

01/03/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Berta - Trial; HRDs - Tolupán, MAS; Corruption - Hermes; JOH - Armed Forces; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccine, Education; Elections; and a Mega-Caravan?

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the February 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=15555](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=15555)

Today, we remember the life and struggle of Berta Cáceres five years after her assassination. Yesterday, the Sentencing Tribunal presented the resolution of the evidentiary hearing against David Castillo.

The tribunal accepted Daniel Atala as a witness, but, as COPINH denounces, not Jacobo Atala, Jose Eduardo Atala and Pedro Atala.

Then, the trial date for David Castillo was set; it will take place from April 6-30.

<https://copinh.org/2021/03/01-03-2021-resolucion-de-audiencia-contradavid-castillo/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1366546379645009924>

"The Office in Honduras of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH) warned that two years after the murders of Salomón and Samael Matute, both indigenous Tolupanes and land defenders, there continues to be no investigative progress. OACNUDH conducted a mission to accompany the families of the Tolupán indigenous people who were killed with firearms on February 25, 2019 and who at the time of their violent death were beneficiaries of Precautionary Measure MC 416-13 granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) since December 2013."

<https://criterio.hn/a-dos-anos-de-sus-asesinatos-caso-de-defensores-tolupanes-sigue-sin-investigar/>

"Environmentalist Betty Vásquez, general coordinator of the Santa Bárbara Environmental Movement (MAS), denounced journalist Edward Azael Fernández before the Santa Bárbara Courts, for issuing comments that discredit the defense of natural resources and racist comments against the Lenca people."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1826-ambientalista-denuncia-campana-de-discriminacion-por-defender-la-naturaleza>

The list of persons who had received money in the newest Hermes corruption case (see last month) was published.

The MP presented charges against 11 of the accused.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1366495962630348803>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/01/lista-de-periodistas-incluidos-en-el-caso-de-corrupcion-hermes/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/publican-nombres-de-periodistas-favorecidos-con-pagos-de-casa-presidencial/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/ministerio-publico-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contralos-11-imputados-del-caso-hermes/>

The list of members of Congress officially asking for the resignation of JOH has grown to 40. 22 more are needed for a simple majority.

"Under the slogan 100+Women/1000 reasons, the organized women joined the demand for the resignation of Hernandez, against whom a group of U.S. senators presented a bill, and announced that they will continue with the pressure measures."

Criterio lists some more recent calls for his resignation, e.g. by the Anti-Corruption Coalition.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2729-honduras-actualizacion-ya-son-40-diputados-que-piden-renuncia-de-joh>

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-de-honduras-se-pronuncian-por-salida-del-gobernante-mas-nocivo-de-la-historia/>

<https://criterio.hn/se-multiplican-las-voces-que-exigen-la-renuncia-de-juan-hernandez/>

Apart from JOH, the Armed Forces also face accusations of drug trafficking links. And just like JOH, they reject them. "But these facts have been qualified as speculations by the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Tito Livio Moreno, who told journalists that there is a malicious campaign against his institution, promoted by the media and political groups."

<https://criterio.hn/fa-aa-de-honduras-recurre-al-descredito-de-la-prensa-para-defenderse-de-acusaciones-de-narcotrafico/>

"Journalist Charly Pineda, warned on Monday, February 22 about death threats against him, which he has been receiving since 2019 for reporting on issues related to the situation of violence in the department of Intibucá, in the western part of the country."

Electricity cables, the internet connection and equipment at the Radio Tenán, community radio in Lempira, were targeted by unknown attackers. "The damages against the community media, occur in a context of complaints about alleged acts of corruption of the mayor of the municipality, Guadalupe Muñoz, during the pandemic by COVID-19, told C-Libre Pablo Hernandez, director of the radio."

"Journalist Nirvana Velásquez denounced this Monday, February 22, death threats to her WhatsApp

account on her cell phone, after reporting on an event that occurred in San Pedro Sula, department of Cortés, northern Honduras."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1321-por-amenazas-a-muerte-periodista-deja-su-profesion-y-su-vivienda>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1322-cortan-cableado-para-impedir-transmisiones-de-radio-comunitaria>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1320-periodista-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte-tras-cubrir-suceso-en-la-capital>

There are 170'985 COVID-19 cases and 4174 confirmed deaths.

And again, the real number of deaths is likely more than twice as high having reached almost 10'000 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-4-mil-174-muertes-y-170-mil-985-casos-positivos-de-la-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2728-urgente-casi-10-mil-hondurenos-han-muerto-por-covid>

Ela Alejandra Santos, a 29-year old nurse, died to COVID-19 yesterday.

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-por-covid-19-enfermera-auxiliar-de-29-anos-en-tegucigalpa/>

"The application in Honduras of the first doses of the vaccine against Covid-19 has generated a series of complaints about the poor selection of health personnel to undergo the immunization [with the vaccine doses donated by Israel, see last month]. Dr. Ligia Ramos, President of the Association of Physicians at the Honduran Institute of Social Security, IHSS, in Tegucigalpa, points out that in that hospital, many administrative personnel who are not in the first line of Covid-19 were vaccinated."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/medicos-y-enfermeras-denuncian-favorismo-en-aplicacion-de-primeras-vacunas-contra-covid-19/>

1.2 million school children have enrolled so far this year in the public education system - the goal was 2.2 million.

<https://proceso.hn/solo-1-2-millones-de-estudiantes-se-han-matriculado-este-ano-en-sistema-publico/>

"Thousands of delinquent pre-candidates with the national treasury aspire to occupy positions of popular election in Honduras. This is shown in a report released by the Revenue Administration

Service (SAR), which establishes that out of the 28,401 candidates aspiring to run in the March 14 primary elections, 8,608 do not have a National Tax Registration (RTN), that is, nearly 30%."

<https://proceso.hn/candidatos-morosos-30-ni-siquiera-tienen-rtn/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/01/sar-denuncia-que-195-aspirantes-a-cargos-publicos-tienen-una-mora-de-36-millones-en-impuestos/>

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<https://proceso.hn/alertan-de-nueva-mega-caravana-migrante-originada-en-honduras/>

02/03/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - US, JOH, Extradition; Students; COVID-19; Elections; Corruption - de Lobo, Transparency; and Sick Elections

Yesterday we commemorated Berta Cáceres five year's after her assassination. "The memory of our comrade Berta Cáceres, the irreverent woman, fighter and conscious, has summoned us once again to remember her life and struggle, to denounce once again that impunity hovers over our people every time there is no punishment for those who commit horrendous crimes such as the one she was the victim of. The Honduran justice system turns a deaf ear to the existence of numerous information gathered and in-depth investigations by international experts that have identified the masterminds of the crime and that remain in the judicial files. It has been 1827 days, 1827 dawns in which the light of justice and truth have escaped from Honduran society because the judicial system prevents justice for the crime of Berta Cáceres."

At the physical commemoration, representative of of various countries were present as was the representative of OACNUDH.

OACNUDH also published a press release "to honor the memory of Berta Cáceres and reiterate the responsibility of the State in clarifying the truth about her murder".

US Senator Jeff Merkley wrote: "5 years ago, Honduran Indigenous and environmental rights trailblazer Berta Cáceres was murdered for her activism. Cáceres devoted her life to the struggle for human rights & environmental protection. Her legacy lives on in the communities she impacted & the leaders she inspired. I am calling for a suspension of U.S. security assistance until the architects of her assassination are prosecuted and Honduras dismantles the corrupt police state that is terrorizing its citizens."

<https://copinh.org/2021/03/pronunciamiento-publico-cinco-anos-exigiendo-y-construyendo-justicia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/a-5-anos-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-sigue-la-busqueda-de-justicia-y-verdad/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1366882619674275840>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-honra-la-memoria-de-berta-caceres-y-reitera-la-responsabilidad-del-estado-en-el-esclarecimiento-de-la-verdad-sobre-su-asesinato/>

<https://twitter.com/SenJeffMerkley/status/1366832133323575301>

Nina Lakhani, who wrote a book about the life, struggle and death of Berta, published an update on the case against David Castillo which will go to trial next month.

Criterio spoke with lawyer Víctor Fernández about the case. He said that "what has been happening in the Berta Cáceres case in terms of favorable results for justice are not gifts from the system". On the contrary, he added that "it is the permanent pulse of all the people, all the organizations, that today we are here celebrating Berta's life, remembering her, doing her justice".

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/02/berta-caceres-honduras-accused-mastermind-trial>

<https://criterio.hn/avances-en-causa-de-berta-caceres-no-son-dadivas-del-sistema-victor-fernandez/>

"Today, Casa Presidencial released part of the International Drug Control Strategy Report published by the U.S. State Department. This report corresponds to the 2020 period, while Donald Trump was still president of the United States. The government of Honduras is lying when it tries to claim that this report corresponds to the data and the opinion of the Biden administration on the role of Honduras in the fight against drug trafficking. In addition, Casa Presidencial hides additional data contained in said report. In Presidential Determination No. 2020-11 dated September 16, 2020, the then President of the United States Donald Trump sent a Memorandum to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, with the title "Major Drug Traffickers or Major Drug Producers, Countries for Fiscal 2021" in which he places Honduras among the 22 countries with the largest production and transit of drugs worldwide."

One such deceiving quote comes from the Security Minister Julian Pacheco who claimed that Honduras is a "leader" in the fight against drug trafficking and that the US recognizes this...

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/02/honduras-entre-los-22-paises-con-mayor-produccion-y-transito-de-drogas-en-el-mundo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/segun-julian-pacheco-administracion-biden-reconoce-lucha-contra-el-narcotrafico-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1446562-466/estados-unidos-honduras-informe-trafico-drogas>

Report: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/International-Narcotics-Control-Strategy-Report-Volume-I-FINAL-1.pdf>

Meanwhile, the situation for JOH does not seem to improve. "On the eve of the trial of alleged drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes, prosecutors are asking to admit new evidence that appears to be subtracted from the iCloud of Fuentes' son, identified as CC-14. Included are photos and conversations, including a photo of CC-14 with JOH."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1366987948768583683>

"In recent weeks there have been increasing accusations against President Juan Orlando Hernandez for his links to drug trafficking, which raises the voices publicly calling for his resignation. Analysts agree that the institutionality will become a single knot to protect politicians who are accused in the Southern District Court of New York. In this sense, the lawyer and congressman of the Libertad y Refundación Party (Libre), Jary Dixon Herrera, points out that today more than ever the extradition of Honduran men and women to the United States is in danger."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/se-advierte-sobre-escenario-para-derogar-extradicion-en-honduras/>

19 students had a hearing held against them in a case of criminalization going back to 2017. "Four years ago, the prosecution of the students took place in a context of strong repression against the University Student Movement (MEU) by the authorities of the UNAH, who resorted to the prohibition of demonstrations and the excessive use of State repressive forces, as well as members of the private security forces to persecute and violently repress students who defended the right to education and the peaceful exercise of protest; Likewise, criminal actions were brought with the aim of disarticulating and delegitimizing student organizations, according to the Human Rights Defenders Network. (...) This Tuesday they have gone to a new hearing since the Court of Appeals revoked the final dismissal given to them in 2017 and to inform them that a new process has been opened for the two crimes. Now they will go to an oral and public trial for the crimes and the judicial authorities told them that they can conciliate with the UNAH and thus avoid going to trial, García told Criterio.hn. The students have until June 7 to settle with the university authorities, who allege that the youths owe more than one million lempiras in damages they caused to the UNAH administrative building.

<https://criterio.hn/continua-persecucion-contra-el-movimiento-estudiantil-universitario/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/03/alerta-defensoras-honduras-continua-persecucion-contra-el-movimiento-estudiantil-universitario/>

There are 171'758 COVID-19 cases and 4187 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-171-mil-758-contagios-de-covid-19-y-4-mil-187-decesos/>

The primary elections will take place in less than two weeks. "The primary and internal elections of March 14, under the responsibility of a new governing body, will be governed under two mechanisms that make noise on the issue of transparency: there will be no quick ballot box count to give a preliminary trend, but it will be done under the mechanism of exit voting, and the control unit of the Clean Politics Act, enters to follow the trail of campaign money without all the necessary tools to prevent the entry of dirty money."

<https://proceso.hn/primarias-sin-reformas-para-fiscalizar-dinero-y-sin-conteo-rapido/>

The re-trial of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo will take place from April 5 and 30.

<https://proceso.hn/del-5-al-30-de-abril-sera-repeticion-del-juicio-a-la-exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla/>

CESPAD published an analysis on the importance of access to information and transparency in the fight against corruption.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/02/analisis-la-informacion-y-la-transparencia-derechos-fundamentales-para-la-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion/>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/a-cuarentena-servidores-del-cne-por-resultar-positivos-a-covid-19/>

03/03/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Guapinol; JOH - Drug Trafficking, US; OACNUDH; CONADEH; Corruption - Hermes, Pandora; Dengue; COVID-19 - JOH, Health Sector; Elections - Violence; Migration;

OFRANEH sent out an alert: "Marianela Solórzano, OFRANEH member & Jennifer Solórzano, LIBRE Congressional precandidate, have been detained by the Honduran police in Trujillo, Colon." Miriam Miranda denounced: "Our sisters Marianela Solorzano & Jennifer Solorzano remain detained in the DPI [police station] in Tocoa as they wait a hearing in Trujillo tomorrow. They are Garifuna [land] defenders, not criminals! We demand their immediate release! JOH wants to disappear us, he's genocidal"

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1367291644286922753>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1367352422767620096>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1367310428657897474>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/policia-captura-a-defensoras-del-territorio-en-colon/>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-detiene-a-dos-defensoras-garifunas-en-tocoa-colon/>

"After finding that the detention of the eight Guapinol defenders imprisoned for more than 17 and 26 months is arbitrary, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention urges the Government of Honduras to "release the eight defenders immediately" and to grant them the effective right to compensation and reparation. The Group further called on the government to "conduct a thorough and independent investigation" into this arbitrariness and to take action against those responsible for

it. In addition, the Group asked the State of Honduras to disseminate this opinion "by all available means and as widely as possible".

OACNUDH visited one of them, Jeremías Martínez, at the Támara prison, where he is being held.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/un-immediately-release-guapinol-defenders-investigate-those-responsible-for-illegal-detention>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3103-grupo-de-trabajo-de-detenciones-arbitrarias-de-la-onu-llama-al-estado-de-honduras-a-liberar-de-la-carcel-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://proceso.hn/exigen-cumplimiento-de-resolucion-de-la-onu-en-favor-de-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1367177681540968450>

The newest evidence involving JOH from the Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez trial (see yesterday) even made it into the corporate news outlets in Honduras.

El Heraldó wrote: "US prosecutors have asked that photographs showing Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández with people allegedly involved in drug trafficking be admitted in court."

It also made international headlines.

The Pro Honduras Network further believes that the newest evidence indicates that CC-3 (co-conspirator 3) is commissioner Ramón Martínez Hernández.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/03/fiscalia-pide-admitir-nuevas-pruebas-que-incluyen-fotografias-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-con-co-conspiradores/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1447023-466/joh-narcotrafico-estados-unidos-juicio>

<https://apnews.com/article/noticias-2037f72be1ddc8e68210bf02b9a27ede>

[https://twitter.com/Prohn\\_Honduras/status/1367161371297796096](https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1367161371297796096)

Meanwhile in the US, the Washington Post published an important OpEd by Dana Frank demanding that "Biden must end U.S. policy shoring up the corrupt and authoritarian regime in Honduras".

And while the Senate Bill made headlines these last days, it is important to know that there has been a counterpart in the House for five years, the The Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, which was just reintroduced this week.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/03/biden-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-corruption-dea/>

<https://hankjohnson.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressman-johnson-reintroduces-bera-c-ceres-human-rights-honduras-act>



<https://criterio.hn/congresista-hank-johnson-reintroduce-la-ley-de-derechos-humanos-bertha-caceres/>

OACNUDH will present its yearly report next Wednesday.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1367275233674211337>

"The appointment of Blanca Izaguirre as head of Conadeh should be revoked, according to congressman Luis Redondo, who has made an official request to the National Congress, due to the irregular selection process that violates the democratic system."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2735-honduras-piden-al-congreso-separar-a-blanca-izaguirre-del-conadeh>

Vice News published an article by Jeff Ernst on the newest corruption case coming out of Honduras, Hermes. "The depths of the Honduran president's alleged efforts to control the local press was revealed in an indictment leaked yesterday in the Central American nation. The new documents also alleged yet another corruption case to which the family and inner circle of President Juan Orlando Hernández is connected. The allegations outlined in the case involve some \$5 million that were funneled from the office of the presidency through front companies to journalists and political elites. "[The case shows] the fact that the structural and institutionalized corruption in the country uses journalists and the media and this mechanism that reinforces impunity," said Manuel Torres, a veteran Honduran journalist."

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7adwb/honduran-presidency-allegedly-bribed-journalists-using-taxpayer-money>

CESPAD has an update on the Pandora case.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/03/pandora-el-despilfarro-de-12-millones-de-dolares-la-colusion-politica-y-las-victimas-que-nunca-se-beneficiaron-con-los-proyectos/>

1400 dengue cases have been documented so far this year in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-1400-dengue-en-2021-65-graves/>

There are 172'100 COVID-19 cases and 4214 confirmed deaths.

Among the newest deaths was deputy Libre congressman Manuel de Jesús Mejía.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-registra-172-mil-100-contagios-y-4-mil-214-decesos-en-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1447039-410/muere-coronavirus-diputado-libre-copan->

"The Ministry of Defense refuses to provide information on the costs of the treatment that President Juan Orlando Hernández allegedly received after his admission to the Military Hospital on June 17, 2020. This comes after official information obtained by Contracorriente indicates that there was no positive result for COVID-19 at the time his infection was announced."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/03/secretaria-de-defensa-oculta-costos-del-tratamiento-y-hospitalizacion-del-presidente/>

Another health worker, microbiologist Eliza Berríos, died to COVID-19.

<https://tiempo.hn/microbiologa-eliza-berrios-muere-por-covid-19/>

There are more worrisome news regarding the primary elections. According to CNE council member Rixi Moncada, 1.6 million Hondurans won't be able to vote in the primaries as they were moved from their voting centers and do not appear in the electoral rolls as they should have appeared.

Moncada holds the National Party responsible for any crisis resulting out of the electoral process. So far, most of the news on the electoral process came from the CNE, yesterday, the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) also commented.

"The president of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE), Gaudy Bustillo, expressed this Wednesday that "they are concerned that in such a short time we do not have clear rules" for the primary elections in the country."

<https://proceso.hn/un-millon-600-mil-personas-no-votarian-en-elecciones-primarias-segun-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/1-6-millones-ciudadanos-enrolados-tendrian-problemas-para-ejercer-sufragio-en-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-partido-nacional-esta-presionando-para-que-no-se-corrijan-los-errores-electorales-rix-moncada/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tje-senala-preocupado-que-ha-pocos-dias-de-los-comicios-primarios-no-existan-reglas-claras/>

Proces Digital published an overview of the violence accompanying the electoral process with various candidates having been murdered.

<https://proceso.hn/hechos-violentos-han-acompanado-el-proceso-electoral/>

"The deportation of Honduran immigrants, mainly from the United States and Mexico, decreased by 49.8% between January and February 2021, compared to the same period in 2020, an official source informed Wednesday in Tegucigalpa."

<https://proceso.hn/deportacion-de-inmigrantes-hondurenos-disminuye-49-8-entre-enero-y-febrero/>

04/03/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; SSF - Keyla; Corruption - Hermes; Berta; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Elections;

The Garífuna defenders Marianela and Jennifer Mejía Solórzano had their hearing yesterday (see yesterday's e-mail and first two links below).

The judge decided to keep them in custody until the initial hearing on Sunday.

This decision led to protests and the people stopped the transfer of the two defenders to the Olanchito prison, the prison where the criminalized Guapinol defenders are held.

OACNUDH is accompanying the case and "urged the authorities to respect due process and guarantee their physical and psychological integrity".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1367505924563304448>

<https://avispa.org/honduras-por-supuesta-usurpacion-de-tierras-detienen-a-dos-integrantes-de-la-ofraneh/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1367523728427343872>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/dictan-prision-preventiva-a-defensoras-garifunas-en-trujillo/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1367569953692483585>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1367565437010120704>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1367706874229886981>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1367523283478978560>

The lawyer Melvin Bonilla was murdered at an intersection in Tegucigalpa yesterday. He was part of Tony Hernández' legal team.

In less than a week, two people linked to Tony Hernández were murdered. Last Friday, it was a police official mentioned in Tony's trial, Normando Lozano López (see last week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-al-exabogado-de-tony-hernandez-en-colonia-la-alameda-de-la-capital/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/04/trasciende-el-asesinato-en-la-colonia-alameda-de-melvin-bonilla-abogado-defensor-de-tony-hernandez-y-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2737-honduras-urgente-en-seis-dias-matan-a-dos-personas-vinculadas-a-tony>

Keyla's family held a press conference with COFADEH and other national and international human rights organizations. Today marks 25 days since the National Police committed the criminal act against the life of Keyla Patricia Martinez Rodriguez, a university student of Nursing, who was detained under the Executive Decree PCM 012-2021 that suspends the Constitutional Guarantees and is a continuation of the PCM decree #021-2020 that has kept us without Fundamental Norms for a year. Keyla was deprived of her liberty in the cells of the Police Departmental Unit #10 (UDEP #10). We have reached this day and we have not seen any exemplary action on the part of the Public Prosecutor's Office that leads us to think "that we will obtain justice". The corresponding authorities do not give any answer on what they are doing to punish the intellectual, material and accomplices by action or omission that could have prevented this crime."

Didapol, the Directorate of Police Disciplinary Affairs, has opened an investigation against two members of the police force, BUT "is not for the death of the young woman, but for what happened from the moment of her arrest until she was found dead; both members of the police force are not being charged with the death of the young woman".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-publico-caso-keyla/>

<https://proceso.hn/exigen-respuestas-claras-en-asesinato-de-joven-enfermera-keyla-martinez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/didadpol-asegura-que-tiene-en-su-poder-dos-expedientes-sobre-el-caso-de-keyla-martinez/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network highlighted an interesting fact about the newest Hermes corruption case (see previous days). "Daniels Izaguirre is a journalist, Nat'l party pre-candidate for Congress, named in recent corruption case. He received ~\$86,000 of public money laundered through sham NGOs. His daughter also happens to be the new Nat'l Human Rights Ombudsman".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1367517834838872064>

COPINH launched a petition to demand justice for Berta.

And for those of you who missed the solidarity concert for Berta, it will be aired again this Saturday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1367598905739862018>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1367655694476906496>

There are 172'577 COVID-19 cases and 4231 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-se-elevan-a-172-mil-577-con-la-confirmacion-de-477-nuevos-contagios/>

According to the Russian ambassador to Honduras, the JOH regime bought 4.2 million doses of the

Sputnik V vaccine.

160'000 should already arrive this month.

At the same time, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) withdrew as a social overseer in the purchase process of Covid-19 vaccines from the Ministry of Health. The CNA denounces that Covax informed the ministry that Honduras won't be able to buy 1.9 million doses of vaccines, an information which the ministry did not share with the public.

The ministry denies this and alleges that the conversations with Covax continue.

<https://tiempo.hn/contrato-vacuna-rusa-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1447327-410/honduras-este-mes-vienen-primeras-160000-dosis-vacuna-rusa>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/cna-hace-oficial-su-retiro-como-veedor-en-proceso-de-adquisicion-de-vacuna-contra-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-se-retira-como-veedor-en-compra-de-vacunas-contra-el-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-pronuncia-senalamientos-cna/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/representante-de-ops-en-honduras-niega-que-se-haya-enviado-nota-que-cancela-posibilidad-de-adquirir-vacunas/>

CESPAD looks back at the history of the electoral bodies in Honduras up to its newest iteration, the National Electoral Council (CNE). CESPAD presents five initial conclusions: "Today's CNE is more transparent than the old TSE; Recognition that the CNE plenary represents the parties; The Liberal Party consolidates its independence from the National Party; Deputy councilors continue the tradition of minority parties; Designing the rules of the electoral game on the fly".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/04/analisis-el-consejo-electoral-pone-a-prueba-su-nuevo-modelo-multipartidista/>

05/03/21

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; Drug Trafficking - JOH; SSF - Keyla; Berta - US, Gualcarque; Extractivism; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Elections; and Dear Politicians

While I linked to the recent arrest and criminalization of two Garífuna land defenders (see last days), I missed that also last week, two Garífuna were murdered: Víctor Martínez and Martín Abad Pandy. "Ofrañeh has denounced that the crime against Pandy is due to the fact that he gathered a group of young people to "protect and defend the rights of the community". Ofrañeh also recalled that last February 13, in the same sector, hired assassins murdered the young Fernando Padilla, in this crime, according to testimonies, the assassins carried a list with the profiles of all the social activists of that community."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/06/alerta-con-un-asesinato-y-la-detencion-de-dos-defensoras-continua-el-ataque-a-la-comunidad-garifuna-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2741-honduras-garifunas-entre-carcel-y-tumba-matan-otros-dos>

The head of the Armed Forces, Tito Livio Moreno, was asked about the drug trafficking links of JOH. His answer: "I do not want to be irresponsible and give my opinion on issues that do not concern me."

Criterio, meanwhile, cites US Senator Jeff Merkley saying: "I hope that President Hernandez begins to think seriously about the request coming from many legislators for him to step aside."

<https://proceso.hn/no-me-compete-opinar-responde-jefe-de-las-ffaa-a-consulta-sobre-supuestos-vinculos-del-presidente-hernandez-con-el-narco/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-las-ff-aa-ignora-advertencia-de-senadores-de-ee-uu-continua-en-defensa-de-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/senador-democrata-recomienda-a-hernandez-pensar-seriamente-en-dar-un-paso-al-costado/>

<https://criterio.hn/senador-merkley-celebra-que-ley-suspenda-ayuda-a-las-fuerzas-de-seguridad-de-honduras/>

Jeff Ernst published an update on the coming trial against Geovanny Fuentes, a case closely linked to JOH. "In 2013, seated across a roundtable from then-presidential candidate Juan Orlando Hernández, alleged drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes opened up a black briefcase and pulled out \$15,000 dollars in cash. "To help you with the campaign," said Fuentes. The apparent bribe was allegedly intended to ensure Fuentes and his drug shipments were protected from, and by, law enforcement. In Honduras, it worked. But in the end, it made him a target of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as part of its ongoing investigation of Hernández and led to his arrest upon arrival to Florida in March 2020. A year later, Fuentes is set to go on trial beginning March 8 in a case that could ultimately help determine the fate of Hernández – an unindicted co-conspirator who prosecutors have accused of accepting millions in bribes from drug traffickers – and the course of U.S.-Honduras relations under the Biden Administration."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/new-york-drug-trial-geovanny-fuentes-provides-deeper-insights-into-honduran-corruption-implicates-president>

"Two days before the one month anniversary of the death of university student Keyla Patricia Martínez, relatives released the death certificate confirming that her death was caused by "asphyxia due to suffocation by blockage of respiratory orifices". The result was disclosed on the Facebook page "Justice for Keyla Martinez"."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1447426-466/keyla-martinez-acta-defuncion-asfixia-honduras>

Honduran and international human rights organizations wrote a letter to the new US Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken, in the Berta Cáceres case. "The undersigned civil society and academic organizations and defenders urgently implore the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Honduras to continue to press for accountability in the case of the murder of indigenous and environmental defender Berta Cáceres. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the U.S. Embassy in Honduras to closely monitor the criminal investigations and proceedings related to this crime and to push for accountability. We ask that those efforts continue with regards to the forthcoming trial of David Castillo, and that the U.S. government increases its efforts to urge accountability for all of those who ordered and financed Berta's murder."

<https://earthrights.org/wp-content/uploads/CSO-Letter-to-State-Dept.-Berta-Ca%CC%81ceres-Case-.pdf>

In the Gualcarque corruption case linked to Berta's case, coming Monday's hearing was postponed.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1367925949224923137>

"The quarterly report of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures the total annual national production, records that the category of mining and quarrying, despite all the privileges and exemptions they have enjoyed for decades at a high cost of impoverishment for most Hondurans, in 2020 in nine months barely contributed 240 million lempiras to the country's economy (about 9 million dollars). At the end of December, the BCH points out that the total national production was around 600 billion lempiras. The current mining exploitation scheme authorized by the Government is a lousy business for Hondurans, but it is a source of social conflict and looting."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2743-exclusiva-mineria-no-aporta-ni-uno-por-ciento-a-economia-hondurena>

There are 173'020 COVID-19 cases and 4247 confirmed deaths.

While the Funeral Homes Association has reported a higher death count on various occasions, an even higher one now comes from health expert Marco Eliud Girón who claims that already 1.2 million Honduras have been infected with COVID-19 and more than 25'000 died.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-173-mil-contagios-y-acumula-4-mil-247-decesos-por-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/medico-muertes-millones-contagiados-covid19/>

The contract for 4.2 million doses of Sputnik V (see yesterday) is in Honduras and being revised by the JOH regime.

According to the Finance Minister Marco Midence they pay less than \$10 per dose. While the real

price of a vaccine is a well-guarded secret by the pharmaceutical companies some recent leaks gave us a clue about how much they charge. \$10 for a country of the Global South seems expensive. There are also ongoing negotiations with Johnson & Johnson.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1447452-410/honduras-revisa-contrato-compra-vacuna-sputnik-v->

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1447362-410/sputnik-v-comprara-menos-10-dolares-asegura-gobierno-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/no-sabemos-llegada-vacuna-sputnik-v-madero/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-compra-vacuna-de-johnson-johnson/>

Radio Progreso spoke with political analyst and former deputy of the National Congress, Efraín Díaz Arrivillaga, about the primary elections.

The newest development comes in the form of a criminal complaint against the pre-candidate to the presidency of Honduras for the Liberal Party, Yani Benjamín Rosenthal Hidalgo, for the crimes of money laundering and illicit association. Rosenthal is a convicted drug trafficker who was imprisoned in the US before returning to Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/incertidumbre-caracteriza-elecciones-primarias-efrain-diaz-arrivillaga/>

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-denuncia-criminal-contra-yani-rosenthal-precandidato-a-la-presidencia-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/interponen-denuncia-ante-el-mp-contra-yani-y-yankel-rosenthal-y-jefe-de-los-cachiros-por-lavado/>

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<https://proceso.hn/caritas-honduras-insta-a-la-clase-politica-que-se-dedique-a-la-recuperacion-de-la-democracia/>

06/03/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta; Corruption - Corruption; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Children; Elections; and Disarming Honduras

The National Women Human Rights Defenders Network sent out a new alert in the case of the two Garífuna defenders Marianela Solórzano y Jennifer Solórzano. They face court this morning at 8am. Yesterday, OFRANEH held a press conference on the case and published a press release. OFRANEH compares the swift criminalization of the defenders with the case of the Canadian businessman Randy Jorgensen who usurped community land. "In 2002 the community filed a



complaint against Jorgensen for usurpation and in May 2012 the prosecutor's office issued an injunction and it was not until 2019 that the Trujillo Court granted him a definitive dismissal." The territorial conflict in and around Trujillo started to get worse under the Lobo administration.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/03/alerta-urgente-honduras-defensoras-garifunas-detenido-enfrentan-su-audiencia-este-domingo-7-de-marzo-comunidad-internacional-exige-su-liberacion/>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1368340610088923142>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1368237079336005636>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1368232690244272140>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1368419043737280515>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1368227011639017477>

The Expert Mission accompanying the Berta Cáceres case will hold a press conference on March 11 at 10am.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1368211450049814533>

In a virtual conference on corruption in Honduras, former head of MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, took part. "For example, it calls my attention to see certain politicians who are 'running for office' and who are related to or have been investigated for drug trafficking or even convicted of laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking".

<https://criterio.hn/la-corrupcion-esta-llevando-a-honduras-hacia-el-lado-incorrecto-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

Pinu congresswoman sent out an alert: "The Honduran people are alerted about the intention of the National Congress to reform more than 25 articles of the General Budget of the Republic, aimed at promoting discretion in the use of funds and to make transfers without further control."

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1368311765247942667>

There are 173'514 COVID-19 cases and 4249 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-alcanza-173-mil-514-casos-y-cuatro-mil-249-decesos-en-honduras/>

The newest promise for vaccine doses from the Health Ministry, 48'000 for the end of March.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-48-mil-vacunas-llegan-a-honduras-en-marzo/>

The CNE handed out 111'440 credentials to Libre, the National and the Liberal Party for their representatives at the ballot station.

And the National Persons Registry (RNP) claims that they got rid of at least 300'000 deceased Honduran in the electoral census.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1447735-410/el-consejo-nacional-electoral-entrega-111440-credenciales-a-partidos-pol%C3%ADticos>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/al-menos-300-mil-muertos-ya-no-votaran-en-las-elecciones-primarias-de-honduras-segun-el-rnp>

"In the anomaly that is life in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and where schools have been closed since March 2020 as a result, indigenous children in the Honduran mountains continue to have only one option: to go with their families to harvest coffee because it will help their fragile family economies. Currently, Honduran coffee exports are behaving downward, with sales falling in the 2019-2020 season to \$879.2 million compared to \$923.9 million in the previous season, according to EFE data in September 2020. Each coffee cortero in the mountains of Corquín earns about 2.40 lempiras per pound of coffee in grapes, this is double what indigenous corteros earn in other areas of the country, such as in the department of La Paz where they can earn as little as one lempira per pound of coffee in grapes. According to World Bank data, one out of every five Hondurans living in rural areas lives in extreme poverty, with less than 1.90 dollars a day. (...) In Corquín, children earn the same as adults, there is no difference in the payment per pound of coffee grapes harvested. (...) As of 2019, the National Institute of Statistics reveals that the average number of years of education in the country is eight, and the illiteracy rate is only 11%. With the expansion of COVID-19 and the closing of educational centers, the possibilities of receiving online classes for children in the Honduran mountains is reduced to zero, with no phone signal and no money to hire internet plans, working in the coffee harvest is the only possible activity."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/06/el-trabajo-infantil-que-cosecha-el-cafe-de-exportacion/>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/el-titular-del-colegio-de-abogados-pide-un-desarme-general-en-el-pais/>

07/03/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Women's Rights; Guapinol; Drug Trafficking; Corruption - Hermes; COVID-19; Elections – Journalists;

The judge Camilo Peralta opened trial against the Garífuna defenders Jennifer and Marianela Solórzano. OFRANEH and COPINH denounced that the MP did not even present proof of their alleged wrongdoing.

The hearing had already started with a negative sign when the judge denied the right to observe the hearing to national and international human rights organizations.

"Edy Tábor, defense attorney for Marianela and Jenifer Mejía Solórzano, members of the

Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (Ofraneh), denounced this Sunday that in all cases related to the issue of Garífuna lands, the Public Prosecutor's Office is always focused on benefiting the companies."

The judge further decided on conditional release for the time until the trial, but as the Honduras Solidarity Network reports, in the case of Jennifer, this is not clear yet as she is accused of an additional set of trumped up charges in addition to the first three.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1368723763710353412>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1368728223035650048>

<https://criterio.hn/en-casos-de-defensa-del-territorio-mp-siempre-esta-enfocado-en-beneficiar-a-las-empresas-edy-tabora/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1368581977868296194>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1368762472987979778>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/fuerte-militarizacion-durante-audiencias-contras-defensoras-garifunas/>

"The National Women Human Rights Defender Networks in Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico demand a March 8 without repression and patriarchal violence. "It is for all these reasons that this March 8, as every day of the year, we women demand to live free of violence and to be able to express ourselves, meet and demonstrate without fear. We demand that our States recognize and take responsibility for the serious situation of violence and inequality that women face, and avoid any act of defamation or other form of violence against us."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/03/exigimos-un-8-de-marzo-sin-represion-ni-violencias-patriarcales/>

This week, the trial of the criminalized Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez will continue.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/este-lunes-se-reanuda-el-juicio-oral-y-publico-del-defensor-del-ambiente-jeremias-martinez/>

Today, the trial against Geovanny Daniel Fuentes Ramírez starts in the US. It will be an interesting week. "For this reason, to mention Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez in the country is to talk about the man who has high-ranking government officials "in check. He is the man whom many military and police officers protected, provided weapons, police and military clothing, and whom they now fear. Behind the scenes they expect their names to resound in the courtrooms of New York because it is information that began to be gathered many years ago."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/07/los-testimonios-e-historias-en-el-juicio-de-geovanny-fuentes-que-ponen-en-jaque-al-gobierno-de-honduras/>

"The Hermes case, presented by Uferco, seems to be the last link to understand the structure with which Juan Orlando Hernandez came to power through welfare and media control; an embezzlement of more than 122 million lempiras that has as its main link the late minister and sister of the president, Hilda Hernandez."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/07/vehiculos-sandwiches-y-periodistas-el-desfalco-de-hilda-hernandez/>

There are 173'729 COVID-19 cases and 4260 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-173-mil-729-contagios-de-covid-19-y-cuatro-mil-260-decesos/>

With the primary elections taking place on March 14, Honduras now enters the one week before the election without campaigning.

<https://tiempo.hn/silencio-electoral-partidos-politicos-manana/>

"Article19 and the Association for Democracy and Human Rights, ASOPODEHU, held a talk with networks of journalists from different parts of the country, on the forms of security they can have in an atypical and adverse electoral context, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, knowing the risks and threats from previous experiences."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/redes-de-periodistas/item/3105-el-proximo-14-de-marzo-periodistas-temen-violencia-en-cobertura-de-elecciones-primarias-en-honduras>

08/03/21

Honduras Daily: 8M; OFRANEH - IACtHR; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Extradition; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Corruption; Elections; Corruption;

During yesterday's International Women's Day, "different organizations promoting and defending women's rights have raised their voices in protest in various regions of the country, demanding that the Honduran government respond to the violence they face without the authorities curbing the abuses."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/mujeres-demandan-respuestas-al-ministerio-publico-ante-denuncias-por-violencia-y-asesinatos/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-6427-femicidios-entre-2005-y-noviembre-de-2020-segun-el-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondurenas-conmemoran-el-dia-internacional-de-la-mujer-exigiendo-justicia-por-femicidios/>

"Judge Camilo Peralta ruled that second set of charges against Garifuna Jenifer M. Solorzano will go to trial. She's being accused of forced displacement & conditionally released thanks to the permanent demands & presence of Garifuna communities outside" (see also previous days). OACNUDH is accompanying the case.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1368896663834693636>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1368928923204128770>

This most recent case was also picked up by the Inter-American Human Rights System. "Joel Hernández, representative of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR and Rapporteur for Honduras, explained that the resolution issued in 2015 by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights was not complied with, and that the problem remains the same for the Garifuna communities, so he notes with concern the arrest of two women defenders members of OFRANEH and the situation of insecurity of the population of that ethnic group."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3106-cidh-solicita-a-la-corteidh-declarar-incumplimiento-de-resoluciones-por-parte-del-estado-de-honduras>

The trial against Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez started in New York yesterday and it was widely reported on in Honduras, even by corporate media outlets.

It was made public that

The Pro Honduras Network published a summary of the first day, today it will continue with the first witness presented by the prosecutor.

JOH reacted to the trial with a long Twitter thread once again threatening to stop international anti-drug trafficking cooperation.

The political analyst Tomás Andino Mencía reflects on a post-JOH Honduras and the role of the coming primary elections. "However, it is a mistake to believe that the problem is reduced to Juan Orlando and that the solution only consists in his leaving the government. That is a necessary but not sufficient condition. JOH is the visible head of a larger, multi-headed beast that we call narco-dictatorship. This is a group of people and institutions that cohere to oppress us and that JOH has so far coordinated. (...) But there is a particularly dangerous species of this ilk; they are the political leaders who, in one way or another, have benefited from the sweetness of power and its dirty business. They are especially dangerous because they have the possibility of perpetuating this state of affairs from the power of a government. There are not only in the National Party, there are also wolves disguised in sheep's clothing, linked to the Power and enemies of the People in parties of the so-called "opposition"."

<https://proceso.hn/inicia-juicio-contrafuentes-ramirez-y-genera-expectativa-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1448064-466/honduras-narcotrafico-geovanny-fuentes-juicio-joh-testigo>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/08/lista-de-politicos-y-funcionarios-de-interes-para-el-desarrollo-del-juicio-contrageovanny-fuentes/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1368957296018157571>

<https://proceso.hn/alianza-contraelnarcotrafico-colapsaria-sicapos-ganan-beneficios-en-eeuu-advierterhernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-dilema-del-14-de-marzo-a-favor-o-en-contrade-los-candidatos-de-la-narcodictadura/>

The Supreme Court admitted two new extradition requests for two Hondurans, one from the US, one from Panama.

<https://proceso.hn/pleno-de-magistrados-de-la-csj-designa-jueces-naturales-para-conocer-dos-nuevas-solicitudes-de-extradicion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/solicitudes-extradicion-csj-dos-eeuu-panama/>

There are 174'243 COVID-19 cases and 4283 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-acerca-al-ano-de-pandemia-con-174-mil-casos-positivos-y-4-mil-283-decesos-porcovid/>

Honduras has the lowest vaccination rate in Central America.

Last week, the JOH regime made big announcements about the purchase of the Sputnik V vaccine. Now, El Heraldo reports that a contract has not been signed yet.

The regulation agency Arsa has now also approved Covishield, the vaccine by AstraZeneca for Honduras.

Honduran media outlets further report that more vaccine doses can be expected through COVAX, 139'000 instead of 48'000.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/08/honduras-es-el-pais-de-centroamerica-con-menos-vacunados-contrael-covid-19/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1448169-466/vacuna-rusa-honduras-coronavirus-pandemia>

<https://proceso.hn/arsa-autoriza-uso-de-la-vacuna-astrazeneca/>

<https://proceso.hn/unas-139-mil-200-dosis-de-la-vacuna-de-astrazeneca-estaran-disponibles-para-honduras-en-marzo-reconfirma-oms/>

"For Ismael Zepeda, economist of the Social Forum for the Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras, Fosdeh, when one sees the direct execution of the pandemic, it is around six billion

lempiras, which means that it is a much lower amount than the amount approved by the National Congress through loans and other disbursements."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/corrupcion-en-pandemia-es-de-miles-de-millones-fosdeh/>

CNE councilmember Rixi Moncada revealed that 54'000 Hondurans were left out of the electoral census due to lack of verification by the RNP.

Criterio published another article on the lack of transparency in party financing. "Despite evidence of looting of public funds for campaign expenses and allegations of financing from drug trafficking, no party or politician has been charged in the courts."

<https://confidencial.hn.com/cne-reconoce-que-54-mil-hondurenos-enrolados-no-fueron-incluidos-en-el-censo-electoral/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/08/consejera-electoral-denuncia-que-54-mil-hondurenos-enrolados-no-podran-votar-en-primarias/>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalizacion-politica-en-honduras-una-mision-que-no-logra-despegar/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office, through the Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Fight against Public Corruption, FETCCOP, filed today Monday before the First Court of Appeals, a request for Pre-Trial against the former mayor of the city of La Ceiba and current councilman Carlos Alejandro Aguilar Ponce, who is accused of the crimes of Falsification of Public Documents, Violation of the Duties of Public Officials and Fraud to the detriment of the Public Administration."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/solicitan-antejuicio-contr-excalcalde-de-la-ceiba-por-investigacion-de-actos-de-corrupcion/>

09/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; Guapinol; Campesines; Military Police; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Work, Agriculture; Prisons; Elections; and Corruption Won't Be Defeated with Silence

Yesterday was Day 2 in the trial against Geovanny David Fuentes Ramirez. Aqui Abajo publishes very helpful daily summaries of the trial. "GFR gave President Juan Orlando Hernandez \$25,000 in cash, and access to his cocaine lab. In exchange, the President agreed to shield him from prosecution "with help from the Attorney General [Oscar Chinchilla]." (words of US prosecutors) (...) A Honduran accountant named Jose Sanchez, who worked with a business used by GFR to launder drug money, will testify about GFR's meeting with Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and witnessing GFR bribe a Honduran judge, amongst other details. (...) Honduran agro-industrial businessman, Fuad Juan Jarufe Larach, is GFR's business mentor that made contributions to President Juan Orlando Hernandez's political campaign. He introduced GFR to the President, the Vice President, and members of the Honduran military."

Jeff Ernst is also covering the trial and he highlights that Fuentes brother, Cristhian Fuentes, is running for Congress for the political movement inside the National Party close to JOH.

Day 1: <https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/9/day-one-trial-against-honduran-geovanny-david-fuentes-ramirez>

Day 2: <https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/9/day-two-trial-against-honduran-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez-business-partner-of-honduran-president-juan-orlando-herandez>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1369522125820858368>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/new-york-prosecutor-says-accused-drug-traffickers-business-thrived-with-protection-of-president-of-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/negocio-de-drogas-de-geovanny-fuentes-prospero-con-ayuda-de-juan-herandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2748-honduras-acusacion-de-fiscalia-de-new-york-afirma-ante-juez-el-es-culpable>

<https://proceso.hn/el-presidente-hondureno-en-el-centro-de-juicio-contr-supuesto-narco-en-eeuu/>

And more bad news is on the way for JOH from the US. State Department spokesman Ned Price seemed reluctant to call JOH a partner of the US. In the press briefing on March 8, on the question if JOH is a partner, he answered. "Look, we understand that we need to work constructively with countries in the Northern Triangle. I would hate to put – I would be hesitant to put a label on it. I think what we understand and what we are confident in is that unless we make progress on these underlying challenges, we're not going to make progress on the challenge of irregular migration." A day later, Price became more explicit. "Any leader, I think it is fair to say, not prepared to combat the corruption won't be in a position to enjoy a close partnership with the United States."

<https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-march-8-2021/#post-224701-HONDURAS>

<https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-march-9-2021/#post-225070-HONDURAS>

<https://criterio.hn/departamento-de-estado-lo-que-ocurre-en-honduras-no-esta-libre-de-consecuencias-en-ee-uu/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-advierte-que-no-colaborara-con-presidente-hondureno-por-la-corrupcion/>

This Friday, a ruling is expected in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez.

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with human rights defender and wife of Jeremías, Lidia Ramos



Simeón.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1369436734870654985>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3107-esposa-de-jeremias-martinez-lo-unico-que-el-ha-hecho-es-decir-que-la-minera-ha-perjudicado-el-rio>

"The Sentencing Court of Comayagua rescheduled yesterday the oral and public trial for three peasants of La Paz, accused of usurpation, due to the non-appearance of the witnesses of the Public Prosecutor's Office. The peasants who remain criminalized for being in the process of land recovery, are Luis Alonso Tejeda Orellana and Yesenia Yamileth Padilla, and a third person who recently died of a terminal illness."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/por-falta-de-testigos-del-mp-tribunal-de-sentencias-suspende-juicio-de-campesinos-de-la-paz/>

Two members of the Military Police will go on trial accused of homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/174-marzo2021/7266-por-homicidio-y-abuso-de-autoridad-van-a-juicio-miembros-de-la-pmop>

There are 174'508 COVID-19 cases and 4297 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-174-mil-508-contagios-de-covid-19-y-cuatro-mil-297-decesos/>

Another health worker, the nurse Mayra Vallecillo, died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/pierde-la-vida-por-covid-19-enfermera-que-laboraba-en-triaje-de-choloma/>

Honduras now has signed the contract to buy 4.2 million doses of Sputnik V. And they continue to promise that the vaccine doses through Covax are just about to be delivered.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-y-rusia-firman-contrato-para-adquirir-4-2-millones-de-dosis-de-la-vacuna-sputnik-v/>

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-honduras-esta-semana-llegaran-vacunas-covax/>

Female unemployment has increased more during the pandemic than male unemployment.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-de-la-covid-19-ha-aumentado-el-desempleo-femenino-en-honduras/>

CESPAD published a new report on poverty and the agricultural sector. "When the food crisis is promoted and reinforced by Executive Orders".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/09/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-honduras-cuando-la-crisis-alimentaria-se-promueve-y-se-refuerza-desde-los-decretos-ejecutivos/>

At least three inmates suffered gun wounds during a riot at the prison in El Porvenir, Francisco Morazán.

OACNUDH expressed concern.

<https://proceso.hn/tres-privados-de-libertad-resultan-heridos-de-bala-tras-reyerta-en-penal-el-porvenir-fm/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1369434818447040519>

"With the approval of the president of the CNE Ana Paola Hall and the owner Rixi Moncada, it was decided to approve the printing of the electoral booklets with special lists of the people who were left out of the electoral census [see yesterday]. On the other hand, leaders of the National Party described the decision as illegal. The representative of the Liberal Party in the governing body of the elections assured that the decision was made based on the right of suffrage of the people and not prioritizing administrative divisions. Like Hall, the representative of Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Rixi Moncada, pointed out that the action is legal because the interests of three sick councilors who defend the position of the National Party should not take precedence over the inalienable right to vote."

The National Party even accused Moncada for abuse of authority at the MP.

The results of Sunday's primaries won't be known the same day, but only on Monday.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/09/hall-y-moncada-aprueban-cuadernillos-electorales-partido-nacional-senala-que-es-ilegal/>

<https://proceso.hn/inicia-traslado-de-material-electoral-en-primeros-cinco-departamentos/>

<https://proceso.hn/pn-denuncia-ante-el-mp-por-abuso-de-autoridad-a-concejera-rix-moncada/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-que-resultados-electorales-se-divulgaran-hasta-el-lunes/>

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<https://criterio.hn/la-corrupcion-no-se-combate-con-el-silencio-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/cuando-los-politicos-se-portan-mal-deben-irse-a-su-casa-manifiesta-ex-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/09/cna-llama-a-no-votar-por-corruptos-y-resalta-las-visibles-caras-de-la-corrupcion/>

10/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; US; UN; Environmentalism; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration; Eta; Elections – ID;

Day 3 of the trial against Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez included the testimony of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga from the Los Cachiros cartel. Ramirez worked with them and according to the testimony, "GFR had several contacts in the Cortés Department inside the Honduran National Police. When an individual working with the Cachiros cartel leader, Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga (now a government witness) was arrested during a drug shipment, GFR called the mayor of the northern city of Choloma Leopoldo Civelli, nicknamed 'Polo' [now running as a pre-candidate for Congress for the Liberal Party under Yani Rosenthal's stream. Civelli has also been accused of fraud, falsifying documents, amongst other charges]. Mayor Civelli called the police and had the worker released."

Jeff Ernst, who also covers the trial, explains that behind CC-14 (co-conspirator 14) is Ramirez' son Geovanny Fuentes Gutiérrez.

Together with David Adams, Ernst also published an article on Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga. JOH, meanwhile, reacted on his personal twitter account, on the one from the presidency, and he also let lose his bot army.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/10/day-three-trial-against-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez>

<https://proceso.hn/lider-de-cartel-implica-a-narcotraficante-hondureno-procesado-en-nueva-york/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1448702-466/juicio-geovanny-fuentes-relato-lider-cachiros>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1369625636210434048>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/narcotrafico/fiscales-en-juicio-de-geovanny-fuentes-el-supuesto-socio-narco-del-presidente-de-honduras-presentaron-miercoles-un-testigo-clave>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1369671574119387138>

[https://twitter.com/Presidencia\\_HN/status/1369841929945505792](https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1369841929945505792)

<https://twitter.com/luisassardo/status/1369817588054757384>

<https://criterio.hn/mientras-joh-tuitea-su-inocencia-nexos-de-policia-hondurena-con-narcotrafico-son-evidenciados-en-nueva-york/>

<https://criterio.hn/casa-presidencial-dice-que-fotos-utilizadas-en-juicio-a-giovanny-fuentes-son-mal-intencionadas-y-enganosas/>

<https://proceso.hn/presidencia-de-honduras-dice-que-fotos-que-surgen-en-corte-de-ny-son-mal->

[intencionadas/](#)

Yesterday, I also linked to statements made by State Department press speaker Ned Price during the daily press briefings. Now, JOH's presidential secretary Ebal Díaz unbelievably claims that the Biden administration called them to apologize for the statements made...

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/10/ebal-diaz-revela-que-ee-uu-ya-se-disculpo-con-honduras-por-declaraciones-de-portavoz-diplomatico/>

An article by the Los Angeles Times includes further bad news for the JOH regime. "Weeks after earmarking \$4 billion in U.S. aid for Central America, the Biden administration is fine-tuning its plans and sharply limiting how much money will go directly to the governments of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, a senior administration official told the Los Angeles Times. Roberta Jacobson, Biden's senior official for southwest border affairs and an expert on immigration, said in an interview that the \$4 billion will be subject to strict — but untested — conditions on recipients, based on measures of anticorruption efforts and good governance. (...) "We have a long history of sending aid to Central American governments that failed to produce lasting, positive results," Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) said in a statement to The Times. "If we are going to send more U.S. tax dollars to those governments, they need trustworthy leaders who want to help their people, rather than to stay in power and enrich themselves.""

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-03-10/biden-to-restrict-u-s-aid-to-central-american-governments-set-new-conditions-for-money>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2754-ni-un-dolar-de-los-4-000-millones-de-eeuu-para-centroamerica-se-dara-a-presidentes>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-dice-que-ni-un-dolar-de-la-ayuda-a-centroamerica-ira-a-sus-presidentes/>

OACNUDH presented its yearly report on its work and the human rights situation in Honduras. "Restriction of civic space, excessive use of force by the police, disproportionate use of tear gas against demonstrators, journalists and human rights defenders under surveillance and threats, suspension of protection measures and delays in risk analysis in the Protection Mechanism, improper use of criminal law against human rights defenders, are part of an endless list of violations of the fundamental rights of citizens in Honduras, according to the 2020 annual report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras, OACNUDH."

[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://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3110-informe-de-oacnudh-senala-grave-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/toques-de-queda-y-detenciones-arbitrarias-en-honduras-preocupa-a-oficina-del->

[alto-comisionado-de-onu/](#)

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the struggles of two human rights and environmental defense organizations.

"Environmental defenders who have more than a year fighting against the actions of the Empresa Avícola el Cortijo, in the city of Tegucigalpa, denounced that it is polluting the Choluteca River with the discharge of dirty water without any sanction from the State health institutions. Christopher Castillo, general coordinator of the Alternativa de Reivindicación Comunitaria y Ambientalista de Honduras ARCAH, explained that the processor was installed in 2017, although the farm in general is more than 20 years old, the problem is that it affects five communities with bad odors and now they are dumping waste into the Rio Grande Choluteca, something that not only that industry does." The second article looks at illegal logging on indigenous territory in La Paz.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3109-segun-denuncia-arcah-rio-choluteca-esta-agonizando-por-la-contaminacion-de-empresa-procesadora-de-pollo>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3108-indigenas-y-campesinos-exigen-cancelacion-total-de-planes-de-manejo-que-están-dejando-un-desastre-ambiental>

There are 175'442 COVID-19 cases and 4301 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/suben-a-175442-los-contagios-por-covid-19-en-honduras-y-a-4301-los-muertos/>

"After delays in the acquisition of vaccines against COVID-19 and amidst criticism for the handling of the pandemic, Honduras reached an agreement with Russia for the purchase of the Sputnik V, but doubts persist about the transparency of the process."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/10/retrasos-en-la-compra-de-vacunas-mantienen-a-honduras-expuesta-a-mas-contagios-y-posibles-actos-de-corrupcion/>

"According to a study by the National Forum for Migration in Honduras (Fonamih) and Oxfam Honduras, currently 8.5% of the country's population, more than 824,000 Hondurans, have been forced to emigrate, forced by violence, misery, inequality and corruption, among other causes. However, the report "Culture of Banishment", prepared by Oxfam and Fosdeh, reveals that as of 2019 there are 1.2 million Hondurans living in the United States alone."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2753-mas-de-800-mil-hondurenos-viven-en-exilio>

The JOH regime presented its reconstruction plans yesterday in reaction to last year's hurricanes Eta and Iota. The first phase will cost 19 billion Lempiras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/19-mil-millones-de-lempiras-invertira-gobierno-en-primera-fase-de-reconstruccion-nacional/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-invertira-l-19-mil-millones-en-primera-fase-de-reconstruccion-nacional-anuncia-ministro-madero/>

"The former Attorney General of the Constitution, René Adán Tomé, asked this Wednesday the authorities of the National Electoral Council (CNE) to disqualify for apparent acts of corruption the presidential aspirants of the Liberal Party Yani Rosenthal Hidalgo and Ángel Darío Banegas and Mauricio Oliva and Nasry Asfura of the National Party."

Criterio continues to cover the topic of electoral finances and its obscure sources.

<https://criterio.hn/seguira-el-narcotrafico-y-la-corrupcion-financiando-las-campanas-politicas-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/10/abogado-pide-al-cne-inhabilite-a-cuatro-aspirantes-presidenciales-por-aparentes-actos-de-corrupcion/>

Yesterday, four days before the primary elections, the National Person Registry (RNP) also started rolling out the new identity cards. Initially it was planned to have them ready for the elections, but now it is still possible to go to vote with the old ID. Criterio reports on several problems with the roll out.

Luis Santos, no other than the head of UFERCO, also denounced on Twitter that when he went to sign up, he was registered with an address from 20 years ago.

<https://criterio.hn/desorden-e-ineficiencia-en-entrega-del-nuevo-documento-de-identificacion/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1369448836792455168>

11/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; UN; Corruption - Pandora; COVID-19 - Corruption, Economy; Elections - Women, Journalists; Violence – Women;

On Day 4 of the trial against Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez, Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga continued his testimony. The most head lines made his statement regarding the bribes paid by Los Cachiros. "Los Cachiros bribed President Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH) with \$250,000 in approx. 2012. The money was given to JOH's sister, Hilda Hernandez. Los Cachiros paid Manuel Zelaya in approx. 2016, \$500,000 asking him to name their cousin as the Minister of Security. Also, Los Cachiros paid \$500,000 to current Vice President Ricardo Alvarez, at the time he was campaigning to be President, and also paid \$50,000 to Tony Hernandez (JOH's brother)."

Former president Zelaya denied the allegations and said he would go to the US if requested by US authorities. Ricardo Álvarez also denied having received bribes.

Nasralla once again reacted to the events in the US by calling for a transition government.

The Patriot Movement calls for "the departure of the heads of the three branches of government, the replacement of the military high command, the departure of the Attorney General and the Procurator General of the Republic".

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/11/day-four-trial-against-honduran-drug-trafficker-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/honduran-president-was-sent-250-000-bribe-from-drug-traffickers-according-to-witness-in-new-york-trial>

<https://criterio.hn/en-juicio-contra-geovanny-fuentes-jefe-de-cachiros-revela-que-dio-sobornos-a-joh-ricardo-alvarez-y-mel-zelaya/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1448965-466/honduras-cachiro-narcotrafico-joh-mel-ricardo-alvarez-pepe-lobo>

<https://proceso.hn/exlider-de-cartel-hondureno-dice-en-eeuu-que-soborno-al-presidente-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/mel-zelaya-y-ricardo-alvarez-dicen-que-no-recibieron-sobornos-del-exlider-del-cartel-de-los-cachiros/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2756-honduras-mel-pide-a-joh-ir-juntos-a-declarar-ante-fiscales>

<https://criterio.hn/nasralla-pide-un-gobierno-de-transicion-tras-nuevos-senalamientos-en-corte-de-nueva-york/>

<https://criterio.hn/movimiento-patria-pide-salida-de-los-tres-poderes-del-estado-y-un-gobierno-de-transicion/>

In the US, Senator Patrick Leahy published a statement warning that "Democracy in Central America is facing existential threats. (...) In Honduras, corruption permeates the highest ranks of government, civil society activists are under attack, and the justice system is complicit in perpetuating lawlessness and impunity. (...) Without good governance, no amount of foreign aid will fundamentally change this dynamic. The Biden Administration and the U.S. Congress should reassess our relations with these governments that are the antithesis of credible partners, and in doing so reaffirm our strong commitment to defending the rights of the Central American people and the principles of government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-of-senator-patrick-leahy-central-american-democracy-faces-existential-threats>

<https://twitter.com/SenatorLeahy/status/1370036411588546573?s=20>

OACNUDH published a 30min video of their presentation of their annual report on the human rights situation in Honduras (see also yesterday).

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

<https://oacnudh.hn/traduccion-no-oficial-en-espanol-del-informe/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/informe-de-onu-revela-las-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-que-se-presentaron-en-honduras-el-2020/>

"Peasant women filed a writ of amparo against the resolution of the Court of Appeals that issued a definitive dismissal in favor of twenty-two of the thirty-eight defendants in the Pandora case, which involves the diversion of millions of dollars of public funds destined for the agricultural sector to finance political parties in Honduras. The action was brought by the Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women (CODIMCA), accompanied by the National Center of Rural Workers (CNTC), the Anti-Corruption Coalition, the Justice for the Peoples Law Firm and the Center for the Study of Democracy (Cespad), who filed the action before the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ)."

The Coalition Anti-Corruption did the same thing.

<https://criterio.hn/campesinas-presentan-recurso-de-amparo-contra-resolucion-que-dejo-en-libres-a-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/11/coalicion-anticorrupcion-pide-revocacion-de-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-22-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

Yesterday, one year ago, Honduras had its first detected COVID-19 case. Now, there are 176'427 COVID-19 cases and 4311 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Home Association, meanwhile, reported yesterday that they have documented more than 10'300 deaths due to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-contabiliza-mas-de-176-mil-casos-confirmados-de-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/funerarias-hondurenas-reportan-mas-de-10-mil-300-decesos-por-covid-19-en-un-ano-de-pandemia/>

ConfidencialHN reports how one year into the pandemic, officials linked to acts of corruption continue with impunity.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-un-ano-de-covid-19-funcionarios-vinculados-en-actos-de-corrupcion-continuan-en-impunidad/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/11/corrupcion-y-desaciertos-resaltan-tras-cumplirse-un-ano-de-la-pandemia-del-covid-19/>

According to the Tegucigalpa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, unemployment doubled during the pandemic and there are two million Hondurans unemployed or in informal employment.



<https://proceso.hn/honduras-duplico-cifra-de-desempleo-durante-un-ano-de-pandemia/>

Two days before the primary elections, electoral material is still being shipped around.

<https://proceso.hn/a-dos-dias-de-las-primarias-sigue-la-distribucion-de-material-electoral/>

Criterio reports on the challenges faced by women running for office in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-de-honduras-luchan-en-desventaja-por-conquistar-el-poder-politico/>

25 journalists are running in Sunday's primary election to become congressional candidates.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-25-periodistas-y-afines-buscan-una-curul-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

The Ministry of Security claims that the homicide rate has decreased by 5.1% the first weeks of 2021 compared to 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/los-homicidios-en-honduras-bajan-un-5-1-y-suman-654-casos-desde-enero/>

"The Honduran Forum of Political Women reported today that, in 2020 alone, more than 100,000 complaints of violence against women were filed with the various State agencies, which demonstrates the degree of vulnerability faced by women in the country."

"Gender violence influences the forced displacement of Honduran women, an invisible phenomenon that prevents us from knowing its magnitude and impact, warns a study released Thursday by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the Civil Society Group."

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-100-mil-denuncias-de-violencia-contras-las-mujeres-se-presentaron-en-2020/>

<https://proceso.hn/violencia-de-genero-obliga-a-mujeres-hondurenas-a-desplazarse-alerta-estudio/>

12/03/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Berta; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Armed Forces; Police; Hydroelectricity; Eta; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Economy; Elections - ID; and Digital Elections

The sentencing of Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez was postponed to March 17.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1370384778076286977>

COPINH published another newsletter on Berta's case.

<https://copinh.org/2021/03/newsletter-no-14-2021-5-years-demanding-and-building-justice/>

Day 5 of the trial against Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez did not take place yesterday due to a possible COVID-19 case of a family member of a juror.

Audio files of the testimony of Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga (see last two days) surfaced in Honduras. The judge Kevin Castel explained that this is illegal.

ContraCorriente takes a closer look at "the paths that remain for President Juan Orlando Hernandez" in light of the trial.

[https://twitter.com/Prohn\\_Honduras/status/1370403795168063489](https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1370403795168063489)

<https://criterio.hn/juez-castel-prohibe-grabaciones-tras-filtracion-de-audios-en-juicio-contra-geovanny-fuentes/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/12/juez-kevin-castel-se-pronuncia-ante-audio-del-juicio-filtrado-en-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/12/los-caminos-que-le-quedan-al-presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

A part from JOH and other politicians, the Armed Forces were also highlighted in this week's trial. Its head, Tito Livio Moreno, reacted by saying that "if one of its members is found to be involved in organized crime and drug trafficking, he or she will be brought to justice".

<https://confidencialhn.com/tito-livio-moreno-cualquier-miembro-involucrado-en-ilicitos-sera-puesto-a-las-ordenes-de-los-tribunales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/12/jefe-de-ffaa-afirma-que-miembros-vinculados-al-crimen-seran-llevado-a-la-justicia/>

Two members of the police force were sent to pre-trial detention accused of murder.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/174-marzo2021/7289-a-prision-dos-policias-implicados-en-la-masacre-de-tres-personas-en-la-aldea-el-cedral-el-paraiso>

"The Lenca Comunal Mejocote Indigenous Council, in Gracias, Lempira, has denounced that through the president of the Water Board, they are trying to build a hydroelectric dam that puts the Lenca corridor at risk; in addition, they have referred that once again they are failing to comply with ILO Convention 169."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2758-honduras-urgente-lencas-denuncian-imposicion-de-hidroelectrica-en-gracias>

The UN in Honduras published a new report on the situation in Honduras after the hurricanes Eta and Iota last November.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/116020-informe-de-situacion-no9-honduras-tormentas-tropicales-eta-e-iota>

There are 177'168 COVID-19 cases and 4325 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-177-mil-168-contagios-y-4-mil-325-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Today, the first batch of vaccine doses through the Covax mechanism are supposed to arrive in Honduras. Health workers demand to be vaccinated.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/enfermeras-y-enfermeros-exigen-ser-vacunados-contra-la-covid-19-la-proxima-semana/>

"Alejandro Kaffati, economist and researcher of the Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh), estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic in Honduras has caused losses of seven and a half billion dollars in economic losses."

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-ha-dejado-cerca-de-siete-mil-500-millones-de-dolares-en-perdidas-segun-el-fosdeh/>

Starting yesterday and until Tuesday, the constitutional restrictions in place for almost a year are suspended due to the primary elections.

MADJ published a "call to vote without becoming accomplices of those who have assaulted the Honduran State".

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) sees the starting electoral cycle as "the peaceful way to change the destiny of Honduras, which has been hit by drug trafficking and corruption". In the past, it did not turn out this way.

Radio Progreso looked at the statements and promises made by some candidates. "Honduras is a few hours away from the primary elections in which the final candidates for various elected positions will be chosen. At the closing of the campaigns, politicians of the National, Liberal and Libre parties, took advantage of the occasion to spread demagoguery, lies and superficial promises." Apart from this, there is also the problem of still unclear "rules of the game".

And last but not least, the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) has already shown in a first case that it is without teeth.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/desde-hoy-hasta-el-martes-no-hay-toque-de-queda-tampoco-restriccion-de-la-circulacion/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2021/03/12/resistir-al-fraude-electoral/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1370516361278021632>

<https://proceso.hn/proceso-electoral-sera-la-via-pacifica-de-sacar-honduras-de-la-corrupcion-y-el-narcotrafico-cna/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/entrevistas-categoria/el-voto-debe-ser-una-decision-personal-y-soberana/>

<https://hurgandoenlabasura.radioprogreso.hn/2021/03/12/mentiras-y-promesas-superficiales-la-constante-de-politicos-en-sus-cierres-de-campana/>

<https://criterio.hn/reglas-del-juego-tardias-y-confusas-para-las-elecciones-del-domingo/>

<https://criterio.hn/caos-en-elecciones-primarias-es-responsabilidad-de-politicos-que-no-aprobaron-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2759-honduras-justicia-electoral-no-tocara-a-criminales-del-voto>

The RNP suspended for the time being the handing out of the new identity card.

<https://proceso.hn/rnp-suspende-temporalmente-entrega-de-nueva-identidad/>

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<https://proceso.hn/redes-sociales-plataformas-electorales-en-tiempos-de-pandemia/>

13/03/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Film Festival; Elections; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Armed Forces; and Diplomatic Nepotism

An urgent action calls for the immediate release of the criminalized Guapinol defenders as one of them, with preexisting conditions, tested positive to COVID-19.

OACNUDH also expressed concern.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/urgent-action-immediately-release-guapinol-defenders-in-high-risk>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1370934805534232579>

The Honduran documentary La Lucha Sigue will premier at the Building Movements in Defense of Life film festival. "This film festival is a celebration of World Water Day and the brave communities that put their lives on the line to defend it. Each film will be followed by a community specific panel with fierce Indigenous and Black women leaders. A large group discussion with all the women warriors together will close out the festival."

<https://www.mutualaidmedia.com/film-festival>

The primary elections take place today in Honduras. The UN published a press release calling for transparent and fair elections.

COFADEH is not so hopeful. "The mood leading up to Sunday is not the best, because the waters are rough. And because we are going to stand in line without vaccination against the pandemic. And because we will open a huge ballot full of faces of people under public questioning for corruption, for money laundering, for drug trafficking and other organized crimes. And because the ballot boxes are under the custody of the armed forces, which have facilitated the transportation of cocaine and other drugs."

The Episcopal Conference of Honduras asked Hondurans in a press release not to vote for candidates marked by corruption and drug trafficking.

Focusing in on primary candidates for the presidency, Criterio shows how difficult it will be to comply with the demand of the Episcopal Conference.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/116195-comunicado-del-sistema-de-las-naciones-unidas-sobre-elecciones-primarias-en-honduras>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/aqui-no-pasa-nada/>

<https://criterio.hn/no-votar-por-candidatos-marcados-por-el-narcotrafico-y-la-corrupcion-pide-conferencia-episcopal/>

<https://criterio.hn/corrupcion-narcotrafico-lavado-de-dinero-y-acoso-sexual-marca-a-precandidatos-presidenciales/>

There are 177'832 COVID-19 cases and 4331 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-177-mil-832-infectados-y-4-mil-331-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

Honduras received 48'000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through the COVAX mechanism. 91'200 should follow in the coming weeks.

[https://twitter.com/OPSOMS\\_Honduras/status/1370805432923590656](https://twitter.com/OPSOMS_Honduras/status/1370805432923590656)

<https://honduras.un.org/es/116191-las-primeras-vacunas-del-mecanismo-covax-llegan-honduras>

The MP issued an arrest warrant against a member of the Armed Forces accused of femicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/174-marzo2021/7301-requerimiento-fiscal-contramilitar-acusado-de-femicidio-en-intibuca>

"Special Missions made up of married couples; brothers and fathers appointed within the same embassies; fathers inheriting their posts to their children, and recognized members of the party of

the current government (National Party), are among other characteristics of a large part of the personnel that make up the Foreign Service in Honduras."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/13/el-familion-en-el-servicio-exterior-de-honduras/>

14/03/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - ID; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration;

As announced by the National Electoral Council (CNE), the official results of the primary elections would not be known the day of the elections. According to the newest statements by the CNE, the final results at the presidential level will be known in 5 days.

But exit polls give us something to work with. According to them, Xiomara Castro clearly won the primary for Libre, Nasry Asfura (currently facing corruption charges) won the primary for the National Party, and Yani Rosenthal (convicted drug trafficker) less clearly won for the Liberal Party. Luis Zelaya, Liberal pre-candidate for the Liberal Party who had run in 2017, denounced fraud inside the Liberal primaries.

In the National Party, both Asfura and current president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, declared themselves the winner.

Additionally, the "National Party published a communique that many of their supporters weren't able to vote. They blame National Electoral Council & National Registry of Individuals & will name a special commission to investigate #Honduras A sign that Nat'l party has lost support?"

Various news outlets reported on irregularities such as the lack of voting material, people who were not listed in the census, etc.

ConexiHon listed some incidents in which journalists were hindered from doing their work.

The lack of same day results is also widely criticized. "The National Electoral Council (CNE), with all the technology and enough time for a transparent process and without the vices of the past, has not been able to manage internal elections that respond to the urgency of democracy for the people and creates uncertainty because there will be no official data until the electoral suitcases arrive. In this context, the "exit polls" make their way to manipulate results and popular perception, this time the political crisis is installed from the internal elections, regrets the former electoral official, Enrique Ortez Sequeira."

<https://proceso.hn/no-estamos-en-silencio-estamos-trabajando-dice-consejera-hall-que-promete-resultados-para-la-posteridad/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1449769-508/resultados-proyecciones-elecciones-honduras-2021>

<https://proceso.hn/xiomara-tito-y-yani-encabezan-tendencias-no-oficiales-presidenciales/>

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-se-perfila-como-la-candidata-presidencial-de-libre/>

<https://criterio.hn/luis-zelaya-denuncia-fraude-en-el-partido-liberal/>

<https://criterio.hn/nasry-asfura-y-mauricio-oliva-se-declaran-ganadores-en-el-partido-nacional/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1371257625069768707>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1831-irregularidades-generan-dudas-sobre-transparencia-de-elecciones-primarias-2021-en-honduras>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/con-incidentes-se-celebran-elecciones-primarias-en-colon/>

<https://criterio.hn/incertidumbre-punetazos-denuncias-de-fraude-e-inconsistencias-destacan-en-elecciones-primarias-en-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1832-al-cierre-de-urnas-conteo-de-agresiones-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-de-prensa>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2771-otra-vez-institucion-electoral-falla-a-hondurenos>

While it was possible to vote with the previous Identity Card, Hondurans, especially young ones who recently turned 18, may not have one. Therefore, it is problematic that so far the National Person Registry (RNP) has delivered only 200'000 new identity cards.

<https://criterio.hn/solo-200000-nuevas-identidades-ha-entregado-el-rnp-a-nivel-nacional/>

There are 178'277 COVID-19 cases and 4334 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-178-mil-277-contagios-y-4-mil-334-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

Another doctor, Carlos Coello, died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/otro-galeno-pierde-la-batalla-contra-el-coronavirus-en-el-seguro-social-de-la-capital/>

"After attempting to swim across the border into the United States, a 28-year-old Honduran immigrant woman lost her life and another Honduran man was rescued by security forces in the Mexican state of Tijuana."

<https://proceso.hn/muere-migrante-hondurena-al-intentar-cruzar-la-frontera-de-eeuu-nadando/>

15/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; Elections; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals; Migration – US;

Day 6 of the Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez trial took place yesterday. The testimony by Devis Leonel Rivera Maradiaga, which began last week, came to an end and the Honduran historian Darío Euraque took over his place at the stand. The biggest headlines in Honduras made the following revelation. "Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez (GFR) told Rivera Maradiaga in a US prison that he was going to cooperate with the DEA in order to secure his release because he [GFR] had photos and videos of President Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH) receiving shipments of cocaine from Colombia at the San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa airports. According to GFR, JOH did this right in front of the DEA without the DEA knowing and JOH made fun of the DEA."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/15/day-six-trial-against-honduran-drug-trafficker-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez>

<https://criterio.hn/geovanny-fuentes-tendria-videos-de-juan-hernandez-recibiendo-cargamentos-de-drogas-segun-exjefe-de-cachiros/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1450017-466/devis-leonel-rivera-maradiaga-cachiro-geovanny-fuentes-narcotrafico-grabaciones-politicos>

InSight Crime asks if this trial would finally break US-Honduras ties. "“It seems that the US Government has decided that its relationship with JOH is untenable,” a former senior State Department official told InSight Crime on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter. Recent statements by National Security Council official Juan Gonzalez and his Obama-era counterpart Dan Restrepo “make clear that the United States has decided it won’t deal with Central American leaders who are accused of gross acts of corruption,” the official said. Those sentiments were echoed by longtime State Department official and current Southern Border Ambassador Roberta Jacobson. When asked about the drug allegations against President Hernández in a White House press briefing on March 10, she said that no funds from a proposed \$4 billion assistance package for Central America would be handed over to government leaders. (...) The Biden administration, however, may be loath to completely torpedo its relationship with President Hernández, which the embattled president seems to be relying on."

Last week, a statement by JOH's presidential secretary Ebal Díaz seemed to confirmed the latest point made above by claiming that the Biden administration had called JOH to apologize for statements made (see last week). This seemed quite odd and back in the US, at the daily press briefings at the State Department someone asked if this really took place. Ned Price, the Department Spokesperson, more or less denied it.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/drug-trial-us-honduras-ties/>

<https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-march-11-2021/#post-225613-HONDURAS>

While it had been known that the announcement of the final results of the primary election would take some time, the waiting has many Honduras nervous. It did not help that the promised projections by the National Electoral Council (CNE) did not start yesterday.



Now they say that the first results will be made public between 11pm Monday and 2am Tuesday, i.e. more or less at the time of writing this e-mail.

But the final results won't be know for even longer than initially stated (5 days) as the Armed Forces announced it will take them one week to transfer all the ballots to the capital.

Former TSE representative (the body replaced by the CNE) Enrique Ortez called the primaries "the worst in the history of Honduras".

It is clear that the long uncertainty allows for new forms of manipulation as Reporteros de Investigación highlights. "People paid by the pre-candidates Nasry Asfura and Yani Rosenthal manipulate public opinion through electronic media to influence the results of the elections in Honduras, says the organization Laboratorio Ciudadano."

The National Party, meanwhile, is already preparing the explanation of an expected lower voter turnout for them - they claim that their followers could not vote blaming the CNE and the National Person Registry (RNP).

At the Liberal Party, the fight between Rosenthal and Zelaya continues.

Lastly, Savador Nasralla is thinking about a new alliance.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/03/15/24-horas-de-silencio-y-oscuridad-del-cne/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1450090-508/resultados-elecciones-internas-honduras-cne-ganadores-perdedores-2021>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/1450040-410/resultados-elecciones-primarias-cne-candidatos-ganadores-conteo-voto->

<https://tiempo.hn/ff-aa-retorno-maletas-electorales-tegucigalpa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/comicios-internos-del-14-de-marzo-2021-son-los-peores-de-la-historia-de-honduras-senalo-kike-ortez/>

<https://criterio.hn/llueven-criticas-al-cne-por-falta-de-conteo-rapido-en-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/03/15/manipulan-a-la-opinion-publica-para-cambiar-resultados-electorales/>

<https://proceso.hn/partido-nacional-denuncia-que-muchos-nacionalistas-no-pudieron-votar-y-culpa-al-cne-y-rnp/>

<https://criterio.hn/triunfo-de-luis-zelaya-es-estadisticamente-irreversible-dice-secretario-del-ccepl/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/15/en-medio-de-primarias-florece-una-nueva-alianza-politica/>

<https://criterio.hn/yani-es-bienvenido-si-quiere-apoyar-en-forma-discreta-alianza-por-el-bien-de-honduras-nasralla/>

There are 178'925 COVID-19 cases and 4360 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-anade-648-positivos-de-coronavirus-y-26-muertes-mas/>

Berta Rodríguez, a nurse, died to COVID-19.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1449994-410/muere-enfermera-auxiliar-covid-19-tegucigalpa>

The saga about the mobile hospitals continues. Irregularly purchased, arriving months to late and in a state not really fit to attend patients, one nevertheless was recently opened in Tegucigalpa. But now, a bit more than a month later, health authorities inform that no more COVID-19 patients will be treated there anymore.

<https://tiempo.hn/hospital-movil-ya-no-atendera-pacientes-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/hospital-movil-de-tegucigalpa-no-atendera-pacientes-covid-y-se-utilizara-para-aliviar-mora-quirurgica/>

In a radio interview, Silvio Carillo talks about the root causes of Honduran migration and US policy.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-830442635/the-need-to-go-to-the-source-of-the-problem-of-unaccompanied-minors-from-honduras>

16/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Extractivism - IACHR, ZEDEs; UN - UPR; Elections - Libre, HR; COVID-19 - Vaccine; Migration - US; Poverty - EU; and the Right to Food

On Day 7 in the Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez trial, Historian Darío Euraque finished his testimony and the first protected witness began to testify. Here are some of the highlights put together by Aquí Abajo. "The protected witness heard President Juan Orlando Hernandez make several shocking statements in different meetings held in the offices of the rice company, Graneros Nacionales in Choloma, including: That JOH had plans to stay in power for 25 years; had put Oscar Chinchilla as Attorney General to "protect them and to avoid charges"; and that together, Chinchilla and Mauricio Oliva (the current President of Congress) were working to amend laws in their favor. (...) On two occasions, GFR met with JOH in Graneros Nacionales and according to the witness, gave JOH two bribes: One for \$10,000 and the second for \$15,000. The witness made two copies of the videos tapes of the security cameras of one of these two meetings. He gave one to Prosecutor Marlene Banegas [murdered in October 2014] and another to Cristian Ayala [no details given about this person but could be the son of a Sub-Commissioner of the Police, Cristian Ayala Vigil, who was murdered in June 2015]."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/16/day-seven-trial-against-honduran-drug-trafficker-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/accountant-gives-explosive-testimony-of-alleged-drug-meetings-with-honduran-president>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/16/contador-revela-reuniones-de-narcotraficantes-con-el-presidente-herandez/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1450230-410/testigo-reunion-presidente-honduras-juan-orlando-herandez-geovanny-fuentes>

"In Honduras, the installation and operation of extractive projects, facilitated by Honduran legislation, has had a significant impact on the guarantee of human rights of the population; in particular, it has exposed defenders of territories and common goods to a serious situation of risk. Next Friday, March 19, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) will hold a public hearing with the participation of civil society organizations and representatives of the State to learn about this situation."

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-cidh-conocera-situacion-derechos-humanos-frente-instalacion-proyectos-extractivos-pais>

Some good news from Germany regarding the Próspera ZEDE. "TUM International, a company of the prestigious Technical University of Munich withdraws from the Próspera ZEDE, both on the island of Roatan and in La Ceiba. Responding to questions asked by the Ecumenical Office for Peace and Justice of Munich and from a German magazine, iz3w, the university declared that " on principal, TUM International GmbH withdraws from projects if there are indicators of human rights violations, like in this case." They report that they had a consulting contract with Próspera to organize an investor congress in Munich and to do a site inspection in the Próspera ZEDE project's areas in Roatán and La Ceiba. However, they will not continue collaboration with the project. According to TUM International, any publicity about an educational center or an international university in Roatán with support from the Technical University of Munich is false."

<https://www.bethgeglia.com/blog/a-munich-university-partner-withdraws-from-the-pr%C3%B3spera-zede>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/empresa-de-la-universidad-tecnica-de-munich-se-retira-de-zede-prospera-debido-a-preocupaciones-sobre-derechos-humanos/>

The UN Human Rights Council approved the Universal Periodic Review report on Honduras. The JOH regime adopted 203 out of the 223 recommendations.

But Pasos de Animal Grande rightly explains: "However, the recommendations of the two previous cycles have passed with neither pain nor glory, including resolving violence against journalists and human rights defenders, with the punishment of those responsible in order to end impunity."

Regarding other rights, there has been an enormous setback and the State has implemented a harmful policy of using criminal law to criminalize the work of defending human rights and maintains an impunity rate of more than 92 percent according to data from the National Commissioner for Human Rights, CONADEH."

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1371913159737479171>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3113-honduras-adopta-203-de-223-recomendaciones-del-consejo-de-derechos-humanos-en-materia-de-ddhh>

At the time of writing, there are still no official results published by the CNE. Again, they had announced that the final results would take longer, but partial results had been promised for early Monday.

Radio Progreso even reported that some of the equipment for counting the votes at the Infop facility in Tegucigalpa was stolen.

In a press conference, this was confirmed by the CNE as they also called on the public and the participants for patience.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2777-honduras-50-horas-despues-de-elecciones-y-aun-no-hay-resultados-oficiales>

<https://criterio.hn/hubo-intento-de-boicot-antes-de-las-elecciones-afirma-fuente-del-cne/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/se-roban-equipo-informatico-del-cne/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ante-la-falta-de-resultados-cne-pide-calma-a-la-poblacion-y-a-los-precandidatos/>

<https://criterio.hn/cne-pide-calma-y-paciencia-ante-nula-divulgacion-de-resultados-electorales/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1450298-508/elecciones-primarias-hduras-resultados-ana-paola-hall-cne-conteo-votos>

The primary elections led to a lot of party infighting, which makes sense to some extent, but it also shows the deep fissures inside the parties. The previous days, I linked to article highlighting this inside the Liberal and National Party, but it also affects Libre where former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas called herself the new general coordinator of the party. Current leader Manuel Zelaya contests this.

At the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya denounces being threatened by activists linked to the other Liberal candidate Yani Rosenthal.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vamos-a-recuperar-al-partido-libertad-y-refundacion-de-la-dictadura-y-a-honduras-de-la-narco-dictadura-maria-luisa-borjas/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/16/maria-luisa-borjas-asegura-que-destrono-a-manuel-zelaya-de-la-jefatura-de-libre/>

<https://criterio.hn/luis-zelaya-denuncia-amenazas-por-parte-de-adeptos-a-yani-roenthal/>

Also linked to the elections, Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a worrisome incident. "An exaggerated military deployment that continues to this day, and repression against the population to promote the reelection of a mayor who supports the Progelsa hydroelectric company, denounced human rights defenders in the sector, who fear a fatal outcome due to this arbitrariness."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3112-honduras-hostilidad-y-militarizacion-contra-personas-defensoras-de-ddhh-en-reitoca>

Medical experts fear that the elections and how they were organized will also lead to a further increase in corona cases.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/16/primarias-dejarian-un-saldo-mayor-de-contagios-en-los-hondurenos/>

There are 179'515 COVID-19 cases and 4373 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-590-nuevos-contagios-y-acumula-179-mil-515-casos-covid-19-y-cuatro-mil-373-decesos/>

The second batch of 92'000 COVID-19 vaccine doses through COVAX should arrive in Honduras by the end of the month.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1450244-410/honduras-donacion-mecanismo-covax-miles-vacunas-finales-marzo-pandemia-covid>

Latin America Daily Briefing put together a helpful and worrisome overview of the situation at the Mexican-US border.

<https://latinamericadailybriefing.blogspot.com/2021/03/migrant-surge-at-us-southern-border.html>

Proceso Digital reports on new project by the European Union to tackle food security in the south of Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/ue-apoya-esfuerzos-de-honduras-para-garantizar-la-seguridad-alimentaria-en-el-golfo-de-fonseca/>

"The Administrative Court of Appeals, on behalf of the State of Honduras, recognized through a court ruling the violation of the right to food and health of the Tolupan tribe of San Francisco Locomapa in the department of Yoro, northern Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/juzgado-obliga-a-municipalidad-de-yoro-garantizar-alimentacion-de-tolupanes-durante-la-emergencia-sanitaria/>

17/03/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; OFRANEH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; HR - UN; Corruption - Oliva; Elections; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals; BID;

Lets start the day with some good news. Guapinol defender has been acquitted of charges of usurpation and damages related to his defense of the Guapinol and the San Pedro rivers. But this is where the good news ends. "Despite this result, Jeremías will not be released. He and the other 7 #Guapinol water protectors still face charges. Today's result is a call to action to keep demanding freedom for the Guapinol Water Protectors and all Honduran Political Prisoners!"

On the day of the trial, OACNUDH called on the Honduran State to implement the Opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and immediately release the Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1372327832840335363>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/absuelto-defensor-del-rio-guapinol-jeremias-martinez/>

<https://proceso.hn/absuelven-a-uno-de-los-defensores-ambientales-del-caso-guapinol/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-al-estado-de-honduras-a-implementar-la-opinion-del-grupo-de-trabajo-de-naciones-unidas-sobre-la-detencion-arbitraria-y-liberar-inmediatamente-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders sent out an alert denouncing the ongoing harassment and persecution of Garífuna communities organized within OFRANEH.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/03/alerta-urgente-honduras-continua-hostigamiento-y-persecucion-contra-comunidades-organizadas-en-la-ofraneh/>

Day 8 of the Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez took place yesterday. The first protected witness finished his testimony and the second one also testified. Karen Spring continues to published great summaries of the trial. She highlights the following: "Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla was briefly mentioned again in emails between Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez (GFR) and his son while GFR was in a US jail. GFR's sons said that GFR's partners (military official 'Comanche' or Police Commissioner Martinez) told GFR's sons to talk to Chinchilla directly to see if Chinchilla can help them get the documents that GFR was urgently requesting from jail in the US." "After the government made public filings in the Tony Hernandez case, prosecutors used geographical location information extracted from GFR's phone to show that he went to the Presidential palace in at least a few occasions."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/17/day-eight-trial-against-honduran-drug-trafficker-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez>

<https://criterio.hn/geovanny-fuentes-habria-visitado-dos-veces-en-el-mismo-ano-la-casa-presidencial/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1450611-466/interrogatorio-dea-geovanny-fuentes-honduras-narcotrafico-politicos-juan-orlando-hernandez-cachiros>

<https://proceso.hn/video-geovanni-fuentes-revelo-conocer-policias-politicos-y-empresarios/>

Another important case, the one against JOH's brother Tony Hernández, may soon come to an end with the scheduled sentencing on March 23. The US prosecution asks for a life sentence.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/new-york-prosecutors-seek-life-in-prison-for-tony-hernandez-brother-of-honduran-president>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-en-nueva-york-pide-cadena-perpetua-para-tony-hernandez/>

Pasos de Animal Grande interview OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo Escribano.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3114-entrevista-con-isabel-albaladejo-escribano-representante-de-la-oficina-del-alto-comisionado-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

"The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), authorized attorney Eddy Táborá to have a copy of the judicial file of the case of the Public Prosecutor's Office against the president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva. "I was notified today that the request for a copy of this case information from the Public Ministry was accepted, in which we request a copy of the file through which an appeal for protection of President Oliva and other persons who are being investigated was processed", said Táborá to a radio station."

<https://proceso.hn/sala-de-lo-constitucional-otorga-permiso-a-eddy-tabora-para-tener-copia-del-caso-contra-mauricio-oliva/>

Tuesday night, the vote counting finally started.

And yesterday night, at 9:10pm, the first preliminary results were published by the CNE. They reflected the exit polls with Yani Rosenthal (Liberal), Nasy Asfura (National) and Xiomara Castro (Libre) in the lead.

Voices calling out fraud have not stopped.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/comenzo-el-conteo-de-votos/>

<https://proceso.hn/yani-en-pl-asfura-en-pn-y-xiomara-en-libre-lideran-en-primer-boletin-del-cne/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1450654-508/cne-votos-nulos-blancos-primeros->

[resultados-elecciones-primarias](#)

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/observadores-denuncian-que-cne-no-esta-depurando-actas-con-vicios-de-nulidad/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1450650-508/luis-zelaya-resultados-elecciones-2021-presidente>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1450595-508/elecciones-primarias-honduras-fraude-inconsistencias-cne-aspirantes>

There are 180'271 COVID-19 cases and 4390 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/los-casos-de-covid-19-ascienden-a-180-mil-271-con-756-nuevos-contagios/>

The MP reiterated after an inspection that the mobile hospitals are not really fit to attend corona patients.

<https://criterio.hn/hospitales-moviles-de-san-pedro-sula-y-choluteca-no-son-aptos-para-atender-pacientes-con-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-reitera-que-hospitales-moviles-de-tegucigalpa-y-san-pedro-sula-no-est-an-aptos-para-pacientes-covid/>

"Representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) approved a loan of US\$45 million to the Ministry of Finance for the implementation of the Digital Transformation of Honduras project."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/17/bid-aprueba-45-millones-de-dolares-a-finanzas-para-proyecto-tecnologico/>

18/03/21

Honduras Daily: WHRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDEs; Elections; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration;

"On March 12, eight years after our copañera Lilian Borjas, peasant woman, community leader, defender of land and territory faced a long judicial process plagued with irregularities and inconsistencies, the Sentencing Court of El Progreso, Yoro, ruled final dismissal for the crime of usurpation. Lilian, who is a member of the CNTC del Progreso, a member organization of the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Honduras, together with eleven members of the peasant group "Triunfo de la Bolsa", undertook a strong struggle for their territories that were irregularly granted by the State of Honduras to a privileged family in the area."



<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/03/red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-ddhh-en-honduras-logramos-el-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-la-defensora-de-la-tierra-y-territorio-lilian-borjas/>

On Day 9 of the trial against Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez the last witness testified and the government rested its case. Closing remarks are expected for today before the jurors will begin their deliberations.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/3/18/day-nine-trial-against-honduran-drug-trafficker-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez>

The sentencing of JOH's brother Tony Hernández was postponed for the ninth time, but this time only by a week to March 30.

<https://proceso.hn/postergan-por-una-semana-mas-lectura-de-sentencia-para-tony-hernandez/>

DW covers the Próspera ZEDE in Roatán and the protests against it (see also yesterday for the newest development).

<https://www.dw.com/es/honduras-soberan%C3%ADa-a-cambio-de-desarrollo-econ%C3%B3mico/a-56916122>

The CNE published its second update on the primary election results. All the tendencies stayed firm with Nasry Asfura, Yani Rosenthal and Xiomara Castro clearly in the lead.

At the National Party, Mauricio Oliva accepted his defeat to Asfura.

Luis Zelaya, meanwhile, denounces that "that the highest electoral body has in its ranks several followers of his opponent Yani Rosenthal, who hold vital positions to question the scrutiny".

At Libre, the base protests against a possible alliance with Rosenthal.

The former president of the business lobby COHEP, Juliette Handal, called the primaries "a disaster that cost the Honduran population more than 1.1 billion lempiras".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1450886-508/segundo-boletin-cne-votos-nulos-blancos-elecciones-primarias-2021>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2781-honduras-con-10-de-votos-contados-mauricio-oliva-aplaude-su-derrota>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2779-honduras-luis-zelaya-denuncia-infeccion-yanista-en-consejo-electoral>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/bases-de-libre-rechaza-intenciones-de-alianza-con-movimiento-yanista/>

<https://criterio.hn/elecciones-primarias-son-un-desastre-que-le-costo-al-pueblo-hondureno-mas-de->

[l-1100-millones/](#)

There are 180'796 COVID-19 cases and 4402 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-ascienden-a-180-mil-796/>

CESPAD published ten proposals to democratize the access to vaccines.

Mexico decommissioned fake Sputnik V vaccine doses meant for Honduras.

In Honduras itself, a UNAH professor reports that a doctor warned her that the cold-chain of the AstraZeneca vaccine is not being respected in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/03/18/honduras-10-puntos-para-democratizar-el-acceso-a-la-vacuna-contra-el-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/honduras-podria-ser-victima-de-vacunas-falsas/>

<https://criterio.hn/vacunas-sputnik-v-que-iban-en-avion-privado-hacia-san-pedro-sula-son-falsas-dice-rusia/>

<https://proceso.hn/decomisan-en-mexico-vacunas-contra-el-coronavirus-que-pretendian-llevarse-a-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncian-incumplen-cadena-de-frio-vacuna-de-astrazeneca/>

The deportation of Honduras has decreased in the first weeks of 2021 by 42.4% compared to 2020, 9974 deportations compared to 17'331.

<https://proceso.hn/la-deportacion-de-hondurenos-indocumentados-disminuye-en-42-4-en-2021/>

19/03/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Dug Trafficking - JOH, US; Elections; COVID-19; Migration - US; Coup d'état; Penitentiary System; and the New ID Card Distribution System

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces the "continuing unjust imprisonment of Jeremías Martínez. Jeremías is one of 8 defenders imprisoned for peacefully protesting the pollution of Guapinol River, a key source of drinking water for his community, by the Inversiones Los Pinares mine. Jeremías has been detained since Nov 28, 2018. On March 17 a verdict of not guilty of theft and damages was handed down by the court, but he remains in detention with the other Guapinol activists. They all face unjust charges of arson and kidnapping."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1373035876255727616>

The jurors took over yesterday in the trial against Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez and their deliberation will continue on Monday.

Back in Honduras, JOH reacted with a 14 (!) tweet-long Twitter thread on his claimed successes in fighting drug trafficking.

And how helpful was it that the police could announce the same day the seizure of 1.6 tons of cocaine...

The trial and its implication continue to be covered internationally, e.g. by The Economist and NPR. The later article focuses on the US response to the trial.

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/narcotrafico/juicio-de-geovanny-fuentes-el-empresario-acusado-de-narcotrafico-con-presidente-hondureno-pase-a-manos-del-jurado-el-viernes>

<https://proceso.hn/concluyen-alegatos-finales-en-juicio-de-presunto-narco-geovany-fuentes/>

[https://twitter.com/Presidencia\\_HN/status/1372973796035022848](https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1372973796035022848)

<https://proceso.hn/casa-presidencial-asedio-al-narcotrafico-genero-tsunami-de-testimonios-vengativos-contrahernandez-en-ny/>

<https://proceso.hn/encuentran-cargamento-de-supuesta-droga-en-colon/>

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2021/03/18/a-court-case-rocks-the-president-of-honduras>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/18/978234379/with-honduras-narco-allegations-pressure-rises-to-sanction-its-leader>

The third update by the CNE did not bring any changes and still has Yani Rosenthal, Nasry Asfura and Xiomara Castro in the lead.

Infighting at the Liberal Party continues. Enrique Ortez, who leads the "Recuperar Honduras" movement, denounces that ballots favoring Rosenthal in the west of Honduras have been altered. Luis Zelaya even claims that Rosenthal and his movement spent 500 million Lempiras to buy votes.

<https://proceso.hn/yani-nasry-y-xiomara-siguen-liderando-resultados-de-primarias/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2788-recuperar-honduras-denuncia-urnas-infladas-y-soborno-liberal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nosotros-no-gastamos-l-500-millones-en-elecciones-comprando-votos-luis-zelaya/>

There are 182'357 COVID-19 cases and 4422 confirmed deaths.

Radio Progreso looks back at one year of the pandemic in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-182-mil-357-contagios-y-4-mil-422-decesos-por-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/corrupcion-e-incapacidad-gubernamental-sobresalen-a-un-ano-de-la>

[pandemia/](#)

Nina Lakhani reports for the Guardian from the Mexican-US border. "The Texas governor has sent troops to fortify the border while advocates say the immigration numbers are being politicized." The LA Times reports on how the Biden Administration kept Trump's Title 42 policy to close the border and cut off asylum. "The Biden administration says the Trump-era policy known as Title 42, which relies on a 1944 public health statute to indefinitely close the border to "nonessential" travel, remains necessary to limit the spread of the coronavirus. At the same time, Biden officials say, migrants at the southern border still can seek protection in the United States, a right afforded to them under U.S. law. Yet since March 20, 2020, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued its order invoking Title 42, U.S. border officials have claimed unchecked, unilateral authority to summarily expel from the country hundreds of thousands of immigrant adults, families and unaccompanied minors who didn't have prior permission to enter, without due process or access to asylum — let alone testing for the coronavirus." Further south, Mexico announced to close its border to Guatemala and Belize to nonessential travel. "The Foreign Relations Department did not explain why the measure was announced now, more than a year after the start of the pandemic. But the result could help the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden handle a wave of Central American migrants reaching the U.S. border and it came on the same day the U.S. confirmed it will send 2.5 million doses of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine to Mexico."

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/18/us-mexico-immigration-border-crisis>

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2021-03-19/a-year-of-title-42-both-trump-and-biden-have-kept-the-border-closed-and-cut-off-asylum-access>

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-travel-mexico-coronavirus-pandemic-guatemala-41c66dbe3c1b37814c3e361940b3e2d5>

The former army colonel José Arnulfo Jiménez was found guilty for the assault on Channel 36 Choluta Sur during the coup d'état in 2009. "It should be recalled that the ex-military officer was found guilty for the same crime in 2014, however, his legal representatives filed a cassation appeal, which was granted and ordered the repetition of the oral and public trial."

<https://proceso.hn/vuelven-a-declarar-culpable-al-exoficial-que-asalto-canal-36-en-la-crisis-politica-de-2009/>

Nadab Elí Mejía Corea, a 28-year old inmate at the Támara prison, was found dead yesterday morning. Prison authorities announced to investigate his death.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1451072-466/inp-muerte-reo-carcel-tamara-honduras>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/botados-encuentran-varios-dni-en-la-colonia-el-carrizal-de-comayaguela/>

20/03/21

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - IACHR; Tolupanes; COVID-19 - HR, Vaccines; Elections; Corruption - Penal Code;

COPINH published a Tweet summary of Friday's session at the IACHR on extractivism in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1373293060034035717>

The Spanish newspaper El País reports on the situation of the indigenous Tolupán in Honduras. "The oldest ethnic group in Honduras is confronting the state and logging companies by opposing indiscriminate logging. There are only about 20,000 indigenous people in a territory that has one of the best pine forests in the country. More than a hundred of them have been fatal victims of the violence that environmental defenders in Latin America face every day."

<https://elpais.com/planeta-futuro/2021-03-20/el-grito-de-los-bosques-en-tierra-de-los-tolupanes.html>

There are 181'931 COVID-19 cases and 4430 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-574-nuevos-contagios-y-acumula-181-mil-931-casos-covid-19-y-cuatro-mil-430-decesos/>

Indigenous organizations and social movements published the 41st joint press release during the pandemic. "Even without official results, the primary and internal elections of the political parties reaffirm the depth of the political crisis in which we live. Many simple people of good faith participated, but clearly not all the answers are there, as we express in this Forty-first public manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cuadragesimo-primero-manifiesto-publico/>

ContraCorriente investigated the story of the fake vaccines meant for Honduras (see some days ago). "A private plane carrying doses of Sputnik-V vaccines was stopped in Mexico this week. It was later discovered that they were fake. The intercepted plane was bound for Honduras and its crew members belonged mostly to Grupo Karim's, a company owned by Mohamad Yusuf Amdani, one of the richest men in Honduras. Local media in Mexico reported that the people were released and little is known about the intentions with which they were moving the vaccines."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/20/empleados-de-empresa-millonaria-ligados-a-la-detencion-de-avion-con-vacunas-falsas-en-mexico/>

The CNE published its fourth projection. With about 50% of the votes counted, the results have not changed, i.e. Xiomara Castro (Libre), Nasry "Tito" Asfura (National) and Yani Rosenthal (Liberal) clearly in the lead.

The CNE later announced that they had processed two thirds of all votes.

They also announced that there will be a supervised recount of ballots with inconsistencies.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1451198-508/elecciones-honduras-cuarto-boletin-cne-votos-nulos-blanco>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-asegura-que-ha-escañado-el-66-del-total-de-actas-de-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-reconteo-supervisado-de-votos/>

The new Penal Code continues to work its "magic" undermining previous corruption cases. The most recent one concerns Ilsa Vanessa Molina and Ilsa Damaris Aguirre, both were sentenced to prison in the IHSS corruption case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2790-honduras-palillona-del-ihss-sale-de-prision-en-victoria>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/20/sale-de-prision-la-palillona-del-ihss-amparada-bajo-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

21/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Elections; COVID-19 - State Reaction; Migration - US;

Criterio highlights how JOH was mentioned several times in Friday's closing remarks by the US prosecution in the trial against Geovanny Fuentes.

In a second article, Criterio further highlights how the JOH regime tried to influence the case against JOH's brother Tony Hernández, e.g. by threatening to close US military bases in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/fiscal-estadounidense-llama-a-juan-hernandez-socio-del-narcotrafico/>

<https://criterio.hn/con-cierre-de-bases-militares-estadounidenses-en-honduras-firma-de-abogados-intento-influir-en-caso-contra-tony-hernandez/>

The CNE announced yesterday to finish counting the presidential votes by the same night. At the time of the announcement, they had processed 80% of the ballots.

Previously, when at 66%, 1192 out of 71'640 ballots showed inconsistencies.

The updated results can be found on the following website: <https://resultadosprimarias2021.cne.hn>

At the same time, criticism about the process continues and not just from losing politicians.

Sociologist Víctor Meza said: "We are in the presence of a serious, complex and difficult moment, because those who lead the electoral bodies do not represent the citizenry or society, but rather the petty interests of their parties. (...) They are mired in personal quarrels, disagreements,

disqualifications and showbiz conflicts, which make them seem more protagonists of a media ambition than of a fulfillment of their functions in the name of democracy."

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-escrutinio-nivel-presidencial/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1451339-508/elecciones-primarias-actas-irregulares-cne-votos-nulos-honduras-2021>

<https://proceso.hn/en-los-organos-electorales-se-defienden-intereses-mezquinos-partidarios-reprocha-analista-politico/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/1451395-410/elecciones-primarias-internas-2021-denuncias-fraude-demora-resultados>

There are 182'409 COVID-19 cases and 4443 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-182-mil-409-contagios-y-cuatro-mil-443-decesos-por-covid/>

The curfew is back in place from 10pm to 5am.

<https://proceso.hn/sinager-extiende-toque-de-queda-por-una-semana-mas-de-1000-de-la-noche-a-500-de-la-manana/>

"When 149 migrants were escorted onto a bridge by U.S. Border Patrol agents, they had no idea where they were being taken. Many collapsed, crying, when they learned they were back in Mexico."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/19/world/americas/mexico-border-deportations.html>

22/03/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Elections; US; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Corruption – IHSS;

On the eve of the World Water Day, the Honduran environmental defender and community leader Juan Carlos Cerros Escalante was murdered. "Since the coup d'état, he began to participate in the defense of water at the community and regional level against the installation of the hydroelectric dam "El Tornillito", a project that threatens to disappear 10 communities in the departments of Cortés and Santa Bárbara."

Juan Carlos should have benefited from protective measures granted by the Protection Mechanism. Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with the director of the Protection Mechanism Danilo Morales who said that they were currently reevaluating his case and the case of his community.

The IACHR condemned the murder.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/asesinan-a-defensor-de-la-biosfera-del-rio-ulua>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3115-redes-ambientalistas-senalan-al-gobierno-de-responsabilidad-en-el-crimen-de-defensor-del-ambiente>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3116-tenia-medidas-de-proteccion-asesinan-a-defensor-indigena-juan-carlos-cerros-en-santa-barbara>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3117-director-del-sistema-nacional-de-proteccion-el-mecanismo-estaba-en-la-reevaluacion-de-riesgo-en-el-caso-del-defensor-asesinado-y-su-colectivo>

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1374134630681616385>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-dirigente-indigena-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

Guilty. The Honduras drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez was found guilty on all three counts.

In the press release by the US Justice Department announcing the verdict, JOH has a prominent role. "Manhattan U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss said: "Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez was, up until his arrest by the DEA just over a year ago, a ruthless, powerful, and murderous cocaine trafficker in Honduras. He facilitated the shipment of large loads of cocaine by bribing Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, then president of the Honduran National Congress and now the Honduran president. Hernández Alvarado instructed Fuentes Ramirez to report directly to convicted co-conspirator and former Honduran congressman Tony Hernandez, the president's brother. Now Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez, one of the criminal conduits between Honduran officials and drug traffickers, faces a possible life behind bars.'" In the two-page press release, JOH is mentioned 9 more times. Speaking to the former head of the Honduran Central Bank, the now political analyst Edmundo Orellana warns that this is still not the end of JOH. "What can be inferred from the primary elections "is that we are going to have Juan Orlando for a while, at least two more terms", said Orellana. The National Party has more votes than the opposition parties, which have been distributed in such a way that "an alliance is impossible" due to the refusal of Libertad y Refundación and Partido Salvador de Honduras to unite with Yani Rosenthal. "So if there is no possibility of an alliance they are going to go alone and thus the National Party is going to win and "papi a la orden" (Tito Asfura) is a man of Juan Hernandez"."

JOH, meanwhile, reacted again on Twitter repeating the same lies about his regime being effective in fighting drug trafficking.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1374071596244037632>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/honduran-national-convicted-drug-trafficking-and-weapons-charges>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/geovanny-fuentes-an-alleged-partner-of-honduran-president-found-guilty-of-drug-trafficking-by-new-york-jury>



<https://criterio.hn/veredicto-contra-geovanny-fuentes-es-una-condena-indirecta-contra-juan-hernandez-pero-no-su-fin/>

<https://proceso.hn/culpable-geovanni-fuentes/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1374069896435400706>

The CNE postponed again the presentation of the final results for the primaries. They are expected for today.

Víctor Meza explains how the opposition comes weakened out of the primary elections (see also above regarding the future of JOH).

At the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya and Darío Banegas requested the revision of 328 ballot, i.e. 57'643 votes.

Luis Zelaya even called for the repetition of the elections.

The National Party, meanwhile, intends to use the primaries to show unity and strength. But political analyst Ernesto Paz Aguilar explains: ""I do not attach much importance to what happened in the National Party because it was the demonstration of how a party with all the resources of power has an organization, a structure. They say that they win elections with the best structure and it is the other way around; because they have power, they have a great structure.""

<https://proceso.hn/hoy-finalizaria-conteo-de-votos-en-el-nivel-presidencial-segun-el-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-division-suicida/>

<https://criterio.hn/liberales-presentan-impugnacion-por-328-actas-adulteradas-que-favorecen-a-rosenthal/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/22/cne-reconoce-posible-fraude-luis-los-tacha-de-sinverguenzas-y-pide-nuevos-comicios/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/22/poder-y-control-de-las-instituciones-refleja-los-resultados-electorales-del-partido-nacional/>

The US State Department announced Ricardo Zuñiga as their Special Envoy for the Northern Triangle.

<https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1374022871551447047>

<https://proceso.hn/zuniga-a-hacer-cumplir-reglas-migratorias-y-anticorrupcion-de-washington-en-triangulo-norte/>

There are 183'280 COVID-19 cases and 4469 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-871-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus-y-26-muertes/>

Doctors in San Pedro Sula held a protest demanding the payment of outstanding paychecks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-por-contrato-denuncian-falta-de-pago-salarial-en-san-pedro-sula/>

The newest liberation of people convicted of corruption using the new Penal Code (see last week), reinvigorated the discussion about the latter.

Congress nominated a commission to revise the Penal Code.

<https://criterio.hn/liberacion-de-la-palillona-agudiza-percepcion-de-impunidad-e-injusticia-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/22/resurgen-opiniones-a-favor-y-en-contra-del-nuevo-codigo-penal-tras-salida-de-la-palillona-y-galdamez/>

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-nacional-nombra-comision-para-revisar-nuevo-codigo-penal-en-honduras/>

23/03/21

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Elections - Corruption, Courts; Corruption - de Lobo; Women's Rights; COVID-19 - Health Sector; US - Migration; and Waiting for Engel's List

"Join the Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective for Nibi gaa-bimaaji'iwemagak, Mni Wiconi, Agua es Vida, Water is Life: Connecting Indigenous Resistance to US Extractivism and Militarization featuring two frontline Indigenous leaders protecting the sacred land, water and way of life. Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres is the general coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) and Tara Houska is the founder of the Line 3 resistance group, Giniw Collective. Moderated by Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN-05), the event will focus on building a culture of life amidst the struggle against extractive projects, militarization, and continued violence."

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7DCFJ-0eT4SxGpwx6UTLGQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7DCFJ-0eT4SxGpwx6UTLGQ)

InSight Crime follows up with another article on the Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez trial and what it means for JOH. "Usually loath to name sitting presidents in criminal cases, prosecutors in the United States have made an exception for Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, painting a clear picture of him taking bribes from drug traffickers and participating firsthand in his brother's cocaine smuggling ring. (...) Unlike in previous court filings, in which President Hernández is identified only as co-conspirator number four (CC-4), prosecutors mentioned his name directly 58 times in the March 16 filing."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-president-drug-conspiracy/>

Radio Progreso spoke with political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado about "the possibilities of political alliances, the future of Juan Orlando Hernández, the betrayals in the National Party and why there is a fierce dispute for the control of the next National Congress". It is a very frustrating read.

Meanwhile, voices calling for electoral reforms before the November general election grow louder again.

<https://radioprogreso.net/portada/el-candidato-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-siempre-fue-joh/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/demandan-con-urgencia-reformas-para-evitar-crisis-en-elecciones-de-noviembre/>

The final results are still not in for the primary elections. But the likely winner of the National Party, mayor of Tegucigalpa Nasry Asfura, just had a court order the seizure of three of his properties related to a corruption investigation.

It seems that Nationalist voters shrug off such things also shown by the man who got most votes in Yoro, Gabriel Rubí, who last year had to resign from Copeco under strong criticism for the purchase of supplies to attend the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/aseguran-bienes-al-alcalde-y-virtual-candidato-presidencial-del-partido-nacional-nasry-asfura/>

<https://proceso.hn/ordenan-aseguramientos-de-bienes-al-edil-nasry-asfura/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gabriel-rubi-acusado-del-saqueo-a-copeco-es-el-mas-votado-en-yoro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1451952-508/gabriel-rubi-diputado-partido-nacional-yoro-elecciones-2021-primarias-honduras>

Regarding the primaries, there is also the question of how much of it will go to the courts. But there is one problem, the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) does not yet count with a working electoral justice regulation.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/23/sin-ley-de-justicia-electoral-tje-asegura-estar-listo-para-recibir-apelaciones-a-los-resultados-de-las-primarias/>

The re-trial against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo was rescheduled for mid-June.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reprograman-para-junio-el-juicio-oral-y-publico-para-rosa-elena-bonilla-y-saul-escobar/>

<https://proceso.hn/reprograman-para-junio-repeticion-de-juicio-oral-en-caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama/>

"To achieve women's economic empowerment in Honduras, a 2021 report by UN Women and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) recommends repealing or modifying discriminatory articles contained in five existing laws, including the Constitution."

<https://criterio.hn/recomiendan-a-honduras-revisar-o-derogar-leyes-discriminatorias-contras-las-mujeres/>

There are 184'031 COVID-19 cases and 4489 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-sobrepasa-los-184-mil-contagios-de-covid-19-y-acumula-cuatro-mil-489-decesos/>

The JOH regime claims to have vaccinated 90% of health workers, health workers themselves dispute this claim.

<https://tiempo.hn/medicos-desmienten-gobierno-vacunacion/>

El Faro published a profile of the recently nominated US special envoy for the Northern Triangle, Ricardo Zúñiga.

There are also reports of plans by the US to build a regional anti-corruption body.

<https://elfaro.net/es/202103/centroamerica/25355/Biden-encarga-Centroam%C3%A9rica-al-hombre-que-negoci%C3%B3-la-reapertura-con-Cuba.htm>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-anuncia-fuerza-de-tarea-anticorrupcion-para-el-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/>

<https://proceso.hn/washington-trabaja-en-dar-vida-a-una-fuerza-de-tarea-anticorrupcion-en-el-triangulo-norte/>

"Joe Biden took office promising to put a friendlier face on US immigration policy. He put an end to a scheme requiring asylum seekers to remain in Mexico, promised to restore the US asylum system and pledged to spend \$4bn on addressing the root causes of migration in Central America. But as ever-increasing numbers of unaccompanied minors arrive at the US southern border and create a domestic political crisis for the US president, he is turning to a tactic used by his predecessors – including Donald Trump: outsourcing immigration enforcement to Mexico. Trump pressured Mexico into deploying its newly formed national guard to its border with Guatemala in June 2019, having threatened escalating tariffs on Mexican imports. Analysts see something similar happening again in Mexico – but this time with more promises of cooperation on issues such as sharing Covid-19 vaccines, rather than threats of economic catastrophe."

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/23/joe-biden-mexico-migrants>

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<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-publicara-lista-engel-el-proximo-martes-30-de-marzo/>

24/03/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection, Criminalization; Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration - US; Elections - Corruption; and Commemorating the Forcefully Disappeared

On Sunday, Lenca environmental defender and community leader Juan Carlos Cerros Escalante was murdered (see Tuesday's e-mail). Yesterday, OACNUDH and the UN System in Honduras condemned his murder.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH HN/status/1374786117287940098>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1374859610381811715>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/oacnudh-condena-crimen-de-lider-indigena-lenca/>

Juan Carlos was murdered even though he should have benefited from the Protection Mechanism. Pasos de Animal Grande published a short overview of the mechanism which currently has 183 active cases.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3118-183-personas-estan-con-medidas-de-proteccion-de-estas-135-son-defensoras-de-ddhh>

"For more than three months Víctor Vásquez, member of the General Coordination of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz Honduras (MILPA-H), and Santos Vigil, member of the Nueva Esperanza Campesino Base, have been deprived of liberty in the La Paz Penal Center, accused of the crime of forced displacement. Victor, as a defender of land and territory, accompanied the peasants of the Nueva Esperanza Base, where Santos Vigil is a member, but they were unjustly accused by the alleged owners of three crimes, of which the judge dismissed two, but they are deprived of liberty for the crime of forced displacement, a new figure in the Criminal Code of Impunity."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-justicia-hondurena-se-sigue-ensanando-con-los-defensores-de-la-tierra-y-de-la-vida/>

The trial against David Castillo in the case of Berta Cáceres is scheduled to start on April 6.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1374817263946231813>

International media coverage about JOH's drug trafficking links continues. The Guardian writes: "For the US, this is a painfully embarrassing fortnight to count Honduran president Juan Orlando

Hernández as a key ally in Central America."

The New York Times, meanwhile, questions the gravity of the recent trial on JOH. "President Juan Orlando Hernández of Honduras figured prominently in a U.S. drug trial, but few think it will matter in a country mired in corruption."

To avoid even more pressure at home, to be expected from the coming sentencing of his brother next week, the JOH regime authorized the Easter holidays, one week called Semana Santa, in the midst of a pandemic.

Additionally, JOH held a press conference (without the possibility to ask questions) repeating that he is being framed.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/24/the-us-has-been-silent-on-honduras-drug-problem-but-that-might-be-about-to-change>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/23/world/americas/honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-drug-trial.html>

<https://criterio.hn/celebracion-de-semana-santa-es-para-desviar-la-atencion-sobre-la-sentencia-de-tony-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/juan-hernandez-arremete-contra-fiscales-de-nueva-york-y-medios-que-silencian-su-lucha-antidrogas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-grabaciones-dea-niegan-sea-narcotraficante/>

Picking up an article by the AFP, El Heraldo reports that US Senator Tim Kaine said the following during a hearing in Congress regarding the US support for JOH during the electoral crisis in 2017: "The United States paid a high cost for not going against an authoritarian [meaning JOH] and now we are dealing with a border crisis driven by intense violence and corruption in that country."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1452201-466/joh-narcotrafico-honduras-dea-eeuu-almagro>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2800-ee-uu-pago-un-alto-costos-por-apoyar-reeleccion-de-gobernante-hondureno-afp>

There are 184'821 COVID-19 cases and 4506 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/reportan-790-nuevos-contagios-y-17-decesos-por-covid-en-honduras/>

"Through social networks, doctors contracted under the Green Code program anonymously denounced that they are being deducted a fee greater than the one thousand lempiras destined to finance the National Party. A general practitioner who works under contract for the Ministry of Health, made public his payment receipt; he said that he was charged a deduction of 1,173 lempiras destined to the government party, a situation that is described as "extortion"."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/24/medicos-de-codigo-verde-denuncian-deduccion-de-sueldo-a-favor-del-partido-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-deduce-mas-de-mil-lempiras-a-medicos-de-programa-codigo-verde/>

"President Joe Biden is tasking Vice President Kamala Harris with overseeing efforts with Central American countries to stem the flow of migrants to the US southern border, the first major issue Biden has assigned directly to his No. 2."

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/24/politics/kamala-harris-immigration-central-america/index.html>

<https://criterio.hn/el-primer-gran-desafio-de-kamala-harris-como-vicepresidenta-manejar-la-crisis-fronteriza-de-biden/>

The CNE announced to have processed all ballots at the presidential level. But 17.8% showed inconsistencies and errors. They will be analyzed and the final result won't be published in the meantime.

Parts of the political opposition have formed an alliance for the coming general elections in November. It consists of Salvador Nasralla (has his own party), Luis Zelaya (who lost the Liberal primary to Yani Rosenthal), Nelson Ávila, Darío Banegas and Wilfredo Méndez (all three lost in the Libre primary to Xiomara Castro).

They also demand a forensic audit of the irregular ballots.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cne-concluye-procesamiento-de-actas-en-el-nivel-presidencial/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-17-8-de-actas-presentan-inconsistencias-y-no-se-suben-al-conteo-hasta-que-se-resuelvan-cne/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2797-honduras-oposicion-politica-crea-nueva-alianza>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/24/oficializan-la-primer-coalicion-politica-nombrada-como-alianza-de-la-honestidad/>

<https://proceso.hn/bloque-del-pl-y-libre-demandan-ante-cne-una-auditoria-forense-que-invalide-conteo-de-actas/>

The mayor of Tegucigalpa and likely Nationalist presidential candidate, Nasry Juan Asfura Zablah had nine (not three as reported yesterday) buildings and three companies linked to him seized as part of a corruption investigation.

Asfura is accused of "Money Laundering, Embezzlement of Public Funds, Fraud, Use of False Public Documents and Violation of the Duties of Public Officials to the detriment of the Public

Faith, the Economy and the Public Administration of the State of Honduras".

At the same time, the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) announced that they would not act ex officio to truncate his aspiration, since this is the exclusive responsibility of the MP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-ejecuta-medida-de-aseguramiento-sobre-13-bienes-vinculados-a-nasry-asfura/>

<https://criterio.hn/nueve-inmuebles-y-tres-empresas-aseguradas-en-caso-contra-nasry-asfura/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/piden-respetar-debido-proceso-en-aseguramiento-de-bienes-al-alcalde-de-la-capital/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2799-honduras-tribunal-electoral-no-actuara-de-oficio-contra-alcalde-asfura>

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<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-presenta-la-seccion-web-de-la-relatoria-sobre-memoria-verdad-y-justicia/>

25/03/21

Honduras Daily: US; HRDs; Violence against Women; Migration - US; Militarization; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Education; Drug Trafficking; Elections - Liberal Party; and Target Missed

Lucha para Honduras Libre is having an event on April 7th with speaker Dana Frank to discuss legislation in the House and Senate on human rights in Honduras. "Repression, Corruption, Caravans & Narco-dictatorship: Why People can't survive in Honduras and what the U.S can do about it".

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdOihpjsHtEymOhP-jjY0kcOgGWLIQ2q>

"In Central American, attacks on human rights defenders are increasing, they are threatened and persecuted, stigmatized and defamed, wrongly denounced, arrested, injured or even killed. This is according to the report "Criminalization of human rights defenders in Central America", made public this Thursday by the Roundtable Central America Germany, through a digital forum called "When justice becomes injustice"."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-criminalizacion-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-centroamerica-es-creciente/>

"The sentencing by seven years and two months a few days ago of one of the rapists of a girl in La Ceiba "represents a first step in the response process of the justice system, but there is still much work to be done". This was stated in a joint communiqué by the Unit for the Integral Development of Women and the Family (Udimuf), the Visitación Padilla Women's Movement for Peace, Somos



Muchas and the Center for the Promotion of Health and Family Assistance (Ceprosaf)."  
Yesterday, there was also a protest by the Visitación Padilla Women's Movement for Peace outside the Government Civic Center in Tegucigalpa demanding the establishment of mechanisms to guarantee the lives of women. More than 60 women have been murdered so far this year.

<https://criterio.hn/alejandra-la-nina-victima-de-violacion-y-una-sentencia-agridulce-para-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3119-las-chonas-estamos-aqui-para-que-el-presidente-se-de-cuenta-de-que-nos-estan-matando>

In an Op-ed in The Hill, law professor and immigration lawyer Sarah Sherman-Stokes lays out that the root cause of Central American migration is the US and its role in the region. "Migration from Central America today is primarily the result of U.S. policies that have exacerbated violence, poverty, food insecurity and climate change. Our immigration laws, one-sided trade deals, and decades of military intervention have left hundreds of thousands of Central Americans with no choice — they must flee their homes to save their lives and the lives of their families." There is also an open letter on this issue by civil society organizations sent to the Biden administration urging them to not repeat mistakes of the past in Central America. "As the State Department is developing a "root cause strategy" addressing the reasons why so many children, women, and men are fleeing the northern countries of Central America, U.S.-based and international faith, humanitarian, immigrant-led, human rights, environmental, and grassroots organizations called on President Biden and Vice President Harris to support and amplify civil society calls in each country for governments to address the structural and societal causes driving forced migration. These include pervasive corruption, corrosive levels of human rights abuses and impunity, gang and gender-based violence, poverty and inequality, exclusive economic models, and climate change. The letter urges the administration to consult with a wide range of civil society organizations in each country as it develops and implements this root cause strategy to ensure that the United States transforms diplomacy and aid so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past, including the ways in which U.S. policy has contributed to human rights violations and forced migration from the region."

<https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/538301-the-root-cause-of-migration-to-the-united-states-mr-president-is-us>

<https://www.lawg.org/press-release-civil-society-organizations-urge-president-biden-and-vice-president-harris-to-not-repeat-mistakes-of-the-past-in-central-america/>

<https://criterio.hn/instan-a-ee-uu-a-no-apoyar-a-funcionarios-corruptos-del-triangulo-norte-de-c-a/>

Interestingly, Proceso Digital published an article focusing on human rights violations by the Armed Forces based on the recent annual human rights report by OACUNDH.

<https://proceso.hn/alto-comisionado-registra-violaciones-y-pone-acento-en-restringir-rol-militar/>

There are 185'484 COVID-19 cases and 4527 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ya-supera-los-185-mil-casos-de-covid-19-al-confirmarse-663-nuevos-contagios/>

Another doctor, Daniel Walter Willy, died to COVID-19. He died during the transfer from Puerto Lempira to Tegucigalpa.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/otro-medico-muere-por-covid-19-mientras-era-trasladado-de-puerto-lempira-a-tegucigalpa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-por-covid-19-medico-walter-willy-la-mosquitia/>

Radio Progreso interviewed the former deputy health minister about the newest irregularities and acts of corruption related to the vaccination in Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/condenan-corrupcion-en-la-distribucion-y-aplicacion-de-vacuna-contra-covid/>

The digital class room offers new opportunities for corruption. "The purchase of the tablets that would allow more than 200,000 students to connect to their classes virtually continues to be questioned, as it was not only an acquisition of outdated equipment but also opens the door to "a new case of corruption"."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1452374-466/honduras-tablets-desfasadas-escandalo-corrupcion>

"Former deputy [police] commissioner Jorge Alberto Barralaga Hernández and the wife of drug trafficker Wilter Blanco, Montse Fraga Duarte, were sentenced today to 10 years in prison for money laundering."

<https://criterio.hn/a-10-anos-de-prision-fue-condenado-el-subcomisionado-jorge-barralaga/>

<https://proceso.hn/condenan-a-10-anos-de-prision-a-exoficial-barralaga-por-lavado/>

Strengthened by the primary election convicted drug trafficker and likely Liberal presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal and his allies seem to one to clean house at the Liberal Party, i.e. get rid of their opponents. "Víctor Cubas, a Liberal leader who supports presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal, announced that they will demand at the Liberal Party convention the expulsion of Luis Zelaya, Eduardo Martell, Enrique Ortez Sequeira and Octavio Pineda, considering them "traitors"."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/25/afines-al-yanismo-exigiran-expulsion-de-luis-zelaya-y-otros-por-considerarlos-traidores/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-proxima-convencion-del-partido-liberal-bases-exigiran-expulsion-de-luis-zelaya-y-su-grupo/>

Manuel Zelaya called for a united opposition in reaction to a group of opposition movements who had announced an alliance on Wednesday. At the same time, he insisted that the presidential candidate of such a united opposition should be the one who got the most votes during the primaries, i.e. his wife Xiomara Castro.

Luis Zelaya, former Liberal presidential candidate in 2017, presented a formal complaint at the MP denouncing that various ballots of the Liberal primary had been adulterated.

The aspiring Nationalist mayoral candidate Juan Diego Zelaya presented 149 ballots with inconsistencies to the CNE.

And so did Libre candidates Julissa Villanueva and Olivia Zúniga Cáceres.

The CNE, meanwhile, started to analyze the ballots they themselves had sorted out due to inconsistencies.

<https://tiempo.hn/mela-alianza-nasralla-y-luis/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-zelaya-interpone-denuncia-ante-el-mp-por-actas-adulteradas/>

<https://proceso.hn/juan-diego-zelaya-impugna-149-actas-por-presentar-inconsistencias-ante-el-cne/>

<https://proceso.hn/precandidatas-a-diputadas-de-libre-presentan-impugnaciones-en-el-cne/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-conteo-actas-con-inconsistencias/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-comienza-escrutinio-especial-de-actas-con-inconsistencias/>

"Days before the start of the trial against Geovanny Fuentes for drug trafficking-related crimes in the Southern District Court of New York, the hashtag #YoCreoEnJOH went viral in Guatemala. The action did not go unnoticed by Guatemalans, who, cell phone in hand, made comparisons between the trends of both countries on Twitter. Guatemalan journalist Dina Fernandez shared from her Twitter account: "The hashtag #YoCreoEnJOH is trending in Guatemala. How do they explain this sudden impulse to defend the Honduran president accused of drug trafficking in the U.S.? Could it be that the net centers are regional? Are the mafias allied in the network? It doesn't seem to be an organic trend, that's for sure."

<https://criterio.hn/yocreoenjoh-el-hashtag-que-se-viralizo-por-error-en-guatemala/>

26/03/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Kelya; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Congress; COVID-19 - Health Sector, BCIE; Elections - Congress, Women, Liberal Party; US; and Four Years too late

COPINH invites to a virtual press conference on March 30 to inform about the upcoming trial against David Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1375556891343003648>

<https://avispa.org/habra-juicio-para-un-autor-intelectual-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

"The members of the networks of human rights defenders in Honduras, gathered in the space convened by the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), we express ourselves before the national and international community demanding justice, truth and punishment in the case of our colleague Keyla Patricia Martínez Rodríguez, whose life was ended in a cell in La Esperanza, Intibucá, under police custody."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/redes-de-defensores-exigen-justicia-para-keyla/>

The defense of Tony Hernández demands the minimum penalty of 40 years in prison for the upcoming sentencing on March 30.

As part of their request, they presented documents showing that Tony took bible study classes and an anger management course.

Tony and JOH's mother also wrote an open letter to judge Kevin Castell. Interestingly, she asks for clemency for her sons, plural.

Maybe this has to do with recent statements by the former DEA official Mike Vigil who claims that the US is preparing a strategy to remove JOH and formally charge others who are also linked to drug trafficking.

Meanwhile in Honduras, JOH shared a transcript of conversations recorded by a DEA infiltrator that allegedly reveal how a group of Honduran drug traffickers talked about an attempt against JOH which somehow should exonerate JOH.

The Pro Honduras Network explains why this is wrong.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/26/defensa-afirma-que-con-el-arresto-y-juicio-contratony-en-un-intento-claro-y-abierto-de-implicar-a-juan-orlando-en-el-narcotrafico-eeuu-estapisoteandom-la-soberania-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/defensa-de-tony-hernandez-pide-al-juez-que-imponga-una-pena/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/26/cursos-de-la-biblia-y-diplomas-recibidos-por-tony-durante-su-estadia-en-la-carcel-son-incluidos-dentro-los-argumentos-de-su-defensa/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/26/madre-de-tony-hernandez-pide-clemencia-al-juez-kevin-castell/>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-estaria-preparando-estrategia-para-sacar-a-juan-hernandez-segun-exdirector-de-operaciones-de-la-dea/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-que-le-han-querido-llegar-por-otros-lados-y-el-hijo-de-p-se-ha-puesto-super-arisco-yankel-rosenthal-segun-grabacion-de-la-dea/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/26/el-agente-infiltrado-de-la-dea-y-las-mentiras-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-al-verse-acorralado-por-el-departamento-de-justicia-de-eeuu/>

"Pinu warned about the pretension of a faction of the Legislative that would have links with organized crime, since it seeks in the next sessions to reform some articles of the Law of Deprivation of Dominion, with the purpose of shielding high government officials who are involved in illicit activities."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/26/pinu-denuncia-que-legislativo-quiere-aprobar-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

There are 186'337 COVID-19 cases and 4536 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-186-mil-337-contagios-y-4-mil-536-decesos-por-covid-19/>

"The president of the Medical Association, Suyapa Figueroa, has said that more than a year after the pandemic, the main responsible for the death of "front line" personnel and Hondurans in general, are those who run the Ministry of Health without having the skills to do so."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2805-honduras-ineptos-en-salud-responsables-por-muerte-de-medicos-y-pueblo>

The BCIE donated another \$500'000 to the JOH regime for their corona response.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bcie-hace-un-nuevo-aporte-a-honduras-para-centro-de-contencion-de-covid-19/>

The CNA presented a report on irregularities during the primary election. They also presented a formal complaint at the MP.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1375522569403650053>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-presenta-denuncia-formal-contramiembros-de-las-mer-que-inflaron-resultados-en-las-primarias/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1375547858728980483>

Currently, only 28 out of the 128 members of Congress are women. During the primaries again only 21% of the aspiring congresswomen were elected to run for Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/apenas-el-21-de-mujeres-precandidatas-a-diputadas-pasan-de-las-elecciones-primarias/>

Parts of the Liberal Party protested in Tegucigalpa.

<https://proceso.hn/seguidores-del-movimiento-liberal-recuperar-honduras-protestan-en-la-capital/>

"For the lawyer Ramón Enrique Barrios, analyst and former Judge of Sentences, in the next general elections it will be much more important to have control of the National Congress than of the Presidency of the Republic. "Congress will elect the next Attorney General of the Republic, the Supreme Court of Justice, the next Procurator General of the Republic, the Superior Court of Accounts, and will elect the next members of the National Electoral Council. The most important institutionality of this country will be elected in the National Congress", said Barrios."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/politicos-se-disputan-control-del-proximo-congreso-nacional/>

There is some additional news on the announced US anti-corruption task force (see previous e-mail).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1452042-410/estados-unidos-crear%C3%A1-ente-para-combatir-corrupci%C3%B3n-en-centroam%C3%A9rica>

<https://proceso.hn/nueva-fuerza-de-tarea-anticorrupcion-de-eeuu-congelara-bienes-y-retirara-visas-en-ca/>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2801-honduras-cuatro-anos-despues-almagro-lamenta-reeleccion-de-joh>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-reclama-a-oea-mediante-una-carta-por-supuesta-declaracion-de-almagro/>

27/03/21

Honduras Daily: COPINH; Campesinas; HR - UN; COVID-19 - HR, Health Sector, Vaccines; and Fraud Everywhere

COPINH commemorates its 28th anniversary. "Today we celebrate 28 years of resistance and rebellion of our organization, fighting for the liberation of the peoples, walking hand in hand with the Lenca for the liberation of ancestral territories."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1375881199026106376>

"During the last six years, 2265 farmers, day laborers and peasants were reported to the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) for crimes related to sexual aggression. Men who work in the fields are the most reported, according to the database of the Public Prosecutor's Office, which only records the profession of the aggressor in 3821 cases out of 19,815. Although there is an increase in the

number of complaints from women in rural areas, they face greater difficulties in obtaining comprehensive care in cases of sexual violence and access to justice."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/27/mujeres-en-el-campo-sobreviven-a-la-violencia-sexual-sin-justicia/>

OACNUDH traveled to the south of Honduras to monitor the human rights situation in Choluteca and Valle.

They met with MASSVIDA and the Women Human Rights Lawyers' Network of the South to follow-up on the murder of defender Marvin Damián Castro.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1375870961401143307>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1375870964442001413>

There are 187'105 COVID-19 cases and 4557 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/suben-a-187-mil-105-los-contagios-y-4-mil-557-las-muertes-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Social movements and indigenous organizations published their 42nd joint press release during the pandemic. "Honduras is once again the scene of a deepening political, social and economic crisis, where the word "change" is sold daily as a promise that never materializes through the ways proposed by the power of domination. In this permanent struggle for freedom, this meeting of social organizations raises its voice in this 42nd public manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cuadragesimo-segundo-manifiesto-publico/>

Another nurse, Suyapa Castillo, died to COVID-19.

Medical experts and workers, meanwhile, fear the upcoming Semana Santa and its aftermath.

<https://confidencialhn.com/otra-enfermera-pierde-la-vida-por-el-coronavirus-en-el-ihss-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-por-covid-19-otra-licenciada-en-enfermeria-en-sps/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2810-honduras-gobierno-firma-tercer-brote-covid-con-vacaciones-santas>

<https://tiempo.hn/semana-santa-covid-honduras/>

Health minister Alba Consuelo Flores revealed that she does not know when the next delivery of vaccine doses will arrive in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-no-sabe-cuando-llegaran-las-otras-vacunas-donadas-y-las-compradas/>

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<https://criterio.hn/lecciones-electorales/>

28/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19; Elections – ID;

Tomorrow, the sentencing of Tony Hernández is expected. Already last week, letters by Tony's mom to the judge asking for clemency were made public. Now, there is also a letter by his defense, lawyer Peter Brill. He writes: "This case is one more in a long line of disgraceful foreign policy intervention by the U.S. government, this time in pursuit of regime change at the highest levels in Honduras." I guess he does not see the irony in this sentence...

<https://proceso.hn/defensa-de-tony-hernandez-dice-que-eeuu-busca-cambiar-el-gobierno-hondureno/>

<https://criterio.hn/juan-hernandez-saco-de-contexto-conversacion-entre-narcos-para-seguir-manipulando-la-verdad/>

There are 187'460 COVID-19 cases and 4558 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-187-mil-460-casos-y-roza-los-72-mil-recuperados-por-covid-19/>

The CNE published the first results of their re-count of flagged ballots. The results confirm the general trend with Yani Rosenthal, Nasry Asfura and Xiomara Castro as the winners.

El Tiempo reports that in the Liberal Party, Rosenthal continues to consolidate his power.

At the same time, voices denouncing fraud have not stopped.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1453018-410/reconteo-actas-votos-favorece-nasry-yani-yani-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/finaliza-escrutinio-de-primarias-hondurenas-entre-denuncias-e-impugnaciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/yani-consolida-unidad-liberal-en-fm/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-elecciones-primarias-en-honduras-un-ensayo-fracasado-de-democracia/>

The RNP suspended the delivery of the new National Identity Card (DNI) until May.

<https://proceso.hn/rnp-suspende-la-entrega-de-la-identidad-y-se-reanudara-en-mayo/>



29/03/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Hydroelectricity - Pajuiles; Migration; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospital, Migration; Elections - Libre; and the President's Mother

COFADEH sent out an alert that member of the police and TIGRES special forces repressed members of the environmental organization ARCAH, physically attacking them and capturing some of them, including its coordinator Christopher Castillo. ARCAH had staged a peaceful protest together with local communities against the contamination by the company Avicola El Cortijo.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-policia-captura-y-ataca-fisicamente-a-defensores-que-se-manifestaban-en-la-salida-al-sur-de-la-capital/>

COPINH invites to a virtual press conference today at 10am.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1376574200916422659>

Today, the sentencing of Tony Hernández is expected. Yesterday, US authorities ordered the seizure of his assets and his front men worth \$183.5 million.

Also yesterday, the US Department of Justice announced that "JUAN MANUEL AVILA MEZA, a former member of the Honduran National Police, was sentenced today to 12 years in prison for conspiring to import cocaine into the United States. AVILA MEZA previously pled guilty before U.S. District Judge Lorna G. Schofield, who imposed today's sentence. (...) In February 2014, AVILA MEZA helped set up and attended a meeting between one of the leaders of the Cachiros and Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, a/k/a "Tony Hernández," another convicted major drug trafficker who is the brother of current Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernández, to discuss money laundering transactions between a Cachiros front company and the Honduran government. In June 2014, AVILA MEZA met with six other members of the Honduran National Police, Fabio Lobo Sosa, the now-convicted son of Porfirio Lobo Sosa, the Honduran president who preceded Juan Orlando Hernández, and two DEA confidential sources purporting to be members of the Sinaloa Cartel. During the meeting, AVILA MEZA led a discussion of how best to rely on the Honduran National Police to secure safe passage for a large cocaine shipment."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/29/fiscalia-de-eeuu-ordena-la-confiscacion-inmediata-de-los-bienes-de-tony-hernandez-y-sus-testaferros-valorados-en-138-5-millones-de-dolares/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1453168-466/tony-hernandez-narcotrafico-confiscar-bienes-fiscalia-nueva-york>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-national-police-officer-sentenced-12-years-prison-conspiring-import>

<https://criterio.hn/doce-anos-de-carcel-para-expolicia-que-ayudo-a-organizar-reunion-entre-tony-hernandez-y-los-cachiros/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1453215-466/condenan-eeuu-narcotrafico-expolicia-narcotrafico>

"Last Friday, March 26, as part of its 179th Period of Sessions, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) held a working meeting to review the implementation of the precautionary measures of protection granted in 2018 to the communities consuming water from the Mezapa River in the Pajuiles sector, Honduras. (...) Given this situation, and the lack of implementation of concrete measures for the protection of the communities, during the space the State of Honduras made a commitment to resume the 2018 agreement to convene an inter-institutional roundtable to comprehensively address the implementation of the measures. Thus, it was agreed to resume the work of the roundtable with the participation of all relevant authorities, representatives of the communities, as well as representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner and the IACHR, including the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (DESCA), Soledad García, and the commissioner for Honduras, Joel Hernández, as an observer and technical advisor."

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-reactivara-mesa-interinstitucional-abordar-acceso-al-agua-y-salud-comunidad-pajuiles>

A new migration caravan has been announced for today planned to take off from San Pedro Sula. Guatemala reacted by announcing a state of prevention.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/29/anuncian-salida-de-segunda-caravana-migrante-de-2021-hacia-ee-uu/>

<https://proceso.hn/una-caravana-sui-generis-se-organiza-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://criterio.hn/guatemala-emite-estado-de-prevencion-ante-nueva-caravana-migrante-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/guatemala-anuncia-un-estado-de-prevencion-por-possible-caravana-migrante/>

There are 187'915 COVID-19 cases and 4585 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reporta-515-nuevos-casos-y-cero-recuperados-por-coronavirus/>

Once again, another date passed by which all seven mobile hospital should have been functional.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/29/interventora-de-investh-incumple-orden-de-joh-de-entregar-hospitales-moviles/>

"The National Risk Management System (Sinager) announced that it has extended the entry restriction to Honduras to any citizen who has been in South America in the last 15 days, in order to avoid the appearance of the so-called Brazilian variant of the virus that causes COVID-19."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-restringe-ingreso-de-ciudadanos-en-transito-desde-suramerica-por->

[nueva-variante-de-covid/](#)

The CNE has received a total of 290 claims for inconsistencies, 63 from the National Party, 103 from the Liberal Party and 124 from Libre.

ContraCorriente offers an overview of the primary elections two-weeks after Hondurans went to the polls. "Two weeks have passed since the elections and there are still no official results, although the plenary of the National Electoral Council decided to carry out a definitive scrutiny. The Liberal and Libre parties come out of the process weakened, as there were important internal ruptures. The National Party, on the other hand, seriously questioned for corruption and drug trafficking issues, was united."

<https://criterio.hn/cne-recibio-290-solicitudes-de-impugnacion/>

<https://proceso.hn/tras-primer-filtro-en-el-cne-las-impugnaciones-se-situan-en-290/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/03/29/balance-de-elecciones-primarias-alianzas-denuncias-de-fraude-y-un-partido-nacional-unido/>

Criterio published an analysis of the primaries by Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle who focuses on the situation at Libre.

<https://criterio.hn/de-fraudes-alianzas-espejismos-y-prospectos/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/29/la-madre-del-presidente/>

30/03/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Berta - Trial; Migration; Elections; Journalists; COVID-19;

There seems to be just one thing to report on today, the sentencing of JOH's brother Tony Hernández. The main news outlets in Honduras have not one, but six or more articles on it. The two key words: "cadena perpetua" "life in prison". Tony was sentenced to life plus 30 years in prison (the same as El Chapo).

""Based upon Juan Antonio's free choice to engage in a life of drug trafficking over a 12-year period ... a sentence of life imprisonment is richly deserved," said Judge Kevin Castel. The judge also sentenced Hernandez to pay \$138.5 million dollars in forfeiture for trafficking an estimated 185,000 kilos of cocaine. (...) When it as his turn, prosecutor Matthew Laroche, told the court that he was shocked by Hernandez's arrogance and lack of remorse. "It is stunning. It speaks exactly to who this person is," he said. "He has shown no remorse to this day. He doesn't care, clearly, how his crimes have affected his country," he added, citing the extreme poverty and lawlessness in Honduras."

US Senator Ed Markey tweeted: "The sentencing of the Honduran president's brother for drug-

trafficking highlights the corruption driving human rights violations & instability for millions of Hondurans. I'm a proud co-sponsor of the Honduras Human Rights & Anti-Corruption Act, which commits the U.S. to justice."

In Honduras, the people and civil society organization celebrated the verdict while JOH continued to present him and his family as victims.

The Hernández even published a press release.

National Party representatives also denounced the sentencing emphasizing their, at least public, loyalty to JOH.

But there are also those, such as Salvador Nasralla, who are overly optimistic about what the sentencing means for JOH.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-congressman-tony-hernandez-sentenced-life-prison-and-ordered-forfeit>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/tony-hernandez-brother-of-honduran-president-sentenced-to-life-for-drug-trafficking>

<https://proceso.hn/cadena-perpetua-para-tony-hernandez/>

<https://twitter.com/SenMarkey/status/1377048155838156802>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1377007885234933766>

<https://criterio.hn/regocijo-por-la-sentencia-contr-tony-hernandez-y-pesar-por-la-falta-de-justicia-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1376926074697703429>

<https://criterio.hn/el-linchamiento-fiscal-ideologico-o-politico-no-es-justicia-dice-familia-de-tony-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1453485-466/comunicado-familia-tony-hernandez-condena>

<https://tiempo.hn/nacionalistas-reacciones-sentencia-tony-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/juan-orlando-esta-frito-no-tiene-salida-lo-de-el-va-ser-peor-que-lo-del-hermano-salvador-nasralla>

Radio Progreso reports that the newest migrant caravan took off from San Pedro Sula in a dispersed manner hoping to join up before the Guatemalan border.

Guatemala had already announced tougher border controls on Monday (see yesterday) and Mexico has more or less closed its border to Guatemala until April 21.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-pequenos-grupos-avanza-caravana-de-migrantes->

[con-rumbo-a-la-frontera/](#)

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/30/caravana-de-migrantes-sale-de-honduras-hacia-ee-uu-guatemala-declara-estado-de-prevencion/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/ni-con-visa-se-puede-ingresar-a-mexico-via-terrestre/>

Yesterday, COPINH informed about the upcoming trial against David Castillo.

The same day, "the Court of Execution of Francisco Morazán issued an arrest warrant against member of Congress and former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas, who was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison, in a process for defamation and slander for having read a statement about the lack of investigation into the murder of the defender of the Lenca ethnic group. The Committee of Solidarity with Borjas held a press conference where it demanded the Judicial Power to abstain from executing the arrest warrant because it was vitiated by illegality."

<https://copinh.org/2021/03/conferencia-de-prensa-virtual-previo-al-juicio-contradavid-castillo/>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-transparencia-en-juicio-a-implicado-en-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3121-caso-crimen-contraberta-caceres-juzgado-de-ejecucion-libra-orden-de-captura-contramaria-luisa-borjas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/extienden-nueva-orden-de-captura-para-la-diputada-maria-luisa-borjas/>

The CNE announced the publication of the final results of the disputed primaries for April 9 or 10. In its newest update, the National Party has over 1 million votes, the Liberal Party 732'000 and Libre 472'000. At the same time, Libre presidential candidate Xiomara got more votes than the likely Liberal candidate Yani Rosenthal.

<https://proceso.hn/entre-el-9-y-10-de-abril-el-cne-hara-la-declaratoria-oficial-de-ganadores-de-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://proceso.hn/pn-supera-el-millon-de-votos-el-pl-los-732-mil-y-libre-los-472-mil-en-ultimo-conteo-del-cne/>

C-Libre denounced that a journalist was attacked by a man with a machete while covering a crime against a lawyer in Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1331-periodista-es-atacado-en-lugar-donde-informaba-sobre-crimen-contrabogado>

There are 188'514 COVID-19 cases and 4600 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-188-mil-514-contagios-y-roza-los-4-mil-600-decesos-por-covid-19/>

31/03/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; LGBTQ+; COVID-19 - Tourism; Migration - Caravan, Deportations; Police; Elections;

Defensores en Línea published an update on the environmental defenders organized in ARCAH arrested some days ago. "Measures other than imprisonment were ordered by a criminal judge in Tegucigalpa against seven environmental defenders, captured last Monday, when they were demonstrating against water and air pollution caused by a poultry farm in the southern part of the capital."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tribunal-dicta-medidas-sustitutivas-a-defensores-del-ambiente/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3122-fueron-acusados-de-desplazamiento-forzado-ambientalistas-son-liberados-con-medidas-sustitutivas>

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) commented on the sentencing of Tony Hernández (see yesterday). "The conviction & sentencing of Tony Hernandez is a reminder there is no position powerful enough to shield you from facing justice when you violate U.S. drug laws by sending tons of cocaine to our country," said #DEA Chief Wendy Woolcock."

The former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, commented that the sentencing once again showed that in Honduras "drug trafficking is very close to politics".

In Honduras, meanwhile, the "coordinator of judges of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), Mario Díaz, has said that the Public Prosecutor's Office must act ex officio against the persons mentioned in the New York trials, especially against Juan Hernández".

InSight Crime also offer its analysis of what the recent developments in the US mean for JOH.

Padre Melo believes that "Juan Orlando's reign will be coming to an end, but it is up to the citizens to carry out actions of protest or pressure to achieve its end. An end that could have a violent outcome due to the dangerousness of JOH, so it is time to be alert and in constant mobilization".

<https://twitter.com/DEAHQ/status/1377266029466939392>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/03/31/de-aliado-a-co-conspirador-el-rotundo-cambio-de-posicionamiento-de-la-dea-respecto-a-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1453578-466/dea-reaccion-condena-cadena-perpetua-tony-hernandez-diputado-hondureno-narcotrafico>

<https://criterio.hn/los-vientos-del-norte-son-muy-fuertes-para-honduras-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2820-honduras-corte-suprema-fiscalia-debe-actuar-de-oficio-tras-informe-dea>

<https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-president-brother-life-sentence/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sentencia-contra-tyony-abre-escenario-a-un-possible-juicio-contra-joh/>

On the International Transgender Day of Visibility, OACNUDH reminded the State of Honduras to comply with the recommendation to implement a Gender Identity Law.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1377286087962468353>

There are 189'043 COVID-19 cases and 4605 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Home Associations once again reported that the real number of deaths is much higher, they documented more than 10'200 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-4-mil-605-muertos-por-covid-y-189-mil-043-contagios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/funerarias-reportan-30-sepeliros-diarios-en-el-transcurso-de-marzo/>

In the first day of the Easter Week more than 20'000 foreign tourists came to Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/semana-santa-viajeros-extranjeros/>

"Honduran police on Tuesday turned back a U.S.-bound caravan of hundreds of migrants for lacking proper identification papers and proof of negative coronavirus tests, helping the U.S. government contain pressure on its southern border."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-honduras/honduras-police-turn-back-u-s-bound-migrant-caravan-idUSKBN2BM27J?>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/03/31/fragmentada-caravana-de-migrantes-con-destino-a-ee-uu/>

In the first two months of 2021, 61% less people were deported to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/las-deportaciones-al-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica-caen-un-61-en-2021/>

Defensores en Línea reported that a "young nursing student denounced that members of police patrol car No. 544 raided her home, beat the inhabitants and fired shots in front of her young children and nephews on the night of March 30 in the Villa Nueva neighborhood, in the eastern part of the capital".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/policia-allana-vivienda-y-dispara-frente-a-ninos-en-tegucigalpa/>

The CNE announced to have revised 50% of the ballots with inconsistencies.

<https://proceso.hn/inconsistencias-electorales-han-sido-procesadas-en-40/>