

01/12/20

Honduras Daily: Iota - Repression, Reconstruction; Berta - Trial; WHRDs; COVID-19 - Women, Health Sector, Corruption - Asfura; Police; Drug Trafficking - US; HIV/AIDS; and an Energetic Battle

Honduran state security forces heavily repressed local residents during an eviction of hurricane victims. They even opened fire murdering the young man Rafael Flores Hernández. OACNUDH condemned this.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1333789070997168136>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/01/un-muerto-durante-un-desalojo-reabre-heridas-en-los-bordos-de-un-rio-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://proceso.hn/brutal-desalojo-de-policia-municipal-sampedrana-cobra-la-vida-de-un-joven/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1333906755353538563>

<https://criterio.hn/oacnudh-durante-pandemia-desalojos-forzosos-son-detestables/>

Javer Suazo published an analysis of the disputed Advisory Group put together by JOH to accompany the reconstruction of Honduras.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/210015>

The expert mission accompanying the Berta Cáceres case presented numerous irregularities violating national and international human rights standards.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/3025-segun-expertos-justicia-hondurena-ha-violentado-estandares-internacionales-en-el-juicio-por-crimen-de-berta-caceres>

CESPAD published a long article on the situation of women human rights defenders in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/01/luchas-de-alto-riesgo-lo-que-enfrentan-las-mujeres-que-deciden-defender-sus-territorios/>

COPECO renewed red alert for all Honduras due to the incoming cold front.

The first rains it brought already hit Honduras again.

Radio Progreso reports on the situation post-hurricanes in Atlántida. "More than two weeks have passed since the passage of hurricanes Eta and Iota through Honduran territory. To this date, dozens of families on the Atlantic coast are still isolated and living with water and mud inside their homes."

"The Government will invest 2,500 million lempiras in programs of temporary portable housing for victims, permanent houses and housing solutions or improvement of homes, according to a scheme

presented this Tuesday by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (Sedis), Zoila Cruz." The JOH regime also announced to transfer 122 million Lempiras to municipalities.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-en-alerta-roja-por-frente-frio/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2474-honduras-en-alerta-roja-por-frente-frio-habra-lluvias>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1426439-466/fuertes-lluvias-por-frente-frio-inundaciones-en-litoral-atlantico>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1426491-410/frente-fr%C3%ADo-azota-damnificados-honduras-iota-eta->

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/falta-de-politicas-publicas-en-gestion-de-riesgos-condenan-a-cientos-de-familias-en-atlantida/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1426484-466/invertiran-2500-millones-soluciones-habitacionales-afectados-tormentas>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-desembolsa-l-122-millones-para-atender-emergencias-en-55-alcaldias/>

388 new COVID-19 cases, 108'641 in total. 9 more people died, 2927 have officially died.

But again, the real number of deaths is likely much higher. The newest estimate by the Association of Funeral Homes of Honduras goes up to 6600.

There is also an increase in cases, according to the Health Secretariat, in the aftermath of Eta and Iota.

But the same official at the Health Secretariat said that they won't restrict circulation again for the holidays season, even if it would help against the spreading of COVID-19, because the Honduran people have suffered enough...

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-en-honduras-sinager-388-nuevos-casos-9-muertos/>

<https://criterio.hn/muertes-por-covid-19-pueden-ser-tres-veces-superiores-a-las-cifras-que-brinda-el-gobierno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/covid-19-aumento-un-28-durante-suspension-de-medidas-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50756>

<https://proceso.hn/jefa-de-vigilancia-de-salud-no-cree-oportuno-restringir-circulacion-para-bajar-covid-en-navidad/>

CESPAD published the report "Women and the health emergency in Honduras. A new struggle

against the historical invisibility of their rights".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/01/cespad-presenta-informe-de-monitoreo-las-mujeres-y-la-emergencia-sanitaria-en-honduras-una-nueva-lucha-en-contra-de-la-historica-invisibilizacion-de-sus-derechos/>

"If the health emergency caused by Covid-19 had collapsed the poor Honduran health system, the emergency caused by the hurricanes presents a bleak picture to the Honduran people who will have to deal with their own diseases, says Dr. Efrain Fajardo. "The outlook can only be described in one word: bleak. The Covid weakens the health system even more, taking it to its extreme of resistance, in the middle of a dengue epidemic, in that context we are caught by the hurricanes that exceed the installed and very weakened capacity of the health system," said Fajardo."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/sistema-de-salud-colapsado-va-camino-a-la-privatizacion-doctor-efrain-fajardo/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2472-honduras-medicos-cuestionan-sistema-medieval-para-combatir-el-covid>

The MP is apparently preparing to bring forward charges for the purchase of the notorious mobile hospitals.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2476-honduras-fiscalia-actuara-contra-autores-de-desechos-moviles>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-anuncia-posibles-requerimientos-hospitales-moviles/>

CESPAD published an update on the corruption case against the mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/01/alcalde-de-tegucigalpa-pide-mas-tiempo-para-rendir-informe-que-lo-vincula-a-actos-de-corrupcion/>

Another member of the police force was arrested for being involved in human trafficking.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/y-la-depuracion-cae-otro-oficial-de-la-policia-senalado-de-asociacion-ilicita/>

<https://proceso.hn/capturan-comisario-policial-vinculado-al-trafico-de-migrantes-en-ocotepeque/>

The sentencing of former Honduran congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya in the US for drug trafficking was postponed to January 6, 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/aplazan-para-el-6-de-enero-de-2021-la-sentencia-para-diputado-fredy-najera-en->

[eeuu/](#)

The US donated almost \$1 million in drugs for HIV/AIDS patients to Honduras on yesterday's World AIDS Day.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/estados-unidos-dona-a-honduras-mas-de-123-millones-para-el-tratamiento-de-vih-sida>

Congress and the JOH regime do not agree on how to proceed with the Honduras Energy Company (EEH) (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/diputado-culpa-al-ejecutivo-por-inestabilidad-en-sector-energetico-de-honduras/>

02/12/20

Honduras Daily: UFERCO; Iota - JOH, Repression, Health, Help; Dengue; COVID-19 - Transparency; Lawyers; Elections; Prisons; Corruption - IHSS, US; and Insider Tips for JOH

The Center for Latin America and Latino Studies at American University and others organize a webinar today at 2pm on the legacy of the MACCIH, UFERCO. "This online forum is organized by Organizacion Ayudamos Honduras (OAH) and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH) and will discuss the legacy of the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) and the role of the Special Prosecutor's Unit Against Corruption (UFERCO) to combat corruption and impunity in Honduras. Speakers: Gabriela Blen, Executive Director, OAH; Luis Javier Santos, Chief Prosecutor, UFERCO; Eugenio Sosa, Sociology Professor, UNAH"

<https://zoom.us/j/91060324453>

Some 127 human rights and civil society organizations demand protection at the Supreme Court for those affected by both the pandemic and the hurricanes. They also denounced the mismanagement of the crises by the JOH regime.

JOH, meanwhile, has traveled to the US to search for additional financial support to "address the crisis".

<https://criterio.hn/responsabilizan-a-poder-ejecutivo-por-manejo-ineficiente-de-pandemia-y-emergencias-por-huracanes/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/joh-y-max-gonzalez-principales-responsables-de-la-emergencia-en-honduras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/los-verdaderos-responsables-de-las-emergencias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-expondra-tesis-de-honduras-en-eua-pese-poca-confianza->

[internacional/](#)

Hondurans call on the MP to present charges against the mayor of San Pedro Sula, Armando Calidonio, after the murder of a young man during a violent eviction (see yesterday). Calidonio gave his testimony yesterday at the MP.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/demandan-que-ministerio-publico-actue-de-oficio-en-asesinato-de-lavador-de-carros/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2478-honduras-alcalde-calidonio-tiene-responsabilidad-penal-por-crimen-de-joven-codeh>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/1426729-410/armando-calidonio-alcalde-declara-fiscal-%C3%ADa-muerte-lavador-carros-r%C3%ADo-blanco->

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50782>

The Health Secretariat documented at least 8 cases of Leptospirosis in the north of Honduras in the aftermath of Eta and Iota.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-casos-leptospirosis-norte-honduras/>

There are ongoing reports on help not reaching those in need and its distribution being politicized. Apparently, customs also still charges for incoming humanitarian aid.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/copeco-desmiente-denuncias-de-alcaldes-sobre-politizacion-de-las-ayudas/>

Criterio reports on dengue, "the forgotten pandemic in Honduras".

<https://criterio.hn/la-fiebre-del-dengue-una-epidemia-olvidada-en-honduras/>

503 new COVID-19 cases, 109'144 in total. 3 more Hondurans died, officially 2930 have died so far - the real number is more than twice as high (see also yesterday).

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-registra-casi-110-mil-contagios-de-covid>

The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) sanctioned various public officials for non-compliance with the disclosure of information in the covid-19 emergency portals.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50809>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1334152614758453248>

The lawyer Carlos Vallejo was murdered in Comayagüela.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ultiman-a-otro-abogado-en-la-colonia-america-de-la-capital/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1426667-466/matan-abogado-cuando-sal%C3%ADa-de-almorzar-de-restaurante-en-la-capital>

The National Registry of Persons (RNP) has failed to deliver the database for the creation of the new census in time. Officially, they had time until November 30. The National Electoral Council (CNE) has to hand over the census to the political parties on December 5.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50828>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-aun-no-entrega-censo-para-elecciones-primarias-de-2021-dice-cne/>

"According to records of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment (CONAPREV), one year after at least 50 murders inside Honduran prisons, responsibility for the perpetrators of these crimes has not yet been established. During the presentation of CONAPREV's report to the Nation 2020, its president, Glenda Ayala, indicated that they have filed more than 260 complaints for violation of rights of persons deprived of liberty."

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-aun-no-deduce-responsabilidad-por-asesinatos-en-carceles-denuncia-conaprev/>

The trial for corruption against the former administrative manager of the IHSS, José Ramón Bertetty, has to be repeated. The Supreme Court just nullified his sentencing.

<https://criterio.hn/ordenan-repetir-juicio-a-ramon-bertetty-por-desfalco-al-ihss/>

Sandra Cuffe writes for Vice about how "Central America Is Really Hoping Biden Will Fix Their Corruption Problems".

Back in Honduras, the US praises Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chinchilla...

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgqgx4/central-america-is-really-hoping-biden-will-fix-their-corruption-problems>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6718-eeuu-reconoce-gestion-del-fiscal-general>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1426670-410/estados-unidos-reconoce-lucha-narcotrafico-fiscal-general-honduras->

"The United States could begin sharing sensitive intelligence with Honduras about inbound flights carrying drugs, U.S. officials told Reuters, even as the Central American country faces scrutiny

from Washington over drug-related corruption."

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-12-02/us-may-start-sharing-sensitive-intelligence-with-honduras-in-drug-fight>

03/12/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Post-Electoral Repression; Corruption; Iota - JOH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDEs; Disabilities; COVID-19 - Transparency, Vaccine, Education; Privatization; Elections; Prisons; Journalists; and to Be With Him or Against Him

Yesterday, the trial against political prisoner prisoner Rommel Valdemar Herrera Portillo started.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/hoy-inicia-juicio-oral-y-publico-contra-rommel-baldemar/>

"Today, December 3, 2020, is the third anniversary of the forced disappearance of Manuel de Jesús Bausta Salvador, in Naco, Cortés, at the hands of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP). Manuel is the first victim of forced disappearance in the post-electoral crisis of November 26, 2017, generated by the fraud of illegitimate president Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-estado-no-da-respuestas-por-desaparicion-de-joven-a-manos-de-lapmop-durante-la-crisis-pos-electoral-de-2017/>

"The Secretary of Natural Resources or Mi Ambiente, Elvis Rodas, was reported anonymously to the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC) and the National Anticorruption Council (CNA) for the crimes of abuse of authority, nepotism and misappropriation of public funds."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50819>

PBI highlights how deforestation in Honduras has substantially worsened the impact of the hurricane season as seen with the aftermath of Eta and Iota. "Experts increasingly point to deforestation as one of the main causal factors for such massive floods. According to Héctor Orlando Portillo, a biologist with the Science Foundation for the Study and Conservation of Biodiversity, "This is happening as a result of deforestation across the lowlands, midlands, and highlands where these rivers originate. One of the reasons for this deforestation is our population's dire economic and social situation, which is a result of the negligence of consecutive governments and the constant marginalisation of our people." According to data from the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre, roughly 1.2 million hectares of forests have vanished from Honduras over the past sixty years. Over the past two decades alone, Honduras has lost between 23,000 and 58,000 hectares of woodland per year."

OFRANEH agrees tweeting the choice is between reforesting or disappearing.

The situation in Honduras is still very tense. "Despite the fact that the hurricane season ended last November 30, rainfall continues to cause havoc in the country, La Ceiba reported flooding and in Santa Barbara at least 300 homes were left underground by a landslide in the community of La Reina."

"More than 18 thousand families in the Sula Valley are housed in educational centers and churches in precarious conditions of hygiene and overcrowding, others are located on the edges of the roads in improvised caves, a situation that exposes them to contagion from Covid-19 and to suffer from dermatological, stomach and respiratory diseases."

And a new cold front could hit Honduras this weekend.

<https://pbi-honduras.org/news/2020-12/deforestation-behind-hurricane-devastation>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1334523715422478336>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1334611939369029632>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2480-honduras-siguen-inundaciones-y-derrumbes-300-casas-bajo-tierra-en-santa-barbara>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/diarreas-y-enfermedades-de-la-piel-atacan-a-damnificados-en-el-valle-de-sula/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1426740-466/en-calamidad-habitantes-en-los-bajos-de-el-progreso-tras-destrucci%C3%B3n-de>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/otro-frente-frio-para-el-fin-de-semana/>

JOH is currently in the US to drum up financial support in response to the aftermath of the two hurricanes. Of course, given the widespread corruption and general mismanagement of the JOH regime, one could think donors would one day become reluctant, but that day has not come yet. Even worse, the representatives of the Trump administration play along with the picture presented by JOH. "It is miraculous that only 100 people died, but this is due to a great effort by the Government of Honduras and agencies that responded quickly under crisis conditions"... JOH also claimed that the international donors praised Honduras' financial management. USAID spoke an additional \$18.8 million.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced to spend some \$200 million on the reconstruction of Honduras.

The World Bank may also increase its lending capacity.

https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1334589758132154374

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-3-2020-united-states-announces-additional-humanitarian-aid-people-affected-iota-eta?s=08>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-se-jacta-de-buen-manejo-financiero-ante-cooperantes-en-eua/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/12/03/representante-del-bid-200-millones-estamos-ejercitado-para-reconstruccion-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/Canal6Honduras/status/1334559305329205249>

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and US congressman Chuy García don't agree with sharing government intel with the JOH regime (see yesterday). "The US contemplating sharing sensitive intelligence information with a Honduran Government known to have narcos within its ranks is a dangerous proposal."

"US prosecutors have tied Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez to drug trafficking more than once, yet the US is about to sign an MOU with his government to share intel about drug trafficking."

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1334591091820163082>

<https://twitter.com/RepChuyGarcia/status/1334686610659696642>

Jeff Ernst reports for Vice on the ZEDE in Crawfish Rock on Roatán. "But critics said the project is a new form of colonialism and that the city could also serve as a fiscal and legal paradise – allowing corrupt politicians (which Honduras has in abundance) and entrepreneurs to evade taxes and justice. It could also sharpen inequality in one of the hemisphere's most unequal countries, observers fear."

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/k7a7ae/foreign-investors-are-building-a-hong-kong-of-the-caribbean-on-a-remote-honduran-island>

"The Coordinator of Rehabilitation Institutions and Associations of Honduras (CIARH), Blanca Barahona, today denounced the indifference, neglect and lack of political will on the part of the Honduran State to meet the demands of at least 1.3 million people with disabilities living in exclusion and discrimination in the country."

<https://criterio.hn/1-3-millones-de-personas-con-discapacidad-excluidas-y-discriminadas-en-honduras/>

There are 616 new COVID-19 cases, 109'760 in total. 8 more Hondurans died, 2938 have died according to official statistics.

"Honduras continues to register the highest mortality rate in the region of Covid-19 as of the previous November 30, confirmed the Observatorio del Covid y Dengue of the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana, (UNITEC), whose estimates warn of a serious panorama at the beginning of next year due to an increase in cases, after the relaxation of the Christmas holidays."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427009-466/honduras-reporta-616-casos-m%C3%A1s-de-covid-y-ocho-nuevas-muertes>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-mantiene-el-nivel-mas-alto-de-positividad-de-covid-19-de-centroamerica/>

"For not publishing all the information on the official website, the Institute of Access to Public Information has announced that it will sanction more than 230 former and current officials of President Juan Hernández [see also yesterday] with "three minimum salaries", including the Secretary of Health, Alba Flores; the former commissioner of Copeco, Gabriel Rubí, and the former director of Invest-H, Marco Bográn Corrales. If one considers that the minimum wage in effect for 2020 in Honduras ranges from 9,400 to 12,100 lempiras, it means that the "sanctioned" will pay at most 36,000 lempiras, something that borders on the absurd if one considers that Flores earns 90,000 lempiras a month, while the reinstated Nationalist Congressman Rubí receives more than 150 a month and Bográn receives more than 230,000."

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2481-honduras-absurdo-solo-30-mil-lempiras-pagaran-violadores-de-ley-transparencia>

Congress approved a law which makes corona vaccine free for all Honduras. Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), fears that health workers will be forced to vaccinate.

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueba-vacuna-contra-el-covid-19-gratuita-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-aprueba-ley-de-vacunas-contra-la-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sancionaran-medicos-vacuna-covid-19-denuncia-cmh/>

ContraCorriente reports on the state of education in Honduras, a system "adrift".

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/03/sistema-educativo-hondureno-a-la-deriva/>

"The president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, and the head of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), Elga Codina, criticized the privatization of the health system implemented by the government of Juan Orlando Hernández. The head of the medical association, reproached the delivery of the clinic of attention of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in Roatán to the private hospital Cemesa, which she pointed out as a clear example of handing out public goods to private individuals.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50872>

<https://criterio.hn/junta-interventora-viola-la-constitucion-al-privatizar-clinica-del-ihss-en-roatan/>

The Liberal, National and Libre Party presented signed up their internal movements at the National Electoral Council (CNE) for the coming primary election next March.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2482-honduras-partidos-politicos-entregan-planillas-habra-internas-en-marzo-2021>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50881>

Two inmates fled from the Puerto Lempira prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/dos-reos-se-fugan-carcel-de-puerto-lempira/>

A court absolved Dennis Ramírez Martínez who was accused of being involved in the murder of journalist Aníbal Barrow.

<https://confidencialhn.com/liberan-a-supuesto-implicado-en-muerte-del-periodista-anibal-barrow/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libertad-implicado-asesinato-anibal-barrow/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/estan-conmigo-o-contra-mi/>

04/12/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; HR - EU; Berta - Trial; Surveillance; ZEDEs; Iota - Repression, JOH, Migration; COVID-19 - Vaccine; Police; Corruption - BANASUPRO, Mayors; and Congratulations Dina

The young teacher and political prisoner Rommel Herrera was found guilty by the judicial system of the JOH regime.

Radio Progreso denounced that the MP could not even prove that Rommel was at the place of the supposed crime - the burning of tires in front of the US embassy during the post-electoral protests in 2017. The MP also claimed that the damage to the door to the US embassy was \$1.7 million.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1334980080687255564>

<https://criterio.hn/sentencia-contra-rommel-herrera-portillo-criminaliza-la-protesta-social/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/sigue-contra-de-quemar-puerta-de-la-embajada-de-estados-unidos/>

Next Tuesday, a webinar on human rights violation in Honduras and the role of the EU will take place.

<https://eulatnetwork.org/es/webinar-sobre-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-y-el-papel-de-la-ue/>

COPINH denounces the ongoing dilatory tactics by the defense of David Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1334992405888692226>

"A surveillance technology that can identify the location of a phone anywhere in the world in just seconds with only a telephone number has been detected in 25 countries, some with chequered records on human rights, according to research released Tuesday. (...) According to Citizen Lab, the Circles tracking tool was detected in both Western, democratic countries, and nations with poor human rights records. The full list, according to Citizen Lab and neither confirmed nor denied by Circles, included: Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Serbia, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2020/12/01/this-spy-tool-can-find-you-with-just-a-telephone-number-and-25-countries-own-it-warn-researchers/>

Beth Gaglia reports on the widespread opposition to ZEDEs in Honduras. "Today we see both renewed interest in, and opposition to, the ZEDE project. Despite restrictions put in place for Covid-19 prevention, Hondurans in Crawfish Rock have come out to confront NeWay investors in their own community. The issue has received major coverage on national news networks, which have hosted debates on the issue of sovereignty and privatization. In an unprecedented move, the National Lawyers Association of Honduras held a press conference on October 13, adopting an official position that the ZEDE law is unconstitutional and calling for it to be overturned legislatively."

<https://cepr.net/as-private-cities-advance-in-honduras-hondurans-renew-their-opposition/>

There are new warnings about leptospirosis in the north of Honduras in the aftermath of Eta and Iota.

People from a shelter in Tegucigalpa protested against the lack of water and food.

Radio Progreso (spoke with Carlos Paz, director of Caritas of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula, about the emergency facing the country.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427116-466/aumentan-casos-leptospirosis-zona-norte-doctor-umana>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2486-honduras-ciclones-disparan-leptospirosis-en-zona-norte-joh-no-escucha-expertos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/albergados-en-la-villa-olimpica-protestan-por-falta-de-agua-y-alimentos/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/reconstruccion-de-honduras-no-debe-ser-unicamente-de-paredes-entrevista/>

Criterio published an important overview of the murder of Rafael Flores Hernández by state

security forces during an eviction in San Pedro Sula (see previous e-mails) and the role of the mayor Armando Calidonio.

<https://criterio.hn/la-responsabilidad-penal-de-armando-calidonio-en-el-desalojo-que-dejo-un-muerto/>

JOH continues to hold meeting in the US. He met with the World Bank, the World Food Program, the OAS, and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). This says it all: "Honduras is a friend and ally of the United States. DFC is committed to using our financing tools to accelerate DFC's \$1 billion commitment to mobilize investments that will lead to a faster, more durable, and more inclusive recovery for Honduras."...

<https://www.bancomundial.org/es/news/statement/2020/12/03/wb-vice-president-for-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-meets-president-of-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/WFPChief/status/1334949324929851392>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oea-y-honduras-firman-convenio-educativo-luego-de-baja-a-maccih-hace-casi-1-ano/>

<https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/readout-meeting-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-and-dfc-ceo-adam>

The New York Times wonders if the two recent hurricanes will spur a "migration wave". The JOH regime, meanwhile, requested a new Temporary Protection Status for Hondurans in the US.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/04/world/americas/guatemala-hurricanes-mudslide-migration.html>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1334904093001846791>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427168-466/honduras-solicita-nuevo-tps-desastre-eta-iota>

200 new COVID-19 cases, 109'960 in total. 3 more people died, 2941 have officially died so far. "The staff of the triages located in the city of Tegucigalpa, are alarmed at the increase in positivity in the tests they perform on the people who attend daily. (...) He reported that out of 60 PCR tests that are performed, 40 are positive, which represents an increase of 85%. This is worrying because the pandemic is increasing instead of decreasing."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427201-466/honduras-suma-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-nuevas-muertes>

<https://criterio.hn/alarmante-aumento-de-casos-de-covid-19-en-triajes-de-tegucigalpa/>

The approval of the Free Vaccine Act was accompanied by controversy. ""We voted against it because they did not accept independent social monitoring, because they do not want to include the CMH, the Chemical College... Why don't they say what vaccine they are going to buy, how much it is going to cost. Why are we going to support it, if everything indicates that they want to continue plundering the country," expressed the parliamentarian from Libre, Olivia Zúniga Cáceres."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50917>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jari-dixon-no-sere-complice-de-corrupcion-por-compra-de-vacunas/>

<https://criterio.hn/demagogia-intereses-privados-y-riesgos-a-la-salud-en-ley-de-vacuna-covid-19/>

Proceso Digital has a long article on the purge of the National Police Force whose effectiveness is widely questioned and this week was further undermined when a human trafficking network led by members of the police force was uncovered.

<https://proceso.hn/policia-urge-que-didadpol-siga-con-dedo-en-la-depuracion/>

Two accused in the BANASUPRO corruption case were found guilty.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6739-pena-de-siete-anos-de-reclusion-contrapripena-de-siete-anos-de-reclusion-contraprimeros-condenados-por-corrupcion-en-banasupromeros-condenados-por-corrupcion-en-banasupro>

"The former mayor of Yoro, Arnaldo Urbina Soto, will have to serve a 16-year prison sentence for the crime of money laundering. Urbina Soto was found guilty in 2017, but the sentencing court that heard the case took three years to publicize the ruling."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50933>

Human rights defender and journalist Dina Meza, together with the Colombian lawyer Reynaldo Villalba, will be awarded the Sir Henry Brooke Award.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1334867555199184896>

05/12/20

Honduras Daily: Miskito; Extractivism - Solar, BID; HRDs- Zacate Grande; Iota - JOH; COVID-19 - Poverty; Prisons; Elections; and Women Front Line Defenders

CIPRODEH denounced the murder of five Miskito by the Armed Forces.

According to the Honduras Solidarity Network, it was one indigenous Misikto who was murdered. This led to popular protest as people surrounded the local military base.

<https://twitter.com/ciprodeh1/status/1335022565719502852>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1335296026689728513>

<https://twitter.com/INFOHonduras2/status/1335009249253085186>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1335013158650605569>

Reporteros de Investigación reports on the newest extractive front, large-scale solar energy plants, in the south of Honduras. As with other extractive projects, it includes human rights violations, corruption, foreign money, in this case from Norway, and popular resistance.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/12/05/capital-noruego-en-represion-por-fotovoltaicas/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) granted a \$20.25 million loan to the JOH regime for the controversial and locally disputed Jilamito hydroelectric project.

<https://tiempo.hn/prestamo-bid-invest-proyecto-hidroelectrico-jilamito/>

"The Association for the Development of the Zacate Grande Peninsula (ADEPZA), denounces the continuation of harassment and threats against its members and inhabitants of the area. The concern this time arises from the presence of six (6) men, hooded and armed, who surrounded the area where the community radio station La Voz de Zacate Grande is located on December 2. According to the account of Gerardo Aguilar, one of the community leaders, the hooded men also surrounded the house of the current Vice President of ADEPZA, Ethel Corea Posadas."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/05/hombres-armados-y-encapuchados-rodean-zona-de-radio-comunitaria-de-zacate-grande/>

Copeco warns of a new cold front with heavy rains for 72 hours.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2488-honduras-protejase-advierten-fin-de-semana-frio-y-lluvioso>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427374-466/nuevo-frente-frio-ingresara-el-lunes-a-honduras>

"Juan Hernández, accompanied by a delegation, has gone on a tour of the offices of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to ask for more funds - donated and borrowed - to cushion the impacts of Cyclones Eta and Iota [see also last e-mails]. He hopes to raise at least \$3.2 billion (77.77 billion lempiras) for social programs in an election year. As of this Saturday, Hernandez has received relief funds "on behalf of the Honduran people" of about \$1.3 billion from the World Bank (\$250 million), the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (\$1 billion) and USAID (\$18.8 million). In contrast, in the last few days there have been denunciations of the closure of shelters,

and yesterday, Friday, in the shelter in the Villa Olímpica, the capital city, the victims protested in the street, because they feel helpless and they see the moment when they will be evicted very near; according to official data, 4.5 million Hondurans were affected by the hurricanes, 95,739 of whom have been housed in collection centers."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2487-honduras-gobierno-pide-3-200-millones-de-dolares-mientras-corre-damnificados>

763 new COVID-19 cases, 110'723 in total. 4 more deaths, 2945 in total.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-registro-cuatro-fallecidos-mas-y-763-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19>

The cost of the basic goods basket rose from 9'300 Lempiras to 10'300 Lempiras in the nine months of the pandemic.

<https://tiempo.hn/adecabah-incrementos-canasta-basica/>

"The Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and their Families (CPTRT) demanded the withdrawal of the Military Tiger Force (TCDI) from El Porvenir Penitentiary in the Siria Valley, for violation of the human rights of those deprived of their liberty."

<https://confidencialhn.com/exigen-retiro-de-la-fuerza-militar-tigres-de-la-carcel-el-porvenir/>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) promises that the provisional electoral census will be available on December 9.

<https://tiempo.hn/censo-electoral-provisional-disponible-9-de-diciembre/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/04/las-guerreras-en-primera-linea/>

06/12/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Miskito; Iota; COVID-19; Corruption – MACCIH;

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the October 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/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=10656

The Honduras Solidarity Network published an important update on the situation in Barra Patuca, La Moskitia (see yesterday). "Based on preliminary investigations, one Miskito man was killed on

Dec 3 during an “anti-drug” operation by either US or Honduran forces. The man’s body was taken to Tegucigalpa for an autopsy”. "The following day on Dec 4, a Miskito farmer was tortured & killed by Honduran military after they held & tortured him for info about drug operations. The man was buried yesterday. We continue to investigate & sort out details of both deaths & whether both incidents are related".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1335296026689728513>

According to Copeco, there are still 92'962 Hondurans living in shelters as a consequence of Eta and Iota.

Others are living on the street as their houses have been destroyed. La Prensa reports on 2000 people in between La Lima and EL Progreso.

One month has passed since Eta hit Honduras and ContraCorriente published a summary of the aftermath of the two hurricanes and what is to come. "The government of Juan Orlando Hernández has appointed an advisory council to begin the reconstruction process, following the passage of storms Eta and Iota. In the midst of the devastation, the majority of the Honduran people do not trust the current administration."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1427623-410/pasos-destruidos-tormentas-eta-iota-damnificados-albergues>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1427614-410/habitantes-damnificados-guadalupe-la-lima-eta-iota-inundaciones>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-permanece-con-inundaciones-tras-un-mes-del-paso-de-eta-e-iota/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/06/honduras-reconstruccion-salpicada-de-desconfianza-y-de-corrupcion/>

300 new COVID-19 cases, 111'023 cases in total. One more Honduran died, 2946 have officially died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-111023-contagiados-y-2946-muertes-por-covid-19/>

Proceso Digital published an overview of all the 13 corruption cases which had been presented by the MACCIH and UFECIC and their current state in the legal process. It is a very bleak picture.

<https://proceso.hn/el-estatus-de-los-casos-mp-maccih/>

07/12/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Poverty; Iota - State Reaction, Corruption; Elections; Migration - US; Police; Corruption; and the MP in the Intensive Care Unit

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to cover the situation of political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo who was found guilty last week. "The lawyer Omar Menjívar of Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo's defense team, described the decision of the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Judgment that convicted him as an accomplice in aggravated arson, as a wrong decision that does not meet the requirements for that crime because at no time was there danger to people who were at the headquarters of the American Embassy."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/3027-abogado-defensor-rommel-baldemar-ha-sido-sentenciado-por-incendio-agravado-lo-cual-no-califica-como-delito>

684 new COVID-19 cases, 111'707 in total. 4 more Hondurans died, officially, 2950 have died during the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/la-covid-19-deja-684-nuevos-casos-y-4-muertes-mas-en-honduras/>

Medical experts worry about the weeks to come in Honduras.

"A good handful of Hondurans who forgot that the coronavirus pandemic is still going on will be able to spend their Christmas and New Year in an intensive care unit while Honduras' hospitals collapse again because of the upsurge in cases of the pathogen and desperation to get a place to save their lives."

"The National Cardiopulmonary Institute of Honduras, El Tórax, has collapsed due to an increase in the number of patients admitted for COVID-19, the head of the Pneumology Service of the Suyapa Sosa Hospital reported on Monday."

"Honduran doctors urged the government to form a consultative group to manage the strategy against the COVID-19 pandemic, because after almost nine months there are no mobile hospitals, nor were the 3,000 daily tests reached, and less than 3 percent of the population was tested for PCR."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2495-honduras-un-mes-sin-confinamiento-hospitales-colapsan-y-cada-3-horas-un-muerto>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=50987>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colapsa-hospital-el-torax-debido-al-aumento-de-pacientes-por-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aumentar-pruebas-pcr-piden-medicos-ante-rebote-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

La Prensa reports that remittances sent to Honduras have not substantially lowered during the pandemic - only in March, April and May they were lower.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1427853-410/remesas-hondure%C3%B1os-pandemia-covid-estados-unidos>

"The municipality of San Manuel, Cortés, is located between the areas most affected by the passage of the two hurricanes-Eta and Iota - in the Sula Valley area. According to municipal records, there are 13 communities near the Ulúa River that were totally destroyed, plus the area of El Porvenir and the urban center. In spite of the seriousness of the situation, the central government does not hand over the famous funds for reconstruction, although in its publicity it claims to have made the transfers. The Mayor of San Manuel, Cortés, Arturo Castro, said on Radio Progreso that he is concerned about the reality of the municipality. He said that the tragedy is exceeding the capacity that they have as mayor, he also denounced the exclusion and abandonment by JOH's administration."

Radio Progreso also reports on the slow recovery in other places.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/alcaldia-de-san-manuel-cortes-denuncia-exclusion-y-abandono-del-gobierno/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/lento-avanza-limpieza-y-reconstruccion-en-la-lima-cortes/>

Invest-H has been highlighted in various corruption cases during the pandemic. Nevertheless, it was mandated by the JOH regime for future task in the reconstruction of Honduras after the hurricanes (see previous e-mails). Invest-H reports that they have contracted at least 50 companies to rebuild and repair streets connecting to the coffee growing areas.

But at the same time, trust in Invest-H was further undermined as they stopped a collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to make transparent the bidding, awards and procurement of the Road Infrastructure Program in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427763-466/invest-contratacion-de-50-empresas-reconstruir-zonas-cafeteras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427624-466/interventora-de-invest-h-par%C3%B3-proceso-de-licitaci%C3%B3n-de-red-vial-con-la>

The RNP recently handed over the electoral census to the National Electoral Council (CNE) (see previous e-mail). Now, the CNE found thousands of inconsistencies in the census and demands answers.

Criterio reports that 500'000 irregular finger prints were detected.

The political opposition demands

Salvador Nasralla sees a major problem in the project Identificate - it is in charge of enrolling citizens and under the direction of the RNP, in the first quarter of 2021, the new national identification will be issued.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/cne-demanda-respuestas-al-rnp-por-gran-cantidad-de-inconsistencias/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/exigen-suspender-enrolamiento-por-irregularidades-denunciadas-por-el-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/cne-detecta-500-mil-huellas-irregulares-en-el-censo-provisional-del-rnp-en-menos-de-24-horas/>

<https://criterio.hn/salvador-nasralla-sigue-pidiendo-que-se-audite-proyecto-identificate/>

The US has prolonged the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Honduras, El Salvadorian and Guatemalan migrants for nine more months.

<https://criterio.hn/extienden-tps-para-honduras-el-salvador-y-nicaragua/>

In the last days, several members of the police force were detained for participating or even heading a human trafficking ring (see previous e-mails). In an initial hearing, the court decided on pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6748-unidad-contrala-trata-obtiene-preventiva-preventiva-contral-otro-policia-miembro-de-red-transnacional-de-trafico-de-personas>

ConfidencialHN reports on more irregularities at the Mi Ambiente ministry.

<https://confidencialhn.com/persecucion-laboral-aflora-en-mi-ambiente-tras-denuncias-por-indicios-de-corrupcion/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/07/en-cuidados-intensivos-ministerios-publicos-en-america-latina/>

08/12/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Journalists; HRDs; Extractivism - Minosa; ZEDEs; Iota - Climate Crisis, Violence, Agriculture; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy; Elections; Corruption - MP; Police; and Money Please...

"Ofraneh is organizing an online forum: "Forced Disappearances in Honduras: Triunfo De la Cruz case" on Thursday, December 10th at 10 am local time"

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1336537296800108545>

C-Libre, the Journalist Association of Honduras (CPH) and the Honduran Press Association (APH) have documented 89 attacks against media workers between March 15 and November 30 this year. In the last week of November alone, four journalists were kidnapped and threatened for the work they are doing.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/cuatro-periodistas-fueron-secuestrados-en-noviembre-denuncia-c-libre/>

Defensores en Línea has an update on the criminalization of human rights defender and Catholic Priest Florentino Hernández. "The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice admitted the Appeal for Protection that the legal defense team of Father Florentino, accompanied by other organizations including the Committee of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), presented on October 28th in Tegucigalpa."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tribunales-deben-abstenerse-de-emitir-fallo-en-proceso-contr-el-padre-florentino/>

Last month's Supreme Court decision to have the exhumation of a cemetery by the mining company Minosa stopped is being celebrated as an important precedent in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/sentencia-que-ordena-a-minosa-detener-exhumaciones-marca-precedente-en-honduras/>

Criterio published its third article on the planned ZEDE in Crawfish Rock.

<https://criterio.hn/crawfish-rock-como-una-zona-restringida-en-roatan-fue-elegida-como-zede/>

"New UN figures reveal that of 5.5 million people affected by successive tropical storms Eta and Iota in Honduras and Guatemala last month, 400,000 remain in poorly equipped temporary shelters and 140,000 homes were destroyed by the storms. Some 330,000 people remain without emergency assistance due to the destruction of roads and disruption of communications in Honduras. This crisis has hit a region with humanitarian needs that already far exceed available resources."

<https://criterio.hn/un-mes-despues-de-que-los-huracanes-miles-de-personas-siguen-esperando-ayuda-humanitaria/>

CESPAD explains the link between climate change, the two hurricanes hitting Honduras last month, and government failure. "In other words, the country is experiencing a process of "climate displacement" against the backdrop of the absence of an environmental public policy that addresses climate change and responds strategically to risk management, land use planning and climate justice. The leaders of the Central American region have reiterated on various occasions that the populations of the region are victims of climate change. However, the concept of "victims" should be analyzed in light of the absence of radical actions that should be taken by the rulers to stop this scourge that threatens the survival not only of the region, but also of the planet."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/08/honduras-la-negacion-del-cambio-climatico-y-la-construccion-de-represas/>

"The Regional Head of the Directorate of Children, Adolescents and Family, Dinaf, Marcelo Villalvir, said on Radio Progreso that there are eight complaints of sexual abuse against minors as well as three complaints of abuse in shelters for victims of San Pedro Sula and Choloma in Cortes.

The aggressors are adults who are close relatives of the minors."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/dinaf-ocho-denuncias-por-abuso-sexual-y-tres-por-maltrato-contra-menores-en-albergues/>

La Vía Campesina warns that as real damage to Honduras' agriculture by the two hurricanes cannot be seen yet, it will be worse than feared.

<https://criterio.hn/via-campesina-advierte-que-los-danos-en-la-agricultura-aun-son-incalculables/>

468 new COVID-19 cases, 112'175 in total. 2 more deaths, 2952 in total.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-en-honduras-468-nuevos-casos/>

Secretary of Health Alba Consuelo tries to talk down the tense situation at Honduran hospitals (see last days). According to her, there are free beds in all regions of Honduras.

Medical experts don't share this view, especially given the outlook of the weeks to come. "The lack of effectiveness, the suspension of the restrictive measures, and the irresponsibility of the government, are the conditions that were given for a resurgence of COVID-19 in Honduras, considered this Tuesday the epidemiologist Fidel Barahona. "How long have we been saying that this situation was going to happen, but they were going to let go health personnel, now we have a serious problem in the hospitals, where the intensive care units are full".

"The President of the National Association of Nurses of Honduras, ANEEAH, Puerto Lempira branch, Melva Montenegro denounced on Radio Progreso that the public hospital is in complete calamity and they feel helpless by the government authorities."

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-asegura-ocupacion-hospitalaria-covid-40/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/especialista-indica-que-en-el-pais-se-dieron-condiciones-para-rebote-de-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/en-el-abandono-se-encuentra-hospital-publico-de-puerto-lempira/>

"After nine months "without receiving anything", employees of "Tiendas Carrion" have mobilized to the "Multiplaza" shopping center in the Honduran capital to protest, demanding that the company fulfill its obligations of reimbursement, biosecurity measures and at least, payment of their total benefits."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2497-honduras-empleados-de-carrion-a-las-calles-exigen-reintegro-y-mas>

Salvador Nasralla presented a request at the Supreme Audit Court to investigate the RNP and its 1.7 million Lempiras Identificate project (see last days).

<https://proceso.hn/salvador-nasralla-pide-al-tsc-investigar-gastos-del-proyecto-identificate/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-denuncia-despilfarro-de-mil-700-millones-de-lempiras-en-el-rnp/>

The MP arrested three new suspects in the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6750-mp-dirige-capturas-por-desfalco-millonario-en-el-seguro-social-empresarios-y-exfuncionarios-nuevos-imputados>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2499-honduras-caen-otros-tres-estafadores-del-seguro-social>

"The Judgment Court of Juticalpa, Olancho, today declared without place the change of precautionary measures of preventive detention requested by the defense of four police agents, accused of the homicide to the detriment of Rinel Argueta Oliva, which occurred in the municipality of San Esteban."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/sin-lugar-declara-solicitud-de-cambio-de-medidas-cautelares-a-policias-acusados-de-homicidio/>

...but with no strings attached

<https://criterio.hn/extrana-doble-moral-en-insistencia-del-gobierno-de-honduras-por-los-fondos-verdes/>

09/12/20

Honduras Daily: Migration - Caravan; HRDs - EU; JOH; Iota - Spain; COVID-19 - Health Sector, LGBTQ+; Police; Corruption - UNA, Pandora, US; Elections - Women; and the Minimum Wage

A new migrant caravan formed yesterday in San Pedro Sula.

Jeff Ernst later reported: "After maybe 500 abruptly left the bus terminal, leaving many behind who were en route to join from other parts, those at the head of this caravan encountered a police checkpoint in the suburb of Cofradia, prohibiting them from moving any farther tonight."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1336863613357682691>

<https://criterio.hn/se-forma-una-nueva-caravana-de-migrantes-en-san-pedro-sula-con-rumbo-a-ee-uu/>

<https://proceso.hn/desde-honduras-sale-nueva-caravana-migrante-con-destino-a-eeuu/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1336896090088595456>

"Several human rights defenders explained to European Union representatives that extractive companies contribute to the systematic violation of human rights in Honduras. These companies are supported by the institutions and the government, according to the panel "Violations of human rights in Honduras and the role of this international body, this December 8, 2020."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/3029-personas-que-defienden-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-le-manifestaron-a-la-ue-que-debe-hacer-mas-para-evitar-abusos-en-el-pais>

"Honduran leader Juan Hernández (JOH) has made official the promotion to generals of old comrades of the Liceo Militar in a ceremony held on Monday; according to a former police general, the head of state intends to continue violating the laws with the continuist idea based on military support."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2501-honduras-familiares-y-amigos-de-joh-suben-a-generales>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-aprueba-ascensos-sin-requisitos-en-fuerzas-armadas-policia-y-ejercito/>

El País writes that Queen Letizia of Spain will visit Honduras in the aftermath of Eta and Iota.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/12/09/la-reina-viaja-a-honduras-para-trasladar-la-solidaridad-del-pueblo-espanol-y-hacer-entrega-de-ayuda-humanitaria/>

617 new COVID-19 cases, 112,792 in total. 9 more people died, 2961 have officially died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1427835-466/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-y-muertes-se-elevan>

Is it at this point still worth to point out that mobile hospitals are still in operation.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51066>

"In its fourth installment of the special series of in-depth reports "The usual marginalized living in a pandemic", Criterio.hn shows the difficult situation of the LGBTI community, as a group historically excluded from society and that during this crisis situation due to the pandemic and the effects of natural phenomena has been more violated in their rights."

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-complica-delicada-situacion-de-la-comunidad-lgbti-de-honduras/>

ATIC arrested an active member of the police allegedly for torture, abuse of authority and more.

<https://proceso.hn/atic-captura-a-agente-activo-de-la-policia-nacional/>

"A criminal court on corruption matters decided this Wednesday to bring to oral and public trial the case against 17 members of the National University of Agriculture (UNA), among them Marlon Escoto - who was the dean of that institution at the time - accused of abuse of authority, for which it refers the file to the Sentencing Court."

<https://criterio.hn/a-juicio-marlon-escoto-y-17-empleados-de-la-una/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office requested the definitive dismissal in favor of Belkis Rosibel Hernández, one of the accused in the Pandora case, reported the Supreme Court of Justice. The defendant was accused by the Public Prosecutor's Office of four crimes of falsification of public documents. In this sense, Belkis Rosibel Hernández joins the majority of the defendants who have been acquitted in this criminal case."

<https://proceso.hn/mp-pide-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-una-imputada-en-caso-pandora/>

Oh yeah, yesterday was also the International Day against Corruption and the US spoke with Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla to reiterate "our commitment to fight together to eliminate corruption in Honduras".

On the same day, the prosecutor of the Specialized Prosecutor Unit Against Networks of Corruption (UFERCO), Luis Javier Santos, denounced that in Honduras there is dual justice system; "one for the poor and another for the corrupt".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1336787748720697347>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscal-anticorrupcion-senala-que-en-honduras-hay-dos-tipos-de-impartir-justicia/>

The RNP promises to clean up the inconsistencies in the electoral census (see last days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-garantiza-que-subsanaran-inconsistencias-del-censo-electoral/>

"Women gathered in the Platform 25 of November, denounced this December 9, 2020 that some candidates, especially those who define themselves and are part of the feminist collectives, are facing threats, disqualifications, slanders and insults, by conservative sectors that try to obstruct the access to the participation of those who defend their rights and bring proposals before the Legislative Power."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/3030-denuncia-plataforma-25-de-noviembre-frente-a-parlamento-hay-campanas-de-odio-contra-mujeres-feministas-que-participan-en-el-proceso-electoral>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-feministas-denuncian-campana-de-violencia-contra-la-participacion-politica-de-las-mujeres/>

"Negotiations continue in the air for the approval of the new minimum wage to be in effect by 2021. Workers' leader José Luis Baquedano confirmed on Radio Progreso that the official call for negotiations has been made, but there is still no date to begin the negotiations."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/obreros-empresarios-y-gobierno-sin-fecha-para-definir-nuevo-salario-minimo/>

10/12/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Police - Repression; Migration; Berta - Trial; Journalists; Iota - Reconstruction; COVID-19 - Corruption, Indigenous Peoples; Corruption - Pandora, de Lobo, Asfura; EU - Trade; Elections - JOH; and the Human Rights Day

"Today, there was a bail hearing for political prisoner Rommel Herrera Portillo in Tegucigalpa. The Tribunal denied the request by Rommel's lawyers to allow him to wait for his sentencing hearing at home or free. He remains in a psychiatric hospital. The participation of the US Embassy legal rep in bail hearing was to request that Rommel be sent to maximum security prison, La Tolva. The US Embassy's legal representative asked for a more strict measure than the Honduran Attorney General Office. Shame on you @usembassyhn".

<https://twitter.com/EdwinLibertad/status/1337079990278643713>

Criterio reports that state security forces again threw a tear gas grenade into a bus filled with people as part of a violent repression of a protest.

<https://criterio.hn/nuevamente-policias-de-honduras-lanzan-bombas-lacrimogenas-en-interior-de-un-bus/>

Radio Progreso has additional reporting on how the police stopped the newest migrant caravan on Wednesday (see yesterday).

El Tiempo reports that at least 60 migrants were "returned".

So some still made it through and arrived at the Guatemalan border.

OACNUDH had observed the initial gathering in San Pedro Sula and according to them, people who lost their houses during the hurricanes, left the shelters to join the caravan.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/policia-frena-caravana-de-migrantes-en-la-frontera-de-aguascalientes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-retorna-migrantes-hondurenos-caravana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondurenos-en-caravana-migrante-se-acercan-a-frontera-con-guatemala/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1337092434652786698>

COPINH published another update on the Berta Cáceres trial.

<https://copinh.org/2020/12/newsletter-n-13-in-spite-of-the-obstacles-the-demand-for-justice-for-bera-continues/>

Honduras dropped further in the World Press Freedom Index by Reporters without Borders. "The Press Association of Puerto Cortés denounced that several journalists were hindered in their work and were not allowed to document the moment when a Naval Force ship, loaded with donations, arrived at the port".

<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51105>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3032-asociacion-de-prensa-de-puerto-cortes-denuncia-obstruccion-al-ejercicio-del-periodismo-por-la-por-la-naval-de-honduras>

One month after the two hurricanes hit Honduras, La Prensa summarizes its impact. "Due to the floods and landslides, 99 people lost their lives, 11 remain missing, 1,056,965 were evacuated and 92,651 people were sheltered, of which more than 40,000 remain in the spaces that were prepared by the authorities to deal with the emergency."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1428667-410/honduras-tormentas-eta-iota-dejaron-millon-evacuados>

The JOH regime continues to receive funds for the reconstruction of Honduras after Eta and Iota - questions remain about the use of these funds. The BID spoke \$640 million for 2021 and the BCIE \$1000 million.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-pondra-a-disposicion-640-millones-de-dolares-para-reconstruir-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-anuncia-1000-millones-de-dolares-para-la-reconstruccion-de-honduras/>

564 new COVID-19 cases, 113'207 in total. 7 more Hondurans died, officially 2968 people have died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-113000-contagios-y-suma-2968-decesos-por-la-covid-19/>

"Marco Bográn, former director of Strategic Investment of Honduras (Invest-H), modified at least eight contracts for a cumulative value of 80 million lempiras in the months of May and June 2020, when he was in the public eye for alleged acts of corruption in the purchase of the seven mobile hospitals."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1428420-466/marco-bogran-invest-contratos-modificados>

"Forced disappearances, environmental destruction, increased police and military repression, and increased malnutrition due to lack of food are some of the many problems faced by indigenous and black communities in Honduras that were made worse by the effects of the pandemic and Hurricanes Eta and Iota. For this population group, estimated to represent 10% of the Honduran population (some 934,000 people), distributed in nine ethnic groups, the government's decision to confine them only exacerbated the already difficult situation they faced in their communities."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-muerte-represion-y-desaparecidos-deja-confinamiento-en-pueblos-indigenas-y-negros/>

There was another setback in the Pandora corruption case. "The Criminal Court in Corruption Matters declared the petition presented by the defense of the former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Jacobo José Regalado Weizenblut, to be valid, and the preventive detention was changed to the figure of house arrest and the prohibition to leave the country, and he will be allowed to defend himself in freedom."

<https://proceso.hn/cs-j-admite-peticion-para-cambiar-prision-preventiva-por-arresto-domiciliario-a-exministro-de-agricultura/>

The judges for the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo were ratified by the Supreme Court.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ratifican-jueces-que-conoceran-caso-de-rosa-elena-bonilla-y-saul-escobar/>

"Nasry "Tito" Asfura, mayor of Tegucigalpa and pre-candidate to the presidency for the National Party, faces a pre-trial process for embezzlement of 28 million lempiras. According to information on the case to which Contracorriente had access, Asfura used funds from the mayor's office to cover company operations, pay credit cards and make money transfers to his daughters in the United States."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/08/la-billetera-del-precandidato-a-la-presidencia-tito-asfura/>

"An agreement to regulate the export of wood from Honduras to the European Union is about to be concluded. At the same time, several civil society voices warn of continued cooperation with Tegucigalpa. Their hope: sanctions."

<https://www.dw.com/es/honduras-y-la-ue-m%C3%A1s-acuerdos-o-se%C3%B1ales-m%C3%A1s-claras/a-55887976>

CESPAD published an analysis about the context of the coming electoral cycle. "This article contains elements of analysis on the reform that has allowed the creation and distinction of powers

of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) of Honduras. One of the main challenges for both institutions will be to disassociate themselves from the hegemony that the National Party has exercised, in the last decade, over all public institutions -including the electoral ones- and that has contributed to the lack of transparency and integrity in the last two electoral processes."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/10/honduras-la-nueva-institucionalidad-electoral-y-el-reto-de-librarse-de-la-hegemonia-del-partido-nacional/>

The political opposition questions the role of the RNP and if they are able, i.e. willing to fix the irregularities in the census (see last days).

But there are even worse fears. "Luis Zelaya, president of the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party, denounced that the National Party intends to create an institutional crisis around the electoral census in order to suspend the primary elections, postpone the general process and create the conditions for a crisis that will allow the incumbent of the regime, Juan Orlando Hernández, to remain in power."

<https://proceso.hn/esperamos-que-el-rnp-no-se-preste-al-juego-de-suspender-elecciones-luis-zelaya/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-no-podra-corregir-inconsistencias-del-censo-asegura-nasralla/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-partido-nacional-sigue-maniobrando-para-no-dejar-el-poder-denuncia-luis-zelaya/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/se-profundiza-crisis-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

11/12/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; MILPAH; COVID-19; Corruption - Narcopolitics; JOH - US; RNP; Elections - EU; and JOH on the Phone

"We are alerted to reports that unknown men in the community of Santa Fe are lurking near the home of our colleague Cesar Geovany Bernardez, a member of the General Coordination of OFRANEH. We hold this genocidal dictatorial government responsible. Stop persecuting us!"

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1337515968608792577>

The same day, the National Police detained Víctor Vásquez, indigenous Lenca and member of the General Coordination of MILPAH.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1337432014480404481>

501 new COVID-19 cases, 113'708 in total. 3 more people died 2971 have died officially.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-113708-contagios-y-2971-decesos-por-covid-19/>

In another MACCIH-era corruption case, an accused, Miguel Pastor, is allowed to leave pre-trial detention.

<https://proceso.hn/sala-de-lo-constitucional-ordena-otorguen-cambio-de-medidas-a-miguel-pastor-para-que-se-defienda-en-libertad/>

SOUTHCOM Commander Adm. Craig Faller arrived in Honduras yesterday "to meet with security leaders to discuss the U.S.-Honduran security partnership. Honduras is a trusted partner in regional efforts to combat illicit traffickers." The comments on Twitter present the adequate response to such a statement.

The JOH regime awarded Craig Faller with the Grand Cross Medal of the Armed Forces.

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1337420547140038665>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1337581326615138305>

<https://proceso.hn/jefe-del-comando-sur-de-ee-uu-recibe-medalla-gran-cruz-de-ffaa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1428831-466/honduras-otorga-medalla-gran-cruz-de-las-ff-aa-a-jefe-del>

"On August 22nd the authorities of the National Registry of Persons (RNP) informed that the French consortium, Thales Group, had been declared by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) the winner of the tender process for the manufacture of the new identity card, through the company THALES - SELP, based in Poland. Subsequently, the UNDP detailed that each identity will cost US\$ 1.70 and that the contract that was signed amounts to US\$ 11,157,750.01. But the contract document is still not published. Criterio.hn has been requesting the contract since the time it was known. In the first instance the request was directed to the mail that the UNDP has made available to the public through the Identify Yourself Project (identificatehn@undp.org), but no response was obtained. Later, in August, the request was made directly to the then RNP president, Roberto Kattán, who responded that he did not have the document because the process had been carried out by the UNDP."

<https://criterio.hn/contrato-con-la-empresa-thales-es-un-secreto-de-estado/>

"The nationalist congressman, Mario Perez, presented a motion so that Hondurans can vote in two different places in the next electoral contest, making room for vote fraud, alleging from his calculation that those from Santa Barbara work in San Pedro Sula and tend to travel to their municipality on weekends."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2507-honduras-diputado-lora-crea-sospecha-con-votacion-doble>

The EU and the UNDP launched a program to accompany the coming electoral cycle. It is a 2.2 million Euro program.

<https://confidencialhn.com/union-europea-aportara-e2-2-millones-para-mejoras-sistema-electoral/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1428795-466/pnud-union-europea-lanzan-apoyo-ciclo-electoral-2021>

<https://proceso.hn/rey-felipe-vi-llama-a-presidente-hernandez-para-solidarizarse-y-ofrecer-ayuda/>

12/12/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19; JOH; Migration - Caravan, US; Prisons - Militarization; Corruption - Pandora; and Fearing Motorbikes Again

335 new COVID-19 cases, 1140943 in total and 3 additional deaths, 2974 in total.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1429047-410/honduras-tres-mil-muertes-cien-mil-contagios-coronavirus-sinager>

JOH once again used the international stage, the 2020 Climate Ambition Summit, to ask for more money.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-pide-a-cooperantes-venir-y-conocer-crisis-en-honduras-pais-en-jaque-por-corrupcion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1428987-466/presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-fondos-verdes-cumbre-climatica>

The current migrant caravan has not been able so far to cross the border to Guatemala.

The New Humanitarian also has an article on the newest migrant caravan and the context the people flee from.

<https://confidencialhn.com/caravana-de-migrantes-hondurenos-no-logra-ingresar-a-guatemala/>

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2020/12/11/honduras-hurricane-survivors-migrant-caravan>

So far this year, 35'948 Hondurans have been deported from the US.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/casi-36-mil-deportados-recibio-honduras-desde-estados-unidos-en-2020>

An inmate was murdered in the so-called maximum security prison La Tolva. He was accused in the disappearance of the child Enoc Pérez Chinchilla, which received a lot of media attention.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/muerto-encuentran-a-principal-sospechoso-en-caso-del-nino-enoc-chinchilla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muerto-en-la-tolva-encuentran-a-imputado-de-la-desaparicion-de-enoc-perez-chinchilla/>

"Attorney Abel Orellana, representatives of some 50 dismissed prison guards, denounced that these dismissals are unjustified and at the same time pointed out that the control of the national prison system is in the hands of the military."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/van-50-policias-penitenciarios-despedidos/>

The MP voiced discontent about the newest legal setback in the Pandora corruption case - the fact that Jacobo Regalado was allowed to replace pre-trial detention with house arrest. They appeal the decision.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-senala-que-retraso-de-csj-favorecio-cambio-de-medidas-para-jacobo-regalado/>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-apela-decision-que-favorece-a-exministro-de-la-sag-jacobo-regalado/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2502-honduras-congreso-nacional-premia-el-sicariato-y-el-crimen>

13/12/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Campesines; Iota - Reconstruction, Prisons; COVID-19 - Prisons; Elections; and the Queen is Coming

Almost five months have passed since the forceful disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://www.pressenza.com/es/2020/12/honduras-aparicion-con-vida-verdad-y-justicia-ya/>

"The community leader and defender of the common goods, Leonel George, pointed out that impunity reigns in the country when it comes to peasant families, in reference to the ten years since the massacre of El Tumbador, where justice has not been done against the guards who murdered peasants who were in the process of recovering land in the municipality of Trujillo, department of

Colon."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/lider-comunitario-la-impunidad-impera-cuando-se-trata-de-familias-campesinas/>

The notorious public body Invest-H has certified six companies to purchase Bailey bridges (portable, pre-fabricated) from in response to the destruction of Eta and Iota.

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-empresas-seleccionadas-puentes-bailey/>

Inmates returned to the prison in El Progreso which had been inundated after the two hurricanes.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reos-retornan-a-carcel-de-el-progreso-tras-inundaciones/>

316 new COVID-19 cases, 114'359 in total. One more Honduran died, 2975 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/suman-114-mil-359-contagios-y-dos-mil-975-decesos-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

"Within the framework of respect for the human rights of those deprived of their liberty, the Ministry of Health established guidelines for safe family visits in Honduran prisons."

<https://confidencialhn.com/establecen-protocolos-covid-19-para-visitas-carcelarias-en-honduras/>

"Several deputies of Libre have come out to denounce that the irregularities that the new electoral census still presents, is a maneuver of the National Party to commit fraud in the Primary and General elections of 2021."

<https://criterio.hn/libre-acusa-a-partido-nacional-de-boicotear-depuracion-de-nuevo-censo-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reina-letizia-de-espana-llega-este-lunes-a-honduras-via-la-ceiba/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1429169-410/reina-letizia-esp%C3%B1a-honduras-da-%C3%B1os-eta-iota>

14/12/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; HR; Iota - JOH, Spain, Budget; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; Corruption - Pandora, US; and Too Many Traffic Accidents

"The Guapinol water defenders & political prisoners have been unjustly in prison for 15 months. Their legal team was just notified that they will have a bail hearing this Friday, Dec 18 at 9 am local time."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1338634386850385920>

"Honduras has been experiencing a profound human rights crisis for many years, which translates into serious difficulties for the enjoyment of human rights, said the representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the UN, Isabel Albaladejo Escribano."

<https://criterio.hn/representante-de-oacnudh-honduras-vive-una-profunda-crisis-de-derechos-humanos/>

According to calculations by El Libertador, the JOH regime has to its disposal almost 119 billion Lempiras, almost \$5 billion, for the reconstruction of Honduras after the two hurricanes...or rather to embezzle and enrich itself and its allies.

And more money is coming. "The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the third revision of the agreement with Honduras under the Stand-by modality, which will allow access to 88 million dollars, informed this Monday the Economic Cabinet of the government."

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2511-honduras-joh-pide-mas-verdes-ya-tiene-119-mil-millones-para-reconstruccion>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fmi-prestara-a-honduras-88-millones-para-reconstruccion-tras-revision-a-acuerdo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/revision-fmi-permite-90-millones-endeudamiento-economista/>

<https://criterio.hn/secretaria-de-finanzas-anuncia-que-utilizara-fondos-de-prestamos-para-obras-de-reconstruccion/>

As announced, the Queen Letizia of Spain arrived in Honduras yesterday and brought along humanitarian aid.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1429352-466/reina-letizia-honduras-espana-ayuda-humanitaria-damnificados-ceiba>

https://www.aecid.es/ES/Paginas/Sala%20de%20Prensa/Noticias/2020/2020_12/ayudahumanitariahondurasenv%C3%ADo.aspx

Congress is about to approve the 2021 budget which could be changed again as the JOH regime made promises to adopt it to the new reality post-hurricanes. "[T]he economist of the Social Forum of the Foreign Debt (Fosdeh), Alejandro Kafati, considered that the government's proposal does not contemplate the economic decline that the country will have, and therefore it becomes something

illusory." More criticism comes from Icefi. "[T]he current government will continue with a policy aimed at forgiving taxes on franchises through exemptions and will keep its eyes on the Sales Tax, Income Tax and other income in a population strongly affected by SARS-CoV-2 and the two storms that came to break the productive apparatus."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51201>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/buscan-reorientar-borrador-de-presupuesto-general-para-2021/>

<https://criterio.hn/salud-y-educacion-deben-ser-prioridad-en-reformulacion-de-presupuesto-2021/>

283 new COVID-19 cases, 114'642 in total. 14 more deaths, 2989 have officially died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-a-punto-de-llegar-a-tres-mil-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

"Deaths from the deadly SARS-CoV-2 continue to rise in tandem with infections. The triage or sorting centers by gravity are beginning to overflow and hospital intensive care units are collapsing, health officials say."

"The room of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), of the Honduran Institute of Social Security, is full of COVID-19 patients, informed this Monday the president of the Association of Doctors of the IHSS, Carlos Umaña."

"Through Strategic Investment of Honduras (Invest-H), Juan Hernández's cabinet acquired 740 mechanical ventilators at a price of 573 million lempiras, but most of them remain in warehouses because they could not be installed in hospitals or are not the ones needed by health personnel."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51216>

<https://proceso.hn/sala-de-uci-del-ihss-sin-cupo-ante-incremento-de-casos-de-covid-19-en-sps/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/medicos-estan-alarmados-por-aumento-de-muertes-por-covid-en-san-pedro-sula>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2512-honduras-ventiladores-mecanicos-se-pudren-en-bodegas-y-elevan-corrupcion-del-gobierno>

The Health Secretariat wants an additional 748 million Lempiras to buy more vaccine doses.

<https://tiempo.hn/vacunas-contra-covid-19-salud-748-millones/>

CESPAD has another update on the Pandora case. "Only the former minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), Jacobo Regalado, along with Laura Arita, Fernando Suárez and Norma Montes, are following the judicial process in the Pandora case. The rest of the defendants, mostly politicians, were dismissed. This is a case whose judicial resolutions were classified in two levels: those who transferred the money and those who spent it."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/14/pandora-el-caso-que-castiga-a-los-que-transfirieron-el-dinero-y-no-a-quienes-lo-gastaron/>

"The president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortés (CCIC), Pedro Barquero, asked U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to install a "regional commission to combat corruption" in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-de-la-ccic-pide-a-joe-biden-que-instale-en-honduras-una-comision-regional-que-combata-la-corrupcion/>

Deaths related to traffic accidents are the second most-common cause of death in Honduras after violence (and even though the article does not mention it, this year also after COVID-19).

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51219>

15/12/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Berta - Trial; Extractivism - Hydroelectricity; Iota - Spain, Budget, Economy; COVID-19; Corruption - IHSS, Patuca III, Congress; UN; and Solidarity Theater

ACI-Participa published its 2020 human rights report called "Honduras, Destruction, Death and Corruption" and in which they documented among other things 15 assassinations of human rights defenders.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-no-se-detienen-aci-participa/>

"Court rejects appeal by the defense of David Castillo, employee of the Atala and co-author of the crime of #BertaCáceres, action taken to further delay the trial against him. We are awaiting a new date for the evidentiary hearing".

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1339004379094003712>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6791-tribunal-rechaza-apelacion-a-defensa-de-presidente-de-desa-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

MADJ tells the story of how water became a private good in Honduras and how this has to change again. "Water for life, not for trade"

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/12/15/agua-para-la-vida-no-para-el-comercio/>

More and more money is flowing to the JOH regime (see also yesterday). Spain now also announced 70 million Euros for the reconstruction of Honduras after the two hurricanes.

<https://proceso.hn/espana-pone-disponibles-e70-millones-para-rehabilitacion-y-reconstruccion-de->

[honduras/](#)

"An alliance of civil society organizations demanded that the National Congress discuss the ruling on the proposed General Budget of the Republic for 2021 in a face-to-face session, with three debates and transmitted in real time by social networks to ensure that it complies with the entire legislative sanctioning process." (See also yesterday)

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-que-presupuesto-2021-se-discuta-en-tres-debates-y-sea-televisado/>

The Honduran economy will shrink by 9.5% this year according to the Central Bank.

<https://proceso.hn/caida-de-la-economia-sera-del-9-5-por-ciento-este-ano-segun-presidente-del-bch/>

301 new COVID-19 cases, 114'943 in total. 12 more Hondurans died, 3001 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-tres-mil-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Another blow to the fight against corruption in Honduras. Based on the controversial new Penal Code (as predicted by civil society), 14 accused former IHSS director were absolved. The MP will challenge this.

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1339025614142103552>

<https://criterio.hn/libres-de-responsabilidad-penal-los-exdirectivos-del-ihss/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6792-mp-presentara-recurso-de-casacion-contrasentencia-absolutoria-a-favor-de-ex-junta-directiva-del-ihss-beneficiados-erroneamente-por-el-nuevo-codigo-penal>

CESPAD published an analysis on how the rulings in the Patuca III corruption case have to be interpreted. "For UFERCO, the irregularities committed by those involved in the case were clear, which is why it presented the evidence it claims showed how the defendants were part of a corruption network that defrauded the State by using the Special Unit for Renewable Energy Projects (UEPER) of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE). However, this case shows that the assessment and interpretation made by judges can play an important role in letting many people involved in corruption cases go free."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/15/de-como-las-interpretaciones-de-los-jueces-dejan-libres-a-implicados-en-el-caso-patuca-iii/>

Criterion published an overview of congresswo/men accused of corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-es-una-fabrica-de-corrupcion-e-impunidad/>

The JOH regime once again announced that a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will be installed in Honduras. The memorandum of understanding has already been signed one year ago. Now, it seems that they may start their work next month.

<https://proceso.hn/naciones-unidas-instalara-en-honduras-una-oficina-contra-la-droga-y-el-delito/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ana-garcia-sigue-con-teatro-de-solidaridad-en-el-valle-de-sula-fotos/>

16/12/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - EU; Berta - Gualcarque; Corruption - Impunity, Pandora, MP, Poverty; OFRANEH; Iota - Reconstruction, Agriculture; COVID-19 - Economy, Corruption; Budget - UNAH; and now Human Development

The Greens at the EU Parliament spoke to Laura Zúniga and Leonel George about the situation of COPINH and the Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1339368706946818048>

The Constitutional Chamber decided in favor of 10 out of the 16 accused in the Gualcarque Fraud case related to the murder of Berta Cáceres. COPINH denounced: "With the decision to benefit these 10 public officials, the Honduran justice system continues to benefit the corrupt and promotes an economic model that violates human rights."

<https://copinh.org/2020/12/actualizacion-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque-15-12-2020/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1339401199410397184>

These last week we have a new surge of impunity in corruption cases; it is as if a corrupt elite would use the distraction of a pandemic and two hurricanes to save themselves from too much scrutiny. Various cases have been highlighted in these e-mails these last days, Pandora, IHSS, and more. The newest one now concerns the Gualcarque Fraud case (see above). CESPAD calls it "the dismantling of the anti-corruption agenda inherited by the MACCIH".

The CNA published a new book on corruption and impunity in Honduras.

The Center for Research and Promotion of Human Rights in Honduras (CIPRODEH), as a member of the Anti-Corruption Coalition, is pleased to present the "Civil Society Guide for the detection, documentation, reporting and monitoring of corruption cases in Honduras".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/16/desde-los-principales-organos-del-estado-el-desmontaje-de-la-agenda-anti-corrupcion-heredada-por-la-maccih/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1339215023932121088>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-presenta-el-libro-justicia-engavetada-que-recoge-17-casos-de-corrupcion-de-alto-impacto/>

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/549-guia-de-sociedad-civil-para-la-deteccion-documentacion-denuncia-y-seguimiento-de-casos-de-corrupcion>

The Pandora corruption case will go to trial. But only three of the initially over 20 accused remain.

<https://criterio.hn/elevan-a-juicio-oral-caso-contr-exsecretario-de-la-sag-jacobo-regalado-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1429842-466/elevan-a-juicio-oral-publico-caso-pandora-desvio-millones>

Some six years ago, the Nationalist-controlled Congress approved in only one session dozens of decrees and contracts, most of them harmful to the population. Opposition politicians have denounced this and have presented official complaints at the MP, but to no avail. One explanation of the inaction can be found, once again, in the person of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. "[He] has a conflict of interest because his wife, Katherin Chang, is not only related to leaders of the National Party (daughter of former Minister of the Interior and Justice Roberto Chang Castillo), but was also appointed to public office by President Juan Hernández, who placed her as president of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)."

<https://criterio.hn/tres-anos-despues-mp-sigue-sin-dar-respuesta-a-denuncia-de-aprobacion-masiva-de-contratos-en-el-cn/>

Political analyst Olban Valladares denounced the politicization of poverty which then is used as an argument to setup fake social programs which only serve to further enrich a corrupt elite.

<https://confidencialhn.com/pobreza-en-honduras-no-debe-instrumentalizarse-advierte-excandidato-presidencial/>

222 organizations and distinguished persons from countries around the world signed a joint letter in support of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH) and calling for the save return of the five forcefully disappeared young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aGtgcKdYlW5WNqNFVbYw2LTml8eksfxD/view>

OFRANEH denounces how their land is being robbed with the avail of state institutions.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1339235569403113478>

El Heraldo started a special on the two hurricanes called "Eta and Iota: the Marks and Challenges for Honduras".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/etayiota/>

"Beyond the impacts of hurricanes Eta and Iota, these climatic events give clues to support the idea that Honduras is going through a process of ecosocial crisis of great spectrum that has elevated the climatic, territorial and environmental vulnerability for the Honduran society. In this context, it is important to investigate the way in which the eco-social crisis manifests itself in the country and the way in which it promotes vulnerabilities in the communities, in light of the failed public policies in risk management and territorial planning.

Likewise, this analysis proposes a series of axes on which an eco-social pact can be developed from below and from the socio-territorial movements, as a counter-proposal to the current process of sustainable national reconstruction undertaken by the administration of Juan Orlando Hernández, with the aim of providing answers to the structural problems and impacts generated by the eco-social crisis in Honduran society."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/16/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-los-impactos-de-eta-y-iota-y-la-necesidad-de-un-pacto-ecosocial-en-honduras/>

La Prensa reports on the situation of the Honduran agricultural sector in the aftermath of Eta and Iota. It calls the situation "the worst crisis of the last 20 years".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1429967-410/honduras-agro-vive-peor-crisis-ultimos-20-a%C3%B1os>

374 new COVID-19 cases, 115'317 in total. 12 more Hondurans died, 3013 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-suma-374-nuevos-contagios-y-12-decesos-en-honduras/>

The transport sector protested again yesterday. "The intercity transportation leadership said these actions were initiated because the government has not complied with several agreements aimed at having financial relief, bonuses and other economic benefits."

<https://confidencialhn.com/buseros-protestan-porque-gobierno-aun-no-cumple-acuerdos-hay-caos-vial/>

Criterio reports on how the controversial Honduras Solidarity program by the JOH regime benefited mostly the companies providing the food and hygiene packets. 12.6% of of all the money spent to confront the pandemic went to them...

There is also fear that the purchase of vaccines could offer new possibilities for corruption.

"Once again, the Honduran Episcopal Conference, the collegiate body of the Catholic Church, questioned the morality of the government in the face of the corruption that has prevailed in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic, which highlighted the abandonment and deterioration of the right to health in the country."

<https://criterio.hn/los-poderosos-proveedores-de-la-bolsa-solidaria-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/compras-de-vacunas-en-honduras-podrian-conllevar-a-nuevos-actos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/conferencia-episcopal-de-honduras-senala-la-corrupcion-y-el-deterioro-del-derecho-a-la-salud-en-la-pandemia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1429813-466/conferencia-episcopal-de-honduras-pide-frenar-desigualdad-e-impulsar-profunda-renovaci%C3%B3n>

The JOH regime reopened the debate about the 2021 budget (see previous e-mails) and it seems that some congresswo/men want to cut substantially the budget of UNAH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reduccion-presupuestal-a-la-unah-seria-una-torpeza-opina-diputado/>

In the newest Human Development Index, Honduras is last of the Central American country and second to last of all the Latin American countries.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1338851976482852867>

17/12/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Corruption - UFERCO, Gualcarque, IHSS; COVID-19 - JOH, Corruption, Poverty, Health Sector, Economy; Budget - UNAH; Prisons; Elections; Toll Booths; ENEE; and JOH's Newspaper

"Tomorrow [Today], Friday, December 18, at 9:00am Honduras time, the Court of Letters of Tocoa will hold a hearing to oversee measures in the case of the water defenders of the community of Guapinol who are facing a process of criminalization in retaliation for their work in defense of human rights and natural assets. In light of this hearing, the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) calls on the Honduran State to revoke the preventive detention measure against the defenders, as it constitutes an arbitrary measure that is contrary to international human rights standards and due process guarantees."

OACNUDH is observing the hearing.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-honduras-debe-garantizar-libertad-y-proteccion-personas-criminalizadas-defensa-del-agua>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/juzgado-otorga-audiencia-de-revision-de-medidas->

[para-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/](https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1339621550983688194)

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1339621550983688194>

"The head of the Fiscal Unit Specialized in Networks of Corruption (Uferco), Luis Javier Santos, declared himself against the resolutions of the Judicial Power that released accused of corruption." (see last days)

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51329>

COPINH published a press release on rulings in the Gualcarque Fraud case on Wednesday (see yesterday).

<https://copinh.org/2020/12/el-copinh-se-pronuncia-ante-la-resolucion-sobre-el-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

Criterio has another article on the IHSS corruption case focusing on the lack of investigation into the intellectual authors.

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-nunca-tocara-a-los-autores-intelectuales-del-desfalco-al-ihss/>

Testing further decreased in Honduras, yesterday only 468 were tested, 157 resulted positive for a new total of 115'474. 8 more Hondurans died, 3021 have died so far according to official numbers.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-registra-3021-muertos-por-covid-con-una-tasa-de-letalidad-de-un-2-7-por-ciento>

<https://covid19honduras.org/?q=Comunicado-283>

Some months ago, when the ongoing corruption by the JOH regime during the pandemic was widely visible and there were even protests, JOH suddenly tested positive for corona and presented himself both as both vulnerable but at the same time as a strong leader even working for his people while sick. Even then, many believed the positive test to be fake, and since then ContraCorriente tried to get access to the test result. And now they got it. "The RT-PCR test that was performed on President Juan Orlando Hernandez was negative the day before he publicly announced that he and his wife, Ana Garcia Carias, were infected with coronavirus. This according to the documents delivered by the Secretary of Health to the IAIP after a six-month process that Contra Corriente brought before that institution."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/17/errores-y-enganos-en-los-resultados-de-la-prueba-para-covid19-del-presidente/>

Transparency International published a report on "Emergency Procurement Covid-19". It focuses on the budgets assigned by the governments, their sources of financing and the lack of transparency in

the accountability in the execution of the resources. The JOH regime disposed of \$3.7 billion. Criterio published the second article on the problems with the Honduras Solidarity program focusing on how multinationals profited from it.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51310>

<https://criterio.hn/multinacionales-y-empresas-controversiales-se-beneficiaron-con-honduras-solidaria/>

"More than 170,000 children need humanitarian assistance in Honduras due to the "triple crisis" caused by the COVID-19 and the devastating effects left by the tropical storms Eta and Iota, warned this Thursday the international NGO World Vision."

<https://proceso.hn/vision-mundial-170000-ninos-hondurenos-requieren-ayuda-por-triple-crisis/>

"Authorities at the Leonardo Martinez Hospital in San Pedro Sula warned this Thursday that there is a massive contagion of COVID-19 in this assistance center in northern Honduras."

<https://confidencialhn.com/alertan-contagio-masivo-de-covid-19-en-el-hospital-leonardo-martinez/>

Congress approved a reform to support micro-, small- and medium-sized companies.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-aprobara-reforma-de-ley-de-apoyo-a-la-micro-y-pequena-empresa/>

The announcement of a steep budget cut for the UNAH was met with widespread rejection and the JOH regime already backtracked.

<https://tiempo.hn/sindicato-unah-presupuesto-calles/>

<https://criterio.hn/vamos-a-las-calles-a-defender-el-derecho-al-trabajo-y-la-educacion-anuncia-el-sitraunah/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1430122-466/no-habra-recorte-presupuesto-2021-unah>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-cn-mauricio-oliva-asegura-que-se-respetara-presupuesto-de-la-unah/>

"Blood continues to flow inside Honduran prisons. A violent confrontation on Thursday left two prisoners dead and a third injured at El Porvenir Prison in Siria, Francisco Morazán."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1430128-466/muertos-herido-carcel-siria>

<https://tiempo.hn/dos-reos-muertos-otro-herido-tiroteo-carcel-el-porvenir/>

Alejandro Martínez Quesada of the National Electoral Council (CNE) had to admit that some one million Hondurans had not assigned to them a voting center for the primary elections of March 14, 2021.

They later announced people could vote in the same locations they voted in back in 2017 for the general elections.

ContraCorriente published an overview of the irregularities in the electoral census.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51316>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1430218-410/honduras-electores-podran-votar-mismos-centros-2017>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/17/las-irregularidades-en-el-costoso-censo-nacional-electoral/>

When the first toll booths were installed in Honduras some years ago, they were met with widespread protest and now it becomes clear that apart from the financial cost, they also have a human cost. "Ten people have died since the toll was installed in Santa Cruz de Yojoa, the central highway of Honduras, however, government institutions, Invest-H and the Directorate of Traffic, blame the recklessness of heavy duty drivers."

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2520-hondurenos-deben-pagar-a-covi-para-mover-peaje-de-la-muerte>

"In the last hours, the National Congress approved another loan in favor of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), with the objective of honoring the state's overdue payments to energy suppliers. The amount approved by the Legislative Branch is 2,700,000 lempiras, which was proposed under the argument that the finances of the state-owned company have been hit hard by the lack of payment of subscribers in 2020."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/diputados-sugieren-revisar-contratos-energeticos-suscritos-con-la-enee/>

<https://criterio.hn/aprueban-otro-prestamo-para-pagar-proveedores-de-energia/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2517-honduras-joh-ahora-creara-su-propio-periodico-impreso>

18/12/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol: HRDs; Journalists; Corruption - Gualcarque; Migration - US; Iota; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals, Economy; Prisons; and the Forgotten Pandemic

Yesterday, the bail hearing in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defenders. The hearing was accompanied by national and international calls for their freedom and a protest outside the court. The JOH regime militarized the court in Tocoa, Colón.

Even though the proceeding ended the same day, the judge announced to give her resolution the next day. The Honduras Solidarity Network denounced: "This is a political decision, not a judicial one."

The protest camp remained in front of the court.

<https://twitter.com/MetzTilly/status/1339918048300560385>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1339987435665539073>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1339961771944103936>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/juez-pospone-decision-sobre-libertad-de-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1340020987593515008>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1340085845429166080>

C-Libre denounces that members of the police intimidated human rights defenders both at a press conference held in front of the Supreme Court and during a ceremony organized by COFADEH to remember the forcefully disappeared.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1289-policia-levanta-perfiles-a-lideres-sociales-al-presentar-accion-ante-poder-judicial>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1290-fuerzas-policiales-y-seguridad-privada-levantan-perfiles-a-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada>

C-Libre also denounces acts of intimidation against the community radio Voice of Zacate Grande.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1291-encapuchados-hostigan-a-periodistas-de-radioemisora-comunitaria>

The Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Eliot Engel, reacted to the newest setback in the Gualcarque corruption case linked to the Berta Cáceres case. "I'm disappointed by the Honduran Constitutional Court's decision to side with many of those involved in the Gualcarque fraud case." "I stand with #Honduran UFERCO director Luis Santos in condemning this decision and thank him for his commitment to critical anti-corruption work. It is imperative that he continue to do his work with the adequate protection and security he needs."

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1339952854883311621>

The outgoing Trump administration announced to have finished the so-called third safe country agreement with Honduras. "On December 18, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the United States and Honduras have concluded the implementation accords for the Asylum Cooperative Agreement (ACA) signed in September 2019. Under the ACA, certain migrants requesting asylum or similar humanitarian protection at the U.S. border may be transferred to Honduras to seek protection in Honduras."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/12/18/asylum-cooperative-agreement-honduras-finalized>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-implementa-a-partir-de-hoy-el-acuerdo-de-cooperacion-de-asilo-con-ee-uu/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-inicia-implementacion-de-cooperacion-de-asilo-con-honduras/>

"The World Bank Board of Directors today approved a US\$150 million credit for an investment project to support Honduras' emergency response and recovery needs after the devastation from hurricanes Eta and Iota. This support will also aim to strengthen institutional capacity in the country to manage resilient and inclusive reconstruction and recovery from disasters."

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/18/banco-mundial-respuesta-emergencia-reconstruccion-huracanes-eta-iota-honduras>

738 new COVID-19 cases, 116'212 in total. Two more Hondurans died, 3023 have officially died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-anade-738-nuevos-casos-y-503-recuperados-por-covid-19/>

The abysmally low testing rate for COVID-19 has been highlighted numerous times here and yesterday the JOH regime found a new excuse. Health Minister Alba Consuelo Flores claims that one test costs them 8000 Lempiras and therefore it is too expensive for Honduras. This ignores that the JOH regime received over \$3 billion in response to the pandemic as well as hundred of thousands of tests. Additionally, private laboratories working in Honduras say that their tests cost much less.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1430351-466/ministra-salud-prueba-pcr-honduras-precio>

<https://proceso.hn/laboratorio-privados-refutan-precio-de-prueba-pcr-de-gobierno-costos-es-60-menor-alegan/>

According to the Secretary of Health, at least 54 doctors have died so far during the pandemic.

<https://tiempo.hn/medicos-muertos-por-covid-19-honduras/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published a new report, again focusing on Invest-H

and the mobile hospitals. They found new irregularities in the hospitals meant for Choluteca and Santa Rosa.

Invest-H continues to claim that the mobile hospitals will be functional.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1339927544989102080>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-informe-del-cna-ahonda-actos-de-corrupcion-en-compa-de-hospitales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/invest-h-garantiza-funcionalidad-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2522-honduras-por-corrupcion-nadie-quiere-desecho-movil-capitalino>

"The passage of the Covid-19 pandemic and the arrival of hurricanes Eta and Iota, has served to sharpen the economic crisis in the country, and with it open the debate on how much the increase to the minimum wage should be by 2021. The workers' leaders assure that to date there are no defined proposals, however, they continue to wait for the government and the private sectors to initiate discussions as a Table of Dialogue to begin negotiations."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/piden-mecanismos-claros-para-negociar-salario-minimo-en-honduras/>

Starting today, family visits in prisons should be allowed again following a new protocol.

<https://tiempo.hn/visitas-carceles-en-honduras-pandemia-covid-19/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/12/17/en-el-olvido-ha-quedado-el-control-y-la-atencion-a-la-pandemia-en-honduras/>

19/12/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector; and a Gift from the US

After Friday's bail hearing in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defenders was expected yesterday. Shortly before, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defender Mary Lawlor tweeted: "Closely watching for the decision today on the pre-trial detention of the Guapinol human rights defenders - defending rights is not a crime".

But it did not help. In a month were once again high-level corruption cases were dismissed, the Honduran "Judicial" System was not as lenient with human rights defenders. The judge denied bail and the defenders have to remain in prison.

OANCUDH lamented the ruling.

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1340260103673540610>

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-niega-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-defenderse-en-libertad/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1340472607766949890>

Social communicators Pedro Arcángel Canelas was murdered in Dulce Nombre de Culmí, Olancho.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1430540-466/asesinan-al-comunicador-social-pedro-canelas-en-dulce-nombre-de-culm%C3%AD>

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-varios-impactos-de-arma-de-fuego-le-quitian-la-vida-a-dueno-de-radio-en-olancho/>

648 new COVID-19 cases, 116'860 in total. 2 more Hondurans died, 3025 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-acerca-a-los-117000-casos-y-alcanza-los-3025-muertos-por-covid/>

The JOH regime is losing its grip again on the COVID-19 as even El Herald writes of "hospitals on the verge of collapse".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1430486-468/dramaticas-imagenes-pandemia-hospitales-a-punto-colapso>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6802-ataudes-reutilizables-dona-la-oficina-de-asuntos-anti-narcoticos-y-aplicacion-de-la-ley-inl-de-la-embajada-de-estados-unidos-a-la-direccion-de-medicina-forense-del-mp>

20/12/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; MILPAH; Journalists; Iota - Poverty, Economy; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine;

Saturday's ruling the the Guapinol case, that the criminalized defenders have to remain in pre-trial detention, has caused widespread rejection. From the US, Senator Patrick Leahy as well as Representative Jan Schakowsky rejected the decision. "Independence of the judiciary is fundamental to democracy. In Honduras, that independence is under assault, and people like the

Guapinol water protectors, who should be released on bail or afforded a fair and speedy trial, are instead imprisoned pre-trial for years."

"I am appalled by Judge Zoe Guifarro's ruling to keep #Guapinol water defenders in arbitrary pretrial detention. Int'l human rights and legal experts say the detention is illegal. Where is the judicial independence?"

In Honduras, Padre Melo started a hunger strike.

The defense of the Guapinol defenders presented yesterday a legal challenge against the court decision.

The Coalition against Impunity will hold a press conference outside the MP this morning at 10am.

<https://twitter.com/SenatorLeahy/status/1340809447891939328>

<https://criterio.hn/no-hay-independencia-en-la-justicia-hondurena-politicos-estadounidenses/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/sacerdote-hondureno-inicia-huelga-de-hambre-para-pedir-la-liberacion-de-supuestos-presos-politicos-en-caso-agua-guapinol>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/presentan-recurso-de-apelacion-en-favor-de-ocho-presos-politicos-de-guapinol/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-ccc-condena-decision-adoptada-por-tribunal-de-tocoa-sobre-caso-guapinol-y-anuncia-realizacion-de-mitin/>

And the criminalization of defenders continues also elsewhere in Honduras. "After more than six hours in an initial hearing against Victor Vasquez, a member of the General Coordination of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz Honduras (MILPA-H), and Santos Vigil, a member of the New Hope Peasant Base, they were remanded in custody for the crime of forced displacement."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/detencion-de-lideres-indigenas-responde-a-persecucion-y-criminalizacion/>

Defensores en Línea has more on the recent murder of social communicator Pedro Arcángel Canelas.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/asesinan-a-periodista-en-culmi-olanchito/>

Congress approved a one-time support of 5000 Lempiras to 60'000 families who got hit hard by Eta and Iota.

<https://proceso.hn/anuncian-bono-de-l-5-mil-para-familias-damnificadas-por-eta-e-iota/>

Cepal estimates the economic loss due to Eta and Iota to 45 billion Lempiras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1430699-410/cepal-perdidas-eta-iota-honduras-pobreza>

162 new COVID-19 cases, 117'022 in total. 2 more people died, 3027 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-117-mil-infectados-y-alcanza-los-3027-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Alba Lagos, president of nurses of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in San Pedro Sula, died to COVID-19.

"The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, informed this Sunday that they are preparing a sit-in on Monday due to the non-compliance of several agreements by the authorities of the Ministry of Health and Finance."

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-de-enfermeras-del-ihss-en-sps-nueva-victima-del-covid-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/enfermeras-anuncian-plantones-por-incumplimiento-por-parte-de-las-autoridades/>

Congress is about to approve almost 300 million Lempiras for the purchase of vaccines.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1430743-410/compra-vacuna-covid-coronavirus-honduras-presupuesto>

21/12/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; OACNUDH; CONADEH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption; Women; Prisons; Migration- US; and the Engel List

Protests continue outside the Supreme Court demanding the freedom of the criminalized Guapinol defenders (see last days).

Their defense team challenged the recent court ruling, but now they have to report that "the appeal filed with the Court of Appeals will not be processed due to the Christmas and year-end vacations of the employees of the Judiciary. They announced, in a press conference, that everything indicates that it will be until January 6, 2021 that it will be known if the Court pronounces in favor of the environmentalists so that they recover their freedom or ratifies the decision of Judge Zoé Guifarro and the measure of preventive detention is maintained."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ccr-realizo-planton-frente-a-la-csj-exigiendo-liberacion-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/un-ayuno-por-la-libertad-de-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/demanda-de-libertad-para-ambientalistas-de-guapinol-debe-continuar/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/caso-guapinol-juzgado-de-tocoa-colon-no-dara-tramite-a-recurso-de-apelacion/>

OACNUDH visited the community Arizona in Atlántida where the local community is struggling to protect their Jilamito river against a hydroelectric project by the company Ingelsa.

<https://criterio.hn/oacnudh-visita-comunidades-de-arizona-atlantida-que-defienden-su-rio-del-proyecto-jilamito/>

Without hearings nor even an interview, the Nationalist-controlled Congress elected Blanca Sarahí Izaguirre Lozano as the new Human Rights Ombudswoman (CONADEH).

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-aprueba-mocion-para-que-blanca-sarahi-izaguirre-lozano-releve-a-ombudsman-roberto-caceres/>

<https://criterio.hn/blanca-sarahy-izaguirre-lozano-es-la-nueva-comisionada-nacional-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

168 new COVID-19 cases, 117'190 in total. Seven more people died, 3034 have so far died according to official numbers.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-los-117190-infectados-y-3034-decesos-por-covid-19/>

In January, Honduras may go back to a lockdown according to the JOH regime.

Congress approved the ongoing suspension of constitutional guarantees.

Additionally, Congress approved a change to the law regulating the Honduras Solidarity program authorizing the JOH regime that the support be delivered through bank transfers.

<https://tiempo.hn/carlos-madero-honduras-podria-volver-al-confinamiento-en-enero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondurenos-continuan-con-suspension-de-garantias-constitucionales/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-autoriza-al-ejecutivo-entregar-bonos-de-asistencia-social-a-traves-de-transferencias-electronicas/>

As announced, health sector workers protested yesterday against the failures of the JOH regime to comply with previous agreements.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2531-honduras-enfermeria-protesta-50-millones-en-sueldos-le-debe-gobierno>

The CNA published its 14th report on corruption during the pandemic.

"The group of anti-corruption experts explained that a total of 138 mechanical fans with their respective inputs have yet to be received as planned, thus generating a shortage of equipment

needed to greatly alleviate the health crisis that our country is going through because of the COVID-19."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1341016263762567169>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-denuncia-que-138-ventiladores-mecanicos-comprados-por-honduras-siguen-sin-llegar/>

Proceso Digital writes how violence against women marked 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/violencia-contra-las-mujeres-marca-el-2020/>

"At least five violent events have been recorded inside Honduran prisons so far this year, all in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic, leaving 15 inmates murdered. That extreme demonstrates the failure of the Armed Forces to control the prison system; in 2019, Governor Juan Orlando Hernández said he would recover the governability of the prisons by using the security and defense forces, but to date that promise has not been delivered."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51378>

Journalist Jonathan Blitzer summarized a recent interview with two members of the incoming US Biden administration about Central American migration.

And Reuters reported: "The incoming Biden administration is considering a plan to shield more than a million immigrants from Honduras and Guatemala from deportation after the countries were battered by hurricanes in November, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters."

<https://twitter.com/JonathanBlitzer/status/1341253131733233664>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-biden/exclusive-biden-team-weighs-deportation-relief-for-more-than-1-million-hondurans-guatemalans-sources-idUSKBN28V2IN>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1341176452327370752>

22/12/20

Honduras Daily; CONADEH; US - Corruption - Pandora; Journalists; Iota; COVID-19; ID Card; Police; and Tree 1: Mobile Hospital 0

The newest attempt to undermine human rights in Honduras by the JOH regime, pushing through a new CONADEH commissioner (see yesterday), was met with widespread rejection.

OACNUDH published a press release. "The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OHCHR) expresses concern about the voting process for the position of National Human Rights Commissioner (CONADEH) held in the National Congress during the

night of December 21. In this regard, it calls for the continuation of the process of public hearings that had been suspended in March of this year."

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford, also calls for a rigorous and participatory election process for the CONADEH commissioner.

Even Proceso Digital and El Heraldo critically reported on this.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2538-analistas-con-cambio-en-conadeh-avanza-plan-golpista-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-de-derechos-humanos-podrian-impugnar-nombramiento-de-la-nueva-titular-del-conadeh/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/cuestionan-decision-del-congreso-por-nombrar-nueva-comisionada-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-insta-a-que-se-asegure-la-independencia-y-autonomia-del-conadeh-a-traves-de-un-proceso-de-nombramiento-de-su-titular-transparente-y-participativo/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1341429639164686340>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1341533636827504644>

<https://proceso.hn/oacnudh-senala-preocupacion-por-procedimiento-de-eleccion-de-titular-del-conadeh/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1431083-466/blanca-sarahi-izaguirre-nueva-comisionada-derechos-humanos-conadeh>

US Congress approved a bill which includes "\$506 million for Central America, at least \$45 million of which must be allocated to anti-corruption efforts". None of the money can go to the Armed Forces.

Additionally, Congress approved the Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act which includes the so-called Engel List, a list of corrupt officials from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1341543987056926720>

<https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/2020/12/engel-u-s-northern-triangle-enhanced-engagement-act-passes-congress>

<https://twitter.com/SpeakerPelosi/status/1341587327077015558>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-eeuu-aprueba-lista-engel-sancionar-corruptos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2536-eeuu-sancionara-golpistas-y->

[corruptos-de-honduras](#)

"Fernando Suarez is the key witness in the Pandora's Box case. He voluntarily presented himself in November 2018 before the Public Ministry of Honduras; he accepted his responsibility in the facts and explained to the Prosecutors who were in charge of the network that was forged to loot money from the State through two foundations. He provided evidence that showed who decided and how those involved in the looting of more than 282 million lempiras (about \$12 million) operated. But, in spite of the willingness to reveal the truth, Suarez, through his defense, denounces that the Attorney General Oscar Fernando Chinchilla, has not complied with what was agreed in the collaboration agreement that was made."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/22/fernando-suarez-el-testigo-clave-del-caso-pandora-que-ha-quedado-en-el-olvido/>

"The journalist Eduin Castro, denounced to C-Libre to have been a victim of aggressions and police detention last December 9th, while he was covering a protest of inhabitants of the community "La Sabana", municipality of Yorito, department of Yoro."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1293-periodista-detenido-y-agredido-por-fuerzas-policiales-en-departamento-de-yoro>

South Korea donated \$300'000 to Honduras in the aftermath of Eta and Iota.

<https://proceso.hn/corea-del-sur-dona-300000-dolares-a-honduras-para-afectados-por-eta-e-iota/>

398 new COVID-19 cases, 117'588 in total. 12 more Hondurans died, officially, 3046 have died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-117588-infectados-y-3046-decesos-por-covid-19/>

According to the RNP, they will start handing out the new identity card in the second half of 2021. "The process of applying for the new National Identification Document is about to be completed. During the year, RNP and its project Identify Yourself carried out the enrollment at the national level through which the personal data of each Honduran was updated or confirmed, to feed the new registry base, which is managed in a transparent and reliable manner. To date, the data of 4,929,124 citizens enrolled at the national level, fingerprints and facial recognition of each Honduran who attended the enrollment sessions have been collected."

<https://proceso.hn/en-segunda-quincena-de-enero-iniciara-entrega-de-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad-anuncia-rnp/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51434>

The murder of two sisters in Reitoca makes headlines as the husband of one of the two accuses a

police agent to be the culprit.

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-habria-matado-a-hermanas-en-reitoca/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2534-comedia-honduras-hospital-movil-quedo-guindado-en-arbol-y-lo-embistio-carro>

23/12/20

Honduras Daily: CONADEH; Journalists; LGBTQ+; US - Corruption; OFRANEH - IACtHR; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Iota; Budget; and US-Backed Death Squads

Protest against Blanca Izaguirre as the new CONADEH continues (see previous days). The Anti-Corruption Coalition calls for the cancellation of her nomination.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/otra-arbitrariedad-del-regimen-eleccion-de-la-nueva-titular-del-conadeh/>

<https://proceso.hn/coaliccion-anticorrupcion-de-honduras-pide-anular-el-nombramiento-de-ombudsman/>

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) condemned the murder of journalist Pedro Arcángel Canelas in Honduras (see previous e-mail and second link below).

<https://proceso.hn/la-sip-pide-esclarecer-el-asesinato-de-un-periodista-en-honduras/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1294-matan-a-periodista-en-departamento-de-olancho>

LGBTQ+ defender José Zambrano was awarded the Franco-German prize, the first time it went to a Honduran.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2541-honduras-historico-jose-primer-defensor-hondureno-en-recibir-premio-franco-aleman>

There are also some critical voices regarding the recently presented Engel's List for corrupt officials (see yesterday) and rightly so, as previous initiatives have led nowhere.

Journalist Jeff Ernst highlights some of the differences to previous attempts. He also explains that the list is not law yet, Trump's signature is still missing.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1341725496388759552>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1341927659803181058>

OFRANEH was granted a hearing at the Inter-American Courts of Human Rights regarding various cases, Punta Piedra, Triunfo de la Cruz, and the forcefully disappeared young Garífunas. It will take place on March 4, 2021.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1341812542407122945>

448 new COVID-19 cases, 118'036 in total. 8 more people died, 3054 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/aumentan-a-118-mil-036-los-casos-de-coronavirus-con-448-nuevos-contagios/>

"Dr. Carlos Umaña has told EL LIBERTADOR that by the first three weeks of 2021, the hospital network will be totally collapsed due to the Christmas contagion, and that the decision to leave Hondurans without confinement will cause a greater economic and social impact than at present."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2542-honduras-dara-bienvenida-a-2021-con-colapso-de-hospitales-y-encierro-total>

"In the coming days, the National Congress will authorize municipalities to be able to directly and immediately purchase land that will be used to build houses for the people affected by the passage of Cyclones Eta and Iota. According to the law in possession of the Secretariat of the National Congress, the authorization will be given exclusively to the municipalities of regions that were affected by last November's floods."

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-autorizara-a-municipalidades-a-comprar-terrenos-de-forma-directa-para-construir-viviendas/>

Congress approved the 2021 budget worth almost 289 billion Lempiras.

In this context, it is illustrative to mention that Honduras loses 46 billion Lempiras per year due to tax exemptions - a huge sum.

And another worrisome number, Honduras lost 100 billion Lempiras this year due to the pandemic and the two hurricanes.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/aprobado-el-presupuesto-para-el-2021/>

<https://proceso.hn/aprueban-presupuesto-por-288-mil-871-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pierde-anualmente-46-mil-millones-de-lempiras-por-exoneraciones-fiscales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51496>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/12/20/the-evolution-of-u-s-backed-death-squads-in-honduras/>

25/12/20

Honduras Daily: Agribusiness; COVID-19 - Vaccine, Education; Elections; Drug Trafficking; and Spying in Honduras

"Carlos Humberto Motiño, leader of the organization "Alcahumo Ambientalista", from the city of Choluteca, in the south of Honduras, from where he denounced the return of the agro-industry of "los chupa ríos", in a reference to the large companies dedicated to the agro-industry of melon, tilapia and watermelons, among other extractive industries from the countryside, installed in the southern zone of Honduras and that monopolize the use of the waters of the rivers and wetlands for the development of their productive activities."

<https://criterio.hn/organizacion-ambientalista-denuncia-cercado-de-fuente-de-agua-en-choluteca/>

238 new COVID-19 cases, 118'659 in total. One more Honduran died, 3061 have officially died during the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-238-casos-de-covid-19-y-acumula-118659-contagios-desde-marzo/>

The Health Secretariat estimates that the vaccine against COVID-19 will arrive in Honduras in the second semester of 2021.

UNAH laboratories could store it at the requested extremely low temperature.

<https://proceso.hn/vacunas-contr-la-covid-19-arribaran-a-honduras-en-el-segundo-trimestre-de-2021/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1431590-466/laboratorio-unah-puede-almacenar-vacunas-bajo-cero>

Some 50'000 university students dropped their studies this year as a consequence of the pandemic.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1431739-410/50000-alumnos-abandonaron-universidades-honduras-covid-19>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) presented the list of internal movements running in the coming primary elections. There are three for the Liberal Party, two for the National Party, and 4 for Libre. The three movement inside the Christian Democracy Party were rejected for not complying with "the minimum requirements".

There is also an internal movement of the National Party which was left out and its leader, Loreley Fernández, reacted by calling the leaders of the National Party "criminals".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2543-honduras-listas-papeletas-electorales-14-movimientos-van-a-primarias>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-papeletas-para-elecciones-primarias-2021/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/loreley-fernandez-califica-de-delincuentes-a-lideres-de-su-propio-partido/>

"According to documents from the prosecutor's office for the Southern District of New York dated December 23, 2020, approximately in 2012 the asset launderer Yani Benjamin Rosenthal Hidalgo, who now participates as a presidential pre-candidate for the Liberal Party, received one million dollars from the Sinaloa Cartel to finance his pre-candidacy for the presidency of Honduras."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/12/25/yani-rosenthal-recibio-un-millon-de-dolares-del-cartel-de-sinaloa/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/12/23/direccion-de-inteligencia-de-honduras-espia-llamadas-whatsapp-mensajes-de-texto/>

<https://www.accessnow.org/nso-whatsapp-hacking-victims-stories/>

26/12/20

Honduras Daily: Libre; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; Drug Trafficking;

"Tonight, indigenous Lenca leader Felix Vásquez, pre-candidate for Congress for LIBRE party was murdered in the southern dep't of La Paz. Every single election & pre-election time in #Honduras is bloody & violent."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1343046642363113472>

438 new COVID-19 cases, 119'097 in total. 4 more Hondurans died, 3065 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-119-mil-contagios-de-covid-19-y-suman-tres-mil-065-los-decesos/>

The National Pulmonary Institute, called El Tórax Hospital, is full, i.e. the ward for grave COVID-19 cases.

<https://tiempo.hn/pacientes-graves-ovid-19-torax-no-recibira-salas/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2545-honduras-oficial-colapso-total-para-atender-covid>

The National Party asked the Central American Integration System (SICA) to serve as a "mechanism" to buy vaccines for the Central American countries.

Radio HRN, meanwhile, reports that Honduras could be among the last Central American countries to receive a vaccine.

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-el-sica-deberia-comprar-vacunas-para-centroamerica/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-podria-ser-uno-de-los-ultimos-paises-de-centroamerica-en-recibir-vacuna-contra-covid>

Jeff Ernst has more on the alleged \$1 million received by Liberal presidential hopeful Yani Rosenthal (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1342885893569441794>

27/12/20

Honduras Daily: Libre - Assassination; Corruption; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector;

Defensores en Línea reports on the murder of the indigenous social leader, he was the General Secretary of the United Farm Workers, and Libre congressional candidate Félix Vásquez (see yesterday). Four hooded men entered his house and shot him in Ocotal in the municipality of Santiago de Puringla, La Paz. In the last months, he had denounced death threats against him. The Coalition against Impunity holds the JOH regime responsible for his death.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/hombres-encapuchados-y-armados-asesinan-a-dirigente-indigena-en-la-paz-felix-vasquez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-exigen-justicia-para-felix-vasquez-y-castigo-a-sus-asesinos/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-estado-es-responsable-del-asesinato-de-felix-vasquez-cci/>

CESPAD explains how UFERCO has been dismantled to guarantee impunity for corruption networks.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/27/asi-ha-sido-el-desmontaje-de-la-uferco-para-garantizar-impunidad-a-las-redes-de-corrupcion/>

Proceso Digital reports on the difficult year for journalist due to violence, COVID-19 and the economic situation.

<https://proceso.hn/periodistas-victimas-del-crimen-el-covid-19-y-la-crisis-economica-en-2020>

616 new COVID-19 cases, 119'713 in total. One more person died, 3066 have died according to the official statistics.

At the same time, deputy minister of health, Roberto Cosenza, told Proceso Digital that some 100 people are being admitted to hospitals every day for COVID-19 and 15 people die per day.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-confirman-616-nuevos-casos-y-un-muerto-por-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/alrededor-de-15-hondurenos-mueren-a-diario-por-covid-19-roberto-cosenza/>

Another hospital has announced to have an intensive care unit full with COVID-19 patients, the Hospital María de Especialidades Pediátricas.

<https://proceso.hn/hospital-maria-colapsado-confirman-autoridades-de-salud/>

28/12/20

Honduras Daily: Libre - Assassination; Extractivism; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19; Violence; Minimum Wage; Labor Rights;

Both the UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras as well as OACNUDH condemned the murder of Félix Vásquez (see previous two days).

Even the US embassy condemned it.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1343383558736535552>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-del-defensor-indigena-felix-vasquez-e-insta-a-que-se-lleve-a-cabo-una-investigacion-pronta-independiente-y-eficaz/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-condena-asesinato-de-defensor-indigena-y-pide-investigacion-a-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1343650794395078663>

"In the open town hall held this Sunday in the municipality of Arizona, department of Atlántida, there were not only important results, but also mandates from the people to their authorities, said Martín Fernández of the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ). One of the most important mandates is that following hurricanes Iota and Eta, which devastated a large part of the country, the municipal authorities and the hydroelectric companies that are already installed in various communities, must invest resources to recover the losses and improve the situation of the people who were affected. Another important agreement is that it has ratified the condition that the Jilamito River is not subject to any negotiation and will be used as the water source for the 16 communities of the Arizona municipality, Fernandez added. The residents made it clear that they want the company Ingelsa out of Arizona as it plans to build a hydroelectric project on the Jilamito

River."

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-de-arizona-atlantida-ratifican-el-no-al-extractivismo/>

The Pro Honduras Network reports that a video in the hands of the prosecutor's office in NY narrates a tacit alliance between Juan Orlando and Yani Rosenthal to provide protection to drug traffickers.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/12/28/video-en-manos-de-la-fiscalia-en-ny-narra-una-alianza-tacita-entre-juan-orlando-y-yani-rosenthal-para-brindar-proteccion-a-narcotraficantes/>

CESPAD published the first of a three-part series on former Honduran congressman and accused drug trafficker Fredy Nájera.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/28/fredy-najera-el-exdiputado-hondureno-que-en-siete-anos-trasego-20-toneladas-de-cocaina/>

390 new COVID-19 cases, 120'103 in total. 22 Hondurans died, 3088 have officially died so far. There are still some 6000 unprocessed tests. The head of the Health Surveillance Unit, Karla Pavón, assured that they were working on this.

The coordinator for the triage centers, Karol Martínez, fears a tripling of COVID-19 cases in January.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-120-mil-contagios-de-covid-y-se-reportan-22-nuevos-decesos/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-el-menor-tiempo-posible-se-busca-cubrir-la-mora-en-pruebas-de-pcr-karla-pavon/>

<https://tiempo.hn/casos-covid19-honduras-enero/>

The JOH regime claims that the homicide rate this year dropped to below 10 homicides per day (9.46). Due to the pandemic and the lockdown it is not unlikely that the rate really decreased but as has been shown in these e-mails, the official statistics by the JOH regime regarding violence cannot be trusted.

Between December 24 and 27, at least 68 people were murdered in Honduras.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-cierra-2020-con-reduccion-de-homicidios-pero-sigue-ola-de-violencia>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2548-alarmante-90-hondurenos-murieron-en-fin-de-semana-navideno>

Negotiations regarding the minimum wage for 2021 started after all yesterday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1432221-466/instala-mesa-negociacion-salario-minimo-honduras>

Both COPECO and ENEE employees protested yesterday due to outstanding paychecks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-brazos-caidos-siguen-en-copeco-por-incumplimiento-de-salarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/stenee-protesta-contra-irregularidades-y-atrasos-salariales/>

29/12/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Assassination, Criminalization; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education; Corruption - IHSS; and Auditing the Auditors

What a horrible ending of 2020. Four days ago, the indigenous Lenca defender Félix Vásquez was murdered (see previous e-mails).

While there is even more pressure from the US to investigate the case, another defender was murdered yesterday.

Indigenous Tolupán defender Adán Mejía was murdered in La Paz.

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford denounced the assassination.

CONADEH condemned the murdered and said that it started an investigation.

The JOH regime probably first awaiting the international response, now also condemned the murder of both Félix Vásquez and Adán Mejía as well as the recently murdered journalist Pedro Canelas.

Seven indigenous defenders have been murdered in Honduras this year.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle wrote an important article on how these murders are treated in Honduras.

"At this point in the story, El Herald and La Prensa, which as always, with no major background on the long struggle of the bloody man, present the information on the page of the red note... instead of as political news, they introduce calls for other notes on the murder of two assailants on a bus, the arrest of a rapist, the torture and death of an unknown teenager. (...) Although he was just as brave and clear-minded in confronting the enemies of his people, Felix was a national and local leader, he did not have the projection or international recognition that Berta Caceres had. But in the context of the recently announced fiscal package, and the Engel List, the crime against him will also affect U.S. cooperation, which is so needed in the current crisis. Although this has never mattered to the death squads that have carried out so many of these non-judicial executions. Because, as is well known, nothing happens. Even if they are caught and criminally prosecuted, the system will be protecting them, the gunmen will remain very quiet, and those who give the orders will go unpunished. And they will continue to play with the drop of blood that spills from the chalice. Let's hope so, drop by drop. QDP Felix Vazquez."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/29/indigenous-environmental-defender-killed-felix-vasquez>

<https://twitter.com/RepSires/status/1343997504627617794>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1344097715387568129>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1344059794714468353>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1344103288686456835>

<https://proceso.hn/conadeh-condena-asesinato-de-lider-tolupan-jose-adan-medina-en-yoro/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-condena-asesinato-de-ambientalistas-y-periodista-y-asegura-que-se-investigaran-los-crmenes/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-noticia-del-asesinato-de-felix-vasquez-y-el-algoritmo-del-miedo/>

OACNUDH visited the criminalized Lenca defenders Víctor Vásquez and José Santos held in pre-trial detention. Félix Vásquez (see above) had participated at a protest calling for their release before he was assassinated.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1344068847255617538>

809 new COVID-19 cases, 120'912 in total. 23 people died, 3111 have officially died. But according to the funeral homes' association, there are at least 7400 deaths linked to COVID-19.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-en-honduras-sinager-confirma-809-casos/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/muertes-por-covid-19-superan-las-siete-mil-segun-funerarias/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ante-pasividad-gubernamental-aumentan-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Another doctor died to COVID-19, at least 54 have died during the pandemic so far. And there are more and more reports of saturated hospitals (see also previous days).

<https://confidencial.hn.com/muere-un-pediatra-en-el-ihss-de-san-pedro-sula-por-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/muere-medico-pediatra-por-causa-de-covid-19-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://www.hispan.tv.com/noticias/honduras/484678/tegucigalpa-pacientes-covid>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/hospitales-de-san-pedro-sula-abarrotados-de-pacientes-covid-en-la-ultima-semana-de-2020>

There is a growing fear that pupils won't be able to go back to school at the beginning of next year.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51608>

In the newest case linked to the IHSS corruption case, the MP obtained a writ of indictment against a businessman and four former officials of the IHSS.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6825-mp-obtiene-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contras-empresario-y-exfuncionarios-vinculados-a-nuevo-fraude-en-el-ihss>

"Last July, an auditing board assumed the direction of Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Invest-H), to "recover the credibility" of the institution due to the outrageous corruption during the new coronavirus emergency, however, irregularities continue and, even worse, have been led by the auditors."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2549-honduras-intervendran-a-los-interventores-de-invest-h>

30/12/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Congress; Violence - Youth; Drug Trafficking; Dengue; COVID-19 - Vaccine, Health Sector; Political Opposition; and Seven Attitudes for 2021

In the last session of 2020, Congress approved a disputed hydroelectric project against the opposition of social movements.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1344336054690717696>

<https://criterio.hn/movimiento-territorial-rechaza-aprobacion-de-contratos-energeticos-por-el-congreso-nacional/>

"The coordinator of Casa Alianza Honduras, Jose Guadalupe Ruela reports that during this year 2020, on average every month 60 young people, boys and girls under 23 years old were murdered in Honduras."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/en-honduras-unos-60-menores-son-asesinados-cada-mes-casa-alianza/>

CESPAD published its second article on former congressman and accused drug trafficker Fredy Nájera.

The Pro Honduras Network also published three new articles on the Sinaloa Cartel and its activities in Honduras based on newly released court documents. In the first, they list five people who, according to testimonies and official documents, worked with the cartel and received money from them: JOH, Yani Rosenthal, Miguel Rodrigo Pastor, Fabio Lobo and Fredy Nájera

The second article focuses on Fredy Nájera.

And the third on Miguel Pastor.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/12/30/asi-construyo-su-poderio-con-el-cartel-de-sinaloa-el-exdiputado->

[hondureno-fredy-najera/](#)

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/12/30/los-socios-del-cartel-de-sinaloa-en-honduras/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/12/30/fredy-najera-trafico-mas-de-20-toneladas-de-cocaina-del-cartel-de-sinaloa-con-la-ayuda-de-militares-y-policias-hondurenos/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/12/30/miguel-pastor-recibio-2-millones-de-dolares-del-cartel-de-sinaloa-para-financiar-su-campana-como-pre-candidato-presidencial-del-partido-nacional/>

Additionally to the corona pandemic, there are also some 24'861 dengue cases in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-reporta-229-casos-de-dengue-grave/>

915 new COVID-19 cases, 121'827 in total. 19 more Hondurans died, 3130 have officially died, more likely, it is twice as much (see yesterday).

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-915-nuevos-contagios-y-supera-los-121-mil-casos-de-covid-19/>

According to GAVI representative Yolani Batres, Honduras will receive 20% of the needed doses of vaccine for free.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1427602-410/el-20-de-vacunas-contra-covid-19-seran-gratis-gobierno-e-ihss>

Honduras has only one hospital bed in an intensive care unit per 151'200 Honduran.

The Finance Minister Marco Midence claims that they have permanently employed some former 5800 temporary health workers.

<https://tiempo.hn/vidео-camas-uci-cuidados-intermedios-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-confirma-permanencia-laboral-para-5800-empleados-de-salud-en-honduras/>

"Opposition deputies consider that the main challenge for 2021 is to consolidate unity in the Legislative Branch. Patricia Murillo, deputy of the Libertad y Refundación, Libre party, for the department of Cortés, considered that it is necessary that all political forces bet on unity and the formation of an opposition block with the main objective of legislating in favor of the people."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/unidad-principal-reto-de-oposicion-en-el-congreso-nacional-para-el-2021/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/np/que-actitudes-sembrar-antes-de-concluir-un-ano-difcil-2/>

31/12/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; COVID-19; Migration - México; Elections; and New Year's Wishes

ConexiHon published an update on the situation of the criminalized human rights defenders in the south who oppose a large-scale solar plant.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1797-continua-criminalizacion-contradefensores-del-ambiente-en-el-sur-de-honduras>

The year closed with 121'827 COVID-19 cases and at least 3130 dying to the pandemic.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1432751-466/con-121827-casos-3130-muertes-covid-cierrahonduras-2020>

There are rumors about a new migrant caravan at the start of this new year. In response to this, the Mexican consulate in San Pedro Sula announced that they won't let people in.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1432864-410/mexico-advierete-que-no-permitia-el-ingreso-irregular-de-caravanas-honduras>

Libre congresswo/men withdrew from the discussion about the new Electoral Law in protest against the National Party which is trying to impose their version of the law.

The CNE returned the electoral census to the RNP asking them to clean it up.

The RNP, meanwhile, announced that over 5 million Hondurans have already applied for the new ID card.

<https://proceso.hn/libre-esta-en-contra-de-una-nueva-ley-electoral-a-la-medida-del-oficialismo-jaridixon/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-devuelve-la-base-de-datos-del-enrolamiento-al-rnp-para-que-corrija-los-errores/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-5-millones-de-hondurenos-de-enrolaron-segun-el-rnp/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/np/nuestros-deseos-para-2021/>