

01/01/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19; Corruption; Drug Trafficking; Violence; Coffee; Electricity;

2021 started with 211 new detected COVID-19 cases and 19 more deaths. Among them is the Libre Councillor from Puerto Cortés, Danny Díaz. There are 122'974 cases in Honduras and 3160 people have officially died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reporta-19-nuevos-decesos-y-otros-211-contagios-de-covid-19-en-inicio-de-ano-nuevo/>

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-regidor-de-puerto-cortes-con-sospecha-de-covid-19-en-la-zona-norte/>

Already the first health worker died in the new year to COVID-19, the nurse Leonor Rodríguez.

<https://tiempo.hn/primer-enfermera-fallece-covid-2021/>

There are over 25 high-level corruption cases scheduled at the courts, among them the re-trial against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1432824-466/honduras-mas-de-25-casos-alto-impacto-a-juicio-2021>

CESPAD published part three of the series on Fredy Nájera.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/01/fredy-najera-los-anos-previos-a-su-extradicion-y-su-inminente-condena-en-estados-unidos/>

There has already been the first mass-murder in 2021, four people died in Catacamas, Olancho.

<https://proceso.hn/olancho-reporta-masacre-en-primer-dia-del-2021/>

La Prensa foresees a difficult year for Honduras' coffee growers.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1433003-410/baja-demanda-de-cafe-alerta-a-exportadores-honduras-cafeteros>

Energy prices are 3.48% higher since yesterday, at least until March 31.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1432812-466/clientes-enee-pagaran-70-millones-mas-por-ajuste>

02/01/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Health Sector; Elections; and LGBTQ

170 new COVID-19 cases (by testing only 619 people), 123'144 in total. 13 more people died, officially, 3173 have died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-123144-contagios-y-3173-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Another hospital, Leonardo Martínez in San Pedro Sula, cannot take in any more COVID-19 patients.

<https://proceso.hn/sin-cupo-para-pacientes-covid-19-en-el-hospital-leonardo-martinez/>

Mel Zelaya denounces that some 1'641'000 Hondurans have seen their place of vote changed, against their will. He further emphasized again that Libre won't stand for a change in the date of the elections and he criticized the error-prone census which cost \$80 million.

<https://noticias247.hn/mel-zelaya-un-millon-641-mil-personas-estan-movidas-de-su-centro-de-votacion/>

Several years ago, LGBTQ defender Arely Victoria Gómez Cruz had to leave Honduras to save her life. "Now in Madrid, Spain, she declares herself a transsexual defender of migrant populations and her effort and charisma have led her to shine in the world of cinema, in the series Veneno, a production with millions of viewers, she received the Ondas Award for Best Female Performance in 2020."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/01/02/mujer-trans-triunfa-como-actriz-de-laureada-serie-internacional-veneno/>

03/01/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Education; Elections; and JOH's New Year Speech Deciphered

225 new COVID-19 cases, 123'369 in total. 7 more Hondurans died, 3180 have officially died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-agrega-225-nuevos-casos-y-siete-decesos-por-covid-19/>

JOH presented a new executive decree with which he pretends to legalize the restrictions on the constitutional rights which had been in place since the beginning of the pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-amplia-limitacion-a-garantias-constitucionales-y-solicita-ratificacion-al-legislativo/>

The hospitals in San Pedro Sula cannot take up anymore COVID-19 patients.

The Health Secretariat, meanwhile, tries to distance itself from the purchase of the mobile hospitals, laying the blame solely on Invest-H.

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-sampedranos-sin-cupos-para-pacientes-con-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-insiste-que-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-se-hizo-sin-su->

[consentimiento-acepta-el-error/](#)

While the teachers' union denounce that some 400'000 pupils were excluded from the education system as a consequence of the pandemic, the JOH regime claims that the alternatives they offered to in-class teaching were sufficient.

<https://tiempo.hn/estudiantes-vinculados-al-sistema-educativo-honduras/>

Víctor Meza, who conducted a study on vote buying in the 2013 elections, fears that the situation will be even worse this time around.

And then, there is the problem with the technical part of the coming electoral cycle. "One of the three companies that were disputing the provision of the election results transmission service withdrew in the last hours under the argument that it does not adjust its time to offer quality work."

<https://criterio.hn/clientelismo-electoral/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1433298-466/empresa-de-transmision-de-resultados-se-retira-de-proceso>

<https://criterio.hn/compania-proveedora-del-cne-considera-que-no-hay-garantia-de-calidad-para-elecciones-internas/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-mensaje-de-ano-nuevo-de-joh-descifrado/>

04/01/21

Honduras Daily: HR; Violence against Women; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Agriculture; Elections; National Police; Electricity; and No Transparency

COFADEH's Bertha Oliva does not mince words. "Regarding human rights, 2020 was a tragic year".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-en-materia-de-derechos-humanos-el-2020-fue-un-ano-tragico/>

"The historical and invisible pandemic of violence against women in Honduras closed in 2020 with catastrophic figures, since the 911 line reported more than 100 thousand calls for domestic violence, said Cristina Alvarado, member of the Women's Movement for Peace Visitación Padilla, in Radio Progreso. According to data from the Observatory of Violence at the public university, 2020 closed with more than 300 femicides, "a figure similar to that of previous years despite the confinement, where it is said that the best thing is to stay at home," said Alvarado, assuring that in Honduras staying at home is not a safe place for women."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-cerro-2020-con-cifras-catastroficas-en-violencia->

[contra-las-mujeres/](#)

Testing capacity remains very low in Honduras, only 254 people were tested yesterday, 29 resulted positive. There are currently 123'623 COVID-19 cases. 22 more people died, officially 3181 have died so far.

But once again, the funeral homes explain that they have reported more than double the amount of deaths, 7300.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-123623-infectados-y-3181-decesos-por-covid-19/>

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

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2559-honduras-alarmante-funerarias-registran-casi-8-000-muertos-por-covid>

Another doctor, Marco Tulio Martínez Ávila, died to COVID-19.

Health workers protest again their assignment to the controversial mobile hospitals.

"The Ministries of Finance and of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization (SGJD), announced the allocation of 100 million lempiras to extend the work done in the triage centers and medical brigades."

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-fallece-fundador-medicasa-marco-martinez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicato-de-trabajadores-del-he-se-opone-a-traslado-de-empleados-al-hospital-movil/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-asigna-l-100-millones-para-extender-centros-de-triaje-y-brigadas-medicas-por-tres-meses/>

"The peasant sector has little hope that 2021 will be better than 2020 in terms of agrifood, factors such as the damage caused by storms Eta and Iota and the state's abandonment mean that projections for this area are not promising."

<https://criterio.hn/el-2021-sera-un-ano-difcil-para-sector-agroalimentario-advierde-dirigencia-campesina/>

The withdrawal of the Spanish company Minsait Indra from the electoral process (see yesterday) raised further concerns about the upcoming electoral cycle. "The withdrawal of Minsait Indra only confirms what several sectors have been indicating, that there are no conditions for a process whether primary or general and this is because the rules of the game remain the same as those of the coup d'état and the elections of 2010, 2013 and 2017."

Padre Melo also commented on this situation. ""This Political Pact of Impunity is the instrument that leads the current electoral process," he said, explaining that this pact has led to the definition of the two Honduras. The first is a deep humanitarian crisis (...) This is not a temporary crisis, but a structural or fundamental one, which leads to the reality of the coming years. (...) The other Honduras is the one that leads the political electoral process, "which has led us to believe that all

problems are solved at the polls, therefore, whoever is outside the electoral process is not Honduran and is a threat, so everyone to enlist, to seek elected office or support candidates," he said explaining that the two Honduras are connected by a bridge, whose keys to open the doors are held by the power group led by Juan Orlando Hernandez, so that the political pact of impunity has control of these two Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/salida-de-empresa-espanola-confirma-falta-de-condiciones-para-elecciones-justas-en-el-pais/>

<https://criterio.hn/proceso-electoral-primario-no-presenta-garantias-y-fantasma-de-reeleccion-de-joh-persiste/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2558-honduras-consejo-electoral-va-a-comicios-alto-riesgo-avisora-empresa-espanola>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/joh-consolida-pacto-politico-de-impunidad-senala-padre-melo/>

Four members of the police force are accused of various crimes, among them theft with violence, aggravated intimidation and illegal deprivation of liberty.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/169-diciembre2020/6836-detencion-judicial-a-cuatro-policias-implicados-en-varios-delitos>

"The National Electric Energy Company's (ENEE) arrears to private power generators is a never-ending problem, which from the perspective of the State Workers' Union, is bleeding into the institution's finances. According to figures from the Association of Energy Producers, the debt once again exceeds 8 billion lempiras. It should be noted that the National Congress in the last quarter of 2020 approved the placement of more than \$600 million in sovereign bonds to pay arrears to the generators, however, the contractual clauses of electricity generation continue to leave a heavy economic burden on ENEE."

<https://criterio.hn/sindicalistas-de-la-enee-sugieren-que-contratos-de-generacion-energetica-deben-ser-revisados/>

"The Government of Honduras continues to resort to misleading campaigns to gain a positive image locally and internationally by making use of speeches that are easy to dismantle."

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-miente-cuando-sostiene-que-promueve-la-transparencia-y-rendicion-de-cuentas/>

05/01/21

Honduras Daily: IHSS; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; Elections - RNP, Clean Politics; Migration; and Another Lost Term at Congress

Criterio published an investigation of the sorry state of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) suffering from mismanagement and corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/plan-prosolidar-una-ilusion-que-podria-ser-la-estocada-final-del-ihss/>

424 new COVID-19 cases, 123'822 in total. 19 more Hondurans died, 3186 have officially died, more likely it is twice as much (see previous days).

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-424-nuevos-contagios-de-covid-19-y-acumula-123-mil-822-casos/>

Even though millions of dollars have flown to the JOH regime in response to the pandemic, real effects for Hondurans are scarcely seen. One case in point. The JOH regime reacted to the new surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths with setting up...seven more intensive care unit beds.

<https://confidencialhn.com/con-7-camas-salud-dara-respuesta-a-rebote-covid-19-mientras-funcionen-hospitales-moviles/>

"The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) recalls that the Honduran Strategic Investment Board (Invest-H), whose 180-day mandate ends on January 24, has been unable to present a partial report on the promised audit of the purchase of the so-called mobile hospitals."

<https://criterio.hn/junta-interventora-de-invest-h-aun-no-se-pronuncia-sobre-el-no-funcionamiento-de-los-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://proceso.hn/cna-reprocha-que-interventora-de-invest-h-finalice-su-mandato-sin-presentar-auditorias-de-hospitales-moviles/>

In about two months, the primary elections should take place in Honduras. As highlighted in these e-mails, there are many problems with the electoral setup of Honduras and a new one may have become public yesterday. RNP (National Persons Registry) commissioner Óscar Rivera stepped down after a audio file was made public involving him in a possible act of bribery.

At the same time, he claimed his innocence.

Libre accepted his notice and announced an investigation.

But there are also calls for the MP to investigate.

Congress also has to accept the notice and Libre has to present a new representative.

Libre announced to elect someone this week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1433604-466/coimas-rnp-oscar-rivera-libre-doris-identificate-marvin-mirra>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oscar-rivera-alega-inocencia-y-pide-investigacion-para-demostrarlo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-analizara-caso-de-oscar-rivera-en-rnp-confirma-mel/>

<https://criterio.hn/extorsion-y-trafico-de-plazas-en-el-rnp-debe-ser-investigado-por-el-ministerio->

[publico/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-congreso-nacional-debe-ratificar-renuncia-del-comisionado-del-rnp-oscar-rivera/>

<https://criterio.hn/esta-semana-libre-escogeria-a-su-nuevo-representante-en-el-rnp/>

Another problem regarding the elections has to do with the so-called Clean Politics Act. Luis Zelaya, president of the Liberal Party, denounced that some proposed reforms to the law are due to backroom dealings between the National Party and Yani Rosenthal, a pre-candidate for the Liberal Party itself.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51698>

A new migration caravan may take off from Honduras on January 15.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1433743-466/nueva-caravana-migrante-honduras-guatemala-medidas-eta-iota-juan-orlando>

<https://proceso.hn/las-redes-promueven-una-caravana-migrante-animadas-por-la-llegada-de-biden/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/en-2020-congreso-nacional-legislo-a-favor-de-intereses-empresariales/>

06/01/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Medical Sector; Abortion; Elections; Migration; Domestic Workers; ENEE;

There are 124'899 COVID-19 cases in Honduras and officially 3192 deaths.

There are currently on average 15 officially recognized deaths in Honduras and the ICU capacity has reached 95%.

JOH called for an emergency evening.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-acerca-a-los-125000-casos-y-alcanza-los-3192-muertos-por-covid/>

<https://proceso.hn/un-promedio-de-15-muertes-diarias-por-covid-y-95-de-ocupacion-de-uci-registra-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-convoca-reunion-de-emergencia-por-covid-19/>

In El Progreso, there are no more corona tests in the triage centers.

"The president of the Medical Association of Honduras, Suyapa Figueroa, reported that during the health emergency due to covid-19 and hospital overcrowding, about 350 physicians were fired. (...)

"This government has been the most violating and disrespectful; it is the most terrible government in terms of (the transgression of the) guarantees of the workers as well as the people in general," Figueroa reproached."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/no-hay-pruebas-pcr-en-triajes-de-el-progreso-yoro/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51727>

El Heraldito reports on the abortion discussion in Honduras, one of the few countries in the region where the prohibition is total, even in case of rape.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1433849-466/aborto-honduras-carcel>

El Libertador has more on the newest developments regarding the newest electoral cycle, the recent changes to the Clean Politics Act (see also yesterday). "The National Congress reformed the Clean Politics Act and now, those candidates that due to illegal activity are unable to have bank accounts, will be able to designate third parties for the collection of money from their political campaigns."

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2562-honduras-congreso-ratifica-dinero-ilicito-para-candidatos>

Human Rights Watch published a report on the US 'Remain in Mexico' Program. "Under the "Remain in Mexico" program, people seeking asylum have to wait in Mexico and return periodically to the United States for immigration court hearings. Formally known as the "Migration Protection Protocols" (MPP), the program is anything but protective: it has sent people to some of Mexico's most dangerous cities and needlessly and foreseeably exposed them to considerable risk of serious harm. People interviewed for this report, including children, described rape or attempted rape and other sexual assault, abduction for ransom, extortion, armed robbery, and other crimes committed against them. In many cases, their attackers targeted them as they arrived in Mexico after their initial placement in the MPP or on their way back from court hearings, or as they left the migrant shelters where they stayed. In some cases, Mexican immigration officers or police committed these crimes."

Some 6000 Hondurans are expected to be deported this month.

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/01/06/im-drowning/children-and-families-sent-harm-us-remain-mexico-program>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibira-6-000-migrantes-retornados-de-eua-y-mexico-este-mes/>

"Obtaining their labor rights depends on a law that was passed in 1954 and their wages and salaries are not even included in the Minimum Wage Act that dates from 1971. In other words, the labor rights of domestic workers in Honduras are governed by obsolete laws and others that do not even take them into account. The social invisibility in which they remain continues to leave a legacy of labor informality that allows, in turn, marginalization, abuses and violations of even their personal integrity."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/06/las-trabajadoras-domesticas-que-decidieron-interpelar-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-de-honduras/>

Even though they just announced that they had to increase energy prices and they benefited from further state support, ENNE executives gave themselves a pay rise.

<https://criterio.hn/ejecutivos-de-la-enee-se-aumentan-hasta-50-mil-lempiras-de-salario-retroactivo/>

07/01/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Democracy, Poverty, Education; Elections; and the Challenge of the Environmental Movement for 2021

A new date has been set for an evidentiary hearing against David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres case, Monday, January 11, 9am.

<https://copinh.org/2021/01/convocan-a-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-contradavid-castillo/>

After some international coverage of the two murdered indigenous human rights defender Félix Vásquez and Adán Mejía, as well as the murdered social communicator Pedro Canelas at the end of last year, JOH reacted with a press release promising thorough investigations. Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with several HRDs highlighting the emptiness of these promises.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/contexto/item/3043-preocupaciones-falsas-de-joh-sobre-crimenes-contrapersonas-defensoras>

125'557 COVID-19 cases and 3244 officially recognized deaths.

There are more and more warnings that the situation has further worsened in Honduras and that one can observe an increase in the mortality.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-sobrepasa-los-125-mil-casos-de-covid-con-219-nuevos-contagios/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-25-personas-mueren-dia-covid-19-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1434052-466/letalidad-coronavirus-honduras-2021-pandemia>

Especially in the health sector, voices grow more concerned. "The situation in the Sula Valley is "desperate" due to the rise of COVID-19, warned this Thursday Carlos Umaña, president of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in San Pedro Sula, northern Honduras."

<https://confidencialhn.com/repunte-de-covid-19-es-desesperante-en-cortes-alerta-medico/>

And then, there is the ongoing attempt to misuse the pandemic for further undermining democracy. "At the request of Nationalist Congressman Tomás Zambrano, the Legislative Branch discussed and

approved a bill aimed at ensuring that by 2021 municipalities are not obliged to hold open town halls, due to the health emergency caused by COVID-19."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/eliminar-desarrollo-de-cabildos-municipales-es-una-medida-antidemocratica-y-autoritaria/>

<https://criterio.hn/amparados-en-la-emergencia-sanitaria-congreso-nacional-suspende-cabildos-abiertos-municipales-para-el-2021/>

Congress approved the prolongation of an amnesty to pay certain bills from the state by another 90 days.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-amnistias-para-varias-instituciones-del-estad/>

<https://proceso.hn/legislativo-aprueba-ampliacion-de-paquete-de-amnistias-por-90-dias/>

"In Honduras, more than 300,000 students dropped out of educational centers, according to figures estimated by the authorities, which will have to face a 2021 with the challenge of curbing the dropout rate exacerbated by the COVID-19 due to the closure of public schools and colleges."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51753>

El Libertador reports on the problematic role of the Armed Forces in the electoral process.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2569-honduras-politica-de-joh-ultimo-minuto-no-garantiza-elecciones>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/articularse-reto-del-movimiento-ambientalista-para-2021/>

8/01/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Criminalization; Iota; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals; Violence; Elections; Migration; and from Poverty to Misery

"Hours after he received the Franco-German Human Rights and Rule of Law Award, José Zambrano, an LGTBI rights defender, had his house set on fire, from which he had to flee with three members of his family to save their lives."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/denuncias/item/3047-en-peligro-su-vida-queman-la-casa-de-jose-zambrano-defensor-lgtbi>

"Civil society organizations are developing a proposal for a comprehensive law for the rights of the lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual and intersex community, LGTBI, one of the recommendations that have been highlighted through the Universal Periodic Review UPR, which has been conducted three

times on Honduras since 2010."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/contexto/item/3046-comunidad-lgtbi-buscara-la-aprobacion-de-una-ley-integral>

COFADEH sent out an alert yesterday. The young Elsy Dariela Cabrera was detained by the DPI again being criminalized for allegedly participating in the burning of the town hall of that municipality in July 2017. Already in 2018 a court had decided on alternative measures to imprisonment for her, nevertheless, she was taken from school yesterday and arrested.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/urgente-regimen-sigue-criminalizando-y-judicializando-a-opositores-y-defensores/>

Thousands of families hit by the hurricanes Eta and Iota remain in makeshift shelters.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/miles-de-familias-damnificadas-continuan-en-improvisados-albergues/>

There are 126'113 COVID-19 cases and officially, 3255 people have died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-126113-contagiados-y-3255-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

"Nine out of ten Hondurans are dying waiting to be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), because on average, the public hospital network only has 110 beds in special wards and these are already overcrowded, according to the pulmonologist Carlos Aguilar at the Toráx Hospital."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2574-hondurenos-en-hospital-de-la-muerte-no-hay-cupos-en-uci>

Every other week or so, Invest-H presents a new day for when the mobile hospital should finally be functional. Now, it is February.

And when questioned about this by journalists, they go on the attack.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1434420-466/gustavo-boquin-interventor-invest-hospitales-listos-febrero>

<https://confidencialhn.com/invest-h-increpa-a-periodistas-por-su-interes-en-hospitales-moviles/>

Honduras had a violent start into 2021 with 13 homicides on average per day.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-reporta-un-promedio-de-13-homicidios-diarios-en-los-primeros-dias-de-2021>

The RNP claims to have corrected the errors in the electoral census and they will send the new version to the National Electoral Council (CNE).

Criterio discusses the problem with the partisanship of electoral bodies in Honduras.

And lastly, there are also problems with the new identity card. "The company of Polish origin, Thales Group, contracted by the National Registry of Persons to print the new identity card, is involved in acts of corruption in South Africa, insists the deputy of the Innovation and Unity Party, Pinu, David Reyes."

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-entrega-este-viernes-datos-de-hondurenos-corregidos-al-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-empieza-a-pagar-las-consecuencias-de-la-partidizacion-de-organos-electorales/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/diputados-del-pinu-insisten-que-empresa-contratada-para-imprimir-tarjetas-de-identidad-esta-vinculada-a-corrupcion/>

The US sent out another warning regarding a possible new migration caravan.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-ee-uu-advierte-que-no-permitiran-que-caravana-de-migrantes-hondurenos-avance/>

<https://aguacero.plazapublica.com.gt/content/honduras-antes-eramos-pobres-pero-ahora-vinimos-ser-miserables>

09/01/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; COVID-19 - Health Sector;

Thanks to a newly released US court document, JOH's drug trafficking links once again made international headlines. The document reiterates that he received millions of dollars in bribes, it has an alleged statement from JOH that he planned to shove drugs "right up the noses of the gringos", it also highlights again the role of the Armed Forces in protecting drug traffickers, and it undermines another poster child of the US, Honduran Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla, who allegedly also protected the drug trafficking activities of Tony Hernández and other JOH associates.

Even corporate media outlets in Honduras could not ignore this, while also publishing statements of JOH denying all and everything.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/honduran-president-sought-access-to-cocaine-lab-court-documents>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/09/honduras-president-bribes-drug-traffickers-juan-orlando-herandez>

<https://apnews.com/article/noticias-473f53c9b241e10feee8c262bd0d79cd>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1434689-466/fiscalia-nueva-york-joh-queria-meter-droga-narices-gringos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1434665-466/fiscalia-nueva-york-juan-orlando-hernandez-soborno-narco>

<https://proceso.hn/fiscales-del-distrito-sur-dicen-que-el-presidente-hondureno-protegio-y-coordino-acciones-con-narcos-casa-presidencial-los-desmiente/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1434666-466/casa-presidencial-acusacion-de-eeuu-joh-es-100-falso>

There are 126'943 COVID-19 cases and 3236 official deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-roza-los-127-mil-contagios-de-covid-19-y-suma-tres-mil-236-decesos/>

Another doctor, the second this year, died to COVID-19, the orthopedist Carlos Castillo. Even though the Honduran health system is under immense pressure, authorities at the Torax Hospital did not renew the contracts of over 20 auxiliary nurses who were looking for permanent employment.

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-reconocido-medico-ortopeda-por-covid-19-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1434640-466/despiden-a-mas-de-20-enfermeras-auxiliares-del-torax>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2575-honduras-insolito-20-auxiliares-de-enfermeria-despedidos-del-colapsado-torax>

10/01/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Economy, Poverty; Abortion

The JOH regime reacts to the new reporting on the JOH-drug trafficking link (see yesterday and first link below) with the claim that drug transit through Honduras was reduced by 83% in the last years.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/fiscalia-estadounidense-prepara-camino-para-un-posible-juicio-contra-joh-senala-analista/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1434772-410/reporte-departamento-estado-honduras-reduccion-transito-droga-seis-a%C3%B1os-eua>

There are 127'945 COVID-19 cases and officially recognized 3273 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-127945-contagios-y-3273-decesos-por-covid-19/>

The humanitarian and health emergency established in 2020 was officially prolonged for 2021. The nightly curfew will be a bit longer starting today from 9pm to 5am.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-ratifica-emergencia-humanitaria-y-sanitaria-para-todo-2021/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/confirma-cambios-al-toque-de-queda-ante-repunte-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Proceso Digital reports that the first batch of one of the corona vaccines will arrive in Honduras next month.

<https://proceso.hn/primer-lote-de-vacunas-contr-el-covid-llega-en-febrero-a-honduras/>

According to the business lobby COHEP, more than 800'000 formal and informal jobs were lost in 2020.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1434857-466/juan-carlos-sikaffy-se-perdieron-alrededor-de-800000-empleos-en-honduras-durante>

Remittances sent to Honduras increased a bit last year to \$5729 million.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/01/10/migrantes-dicen-presente-con-5729-9-millones-en-remesas-en-cierre-del-2020/>

"In response to Argentina's legalization of abortion, a Honduran [Nationalist] legislator proposes legal modifications that would make it practically impossible for abortion to become legal for any circumstance in Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1348482013066620928>

11/01/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - Corruption, Mobile Hospitals; Deportations; Elections; and Nontransparent Fuel Prices

I've lost count of how many times the legal process against David Castillo in the murder case of Berta Cáceres has been suspended and postponed before court. Either way, it happened again yesterday. COPINH, though, counted and denounced: "On 9 occasions the oral trial stage has been suspended in this case due to the defense's delaying tactics. These tactics only seek to delay the process against Castillo. Even with the delays. We will continue to demand ceaselessly justice for Berta".

OACNUDH once again would have been observing the hearing and after the suspension called for a swift resolution of the petition by the defense.

Still before the hearing, the MP had published a press release.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1348763496398401543>

<https://copinh.org/2021/01/nuevamente-es-suspendida-la-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas->

[contra-david-castillo-coautor-en-el-asesinato-de-bera-caceres/](#)

[https://tiempo.hn/suspenden-audiencia-bera-caceres-supuesto-autor-intelectual/](#)

[https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1348731551312392197](#)

[https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/171-enero2021/6861-a-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-presidente-de-desa-por-el-asesinato-de-bera-caceres](#)

InSight Crime has also picked up the newest developments in JOH's drug trafficking saga (see previous days). "With new accusations that Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández directly brokered deals to protect traffickers in exchange for drug money, the president himself has emerged as a lynchpin in Honduras' descent into a narco-state."

Víctor Meza shared an important observation about this new development. "Many will say that this is nothing new, that we already knew it and that it is of no greater importance. They are wrong. It is true that many things are already public knowledge and are aired in detail in the gatherings of friends or in the intimacy of the bedrooms. But there are still many others that hide names and secrets, actions and excesses. And there, as they say, the devil is hidden in the details. The novelty of the new revelations leaked from the judicial corridors of New York is not only their official character but also the magnitude and dimension of their meaning. State prosecutors, that is, operators of the American judicial system, have presented official documents that involve our tenant of the Presidential House in criminal actions within the sinister plot of organized crime in general and drug trafficking in particular. Nothing less."

In Honduras, JOH (see yesterday) and the Military continue to be on the defensive.

A very interesting "defense" came from 2009 coup general Romeo Vásquez Velázquez who blames politicians for involving the Armed Forces in drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, there is also hope that one day JOH may have his day in court.

[https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-president-allegations-narco-state/](#)

[https://criterio.hn/entre-el-asombro-y-el-desencanto/](#)

[https://elpulso.hn/?p=51838](#)

[https://confidencialhn.com/romeo-vasquez-culpa-a-politicos-de-involucrar-a-ff-aa-en-crimen-organizado-y-narcotrafico/](#)

[https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-joh-tarde-o-temprano-comparecera-ante-fiscalia-de-nueva-york-por-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/](#)

128'701 COVID-19 cases and 3285 confirmed deaths.

[https://proceso.hn/los-casos-de-covid-19-ascienden-a-128701-con-721-nuevos-contagios/](#)

The CNA published a reports on the failures of the audit committee at Invest-H.

"In the eye of the hurricane are the controllers of Inversión Estratégica Honduras (Invest-H), who

have been criticized for their inability to put the mobile hospitals, acquired by the former director of this entity, Mr. Marco Bográn, into operation. In this sense, several sectors of civil society have pointed out their criticism against the officials, who have been in office for six months earning a salary of more than 200,000 lempiras."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1348630365586522112>

<https://criterio.hn/si-los-interventores-de-invest-h-no-dan-resultados-no-deberian-continuar-en-el-cargo-cna/>

<https://criterio.hn/junta-interventora-de-papel-salarios-exorbitantes-y-nulos-resultados-en-invest-h/>

<https://proceso.hn/intervencion-de-invest-h-fracaso-y-no-vale-la-pena-su-continuidad-dice-el-cna/>

One of the mobile hospitals, the one for Tegucigalpa, was handed over yesterday to the Health Secretariat.

C-Libre denounced that journalists are stopped by soldiers to inform about the construction, i.e. setting up of the mobile hospitals.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1435063-466/invest-h-entrega-hospital-movil-tegucigalpa-salud-covid>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1297-militar-impide-cobertura-informativa-a-construccion-de-hospitales-moviles-estatales>

307 Hondurans were deported yesterday from Mexico and the US to Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1434966-410/estados-unidos-mexico-deportan-hondure%C3%B1os-indocumentados>

Congress' Nationalist Secretary Tomás Zambrano claims that the new Electoral Law will be approved this Thursday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1435033-466/tomas-zambrano-aprobacion-nueva-ley-electoral-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nueva-ley-electoral-tiene-98-del-consenso-partidario-sera-aprobada-el-jueves/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2579-honduras-formula-combustibles-inflama-crisis-economica>

12/01/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Protection; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - Vaccine, Health System, Education; Elections - Reelection, National Party;; Violence; and Photos (Hopefully) Don't Ageing Well

EU Parliamentarian Tilly Metz denounces the dilatory tactics by the defense of David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://twitter.com/MetzTilly/status/1348974925743337474>

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders sent out an alert regarding the whereabouts of defender Yajaira Liceth Calix Vanegas who has not been seen since January 2.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/01/alerta-defensoras-honduras-se-desconoce-el-paradero-de-la-defensora-yajaira-calix-vanegas-desde-el-2-de-enero-de-2021/>

"The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice has not responded to an appeal for protection, which implies that the National Police should respect the work of the people who serve as councilors in the National Protection Council, which has been violated on countless occasions when it comes to verifying human rights violations. Dina Meza, Executive Director of the Association for Democracy and Human Rights, ASOPODEHU, and a councilwoman representing human rights organizations, filed an Appeal for Protection before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice for the obstruction of their work by police agents on November 2, 2020 when they tried to verify the physical conditions and detention of journalists Cesario Padilla and Miriam Elvir of the organization C-LIBRE."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/denuncias/item/3054-sala-de-lo-constitucional-dilata-respuesta-a-recurso-de-amparo-interpuesto-con-concejal-del-consejo-nacional-de-proteccion>

CESPAD now also wonders if the newest revelations coming from the US could mean that JOH will face trial one day (see last few days).

Lawyer Raúl Pineda Alvarado thinks that JOH may even promote being accused in Honduras to avoid an eventual extradition to the US.

Either way, former Attorney General Edmundo Orellano explains that it is important to call for JOH's resignation.

And the current Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla should go along with him.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/12/presidente-de-honduras-a-las-puertas-de-una-acusacion-formal-en-new-york/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/joh-podria-promover-ser-acusado-en-honduras-raul-pineda/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/es-necesario-pedir-la-renuncia-de-joh-edmundo-orellana/>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscal-general-deberia-renunciar-por-incapaz-y-no-proceder-contra-funcionarios-implicados-en-narcotrafico/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/un-fiscal-5-estrellas-para-el-narcotrafico/>

129'805 COVID-19 cases and 3294 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-un-millar-de-nuevos-contagios-elevan-a-129-mil-805-los-casos-de-covid-19/>

The Health Secretariat promises to have organized 9.4 million vaccine doses for Honduras. But this will take time, for the time being, they hope for 23'000 doses by February. 1.4 million doses are expected for April.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-contara-con-9-4-millones-de-dosis-de-vacuna-contra-la-covid-19-segun-salud/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-23-mil-vacunas-contra-covid-febrero/>

<https://hch.tv/2021/01/12/al-menos-1-4-millones-de-vacunas-contra-covid19-estarian-llegando-al-pais-en-abril/>

Now, even Sinager warns that the Honduran health system is about to collapse.

<https://proceso.hn/a-punto-de-colapsar-sistema-sanitario-por-relajamiento-ciudadano-segun-sinager/>

<https://tiempo.hn/uci-hospital-escuela-100-ocupacion-pacientes-covid-19/>

Regional UNICEF director Jean Gough calls on Honduras to get school children back to class after 10 months without school.

Teachers protested outside the Finance Ministry demanding outstanding vacation pay.

<https://confidencialhn.com/representante-de-unicef-considera-que-sistema-educativo-hondureno-debe-retornar-a-clases-presenciales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-exigen-pago-de-vacaciones-frente-a-finanzas/>

Vote buying is very widespread in Honduras, Transparency International estimates that 4 out of 10 votes are bought. And in this tradition, Mauricio Oliva promised 1 million smartphones if he would be elected president.

<https://twitter.com/ElMundoDeLester/status/1348416871670943746>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-promete-1-millon-de-celulares-si-llega-a-la-silla-presidencial/>

And there is the ongoing fear regarding legalizing presidential reelection.

<https://criterio.hn/maquillaje-de-reformas-electorales-nacionalistas-buscan-imponer-la-reeleccion/>

The National Party suffers from public displays of infighting in the run up to the primaries. "[T]he dismissal of supporters of the head of the Legislative Mauricio Oliva from some offices such as the Secretariat of Natural Resources began, according to reports."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51889>

Public display of violent murders, i.e. mutilated bodies wrapped in plastic, have made headlines in the first days of 2021. "Carlos Leiva, a human rights defender, said the actions could be a practice called "the Chinese box" or known in Honduras as a smoke screen to divert public attention from President Juan Orlando Hernandez's recent involvement in drug trafficking by the New York prosecutor's office. It could also be a manipulation technique where a problem is created in order to seek a solution, and in that case it would be from the security issue (...) Another concern for human rights organizations is that this type of situation may be used to generate terror in the population and the electoral context is conducive to doing so."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/contexto/item/3053-quien-opera-la-violencia-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-podrian-estar-detras-de-crimes>

<https://twitter.com/PJAsmann/status/1349006334335852546>

13/01/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; HRDs - Criminalization; Migration - Caravan; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Elections; Iota - UN; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction; Violence - Journalists; EEH; Minimum Wage; Police; Corruption – IHSS;

After the legal process against David Castillo has been once again postponed, now the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case has also been postponed. COPINH denounced this and demands that they and the Río Blanco will be recognized as victims in the case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1349493159261331458>

On January 18 the hearing against five criminalized defenders from Arizona, Atlántida will take place.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1349411633232277518>

As announced, the first caravan of 2021 started to form and later take off yesterday at the San Pedro Sula bus terminal.

Guatemala immediately announced that they would not let anyone in without being registered which includes a negative corona test.

Journalist Sandra Cuffe tweeted: "#Guatemala will militarize its border with #Honduras tomorrow, when a 2-week state of prevention will take effect, restricting assembly, movement, etc. The plan

includes 1,100 police, 919 soldiers, 31 army trucks & more. Migrants and refugees are being considered a health threat."

But already in Honduras, the situation looks grim. "In response to the refugee caravan, police check points are set up in the same department where caravan is gathering. Apparently movement within Honduran borders is also prohibited. US Embassy has been threatening action against caravan all week. This is the response".

<https://confidencialhn.com/sale-primera-caravana-de-migrantes-2021-hacia-ee-uu/>

<https://criterio.hn/sale-primera-caravana-del-2021-de-honduras-rumba-a-estados-unidos/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51906>

https://twitter.com/Sandra_Cuffe/status/1349569530541039617

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1349582200925167617>

Cespad published an article on drug trafficking and Geovanny Fuentes, InSight Crime on on drug trafficking and Fredy Nájera.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/13/geovanny-fuentes-sus-numerosas-muertes-y-conexiones-con-altos-oficiales-policiales-y-del-ejercito-hondureno/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/fixer-narco-politics-honduras/>

Once again, social movements and organizations call on the MP to investigate JOH based on the newest revelations coming from the US.

But at the same time, they put little faith in it. "Criminal lawyer Omar Menjívar regretted on Wednesday that nothing happened in Honduras in response to the accusations made by the New York prosecutor's office against Chief Executive Juan Orlando Hernández. Menjívar indicated that, although these conjectures are not new "what does cause indignation is to know that the Public Ministry (MP), is colluded with all this criminal mafia that has taken over the State."

<https://confidencialhn.com/exigen-al-ministerio-publico-inicie-investigacion-contrajoh-en-base-a-informacion-de-fiscales-extranjeros/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-hondurena-no-actua-contrajoh-porque-esta-coludido-con-esa-mafia-criminal-subraya-penalista/>

There is more and more opposition to the new Electoral Law. "Leaders of different political parties pronounced this Wednesday against the electoral law, since they assure that its purpose is to prevent the formation of party alliances and to promote the reelection of President Juan Orlando Hernandez."

<https://confidencialhn.com/oposicion-politica-afirma-que-nueva-ley-electoral-impulsa-reeleccion-de-joh/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/incertidumbre-se-vive-en-honduras-de-cara-a-elecciones/>

<https://criterio.hn/hay-politicos-que-están-negociando-la-continuidad-de-juan-hernandez-en-el-poder-denuncia-dirigente-liberal/>

<https://criterio.hn/joh-maniobra-contrá-el-proceso-electoral-ante-un-posible-pedido-de-extradición/>

The UN System announced that some \$90 million will be needed to address the need of the 1.4 million Hondurans affected by the two hurricanes Eta and Iota.

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-requiere-90-millones-de-dolares-para-ayudar-a-hondureños-dañados/>

70% of deaths related to dengue are of minors, i.e. below 15 years old.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/alerta-que-el-70-de-muertes-por-dengue-son-de-menores-de-edad/>

There are 133'009 COVID-19 cases and 3320 officially confirmed deaths.

In reality, there are many more deaths. The funeral homes documented 7600 deaths in 2020 and another 350 deaths in the first few days of 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-registra-133009-contagios-y-3320-decesos-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/funerarias-350-personas-muertes-covid-19-2021/>

The Health Minister Alba Consuelo Flores considers a new lockdown.

<https://proceso.hn/un-nuevo-confinamiento-es-posible-en-honduras-ministra-alba-consuelo-flores/>

In the newest multiple killing in Honduras, four people were murdered in San Pedro Sula. One of them, the 31-year old Miguel Eduardo Amaya Guzmán, was a collaborator of the journalist Igor Padilla, who himself had been murdered four years ago.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1435484-466/victima-masacre-en-sps-era-colaborador-de-igor-padilla>

The notorious Honduras Energy Company (EEH) demanded \$770 million in compensation from the State of Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/eeh-pide-770-millones-de-indemnización-en-caso-de-salida-forzosa-de-honduras/>

Honduras currently discusses a new minimum wage, but there are also critical voices regarding its use. "Workers' leader Carlos H. Reyes revealed on Wednesday that as long as the Temporary Hourly Employment Law exists in the country, any increase in the minimum wage will be null and void,

because the business community relies on it to commit arbitrary acts. Reyes explained that this law regulates the labor market to such an extent that "businessmen pay what they want, set the hours they want, and do not comply with the minimum wage or the Labor Code."

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-existencia-de-la-ley-de-trabajo-por-hora-deja-nulo-reajuste-al-salario-minimo/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/210501>

In April, four police agents will face trial for the murder of Rinel Argueta Oliva.

In another case, four police agents accused of various crimes were sent to pre-trial detention.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-finales-de-abril-juicio-oral-y-publico-contras-cuatro-policias-acusados-de-homicidios/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/171-enero2021/6870-prision-preventiva-para-cuatro-policias-involucrados-en-varios-delitos-contras-un-ciudadano>

The MP sent out a press release stating that they are still awaiting the courts to set a new date in the IHSS corruption case against Mario Roberto Zelaya Rojas and José Ramón Bertetty Osorio.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/171-enero2021/6883-mp-a-la-espera-que-se-senale-repeticion-de-juicio-en-el-que-hace-mas-de-tres-anos-se-habia-absuelto-a-mario-zelaya-y-jose-bertetty>

14/01/21

Honduras Daily: JOH; OFRANEH; Migration - Caravan, Deportation; HRDs; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Indigenous Peoples; Military Police; Corruption - Journalists, Libre; Elections; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Abortion; and Just Hanging in There a Bit More?

Radio Progreso published an important short article on where to go from here, i.e. the situation in Honduras and the newest revelations coming from the US. "In the spirit of seeking consensus, we launch the first ones to be debated. In order to confront the crisis of the economic model, it is urgent to: 1) promote a fiscal pact, which revises the payment of income tax to fortunes, tax exemptions and tax evasion; 2) reach a consensus on labor, employment generation, labor laws and salaries; 3) review the mining and hydroelectric concessions granted in the last decade; 4) review Coalianza concessions and management of trusts.

With regard to the institutional collapse, it is urgent to work on these five consensuses: 1) establish a new system of transparency in public management, to confront the high levels of corruption; 2) review the mechanisms for second degree elections such as magistrates and general prosecutors and appoint new authorities; 3) review the country's budgetary priorities; 4) a new proposal for the health and education system; 5) electoral reforms that facilitate participation and transparency in the process.

In environmental matters, at least four consensuses should be prioritized: 1) develop a proposal for the reconstruction of embankments and dredging of the Chamelecón, Ulúa, Aguán rivers and their

relief channels; 2) appoint a commission to resolve land conflicts in Aguán, Zacate grande and other regions of the country; 3) formulate a proposal to reactivate the country's agricultural system; 4) propose the protection of the country's rivers and aquifers.

Here is a proposal for minimum consensus, all sectors can work their own; but the most urgent consensus, and condition, is to throw Juan Orlando and his henchmen out of the Presidential House, as the key to advancing the other consensuses."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/propuesta-de-consensos-minimos/>

Next Monday, it will be half a year since the forceful disappearance of five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/EuropaOfraneh/status/1349511684256395264>

There is more reporting on the newest migration caravan, which may very likely be the biggest one since the start of the pandemic last year. Estimates go up to 3500 people.

El Tiempo spoke with some of participants, many of whom have lost everything during the two hurricanes Eta and Iota and are living on the streets.

Guatemala decreed a State of Prevention in response to the caravan.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1349945182599348225>

Video: https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1349934801365725187

Photos: <https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1435733-468/caravana-migrantes-2021-honduras-estados-unidos-joe-biden>

<https://tiempo.hn/mujer-deja-esposo-e-hijos-caravana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/guatemala-decreta-estado-de-prevencion-ante-llegada-de-migrantes-hondurenos/>

4797 Honduran children have been deported in 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/ninos-retornados-a-honduras-2020/>

Four days ago, on January 11, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras published a joint statement on the integrated management of migratory processes in the region".

<https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-el-salvador-guatemala-y-honduras-presentan-declaracion-conjunta-sobre-la-gestion-integral-de-los-procesos-migratorios-en-la-region>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for Crimes Against Life (FEDCV) is coordinating this morning a series of raids in Santiago de Puringla, La Paz, in relation to the murder of the Lenca indigenous leader, Felix Vasquez Lopez, which occurred on December 26, 2020."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/171-enero2021/6891-mp-ejecuta-seis-allanamientos-en-torno-a-investigacion-del-crimen-del-lider-indigena-felix-vasquez>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1435643-466/realizan-allanamientos-lider-indigena-felix-vasquez>

There are 131'963 COVID-19 cases and 3335 confirmed deaths.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-casos-en-honduras-14-1-21/>

Honduras need 240 additional ICU beds, i.e. three times as there currently are.

Doctor Rony Antúnez warns that corona patients have to go through a real odyssey to find a place at a hospital. "We have to wait until someone dies to give their bed to someone else".

<https://proceso.hn/salas-uci-el-espejo-del-estado-critico-de-la-pandemia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/medico-odisea-covid-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reportan-que-triaje-del-centro-civico-gubernamental-sobrepasa-su-capacidad-de-atencion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the situation of the indigenous Tolupán post Eta and Iota and still suffering from the pandemic as well as the failed response to it by the JOH regime.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/contexto/item/3055-en-medio-de-la-restriccion-al-derecho-de-reunion-y-asociacion-los-tolupanes-sobreviven-con-sus-propias-fuerzas>

A member of the Military Police as well as a former member of the defunct DNIC were sent to pre-trial detention accused of murder.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/171-enero2021/6889-dictan-prision-preventiva-a-policia-militar-y-expolicia-en-santa-barbara>

Criterio reports on the complicity between the official and corporate Honduran Journalist Association (CPH) and those in power. "The group of CPH leaders, who control the directive of the Institute of Social Security for Journalists (IPP), are beneficiaries of the system of impunity built by the ruling National Party and a faction of the Liberal Party to shield the corruption established from power exposed by the now defunct Mission of Support Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH)."

<https://criterio.hn/complicidad-entre-poder-y-cupula-de-periodistas-que-gozan-de-impunidad/>

But also Libre is not free of corruption. "The June 28th Movement of the Libertad y Refundación, Libre party in the department of Colón, which is led by the current mayor of Tocoa, Adán Fúnez, charged each pre-candidate for a seat on the ballot more than 400,000 lempiras, according to Mrs. Alicia Flores, who was offered seat 3 of the movement by the mayor himself in exchange for the amount mentioned."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/hasta-400-mil-lempiras-cobra-alcaldede-de-tocoa-precandidatos-a-diputados-por-libre/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/condenan-nuevo-soborno-en-libre-por-venta-de-puestos-en-la-papeleta-electoral/>

Libre denounces the attempt by the National Party to have representatives of all 14 parties present at the ballot tables where votes are counted. Small parties have in the past sold off their credentials to the National Party giving them control over the ballot tables.

Criterio has more on the problems with the new Electoral Law.

<https://tiempo.hn/partidos-pequenos-mer-jari-dixon/>

<https://criterio.hn/nacionalistas-insisten-en-regular-ilegal-reeleccion-y-reformas-a-la-ley-el-cne/>

A cousin of the Valle Valle brothers was condemned to over seven months in prison for money laundering.

A Liberal mayoral candidate was arrested for drug trafficking.

And then, there is also the story of the former head of police Ricardo Ramírez del Cid who faces an arrest warrant. He denounced that they, i.e. the JOH regime, is trying to silence him because he made public acts of corruption committed by them.

<https://proceso.hn/condenan-a-siete-anos-y-seis-meses-de-prision-a-primo-de-los-hermanos-valle-valle/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1435855-466/con-droga-capturan-a-precandidato-a-alcaldede-del-movimiento-de-luis-zelaya>

<https://confidencialhn.com/giran-orden-de-captura-contr-ex-director-de-la-policia-que-denuncio-actos-de-corrupcion/>

Two Libre and a Pinu congressman demanded to impeach JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-opositores-piden-juicio-politico-contr-presidente-de-honduras-por-actividades-de-narcotrafico/>

Criterio has more on the recent attempt by the National Party to make it impossible ever to legalize abortion in Honduras (see previous e-mail).

<https://criterio.hn/propuesta-de-diputado-mario-perez-de-prohibir-el-aborto-es-un-retroceso-fundamentalista/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aguanten-un-poco-pide-congresista-norma-torres-a-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/congresista-norma-torres-a-honduras-aguanten-un-poco-viene-un-nuevo-dia-no-solo-para-ee-uu/>

15/01/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Criminalization; Migration - Caravan; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Abortion; COVID-19 - Health Sector; National Police; Corruption - Patuca III, Hondutel;

CESPAD published an important article on the criminalization of social struggles during the pandemic using MILPAH and ADEPZA as examples.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/15/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-adepza-y-milpah-como-opera-la-criminalizacion-de-la-lucha-territorial-en-tiempos-de-pandemia/>

"Pedro Joaquín Amador, human rights defender and candidate to congress for the political party Libertad y Refundación LIBRE, denounced that a stranger on board a cab tried to run him over in a colony of the capital when he was circulating in the sector to participate in a radio program, this January 14, 2021, but he managed to avoid the attack. Amador has been subjected to countless police repression for exercising his right to defend human rights. Although there is a trial pending against a police officer, the judiciary has been dragging him along and has not punished the person responsible for beating him in 2019 when he was accompanying demonstrators in Tegucigalpa. As a result of these events, he is now the beneficiary of protection measures in the National Protection Mechanism."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/denuncias/item/3057-intentan-atropellar-a-pedro-amador-defensor-de-ddhh-en-honduras>

The first migrant caravan of 2021 (see last two days) first successfully pushed through police barricades in Honduras and then later was able to enter Guatemala. Jeff Ernst reported: "Guatemalan police estimate about 5,000 people entered with the migrant caravan. Some have decided to rest after making it through while the majority are trekking on despite no sleep last night for those who were at bus terminal."

Mexico is sending more border agents to its southern border.

Back in Honduras, there are already talks about a second caravan to set off on January 25.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1350263061567860738>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1350284578909532165>

<https://proceso.hn/caravana-de-migrantes-rompe-cercos-policiales-hondurenos-y-cruza-a-guatemala/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1436095-410/caravana-migrantes-quebra-cerco-guatemala-continua-viaje-eeuu>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1435980-471/mexico-despliega-agentes-frontera-guatemala-caravana>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51992>

JOH continues to be on the defensive regarding the newest drug trafficking revelations coming from the US (see last few days).

Added to the call for his resignation and the attempt of three lawmakers to have him impeached (see yesterday), there are also attempts to go after the attorney general Óscar Chinchilla for his total ineffectiveness, i.e. lack of political will, in investigating corruption and drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-califica-de-ridiculas-las-acusaciones-en-su-contra-por-nexos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinos-confesos-buscan-reducir-sus-penas-y-nos-presentan-como-los-malos-de-la-pelicula-hernandez/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/uncategorized/diputados-de-oposicion-piden-juicio-politico-contra-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/movimiento-social-hondureno-se-suma-a-presion-por-la-salida-de-juan-hernandez-del-poder/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-al-legislativo-interpelacion-para-el-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla-por-ineficacia-contra-actos-de-corrupcion/>

The UN System in Honduras expressed concern regarding the attempt by the Nationalist-controlled Congress to incorporate the absolute prohibition of abortion in Honduras (see last two days). There was also a protest against this attempt before Congress yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1350102395586539520>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/investigacionespag/item/3058-porque-violenta-convenios-internacional-mujeres-protestan-ante-el-parlamento-por-iniciativa-de-ley-contra-el-aborto>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/01/15/80000-abortos-inseguros-al-ano-en-honduras-muestran-el-peligro-que-corren-las-mujeres/>

There are 132'412 COVID-19 cases and officially recognized 3344 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-132412-casos-y-3344-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Another hospital reported to have a full intensive care unit.

Honduran labs are currently not able to detect the new, more virulent, variant of the virus.

<https://proceso.hn/uci-del-hospital-maria-en-su-100-por-ciento-de-capacidad/>

<https://proceso.hn/no-hay-forma-de-detectar-la-nueva-cepa-del-covid-en-honduras/>

There have been some changes in the hierarchies of the National Police Force.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asume-nuevo-director-general-de-la-policia-nacional-de-honduras/>

In another corruption case, Patuca III, the accused were absolved.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tribunal-de-sentencia-absuelve-imputados-en-caso-patuca-iii/>

"The Honduran Telecommunications Company (Hondutel) reported up to 811 million lempiras in losses up to December 31, 2020, due to corruption" and other problems.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=51972>

16/01/21

Honduras Daily: Migration - Caravan; COVID-19; Prisons; and Drug Soccer

With the migrant caravans back in the headlines, Radio Progreso has an important article on their significance. "The phenomenon of the caravans is the desperate expression of a population that can no longer bear its situation of anguish and uncertainty, and that in these times has reached its extremes of hunger and unemployment with the pandemic, the passage of hurricanes Eta and Iota, plus the uncontrolled corruption of the core that is controlled by the State. All this is a pressure cooker in a country where the government has abandoned social public policies, and has replaced them with programs of the purest welfare populism, which in the end shows contempt for the humble people."

In Guatemala, where most participants of the newest caravan currently are, Sandra Cuffe reports that the army and police are "blocking the advance of thousands of Honduran migrants and asylum seekers for hours in Vado Hondo, Chiquimula. They have now opened a bottleneck to allow traffic to slowly get through".

Previous estimates of people fleeing as part of the caravan where between 3000-5000, now El Heraldo and Proceso Digital write that the Guatemalan authorities counted 9000.

The Guatemalan government also officially wrote to the JOH regime asking it "to contain the massive departure of its inhabitants".

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/las-caravanas-protesta-muda-de-un-pueblo-que-incomoda-2/>

https://twitter.com/Sandra_Cuffe/status/1350601624197226496

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1436210-471/caravana-migrante-honduras-guatemala-2021-frontera-biden>

<https://proceso.hn/guatemala-le-pide-a-honduras-que-detenga-la-salida-masiva-de-su-poblacion/>

There are 133'507 COVID-19 cases and 3348 officially recognized deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/sin-registrar-recuperados-honduras-llega-a-133507-contagiados-por-covid-19/>

Prison authorities reported that a member of the Military Police was murdered by an inmate in the Támara prison.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1436155-410/recluso-mata-militar-carcel-tamara-honduras-policia-nacional>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2019/12/11/futbol-hondureno-financiado-por-el-narcotrafico-y-la-corrupcion/>

17/01/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector; Internet; Elections;

A press conference will be hold outside the MP this morning at 10am to demand justice for the five forcefully disappeared young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1351026660452261890>

"Mauricio Hernandez Pineda, cousin of President Juan Orlando Hernandez, is negotiating with the U.S. justice system to plead guilty to large-scale drug trafficking. In a letter addressed today to Judge Kevin Castel, Howard Leader, the attorney in charge of Mauricio Hernandez Pineda's case, told the Court that the defense and the prosecution are currently in negotiations to define the agreements and conditions for Hernandez Pineda to plead guilty."

<https://confidencialhn.com/primo-de-joh-negocia-con-fiscalia-de-ee-uu-para-declararse-culpable-de-narcotrafico/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/01/17/mauricio-hernandez-pineda-primo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-negociacion-para-declararse-culpable-de-traffic-de-drogas-a-gran-escala/>

The migration caravan suffered repression yesterday by Guatemalan state security forces. "On Radio Progreso's Facebook Live broadcast, you can see people on the ground injured and being captured by the army. The journalist Gerardo Chevez narrated the strong repression against a population that asks the Guatemalan government for permission to reach the border with Mexico, because in Honduras there are no conditions to continue living."

The Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala, Jordán Rodas, expressed outrage about the events. The JOH regime demands an investigation.

The US, meanwhile, thanks Guatemala for its "efforts".

Guatemala also claims to have "returned" 1383 Honduran migrants who had participated in the caravan.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/reprimen-caravana-de-migrantes-hondurenos-en-chiquimula-guatemala/>

Video: <https://twitter.com/PrensaComunitar/status/1350814605652721667>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/procurador-de-derechos-humanos-en-guatemala-condena-represion-contra-migrantes-hondurenos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenos-en-el-mundo/1436356-471/pdh-alarma-acudan-uso-de-la-fuerza-caravana-migrante>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pide-a-guatemala-investigar-y-esclarecer-acciones-militares-contra-migrantes/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1350873733272109058>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyguate/status/1350958685288345613>

<https://proceso.hn/guatemala-obliga-a-retornar-a-su-pais-a-casi-1400-migrantes-hondurenos/>

There are 134'111 COVID-19 cases and 3354 officially confirmed deaths.

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

The curfew from 9pm to 5am was prolonged again, but national circulation is still allowed.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-circulacion-aun-sin-restriccion/>

Yet another hospital announced that they have no more places for COVID-19 patients.

<https://proceso.hn/colapsada-sala-covid-19-en-el-hospital-gabriela-alvarado/>

Hondutel director Melvin Maldonado wants \$100 million "to increase the coverage of the internet service nationwide".

<https://proceso.hn/hondutel-requiere-de-una-inversion-de-100-millones-para-aumentar-cobertura-de-internet/>

CESPAD published a helpful overview of the discussions regarding the electoral reforms up to now.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/17/analisis-desafios-2021-desbloquear-las-reformas-legales-e-institucionales-en-materia-electoral/>

18/01/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Migration - Caravan, US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; Abortion; Elections; and Lack of Transparency at the MP

On the sixth-month of the forceful disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz, there was a worldwide call for justice.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1351175523364446208>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1351152632002465796>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/garifunas-demandan-justicia-a-seis-meses-de-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-sus-lideres/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/monitoreo/item/3060-estado-de-honduras-tienen-un-plan-de-extermio-por-eso-no-da-respuesta-sobre-garifunas-desaparecidos>

Honduran migrants lived through another day of violence in Guatemala facing more repression by state security forces.

Guatemala claims that 1800 migrants have returned to Honduras.

At least on a rhetoric level, the governments of Guatemala and Honduras are attacking each other, Guatemala blaming Honduras for not holding back its migrants, Honduras denouncing the violence against its people.

Radio Progreso explains again how these caravans are a reflection of the humanitarian crisis in Honduras.

And this helps to understand why they keep pushing on.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/nueva-represion-contra-migrantes-en-guatemala/>

<https://criterio.hn/guatemala-ha-violado-todos-los-tratados-internacionales-en-materia-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenos-en-el-mundo/1436559-471/dispersan-caravana-migrante-liberan-carretera-guatemala>

Video: https://twitter.com/Sandra_Cuffe/status/1351240163800862729

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1351232877745336336>

<https://proceso.hn/guatemala-disuelve-con-el-uso-de-la-fuerza-a-caravana-migrante-hondurena/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-guatemala-en-pugna-historica-caravana/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/n/caravanas-reflejo-de-la-crisis-humanitaria-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/a-pesar-de-violenta-represion-en-guatemala-caravana-migrante-sigue-su-marcha/>

Meanwhile in the US, a Senate report highlights the problems with the controversial third safe country agreements between the US and El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/asylum-migrants-trump-guatemala/2021/01/15/aeae4b84-56bc-11eb-a08b-f1381ef3d207_story.html

<https://twitter.com/Haleaziz/status/1351310901547134978>

<https://criterio.hn/tercer-pais-seguro-violado-derechos-humanos-de-los-migrantes/>

There are 134'938 COVID-19 cases and 3368 officially confirmed deaths.

<https://covid19honduras.org/?q=Comunicado-016-2021>

Another hospital announced that their COVID-19 ward is full.
And now even the Health Secretariat agrees that the second wave has hit Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/colapsa-sala-covid-19-hospital-gabriela-alvarado/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-honduras-segunda-oleada-de-covid-19/>

"The magistrate of the Superior Audit Court (TSC) Roy Pineda, said this Monday that they are still waiting for the Public Ministry (MP) to formalize the fiscal requirement against those responsible for the irregular purchase of the mobile hospitals."

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-a-la-espera-que-mp-formalice-requerimiento-fiscal-por-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

Ignoring protests and voices of concern by the UN system, "[w]ith eyes on this year's elections, Honduran Congress moving ahead with what it calls "Shield against abortion in Honduras" - legal reforms that would make it practically impossible to legalize abortion for any circumstance now or in the future".

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1351249207714308098>

The new Electoral Law is still not approved and there are substantial disagreements remaining.
"A few days before the celebration of the primary elections of 2021, the National Electoral Council (CNE) announced the direct contracting of a company that will provide the service of transmission of preliminary results (trep) as well as the scrutiny of minutes and a web system for the disclosure of official results."

CESPAD published a report on the role of corruption, i.e. public perception of it, regarding the primary candidates of the National Party.

<https://criterio.hn/dilatorias-a-nueva-ley-electoral-es-una-maniobra-para-atentar-contra-elecciones-generales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-anuncia-contratacion-de-empresa-para-transmision-de-resultados-electorales-2021/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/18/analisis-la-corrupcion-un-fantasma-en-las-precandidaturas-presidenciales-del-partido-de-gobierno/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/01/16/una-decada-de-denegatorias-de-informacion-del-ministerio-publico/>

19/01/21

Honduras Daily: US; Abortion - UN; Elections; Migration - Caravan, Corruption; COVID-19; Police; MP - EU; Drug Trafficking - US; and to Investigate or Not?

Biden will take office today in the US. There are widespread calls on the incoming administration to thoroughly change US policy towards Central America.

There are some hopeful signs, but also some very worrisome ones. The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that "Biden's nomination for Secretary of Defence, General Lloyd Austin, is on board of directors of Nucor Corporation, US steel company behind Honduran company using paramilitares to "secure" their operations & hold Guapinol water defenders in prison".

<https://www.americas.org/letter-to-president-elect-biden-on-central-america-policy/>

<https://criterio.hn/biden-enviara-iniciativa-al-congreso-para-abordar-corrupcion-y-violencia-en-honduras-guatemala-y-el-salvador/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1351725397684076546>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/the-hidden-connection-between-a-us-steel-company-and-the-controversial-los-pinares-mine-in-honduras>

The UN System in Honduras already had expressed concerns about the newest attempts by Congress to perpetually criminalize abortion (see previous days) OACNUDH now follows with another press release. "UN human rights experts* today condemned a bill that would essentially block any possible progress on the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in Honduras, a country where one in four girls have been pregnant at least once before their 19th birthday**." There are even voices who claim that the debate about abortion also serves to further postpone the debate about electoral reform at Congress.

<https://oacnudh.hn/honduras-expertas-de-la-onu-deploran-nuevos-ataques-contr-el-derecho-al-aborto-seguro/>

<https://criterio.hn/directiva-del-congreso-nacional-cierra-filas-en-contr-del-aborto/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52046>

Libre congressman Ramón Soto says the following about the situation of the electoral reforms: "The electoral law was consensual, signed, by the opinion commission, and when it was going to be approved, there was a group, because it must be said, within the National Party that they are called the "brainless, headless, heartless, who in the end opposed and turned everything upside down." At the same time, Nationalist president of Congress Oscar Oliva blames the opposition. The officially starting date for the primary elections is this Saturday. And also regarding the elections, Criterio denounces that everything is being done that the corrupt can continue to run Honduras, while those fighting against it, such as María Luisa Borjas, are being criminalized and with this stopped to run for office.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-grupo-de-nacionalistas-denominados-los-sin-cerebro-corazon-sin-cabeza-boicotean-aprobacion-de-ley-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/oliva-revela-que-la-oposicion-pidio-aprobar-nueva-ley-electoral-hasta-despues-de-elecciones-internas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1436647-466/propaganda-electoral-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-inhabilita-a-maria-luisa-borjas-y-libera-a-corruptos-para-que-sigan-en-el-poder/>

The newest repression these last days in Guatemala split up the migrant caravan with many being deported back to Honduras and others pushing on in smaller groups. La Prensa reports that some have arrived at the Mexican border.

Back in Honduras, MADJ published an important article on the origins of the migrant caravans. "The caravans are the result of violence, impoverishment and inequality caused by military interventions, the militarization of society, organized crime and corruption and impunity on the part of the government, the National and Liberal Party, international cooperation and the military forces."

<https://confidencialhn.com/retornan-masivamente-a-hondurenos-que-viajaban-en-caravana-migrante/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1436840-410/-hondure%C3%B1os-frontera-mexico-caravana-migrantes->

<https://madj.org/index.php/2021/01/19/guerra-contra-quienes/>

"The dossier "Impact of Corruption as a Determining Factor in Migration" of the Observatory of Criminal Anti-Corruption Policy (OPCA), offers a perspective on the impact of corruption as one of the most important triggers of the growing regular and irregular migration of Hondurans abroad."

<https://criterio.hn/corrupcion-impunidad-y-violencia-dan-pie-a-la-migracion-en-honduras/>

There are 136'068 COVID-19 cases and 3391 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-mil-130-nuevos-contagios-y-se-elevan-a-136-mil-068-los-casos-de-covid-19/>

The Security Secretariat confirmed that four members of the police force were involved in the murder of Wilmer Rigoberto Posas Ríos last Saturday in Cofradía, Cortés.

<https://confidencialhn.com/detienen-a-cuatro-policias-activos-por-la-supuesta-muerte-de-joven-en-cofradia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1436725-466/cuatro-polic%C3%ADas-participaron-en-asesinato-de-hondure%C3%B1o-en-cofrad%C3%ADa>

EU ambassador Jaime Segura met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla who in the last days has face a lot of criticism for the ongoing lack of results in corruption cases but also for shielding the president from drug trafficking investigations.

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1351661926410055682>

"The U.S. Embassy in Honduras, by means of a letter, notified this Tuesday that it desists from the extradition request for Victor Lorenzo Flores Pineda, linked to the case of the Valle brothers."

<https://confidencialhn.com/estados-unidos-cancela-peticion-de-extradicion-para-victor-lorenzo-flores-pineda/>

<https://tiempo.hn/fiscal-acusaciones-ny-posiblemente-abra-investigacion/>

20/01/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Berta - Trial; Biden - JOH, Migration; Corruption - UNODC; Journalists - CPH; COVID-19 - Education; Elections;

"This is an important week for Guapinol defenders. The appeal that was filed against Zoé Guifarro's ruling *should* be transferred to the La Ceiba Court of Appeals so that the judges can rectify the decision and release the water defenders. At the same time, the water defenders have a preliminary hearing on Monday, January 25, before the same judge, Zoé Guifarro, who will examine the grounds for the charges brought and decide whether the case should go to trial or not and, if so, what the charges should be. In fact, he should dismiss the case, since at no time have the prosecutors individualized the charges or been able to say how the defenders participated in alleged illegal events on 8 September 2018. In any case, if he were to abide by the law and the provisions of the criminal code, he would change the charges of aggravated arson to charges of damages." There will also be a virtual conference this afternoon at 2pm with family members of the defenders, the

legal team and the Municipal Committee. It will be live streamed.

<https://www.facebook.com/Guapinol-Despierta-810956912625098>

Once again, the courts set a new date for the hearing against David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres date. it should take place today at 9am.

<https://copinh.org/2021/01/manana-21-01-21-audiencia-contradavid-castillo/>

After the inauguration of Biden, calls on the new administration to change US politics to Honduras and the region are widespread. InSight Crime names migration, corruption and drug trafficking as the main areas. And regarding the latest, JOH is mentioned prominently. "The Biden administration enters with Hernández as a cautionary tale. It will need to make sure that the DEA and officials involved in bilateral relations are not operating in "parallel universes," Olson said. Isolating Hernández would also make a good starting point to show the administration's seriousness on anti-corruption efforts in the region, he said. A strong ambassador is crucial, he said. "It's almost easy for them," Olson said, "because he is so damaged by these cases.""

JOH, meanwhile, congratulated him and Kamala Harris.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/biden-security-central-america/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1351968353016049664>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437057-466/joh-juan-orlando-hernandez-presidente-joe-bien-honduras-toma-posesion>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/dudas-y-expectativas-rodean-anuncio-de-nuevas-politicas-migratorias-en-gobierno-de-biden/>

JOH has talked about it for more than a year, but apparently today, he will sign an agreement with the executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Ghada Waly, to have an office opened in Honduras. JOH especially presents it as an anti-corruption measure. Historically, he always agreed to such things when he felt under pressure, e.g. opening the OACNUDH office or agreeing to MACCIH, but once his position is firm again, he straight went on to undermine their work and in the case of the MACCIH, get rid of it again entirely. Now, with the regular snapshots of his drug trafficking links coming from the US, this may seem as a helpful diversion again.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1437156-410/-honduras-onu-aperturan-oficina-anticorrupcion->

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-y-la-onu-oficializaran-manana-apertura-de-una-oficina-anticorrupcion/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an overview of the dire situation of journalists in Honduras facing self-censorship, threats and death.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/amenazas/item/3064-ambiente-de-hostilidad-y-miedo-ha-llevado->

[a-periodistas-a-autocensurarse-en-comayagua](#)

And then there is the problem of the body representing them, at least the corporate media outlets. "The head of the Honduran College of Journalists (CPH), was rated for the seventh time with zero percent by the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP) when it refused to publish the financial and administrative information of the communicators' pension entity, a scenario of deviation and waste of funds, and overvalued purchases of properties, according to research by this media."

<https://criterio.hn/cupula-de-periodistas-de-honduras-reincide-en-violar-ley-de-transparencia/>

There are 1360898 COVID-19 cases and 3406 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-de-covid-19-se-elevan-a-136898-y-decesos-a-3406-en-honduras/>

"The deadly escalation of recent weeks, in which at least 17 teachers have lost their lives, the high positivity rate and the incidence of Covid-19 in minors and people in the 20 to 40 age group, plus the few preparations in biosecurity protocols in public schools and colleges prevent the return to face to face classes in the country."

Some two million kids could be without school.

<https://criterio.hn/altos-niveles-de-contagio-no-permiten-volver-a-clases-presenciales-afirma-la-fomh/>

<https://criterio.hn/magisterio-le-deja-claro-al-gobierno-que-no-volvera-a-clases-presenciales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52085>

Shifting blame regarding the lack of approval of the new Electoral Law continues.

<https://criterio.hn/nueva-ley-electoral-no-se-ha-aprobado-porque-diputados-cercanos-a-juan-herandez-la-estan-boicoteando/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mel-zelaya-movimiento-sin-cabeza-que-controla-joh-se-opone-a-la-aprobacion-de-ley-electoral/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52093>

21/01/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Abortion; Same-Sex Marriage; Students; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Corruption; UNODC; Elections; and Calling on Biden

Who would have thought but the hearing against David Castillo was postponed yet again...

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1352270407009759233>

The sentencing of JOH's brother Tony Hernández seems to have been postponed once again according to reports by the Pro Honduras Network.

CESPAD published a new analysis on a possible trial of JOH in the US.

Back in Honduras, Congress has five days to decide on an impeachment process against JOH demanded by opposition politicians. It would need 96 out of the 128 votes and the National Party controls 60, so this won't go anywhere.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/01/21/sentencia-de-tony-hernandez-sera-reprogramada-nuevamente-debido-a-retraso-en-la-presentacion-de-documentos-previo-a-la-audiencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/justicia-de-estados-unidos-podria-retrasar-nuevamente-la-lectura-de-sentencia-contr-a-tony-hernandez/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/21/fiscalia-de-nueva-york-con-un-claro-objetivo-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/congreso-nacional-da-largas-a-juicio-politico-contr-a-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/dentro-de-cinco-dias-congreso-nacional-sometera-a-consideracion-propuesta-de-juicio-politico/>

Against all protests by women's rights organizations and raised concerns by OACNUDH, Congress approved, against the will of the opposition, in record speed a constitutional reform which makes a future decriminalization of abortion impossible (see previous days).

OACNUDH "laments" the decision.

Journalist Jeff Ernst highlights one of the dire consequences of this. "Meanwhile, a 10-year-old girl was just forced to give birth after being raped, because in Honduras there are no exceptions for abortion - and because of this reform there might never be - and to make matters worse, emergency contraceptives are also banned."

And the same day, El Tiempo reports that hospitals in Honduras reject operating women who don't want to have (anymore) kids.

<https://criterio.hn/nacionalistas-blindan-despenalizacion-del-aborto-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437332-466/en-su-totalidad-aprueban-reforma-blinda-prohibicion-aborto>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bancada-de-libre-no-hace-eco-a-nacionalistas-sobre-iniciativa-del-aborto/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1352451477869129730>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1352343366340665345>

<https://tiempo.hn/trabas-hospitales-mujeres-operarse-hijos/>

"The deputies of the National Party together with a group of liberal legislators, who hold the majority in the National Congress, took advantage of the shield against the approval of abortion to also prohibit same-sex marriage."

OACNUDH again expressed concern.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-de-honduras-blinda-prohibicion-de-matrimonio-entre-personas-del-mismo-sexo/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1352455247931846658>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an update on the criminalization of students in Honduras.

"According to Cesario Padilla and Moisés Cáceres, former student leaders who lived through the worst years of persecution under former rector Julieta Castellanos, the judicial processes promoted by the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) have repercussions on their private and professional lives. They are currently facing a three-year sentence for exercising their right to social protest."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/defensa-de-la-protesta-social-en-la-unah/item/3065-segun-cesario-padilla-y-mois-es-caceres-la-criminalizacion-estudiantil-es-una-marca-para-toda-la-vida>

"The migrants who were part of the caravan, repressed and disbanded in Guatemala, are transferred by the government in buses from the El Florido border in Copán to the transport terminal in San Pedro Sula. There they are left to fend for themselves, hungry and without money to return to their communities."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/denuncian-ausencia-del-estado-en-retorno-de-migrantes-de-la-caravana/>

There are 136'898 COVID-19 cases and 3406 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437414-466/covid-sigue-matando-personas-honduras-3406-muertos>

Several media outlets reported that the JOH regime rejected an offer by AstraZeneca of 4 million doses of corona vaccine even though the funds would have been available.

As a consequence, they are still awaiting the first batch to arrive in Honduras. The promised date has been changed from mid-February to maybe end of February or beginning of March.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-no-acepto-vacunas-covid-19-cohep/>

<https://criterio.hn/astrazeneca-ofrecio-a-honduras-4-millones-de-vacunas-contr-la-covid-y-la-secretaria-de-salud-no-acepto/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437384-466/covax-reitera-vacunas-llegaran-honduras-febrero->

[marzo](#)

"The Superior Court of Accounts (TSC), indicated this Thursday, through a press release, that after an investigation, it found inconsistencies in the purchase of fans by the Permanent Contingency Commission (Copeco), and forwarded the report to the Public Prosecutor's Office as it found indications of criminal responsibility."

<https://proceso.hn/tsc-apunta-inconsistencias-en-compra-de-ventiladores-y-remite-informe-al-mp/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/tribunal-superior-de-cuentas-encuentra-irregularidades-en-compra-de-ventiladores-y-remite-informe-al-mp/>

The UNODC office was inaugurated yesterday (see previous e-mail).

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-inaugura-oficina-contradroga-delito/>

<https://proceso.hn/inauguran-oficina-de-naciones-unidas-contrala-droga-y-el-delito-en-honduras/>

"Only two of eight companies that participated in the last stage of the private bidding process submitted their bids for the transmission of electoral results for the primary elections to be held in Honduras next March 14."

CESPAD published an analysis on the recent reform of the Clean Politics Act. "The basic issue is that in Honduras, as in several Latin American countries, there is no tradition in the prosecution of electoral crime. There is no history of investigating electoral crime in the country, although there have been hundreds of complaints. In some cases, for illicit association, they have been prosecuted, but as mentioned, outside the country and by initiative and interest of the US justice system. In the Honduran context, the mandate to oversee the financing of politics should be uncomfortable for the established political power, which is currently agglutinated in the governing party. In this sense, the main state entity created to oversee the financing of politics runs the risk of becoming a launderer of electoral processes with very serious transparency problems, which basically reflects one of the many weaknesses of the democratization process in the country."

<https://criterio.hn/solo-dos-empresas-ofertaron-para-transmision-de-datos-de-elecciones-primarias/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/21/analisis-el-asunto-de-fondo-de-la-reforma-a-la-ley-de-politica-limpia/>

"Will the \$4 billion aid package for Central America included in the immigration bill help solve why people are forced to flee their homes in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador?" asked LAWG co-director Lisa Haugaard. "That depends what's in the package and whether it is paired with strong diplomacy against the massive corruption, human rights abuses, and authoritarian trends we are seeing in these countries. Pouring aid into corrupt, predatory governments and abusive security forces is not the answer. Nor is the answer just promoting private investment. Private and multilateral bank investments need strict safeguards in countries like Honduras and Guatemala where the needs of indigenous, Afro-descendant and poor communities are routinely ignored and their demands met with threats and violence."

<https://www.lawg.org/press-release-lawg-encouraged-by-president-bidens-day-1-actions-yet-urges-serious-transformation-to-u-s-immigration-system-and-u-s-policy-towards-latin-america-and-the-caribbean/>

22/01/21

Honduras Daily: JOH; Abortion; Iota; HR - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine, Mobile Hospitals; Migration - Caravan; Elections; and Still Lacking Water

"Tonight & tomorrow migrants & others in Honduras will attempt to realize what has long been discussed - a caravan to the capital Tegucigalpa to demand the resignation of President Hernandez."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1352686581816160256>

The decision by Congress to permanently ban abortion in Honduras was met with further protest (see last days).

Doctors without Borders also denounced it.

ConfidencialHN published the official publication of the constitutional reform in the Gaceta.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1352724663185649666>

<https://proceso.hn/msf-condena-ley-que-prohibe-el-aborto-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/publican-reforma-constitucional-que-resguarda-articulos-contr-el-aborto-y-proteccion-del-matrimonio/>

<https://criterio.hn/reformas-contr-el-aborto-y-matrimonio-igualitario-son-una-grave-violacion-a-los-derechos-humanos/>

The UN Office on humanitarian affairs informs about the post-hurricanes situation in Honduras.

"Two months after the devastating impact of Tropical Storm Eta and Hurricane Iota in Honduras, many people are still in shelters and parts of the country are still reeling from waters and mud brought about by the floods. With needs continuing to mount, the UN and partners have issued an addendum to the Flash Appeal that now sets the financing requirements at US\$90 million to help 1.4 million particularly vulnerable people."

<https://www.unocha.org/story/humanitarians-target-14-million-vulnerable-people-storm-weary-honduras>

Honduran news outlet report that the Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva had put in her resignation due to health reasons. She had done that already 2 months ago.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437614-466/renuncia-karla-cueva-ministra-derechos-humanos-honduras-gobierno>

The US Chargé d'Affaire Colleen Hoey met with the president of the Judicial System, Rolando Argueta, "on the importance of the protection of human rights and transparency in the judicial system in Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1352693751374864385>

There are 139'182 COVID-19 cases and 3439 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-139182-casos-y-3439-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Another nurse, Maribel Chávez, as well as another doctor, Arquímedes Rodríguez, died to COVID-19.

WHO/PAHO representative Piedad Huerta expressed concern about the situation in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-la-capital-muere-doctor-y-enfermera-por-sospechas-de-covid-19/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437571-466/muere-covid-19-doctor-arquimedes-rodriguez-tegucigalpa>

<https://proceso.hn/situacion-de-covid-es-preocupante-hay-mucho-relajamiento-ciudadano-dice-representante-de-ops-en-honduras/>

The former deputy health minister José Manuel Matheu denounces that politicians try to cut in line for the corona vaccine in Honduras.

According to calculations by El Libertador, it would cost some \$110 million to vaccinate the Honduran people.

It is not clear, though, who would be paying for this.

<https://tiempo.hn/exfuncionario-sinverguezada-politicos-primeros-en-vacunarse/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2606-reportaje-con-110-millones-de-dolares-se-vacuna-al-pueblo-hondureno>

<https://criterio.hn/trabajadores-del-ihss-desmienten-al-presidente-del-cohep-en-compra-de-vacuna-contra-el-covid-19/>

In Tegucigalpa, people protested at the site where a promised mobile hospital should be operating. Their great slogan: "If it were a drug lab, it would already be operating".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1352838628121034752>

<https://criterio.hn/hospital-movil-de-tegucigalpa-no-esta-en-operaciones-porque-no-cumple-requerimientos-tecnicos/>

Avispa Midia reports on the further militarization of the Mexican border in response to the latest migration caravan.

<https://avispa.org/mexico-refuerza-militarizacion-en-frontera-sur-en-respuesta-a-nueva-caravana-migrante/>

"Since 2018, electoral reforms have been a topic of discussion in Honduras. The only action on this is draft of the new Electoral Law - which is already in the Secretariat of the National Congress, almost fully approved - this gives exclusive protagonism to the parties Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Partido Liberal (PL) and Partido Nacional (PN). These political forces seek to balance forces at the electoral tables, but profound reforms such as the second round and presidential reelection are not on the table for discussion."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/01/22/la-lucha-por-control-de-mesas-electorales-detiene-la-aprobacion-de-una-ley-sin-reformas-profundas/>

"The abundant rains brought by the recent weather phenomena Eta and Iota were apparently insufficient to guarantee the water supply in the neighborhoods, colonies and residential areas located in the east of the country's capital, as has been observed throughout the first month of the year."

<https://criterio.hn/20-de-tegucigalpa-sin-agua-por-falla-en-el-picacho/>

23/01/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; UN - Abortion & LGBTQ+; Elections; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, COPECO; Iota - Children; and No Body, No Crime?

The hearing of eight Guapinol defenders planned for tomorrow was suspended without just cause.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1352997962419482624>

"The United Nations system in Honduras expresses its concern over the approval of the reform that incorporates the absolute prohibition of abortion in Article 67 of the Honduran Constitution and Article 112 regarding the prohibition of egalitarian marriage. (...) In view of the above, the United Nations system in Honduras urges the National Congress to reconsider the ratification of this reform and, in the future, to ensure the agreement of any bill with the groups directly affected, in order to guarantee its discussion in the three debates required by the Constitution of the Republic. It also reaffirms its availability to provide technical advice to the National Congress on this matter."

<https://honduras.un.org/es/108906-la-onu-manifiesta-su-preocupacion-por-la-aprobacion-de-la-reforma-constitucional-que-impide>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1437836-466/onu-pide-congreso-reconsiderar-reforma-ley-aborto>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1802-atentado-democratico-denuncian-organizaciones-de-ddhh-a-reforma-legislativa-que-prohibe-el-aborto>

Campaigning officially started yesterday in Honduras for the March primary elections. It does not seem that there are any biosecurity protocols in place.

<https://criterio.hn/con-violaciones-previas-arranca-oficialmente-campana-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1437723-468/muros-puentes-carreteras-inicia-propaganda-movimientos-politicos>

<https://proceso.hn/sin-protocolos-de-bioseguridad-arranca-oficialmente-propaganda-politica-en-honduras/>

"More than 7,000 Hondurans left San Pedro Sula in the first migrant caravan of 2021. They sought to reach the United States, but in Guatemala they were surrounded and then dispersed with gas and clubs. Now they are back in the Honduran mess."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/01/23/de-regreso-de-la-caravana-con-los-suenos-golpeados/>

Padre Melo wrote a novel on Honduran migration.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/01/23/el-norte-que-me-tenes-prometido-una-novela-hondurena-sobre-la-migracion/>

There are 140,238 COVID-19 cases and 3441 officially confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-nuevamente-los-mil-contagios-y-acumula-los-140-mil-238-casos-de-covid-19/>

Proceso Digital reports that the police will increase its enforcement of the curfew from 9pm to 5am.

<https://proceso.hn/con-cierre-de-ciudades-policia-hara-cumplir-toque-de-queda-por-incremento-de-casos-de-covid-19/>

Warnings about the Honduran health system become more imminent by the day. "We warned that if something was not done to control mobility the collapse was imminent, and it has happened," said Carlos Umaña, a doctor and president of the Association of Doctors of the IHSS in San Pedro Sula, who reported that the ICUs in that city are collapsed."

And the following does not help: "The president of the National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEAAH), in the San Pedro Sula chapter, Luis Cerrato, warned that they could abandon the COVID wards, in protest because they have lowered the salaries of their members who work in the mobile hospital and in the triage centers."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2610-urgente-colapsan-salas-uci-en-norte-de-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/ocupada-en-un-100-uci-del-ihss-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://proceso.hn/aneeah-amenaza-con-abandonar-salas-covid-por-rebaja-del-sueldo/>

Throughout the last year, COPECO has been linked to ineffectiveness up to corruption when it came to its response both to the pandemic and the two hurricanes. Very fitting, it may now see its bank account frozen for handing out bad checks.

<https://tiempo.hn/errores-cheques-bch-cerrar-cuenta-bancaria-copeco/>

UNICEF warns that the two hurricanes Eta and Iota put 1.5 million Central American children at risk of serious illness due to water contamination.

<https://www.unicef.org/lac/comunicados-prensa/huracanes-consecutivos-en-centroamerica-dejaron-1.5-millones-de-ninos-en-riesgo-de-enfermedades-graves>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/sin-cuerpo-no-hay-delito-sin-roberto-no-hay-alegria/>

24/01/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Extractivism - Escazú; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector; and the Day of the Honduran Woman

The Pro Honduras Network has more on the most recent rescheduling of the sentencing of JOH's convicted brother Tony Hernández. "Defense of Juan Antonio Hernández requests that the sentencing hearing be held until the Court resumes its normal activities."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/01/25/defensa-de-juan-antonio-hernandez-solicita-que-la-audiencia-de-sentencia-se-lleve-a-cabo-hasta-que-la-corte-retome-sus-actividades-normales/>

With the ratification of the Escazú agreement by Argentina and Mexico, it will come into force on April 22. Honduras has not signed it yet. OFRANEH denounces: "Honduras, participated in the negotiations, however at the same time through presidential agreement 008-2015 approved the express licenses, thus destroying the process of environmental licenses as safeguards. Hypocritical government, violator of human rights and nature."

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1353368014578724872>

There are 140'929 COVID-19 cases and 3447 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-140-mil-929-casos-y-tres-mil-447-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Due to the worrisome state of the Honduran health system, the multi-sectorial body thinks about returning Honduras to a partial or even complete lockdown.

<https://tiempo.hn/mesa-multisectorial-analiza-cierre-parcial-total-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/mesa-multisectorial-pide-mas-restricciones-ante-aumento-de-casos-de-covid-en-honduras/>

Three more doctors died to COVID-19, at least 62 have died so far during the pandemic, 8 this month alone.

<https://proceso.hn/fallecen-dos-medicos-y-suman-61-los-decesos-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

"In the framework of the Honduran National Women's Day, it is fair and necessary to have an x-ray of the current conditions of women based on official data, provided by the latest Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey (EPHPM), prepared by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), in June 2019."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1803-honduras-hablando-del-dia-nacional-de-la-mujer-promedio-de-estudio-es-de-7-3-anos>

25/01/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - UFERCO; Women; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Elections; and the new ID

The Municipal Committee in Defense of the Commons and Public Goods together with other organizations published a press release in the Guapinol case. "The illegally imprisoned Guapinol River defenders must be released this week by the Court of Appeals of La Ceiba who now have the case in their hands. Last Friday, Magistrates Irasema Guillén, Rubenia Galeano, Jimmy Chirinos and Garín Enoc Urquía, received the appeal against the arbitrary December 19, 2020 ruling issued by Judge Zoé Guifarro of the Court of Appeals of Tocoa, who, without legal basis, denied to substitute the preventive measure of preventive detention during a long expected hearing. The December ruling violated the Constitution, the Criminal Procedure Code and international treaties and the defenders, in remand since September 1, 2019, now depend on the judicial independence of the Appellate Court Magistrates to put an end to their arbitrary detention."

"For Jesuit priest Ismael Moreno, Director of the Team for Reflection, Research and Communication Eric-sj, and member of the Convergence against Continuity, the Guapinol case demonstrates that Honduran institutions, particularly justice, are subordinated to political and economic decisions, therefore, there is no rule of law, but the rule of the strongest."

Last Saturday, representatives of the Convergence against Continuity visited Guapinol in solidarity with their struggle and the criminalized defenders.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/honduran-court-of-appeals-must-release-guapinol-river-defenders-this-week>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/n/caso-guapinol-demuestra-que-justicia-esta-subordinada-a-decisiones-politicas-padre-melo/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-ccc-realiza-visita-de-solidaridad-y-apoyo-a-la-comunidad-de-guapinol-y-a-los-defensores-privados-de-libertad/>

As expected, the Nationalist controlled Congress rejected the impeachment of JOH for his drug trafficking links highlighted in various cases tried in the US.

JOH, meanwhile, presents himself and his family as victims suffering from the drug trafficking accusations.

And he also reiterated that 2021 would be his last year as president.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-inaugura-cuarta-legislatura-negando-juicio-politico-contra-juan-hernandez/>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-niega-juicio-politico-contra-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yo-y-mi-familia-estamos-pagando-el-precio-asegura-joh-por-las-declaraciones-de-narcotraficantes/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1438187-410/ultimo-a%C3%B1o-gobierno-asegura-juan-orlando-hernandez>

CESPAD published an important question on why the MP is ignoring the important work by UFERCO. "However, since then, both the Attorney General, Óscar Fernando Chinchilla Banegas, and the Director of Prosecutors, Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso, have forgotten about the Prosecutorial Unit. Some investigating agents and prosecutors from other units claim that UFERCO was left alone. "Neither the conditions for the personnel that used to be from UFECIC and now from UFERCO, are the same. Their salaries were lowered and the interest of the Attorney General himself declined to the extent that, since then, there is no communication neither with him nor with the higher commands", said a former agent of the Public Prosecutor's Office."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/25/por-que-el-ministerio-publico-ignora-a-la-uferco/>

Women protested yesterday on the Day of the Honduran Woman against the situation they face everyday in Honduras. More than 300 women were murdered last year and calls to 911 for domestic violence increased by 16%.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mujeres-realizan-planton-en-celebracion-del-dia-de-la-mujer-en-honduras/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3066-movilizaciones-en-el-dia-de-la-mujer-organizaciones-de-mujeres-senalaron-que-sus-derechos-están-en-retroceso>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/25-de-enero-fecha-para-reivindicar-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52221>

Reporteros de Investigación published a worrisome investigation into the situation of Honduran migrants in Guatemala. "Guatemalan military and police beat thirty Hondurans in front of the Casa

del Migrante in Tecún Umán and leave them abandoned far away in the middle of the night. The survivors of the first caravan of 2021 are scattered throughout Guatemala. They take roads in the middle of nowhere and cross rivers. They are fleeing persecution and repression unleashed against them by Central American governments."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/01/25/estan-solos-abandonados-y-dispersos-a-la-mano-de-dios-en-guatemala/>

There are 141'984 COVID-19 cases and 3462 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/muertos-por-covid-en-honduras-suman-3462-y-141984-contagiados>

Many nurses were hired during the pandemic with the promise of a permanent position, but now they protest that these promises have not been fulfilled yet.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2614-honduras-gobierno-aun-no-cumple-contrato-permanente-prometido-a-enfermeras>

"The vice-minister of the Health Secretariat, Roberto Cosenza, called on candidates for elected office not to hold large rallies so as not to promote the spread of COVID-19."

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-pide-a-politicos-no-realizar-grandes-concentraciones-politicas/>

"The ghost of electoral fraud could come to light in the primary elections of March 14. So far everything points to the fact that the process for the contracting of the company that will be in charge of the Transmission of Preliminary Electoral Results (TREP) will be declared deserted. 47 days before the electoral process, the situation is worrisome because the Honduran people still do not know which company will be in charge of the transmission of the results of the primary elections of the National, Libertad y Refundación (Libre) and Liberal parties."

<https://criterio.hn/licitacion-del-trep-prueba-de-fuego-del-cne/>

RNP informed that they started printing the new identity card. They hope to start handing it out next month.

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-comienza-a-imprimir-primeras-tarjetas-de-identidad-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52237>

26/01/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, MILPAH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; US - Corruption; JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; Education; Prisons; and in Defense of Uferco

"The International Human Rights Clinic at the University of Virginia School of Law, along with 11 international human rights organizations(1), today filed an amicus curiae brief over the continued

detention of the human right activists known as the “Guapinol Water Defenders” who have spent more than 500 days in pre-trial detention for events related to a peaceful protest to protect a water source in the Carlos Escaleras National Park. The COVID19 pandemic has only compounded concerns over the defender’s health and well-being in prison.”

National and international human rights organizations continue to call for their liberation.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/legal-human-rights-experts-file-brief-over-ongoing-illegal-detention-of-guapinol-river-defenders>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1354062814227402753>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1354085282270883843>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1354148248517300231>

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-decision-corte-apelaciones-debe-considerar-estandares-derechos-humanos-garantizar-derecho>

OACNUDH visited members of MILPAH in Simpinula.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1354097178730516482>

For the eight time, the sentencing of JOH's brother Tony Hernández had been postponed. The new date was set to March 23.

The Pro Honduras Network also reports on new insights from court documents. "Among the documents presented by the Prosecutor's Office for the Southern District of New York in the case of Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez, the murder and torture of a policeman who was in charge of the 2011 raid of the narco-laboratory located in Omoa, Cortés, which according to prosecutors belonged to Geovanny Fuentes and Juan Orlando Hernández, is narrated."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1438310-466/aplazan-sentencia-de-tony-hernandez-octava-ocasion>

<https://criterio.hn/tony-hernandez-a-las-puertas-de-recibir-una-condena-no-menor-a-40-anos-de-carcel/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/01/26/fiscalia-presentara-pruebas-sobre-la-tortura-y-asesinato-de-un-policia-que-participo-en-el-allanamiento-del-narco-laboratorio-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-y-geovanny-fuentes/>

Honduran media outlets cover a proposal by US Representatives Sires and Torres to fight corruption in Honduras.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/reps-sires-torres-letter-to-president-biden-1.pdf>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congresistas-de-ee-uu-manifiestan-interes-de-desbaratar-la-corrupcion->

[en-centroamerica/](#)

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2619-biden-recibe-propuesta-para-combate-agresivo-de-corrupcion-en-honduras>

ContraCorriente facts-checks the recently presented report by JOH on his presidency in 2020. Even though the impeachment process against JOH was dead on arrival in Congress (see previous e-mail), it led to further rifts inside the Liberal Party.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/01/26/informes-de-presidentes-de-los-poderes-del-estado-entre-la-demagogia-y-la-victimizacion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52267>

There are 142'880 COVID-19 cases and 3486 confirmed deaths.

As highlighted on various occasions already, the real number of deaths is likely more than twice as high. The Association of Funeral Homes regularly presents their documented corona deaths. By the end of last year, they had documented almost 8000 deaths and so far in January, they documented another 850 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-896-contagios-y-acumula-los-142-mil-880-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/funerarias-reportan-850-decesos-por-covid-19-en-primeros-22-dias-de-enero/>

Another doctor, the only 31-year old Victoria García, and another nurse, Cristina Colindres, died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/muere-otra-profesional-de-la-medicina-a-causa-del-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-muere-ihss-enfermera-cristina-colindres/>

The Secretariat of Finance reassures the public that the funds for buying vaccines are guaranteed.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/esta-listo-el-dinero-para-la-vacuna-finanzas/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1438440-410/vacuna-covax-compra-costo-coronavirus->

The Education Secretariat signed an agreement with Microsoft.

<https://proceso.hn/anuncian-convenio-con-microsoft-para-fortalecer-educacion-virtual-en-honduras/>

An inmate was murdered in the Támara prison.

<https://hch.tv/2021/01/26/se-reporta-el-asesinato-de-un-privado-de-libertad-en-tamara1/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/en-respaldo-de-la-uferco-y-del-trabajo-de-luis-javier-santos/>

27/01/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, HR, Poverty, Education; Corruption - de Lobo; Migration - Children; Prisons; Drug Trafficking; and Three Years of Unconstitutionality

A press conference and protest rally was held outside the MP yesterday demanding freedom for both the political prisoners (see below) and the Guapinol defenders.

OACNUDH recalled the obligation of the justice operators to guarantee the right to defend human rights.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1354508287786455040>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1354604469686837255>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1354451740410654720>

<https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/oacnudh-preocupada-por-retraso-en-el-proceso-judicial-contra-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

The Convergence against Continuity and the Committee for the Freedom of Political Prisoners remind us about the fate of the political prisoners who still face criminalization while impunity reigns for the human rights violations by the JOH regime during the post-electoral repression three years ago.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tres-anos-despues-del-fraude-electoral-los-presos-politicos-siguen-sujetos-al-proceso-penal-y-la-impunidad-estatal-se-fortalece/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/exigen-libertad-para-los-presos-politicos-y-que-se-cierren-los-procesos-penales/>

There are 144'007 COVID-19 cases and 3512 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/con-1-mil-127-nuevos-contagios-aumentan-a-144-mil-007-los-casos-de-covid-19/R>

The Honduras Medical Association (CMH) demands an immediate lockdown due to the increased number of cases and death, also among medical personnel.

Proceso Digital reports that a doctor dies every three day.

Over 60 doctors have died so far and according to ANEEAH, 35 nurses, 4 last week alone.

Medical experts also denounced the ongoing gatherings at political rallies.

<https://tiempo.hn/muertes-honduras-cmh-pide-confinamiento-tres-semanas/>

<https://proceso.hn/un-medico-muere-por-covid-cada-tres-dias-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/35-enfermeras-han-fallecido-a-causa-del-covid-19-y-unas-2990-se-han-contagiado/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52272>

Another hospital, this time in El Progreso, sent out a warning that they are full. The Health Secretariat officially handed over the mobile hospital to the University Hospital in Tegucigalpa. They promise that the first patients will be taken in in the coming 24 hours.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/abarrota-sala-covid-en-el-progreso-yoro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1438720-466/secretaria-de-salud-entrega-oficialmente-hospital-movil>

"We begin with the deepest humanitarian crisis in history, which smells of narco-dictatorship and the failure of neoliberalism, with its by-products of misery for the people, shameless concentration of wealth in reduced elites promoting organized crime and repression. In the face of this crisis and with our love for organized struggle, this gathering of organizations pronounces itself in this Thirty-Seventh public manifesto".

<https://copinh.org/2021/01/manifiesto-publico-37-enero-2021/>

"A World Bank study indicates that one in four children are affected by not receiving adequate food in Honduras and that 60% of children under five years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition."

<https://criterio.hn/hambre-desnutricion-pandemia-y-miseria-honduras/>

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, some 22'000 students had to leave UNAH.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3069-ante-la-crisis-generada-por-covid-19-al-menos-22-mil-estudiantes-han-desertado-de-la-unah>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52308>

"In the resolution of the Pandora and Caja chica de la Dama cases, the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) of Honduras made an analysis far from carrying out a serious and effective investigation in accordance with the principles of due process, and the duty to issue decisions duly grounded, complete and consistent with the claims of the parties. Likewise, it used arguments that were not duly reasoned and, in the Pandora case, it violated the right to equality by granting unequal treatment to the accused, conclude two legal watchdogs presented today in Tegucigalpa. The documents prepared by the Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Coalition (CAC), and the support of Lawyers Without Borders Canada (ASFC),

also point out that the various appeals filed by UFECIC before the Judiciary, did not pave the way for rectification and access to justice, while the resolutions of the CSJ, lacked the proper judicial motivation. All this, as a whole, violated the guarantee of due process, by not respecting basic national and international standards."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/01/27/sentencias-de-los-casos-pandora-y-caja-chica-de-la-dama-justicia-o-impunidad/>

More than a month has passed since new judges had been nominated in the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, but so far they failed to set a new trial date.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1438501-466/rosa-elena-lobo-honduras-juicio>

"Some of the minors are injured, extremely tired or with psychological trauma," reported, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), on the condition of 100 children who were part of the first migrant caravan of 2021.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52286>

"Once again, human rights organizations denounce the systematic practice of torture in the facilities of the Women's Social Adaptation Center (CEFAS), located in the valley of Támara, some 20 kilometers north of the capital.

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-tortura-a-privadas-de-libertad-en-centro-femenino-de-adaptacion-social/>

InSight Crime reports on the ongoing activities by Los Cachiros in Honduras. "Authorities in Honduras have revealed in recent months million-dollar money laundering operations connected to the Cachiros, indicating that vestiges of the drug clan continue to operate in the country despite the group's demise."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/money-laundering-cachiros-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/a-tres-anos-de-inconstitucional-y-fraudulenta-narcodictadura/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/siete-anos-de-joh-mantienen-al-pais-en-la-mas-profunda-crisis/>

28/01/21

Honduras Daily: Women & LGBTQ+; HRDs; Water; Corruption; IDPs; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Poverty; Elections; and a Letter to Joe Biden

As feared, the Nationalist-controlled Congress now officially ratified the constitutional reform prohibiting in perpetuity abortion and same-sex marriage.

US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky tweeted: "I am appalled that Honduras is taking steps to roll back #SRHR and make it impossible to legalize abortion – on top of its existing draconian abortion ban! Access to #reprohealth services, including abortion, is a human right!"

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-ratifica-reforma-que-blinda-despenalizacion-del-aborto/>

<https://proceso.hn/ratifican-en-honduras-reforma-que-prohibe-aborto-y-matrimonio-igualitario/>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1354490381325447170>

Defensores en Línea reports on the ongoing criminalization of defenders and campesines in San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz, organized in REDHIL-PAZ. One of them, the 50-year old Arturo Salinas Orellana, was just diagnosed with terminal cancer.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-enfermedad-terminal-campesino-de-tutule-enfrenta-proceso-por-defender-la-tierra/>

A new Criterio article posits that the war for water has already started in Honduras. "The scarcity or non-existence of potable or quality water afflicts a large part of the population in Honduras, a phenomenon aggravated in the country's main cities by the construction of housing in protected areas that feed water sources. And in rural areas by the construction of hydroelectric plants and mining driven by government policies that encourage investment in the extractive industry."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-ya-vive-la-guerra-por-el-agua/>

Honduras dropped 11 position in the Corruption Perceptions Index reaching an all time low since 2012.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/nzl>

<https://criterio.hn/indice-de-corrupcion-en-honduras-de-transparencia-internacional-refleja-lo-que-ha-venido-senalando-el-cna/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1354832349662482438>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-cae-11-puestos-en-indice-de-percepcion-de-transparencia/>

"UN and IACHR Experts Urge Immediate Adoption of Law to Protect Internally Displaced People"

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2021/014.asp

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26694&LangID=S>

There are 144'992 COVID-19 cases and 3549 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/con-985-nuevos-contagios-honduras-alcanza-los-144-mil-992-casos-de-covid-19/>

El Herald reports that the Multi-Sectorial Board had a emergency meeting on new possible corona measures.

But there are signs that they won't go back to a lockdown.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1438996-466/cierre-honduras-covid-19-toque-queda-febrero-2021>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/no-habra-cierre-de-la-economia-mesa-multisectorial/>

"According to some sectors, the State of Honduras can be internationally denounced for the crime against humanity, since it has not fulfilled its obligation to provide access to public health, and on the contrary, the acts of corruption and management of the pandemic are considered malicious actions that aggravate human rights, as denounced by the president of the Medical Association of Honduras. Suyapa Figueroa."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3071-segun-colegio-medico-desatencion-a-la-salud-de-la-poblacion-es-un-crimen-de-lesa-humanidad>

A bit unexpectedly, remittances sent to Honduras grew by 3.8% last year.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52353>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) still does not know how the results of the primary elections on March 14 will be transmitted.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1438767-466/cne-maletas-papeletas-elecciones-honduras-primarias>

<https://proceso.hn/retroceso-en-marcha-elecciones-estilo-honduras/>

<https://www.coha.org/open-letter-from-an-honduran-teacher-to-president-joe-biden/>

29/01/21

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Guapinol, Congress; Drug Trafficking; US; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals, Education; Corruption - Asfura; Elections; and 10 Months in to the Pandemic

Human rights defender and lawyer Edy Tábor denounced that the Appeals Court failed to emit a resolution in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defenders. "It is unfortunate that the only deadlines that the @PJdeHonduras strictly complies with are the vacation deadlines. What due process, what legal certainty in Honduras!"

https://twitter.com/Edy_Tabora/status/1354966397986754560

MADJ denounces that Congress approved "a package of extractive projects that will create and generate more conflicts in the national territory".

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1355272218448691208>

Convicted drug trafficker and son of former president Pepe Lobo, Fabio Lobo, asked for a "compassionate release".

<https://tiempo.hn/fabio-lobo-solicita-liberacion-compassiva-eeuu-covid-19/>

El Faro spoke with Juan González, the National Security Council Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere and, therefore, lead advisor to Biden's Latin American policy. Sadly, González repeated the myth of an effective Attorney General in Honduras.

<https://elfaro.net/es/202101/internacionales/25187/%E2%80%9CEl-1%C3%ADder-que-no-est%C3%A9-listo-para-combatir-la-corrupci%C3%B3n-no-ser%C3%A1-un-aliado-para-Estados-Unidos%E2%80%9D.htm>

492 dengue cases have been reported so far this year.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52398>

There are 146'110 COVID-19 cases and 3575 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-146110-contagiados-y-3575-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

"The president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, considers that it is the right time for politicians and candidates for elected office to promote the recovery of the Health System, especially to demand the results of the intervention of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), after the theft of 700 billion lempiras."

<https://criterio.hn/llaman-a-aspirantes-politicos-a-levantar-bandera-de-la-recuperacion-del-sistema-de-salud/>

"In the opinion of the Honduran scientist, Sir Salvador Moncada, there is enormous concern for the situation in which the country finds itself, in the midst of a pandemic that is worsening due to its mismanagement. The renowned scientist says that the only way out of the critical situation in which the country finds itself, is through a responsible, honest and fair government that wants to solve the country's problems, and this does not seem to be the current one."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/honduras-vive-alarmante-crisis-por-mal-manejo-de-pandemia-asegura-reconocido-cientifico-hondureno/>

The newly opened mobile hospital in Tegucigalpa will only receive patients with mild corona symptoms.

<https://proceso.hn/habilitan-atencion-en-hospital-movil-de-tegucigalpa-pero-solo-para-pacientes-leves/>

Teachers announced that they would only return to on-site classes if there are biosecurity safety protocol in place and the educational community is immunized.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52395>

<https://criterio.hn/hasta-que-estudiantes-y-alumnos-estén-vacunados-volveremos-a-clases-presenciales-fomh/>

The newly appointed head of the disputed Transparency Secretariat showed her real purpose yesterday, questioning the corruption index by Transparency International and trying to whitewash the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/titular-de-transparencia-duda-que-honduras-este-en-nivel-muy-bajo-de-corrupcion/>

"The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), declared in the last hours without place the petition presented by the Prosecutor's Office in the case involving the mayor of the capital, Nasry "Tito" Asfura. The Court of First Instance for the Deprivation of Property of Illicit Origin, did not admit the request filed by the State Prosecutor's Office, in relation to the deprivation of property of the mayor, Nasry "Tito" Asfura. According to the court's resolution, the admissibility requirements were not met, since it was raised in an incorrect manner, with erroneous grounds, that is to say, invoking equivalent assets as grounds."

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-sin-lugar-peticion-presentada-por-fiscalia-en-caso-de-alcalde-capitalino/>

Radio Progreso spoke with sociologist Eugenio Sosa about the coming electoral process and the role of the primaries. ""These elections are in the hands of the political parties, here is going to be tested what is the internal democratic quality of the political parties because they permanently demand national electoral democracy but when they go inward, their democratic quality, their internal democracy and their electoral democracy of competition is very low."

Criterio has more on the discussion about how electoral results will be transmitted (see also yesterday).

They also have more on the main obstacles to a thorough electoral reform. Citing Rixi Moncada, councilwoman of the National Elections Council (CNE): "The government works systematically from the National Congress, where the main opponent and the one stopping the approval of the electoral law is David Chávez, a relative of Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/elecciones-primarias-pondran-a-prueba-calidad-democratica-de-los-partidos-politicos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-un-aura-de-misterio-transmision-de-resultados-para-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/a-10-meses-del-coronavirus/>

30/01/21

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Vaccine; and the Boulevard of Broken Dreams

JOH gave an interview to AFP. He talked about his brother's situation, a convicted drug trafficker awaiting his sentence. JOH claims that the case will be revisited. JOH also comments on what he intends to do once his presidency ends in January 2022 - leave public life and write his memoirs.

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/afp/presidente-de-honduras-espera-que-caso-contra-su-hermano-en-eeuu-vaya-a-segunda-instancia/46331990>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-afp-juicio-tony-herandez-segunda-instancia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1439325-466/a-que-se-dedicara-juan-orlando-herandez-terme-mandato>

The Pro Honduras Network published an update on another drug trafficking case related to JOH. "Recent documents obtained by Pro Honduras Network in the case of former police officer Juan Manuel Avila Meza, who was accused of drug trafficking and those involving Ruben Santos, another former police officer, as part of the criminal structure of the Cachiros in the distribution of cocaine to the United States, his defense lawyer Linda George presented a declassified document as documentary evidence in defense of Avila Meza which are excerpts from the report of Mario Mejia Vargas dated June 11, 2019, where Mauricio Hernandez confirms that Juan Orlando Hernandez and Tony Hernandez are his cousins, in the report Hernandez Pineda emphasizes that he had contact with the Hernandez Clan to obtain political power in the department of Copan and especially the department of Lempira."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/01/30/segun-documentos-mauricio-herandez-pineda-acepta-ser-primero-de-juan-orlando-herandez/>

The CPH does not even try to hide anymore its closeness to the JOH regime. "This Saturday the new Board of Directors of the College of Journalists of Honduras (CPH) was appointed, the new president of the guild, an unknown in journalism, Osman Reyes, a "high official" of the Hernandez government, serving as spokesman for the police-military 911 emergency system."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2628-alerta-colegio-de-periodistas-cae-en-activistas-del-partido-nacional>

<https://criterio.hn/funcionario-del-911-presidente-del-colegio-de-periodistas-de-honduras/>

There are 147'100 COVID-19 cases and 3592 confirmed deaths.

El Tiempo reports that Nationalist congressman Mario Pérez has COVID-19.

A part from electoral rallies making negative headlines, evangelical churches also have a problem with huge gatherings.

There are calls to further regulate the churches.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-147-mil-100-infectados-y-3-mil-592-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mario-perez-tiene-covid-19-esta-recuperando/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1439322-466/honduras-sin-temor-covid-personas-aglomeraron-campana-evangelistica>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/piden-regular-concentraciones-politicas-para-evitar-mas-contagios/>

These last weeks were accompanied by calls from medical experts for stronger containment measures.

SINAGER announced yesterday that four departments will go back to the system where people can only go out on a certain day, but this time this concerns only the weekends. During the week, everyone can still leave the house outside the curfew hours.

<https://tiempo.hn/microbiologos-piden-circulacion-por-digito-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2627-honduras-urgente-cuatro-departamentos-volveran-a-circular-por-digito>

JOH promises that the vaccine will arrive in Honduras mid-February.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1439374-410/primeras-dosis-vacunas-contra-covid-19-llegaran-marzo-honduras>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/01/30/el-bulevar-de-los-olvidados/>

31/01/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; and Honduran Chess

Luis Santos, head of UFERCO, commented on the situation in Honduras after the publication of the new Corruption Perceptions Index (see previous e-mail). "Surely, Honduras this year will be cited as an example around the world, as one of the most corrupt countries, as was Singapore at the time,

since with consistent actions managed to reduce, in a little more than a decade the rates of corruption. With the difference that Singapore bet seriously to the fight against corruption, passed laws that led to jail the corrupt ... in Honduras the opposite happens, laws, reforms and interpretations are passed that release the corrupt, which will worsen the situation more and more every day."

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1355386397910302722>

There are 147'843 COVID-19 cases and 3610 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-147843-casos-y-3610-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Another doctor, Alejandro Melara, died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-reconocido-medico-por-covid-19-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://proceso.hn/por-sospechas-de-covid-19-muere-otro-anestesiologo-en-la-capital-hondurena/>

The JOH regime continues to use the promise of vaccines to cover up its abysmal pandemic response in the last year. JOH held a TV announcement on the subject promising 800'000 doses by the end of February.

Honduras receives the vaccine through Covax/Gavi, but JOH insisted that the donation "is not a gift but a reward for the successful vaccination programs implemented by Honduras"...

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1356066981426855936>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1439547-466/presidente-herandez-vacuna-honduras-coronavirus-covid-covax>

<https://tiempo.hn/vacuna-covid-19-honduras-800-mil/>

<https://hch.tv/2021/01/31/esta-donacion-no-es-un-regalo-es-un-premio-porque-honduras-ha-demostrado-ser-exitoso-en-programas-masivos-de-vacunacion-herandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/avance/2630-honduras-el-juego-de-peones-partido-liberal-y-el-reycito-mueve-el-tablero>