

01/02/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Tolupanes; Journalists; EU; COVID-19 - HR, Health Sector, Mobile Hospital, Vaccine, Education; US – MP;

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the January edition of its monthly human rights monitor. Those wishing to receive the report in a separate e-mail can subscribe using the following e-mail address:  
foro\_honduras\_suiza@riseup.net

[https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd\\_process\\_download=1&download\\_id=14362](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=14362)

"With the arrival of February also comes negative news for the Tolupán people, the criminalization processes initiated against the indigenous and social fighters of the San Francisco Locomapa tribe have been reopened and our compañeros and compañeras have been forced once again to attend the courts to weekly sign a form as an alternative to the prison sentence imposed by a court to favor the businessman Wilder Domínguez who is dedicated to the unconsulted cutting of timber in the territories that the indigenous have ancestrally possessed."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2021/02/01/reinician-los-procesos-de-criminalizacion-contr-el-pueblo-tolupan/>

ASOPODEHU published a summary report on the situation of journalists in 2020.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/redes-de-periodistas/item/3073-informe-redes-de-comunicadores-sociales-y-periodistas>

The EU as well as the Spanish, French and German embassies expressed their "concern about the constitutional reform on the prohibition of abortion and recalls the international standards and recommendations to the State of Honduras on women's rights" [see last month].

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1356240762204266497>

There are 148'951 COVID-19 cases and 3614 confirmed deaths.

The first patient died in the newly inaugurated mobile hospital in Tegucigalpa even though they take up only patients with mild symptoms.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-108-contagios-y-otras-cuatro-muertes-por-coronavirus/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1439617-466/muere-paciente-covid-hospital-movil-tegucigalpa>

The Coalition against Impunity published a long report on "the deepening of the human rights crisis in Honduras as a consequence of the management of COVID-19" as well as three short bulletins.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Informe-CCI-Covid19-y-Gesti%C3%B3n-Estatal-comprimido.pdf>

[https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC\\_BOLETIN-1\\_ABORDAGE-GENERAL-DE-COVID.pdf](https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC_BOLETIN-1_ABORDAGE-GENERAL-DE-COVID.pdf)

[https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC\\_BOLETIN\\_2-GRUPOS-DE-VULNERABILIDAD.pdf](https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC_BOLETIN_2-GRUPOS-DE-VULNERABILIDAD.pdf)

[https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC\\_BOLETIN-3\\_LOS-DESC.pdf](https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BC_BOLETIN-3_LOS-DESC.pdf)

The saga of the mobile hospitals opened a new chapter as the notorious Guatemalan businessman Axel López demands to be paid for the transfer of the hospitals from Turkey to Honduras. He asks for over 37 million Lempiras.

Also yesterday, the CNA published a new report on the mobile hospitals. The report concludes once again that the hospitals are not suitable for COVID-19 patients.

ContraCorriente also dedicates an article to the topic and concludes that people die in Honduras as a consequence of the irregular purchases by the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/axel-lopez-exige-reembolso-por-flete-de-los-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1356236058653044736>

<https://criterio.hn/hospital-movil-de-tegucigalpa-no-es-apto-para-atender-pacientes-con-covid-cna/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/01/pacientes-de-covid-19-mueren-por-compras-irregulares-en-honduras/>

February began with the death of yet another two nurses to COVID-19, Rosa Delia Mejía and Mirna Figueroa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dos-enfermeras-auxiliares-fallecen-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/dos-enfermeras-fallecen-por-covid-19-en-atlantida-y-yoro/>

The JOH regime promises to set up a cold chain for the vaccine for all 9.4 million Hondurans.

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-garantiza-cadena-de-frio-para-9-4-millones-de-vacunas-contr-la-covid-19/>

Because of the high prevalence of COVID-19 cases, the Secretary of Education dropped the idea of pilot classes with physical attendance of pupils.

And their is still no plan in place for inclusive digital classes.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52425>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/inicia-el-ano-lectivo-en-honduras-sin-una-plataforma-digital-inclusiva/>

The US chargé d'affaires met again with the Attorney General talking about corruption and human rights cases.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1356421294145892355>

02/02/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Hydroelectricity - Jilamito; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine, Education, Tourism; Migration - Caravan, US; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Liberal Party; and 11 Years of a Narcodictatorship

59 have passed since the murder of Berta Cáceres. "We remember her sowing that blooms in every corner of the villages."

A new date for the hearing against David Castillo has been set for this Thursday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1356626344348692487>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1356727686895448066>

Criterio reports on the struggle to protect the Jilamito river. "The installation of a hydroelectric project valued at US\$75.562 million and financed by IDB Invest and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (IFC), keeps the inhabitants in a permanent encampment, five of whom are being prosecuted for their resistance in defense and conservation of the river for human use."

<https://criterio.hn/los-protectores-del-rio-jilamito-y-la-guerra-por-el-agua-en-el-caribe-de-honduras/>

Health authorities declared a red alert in eight departments of the country, due to the increase of dengue cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-emite-alerta-roja-en-ocho-departamentos-por-aumento-de-dengue-en-honduras/>

There are 149'791 COVID-19 cases and 3638 confirmed deaths.

"The president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, has reported that the National Risk Management System (Sinager) has stopped applying tests to find positive cases of Covid-19 and that in this context the figures of the virus reported by the Government are far from reality. In an interview with EL LIBERTADOR, Figueroa said that for several weeks now the tests have been discontinued and that now the procedure is only being carried out in triage centers. "Active search was stopped to confirm cases through PCR tests. So that figure is not real," he stressed."

But also the reported number of death is sadly too low. "In statements to Radio Progreso, the Secretary of the National Association of Funeral Homes of Honduras, Jesus Moran, said that Honduras closed the month of January with 1,203 deaths. He also pointed out that the year 2020

closed with 7,620 deaths."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-roza-los-150-mil-casos-de-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2634-honduras-urgente-gobierno-dejo-de-hacer-busqueda-activa-de-covid-colegio-medico>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-enero-fueron-mil-203-fallecidos-por-covid-19-asociacion-de-funerarias/>

Two more doctors died to COVID-19, Marlene Starkman and Adalid Gálvez.

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-covid-19-doctora-marlene-henriquez-starkman/>

<https://hch.tv/2021/02/02/muere-anestesiologo-adalid-galvez-por-covid-19/>

The Health Minister Alba Consuelo Flores promised a first batch of vaccine doses, 124'000, by the end of the month.

But given the track record of the JOH regime so far, not many believe the promises.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1439961-410/honduras-primer-lote-vacunas-coronavirus-ministra-salud->

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3076-poblacion-hondurena-no-tiene-credibilidad-en-que-haya-compras-adecuadas-en-las-vacunas-de-covid-19>

The JOH regime is still trying to present its education policy in a good light after having been criticized regarding the lack of a viable alternative to in-person classes (see also first link below). Now, Conatel president David Matamoros Batson claims that more than 1 million Honduran students have access to free internet.

It does not help that the same day, this was reported: "According to Daniel Sponda, a teacher's leader, another alleged act of corruption has been brewing in the educational system, who on Tuesday asked the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) to conduct an ex officio investigation into the Fund for Internet and Technology in Educational Centers (FIT), approved several years ago, and which so far it is not known what it was used for."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2632-honduras-inicio-el-ano-escolar-y-los-ninos-no-tienen-internet>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1439924-466/internet-gratis-honduras-david-matamoros-batson>

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-al-mp-investigar-destino-del-fondo-para-generar-internet-gratuito-a-sistema-educativo/>

Last year, due to the pandemic and the hurricanes, the Honduran tourism sector lost \$1.3 billion and some 100'000 jobs.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-perdio-1300-millones-dolares-y-100000-empleos-en-turismo-en-2020/>

Sandra Cuffe has an important article on southwards push of the US border. "Some analysts argue that the U.S. southern border has been effectively pushed to the Mexico-Guatemala border or other borders farther south. "The Guatemalan border with Chiapas is now our southern border," said Homeland Security official Alan Bersin in a 2012 speech. But that does not reflect the reality on the ground, according to many migrants and researchers in Central America and Mexico. The issue is not so much that the U.S. border line has been pushed south but that the border has expanded to fill every space in between."

<https://theintercept.com/2021/02/02/honduran-migrant-caravan-vertical-border-guatemala/>

The Biden White House presents an update on the planed immigration system.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/02/fact-sheet-president-biden-outlines-steps-to-reform-our-immigration-system-by-keeping-families-together-addressing-the-root-causes-of-irregular-migration-and-streamlining-the-legal-immigration-syst/>

The Pro Honduras Network once again outlines how the US Attorney's Office in New York holds JOH responsible for drug trafficking.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/01/segun-la-fiscalia-en-new-york-juan-orlando-hernandez-es-responsable-junto-a-tony-de-conspirar-para-traficar-drogas-hacia-eeuu/>

In a second article, they focus on the Liberal Party and drug trafficking, especially on the presidential wannabe Yani Rosenthal Hidalgo

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/01/diputado-vinculado-en-el-trafico-de-drogas-por-la-fiscalia-en-new-york-busca-la-reeleccion-dentro-del-movimiento-de-yani/>

And to further bring home the grim outlook of possible future presidents in Honduras, CESAD has a new article on Nasry Asfura. "Three condominiums in an exclusive area of Tegucigalpa and shares in the trading companies Cementos S.A. and Desarrollo Construcciones y Equipos S.A. de C.V. (DECOESA), among others, are the assets that UFERCO aimed to secure for the mayor of Tegucigalpa Nasry Asfura. This character, who aspires to become president of Honduras, is still in the "eye of the hurricane" and at the center of the discredit of a judiciary that, according to experts, acts according to the status of the accused."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/02/el-alcalde-de-tegucigalpa-su-interes-de-convertirse-en-presidente-y-una-justicia-selectiva-que-le-apoya/>

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<https://madj.org/index.php/2021/02/02/cuarta-legislatura-y-11-anos-de-narcodictadura/>

03/02/21

Honduras Daily: Berta; Hydroelectricity; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals, Vaccine, Women's Rights; Elections - Libre, JOH; Electricity; 2021 Budget; Housing; Drug Trafficking; and a Response to the President

"This March 2 we commemorate 5 years since the assassination of #BertaCáceres, 5 years of building solidarity for #JusticeForBerta, 5 years of walking together with Berta in the construction of emancipatory processes and autonomy for the people"

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1356967409178071040>

Criterio has more on the newest hydroelectric projects by the JOH regime who seems to be using last year's hurricanes as an excuse to push through disputed projects. Congress recently approved them, but "[n]one of the approved articles mention community participation or prior and informed consultation, despite the fact that many of the projects are in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples".

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-aprueba-construccion-de-represas-sin-cumplir-requisitos-de-medio-ambiente-y-ley-de-contratacion-del-estado/>

There are 151'103 COVID-19 cases and 3362 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-suma-151103-contagios-y-3362-fallecidos-por-covid-en-honduras/>

Yet another doctor, Cándido Mejía, died to COVID-19. According to the president of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in San Pedro Sula, Dr. Carlos Umaña, 72 doctors have died so far.

<https://tiempo.hn/doctor-candido-mejia-hondurenos-lamentan-muerte/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/van-72-medicos-muertos-por-covid-19/>

The audit board at Invest-H has so far failed to present the final report on the purchase of the seven mobile hospitals.

The CNA, meanwhile, presented an official complaint against the JOH regime for human rights violations as a consequence of the purchase of the mobile hospitals.

<https://proceso.hn/pgr-senala-que-no-ha-recibido-informe-final-de-invest-h-en-caso-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1356979373459529728>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-presenta-queja-contr-exdirector-de-invest-h-y-los-interventores-encubridores/>

His own deputy health secretary had to correct JOH who promised vaccines for 1.9 million Hondurans by the end of the month. The hope for doses will suffice for 400'000 Hondurans.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2638-honduras-vacunas-de-febrero-solo-abarcan-a-400-mil-hondurenos>

"The organizations that make up the November 25th Platform presented the "Diagnosis of public policies on violence against women and girls in the context of covid-19 and the hurricanes".

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3077-senala-diagnostico-vulnerabilidades-de-las-mujeres-fueron-desenterradas-por-la-covid-19-y-los-huracanes-eta-e-iota>

CESPAD published a short overview of the three main parties and where they stand in light of the current electoral cycle.

Yesterday, I highlighted two articles reporting on corruption and drug trafficking linked to two presidential hopefuls. ConfidencialHN adds another one to the list, Ricardo Alvarez, who is also being investigated for corruption.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/03/analisis-una-mirada-a-los-partidos-politicos-en-el-arranque-de-la-campana-para-las-primarias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-investiga-a-ricardo-alvarez-por-condonacion-de-deuda-a-coagricasal/>

"The pre-candidate for mayor of the municipality of Copán Ruinas, in western Honduras, for the Libertad y Refundación (Libre) party, Julia Carranza, denounced that a bank has put obstacles in the way of the candidates of this political institute who want to open a bank account."

<https://criterio.hn/precandidata-a-alcaldesa-denuncia-discriminacion-en-institucion-bancaria/>

Javier Suazo put together a helpful overview of all the arguments why JOH may, against his repeated promises, want to stay in power.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/210785>

The Electric Energy Company (EEH) is another example of failed (partial) privatization. A new report highlights how it did not deliver on the promised reductions in energy loss.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1440181-466/mhi-sostiene-que-eeh-no-cumpli%C3%B3-con-bajar-las-p%C3%A9rdidas-ni-con>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1440243-466/piden-realizar-cuatro-auditor%C3%ADas-para-confirmar-si-cumple-o-incumple-eeh>

At the end of last year, the JOH regime promised to prioritize education and health in the 2021 budget. An investigation by Criterio now shows that not much is left of the promise and it rather

served, again, to try to boost the image of the JOH regime home and abroad.

<https://criterio.hn/presupuesto-de-salud-y-educacion-una-ilusion-que-podria-convertirse-en-un-engano/>

"In the face of the drama that thousands of Hondurans are going through, living in risky areas or under bridges, with shacks made of rustic wood, cardboard, plastic or old rags, dozens of houses of a housing project financed by the Instituto de Previsión Militar (IPM), remain abandoned. According to information obtained by ConfidencialHN, more than 50 housing solutions located in the Santa Eduvigis neighborhood of the capital, are in a deplorable state, after ten years of being forgotten."

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondurenos-no-tienen-casa-pero-abandonan-proyecto-habitacional/>

1.3 tons of cocaine were seized on a boat outside Colón. The JOH regime wants to present it as a sigh of strength against drug trafficking, but it rather shows that Honduras remains an important transit country.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1440251-466/decomisan-mas-de-mil-kilos-cocaina-embarcacion-colon>

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<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1356955487862947840>

04/02/21

Honduras Daily: Berta -Trial; Violence against Women; Hydroelectricity; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education; Elections - Drug Trafficking; Iota; Electricity; and on the Way to Number One

Once again, for the 10th time, the evidentiary hearing against David Castillo, was postponed.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1357414455999619074>

""We must all act together with determination and find concrete solutions to stop violence against women and girls," said European Union Ambassador Jaume Segura during the inauguration of the Public Commitment to End Violence against Women in Honduras initiative. Segura was one of the members of the diplomatic corps accredited in the country who, together with representatives of civil society, academia, private enterprise and the media, among others, participated in the virtual event organized by the United Nations System in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/compromiso-publico-contra-la-otra-pandemia-que-afecta-a-mujeres-y-ninas/>

Radio Progreso also covers the newest controversial hydroelectric projects (see also yesterday). "Hurricanes Eta and Iota revealed the country's vulnerability to these natural phenomena. This



pretext laid the groundwork for the Government to propose handing over flood mitigation to banks and energy companies. On January 6, the Official Gazette La Gaceta published Executive PCM 138-220, which sets forth the conditions under which the dams will be built. According to former congressman Aníbal Cáliz, this document opens the way to the privatization of the works."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/gobierno-aprovecha-emergencia-para-entregar-construccion-de-represas-a-empresa-privada/>

C-Libre denounced that "[p]rior to the installation of the fourth legislature in the National Congress, private security guards, under orders from their superiors, prevented [Radio Progreso] journalist Eleana Borjas from covering the event on Monday, January 25".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1311-niegan-acceso-a-cobertura-en-congreso-nacional-a-periodista-de-radio-progreso>

There are 152'225 COVID-19 cases and 3523 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Association of Honduras continues to question the official death count. According to them, up to 40 people die per day to COVID-19 in Honduras.

A recent CID Gallup poll found that Hondurans are more concerned about unemployment and corruption than about the Covid-19 infection.

<https://proceso.hn/con-mil-122-nuevos-contagios-honduras-supera-los-152-mil-casos-confirmados-de-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/funerarias-muertes-diariamente-por-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2639-hondurenos-mas-desesperados-por-corrupcion-y-empleo-que-por-covid-cid-gallup>

What an awful year so far for the Honduran medical sector. Another two doctors, Gustavo Vásquez and Luis Tirso Sánchez, and a nurse, Nora Calderón, died just yesterday.

22 health workers died this year alone.

And while yet another hospital announced to have a full COVID-19 ward, Sinager still claims that the Honduran health system has not collapsed.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1440393-466/medicos-enfermera-covid-honduras-pandemia-muertos>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52592>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/hospital-maria-sala-uci-al-100-de-su-capacidad-con-pacientes-covid-19>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1440544-410/sinager-sistema-hospitalario-honduras-colapsado->

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/abarroto-por-casos-covid-19-hospital-mario-catarino-rivas/>

Japan and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) donated \$1 million to El Salvador and Honduras for the education sector during the pandemic.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/bid-y-japon-dan-un-millon-de-dolares-a-honduras-y-el-salvador-para-educacion>

Now even the president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Ana Paola Hall, warns that "there are groups that are orchestrating campaigns to prevent the primary election process from taking place".

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52589>

<https://criterio.hn/a-menos-de-40-dias-elecciones-primarias-en-honduras-sin-reglas-claras/>

The Pro Honduras Network continues to cover the drug trafficking links of aspiring political candidates in the upcoming elections. "Cristhian Josue Fuentes Ramírez, brother of drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes, who according to the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York was an associate of Juan Orlando Hernández, is among the candidates for deputy within the National Party, participating in the movement of Nasry Juan Asfura Zablah."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/04/hermano-de-narcotraficante-y-socios-de-juan-orlando-se-postula-como-candidato-a-diputado-dentro-del-partido-nacional-en-el-movimiento-de-nasry-asfura/>

<https://criterio.hn/aspirantes-ligados-al-narcotrafico-en-las-elecciones-primarias/>

"FAO launched an emergency appeal to the international community to raise US\$14.4 million to support 333,000 people affected by the hurricanes in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras."

<https://honduras.un.org/es/110629-fao-hace-llamamiento-de-emergencia-para-apoyar-333-mil-personas-afectadas-por-huracanes-en>

The saga about the Energy Company Honduras (EEH) continues (see yesterday). In a public letter, the company claims that ten state bodies, among them the Defense Secretary, still owe them 2.3 billion Lempiras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2644-honduras-militares-cable-color-y-otros-deben-2-300-millones-a-eeh>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2643-exclusiva-eeh-reclama-17-mil-millones-al-gobierno-hernandez-2>

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<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-encamina-a-ocupar-el-primer-lugar-en-corrupcion-por-manejo-de->

[pandemia-segun-cna/](#)

05/02/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine, Poverty, Education; Deportation; Prisons; and the Hernández Cartel

There are 153'253 COVID-19 cases and 3694 confirmed deaths.

[https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-153253-casos-acumulados-y-3694-decesos-por-covid-19/](#)

Another health worker, doctor Karen Táborá, died to COVID-19. The death of health workers (see also previous days) is one of the most visible signs of the broken Honduran health system. Even corporate media outlets don't hold back anymore and El Heraldo writes about "an explosion in [COVID-19] cases and deaths".

Therefore, it is no surprise that 30 IHSS doctors resigned in the last days fearing for their lives. In El Progreso, doctors announced to go on strike.

[https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-doctora-karen-tabora-por-covid-19-en-la-capital/](#)

[https://www.elheraldo.hn/interactivos/1440571-529/segunda-ola-covid-19-honduras](#)

[https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/1440850-410/por-temor-al-covid-30-medicos-del-ihss-tramitan-su-retiro-honduras](#)

[https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/el-lunes-se-van-a-paro-los-medicos-en-el-progreso-yoro/](#)

There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 vaccines and their arrival in Honduras. Now, El Libertador reports that JOH lied to the public regarding the 800'000 doses for Honduras. This amount has not been confirmed yet.

[http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2646-urgente-ops-desmiente-a-joh-honduras-aun-no-califica-para-vacuna-covax](#)

[https://elpulso.hn/?p=52623](#)

According to COHEP, poverty levels have reached 68.7% and extreme poverty affects 44% of the population.

[https://tiempo.hn/cohep-44-aumentado-pobreza-extrema-en-honduras/](#)

Radio Progreso interviewed Wilmer Vásquez, director of Coiproden, about the state of the Honduran education system. According to Vásquez, it is in a state of "intensive care".

[https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/la-educacion-esta-en-cuidados-intensivos-red-coiproden/](#)

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ha-recibido-7347-deportados-este-ano-un-20-2-menos-que-en-2020/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/autogobierno-se-mantiene-en-centros-penales-de-honduras/>

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<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/06/fiscalia-ya-tiene-construido-caso-contra-juan-orlando-hernandez-y-presiona-a-gobierno-de-honduras-para-que-ejecute-la-extradicion-de-posibles-testigos-que-podrian-declarar-en-su-contra/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/06/alerta-municipalidad-de-guaimaca-envia-a-la-calle-a-44-familias/>

A strike was announced for tomorrow, together with the teachers, and they demand the resignation of both the Minister of Health and of Education.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-medico-y-enfermeria-exigen-renuncia-de-autoridades-de-salud-por-pesima-gestion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2650-honduras-71-medicos-y-37-enfermeras-suman-los-martires-del-covid-19>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/06/en-esta-guerra-estamos-solos-y-la-estamos-perdiendo-habla-el-personal-en-primera-linea/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-plataforma-de-salud-y-educacion-piden-cabeza-de-ministros-alba-consuelo-flores-y-arnaldo-bueso>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1440939-466/medicos-exigen-implementos-de-bioseguridad-vacunas-y-mejoras-laborales-frente-al-covid-19>

"In March 2020, on-site classes in the educational system were cancelled due to the arrival of the pandemic in Honduras. One year later, the pandemic is far from being controlled and the country is preparing to open a school year in the midst of precariousness."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/06/honduras-prepara-un-nuevo-ano-escolar-inmerso-en-la-pandemia/>

CESPAD published an analysis of the recently created Transparency Secretariat whose opening was accompanied by widespread criticism. They conclude that its main purpose is to whitewash the JOH regime in matters of corruption.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/06/analisis-es-solo-una-percepcion-o-el-ministerio-de-transparencia-es-un-obstaculo-para-el-combate-contra-la-corrupcion/>

According to the CNE, the primary and main elections will cost almost \$73 million.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/02/06/entre-33-y-35-millones-de-dolares-costaran-elecciones-primarias/>

"In the framework of the second conversation of young people with the Honduran scientist Salvador Moncada, he learned about the concern, indignation and desire that young people have to actively participate in civil society groups and opposition political parties, to accelerate the changes that benefit all citizens in the face of the evident deterioration of the country and its institutionality, caused by the current government of Juan Hernandez."

<https://criterio.hn/jovenes-dialogan-con-salvador-moncada-sobre-como-fortalecer-la-oposicion-en-honduras/>

"The waiting continues for the family of the boy murdered by the military in Yarumela, La Paz. The conclusions of the trial scheduled for February 1 and 2 were rescheduled for next week, informed

his father Eblin Corea."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/sabemos-claramente-que-los-militares-me-lo-mataron-padre-de-eblin-noel/>

"The United States has suspended and initiated the process to terminate the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras as the first concrete steps on the path to greater partnership and collaboration in the region laid out by President Biden. The termination of these Agreements is effective after the notice period stipulated in each of the Agreements, but their suspension is immediate."

<https://www.state.gov/suspending-and-terminating-the-asylum-cooperative-agreements-with-the-governments-el-salvador-guatemala-and-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-suspende-acuerdos-de-pais-seguro-con-el-salvador-guatemala-y-honduras/>

07/02/21

Honduras Daily: Police; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector; JOH;

A nursing student, Keyla Patricia Martínez, was detained last night, allegedly for violating curfew, and hours later she was dead inside a rural police station. The police claim that she hung herself but her death raised many questions.

Her family members demand an investigation.

<https://criterio.hn/muerte-de-estudiante-de-enfermeria-en-poder-de-la-policia-es-completamente-sospechosa/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-piden-investigacion-por-muerte-de-enfermera-en-celda-policial/>

There are 154'568 COVID-19 and 3721 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-registra-29011-infectados-y-487-fallecidos-por-covid-en-lo-que-va-de-2021>

The nightly curfew in place in Honduras was prolonged for another week.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1441235-410/extienden-toque-queda-hasta-21-febrero-honduras>

Another doctor, Wendy Núñez de Centeno, died to COVID-19.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1441110-466/muere-doctora-wendy-nunez-de-centeno-covid>

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-la-doctora-wendy-nunez-por-covid-19-en-san-pedro-sula/>

The JOH regime continues with purely symbolic gestures announcing that he won't be vaccinated because priority should be given to the most vulnerable...

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1441176-466/joh-no-se-vacunara-covid-prioridad-vulnerables>

08/02/21

Honduras Daily: Police; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Guapinol; Agua Zarca; US - Migration; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospital, Vaccine, Journalists; Worker's Rights; Corruption; and Don't Instrumentalize Me

The death of nursing student Keyla Patricia Martínez in police custody (see yesterday) led to widespread protest in various parts of the country. COPINH and others hold the JOH regime responsible for her death.

OACNUDH announced to follow-up the case and called for an exhaustive and swift investigation. And so did UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford.

But the JOH regime had other plans and started to violently repress the protesters.

"OACNUDH condemns the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers against demonstrators today in La Esperanza, Intibucá, in the context of protests over the death of Keyla Martínez."

The family of Keyla, meanwhile, demanded another autopsy.

Criterio published an overview of the case and its irregularities.

Interestingly, even corporate media outlets like El Heraldo highlight the irregularities, e.g. the police claiming that Keyla died in the hospital after a suicide attempt while the medical report clearly states that she was already dead when she arrived at the hospital.

And of course, there is the fact that people have died previously under suspicious circumstances in police custody.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1358770150439333890>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3078-demanda-de-justicia-y-repudio-nacional-e-internacional-por-muerte-de-keyla-patricia-martinez-en-celdas-policiales>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1358944143922376705>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1358872886216429570>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1358899317122162688>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1358804536190775297>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/02/alerta-urgente-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-ddhh-en-honduras-policia-nacional-reprime-con-balas-y-gas-lacrimogeno-a-manifestantes-por-femicidio-de-keyla-patricia-martinez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/policia-nacional-reprime-manifestacion-que-exige-justicia->

[para-keyla/](#)

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1358972438374207488>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1358977541357383685>

<https://criterio.hn/familia-pide-nueva-autopsia-para-universitaria-muerta-en-celda-policia-de-la-esperanza-intibuca/>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-de-honduras-en-el-ojo-del-huracan-por-muerte-de-joven-universitaria-en-una-comisaria/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1441447-466/keyla-martinez-policia-informe-celda>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3079-policias-tienen-las-manos-sueltas-postas-policiales-son-un-peligro-para-personas-detenidoas>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1441445-468/celdas-muerte-hondurenos-muertos-postas-policia>

COFADEH raises alarm about a similar case. "Family members are demanding answers about the whereabouts of Cristian Javier Aguiluz Melgar, 20 years old, who disappeared after being arrested by agents of the National Anti Maras and Gangs Force (FNAMP), in the city of San Pedro Sula, Cortés, they reported."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/joven-desaparece-luego-de-ser-detenido-por-la-fnamp/>

What previously was mainly reported by the Pro Honduras Network has now been taken up by international media outlets. Reuters reported: "U.S. prosecutors are investigating Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, according to a new court filing, piling pressure on a leader who prosecutors have already accused of participation in the nation's bloody narcotics trade."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-honduras/honduran-president-target-of-u-s-investigation-court-filings-show-idUSKBN2A8291>

Criterion published an update on the human rights situation on Zacate Grande.

<https://criterio.hn/en-silencio-avanza-expulsion-de-pobladores-de-la-peninsula-de-zacate-grande/>

<https://proceso.hn/documento-judicial-de-eeuu-senala-que-el-presidente-joh-fue-investigado-casa-presidencial-lo-vuelve-a-desmentir/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/08/fiscalia-de-eeuu-envia-fuerte-mensaje-para-juan-orlando-hernandez-cc-4-por-sus-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

Back on January 28, the Appeals Court in La Ceiba should have resolved an appeal by the



criminalized Guapinol defenders. As reported previously, this has not taken place. Pasos de Animal Grande now published an important article on the human rights violations this entails.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3080-corte-de-apelaciones-debio-resolver-el-28-de-enero-recurso-a-favor-de-defensores-presos-de-guapinol>

US congressman Chuy García responded to the announcement by the Biden Administration to suspend and terminate the so-called safe third country agreements. "We need humanitarian and SAFE ways to manage the flow of refugee and asylum seekers. For many, this is a matter of life and death. We must address root causes of migration that will help people in Central America, not advance entrenched political interests."

<https://twitter.com/RepChuyGarcia/status/1358971026319831041>

There are 155'735 COVID-19 cases and 3742 confirmed deaths.

The newest COVID-19 variants have been in Honduras for over a month, since December 10, 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-mantiene-tendencia-al-alza-y-suma-mil-167-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nuevas-cepas-coronavirus-honduras/>

Currently a doctor dies on average every 24 hours. Yesterday Ciriaco Villalvir Peña died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-otro-medico-por-covid-19-en-sps/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sps-covid19-muere-doctor-ciriaco-villalvir/>

El Heraldo published a letter sent by the auditing board of Invest-H to Axel López, the seller of the notorious mobile hospitals.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1441376-466/descargue-integra-la-carta-de-reclamo-que-envio-invest-h-a-axel-lopez>

JOH continues to divert the attention away from all the bad PR (see above) by concentrating on promising vaccines for the Honduran people. The newest promise, WHO and COVAX will buy the vaccines intended for Honduras this coming weekend.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-oms-vacunas-covid-19-honduras/>

Last Sunday, journalist Nelson Flores died to COVID-19. So far 8 journalists have died to COVID-19.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1810-fallece-nelson-flores-el-octavo-periodista-en-honduras-que-muere-a-causa-de-covid-19>

"The Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), admitted a few days ago an appeal of unconstitutionality that was filed in November of last year by the Network of Domestic Workers of Honduras (RTD) together with the Justice for the Peoples Law Firm. On the same date, two more appeals of unconstitutionality were filed; one against the Labor Code and the second against the Minimum Wage Law based on legislative decree number 189-59 which contains the Labor Code. The RTD categorizes these articles as discriminatory for not valuing under the law the work performance of domestic workers."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1812-csj-admite-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-de-articulos-que-discriminan-y-violentan-derechos-de-las-trabajadoras-domesticas-de-honduras>

CESPAD published an update on various important corruption cases and what is being done by a corrupt elite to stop them from bringing about justice.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/08/el-resultado-del-blindaje-a-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

"Dr. Mary Vallecillo, a research scientist at Brigham Young University (BUY) in Utah, was asked by the cabinet of Juan Hernandez to represent the country in the "celebration" of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, but has declined because she does not accept to represent a government that has promoted the purchase of weapons rather than the health and education of Hondurans."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2655-cientifica-hondurena-rechaza-representar-a-gobierno-enemigo-de-ciencia-y-pueblo>

09/02/21

Honduras Daily: Police; Femicide; Berta - Trial; Hydroelectricity; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Corruption; ID Card;

The MP now confirms that the autopsy of nursing student Keyla Patricia Martínez revealed that she was murdered (see last days).

The MP also requested that the police agents at the station in La Esperanza be transferred to Tegucigalpa and be placed at the order of the prosecutors investigating the homicide.

Human rights defender and lawyer Edy Táborá tweeted: "The director of the National Police is responsible for the possible escape of the police officers who committed the femicide of Keyla Martinez. The MP should order a preventive detention, or the Police should apprehend them since the case is in flagrante delicto."

The police, meanwhile, published a second press release on the case.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/a-keyla-patricia-la-mataron-revela-autopsia-de-medicina-forense/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1441638-466/autopsia-keyla-martinez-homicidio-no-suicidio>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1441683-466/keyla-martinez-homicidio-policias-puestos-disposicion-del-mp>

[https://twitter.com/Edy\\_Tabora/status/1359253282246516739](https://twitter.com/Edy_Tabora/status/1359253282246516739)

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1359360512283340801>

25 women have been murdered so far this year, most of them are younger than 30. "Violence against women is a problem in Honduras because so many women die that there is hardly an investigation process in each of the cases. When the right to life is not guaranteed and even less so when in the custody of police authorities it is a clear violation of the human rights they swore to serve and protect".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/van-25-mujeres-asesinadas-en-2021-segun-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

Today, set for the tenth time, the evidentiary hearing against David Castillo should finally take place

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1359174454325223429>

Criterio continues to cover the disputed hydroelectric project Jilamito in Arizona, Atlántida.

<https://criterio.hn/proyecto-hidroelectrico-jilamito-un-entramado-del-poder-economico/>

"Elements of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP) removed journalist Jorge Posadas and his cameraman while they were presenting the progress of the construction of the mobile hospital in Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán department, western Honduras."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1312-militares-sacan-a-periodista-que-informaba-desde-construccion-de-hospital-movil-en-zona-occidente>

There are 156'606 COVID-19 cases and 3789 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reporta-871-nuevos-contagios-y-acumula-156-mil-606-casos-confirmados-de-covid-19/>

Another nurse, Juana Aguilar, died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/otra-enfermera-fallece-por-covid-19-en-san-pedro-sula/>

"The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEAAH), Josué Orellana, revealed this Tuesday that at least 166 nursing centers throughout the country have had to close due to lack of personnel. "This situation has us worried because the closure of the centers has occurred in the interior of the country, where these people have to go to other communities to obtain medical services," he said."

<https://proceso.hn/por-falta-de-personal-de-enfermeria-han-cerrado-166-centros-de-salud/>

"According to the Observatory of Criminal Anticorruption Policy, OPCA, of the National Anticorruption Council, CNA, the macroeconomic impact of corruption in Honduras amounts to 12.5% of the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, i.e. 65,000 million lempiras are lost annually."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-pierde-cada-ano-65-mil-millones-en-corrupcion/>

The rolling out of the new ID card has been postponed once again, the RNP now promises them for April or even May.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52720>

10/02/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Police - Femicide; Corruption; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector, Education; BID;

Finally, the evidentiary hearing against David Castillo started yesterday. 10 times it had been postponed and yesterday Castillo's defense tried it again, but for the first time without any luck. After a day in court, the hearing was suspended until February 18.

US Congressman Chuy García tweeted: "Justice for the murder of Berta Cáceres should not be postponed any longer. Today David Castillo will finally have a hearing. It is time for everyone involved to be held accountable for this crime."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1359575614152445952>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1359618722818891776>

<https://twitter.com/RepChuyGarcia/status/1359619770732208133>

The protests linked to the murder of Keyla Patricia Martínez continue in Honduras.

COFADEH later denounced that four young men were detained by the police after participating at a protest in the Central Park in Tegucigalpa.

OACNUDH published a press release condemning Keyla's death and repeated its demand for an exhaustive investigation.

<https://criterio.hn/protestas-por-homicidio-de-estudiante-de-enfermeria-continuan-fuertes-en-honduras-mientras-la-policia-responde-con-represion/>

<https://proceso.hn/se-aviva-la-sed-de-justicia-tras-sepelio-de-keyla/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/obstaculizan-defensoria-de-ddhh-a-cuatro-jovenes-detenidos-luego-de-exigir-justicia-por-el-asesinato-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3082-indetenibles-los-abusos-policiales-detienen-jovenes-que-reclamaban-justicia-por-el-crimen-contr-keyla-martinez>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-la-muerte-violenta-de-keyla-martinez-bajo-custodia-policial-y-urge-a-las-autoridades-a-una-investigacion-pronta-exhaustiva-e-imparcial/>

Twitter user Mar put together an important list of facts about femicide in Honduras.

"1. The criminal type of femicide was introduced in 2013. Since then, less than 10% of cases have been classified as such. Impunity is fueled by discrimination against women.

2. Contrary to the common belief that more men are killed than women, it is impossible to sustain this when contrasting the rate of decrease in male homicides with the rate of decrease in female homicides over the last 10 years (49% vs. 26%).

3. Firearms are the type of weapon used in 56% of cases of violent deaths of women.

Guess what is one of the main sources of illegal weapons in the region? The only authorized arms distributors: the military and police arsenal of HONDURAS.

4. Contrary to global trends in which femicide in the context of domestic violence is the most frequent, in Honduras, it is femicide in the context of organized crime.

5. Of the cases of women criminalized for the crime of abortion in 12 years, only 14.8% are unresolved or "in impunity", in contrast to more than 90% impunity in cases of femicide or violent deaths of women."

<https://twitter.com/marcelaariasmon/status/1359347704124633090>

Kicking someone when they are down, or in this case not even there anymore, Congress' president Mauricio Oliva accuses the MACCIH of having committed "a lot of errors". These statements have to be seen in light of his campaign to become the presidential candidate of the Nationalist Party.

<https://proceso.hn/la-maccih-cometio-errores-dice-titular-de-congreso-mauricio-oliva/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1441956-466/mauricio-oliva-funciones-maccih-honduras-elecciones>

There are 157'468 COVID-19 cases and 3806 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/sinager-registra-157468-infectados-y-3806-fallecidos-desde-el-inicio-de-la-pandemia>

"The National Congress (CN) ratified this Wednesday, the Executive Decree that allowed the creation of the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA), elevating it to the rank of Law in Honduras. The above, in order to comply with one of the requirements demanded by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Access Fund for Vaccines COVID-19 (Covax) and the pharmaceutical companies for Honduras to acquire the vaccine against COVID."

This sounds unproblematic, but of course, there is more to it. "Opposition deputies have denounced that in a virtual session, the Honduran parliament approved the Health Regulation Agency Law with only 39 votes, which gives full power to President Hernandez to "appoint the three commissioners at his discretion and decision, without requiring them to have experience in the health field".

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-nacional-crea-ley-de-la-agencia-de-regulacion-sanitaria-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2665-alerta-congreso-crea-nuevo-invest-en-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/alertan-sobre-nuevo-investh-controlado-desde-el-ejecutivo-para-actos-de-corrupcion/>

Health workers continue to protest in Honduras.

"The triage coordinator at the mobile hospital in the municipality of Villanueva, in northern Honduras, Ezer Castellanos, presented his irrevocable resignation due to the lack of government response to the health crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/siguen-las-protestas-de-los-medicos-en-el-norte-del-pais/>

<https://criterio.hn/renuncia-coordinador-de-triaje-en-villanueva-cansado-de-la-indiferencia-del-gobierno-ante-la-pandemia/>

Criterio published a long article on "a collapsed education system".

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-en-el-abismo-por-un-sistema-educativo-colapsado/>

Congress approved a \$10 million credit from the Inter-American Development Bank (BID). "The resources will be used to finance the implementation of the "Program for climate-resilient forest restoration and forestry for the sustainability of water-related ecosystem services".

<https://proceso.hn/cn-modifica-articulos-de-la-ley-del-rnp-para-que-personal-del-proyecto-identificate-entreguen-la-nueva-identidad/>

11/02/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Police; Femicides; Organized Crime; Corruption - Congress, US; Hydroelectricity; Ecosystem; COVID-19 - Health Sector; and Sowing Autonomy

Front Line Defenders published its yearly report which "details the physical assaults, defamation campaigns, digital security threats, judicial harassment, and gendered attacks faced by HRDs, especially women and gender non-conforming human rights defenders". Honduras remains one of the deadliest country in the world for HRDs and per capita it has the highest murder rate of HRDs after Colombia.

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/resource-publication/global-analysis-2020>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/feb/11/human-rights-defenders-murder-2020-report>

Five young men, not four as previously reported, were detained after a protest denouncing the murder of Keyla Martinez (see yesterday). About an hour ago, they were released but they continue to face a hearing next week.

While still in custody, they were visited by OACNUDH.

COFADEH has taken up their legal defense.

The murder of Keyla also restarted public interest in the so-called purge of the police forces, i.e. its failure. "The director of the Observatory of Violence, Migdonia Ayestas, said that the death of nursing student Keyla Martinez showed that the police purification process is a mere mirage."

Radio Progreso spoke with further experts all sharing this view, while those responsible for the purge still try to defend its work and prefer to talk of some bad apples...

And maybe one of them apples went after journalist Dina Meza after she published an alert about the arrest of the five young men on her Facebook page. "Dina Meza, journalist and human rights defender, denounced on Wednesday night, February 10, the surveillance and capture of her publications on her Facebook account by the National Police."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1359880199903449092>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-en-honduras-la-labor-de-la-defensoria-de-derechos-humanos-esta-cada-vez-mas-en-precaria-indefension/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1360038011120058371>

<https://criterio.hn/que-hay-detras-del-crimen-y-autopsia-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=52790>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/depuracion-policial-es-un-proceso-fallido-opinan-expertos/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1316-periodista-denuncia-vigilancia-policial-a-su-cuenta-en-facebook-para-desacreditar-su-labor>

The UN and the EU published a joint press release condemning femicides in Honduras. "Violence against women and girls has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, which constitutes a matter of public emergency that affects the country's development and a clear violation of human rights with profound implications for women's health, economic, educational, social and cultural opportunities."

<https://honduras.un.org/es/111522-la-onu-y-la-ue-condenan-los-femicidios-en-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-y-union-europea-condenan-muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-en-honduras/>

This week it was made public that Alexander Mendoza, a.k.a. El Porky, was acquitted for the murder of two public prosecutors. This raised a lot of questions because he had been in prison in 2015 and was freed in an armed operation in which four people died in 2020 and he is still on the run. "It should be remembered that in October 2020, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid and Henry Osorto

Canales, who were part of the high command of the National Police, denounced that by the will of the ruler Juan Hernández, the MS-13 governs from the Presidential House. And it is that according to the version of the ex-officers, Mendoza, also known as Yulan Archaga Carías, is the cousin of Eduin Iván Archaga, Cavalry Major and member of the Presidential Honor Guard."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2669-insolito-justicia-hondurena-absuelve-a-porky-liberado-por-criminales-en-2020>

"The Special Prosecution Unit against Corruption and Impunity of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Honduras (UFECIC-MP) filed today before the Supreme Court of Justice an indictment against five deputies and six former Honduran deputies, for the alleged crime of embezzlement of public funds to the detriment of the Public Administration of the State of Honduras."

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-contr-a-5-diputados-y-6-ex-diputados-por-malversacion-de-fondos-publicos/>

CESPAD inquires if the US represents a reliable ally in the fight against corruption in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/11/analisis-es-estados-unidos-un-aliado-confiable-en-la-lucha-contr-a-la-corrupcion/>

MASSVIDA also warns about the recent approval of 14 new hydroelectric projects (see previous e-mail). Apart from not having been consulted with the local indigenous and campesino communities, the projects will bring about drought in the south of Honduras and they are economically problematic. "Article two of Executive Decree number PCM-138-2020 stipulates: "In the event that these projects are not economically or socially viable to be operated by a third party or the awarding process fails, the reimbursement of the investments made in the structuring of the same shall be the responsibility of the State of Honduras through the Ministry of Finance, which shall reimburse the same within a maximum period of twelve months from the date the reimbursement is requested by the trustee". "The State of Honduras will have to return the money if the project does not work and the Ministry of Finance (SEFIN) would have to make the refund in less than 12 months, with this type of thing is what makes one indignant," said the environmentalist Chirinos."

But there is also some good news regarding the protest against another hydroelectric project on the Mezapa river. "The defenders of the Pajuiles community scored a victory with the decision of the Tela Sentencing Court that granted final dismissal to twelve defendants, eleven men and one woman, for their actions in defense of the Mezapa River."

This resistance was accompanied by MADJ and another struggle by MADJ and local communities is still ongoing, the defense of the Jilamito river.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1815-concesiones-hidroelectricas-en-rio-choluteca-incrementaran-sequia-en-el-sur>

<https://criterio.hn/pajuiles-y-el-triunfo-de-una-lucha-comunitaria-inclaudicable-en-defensa-del-territorio/>

<https://criterio.hn/jilamito-un-proyecto-extractivista-patrocinado-por-la-cooperacion-internacional/>



Last year, Honduras designated the Laguna de Alvarado Wetland System as its eleventh Wetland of International Importance.

Now OFRANEH denounces that the wetlands are about to be destroyed.

<https://www.ramsar.org/es/nuevas/honduras-designa-al-sistema-de-humedal-laguna-de-alvarado-como-su-onceavo-humedal-de>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1359884629256396800>

There are 158'355 COVID-19 cases and 3838 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-suma-887-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-y-3838-fallecidos>

Medical workers continue to protest in Honduras, yesterday it was doctors at the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/protestan-trabajadores-de-la-salud-del-hospital-mario-catarino-rivas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-de-hospital-catarino-rivas-exigen-vacuna-contra-el-coronavirus/>

"Sowing autonomy in the Montaña Verde indigenous territory"

<https://radioprogresohn.net/portada/sembrar-autonomia-en-el-territorio-indigena-de-montana-verde/>

12/02/21

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Political Prisoners; Keyla - Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals; Elections - US; Migration - US; and the Migration Cycle

The Washington Post reports on JOH's situation now that Biden is the US president. "For four years, Hernández had built his governing program around the demands of the Trump administration, which in turn had stayed out of Honduran domestic affairs. Now that arrangement was ending. Hernández, like heads of state around the world, was preparing for an extreme change in American foreign policy — and trying to figure out how to refashion himself from a Trump ally into a Biden one. The stakes are higher for Hernández than perhaps any other world leader. Not only are the political and economic fortunes of his country inextricably linked to the United States, but Hernández himself is one of few sitting presidents ever to be implicated in drug trafficking by the U.S. Justice Department. (...) Whatever Biden does to restore accountability to U.S. foreign policy, it is likely Hernández who has the most to lose. For more than a decade, he has navigated changes in U.S. policy, shape-shifting as necessary to insulate himself. But it is the extradition treaty with the United States that he pushed to implement when he was president of the Honduran Congress that now might pose the biggest threat to him."

It does not help JOH's case that "[e]vidence and witnesses implicating Juan Orlando Hernandez in drug trafficking were admitted today by Judge Kevin Castel to be presented during the trial of Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez".

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/honduras-president-narcotrafficking-hernandez/2021/02/11/1fa96044-5f8c-11eb-ac8f-4ae05557196e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/honduras-president-narcotrafficking-hernandez/2021/02/11/1fa96044-5f8c-11eb-ac8f-4ae05557196e_story.html)

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/12/pruebas-y-testigos-que-involucran-a-juan-orlando-hernandez-con-el-trafico-de-drogas-fueron-admitidos-el-dia-de-hoy-por-el-juez-kevin-castel-para-que-se-presenten-durante-el-juicio-de-geovanny-fuentes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1442490-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-joh-trafico-drogas-juicio-estados-unidos>

The MP requested a four year prison sentence for the political prisoner, 24-year old teacher Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo. He has been in pre-trial detention for almost two year, since May 2019.

<https://confidencialhn.com/solicitan-pena-minima-para-rommel-baldemar-por-incendio-en-embajada-de-eeuu/>

Protests continue demanding justice for Keyla Martínez.

The case has also gained international attention - Nina Lakhani reports on it for The Guardian linking it to the other pandemic in Honduras, i.e. violence against women.

While a preliminary autopsy has shown that she was murdered (see previous e-mail), media outlets jumped on the statement by a friend/colleague of Keyla, José Velásquez, who was with her the night of her death. He claims that after the arrest she was desperate and said that she does not want to live anymore. But then a video appeared from the arrest in which one sees that José Velásquez was anxious and Keyla was trying to calm him.

And there is also new forensic evidence. Traces found in the mouth could indicate that third parties tried to prevent her from being heard by other people. Additionally, fragments of short hair, different from hers, were found on her clothes.

The legal representative of Keyla's family also disputes the statement by Velásquez and she additionally says: "Observing the men's and women's cells, it can be determined that there is no place inside the cells where she could have hung herself, since there are concrete walls and a cement slab on the ceiling. The door is practically her height, there is a small window but it was too high for Keyla."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1360394541484961792>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/12/honduras-femicide-keyla-martinez-women-violence>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yo-me-quiero-morir-yo-me-voy-a-colgar-con-mi-sueter-grito-keyla-segun-medico/>

<https://criterio.hn/opinion-publica-dividida-ante-declaraciones-del-medico-jose-velasquez-sobre->

[keyla-martinez/](#)

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1442429-466/keyla-martinez-nuevas-revelaciones-enfermera-honduras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1442462-466/keyla-martinez-colgarse-celda-policia-honduras>

Another journalist faced threats (see yesterday), even death threats, for covering the case of Keyla.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3083-mensaje-a-periodista-hoy-si-te-metiste-a-problemas-hacete-humo-rapido-o-tus-hijos-pagaran>

<https://confidencialhn.com/periodista-denuncia-amenazas-por-cobertura-noticiosa-de-la-muerte-de-keyla-martinez/>

There are 159'024 COVID-19 cases and 3848 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-159024-casos-y-3848-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Radio Progreso spoke with doctor Ligia Ramos. "We are living difficult times because there is no adequate strategy or a way to manage the pandemic in a technical and scientific way from all sides, because the virus not only affects health but also the economy and the emotional and psychological stability of the entire population. It has not been seen in a comprehensive way with the right people who have to make the decisions so that it affects us as little as possible."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/la-pandemia-desenmascara-a-un-gobierno-corrupto-y-sus-intenciones-de-privatizar/>

Medical staff have denounced for a while that the mobile hospitals are not functional and even dangerous.

Now, the MP inspected the one in Tegucigalpa and found "anomalies".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1442386-466/hospital-covid-tegucigalpa-peligro>

<https://tiempo.hn/ministerio-publico-anomalias-hospital-movil-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1442446-466/ministerio-publico-inspecciona-hospital-movil-de-tegucigalpa-y-denuncia-abandono>

The former Obama assessor Dan Restrepo commented on the Honduran elections. "Looking at the leading candidates or pre-candidates in Honduras, today, as an advisor to a president of the United States, I would never let any of those candidates, even if elected president of Honduras, democratically, step into the oval office with President Biden, they are frankly unacceptable."

While I agree, it is also worthwhile to read the following comment by OFRANEH: "Wasn't Dan Restrepo Obamam's advisor at the time of the Honduran coup in 2009? The mistakes caused by the coup persist to this day, among them the narco-democracy in place."

<https://criterio.hn/ningun-aspirante-a-la-presidencia-de-honduras-debe-visitar-la-casa-blanca-exasesor-de-obama/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1360253838968643585>

"Building on a series of Executive Orders last week, the Biden Administration is announcing another step in our phased strategy to reform the nation's immigration system. Beginning on February 19, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin phase one of a program to restore safe and orderly processing at the southwest border. DHS will begin processing people who had been forced to "remain in Mexico" under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). Approximately 25,000 individuals in MPP continue to have active cases."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/02/11/dhs-announces-process-address-individuals-mexico-active-mpp-cases>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-anuncia-proceso-para-atender-migrantes-retornados-en-mexico-bajo-protocolo-de-proteccion-al-migrante/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/12/honduras-desesperacion-promesas-y-mas-ansias-de-migrar/>

13/02/21

Honduras Daily: Forced Disappearance; Keyla - Police; JOH - US; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration - US; Elections;

Almost seven months have passed since the forceful disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz. OFRANEH now launches the Garífuna Investigation and Search Committee for the Disappeared from Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1360642612747776006>

New evidence shows that violence against women at the police station where Keyla was murdered is nothing unusual. "Journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez revealed in her program Más que Dos the testimony of two women victims of police abuse, sexual violence and intimidation. The young women told the journalist that they received intimidation from police officers to withdraw the alleged abuses they suffered at the police headquarters in La Esperanza, Intibucá."

Reporteros de Investigación highlights some of the irregularities in the investigation of the crime. Pasos de Animal Grande continues to cover the situation of the five young men demanding justice for Keyla who then themselves suffered repression and arrest, before being released two days ago but now face charges (see yesterday).

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/02/13/audio-de-dos-mujeres-abusadas-en-posta-policia-de-intibuca-antes-de-la-muerte-de-keyla/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/02/13/batalla-de-informacion-trampas-y-montajes-en-muerte-de-universitaria-bajo-custodia-estatal/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3084-torturas-y-proceso-penal-contrajovenes-que-se-manifestaron-por-muerte-de-keyla-a-manos-de-la-policia>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/13/muerte-de-estudiante-de-enfermeria-en-custodia-policia-se-perfila-como-femicidio-de-estado/>

"Honduras extends contract with Gus West Government Affairs for \$59,000/month as it seeks to win over Democrats, according to new foreign lobby filing."

[https://twitter.com/All\\_Things\\_HND/status/1360673837071925257](https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1360673837071925257)

"According to the alert network of the Committee for Free Expression, C-Libre, between January and the first days of February 2021, it has issued 11 alerts for attacks on freedom of expression."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/se-han-emitido-11-alertas-por-agresiones-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/>

There are 159'788 COVID-19 cases and 3857 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-159788-contagios-y-3857-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

"The spokesperson for the College of Microbiologists of Honduras, Miriam Aguilera, requested the corresponding authorities to close the country completely for two weekends to avoid further contagions of coronavirus."

Radio Progreso has an article on how the JOH regime leaves health workers alone in confronting the pandemic.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/colegio-de-microbiologos-requiere-cierre-total-del-pais-por-dos-fines-de-semanas/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/estado-desprotege-a-las-heroinas-que-estan-en-primera-linea-luchando-contrael-covid-19/>

Criterio published an interview with Roberta S. Jacobson, US coordinator for the southwestern border on the National Security Council, on US migration policy under the Biden administration.

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-quiere-crear-un-sistema-migratorio-seguro-ordenado-y-humano-roberta-s-jacobson/>

The primary election comes ever closer and there is still no agreement on how the procedure will take place. The ad-interim president of the National Election Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, blames the National Party for their disagreement in four main points (the CNE registry base, the

credentials, the municipal and departmental counts, and the auditing of the votes).

And she is not alone in criticizing the National Party.

Moncada also decided that from now on, the meetings of the CNE will be public.

The National Party, meanwhile, claims that they are not in disagreement in three out of four things Moncada listed above. This has always been their tactic, blocking substantial reforms, when being called out for it, publicly saying that they are not really against it only to go back blocking this again.

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-pone-en-riesgo-transparencia-y-fidelidad-de-las-elecciones-primarias-presidenta-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/rixi-moncada-asume-presidencia-del-cne-y-ordena-que-sesiones-sean-publicas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2677-anormal-a-un-mes-de-internas-sigue-modelo-elecciones-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/partido-nacional-esta-de-acuerdo-en-tres-de-cuatro-puntos-demandados-por-libre-segun-diputado-rivera-callejas/>

14/02/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - Armed Forces; Keyla - Police; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Corruption; Elections; and a "Purged" Police Force

This morning, a press conference will be held in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/EdwinLibertad/status/1361179123310333953>

Just as JOH, the involvement of the Armed Forces continues to be highlighted in drug trafficking activities. And they continue to deny any involvement. In the newest iteration, they claim that international media outlets are behind the accusation, even though their involvement has been clearly stated in US court documents.

<https://proceso.hn/a-interpretaciones-de-medios-internacionales-atribuye-senalamientos-de-colusion-con-el-narco-el-jefe-de-las-ffaa/>

<https://twitter.com/innercitypress/status/1361100299524595714>

El Herald reports that the police official responsible for the precinct where Keyla was murdered was allegedly both at the station and that he had been involved in the past in a case where a man detained by the police was killed at the police station.

The case also continues to gather international attention. US Senator Chris Coons tweeted: "I am saddened by the death of Keyla Martinez, a 26-year old student in Honduras who died in a police cell after her arrest for violating the pandemic curfew. I urge Honduran authorities to carry out a thorough and impartial investigation into Keyla's case."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1442895-466/keyla-martinez-homicidio-policia-subcomisionado>

<https://twitter.com/ChrisCoons/status/1360578549007200261>

There are 160'171 COVID-19 cases and 3866 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/sin-reportar-recuperados-honduras-supera-los-160-mil-contagios-por-covid-19/>

Yet another doctor died to COVID-19, the only 27-year old Yasser Amir Cuéllar Fuentes.

<https://proceso.hn/muere-el-medico-en-servicio-social-yasser-cuellar-por-covid/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1442871-466/coronavirus-honduras-muere-joven-doctor>

PINU congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez is not surprised about the problems at the National Electoral Council and the stalling progress regarding the coming primary elections (see yesterday). "In this respect, in declarations to a capital city newspaper, Gutiérrez said that she had already foreseen this situation and that "apparently the honeymoon is over among the three parties" that integrate the CNE. She reminded that her party voted against the distribution of the electoral body among the political parties, as well as the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) and the National Registry of Persons (RNP). The Constitution establishes that "it must be autonomous, independent and without subordination to any political party", said the congresswoman, and that is why "we refuse to participate in the distribution of the cake".

<https://criterio.hn/emergencia-en-cne-es-consecuencia-de-alianzas-partidarias-dice-diputada-doris-gutierrez/>

A lot has been reported on the alleged acts of corruption committed by Invest-H linked to the pandemic: mobile hospitals, mechanical ventilators, etc. But much less attention has been given so far to the fact that after the hurricanes Eta and Iota, it was once again Invest-H which was given the responsibility for the reconstruction of some key highway infrastructure. And of course, there were again problems as Criterio now reports.

<https://criterio.hn/empresas-constructoras-de-hospitales-moviles-tambien-beneficiadas-tras-eta-e-iota/>

"From its first results, the failure of the police purge was evident, which is now unquestionable. From murder to drug trafficking, including extortion and others, are the crimes in which the new police have been involved."

<https://criterio.hn/policia-depurada/>

15/02/21

Honduras Daily: Police; HRDs - Police, Guapinol; COPINH; ZEDEs; Hydroelectricity - Pajiles; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Vaccine; Elections; Forest Fires; and a Day of Protest

"The family of Erick Davinson Barrientos Avilés, denounced that the National Police shot the young man, causing his death hours later. According to the family's version, Erick had allegedly driven his work car into a cone of the Dirección Nacional de Vialidad y Transporte (DNVT - which is a dependency of the National Police) in the El Carrizal neighborhood of Comayagüela at about 2 p.m. on Monday, February 15. At the scene there were police and military, who fired several shots at Erick, in front of the family hardware store. He was driving a dump truck in which he was hauling stone from the municipality of Talanga, the family said in an interview with the channel Hable Como Habla Televisión Digital (HCH)."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/muere-joven-a-quien-la-policia-le-disparo/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces threats against human rights defender Deninson Euceda working at the Center for Human Development (CDH) in Choluteca.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3085-represores-no-hacen-tregua-para-atacar-a-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-en-el-sur-de-honduras>

The Women Human Rights Defenders Network published 42 alerts for attacks against WHRDs in 2020, in one third of the cases the police was directly involved.

<https://criterio.hn/cuatro-de-cada-diez-denuncias-de-defensoras-hondurenas-en-2020-fueron-por-agresiones-de-policias/>

"The Municipal Committee in Defense of Common and Public Goods filed a formal complaint before the Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Fight against Public Corruption FETCCOP, of the Public Prosecutor's Office, MP, for the adulteration of act number 083-2016 signed by public official Norma Agripina García and also of Abuse of Authority by officials of Mi Ambiente to illegally impose a Plant of the Company Inversiones ECOTEK, owned by Lenir Pérez and Ana Facussé and investors linked to the U.S. company Nucor. According to members of the Municipal Committee in Defense of Common and Public Goods, the minutes were adulterated adding that three communities agreed in the open meeting to the socialization and approval of a project to generate 50 Watts of energy in the Guapinol River."

And there are ongoing calls for the liberation of the criminalized Guapinol defenders, the newest one from the International Honduran Diaspora.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3086-denuncian-ante-mp-adulteracion-de-acta-para-favorecer-operaciones-de-empresa-minera-y-de-explotacion-de-hierro-en-tocoa-colon>

<https://diasporahn.com/en/115-2/>

National and international human rights organizations wrote an open letter to the Supreme Court regarding the unjustified delay in the resolution of the Amparo filed by COPINH in which they



demand to be recognized as victims in the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case.

<https://twitter.com/MisionCaso/status/1361424919188357125>

Beth Geglia and Andrea Nuila published an important investigation for Nacla into the so-called Economic Development and Employment Zone (ZEDEs) in Honduras, focusing on the Próspera ZEDE planned in Crawfish Rock, Roatán.

<https://nacla.org/news/2021/02/12/private-government-honduras-zede-prospera>

CESPAD published an analysis of the 14 recently approved hydroelectric projects (also see recent e-mails).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/15/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-honduras-que-hay-detras-de-la-construccion-de-las-14-represas/>

Radio Progreso reports on some uplifting news, that 13 water defenders from Paujiles, Tela obtained definitive dismissal in their criminalization cases (see previous e-mail).

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/paujiles-logra-sobreseimiento-defectivo-para-13-luchadores-y-luchadoras/>

There are 160'983 COVID-19 cases and 3893 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-812-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus/>

Yesterday, Ángel Sabillón died to COVID-19, he has been the 75th doctor to die during the pandemic.

The day before, a very young doctor doing social service, Yasser Cuéllar, had also died to COVID-19 (see yesterday). This led to an uproar. Especially because he was not allowed to be treated at the IHSS because he was not insured...

The former Health Minister Carlos Aguilar speaks of a shameful behavior.

<https://proceso.hn/muere-el-doctor-angel-sabillon-por-covid-19-y-suman-75-los-decesos-en-el-gremio-medico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/umana-ley-impidio-atendieran-yasser/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/yasser-es-victima-del-sistema-doctor-carlos-umana/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alvarado-muerte-cuellar-negligencia-sistema-salud/>

<https://tiempo.hn/exministro-vergonsozo-contratar-medicos-sin-proteccion/>

The CNA published a new report on the inefficient management of the Honduran government with funds for the treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1361373020057722881>

<https://criterio.hn/investigacion-del-cna-revela-ineficiente-gestion-de-honduras-con-los-fondos-covid-19/>

As expected, the promised vaccines by the JOH regime won't arrive this month. The Health Minister now speaks of March.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ahora-hasta-en-marzo-llegaria-el-primer-lote-de-vacunas-contr-la-covid-19/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1442986-466/vacuna-honduras-lote-astrazeneca-covax-coronavirus>

Human rights defender and lawyer Edy Tábor explains why the so-called Clean Politics Unit does not serve its stated purpose. "The Clean(?) Politics Unit denies providing the names of the people who financed JOH's electoral campaigns & according to the file against TH [Tony Hernandez] in the US, his campaigns were financed in 2009, 2013 & 2017 with millions of dollars of drug money. That's how it is!"

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1361520907450257415>

"According to the Honduran Fire Department, 19 forest fires have already been reported in the country, with the capital and La Mosquitia being the most vulnerable areas."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2684-honduras-ya-empezo-epoca-de-fuego-y-tegucigalpa-sin-plan-nuevo>

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<https://proceso.hn/jornada-de-protestas-este-lunes-en-la-capital/>

16/02/21

Honduras Daily: National Party; Corruption - Asfura; State Security Forces - Assassination; Femicides; Agriculture; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals; Elections; and Artisanal Fishing in the Face of Climate Crisis

InSight Crime published an investigation into the National Party. "The party that has governed Honduras since 2010 has become a federation that welcomes politicians and officials involved in criminal businesses ranging from timber to drug trafficking to the misappropriation of public funds." The investigation focused on what has been publicly known as the Hernández Clan around JOH.

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/one-party-many-crimes-honduras-national-party/>

FOSDEH estimates that Honduras will lose some 70 billion Lempiras to corruption this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/fosdeh-corrupcion-honduras-perderia-70-mil-millones-2021/>

UFERCO received good news from the anti-corruption appeals court as it decided in their favor in the case of the mayor of Tegucigalpa Nasry Asfura and city councilor Nilvia Castillo. Both are accused of corruption and UFERCO can now indict them. Most know this already, Asfura is currently the highest-polling presidential candidate of the National Party.

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1361784274471559170](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1361784274471559170)

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/por-mayoria-de-votos-admiten-antejuicio-contralcalde-y-regidora-capitalina/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1443293-466/nasry-tito-asfura-papi-a-la-orden-acusacion-antejuicio-honduras-alcalde>

In the last ten days, two young Hondurans were killed by state security forces, Keyla Martínez and Erick Barrientos (see last days). InSight Crime published an overview of the case of Keyla and the problem of extrajudicial killings in Honduras.

In the case of 21-year old Erick, some media outlets now report that he was murdered by a Military Police officer, now a police agent as reported earlier.

<https://insightcrime.org/noticias/keyla-martinez-extrajudicial-killings-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1361762331462668288>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2689-honduras-militares-asesinan-joven-volquetero>

"In the Sentencing Court of Trujillo, department of Colon, the Oral and Public trial began today against a military officer accused of the crimes of "torture and illegal detention" to the detriment of two brothers in the community of Francia, jurisdiction of the municipality of Limon, in the Caribbean region of the country."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-siete-horas-de-retraso-inicio-juicio-contral-militar-acusado-de-tortura-y-detencion-ilegal/>

At least 35 women have been murdered in the first weeks of 2021. Women's rights and feminist organization denounce this "horror" situation.

"The national coordinator of the women's movement Visitación Padilla, Merlin Eguigure, reflected Tuesday on violence against women and concluded that the new Penal Code in force since June 25, 2020 left women in Honduras unprotected."

Violence against women is a systemic problem that does also reach the digital sphere. "So far this year, at least four virtual events convened by women's organizations in Honduras have been victims of cyber attacks. The most recent occurred this Tuesday, when the organization CARE and UN

Women Honduras called for the presentation of the results of the Rapid Gender Analysis in Honduras: a panorama in the face of Covid-19 and Eta and Iota, which exposes "the precarious conditions" that these phenomena are causing for women. However, the event was sabotaged with denigrating and offensive verbal messages from "unidentified, anti-democratic, disrespectful people opposed to the advancement of the rights of women and girls," the organizations said in a statement."

<https://tiempo.hn/cem-h-situacion-horror-35-crimenes-mujeres/>

<https://proceso.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-dejo-desprotegidas-a-mujeres-de-honduras-segun-movimiento-feminista/>

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-4-eventos-de-organizaciones-de-mujeres-han-sido-victimas-de-ataques-ciberneticos-en-2021/>

"On February 16, 2021, the organizations of La Via Campesina demanded in front of the National Congress of Honduras the approval of an emergency proposal presented on February 6, 2020 to reestablish the agrarian institutionality, end the militarization of the sector, approve laws aimed at credit for women, and the creation of a body whose purpose is to increase productivity and production and to combat poverty and unemployment."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3088-denuncian-destruccion-del-agro-hondureno-y-demandan-acciones-prontas-para-cambiar-ese-panorama>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ante-posible-hambruna-cuestionan-a-ff-aa-sobre-los-l-4-mil-millones-para-proyecto-agricola/>

There are 161'727 COVID-19 cases and 3913 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/con-744-nuevos-contagios-aumentan-a-161-mil-727-los-casos-de-covid-19/>

The death to COVID-19 of the young doctor Yasser Cuélla (see last two days and first link below) led to a public debate about the so-called social service which some 1300 young doctors and nurses do in Honduras every year. The problem, none of them have insurance to cover them in case of illness, only if they die.

The Honduran Medical Association (CMH) wants a suspension of the social service.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3087-estado-de-honduras-es-responsable-por-la-vida-de-los-estudiantes-de-medicina-que-hacen-el-servicio-social>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1443362-466/covid-medicos-servicio-social-yasser-cuellar>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/16/colegio-medico-insta-que-se-suspenda-el-servicio-social-a-los-futuros-galenos/>

The auditing body of Invest-H hired the New York based company EISNER-AMPER for \$99'000 to

audit the mobile hospital purchases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/invest-h-contrata-firma-auditora-para-investigar-caso-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://tiempo.hn/99-mil-dolares-costara-auditoria-de-invest-h-a-hospitales/>

"Sociologist Eugenio Sosa made a statement on the difficulties faced by the National Electoral Council (CNE) in view of the internal and primary elections in March, for which he predicted a major political conflict that could lead to continuism or suspension of the general elections if agreements are not reached."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/16/conflicto-en-cne-podria-llevar-al-continuismo-o-suspender-elecciones-afirma-sociologo/>

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<https://criterio.hn/pesca-artesanal-del-sur-de-honduras-amenazada-por-el-cambio-climatico/>

17/02/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; State Security Forces - Erick, Keyla, Post-Electoral Violence; JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; Corruption - Pandora, Invest-H, MACCIH; ENEE; Elections - CNE, Violence; Drug Trafficking; and Game Respects Game

The evidentiary hearing against David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres case will continue today.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1361789077314547712>

Also today, OFRANEH launches SUNLA, Garifuna Committee for the Investigation and Search for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1362159550913257474>

The MP charged a member of the Armed Forces with the murder of 21-year old Erick Davidson Barrientos (see last two days).

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-homicidio-militar-disparo-a-empleado-de-ferreteria/>

In the case of Keyla Martínez, there have still not any charges filed. "To date, the Public Prosecutor's Office has still not issued a prosecutorial request, arguing that the results of the studies performed on the young woman's body are still pending. However, experts and human rights organizations assure that there is sufficient evidence and scientific proof that establishes that the young woman was murdered. That is to say that, in a trial, even if the defense of the policemen makes their appraisals, it is very difficult for them to disprove the crime of homicide, because there is a scientific proof practiced by Forensic Medicine."

The MP, meanwhile, informed that they now have the testimonies of all 18 members of the police force who were at the station where Keyla was murdered.

In the US, the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative Gregory Meeks, tweeted: "Deeply saddened by the death of 26-year old Honduran nursing student, Keyla Martinez, after she was arrested for violating the pandemic curfew. The Honduran government must conduct a rapid & thorough investigation of Keyla's death."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ministerio-publico-sigue-sin-librar-requerimiento-fiscal-en-caso-keyla-martinez/>

<https://proceso.hn/concluye-declaracion-de-18-agentes-en-caso-de-keyla-e-investigaciones-avanzan/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1362031545918308362?s=20>

"For the second time the Sentencing Court of San Pedro Sula leaves the private prosecution without participation in the case of the murder of David Octavio Quiroz, an event that occurred during the protests against the electoral fraud of 2017."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/nuevamente-tribunal-de-sentencia-de-sps-excluye-de-audiencia-a-acusacion-privada/>

John Perry wrote an important article for the London Review of Books on living in Honduras under the JOH regime.

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2021/february/if-it-were-a-narco-lab-it-would-be-working>

There are 162'584 COVID-19 cases and 3933 confirmed deaths.

"In all North and Central American countries Covid-19 cases are showing reductions, with the exception of Honduras, said Wednesday the director of the Pan American Health Organization, Carissa Etienne."

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-registra-162-mil-584-contagios-y-3-mil-933-decesos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/casos-de-covid-19-bajan-en-centroamerica-pero-siguen-aumentando-en-honduras/>

Another doctor, pediatrician Gustavo Bustillo, died to COVID-19.

Meanwhile, medical staff continues to protest demanding the regime to step aside because it never thought of saving lives.

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-el-doctor-gustavo-bustillo-patch-adams/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2693-honduras-medicos-protestan-por-martires-y-corrupcion-covid>

The JOH regime now blames PAHO/WHO for the delay with the vaccines (see last days). Another source for vaccines is buying it directly from the pharmaceutical companies. La Prensa reported that talks with AstraZeneca and the IHSS are moving forward promising vaccines by May.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-culpa-a-oms-por-retraso-en-arribo-de-vacunas-y-la-que-compro-el-ihss-ahora-llegara-en-mayo/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1443659-410/vacuna-contracovid-19-ihss-llega-mayo-honduras->

<https://criterio.hn/hasta-en-mayo-llegaran-primeras-dosis-de-vacunas-de-astrazeneca/>

Cespad published an analysis on why judges let the accused in the Pandora case go. "Regarding the crime of concealment, the Supreme Court of Honduras considered as accredited that "the group of those who acted from the political electoral sphere", although they received the funds of illicit origin, in order to accredit their participation in the embezzlement and punctually the crime of money laundering, it was not enough to have received that money. The Court omitted to refer, in a timely manner, to the evidence presented by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the probative value it gave to each one. In this sense, it failed to comply with the legal mandate to motivate the judicial resolutions, which consequently resulted in an arbitrary resolution affecting the due process."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/17/por-estas-razones-jueces-hondurenos-dejaron-libres-a-los-implicados-en-el-caso-pandora/>

Criterio has more on Invest-H and corruption (see also previous days).

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-cuando-la-corrupcion-se-viste-de-emergencia-y-legalidad/>

Luis Zelaya, Liberal presidential hopeful, promises a new MACCIH if he were to win the presidency.

The head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, explains that something more powerful would be needed.

<https://proceso.hn/luiz-zelaya-promete-retorno-de-la-maccih-en-la-presentacion-de-su-plan-de-gobierno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/uferco-senala-que-se-necesitan-mecanismos-con-mayores-facultades-que-la-maccih/>

"The Union of Workers of the National Electric Energy Company (STENEE), in a demonstration held early this Wednesday, requested the immediate departure of the intervening board of the state-owned electric company, expressing the abuse of authority in the approval of "juicy salaries" despite the economic crisis that the country is going through."

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicato-de-la-enee-pide-inmediata-salida-de-junta-interventora/>

"The president by law of the National Electoral Council, Rixi Moncada, denounced this day that a

plot is being hatched against the transparency of the electoral process. Moncada pointed out in an urgent communiqué that tomorrow there will be a session of the CNE with the presence of Councilor Ana Paola Hall and that the meeting will be transmitted live so that the people will be aware of said plot."

<https://criterio.hn/se-esta-fraguando-una-trama-contr-la-transparencia-de-las-elecciones-rixi-moncada/>

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, there have been at least 16 deaths linked to the electoral process since the beginning of last year. Six were members of the National Party, six of Libre and four of the Liberal Party.

<https://tiempo.hn/muertes-violentas-ambiente-electoral-honduras/>

"Following the capture of some of its biggest criminal names, organized crime in Honduras has gone through a metamorphosis that has opened the door to ambitious politicians and gangs alike. InSight Crime tracked these changes during a two-year investigation, which included visits to eight Honduran border departments and culminated in a public event outlining our findings."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/drugs-porous-borders-politics-crime-honduras/>

Convicted drug trafficker and Liberal presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal defends aspiring convicted drug trafficker and current president JOH.

JOH, meanwhile, claims against that under his presidency, drug trafficking decreased by 87%.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/17/yani-rosenthal-cree-que-juan-orlando-hernandez-no-es-narcotraficante/>

<https://tiempo.hn/trafico-de-drogas-en-honduras/>

18/02/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; Guapinol; State Security Forces - Keyla, Erick, Eblin; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Lobo; Extractivism; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine, Education; Debt; Elections - Libre; Migration - US; Banrural;

The evidentiary hearing against David Castillo continued yesterday. "Berta Cáceres' family's legal team presents evidence against David Castillo, employee of the Atala family and co-perpetrator of the crime. The evidence against Castillo, is compelling and cannot be dismissed by justice."

They also proposed Pedro Atala, Jacobo Atala, Pedro Atala and Daniel Atala, as witnesses.

"The evidence linking David Castillo and the Atala family to the crime of #BertaCáceres is overwhelming and compelling. These cannot be dismissed by justice. Honduras must demonstrate that no one is above justice."

COPINH then denounced that "David Castillo's defense opposes the presentation of an expert testimony that would show how the role of #BertaCáceres as a woman leader and defender Lenca as an aggravating factor in the crime against her".



The hearing concluded yesterday and a resolution on what is the evidence admitted for the trial is expected for February 25.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1362439939326156800>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1362449926265921541>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1362477061475033095>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1362535248031023105>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1362604665339265027>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qGPMlBEiFA>

ORFRANEH launched SUNLA, the Garifuna Committee for the Investigation and Search for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/crean-comite-garifuna-de-investigacion-y-busqueda-de-desaparecidos-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<https://proceso.hn/lanzan-comite-de-busqueda-e-investigacion-sunla-por-garifunas-desaparecidos-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

"The Criminal Sentencing Court has scheduled an oral and public trial from Monday, February 22 to Friday, February 26, 2021, against the defender of the Guapinol River, Jeremías Martínez, accused of usurpation of public space and damages to the detriment of the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares. Attorney Omar Menjivar, legal representative of Jeremías Martínez, reminded Radio Progreso that the accusation against the defender of the Guapinol River does not exist because who is accused is another person with the same name, even though there is a difference of 20 years of age."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/el-lunes-inicia-juicio-contradefensor-del-rio-guapinol/>

More and more voices join the call for justice for Keyla. US Representative Chuy García tweeted: "The death of Keyla Martinez is a reminder of the violence that the Honduran people, particularly women, face daily. There must be a transparent investigation of her murder and those responsible must be held accountable."

<https://twitter.com/RepChuyGarcia/status/1362256662359388161>

In the case of Erick (see last days), the member of the Military Police accused of murdering him was sent to pre-trial detention.

<https://tiempo.hn/carcel-militar-acusado-mato-a-empleado-de-ferreteria/>

"The family and friends of Eblin Noel Corea Maradiaga (17), murdered by soldiers of the Siguatepeque Battalion, will not know the decision of the Comayagua Sentencing Court on the murderer of the minor until March 15."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/se-pospone-sentencia-contramilitar-por-muerte-de-eblin-noel-corea/>

The former director of the National Police Force, Ramirez del Cid, had his properties raided. The Honduras Solidarity Network explains: "Ex-director of Honduran National Police, Ramirez del CID who had been vocally critical of JOH is wanted for money laundering. State investigative officials raided his properties this morning & there is an arrest warrant out for Ramirez & his spouse. An internal narco fight?"

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/ex-jefe-de-la-policia-ramirez-delcid-perseguido-por-lavado-de-activos/>

<https://proceso.hn/aseguran-bienes-al-exjefe-policial-ramirez-del-cid/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1443941-468/ricardo-ramirez-cid-aseguran-bienes-director-policia-aseguramiento-lavado-activos>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1362524902302097411>

A US court rejected a request by convicted drug trafficker and the former president's son Fabio Lobo for a so-called compassionate release. He is convicted to 24 years in prison and wrongly thought that the corona pandemic could offer an excuse for a, very, early release.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1443814-466/corte-nueva-york-rechaza-solicitud-preliberacion-fabio-lobo>

CESPAD published an analysis on the "spillover effects" of extractivism in times of a pandemic. "The spillover effects are related to the violation of human rights and the rights of nature, in turn, are linked to the increase in territorial conflict, and are more palpable when analyzed through changes in the laws of citizen participation or in the framework of environmental monitoring and regulation, but also in the alteration of narratives and concepts of justice and democracy. For example, in Honduras, the application of justice consists of subjecting defenders of the commons to judicial processes in courts of national jurisdiction (Guapinol Case), which are instances in which crimes related to organized crime and illicit association are judged. In the same direction, the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) and the Police Investigation Directorate (DPI) have been the entities in charge of fabricating false evidence to prosecute defenders at the national level".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/18/analisis-efectos-derrame-de-los-extractivismos-en-tiempos-de-pandemia-marco-que-agudiza-la-crisis-territorial-en-honduras/>

There are 163'305 COVID-19 cases and 3965 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/con-721-nuevos-contagios-aumentan-a-163-mil-305-los-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

The newest investigation by the CNA into the mobile hospitals brought forward some disturbing findings (see also previous days). "Due to its shortcomings, the mobile hospital installed on the premises of the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital represents a high risk of contagion for medical personnel, who have gone to the extreme of using disposable diapers and avoiding eating food during their shift."

<https://criterio.hn/personal-medico-usa-panales-desechables-dentro-de-hospital-movil-por-alto-riesgo-de-contagio/>

As the promised vaccines by the JOH regime have not yet materialized and the regime started to blame the PAHO/WHO (see last days), UNAH has now approved the Russian vaccine Sputnik V and urges its purchase.

Apparently, foreign minister Lisandro Rosales traveled to Nicaragua to talk to the Russian ambassador.

<https://criterio.hn/unah-aprueba-la-vacuna-rusa-sputnik-v-y-urge-al-gobierno-su-compra/>

<https://proceso.hn/unah-da-visto-bueno-para-que-honduras-adquiera-la-vacuna-sputnik-v/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1443954-410/honduras-negocia-vacuna-de-moderna-pfizer-y-sputnik>

"The president of the College of Secondary Education Teachers of Honduras (Copemh), Fidel Garcia, warned today that as a union they are not willing to expose colleagues and students to contagion of COVID-19 with face-to-face classes."

<https://proceso.hn/docentes-advierten-no-estar-dispuestos-a-exponer-a-companeros-y-alumnos-a-contagios-con-clases-presenciales/>

Honduras' external debt rose to \$10.8 billion in 2020, a rise of 13.9% compared to 2019.

<https://proceso.hn/deuda-hondurena-suba-13-9-en-2020-y-cierra-en-10849-8-millones-de-dolares/>

74% of congresswo/men in Honduras run for reelection.

But the laws governing their reelection are still not very clear and the interim president at the National Electoral Council (CNE) grows ever more anxious. "The interim president of the National Electoral Council, Rixi Moncada, reacted in an annoying way this Thursday, when she strongly requested to the Councilor of the Liberal Party, Ana Paola Hall, to join the sessions of the entity, for the transparency of the electoral process and for the democracy of the country. The fact is that the official - without specifying the reasons - announced that she is hospitalized due to health complications, for this reason Moncada insisted that "even if it is only for 5 minutes through Zoom" she should give her vote to avoid electoral fraud."

The ballots should be printed in three days.

<https://criterio.hn/el-74-de-los-diputados-del-partido-nacional-libre-y-partido-liberal-van-por-la-reeleccion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aunque-sea-5-minutos-via-zoom-pide-rix-moncada-a-consejera-liberal-se-integre-por-la-democracia-del-pais/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1443865-466/rix-moncada-suspende-sesion-del-cne-desacuerdo-conteo-votos-municipales>

Libre primary candidate Antonio Brevé was kidnapped yesterday in San Pedro Sula by men wearing police uniforms.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1443895-466/raptan-precandidato-diputado-libre-en-san-pedro-sula-antonio-breve>

US Representative Nydia Velazquez and 70 of her colleagues asked the Biden Admin. to use executive authority to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

<https://twitter.com/NydiaVelazquez/status/1362435775737044994>

Banrural Honduras received \$50 million from its parent company, BANRURAL Guatemala.

<https://confidencialhn.com/banrural-honduras-recibe-aportacion-de-50-millones-de-dolares/>

19/02/21

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Indigenous Peoples; Berta - Trial; Corruption - Armed Forces; Impunity; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration - US; Elections; Debt; and Death by the Police

The sentencing of the criminalized teacher Rommel Herrera Portillo is expected for today. "It's likely he will be sentenced to 4 years, 2 of which he has served & he can pay a fee & will be released within a week or so".

<https://twitter.com/EdwinLibertad/status/1362808453400559616>

"[A]t least 129 Garifuna and indigenous community leaders (84 men and 45 women) were attacked in conflicts linked to projects imposed on their territories. (...) 71% of communities in Honduras are affected by infrastructure projects, mainly hydroelectric. (...) In more than half of the cases, the violation of four rights has been detected: to physical and moral integrity (78.9% of the cases), to free, prior and informed consent (78.9%), to a healthy environment (73.7%) and to the defense of the ancestral territory (52.6%)."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/210989>

COPINH published a video from its general coordinator Bertha Zúniga summarizing the events in the evidentiary hearing against David Castillo (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1362901721589174272>

ConfidencialHN reports on a possible corruption case at the Armed Forces going up to the highest ranks. "This corruption scandal, at the level of the Army branch (E -1) of the military institution, consists in the fact that all members of the same, from troop personnel to division generals must make a monthly contribution in favor of an organization called Fundación Hermandad Manos Amigas (FHMA), which according to sources is directed by Mr. Moreno Coello, and integrated by other high-ranking military officers."

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-destapa-escandalo-de-corrupcion-en-las-fuerzas-armadas-de-honduras/>

"In a virtual forum held this February 19, 2021, Ismael Moreno, director of Radio Progreso and of the Espacio de Reflexión Investigación y Comunicación, ERIC, expressed that the political pact of impunity has been a process of construction after the coup d'état of 2009, which was consolidated in a dramatic way in 2020, by the actions of Juan Orlando Hernández and his circle of work that feed on the anguish of society, the stronger the crisis, the more they are strengthened.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3092-padre-melo-pacto-de-impunidad-se-consolido-de-manera-dramatica-en-el-2020>

There are 164'077 COVID-19 cases and 3975 confirmed deaths.  
The Funeral Homes Association has counted 7620 deaths so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-164-mil-contagiados-por-covid-19/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/sinager-contabiliza-164-077-casos-positivos-de-covid-19-a-nivel-nacional>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/van-mas-de-mil-700-fallecidos-por-covid-19-en-2021-asociacion-de-funerarias/>

"While Hondurans leave the hospitals with their prescriptions in hand because there are no medicines or go to several pharmacies looking for low prices, the Ministry of Health (Sesal) lets the drugs expire in warehouses. The government lacks transparency mechanisms in purchases and supplies to health centers and scientific processes to acquire the inputs that will heal the people. Between 2018 and 2020, a loss of more than 40 million lempiras in expired medicines has been identified."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2701-honduras-40-millones-en-medicina-vencida-botados>

"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Honduran Foreign Minister Lisandro Rosales

today. Secretary Blinken emphasized our commitment to working with Honduras to address the structural problems that lead people to migrate – corruption and lack of respect for human rights, lack of economic opportunity, and insecurity. They discussed continued U.S. government support for Honduras as it responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovers from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Secretary Blinken noted the strong bonds between the people of our two countries and reaffirmed our commitment to the bilateral relationship."

Meanwhile on the way to the US, Hondurans continue to die. "An eight-year-old Honduran boy has become the latest victim in a string of drownings on the US-Mexico border as migrants attempt to cross the Rio Grande in treacherous winter conditions. The child, who has not been named, drowned on Wednesday while attempting to cross the freezing river with his family amid unprecedented Arctic conditions in the borderlands which have killed more than 30 people and left millions in Mexico and Texas without power, water and food."

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-blinkens-call-with-honduran-foreign-minister-rosales/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/19/eight-year-old-honduran-boy-dies-river-us-mexico-border>

The problems at the National Electoral Council (CNE) (see last days and the first link below) don't just arise from disagreements between political parties but also from disagreements inside the same parties.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1444191-466/honduras-ana-paola-hall-cne-rix-moncada>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/19/ana-paola-hall-pide-consensos-en-el-cne-mientras-autoridades-liberales-la-senalan-del-lado-oscuro/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/19/rebelion-a-la-vista-precandidatos-en-libre-adversos-a-xiomara-rechazan-acciones-de-consejera-electoral/>

Pasos de Animal Grande speaks with FOSDEH economist Obed Garcí about the JOH regime and debt.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3090-fosdeh-con-juan-orlando-hernandez-habido-una-cultura-de-endeudamiento-del-pais>

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<https://proceso.hn/crimenes-embematicos-que-involucran-a-las-fuerzas-de-seguridad-en-honduras/>

20/02/21

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; HRDs; Forced Disappearance; Political Prisoners; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; Journalists; Corruption - de Lobo; Migration - US; Elections; and Leaving a Sinking Ship

"The mayor's office of Orica has not complied with agreements to stop logging in the water production zone, which supplies water to 15 communities and the urban area, denounced the Orica Environmental Movement."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/movimiento-ambientalista-de-orica-denuncia-incumplimiento-municipal-en-tala-de-bosque/>

Further south, in Manto, Olancho, 14 environmentalists had the charges against them dismissed after having been criminalized for five years for opposing logging in their community.

<https://criterio.hn/sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-defensores-que-se-opusieron-a-explotacion-forestal-en-manto-olancho/>

Still hoping to have their charges dropped are some 30 indigenous Lenca campesines organized in the CNTC.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1819-solicitan-al-tribunal-absolver-a-defensores-de-la-tierra-criminalizados>

DNA evidence brought to light that a previously unidentified body is the 16-year old José Miguel Hernández Tejada who was forcefully disappeared last August. He is the nephew of Libre city councilor in Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, Víctor Hugo Tejada, who currently runs for mayor.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/las-esperanzas-de-la-familia-del-menor-jose-miguel-de-encontrarlo-con-vida-se-desvanecieron-este-dia/>

The 25-year old teacher and political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo was sentenced to 4 years in prison. The sentence can be commuted upon completion of two years of imprisonment, and he already has spent 20 months in prison.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/pena-minima-y-conmutable-para-rommel-baldemar/>

More than 1100 dengue cases have been documented already this year in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-mil-casos-de-dengue-se-reportan-a-nivel-nacional/>

There are 164'495 COVID-19 cases and 3992 confirmed deaths.

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

Two more health workers died to COVID-19, a the lab-technician Magda Vallecillo and the nurse Irma Cabrera.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1444186-466/honduras-personal-salud-victimas-covid>

Congress approved reforms to the Free Vaccines for All Act against COVID-19 which will allow

the direct purchase of vaccines without any intermediaries such as COVAX. But they also changed it so that the purchases won't be subject to the rules established in the State Procurement and Contracting Law.

As a result, many feel that this opened the door for new acts of corruption.

Additionally, "[i]t has been reported in social networks and the media that the nationalist government of Juan Hernández intends to appropriate the vaccines purchased by the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) and administer them through the Ministry of Health".

The BCIE will support the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic with \$800 million to purchase vaccines.

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-aprueba-compra-directa-de-vacunas-contra-la-covid-por-parte-del-ihss-y-sesal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2703-honduras-urgente-congreso-aprueba-cheque-en-blanco-para-vacunas>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-pretende-apropiarse-de-vacunas-compradas-por-el-ihss/>

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-dara-800-millones-de-dolares-a-centroamerica-y-r-dominicana-para-vacuna/>

Journalist Selvin Euceda, denounced threats against him by a follower close to a Liberal Party deputy. "Euceda told C-Libre that he received a call from Jimmy Arturo Sánchez, threatening to sue him, after the communicator publicly claimed in his television program that the current congressman for Choluteca, Carlos Lara Watson, did not make the payment for propaganda in the last electoral process of 2017."

"The journalist Cesar Silva, condemned that the Court of Appeals of Francisco Morazán, favored Abelardo Mendoza, accused of the crime of attempted murder in the first instance when he tried to kill in February 2018 the journalist, while he was broadcasting live a program on the channel UNE TV. The CSJ [Supreme Court] lowered the crime of attempted homicide to the crime of threats, on Friday, January 29, where the justice system sought to hold an abbreviated hearing, therefore the journalist's legal team filed the corresponding appeals to not allow his case to remain in impunity."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1318-mediante-llamada-amenazan-a-periodista-por-reclamar-deuda-a-congresista>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1818-justicia-hondurena-intenta-beneficiar-a-quien-atento-contra-periodista>

"Did her functions as first lady qualify her to receive and administer state funds, was she or was she not a public official, and what was the judges' assessment to order the repetition of her judicial process? This is the axis of a discussion that could or could not lead the former first lady of Honduras, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, back to prison. Lobo de Bonilla's defense lawyers were tenacious in the trial and argued ad nauseam that she was not a public official. But other analysts of the Constitution in Honduras and criminal lawyers, assure that yes, she was a public official. They are of the opinion that the Sentencing Court in Corruption Matters, made a restrictive interpretation



during the oral and public trial that took place during two months in 2019, in order not to qualify her as a public official."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/20/funcionaria-publica-o-no-la-discusion-que-podria-determinar-el-destino-de-una-ex-primera-dama-en-honduras/>

"Today, DHS [US Department of Homeland Security] began the first step in a phased approach to restore safe and orderly processing at the Southwest Border. DHS and its international partners have now initiated the virtual registration process for individuals who had been forced to return to Mexico under the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and have a pending case before the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). The United States is continuing to strictly enforce existing immigration laws and border security measures. Individuals should not approach the border, including at designated ports of entry, unless and until they are approved and receive appointment information through the remote registration process."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/02/19/dhs-statement-first-step-process-address-individuals-mexico-active-mpp-cases>

<https://www.state.gov/public-health-and-the-draw-down-of-the-migrant-protection-protocols-program/>

Interim president at the CNE, Rixi Moncada, promises that the meeting regarding the organization of the coming primary elections, will continue today with the presence of the previously absent president Ana Paola Hall.

<https://tiempo.hn/rixi-moncada-sesion-del-cne-con-ana-paola-hall/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2700-honduras-ana-paola-obligada-a-parar-el-fraude-el-domingo>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2702-a-mexico-por-covid-interventor-de-invest-por-que-no-a-hospital-movil>

<https://tiempo.hn/gustavo-boquin-invest-h-viajara-mexico-covid-19/>

21/02/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Economy; Elections; and All the President's (Lobbying ) Men

Today, the trial of the criminalized Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez begins. "Jeremías Martínez, a 60-year-old peasant leader, was captured in Tocoa in November 2018 and faced his judicial process before National Jurisdiction Judge Carlos Irías De León in San Pedro Sula, who issued a formal indictment for the crimes of usurpation and damages to the detriment of the mining

company Inversiones Los Pinares related to his participation in the camp "For Water and Life" installed in Guapinol on August 1, 2018. Judge Irías De León imposed the precautionary measure of remand and Jeremías Martínez has been in preventive detention in La Ceiba since December 2018. His case was elevated to trial in January 2020 and is now being heard by 1st Chamber of the Sentencing Court of National Jurisdiction in Tegucigalpa."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/guapinol-jerem%C3%ADas-mart%C3%ADnez-in-detention-26-months-faces-trial-this-week>

There are 165'095 COVID-19 cases and 3996 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-165-mil-casos-de-covid-19-con-600-nuevos-contagios/>

Another nurse, Ondina Alfaro, and another doctor, Marco Vinicio Benavídez, died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-por-covid-19-la-enfermera-gladys-ondina-alfaro-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-por-covid-19-el-doctor-marco-vinicio-benavidez/>

JOH conceded that the vaccines will only arrive in Honduras by May.

Dr. Carlos Umaña, president of the Association of Doctors of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in the San Pedro Sula, denounces: "The direct purchase of vaccines is a scandal of major proportions" (see yesterday). "He pointed out that with this approval by the National Congress, the possibility of an oversight body auditing this process is eliminated and, furthermore, it does not allow real experts to participate in advising the expanded program of immunizations in this situation."

<https://proceso.hn/astrazeneca-no-puede-entregar-vacuna-en-abril-revela-el-presidente-hernandez/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1363679538115403778>

<https://proceso.hn/compras-directas-de-vacunas-es-un-escandalo-de-proporciones-mayores-asegura-doctor-umana/>

The Honduran economy shrunk by 8.5% in 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/bch-economia-honduras-contrajo-8-5-2020/>

CNE president Ana Paola Hall reappeared yesterday for the emergency meeting and tried to calm the public.

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-del-cne-garantiza-elecciones-primarias-aun-sin-definir-temas-cruciales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/llueve-truene-o-relampaguee-elecciones-van-ana-paola-hall/>

"An avalanche of publications in important and prestigious media worldwide has been countered from Honduras with tweets, messages and speeches by the president of this Central American country, Juan Hernández, who has again resorted to hiring a lobbying firm that provides advice to the Democratic Party and has collaborators who have worked in the White House."

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-recurre-a-lobistas-para-lavar-su-manchada-reputacion/>

22/02/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; State Security Forces; Corruption - Hermes, Mobile Hospital; COVID-19 - Vaccine, Poverty; BID; and One Election, two Electoral Laws?

Yesterday, the trial in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez started.

In this context, he was able to see his wife again whom he had not seen for a year.

A press conference this morning at 10am in front of the Supreme Court will give an update on the trial which should continue today.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3093-guapinol-defensor-jeremias-martinez-encarcelado-injustamente-26-meses-enfrenta-juicio-esta-semana>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1363953347573727235>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1364020384559992842>

While human rights defenders and political prisoners are sometimes locked up for years without trial, the Honduran Judicial System works swiftly and shows leniency in the case of state security forces. A court decided to provisionally drop the charges against member of the Armed Forces Levis Russi Rivera accused of murdering the 20-year old Erick Davidson Barrientos Avilez on February 15 (see last days). Proceso Digital writes that Russi Rivera could not be clearly identified as the one having shot Erick, while El Tiempo writes that they claimed that it was an accident. But there is a video in which one hears four shots.

Family members and friends held a protest rally before the court demanding justice for Erick.

<https://proceso.hn/sobreseimiento-provisional-a-efectivo-militar-procesado-en-muerte-de-joven-hondureno/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libertad-militar-acusado-matar-erick-barrientos/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/realizan-planton-exigiendo-justicia-para-joven-asesinado-por-policia/>

UFERCO presented a new corruption case called Hermes. Its director Luis Santos summarized it as follows: "More than L120 million were stolen from a Presidential House account through a briefcase company linked to the Pandora case, which were mostly used to pay amounts ranging from L15,000.00 to L100,000.00 per month to 77 journalists. Also, the funds were used by the accused for the purchase of vehicles, purchase of land cultivated with palm trees, payment of

payroll to Club Deportivo Vida and to a company of the former Minister of Communications [JOH's deceased sister Hilda Hernández], and rental of armored vehicles for a company owned by the accused. In addition, funds were diverted for payments to companies linked to the accused and the former Minister of Communications and Strategy, among them Constructora C2, Inversiones Santa Elvira, Transportes Tita and Caribbean Fruit Export, three of them insured in the Pandora case. And something that should make us all reflect: Officials from five (5) different public institutions are involved in this case: the Presidency, TSC [Supreme Audit Court], Secretary of Economic Development, Delegate for the Green Economy and National Congress...."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/172-febrero2021/7158-uferco-presenta-caso-de-corrupcion-vinculado-con-empresa-de-maletin>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1363955380087365632>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/nuevo-caso-corrupcion-hermes-involucra-a-77-periodistas-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/casa-presidencial-reacciona-caso-hermes/>

The CNA filed a formal complaint against the State of Honduras linked to the purchase of the mobile hospitals.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1363849090514235393>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/22/cna-critica-al-mp-por-no-judicializar-actos-de-corrupcion-surgidos-en-la-pandemia-del-coronavirus/>

There are 165'737 COVID-19 cases and 4024 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pasa-umbral-de-cuatro-mil-muertos-por-la-covid-19/>

"The Honduran health system has no budget to deal with the covid-19 pandemic, to the extent that in public hospitals it is said that everyone has to be responsible for the purchase of their own personal protective equipment, according to the president of the Honduran Medical Association (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/02/22/sistema-sanitario-de-honduras-no-tiene-presupuesto-para-seguir-atendiendo-la-pandemia/>

More and more voices warn about the recent changes to the Free Vaccine Law and that it opens another door to corruption (see previous days).

The JOH regime, meanwhile, continues to blame others for its failures to get vaccine doses to Honduras.

Libre, on the other hand, blames JOH directly. ""Let it be clear that there is a proven inability by Juan Orlando Hernandez in the management of the pandemic and now in the acquisition of the vaccine in particular; all Central American countries already have a vaccination process, started at

least one acquisition process and we are at zero," said the parliamentarian. Calix made a comparison with other countries such as Costa Rica that put the first vaccine on December 24, Panama is on its second batch of imported vaccines, likewise El Salvador already has its first batch of vaccines on Salvadoran soil and Honduras does not even have a purchase process started."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3095-congreso-nacional-le-da-amplias-facultades-a-joh-para-manejar-a-su-antojo-las-compras-de-vacunas-de-la-covid-9>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/advierten-que-reformas-a-la-ley-de-vacunas-es-una-puerta-que-abre-otro-acto-de-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/incertidumbre-y-preocupacion-por-compra-de-vacunas-que-hara-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/edinora-brooks-se-necesitaba-reformar-ley-para-hacer-compra-directa-de-vacunas-miriam-aguilera-profesionales-de-la-salud-deben-realizar-veeduria-en-compra-de-vacunas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-confianza-en-la-ops-honduras-se-quedo-sin-vacunas-justifica-canciller-pide-disculpas-a-la-poblacion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-todo-lo-que-se-han-robado-no-daremos-cheque-en-blanco-al-pn-senala-calix-sobre-compra-de-vacunas/>

CARE Honduras warns about an ever worsening situation of hunger in Honduras. "The severity of acute food insecurity in Honduras has reached unprecedented levels and the Integrated Food Security (IPC) analysis projects that the situation will worsen in the coming months leaving more than one third of the population facing severe hunger."

<https://www.care-international.org/news/press-releases/honduras-nearly-one-third-of-the-population-face-severe-hunger>

"The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) presented on Monday a comprehensive plan through which it has up to 1.6 billion dollars available to support Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in their disaster reduction plans and projects over the next two years."

<https://proceso.hn/bid-presenta-millonario-plan-de-apoyo-a-reduccion-desastres-en-centroamerica/>

Proceso Digital interviewed convicted drug trafficker and Liberal presidential hopeful Yani Rosenthal. It is a bit surreal, he agrees that Honduras is a narco-state (but not like the US imagines it) and he cites Mandela for an inspiration to run for president...

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-es-un-narco-estado-pero-no-como-eeuu-lo-define-dice-yani-que-jura-no-tiene-resentimientos/>

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<https://proceso.hn/elecciones-primarias-con-dos-leyes-la-zozobra-ronda-el-proceso/>

23/02/21

Honduras Daily: US - Extradition; EU; SSF - Keyla, Erick, Drug Trafficking; Guapinol; Berta; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Poverty; and a Letter to a Multi-Sick Nation

Very important news from the US Senate. "Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, and Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) today led a group of eight lawmakers in introducing the Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act of 2021—legislation that lays out a comprehensive framework for combating corruption, impunity, and human rights violations in Honduras. The introduction comes as U.S. federal prosecutors made public that they are investigating Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández for accepting large bribes from, and giving assistance to, an alleged drug trafficker who delivered thousands of kilos of cocaine throughout the United States. In response to the news—which adds to a long list of cases by U.S. prosecutors in which Hernández has been implicated or directly accused of involvement in drug trafficking—the bill would impose sanctions on the Honduran president for corruption and human rights abuses and suspend U.S. security assistance and export licenses for covered defense articles and munitions items to the Honduran police and military, among other provisions."

Nina Lakhani broke the news in a Guardian article.

In Honduras, opposition newspapers and civil society welcomed the bill while the corporate news outlets have so far completely ignored it. For the later, the arrest of El Chapo's wife seems more pertinent for Hondurans...

<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/merkley-leahy-durbin-colleagues-introduce-legislation-to-tackle-corruption-human-rights-violations-in-honduras-2021>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/23/us-democratic-senators-honduras-sanction-president-bill>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2021/02/23/violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-corrupcion-narcotrafico-fabricacion-de-cargos-penales-son-parte-de-los-delitos-que-proponen-senadores-democratas-en-ley-que-castigaria-a-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2709-urgente-senadores-proponen-sancionar-a-joh-y-militares-the-guardian>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-seria-investigado-bajo-la-ley-kingpin/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-alarman-te-corrupcion-ee-uu-suspende-ayuda-financiera-a-joh/>

The same day, but not linked, former US chargé d'affaires to Honduras, Heide Fulton, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Jon E. Piechowski, spoke to Honduran journalists about the role of the US in fighting corruption in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/salida-de-maccih-es-un-paso-atras-pero-eeuu-apoya-lucha-desde-el-mp-fulton/>

Lastly, there are also three new extradition requests from the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-nuevas-solicitudes-de-extradicion-de-eeuu-recibe-csj/>

"The European Union and Honduras signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber products with the EU in Brussels on Tuesday, with the aim of reducing illegal logging in the Central American country."

<https://proceso.hn/la-ue-y-honduras-firman-un-acuerdo-para-reducir-la-tala-ilegal-de-madera/>

The family of Keyla Martínez, murdered in a police station, denounced police harassment and intimidation in order for them to drop their call for justice.

Today, there will be the hearing, not of those responsible for Keyla's death, but of five students demanding justice for her.

<https://confidencialhn.com/familia-de-keyla-martinez-denuncia-intimidacion-y-persecucion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1445081-466/honduras-keyla-martinez-homicidio-policia-esperanza-posta>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/audiencia-inicial-para-cinco-estudiantes-que-exigian-justicia-para-keyla-martinez/>

In the case of Erick, murdered by a member of the Armed Forces, a judge provisionally dropped the charges (see yesterday and first link below). OACNUDH voiced concern and asked for an ongoing investigation.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/dictan-libertad-provisional-a-policia-militar-acusado-de-matar-a-erick-barrientos/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH HN/status/1364367323956658176>

"New documents in the case of Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez, the alleged drug trafficker awaiting trial, reveal that Commissioner Ramon Martinez Hernandez is among his contacts within the Honduran National Police. The prosecution intends to present during Ramirez's trial WhatsApp conversations extracted from his phone seized at the time of his capture, in which he exchanges communication with Martinez and another alleged military officer named Ramon Zuniga alias "Comanche." In these conversations Geovanny Fuentes talks, among other topics, about the murders carried out in Honduras after Tony's trial, the strategies to find out if his phones were tapped and to eliminate information from them, and Juan Orlando Hernandez's intention to eliminate possible witnesses and threats."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/02/22/conversaciones-de-whatsapp-mencionan-a-juan-orlando-geovanny-fuentes-y-sus-supuestos-aliados-dentro-de-las-ffaa-y-la-policia-nacional-de->

[honduras/](#)

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with lawyer Edy Táborá about the case of the criminalized Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez who is in court this week. "At the end of the first day of the Oral and Public Trial of Jeremías Martínez, lawyer Edy Táborá denounced in a press conference that the Public Prosecutor's Office, MP, wants the case of Jeremías Martínez to serve as a lesson to prevent other people from continuing to demonstrate."

OACNUDH is accompanying the trial all week.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3096-edy-tabora-mp-quiere-que-el-caso-de-jeremias-martinez-sea-una-leccion-para-que-nadie-vuelva-a-manifestarse>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1364272839084359687>

On March 2, we commemorate Berta Cáceres, on the fifth anniversary of her assassination. COPINH invites to a virtual concert in her honor.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1364359501969829889>

So far this year, 1250 dengue cases have been documented in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reporta-mil-250-casos-de-dengue-en-primeros-54-dias-del-ano/>

There are 166'547 COVID-19 cases and 4040 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-166-mil-547-contagios-de-covid-19/>

Another nurse, Bessy Valenzuela, died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bajo-sospecha-de-covid-19-fallece-enfermera-auxiliar-en-san-pedro-sula/>

No one believes the excuses offered by the JOH regime for not having access to vaccines (see previous days).

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/23/critican-disculpas-del-canciller-rosales-por-no-tener-a-mano-vacunas-de-covax-ven-preocupacion-por-compras-directas/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/gobierno-se-lava-las-manos-para-justificar-negligencia-en-adquisicion-vacunas-senala-medico/>

The UN World Food Program continues to warn about rising poverty in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2710-onu-hace-llamado-urgente-por-hambruna-que-azota-honduras>



<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/23/pma-asegura-que-inseguridad-alimentaria-se-agudiza-en-honduras-y-centroamerica/>

<https://www.wfp.org/stories/honduras-parents-skip-meals-so-their-children-can-eat>

"The impact of Covid-19 plus hurricanes Eta and Iota has hit women the hardest and threatens to further deepen the so-called feminization of poverty, according to the Rapid Gender Analysis in Honduras presented by CARE and UN Women Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-y-huracanes-han-hecho-retroceder-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

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<https://criterio.hn/a-una-nacion-multi-enferma/>

24/02/21

Honduras Daily: US - JOH; Berta - Trial; Guapinol; Corruption - Democracy; COVID-19 - Vaccines; BCIE; Migration - US; and People Power

The new US Senate bill, the Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act of 2021, continues to shake Honduras (see yesterday and first two articles below).

It led to widespread calls for the resignation of JOH, e.g. by the CNA, the political opposition, the Medical Association of Honduras, the Alignment against Continuity and others.

JOH reacted with an emergency address to Congress repeating his standard talking points.

Opposition politicians called his appearance a "show" and the public reacted with having the hashtag #JuanOrlandoEsNarco trending.

The corporate media outlets could no longer ignore the Senate Bill and both El Herald and Proceso Digital reported on it.

<https://insightcrime.org/noticias/us-senators-seeks-sanctions-against-honduras-president/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/con-ley-merkley-estados-unidos-se-canso-de-los-abusos-delitos-e-ilegalidades-de-joh/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1445368-466/cna-renuncia-presidente-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-narcotrafico>

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-medico-de-honduras-exige-renuncia-de-presidente-hernandez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/pronunciamento-iniciativa-de-suspension-de-ayuda-del-gobierno-de-los-estados-unidos-a-honduras/>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2021/02/une-tv-noticias.html>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-asegura-que-no-es-narco-en-comparecencia-ante-el-congreso/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/24/joh-advierte-que-narcos-tienen-una-llave-magica-para-erradicar-lucha-contra-el-crimen/>

<https://criterio.hn/declaraciones-de-juan-hernandez-son-manotadas-de-ahogado-hugo-noe-pino/>

<https://criterio.hn/tendencia-juanorlando-es-narco-la-respuesta-de-los-hondureños-al-show-del-gobernante/>

<https://tiempo.hn/oposicion-reacciona-discurso-joh-renuncia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1445147-466/presidente-hernandez-blanco-ley-propuesta-narcotrafico-eeuu>

<https://proceso.hn/senadores-presentan-ley-anticorrupcion-que-pide-sancionar-al-presidente-de-honduras/>

Today, the resolution on the evidence to be used in the case against David Castillo is expected.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1364634514694225924>

The trial against the criminalized Guapinol defender Jeremias Martinez was suspended yesterday and will take up again on March 8.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/juicio-de-defensor-de-guapinol-suspendida-debido-a-los-retrasos-de-mp>

Proceso Digital reports on the intervention of the Property Registry of La Ceiba. The authorities found links to organized crime and money laundering.

OFRANEH had denounced this for years as the registry illegally registered community land.

<https://proceso.hn/descubren-ligues-con-el-crimen-organizado-en-el-instituto-de-la-propiedad-de-la-ceiba/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1364638965182197760>

CESPAD published an analysis on the link of corruption and (lack of) democracy.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/24/analisis-honduras-frente-al-aumento-de-la-corrupcion-y-los-retrocesos-democraticos-a-mayor-corrupcion-menos-democracia/>

There are 167'494 COVID-19 cases and 4076 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-de-covid-se-elevan-a-167-mil-494-y-decesos-suman-4-mil-076-en->

[honduras/](#)

Israel donated 5000 doses of the Moderna vaccine to Honduras. The JOH regime claims to vaccinate health workers with it.

The Honduran authorities also authorized the use of the Russian vaccine Sputnik-V.

And then, the JOH regime immediately promised that they will receive 70'000 doses in March.

<https://tiempo.hn/vacunas-donadas-por-israel-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/gobierno-autoriza-ingreso-al-pais-de-la-vacuna-rusa-sputnik-v/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-recibira-70-mil-dosis-de-la-vacuna-rusa/>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) announced a \$150 million credit for a housing project in Honduras as well as \$15 million for the coffee sector.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bcie-aprueba-150-millones-de-dolares-a-honduras-para-programa-de-vivienda/>

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-invertira-15-millones-en-fideicomiso-de-la-iniciativa-para-la-transformacion-regional-de-la-caficultura/>

"This week, the Biden administration did the unthinkable. It reopened a Trump-era detention site for migrant children. The detention center, a reconverted camp for oil field workers in Carrizo Springs, Texas, is expected to hold 700 children between the ages of 13 and 17, and dozens of kids have already arrived there."

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/feb/24/biden-is-locking-up-migrant-children-will-the-world-still-care-with-trump-gone>

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<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/creer-en-nuestra-fuerza-como-pueblo/>

25/02/21

Honduras Daily: US - JOH; Berta - Trial; SSF - Keyla; Miskito; Corruption - MACCIH; BCIE; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine; Elections; and Energy Debt

Calls for JOH's resignation grew louder and wider.

Especially noteworthy is the position of the Honduran Bar Association (CAH). A longtime stronghold of the National Party, it has a new leadership now. "It is unavoidable for the Honduran Bar Association to pronounce itself in the only possible way, to get out of the crisis generated by the permanence of Juan Orlando Hernandez in the position of President of the Republic. Therefore, the Bar Association demands the immediate and irrevocable resignation of Juan Orlando Hernandez as President of the Republic."

The National Party came to the defense of JOH and in the case of the Honduran ambassador to the

US, Luis Suazo, his defense included an attack on the US. This may led to future problems. "For former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana, the diplomat's position is "totally irregular, anomalous, not to say serious", since as ambassador he should avoid intervening in the internal affairs of the country where he is accredited and making subjective public appraisals about it."

The international press, meanwhile, picked up JOH's surprise visit in Congress two days ago (see yesterday). "Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández says that antinarcotics cooperation with the United States could “collapse” if U.S. authorities believe “false testimony” accusing him of cooperating with traffickers. Hernández spoke before the Central American country’s Congress on Wednesday, a day after several Democratic U.S. senators backed a bill calling on President Joe Biden to impose sanctions on Hernández and “determine whether he is a specially designated narcotics trafficker.”"

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/aumentan-las-peticiones-de-la-renuncia-de-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2716-honduras-historico-abogados-se-suman-a-exigir-dimision-de-joh>

<https://criterio.hn/renuncia-de-joh-es-la-unica-salida-a-la-crisis-generada-por-su-permanencia-en-el-poder-cah/>

<https://criterio.hn/declaraciones-luis-suazo-en-defensa-de-juan-hernandez-son-una-afrenta-a-estados-unidos/>

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-central-america-honduras-latin-america-united-states-45fd0ad2c7989177af8310221c2af062>

COPINH sent out an alert yesterday as the resolution on the evidence to be used in the case against David Castillo was rescheduled for March 1.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1365066667861176320>

Pasos de Animal Grande and COFADEH published an update on the criminalized five students who face prosecution for demanding justice for Keyla (see previous days). "Cristopher Flores, Alex Laguna and Josué Fonseca had their charges provisionally dismissed, while Eduardo Molina and Joel Rojas, who were charged with damages and arson, were formally indicted with alternative measures to pre-trial detention, at the Initial Hearing held on February 24 and 25, 2021."

COFADEH had previously denounced irregularities on the first day of the hearing when evidence had not been previously share with the defense.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3099-caso-de-cinco-jovenes-enjuiciados-sistema-de-justicia-usa-el-derecho-penal-para-detener-las-protestas-en-honduras>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/sobreseimiento-provisional-y-medidas-sustantivas-para-estudiantes-criminalizados/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-faltas-al-debido-proceso-se-desarrolla-audiencia-contra->

[cinco-estudiantes/](#)

"Members of the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, CONPAH, exposed that while the population was kept in quarantine by the Covid-19 pandemic, there was exploitation against the peoples of the Mosquitia, in Gracias a Dios, where they even usurped signatures to promote the opening of roads and destruction of the territory. Santiago Flores, lawyer and member of CONPAH, explained to [pasosdeanimalgrande.com](https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com) that some unknown persons usurped names of the leaders of the community organizations to promote the opening of roads and to have access to the region illegally."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3098-misquitos-denuncian-que-les-despojaron-de-sus-tierras-y-destruyeron-el-territorio-mientras-estan-en-cuarentena-por-covid-19>

"The former head of the now defunct Mission of Support against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), the Peruvian Ana María Calderón, reappeared and revealed that at least 30 cases of corruption investigations in the country were not prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/25/con-extincion-de-la-maccih-unos-30-casos-quedaron-sin-judicializar-y-mas-de-100-sin-investigar/>

The BCIE supports the JOH regime with \$5.8 million for feasibility studies for six dams.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bcie-financiara-estudios-de-factibilidad-para-seis-represas-en-honduras/>

There are 168'243 COVID-19 cases and 4099 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-sobrepasa-los-168-mil-casos-confirmados-de-covid-19-con-749-nuevos-contagios/>

"A total of 702 kidney patients have died since January 2020 in Honduras, 47 so far in 2021, mostly from COVID-19. This is the story of a patient with renal failure who falls ill with coronavirus and is turned away from three hospitals. Already unconscious, in what seemed like his last 24 hours of life, he manages to access a hospital bed, only to die."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/25/covid19-fue-la-sentencia-de-muerte-para-un-paciente-renal-en-honduras/>

Latin America Daily Briefing has a good overview of "vaccine diplomacy" in Latin America. It also mentions Honduras and Israel (also see yesterday). "Israel is doling out batches of vaccines as a reward for allies, a whole new form of vaccine diplomacy. The number of doses donated is unknown, and is billed as "symbolic." Israeli media, citing diplomatic sources, said recipients included Honduras and Guatemala, which have opened embassies in Jerusalem."

In Honduras, JOH made a media show out of the delivery and application of the vaccines from Israel.

<https://latinamericadailybriefing.blogspot.com/2021/02/vaccine-diplomacy-in-lat-am-feb-25-2021.html>

[https://twitter.com/Presidencia\\_HN/status/1364984122582663168](https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1364984122582663168)

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1365044659978969094>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1445518-466/aplican-primeras-vacunas-covid-19-honduras-medicos-pandemia-donacion-israel>

CESPAD published the study "Citizen assessment of the role of the Clean Politics Unit in the 2017 General Elections". "In the month of November the 2021 general elections will be held in Honduras, however, the electoral process will be carried out on the basis of a much more decimated UPL [Clean Politics Unit] than in the 2017 electoral process since, according to CESPAD's analysis, budgetary, technical personnel and computer equipment limitations persist. But, especially, the UPL lacks a solid auditing team to carry out the documentary inquiries in situ, which would allow it to verify the information of the campaign expenditure reports, submitted by the obligated subjects established by the Law of Financing, Transparency and Control of Political Parties." But the problems already start with the primary elections. "The proprietary counselor of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, warned that thousands of Hondurans will not be able to exercise their suffrage in the primary and internal elections of next March, for which she warned that we are at the doorstep of "an electoral tragedy". The representative of Libertad y Refundación before the organization warned that the elections of March 14 are in danger due to the fact that Hondurans eligible to vote will not be able to do so due to failures in the national identification project."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/25/elecciones-2021-en-honduras-sin-reformas-sustantivas-que-aseguren-la-fiscalizacion-efectiva-del-financiamiento-de-las-campanas-electorales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/25/moncada-asegura-que-se-aproxima-tragedia-electoral-al-no-garantizarse-el-sufragio/>

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<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/eeh-publica-lista-de-los-mayores-deudores-de-energia-en-el-pais/>

26/02/21

Honduras Daily: COFADEH; JOH - US, Violence; SSF - Keyla; UN - UPR; COVID-19 - HR, Vaccine; Elections; and Disappearing the Military?

US Representative Jan Schakowsky spoke out support for Bertha Oliva. "I recognize the courageous work of Bertha Oliva and the Committee of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH). For over 38 years COFADEH has pursued justice and truth for victims of human rights abuses committed by state security forces, like Keyla Martinez who was killed while in

Honduran government custody. Thank you for all you do, Bertha!"

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1365131183894454272>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/congresista-democrata-jan-schakowsky-reconoce-labor-de-cofadeh-y-de-bertha-oliva/>

The Latin American Risk Report takes a look at Honduras. "The Biden administration faces a challenge in terms of how to deal with a country captured by a criminal group masquerading as a political party."

In Honduras, at least 23 opposition politician officially demanded JOH's resignation presenting 37 reasons, "among these, the link with drug trafficking, the new Penal Code, allegations of electoral fraud in 2013 and 2017, impeachment and election of magistrates to the Supreme Court of Justice, the continuity of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla and acts of corruption in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic".

Additionally, "[f]ormer president Porfirio Lobo described current president Juan Orlando Hernández as a mythomaniac and advised him to leave power to face US justice for alleged links to drug trafficking".

"The Broad Platform for National Liberation (Panal) has joined the social claim against the head of state, Juan Hernández, demanding his resignation and has also called on the people and social organizations to set up a unified front to promote the end of the current regime."

But JOH does not have to worry, he still has his civil society puppet Omar Rivera speaking out for him...

Human rights scholar Joaquín Mejía also reacted to Rivera's statement.

<https://boz.substack.com/p/honduras-hernandez-tries-to-hold>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/26/diputados-opositores-comienzan-a-firmar-iniciativa-para-exigir-la-renuncia-de-joh/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/26/pepe-arremete-contra-joh-y-pide-a-oliva-demostrar-que-no-esta-subordinado/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2722-honduras-inicia-frente-social-que-acabaria-con-regimen-hernandez>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/el-pais-no-es-changoneta-para-pedir-la-renuncia-del-presidente-omar-rivera-del-fonac/>

<https://criterio.hn/un-decalogo-etico-politico-y-constitucional-para-quienes-todavia-defienden-al-regimen-de-juan-hernandez/>

Radio Progreso spoke with the Director of the Share Foundation in the US, José Artiga, about the recently presented Senate Bill (see previous days).

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ley-merkley-pide-suspender-ayudas-y-sanciones-contra-joh/>

In the ninth multiple killing this year, at least 6 people were murdered. Among them was the former deputy police commissioner Normando Lozano López, one of five police officials mentioned in the Tony Hernández case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2720-honduras-en-masacre-asesinan-empresario-y-expolicia-citado-en-juicio-tony>

<https://proceso.hn/terror-masacre-deja-varios-muertos-en-san-pedro-sula-norte-de-honduras/>

"Behind the search for justice in the murder of Keyla Martinez, a nursing student who died in a police cell in Intibucá, her family is still trying to survive a country that has denied them everything. The department of Intibucá, despite being full of natural wealth, is one of the poorest in the country, and this is compounded by insecurity and gender violence."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/26/no-habia-esperanza-para-las-mujeres-de-la-familia-de-keyla/>

At the UN Human Rights Council, OACNUDH will present its yearly report on Honduras. "Honduras continues to face challenges in the area of fundamental freedoms, "including high levels of violence, impunity, discrimination and lack of access to economic, social and cultural rights," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said today."

[https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session46/Documents/A\\_HRC\\_46\\_75\\_AdvanceUneditedVersion.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session46/Documents/A_HRC_46_75_AdvanceUneditedVersion.docx)

<https://proceso.hn/altos-niveles-de-violencia-e-impunidad-persisten-en-honduras-denuncia-la-onu/>

"The State of Honduras will receive 223 recommendations from the member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council on March 15, 2021, arising from the Universal Periodic Review 2020, where it will adopt the commitment to comply with them and align itself with the international standards to which it has the responsibility and duty to continue guaranteeing them to the society. (...) On February 26, a virtual meeting was held between Alicia Shackelford, resident coordinator of the United Nations UN in Honduras, Isabel Albaladejo, representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras, OHCHR and some representatives of the member countries of the UN Human Rights Council, on the implementation of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3100-onu-anuncia-el-periodo-de-adopcion-de-recomendaciones-del-epu2020-para>

There are 168'911 COVID-19 cases and 4117 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-168-mil-911-contagiados-y-4-mil-117-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

"The fundamental problem in Honduras is the narco-dictatorship led by Juan Orlando Hernandez.



He has turned the country into a logistical corridor for drug traffickers from South and North America, is responsible for assassinations to stay in power, dismantled institutions to fight corruption such as Maccih and Ufecih, and has deceived a large part of the international community. But as every narco comes to his day, today JOH is in countdown and this Meeting of organizations has the patriotic duty to accelerate his departure as we express in this Fortieth Public Manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cuadragésimo-manifiesto-publico/>

The vaccine for Honduras has been promised for February, then March, then May and now we are back to March. "The Covax/Gavi alliance confirmed this Friday that it will deliver to Honduras 428 thousand doses of vaccines against COVID-19, which will arrive in the country between March and May, as part of the donation of this mechanism to the country achieved through the efforts of the Government."

<https://proceso.hn/covax-anuncia-que-enviara-mas-de-428-mil-dosis-de-vacunas-anticovid-a-honduras-entre-marzo-y-mayo/>

The Identify Yourself program in Honduras has been questioned throughout its roll out, now UNDP representative Richard Barathe tries to calm the nerves.

<https://proceso.hn/es-una-pena-que-se-siga-cuestionando-proceso-de-enrolamiento-lamenta-representante-del-pnud/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/02/25/facusse-asegura-que-si-las-ffaa-defienden-a-joh-ee-uu-la-desaparecera/>

27/02/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; JOH - Armed Forces; COVID-19 - Medical Sector; Elections; and the Not So Transparent Government

OFRANEH sent out an alert. "Last night the Maya Chortí indigenous, Ángel María Hernández Lozano from the community of Florido, Santa Rita, Copán, was arrested after [criminalizing] charges against him had been dismissed in 2016."

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1365712138946416640>

The number of members of Congress asking for JOH's resignation has grown to 30 including one from the National Party.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2724-honduras-30-diputados-exigen-renuncia-de-joh>

10 members of the Armed Forces were dismissed "for committing serious misconduct in the

institution".

But some experts rather believe it has to do with a growing discontentment in the Armed Forces with JOH.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1445969-466/separan-oficiales-ffaa-honduras-faltas-graves>

<https://tiempo.hn/fuerzas-armadas-separacion-oficiales/>

<https://criterio.hn/trasciende-descontento-al-interior-de-las-ff-aa-por-apoyo-de-cupula-a-juan-hernandez/>

There are 169'754 COVID-19 cases and 4141 confirmed deaths.

But as always, this number is sadly much too low. According to the Funeral Homes Association, 9625 people have so far died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-169-mil-754-contagios-y-cuatro-mil-141-decesos-por-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/a-casi-un-ano-de-la-pandemia-honduras-registra-mas-de-9-mil-muertes-segun-duenos-de-funerarias/>

Yet another doctor died to COVID-19, Mario Lanza Sandoval.

Medical staff held a protest yesterday, denouncing that not even 1% of front line workers have been vaccinated so far.

<https://tiempo.hn/fallece-doctor-mario-lanza-sandoval-fundador-hospital-cemesa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/medicos-residentes-primeras-vacunas-insuficientes/>

<https://proceso.hn/medicos-protestan-en-honduras-por-exclusion-en-proceso-de-vacunacion/>

"The National Electoral Council (CNE) decided that the counting of municipal and departmental votes in the primary and internal elections will be at the option of the participating political parties.

There will also be an audit of the voting notebooks and cross-checking of data of the three parties, Liberal, National and Libre, announced on Friday the councilor Rixi Moncada."

<https://criterio.hn/cne-decide-que-conteo-municipal-y-departamental-sea-opcional-en-las-elecciones/>

"The Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh) announced this Friday that it will no longer participate in the Open Government Partnership (AGA) in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/fosdeh-se-retira-de-alianza-para-el-gobierno-abierto/>

28/02/21

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Elections; COVID-19 – Vaccines;

CESPAD published an analysis on the US-Honduran relationship focusing on the accusation against JOH and on the coming electoral process (see also below).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/02/28/eeuu-con-la-mirada-en-el-presidente-de-honduras-y-los-cuestionamientos-a-los-aspirantes-a-la-presidencia/>

ContraCorriente offers a helpful overview of the electoral situation in Honduras just days before the primary elections. "The 2021 primary elections are just around the corner, but there are still disagreements among the members of the National Electoral Council (CNE). The country, since the 2009 coup d'état, lives in an eternal political crisis."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/02/28/otro-entuerto-electoral-a-menos-de-un-mes-de-las-primarias/>

There are 170'304 COVID-19 cases and 4151 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-170-mil-contagios-y-llega-a-4-mil-151-decesos-por-covid-19/>

The WHO/PAHO warns about the misuse of their logo by politicians for electoral campaigning.

[https://twitter.com/OPSOMS\\_Honduras/status/1366222728068538370](https://twitter.com/OPSOMS_Honduras/status/1366222728068538370)