadores-de-ee-uu-piden-ampliacion-de-la-maccih-sin-tocar-el-actual-convenio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/agradecen-a-altos-funcionarios-de-ee-uu-por-influir-en-extension-de-la-maccih/>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/01/10/senadores-democratas-y-republicanos-de-ee-uu-piden-renovar-la-maccih-sin-cambios/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1347914-410/senadores-eeuu-renovacion-maccih-cambios-honduras-marco-rubio>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/senadores-estadounidenses-piden-renovacion-de->

maccih-sin-reformas.html

CESPAD published a detailed analysis of one of the most important cases by the MACCIH so far, the Pandora case which offered proof for the illegal financing by the National Party of the 2013 elections.

<http://cespad.org.hn/Documento-Pandora%20-0-1-2020.pdf>

The Trump administration is about to send boarder patrol and protection staff (from CBP and ICE) to to work in Honduras. They "will support the capacity building of their Honduran counterparts on migration, border security and customs issues".

<https://criterio.hn/seguridad-de-ee-uu-se-desplazara-a-fronteras-y-aduanas-de-honduras/>

53 Hondurans, among them unaccompanied minors, have so far been sent to Guatemala as part of the safe third country agreement between the US and Guatemala to do the paperwork to ask for asylum in the US from there.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-guatemala-esperan-hondurenos-que-piden-asilo-a-estados-unidos/>

The UNHCR welcomes a recent new law in El Salvador to protect internally displaced people and hopes Honduras will approve something similar.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/acnur-celebra-nueva-ley-salvadorena-y-espera-que-honduras-y-mexico-la-imiten.html>

The JOH regime nominated the members of the commission to intervene ENEE.

<https://confidencialhn.com/directora-tributaria-guzman-sera-la-interventora-de-la-enee/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1347888-466/juramentan-a-miembros-de-comisi%C3%B3n-interventora-de-la-enee>

The lawyer of convicted drug trafficker (he was imprisoned in the US) Matta Waldurraga says that his client should not be extradited from Colombia to Honduras as there are no conditions for a fair trial.

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-matta-waldurraga-no-garantias-extraditarlo-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-existen-condiciones-para-que-matta-waldurraga-se-someta-a-justicia-hondurena-dice-su-abogado.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2653-desplazamiento-forzoso->

[para-mujeres-en-una-latinoamerica-en-llamas](#)

11/01/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Penitentiary System; Migration - US; Extradition; Budget 2020; ENEE; and the Ever Worsening Drought

Back on December 28, there was an attack on indigenous Garífuna defender Karla Ignacia Piota Martínez, sister of Amada Piota Martínez, member of OFRANEH's general coordination (see previous e-mail). Karla Ignacia now died from her wounds.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1216224871535071232>

About a month after the announcement of the further militarization of the Honduran prison system, FUSINA claims that they have control over 70% of the prisons.

<https://tiempo.hn/fusina-ya-tomo-el-mando-del-70-por-ciento-del-sistema-penitenciario-del-pais/>

Two weeks into the new year, ContraCorriente published an article on the budget that will shape 2020 in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/01/11/presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-pone-en-jaque-a-instituciones-estatales-en-crisis/>

"Texas will reject the resettlement of new refugees, its governor said Friday, becoming the first state to publicly do so since a Trump administration executive order granted such unprecedented veto power."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2020/01/10/texas-becomes-first-state-publicly-reject-new-refugees-under-trump-order/>

Proceso Digital reports that the Supreme Court received two extradition requests from the US. It is unclear yet who the two persons are.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/corte-suprema-recibe-dos-solicitudes-de-extradicion.html>

Labor union leader José Luis Baquedano denounces that the intervention commission for the ENEE (see yesterday) does not count with anyone with technical knowledge of the energy sector. The commission, meanwhile, promises that there won't be "massive lay-offs".

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/01/11/en-la-comision-interventora-de-enee-no-hay-quien-entienda-de-energia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/junta-interventora-de-la-enee-asegura-que-no-habran-despidos-masivos/>

La Prensa reports that Honduras is facing the worst drought in years.

The Secretariat of Community Development, Water and Sanitation (SEDECOAS) announced the construction of some 600 water harvesters for this year.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1348200-410/honduras-enfrenta-la-peor-sequ%C3%ADa-en-los-%C3%BAltimos-a%C3%B1os>

<https://tiempo.hn/cosechadoras-de-agua-utilidad-para-las-sequias-en-honduras/>

12/01/20

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; JOH - Corruption; Migration; National Police; and the Surveillance Business

OFRANEH published a short video explaining the difficult situation for the Garífuna people in Masca after the murder of yet another Garífuna defender (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1216460573703057408>

Radio Progreso explains one modus operandi of the corrupt elite in Honduras. "One of the strategies was to intervene those institutions that they had previously looted or used them to launder drug trafficking funds. Their interventions were presented as a fight against corruption, but in reality it was a way of erasing evidence of the criminal group led by the president's tenant. (...) This is just one of the strategies of this regime, which was applied in at least 11 institutions and the script is the same, the elimination of the traces, all those loose ends to bury their corruptions. And in spite of this, the tenant keeps on screaming like crazy that he is fighting corruption head on. And, worse still, there are many who believe him."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/net/np/el-oficio-de-borrar-huellas/>

Cinthia Fernández fled Honduras to reach the US but she was returned from the Us-Mexican border to Guatemala where she was murdered last week.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/migrante-hondurena-es-asesinada-en-guatemala.html>

The purging committee of the National Police Force announces that the number of police agents and officials will reach 26'000 in 2022.

<https://tiempo.hn/preven-mas-policias-en-servicio-para-2022-segun-depuradores/>

"A surveillance vendor that works with U.S. government agencies, such as the FBI, DEA, and ICE, is marketing spying capabilities to local police departments, including cameras that are hidden inside a tombstone, a baby car seat, and a vacuum cleaner."

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/qjdp95/this-secretive-surveillance-company-is-selling-cops-

[cameras-hidden-in-gravestones](#)

13/01/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Commemoration; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC, Hydroelectricity, OFRANEH; MACCIH; Corruption - RNP; National Police; Migration - US; Drug Trafficking; Violence; Economy; and the Conditions in Honduras' Melon Sector

COPINH invites us to commemorate Berta this March in Santa Catarina, Intibucá, on the fourth anniversary of her assassination, i.e. her sowing ("la siembra).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1216755736069517315>

Congress has started to socialize the disputed Free, Previous and Informed Consultation Bill. OFRANEH exhorts Congress to take into account the recommendations of the United Nations Rapporteur on Indigenous pointing out that a socialization is not the same as a consultation.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1216757889030934531>

COPINH denounces a recent announcement by the JOH regime (see previous e-mail) to invest \$1 billion in the construction of 54 new dams. "With this decision the government spits on the memory of our martyrs who are victims of a predatory system that has enriched a small group of businessmen. It spits on the resistance of the indigenous and Garífuna peoples who have not stopped defending the territories and the dignity of the people in the face of hundreds of unconsulted projects. But they are mistaken in their intentions, because Berta Cáceres' proclamation resonates with the peoples who are autonomously building their own way. With this news they reaffirm the urgent need to remove this dictatorial and unscrupulous government that has perpetuated the violation of our fundamental rights".

<https://copinh.org/2020/01/millon-de-dolares-que-invierte-el-gobierno-en-represas/>

IM-Defensoras sent out a new alert after the death of Garífuna defender Karla Ignacia Piota Martínez (see also the previous two days).

Pasos de Animal Grande writes off an "extermination plan" against the Garífuna people.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/01/alertadefensoras-honduras-intentan-asesinar-a-la-defensora-garifuna-karla-piota-martinezintegrante-de-ofraneh/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2654-honduras-garifunas-en-medio-de-un-plan-de-exterminio>

This Friday, the fate of the MACCIH will be decided. Will JOH extend the mandate? Will he and OAS Secretary General Almagro extend it, but with changes making Congress the final arbiter? Journalist Jeff Ernst highlights the importance of extending the mandate while at the same time derogating the newest impunity pact which impedes the effective work of the MACCIH and UFECIC.

OACNUDH and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Diego

García-Sayán, exhort the Honduran government to renew the mandate.
Criterio published a portrait of the relationship between JOH and Almagro.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1216859460888596483>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1216890894001102848>

<https://criterio.hn/la-maccih-y-luis-almagro-una-relacion-toxica/>

ConfidencialHN denounces that the intervention at the National Persons Registry (RNP) has not lead to a clean up of the census, but rather lead to a "wage and salary piñata" for JOH loyalists.

<https://confidencialhn.com/festival-de-sueldos-comisionados-del-rnp-ganan-180-mil-lempiras-activistas-se-agencian-hasta-90-mil/>

CESPAD published an analysis on "the crimes that gave rise to the disputed police purge in Honduras". "In the struggle for the purge, the number of appeals against the decisions of dismissed police officers has been numerous and some resolutions of the Constitutional Chamber announce that sooner rather than later, some will have to be returned to their posts. The State will have to pay millions of dollars in lawsuits, while the streets are full of "the purged" without any control. There is no mechanism to guarantee what steps are taken for those who were taken out of the police institution and who were linked to acts that were against the law."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/01/13/los-crimenes-que-dieron-origen-a-la-cuestionada-depuracion-policial-en-honduras/>

"The chartered U.S. government flights land here every day or two, depositing Honduran and Salvadoran asylum seekers from the U.S. border. Many arrive with the same question: "Where are we?" For the first time ever, the United States is shipping asylum seekers who arrive at its border to a "safe third country" to seek refuge there. The Trump administration hopes the program will serve as a model for others in the region. But during its first weeks, asylum seekers and human rights advocates say, migrants have been put on planes without being told where they were headed, and left here without being given basic instruction about what to do next."

Honduras will receive asylum seekers at the end of the month, according to Foreign Minister Lisandro Rosales.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/the-us-is-putting-asylum-seekers-on-planes-to-guatemala--often-without-telling-them-where-theyre-going/2020/01/13/0f89a93a-3576-11ea-a1ff-c48c1d59a4a1_story.html

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-comenzara-a-recibir-a-solicitantes-de-asilo-a-finales-de-enero/>

Radio HRN revealed the name of the two new extradition requests. Costa Rica asked for the extradition of Harley Clarisa Spacer Clark and the US for José Rafael Sosa Méndez.

<https://radiohrn.hn/estos-son-los-dos-hondurenos-pedidos-en-extradicion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/jose-rafael-sosa-mendez-el-nuevo-hondureno-pedido-en-extradicion-por-eeuu.html>

Almost one hundred Hondurans were murdered in the first two weeks of 2020, more than in the last year.

<http://elpulso.hn/mas-de-98-muertes-violentas-en-los-primeros-13-dias-del-2020/>

"The economic outlook for 2020 is the same as 2019 when foreign direct investment fell by 40%, said Alejandro Kafati, an economist with the Social Forum for Honduras' Foreign Debt (FOSDEH). Kafati said it should be remembered that the economic cabinet announced in a press conference that the country has fallen into an economic recession that will last from 2019 to 2020 and probably all of 2021. (...) Kafati pointed out that this leaves only two paths for Hondurans: migration, either in caravans or alone, to the United States, and suicide, which has increased in the last two years."

<https://criterio.hn/panorama-economico-de-honduras-deja-dos-caminos-migracion-o-suicidio-video/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/investigacion-melon-zona-sur.pdf>

14/01/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - La Tigra; Migration - Caravan; MACCIH; FoE; Femicide; Drug Trafficking; Int. Cooperation; Church; Remittances; and the Recharged Drought

Front Line Defenders has documented the assassination of 304 human rights defenders in 2020. In Honduras, at least 31 defenders were murdered making it the third highest toll in the world, after Colombia and the Philippines, and by far the highest per capita.

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/jan/14/300-human-rights-activists-killed-2019-report>

https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global_analysis_2019_web.pdf

The two defenders Cristopher Castillo and Fernando Zelaya were followed and monitored just hours before a mobilization against the privatization of SANAA and ENEE. Both defenders are active in the defense of the La Tigra National Park.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2655-seguimientos-y-vigilancia-contra-defensores-de-la-tigra-horas-antes-de-la-movilizacion-por-la-no-privatizacion-de-agua-y-luz>

At the end of last year, a new migrant caravan was announced for January 15 starting from San Pedro Sula. This became real when Hondurans started to gather once more at the bus terminal in

San Pedro Sula yesterday. Criterio initially wrote of 800-1000 people.

A few hours later, the estimate rose to 3000-4000 people.

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that the "Honduran police are harassing & trying to take IDs & documents away" from the gathered people.

<https://criterio.hn/numerosa-caravana-de-migrantes-hondurenos-se-alista-para-partir-la-madrugada-del-miercoles/>

<https://criterio.hn/gritando-fuera-joh-primera-caravana-avanza-hacia-frontera-de-corinto/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1217279418978263040>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1217222563270668289>

<https://tiempo.hn/caravana-de-migrantes-vamos-buscando-un-futuro-para-nuestros-hijos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1348970-468/caravana-migrante-eeuu-san-pedro-sula-terminal-buses>

In the midst of the renewal negotiations of the MACCIH, its spokesperson Ana María Calderón renounced.

El Libertador comments: "[S]everal actors see this departure as the loss of the best foreign experts who came to the country with ideas to fight against white-collar corrupt. For many, powerful corruption continues to win."

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez speaks of a bad sign.

Lester Ramírez Irías writes that a confidential source said that she was to be made the permanent spokesperson of the MACCIH (she had been ad-interim spokesperson for these last months), but the JOH regime opposed it.

Jari Dixon, Libre congressman and former public prosecutor, denounces that 90% of the cases presented by the MACCIH remain in impunity.

The head of UFECIC, Luis Javier Santos, fears that it will further weaken the investigative work.

<http://elpulso.hn/renuncia-la-vocera-de-la-maccih/>

https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1217202680633925633

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3693-la-maccih-esta-lista-para-la-autopsia-malestar-en-honduras>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/renuncia-a-ana-maria-calderon-es-un-aviso-de-lo-que-sera-nuevo-convenio-de-maccih-doris-gutierrez.html>

<https://twitter.com/ElMundoDeLester/status/1217139580052353026>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-90-de-los-casos-de-la-maccih-ufecic-pueden-que-que-impunidad-segun-jari-dixon.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/renuncia-de-ana-maria-calderon-afectara-trabajos-de-investigacion-preve-fiscal-de-ufecic.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that a recent court ruling may leave the closure of several news outlets during the coup d'état in 2009 in impunity.

And the same day, a court accepted a legal challenge against the director of El Perro Amarillo, Milton Benítez, for defamation - a common way to silence critical journalists.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2657-corte-se-respalda-en-decreto-de-amnistia-cierres-de-medios-en-el-golpe-de-estado-podrian-quedar-en-la-impunidad>

<https://www.facebook.com/509023156159306/posts/954403618287922/?sfnsn=mo>

At least 15 women were murdered in the first two weeks of 2020, more than 1 per day.

<https://radiohrn.hn/15-mujeres-han-sido-asesinadas-en-los-primeros-14-dias-del-2020-en-honduras/>

El Pulso published a portrait of drug trafficker Juan Ramón Matta Waldurraga, who after he finished his sentence in the US traveled to Colombia where he was arrested and now Honduras wants him extradited.

<http://elpulso.hn/juan-ramon-matta-waldurraga-la-historia-del-hijo-del-primer-narco-hondureno-extraditado/>

Just before the inauguration of Guatemala's new president, Honduras, Guatemala and the US signed an agreement to create employment in the two Central American countries. Taiwan also joined and Israel, Japan and South Korea may also do so.

Honduras also signed a cooperation agreement with Israel.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1348914-410/honduras-guatemala-eeuu-fuerzas-generacion-empleo>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-e-israel-firman-convenios-de-cooperacion-diplomatica-y-desarrollo.html>

""We don't want a church that is sleepy and out of touch with reality," said the Bishop of San Pedro Sula, Angel Garachana, who in his homily prayed for the people's forgiveness in the face of the church's silence for so much abuse and ingovernability."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3694-obispo-ruega-perdon-de-hondurenos-por-silencio-de-iglesia-ante-multicrisis>

The Honduran Central Bank highlights the importance of remittances not just for consumption but also investment in housing and health.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bch-indica-que-remesas-son-utilizadas-para-inversion-en-viviendas-propiedad-y-salud/>

<https://criterio.hn/sequia-que-vuelve-recargada/>

15/01/20

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - FPIC; Journalists; Migration - Caravan; MACCIH - UFECIC; Corruption - Gualcarque, Patuca III; US - Police; La Tigra; and Community Power in Vallecito

COPINH denounces that representatives of Honduras indigenous peoples presented by Congress to socialize their very disputed consultation bill (see also e-mail from two days ago) do not really represent the indigenous peoples.

OFRANEH again emphasizes that Congress has not taken up the recommendations by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Libre congresswoman Olivia Zúniga Cáceres denounces irregularities in the elaboration of the bill.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1217627325644312577>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1217546911181352962>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1217522955338633218>

<https://criterio.hn/diputada-denuncia-irregularidades-en-aprobacion-de-ley-de-consulta-previa-e-informada/>

The car of Elder Cortés, the director of Canal Copaneco TV, in Santa Rosa de Copán was set on fire. Witnesses said that someone broke the rear windows, poured fuel into the car and set it on fire. According to Cortés, someone powerful with links to hitmen is behind the intimidation.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1094-incendian-vehiculo-a-dueno-de-canal-en-occidente-del-pais>

The newest migrant caravan took off from Honduras in two groups on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday. The first, smaller, group crossed the border to Guatemala without too much problems. The second one, substantially larger with estimates going into the several thousands, was tear-gassed when trying to cross the Agua Caliente border to Guatemala.

At the same time, the spokesperson of the Security Secretariat, Jair Meza, claims that they won't stop Hondurans from leaving the country...

Mexico announced that they won't safeguard the migrant caravan on the way to the US, but that they would study possible asylum requests for Mexico.

El Pulso put together some reasons why people flee, e.g. a poverty rate almost reaching 70%, to which State violence and repression has to be added.

Economist José Luis Moncada says that this newest migrant caravans call into question the World Bank's indicators of economic growth in the country.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1217524771174473728>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1217442549104893953>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1217552624939040768>

<https://tiempo.hn/video-policia-gasea-caravana-migrantes-frontera-corinto/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jair-meza-sobre-caravana-a-nadie-niega-salida-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mexico-avisa-que-no-entregara-salvoconductos-a-la-caravana-de-hondurenos.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/conozca-los-datos-que-obligan-a-los-hondurenos-a-migrar/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/analista-senala-contradictorio-indicadores-del-bm-sobre-crecimiento-economico-de-honduras-respecto-a-caravana-de-migrantes/>

The Coalition in Support of the MACCIH rejects the newest proposal making the rounds of a new mandate for the MACCIH which would weaken its Honduran counterpart UFECIC.

EU's ambassador Alessandro Palmero reminded Honduras of the EU's official position, a renewal of MACCIH's mandate without changes.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/coalicion-de-apoyo-a-la-maccih-rechaza-nuevo-convenio-que-se-anunciara-esta-semana.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/union-europea-recuerda-su-postura-de-renovar-convenio-de-la-maccih-tal-como-esta.html>

CESPAD published an analysis of the Gualcarque Fraud corruption.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Caso-Gualcarque-CESPAD2020.pdf>

UFECIC informed about the continuation of the Patuca III corruption case before court involving the construction of a hydroelectric dam.

<https://twitter.com/UFECIC1/status/1217326386001719296>

The US embassy congratulated the Honduran police on their 138th anniversary.

The same day, the MP informed about a successful trial and the sentencing to 73 years in prison for a former member of the police force. He was the head of a criminal gang and three years ago, on duty, murdered three men.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1217544387204468738>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5298-dictan-mas-de-73-anos-de-reclusion-contra-expolicia-miembro-de-una-banda-de-asaltantes-por-crimen-de-tres-guatemaltecos>

There was a protest yesterday outside the mayoralty of Tegucigalpa in defense of the National Park La Tigra.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/protestan-por-construcciones-de-reservorio-y-complejo-habitacional-en-la-tigra.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1353-vallecito-territorio-del-pueblo-garifuna-que-ejerce-el-poder-comunitario>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1354-de-pista-clandestina-de-narcotrafico-a-territorio-garifuna-que-promueve-la-soberania-alimentaria>

16/01/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC, Tolupán, Miskita; Migration - US; MACCIH; Corruption - Congress; Education; Penitentiary System; and Murder Without Consequences

Honduras is currently discussing a reform of the Extradition law. Journalist Jeff Ernst warns: "The reforms to extradition are aimed at discouraging collaboration with American prosecutors and thus shield their partners who still enjoy freedom, in particular their political and security force allies." The reform is promoted by no other than evangelical priest Alberto Solórzano, JOH ally and member of the purging committee.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1217940231896420352>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-solorzano-anuncia-reformas-a-ley-de-extradicion/>

The criticism of the disputed consultation bill from Congress continues. COPINH highlights that the main promoter is congressman Óscar Nájera who was recently publicly designated by the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, due to his involvement in corruption related to drug trafficking (see previous e-mails and first link below).

Miriam Miranda makes the important link with the climate crisis. "There is nothing more hypocritical than international organizations and European governments making public statements to combat the climate crisis and yet they support or call for silence when this dictatorial government promotes a law of consultation to exterminate the indigenous people".

OFRANEH also published an article on "the assassination of Berta Cáceres and the imposition of the "Consultation" Bill elaborated by UNDP".

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

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1217957404882751488>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1217919432070062080>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1217835736835272709>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/01/16/el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-y-la-imposicion-de-la-ley-de-consulta-elaborada-por-el-pnu/>

Seven years ago, the indigenous Tolupán defenders María Enriqueta Matute, Ricardo Funés Medina and Armando Soto Funés were assassinated. The case against the material author has been raised to a trial this week, but there is still no investigation into the intellectual authors.

<https://www.facebook.com/MovAmplioHn/videos/1530308707134296/UzpfSTeWMDAwNTc4MDA0NDE5NDoxMTQ5MzU1MTI4NjAwNDc4/>

The MP is waiting for the opening of the trial against Roger Rafael Lara Pineda, a member of the Armed Forces, who is accused of being responsible for the murder of three members of the Miskito indigenous community of Warunta, municipality of Ahuas, Gracias a Dios, in 2018.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5301-mp-a-la-espera-de-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contras-asesinato-de-tres-miembros-de-la-comunidad-misquita-de-warunta>

OACNUDH has dispatched observation and monitoring mission to various border points between Honduras and Guatemala as a response to the newest migrant caravans.

CONADEH, meanwhile, recommends to the Honduran government to attend the structural causes of forced migration.

Guatemala has registered over 2000 Hondurans passing the border so far as part of the caravans.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1217984670031339520>

<http://conadeh.hn/ante-continuidad-de-migracion-forzada-ombudsman-hondureno-recomienda-al-gobierno-de-honduras-garantizar-ofertas-de-oportunidades-de-trabajo-productivo-y-atender-las-causas-estructurales-de-la-migra/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-2-000-hondurenos-ingresaron-a-guatemala-con-la-caravana-migrante.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3698-exodo-migrantes-avanzan-por-guatemala-policia-intenta-detenerlos>

The Guardian also reported on the Honduran migrant caravans highlighting the role of the US.

"Guatemalan police accompanied by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have swept up hundreds of migrants, returning them to the Honduran border and in effect dashing their plans to travel together in a "caravan" to the United States. (...) Wolf [acting US homeland security secretary] also noted the presence of US "tactical agents" in Guatemala."

Back in the US, the disputed safe third country agreements remain under pressure. "Advocacy groups filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's policy that allows asylum-seekers to be deported to Guatemala and soon, El Salvador and Honduras. The groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), are alleging that the policies block applicants from ever receiving asylum and put them at risk by returning them to "the same dangerous region they fled," according to the lawsuit."

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/16/guatemala-migrants-us-agents-honduras?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/478504-lawsuit-challenges-trump-administration-policy-deporting-asylum>

The fate of the MACCIH may be decided today. In preparation, the civil society Coalition for the Renewal of the MACCIH, published a press release rejecting the idea of a new agreement and demanding the renewal of the current mandate.

But the JOH regime does not seem to listen. La Prensa reported that another delegation traveled to DC to meet with the OAS and a "senior official source" confirmed that there will be a new agreement for a new body...

Back in Honduras, this uncertainty continues to do its work for the JOH regime as another international MACCIH official, after its ad-interim spokesperson (see e-mails this week), stepped down.

The business lobby COHEP now also publicly criticizes the MACCIH again.

See Attachment

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1349276-410/honduras-oea-crean-nuevo-organismo-anticorrupcion-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionario-aleman-de-la-maccih-deja-el-cargo-tras-renuncia-de-calderon/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/maccih-no-cumplio-con-los-puntos-acordados-armando-urtecho.html>

CESPAD continues to publish reports on the corruption cases presented by MACCIH and UFECIC, today the corruption network of congresswo/men.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Documento-RED-DE-DIPUTADOS-15-de-enero.pdf>

According to the researcher of the National Education Observatory, Rusbel Hernández, the

percentage of children and adolescents dropping out of school in Honduras has increased in the last seven years. 39% are out of the educational system because of their families' economic problems and the other 26% say they are not interested in continuing their studies because there are no job options. At least one million children, between 3 and 17 years old, are out of the system.

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-alarmante-porcentaje-de-desercion-educativa-de-ninos-y-adolescentes-en-honduras/>

December's prison massacre in Tela claimed its 21st victim. Jefferson Alexander Valdez Castellanos died in the hospital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-privado-de-libertad-herido-durante-la-masacre-en-el-centro-penal-de-tela/>

<https://tiempo.hn/masacre-en-carcel-de-tela-asciende-21-muertos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hijo-de-prominente-ganadero-mato-a-hijo-de-alto-oficial-de-la-policia-y-nieto-de-exjefe-de-inteligencia-militar/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/confiscan-arma-que-habria-utilizado-leopoldo-duran-hijo-para-matar-a-dos-jovenes/>

17/01/20

Honduras Daily: MACCIH - US; Corruption - Impunity Pacts; JOH - Israel; Labor Unions; COPINH; Berta - Impunity; Journalists; Migration - Caravans, US, Mexico; Armed Forces; Public Health; and Pepe Mujica to visit Honduras

The MACCIH is dead.

The talks between the JOH regime and the OAS broke down meaning that the MACCIH will have to close shop this Sunday when its mandates expires. "According to Univision sources, a primary point of contention was the investigative role of the mission and its coordination with a special prosecutorial unit, which the Honduran government wanted to strip from any new agreement. In such a case, the mission would have been reduced to an advisory role."

ContraCorriente describes the end of the MACCIH as the closure of the last crack through which some light entered into Honduras.

Gabriela Castellanos, head of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) writes: "This is not the end of the MACCIH, it is the end of rule of law in Honduras."

The director of the Commerce and Industries Chamber of Cortés (CCIC), Pedro Barquero, says that this shows the lack of political will to fight corruption.

The OAS published a press release in which they blame the JOH regime for the non-renewal.

"Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach the agreements required for the renewal of the mandate of the Mission, which is why MACCIH will end its functions on January 19, 2020. The OAS General Secretariat is obliged to express that the conclusion of the work of MACCIH in Honduras is a negative step in the fight against corruption and impunity in the country. (...) Unfortunately, the

position of the Government of Honduras has been not to accompany this proposal, which has made it impossible to renew the Mission."

Almost cynically, Attorney General and JOH ally Óscar Fernando Chinchilla gave an award to Ana Maria Calderon, the outgoing spokesperson of the MACCIH, the same day.

Chinchilla also announced "to continue fighting against impunity and criminality; representing, defending and protecting Hondurans"...

Also yesterday, but before the negotiations broke down, the Nationalist-controlled Congress had reaffirmed its claim that they should decide about the future of the MACCIH.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/the-oas-anti-corruption-effort-set-to-expire-in-honduras>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/01/17/se-cerro-la-rendija/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3700-alerta-gobierno-de-honduras-no-renueva-acuerdo-de-maccih>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hoy-el-gobierno-demuestra-que-no-tiene-compromiso-para-eliminar-corrupcion-pedro-barquero.html>

https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-003/20

https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1218231251464749060

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscal-chinchilla-agradece-a-almagro-y-se-compromete-continuar-lucha-contra-la-impunidad.html>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-ratifica-que-aprobacion-de-la-maccih-es-potestad-de-ese-poder-del-estado/>

The above-cited article by Univision also mentions the role of the US. "The U.S. State Department, which provided funding to the mission, or MACCIH as it's known for its Spanish initials, remained silent throughout the crucial final weeks of negotiations between Honduras and the OAS.

Meanwhile, acting secretary of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, visited Honduras last week to announce that a safe-third country agreement reached in September would begin implementation in the coming weeks." In December, I attended the Tom Lantos hearing mentioned in this e-mails as well where there was bipartisan support voiced by both the politicians as civil society representatives from both camps that the non-renewal of the MACCIH mandate would be a step to far. This just happened and it remains to be seen if the two political parties of the US were serious and will now finally stop the funding of the JOH regime.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/the-oas-anti-corruption-effort-set-to-expire-in-honduras>

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

The Constitutional Chamber gave Congress five days to hand in a report about their newest impunity pact (see last year).

<https://confidencialhn.com/sala-constitucional-pide-al-parlamento-una-explicacion-sobre-el-fuero-legislativo/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sala-constitucional-emplaza-al-cn-por-cinco-dias-para-enviar-informe-sobre-ley-de-impunidad.html>

It is no coincidence that the same day he denied the renewal of the MACCIH mandate, JOH tries to garner international support where he still can, Israel (with a prime minister facing corruption charges...). JOH announced that Honduras is just awaiting the opening of a Israeli embassy in Tegucigalpa for transferring its embassy to Jerusalem. Last year, Honduras opened a commercial office in Jerusalem, but the embassy continues in Tel Aviv.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-traslada-su-embajada-a-jerusalen-cuando-israel-abra-su-legacion.html>

The Labor Rights Forum demands an end to the criminalization of labor leader Moises Sanchez. He "suffered vicious attacks & death threats for organizing on @FyffesIRL melon farms & now faces jail time for bogus charges from a landowner". His trial takes place next Wednesday and he faces 30 years in prison without possibility of appeal for the crime of "usurping private land".

<https://twitter.com/ILRF/status/1218227839591505921>

<https://twitter.com/ILRF/status/1218230280466681856>

COPINH sent out an alert that the Madrid family were stealing maize cultivated for the sustenance of the Río Blanco community and threatening community members.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1218213376838553600>

Democracy Now! interviewed Laura Zúniga Cáceres on the case against the material authors, the lack of investigation into the intellectual authorship and the general situation in Honduras.

https://www.democracynow.org/2020/1/17/berta_caceres_laura_caceres_interview

The director of Radio Cholula Triunfeñ, Wilfredo Hernández, denounced that the Electric Energy Company (EEH) arbitrarily cut the wiring and removed the meter at the community radio station's facilities, leaving it without electrical service.

Jennifer Ávila writes about the difficulties of being a journalist in Honduras. "In Honduras, doing independent journalism means constantly running into a wall. This wall is built by mafia-run institutions that have silenced and terrorized whole communities. To simplify a complex reality, the media has labelled the country a narcostate. It's not hyperbole, but it also doesn't capture all the complicated factors. We live in a reality where drug trafficking and political power complement each other, where institutions are meant to launder money and where a president can get himself

reelected by using money made from drug trafficking and political robbery. The narcostate label went viral when a New York court found the president's brother guilty of various crimes related to drug trafficking. But Honduras is also more than a narcostate. Before, when there were no drug cartels to control the country, it was a corrupt group of elites, as well as a fruit company, that wielded power over the president. The state was designed to facilitate crime and the enrichment of a select few. In both setups, silence is golden. Silence is a form of survival."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1095-empresa-de-energia-electrica-sabotea-radio-comunitaria-en-zona-sur>

<https://elfaro.net/en/201912/internacionales/23899/Seen-as-Either-a-Sell-Out-or-a-Rebel-On-the-Difficulties-of-Reporting-in-Honduras.htm>

According to Guatemala, some 3500 Hondurans entered Guatemala on January 15 and 16 as part of the migrant caravans.

The Red Cross in Guatemala attended more than 1000 Hondurans since January 15.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1218223733661409280>

<https://www.cruzroja.gt/noticias/asistencia-humanitaria-durante-el-flujo-masivo-de-personas-migrantes-proveniente-de-honduras/>

While the MACCIH crumbled, Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan was in Honduras having "[p]roductive meeting today with Honduran immigration officials".

<https://twitter.com/CBPMorgan/status/1217987287092428804>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-advierte-a-hondurenos-que-van-en-caravana-que-los-detendra-y-deportara/>

"Facing U.S. threats to impose potentially steep tariffs on Mexican goods last June, Mexico has adopted a series of measures along its southern border with Guatemala that, while somewhat effective at stopping the flow, seems a partial solution with high financial and political costs."

<https://aulablog.net/2020/01/17/mexican-migration-crackdown-creates-a-wall-before-the-wall/>

A former member of the Armed Forces was arrested. He is accused of various crimes.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5308-fiscalia-de-derechos-humanos-y-atic-capturan-a-exmilitar-por-tres-delitos>

The auxiliary nurses denounced that authorities of the Secretary of Health and the Association of Auxiliary Nurses (ANEEAH), have left them excluded from the agreements of salary readjustment and the bonus of 13'000 Lempiras.

<http://elpulso.hn/enfermeras-os-auxiliares-fuera-de-acuerdos-de-aumento-salarial/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3699-presidente-mujica-dara-conferencia-magistral-en-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/el-ex-presidente-uruguay-jose-pepe-mujica-estara-unah/>

18/01/20

Honduras Daily: MACCIH - US, UFECIC, OAS; Migration - Caravans; and New Police Uniforms

Honduras and the international community reacted to the end of the MACCIH. Gustavo Irías, director of CESPAD - an organization which has closely accompanied the work of the MACCIH analytically -, has one main take-away: "[A]s long as corruption networks continue to control the main mechanisms of power, nothing is possible. The problem is political, they have to be displaced from power, with organization and social pressure."

Representatives of the Coalition for the Defense of the MACCIH, of the Platform for the Defense of Healthcare and Public Education, FOSDEH, former presidents of COHEP convoked for a protest today.

Even the Honduran cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez criticized the end of the MACCIH, at least a bit.

<https://twitter.com/GustavoIrias/status/1218564172591575045>

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-multisectorial-por-honduras-lanza-convocatoria-a-movilizaciones/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sectores-sociales-convocan-a-protesta-este-domingo-por-continuidad-de-la-maccih.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fin-de-la-maccih-es-un-dolor-para-honduras-cardenal-rodriguez.html>

Reactions also came from two powerful representatives of the US Senate and Congress. US Senator Patrick Leahy wrote: "The decision by President Hernandez, an unindicted co-conspirator in the U.S. prosecution of his brother for drug trafficking, to end the MACCIH, is the latest evidence that he is not serious about stopping the corruption that permeates his government from top to bottom. The question now is whether the Trump Administration continues to turn a blind eye, caring only that President Hernandez has agreed for his violent, impoverished country to be a so-called 'third country safe haven' for Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States. MACCIH was strongly supported by the Honduran people and by the U.S. Congress. We can no longer support a government whose officials have repeatedly shown that they care far more about holding power and amassing wealth, than respecting the rule of law or addressing the needs of their people."

Congressman Jim McGovern tweeted: "I am deeply dismayed that @JuanOrlandoH has refused to renew @OEA_MACCIH. Corruption & impunity are pervasive in #Honduras. The president's own brother is a convicted drug trafficker. This is a huge defeat for the rule of law & will have consequences."

Even the Trump administration reacted through a Tweet by acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Michael G. Kozac: "Deeply disappointed that despite commitments to do so, #Honduras failed to extend @OEA_MACCIH anti-corruption effort, requested and designed by @JuanOrlandoH himself, and strongly supported by the people of Honduras, & has put forward no credible alternative to fight corruption."

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/reaction-to-the-refusal-of-the-government-of-honduras-to-extend-the-mandate-of-the-mission-to-support-the-fight-against-corruption-and-impunity-in-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/senador-patrick-leahy-condena-clausura-de-la-maccih-y-lamenta-postura-de-trump/>

<https://twitter.com/RepMcGovern/status/1218616426539507714>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1218703715030511616>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1349985-410/en-eeuu-tambi%C3%A9n-cuestionan-la-no-renovaci%C3%B3n-de-la-maccih>

A question that remains in the air is the future of the MACCIH's Honduran counterpart, UFECIC.

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-de-una-encrucijada-para-ufecic-por-el-desaparecimiento-de-la-maccih/>

The former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, reiterated his claim that the MACCIH fell victim to backroom deals between JOH and OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro, the latter wanting to secure the Honduran vote for his reelection.

<https://criterio.hn/para-la-oea-es-mas-importante-la-reeleccion-de-almagro-que-honduras-juan-jimenez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exjefe-anticorrupcion-denuncia-que-salida-de-maccih-es-a-cambio-de-voto-para-reeleccion-de-almagro/>

El Libertador reports that a first group of the newest migrant caravans arrived at the Mexican border but was stopped and repressed by the Mexican police and national guards.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3703-ultima-hora-policia-mexicana-reprime-caravana-hondurena>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2659-represion-y-medidas-restrictivas-para-circular-enfrenta-la-primera-caravana-de-migrantes-del-2020>

<https://tiempo.hn/nuevos-uniformes-policia-nacional-codigos-seguridad/>

19/01/20

Honduras Daily: MACCIH - Protests, UFECIC, US, Switzerland, JOH; Migration - Caravans; and Closed due to Corruption

As announced (see yesterday), Hondurans took to the streets to protest against the forced end of the MACCIH by the JOH regime.

Many observers juxtapose the fact that some Hondurans take to the street to protest the root causes pushing others to leave Honduras in migrant caravans.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1218946636967219200>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/protestan-en-tegucigalpa-por-no-renovacion-del-convenio-de-la-maccih.html>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-unos-huyen-de-la-miseria-en-caravana-y-otros-exigen-la-continuidad-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/a-salir-de-honduras-la-maccih-y-la-caravana/>

As highlighted yesterday, the UFECIC is now under even more pressure after the closure of the MACCIH. One case in point is a recent statement by Nationalist congressman Francisco Rivera that the "international left" is behind the UFECIC and he wants their prosecutors being investigated.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/diputado-rivera-dice-izquierda-internacional-esta-detras-de-ufecic-y-pide-investigar-a-sus-fiscales.html>

After two prominent Democratic voices yesterday, there is now the first bipartisan response from the US to the closure of the MACCIH. "House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot L. Engel (D-NY) and Lead Republican Michael McCaul (R-TX), along with Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security and Trade Chairman Albio Sires (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Francis Rooney (R-FL) issued the following statement condemning Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández's decision not to extend the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH): "With the stroke of a pen, President Juan Orlando Hernández had the opportunity to extend MACCIH – the mechanism put in place to strengthen Honduras's capacity to address systemic corruption. Unfortunately, President Hernández chose not to exercise his authority and allowed MACCIH to expire. We strongly condemn this decision. "Corruption in Honduras has had a corrosive effect on the country and remains a key driver of migration to the United States. The Honduran people are the ones who will suffer the most from this ill-advised decision. We stand with them and support their right to live in a country whose government respects the rule of law and holds corrupt actors accountable. We remain committed to the fight against corruption in Honduras and will continue to support civil society-led efforts."

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/2020/1/bipartisan-house-leaders-condemn-honduran-president-s->

[decision-not-to-extend-maccih](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/congresistas-de-ee-uu-condenan-la-decision-de-hernandez-de-no-renovar-la-maccih/>

Switzerland also reacted through the Ambassador Bénédicte de Cerjat, Head of the Americas Division at Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He thanked the MACCIH and UFECIC for its work and "very much regrets the non-renewal of the mandate of the MACCIH, which represents a severe setback in the fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/SwissMFAamerica/status/1219037978082922496>

JOH, meanwhile, maybe feeling some pressure, tweeted that he will "continue to build a strong, comprehensive and effective system for transparency and anti-corruption"... His foreign minister Lisandro Rosales and his presidential minister Ebal Díaz try to shift the blame on Congress and the Supreme Court.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-se-derrite-en-explicaciones-por-clausura-de-la-maccih-dice-que-creara-un-sistema-anticorrupcion-confiable/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-construye-sistema-integral-y-efectivo-para-enfrentar-corrupcion-dice-presidente-hernandez.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/entre-contradicciones-funcionarios-del-ejecutivo-justifican-cierre-de-la-maccih-por-opiniones-del-legislativo-y-judicial/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/opiniones-del-cn-y-csj-fueron-claves-para-no-renovar-convenio-de-maccih-dice-gobierno.html>

ContraCorriente published a report of the newest Honduran exodus by a reporter who has accompanied them.

El Tiempo and Proceso Digital report that the first group of the newest migrant caravan has decided against crossing the Guatemala-Mexico border rather waiting for the larger remainder of the caravan to cross together.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/01/19/el-camino-recurrente-del-nuevo-exodo-centroamericano/>

<https://tiempo.hn/caravana-posterga-ingreso-a-mexico-porque-espera-a-otros-miles/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/caravana-migrante-aguarda-en-campamentos-en-la-frontera-para-cruzar-a-mexico.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/fundacion-espanola-cierra-escuela-en-el-progreso-por-la-extorsion/>

20/01/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC; MACCIH - Protests, US, UFECIC; Corruption - Congress, de Lobo, Mayors; Migration - Caravans, LGBTQ; and a Different Prison System

An appeal was filed in favor of Mariano Díaz, one of men convicted for the murder of Berta Cáceres. COPINH reacts by highlighting the clear evidence against him and "[t]hat army agents, like Diaz, are involved in the murder of our comrade confirms that this is a state crime, a political femicide".

<https://tiempo.hn/berta-caceres-presentan-casacion-favor-condenado-asesinato/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1219426302815547392>

Both OFRANEH and COPINH continue denouncing the consultation bill promoted by Congress which aims to turn consent into a simple socialization process.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1219332826702786562>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1219402974398730240>

The Convergence Against the Re-election joined Padre Melo's call for a protest for today against the JOH regime and its most recent decision to close the MACCIH.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) held a press conference yesterday on the consequences of the closure and emphasizing that without justice there is no democracy.

They warned that the cases brought forward by the MACCIH and UFECIC won't be followed up anymore.

The president of the Honduran Episcopal Conference (CEH), Ángel Garachana, said that the promises made by the authorities do not go hand in hand with the reality of the country, but rather with that of shielding the corrupt.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1219144446396321792>

<https://criterio.hn/sin-justicia-no-hay-democracia-cna-ante-tiro-de-gracia-a-la-maccih/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3707-cna-advierte-tiro-de-gracia-a-casos-que-presento-maccih>

<https://confidencialhn.com/conferencia-episcopal-dice-que-autoridades-hondurenas-estan-alejadas-de-la-realidad-al-blindar-corruptos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-ha-perdido-una-oportunidad-de-ayuda-lamenta-obispo-garachana-sobre-fin-de-la-maccih.html>

While the closure was widely criticized nationally and internationally, the Trump Administration

was not very vocal. A new tweet by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shows that a recent decision by the JOH regime already paid off. Instead of criticizing the closure of the MACCIH, Pompeo "applauds" Honduras for designating Hezbollah a terrorist organization. And the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, continues to tweet about the migration agreements.

<https://twitter.com/SecPompeo/status/1219378401666052097>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/secretario-pompeo-aplaude-decision-de-honduras-de-designar-organizacion-terrorista-a-hezbola.html>

https://twitter.com/DHS_Wolf/status/1219310065292861445

ConfidencialHN reports that the mandate of UFECIC ended together with the MACCIH, according to a memorandum of understanding signed in 2017 between Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla and OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro. This would mean the UFECIC also closed on Sunday. Nationalist congressman and Secretary of Congress, Tomas Zambrano, says the same thing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tiro-de-gracia-tras-fin-de-la-maccih-se-consuma-la-desaparicion-de-la-ufecic/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ufecic-se-extingue-fin-maccih-segun-tomas-zambrano/>

And in the midst of this, or rather, invigorated by it, Congress made further changes so that it is now impossible to ask for information regarding how they voted or if their deputies voted for them.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-se-blinda-para-no-dar-informacion-de-su-quehacer/>

CESPAD had already begun publishing summaries of the MACCIH cases before the announcement of its closure, but they still continue. Today, the case against the former first lady, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Documento-CAJA-CHICA-WEB.pdf>

Trial will be opened against the mayor of Choloma, Leopoldo Crivelli, for overvaluing the Choloma municipal dump site by more than 7.5 million Lempiras.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5322-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-alcalde-leopoldo-crivelli-por-sobrevalorar-en-mas-7-5-millones-de-lempiras-terreno-de-botadero-municipal-de-choloma-2>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1350453-410/juez-resuelve-leopoldo-crivelli-puede-reanudar-funciones-alcalde-choloma-honduras>

El Pulso reports that the migrant caravan tried to cross the Suchiate River yesterday to enter

Mexico.

According to El Libertador, the Mexican National Guards repressed the migrants using physical force and tear gas.

<http://elpulso.hn/39313-2/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3706-salvaje-con-brutal-golpiza-y-gas-mexico-busca-parar-migracion-hondurena>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/inmigrantes/1350426-410/policia-mexicana-frena-caravana-migrante-rio-suchiate-mexico>

Proceso Digital published an article on LGBTQ migrants in the caravan.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/migrantes-homosexuales-y-trans-piden-ayuda-a-la-comunidad-lgbt-de-mexico.html>

"To define a comprehensive and humanist reform of the prison system to end serious shortcomings that make human rights in prisons precarious is part of the 10 points of a proposal that human rights organizations made to the Prison System Intervention Commission on January 20, 2020."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2661-organizaciones-de-ddhh-proponen-a-la-comision-interventora-del-sistema-penitenciario-una-reforma-integral-y-humanista>

21/02/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC, Garífunas; HRDs - La Tigra, Labor Unions; Femicide; MACCIH - Protests, MP, JOH, US; Migration - Caravans, Mexico, US; ENEE; and Business and Human Rights

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Honduras indigenous organizations invite for a press conference tomorrow on the disputed consultation bill (see e-mails these last days).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1219753491498926080>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1219769352406421504>

OACNUDH sent a delegation to various Garífuna communities in Colón, Atlántida and Cortés. They "condemn the increase in violence in the Garífuna communities Masca-Cortés and Iriona in Colón, where at least six people have been killed and others have suffered threats and/or attacks against their physical integrity, from September 2019 to date".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1219664241856253956>

The National Coalition of Environmental Networks and Organizations, CONROA, demanded the Mayor's Office of the Central District and its mayor, Nasry "Tito" Asfura, to stop the threats against the journalist and environmental defender Dolores Valenzuela, who has been the object of a smear campaign on social networks and pressure from unknown people to no longer get involved in the fight for the defense of the La Tigra National Park."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2664-conroa-exige-a-alcalde-el-distrito-central-cese-a-las-amenazas-contr-la-defensora-y-periodista-dolores-valenzuela>

<https://criterio.hn/red-ambientalista-exige-a-alcalde-capitalino-que-cese-ataques-contr-periodista-dolores-valenzuela/>

ConexiHon published more information on the criminalization of labor leader Moisés Sánchez in Choluteca (see last week).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1357-quien-esta-detras-de-la-cobarde-acusacion-a-moises-sanchez>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-nuevo-ataque-a-la-libertad-sindical/>

The women's rights organization Movimiento Visitación Padilla demands the declaration of a national emergency due to the increasing number of murdered women. Previously, there was a femicide every 18 hours, now there are two every 24 hours.

<https://radiohrn.hn/piden-declarar-emergencia-nacional-frente-al-promedio-de-dos-mujeres-asesinadas-cada-24-horas/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network reports that the protest against the decision to close the MACCIH yesterday morning in Tegucigalpa were tear gassed.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1219660047141294081>

The current situation also serves to highlight important criticism of the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla, criticism well-known in Honduras, but sometimes forgotten in the international community. The sociologist Eugenio Sosa said that he is far from the attorney general Honduras needs. He gives him two options: stay and clearly state that he will continue with the corruption cases presented by MACCIH and UFECIC and incorporate more or leave office. The former Attorney General Roy Medina challenges Chinchilla to keep UFECIC in place and let it do its work.

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-que-chinchilla-esta-lejos-de-ser-el-fiscal-general-que-necesita-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/efiscal-general-roy-medina-pide-la-continuidad-de-ufecic-chinchilla-falla-al-no-acusar-al-ejecutivos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ufecic-debe-de-continuar-no-hay-razon-para-que-desaparezca-senala-exfiscal-medina.html>

Radio Progreso explains the closure of the MACCIH in the wider context of the JOH regime. "One of the fundamental elements of the democratic system is legitimacy, that is, the consent and conviction of the citizenry that the regime that governs and its decisions are the best for the community, and therefore it does not need the use of force to impose itself. (...) Two of the main characteristics of Juan Orlando Hernández's regime are authoritarianism and lack of legitimacy, which is why it has had to impose itself through fraud, police and military repression and serious human rights violations, all covered by the cloak of corruption and impunity. (...) And the same has happened to the MACCIH, which, despite the existence of a resounding citizen demand for its continuity, the regime left it to die in order to prevent it from continuing with its work of disentangling the networks of corruption that reach him and his circle of power."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/np/el-fin-de-la-maccih-otra-bofetada-a-la-voluntad-popular/>

The MACCIH has now also reached the presidential campaign in the US as Joe Biden tweeted: "Donald Trump continues to embrace corruption at home and abroad. Rather than addressing the root causes pushing people to flee Central America, he has undermined anti-corruption bodies—first in Guatemala and now in Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status/1218684496293384192>

The newest migrant caravans, still stuck at the Guatemala-Mexico border, received international news coverage.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-bound-migrants-clash-with-mexican-forces-at-guatemala-border/2020/01/20/e7872a14-3b99-11ea-afe2-090eb37b60b1_story.html

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/chaos-guatemala-mexico-border-caravan-advance-200120223801182.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/entre-enfrentamientos-caravana-cruza-rio-y-llega-a-mexico/>

This newest caravan also shows the new role of Mexico. "The first caravan of 2020 failed. It did not manage to travel through Central America as a granite mass exodus, nor did it reach the border of the United States. (...) Mexico proved to be the efficient wall that promised the Donald Trump White House to contain Central American migration."

<https://www.elfaro.net/es/202001/centroamerica/23944/M%C3%A9xico-enga%C3%B1a-una-vez-m%C3%A1s-a-la-caravana-centroamericana.htm>

In a public forum in Tegucigalpa on the migration crisis, the speakers made the link between the "the neoliberal and interfering policy" of the US and Honduran migration.

"On Monday night, a federal judge in McAllen, Texas, denied a request to halt the deportation of

the Honduran mother and her two [sick] children. The family is expected to be sent to Guatemala on Tuesday, according to a lawyer familiar with the case. Once in Guatemala, they will be required to choose between seeking refuge there or returning to Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/atribuyen-migracion-a-politica-neoliberal-e-injerencista-de-ee-uu/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2666-senalan-expertos-paises-evaden-con-politicas-migratorias-la-responsabilidad-del-conflicto-social-creado>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-to-deport-honduran-mother-two-sick-children-to-guatemala-under-controversial-trump-immigration-policy-2020-01-20/>

Javier Suazo published an analysis of the current intervention of ENEE and its possible aftermath. The CNA, meanwhile, reports on new corruption cases at the ENEE.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/204312>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-denuncia-lamparazo-enee-administracion-jesus-mejia/>

The Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (Cohep) has issued a statement in which it undertakes to maintain an "institutional policy on business and human rights", recalling that this body, which represents the country's capital, has been based on respect for all declarations in favor of indispensable rights...

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3708-empresarios-hondurenos-se-comprometen-con-derechos-humanos>

22/01/20

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression - UN; LGBTQ; MACCIH - JOH, EU, Protests; Extractivism - Guapinol, Reitoca, Patuca III; Migration - Caravans, US; National Police; Armed Forces; Business & HR; and the Loss of Public Institutions

OACNUDH presented an important new report yesterday on the ongoing impunity for the post-electoral repression between November 2017 and March 2018. "Two years after the events, no case of human rights violation has obtained a conviction and most of the serious violations documented by OACNUDH, such as alleged summary or extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances, remain under investigation."

<https://oacnudh.hn/informe-de-la-oficina-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-derechos-humanos-responsabilidad-por-las-violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-cometidas-en-el-contexto-de-las-elecciones-de-2017-en-hondura/>

Report: <http://oacnudh.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/INFORME-TEM%C3%81TICO-2017-Enero-2020.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/crimenes-electorales-en-honduras-siguen-en-la-impunidad-informe-oacnudh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/oacnudh-no-se-reparan-remedian-violaciones-poselectorales-2017/>

OACNUDH condemned the recent attack against human rights defender of the Trans Women's Collective of the LGTB Association Arcoiris Paola Flores (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1219990549366812673>

Exactly for this important work, the report above but also the daily accompaniment of human rights defenders and the documentation of the human rights violations, OACNUDH is under pressure in Honduras. Criterio denounces that pressure from the Honduran government triggered the departure of the representative of OACNUDH, María Soledad Pazo, who is expected to leave office next week.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-hernandez-presiona-por-salida-de-representante-de-oacnudh/>

Human rights defender Reina Rivera Joya presents a theory on the closure of the MACCIH. For years, the MACCIH proposed the reform of the Secrecy Law and the approval of the Law on Effective Collaboration, but they were never taken into account. But now, just five days after JOH cancelled the MACCIH, JOH invited Congress to approve the Law of Effective Collaboration, the Law of Declassification of Public Documents, as well as the two-round presidential election and to regulate reelection. So Rivera believes there were some backroom deals between the US and the JOH regime - the MACCIH in exchange of these reforms. Rivera even says that the regulation of the presidential reelection would lead to another bid for the presidency by JOH.

InSight Crime reports on the closure of the MACCIH also focusing on the reason why the JOH regime decided against the renewal. "Two sources with knowledge about the negotiations, who spoke with InSight Crime on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly about the proceedings, said that reforms to UFECIC, which worked with MACCIH to bring major corruption cases against powerful officials, dominated the talks leading up to the January 19 deadline for the MACCIH's renewal. (...) According to one of the sources consulted, in the absence of an agreement on UFECIC, the negotiation between the Hernández administration and the OAS stagnated and eventually imploded. (...) After the MACCIH's termination, President Hernández said his government was still committed to fighting corruption. Given the Honduran government's track record, the reluctance on the part of the Northern Triangle governments to investigate their political allies' corruption, and the United States' current passivity on the issue, Hernández's statements ring hollow for critics who largely blame him and other officials for MACCIH's demise."

<https://criterio.hn/salida-de-la-maccih-es-para-que-joh-se-reelija-reina-rivera/>

<http://elpulso.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-le-recuerda-al-congreso-nacional-reglamentar-la-reeleccion/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/a-death-foretold-maccih-shuts-down-in-honduras/>

The EU now also reacted to this. "The decision not to renew the mandate of the Mission to Support

the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) is regrettable and a step in the wrong direction. The renewal had been called for by many Honduran stakeholders. The European Union and its Member States regret the unwillingness of the government of Honduras to reach an agreement with the Organisation of American States on the renewal of the mandate. This sends a negative message which hampers on-going efforts in the fight against corruption and impunity in the country. The government of Honduras must continue to strengthen anti-corruption efforts, including through legislative reform and the reorganisation of the penal justice system. The EU stands ready to support such efforts."

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/22/honduras-declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-non-renewal-of-the-mission-to-support-the-fight-against-corruption-and-impunity-maccih/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ue-dice-que-honduras-toma-mala-direccion-al-no-renovar-mision-anticorrupcion.html>

Defensores en Línea reports on the protest by the Convergence against the Reelection (CCC) against the JOH regime and its closure of the MACCIH (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-ccc-realiza-planton-para-condenar-la-salida-de-la-maccih-y-exigir-la-salida-de-la-dictadura-del-poder/>

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons of Tocoa is demanding that the Court of Appeals review the measures against the defenders who have been criminalized for defending the Guapinol River.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1362-comite-que-defiende-el-rio-guapinol-exigen-libertad-para-los-criminalizados>

"The Indigenous Lenca Council of Reitoca informed through a press release that the reforestation project on the Petacón River had been thoroughly reviewed, which despite having been confirmed with the municipality, the Mayor's Office refused to send representation because "it was not what had been agreed". In an open town hall, the reforestation project of the Petacón River was presented by the Lenca Civic Council of Reitoca and was approved by the municipal corporation. However, in the meeting held on January 10th of this year, it was agreed with representatives of the Municipal Mayor's Office in charge of the mayor Marlon Osorto, representatives of the Lenca Indigenous Council of Reitoca, members of civil society and pastors of the evangelical churches that by Monday January 13th they would form a thorough review of the reforestation project of the upper Petacón River. This agreement was not fulfilled."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1360-alcaldia-de-reitoca-ignora-la-lucha-en-defensa-del-rio-petacon>

Residents near the Patuca III dam announced that they will take over the project's machine room in protest of the failure to meet several commitments.

<https://tiempo.hn/pobladores-amenazan-bloquear-patuca-iii-exigen-carreteras-energia/>

La Prensa reports that at least 752 Honduran migrants participating in the newest caravan have been deported from Mexico and Guatemala.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/inmigrantes/1351028-410/guatemala-y-mexico-han-deportados-752-inmigrantes-hondure%C3%B1os-de-caravana>

Department of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf thanked Mexico for "upholding their commitment to increased security and law enforcement at their southern border".

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/statement-homeland-security-acting-secretary-chad-wolf-migrant-caravan/>

Further proof that the purge of the National Police was just for show comes from ConfidencialHN. "Figures from the Police Statistical System Online (Sepol) and the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) indicate that there was an upturn in the scale of killings (...) Furthermore, information obtained by Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN confirms that police officers who committed illicit acts have been captured instead of those who were purged, whose dismissal was justified because they had links to common and organized crime."

<https://confidencialhn.com/suben-los-asesinatos-y-delito-en-honduras-al-trasluz-de-la-depuracion-policial/>

Trial will be opened against the former member of the Armed Forces Carlos Iván Zelaya for the illegal and violent detention of a Honduran citizen.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5338-fiscalia-de-derechos-humanos-logra-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contr-ex-militar-por-tres-delitos>

OACNUDH participated at the presentation of the business and human rights policy adopted by the Honduran business sector.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1219993696621551616>

"The loss of public institutions goes hand in hand with the strengthening of the caudillos with their populist practice. They contribute to creating needs, and then present themselves as saviors of poor people. This in itself is an act of corruption. The great caudillo promotes the little caudillos of the communities. The institutions are put at the service of the little caudillos, and the little caudillos operate with their populist logic and shatter the institutions. They are the institution. (...) No individual and arbitrary answer is a real solution to our demands. An institutional culture begins, without a doubt, with a community organization that does not depend on a single person, but on many people in the community."

23/01/20

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - FPIC: Post-Electoral Repression; OACNUDH; Political Prisoners; MACCIH; Corruption - Nepotism; Migration - Caravans, Women, US; Violence against Women; Penal Code; Militarization; and the Marginalization of the Moskitia

As announced (see previous e-mails), Honduras indigenous peoples protested yesterday outside Congress against the so-called Nájera Bill, named after the Nationalist congressman promoting the bill on consultation.

<https://avispa.org/en-honduras-comunidades-denuncian-reglamentacion-de-consulta-indigena-para-favorecer-despojo-de-territorios/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2669-pueblos-originarios-protestan-en-el-congreso-nacional-contr-anteproyecto-de-ley-de-consulta-previa>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1364-pueblo-lenca-y-garifuna-rechazan-ley-de-consulta-del-congreso-nacional>

<https://copinh.org/2020/01/movilizacion-no-a-la-ley-najera/>

Honduras' human rights organizations and social movements reacted to the new report by OACNUDH on the impunity for the human rights violations during the post-electoral repression (see yesterday). "We fully subscribe to the content of the OACNUDH report on the current state of human rights violations in Honduras (...) The conclusions of the OACNUDH report confirm the political will of the current regime is based on the control of State institutions, which have been placed at the service of impunity, corruption and the protection of criminals. We express our strong appreciation to the work of OACNUDH, and in particular to the Resident Representative, Ms. Maria Soledad Pazo. (...) We regret the lack of willingness of the current regime to fulfill its commitments to investigate, try and convict those responsible for homicides, illegal detention and abuse of authority. (...) We also regret that institutions such as the Human Rights Secretariat and the National Human Rights Commissioner, as well as the Public Prosecutor's Office, and specifically the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights, remain silent. (...) We call on the various sectors of society and civil society and on the international community to give firm support to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH), the body that, under the leadership of its Resident Representative, Ms. María Soledad Pazo, accompanies and observes the State of Honduras in fulfilling its role of protecting the human rights and dignity of all persons, in accordance with the international standards and commitments it has signed."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-defensoras-de-ddhh-se-pronuncian-ante-informe-de-oacnud/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2668-organizaciones-de-ddhh-respaldan-informe-de-la-oacnudh-sobre-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-en-el-marco-de-las-elecciones-2017>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1365-el-estado-debe-cumplir-con-castigar-violaciones-a->

[ddhh](#)

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-el-informe-de-la-oacnudh-confirma-lo-vivido-durante-el-fraude-electoral-mas-grande-que-la-historia-de-honduras-haya-registrado/>

There is also new worrisome information on the situation of OACNUDH in Honduras (see also yesterday). In a public statement, the Citizen's Social Platform for Honduras denounced that the Government of Honduras is provoking the "forced" departure of OACNUDH, led by María Soledad Pazo.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3714-presion-silenciosa-para-sacar-de-honduras-oficina-de-onu>

In the above mentioned report, OACNUDH also showed its concern for the case of the two political prisoners Edwin Róbelo Espinal and Raúl Álvarez, accused of aggravated damages, arson and use of homemade explosive material.

In the case of the other political prisoner, Rommel Herrera Portillo. COFADEH's Bertha Oliva went to visit him in the psychiatric hospital where he is being held. The young teacher was transferred to this centre last October, after the judge revoked the measure of preventive detention after hearing the opinion of Forensic Medicine that showed a "psychiatric damage conditioned by the appearance of a mixed disorder of anxiety and depression".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/oacnudh-preocupada-por-juicio-que-se-le-sigue-a-los-presos-politicos-edwin-espinal-y-de-raul-alvarez>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-rommel-debe-ser-liberado-ya/>

Radio Progreso presents three teachings from the end of the MACCIH. "First certainty. The Maccih was also a distraction. It is true that the Maccih frightened many corrupt people, but the immense majority were entertained by the novels of JOH and Almagro, today both seek continuity and the Maccih served only as tradeable currency. However, since the installation of the Maccih, the torches have been extinguished and the popular pressure against the corrupt has disappeared. Second certainty. International cooperation such as the OAS, the European Union and the U.S. embassy have shown almost no interest in supporting the people in the fight against the corrupt. Third certainty. The fight against corruption will not be driven from the political class, nor will it come from outside, it will emerge from the heart and hands of the people. The distraction of the Maccih is over and it is up to us to confront the reality of the corrupt and corrupting. And in this struggle we need to believe in ourselves, in our transforming force that springs from the organization and defense of the territories. Fortunately, we do not have to look for that force or wait for it to come from outside; that force lives and walks with us."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/np/dos-continuismos-un-camino/>

Honduras ranks worse than last year on the Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International, it dropped 14 ranks to 146 out of 180.

Ebal Díaz, JOH's presidential secretary, tries to spin the truth blaming the presence of the MACCIH

on the bad result...leaving out no less than four impunity pacts, the Secrecy Law and much more, all in order to stop the MACCIH and UFECIC from doing their work.
The CNA rightly blames the lack of political will.

<https://www.transparency.org/cpi2019>

<https://criterio.hn/corruptos-convirtieron-a-honduras-en-uno-de-los-paises-mas-corruptos-cna/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3713-ti-honduras-en-la-vanguardia-de-la-corrupcion-en-el-mundo>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-empeoro-su-percepcion-de-corrupcion-con-la-maccih-segun-ebal-diaz.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-sostiene-que-alto-indice-de-percepcion-de-corrupcion-es-por-falta-de-voluntad-politica/>

ConfidencialHN reports on nepotism under the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/familion-se-enquisto-en-el-sistema-aduanero-revelan-nombres-y-cargos-de-parientes-y-activistas-nacionalistas/>

El Libertador reports that more than 1500 migrants crossed the Suchiate River yesterday to reach Mexico asking authorities to let them continue to the US.

El Herald reports on the ongoing repression by Mexico's security forces.

According to the Honduran authorities, already 1754 Honduran migrants have been deported from Guatemala and Mexico in the last week.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) published a short report on the newest migrant caravans. "A combination of push factors, such as violence, disasters, poverty and lack of response from governments are largely intertwined as key drivers of new caravans in Central America."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3712-urgente-esta-madrugada-mas-de-1-500-migrantes-cruzaron-a-mexico>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1351225-468/fotos-caravana-migrante-enfrentamiento-mexico-guardia-nacional>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1351275-468/duro-trato-migrantes-no-causa-indignacion-mexicanos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1351251-466/1754-hondure%C3%B1os-deportados-guatemala-mexico>

<http://www.nrc.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/New-Caravans-of-Central-American-families-Jan2020.pdf>

The Network of Women Human Rights Defenders of Honduras published a press release on the women fleeing Honduras. "They do not leave, they are expelled, they flee from the neoliberal and patriarchal misery that has turned women's lives into waste. Cornered by the ferocity of extreme poverty and even more so by the brutality of the violence exercised by all kinds of men who attack them to the point of murder, Honduran women seek a life for themselves, and a life for their daughters and sons."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/01/comunicado-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-ddhh-en-honduras-somos-mujeres-somos-feministas-somos-defensoras-somos-hondurenas/>

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky on the migration deals between the Trump administration and Mexico and Central America. "DHS must end its inhumane immigration policies, including "Remain in Mexico," that have led to the murder, rape, assault, & kidnapping of thousands of migrants. It must also end its dangerous cooperation with corrupt and repressive security forces in Guatemala & Honduras and so-called "Safe Third Country" agreements."

Sociologist Leticia Salomón denounces that Honduras, Mexico and Guatemala "play the sad role of guardians of the United States borders".

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1220453295887736841>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-mexico-y-guatemala-se-han-convertido-en-guardianes-de-las-fronteras-de-estados-unidos/>

The IACHR published a report on violence and discrimination against women, girls and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/012.asp>

Last year, after national and international protest, the JOH regime promised that they would not further include the criminalization of freedom of expression in the new Penal Code. But now it seems that it was once again just a strategy to silence the criticism and do it anyway. The Supreme Court of Justice sent an opinion insisting on criminalizing crimes against honor in the new Penal Code...

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1097-poder-judicial-insiste-en-penalizar-delitos-contra-el-honor>

On Wednesday, OACNUDH presented an important report highlighting the ongoing impunity for the human rights violations including assassinations during the post-electoral repression, the majority committed by the Military Police (see above and yesterday). Now, JOH tries to whitewash them by having them hand out water...

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1220378224439496704>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-mosquitia-marginada-por-falta-de-voluntad-politica/>

24/01/20

Honduras Daily: JOH; MACCIH - UFECIC; Corruption - Nepotism; Journalists; Femicides; Lawyers; Migration - Caravans, Mexico; National Police; and the IMF in Honduras

The Pro Honduras Network uncovered that the JOH regime signed this month a contract with the US company BGR Government Affairs, LLC for political lobbying in DC. The contract is worth \$60'000 per month and runs until the end of the year.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-joh-paga-60-mil-dolares-mensuales-para-realizar-lobby-politico/>

Maybe it was them recommending the JOH regime that to try to save face, they have to act fast on how to replace the MACCIH. So yesterday, the MP announced the Special Prosecuting Unit against Corruption Networks (UFERCO). It will replace UFECIC, the Honduran counterpart of the MACCIH, both of which now have officially disappeared.

Some observers great that it will be headed again by the public prosecutor Luis Javier Santos, who led UFECIC.

Nevertheless, most see in it another trap to appease international pressure with a body that is controlled by the MP - the head of the MP, Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla is a close ally of JOH.

This does not stop the US embassy and the OAS General Secretary to immediately congratulate Honduras.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5345-comunicado-ministerio-publico-crea-unidad-fiscal-especializada-contra-redes-de-corrupcion>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-cierra-la-ufecic-y-crea-la-uferco/>

<https://twitter.com/KafatiAlejandro/status/1220805986845413377>

https://twitter.com/omar_menjivar/status/1220845326552256512

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1220854932364021763>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1351543-410/eeuu-aplaude-la-nueva-fiscal%C3%ADa-anticorrupci%C3%B3n>

https://twitter.com/Almagro_OEA2015/status/1220828008266813440

ConfidencialHN published the second part of Nationalist nepotism seen at the Honduran Customs Administration (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/sigue-la-empleomania-en-aduanas-contrataran-unas-60-personas-este-viernes/>

The Sentence Court at the Supreme Court of Justice admitted a criminalizing charge against Milton Benítez, director of the program "El Perro Amarillo". He will no face trial. Benítez had previously face threats against him and his family for his covering corruption.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1098-por-querella-periodista-sera-llevado-a-juicio-oral-y-publico>

In the first 24 days of 2020, 27 women were murdered in Honduras - a 20% increase compared to last year. Human rights defender Honorina Rodríguez and member of CEM-H denounces that the Unit for the Investigation of Violent Deaths of Women does not have all the resources and mechanisms necessary to investigate correctly and try to resolve the problem to some extent. The unit has a budget of 40 million Lempiras, but Rodriguez claims that part of those funds were reallocated to other activities.

On the occasion of the Day of the Honduran Woman, feminist and women organization held a protest rally in Tegucigalpa.

<http://elpulso.hn/24-dias-de-enero-27-mujeres-asesinadas/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1351526-410/muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-han-aumentado-20-en-lo-que-va-de>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1366-acceso-a-la-justicia-exigen-mujeres-en-planton>

<http://elpulso.hn/con-planton-en-contra-de-los-femicidios-conmemoran-dia-de-la-mujer/>

The lawyer Marco Antonio Bobadilla Gutiérrez was shot several times yesterday in San Pedro Sula and later died in the hospital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/matan-a-reconocido-abogado-en-la-colonia-trejo-en-san-pedro-sula/>

Both the UN office in Guatemala and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reacted the the newest migrant caravans.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GT%20Informe%20de%20Situaci%C3%B3n%20N%20%203%20%20Caravana%20de%20migrantes%20y%20refugiados%20de%20CA%20IC%2020200123%20Final.pdf>

<https://www.iom.int/news/iom-responds-humanitarian-needs-migrant-caravan-guatemala>

The UN criticized asked Mexico to abstain from using violence against migrants and not to deport them if they are persecuted in their countries.

But out of the over 1700 migrants deported, only 51 agreed to it.

AMLO, meanwhile, claims that the human rights of migrants are being respected.

<https://tiempo.hn/onu-a-mexico-no-mas-violencia-contra-migrantes-y-asilo-para-los-perseguidos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/de-mas-de-1-700-migrantes-deportados-solo-51-lo-han-hecho-de-forma-voluntaria/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1351541-410/amlo-insiste-en-que-los-ddhh-de-migrantes-son-respetados>

Proceso Digital reports on the promotion of 128 police officials.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/128-oficiales-de-policia-seran-ascendidos-siete-de-ellos-al-grado-de-general.html>

FOSDEH published a new report on the IMF in Honduras. "In approximately 30 years of negotiations and "intermittent" compliance with the IMF, nine Agreements have been signed. However, the socio-economic and political situation in Honduras continues to produce unsatisfactory results... Whose fault is this?"

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2020/01/honduras-acuerdos-y-desacuerdos-con-el-fmi/>

25/01/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ; MACCIH; Women's Rights; Health Sector; Migration - Guatemala; Congress; Electoral Reforms; and They Flee to Live

PBI Honduras sent out an alert regarding the situation of the LGBTQ community, especially trans women. "PBI Honduras is extremely concerned over the high number of attacks against trans women and individuals who defend trans rights, as well as the impunity that has continued in these cases. We are particularly concerned by the security situation of the members of the Muñecas Trans Women's Collective of Arcoiris LGBT Association, which has been accompanied by PBI since 2015. Despite having protective measures from the Honduran National Protection Mechanism, the Muñecas Collective has experienced an increase in attacks and assaults over the last six months."

<https://pbi-honduras.org/sites/pbi-honduras.org/files/publications/201023%20ALERTA%20PUBLICA%20LGTBIQ%20ENG.pdf>

ContraCorriente reports on the uncertainty left after the disappearance of the MACCIH and UFECIC and the presentation, in suspiciously record speed, of UFERCO (see yesterday). "Political analyst Raúl Pineda, who was a three-time National Party congressman and now works in private litigation, believes there were different interests in the negotiations, but tilted toward what the United States could get from the Juan Orlando Hernández government. "The OAS is an expression of the political power of the Americans (...) they tolerated the destruction of the MACCIH, they play based on their interests; at this moment they are focused on the immigration issue and drug trafficking. If they are given that, they make concessions and part of that is to limit their disagreement with the dissolution of the MACCIH to a simple press release," explained Pineda. He also rules out the possibility that they will give continuity to the work of the UFECIC, which was also conditioned by the political decisions of the Attorney General, something that would not

change with the new UFERCO that will be totally dependent on the Attorney General. (...) On December 26 last year, in the weeks before the end of the MACCIH, the National Forum of Convergences (FONAC) was reactivated, which according to the Presidency of the Republic would come to "follow up on the Plan of the Nation and Country Vision, and help create new systems of transparency and anti-corruption". For Fátima Mena, this resurgence of the Forum raises suspicions about the intentions with which the institution is reappearing, since she considers that the aim is to weaken the other bodies that have reported cases of corruption, such as the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). (...) The MACCIH increased the public's perception of the reality of corruption affecting the country, and discontent became apparent after each case that was presented (...) Pineda assures that this scale goes beyond what is published or appears in the media and that it is linked to high levels of power. "The system is designed precisely to allow corruption; the Supreme Court of Justice is elected by politicians in Congress, the Prosecutor also, as is the Superior Audit Tribunal (...) these officials have a political commitment to those who elected them," said the political analyst. (...) Given this panorama, the support and accompaniment of the Mission to the Public Prosecutor's Office represented a threat to the corruption networks in the country. However, for attorney Pineda, the MACCIH was limited by Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla; therefore, according to him, the Mission could have done more in the country. "I think the MACCIH made a mistake, and that was not to hit the snake in the head. A lawyer said on a television program that UFECIC made an injunction against the President of the Republic. Why didn't they present it? - he questioned - the MACCIH is not being removed for what it did, but for what it could have done," he concluded."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/01/25/finalizacion-de-la-maccih-deja-incierto-camino-anticorrupcion/>

Honduras commemorated the Day of the Honduran Woman. Feminist and women's rights organization called out: "We don't want flower, we want rights!".

<http://elpulso.hn/no-queremos-flores-queremos-derechos/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1368-hondurenas-conmemoran-y-reivindicandus-derechos-el-dia-de-la-mujer>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/la-impunidad-y-la-desigualdad-sostienen-violencia-contra-mujeres-en-honduras.html>

The National Association of Auxiliary Healthcare Workers (ANEEAH) announced a strike for this Monday after failing to come to an agreement with the JOH regime on a salary adjustment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/gremio-de-las-enfermeras-anuncian-paro-de-labores-a-partir-del-proximo-lunes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-enfermeras-enfermero-paro-salud-reajuste-salarial/>

"Trócaire is extremely concerned by serious threats recently received by our local partner, Casa del Migrante, in Guatemala. (...) Casa del Migrante – a Migrant House, based in Guatemala City – is

supported by Trócaire and provides food, shelter, medical assistance and legal advice to migrants travelling from Central America, many of whom are en route to Mexico or the US border."

<https://www.trocaire.org/news/trocaire-concerned-threats-made-guatemalan-migrant-house>

Yesterday, the Third Legislature of the National Congress of Honduras was installed for the period 2018-2020. The JOH regime praised itself for its work.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1351572-410/iii-legislatura-congreso-nacional-honduras>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mora-judicial-se-ha-reducido-en-un-70-destaca-presidente-de-la-csj.html>

And on this occasion, Congress' president Mauricio Oliva announced "profound" electoral reforms.

<https://tiempo.hn/oliva-se-compromete-a-luchar-por-la-transparencia-electoral/>

"Once again, between three and four thousand Hondurans decided to form the first migrant caravan of the year. They are leaving because there are no jobs, no food, no healthcare, no education and no public safety. And they are willing to give their lives in their attempt to live with dignity or at least guarantee a better life for their loved ones."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/net/np/huyen-para-vivir/>

27/01/20

Honduras Daily: JOH; HRDs; LGBTQ; MACCIH - US, UFERCO, Fonac; Women's Rights; Migration - Mexico, US; Climate Crisis; and Another Similarity Between Honduras and Bolivia

On the occasion of the anniversary of the second, illegal, inauguration of the JOH regime, Honduras took to the streets yesterday.

The Honduras Solidarity Network published a press release on "two years of narco-dictatorship" in Honduras.

They will also hold a webinar on the topic.

The former president Pepe Lobo, meanwhile, called JOH "more damaging" than Hurricane Mitch.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1221837506167132162>

<http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/2020/01/28/two-years-of-narco-dictatorship-in-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1222026953366130689>

<http://elpulso.hn/segundo-aniversario-del-segundo-gobierno-continuo-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-acusa-a-hernandez-de-ser-mas-danino-que-el-huracan-mitch/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-joh-huracan-mitch/>

The Catholic priest, Florentino Hernández Bonilla, will appear for a hearing at the Choluteca sentencing court tomorrow for the alleged crimes of usurpation and misappropriation. The complaint was filed by the Diocese of Choluteca of the Honduran Catholic Church, led by Bishop Guido Charbonneau, who recently dismissed the defendant from his post as parish priest on 29 October. The dismissal is due to his involvement in the popular consultation in El Triunfo, which resulted in the declaration of the municipality free of mining.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1369-honduras-padre-y-defensor-del-ambiente-querellado-por-usurpacion>

The MP informs that José Luis López Godoy and Franklin Joel Salinas Méndez were found guilty for the murder of trans activist Bessy Ferrera in July 2019. Bessy was a member of LGBTQI+ organisation ArcoIris and a focal point within the “Rights Here and Now” Platform.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5350-condenan-a-implicados-en-crimen-de-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgbti>

The New York Times published an OpEd by CESPAD director Gustavo Irías on the dismantling of anti-corruption agencies in Honduras and Guatemala. "But perhaps what is important about the Maccih's work is that it revealed the way in which the networks of corruption that have co-opted the state operate: through a partnership of public officials, private entrepreneurs and even drug lords, the drain on public money is through private foundations and the national financial system, as well as the fraudulent use of public laws and institutions (for example, in natural resource concession contracts). Now, with the definitive end of the Maccih, we Hondurans have a feeling of orphanhood, nationally and internationally. The fact is that the setbacks in our struggle to establish the rule of law can also be explained by geopolitics. In this case, because of the crucial support that international and regional institutions and countries like the United States have given to the fight against corruption in Central America. US President Donald Trump has outlined two contradictory policies towards the Northern Triangle: on the one hand, he supports leaders who have imposed an undemocratic crusade against those who fight corruption. On the other hand, he has tried to stop Central American immigration at all costs. US tolerance for the current corrupt regimes in the region will only lead to poorer, more unequal and more exclusive societies, where significant segments of the population will continue to see migration as the only way out of their lives."

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2020/01/27/espanol/opinion/honduras-corrupcion.html>

The former head of the defunct UFECIC and now head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, appeared in Frente a Frente to discuss the challenges ahead. Journalist Jeff Ernst reports: "Chief prosecutor Santos says he will resign if not allowed to genuinely investigate & prosecute corruption as the UFECIC did for over two years, while highlighting potential limitations such as the rotation of personnel to other units & a loss of stability. Meanwhile, President Hernandez holds a meeting regarding a new anti-corruption system to be installed. Present are representatives of some of the most corrupt institutions & notably absent is the attorney general & civil society representatives."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1221824770808958976>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-uferco-teme-que-nueva-fiscalia-no-podra-trabajar-sin-respaldo-internacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscal-luis-santos-cuestiona-debilidades-institucionales-para-combatir-la-corrupcion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presidente-hernandez-oficializa-inicio-de-sistema-de-transparencia-y-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion.html>

Shortly before the disappearance of the MACCIH and UFECIC, the JOH regime made the National Convergence Forum (Fonac) reappear apparently as an alternative to the already existing anti-corruption bodies. The lack of independence was clear from the beginning but made even more apparent yesterday, when JOH ally Omar Rivera was elected as its secretary.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-negar-lo-reiteradamente-omar-rivera-acepta-ser-secretario-del-cuestionado-fonac/>

<https://tiempo.hn/omar-rivera-asj-nombrado-secretario-ejecutivo-fonac/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published three additional articles on last Saturday's Day of the Honduran Woman and the accompanying protests. The protests continued yesterday. A group of women demanded outside the Supreme Court a stop to the impunity in cases of femicide

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2671-honduras-un-estado-hostil-para-la-vida-de-las-mujeres>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2670-hondurenas-celebraron-el-dia-de-la-mujer-en-medio-de-violencias-y-desplazamiento-forzoso>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2672-declaran-emergencia-nacional-por-masacres-de-mujeres-en-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mujeres-protestan-frente-a-la-sede-del-poder-judicial-en-tegucigalpa/>

Radio HRN reports that Mexico has further restricted access to migrant detention centers for human rights organizations.

The New York Times also covers this new role of Mexico under the headline "Mexico Breaks Up a Migrant Caravan, Pleasing White House".

According to the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM) over 5000 Hondurans having participated in the newest caravans have been deported.

<https://radiohrn.hn/apenas-el-10-de-emigrantes-hondurenos-en-mexico-han-sido-retornados-en-una-semana/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/24/world/americas/migrant-caravan-mexico.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-cinco-mil-integrantes-de-la-caravana-han-retornado-a-honduras.html>

The Trump administration seems to be satisfied.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ee-uu-elogia-a-mexico-y-centroamerica-por-su-mayor-control-migratorio.html>

"While the analysis covered 39 crop types and 6 livestock types, focus is placed on the major crops and livestock. Maize is the main crop, representing 36.3% of the cultivated area in the 5 Central American and 18.6% of the 2 Andean countries. For maize, the study shows that in the absence of counteracting measures Guatemala and Costa Rica will have the largest production losses by 2050 at almost 17%, followed by Honduras at around 12%. Losses for the two Andean countries and the two remaining Central American countries will be more modest at around 8% for each. Losses for wheat and sorghum at the national level appear to be similar to those for maize, but losses for barley and especially sugar cane are significantly higher. Based on our findings, we make several recommendations to policy makers which aim to help farmers adapt to the effects of climate on their production."

<https://pim.cgiar.org/2019/12/30/climate-change-and-agriculture-in-central-america-and-the-andean-region/>

"Interim Bolivian President Jeanine Áñez, who came to power in November, has rejected claims that her predecessor, Evo Morales, was ousted in a coup — while cracking down on dissent and calling for new elections to solidify the rule of conservative opposition forces that seized control of the government in Morales's absence. As many critics have noted, the cycle bears a striking similarity to the coup d'état that ousted Honduran President Manuel "Mel" Zelaya a decade ago. The left-wing leader was whisked out of office by the military, only to be replaced with an interim government led by right-wing opposition forces that swiftly consolidated power through a controversial election process. The parallels were apparently not lost on the Bolivia's new rulers. The Áñez government has retained the services of the same Washington, D.C., consultants hired by the Honduran interim government to build American support."

<https://theintercept.com/2020/01/26/bolivia-evo-morales-honduras-coup-lobby-pr/>

28/01/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - COPA, Church; Migration - Caravans, Mexico; MP; Corruption - Pandora; Militarization - ATIC; Public Health; JOH - UTH; and Reigned by Cynicism

COPA denounces that their offices in Tocoa, Colón, were broken into and ransacked on Sunday evening - the second time in a bit more than a month.

When human rights defender Carlos Leonel George went to the police to report the break-in, he was illegally detained. Human rights organizations denounced that even after showing the resolutions with the definitive dismissal of previous criminalizing charges, the DPI agents did not believe and wanted to leave him in prison, under the excuse of having an arrest warrant.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1222182074888675328>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pese-a-tener-medidas-de-la-cidh-nuevamente-atacan-oficina-y-personal-de-copa/>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-detiene-ilegalmente-a-defensor-del-aguan/>

Today, the Catholic priest, Florentino Hernández Bonilla, will appear for a hearing at the Choluteca sentencing court (see also yesterday). Local churchgoers accompany and support him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/feligresia-de-el-triunfo-respalda-a-sacerdote-querellado-por-la-misma-iglesia-catolica/>

Aqui Abajo has published a helpful fact sheet on "why Hondurans are forced to flee". "This fact sheet was compiled to provide a statistical context to the urgent crisis in Honduras that is forcing Hondurans to flee as refugees to neighbouring countries and to the U.S. border. It attempts to show the increasingly high cost of living that affect the daily lives and economic situations of millions of Honduran families. It provides a summary of the minimum wage and underemployment in the country for the small group of Hondurans that are able to find work but that suffer horrendous working conditions when their employers and the Honduran government do not abide by or enforce the labor code. This fact sheet also provides a few statistics related to the security situation in the country by looking at the homicide rate, the impunity rate, and the number of massacres that have occurred in the last few years. There is also a section about corruption and drug trafficking with details on involvement of government officials and Congressional representatives in corruption cases and drug trafficking. The final section includes statistics related to human rights issues and targeted populations such as students, Afro-indigenous Garifuna people, journalists, lawyers, and more."

<http://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2020/1/28/why-hondurans-are-forced-to-flee-fact-sheet>

Meanwhile, a new caravan may head off from San Pedro Sula this Friday.

<http://elpulso.hn/una-nueva-caravana-migrante-saldra-rumbo-a-estados-unidos-este-fin-de-semana/>

According to Mexican authorities, 2303 Hondurans have been deported in the last 10 days.

<https://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/migracion-de-mexico-deporto-2-303-hondurenos-los-ultimos-diez-dias.html>

Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla presents the MP as under attack. "In a country and society as changing as ours any speech by the attorney general can be the last. I would like to be optimistic and tell you that this path will be easy, but it will not be, as soon as the complicated part begins; the Public Prosecutor's Office has an enormous demand for justice, society expects a lot from us."

<https://confidencialhn.com/este-podria-ser-mi-ultimo-discurso-fiscal-avisa-de-conspiraciones-contra-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/general-habran-muchos-ataques-contra-ministerio-publico/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscal-general-revela-conspiracion-contra-el-ministerio-publico.html>

A judge declared appropriate the definitive deprivation of property made to seven accused of the Pandora corruption case.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/procedente-privacion-definitiva-de-bienes-a-siete-imputados-en-caso-pandora.html>

The JOH regime commemorated the fifth anniversary of ATIC, a controversial body which gives a prominent role to the Military Police.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/150-enero2020/5364-discurso-director-atic-ricardo-castro-evento-quinto-aniversario>

The auxiliary nurses keep up strike measures due to a lack of an agreement with the JOH regime (see previous e-mail).

As an act of intimidation, the Health Secretariat announced to employ 3000 new auxiliary nurses.

<https://criterio.hn/enfermeras-continuaran-en-asambleas-informativas-por-falta-de-acuerdo-con-el-gobierno/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-amenaza-contratara-tres-mil-enfermeras-paro-aneeah/>

ConfidencialHN reports that "[c]ontroversial figures and questioned former state officials have found in the Technological University of Honduras a kind of refuge where they can stay away from public scrutiny, without being judged for their past in public administration.

<https://confidencialhn.com/uth-refugio-de-exfuncionarios-cuestionados-etica-y-moralmente/>

"The regime of Juan Orlando Hernández is the perfect example of the unbridled exercise of power, of arbitrariness in all its crudeness, of corruption and impunity as a way of doing politics, and of

cynicism in the perverse use of concepts such as the rule of law, democracy and human rights. In this way, this authoritarian regime repeatedly affirms the defense of human rights and the fight against corruption and impunity, and at the same time it destroys any institutionality and eliminates any rule that has this purpose."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/np/el-cinismo-tactico-del-regimen-2/>

<https://criterio.hn/cinismo/>

29/02/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection, Church, Guapinol; Journalists; Penal Code; Indigenous Peoples - FPIC; JOH - Repression; UFERCO - US; Corruption - Pandora, IHSS, Councilors, Health; Migration - Mexico, MIRPS; Militarization; Fishing; and the Role of Elections

Human rights and territorial defenders demand compliance with measures from the National Protection Mechanism.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1370-campana-yo-exijo-al-estado-respeto-y-proteccion-a-los-ddhh>

The criminalizing trial against Catholic priest and defender Florentino Hernández Bonilla has been postponed to February 5 (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/reprograman-audiencia-del-padre-florentino-hernandez-para-el-5-de-febrero/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/padre-florentino-la-solucion-esta-en-la-reconciliacion-y-no-en-la-imposicion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an update on the situation of the eight human rights and environmental defenders from Guapinol, one held in a prison in La Ceiba, seven in Olanchito, Yoro.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2675-juicio-injusto-hay-un-panorama-desalentador-para-defensores-de-guapinol-para-obtener-acceso-a-la-justicia>

This morning, the Oral and Public Trial is scheduled to begin against a police officer of the National Preventive Police of El Progreso, Yoro, who on September 1, 2015, participated in the repression against the journalist Dunia Montoya. That day her arm was broken by the violence used by a group of police against her to remove a camera that recorded police and military abuses against a peaceful demonstration.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2676-este-30-de-enero-juicio-oral-y-publico-casi-cinco-anos-tiene-la-periodista-dunia-montoya-de-esperar-justicia>

Pasos de Animal Grande warns that "Article 541 of the New Penal Code includes the offense of

unlawful disruption of the functioning of institutions, with the aim of limiting social protests to the powers of the State, and provides for prison sentences against persons who dare to do so".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/nuevo-codigo-penal/item/2673-nuevo-codigo-penal-limitacion-del-derecho-a-la-protesta-y-proteccion-de-abusos-estatales>

OFRANEH continues to raise the alarm about the Nájera Bill, i.e. the disputed consultation bill replacing consultation with socialization. They also hold the World Bank and the EU responsible for helping to promote the bill.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1222527286555160576>

ContraCorriente takes a close look at some of the statements made by the JOH regime during the inauguration of its third legislative period, e.g. on the judicial backlog, on violence or the "social" program Vida Mejor.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/01/29/verdades-enganos-y-desmesuras-en-la-inauguracion-de-la-tercera-legislatura/#1580329178966-c00a3292-328c>

C-Libre published more information on the various acts of repression by the JOH regime on Monday against protests on the occasion of the anniversary of the second, illegal, inauguration.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1100-represion-a-protestas-en-diferentes-puntos-del-pais-este-27-de-enero>

The INL Director of Western Hemisphere Programs Patrick Ventrell visited Honduras and met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. "The #UFERCO and @MP_Honduras are very important for continuing the fight against corruption in Honduras. Congrats to Atty. General Chinchilla and we offer our help and support"

The former head of the Honduran Anti-Narcotics Directorate (DLCN), Mario Chinchilla, sees UFERCO as a weak replacement of UFECIC and not to speak of the MACCIH.

Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), fears that UFERCO and Fonac (see previous e-mails) represent the crumbling of the anti-corruption struggle.

<https://twitter.com/StateINL/status/1222625534238167040>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1222559649569951744

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1352661-466/funcionario-eeuu-fiscal-general-uferco>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/uferco-sera-minusvalida-porque-no-tendra-apoyo-internacional-segun-exfiscal-mario-chinchilla.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/con-el-fonac-y-uferco-se-desmorona-lucha-anticorrupcion-segun-suyapa-figueroa.html>

The same day, it was made public that the JOH regime continues to negate protection for the key witness in the Pandora corruption case, Fernando Suárez. According to his lawyer Omar Menjívar, he is in danger of death.

<https://criterio.hn/estado-de-honduras-esta-negando-proteccion-a-fernando-suarez-testigo-del-caso-pandora/>

A sentencing court decided to sentence businessman and former IHSS board member Benjamin Bogran to two years in prison for taking bribes.

At the same time, he was acquitted for money laundering and may soon walk free again.

<https://confidencialhn.com/condenan-a-empresario-benjamin-bogran-a-dos-anos-de-carcel-por-recibir-sobornos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/condenan-a-empresario-benjamin-bogran-es-condenado-a-dos-anos-por-recibir-sobornos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/benjamin-bogran-absuelto-lavado-activos-pronto-saldra-libre-1/>

A former councilor of Choluteca was sentenced to 15 years in prison for money laundering.

<https://tiempo.hn/por-lavado-activos-condenan-exregidor-triunfo-15-anos-carcel/>

A public official was found guilty of 139 cases of fraud because she handed out scholarships meant for students in the medical area to other people.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-declaran-culpable-doris-gradis-mil-anos-pagaria-reclusion124/>

The UNHCR published a short report on the situation in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

"The number of people forced to flee from the North of Central America in search for protection — either internally or across international borders — has soared over the past years. Violence, persecution and insecurity compounded by deteriorating socioeconomic conditions has especially targeted children and women and LGBTQ people. Those who flee see no choice but to undertake dangerous journeys that expose them to smugglers, traffickers and other risks of exploitation and abuse."

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73692>

"One year ago, on January 29, 2019, the U.S. sent a Honduran asylum-seeker back to Tijuana to wait for his immigration court date — the first person subjected to "Remain in Mexico." Since then, people from dozens of countries have been affected, but Honduras and Guatemala comprised more than 60 percent of cases, and Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Nicaragua accounted for most of the rest. Migrant and human rights groups have repeatedly condemned the policy. Fewer than five percent of people subject to the MPP had access to legal representation. Children, LGBTQ asylum-seekers, and people with disabilities have all been sent back to some of the most dangerous cities in Mexico. "As of January 21, 2019, Human Rights First has tracked at least 816 public

reports of murder, torture, rape, kidnapping, and other violent attacks against asylum seekers and migrants returned to Mexico under MPP,” the organization noted in a fact sheet released this month."

"One year since the United States implemented its “Remain in Mexico” policy, tens of thousands of asylum seekers are trapped in danger in Mexico, facing daily violence and dealing with the mental health toll of constant risk and uncertainty, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said Wednesday."

<https://theintercept.com/2020/01/29/remain-in-mexico-year-anniversary-central-america/>

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/devastating-toll-remain-mexico-one-year-later>

<https://www.proceso.com.mx/616034/eu-devolvio-62-mil-solicitantes-de-asilo-en-2019>

UNHCR published the second annual report on the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama.

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/73693>

There hasn't been much coverage on the controversial "agricultural development program" controlled by the Armed Forces, but now Proceso Digital published an update.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ffaa-aclara-que-plan-al-agro-demanda-que-campesinos-sean-duenos-de-tierras-y-no-habra-ayudas-en-efectivo.html>

Through the ecological initiative "Resilience of the Blue Economy of the Northern Coastal Ecosystem of Honduras", the Irish agency GOAL wants to promote artisanal fisheries sector as an alternative to the sustainable "blue economy".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3720-irlanda-plantea-nuevo-porvenir-a-pescadores-hondurenos>

"Are small electoral reforms enough to prevent fraud that is already in place? If those who lead the electoral processes are the same ones who carried out a coup d'état, will they remove themselves from power through elections that they themselves control? The struggle to rescue elections from the clutches of the current authoritarian mafia is valuable, but these transformations are not achieved on the basis of premature enthusiasm. It is necessary to open minds and attitudes for responsible and mature debate. In this way we will avoid falling once again into the jaws and fangs of the criminals who are currently dying of laughter at the sight of everyone dancing to the electoral tune."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/np/una-palabra-para-un-debate-necesario/>

30/01/20

Honduras Daily: OACNUDH; HRDs- Church, Guapinol; Political Prisoners; Femicide; Corruption - Collaboration, Pandora, Judiciary; MACCIH; Migration - Caravans; National Police; US; Public Health; Poverty; and the President's Shoes

Giorgio Trucchi interviewed COFADEH's Bertha Oliva on the important presence of OACNUDH in Honduras and the fear of its closure. On the presence of OACNUDH, Oliva comments: "Setting up a High Commissioner's office in a country without institutions, where democratic order has been lost and the Constitution repeatedly violated, was a challenge, but we succeeded. The work that the office has done has been very professional, and the report on the post-election repression is an example of that professionalism." Regarding its closure, especially after the closure of the MACCIH, she says: "It's a fear I have. Both bodies were requested by the regime to clean its face before the international community. The moment they began to do real work and expose part of the web of corruption, human rights violations and impunity, they became a hindrance to the regime. They have closed the Maccih and I would not be surprised if they now go for OACNUDH and its resident representative Maria Soledad Pazo. They might say that since democracy has been strengthened and special secretariats and prosecutors' offices for human rights have been created, there is no longer any need for an office of this level in Honduras. (...) Closing OACNUDH would be a disaster. It would be a return to the past."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-cierre-de-la-oacnudh-seria-un-desastre/>

ConexiHon published a video statement of criminalized defender and priest, Florentino Hernández (see also previous e-mails).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1375-entrevista-en-exclusiva-con-el-padre-florentino-hernandez>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1374-conferencia-de-prensa-al-finalizar-la-audiencia-del-padre-florentino>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-pueblo-triunfeno-acuerpo-al-padre-florentino/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1373-movilizacion-en-acompanamiento-al-padre-florentino-por-querella-interpuesta>

Taking an example of the Guapinol case, Defensores en Línea shows one of the problems with the protection mechanism. "For more than 14 months, the peasant and environmental defender, Jeremías Martínez, has been behind bars. Martínez was in his home, located in La Concepcion, in Tocoa, Colón, in the north of Honduras, when a police patrol arrived as usual. The agents told him to board with them because he had to go and sign a document. As he benefited from protective measures MC 50/14 granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the patrol was part of the routine, but on this occasion the security guards handed him over to the judicial authorities and he was left in prison. This fact adds to the mistrust that exists towards the work of the National Protection Mechanism and the measures that are agreed upon with the victims, who sometimes comply with them because there is no other entity that provides them with

protection."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jeremias-martinez-el-defensor-de-guapinol-entregado-por-sus-custodios/>

Yesterday, the hearing of exceptions and annulments was held in the case of the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo, the young teacher who is being accused of burning tires at the entrance of the US Embassy on May 31, 2019. "Attorney Karol Cárdenas said that "at the hearing we told the judge that we did not consider that there were any elements to file exceptions, nullities or challenges, and that a date should be set for the hearing to propose evidence, which will be held on February 13 at 9 a.m., and at the end of this hearing, the judge must set a date for the oral and public trial." Attorney Omar Menjívar said he hopes that the hearing on Thursday, Feb. 13 will admit evidence that is relevant and useful in demonstrating the truth."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-13-de-febrero-se-conocera-fecha-del-juicio-oral-y-publico-contr-el-preso-politico-rommel-herrera/>

CEPAL published a short report on femicide in Latin America.

See Attachment

"At least 18 Latin American countries have the Law on Effective Collaboration in their criminal law. Honduras has not been able to adapt this tool that sleeps the sleep of the just, locked in the National Congress since 2017, due to lack of political interest."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/01/30/por-que-los-politicos-hondurenos-no-aprueban-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

Omar Menjívar, defense attorney for one of the accused, and key witness, in the Pandora case, attributed that it is the Supreme Court of Justice and the MP which maintain this judicial process at a standstill.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/csj-mantiene-estancado-caso-pandora-critica-abogado-defensor.html>

The members of the now extinct Judiciary Council: Jorge Rivera, Teodoro Bonilla, Francisco Quiroz, Julio Barahona and Liliam Maldonado, are about to receive a definitive dismissal of the accusation for irregular management of public funds, processing and allocation of travel expenses. Another case of impunity.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3722-exconcejales-saldran-bien-librados-en-caso-de-corrupcion>

Like kicking someone already on the ground, the president of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), José Juan Pineda, continues to attack the MACCIH. He claims it was the TSC which first uncovered the Pandora case.

And he repeats his claim that the MACCIH never really collaborated with them.

<https://tiempo.hn/magistrado-tsc-nosotros-pasamos-caso-pandora-mp/>

<http://elpulso.hn/tsc-remite-940-casos-a-la-procuraduria-general-de-la-republica/>

A new group of Honduras have assembled in San Pedro Sula to leave Honduras together (see also yesterday).

Jaime Rodriguez, leader of the teachers' movement, also announced that he would leave. He was recently disappeared and tortured. After he was saved, he still received death threats.

<https://criterio.hn/la-historia-se-repite-y-una-nueva-caravana-migrante-sale-manana-desde-san-pedro-sula/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2677-dirigente-magisterial-que-sufrio-atentado-criminal-abandona-el-pais-porque-teme-por-su-vida>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dirigente-magisterial-abandona-el-pais-porque-teme-por-su-vida/>

The National Police Force commemorated its 138 anniversary and on this occasion promoted 128 officials.

Its director claims that the Honduran police force is a reference for the region...

JOH, meanwhile, claims that the police have been successfully transformed and they are a reference for transparency. Both statements are not widely shared outside the JOH regime.

https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1222924187863605249

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaHonduras/status/1222942038926282752>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1222966736149975043>

<http://www.elpais.hn/2020/01/30/presidente-hernandez-policia-nacional-es-referente-de-transparencia/>

The Convergence against Continuity protests a possible visit of Ivanka Trump to Tegucigalpa for the XXI World Women's Summit.

<https://criterio.hn/convergencia-contra-el-continuismo-condena-visita-de-ivanka-trump-y-luis-almagro-a-honduras/>

The auxiliary nurses temporarily stopped their strike actions after three days due to a partial agreement with the Health Secretariat.

<http://elpulso.hn/de-manera-temporal-enfermeras-auxiliares-suspenden-paro-laboral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/enfermeras-logran-acuerdo-preliminar-y-suspenden-asambleas->

[informativas/](#)

The JOH regime is calculating away poverty. With a new methodology, the poverty rate is now 48.3% instead of 61.9%, while independent experts and civil society organizations measured a poverty rate of up to 70%.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-48-3-de-los-hondurenos-viven-en-pobreza-segun-nuevo-metodo-de-medicion.html>

<https://twitter.com/anagarciacarias/status/1222964446647279616>

31/01/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; HRDs - Church; JOH - Corruption; UFERCO - Penal Code; Electoral Reforms; Corruption - Mayors; Migration - Caravans, Mexico; ENEE; and We Are, Voices of Diversity

COPINH and the Coalition against Impunity invite to a press conference on February 3 to inform about the the lack of action by the MP to investigate the intellectual authors of the crime against Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1223347035014934530>

OACNUDH is accompanying and observing the criminalizing trial against human rights defender and priest Florentino Hernández Bonilla (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1223357397298708480>

Radio Progreso speaks with lawyer Omar Menjívar on how JOH controls power. "The mister (JOH) has weakened the institutionality, it has practically disappeared because what prevails is the supreme will of the ruler, the rest of the country's institutions, which would function properly in a situation of true rule of law, are simply subject to that will and comply with that will." He identifies another pillar of his power in the weakness of the opposition. "It is a rather weak opposition because it is disorganized, disarticulated, and I am talking about opposition in general and not only from political parties, but also from other sectors such as social movements, (...) it seems that there are very particular interests of each sector and there is no capacity to reconcile these different interests that naturally exist."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/institucionalidad-controlada-y-oposicion-debil-mantienen-a-joh-en-el-poder/>

The Pro Honduras Network reports that JOH is implicated in a corruption case involving misused USAID funds during the crisis after hurricane Mitch.

https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1276352299219455/?d=n&fb_noscript=1

In the interview mentioned above, Omar Menjívar also comments on the newly created UFERCO. "It is part of the game of appearances in which they try to convey a message to persuade the population that they are indeed working against corruption, but it is clear that, as prosecutor Luis Javier Santos himself, head of this unit, said, it is a farce because Uferco is the same Special Prosecutor's Unit that worked with the Maccih, It is the same national personnel with the difference that the Ufecic worked with the support of 25 foreign technicians specialized in forensic audit, this work is fundamental in the investigation of corruption crimes, it is determinant and these personnel are not going to have it, and if they do not have it the work they are going to do will be deficient. On the other hand, there is a disincentive for the personnel that make up this unit because the Attorney General has cut their salaries by half."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/institucionalidad-controlada-y-oposicion-debil-mantienen-a-joh-en-el-poder/>

Another challenge for UFERCO will be the new Penal Code. According to former Congresswoman Fátima Mena, in the new Penal Code, which will enter into force on May 10, crimes against public administration "are badly typified, it is such a complex form" that in the end it becomes almost impossible for the Public Prosecutor's Office to file an accusation. Mena details that the new Penal Code establishes that the crime of fraud will have to be proven through public procurement, which must comply with all the requirements of the Law on State Procurement, something that will be impossible, because corruption networks operate in a different way. Even worse, Carlos Sierra, a researcher at CIPRODEH, does not rule out that the intentions of the nationalist government in creating UFERCO are to contaminate and even destroy the files of the cases having been investigated by the now defunct UFECIC.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/coaliccion-de-organizaciones-piden-independencia-para-uferco/>

The director of C-Libre, Eddy Tábora said that together with the Association of Journalists of Honduras (CPH), they will request the mediation of OACNUDH before Congress on the decriminalization of crimes against honor of the new Penal Code.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/c-libre-y-gremio-periodistico-pedira-mediacion-de-onu-para-despenalizar-delitos-contra-el-honor.html>

Congress president Mauricio Oliva, claims that the electoral reforms have already been carried out with the creation of the National Electoral Council and the Electoral Justice Tribunal. Likewise, he declared that from his perspective: "I do not believe that we are prepared for a second round [presidential election]".

At the same time, Honduras, two years before the elections, entered in electoral mode with the parties presenting their primary candidates.

Pasos de Anima Grande fears for the worst given the impunity for the human rights violations after the electoral fraud in 2017.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-legislativo-afirma-que-ya-se-realizaron-las-reformas-electorales-profundas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oliva-dice-reformas-electorales-profundas-ya-se-hicieron-y-descarta-balotaje.html>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/candidaturas-prematuras-se-apoderan-de-ambiente-politico-en-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2678-de-cara-a-nuevo-proceso-electoral-negros-nubarrones-se-avistan-en-honduras-a-partir-de-2020>

In an open town hall meeting on accountability in Siguatepeque, civil society organizations gave the Municipal Corporation a document to demonstrate the lack of transparency in the construction of public works.

The same day, the Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Combating Public Corruption (Fetccop) filed a prosecutorial injunction against Abel Solórzano Solano, the mayor of Humuya, Comayagua, for assuming responsibility for the crimes of abuse of authority and violation of the duties of officials.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2679-denuncian-organizaciones-ingobernabilidad-en-siguatepeque-es-por-corrupcion-en-obras-publicas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-en-contra-alcalde-de-humuya/>

Some 500 Hondurans parted yesterday from San Pedro Sula in the second migrant caravan in January.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3723-crisis-no-para-hoy-sale-nueva-caravana-de-honduras-y-la-indiferencia-gobierna>

<http://www.elpais.hn/2020/01/31/parte-de-honduras-segunda-caravana-de-migrantes-del-ano-destino-a-eeuu/>

"In response to the decision by the National Institute of Migration (INM) [in Mexico] to temporarily suspend access by all religious associations and NGOs to the country's migration detention centers, which was denied hours later by the Ministry of the Interior, Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty International, said: "The uncertainty generated by the government's contradictory statements regarding the prohibition of access to migrant detention centers for civil society organizations is very grave. The authorities must not jeopardize the lives and rights of thousands of people in need of protection who are detained in these places.'"

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/amnesty-international-demands-clarity-and-guarantees-over-ngo-access-to-migrant-detention-centers/>

"The ENEE intervention committee, after an audit of the internet system, has found that a high

percentage of public employees have taken advantage of the working day to look for a partner on Tinder, check Facebook and even watch series and films on Netflix."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3724-sexo-en-linea-y-netflix-ha-sido-el-intenso-trabajo-en-la-enee>

PBI Honduras produced a documentary which "reflects the life, problems and challenges faced by the defenders of the rights of the LGTBIQ+ community in Honduras".

<https://vimeo.com/387748859>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1223359203034701824>