

01/03/20

Honduras Daily: National Police; Migration; Transport Sector; Toll Booths; Corruption - IHSS; and Justice for Berta

ContraCorriente covers the failed purge of the National Police Force with a very telling image: "It is to honor and glorify the name of Christ," said Police Commissioner Leonel Saucedo on Sunday, February 9, before leaving the stage of the International Christian Center (CCI) where minutes earlier the evangelical pastor and member of the Special Commission for the Process of Purification and Transformation of the National Police, Alberto Solórzano, had led a prayer on his behalf. A week earlier, Saucedo had been promoted to the rank of Commissioner General of the National Police. Two days after the religious act in which he participated thanking God for his promotion along with the police purger, he was arrested by the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation (ATIC), a specialized agency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, for presuming him responsible for the crime of money laundering since he could not justify approximately 16 million lempiras contained in his bank accounts." The article also highlights the complete lack of political will by the JOH regime to purge the police. Speaking about the previous Commission of the Reform of Public Security, Josué Murillo said: "When Juan Orlando saw that they were independent and were targeting the roots of the problem, he dismissed them, annulled the reform commission and formed this purging commission."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/29/la-depuracion-que-triunfo/>

Local government representatives as well as national and international civil society organizations gathered in Santa Barbara with the aim of analyzing strategies and local mechanisms to respond to irregular migration. They highlighted the humanitarian crisis with over 100'000 Hondurans deported back to Honduras last year and stressed the need to recognize the human right to migrate. They also demanded a more decentralized government structure with the need "to design and implement a model of comprehensive care at the municipal level for this problem that includes humanitarian assistance, psycho-social care, technical-vocational training, support for entrepreneurship, employability, school reintegration, houses of refuge and protection, care for people with special abilities, all under a focus on rights and inclusion and action without harm, to ensure comprehensive and sustainable human development of people, especially our children and youth".

<https://criterio.hn/foro-internacional-de-la-migracion-pide-un-alto-a-la-indiferencia-contralos-migrantes/>

After the murder of another leader of the transport sector (see Saturday's e-mail), cab drivers announced a strike for today.

<https://confidencialhn.com/rubro-de-taxis-anuncia-paro-para-el-proximo-lunes-por-inseguridad-de-sus-trabajadores/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1360646-410/taxistas-paralizan-hoy-sus-unidades-en-demanda-de-seguridad>

The private company COVI Honduras announced a price increase for its

toll booths leading even El Heraldito to widely criticize it.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1360459-466/aumenta-precio-peaje-honduras-covi>

The trial against the 14 former IHSS board members will start today.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/este-lunes-2-de-marzo-arranca-juicio-oral-a-exdirectivos-del-ihss.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/faltan-los-atala/>

02/03/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - US, Impunity; HRDs; Corruption - IHSS; Migration - US; Transport Sector; and New Identity Cards

Honduras and the world commemorated Berta Cáceres yesterday on the fourth day of her assassination. "This crime represents the plan to try to destroy the territorial and articulating struggle for the re-foundation of Honduras, led by Berta Cáceres, and to sow fear in the hearts of those that fight for Honduras. However, their struggle has not stopped sprouting in thousands of expressions worthy of resistance by the Honduran people. It was a day after her crime that we, as COPINH, family members and organizations, set out to build justice for her, challenging the structural impunity of the country that has been complicit in the attacks on the people and their political persecution. (...) We have confirmed and fully denounce that the repressive State of Honduras, which violates human rights, does not intend to persecute the members of the Atala Zablah family; Daniel Atala Midence, Jacobo Atala Zablah, José Eduardo Atala Zablah and Pedro Atala Zablah, businessmen responsible for the crime of Berta Cáceres."

Berta Zúniga, general coordinator of COPINH and Berta's daughter, also addressed the world. "As you know, these four years have meant, in the midst of the pain of losing such an important person, an intense work of seeking justice but also of continuing to walk in Berta's footsteps."

Under the hashtag #JusticiaParaBerta, there is a worldwide demand for justice.

Organizations such as Amnesty International or CEJIL participated.

<https://copinh.org/2020/03/territorios-libres-el-mayor-acto-de-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/03/palabras-de-nuestra-coordinadora-general-bertha-zuniga-caceres/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/03/02/a-4-anos-de-su-siembra-berta-sigue-siendo-infinita/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2715-hoy-se-cumplen-cuatro-anos-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-y-la-justicia-no-alcanza-a-los-autores-intelectuales>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-vive-en-los-criminalizados-del-ambiente/>

https://twitter.com/hashtag/JusticiaParaBerta?src=hashtag_click

<https://twitter.com/cejil/status/1234576713264304128>

<https://twitter.com/AmnestyBC/status/1234552264645173252>

The US embassy in Honduras also tweeted on this occasion, but not mentioning the need for justice. The case even entered US politics as Democratic primary challenger Aedom Ghebregiorgis tweeted: "It is with a heavy heart that we honor the 4th anniversary of Berta's death. Shame on @RepEliotEngel for failing to push for the arrest of the intellectual authors of Berta's murder and for not passing the Berta Cáceres Act through his House Foreign Affairs Committee."

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1234508889980313600>

<https://twitter.com/AedomForNY/status/1234615213795745794>

And in the midst of this, the defense of the so far only accused intellectual authors, Roberto David Castillo, tried to present him as a victim of NGO pressure.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-berta-caceres-denuncian-a-ons-por-presionar-al-poder-judicial/>

OANCUDH laments the most recent act of intimidation and harassment against city Councillor and environmental defender Marlon Calles. His car was broken into and confidential documents were stolen. Calles should benefit from the protection mechanism for human rights defenders.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1234515080626212864>

The MP informs about the newest trial in the IHSS corruption case, this time against twelve former board members (see also yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5541-unaf-comienzo-juicio-contra-exdirectivos-del-ihss-por-millonarias-trasferencias-irregulares>

"A federal appeals court in California halted the Trump administration's "Remain in Mexico" asylum policy on Friday, removing one of the key tools the president has used to curb mass migration across the southern U.S. border. The ruling was in effect for only a few hours, however, as the judges later granted a Trump administration request for an emergency stay "pending further order of this court." Justice Department lawyers said in court filings that 25,000 migrants have been waiting in Mexico and argued that they feared the ruling would lead to an influx on the southern border."

"Despite the confusion, the temporary invalidation of MPP offered rare hope for about 2,500 migrants living in the insecure and insalubrious tent city along the Rio Grande in the city of Matamoros, a stronghold of the notorious Gulf cartel."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-remain-in-mexico-halted-federal-court/2020/02/28/87bbf85e-e481-11e9-b403-f738899982d2_story.html

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/02/remain-in-mexico-asylum-seekers-at-border-see-hopes-raised-then-dashed>

As announced, cab drivers went on strike in Tegucigalpa yesterday. Cab drivers demanded the respect of the Transport Law and more protection measures for them, otherwise they will pursue further strike actions.

<https://criterio.hn/entre-taxis-caos-y-protestas-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/portada/transportistas-protestan-contra-legalizacion-de-unidades-vip/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-mas-medidas-de-presion-si-no-hay-acuerdos-entre-taxistas-y-el-legislativo/>

Criterio raises some questions about the the elaboration of the new identity cards. Former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla even denounces fraud. It is important to highlight that the new identity card were a response to the electoral fraud in the past and therefore of great importance.

A UNDP representative, meanwhile, says that it was a transparent process.

<https://criterio.hn/proceso-de-identificacion-en-honduras-y-sus-dudas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-denuncia-fraude-en-la-emision-de-tarjetas-de-identidades.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad-se-realiza-con-altos-estandares-de-transparencia-delegado-del-pnud.html>

03/03/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Berta - US, EU, UN; Dengue; Penitentiary System; National Police; Migration - Deportations; Political Opposition; and Thank You María Soledad

JOH and his drug trafficking ties are back in the international headlines. "Geovanny Fuentes allegedly paid at least approximately \$25,000 to Juan Orlando Hernández in exchange for protection from law enforcement and access to a cocaine laboratory strategically located near Honduras's largest port, according to a criminal complaint. Hernández ordered Fuentes to report directly to his brother, former congressman Tony Hernández, it adds."

"U.S. prosecutors said Tuesday that Honduras' president met a drug trafficker around 2013 and took \$25,000 in exchange for protecting the trafficker from law enforcement. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York issued a statement referring to President Juan Orlando Hernández only as a "high-ranking Honduran official" or as "CC-4," a co-conspirator. But in court documents, it identified "CC-4" as president of Honduras and brother of former congressman Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, who was convicted on drug charges last year. In previous filing, U.S.

prosecutors have described “CC-4” as the winner of the 2013 presidential elections.”

The Honduran press took this up as well.

Media outlets close to JOH only reported on this as an official denial was issued by the Casa Presidencial.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/arrested-honduran-drug-trafficker-accused-to-conspiring-with-president-of-honduras>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-03-03/us-prosecutors-tie-honduras-president-to-drug-trafficker>

<https://criterio.hn/joh-habria-recibido-sobornos-de-narcotraficante-capturado-en-miami/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3751-urgente-presos-narco-clave-que-habria-pagado-a-joh-por-inmunidad>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1361221-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez-narcotrafico>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/casa-presidencial-rechaza-senalamientos-del-capo-fuentes-ramirez-que-vinculan-a-hernandez-al-narco.html>

US Senator Patrick Leahy tweeted an important comment on the Berta Cáceres case. "Berta Cáceres lost her life for speaking out in defense of the natural resources her people depend on. Rather than defend her rights, the Honduran Government vilified her and other environmental activists. The Honduran Government pledged that all those responsible for the premeditated murder of Berta Cáceres would be brought to justice. Four years later her family, the Honduran people, and the world are still waiting for justice. Berta Cáceres was one of many Honduran environmental activists who have been harassed, threatened, and killed. There is no better illustration of impunity than the failure of justice in these cases. The Honduran Government and Congress kicked out MACCIH and enacted laws designed to shield themselves from accountability for corruption and violations of human rights. The U.S. should not support such so-called ‘partners.’ The Office of the Honduran Attorney General needs strong international support in investigating and prosecuting cases of corruption and violations of human rights. That Office and honest judges are the only hope for justice in Honduras. The Honduran judiciary has prevented relevant evidence from being produced in court, which has impeded the prosecution and delayed justice for Berta Cáceres and her family. An independent judiciary is fundamental to democracy."

And a great lesson on how corporate media outlets work in Honduras - Proceso Digital just reported on the one statement regarding the international support for the MP and did not mention the rest. Worst of all, it did not even mention that the statement was linked to the Berta Cáceres case...

<https://twitter.com/SenatorLeahy/status/1234850976219246592>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/senador-leahy-recomendo-apoyo-internacional-al-fiscal-general.html>

European Parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo joined in the call to demand justice for Berta (see also yesterday) and denounced the "criminalization, persecution and assassination" of human rights defenders.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1234569198736748544>

"Dengue cases in the country have increased alarmingly compared to the previous two years, and authorities predict that this will continue in the coming months despite prevention measures. "We had around 45 cases by this date in 2018, in 2019 we had 500 cases, today we have 8,000, the number of people with dengue has increased 20 times," said the head of the Permanent Contingency Commission (Copeco), Gabriel Rubí."

<http://elpulso.hn/casos-de-dengue-crecen-exponencialmente-en-2020/>

Six inmates fled from the militarized Támara prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-fugan-seis-reclusos-de-carcel-de-tamara-que-esta-bajo-vigilancia-militar/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/investigacion-supuesta-fuga-de-cinco-reos-en-carcel-de-tamara.html>

A police agent was sent to pre-trial detention accused of murder.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5556-prision-preventiva-contrapolicia-por-homicidio-de-un-companero>

A new migrant caravan may head off from Honduras next week.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3750-urgente-hondurenos-anuncian-tercera-caravana-migrante-de-2020>

The number of deported Hondurans this January and February was 23.7% higher than in the previous year.

<https://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/deportacion-de-hondurenos-aumento-23-7-entre-enero-y-febrero.html>

OACNUDH participated at the commemoration of Berta on Tuesday and expressed solidarity with her family and COPINH.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1234880662571814912>

The two opposition parties, the Liberal Party and Pinu, announced to join forces in a new alliance. In 2017, they together with Libre formed an alliance for the elections which then was robbed by JOH through electoral fraud.

<https://criterio.hn/partidos-opositores-anuncian-alianza-con-sectores-sociales-contra-continuismo-oficialista/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/np/gracias-maria-soledad/>

04/03/20

Honduras Daily: UN - UPR; IACHR - Prisons; Tolupán - Impunity; La Tigra; JOH - Drug Trafficking, CCG; CONADEH; Organized Crime - JOH; UNAH; Mayors; and Waiting for the Escazú Agreement

Honduran human rights organizations and social movements organized as the Coalition against Impunity held a forum on the upcoming Universal Periodic Review on Honduras at the UN. They presented a report on the human rights situation in Honduras including several recommendations on various issues.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-saldra-aplazada-en-el-e-pu-concluyen-organizaciones-de-sociedad-civil/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-por-consolidacion-de-la-impunidad-siguen-las-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos/>

Press Release: <http://defensoresenlinea.com/que-diremos-frente-al-e-pu-2020/>

Executive Summary: <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/noticias/1117-honduras-frente-al-e-pu-2020>

Today, representatives of the Coalition against Impunity will participate at the thematic session on human rights violations of inmates at the IACHR.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/situacion-de-privados-de-libertad-hondurenos-sera-expuesta-ante-la-cidh/>

In this context, Coiprodén commented on child poverty in Honduras and the Platform Rights Here and Now Honduras denounced the lack of sexual and reproductive rights.

<https://criterio.hn/ninez-y-mayoria-empobrecida-eternos-marginados-por-el-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-educacion-sexual-en-honduras-reproduce-retraso-e-impunidad/>

Selin Eliazar Fúnez Bonilla had been accused of being one of the people responsible for the murder of the three indigenous Tolupán defenders María Enriqueta Matute, Armando Fúnez Medina and Ricardo Soto Fúnez on August 25, 2013. Now, a court in Yoro decided to acquit him.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/a-casacion-sentencia-que-libera-ha-acusado-de-asesinato-contra-tolupanes/>

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-hondurena-absuelve-a-autor-material-de-triple-crimen-tolupan/>

The Nationalist-controlled Congress spoke out in favor of the disputed construction project negatively affecting the National Park La Tigra.

The local communities and environmental defenders announced new protests.

Then, the Nationalist secretary of Congress, Tomás Zambrano, told reporters that they a non-binding "illustrative report".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3753-no-hallan-como-destruir-la-tigra-congreso-apoya-construccion-de-residencial>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-legislativo-concluye-que-controvertido-proyecto-residencial-no-afecta-el-medioambiente/>

<https://criterio.hn/ambientalistas-anuncian-protestas-ante-viabilidad-del-congreso-de-proyecto-residencial-de-la-tigra/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ambientalistas-rechazan-dictamen-sobre-bosques-de-santa-maria-anuncian-acciones/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cn-no-aprobo-que-proyecto-habitacional-continue-en-la-tigra-dice-secretario-del-legislativo.html>

InSight Crime picked up the newest drug trafficking links of JOH (see yesterday). "US authorities allege that a recently arrested drug trafficker relied on protection from Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández and his brother Tony to manufacture hundreds of kilograms of cocaine per month, broadening the scope of the narco-politics nexus in the Central American nation. (...) The latest criminal complaint in the United States suggests that political powers in Honduras didn't just turn a blind eye to help facilitate the trafficking of Colombian cocaine shipments through the country and into the United States, but also provided cover for domestic drug production for more than a decade. In fact, the depth of corruption appears to have reached the top of the Hernández family and the president himself. (...) As head of state, President Hernández currently enjoys immunity from US prosecution. However, when he leaves office in 2022, the latest criminal complaint suggests that authorities in the United States may now be laying the groundwork for a potential future criminal prosecution against him."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-drug-lab-presidential-protection/>

According to FOSDEH, the new Government Civic Center, at a cost of 4.7 billion Lempiras, was granted a 27-year concession to the Mexican capital company Consultores En Ingeniería, S. A. De C. V. Cinsa.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/millonario-centro-civico-gubernamental-fue-concesionado-por-27-anos/>

As reported some days ago, Larissa Karina Pineda de Suazo, the wife of the current deputy minister of security Luis Suazo, now officially applied for the position of the new human rights commissioner CONADEH.

<http://elpulso.hn/rechazo-por-postulacion-al-conadeh-de-esposa-del-vice-ministro-de-seguridad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/subsecretario-de-seguridad-admite-que-esposa-busca-ser-comisionada-de-ddhh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/vice-secretario-seguridad-propone-su-esposa-como-comisionada-conadeh/>

Two men accused of helping flee "El Porky" Mendoza (see previous e-mails) will remain in pre-trial detention.

Reporteros de Investigación writes about the "criminal pact between the Honduran government and the Mara Salvatrucha" which was also highlighted in the escape of Mendoza.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dejan-con-prision-preventiva-a-sospechosos-de-participar-en-liberacion-del-porkys/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5559-juez-resuelve-prision-para-supuestos-involucrados-en-fuga-de-el-porkys>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/04/pacto-criminal-entre-gobierno-de-honduras-y-la-mara-salvatrucha/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a new instance of profiling at the UNAH of students by the police.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/es/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2716-agente-de-didadpol-llego-a-la-unah-a-levantar-perfiles-de-estudiantes-cuando-exigian-justicia-por-el-crimen-de-beta-caceres>

The former mayor of the municipality of Reitoca, Francisco Morazán, Manuel Meza, was sentenced to 146 years and six months. Last year, he was found guilty of six counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/146-anos-para-ex-alcalde-de-reitoca/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5568-ejemplar-pena-de-146-anos-de-reclusion-contra-alcalde-de-reitoca-se-traduce-en-un-nuevo-logro-del-mp-en-el-combate-a-los-delitos-contra-la-vida>

<https://criterio.hn/acuerdo-de-escazu-llega-dos-anos-y-se-apronta-a-su-proxima-entrada-en-vigor/>

05/03/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - US; HRDs - Guapinol; Tolupán - Impunity; LGBTQ; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Reelection, Corruption; National Police; MP - EU; Migration - US; Transport Sector; and Waiting for an Identity Card

This week's commemoration of Berta Cáceres inspired two more reactions from the US. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur called on "my colleagues to support the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, to suspend US funding to Honduras for police & military operations until their government investigates reports of human rights abuses".

Congressman Eliot L. Engel, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. "I emphasized with the Attorney General that four years after the killing of environmental activist Berta Cáceres, each and every mastermind of her murder must be held accountable in a court of law. As I have done over the past four years, I will continue to push for justice for Berta and her family and a Honduras free from corruption and the horrors of criminal violence."

<https://twitter.com/RepMarcyKaptur/status/1235612653625569280>

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/2020/3/engel-statement-on-meeting-with-honduran-attorney-general>

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1235304956510511104>

The legal representatives of the criminalized and imprisoned environmental defenders from Guapinol officially requested at the MP a reconsideration of the alternative measures to imprisonment. The defenders have been imprisoned for 195 days.

US congresswoman Marcy Kaptur tweeted: "I have closely monitored the Guapinol Water Defenders case in #Honduras. I call for their immediate release and urge the appeals court to act swiftly to ensure due process. No person should be jailed for defending access to safe community water sources."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2720-abogados-piden-al-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla-reconsiderare-las-medidas-cautelares-para-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://twitter.com/radioprogreso/status/1235294259974111232?s=12>

<https://twitter.com/RepMarcyKaptur/status/1235612652635926529>

Pasos de Animal Grande has another article on this week's acquittal of one of the accused murders of three indigenous Tolupán defenders (see yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2721-tribunal-de-sentencia-de->

[oro-argumenta-duda-razonable-para-dejar-libre-a-procesado-por-crimen-contr-tres-personas-de-la-etnia-tolupan](#)

"The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Honduras publicly presented the report of the Universal Periodic Review, UPR 2020, on March 4, in relation to their situation, in which it holds the State responsible for taking legislative measures that promote irrational hatred of people's sexual orientation and identity."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2719-segun-arcoiris-estado-de-honduras-promueve-el-odio-irracional-contr-la-comunidad-lgtb>

After the newest revelations about JOH's drug trafficking links, El Pulso talks with political analyst Raúl Pineda about the possibility of impeaching JOH. "The correlation of political forces in Congress does not allow one to imagine that an impeachment will be initiated because one does not have the number of votes and a surprisingly indifferent attitude of the opposition to this situation". Pinu congressman David Reyes, meanwhile, commented: "There are already too many testimonies from drug dealers who are linked to the Hernandez family, both Tony and Juan Orlando. Without a doubt this puts us to shame internationally, it puts us to shame as a country, as citizens, but I am also ashamed that the citizens do not react".

<http://elpulso.hn/no-existen-condiciones-para-aprobar-juicio-politico-contr-joh/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/tarde-o-temprano-justicia-norteamericana-tocara-la-puerta-de-joh/>

Reporteros de Investigación sees the possibility of another reelection bid by JOH supported by an alliance with the Armed Forces and organized crime. "One of the high-ranking police sources, in retirement, warned that serious acts, executed by the pact between the MS [Mara Salvatrucha] and the military forces to change the voting intention, could happen near the general elections. That is why Hernandez needs military forces loyal to him, a weak or non-existent police force, and a conditioned press, all part of the same strategy, he said."

JOH's call for maintaining the Security Tax, allowing unaccountable money flows towards the Armed Forces, also goes in this direction.

And just yesterday, JOH commented on the reelection again, highlighting the need to regulate it, while pretending that everything has been decided already and a one-time reelection is possible. The National Electoral Congress, meanwhile, now proposes to consult the public about the reelection as well as the two-round presidential election.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/05/juan-orlando-quiere-reelegirse-apoyado-en-pacto-con-la-mara-salvatrucha-fuerzas-militares-narcotrafico-y-una-policia-debil/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/debe-mantenerse-la-tasa-de-seguridad-defiende-hernandez-ante-empresarios.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-pide-reeleccion-limitada-aclara-que-culminara-su-mandato-en-20222/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cne-propone-al-legislativo-consultarle-al-pueblo-sobre-balotaje-y-reeleccion.html>

"The president of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (Cohep), Juan Carlos Sikaffy, said Thursday, after being unanimously elected one more period at the head of the employers, that there is no successful enterprise in a corrupt country. "We are not going to allow corruption in companies or in a government because it is disrespectful to Hondurans", said the businessman."

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-desmarca-sikaffy-de-joh-asegura-que-no-puede-haber-empresa-exitosa-en-un-pais-corrupcto/>

Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco presented a reorganization of the National Police Force.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/policia-nacional-se-reorganiza-para-bajar-alta-ola-de-crimenes-en-honduras.html>

The MP inaugurated the Integrated Expedite Center on Interinstitutional Justice (CEIN). The Spanish ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick de la Vega was presented and emphasized that CEIN should "provide professional and personalized attention to victims of gender-based violence and discriminated groups".

It is the second such center in Honduras supported by the EU and Spain.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1235598373509632000

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1235619470615470082

<http://www.elpais.hn/2020/03/05/honduras-abre-el-segundo-centro-integrado-de-justicia-con-apoyo-de-espana-y-la-ue/>

"While insisting that a policy that has forced 60,000 asylum seekers to wait in Mexico violates United States law, a federal appeals court on Wednesday granted the Trump administration's request to keep the "Remain in Mexico" restrictions in effect until March 11 for review by the Supreme Court. (...) If the Supreme Court does not grant the government's request to take up its appeal of the Ninth Circuit's injunction, the appeals court's original decision will take effect on March 12, although only in the border states within its jurisdiction, California and Arizona. If the high court agrees to hear the case and grant another emergency stay, the policy, which has been in effect since January 2019, could remain in place for the foreseeable future."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/04/us/migrants-border-remain-in-mexico-mpp-court.html>

After the cab drivers, now the truck drivers announce possible strike measures to protest the toll price increase.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trasportistas-de-carga-pesada-advierten-paro-nacional-por-incremento-del-peaje/>

Libre congresswo/men denounced that the bidding process to execute the new national identification had failed and that this endangered the new identity card.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/polemica-genera-licitacion-para-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad/>

06/03/20

Honduras Daily: Women; Berta - US; Political Prisoners; Journalists; JOH - Reelection, Drug Trafficking, Repression; Corruption - US, UN; and Honduras, Carried by Migrants

This weekends is the international women's day. COFADEH denounces that violence against women is state policy in Honduras. "In the struggle for land, 720 women defenders face legal proceedings, 159 are widowed and their children face lack of education, 35 have been displaced by violence, 44 victims of threats, information theft and persecution of their children and 7 have been killed."

There is also a call for a national emergency to be declared due to the high levels of femicide. Reporteros de Investigación highlights the link between femicides and the JOH regime.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-violencia-que-enfrentan-en-honduras-las-mujeres-es-una-politica-de-estado/>

<https://criterio.hn/femicidios-en-honduras-una-emergencia-nacional-que-debe-declararse-ya-2/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/06/los-femicidios-del-grupo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

19 national and international human rights organizations published a joint letter commemorating Berta Cáceres and denouncing that "the State of Honduras is still in debt, not only in the case of the Lenca defender Berta Cáceres, but in the cases of all the defenders who have been murdered, raped and criminalized and who have not yet obtained justice".

<https://www.cejil.org/es/4-anos-del-asesinato-berta-caceres-politicas-extractivistas-honduras-mantienen-grave-riesgo>

The Coalition against Impunity presented the cases of the political prisoners at the IACHR on Thursday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/temas-expuestos-ante-la-cidh-sobre-los-privados-de-libertad-en-honduras/>

C-Libre has documented 237 attacks against journalist in the last two years, mainly by the police (36%) and the Military Police (20%).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1425-estado-de-honduras-responde-con->

[violencia-y-criminalizacion-a-periodistas](#)

The reelection debate has become a hot topic again (see also yesterday). JOH suffered a blow yesterday when the president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, assured that they would not regulate reelection. "Moncada explained that this decision is the result of a majority vote by the authorities of the CNE; therefore, an administrative resolution was established against the presidential reelection so that they will not allow nominations for the presidency from persons who have already held office."

The National Party was not happy about this emitting a press release in which they attacked Moncada and staging a protest outside the CNE.

<http://elpulso.hn/cne-vota-en-contra-de-la-reeleccion-presidencial/>

<https://criterio.hn/consejo-electoral-de-honduras-cierra-filas-contra-la-reeleccion-presidencial/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3758-molestos-enemigos-de-la-ley-por-veto-del-cne-a-reeleccion-presidencial>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-abre-frente-contra-presidenta-del-consejo-electoral/>

Libre congresswo/men tried to question Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chinchilla for not investigating Juan Orlando Hernandez's ties to organized crime. ""Let the system of administration of justice in this country explain to the Honduran people what it has been doing in recent years. It is time for the Attorney General to tell us how it is possible that New York prosecutors are investigating drug traffickers in Honduras and the Attorney General's Office has no investigation". Their motion was suspended by Nationalist congressman Antonio "Toño" Rivera.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/congreso-nacional-cierra-filas-para-protger-a-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3759-diputado-tono-rivera-opuesto-a-investigacion-de-narco-funcionarios>

COFADEH, the Committee for the Liberation of Political Prisoners and the Alignment against Continuity published an urgent action denouncing the repression and criminalization of protests in Honduras and especially the role of the Investigative Police Unit (DPI).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/accion-urgente-2/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-actos-de-intimidacion-y-hostigamiento-contra-manifestantes-y-oponentes-politicos-en-honduras/>

US congressman Hank Johnson commemorated Berta on the floor of Congress. "I continue my call for justice for Berta/her family & urge my colleagues to support the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act."

<https://twitter.com/RepHankJohnson/status/1235969279423627265>

US Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Michael G. Kozak, met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla praising his work and claiming that under his leadership Honduras will effectively fight against corruption and impunity. This omits that he had been in charge for years and his track record on both corruption, especially when it concerns the JOH regime, and impunity is dismal. Another case in point, his refusal to investigate the drug trafficking links of JOH (see above).

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1235991023232471040>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-cree-que-uferco-y-mp-seran-eficaces-frente-a-la-corrupcion-si-recibe-fondos-y-apoyo-politico.html>

Some weeks ago, the JOH regime talked about negotiations with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regarding opening an office in Honduras. Yesterday, Security Minister Luis Suazo announced that such an office should be opened soon as Honduras had made their request official.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-y-la-onu-negocian-para-abrir-una-oficina-anticorrupcion-en-el-pais.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1361920-410/honduras-onu-negocian-oficina-anticorrupcion>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/06/el-pais-que-los-migrantes-llevan-a-cuestas/>

07/03/20

Honduras Daily: Women - Femicide; Teachers; CONADEH; JOH - Reelection; Fees; COVID-19; and Social Struggle and Historic Memory

On the International Women's Day, the IACHR urged countries to implement measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence and discrimination against women and to take into account the unequal power relations between women and men.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2723-cidh-insta-a-los-estados-de-la-region-a-dar-pasos-firmes-contr-la-violencia-hacia-las-mujeres>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1362247-410/cerrar-brechas-de-poder-el-gran-desaf%C3%ADo-de-las-mujeres>

Every 21 hours, a woman is murdered in Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/cada-21-horas-asesinan-una-mujer-en-honduras-ov-unah.html>

This Friday, the renowned teacher, writer and opponent of the dictatorship, Víctor Manuel Rodríguez Paz, was murdered in the city of Santa Bárbara. "Although the investigating authorities have not commented on the motive for the crime, which was executed this morning, social leaders in the area do not rule out that it is an attack against the teachers and the opposition to the regime led by Juan Orlando Hernandez."

<https://defensoresenlinea.com/santa-barbara-crimen-contra-docente-es-un-atentado-hacia-el-magisterio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/acribillan-a-reconocido-maestro-y-escritor-en-santa-barbara/>

The lawyer Ramón Barrios opposes the reelection of Roberto Herrera Cáceres as the head of CONADEH because "he never defended the interests of the people". At the same time, Barrios also denounces that "most of the candidates for the Human Rights Commissioner have a strong affinity with the governing party, so in that position a real human rights defender will not be elected, but someone who looks after the government's interests because, in addition, the nationalist congresswo/men have a majority in the National Congress".

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/herrera-caceres-no-defendio-los-intereses-del-pueblo-segun-analista-politico.html>

The pressure from the National Party against the president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, continues (see also yesterday).

They accuse her of interference because the CNE decided that the presidential reelection cannot be regulated solely in statutes of the National Party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cachurecos-acusan-a-presidenta-del-cne-de-involucrarse-en-asuntos-internos-del-partido-nacional/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-denuncia-intromision-de-rix-moncada-en-asuntos-internos.html>

An amnesty law on bills from telecommunication, IHSS, ENEE, etc. will come into force. The amnesty is aimed at exonerating from the payment of fines, surcharges and interest, and it gives people 90 days to catch up with their bills.

<https://confidencialhn.com/entra-en-vigencia-amnistia-aprobada-por-el-congreso-y-durara-90-dias/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/publican-en-la-gaceta-decreto-de-amnistia-aprobado-por-congreso-nacional.html>

There are currently at least 9 people under surveillance in Honduras for the new COVID-19 coronavirus.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1362256-410/ya-son-nueve-los-vigilados-por-coronavirus-en->

[honduras](#)

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/majatique-una-tarde-de-memoria-en-la-lucha-social/>

08/03/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Women - Role Models, Femicide; Berta - Commemoration; National Party; COVID-19; and Honduras Resists

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the January 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/2020/03/2002_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

Honduras commemorated the International Women's Day: "Today, women around the world are mobilizing. From the coast, the territories where we are fighting against violence, femicide, and extractive projects. It is a day to say that we are alive, that we want life, we do not want to be murdered. We do not want to be a narco-state."

Strike actions are announced for today.

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-de-honduras-se-resisten-a-vivir-en-un-narcoestado/>

<https://criterio.hn/8m-resistir-insistir-huir-vivir-en-las-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1427-pronunciamento-en-el-marco-del-dia-internacional-de-la-mujer>

ContraCorriente portrays Margarita Sandoval, the only woman working in the public works construction sector in Tegucigalpa.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/08/margarita-la-constructora-de-caminos/>

In less than 24 hours, three women were murdered this weekend in Tegucigalpa...

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-menos-de-24-horas-tres-mujeres-son-asesinadas-en-tegucigalpa.html>

COPINH collected dozens of photos from last week's global action to commemorate Berta.

<https://copinh.org/2020/03/accion-global-a-4-anos-de-la-siembra/>

The National Party commemorated women's day by having two men launch their primary campaign for the presidency, Mauricio Oliva and Ricardo Álvarez.

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-lanza-su-precandidatura-presidencial-y-promete-a-los-hondurenos-su-experiencia/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1362395-410/presidencia-ricardo-alvarez-ofrece-plebiscitos-honduras>

According to the Health Secretariat, the tests for the four patients suspected to have caught COVID-19 came back negative.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1362394-466/hondure%C3%B1os-dieron-negativo-por-coronavirus>

<https://www.elsaltodiario.com/mapas/resistencia-honduras>

[https://www.elsaltodiario.com/mapas/desde-la-honduras-que-resiste-\(ii\).-garifunas-frente-al-imperio-de-la-palma-](https://www.elsaltodiario.com/mapas/desde-la-honduras-que-resiste-(ii).-garifunas-frente-al-imperio-de-la-palma-)

09/03/20

Honduras Daily: Women - Violence, UN, Berta; Journalists; OACNUDH; JOH - Reelection; Corruption - Mayors; Armed Forces - Assassination; Penitentiary System; Education - UNAH; Public Health - Dengue; and Even the Bodies are not Safe

There were additional protests yesterday, in the aftermath of Sunday's international women's day. At UNAH, the collective University Women (MUNI) held a protest against femicides.

"In the last 10 years, 23,605 complaints of sexual violence have been received and 65 births of girls under the age of 18 are registered daily, according to figures from the Rights Here and Now Honduras Platform".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2725-estado-de-honduras-desoye-demandas-de-las-mujeres-para-erradicar-la-violencia-de-genero>

<https://criterio.hn/universitarias-protestan-contrapreocupante-repunte-de-asesinatos-de-mujeres/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-un-pais-peligroso-para-ser-nina/>

OACNUDH observed Sunday's marches and protests in Honduras. The office highlights the importance of "the inclusion of women in political decisions, the right to life and to sexual and reproductive health, as well as to a life free of violence".

Nevertheless, organizations trying to defend these rights or rather have them first established in Honduras suffer attacks. "The defenders of the organization Ecumenical Right to Decide have suffered a scale of attacks that has been progressively increasing, the aggressions started being

verbal and now one of their members has been shot with a gun. The incident occurred on 31 December 2019. Elmin Barahona, an alleged bodyguard for the MP, was denounced as the attacker at the MP, according to the reports. The MP should investigate whether it was really this person who committed the offense."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/09/supuesto-agente-asignado-al-ministerio-publico-ataco-a-defensoras-ecumenicas-por-el-derecho-a-decidir/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237196825947488256>

On this occasion, COPINH published a short video of Honduran feminists and women's rights defenders with statements about the lessons learned from Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1237205739049029632>

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) took up the case of the Honduran journalist and director of El Perro Amarillo, Milton Benítez. "On February 19, El Perro Amarillo, an independent online broadcaster, published leaked recordings that allegedly showed officials in the national prosecutor's office hiding evidence in organized crime cases and working with criminal groups. Since the leaks were published, social media users have threatened El Perro Amarillo's director Milton Benítez and other journalists on the team, Benítez told CPJ in a phone interview. In one video, which CPJ reviewed but has since been set to private, a Facebook user named Luis Rodríguez said that Benítez is on a list of journalists to be killed in 2020. The video had been viewed more than 50,000 times before it was set to private. (...) CPJ called the Honduran attorney general's office and Danilo Morales, the director of the protection mechanism, for comment, but no one answered the calls." Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the difficult situation of journalists in the south of Honduras. "It could be a mere coincidence, but threats, harassment, tailing by unknown men and cars without license plates, as well as the reopening of a trial, have occurred against critical journalists, in the preamble to the launch of the presidential candidacy of the President of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, last Sunday, March 8, 2020. Journalists Leonel García of Nacaome Valle and Leonardo Pineda of Choluteca's Channel 21 were followed by unknown men in cars with tinted glass and no plates, while Jairo López faces the reopening of a trial and the umpteenth smear campaign on social networks."

<https://cpj.org/2020/02/journalists-at-honduran-outlet-el-perro-amarillo-r.php>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2726-reinician-las-amenazas-en-el-sur-tres-periodistas-han-sido-objeto-de-seguimientos-y-campanas-de-desprestigio>

OACNUDH presented its new ad-interim representative, Isabel Albaladejo Escribano.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237062679308705792>

<https://confidencialhn.com/espanola-sustituira-a-soledad-pazo-en-la-oficina-de-ddhh-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/isabel-albaladejo-escribano-nueva-representante-oacnudh/>

CESPAD published an analysis on the resurfaced presidential reelection debate (see last week). "In the first days of this month of March, the National Electoral Council (CNE) of Honduras, by a majority of votes, adopted the transcendental decision of the lack of "constitutional and legal origin of the reform" requested by the National Party to its statutes, regarding the regulation of the issue of reelection. This decision goes beyond the denial of this type of reform to the governing party, as it is a determination that aims to establish the illegal nature of the reelection. The current president of this collegiate body, Rixi Moncada, has expressed it very clearly "an administrative resolution was issued against the presidential reelection and we have raised it by majority, arguing that the "artículos pétreos" [articles that are set in stone] of the Constitution of the Republic can only be reformed, repealed or modified by the people through a National Constituent Assembly or a popular consultation. The decision adopted by the CNE is a clear disregard for the ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) that enabled the presidential reelection. Consistent with this position, the CNE has presented to the Commission on Electoral Reforms of the National Congress (CN) a set of 20 reforms, highlighting, among them: "the holding of a popular consultation to define the presidential reelection and the second round". The CNE bases the need for these reforms on the fact that "clean and transparent elections will only be possible if the required conditions are created". For some civil society organizations, the electoral reforms currently agreed upon are not substantive and are far from ensuring transparency in the next elections, especially if the second round is not included and if the issue of presidential re-election is not resolved."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/03/09/analisis-consejo-nacional-electoral-la-reeleccion-presidencial-es-ilegal/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/definicion-de-la-reeleccion-presidencial-no-le-corresponde-a-un-poder-del-estado-riximoncada.html>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) signed an agreement with the Municipal Association of Honduras (AMHON) to fight corruption at the municipal level.

On this occasion, the CNA also criticized the lack of political will by the MP to investigate cases of corruption.

Last but not least, they also announced to investigate the disputed housing project in the National Park La Tigra.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-25-alcaldias-se-comprometen-a-combatir-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefa-del-cna-hace-recuento-de-negligencia-de-fiscalia-por-casos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-abrira-investigacion-en-proyecto-habitacional-bosques-de-santa-maria.html>

"In the annual ranking prepared by the portal "Global Firepower" on the military power of nations, Honduras appears as the second "strongest" in Central America, occupying position 110, surpassed

by Guatemala which is positioned at number 92 on the list. A report by the Association for a Fairer Society (ASJ) reveals that public defence spending increased by 228.1 percent between 2010 and 2020."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3761-honduras-es-la-segunda-potencia-militar-en-la-region>

A former member of the Armed Forces was sentenced to 11 years in prison for murdering a Honduran citizen in September 2019 while on duty.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5593-mas-de-11-anos-de-prision-contra-exmilitar-por-el-homicidio-de-un-ciudadano>

The Constitutional Chamber demanded the elimination of two punishment rooms installed in the so-called maximum security prison La Tolva, where prisoners were isolated and punished. They also asked for improvements at the youth detention center Renaciendo.

<https://tiempo.hn/sala-constitucional-ordena-cierre-salas-de-castigo-la-tolva/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/conceden-exhibicion-personal-a-reos-en-carceles-la-tolva-y-renacer.html>

Inhabitants of Santa María, La Paz blocked a local road in a protest against a lack of teachers.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/se-toman-la-carretera-en-la-paz-por-falta-de-maestros/>

At the UNAH, meanwhile, its labor union Sitraunah protested because 1200 workers still have not received their January and February salaries.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/sitraunah-demanda-pago-de-salarios-a-mil-200-trabajadores/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-sitraunah-realiza-planton-por-falta-de-pago-a-personal/>

Honduras has its ninth death due to dengue this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-confirma-la-novena-muerte-por-dengue-hemorragico-en-honduras-en-lo-que-va-de-2020/>

The Union of Public Employees of the Hospital Escuela (SEPHE) denounced that rodents are biting the corpses in the morgue before medical forensic can inspect them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cadaveres-estarian-siendo-mordidos-por-ratas-en-la-morgue-del-hospital-escuela/>

10/03/20

Honduras Daily: Women - G-16; HRDs - Guapinol; LGBTQ; Political Prisoners; OACNUDH; Penal Code; Children; Corruption - IHSS, Impunity Pact; Migration - US; Economy; and Sign the Escazú Agreement Now

The Gender Equality Board (MIG) of the donor body G-16 published a press release. "MIG recognizes that Honduran women face many challenges to the effective enjoyment of their rights, such as effective political participation and limited access to sexual and reproductive health, among others. On this emblematic date, we wish to draw attention to the various gender-based forms of violence that strongly affect women and girls in the country, as well as to recognize the role of the women's and feminist movement in Honduras. (...) With regard to the normative framework, it is necessary to adopt laws that allow a comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of violence against women, such as the Law on Domestic Work, the Law on Political Violence against Women, the Comprehensive Law against Violence against Women, which includes the figure of shelters for women survivors of violence. (...) MIG believes that, in view of the major challenges in this context, it is necessary to redouble efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of femicide, strengthening technical capacities and allocating budgets effectively and in accordance with the requirements of the special units for the investigation of violent deaths of women and femicide attached to the Public Prosecutor's Office and the investigative agencies. (...) No measure can be successful without addressing the underlying causes of violence against women, in particular patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes, gender inequality and without redoubling efforts to combat the multiple discrimination suffered by women belonging to indigenous peoples, Afro-Hondurans, LGBTIQ and other vulnerable groups."

<https://oacnudh.hn/comunicado-2/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with Lidia Ramos Simeón, whose husband, a 60-year old man, is among the environmental defenders from Guapinol imprisoned even though he should benefit from protective measures by the Protection Mechanism.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lidia-ramos-la-vida-de-mi-esposo-corrio-peligro-despues-de-ser-capturado/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the lives of trans women in Honduras and how they are made invisible due to the lack of legal recognition making, for example, access to education very difficult.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2727-la-realidad-invisibilizada-en-honduras-de-las-mujeres-trans>

28 people from Las Vegas, Santa Barbara are being criminalized for a fire during an anti-JOH protest in 2018. COFADEH denounces irregularities during the trial.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mp-obstruye-audiencia-contra-defensores-criminalizados-de-las-vegas/>

The new ad-interim representative of OACNUDH, Isabel Albaladejo, (see yesterday) met with the

Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237447770174377991>

The new Penal Code, to come into force in May, continues to make negative headlines. Human rights organizations denounce that it would eliminate crimes of sex tourism, procurement (of prostitutes) and illegal adoption. Furthermore, the retroactivity is going to favor members of organized crime that are in prison because the new Penal Code reduces their sentences.

<https://criterio.hn/alerta-nuevo-codigo-penal-favorecera-a-trafficantes-de-personas/>

Lizeth Coello from Coiproded warns that the disappearance of children is something that has been happening in the country for many years but that it is necessary to keep the issue on the public agenda to try to find a solution. Coello explains the causes of the disappearances, including that they are being abducted and disappeared, and the reports are only a reflection of what the organisation has been highlighting for some time and there is still no strong response but rather a reactive and dysfunctional approach.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2728-estado-no-hace-nada-para-buscarles-en-honduras-los-ninos-y-ninas-desaparecen>

A court confirmed the 15-year prison sentence against Mario Antonio Rojas Rodríguez in the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5601-sala-penal-confirma-sentencia-de-15-anos-de-reclusion-contra-mario-rojas-en-el-caso-ihss>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3762-corte-ratifica-15-anos-de-prision-para-estafador-del-seguro-social>

The preliminary hearing against the Nationalist congresswoman Sara Medina in the Impunity Pact corruption case will be held tomorrow.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-jueves-daran-resolucion-de-la-audiencia-preliminar-a-la-diputada-sara-medina.html>

US congressmen Elito T. Engel, Joaquin Castro and Albio Sires wrote a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo regarding the so called safe third country agreements with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. They call them "illegal, dangerous and antithetical to American values".

https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/_cache/files/4/9/492f9e39-7857-4be2-8dc7-559c1568b54b/EFC64B6EF370AF971FF6F511EF46A9D6.elle-castro-sires-letter-to-pompeo-safe-third-country-agreements.pdf

FOSDEH criticizes that the legal and political environment in Honduras created by the JOH regime is creating an unfavorable situation for investment. Foreign investment fell by one third last year.

<https://criterio.hn/hay-contribucion-decreciente-al-pib-de-parte-de-las-mineras-fosdeh/>

"The Escazú Agreement is a mechanism through which access to environmental information is sought and the parties involved in the implementation of natural resource exploitation projects come to an agreement."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-demandan-la-firma-y-ratificacion-del-acuerdo-de-escazu/>

<https://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/documento-acuerdo-escazu.pdf>

11/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Public Health, Police; Political Prisoners; OACNUDH; Indigenous Peoples; Fiscal Policy; and Agriculture vs. National Parks

Since yesterday, Honduras has its first two confirmed Covid-19 cases. They are in a stable state. The Finance Minister announced a 640 million Lempiras budget to tackle the looming health crisis, 440 million of which is meant to hire more staff.

Honduras Solidarity rightly points out that already some weeks ago, the JOH regime approved extra funding for a possible corona-crisis and it is doubtful that it will be used for that purpose.

The Pan American Health Organization offered help for Honduras.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/dos-casos-por-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-confirma-los-dos-primeros-casos-de-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mejora-la-condicion-de-salud-de-dos-hondurenas-con-covid-19.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/listos-640-millones-de-lempiras-para-atender-coronavirus-finanzas.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/autorizan-640-millones-de-lempiras-para-afrontar-coronavirus/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1237814667755417600>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/ops-ofrece-ayuda-a-honduras-para-combatir-el-coronavirus/>

Furthermore, JOH announced that he will use this crisis to transform the public health system. Last time he announced that he faced months-long protests from the streets.

The Platform for the Defense of Public Health and Education announced "a confrontation with JOH".

Tomás Andino Mencía wrote a helpful article on what it means to confront corona in a country where many don't trust the government nor the main media outlets. "That is why it is right and

necessary to be permanently alert to the movements that this mafia in power makes, because we cannot naively trust our destiny in their hands. Having said that, we must be careful not to fall into another consequence of the mistrust we have of the regime that consists of the opposite extreme; many do not even believe that the Coronavirus or COVI-19 exists or that it is as serious as it is painted. (...) The challenge is to keep a balance between criticism and mistrust, which it is right to have in the face of the regime, without that meaning that we neglect or harm ourselves and others. And beyond that, to redefine our strategies to continue fighting the regime in the new conditions that this epidemic will bring.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-anuncia-su-nuevo-intento-por-transformar-el-sector-salud-en-plena-crisis-covid-19/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-plataforma-anuncia-una-verdadera-confrontacion-contra-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/ni-panico-ni-descuido-cuidarnos-y-luchar/>

ConexiHon denounces that the National Police in Choluteca used the coronavirus as an excuse to access to justice. "The official authorities of the southern zone, without prior warning, were forced to deny the right of access to justice to individuals not wearing a face mask, a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19, known as Coronavirus."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1438-covid-19-derecho-de-acceso-a-la-justicia-bloqueado-por-falta-de-mascarillas>

Defensores en Línea reports on the successful campaign to have the charges against one of the many criminalized protesters from the post-electoral crisis dropped - José David Alvarado Rodríguez who was 15 years old when arrested by the police in December 2017. "The defense demonstrated before the judge that the Public Ministry acted on the presumption of guilt and indiscriminately against the population that peacefully protested in defense of the Constitution of the Republic."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensa-logra-sobreseimiento-definitivo-de-menor-acusado-de-hurto-durante-crisis-post-electoral/>

The new ad-interim representative of OACNUDH, Isabel Albaladejo, met with different groups this week. In a meeting with human rights defenders, she reiterated "their commitment to accompany them in the defence and protection of #DDHH".

She also signed an Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Human Rights Secretariat.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237910130924097536>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237884525641957376>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237791215225102337>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1237837685852602368>

The New York Times reports on the struggles of the indigenous peoples for their land in Central America. "Faced with government inaction, some activists try to reclaim ancestral lands on their own. Often, they pay a high price." In the case of Honduras, they write: "Worldwide, Central and South American Indigenous groups are the most under attack, according to the Business & Human Rights Resource Center, which maintains a database of attacks and killings of human rights activists. With 54 violent incidents against Indigenous groups fighting businesses last year, Central America led the world last year in the number of such confrontations, according to Adam Barnett, the group's spokesman. Honduras, he said, had the most."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/09/world/americas/central-america-indigenous-conflicts.html>

"The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (Icefi) today published an evaluation of the two years of the second term of Juan Orlando Hernández, reviewing the fulfillment of the goals contained in the "Strategic Government Plan 2018-2022. Moving forward with a firm step". After analyzing what was proposed and what was achieved in the economic, social, fiscal and transparency areas, the Institute points out that the results are worrying, mainly because of the consolidation of a fiscal policy that is not linked to the strengthening of democracy and is increasingly less able to address the causes of underdevelopment in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/politica-fiscal-hondurena-es-cada-vez-mas-debil-y-menos-legitima-icefi/>

<http://elpulso.hn/el-15-de-zona-nucleo-en-la-tigra-devastada-por-actividades-agricolas/>

12/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction; Protests, Fear, Deportation; Journalists - National Police; HRDs - National Police; Migration - US; Drug Trafficking - National Party; CONADEH; Transport Sector; and Religious Fundamentalism at Congress

COVID-19 has arrived in Honduras, so far still with only two confirmed cases (see yesterday), but it lead to widespread reactions. Flights of public officials were cancelled.

Classes at schools and universities were suspended for the next 14 days.

People from Europa, China, Iran and South Korea have to self-isolate if they come to Honduras for 14 days.

Public events were also cancelled.

And the National Electoral Council (CNE) asked the political parties to suspend their activities for 4 weeks.

JOH, meanwhile, asked multilateral banks for more financial support.

/ Hondurans and 8 foreigners are currently being tested for COVID-19.

<http://elpulso.hn/que-se-queden-en-casa-aqui-venimos-a-legislar-por-el-pais-juan-flores/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/gobierno-suspenden-las-clases-por-coronavirus/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/restringen-ingreso-de-extranjeros-al-pais/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3768-honduras-suspenden-clases-y-eventos-publicos-por-coronavirus>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cne-pide-a-partidos-suspender-actividades-por-las-proximas-cuatro-semanas-por-covid-19.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hernandez-pide-a-bancos-multilaterales-ser-mas-generosos-con-honduras-ante-coronavirus.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1363661-466/confirman-15-casos-sospechosos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras>

Employees of the National Cardiopulmonary Institute held a protest to demand medical supplies from health authorities for the COVID-19 cases.

<http://elpulso.hn/empleados-de-salud-sin-agua-ni-insumos-para-hacerle-frente-al-coronavirus/>

"Honduras is a society marked by fear, this fear is promoted and expressed in different places and is lived in many different ways. Some of this landscape of fear was captured in the 2019 ERIC Opinion Poll, which states that half the population feels fear when they think about the country's future. Recognizing that fear is something natural, we warn that it becomes a problem when we allow ourselves to be governed by fear, and in today's Honduras at least three types of fears can be identified: natural fears, induced fears and instrumental fears. Regarding this last daily fear, the Coronavirus came to Honduras and is creating collective hysteria that will not help in the implementation of measures to prevent the disease. (...) What is not normal is to inject more fear until it provokes collective hysteria, a task that is being fulfilled by the corporate media and the Presidential House viruses. (...) There is a close relationship between the promoters of fear and the beneficiaries of fear, as close as the relationship between the political and economic elites and organized crime, the latter being the main beneficiaries of hysteria and our confinement. The political elites instrumentalize the fear of the coronavirus so that the population forgets that we are governed by corrupt people and drug traffickers, forgets about the continuing project of JOH and his group, forgets about the daily calamities."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/np/el-miedo-al-coronavirus/>

"Concerns are growing that the deportation of migrants from the US and Mexico could accelerate the spread of coronavirus in Central America, after authorities in Honduras suspended repatriation flights and confirmed the first two cases in the country."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/12/us-migrant-deportations-coronavirus-central-america>

Both Criterio and Proceso Digital reported on an attack against journalist Carlos Augusto Lara in

Tocoa, Colón. Unknown attackers came to his house, shot at it and tried to murder him when stopped by a police patrol that was close by.

<https://criterio.hn/atentan-contra-periodista-en-tocoa-colon/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/atentan-contra-periodista-en-tocoa-colon.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the Justice System protected a member of the police force who brutally attacked the journalist Dunia Montoya in 2015. He was only found guilty of less serious injuries against her. "The court was careful not to send him to prison if he had been convicted of Abuse of Authority and Injury, since by accumulating the crimes he would be behind bars as he should be if there was the rule of law in Honduras."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2730-sistema-de-justicia-protectorio-a-policia-que-ataco-en-2015-a-periodista-dunia-montoya>

"In the case of the aggression by members of the National Police against residents of Zacate Grande, the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Workers (FEPRODDHH) has summoned members of the Association for the Development of the Zacate Grande Peninsula (ADEPZA) to take statements and follow up on the investigation of the events that occurred in December 2019."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1440-investigacion-de-agresion-en-zacate-grande-en-manos-de-la-feproddhh>

"The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Trump administration to maintain a program that has forced about 60,000 asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their requests are heard. An appeals court had blocked the program, saying it was at odds with both federal law and international treaties and was causing "extreme and irreversible harm.""

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/us/supreme-court-mexico-asylum-seekers.html>

<https://criterio.hn/decision-de-corte-de-ee-uu-sobre-la-politica-queda-en-mexico-mantiene-a-solicitantes-de-asilo-en-grave-peligro/>

ContraCorriente offers an overview of the close links between drug trafficking and the JOH regime and his predecessors - links that were made widely public in the last months and years. The article somberly concludes: "For now, Trump wins and Hernandez wins, while they still can. Only a year went by before Tony Hernandez was captured and we were writing about the "narco-state". Now, 2020 is the year of stabilization before the new elections, the National Party candidacy of the president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, a faithful collaborator of Hernández, revives characters like Oscar Álvarez, former minister of security in 2004, when narco-activity gained momentum, and raises the promise of a clean slate. At the extreme of the possibilities, another option is projected: the establishment of a dictatorship."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/12/honduras-un-estado-democratico-de-proteccion-criminal/>

The current human rights commissioner (CONADEH), Roberto Herrera Cáceres, asked Congress for his reelection.

<https://tiempo.hn/conadeh-solicitud-cn-roberto-herrera-caceres/>

At least 28 members of the transport sector have been murdered so far this year.

<https://radiohrn.hn/al-menos-28-transportistas-han-sido-asesinados-en-los-primeros-tres-meses-de-2020/>

<https://criterio.hn/fanatismo-religioso-el-letargo-impuesto-desde-el-poder-en-honduras/>

13/03/20

Honduras Daily: Corruption - de Lobo, UFERCO; Extractivism - Guapinol; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Medical Staff, Prisons, Central America; Military Police; and Governing by Fear

Even when the MACCIH was still in Honduras, there was well-deserved criticism towards the anti-corruption efforts in Honduras, especially that it did not go after the really powerful actors and that there was not follow-up after an initial, media-accompanied, accusation. One exception was the trial and successful sentencing of the former first lady, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. But it is as if someone awaited an international health crisis sucking up all the media attention to announce that...the conviction has been annulled and has to be repeated.

The director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Gabriela Castellanos, denounced that the court "washed its hands from the corruption epidemic".

Lawyer and former Libre congressman Jari Dixon reacted: "[T]here is still doubt, uncertainty, there is still a bad taste in the mouth, they expelled the MACCIH and everything related to corruption issues is falling apart".

Pepe Lobo, meanwhile, rejoiced saying that he had always said that there were irregularities in his wife's trial.

<https://www.radioprogresohn.net/instante/repetiran-juicio-contra-ex-primera-dama/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1238525836506148865>

<https://twitter.com/GCastellanosL/status/1238483691896274944>

<https://www.radioprogresohn.net/instante/cna-condena-resolucion-de-repetir-juicio-contra-ex-primera-dama/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-tilda-de-despota-la-resolucion-de-nuevo-juicio-a-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/genera-dudas-que-tras-salida-de-la-macchih-todo-se-esta-viniendo-abajo-jari-dixon.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-sobre-juicio-rosita-evidentes-fallas-operadores-justicia/>

So far, I have not seen a statement by UFERCO, the replacement of UFECIC, on the annulment. Odir Fernández, head of investigation at the CNA, called UFERCO "dead on arrival".

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/uferco-es-un-muerto-andante-no-da-resultados-dice-investigador-del-cna.html>

The Central American Alliance Against Mining, ACAFREMIN wrote an open letter to Rolando Argueta, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, asking him to revoke the preventive detention measure against the eight defenders of the Guapinol and San Pedro rivers.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/alianza-centroamericana-contramineria-pide-libertad-para-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

Honduras has a third confirmed COVID-19 case.

Criterio denounces that in the first two cases, the JOH regime has yet to locate the other passengers of the planes in which the two patients arrived in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-confirma-el-tercer-caso-de-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/confirman-tercer-caso-positivo-covid-19-honduras1/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobernacion-aun-no-ubica-a-pasajeros-que-viajaron-junto-a-pacientes-con-coronavirus/>

Congress approved yesterday in record speed without consulting other sectors, e.g. the medical sector, the Special Law for Economic Acceleration and Social Protection against the Effects of the Coronavirus COVID-19, which includes the disbursement of \$420 million (10,500 million Lempiras) for the construction of 94 hospital centers and the acquisition of goods and services for the so-called Public Health Services Network. Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Medical Association of Honduras, denounced: "Congress behaves like a criminal structure and does not care about taking advantage of a situation like the coronavirus epidemic to approve diversions of public funds, to encourage the outsourcing of health services as we have already denounced." She fears that this will serve as another step to privatize public health. In one month, the JOH regime destined almost 20 billion Lempiras to the corona crisis without much oversight. As a result, there is widespread criticism. "Luis Redondo, deputy from the Innovation and Unity Party-Social Democrat (PINU) assures that this is a business to get funds, because they are going to benefit the private sector through trusts from which they will get a percentage for the management of the funds, "so this is a kind of privatization", concluded the deputy. On the other hand, Doris Gutiérrez, also a member of this same party and of the Transparency Front of the National Congress, alerted the Medical Association, the Association of Economists and labor unions of the government's intention to outsource the health system, and that with the disbursement of the 420 million dollars that the

investment in the construction of these hospitals would imply, the pension fund of the Honduran Institute of Social Security would be put at risk."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/13/covid-19-llega-a-honduras-en-medio-de-crisis-sanitaria/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/a-nombre-del-coronavirus-congreso-aprueba-contratos-compras-y-adquisiciones-directas/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/colegio-medico-advierte-que-ley-que-aprobo-el-congreso-atenta-contrala-salud-publica/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-honduras-aprovechan-emergencia-por-coronavirus-para-hacer-festin-con-fondos-publicos/>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) cancelled family visits.

<https://confidencialhn.com/suspenden-visitas-en-centros-penitenciarios-para-evitar-contagio-de-coronavirus/>

Doctors threatened to stop their work if the JOH regime does not equip them with the basic inputs for protection and prevention against coronavirus.

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-internos-amenazan-con-retirarse-de-hospitales-porque-no-les-dan-insumos-de-proteccion/>

"“In Central America, when it goes bad for the world, it goes worse for us,” said Ricardo Castañeda, an economist at the Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies, adding that the region is ill-prepared to fight a health epidemic and economic downturn at the same time. To date, 52 cases have been confirmed in Costa Rica, Panama – with the only registered death in the region thus far – and Honduras, which announced the confirmation of two cases on Wednesday. There is skepticism, however, that the official number of confirmed cases could be much lower than the reality due to a lack of testing. “The impact of the coronavirus places our health systems in check,” said Castañeda.”

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/coronavirus-in-central-america-when-it-goes-bad-for-the-world-it-goes-worse-for-us>

The MP will file an appeal against the acquittal of the Military Police officers César Augusto Madrid Vásquez, Milton Ignacio Corrales Sánchez and Marco Antonio Ramos Sosa who were prosecuted for the crimes of attempted murder and abuse of authority.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5626-mp-presentara-recurso-de-casacion-por-absolucion-de-tres-policias-militares-acusados-de-tentativa-de-homicidio-y-abuso-de-autoridad>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/con-politica-del-terror-gobierno-desmoviliza-a-ciudadania-segun-analistas/>

14/03/20

Honduras Daily: Lawyers; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Criticism, Medical Staff; Migration - US; and Welcome Bolitoglossa Copinhorum

Yesterday, elections took place at the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) where the opposition, Frente de Alianza, challenged the incumbents, Patria y Justicia. In the evening, Frente de Alianza claimed victory.

<https://criterio.hn/alianza-busca-recuperar-dignidad-del-colegio-de-abogados/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3774-humillante-derrota-sufre-partido-nacional-en-elecciones-del-colegio-de-abogados>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/faccion-del-colegio-de-abogados-asiste-este-sabado-a-elecciones-gremiales-pese-a-prohibiciones.html>

The JOH regime has declared Red Alert for all 18 departments for 14 days which includes the prohibition of events larger than 50 people.

In total, there are 15 measures.

The National Police announced that it will supervise their implementation.

https://twitter.com/COPECO_HONDURAS/status/1238915018034380806

<https://criterio.hn/decretan-alerta-roja-en-honduras-por-el-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-reafirma-ordenanza-de-suspension-de-ferias-actos-publicos-y-celebraciones.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-policia-nacional-supervisa-cumplimiento-medidas-alerta-roja/>

Journalist Claudia Mendoza denounces that the JOH regime both reacted too late and now uses the crisis to further steal from the public (see also yesterday).

The newly approved Emergency Law (see yesterday) allows the JOH regime to circumvent the Government Procurement Law.

<https://criterio.hn/coronavirus-la-pandemia-perfecta-para-robar-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/construccion-de-hospital-oncologico-tambien-entra-en-la-emergencia-aprobada-ayer-en-el-congreso/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3773-pensiones-del-ihss-avalan-con->

[10-mil-millones-lucha-contra-covid-19](#)

Doctors of the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula, asked the Government for the emergency purchase of biosecurity supplies to face the urgency of the coronavirus (see yesterday), the authority did not comply and this morning the doctors have informed that they are leaving the hospital, they will attend only in the emergency room. In Tegucigalpa, medical students in social service reported that they were withdrawing from hospitals for the same reason.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3771-urgente-medicos-hondurenos-dejan-hospitales-por-falta-de-insumos-en-bioseguridad>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-falta-de-insumos-para-combatir-coronavirus-medicos-internos-del-catarino-rivas-solo-atenderan-emergencias/>

According to the US embassy, 17'236 Hondurans have been deported since October 2019.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1238872836724461570>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1238840143974457344>

15/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction; Indigenous Peoples - Armed Forces; Extractivism - Guapinol, BID; and Now, What?

Honduras has now 6 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

<https://tiempo.hn/confirman-tres-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras1/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-confirma-tres-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus-la-cifra-total-se-eleva-a-seis/>

The JOH regime announced new measures hoping to contain the virus: the closure of borders (except for Hondurans, permanent and temporary residents, diplomats) and non-essential businesses for seven days as well as public transport.

<https://twitter.com/MigracionHND/status/1239374928740339713>

https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1239405858620157952

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the general Finlander Armijo Uclés has returned with more force against the indigenous Tolupán after the justice of the area sentenced him for threats and damages last November. Additionally, The IACHR issued precautionary measures in favor of 18 members of the Locomapa tribe and these were transferred to the National Protection Mechanism,

but there have been serious drawbacks in their implementation and the JOH regime has not been able to protect the indigenous defenders in an adequate manner.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2732-general-finlander-armijos-ucles-agudiza-la-violencia-contra-indigenas-tolupanes-en-locomapa-yoro>

"The Court of Appeals has delayed in giving a resolution to the Appeal for Review of Measures in the case of the Guapinol defenders, despite the fact that the time limit has already passed on March 13, 2020, which the law indicates to give a response, preventing the defense party from taking another legal action, which means an unjustified delay of justice."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2731-abogados-denuncian-injustificadas-demoras-del-sistema-de-justicia-para-resolver-recursos-a-favor-de-defensores-de-guapinol>

The people in Arizona, Atlántida accompanied by MADJ denounce a recent visit by staff from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), "who for the second time are serving as an intermediary for the interests of extractive companies and their projects that are harmful to our lives and our environment by disrespecting our sovereign decision to declare ourselves free from extractive activities." They have been protesting for years against the hydroelectric company INGELSA and their project on the Jilamito River.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/03/15/comunidades-denuncian-presiones-del-bid-en-arizona-para-el-desarrollo-de-hidroelectrica/>

<https://criterio.hn/comunidades-denuncian-presiones-del-bid-en-arizona-atlantida-para-el-desarrollo-de-hidroelectrica/>

"The JOH government, no matter how much we detest it, has shown itself to be much clearer about what it wants and to take advantage of situations like this to achieve its goals, while the social and political opposition does not even manage to have common objectives. The regime is aware that panic is in its favour. Neither short nor lazy, it recently approved the Law of Economic Acceleration and Social Protection against Coronavirus giving a devastating blow to the public health system, without the opposition leadership having conditions to mobilize anyone in these conditions. Therefore, the organized popular movement must revise its strategies to face this reality, based on facts and not on our wishes, without losing the final objective. Fuera JOH today cannot have the same content as it did recently. It used to mean emphasizing its corrupt, criminal, drug-trafficking nature. Not that it has ceased to be important, nor that we are not saying so; but realistically, few people today care about that; people are concerned about the need for SURVIVAL. As things stand today, only the most conscious, a minority, are thinking about the New York trials or the elections. The vast majority are thinking about how they survive this pandemic. That is the state of consciousness of the people; it is the basis from which we have to start."

<https://criterio.hn/y-ahora-que-hacemos-una-propuesta/>

16/03/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Corruption, Medical Staff, Deportations, Penitentiary System, Economy, BCIE; Military Police;

The journalist Ricardo Patiño was forced out of a session of the municipal corporation of Tela, Atlántida at the request of Councilman Mario Fuentes. According to Patiño, this action is the result of a series of investigations in which Councilman Fuentes, the former mayor of the municipality between 2014-2018, was exposed to acts of corruption.

A member of the Armed Forces attacked social communicator Yesking Mairena in Sabá, Colón.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1121-regidor-hace-que-expulsen-a-periodista-en-cobertura-de-sesion-municipal>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1123-militar-agrede-a-comunicador-social>

Currently, Honduras has 8 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

<https://criterio.hn/a-ocho-se-eleva-el-numero-de-casos-por-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-confirma-dos-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras1/>

Less than 24 hours after announcing the closure of shops, public transport, etc, (see yesterday's e-mail), the JOH regime took another step declaring a state of exception including a lockdown suspending constitutional rights. In some parts of the country, the lockdown has exceptions, but in Tegucigalpa, La Ceiba and Choluteca the lockdown is complete.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1239776952644448256>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/restringe-garantias-constitucionales-ciudadanas/>

C-Libre lists some of the constitutional rights being suspended as the right of assembly, but also also the protection of one's home meaning that the JOH regime can raid houses.

COFADEH denounces "the militarization of the COVID19 pandemic".

The UN human rights experts rightly "urged States to avoid overreach of security measures in their response to the coronavirus outbreak and reminded them that emergency powers should not be used to quash dissent".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1448-covid19-honduras-sin-garantias-constitucionales-y-toque-de-queda>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-suspende-garantias-constitucionales/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1239704048225271808>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rechazamos-la-militarizacion-de-la-pandemia-covid19/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25722&LangID=E>

<https://criterio.hn/paises-no-deben-abusar-de-medidas-de-emergencia-para-suprimir-derechos-humanos-onu/>

At the same time, the emergency law approved Friday (see previous e-mails) continues to be greeted with criticism. "In this regard, the president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, (...) described the decree approved by liberals and nationalists, as an abominable act, "approved in an unusual way on Friday 13 and where the executive branch through its bill, used it to continue outsourcing health, ignoring that this is a human right. Figueroa said that the complexity of the bill, which involves more than 12 regulations, reflects that it is materially "impossible" for the commission of deputies to study it, that it is not necessary to legislate for direct contracting in a state of emergency; since there already exists for this purpose, the General Law of Public Administration and the Law of State Contracting, which regulates this type of contracting. "This contains a serious act of possible corruption under the guise of legality, it is abominable that the Covid19 pandemic is taken advantage of to expand corruption through this law," said the medical professional."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/suyapa-figueroa-es-abominable-que-se-aproveche-la-pandemia-de-covid19-para-expandir-mediante-esta-ley-la-corrupcion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/colegio-medico-advierte-que-tras-declaratoria-de-emergencia-se-generaran-actos-de-gran-corrupcion.html>

The dental students now also announced that they will not continue with their social service due to a shortage of minimum biosafety equipment (see also previous e-mails).

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-vs-estudiantes-de-odontologia-se-retiran-de-su-servicio-social/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estudiantes-de-odontologia-se-retiran-de-centros-asistenciales-por-carecer-de-equipo-contra-pandemia/>

And in the midst of this, the Trump administration continues to deport Central Americans back to the region...

<https://twitter.com/camiloreports/status/1239660499161186305>

New measures were also announced for the penitentiary system.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/sistema-penitenciario-impone-restricciones-ante-emergencia-por-coronavirus.html>

Yesterday, the maquila industry continued to work which caused some criticism. Now, the Secretary of Labor, Carlos Madero, announced that they received the information a bit late, but that they would also stop work today.

The business lobby Cohep presented a proposal to the JOH regime to support the Honduran economy.

The JOH regime announced a preliminary package of measures for micro and small businesses and the tourism industry.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/a-partir-de-manana-no-operan-las-maquilas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3777-propuesta-del-cohep-al-gobierno-por-el-impacto-economico-del-covid-19>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-pide-al-ejecutivo-facilidades-fiscales-y-bancarias-para-afrontar-emergencia-nacional/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-anuncia-paquete-de-medidas-economicas-para-sector-micro-y-turismo.html>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) also announced \$8 millions for the region.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/bcie-brinda-donacion-de-8-millones-ante-emergencia-sanitaria-en-la-region.html>

Two Military Police agents were found guilty for having led an inmate escape.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5637-declaran-culpables-a-dos-policias-militares-por-evasion-de-imputado-acusado-de-asesinato>

17/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - HRDs, HR, FoE, State Reaction, Medical Staff, Economy, Water; Dengue; Migration – US;

Honduras has its ninth confirmed case, and as the person is from San Pedro Sula, this means that this city is now also on complete lockdown.

Contracorriente spoke with the former Health Minister Elsa Palou about the situation in Honduras.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/sube-a-9-los-casos-de-coronavirus-y-honduras-sigue-bajo-toque-de-queda/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1240039241649991682>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/17/honduras-en-alerta-roja-por-covid-19-y-sistema-de-salud-precario-entrevista-con-dra-elsa-palou/>

Not one day went by and the JOH regime made use of the state of exception declared on Monday (see yesterday). They arrested social movement leader in Choluteca, Aleyda Huete. Her husband, a political prisoner, has been imprisoned since last December.

Huete was later released after paying bail and she has to await trial with alternative measures to imprisonment. She is accused of "illegal possession of homemade weapons" and storage of explosive devices to the detriment of the internal security of the State of Honduras".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1452-incesante-persecucion-politica-contra-la-lideresa-surena-aleyda-huete>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-peligra-integridad-de-defensora-de-ddhh-capturada-en-choluteca/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/otorgan-medidas-sustitutivas-a-la-prision-para-dirigenta-del-bastion-del-sur/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/03/alertadefensoras-honduras-detienen-de-manera-arbitraria-y-criminalizan-a-la-activista-aleyda-huete-en-el-marco-del-toque-de-queda-por-covid-19/>

According to El Libertador, the Armed Forces invaded 240 houses in Tegucigalpa in search of suspected COVID-19 cases.

OACNUDH calls for urgent measures to mitigate the effects of the state measures for the most vulnerable groups.

And they also announced that they keep monitoring the human rights situation during this state of exception.

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva denounced the measures taken by the JOH regime as "disproportionate and arbitrary".

Lawyer and human rights defender Edy Tábora pointed out that the national emergency has mutated into a state of siege without considering that in contexts like the present one it is urgent to guarantee indispensable rights and free information, and denounced that the executive decree that declared the curfew responds to an authoritarian act.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3781-urgente-240-casas-invadidas-por-militares-en-la-capital>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1240093783968055296>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1240027254698188801>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-medidas-adoptadas-por-el-regimen-son-desproporcionadas-y-arbitrarias/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3784-estado-da-via-libre-a-violacion-de-derechos-humanos-edy-tabora>

Legal scholar Joaquín Mejía questions the legality of restricting freedom of expression as part of the state of exception. "In the light of the above, which imperative public interest is served by the suspension of the right to freedom of expression, is its restriction proportional and necessary to combat the Coronavirus, and how does its limitation fit in with the objective of combating this

pandemic? In my opinion, this restriction does not meet the requirements of necessity, appropriateness, legitimacy and proportionality, taking into account the importance of freedom of expression in times of democratic normality and, above all, in times of crisis such as the one we are facing today as a society."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1451-es-legitima-y-proporcional-la-suspension-del-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-el-contexto-de-la-crisis-del-coronavirus>

<https://joaquinmejiaivera.blogspot.com/2020/03/dudas-y-preocupacion-con-respecto-al.html>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1125-emiten-decreto-que-restringe-libertad-de-expresion-en-crisis-por-covid-19>

El Pulso criticizes that "[t]he messages sent by the Government in the midst of the coronavirus crisis have not been clear about the restrictions on movement and measures imposed in the country, even the speeches of various officials contradicted each other".

<http://elpulso.hn/falta-de-claridad-en-mensajes-oficiales-confunde-a-hondurenos/>

On social media, medical staff have reported that due to the lack of specialized medical equipment to fight the Coronavirus outbreak, they have been forced to use plastic bags as an improvised security measure to attend the medical emergencies. The president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, has denounced the lack of equipment in clinics and hospitals in the country.

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-denuncian-que-con-bolsas-plasticas-enfrentan-pandemia-en-honduras/>

Radio Progreso reports on the plan by the JOH regime to support the economy. There will be four measures, all of which funded by the Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi).

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/con-prestamos-gobierno-de-joh-piensa-aliviar-crisis-economica-del-covid-19/>

Due to the lockdown, there are problems with the water supply in Tegucigalpa.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/toque-de-queda-afecta-distribucion-de-agua-en-la-capital/>

"Amidst the alarm about the coronavirus, dengue fever continues to affect the Honduran population. Some nine people have died so far this year, seven of them under 15 years of age. Most of the cases are from Francisco Morazán, two from San Pedro Sula, one from Puerto Cortés and one from El Paraíso. In epidemiological week 10, more than 10,930 cases have been reported, of which 9,510 are dengue and 883 are severe dengue. "We must not forget that we are in a dengue epidemic in which we have practically entered a plateau and we have not managed to lower the numbers of dengue cases that continue to be reported in the metropolitan region," said Roberto Cosenza, undersecretary of health. He also called for maintaining prevention measures to combat dengue.

According to the Ministry of Health, 77% of deaths from dengue hemorrhagic fever are under the age of 15. The Central District is where 92% of the cases occur. The aedes aegypti mosquito, which transmits several diseases, caused the death of more than 180 people in 2019 and more than 112,000 sick people."

<http://elpulso.hn/menores-de-edad-son-los-mas-afectados-por-dengue/>

"The Trump administration plans to immediately turn back all asylum seekers and other foreigners trying to cross the southwestern border illegally, saying they cannot risk allowing the coronavirus to spread through detention facilities and among Border Patrol agents, four administration officials said on Tuesday."

"Challenges to the U.S. government's "Asylum Cooperation Agreements" (ACAs) with Central American countries – under which asylum seekers approaching the U.S. border are sent to camps in the Northern Triangle – are mounting fast, but the administration of President Donald Trump does not appear likely to budge significantly from its current approach. Under the threat of loss of \$143 million in aid to the three Central American countries, Guatemala signed its agreement under former President Jimmy Morales last August; a similar accord with Honduras is to "come online any day," according to U.S. officials; and El Salvador is also deep in negotiations. (Aid has been restored.) The ACAs stipulate that asylum seekers apply for asylum in the "first safe country" they enter after fleeing their own. As a result, the United States has sent about 800 persons of various nationalities to Guatemala."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-mexican-border.html>

<https://aulablog.net/2020/03/17/challenges-to-safe-country-strategy-in-central-america-mounting/>

18/03/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - State Response, Health Sector, HR, FoE, HRDs, Economy; Corruption - de Lobo; and an Oportunity

Criterio reports that there has been another change in the defense of JOH's brother Tony Hernández. At the same time, the date for the sentencing, April 15, has so far not been changed again. But there will be a new hearing on March 31.

<https://criterio.hn/fijan-nueva-fecha-a-tony-hernandez-para-cambio-de-abogado/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tony-hernandez-a-nueva-audiencia-antes-de-conocer-su-sentencia/>

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rose to 12.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-ascienden-a-12-los-casos-covid-19-honduras/>

In a press release, the Security Secretariat lifted the complete lockdown in some parts of Honduras for today, i.e. inhabitants are allowed to buy groceries between 7am and 2pm and the lockdown continues at 4pm.

El Progreso has been added to the cities on lockdown.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/habilitan-horarios-para-abastecimientos-de-productos-en-ciudades-con-toque-de-queda-absoluto/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1456-honduras-exigen-salas-de-aislamientos-con-condiciones-sanitarias-para-pacientes-de-coronavirus>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/cerrados-los-accesos-al-municipio-de-el-progreso-yoro/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-progreso-tambien-cierra-la-entrada-y-salida-de-la-ciudad-a-partir-de-las-200-de-la-tarde-de-hoy/>

In the so-called Villa Olímpica in Tegucigalpa, the JOH regime set up a temporary isolation unit which lacks basic sanitary conditions.

Local inhabitants protested against it.

Furthermore, the JOH regime is being criticized for the purchase of lung ventilators which are inadequate for the current situation.

<https://criterio.hn/vecinos-de-la-colonia-villa-olimpica-rechazan-hospital-para-pacientes-de-coronavirus/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3786-capitalinos-protestan-por-improvisado-salon-de-cuarentena-en-villa-olimpica>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/colegio-medico-denuncia-mala-compra-de-ventiladores-mecanicos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cmh-ventiladores-mecanicos-comprados-no-cumplen-requisitos-minimos/>

<https://criterio.hn/coronavirus-en-honduras-compras-inadecuadas-y-albergues-improvisados/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3785-equipo-biomedico-traido-por-avion-presidencial-no-es-para-covid-19>

"CIPRODEH has been monitoring the measures implemented by the Honduran government and has been receiving complaints electronically to document human rights violations, detect possible acts of corruption and denounce abuses by the authorities. (...) CIPRODEH also notes with concern that in the past, governments have taken advantage of the declaration of states of emergency 1) to abuse discretion in the administration of public resources, including state purchases and contracts; 2) to economically favor specific business groups; 3) to corrupt the process of purchasing and contracting; 4) to nullify the dissent of the various political opposition sectors; 5) to dilute, delay or socially cancel the denunciations and causes of corruption and/or abuse of human rights; 6= to abuse of human rights."

Defensores en Línea spoke with Padre Melo and the president of the teachers union Colpedagogosh,

Edwin Hernández, about the situation in Honduras.

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/498-observaciones-preliminares-sobre-la-respuesta-del-estado-de-honduras-a-la-pandemia-de-covid-19>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/padre-melo-no-tenemos-la-mas-minima-confianza-en-el-destino-de-esos-fondos-estando-en-manos-de-este-regimen/>

"Honduran authorities must immediately lift newly imposed restrictions on free expression and let members of the press cover the news freely, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today." Radio Progreso reports on how much more difficult the work for journalists in Honduras currently is.

<https://cpj.org/2020/03/honduran-government-declares-state-of-emergency-su.php>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/periodistas-cubren-pandemia-en-precarias-condiciones-de-seguridad/>

Pasos de Animal Grande voices fear that the arrest of human rights defender Aleyda Huete in Choluteca (see yesterday) may just be the beginning. "

After the capture of human rights defender Aleyda Huete on March 17, 2020 in Choluteca, doubts have resurfaced about the use of the political influence of the president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, to get his hands on the captured and opening of criminal proceedings against human rights defenders, journalists and political dissidents in the area where he is a deputy."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2737-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-estaria-metiendo-mano-para-capturas-de-la-disidencia-y-defensores-en-el-sur-de-honduras>

The STIBYS labor union denounces that their workers are exposed to the virus forced to continue working and they demand a stop for workers in the sugary drinks and alcoholic drinks industry.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/stibys-denuncia-ante-el-gobierno/>

InSight Crime picked up the newest developments in the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo (see last week). "The Supreme Court of Honduras has thrown out an historic anti-corruption conviction against a former first lady, laying bare the uphill battle the country faces after the dismantling of its internationally-backed anti-graft body."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-anti-corruption-conviction/>

"Let us take advantage of the captivity in our homes to think and dream positively; to read and interpret what is happening from the perspective of mutual solidarity and cooperation; to believe in ourselves again, not waiting for answers to come from above; to work in community to protect our lives, while demanding that the authorities act with truth and honesty, and preparing ourselves to demand full accountability for the millions of resources they have managed."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/np/tiempo-oportuno/>

19/03/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Berta - Commemoration; Journalists - Mental Health; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Public Health, HR, HRDs, FoE, Journalists, Corruption, Polit. Opposition; Drug Trafficking; and Art for the Quarantine

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons Public Goods from Tocoa, Colón denounces the ongoing imprisonment of the eight HRDs from Guapinol. Yesterday, they presented a challenge to the Supreme Court demanding a guarantee of the right to health and life of the eight defenders. They further denounce that it has been three weeks since their appeal demanding an immediate liberation and the Courts of Appeal has still not answered them.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2744-grito-de-auxilio-en-la-crisis-sanitaria-responsabilizan-al-poder-judicial-de-lo-que-pueda-sucedera-los-ocho-defensores-de-guapinol-que-estran-en-prision>

<https://criterio.hn/vida-de-defensores-de-guapinol-esta-en-peligro-por-la-negligencia-del-poder-judicial/>

The Spanish newspaper El País published an open letter by Laura Zúniga dedicated to her mother Berta Cáceres.

https://elpais.com/elpais/2020/03/17/planeta_futuro/1584444343_292548.html

Reporteros de Investigación published an article on the mental health of journalists in Honduras.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/19/11-periodistas-atendidos-en-dos-anos-con-secuelas-mentales/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/19/algo-cambia-en-nuestros-cerebros/>

Honduras has already 24 confirmed cases, most of which in the Francisco Morazán department, i.e. in and around the capital.

Three more cities were added to the complete lockdown, Puerto Cortés, Santa Cruz de Yojoa and El Triunfo.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/sube-a-24-los-casos-confirmados-del-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1365616-466/honduras-confirma-12-casos-m%C3%A1s-de-coronavirus-cifra-suba-a-24>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/extienden-toque-de-queda-a-tres-ciudades-mas-afectadas-por-covid-19-en-honduras.html>

The representative of the WHO in Honduras recommend prolonging the quarantine for at least 7 more days.

Yesterday, the quarantine was temporarily lifted allowing Hondurans to buy food, but as everyone left at the same time, it got very crowded.

The president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH) Suyapa Figueroa, criticizes the general approach of the JOH regime to the crisis.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/recomienda-ampliar-cuarentena-por-siete-dias-mas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3788-contradictorio-tras-encierro-de-tres-dias-capitalinos-saturan-calles-y-comercio>

<https://confidencialhn.com/califican-de-erroneas-las-medidas-del-ejecutivo-nacionalista-ante-emergencia-por-coronavirus/>

The JOH regime seems to have conceded that the lung ventilators they bought are not up for the task for the current crisis - but it was all they could find.

<https://confidencialhn.com/eso-fue-lo-que-se-encontro-fue-lo-que-se-compro-funcionaria-admite-poca-utilidad-de-ventiladores-mecanicos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3792-confirmada-noticia-de-el-libertador-sobre-mal-equipo-para-covid-19-eso-fue-lo-que-se-encontro-dra-araujo>

OACNUDH monitored the human rights situation in Tegucigalpa yesterday and will travel to other regions in the coming days.

The Lempira Network of Human Rights Defenders denounced various human rights violations documented by them since the implementation of the state of exception.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1240835972356595713>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/red-de-lempira-exigimos-dotacion-medica-a-centros-de-salud-para-proteger-la-vida-humana/>

Human rights defender Aleyda Xiomara Huete denounces that she has been receiving death threats and that she fears being arrested again (see previous e-mail). After her initial arrest and release with alternative measures to imprisonment, the lockdown had already been established and she could not buy groceries nor water, adding additional suffering for her and her family.

COFADEH published a press release in support of her calling for her protection.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/aleyda-huete-denuncia-amenazas-contrasu-vida/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-exige-se-garantice-la-vida-a-aleyda-xiomara-huete/>

International criticism continues of the JOH regime's decision to limit freedom of expression as part

of the reaction to the corona crisis (see also yesterday). Both OACNUDH and the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, Edison Lanza, asked the government to revise its restrictions.

Lanza called its a "disproportionate measure".

UN, EU and IACHR experts also wrote an open letter on the importance of freedom of expression in such a crisis.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1460-preocupacion-internacional-se-restringe-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras-ante-coronavirus>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2739-relator-especial-de-libertad-de-expresion-de-la-cidh-considera-desproporcionada-la-medida-del-gobierno-de-suspender-el-articulo-72-de-la-constitucion>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2739-relator-especial-de-libertad-de-expresion-de-la-cidh-considera-desproporcionada-la-medida-del-gobierno-de-suspender-el-articulo-72-de-la-constitucion>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gremio-periodistico-pide-derogar-decreto-pcm-21-2020-relacionado-con-libertad-de-expresion.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to cover the difficulty journalists and social communicators face to do their work under the current circumstances.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2743-riesgo-latente-para-periodistas-y-comunicadores-por-falta-de-preparacion-en-cobertura-de-una-pandemia>

In a press release, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) warns of the state reaction to the health crisis being another source of corruption.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1240676986433032193>

Libre and the Liberal Party held press conferences presenting their own proposal on how to tackle the corona crisis.

<https://criterio.hn/partido-libre-presenta-propuesta-al-gobierno-de-joh-para-enfrentar-crisis-por-coronavirus/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-liberal-propone-crear-mesa-de-expertos-para-combatir-el-coronavirus/>

"Over the last decade, Honduras has seen a proliferation of laboratories capable of transforming coca leaf into cocaine hydrochloride. This means that Honduras, once only a transit point for drugs, is becoming a cocaine producer. (...) This evolution from a transit country to a cocaine producer has a lot to do with the protection drug traffickers have received from the government. (...) Meanwhile, the most recent revelation of the existence of a laboratory belonging to drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes, is also believed to have received protection from President Hernández."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-transit-nation-cocaine-producer/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/19/recomendaciones-para-una-cuarentena/>

20/03/20

Honduras Daily: UN - UPR; HRDs - Guapinol, Marcala; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Medical Staff, CSO, HR, Corruption, Deportations, Transport Sector; Corruption - MACCIH; and the OAS

The Coalition against Impunity published its report for the (possibly) upcoming Universal Periodic Review at the UN in Geneva in May.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Informe-EPU-Coalicio%CC%81n-Contra-la-Impunidad.pdf>

Several international human rights organizations published a press release in support of the criminalized HRDs from Guapinol (see also yesterday).

<https://cejil.org/es/guapinol-urge-revocar-prision-preventiva-defensores-del-agua-frente-riesgos-covid-19>

COFADEH denounces that "the regime is taking advantage of the suspension of constitutional guarantees to attack and silence defenders and critical voices so that they do not denounce what is happening in the country, as is the case of Marlon Calles, councilman of the Mayor's Office of Marcala, La Paz, who received a summons to appear before the Municipal Justice Judge this Thursday".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/marlon-calles-me-quieren-callar-para-que-no-diga-lo-que-esta-pasando/>

There was no new confirmed case yesterday, Honduras officially still has 24 cases.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-informa-que-no-hay-nuevos-casos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3795-a-24-asciende-cifra-de-hondurenos-con-coronavirus>

The JOH regime has prolonged the exceptional state until March 29 increasing the total curfew to the whole country and extending the suspension of constitutional rights. Small shops are allowed to stay open. "BANASUPRO's [National Supplier of Basic Goods] mobile units will circulate through neighborhoods and colonies to attend citizens who require basic products and hand gel.

Supermarkets, pharmacies, grocery stores, tortilla shops, bakeries and home delivery services are authorized to deliver products after presenting their identification card and delivery order to the

police authority."

<https://criterio.hn/amplian-toque-de-queda-a-toda-honduras-y-hasta-el-domingo-29-de-marzo/>

ConfidencialHN reports that the staff at the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital went on strike to protest against the fact that they had not been paid for three months.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trabajadores-del-hospital-mario-catarino-rivas-en-paro-por-no-pago-de-salarios/>

Honduras' social movements, indigenous and human rights organizations reacted to the current situation with a press release proposing that i) the Medical College of Honduras assumes the role of the Emergency Health Coordination; ii) the implementation of an audit system for the funds approved in these last days; iii) to strengthen the municipal and community organization, for example to audit local expense or to promote education; and iv) to demand sufficient water supply for hospitals and health centers.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1241156768518025216>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/demandan-integrar-grupo-auditor-para-fondos-publicos-usados-en-la-emergencia/>

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva sent letter to the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, Edison Lanza, in which she denounces the JOH regime for the suspension of constitutional guarantees, which affect freedom of expression and access to information.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-reporta-a-la-cidh-medidas-desproporcionales-adoptadas-por-el-regimen/>

Various feminist and women's rights organization published a joint press release demanding an adequate reaction to the current crisis which means, for example, "[t]o address the current situation from a comprehensive perspective of collective care and human rights, taking into account the health, social and economic dimensions, from an intersectional approach in terms of class, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation and gender."

The IACHR and its Special Rapporteurship on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) "urge to ensure the integral protection of human rights and public health in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic".

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/03/pronunciamento-covid-19-ante-la-crisis-urge-frenar-el-autoritarismo-y-defender-la-vida-el-cuidado-los-derechos-y-la-dignidad-humana/>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/060.asp>

ContraCorriente writes about the deadly mix of the corona pandemic and Honduran corruption.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/20/a-la-pandemia-se-suma-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

"As cases of coronavirus started appearing in Central America, the U.S. government insisted on continuing deportations of Central Americans, despite concern that this could increase the spread of COVID-19. This included both deportations of people back to their own countries and deportations of Salvadorans, Hondurans, and other asylum seekers to Guatemala, which signed an "Asylum Cooperative Agreement" (ACA) or "safe third country" agreement with the United States to accept deported asylum seekers from other countries. These deportations kept happening even as the overwhelmed main shelter in Guatemala City shut its doors to new arrivals. (...) As the days passed, Northern Triangle governments started to refuse deportations. On March 10, Honduras refused to admit more flights of deported Hondurans from Mexico, although it continued to accept them via land from Mexico and via air from the United States. Then it stopped all flights when it closed its airports for a week. On March 17, the Guatemalan government stopped all flights of deportees, stating the U.S. government did not have in place adequate safeguards to screen deportees for COVID-19. Under pressure from the United States, on March 19 Guatemala began again accepting deportation flights with its own citizens, although it refused to accept deportees from other countries under the Asylum Cooperative Agreement. On March 18, El Salvador stopped accepting deportees from the United States and Mexico. It is not clear how long governments will refuse deportations if the U.S. government keeps pressure up to restart them."

<https://www.lawg.org/central-america-faces-coronavirus-while-deportations-are-in-the-balance/>

The transport sector denounces that the JOH regime did not uphold previous agreements and now they threaten with strike actions.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigencia-del-transporte-de-carga-pesada-anuncia-paralizacion-de-labores-para-los-proximos-dias/>

CESPAD published a 30+-pages report on the lessons to be drawn from the MACCIH and the current perspectives to fight corruption in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/InformeFinal-MACCIHCESPAD.pdf>

Against all advice, the OAS continued with the election of the Secretary General. Luis Almagro was reelected and the JOH regime immediately congratulated its ally.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica/18-politica/luis-almagro-gana-las-elecciones-y-seguira-en-la-oea-cinco-anos-mas.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-felicita-a-luis-almagro-por-su-reeleccion-en-la-oea.html>

21/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Medical Staff, State Reaction, HR, FoE, Corruption, Agriculture; and Berta Forever

Honduras has 26 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-suba-a-26-los-afectados-por-coronavirus-son-originarios-de-villanueva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-gobierno-honduras-coronavirus/>

The president of the Medical College of Honduras, Suyapa Figueroa, denounces that the JOH regime is equipping state security forces with protection against the virus, but not healthcare workers.

Protests in the form of pot-banging (cacerolazo) took place in Honduras also demanding protection for healthcare workers and basic supplies for hospitals.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1241470454562344960>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1241453239750590467>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1241583864377573376>

CESPAD published an analysis on "the handling the Covid-19 crisis in a context of inequality and threats to transparency and democracy".

Criterio asked legal scholar Joaquín Mejía Rivera if the State could order the Military Hospital and private hospitals to attend the coronavirus emergency. Legally, this is possible, but he also recommends. "In the context of this state of emergency and taking into account the lack of legitimacy of the Honduran regime and the inability of the Ministry of Health to address this crisis, it is imperative to immediately set up a Commission of Experts with the participation of the Medical College of Honduras, the National Anti-Corruption Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and representatives of the World Health Organization, among other institutions enjoying broad public confidence. The objective is to coordinate with the Ministry of Health in order to adopt effective measures to combat the pandemic with efficiency and transparency."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/03/21/analisis-el-manejo-de-la-crisis-del-covid-19-en-un-contexto-de-desigualdad-y-las-amenazas-a-la-transparencia-y-la-democracia/>

<https://criterio.hn/podria-el-estado-ordenar-al-hospital-militar-y-hospitales-privados-a-que-atendan-la-emergencia-del-coronavirus/>

COFADEH wrote a letter to Soledad Garcia Muñoz, Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights at the IACHR asking her to insist that the JOH regime must guarantee the economic and social rights of the working class affected by the measures to prevent COVID-19.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-cidh-esta-al-tanto-de-aplicacion-de-medidas-en-honduras-que-menoscaban-derechos-de-la-clase-trabajadora/>

Several human rights organizations demanded in a joint letter the derogation of the executive decree PCM-021-2020, i.e. the part which restricts freedom of expression. They also demand that personal data about those affected by COVID-19 are protected "unless they are anonymized and serve a public interest to help slow down the spread of infection".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/pronunciamentos/1126-exigimos-respeto-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-al-derecho-a-la-proteccion-de-datos-personales-en-honduras>

El Libertador reports on the son of a state official selling overpriced disinfectant online.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3797-hijo-de-funcionario-hondureno-exitoso-vendedor-de-gel-antibacterial>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3798-tienda-de-celulares-vendio-gel-antibacterial-a-fredy-hijo-de-funcionario>

The secretary and spokesman of the National Federation of Peasants, Alejandro Hernandez, requested an emergency meeting with JOH. The current state of exception also limits their movement and therefore the possibility to cultivate.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-campesinos-exigen-gobierno-que-dejen-circular/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoJw4p48kLo&feature=emb_title

22/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Deportations; Migration - US; and No More Drinking in Honduras
Over the weekend, the number of confirmed cases rose to 27.

<https://criterio.hn/aumentan-a-27-los-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-confirman-un-nuevo-caso-en-honduras-cifra-se-eleva-a-27/>

Yesterday, a plane arrived from the US with 92 deported Hondurans - in the midst of the corona crisis.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/llegan-92-deportados-de-eeuu-en-medio-de-emergencia-por-covid-19.html>

The Trump administration also "announced plans to erect 150 miles of barrier on the border, involving large numbers of contractors"...

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/22/construction-us-mexico-border-wall-coronavirus-pandemic>

"Through social networks, the Cattrachas Lesbian Network has launched the campaign: Let's demand a dry law for all of Honduras! The purpose of this campaign is to cancel all types of alcoholic beverages, since this is a trigger for increased violence against women and children who are at home in quarantine for the coronavirus."

<https://criterio.hn/poblacion-lgbtqi-exige-ley-seca-a-nivel-nacional/>

23/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Repression, State Reaction, Water, Women, Violence, Economy; Journalists; and Solidarity in Dark Times

There are now at least 30 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Honduras.

So far, the person communicating this numbers has been Roxana Araujo, the spokesperson of the Health Secretariat. Yesterday, she was released from this position and observers believe it is because she frankly communicated about the purchase of respiratory machines which are not useful in the current crisis.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/honduras-suma-30-casos-positivos-de-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-admitir-la-poca-utilidad-de-ventiladores-mecanicos-joh-destituye-a-roxana-araujo/>

<https://twitter.com/radioamericahn/status/1242294859777613827>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1366552-466/roxana-araujo-cancelada-vocera-coronavirus-honduras>

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces various acts of repression by state security forces, mostly against market goers. "Govt has not provided economic support to those that can't afford to quarantine & that must work to eat. Security forces continue to detain, repress, & bribe those on streets defying curfew".

More than 60 people were arrested in San Pedro Sula and at least 43 in El Progreso.

COFADEH summarized the situation as follows: "It is impossible to comply with the curfew if the people die of hunger".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1242169230692241410>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1242227601923616771>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1242230341538066432>

<https://confidencialhn.com/desalojan-a-vendedores-de-mercados-de-comayaguela-por-no-acatar-toque-de-queda/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/varios-detenidos-por-movilizarse-durante-toque-de-queda-en-san-pedro->

[sula/](#)

<https://tiempo.hn/el-progreso-43-personas-detenido-por-incumplimiento-en-toque-de-queda/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/es-imposible-obedecer-el-toque-de-queda-cuando-el-pueblo-muere-de-hambre/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/en-honduras-si-no-nos-mata-el-coronavirus-el-hambre-lo-hara/>

Inhabitants of Ojo de Agua in Choluteca issued a press release questioning the statements by the JOH regime that they are supporting the community.

"The coronavirus emergency reveals the collapse of the public health system in Honduras and the inability of the Juan Orlando Hernández regime to manage the crisis, said social and political analyst Elvin Hernández on Radio Progreso."

Several opposition congresswomen, meanwhile, to convene Congress in person or virtually as soon as possible, to approve the suspension of bank payments, utility bills and rent during the time of the emergency.

The JOH regime then announced that they will hand out food for 3.2 million people so that people can stay at home.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1463-honduras-denuncian-negligencia-ante-emergencia-por-parte-de-las-autoridades-en-choluteca>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/covid-19-desnuda-colapso-de-salud-publica-e-incapacidad-gubernamental/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/diputados-piden-sesionar-para-aprobar-suspension-de-cobros-y-alquileres/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1366569-466/joh-explica-c%C3%B3mo-entregar%C3%A1n-alimentos-a-tres-millones-de-hondure%C3%B1os>

OACNUDH insists that the Honduran State must guarantee access to water, especially in these times of crisis where water plays also an important role regarding personal hygiene.

Nevertheless, some 30% of Hondurans do not have access to water, the remaining 70% has access but it is not always clean drinking water.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1242180849854005257>

<https://oacnudh.hn/no-se-podra-parar-el-covid-19-sin-proporcionar-agua-a-las-personas-en-situacion-de-vulnerabilidad-expertos-de-la-onu/>

<http://elpulso.hn/sin-acceso-al-agua-no-se-puede-frenar-el-covid19/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with representatives of feminist and women's rights organization about their fear that the lockdown will lead to more violence against women (see also previous e-

mail).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2746-instituciones-no-atienden-denuncias-se-dispara-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-la-emergencia-del-covid-19-en-honduras>

Even though there was a lockdown in Honduras last week, there were still at least 44 people murdered from Monday, March 16 to Sunday, March 22.

<http://elpulso.hn/ni-toque-de-queda-absoluto-ha-reducido-la-violencia/>

The former finance minister Gabriela Núñez proposes suspending the payment of foreign debt.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-siempre-ha-cumplido-con-su-deuda-sin-entrar-en-default-en-crisis-economicas-y-politicas.html>

C-Libre reports that a court ordered the release of Darwin Miranda, who is being prosecuted for the murder of journalist Igor Padilla. Miranda was released after changing his prison sentence to community work and "on the condition that he resigned from the Pandilla 18".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1128-juzgado-libera-a-condenado-por-asesinato-contra-periodista>

<https://criterio.hn/solidaridad-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

24/03/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Bajo Aguán; HR Violations; COVID-19 - HRDs, Political Prisoners, Inequality, Protests, Journalists, HR, Water, Corruption, Transparency; Corruption - MACCIH; Children; and What Happens Then?

The Nation covers the situation in the Bajo Aguán and the human cost of extractive projects in the region. "In the lush Bajo Aguán valley, successive land and water conflicts have left over 150 people dead. And the fight is not over yet."

<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/honduras-mine-conflict/>

"Governments have an obligation to develop the legal and technical resources necessary to shed light on serious human rights violations, a UN expert said in a statement commemorating the International Day for the Right to the Truth on Grave Violations of Human Rights and the Dignity of Victims, which is commemorated on March 24."

<https://oacnudh.hn/se-debe-revelar-la-verdad-sobre-las-violaciones-graves-a-los-derechos-humanos-experto-de-la-onu-recuerda-a-los-estados-su-obligacion/>

36 Hondurans now have tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://criterio.hn/a-36-ascienden-los-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-ascienden-36-casos-de-covid-19-honduras/>

Radio Progreso reports on the state persecution of human rights defenders in the south of Honduras using the corona crisis as an excuse. "For the coordinator of the Association for Participatory Citizenship (ACI-PARTICIPA), Hedme Castro, the prosecution of people who bother the government is on the rise. She says that the state looked at the opportunity to take advantage of the curfew and the lifting of constitutional guarantees to arbitrarily capture the defenders from the southern zone."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/incrementa-persecucion-contra-defensores-y-defensoras-del-sur-de-honduras/>

COFADEH together with legal experts from the region and the OMCT filed a Corrective Habeas Corpus before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice demanding that the state applies alternative measures, other than preventive detention, in favor of several political prisoners to prevent them from becoming victims of the coronavirus.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-juristas-interponen-habeas-corpus-correctivo-a-favor-de-presos-politicos/>

"Eugenio Sosa is a sociologist and professor at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). According to him, the situation that has been generated in different European countries and the fear that has taken hold of their population, has caused countries like Honduras to radicalize measures to confront the coronavirus pandemic. However, the high rates of inequality that exist in the vast majority of Latin American countries generate very different impacts on the population. Those who suffer most from these draconian measures are the most fragile segments of the population, whose rights have been curtailed year after year, law after law, economic measure after economic measure. Now, as if by magic, for millions of helpless and excluded people their very survival is even in danger. "Honduras is one of the countries with the greatest inequality, misery and exclusion on the Latin American continent. When the government decrees a total quarantine and curfew, the vast majority of the population is left homeless. They are all those families who survive from the informal economy, from precarious work, which barely manages to guarantee their daily sustenance," he said."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/205442>

The Honduras Solidarity Network continues to cover the ongoing protests in Honduras demanding food and water (see also yesterday).

State security forces also closed down various markets.

The police has arrested over 500 Hondurans.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1242570333594324992>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1242502458728804355>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2747-autoritarismo-y-hambre-ciudadania-en-busca-de-la-alimentacion-y-medicamentos-enfrentan-detenciones-por-toque-de-queda>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3803-honduras-capitalinos-protestaban-por-comida-y-fueron-reprimidos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1366805-466/jornada-protestas-comida-capital-pleno-toque-queda>

<https://criterio.hn/en-honduras-autoridades-arrecian-medidas-coercitivas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1366808-466/honduras-detenidos-24-marzo-toque-queda-coronavirus>

Covering the protests and the state repression, journalist from Channel 6 were harassed by the police and they even physically attacked the journalist Paola Cobos.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1130-policia-nacional-agrede-a-periodistas-en-tegucigalpa>

UN bodies once more reminded the State "to ensure that human rights are respected in all government actions taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic".

<https://oacnudh.hn/los-organos-de-tratados-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu-piden-un-enfoque-de-derechos-humanos-en-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>

In the midst of this crisis, water becomes rarer and rarer in the capital region. SANAA announced more rationing for the coming days.

<http://elpulso.hn/si-logramos-rationar-el-servicio-de-agua-podriamos-llegar-hasta-agosto/>

The JOH regime announced handing out food for some 800'000 Hondurans families (see yesterday). According to the JOH regime, this cost them about 1600 million Lempiras. Calculations by ConfidencialHN and Radio Globo found that the net worth of the items is only about 1000 million Lempiras. What happened to the remaining 600 million Lempiras? They also denounced that the food would not last the promised 30 days.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-descubierto-la-farsa-del-ejecutivo-saco-solidario-costara-a-cada-hondureno-1249-lempiras/>

The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) suspended its work just when it would be of the highest importance.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1131-paralizado-acceso-a-informacion-publica-en-honduras>

CESPAD offers three possible post-MACCIH scenarios for Honduras. "For the First Scenario to become a reality, CESPAD proposes that Honduran institutions should take on the challenge of fighting corruption, especially the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Specialized Prosecutorial Unit against Networks of Corruption (UFERCO). But for this scenario to become concrete, CESPAD analyses, at the same time, some additional requirements are further discussed in the document. In the Second Scenario, CESPAD proposes the emergence of a new citizen's movement against corruption, which manages to install a new international mission. As in the first scenario, the factors that must exist in order for this to happen are analyzed. Finally, in a Third Scenario CESPAD assesses the consolidation of the setback in the fight against corruption. In other words, the networks of corruption and impunity continue to be active, they keep the state captured and corruption and impunity grow much faster. "From the perspective of the fight against corruption and impunity, this is the least desirable scenario but unfortunately it has some probabilities and, to a large extent, will depend on the future of UFERCO, the role of the international community, civil society and the citizenry in general", says the analysis of CESPAD."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/03/24/los-tres-probables-escenarios-en-honduras-que-plantea-el-cespad-en-el-contexto-post-maccih/>

"According to the Deputy Commissioner of the Honduran National Police, Geovanny Serrano Torres, 400 reports of missing children were reported in 2019. In Honduras children are exposed to forced disappearances or are recruited under threat by members of criminal groups, for this reason the request for the activation of the Amber Alert in the country."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/36-ninez-y-juventud/1469-desaparicion-forzada-a-menores-de-edad-un-rapto-a-la-infancia>

"Despite the uncertainty that surrounds us in these times of forced confinement, it is time to think about the Honduras that we want when this pandemic passes in order to turn the pyramid of priorities that have been imposed on us. First of all, we must join the struggle of the Platform for the Defense of Healthcare and Education to ensure that these rights are effectively respected and guaranteed with a sufficient budget to provide the population with free, universal and quality health care and public education. Secondly, we must restructure the national budget so that never again will public money be used to buy weapons and to maintain the armed forces which, as Victor Meza says, are the worst nightmare for democracy in Honduras and also for human rights. And, thirdly, we must re-found the State and its institutions. Today, more than ever, we must bet on a constitutional process that will allow us to place our first priority in the construction of a more just and supportive country, where the corrupt and their accomplices are morally and legally punished."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/cuando-pase-esta-emergencia/>

25/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction (Hospitals, Banks, Fees), HR, Domestic Workers, Prisons, Labor Rights, Transparency, Aftermath; and Honduras, the Country of Pandemics

52 people have been tested positive for COVID-19 in Honduras.

The National Association of Epidemiologists of Honduras (ANEP-H) demands greater transparency and clear and precise information on the emergency and affected patients.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-llega-52-casos-confirmados-de-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-ascienden-a-52-los-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/epidemiologos-claridad-en-la-informacion-sobre-casos-de-covid-19/>

Health Secretary Alba Consuelo Flores conceded that Honduras does not have the conditions to build hospitals to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus even though Congress recently approved some \$502 million to build hospitals as a reactions to the pandemic...

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-resquebraja-discurso-del-regimen-salud-asegura-no-tener-condiciones-para-construir-hospitales/>

To some surprise, banks opened yesterday even though there should be a complete lockdown. Security minister Julián Pacheco announced that banks now are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Criterio summarized it as follows: "The Honduran government - docile to big business and tough on the informal economy".

"As expected, citizens at the national level flocked to the banks, some taking preventive measures, others not. Despite the curfew, crowding became a reality, exposing users to the disease. From Dr. Brayan Erazo's perspective, it is necessary that the Government as a regulator demands that prevention measures be taken in the banking agencies, otherwise these spaces will become sources of infection."

<http://elpulso.hn/sistema-bancario-reabre-hoy/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-docil-con-la-gran-empresa-y-duro-con-la-economia-informal/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/instituciones-bancarias-se-convertiran-en-focos-de-infeccion-advierten-medicos/>

The presidential secretary Ebal Díaz discards the idea of suspending the payment of water, energy and telecommunication bills for Hondurans.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-nacionalista-desestima-suspension-de-pago-de-servicios-basicos-ni-ofrece-soluciones/>

COFADEH denounces that "the dictatorship uses "the state of exceptions" to violate human rights and [constitutional] guarantees during the pandemic".

Many agree: "Several defenders, consulted by Radio Progreso, believe that the State has violated the human rights of citizens in three ways: health personnel not having the necessary supplies to work, preventing people from having access to food or creating a policy to provide it on the part of the State, and illegal detentions during curfews."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dictadura-usa-estado-de-excepcion-para-violar-derechos-y-garantias-durante-la-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/estado-ha-violado-derechos-humanos-en-emergencia-sanitaria/>

El Pulso reports on the effects of the corona crisis on domestic workers - "women exposed to workplace violence, state neglect, and now the Coronavirus crisis".

<http://elpulso.hn/trabajadoras-domesticas-remuneradas-mujeres-expuestas-a-la-violencia-laboral-al-olvido-estatal-y-ahora-a-la-crisis-del-coronavirus/>

"The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, called on governments to take urgent action to protect the health and safety of people who are detained or held in other closed facilities, as part of the overall efforts to curb the COVID-19 pandemic. (...) The High Commissioner called upon Governments and relevant authorities to act swiftly to reduce the number of prisoners and noted that a number of countries had already taken positive steps in this regard. The authorities should consider ways of releasing individuals who were particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, including older and sick prisoners, as well as less dangerous detainees. The authorities should also continue to address the specific health needs of women prisoners, including pregnant women, prisoners with disabilities and minors."

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the JOH regime does the opposite, at the beginning of the week, for example, it arrested over 500 people on one day.

<https://oacnudh.hn/hay-que-tomar-medidas-urgentes-para-evitar-que-el-covid-19-cause-estragos-en-las-prisiones-bachelet/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2749-las-detenciones-durante-alerta-sanitaria-deberian-ser-ultima-instancia-segun-las-alta-comisionada-michelle-bachelet>

"Some 9,000 workers from the Southern Apparel and New Holland maquilas located in Zip Calpules in San Pedro Sula could be left without jobs if these companies manage to get the Ministry of Labor to suspend their labor contracts. Joel Almeyda, from the Honduran Workers' Unitary Confederation, CUTH, denounced on Radio Progreso that there is no legal cause to approve such a petition."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/unos-9-mil-trabajadores-de-maquila-a-punto-de-perder-su-empleo/>

It was reported that due to the crisis, the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) suspended its work (see yesterday), nevertheless, they published an important press release yesterday. IAIP established that the institutions that receive funds due to the corona crisis must provide information detailing how the funds are invested.

<https://criterio.hn/instituciones-que-reciben-fondos-por-el-covid-19-deben-brindar-informacion-iaip/>

Radio Progreso compares the current situation with the ones after Hurricane Fifi and later Mitch and the uncritical talk about "to great evils, great solutions". "Will the Coronavirus follow the logic of the misfortunes of the last 50 years? Who will gain from this misfortune, and who will be the losers? If we leave things as they are, this dictatorship will come out stronger, and people will be left with their hands outstretched waiting for crumbs."

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/a-grandes-males/>

"For Dr. Juan Almeyda Bonilla, physician, social scientist and former university rector, Honduras is the country of pandemics: There is a pandemic of hunger, water, dengue, corruption and today of Covid-19. All are related, and trying to focus public, private, social and international cooperation actions and resources on one, without an integral approach strategy, only deepens the others; that is, more population with hunger, dengue, lack of water and loss of resources due to corruption."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/205417>

26/03/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Women, Prisons, Labor Rights, Forest Fire, Energy, BID; Journalists;

While the Trump administration now went after Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro for drug trafficking, they still ignore the wrongdoings of JOH, who has been mentioned on several occasions in drug trafficking trials.

Jeff Ernst highlights how the charges against Maduro underscore once again the links between the Honduran state and drug trafficking. "Narcos extradited from Honduras have reported numerous cocaine shipments from the Apure region of Venezuela, where the Soles allegedly operated. Tony Hernandez used to send drugs from his lab in Colombia through Apure."

CESPAD warns that the two long-lasting pandemics from which Honduras suffers, corruption and drug trafficking, are overshadowed by the corona pandemic. At the beginning of this month, the DEA had caught Geovany Daniel Fuentes Ramírez, "(...) a prolific, powerful and murderous drug trafficker in Honduras," according to Manhattan federal prosecutor Geoffrey S. Berman. "The arrest and indictment of Fuentes Ramírez is not a minor event in Honduras, since it involves the country's highest officials and politicians in corruption and drug trafficking. The attention to the coronavirus crisis has left this and other controversial issues in the air, which seem to be disconnected but are not. And now we have a situation that somehow benefits or gives relief to these high officials and politicians mentioned in the New York courts."

<https://twitter.com/jamesnorth7/status/1243254280032858113>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1243352000139603970>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/03/26/analisis-corrupcion-narcotrafico-amenazas-pandemicas-empequenecidas-ante-la-crisis-covid-19/>

Honduras suffered its first confirmed COVID-19 victim, a 60-year old man from Villanueva, Cortés. He had suffered from high blood pressure and hearth disease. Meanwhile, the number of confirmed cases has risen to 68.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-reporta-su-primer-fallecido-por-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/situan-en-68-la-cantidad-de-pacientes-afectados-con-el-coronavirus/>

Radio Progreso list several factors that are aggravating the current crisis. "management of funds and lack of transparency; people without professional and scientific knowledge in key positions; lack of a real contingency plan that should have included aspects such as people's health and economy". COFADEH and the Convergence against Continuity (CCC) sent a letter to the director of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to inform him of "the health deficiencies and lack of transparency, exercised until now by the regime of Juan Orlando Hernández, in order to address the national emergency".

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/entre-el-hambre-y-la-salud-una-encrucijada/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-preocupa-al-movimiento-social-que-no-haya-transparencia-en-el-manejo-millonario-de-fondos/>

In their second joint press release, social movements and human rights organizations demanded among other things the participation of the professional sectors in solving the crisis, e.g. the Medical Association of Honduras, and transparency and accountability. They further demand safe passage for HRDs to document the situation in the country.

Criterio reports on how the JOH regime uses the state of exception to violate human rights (see also previous days).

At the same time, national and international pressure was partially successful as the JOH regime now backtracked from suspending freedom of expression as well as the detention of someone for more than 24 hours without being transferred to a competent authority.

<https://copinh.org/2020/03/manifiesto-publico-covid-19-2/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/organizaciones-sociales-demandan-que-colegio-medico-asuma-conduccion-de-la-emergencia-en-salud/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-usa-estado-de-excepcion-para-violar-dd-hh-durante-pandemia/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2752-gobierno-retrocede-en-suspender-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-fomentar-las-detenciones-ilegales>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-restituyen-garantia-de-libertad-de-expresion.html>

Journalist Jennifer Ávila spoke with HRD Marcela Arias from Somos Muchas on how the current situation affects women in "a country with a high rate of femicide but also one that has historically denied rights to women: the right to housing, sexual and reproductive rights, the right to decent employment, access to justice".

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/26/video-analisis-mujeres-sin-espacios-seguros-en-emergencia-por-covid19-honduras/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/26/quedate-en-casa-el-segundo-lugar-mas-mortal-para-las-mujeres/>

The UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment published a six-page document advising on how to react to the corona pandemic focusing on inmates.

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/OPCAT/AdviceStatePartiesCoronavirusPandemic2020.pdf>

ContraCorriente also covers how Maquilas try to get rid of their workforce during the crisis ignoring Honduras' labor law (see also yesterday). FOSDEH published a list of recommendations on the economy.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/26/empresas-maquiladoras-suspenden-contratos-en-crisis-por-covid-19/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1474-crisis-economica-en-honduras-la-pelea-contra-el-covid-19-y-el-desempleo-2>

<https://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Propuestas-fosdeh-economihn-covid19.pdf>

"Since last Friday, March 20, the Honduran Fire Department has been fighting a fire in a sector between El Hatillo, El Rincón and La Canaán, in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. Almost a week later the incident continues, the municipal authority does not appear, the Army does not report on the custody of officers in the area and the fire extinguishers consume the reserves of a city in drought."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3807-urgente-una-semana-sin-poder-controlar-incendio-en-tegucigalpa>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bomberos-combaten-nuevo-incendio-forestal-en-el-hatillo/>

The Energy Company Honduras (EEH) announced that they would not cut the electricity anymore of those behind in their payments.

<https://confidencialhn.com/consorcio-energia-honduras-suspende-cortes-del-servicio-durante-actual-emergencia/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will have an additional \$12 billion at its disposal to address the crisis in Latin America.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bid-apoyara-con-12-mil-millones-de-dolares-a-paises-afectados-por-el-covid-19.html>

C-Libre denounces that the photo-journalist Alex Fernando Destephen Soto, working for Criterio, was attacked when covering the marches on the International Women's Day on March 8.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1133-desconocido-agrede-y-dana-equipo-de-trabajo-de-fotoperiodista-durante-cobertura-noticiosa>

27/03/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH; HRDs - Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - Protests, State Reaction, BCIE, Women, Corruption, Labor Rights, Water, Culture; Migration - Corruption - Pandora; Food Security; and Honduras vs. Venezuela

COPINH celebrates its 27th anniversary!

<https://copinh.org/2020/03/estamos-de-aniversario/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/03/28/celebramos-a-copinh-27-anos-de-lucha-incansable/>

The Supreme Court of Justice has nominated a judge who has begun to conduct interviews with the imprisoned human rights defenders from Guapinol as part of the process to resolve the habeas corpus petition in which they request their release.

Their loved ones are afraid for their safety.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/nombran-juez-ejecutora-para-habeas-corpus-en-favor-de-presos-politicos-y-ambientalistas-de-rio-guapinol/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/esposa-de-presos-politico-por-defender-el-agua-y-la-vida-teme-por-su-salud/>

According to the Pro-Honduras Network, the newest drug trafficking charges brought forward by the US (see yesterday) once more bring forward drug trafficking links by Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco.

https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1320420968145921/?d=n&fb_noscript=1

With an additional 27 Hondurans posted positively, the number of official COVID-19 cases rose to 95, 4 of which are in intensive care.

And as a reminder that Dengue is still a huge problem in Honduras. "To date, there have been 10,090 cases of dengue fever without warning signs and 940 cases of severe dengue fever, leaving at least nine people dead and increasing by more than 200 percent."

<https://criterio.hn/asciende-a-95-los-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-ascienden-95-casos-covid-19-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/casos-de-dengue-y-coronavirus-siguen-en-aumento-en-honduras/>

Hondurans continue to protest and block road to demand food and water.

ACI Participa has documented 31 protests in six departments with at least 300 arrests. This number is likely to low as the number of arrests reported last Monday was already at 500.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1243678263244812288>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vecinos-de-aldea-capitalina-se-toman-carretera-por-falta-de-alimentos/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-31-manifestaciones-pacificas-han-dejado-al-menos-unas-300-detenciones/>

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recommends to extend the lockdown in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ops-recomienda-extender-estado-de-sitio-en-honduras-por-emergencia-de-coronavirus/>

Honduras will benefit from financial support, \$50 million, by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

<https://criterio.hn/bcie-dara-50-millones-de-dolares-a-honduras-para-combatir-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/bcie-otorgara-a-honduras-50-millones-de-dolares-para-mitigar-impacto-del-coronavirus.html>

"The G-16 Gender Equality Roundtable, composed of international cooperation agencies, expresses its concern about the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the Honduran population, especially on women and girls, given the pre-existing gender inequalities with respect to their social value, roles and participation in decision-making in the home and society."

<https://oacnudh.hn/comunicado-de-la-mesa-de-igualdad-de-genero-del-g-16-ante-la-pandemia-del-covid-19/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with Gabriela Castellanos, director of the CNA, about their previous

investigations into corruption in the Honduran health sector and how they will continue to do so during the corona crisis.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2753-cna-saqueos-en-el-area-de-salud-son-delitos-de-lesa-humanidad-y-se-investigara-como-se-usa-el-dinero-aprobado-para-combatir-el-covid-19>

The labor union Sitraina denounces the reaction by the JOH regime to the corona crisis and "the malice with which both national and foreign employers are acting", suspending work without pay of thousands of employees.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sitraina-se-pronuncia-ante-irresponsabilidad-gubernamental/>

After electricity (see previous e-mail), water also won't be shut off in the coming three months in Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela if people fall behind their bills.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3810-capitalinos-no-pagaran-servicio-de-agua-durante-tres-meses>

"Culture, art, solidarity or how to survive the coronavirus crisis"

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/03/27/cultura-arte-solidaridad-o-como-sobrevivir-a-la-crisis-del-coronavirus/>

LAWG reports on corruption in Honduras as a driver of migration and highlights the role of the US.

<https://www.lawg.org/corruptionhonduras/>

UFERCO questions the relaxation of precautionary measures against an accused in the Pandora case. "Without prior hearing and unilaterally, precautionary measures were changed to allow Felix Francisco Reyes Pacheco, owner of Aviation Partners, to leave the country. He is accused of the crime of money laundering in the notorious Pandora case."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5658-uferco-ve-con-extraneza-la-flexibilizacion-de-medidas-cautelares-a-implicado-en-el-caso-pandora>

ACAPS lists Honduras in its newest edition of the Global Risk Analysis. "Deteriorating drought conditions in the Dry Corridor lead to 24% of population in severe food insecurity and increased outward migration".

https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/products/files/20200325_acaps_global_risk_analysis_march_2020.pdf

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-respalda-persecucion-penal-de-ee-uu-contra-maduro-canciller->

[venezolano-lo-llama-capo-de-la-droga/](#)

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/03/27/honduras-es-dirigida-por-un-capo-y-una-mafia-narcotraficante-familiar-socios-sumisos-de-la-dea/>

28/03/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; COVID-19 - Protests, Repression, HRDs, Garífuna; and Playing with Fire

UN Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky tweeted at the Judicial Power in Honduras: "Heed the call of the #UNHCHR and take urgent measures to mitigate the impact of #COVID19 for ppl in detention. Free the #Guapinol Water Defenders in Honduras now!"

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1243969171899265024>

The JOH regime has confirmed the second COVID-19 death, a 49-year old man, again from Villanueva, Cortés.

El Tiempo reports that two additional people had died from COVID-19.

There are now 110 confirmed cases in Honduras.

Among the infected are one doctor and a nurse.

Meanwhile, the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) continues to denounce the lack of protective gear for the medical staff.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/gobierno-solo-confirma-segundo-muerto-por-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/trasciende-la-muerte-de-dos-personas-por-covid-19-en-el-leonardo-martinez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-eleva-a-110-los-casos-de-afectados-por-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-confirma-15-nuevos-casos-positivos-covid-19-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/medico-y-enfermera-estan-contagiados-por-coronavirus-informa-ministra-de-salud.html>

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-proteccion-de-bioseguridad-expone-al-personal-medico/>

The Honduras Solidarity Networks reports on protests in various places in Honduras, in Choluteca people even raided a car with food supplies in a reaction to overcome widespread food shortages.

Even corporate media outlets such as Proceso Digital reported on a protest in Tegucigalpa.

At 7pm, a so-called pot-banging (Cacerolazo) took place demanding transparency and denouncing corruption in the use of the funds to address the corona crisis.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1244081476171214849>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1243921411522957313>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1243920998665048066>

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-con-hambre-se-toman-carretera-a-olancho/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pobladores-toman-bulevar-capitalino-por-falta-de-comida-durante-emergencia/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/capitalinos-protestan-en-bulevar-capitalino-por-falta-de-alimentos.html>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1244030592838176775>

The protests were heavily repressed. The Network of Women Human Rights Defenders denounced the use of tear gas and physical violence.

According to El Tiempo, 413 people were arrested.

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1243765093428539392>

<https://tiempo.hn/413-personas-arrestadas-24-horas-irrespetar-toque-de-queda/>

Evelyn Johana Castillo, a member of the Women's Network of Ojojona, in the department of Francisco Morazán, was arrested on 24 March 2020. She was held in custody for more than 24 hours under constant threat.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2754-jefa-de-la-posta-de-policia-de-ojojona-mantuvo-por-mas-de-24-horas-a-defensora-de-la-red-de-mujeres>

Garífuna communities have set up their own community self-protection network.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1243627831499907072>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jugando-con-fuego/>

29/03/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Mayors, Debt, and Extractivism Never Sleeps

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases grew to 139 over the weekend and the third death was also confirmed yesterday (see also yesterday's e-mail). The third victim is also a man from Villanueva, Cortés. There are three more suspected deaths not yet confirmed.

<https://criterio.hn/casos-de-coronavirus-suben-a-139-en-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/ya-son-tres-los-muertos-por-covid-19-en-honduras.html>

The JOH regime prolonged the curfew for another two weeks to April 12. Furthermore, there are now three windows under the week people can go out to buy groceries or go to the pharmacy, but only if their ID-card ends in a certain number. In the end, everyone has one possibility per week to leave and buy things between 9am and 3pm.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-implementa-toque-de-queda-con-medidas-de-control/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/extienden-toque-de-queda-en-honduras-hasta-el-proximo-12-de-abril/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/personas-podran-acudir-a-farmacias-gasolineras-y-bancos-con-ultimo-numero-de-identidad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/toque-de-queda-cerraran-negocios-y-detendran-personas-que-circulen-sin-justificacion/>

As part of the controversial Honduras Solidarity campaign, which is said to distribute food and supplies mostly to Nationalist voters, the JOH regime announced that it will hand out \$14.4 million to municipal governments to hand out supplies.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1368171-410/honduras-144-millones-dolares-alcaldias-entregar-comida-covid>

The JOH regime asked international lenders to let them suspend debt payments for the time being.

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-pide-a-organismos-internacionales-suspension-de-pagos-para-atender-pandemia/>

Blatantly highlighting its real priorities, the JOH regime announced a digital platform where extractive companies can present their environmental licenses and other documents allowing them to continue with their work. This is even more problematic because at the same time, the JOH regime had suspended the Access to Public Information Law, arguing the same health emergency... In response to the decision, Arcah denounced that "once again it is evident how hostile the dictatorship is against the communities and the common goods of nature".

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-crea-plataforma-digital-para-no-detener-los-proyectos-extractivos/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1244411366473183232>

30/03/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; HRDs - Guapinol; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Domestic Violence, Migrants, Labor Rights, Social Communicators, Garífuna, Extractivism; Corruption - Pandora; and a Flying Virgin

The New York federal prosecutor's office asked Judge Kevin Castel to sentence JOH's brother and convicted drug trafficker Tony Hernandez on May 15.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3815-fiscalia-de-new-york-demanda-sentencia-de-tony-para-el-15-de-mayo>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-pide-a-tribunal-de-nueva-york-dictar-sentencia-el-15-de-mayo-a-exjefe-narco-tony-hernandez/>

German parliamentarians call for freedom for the imprisoned HRDs from Guapinol. "We respectfully request that the writ of habeas corpus be immediately resolved and that the honorable members of the Court of Appeals issue a ruling in accordance with international standards regarding the application of preventative detention and, therefore, revoke this measure ordered against the water defenders, guaranteeing their rights in accordance with the international obligations of the Honduran State."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/parlamentarios-alemanes-demandan-libertad-de-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1244649232440721408>

There are by now 141 people in Honduras tested positive for COVID-19.

7 Hondurans have so far died from COVID-19. This is a high percentage compared to other regions, but Honduras so far does not have a high testing capacity.

The later may change soon as the BCIE donated 150'000 testing kits to Honduras yesterday.

The epidemiologist Elsa Palou estimates that some 35'000 Hondurans will need to be hospitalized and 7000 will need intensive care which would bring the Honduran healthcare system to a collapse.

<https://criterio.hn/a-141-se-elevan-los-casos-confirmados-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3817-urgente-honduras-alcanza-mortalidad-mas-alta-en-america-por-covid-19>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-suma-7-muertes-por-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-entrega-al-ejecutivo-hondureno-unas-150-mil-pruebas-para-diagnosticar-el-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-35-mil-personas-tendrian-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1368337-410/elsa-palou-sistema-salud-honduras-coronavirus->

[covid-contagios](#)

Criterio presents two underlying motivations for JOH's move to transfer the responsibility for the Honduras Solidarity program, distributing food and supplies to household, to the municipalities (see yesterday): i) to avoid the discontent of the population crying out for food and water and whose demands are mostly unmet; or ii) to politically benefit the mayors of the National Party.

Meanwhile, communities start to take things into their own hands. Defensores en Línea reports on the situation in Taragual, near Iguala, Lempira, where local inhabitants closed of the community to any outsiders. As a response, they were threatened by the police.

<https://criterio.hn/transferencias-estrategia-politica-del-partido-nacional-o-apaciguar-las-aguas-para-joh/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-amenaza-a-lideres-de-comunidades-que-intentan-protegerla-del-covid-19/>

Members of the Network of Human Rights Defenders of the Southern Zone (REDEHSUR), denounced that health personnel do not have adequate protective equipment to deal with possible COVID-19 cases that arise in Choluteca and Valle.

Defensores en Línea highlights the precarious situation in Gracias a Dios where the health centers are not equipped for the corona crisis. They denounce that the JOH regime completely ignores this region.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sin-proteccion-trabajadores-de-la-salud-en-choluteca/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-mosquita-hondurena-sector-olvidado-por-el-regimen-de-joh/>

The MP has received more than 80 reports of domestic violence in the last days.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/154-marzo2020/5665-fiscales-del-ministerio-publico-tramitan-mas-de-80-denuncias-por-violencia-domestica-e-intrafamiliar-durante-cuarentena-por-covid19-en-honduras>

"At least 60 people of Haitian and African origin, including several minors, who are in transit through the country, were evicted by the national police yesterday from their rental sites, following official orders. This happened in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of Choluteca, one of the most impoverished sectors of the city where human beings have been transiting for many years in search of better living conditions. From three o'clock in the afternoon, girls, boys, women and men; elderly people and a pregnant woman, were put on the streets, being victims of the institutional and collective racism".

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/03/alertadefensorashn-alerta-familias-migrantes-de-origen-haitiano-y-africano-echadas-a-la-calle-en-la-ciudad-de-cholutec/>

Some 4000 workers were suspended yesterday for 120 days by the maquiladora Empire Electronics Honduras.

The Honduran Association of Economists proposes to subsidize, for three months, with a minimum wage those employees who are harmed by the decisions of the Honduran business community, i.e. whose contracts are suspended for the health crisis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresa-maquiladora-suspende-a-partir-de-hoy-contratos-a-unos-cuatro-mil-trabajadores/>

<https://radioprogresoahn.net/instante/economistas-proponen-se-subsidie-a-futuros-desempleados/>

Honduran social communicators and a German radio station, Radio Matraca Berlin, put together a program on life in Honduras under quarantine.

<https://www.npla.de/thema/arbeit-gesundheit/honduras-en-la-cuarentena/>

OFRANEH continues to inform about its community response to the corona crisis.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1244698537125953538>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1244675552189001730>

<https://radioprogresoahn.net/portada/organizadas-y-con-practicas-ancestrales-garifunas-hacen-frente-al-covid-19/>

Both MADJ and CESPAD denounce that the JOH regime continues to promote its extractivist development model in the midst of the corona crisis (see also yesterday).

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/03/30/el-saqueo-extractivo-podra-continuar-en-tiempos-de-cuarentena-en-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/03/30/alerta-el-covid-19-no-es-obstaculo-para-que-la-elite-siga-entregando-los-recursos-naturales-al-gran-capital/>

CESPAD published an important analysis of the newest developments in the Pandora corruption case, i.e. the relaxation of precautionary measures against one of the accused, Félix Francisco Pacheco (see also e-mail three days ago). The alert was initially raised by UFERCO, the replacement for UFECIC, and CESPAD sees this as a sign of its political will to continue the fight against corruption in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/03/30/coronavirus-uferco-y-las-implicaciones-en-el-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/justicia-relaja-medidas-a-presunto-testaferro-de-joh-para-traer-hondurenos-desde-cuba-en-cuestionada-aerolinea/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3814-increible-gobierno-en-gira->

[aerea-con-virgen-para-sanar-honduras](#)

31/03/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; COVID-19 - Health Sector, State Reaction, HR, Journalists, Indigenous Peoples, Food, Prisons, Water, IMF, Economy, Energy; and Talking about Life

The sentencing date for JOH's brother Tony Hernández was set to June 5, 2020.

https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1323507887837229/?d=n&fb_noscript=1

The number of Hondurans tested positive for COVID-19 continues to rise. Yesterday, it reached 172. The testing capacity, with a bit over 100 tests per day, is still low. Given that a quarter of those tested were positive, the actual number could be much higher. 11 people have already died from COVID-19 in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-reporta-172-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/honduras-suma-31-nuevos-caso-de-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/dos-muertes-mas-por-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

Among those who have died is the doctor Denisse Roxana Murillo Martínez. According to Criterio, two more doctors tested positive, another doctor died in Tela, though not confirmed yet, and a nurse had died previously.

According to the president of the Association of Professional Nurses of Honduras, Eda Hernández, 40 nurses have so far been infected.

Two weeks ago, the JOH regime announced the arrival from New York of a purchase of biomedical equipment and biosafety supplies for health workers. The Honduran Medical Association denounces that these supplies have never made their way to them.

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-doctora-con-sospechas-covid19-sps/>

<https://criterio.hn/muere-por-covid-19-profesional-de-la-medicina-en-san-pedro-sula-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-unas-40-enfermeras-tienen-coronavirus-piden-a-las-autoridades-mas-insumos-medicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/donde-esta-el-equipo-y-los-insumos-suyapa-figueroa/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3819-honduras-medicos-sin-bioseguridad-tendrian-que-irse-de-hospitales>

Congress will come together tomorrow to discuss the fiscal measures presented by the executive power.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/congreso-nacional-sesionara-el-jueves/>

In a press conference, the Human Rights Roundtable "denounced the reduction of civic space and the repression of the work of HRDs; the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; setbacks to workers' rights such as dismissals and unjustified suspension of labor contracts; and the politicized distribution of humanitarian aid".

But there were also good news yesterday. The Court of Appeals in Choluteca issued a final dismissal in favor of the HRD Aleyda Xiomara Huete.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2756-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-demando-al-gobierno-de-joh-que-el-estado-de-emergencia-por-covid19-no-debe-restringir-derechos-fundamentales>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dictan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-la-defensora-de-ddhh-aleyda-huete/>

Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN denounces that their journalistic work is impeded by the JOH regime by preventing free movement for the coverage of the current coronavirus emergency.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-pone-en-peligro-integridad-de-periodistas-de-radio-globo-y-confidencialhn-al-negarles-salvoconductos/>

ConexiHon reports on how the JOH regime ignores the indigenous communities when distributing supplies as part of the Honduras Solidarity campaign.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1491-pueblos-originarios-y-ancestrales-sin-acceso-a-la-honduras-solidaria>

Radio Progreso reports that some basic food items have seen steep price rises these recent days.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/por-las-nubes-canasta-basica/>

CONAPREV filed a Humanitarian Habeas Corpus before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice for persons deprived of liberty who suffer from chronic diseases.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2755-por-riesgo-de-contagio-del-covid19-conaprev-interpondra-un-habeas-corpus-humanitario-para-personas-privadas-de-libertad-vulnerables-por-enfermedades-cronicas>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the lack of access to water in various sectors of the Honduran capital.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2757-sin-derecho-al-agua-miles-de-personas-en-la-capital-de-honduras-ante-la-emergencia-sanitaria-covid-19>

The IMF will disburse \$143 Million to Honduras to fight the corona crisis.

<https://criterio.hn/fmi-desembolsara-143-millones-a-honduras-para-combatir-la-pandemia-del-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-fmi-143-millones-covid-19/>

The JOH regime announced that in order to avoid massive job losses in the micro, small and medium enterprise sector, the payment of income tax (ISR), which was due on April 30, will be extended until June 30. According to FOSDEH, the fiscal measures benefit mostly the larger companies in the formal sector, but not the entire informal sector of the national economy.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3820-medidas-tributarias-aprobadas-anoche-son-parciales-concluye-fosdeh>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/el-sector-trabajador-el-principal-afectado-en-crisis-por-covid-19/>

"The Electricity Regulatory Commission (CREE) announced that it will postpone the quarterly review of energy tariffs when a significant reduction was expected due to the fall in international oil prices and the drop in consumption in recent days."

<http://elpulso.hn/cree-no-hara-ajuste-a-tarifa-de-energia-a-pesar-de-rebajas-al-combustible/>

IM-Defensoras organizes a Webinar with Lolita Chávez and Miriam Miranda on April 6.

https://twitter.com/IM_Defensoras/status/1245081283367239684