

01/04/21

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Armed Forces; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Tourism; Migration - Caravan; and a Song for Tony

Yesterday was the 8th anniversary of the start of the public protest against the hydroelectric project in Río Blanco.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1377774735153594371>

"Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández's government retained a powerhouse Washington law firm to lobby U.S. prosecutors to call off a "state-sponsored drug trafficking" probe of his brother, who was sentenced this week for smuggling 185 tons of cocaine into the United States. Prosecutors cited the failed September 2019 influence campaign by Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP — along with the murder of four people linked to the investigation and the defendant's own alleged repeated lies and obstruction — in urging stiff punishment for Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, 42, who is also a former Honduran congressman."

Back in Honduras, Gracia María Bertrand, a judge at a San Pedro Sula court, claims that "[w]e have information that the Public Prosecutor's Office is trying to open a quick, improvised process against Mr. Juan Orlando in order to hinder the extradition process".

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez fears a new wave of laws shielding politicians involved in drug trafficking. "They will seek internal mechanisms to avoid situations similar to those experienced by the president's brother. Those who have been mentioned or involved are going all out to avoid a heavy penalty."

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/honduras-lobby-us-prosecutors/2021/04/01/5aaac942-9274-11eb-a74e-1f4cf89fd948\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/legal-issues/honduras-lobby-us-prosecutors/2021/04/01/5aaac942-9274-11eb-a74e-1f4cf89fd948_story.html)

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2824-honduras-12-millones-pago-gobierno-a-firma-elite-para-influir-en-caso-tony>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-de-honduras-estaria-abriendo-investigacion-contr-a-el-presidente-para-evitar-su-extradicion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1453766-466/clase-politica-senalada-corrupcion-narcotrafico-blindarse-condena-tony-hernandez-honduras>

Members of the Armed Forces denounce the corruption and the involvement in drug trafficking of the higher-ups.

<https://confidencialhn.com/oficiales-de-las-ff-aa-denuncian-a-cupula-militar-ante-embajada-americana-por-implicacion-en-narcotrafico-y-corrupcion/>

There are 189'726 COVID-19 cases and 4622 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-683-nuevos-contagios-y-17-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Yet another doctor, Wilfredo Cruz Campos, died to COVID-19. 81 have died so far during the pandemic.

The Tórax hospital announced that its corona wing is full.

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-por-covid-19-el-doctor-wilfredo-cruz-campos-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/confirman-lleno-total-en-sala-covid-19-del-instituto-cardiopulmonar-del-torax/>

El Libertador describes the current situation relating to the pandemic as follows: "While thousands of tourists wait to board the ferry that connects La Ceiba with the paradisiacal Bay Islands, in a hospital ward the front line staff mourns the death of another colleague, Dr. Wilfredo Cruz; in "el Tórax" there is no more room and in the Hospital Escuela beds are vacated only because of the death of patients."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2823-insolito-hondurenos-retan-al-covid-en-vacaciones-santas>

According to El Libertador, some migrants taking part in the newest caravan succeeded in getting into Guatemala.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2822-honduras-acoso-militar-no-freno-segunda-caravana-de-2021>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/cantante-hondureno-dedica-cancion-a-tony-hernandez-tras-lectura-de-la-sentencia-por-narcotrafico/>

02/04/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Health Sector; Elections - National Party; Migration; JOH; and Another Song

There is more and more criticism voiced regarding the green light the JOH regime gave for the Easter holiday.

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-incremento-de-defunciones-por-covid-19-gobierno-dio-luz-verde-a-asueto-por-semana-santa/>

<https://criterio.hn/no-salgan-a-buscar-la-muerte-dicen-medicos-a-veraneantes/>

"The head of the Pneumonia Service of the "Hospital del Tórax" in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran

capital, Dr. Suyapa Sosa, said that in view of the collapse of the hospital network and the lack of supplies, a "war code" has been declared in which doctors will give priority to Covid patients with a greater chance of survival."

At the same time, the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) denounces the lack of drugs to treat COVID-19 patients

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2825-honduras-hospitales-activan-codigo-de-guerra-ante-colapso-por-covid>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-denuncia-falta-de-medicamentos-para-atender-pacientes-con-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ihss-sin-medicamentos-para-covid-19-ligia-ramos/>

"Analysts assure that the electoral results within the National Party are a reflection of the control of State institutions used for the purchase of people through social programs."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/02/poder-y-control-de-las-instituciones-refleja-los-resultados-electorales-del-partido-nacional/>

Sarah Bermeo and David Leblang published a policy brief on "Honduras Migration: Climate Change, Violence, & Assistance".

<https://dcid.sanford.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2021/03/Honduras-Migration-Policy-Brief-Final.pdf>

Both the head of the Episcopal Conference of Honduras, monseñor Ángel Garachana Pérez, and the businessman Jorge Bueso Arias agree that Honduras is captured by a corrupt elite.

<https://proceso.hn/pareciera-que-una-minoria-que-tiene-el-poder-politico-no-quiere-cambios-en-honduras-obispo-garachana/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-esta-en-poder-de-las-mafias-criminalidad-y-corrupcion-asegura-banquero-jorge-bueso-arias/>

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<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1378044563101782017>

03/04/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; COPINH; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; Corruption - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Tourism; Elections; and the End of the Oligarchs?

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the March 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=17040](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=17040)

COPINH's general coordinator Berta Zúniga and COPINH members Laura Zúniga and Camilo Bermúdez were arrested yesterday by the police, just three days before the trial against David Castillo for the murder of Berta Cáceres. The three of them were later released but the situation remains very worrisome.

<https://twitter.com/ErikaGuevaraR/status/1378553090509582342>

David Adams and Jeff Ernst look into the legal evidence available to go after JOH. "While he has not formally been indicted, the evidence presented so-far in court appears to highly incriminate him. "If Juan Orlando Hernandez were to be tried today, they would get a conviction," said former DEA agent Mike Vigil who is following the case closely. The DEA and the Southern District of New York declined to comment on what they say is an ongoing investigation."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/how-strong-is-the-legal-evidence-of-drug-trafficking-against-president-of-honduras>

The last two days, there was a public discussion in Honduras about the situation of former police chief Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla. The DEA announced to be expecting his extradition but the Honduran Supreme Court claims that they have no extradition request for Bonilla.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/04/01/juan-carlos-bonilla-fue-acusado-por-eeuu-de-manera-formal-desde-el-30-de-abril-del-2020/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1454076-466/tigre-bonilla-no-ha-sido-pedido-corte-suprema-justicia-honduras-dea>

According to US Congresswoman Norma Torres, a list of corruption Central American officials she requested from the State Department and the Treasury will be sent to Congress soon.

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-focused-helping-central-american-people-ahead-latest-efforts>

There are 190'142 COVID-19 cases and 4633 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-190-mil-casos-y-cuatro-mil-633-decesos-por-el-covid-19/>

"Medical personnel in different hospitals in the capital are worried, as the intensive care units

remain at maximum capacity and the rooms available for COVID-19 have very few spaces."

<https://proceso.hn/unidades-de-cuidados-intensivos-permanecen-al-100-y-cupos-en-hospitales-capitalinos-son-escasos/>

Before the pandemic, almost 100'000 people from abroad traveled to Honduras for the Easter Break. Last year, it was forbidden, but this year it was allowed again (see last days for possible reason) and over 30'000 people came.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-30-mil-viajeros-internacionales-visitan-honduras-en-semana-santa/>

Given the Honduran context and its history, it is not a great picture of the CNE, already two weeks behind presenting the official results of the primaries, is showing the head of the Armed Forces Tito Livio Moreno Coello around the facility where the vote count takes place.

This has also been criticized by Luis Zelaya.

The CNE, meanwhile, announced to have handed over two (!) ballots with inconsistencies to the MP.

<https://proceso.hn/jefe-de-las-ffaa-conoce-avances-del-escrutinio-definitivo-en-el-cne/>

<https://proceso.hn/luis-zelaya-cuestiona-presencia-de-las-ffaa-en-centro-de-escrutinio-del-cne/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-remite-actas-manipuladas-de-diputados-para-investigacion-en-el-ministerio-publico/>

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<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2021/04/03/the-influence-of-central-american-dynasties-is-ebbing>

04/04/21

Honduras Daily: HR - US; COVID-19 - Rural Areas; Elections - Libre; Migration – Caravan;

The US State Department published its yearly human rights report with a chapter on Honduras. Proceso Digital picked this up.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/departamento-de-estado-subraya-corrupcion-y-violacion-a-ddhh-en-honduras/>

There are 190'631 COVID-19 cases and 4644 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-aumentan-a-190-mil-631-con-otros-153-contagios/>

Doctor Suyapa Figueroa warns especially about the consequences of the Easter Holidays on the rural areas (see also previous days).

<https://tiempo.hn/suyapa-figueroa-desastre-covid-19/>

"Sociologist Eugenio Sosa predicted a new electoral crisis in the country as a consequence of the delay of official results by the National Electoral Council (CNE) after the March 14 primary elections. For the expert, the current situation of uncertainty of the electoral process is only a sample of what could happen next November if the authorities of the electoral bodies do not correct their mistakes."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/04/analista-asegura-que-primarias-abrieron-la-puerta-a-una-venidera-crisis-politica/>

Libre seems to be satisfied with the primary elections as it surpassed its goal of votes received with more than 500'000 Hondurans voting in their primary. Nevertheless, the National Party had over 1'000'000 voters and the Liberal Party 758'000.

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-elecciones-primarias-meta-votos/>

According to the National Migration Institute (INM), 310 Hondurans who participated in the latest migration caravan have returned to Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-retornados-caravana/>

05/04/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+ - Assassination, IACHR; Indigenous Peoples - OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; Journalists; JOH - US; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Poverty; Elections

Vanessa Zúniga, a trans woman and activist was murdered on March 31, 2021, precisely the same date on which the International Day of Transgender Visibility was commemorated.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3123-otro-crimen-contra-comunidad-lgtbi-condenan-asesinato-de-la-defensora-trans-vanessa-zuniga>

"Within the LGBTI (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) universe, trans and gender-diverse people tend to suffer higher levels of exclusion, stigma and social prejudice, according to a report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)."

<https://criterio.hn/exclusion-social-de-las-personas-trans-y-de-genero-diverso-requiere-atencion-urgente-cidh/>

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda sent out an alert: "We raise alarm! Alejandro Camacho Torres,

Mexican, who together with his wife Rosario Fajardo Ruiz filed the lawsuit against sisters #Jennifer and Marianela Mejia, threatens Garifuna with machete in hand. Trujillo police protect the Mexican. We hold him responsible for what happens".

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1379150354588311557>

Representatives of COPINH and the Garifuna community spoke with the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay, in a virtual forum yesterday. The discussion can be re-watched online.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3124-segun-relator-de-la-onu-leyes-antiterroristas-son-usadas-contra-los-defensores-de-los-pueblos-indigenas>

COPINH invites to a press conference at 9am this morning at the Supreme Court where the trial against David Castillo will start at 10am.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1379191819901222919>

C-Libre denounced that journalists were not allowed to cover the public hearing in the case of the murder of journalist Erick Martínez Ávila. The case goes back to May 2012.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1337-impedimento-en-cobertura-informativa-denuncian-periodistas-asignados-a-fuente-judicial>

37 civil society organizations published a joint letter demanding the immediate resignation of JOH as well as "the heads of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the National Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Attorney General's Office, as well as the replacement of the military high command".

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-35-organizaciones-exigen-la-inmediata-salida-de-juan-hernandez-del-gobierno/>

The new US Special Envoy will go on a four-day visit to Guatemala and El Salvador to investigate the root causes of migration.

Even the corporate news outlet link his non-appearance in Honduras with the recent trials in the US linking JOH to drug trafficking.

The JOH regime, meanwhile, has its own interpretation. They have been talking with the Biden administration since February and therefore is ahead of the other two countries...

During the press briefings at the State Department, Ned Price was also asked about the trip. "And so far at least, Vice President Harris hasn't called President Juan Orlando Hernandez of Honduras as well. Are you trying to isolate or send some sort of message to his government given the allegations against him by U.S. federal prosecutors?" To which he answered. "I fully expect that we will be engaging with appropriate Honduran Government officials, including upon their return. (...) We continue to stand with the Honduran people as they confront these challenges. We will continue to

stand with the Honduran people and civil society and those members of the Honduran Government that are committed to fighting corruption with us, because we know that our goal has to be to address these root causes, these root drivers of migration if we're going to find a long-term solution to this challenge." The follow-up question was even clearer. "Does President Hernandez present one of those challenges?" His answer: "I will say that corruption continues to be a challenge when it comes to our relationship with Honduras. We are committed to partnering with the Honduran people, with elements of Honduran civil society, and with those in the Honduran Government that are committed to working with us to root out the corruption that has become really endemic to that country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/subrayan-que-la-no-visita-a-honduras-de-ricardo-zuniga-deja-claro-el-rechazo-del-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://proceso.hn/enviado-especial-de-estados-unidos-inicia-gira-por-guatemala-y-el-salvador/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-de-honduras-dialoga-desde-febrero-con-la-administracion-biden-sobre-el-abordaje-integral-de-la-migracion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/05/canciller-dice-que-honduras-esta-mas-avanzada-que-guatemala-y-el-salvador-en-negociaciones-con-enviado-de-ee-uu/>

<https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-april-5-2021/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-abierto-a-dialogar-con-aquellos-en-honduras-que-combatan-la-corrupcion/>

There are 191'136 COVID-19 cases and 4681 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-37-muertes-en-un-dia-y-acumula-4-mil-681-decesos-por-covid-19/>

The nightly curfew from 10pm to 5am has been prolonged once again.

<https://proceso.hn/sigue-toque-de-queda-de-1000-de-la-noche-a-500-de-la-manana-por-covid/>

Even the Ministry of Health now seems to see the gravity of the situation. "The Ministry of Health (Sesal) informed this Monday that in view of the fact that the specialty hospitals dedicated to the care of covid-19 have reached their maximum capacity and that an increase of infections is expected after the holiday granted during Easter Week, it was decided to take some measures to face the health crisis."

But it is not a good sign that one measure seems to be asking people to pray that Honduras will get more vaccine doses...

At the same time, the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (Amhon) warned that due to the lack of transfers, as of this week between 150 and 160 triage centers will be closed nationwide.

And there are ongoing warnings by medical experts about the incoming next wave of the pandemic.



<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1454537-466/anuncian-medidas-incremento-casos-coronavirus-honduras-semana-santa-salud>

<https://proceso.hn/jefa-de-vigilancia-de-la-salud-pide-orar-para-que-productores-de-vacunas-atiendan-a-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/mas-de-150-triajes-cerraran-por-falta-de-fondos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estamos-de-cara-al-colapso-de-hospitales-publicos-del-pais-por-aumento-de-casos-covid-19-dennis-chirinos/>

<https://criterio.hn/se-nos-viene-un-mes-de-abril-muy-funesto-dr-umana/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/05/tercer-embate-de-coronavirus-sin-vacunas-sin-medicamentos-y-con-hospitales-colapsados/>

"The legal representative of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP), Gustavo Solórzano, said Monday that unemployment increased substantially since late 2020, when tropical storms Eta and Iota hit the country's businesses. According to Solórzano, nine out of ten Hondurans have employment problems, because "we are very few privileged to have a minimum wage or a little more income each month"."

<https://confidencialhn.com/nueve-de-cada-diez-hondurenos-tiene-problemas-de-empleo-gustavo-solorzano/>

"The National Electoral Council (CNE) informed this Monday night that the definitive general scrutiny of the primary elections is in its final closing stage, so that the results disclosed so far, especially at the presidential level, are practically irreversible, and at the same time they informed that they have already started with the resolution of the challenges."

<https://proceso.hn/cne-informa-que-resultados-en-nivel-presidencial-son-irreversibles-e-inicia-resolucion-de-impugnaciones/>

<https://criterio.hn/cne-reitera-que-xiomara-castro-yani-roenthal-y-nasry-asfura-son-los-candidatos-presidenciales-electos/>

06/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Guapinol; Keyla; JOH - Protests, US; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Vaccines, Mobile Hospitals; and a White House

Yesterday, the trial against David Castillo started. "At onset of trial against David Castillo, accused of the murder of Berta Cáceres, the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), the Family of Berta Cáceres and their legal team, informs the national and

international community of the following" (see first link below).

Karen Spring will published again a detailed overview of the court proceedings. She started her summary with an important observation. "COPINH and Berta Cáceres's family do not consider David Castillo to be an intellectual author of Berta's murder despite being charged as such. COPINH has publicly stated that Castillo was following orders and that he was protecting the interests of others. For these reasons, COPINH calls Castillo a co-author of Berta's murder to make it clear that Castillo is responsible for her murder, but not the only person that made the decision or paid for Berta to be killed." After a five hour delay because Castillo was not brought to court on time, they first day ended with the court rejecting a "request by the defense to delay the trial noting that the Defense had sufficient time (since September 2020) to seek the relevant evidence needed for expert witness testimony/analysis. The court also ruled that they would not consider new pieces of evidence that had not been presented in the evidentiary hearing".

Before the trial started, COPINH denounced that the court would not allow the presence of international human rights observers in the court room.

OACNUDH also lamented this decision and wrote that this would limit the effectiveness of their work.

The first day of trial was accompanied by statements of solidarity with Berta's family and COPINH, e.g. by EU Parliamentarian and US members of Congress.

<https://copinh.org/2021/04/copinh-statement-at-onset-of-david-castillo-trial/>

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/6/day-one>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7424-con-55-medios-de-prueba-el-mp-va-a-juicio-contra-presidente-de-desa-acusado-de-ordenar-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1379478143787008003>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1379560832678379520>

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1379479940349976583>

<https://twitter.com/MetzTilly/status/1379468255824379905>

<https://twitter.com/RepSires/status/1379501623605653507>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3125-red-europea-de-solidaridad-con-honduras-hay-pruebas-contundentes-que-senalan-que-castillo-es-coautor-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

"Two months ago, the Court of Appeals of La Ceiba cemented the collusion between the judiciary and the Inversiones Los Pinares mining company to illegally keep eight water defenders from Guapinol and Sector San Pedro in jail as punishment for their defense of the rivers in the Carlos Escaleras National Park against the threat of an iron oxide mining project. Tomorrow, Wednesday,

April 7, at 10:30 a.m.: the families of the defenders arbitrarily imprisoned, the Municipal Committee in Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa and its legal team will present an injunction in the Supreme Court to guarantee their rights and obtain the freedom of the comrades who have been imprisoned for their defense of the environment."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/filing-of-constitutional-appeal-freedom-for-guapinol-now>

In the case of the murder of Keyla Martínez who died in police custody in February, the head of the Directorate of Police Disciplinary Affairs (Didadpol) Allan Argeñal, recommended to the Ministry of Security the dismissal of the officers responsible for her arrest.

Keyla's mother wrote an open letter to the Police Investigation Bureau (DPI) demanding results in the investigation into the murder of her daughter.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/didadpol-recomienda-a-seguridad-el-despido-de-dos-policias-vinculados-en-muerte-de-keyla-martinez-en-posta-policial>

<https://tiempo.hn/madre-keyla-martinez-carta-dpi/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/06/acaso-la-dpi-esta-encubriendo-a-los-asesinos-madre-de-keyla-carga-contrajefe-de-policia-cientifica/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network reported on protests in various parts of Honduras yesterday by people demanding the resignation of JOH. In one place the protest was further linked to the demand the reconstruction of flood dykes destroyed by the hurricanes Eta and Iota last year.

The police heavily repressed them.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1379640213836730369>

<https://criterio.hn/ceibenos-exigen-salida-de-juan-hernandez-de-la-presidencia-de-honduras/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3126-policias-reprimen-una-caminata-pacifica-de-pobladores-afectados-por-los-huracanes-eta-e-iota>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/policia-reprime-a-pobladores-del-valle-de-sula-que-demandan-reparacion-de-bordos-y-dragado-de-rios/>

CESPAD published an analysis by sociologist Eugenio Sosa. "United States: sword of Damocles hanging over the head of President Hernandez and his regime"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/06/analisis-estados-unidos-espada-de-damocles-sobre-el-cuello-del-presidente-hernandez-y-su-regimen/>

There are 192'413 COVID-19 cases and 4686 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-277-nuevos-contagios-y-acumula-192-mil-413-casos-de-covid-19/>

More and more mayors warn about the lack of state transfers to the municipalities and its negative effects on the pandemic response (see also yesterday).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1454762-410/triajes-falta-fondos-municipios-honduras-pandemia-tranferencias-operacion-fuerza-honduras>

After the Ministry of Health, now it is the turn of the Ministry of Finance to confirm that they don't know when the Sputnik V vaccine doses will arrive in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/no-hay-fecha-para-llegada-de-vacunas-sputink-v-a-honduras-reconoce-el-ministro-de-finanzas/>

Over a year later, now even the auditing body at Invest-H recognizes that the mobile hospitals are not up to the task.

"Yes, it is the worst scam because when you buy turnkey it has to be on time and according to what was agreed and even more so when you pay in advance and none of those three things have been fulfilled."

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-moviles-tecnicamente-no-estan-aptos-reconoce-interventora-de-invest-h/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/06/interventor-de-investh-reconoce-que-hospitales-moviles-son-la-peor-estafa-y-pide-disculpas/>

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<https://proceso.hn/incautan-supuesta-droga-xxx-en-una-casa-del-departamento-de-colon/>

07/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Guapinol; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Armed Forces, Women; Corruption - Asfura, Pandora; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Transparency, Vaccines; Migration - US; Elections

The second day of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring highlights these main points: " The lawyers (acusador privado) representing Berta Cáceres's family present additional evidence including documents outlining a bank transfer for over \$1,254,000 USD authorized by DESA's Chief Financial Officer, Daniel Atala to Pemsa, the company directed by David Castillo (see pictures published by COPINH below). The date of the bank transfer is February 29, 2016 and the money is suspected to be direct evidence of payments made and authorized by DESA executives to Castillo, who then gave money to now-convicted murderer, Douglas Bustillo, while discussing plans to carry out some sort of action around the date of the bank

transfer and just days before Berta Cáceres was murdered.

The defense asked the judges to recuse themselves from the case. The court ruled that the trial will be suspended until the Appeals Court rules on the defense's motion. [NOTE: This is the fourth time that the defense has attempted to recuse the judges. Lawyer Victor Fernandez predicts that the Appeals court will rule within the next few days and if denied, the trial could continue next week]" COPINH held a press conference outside the court after the suspension.

OACNUDH expressed concern about "the repeated delays that impede access to justice and the effective search for truth for the victims".

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/7/day-two-trial-against-david-castillo-co-author-of-berta-caceres-murder>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1379870664165838852>

<https://copinh.org/2021/04/en-juicio-oral-y-publico-contradavid-castillo-presentan-pruebas-que-vinculan-a-daniel-atala-con-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-defensa-presenta-nuevo-recurso-dilatorio/>

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1379846255774425092>

<https://copinh.org/2021/04/presentan-nueva-prueba-que-evidencia-el-pago-de-un-miembro-de-la-familia-atala-a-david-castillo-un-dia-antes-del-asesinato/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1379976500179566594>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/04/alerta-urgente-honduras-suspenden-juicio-contradavid-castillo-coautor-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

"The eight illegally detained Guapinol and Sector San Pedro water defenders filed an injunction today against the distorted and malicious ruling of the Court of Appeals of La Ceiba for violation of fundamental rights established in the Constitution of the Republic and International Human Rights Treaties. The legal action comes one day after the filing of a Habeas Corpus by the National Human Rights Ombudsperson (CONADEH) Commissioner, Blanca Izaguirre, urging the application of international standards to guarantee the immediate release of the defenders."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/honduras-supreme-court-must-correct-distorted-ruling-free-arbitrarily-detained-guapinol-defenders>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/presentan-recurso-de-amparo-contraresolucion-que-mantiene-presos-a-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Yesterday, the hearing against former police and JOH's cousin Mauricio Hernández Pined started in New York. He is accused of drug trafficking.

Tony Hernández's legal team, meanwhile, appealed his life sentence.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/04/07/hoy-se-realiza-audiencia-dentro-del-caso-de-mauricio-hernandez-pineda-primero-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-acusado-por-narcotrafico/>

<https://criterio.hn/audiencia-contra-expolicia-mauricio-hernandez-tambien-salpica-a-presidente-de-honduras/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/04/07/juan-antonio-hernandez-presenta-apelacion-ante-el-segundo-circuito-de-new-york/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1455148-410/d%C3%ADa-siguiente-recibir-condena-defensa-antonio-presento-apelacion>

Former head of the Armed Forces and coup general from 2009, Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, demanded that the Armed Forces take action against JOH for his links to drug trafficking and organized crime.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/07/romeo-vasquez-incita-a-las-ff-aa-a-no-tener-miedo-y-actuar-contr-el-gobierno/>

"The movement 100+Women for Honduras made this Wednesday a tour of four emblematic headquarters of the powerful that are concentrated in Tegucigalpa to denounce the support of these to the narco regime of Juan Hernandez."

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-vuelven-a-las-calles-para-manifestarse-contr-joh-en-la-capital-de-honduras/>

Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura already faces charges for corruption and now Expediente Público reports about another case he is involved in. "Nasry Asfura is a shareholder of the garbage collection company Sulambiente, which sued the municipality of San Pedro Sula for a total of US\$8.1 million without having provided any service. A report by Expediente Público uncovers how the transaction took place, how Asfura hides its identity under the name of another firm and how its partners, once the case is won, return the shares to their original partner".

<https://expedientepublico.org/alcalde-de-tegucigalpa-nasry-asfura-el-papi-de-la-basura/>

Two people involved in the Pandora corruption case have been murdered recently. "Former sentencing judge Indiana Beatriz Castellanos, who was executed by unknown persons and whose body was found in the Roble Oeste neighborhood, in the south of the capital, dealt with some high-impact cases, such as the Pandora case. In fact, the former judicial official and the also deceased former criminal judge Melvin Bonilla - who died last March - were legal representatives of several accused of the theft of around 282 million lempiras from the Ministry of Agriculture to finance political campaigns."

Four lawyers were murdered in the last six months in Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/07/abogada-y-exjueza-ultimada-defendia-junto-a-fallecido-penalista-a-varios-encausados-en-pandora/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/el-asesinato-de-abogada-en-tegucigalpa-tiene-unas-caracteristicas-particulares-revelo-titular-de-dpi>

<https://proceso.hn/los-crimenes-contra-abogados-otro-eslabon-de-la-violencia-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1455090-466/abogados-asesinados-honduras-2020-2021>

There are 193'029 COVID-19 cases and 4703 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/covid-deja-4-mil-73-muertes-y-mas-de-193-mil-contagios-en-honduras/>

After warnings by mayors about closing triage centers, the JOH regime promised 40 million Lempiras to keep them open.

<https://confidencialhn.com/aprueban-40-millones-de-lempiras-para-atender-triajes/>

El Herald reported that the Ministry of Health imposed a gag order to the triage centers establishing that the only spokesperson authorized to give statements to the media will be Dr. Harry Bock Melara.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1455052-466/imponen-mordaza-coordinadores-triajes-no-informen-casos-covid>

As the JOH regime still has failed to have any vaccines delivered to Honduras (except through the COVAX mechanism), they announced to have started talks with China.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-compra-de-vacunas-sinovac-a-china/>

The New York Times reported on migration from Honduras. "‘We Are Doomed’: Devastation From Storms Fuels Migration in Honduras"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/06/world/americas/migration-honduras-central-america.html>

A delegation from the JOH regime traveled to the US yesterday to meet representatives of the Biden administration to discuss migration.

"The White House is looking to create legal ways for Central American migrants to reach the United States, U.S. President Joe Biden’s special envoy Ricardo Zuñiga said on Tuesday, amid a sharp rise in illegal crossings over the past few months."

<https://confidencialhn.com/delegacion-gubernamental-viaja-a-eeuu-para-mantener-reuniones-sobre->

[migracion-y-otros-temas-prioritarios/](#)

<https://proceso.hn/canciller-rosales-discute-sobre-migracion-tps-y-danos-de-huracanes-con-el-secretario-de-seguridad-nacional-de-eeuu/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-centam/white-house-aims-to-create-legal-ways-for-central-americans-to-migrate-us-envoy-says-idUSKBN2BT333>

The Liberal movement Recuperar Honduras presented a challenge at the Supreme Court demanding that the primary elections will be nullified.

<https://proceso.hn/movimiento-recuperar-honduras-presenta-recurso-amparo-para-anular-resultados-de-elecciones-primarias/>

08/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Keyla; Campesines; HR; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines, HR; Migration - US; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; Elections;

COPINH sent out the newest update on the Berta Cáceres case. "After overcoming innumerable obstacles presented by the legal defense of the accused David Castillo, the oral and public trial hearings began. However, due to a new recusal to the court by the legal defense, the fourth at this stage, the hearings were suspended until this appeal is resolved by the Court of Appeals. Nevertheless, the short start of the trial against David Castillo allowed the presentation of new evidence by the legal team representing the family of Berta Cáceres and COPINH linking the Atala family to payments made to David Castillo days before the crime in the framework of conversations to provide "logistics" to the assassination structure. Daniel Atala transferred to David Castillo more than 1 million dollars 2 days before the murder of Berta Cáceres."

CEJIL called on "the State of Honduras to take all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of Berta Cáceres' family and COPINH".

<https://copinh.org/2021/04/newsletter-n-15-trial-against-david-castillo-begins-new-evidence-links-daniel-atala/>

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-honduras-debe-garantizar-proteccion-familia-berta-caceres-y-copinh-juicio-contra-david>

"Two months after the murder of young Keyla Martinez, the decision of the Police Disciplinary Affairs Directorate, Didadpol, to only dismiss several police officers assigned to the police station of La Esperanza, Intibucá, has caused indignation among her relatives."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/condenan-falta-de-castigo-contra-implicados-en-asesinato-de-keyla-martinez/>

This week, the criminalizing trial against two campesines from Tutule, La Paz, concluded. Luis



Alonso Tejeda Orellana and Yesenia Yamileth Padilla expect the resolution on April 20.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-20-de-abril-se-conocera-resolucion-del-juicio-oral-y-publico-de-campesinos-de-la-paz/>

Amnesty International published its yearly report. On Honduras, they wrote: "During the COVID-19 pandemic, thesecurity forces used excessive force toimplement lockdowns and to policeprotests. Health workers highlighted thehealth risks posed by the lack of personalprotection equipment (PPE) in hospitals.Honduras remained one of the most lethalcountries for human rights defenders."

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL1032022021ENGLISH.PDF>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/pandemia-desnudo-las-profundas-desigualdades-en-las-americas-ammnistia-internacional/>

There are 193'783 COVID-19 cases and 4715 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-aumentan-a-193-mil-783-al-confirmarse-otros-754-contagios/>

Months too late, the MP finally had both Marco Antonio Bográn Corrales and Alex Alberto Moraes Girón arrested for the purchase of the mobile hospitals which cost Honduras \$47 million without bringing any benefit. While welcome that this took place, given that it is Honduras, one immediately wonders why now? From where should attention be diverted away? The botched primary elections? JOH's drug trafficking links?

OACNUDH welcomed the arrest and highlighted the important link between corruption and human rights violations.

Apart from the arrest of the two men, the MP will also sent out an international arrest warrant against Axel López, representative of the company Elmed Medical System which sold the mobile hospitals.

El Heraldo gave a quick overview of the current state of the seven mobile hospitals.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7456-c-o-m-u-n-i-c-a-d-o>

<https://criterio.hn/capturan-a-marco-bogran-en-las-oficinas-de-la-atic/>

<https://proceso.hn/exdirector-de-invest-h-marco-bogran-declaro-ante-el-ministerio-publico/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1380331874770378753>

<https://criterio.hn/oacnudh-pide-investigacion-exhaustiva-pronta-e-imparcial-sobre-los-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1455292-466/alerta-internacional-capturar-axel-lopez-guatemalteco->

[hospitales](#)

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1455305-466/ministerio-publico-axel-lopez-estafa-hospitales-moviles>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1455353-466/siete-hospitales-moviles-honduras>

"Despite the fact that Honduran authorities have publicly stated that there is a contract for the acquisition of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V, the Ministry of Health denied Contracorriente the contract information requested through the Law of Access to Public Information, arguing that the vaccine is in the process of acquisition. "

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/04/08/secretaria-de-salud-niega-informacion-de-contrato-de-vacuna-por-estar-en-proceso-de-adquisicion/>

Social movements and indigenous organizations published their next joint press release during the pandemic. "After the primary and internal elections, Hondurans seem to live in two parallel universes, on the one hand, the universe of those who fight furiously over the electoral results, and on the other, the universe of the vast majority of the population who pay the consequences of the deterioration and capture of public institutions, such as hurricane victims, victims of the pandemic or those fleeing in caravans. Faced with this dangerous scenario, we make our pronouncement in this Public Manifesto number forty-three":

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

The Honduran Foreign Minister Lisandro Rosales met with U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas in Washington yesterday. Rosales presented the meeting as a PR win for the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reunion-con-mayorkas-marca-exito-de-nuevas-gestiones-del-gobierno-de-honduras-en-washington-lisandro-rosales/>

"Joe Biden entered the White House with some inspiring yet contradictory positions on immigration and Central America. He promised to reverse Donald Trump's draconian anti-immigrant policies while, through his "Plan to Build Security and Prosperity in Partnership with the People of Central America," restoring "U.S. leadership in the region" that he claimed Trump had abandoned. For Central Americans, though, such "leadership" has an ominous ring. (...) Instead of solidarity (or even partnership) with Central America, Biden's plan actually promotes an old economic development model that has long benefited U.S. corporations. It also aims to impose a distinctly militarized version of "security" on the people of that region. In addition, it focuses on enlisting Central American governments and, in particular, their militaries to contain migration through the use of repression. The clearest statement of the president's Central America goals appears in his "U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021," sent to Congress on Jan. 20. That proposal offers a sweeping set of changes aimed at eliminating President Trump's racist exclusions, restoring rights to asylum, and

opening a path to legal status and citizenship for the immigrant population. After the anti-immigrant barrage of the last four years, that proposal seems worth celebrating. (...) Read closely, a significant portion of Biden's immigration proposal focuses on the premise that addressing the root causes of Central America's problems will reduce the flow of immigrants to the U.S. border. In its own words, the Biden plan promises to promote "the rule of law, security, and economic development in Central America" in order to "address the key factors" contributing to emigration. Buried in its fuzzy language, however, are long-standing bipartisan Washington goals that should sound familiar to those who have been paying attention in these years."

[https://www.salon.com/2021/04/04/will-bidens-central-america-plan-slow-migration--or-speed-it-up\\_partner/](https://www.salon.com/2021/04/04/will-bidens-central-america-plan-slow-migration--or-speed-it-up_partner/)

"To address the repercussions that Tony Hernández's conviction could have on Honduran society, the digital newspaper [www.defensoresenlinea.com](http://www.defensoresenlinea.com) interviewed union leader Carlos H. Reyes, Jesuit priest Ismael Moreno, renowned human rights defender Bertha Oliva (members of the Convergence against Continuism), as well as jurist Ramón Barrios." Defensores en Linea also has more on this week's call for the resignation of JOH and the establishment of a "Patriotic Call for Transition".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/condena-a-th-supondria-un-panorama-de-alto-riesgo-para-opositores-politicos-y-defensores-de-ddhh/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/llamamiento-patriotico-se-realiza-en-un-momento-importante-para-honduras/>

The US sent another extradition request to Honduras for a Honduran with alleged drug trafficking links.

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-solicita-la-extradicion-de-otro-hondureno-por-narcotrafico/>

Criterio published an analysis of the primary elections.

<https://criterio.hn/cuestionadas-elecciones-ponen-en-entredicho-la-democracia-en-honduras/>

09/04/21

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; Berta - Trial, Criminalization; Armed Forces; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Mobile Hospitals; US - JOH; Elections;

"A few days before the commemoration of the arrival of the first Garifunas to Honduras, human rights defender Miriam Miranda denounced that "there is a genocide plan" against this ethnic group by the Honduran State."

<https://criterio.hn/hay-un-plan-de-genocidio-contra-el-pueblo-garifuna-por-el-estado-hondureno-miriam-miranda/>

The IACHR also voiced concern regarding the newest delay in the trial against David Castillo (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1380531414152663040>

One case also linked to the murder of Berta, has now been resolved. "A criminal execution court in Tegucigalpa has granted a letter of release to retired police commissioner María Luisa Borjas after commuting her sentence for the payment of money.

The also deputy for the Libertad y Refundación (Libre) Party had been sentenced to two years and eight months of imprisonment for the crime of slander constituting defamation against Camilo Atala. Borjas was accused of the crime of defamation, which no longer exists in the new Penal Code."

<https://criterio.hn/dan-carta-de-libertad-a-maria-luisa-borjas-tras-conmuta-de-pena/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3130-pague-por-un-delito-inexistente-para-no-morir-en-prision>

Pasos de Animal Grande reported on the situation Hernán Rafael Silva Martínez. "He denounced a fierce persecution for having documents evidencing alleged corruption in the armed forces and since then the military has been employing different persecution strategies in search of the documents. On April 8, 2021, when he was on his way home, he managed to take a photograph of one of the vehicles that was following him."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3129-me-quieren-asesinar-porque-descubiertos-actos-ilicitos-en-las-fuerzas-armadas>

There are 194'548 COVID-19 cases and 4766 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-194-mil-548-contagios-y-4-mil-766-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Yet another doctor, Gonzalo Pascua, died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-ya-cobra-82-vidas-de-medicos-en-honduras-tras-el-deceso-de-gonzalo-pascua/>

"In view of the new wave of increase of covid-19 cases in the country, the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazán, has declared a state of emergency, informing the population of the cancellation of outpatient consultations at its attention center."

<https://criterio.hn/ihss-cae-en-el-colapso>

Honduras has the worst vaccination rate in Central America.

The JOH regime continues to blame others for its failure to purchase vaccines.

And now the JOH regime seems to task the private sector to buy the vaccines. "On Thursday, the Minister of Finance, Marco Midence, celebrated on social networks the signing of an agreement with the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP) that allows this organization to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies, using the government platform, to purchase and import vaccines."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-con-peor-registro-de-vacunacion-contr-a-covid-19-en-centroamerica/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/04/09/honduras-denuncia-que-le-ofrecian-vacunas-por-cuatro-veces-su-precio-en-ee-uu/>

<https://criterio.hn/compra-de-vacuna-covid-19-por-la-empresa-privada-desnuda-la-inoperancia-y-corrupcion-del-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-no-comprara-las-vacunas-solo-se-encargara-de-negociarlas-y-pagarlas/>

A court confirmed the arrest of Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes for the purchase of the mobile hospitals (see yesterday).

But there is also the fear that the new Penal Code will let them off easily.

The MP may present further arrest warrants in this case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7464-mp-logra-la-detencion-judicial-de-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-por-el-mega fraude-en-el-caso-de-los-hospitales-moviles>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/marco-bogran-seguira-en-prision-preventiva-por-fraude-en-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/expectativas-y-asombros-provoca-actuacion-del-ministerio-publico-en-captura-de-ex-funcionarios-de-invest-h/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/09/sostienen-que-nuevo-codigo-penal-jugara-a-favor-de-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-podria-ampliar-requerimientos-fiscales-en-caso-de-hospitales-moviles/>

The US Department of Homeland Security published the readout of Secretary Mayorkas's meeting with Honduran Foreign Minister Rosales (see yesterday).

Rosales now unconvincingly claims that JOH remains a reliable partner of the Biden administration. Joaquín Mejía does not agree. "[W]ith the change of government in the United States, Juan Orlando Hernández went from being a strategic ally to becoming "poisonous" for both the United States and the international community."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/04/09/readout-secretary-mayorkas-s-meeting-honduran-foreign-minister-rosales>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-busca-consolidar-el-estado-de-derecho-en-paises-del-triangulo-norte-dice-enviado-de-biden/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1455577-410/joh-socio-confiable-eeuu-pese-acusaciones-narcotrafico->

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/joh-se-convirtio-en-un-apestado-para-la-comunidad-internacional/>

The official results of the primaries are still not out and the CNE continues with a special recount of some ballots. But this process continues to be accompanied by irregularities. Luis Zelaya and his Liberal movement Recuperar Honduras denounced that not all the ballots they contested would be reviewed. "According to Zelaya, this violates the rights of the citizens who participated in the electoral process and they will appeal to the Electoral Court of Justice (TJE) and have collected enough evidence to present electoral crimes before the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP)."

<https://criterio.hn/movimiento-recuperar-honduras-retira-sus-observadores-y-recurriran-a-las-apelaciones/>

10/04/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - JOH; Garífunas - Forced Disappearance; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals; Migration; Drug Trafficking – Extradition;

The National Electoral Council (CNE) will announce the final primary results on Tuesday, one month after they took place.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-realizara-el-proximo-martes-13-de-abril-la-declaratoria-final-de-los-comicios-internos/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-martes-13-de-abril-el-cne-hara-declaratoria-final-de-las-elecciones-primarias-2021/>

The Convergence against Continuity published their interpretation of the current political situation in Honduras. "1.- Our demand is firm and precise: the immediate departure of Juan Orlando Hernandez and his henchmen is non-negotiable, and around this demand we place our struggle and pressure, and towards it we urge the convergence of all political and social instances in a national and urgent unity of action. 2.- The demand for the immediate departure of the narco-dictator and his henchmen is not in contradiction or confrontation with the electoral process, which, although covered with irregularities and vices that feed fraud, represents one of the few opportunities for a society that strives to seek democratic and peaceful ways out of the crisis through the ballot box. 3.- Nothing that leads to new scenarios can succeed with the presence of the narco-dictatorship, and elections conducted by structures controlled by organized crime embedded in the State, will lead us

to a sure fraud and to the continuity of the dictatorship with or without JOH. 4.- Therefore, achieving the immediate departure of Juan Orlando Hernandez and his henchmen will pave the way for the conditions that will generate an environment of confidence for elections to be held with rules that finally respect the will of the people deposited in the ballot box."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Posicionamiento-frente-a-la-coyuntura-poli%CC%81tica-actual.pdf>

In an OpEd, Dany G. Díaz Mejía calls for not forgetting the forcefully disappeared Garífunas. " In 2021 we cannot lose track of the case of the Garifuna who are still missing and the Inter-American Court must show its teeth before the Honduran State, where Almagro sometimes seems to hide them. Without being able to bury their dead, there will be no peace in Honduras."

<https://gatoencerrado.news/2021/04/08/honduras-no-tendra-paz-si-no-puede-enterrar-a-sus-muertos-por-dany-g-diaz-mejia/>

There are 195'525 COVID-19 cases and 4770 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-195-mil-525-contagios-y-4-mil-770-decesos-por-covid-19>

The third doctor died to COVID-19, Albert Grant.

<https://tiempo.hn/por-covid-muere-medico-albert-grant/>

<https://proceso.hn/muere-el-doctor-albert-grant-por-covid/>

The MP presented 50 pieces of evidence in what they now call "mega-fraud" in the purchase of the seven mobile hospitals.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7469-50-medios-de-prueba-propuestos-por-el-mp-exponen-megafraude-en-la-compra-de-siete-hospitales-moviles>

"As part of the promotion of the exchange of fingerprint data on missing persons in the context of migration in Central and North America, a meeting was held between doctors from the General Directorate of Forensic Medicine and members of the Protection program of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7467-cicr-y-medicina-forense-impulsan-programa-para-obtencion-de-informacion-y-posterior-repatriacion-de-fallecidos-en-ruta-migratoria>

Honduran authorities captured Martín Adolfo Díaz Contreras, requested for extradition by the US.

<https://proceso.hn/capturado-extraditable-hondureno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-proximo-domingo-11-de-abril-realizaran-primera-audiencia-de-extradicion-para-martin-adolfo-diaz-contreras/>

11/04/21

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; COVID-19; Drug Trafficking;

All corporate media outlets in Honduras sprang on a recent statement by Biden advisor Juan Gonzalez on their relationship to JOH. "He is currently the elected president of Honduras, we are going to work with his government, we are going to look for areas of common interest."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1455947-466/eeuu-dispuesto-trabajar-juan-orlando-hernandez>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-dispuesto-a-trabajar-con-presidente-hondureno-pese-a-denuncias/>

There are 195'780 COVID-19 cases and 4804 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-195-mil-780-infectados-y-4-mil-804-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

Martín Adolfo Díaz, requested by the US for extradition, will face his extradition trial in Honduras on May 12.

So far, 23 Hondurans have been extradited to the US.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1455991-410/-audiencia-pruebas-extraditable-hondure%C3%B1o-estados-unidos-narco->

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1455937-466/12-mayo-audiencia-extraditable-martin-adolfo-diaz-honduras>

12/04/21

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; HRDs - ARCAH; JOH - Facebook, Drug Trafficking; Berta - Judicial System; Journalists; Migration - US; Elections; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Education; Eta;

OFRANEH commemorates the 224 years of resistance by the Garífuna people in Honduras and makes clear that currently, there is nothing to celebrate.

"OACNUDH emphasizes that, to date, indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples continue to suffer discrimination, exclusion and high rates of poverty and violence. The Office urges the Honduran State to respect, promote and guarantee the rights of the Afro-Honduran people."

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1381599229983010820>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1381617864243822595>



<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ataques-y-criminalizacion-marcan-224-anos-de-presencia-garifunas-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/Melosjmoreno/status/1381585085409923073>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/04/pronunciamento-de-la-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-224-anos-de-memoria-ancestral-y-resistencia-del-pueblo-garifuna/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1381721519898951681>

"The Human Rights Roundtable in Honduras demands that the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary put an end to the misuse of criminal law against human rights defenders belonging to the Organization, Alternative for Community and Environmental Claims of Honduras (ARCAH), who must appear at an initial hearing on April 13, 2021, in clear inequality compared to the poultry company El Cortijo, which pollutes the Choluteca River, but is treated with kid gloves by the justice system and is not punished for its actions against the environment by the Honduran State, which uses criminalization to bury peaceful protest in the country."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3131-ministerio-publico-quiere-sepultar-la-protesta-pacifica-en-honduras>

"A Guardian investigation exposes the breadth of state-backed manipulation of the platform (...) The most blatant example was Juan Orlando Hernández, the president of Honduras, who in August 2018 was receiving 90% of all the known civic fake engagement in the small Central American country. In August 2018, Zhang uncovered evidence that Hernández's staff was directly involved in the campaign to boost content on his page with hundreds of thousands of fake likes. One of the administrators of Hernández's official Facebook Page was also administering hundreds of other Pages that had been set up to resemble user profiles. The staffer used the dummy Pages to deliver fake likes to Hernández's posts, the digital equivalent of bussing in a fake crowd for a speech."

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/apr/12/facebook-loophole-state-backed-manipulation>

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/apr/12/facebook-fake-engagement-whistleblower-sophie-zhang>

Proceso Digital published an article on drug trafficking activities in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/toneladas-de-cocaina-y-pistas-clandestinas-el-rastro-del-narco-en-honduras/>

CESPAD published an interview on the role of the judicial system in the Berta Cáceres murder trial. "Victor Fernandez is leading the defense of one of the most complex cases in his career: the crime of indigenous leader Berta Cáceres. However, this lawyer faces power structures in Honduras that maneuver to prevent the investigation from reaching high-level businessmen who are allegedly

linked to the crime. CESPAD spoke with Fernández and he tells us how, on behalf of the victims, the doors have been closed to him to learn about the progress of the investigation, the case has been declared confidential and even, in the trial, there have been practices that violate international conventions and national laws on human rights."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/12/asi-ha-operado-el-sistema-judicial-de-honduras-en-el-juicio-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

Pasos de Animal Grande warns about the situation of journalists as 19 individual and 3 collective attacks have been recorded in the first three months of 2021.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3132-nadie-hara-algo-si-atacan-a-periodistas-en-honduras>

"The Biden administration has secured agreements for Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala to tighten their borders and stem the flow of migration, Special Assistant to the President for Immigration for the Domestic Policy Council Tyler Moran told MSNBC on Monday. "We've secured agreements for them to put more troops on their own border. Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala have all agreed to do this. That not only is going to prevent the traffickers, and the smugglers, and cartels that take advantage of the kids on their way here, but also to protect those children," Moran said."

The Honduran foreign minister Lisandro Rosales that such an agreement exists.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/12/politics/biden-agreement-mexico-honduras-guatemala/index.html>

<https://proceso.hn/mexico-honduras-y-guatemala-aumentaran-tropas-en-fronteras-dice-eu/>

<https://proceso.hn/canciller-hondureno-desmiente-anuncio-de-eeuu-de-envio-de-policias-y-militares-a-frontera/>

In the US Congress, there will be a subcommittee hearing on "Renewing the United States' Commitment to Addressing the Root Causes of Migration from Central America".

<https://gop-foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/renewing-the-united-states-commitment-to-addressing-the-root-causes-of-migration-from-central-america/>

The official primary results are expected for tomorrow, but bar any big surprises the main results are already known. CESPAD published a short analysis. "The primary elections, held last March 14, is the mechanism that the Honduran parties have with a triple purpose: (i) To legitimize the selection of people who already have the endorsement of the party elites, for the candidacies for the general elections, ii) To identify other alternative leaderships that have the support of the electorate; and iii) To measure how much and how the militancy is distributed territorially, also known as the party's hard vote." Compared to 2017, Libre received 20% more votes (now 557'862), the Liberal Party 10% more (781'583) and the National Party 15% less (1'166'985). "Nevertheless, in spite of its

electoral volatility (amount of votes it loses from one election to another), the National Party has the highest number of adherents and internal cohesion (the losing pre-candidates -at different levels- have recognized the winner in spite of the irregularities in the elections), has a sustained policy to establish clientelistic relationships through social programs and has institutionalized the use of public and illicit funds in political campaigns. Therefore, he would win individually if today were the general elections, although with less than 25% of the electoral roll (and that is under the assumption that the null and blank votes would become valid in favor of the nationalist candidate). In the absence of a second round in Honduras (a reform that the Nationalist bench has cleverly blocked), the only way for a government with greater legitimacy to emerge in next November's elections is through an electoral alliance, supporting either the majority parties or an alternative force and with the vote of those who today have no political color. In this scenario, a key actor would be the Salvadoran Party of Honduras (PSH)."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/12/analisis-resultados-de-elecciones-primarias-en-honduras-y-las-tendencias-partidarias/>

There are 196'086 COVID-19 cases and 4861 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-57-muertes-por-covid-19-en-un-dia-y-acumula-4-mil-861-decesos/>

The hearing against Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes in the case of the mobile hospitals (see last week) continued yesterday with the presentation of evidence by the defense.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1456058-466/audiencia-inicial-marco-bogran-alex-moraes-hospitales-moviles-martes-honduras>

The situation of pupils and the possible return to in-person classes launched another fierce debate in Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/12/no-hay-voluntad-politica-piden-retorno-a-las-aulas-de-clases-a-pesar-del-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-retornar-a-clases-de-forma-presencial-ante-la-pandemia-seria-el-suicidio-mas-grande/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pese-a-la-crisis-del-pais-arnaldo-bueso-asegura-que-han-avanzado-en-plan-estrategico-educativo/>

After the two hurricanes Eta and Iota hit Honduras, the JOH regime commissioned a report on the reconstruction of Honduras by an advisory council. This report was presented yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/informe-final-de-grupo-asesor-para-la-reconstruccion-nacional/>

<https://proceso.hn/al-proceso-de-reconstruccion-de-honduras-le-falta-un-largo-camino-consejo-consultivo-en-su-informe-final/>

13/04/21

Honduras Daily: SSF - Impunity; HRDs; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines; Migration - US; Elections; and the Forests Still Burn

Once again, impunity reigns when it comes to state security forces. The Directorate of Police Disciplinary Affairs (Didadpol) assured that the case of Keyla Martínez, who was found dead in a cell of the police station of La Esperanza, Intibucá, has been closed. Allan Argeñal, head of Didadpol, assured that "the discharge hearings were held for two policemen and ordered that they be separated from the institution".

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a second case. "Three military members of the 101st Military Brigade, are on trial in the Criminal Courts of Choluteca, for torturing the young Alexander Perez, when he came from playing soccer on December 18, 2017. (...) Lawyer Nidia Castillo is interviewed by pasosdeanimalgrande.com and details that justice is agile to prosecute human rights defenders, but late to do so against those who hold power, in this case military of the 101st Military Brigade, who despite having committed serious torture against Kevin, are still in their posts and have time to obstruct justice, delaying the entire process that has already been going on for three years and has not gone beyond the indagatory hearing. "They have done everything possible so that the hearings do not take place. They are untouchable.""

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1456398-466/cierran-caso-keyla-martinez-separacion-agentes-policiales>

<https://criterio.hn/didadpol-cierra-el-caso-del-asesinato-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3133-cuando-se-trata-de-militares-no-hay-justicia-en-honduras>

There was a protest in solidarity with the criminalized ARCAH defenders in front of the courts in Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/protestan-por-proceso-judicial-injusto-contra-siete-ambientalistas/>

There are 196'704 COVID-19 cases and 4873 confirmed deaths.

This latter number once again does not correspond with the death reported by the Funeral Association of Honduras which has registered 11'361 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-mil-136-pacientes-hospitalizados-por-la-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asociacion-de-funerarias-reporta-380-muertes-sospechosas-de-coronavirus-en-los-primeros-dias-de-abril/>

El Tiempo reports that the situation in the department of Olancho is so bad that they started to bury people in mass graves.

The mayor of Juticalpa warns that Olancho is breaking down.

<https://tiempo.hn/fosas-comunes-sepultan-olanchanos-colapso-covid/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/olancho-en-alerta-roja-por-casos-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/olancho-esta-cayendo-lentamente-ante-el-covid-19-dice-alcalde-de-juticalpa/>

The hearing in the case of the mobile hospitals against Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes culminated yesterday. The judge will present their conclusion.

The MP, once again, announced that charges could be filed against more people in this case.

<https://proceso.hn/culmina-audiencia-inicial-para-bogran-y-moraes-manana-se-conocera-conclusiones-y-decision-del-juez/>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-no-descarta-acusar-a-otros-funcionarios-por-la-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

"The President of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva Herrera, presents a draft decree to authorize the purchase of vaccines against Covid-19 by private companies and the pharmaceutical industry." (see also last week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-congreso-nacional-mauricio-oliva-herrera-presenta-proyecto-de-decreto-para-autorizar-la-compra-de-vacunas-contr-el-covid-19-a-la-empresa-privada-y-la-industria-farmaceutica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tomas-zambrano-aclara-que-no-se-ha-dictaminado-que-vacuna-covid-19-sera-comercializada/>

Univision tells the story of Gael, a seven year old Honduran boy who traveled as part of a migrant caravan to the US in search of his father.

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/inmigracion/nino-viajo-solo-desde-honduras-buscando-a-su-papa-estados-unidos>

The JOH regime continues to claim that the US misunderstood them regarding an alleged agreement to further militarize the border (see yesterday).

<https://proceso.hn/despliegue-de-tropas-fue-malinterpretado-por-los-voceros-de-eeuu-segun-embajador-luis-suazo/>

The CNE published the final results of the primaries confirming the success of Yani Rosenthal

(Liberal Party), Xiomara Castro (Libre) and Nasry Asfura (National Party).

The president of the Liberal Party, who lost to Rosenthal, Luis Zelaya, continues to denounce the primaries as fraudulent.

Rosenthal, meanwhile, emphasizes the need for an alliance with Libre to defeat the National Party.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1456552-508/nasry-asfura-xiomara-castro-yani-rosenthal-elecciones-primarias>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2845-honduras-luis-zelaya-denuncia-ante-fiscalia-fraude-de-90-mil-votos>

<https://criterio.hn/luis-zelaya-pide-la-nulidad-de-las-elecciones-primarias-en-todos-sus-niveles/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/13/yani-asegura-que-alianza-con-libre-es-garantia-de-triunfo-contra-el-partido-nacional/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/13/ni-pandemia-ni-huracanes-disminuyen-incendios-forestales-en-honduras/>

14/04/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs CODIMCA, MAS; Berta - Trial, Gualcarque; JOH - Church; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, Vaccines, Poverty, Journalists; Migration - US, Mexico; Elections - Opposition; Congratulations ADEPZA

"Today, April 14, 2021, at around 9:00 am, armed men burst into the facilities of the Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women (CODIMCA) requesting information about the general coordinator of the organization and when they did not get an answer they beat and tied up two colleagues from the technical team who were in the facilities."

OACNUDH condemned this.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/04/alerta-defensoras-honduras-hombres-armados-atacan-a-companeras-del-equipo-tecnico-de-codimca-y-roban-informacion-de-la-organizacion/>

<https://proceso.hn/denuncian-atentado-contra-integrantes-del-codimca-tras-presentar-amparo-en-caso-de-corrupcion-publica/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1382507864099586049>

CESPAD published an analysis of the criminalization against the members of defenders at the Santabarbarens Environmental Movement (MAS).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/14/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-estrategias-de-criminalizacion->

[hacia-las-personas-defensoras-del-movimiento-ambientalista-santabarbarenses-mas/](#)

The Appeals Court rejected the newest dilatory tactic by the defense of David Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1382389798732771330>

"The Due Process of Law Foundation presents Amicus Curiae before the Supreme Court of Justice supporting the writ of amparo presented by COPINH, so that its right to participate in the case "Fraud over El Gualcarque" is respected."

<https://copinh.org/2021/04/fundacion-para-el-debido-proceso-presenta-amicus-para-que-se-respete-el-derecho-de-copinh-como-victima-en-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

"The General Assembly of the Association of Pastors of Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela (APT), apologized to the Honduran people for the relationship that several religious leaders have created with the current government, putting down the spiritual for financial benefits. It is worth mentioning that the regime of Juan Hernandez, has been known for integrating committees of pastors involved in various issues of the nation to supposedly solve structural problems, as has been the case of the police purge. (...) And in this context, in a communiqué the APT has said that it rejects "any inclusion of the Evangelical Church in the Government for personal agreements of economic interests"."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2851-honduras-pastores-piden-perdon-por-vinculos-con-gobierno>

There are 198'214 COVID-19 cases and 4905 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/con-4-mil-754-pruebas-se-agregan-mil-510-contagios-y-32-muertes-por-covid-en-honduras/>

The BCIE sent another \$500'000 to the JOH regime to combat the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-entrega-segunda-donacion-a-honduras-por-500-mil-para-la-emergencia-de-la-covid-19/>

Another doctor, Óscar Armando Espinoza Madrid, died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/muere-en-tegucigalpa-odontologo-hondureno-a-causa-de-la-covid-19/>

"This year the country continues to be submerged in a health crisis aggravated by the corruption with which Juan Orlando Hernández has managed the emergency. While the government continues to protect those who have misinvested the money, the people are dying in their homes because there is no more room in the hospitals to be treated. Radio Progreso (RP), spoke with the vice-president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), Dr. Samuel Santos (SS) about the situation of

corruption in health matters and the current situation of the pandemic in the country."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/un-ano-de-la-pandemia-corrupcion-es-el-peor-virus-en-honduras/>

In what seems a desperate move, the JOH regime announced that 6000 out of the 4'200'000 purchased doses of the Sputnik V vaccine will arrive in Honduras this Friday.

At the same time, they announced that a government commission will travel to Russia to find out more about the purchased vaccine.

Apart from this, there is also an ongoing debate about private companies in Honduras getting the permission to directly purchase vaccines.

<https://proceso.hn/el-viernes-llegan-seis-mil-vacunas-sputnik-de-las-4-2-millones-compradas-por-honduras-midence/>

<https://tiempo.hn/lote-vacuna-rusa-sputnik-v-llega-a-honduras-viernes1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-del-gobierno-viajara-a-rusia-por-vacuna-sputnik-v/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/con-decreto-buscan-autorizar-a-que-empresa-privada-compra-vacunas-y-las-venda-al-pueblo-hondureno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/compra-de-vacunas-es-negocio-entre-el-gobierno-y-el-cohep-senala-suyapa-figueroa/>

<https://criterio.hn/compra-de-vacunas-por-empresarios-desnuda-la-desigualdad-en-honduras-cientifica-hondurena/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-reitera-que-vacunas-adquiridas-seran-gratuitas-y-no-comercializadas/>

In the first three months of 2021, Honduras received 29% more in remittances compared to 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/las-remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-suben-29-pese-a-la-covid-19/>

At least five journalists and social communicator have died so far in 2021 to COVID-19.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1342-cinco-periodistas-han-muerto-por-covid-19-registrados-hasta-marzo>

Last week, there was reporting about an agreement between the US, Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries to send more troops to the borders. First, Honduras denied this, then Guatemala and now the Biden administration also says that no such agreement exists. This contradicts previous statements by the administration.

US Vice-President Kamala Harris will travel to Mexico and Guatemala.



<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1456776-466/ricardo-zuniga-triangulo-norte-acuerdos-militarizar-fronteras-migrantes>

<https://proceso.hn/enviado-de-biden-niega-nuevos-acuerdos-de-seguridad-con-mexico-y-otros-paises/>

<https://criterio.hn/vicepresidenta-de-estados-unidos-anuncia-gira-a-mexico-y-guatemala/>

"More than 22,000 people, from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Guatemala, Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela, have applied for asylum in Mexico since January 2021. Between 2014 and 2019, there was a 3000% increase in applications. The UN is on the ground working with Mexican authorities to process the cases and assist applicants on a humanitarian basis while they wait."

<https://news.un.org/es/story/2021/04/1490802>

The president of the National Electoral Council Ana Paola Hall unconvincingly claims that the primary elections were the most democratic and transparent in Honduran history. This does not bode well for the general elections in November.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/14/presidenta-del-cne-afirma-que-elecciones-generales-seran-unicas-y-ejemplares-y-prometen-generales-unicas-y-ejemplares/>

Libre's Xiomara Castro wants to start talk with other opposition parties regarding a possible electoral alliance.

<https://proceso.hn/xiomara-pide-a-rosenthal-zelaya-y-nasralla-iniciar-dialogo-para-conformar-alianza/>

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<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1382353667739811843>

15/04/21

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity; Tolupán; HRDs - ARCAH: Journalists; Drug Trafficking - Armed Forces; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines, Economy; Prisons; Elections - Opposition; Migration;

Over 60 national and international organizations wrote an open letter to the US Treasury calling on them to oppose the financing of the Jilamito hydroelectric project through the Inter-American Development Bank and the US International Development Finance Corporation.

<https://twitter.com/SOAWatch/status/1382752110173945860>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-a-ee-uu-cancelar-financiamiento-a-proyecto-hidroelectrico-sobre-el-rio-jilamito/>

"A team from the Public Prosecutor's Office composed of prosecutors, forensic personnel and court agents carried out the exhumation of the body of Tolupán leader Oscar Adán Mejía in the department of Yoro, in northern Honduras. The exhumation was carried out in order to obtain more information leading to the clarification of his murder, which occurred in December 2020 in the municipality of Morazán."

<https://criterio.hn/exhuman-cadaver-de-lider-tolupan-asesinado-en-el-departamento-de-yoro/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7513-exhuman-en-yorito-yoro-cadaver-de-ex-presidente-de-tribu-tolupan>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with criminalized defender Cristopher Castillo from ARCAH.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3136-me-quieren-ver-pres-o-y-haran-todo-lo-que-puedan-para-lograrlo>

"The cameraman of HCH television channel, Carlos Perez was assaulted this Friday night, April 9, while covering an event where four people were killed in a neighborhood of San Pedro Sula, department of Cortes, northern Honduras. Perez was filming an event in the San Carlos de Sula neighborhood, where police agents were apprehending four people. However, when he was covering the event for the television channel, he was removed from the area and subsequently assaulted. During the transmission "En Directo" for the HCH news program, police violence was observed against the cameraman and his partner, Orlin Castro (reporter), where pushing, hitting and violent attitude towards Pérez was observed."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1343-policias-agreden-a-camarografo-durante-cobertura-de-suceso-en-zona-norte>

Against all evidence coming out of the trials in New York, US Southern Command commander Admiral Craig Faller claims to trust the Honduran Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces in fighting drug trafficking.

<https://proceso.hn/jefe-del-comando-sur-garantiza-confianza-en-honduras-ante-el-congreso-de-eeuu/>

There are 198'975 COVID-19 cases and 4929 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/las-muertes-por-covid-19-en-honduras-se-acercan-a-las-cinco-mil-reporta-sinager/>

Criterio published an overview of the Honduran health sector facing "a planned collapse".

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-enfrenta-un-colapso-planificado-en-el-sistema-sanitario/>

A judge decided to open trial against Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes and send them to pre-trial detention.

Bográn's defense team challenged the pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7505-mp-logra-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-y-prision-preventiva-contr-primeros-implicados-en-el-sonado-caso-hospitales-moviles>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1456155-466/prision-preventiva-marco-bogran-alex-moraes-hospitales-moviles>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/15/defensa-de-marco-bogran-presentara-recurso-de-apelacion-contr-auto-de-prision/>

The commissioner at the Institute for the Access to Public Information (IAIP) revealed that the Health Secretariat requested to keep some parts of the purchase agreement with Russia for Sputnik V secret.

<https://tiempo.hn/iaip-salud-reserva-contrato-con-fondo-ruso-vacuna/>

"The leader of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Efrain Rodriguez, said that more than 50,000 small and medium enterprises have closed in Honduras during the Covid-19 pandemic."

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-50-mil-pequenas-y-medianas-empresas-han-cerrado-en-honduras/>

A judge ordered the redistribution of some prisoners from the so-called maximum security prison La Tolva to other prisons. "As ordered by Judge Marleny Lizett Tercero, the prison authorities must proceed to the immediate redistribution of the inmates "preferably" to prisons that allow them to have family roots, which is a legal requirement for some convicted inmates to qualify for the benefit of pre-release and subsequent parole."

<https://proceso.hn/ordenan-redistribucion-de-privados-de-libertad-ante-hacinamiento-en-la-tolva/>

A meeting of the political opposition (see yesterday) faces a challenge as Luis Zelaya rejects a meeting with Yani Rosenthal.

<https://proceso.hn/no-asistire-a-una-reunion-donde-este-sentado-yani-contesta-luis-zelaya-ante-invitation-de-libre/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/15/xiomara-castro-emplaza-a-yani-y-luis-zelaya-para-dialogar-y->

[construir-la-nueva-alianza/](#)

"The number of undocumented Honduran immigrants apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border has grown considerably in the current fiscal year, to the point that its first six months far exceed the records for all of 2020. The current year leaves a frightening number: every day some 755 Hondurans are caught at the border."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1456954-466/a-las-puertas-de-una-explasion-migratoria-en-la-frontera>

16/04/21

Honduras Daily: SSF - Keyla; Plutocracy; COVID-19 - HR, State Reaction, Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines; Elections - Opposition; Fire Arms - US; Drug Trafficking; and Thanks for the Printer...

The MP filed charges of aggravated femicide against one of the police agents allegedly involved in the murder of the nursing student Keyla Martínez in a police station. OACNUDH welcomes this.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7522-mp-interpone-requerimiento-fiscal-por-femicidio-de-keyla-patricia-martinez-en-posta-de-la-esperanza>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-interpone-requerimiento-fiscal-y-captura-agente-policial-por-asesinato-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1383221034334048262>

Defensores en Línea denounced another case of the powerful taking what they want in Honduras. "The logging company owner Nery Roberto Murillo Montalván, protected by political connections and with the lack of attention shown by the authorities of the current regime, has proceeded to arbitrarily expand its lands, under the cover of a supplementary title and has placed a checkpoint with heavily armed men who close the easement passage to the inhabitants of the communities of Cuaca and San Antonio, in the municipality of Gualaco, department of Olancho."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/maderero-impone-su-ley-en-menoscabo-de-los-derechos-de-una-comunidad-indigena-en-olancho/>

There are 199'682 COVID-19 cases and 4934 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-rebasa-los-199-mil-contagios-y-llega-a-4-ml-934-muertes-por-covid-19/>

"We are entering the most conflictive period of an election year. We cannot remain with that deep smell of fraud left by the primary and internal elections. It is time for political maturity, for good sense, it is time to put the sacred interests of the country above particular interests, and this Meeting of organizations also wants to contribute to this, as we do in this Public Manifesto number 44".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cuadragésimo-cuarto-manifiesto-publico/>

The World Bank announced a \$20 million loan for Honduras to combat the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/bm-prestara-50-millones-a-el-salvador-y-20-a-honduras-para-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-recurre-a-endeudamiento-con-el-bm-para-comprar-vacunas-contra-la-covid-19/>

According to the press speaker of the National Police, Interpol is already in the possession of the arrest warrant the Guatemalan business man Axel López who sold the mobile hospitals to the JOH regime.

"Although an international alert has already been issued to capture the Guatemalan businessman, Axel López, and in Honduras Marco Bogran and Alex Moraes are in preventive detention, the Attorney General's Office has informed that for the moment it will not act against the intellectual authors who ordered Invest-H to purchase the seven mobile hospitals. It should be noted that for the moment only the former head of Finance, Rocío Tábora, who by order of Juan Hernández, delegated Bográn to purchase the supplies, has testified before the ATIC; meanwhile, the head of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores, assures that she has no pending accounts in this case."

<https://tiempo.hn/interpol-orden-de-captura-axel-lopez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1457176-466/axel-l%C3%B3pez-solo-ten%C3%ADa-200-d%C3%B3lares-en-su-cuenta-bancaria-para-construir>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2856-honduras-fiscalia-aun-no-va-por-peces-gordos-de-hospitales-moviles>

The first 6000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine arrived in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/arriba-lote-de-seis-mil-vacunas-sputnik-v-las-primeras-compradas-por-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vacuna-sputnik-v-se-aplicara-a-trabajadores-de-la-salud-publicos-y-no-publicos-pendientes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-plan-ejecucion-vacunas-sputnik-v/>

Radio Progreso spoke with the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana about the current

political situation and the outlook of the general elections in November.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/institucionalidad-hondurena-esta-fortalecida-pero-en-torno-a-joh/>

Discussions about a political alliance continue.

At the same times, some small-parties announced their own alliance without Libre and the Liberal Party.

<https://proceso.hn/muy-dificil-que-candidato-solo-derrote-al-partido-nacional-se-necesita-alianza-opositora-dice-mel-zelaya/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/16/una-mujer-sera-la-candidata-presidencial-de-la-primera-alianza-politica-creo/>

<https://proceso.hn/anuncian-una-nueva-alianza-politica-sin-libre-ni-el-partido-liberal/>

"An iron river of illegal guns flows from the US to Mexico, Central America, and across the hemisphere, helping make the Americas the world's most homicidal region, with 47 of the world's 50 most murderous cities. Thousands flee violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America - Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala – and seek asylum in the US, adding to the pressure of undocumented migrants.

I researched gun trafficking for four years for my book Blood Gun Money: How America Arms Gangs and Cartels. In the process I traveled from the biggest firearms trade show in the world, in Las Vegas, to the open air drug markets of Baltimore, to the mass graves of Mexico. The investigation left me staggered by the scale of the trafficking and by America's political failure to take basic measures to stop it."

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/apr/16/us-made-guns-central-america-migration>

"A string of bumper cocaine seizures on the Honduras Atlantic has provided a stark reminder of the region's importance in the transnational drug trade.

Between January and mid-April 2021, Honduran authorities seized some four tons of cocaine in the department of Colón — strategically located on a drug route traversing the Atlantic coast — according to seizure data compiled in a Proceso Digital report."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/cocaine-spike-puts-spotlight-on-honduras-atlantic/>

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<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1383047314483339265>

17/04/21

Honduras Daily: HR; SSF - Keyla; JOH - US; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines; Elections – Opposition;

The Grass is Greener published a two-parts interview with Karen Spring, the Honduras-based coordinator for the Honduras Solidarity Network, on the situation in Honduras.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-240416425/the-grass-is-greener-2021-04>

<https://soundcloud.com/user-240416425/the-grass-is-greener-2021-04-2>

A judge decided to maintain the arrest of police agent Rolando Perdomo Sarmiento accused of the murder of Keyla (see previous days).

At the same time, Defensores en Línea denounced: "A police contingent attacked demonstrators in front of the Court of Justice in La Esperanza, department of Intibucá, where they transferred the basic scale policeman, Jarol Rolando Perdomo Sarmiento, accused of the crime against Keyla Martínez."

Furthermore, Keyla's cousin, Lilith Cálix, who is part of the legal team representing her case, denounced: "The arrest of Officer Jarol is a scapegoat and a way to distract the attention of Keila's family and the entire Honduran people."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1457460-466/policia-mato-keyla-martinez-posta>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/entre-disturbios-inicio-audiencia-contrapolicia-implicado-en-la-muerte-de-keyla/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/lilith-calix-la-detencion-del-oficial-jarol-es-un-chivo-expiatorio-y-alguien-con-el-que-pretenden-distraer-la-atencion-de-la-familia-de-keila-y-de-todo-el-pueblo-hondureno/>

"In the last five years, the government of Juan Orlando Hernández spent around four million dollars on hiring lobbyist firms in the United States on at least thirteen occasions. Prosecutors in New York denounced that one of them tried to pressure them during the trial of "Tony" Hernández, his brother, sentenced to life imprisonment plus thirty years for drug trafficking. For several analysts, all these efforts have been in vain and despite the small rapprochements with the Biden administration, its links to corruption and drug trafficking undermine any effort of cooperation."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/04/17/millonario-gasto-de-hernandez-en-lobistas-no-mejoro-sus-relaciones-con-estados-unidos/>

There are 200'259 COVID-19 cases and 4954 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-200-mil-contagios-y-suma-20-decesos-para-acumular-cuatro-mil-954-muertes/>

"Investigations by the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) revealed that Bográn and the Guatemalan Axel López came to an agreement before the health authorities expressed the need to build hospitals for patients affected by covid-19." According to the prosecutor's request in the "Mobile Hospitals" case, it was established through the telephone survey that "Marco Bográn had already made communications via telephone with the defendant Axel López, in his capacity as legal representative of the company HospitalesMóviles.com in the United States". (...) The contracting was carried out by the simple exchange of e-mails. "The procedure was illegal at the date of the subscription of the two purchase orders because the Electronic Signatures Law did not contemplate the procedure of the simple exchange of e-mails to reliably accredit the identity and therefore the will of the contracting parties," the prosecutors detected."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1457425-466/vaciado-telefonico-marco-bogran-hospitales-moviles>

There is some hope that the AstraZeneca vaccine doses will arrive in mid-May.

<https://tiempo.hn/astrazeneca-fechas-entrega-vacunas-del-ihss/>

The talks by the main opposition parties may end before they really have started. At PINU, meanwhile, Doris Gutiérrez was ratified as their presidential candidate.

<https://proceso.hn/salvador-nasralla-tampoco-asistira-a-dialogo-convocado-por-xiomara-castro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1457604-508/doris-gutierrez-ratificada-candidata-presidencial-pinu>

18/04/21

Honduras Daily: COPINH; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Economy; Elections – Opposition; COPINH sent out an alert. "COPINH member imprisoned for being poor. Celso Hernandez, a 20 year old member of COPINH has been imprisoned since the night of Saturday, April 17 for wanting to bring his family the firewood needed to cook their food."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1383910012376915971>

Nine months have passed since the forceful disappearance of the Garífuna defenders Snaider, Suami, Milton and Gerardo.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1383786441285672960>

<https://twitter.com/EuropaOfraneh/status/1383779979717005317>

There are 200'935 COVID-19 cases and 4957 confirmed deaths.



<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-676-nuevos-contagios-y-tres-decesos-mas-por-covid-19/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) signed an agreement with the business lobby COHEP to guarantee the transparency of the vaccine purchase by private business recently allowed by the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1383818444739465223>

The Central American Integration System (SICA), the European Union (EU) and Spain presented on Tuesday an economic initiative that includes more than \$1.6 million to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Central America."

<https://proceso.hn/sica-con-apoyo-de-la-ue-pone-a-disposicion-de-mypimes-16-millones-de-dolares/>

The main opposition parties may group together in two alliances, one between Yani Rosenthal (Liberal presidential candidate) and Xiomara Castro (Libre presidential candidate), the other one between Salvador Nasaralla (the presidential candidate of an opposition alliance in 2017) and Luis Zelaya (Liberal runner-up).

<https://proceso.hn/impolutos-y-senalados-la-distante-alianza-de-la-oposicion/>

19/04/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; JOH - US, Corruption; SSF - Keyla; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy; Iota; Elections - Opposition; and Tea-Time?

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert: "On Friday, April 16, 2021, Garífuna defender Mabel Robledo, leader of the community of Nueva Armenia, Atlántida, and member of the Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, received a death threat from an unknown individual allegedly linked to organized crime."

"The general coordinator of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH), Miriam Miranda, said that Honduras is experiencing a humanitarian crisis that is normalized and executed from the power with the aim of expelling from the territory not only the Garifuna and indigenous peoples, but the population in general. From OFRANEH, Miranda denounced that there is a "gradual and silent genocide" that is reflected in the Garífuna communities through the murder of 40 members of the community in three years, but which is also manifested in the hundreds and thousands of Hondurans who leave the country through the migrant caravans."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/04/alerta-defensoras-honduras-amenazan-de-muerte-a-defensora-y-lideresa-garifuna/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3138-mas-ataques-contra-integrantes-de-copinh-y-ofraneh>

<https://criterio.hn/en-honduras-hay-una-crisis-humanitaria-normalizada-para-promover-el-saqueo/>

Harper's Magazin published a great article by Andrew Cockburn on "How America enables corruption in Honduras". "In recent years, Washington has expressed its fair share of laments over the little country's desperate condition, and has poured a lot of money into projects aimed at eliminating the so-called push factors driving people to flee. USAID spent \$90 million in 2020 alone promoting "good governance," fostering "competitive, resilient, and inclusive market systems," and creating "economic opportunities that incorporate women." Our partner in these worthy efforts has been Juan Orlando Hernández, often referred to as JOH, the stocky, frequently charming president of Honduras. Since he took office in 2014, Washington has relied on Hernández to implement American-devised programs for alleviating his country's ills: unemployment, violence, corruption, and most importantly, the cocaine trade. But despite insistent protests locally and abroad that Hernández oversees a repressive and corrupt regime, the United States has continued to treat him as an indispensable partner. Any lingering pretense that Hernández has been on America's side in the drug war, however, was ripped away this January by federal prosecutors in New York. (...) The suggestion that Hernández might be associated with the narcotics trade was not new in the United States, either. His brother Tony had already been tried and convicted as a major trafficker in New York in 2019. Testimony in his trial was replete with references to the Honduran leader. Still, the president's crude gangster talk about shoving drugs up people's noses was a slap in the face to all the high-level U.S. officials who had professed esteem for him over the years. Joe Biden, for instance, recalls the warm relationships he built as vice president with certain Central American leaders in his book *Promise Me, Dad*, citing Hernández as one of his "friends," and a "confidant." General John Kelly, who commanded Southcom — the Pentagon's Central and South American division — from 2012 to 2016, was another powerful supporter (he would later become Donald Trump's chief of staff). Concluding a visit to Tegucigalpa in June 2014, the four-star general commended the "incredible and impressive" fight against drug trafficking and organized crime being waged by Hernández and his government. (...) Despite the unwelcome attention, Hernández may be hoping that the United States will let him serve out the remaining year of his term in peace, or even run again. He would do well, however, to reflect on the fate of Manuel Noriega, Panama's dictator in the Eighties. Heavily involved in the drug trade, Noriega was a cherished U.S. partner until the day the military picked him up and consigned him to a prison cell for the rest of his life. I asked Colonel Keith Nightingale, a Special Forces veteran who participated in the strongman's capture, what had prompted Noriega's old friends to turn against him. "He had," Nightingale said, "become too obvious."

<https://harpers.org/archive/2021/05/narco-in-chief-how-america-enables-corruption-in-honduras/>

For the 12th time in a row, the Nationalist regime in Honduras failed to comply with the requirements to access the funds by the US Millennium Challenge Corporation.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2860-record-gobierno-lleva-12-anos-aplazado-por-corrupcion-y-danando-honduras>

The initial hearing against the police agent in the murder case of Keyla Martínez will take place

tomorrow.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/karol-cardenas-en-el-caso-de-keyla-martinez-falta-mas-investigacion-que-hacer/>

<https://tiempo.hn/audiencia-inicial-caso-keyla-martinez/>

There are 201'677 COVID-19 cases and 4963 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-acerca-a-las-5-mil-muertes-por-covid-19-y-acumula-201-mil-677-casos-positivos/>

The El Toráx hospital exceeded its patient care capacity for COVID-19 patients.

<https://proceso.hn/hospital-el-torax-sobrepasa-su-capacidad-de-atencion-a-pacientes-covid-19/>

Honduras' external debt has risen by 12.6% between January and February 2021 compared to the same period last year.

<https://proceso.hn/la-deuda-externa-de-honduras-sube-un-12-6-entre-enero-y-febrero-de-2021/>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) announced a \$200 million investment to rebuild the road network affected by the hurricanes Eta and Iota last year.

ConfidencialHN reported that "[f]ollowing the damage caused by tropical storms Eta and Iota in November 2020, only 20 percent of the affected areas have been repaired in the Sula Valley, the area most affected by the passage of the meteors".

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-prepara-inversion-de-usd-200-millones-para-carreteras-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/solo-en-un-20-han-reparado-zonas-danadas-por-eta-y-iota-en-el-valle-de-sula/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published a report on the primary elections. "In this document we can detail important findings such as the commercialization of credentials and the buying and selling of votes like vegetables in the market. The inflation of closing minutes and the manipulation of votes that have become the most common on the eve of the elections and in the face of them the rule of law must be imposed", said Castellanos.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1384148050365403141>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/hubo-compra-y-venta-de-votos-como-verduras-en-el-mercado-cna/>

The discussion among opposition parties regarding an alliance continues. Everyone seems to agree

that only a strong alliance can topple the National Party, but that seems the only thing they can agree about. One big difference to 2017, where there was such an alliance that was only stopped through electoral fraud, is the situation at the Liberal Party. The victory of convicted drug trafficker Yani Rosenthal has made the situation much more complicated. Nevertheless, some news outlets report that Rosenthal's Liberal Party and Libre have come to an agreement but without deciding on a joint presidential candidate.

Salvador Nasralla reiterated his position that he would not join an alliance with someone linked to drug trafficking.

Luis Zelaya, meanwhile, continues to call for the nullification of the primary election results.

Proceso Digital talked to former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, who warned regarding Rosenthal: "Drug trafficking is very close to power in Honduras, too close".

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-alianzas-partido-nacional-poder/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-los-que-no-asisten-a-la-convocatoria-de-dialogo-quieren-que-gane-el-partido-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aquellos-que-se-oponen-a-la-alianza-quiere-decir-que-estan-a-favor-del-partido-nacionalyani-rosenthal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2861-honduras-oposicion-dividida-cachurecos-rien>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-los-voy-a-defraudar-asegura-xiomara-castro-ante-interrogante-de-quien-encabezara-la-alianza/>

<https://criterio.hn/un-exconvicto-y-una-exprimera-dama-buscan-alianza-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/culmina-reunion-entre-xiomara-y-yani-acuerdan-alianza-sin-definir-cabeza/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lo-hecho-por-mel-zelaya-rompe-el-principio-de-hacer-una-alianza-limpia-senala-nasralla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-zelaya-pide-al-cne-anule-los-comicios-primarios-por-adulteracion-en-mas-de-130-mil-votos/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-narcotrafico-esta-cerca-del-poder-en-honduras-senala-jimenez-mayor/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/19/advierten-sobre-nueva-reeleccion-presidencial-de-hernandez-como-jugada-de-ultima-hora/>

20/04/21

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Extractivism - FPIC; CODIMCA; Violence against Women; Criminalization; Armed Forces - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration; Transport Sector; Elections; and Mortgaged Land by a Drug Trafficker

The situation of journalists continues to worsen in Honduras as reflected in the so far worst ranking in the Freedom of Press Index by Reporters without Borders. Honduras ranks 151 out of 180 countries.

The Inter-American Press Society (SIP) comes to the same conclusion regarding the situation in Honduras.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3139-clasificacion-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-2021-periodismo-una-vacuna-contra-la-desinformacion-vetada-en-mas-de-130-paises>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-de-los-peores-paises-en-libertad-de-expresion/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-el-penultimo-en-libertad-de-expresion-en-latinoamerica-reporteros-sin-fronteras/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-inseguridad-para-ejercer-el-periodismo-en-honduras-continua-senala-la-sip/>

"An action of unconstitutionality against the suspension of open town meetings and the establishment of the same through virtual means, was presented by various organizations united in the Coalition Against Impunity, this April 20, 2021, before the Constitutional Chamber of the Honduran Court of Justice."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3140-organizaciones-accionan-en-contra-de-los-cabildos-virtuales-en-las-comunidades-por-ser-discriminatorios>

<https://madj.org/2021/04/20/organizaciones-presentamos-accion-de-inconstitucionalidad-en-contra-del-decreto-que-restringe-y-discrimina-la-participacion-politica-en-el-marco-del-extractivismo-y-el-uso-de-poderes-de-emergencia-en/>

CESPAD published additional information on the recent attack against the office of the Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women (CODIMCA) on April 14 (see previous e-mail).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/20/por-que-ocurrio-el-asalto-a-las-mujeres-campesinas-de-codimca/>

"Women's rights organizations demanded justice for Alejandra on Tuesday, on the second anniversary of the gang rape of which the minor was a victim and for which only one of the culprits has been sentenced. The movement "I do not want to be raped" issued a statement in which they denounced the impunity in this crime committed against Alejandra, then 16 years old, in a hotel in the municipality of La Ceiba, northern Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/a-dos-anos-de-la-violacion-grupal-exigen-justicia-para-alejandra/>

"On Thursday and Friday of this week, an oral and public trial will be held in the Courts of Justice of San Pedro Sula against eleven criminalized persons from the municipality of Pimienta, after being accused of having participated in the burning of the station of that sector, of assaulting some police officers and for looting, during the post-election crisis of 2017."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-juicio-oral-y-publico-por-protestar-contr-el-fraude-electoral-de-2017>

"For nine days, a U.S. troop will be conducting "an overwater personnel rescue training from April 15-24 in the Department of Colon", informed the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa through a press release."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/04/20/estados-unidos-anuncia-entrenamientos-militares-en-colon/>

<https://twitter.com/jtbravo/status/1383115687711899650>

There are 202'413 COVID-19 cases and 4976 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-mil-202-pacientes-hospitalizados-por-la-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-se-acerca-a-las-5000-muertes-por-covid-19-en-un-ambiente-de-opacidad/>

Medical staff at the University Hospital protested yesterday against the ongoing lack of biosafety equipment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-medico-de-hospital-escuela-protesta-por-falta-de-insumos-de-bioseguridad/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/trabajadores-del-hospital-escuela-protestan-en-demanda-de-equipo-de-bioseguridad-de-calidad/>

"The number of migrant children arriving in Mexico and hoping to enter the United States has increased ninefold from January to March this year, the U.N. Children's Fund said Monday, with an average of 275 minors entering the country every day."

At least 1045 Honduran children have so far been deported from the US, Mexico and Guatemala this year.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/19/world/americas/mexico-migrant-children.html>

<https://criterio.hn/mexico-registra-incremento-de-nueve-veces-mas-ninez-migrante-en-primer->

[trimestre-de-2021/](#)

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/04/20/eeuu-mexico-y-guatemala-han-deportado-1-045-menores-hondurenos-en-2021/>

The inter-urban transport sector held a protest yesterday by blocking roads to demand the compliance with outstanding promises by the JOH regime. Shortly afterwards, the JOH regime announced the publication of a decree to fulfill the promises.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/paralizado-transporte-interurbano/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/gobierno-anuncia-publicacion-de-pcm-para-cumplir-promesas-a-transportistas/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/gobierno-logra-importantes-acuerdos-con-sector-transporte/>

Political analyst and university professor Eugenio Sosa believes that there exists a chance that the National Party will lose power even if the opposition cannot come together in one big alliance.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/20/analista-avizora-derrota-del-partido-nacional-aunque-existan-dos-alianzas-de-oposicion/>

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<https://radioprogreso.hn/pt/narcotraficante-hipoteco-tierras-de-comunidades-de-la-cordillera-merendon-en-choloma/>

21/04/21

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; SSF - Keyla; Guapinol; Campesines; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Mobile Hospitals, Education; Police; Corruption; Migration - US; Elections - Opposition; Transport Sector; and the Escazú Agreement

After the Berta Cáceres Act in the US Congress and the Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act in the Senate, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and 20 additional members of Congress introduced the House companion to the Senate bill. "This critical legislation, which is identical to the Senate version, lays out a comprehensive framework for combating corruption, impunity, and human rights violations in Honduras. It builds on the strong foundation laid by the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act. The introduction comes after U.S. federal prosecutors made public that they are investigating Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández for his involvement in drug trafficking throughout the U.S. It also follows the conviction and sentencing of his brother and former Honduran Congressman Tony Hernández who will serve life in

prison for his leadership in the same conspiracy – an expansive, sophisticated, and violent drug ring. In response to this rampant corruption and well documented history of human rights violations, the Honduran Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act will impose sanctions on the Honduran president for corruption and human rights abuses, and suspend U.S. security assistance and export licenses for covered defense articles and munitions items to the Honduran police and military, among other provisions."

Even Proceso Digital reported on it.

JOH, meanwhile, used a SICA summit to once again present himself as the victim.

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/media/press-releases/schakowsky-johnson-castro-garc-kaptur-and-omar-introduce-legislation-combat>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2864-honduras-congreso-de-eeuu-recibe-ley-adicional-para-sancionar-a-joh>

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-ley-para-combatir-corrupcion-y-abusos-a-los-ddhh-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1385042959888957444>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/21/joh-avizora-colapso-en-la-cooperacion-internacional-si-se-cree-en-testimonios-de-narcos/>

Yesterday, the initial hearing in the murder case of nursing student Keyla Martínez took place. The MP presented its proof against the police agent. "[T]he investigations and scientific technical expertise determine that he was inside the cell for five to six minutes where the young woman was deprived of liberty and then remained outside the premises in a suspicious manner and without returning to his position as assistant to the commander of the police station and in charge of the keys to the cells and custody of the detainees. Prosecutors and investigators also determined that there was manipulation of the crime scene by the same police officer accused of the crime."

It seems that the MP tries to blame just one low-level police agent for everything while the family denounces that more members of the police force were involved.

The family and human rights organizations also denounced that the court was completely militarized in an alleged show of support for the accused police agent.

<https://proceso.hn/en-audiencia-inicial-un-policia-acusado-de-la-muerte-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/doctora-confirma-en-audiencia-inicial-que-keyla-martinez-ingreso-muerta-al-hospital/>

<https://criterio.hn/acusado-del-femicidio-de-keyla-martinez-no-actuo-solo-reafirma-su-madre-en-inicio-de-audiencia/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/militarizado-juzgados-de-la-esperanza-por-audiencia-de-policia-acusado-del-crimen-de-keyla/>



<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/despliegue-policial-y-militar-en-juzgados-de-la-esperanza-es-guerra-psicologica-para-el-pueblo-que-reclama-justicia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1458512-466/padre-keyla-martinez-critica-seguridad-tribunales-chapo-guzman-honduras>

The preliminary hearing against the criminalized Guapinol defenders will take place on April 29.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1384895529927258113>

"For defending the forest, two peasants will be submitted to Oral and Public trial in the Court of Siguatepeque, Comayagua, after seven years of judicial persecution. The peasants José Dolores Aguilar (53) and Enrique Rivera (68) have been criminalized since March 21, 2014. In 2015 they remained 6 months deprived of liberty, achieving alternative measures to prison being the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), their guarantor. The lawyers Dora Oliva and María Elena Fonseca will advocate this Wednesday, April 21, for justice to be applied in favor of the members of the Peasant Associative Company "12 de febrero" located in Los Llanos, Taulabé, in the center of the country. More than seven thousand peasants have been criminalized in Honduras for defending their right to land."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/por-defender-un-derecho-fuimos-a-parar-a-la-carcel/>

There are 203'359 COVID-19 cases and 4981 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/la-pandemia-roza-los-5-mil-fallecimientos-en-honduras/>

The defense of Bográn and Moraes presented a legal challenge against the pre-trial detention. So far, JOH has been left out of the legal procedures in the case of the mobile hospitals. But the MP should also investigate him. "The evidence exposes the direct participation of Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH) in the acquisition of isolation enclosures, but the Public Prosecutor's Office seems not to know, now it ensures that the holder of Invest-H, Marco Bográn, acted alone to remove from the vaults of the Government 1,200 million lempiras (48 million dollars)."

<https://tiempo.hn/recurso-apelacion-marco-bogran-alex-moraes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2865-honduras-joh-autorizo-compra-de-hospitales-fiscalia-bogran-actuo-solo>

ContraCorriente highlights how the inability of the JOH regime to procure COVID-19 vaccine extends the health crisis in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/04/21/incapacidad-del-gobierno-para-adquirir-vacunas-contra-covid-19-extiende-la-crisis-sanitaria-en-honduras/>

"Teachers' leader Jaime Rodríguez today questioned the government for pretending to open educational centers under the pilot mode despite the increase in cases of coronavirus. He added that schools and colleges do not have the basic conditions to implement the biosecurity measures required to combat the pathogen."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/21/el-magisterio-cuestiona-al-gobierno-por-los-pilotajes-en-centros-educativos/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office, through the Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights (FEDH), obtained a formal indictment with measures other than pre-trial detention against police officers Santos Mauricio Baquedano Miralda and Carlos Edgardo Osorio, for allegedly being responsible for the crime of breaking and entering, as defined in Article 203 of the Penal Code."

"In another case, substitutive measures were decreed against preventive police officer Josué Adonay Reyes Cáceres for cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by a public official or employee to the detriment of Jorge Amílcar Santamaría Zavala."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7536-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-agentes-policiales>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7539-fiscalia-del-litoral-atlantico-registra-cuatro-condenas-ademas-de-proceso-contra-policia-por-tratos-cruelles-inhumanos-o-degradantes>

"The deputy of the National Congress (CN) María Luisa Borjas, faces a second process, using the figure of crimes against honor, after publicly exposing alleged human rights violations arising from acts of corruption in Honduras. The most recent lawsuit was filed by Deputy Mario Sorto Deras, of the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), who denounced her colleague from the same political party, Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE), for slander and libel. Congresswoman Borjas pointed out the existence of fraud in the primary election process that took place in March 2021, and demanded an answer to the Electoral Crimes Commission by candidates to elected positions of the Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) party. The lawyer Kenia Oliva, defender of the congresswoman, explained that the implications of the denunciations against Borjas are an attack against freedom of expression because criminal law continues to be used to punish those who expose cases of corruption."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1840-denuncias-contra-diputada-serian-utilizadas-para-acallar-casos-de-corrupcion>

"On average more than 300 Hondurans leave the country every day for the United States. For them, anything is often better than staying in their country, said Mercedes Pérez of the Returned Migrant Support Program of the Mennonite Social Action Commission, CASM, on Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cada-dia-unos-300-hondurenos-abandonan-el-pais->

[casm/](#)

US Vice-President Kamala Harris will travel to Mexico and Guatemala in June.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/mundo/1458670-410/kamala-harris-viajar-guatemala-mexico->

"Leaders of different political party movements met this Wednesday in Tegucigalpa to form the Grand Coalition of the Opposition, also called "Alliance of the Honest". At the end of the talks they reiterated the call to Salvador Nasralla and Xiomara Castro to join."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1458549-508/gran-coalicion-luis-zelaya-llamado-unirse-libre-nasralla-honestos-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/lideres-politicos-y-sociales-inician-reuniones-para-formar-una-alianza/>

The inter-urban transport sector has stopped its blockade and will return to negotiating with the JOH regime next Monday (see also yesterday).

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/hasta-el-lunes-se-resolvera-conflicto-entre-gobierno-y-transportistas/>

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<https://oacnudh.hn/cidh-y-onu-derechos-humanos-celebran-la-entrada-en-vigor-del-acuerdo-de-escazu/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-motivo-del-22-de-abril-dia-internacional-de-la-madre-tierra-la-cidh-y-onu-derechos-humanos-celebran-la-entrada-en-vigor-del-acuerdo-de-escazu/>

22/04/21

Honduras Daily: Earth Day - Guapinol, Hydroelectricity; Femicide; SSF - Keyla, TIGRES; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Eta; Migration - US; Money Laundering; Elections; and a Travel Warning

On yesterday's Earth Day, OACNUDH called on Honduras to sign and ratify the Escazú Agreement for the protection of environmental defenders.

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras Alice H. Shackelford agrees.

"This day, in commemoration of International Mother Earth Day and the entry into force of the Escazu Agreement, FIAN Honduras organized a day with advocates and legal professionals focused on the relevance of Honduras' accession to this treaty in the midst of multiple environmental conflicts caused by extractive projects in Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1385330079786483713>

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-insta-a-honduras-a-ratificar-acuerdo-de-escazu-y-proteger-a-defensores/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1385402079984951296>

<https://criterio.hn/acuerdo-de-escazu-es-vital-en-honduras-para-evitar-conflictos-ambientales/>

On this occasion, there was a protest in solidarity with the Guapinol defenders outside the facilities of Inversiones Los Pinares in Tocoa, Colón.

<https://criterio.hn/en-dia-internacional-de-la-madre-tierra-defensa-por-el-rio-guapinol-continua/>

"The community of Mejocote in the municipality of Gracias, department of Lempira, some 250 kilometers east of Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, has denounced that through the president of the Water Board, the population is being pressured to build a hydroelectric dam on the Río Grande de Mejocote. They claim that they are even resorting to deception to get the inhabitants to sign attendance lists that are presented as guarantees that they agree with the hydroelectric dam."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2866-honduras-en-lempira-hidroelectrica-engana-lencas-para-explotar-maravilla-ambiental>

"Women who make up the Women's Movement for Peace, Visitación Padilla, arrived this Thursday morning (22/04/2021) to the headquarters of the Supreme Court of Justice in Tegucigalpa to demand a stop to the murder of women. "So far this year, we have registered 72 women who have died in the country because of gender violence, they continue to delay our rights, they forget our rights and see us as a thing, they do not recognize us, there is impunity on the part of the Justice Operating System", said on Radio Progreso Dalila Flores of the Women's Movement."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/mujeres-demandan-justicia-por-alto-numero-de-feminicidio/>

Police agent Jarol Rolando Perdomo Sarmiento, accused for the murder of Keyla Martínez, will be held in pre-trial detention.

"Relatives of Keyla Martinez denounced that they have received threats and intimidation from state repressive bodies outside the Court of Letters in La Esperanza, Intibucá, where a hearing is being held against one of the police officers involved in the death of the young university student."

"These intimidating and threatening acts have been experienced most strongly by Nancy Rodriguez, the younger sister of the young nurse, who has been very visible in demanding justice for the crime of her relative."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7561-mp-obtiene-prision-preventiva-contra-policia-por-femicidio-de-keyla-patricia-martinez-2>

<https://proceso.hn/prision-preventiva-para-policia-imputado-en-muerte-de-estudiante-keyla-martinez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/familia-de-keyla-denuncia-amenazas-e-intimidacion-por-elementos-policiales/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/hermana-de-keyla-denuncia-que-es-victima-de-persecucion-e-intimidacion/>

"Rinel Ecliserio Argueta Oliva was 38 years old when agents of the Special Integrated Governmental Security Response Unit (TIGRES), assigned in the municipality of San Estebán, Olancho, took his life in the detour that goes to the community of Corral Viejo in that jurisdiction. (...) Since the incident occurred, the family of Rinel Argueta Oliva denounced the murder and began to demand punishment for all those involved in this crime. (...) The oral and public trial against the four police officers accused of Rinel's crime is scheduled for April 27, 28 and 29, and Adrián Argueta hopes that their conscience will touch their hearts and that they will be able to speak and say who is responsible for taking his brother's life."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/familia-de-rinel-argueta-exige-castigo-para-todos-los-policias-que-participaron-en-su-muerte/>

The official death toll surpassed 5000, officially 5047 people died to COVID-19 in Honduras. And as predicted, the Easter Holidays have led to a dramatic increase in cases and deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/superan-las-cinco-mil-muertes-oficiales-por-covid-19-reporta-sinager/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/22/contagios-y-muertes-por-covid-19-aumentan-en-mas-del-50-por-ciento-a-causa-de-feriado/>

Belkis Lara, a 23-year old nurse, died to COVID-19.

The hospital occupation rate in Tegucigalpa surpassed 90%.

Microbiologist denounce outstanding salary adjustments and more staff, promised back in 2019. They warn about a possible strike starting on Monday.

"The mayor of San Juan de Flores (Cantarranas), Francisco Gaytán, said Thursday that it is difficult to maintain a real fight against COVID-19 "if you do not have the necessary resources"."

"The epidemiologist and mayor of Juticalpa, Olancho, Huniberto Madrid, regretted Thursday that the National Risk Management System (Sinager), still does not listen to the recommendations to contain the COVID in that region of Honduras."

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-enfermera-belkis-lara-en-tela>

<https://proceso.hn/capacidad-hospitalaria-por-covid-supera-el-90-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-microbiologos-paro-de-labores-lunes/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/22/microbiologos-anuncian-paro-de-labores-el-proximo-lunes-piden->

[aumento-salarial/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/necesitamos-fondos-para-una-atencion-eficaz-en-los-triajes-alcalde-de-cantarranas/>

<https://proceso.hn/sinager-sigue-sin-escucharnos-lamenta-el-epidemiologo-y-alcalde-de-juticalpa-olancho/>

According to COHEP, private businesses will buy 1.8 million doses of vaccine.

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-millon-800-mil-vacunas-comprara-el-cohep-de-acuerdo-al-ultimo-censo-de-empresas/>

<https://criterio.hn/mentiras-y-secretos-caracterizan-adquisicion-de-vacuna-contra-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Congress approved an emergency bill to finance up to \$150 million dollars for the recovery of the communities most affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota. One small problem, the approved projects will be executed among others by the notorious Invest-H, infamous for the mobile hospital saga.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-aprueba-mas-compras-directas-para-proyectos-que-ejecutara-invest-h-y-otras-instituciones/>

<https://tiempo.hn/investh-reconstruccion-eta-iota/>

"Officials in the south Texas region across the border have been instructed that families with children of six and younger should be released into the US while they await their immigration court hearings. Children unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian are also allowed to stay. But families with older children are simply turned round under a federal public health code known as Title 42 – invoked last year by the Trump administration as grounds for summary expulsion because of the supposed health risk posed by migrants during the Covid pandemic. Advocates say that the use of Title 42 provisions violates US obligations under international law to offer due process to asylum seekers. And the contrasting application of the code for families with children on either side of the six-year cutoff is forcing life-altering decisions at the border."

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/apr/21/us-mexico-border-title-42>

"Jorge Alberto Barralaga Rivera decided to appear before the Honduran justice system to answer for the accusations of laundering 600 million lempiras in the case in which his father and mother, as well as his wife, have already been convicted. After appearing at the hearing of the accused, the judge ordered his judicial detention. The accused had been a fugitive since 2017. He entered the country several times through the Toncontín air terminal without being arrested by the authorities despite having an international red alert."

<https://proceso.hn/jorge-barralaga-hijo-se-presenta-ante-la-justicia-y-comparece-en-audiencia-esta-tarde/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7558-se-entrega-a-la-justicia-jorge-alberto-barralaga-rivera-acusado-de-lavar-mas-de-600-millones-de-lempiras>

Honduras still does not count with a new Electoral Law and even though the primaries have shown once again its necessity, it is unclear if something will happen until November. After Luis Zelaya (Liberal Party), Nelson Ávila (Libre) also filed an official petition to have the primary results nullified.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/advierten-que-sin-reformas-electorales-profundas-honduras-avanza-a-una-nueva-crisis-politica/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/22/piden-al-legislativo-aprobar-nueva-ley-electoral-para-evitar-crisis-en-las-generales/>

<https://criterio.hn/nelson-avila-pide-nulidad-de-elecciones-primarias/>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2868-eeuu-pide-a-ciudadanos-no-viajar-a-honduras-por-crimen-y-covid>

23/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Lencas; SSF - Keyla; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Dengue; COVID-19 - HR, Health Sector; Migration - US; Corruption - US, IHSS; and the Growing Debt

El Faro published an article by Edy Táborá on the role of David Castillo in the murder of Berta Cáceres.

Castillo's trial is scheduled to continue on Monday.

<https://elfaro.net/es/202104/columnas/25425/Los-asesinos-de-Berta-C%C3%A1ceres-al-descubierto.htm>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1385732445060861954>

The MP present an arrest warrants for the alleged killers of Lenca defender Félix Vásquez López last December.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7565-mp-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-por-el-crimen-del-lider-indigena-felix-vasquez>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-por-crimen-del-lider-indigena-felix-vasquez->

[lopez/](#)

Reporteros de Investigación calls for the investigation of the intellectual authors of the murder of nursing student Keyla Martínez. "On the other hand, anyone who knows how the hierarchical structure within the Honduran National Police works knows that it is strange that they want to make the Honduran people believe that a single low-level police officer could have power in a police station full of other police officers and put at risk all the people detained, because a single police officer had access without security controls to a cell to cause Keyla's asphyxiation even though there were more of his colleagues that same night. According to the statement given by the doctor who was with Keyla, as well as the doctor who received the young woman in the emergency room of the hospital, there were several police officers in the police post and in the patrol car that transferred the young woman to the medical center. Also the message in this argument is that a single police officer, accustomed to receive orders in a hierarchical pyramid, dared to commit an act within a police post and went further because he also had control, experience and intelligence to modify the crime scene by ordering the transfer of the body in a police patrol: discover the fallacy." During the hearing against the police officer, two videos were shown. One showed that the crime scene were tempered with. "In the second video, according to Lili Cálix's account, at the moment of being taken to the bathroom by a police agent Keyla Martínez complained that her cell was dirty and that there was a bad smell there. "In the transfer that they take Keyla to the bathroom, she alludes that she smells like urine and when the authorities showed up at that place, the cell was clean and without any bad smell.""

"The decision of the judge of the Court of Letters of the western municipality of La Esperanza, Intibucá, who issued a formal indictment and remand in custody against the policeman suspected in the murder of Keyla Martínez, has represented a half satisfaction for the relatives of the nursing student."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/04/23/justicia-para-keyla-faltan-los-autores-intelectuales/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1459097-466/videos-fiscalia-homicidio-keyla-martinez-jarol-perdomo>

<https://criterio.hn/resolucion-contrapolicia-deja-una-satisfaccion-a-medias-a-los-familiares-de-keyla-martinez/>

The defense of convicted drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes "sent a "memorandum of law" to Judge Kevin Castel, requesting a new trial for his client, arguing that the evidence presented in Fuentes Ramirez's case was insufficient to establish his guilt".

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/04/23/defensa-de-geovanny-fuentes-solicita-al-juez-kevin-castel-la-realizacion-de-un-nuevo-juicio/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1459118-466/geovanny-fuente-pide-nuevo-juicio-narcotrafico-honduras>



There are 23% less dengue cases in Honduras compared to 2020, but medical experts warn of laying back.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/23/pese-a-disminucion-en-casos-de-dengue-autoridades-en-alerta-por-condiciones-climaticas/>

So far, there have been 205'696 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5095 confirmed deaths.

Two days ago, 107 deaths due to COVID-19 were registered, the highest daily death rate so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-205-mil-696-contagios-y-5-mil-095-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

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

<https://criterio.hn/cifras-oficiales-107-hondurenos-habrian-muerto-por-covid-19-en-un-solo-dia/>

"This National Meeting of organizations in the face of the health crisis due to the pandemic, the threat of hunger due to the humanitarian crisis, and in the face of the predatory and plundering epidemic of the dictatorship, once again, with our eyes and our words focused on the transforming force of social organization, we pronounce ourselves in this Public Manifesto number 45".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/manifiesto-publico-numero-45/>

"Getting sick with Covid-19 and being treated in private clinics is not for everyone. According to the doctor and also congressman Denis Castro Bobadilla, you have to have at least 1 million lempiras on hand to be admitted and treated by private doctors."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/hasta-un-millon-de-lempiras-cobran-clinicas-privadas-para-ingresar-a-pacientes-con-covid-19/>

US Vice-President Kamala Harris tweeted: "To address the acute factors and root causes of migration, we're building a comprehensive strategy with governments, international institutions, the private sector, and community organizations. I met with foundation leaders to discuss their crucial work in the Northern Triangle."

<https://twitter.com/VP/status/1385337626836807681>

"The Biden administration is considering creating a task force of officials from the U.S. Justice and State Departments and other agencies to help local prosecutors fight corruption in Central America's Northern Triangle countries, a senior U.S. official said on Thursday. Ricardo Zuniga, U.S. special envoy for Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, also told reporters the U.S. government has authority from Congress to craft lists of Central American officials involved in corruption, revoke their travel visas and impose financial sanctions on them. (...) U.S. officials see corruption as one of

the root causes of the flow of migrants, along with poverty and gang violence, and want to make sure a \$4 billion aid package being put together for the region does not fall prey to graft."

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/u-s--weighs-anti-graft-task-force-for-central-america/46558704>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/23/ee-uu-recalca-que-la-corrupcion-es-la-principal-causa-de-la-desestabilizacion-en-centroamerica/>

Thanks to the new Penal Code, two accused in the IHSS corruption case may await trial in freedom.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/23/dos-implicados-en-megafraude-al-ihss-podrian-defenderse-en-libertad-por-recibir-sobornos/>

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<https://criterio.hn/economistas-preocupados-por-incremento-de-la-deuda-publica-de-honduras/>

24/04/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Corruption; Elections - Opposition; and Traveling to Russia

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Commons and Public Goods sent out an alert that people linked to Inversiones Los Pinares visited the criminalized Guapinol defenders in prison to intimidate them.

OACNUDH expressed profound concern.

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2021/04/honduras-terror-estado-de-honduras.html>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1385967730776477702>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1386069096878460929>

So far, there have been 206'381 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5100 confirmed deaths.

The newly detected cases in April surpassed the projections by the Secretary of Health. The Funeral Home Association once again questions the official death count. They have documented over 11'000 deaths so far.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-contabiliza-un-total-de-206381-casos-de-covid-19>

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

<https://proceso.hn/un-promedio-de-mil-100-entierros-por-covid-19-por-mes-segun-funerarias/>

<https://tiempo.hn/funerarias-muertes-por-covid-19-en-abril-honduras/>

"The triages that are still open throughout the country are overcrowded with covid-19 infected patients, hospital wards are increasingly understaffed and doctors no longer know what to do to meet the demand."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1459264-466/honduras-roza-mil-casos-de-covid-19-d%C3%ADa-fonac>

"The authorities of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) announced that they will strengthen the corruption circuit in order to expedite the handling of cases."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1459131-466/circuito-anticorrupcion-poder-judicial>

Instead of coming together in a grand coalition, opposition parties continue to suffer from infighting. The newest case involves the party of Salvador Nasralla.

<https://tiempo.hn/suspenden-a-militantes-del-psh/>

<https://proceso.hn/nasralla-amenaza-con-entablar-acciones-criminales-ante-convocatoria-de-asamblea-en-el-psh/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/24/el-canciller-de-honduras-inicia-su-visita-a-moscu/>

<https://proceso.hn/canciller-rosales-en-rusia-en-visita-de-trabajo/>

25/04/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Elections;

So far, there have been 206'907 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5141 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-los-206-mil-907-casos-y-5-mil-141-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Doctor Pablo José Cámbor died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/muere-por-covid-19-el-reconocido-doctor-pablo-cambar/>

Foreign Minister Lisandro Rosales had traveled to Russia to find about more about the whereabouts of the purchased Sputnik V vaccine. On his return, he promised 40'000 doses for the end of this week and another 40'000 next week. Honduras has purchased 4.2 million doses.

ContraCorriente has already questioned the transparency of the purchasing process (see previous e-

mail), now even the corporate press picked this up.

<https://tiempo.hn/80-mil-vacunas-sputnik-v-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-30-de-abril-arriba-a-honduras-segundo-lote-de-la-vacuna-sputnik-v-confirma-rosales/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1459415-410/compra-vacuna-rusa-coronavirus-covid-honduras-secretividad>

<https://proceso.hn/bajo-informacion-reservada-compro-honduras-vacunas-a-rusia-cuestiona-empresario/>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) has received in total 24 requests for annulment of the official declaration of the primary elections.

<https://proceso.hn/cne-recibio-24-peticiones-de-nulidad-de-declaratoria-de-primarias/>

26/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - UK, US; Corruption; Inclusion; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Corruption; Elections - Opposition; and Washington's Two Voices

The trial against David Castillo continued yesterday after 12 business-day hiatus. Once again, Karen Spring published a great summary. "The opening remarks have still not taken place. The parties continue to present new evidence and objections or clarifications of evidence previously presented before the court. Castillo's defense team objects to the following evidence presented on day two by the private accusers (acusador privado) representing the Cáceres family:

The written expert analyses, specifically arguing that the sources listed in the bibliographies are subjective and non-scientific elements. They also argue that the issue of gender - a subject of one expert testimony - is not relevant in the case.

The documents that demonstrate Castillo's legal role in the Panamanian company PEMSA and object to the document demonstrating the million dollar bank transfer authorized by Daniel Atala to PEMSA (directed by David Castillo) days before Berta was murdered.

The defense presents 10 new pieces of evidence, most of which are objected to by the prosecutors and the private accusers, and presents three nulidades (legal objections) to evidence presented by the prosecutors and private accusers as well as the court's resolution of the evidentiary hearing."

COPINH later wrote that a resolution can already be expected for today at 9am.

OACNUDH once again had to express concern that both victims and observers were not allowed to be at the trial.

Interestingly, the MP retweeted this and also expressed concern for this...

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/26/day-three-trial-against-david-castillo-co-author-of-bera-cceres-murder>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1386899620974972930>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1386823766500597763>

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1386830874113609729](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1386830874113609729)

The UK announced yesterday to have sanctioned the Honduran congressman for the National Party Oscar Ramón Nájera. "In his official capacity, Oscar Ramón Nájera facilitated bribes with public officials that supported a major drug trafficking organisation, 'Los Cachiros'. Conduct of this nature seriously undermines the rule of law and trust in public institutions in Honduras. Sanctions include assets freeze and travel ban. This designation is made under the UK's Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021, launched today and put in place to prevent and combat serious corruption. The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021 is secondary legislation laid under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018. These regulations have replaced the EU's sanctions system."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-honduran-congressman-under-new-global-anti-corruption-regime>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1386791828062679044>

<https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/diputado-nacionalista-oscar-najera-sancionado-por-el-reino-unido/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1459654-466/londres-sanciona-diputado-oscar-ramon-najera-corrupcion>

"Today, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York filed a pre-sentencing memorandum for former police officer Ludwig Criss Zelaya, who participated in a drug trafficking conspiracy along with Fabio Lobo, Juan Avila Meza and members of the Los Cachiros Cartel. The Prosecutor's Office is requesting a sentence ranging between 19.5 and 24.4 years in prison, for crimes related to drug trafficking and use of large caliber weapons of which Ludwig previously pleaded guilty, in addition to the forfeiture of \$120 thousand dollars and a fine of \$25 thousand to \$5 million dollars, his sentence is scheduled for May 10, 2021. Within the thirty-page document, the Prosecutor's Office states that Ludwig Zelaya is one of six members of the Honduran National Police convicted in this case for drug trafficking offenses in connection with his support of a violent Honduran drug trafficking organization known as Los Cachiros."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/04/26/fiscalia-de-new-york-solicita-una-pena-entre-19-y-24-anos-de-carcel-para-el-ex-policia-ludwig-criss-zelaya-quien-estuvo-involucrado-en-el-asesinato-del-periodista-anibal-barrow/>

"The Special Prosecutorial Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO) continues to operate without auditors and with fewer prosecutors and investigators. And although it is the Fiscal Unit that follows the trail of several financial investigation cases, involving billions of lempiras in corruption cases of the Porfirio Lobo administration and the two administrations of Juan Orlando Hernandez, they do not advance because there is no support from the Attorney General's Office of Honduras. Human resource limitations have the UFERCO staff adrift, and far from receiving the required support from the Attorney General's Office, their work is weakened daily. Five auditors are currently working, but they cannot cope with the cases that are currently being processed before the country's Courts of Justice. The team of the Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), had access to the testimony of several investigators who affirm that the obstacles they have to complete the investigation of the cases left by the Special Prosecutor Unit Against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC), with the Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), limit the financial investigation of at least 60 high impact investigations. These are investigations of three government administrations, involving billions of lempiras that are literally at a standstill."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/26/60-investigaciones-de-alto-perfil-paralizadas-dentro-la-uferco/>

"Through a press conference, the various organizations of people living with disabilities planned a series of demands to the government in the framework of the Day of Solidarity with Persons with Disabilities in Honduras, which is commemorated on the last Friday of April. (...) "The Public Policy of Inclusion that is approved, is a white elephant, it was never assigned a budget and never assigned the responsibility to a public entity. It is an eight year old law, it has to be reviewed and updated with the participation of all persons with disabilities," said Cristián Murillo at a press conference held at the headquarters of the Center for Progressive Attention to Disability, Caprodi."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sector-discapacidad-demanda-atencion-urgente-del-gobierno/>

So far, there have been 207'320 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5193 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-52-muertos-y-llega-a-los-5-mil-193-decesos-a-causa-del-coronavirus/>

Yet another doctor, Pablo José Cámbor, died to COVID-19.

Due to the saturated intensive care units, medical experts fear that the death toll of COVID-19 will steeply rise in the coming days.

Once again, the dialysis treatment of thousands of Honduras came to a stop because the JOH regime had not paid its bills.

The Finance Minister later announced that they paid 60 million Lempiras yesterday to the company Dialysis of Honduras so that the treatment could continue.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-muere-doctor-hondureno-pablo-jose-cambar/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1459552-466/saturacion-en-uci-presagia-alta-mortalidad-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevamente-suspenden-dialisis-a-nivel-nacional-por-falta-de-pago/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/60-millones-desembolsa-finanzas-a-dialisis-de-honduras/>

After a lot of criticism regarding the opacity of the purchasing agreement for Sputnik V (see also first two links), both the Health Secretary and JOH himself went on the offensive. The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP), meanwhile, announced that one application of Sputnik V cost \$10.

During his recent visit to Russia, foreign minister Lisandro Rosales also expressed interest in the new Russian vaccine Sputnik Light which promises to only need one application.

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-denuncian-opacidad-en-compra-de-vacunas-y-advierten-sobre-un-posible-fraude/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/lluvia-de-criticas-por-confidencialidad-en-la-compra-de-vacuna-rusa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/contrato-para-adquirir-vacuna-rusa-es-correcto-y-no-hay-nada-que-ocultar-alba-consuelo-flores/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-polemica-compra-de-vacunas-sputnik-v/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-compra-de-vacunas-rusas/>

<https://proceso.hn/10-dolares-por-vacuna-pagara-honduras-a-rusia-segun-iaip/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1459765-410/honduras-muestra-interes-vacuna-sputnik-light-lista-mayo->

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Fight against Public Corruption (Fetccop) and the Technical Agency for Criminal Investigation (ATIC) are conducting inspections at the Health Regulation Agency (ARSA), for refusing to hand over documentation of the alleged irregular purchase of 474 thousand masks."

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutan-inspecciones-en-la-arsa-por-negarse-a-entregar-documentacion-de-la-compra-de-474-mil-mascarillas/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/26/jefe-de-arsa-admite-que-aprobaron-en-2020-el-ingreso-de-mascarillas-no-certificadas/>

The problems at Salvador Nasralla's party continue (there is talk about a possible infiltrator sent by JOH).

At the same time, a meeting between Xiomara Castro and Yani Rosenthal was cancelled. Official political alliances have until May 27 to form.

<https://confidencialhn.com/julio-larios-niega-que-es-infiltrado-de-joh-para-destruir-el-partido-salvador-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/se-cancela-reunion-entre-xiomara-castro-y-yani-rosenthal-por-falta-de-consensos/>

<https://proceso.hn/partidos-politicos-que-buscan-alianzas-deben-de-cumplir-requisitos-e-inscribirlas-en-el-cne-antes-del-27-de-mayo-german-lobo/>

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<https://proceso.hn/washington-habla-con-dos-vozes-a-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/>

27/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; US - Guatemala; SSF - TIGRES; Journalists; Corruption - Asfura, INPREMA; Drug Trafficking; Forced Disappearance; COVID-19 - Journalists, Health Sector, Vaccines, Education; and Inequality Reigns

Day four of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring highlighted the following main points:

"Court rejects the documents presented as evidence by the attorneys of the Cáceres' family that demonstrate David Castillo's role in the company PEMSA and the bank transfer request solicited by Daniel Atala from CONCASA to PEMSA for \$1.254 million just days before Berta's murder.

Court accepts all three of the expert witnesses (arguably a unique acceptance in the Honduran judicial context) proposed by the private accusers representing the Cáceres family (...)

The court decides to allow Laura Zúniga and David Castillo's mother into observe the trial.

COPINH denounces that this equates their participation in the process and in doing so, the court is rejecting Laura's unique legal status as a victim which gives her the right to actively participate in the process.

At 7:30 pm, the opening statements were presented and the murder charge against David Castillo were formalized. The trial has now begun. The defense's principal argument is that the Honduran state and investigators manipulated the investigation from the beginning, excluding relevant lines of investigation. The prosecutors focused their remarks on Castillo's role within the organized criminal group that murdered Berta, specifically his communications with Bustillo. The private accusers argued that the context of the case began as early as the granting of the concession to build the Agua Zarca dam and Berta's role in resisting the project lead DESA - it's employees like Castillo and executives - to monitor, criminalize, and murder her."

The trial will continue today at 8.30am.



<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/27/day-four-trial-against-david-castillo-co-author-of-berta-cceres-murder>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1387267172511232003>

"Yesterday, Vice President Harris announced that the United States is providing \$310 million in increased assistance to the Northern Triangle, including \$255 million in assistance to meet immediate and urgent humanitarian needs for people in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, refugees, other displaced people, and vulnerable migrants in the region. The assistance includes approximately \$104 million from the Department of State, \$125 million provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and \$26 million through the Department of Defense."

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-27-2021-united-states-announces-increased-assistance-people-of-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/26/fact-sheet-urgent-relief-to-central-america/>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-anuncia-310-millones-en-ayuda-humanitaria-a-paises-del-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/>

"The United States agreed Monday to train members of a Guatemalan task force responsible for protecting the country's borders and putting a brake on uncontrolled migration."

<https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-guatemala-a44c3019de33d6b72845e501c482fcd4>

"Ten months after the crime against Rinel Argueta Oliva, the oral and public trial began today against four police officers from the Special Integrated Governmental Security Response Unit (TIGRES). (...) The agents are accused of being responsible for the death of Rinel Argueta Oliva, 38 years old, which occurred on June 21, 2020, near the turnoff to the community of Corral Viejo, jurisdiction of the municipality of San Esteban, in the same department."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/dio-inicio-juicio-contra-cuatro-policias-tigres-por-crimen-de-rinel-argueta/>

A police agent threatened the journalist Daniel Mejía with his service weapon.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1341-policial-vial-amenaza-con-su-arma-de-reglamente-y-filma-con-su-celular-a-periodista>

CESPAD published a reflection on the role of the international community in fighting corruption in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/27/analisis-para-enfrentar-la-captura-del-estado-y-las-redes-de-corrupcion-la-comunidad-internacional-es-la-unica-salida-que-tiene-honduras/>

UFERCO once again investigated the offices of the Mayor's Office of the Central District (AMDC) as part of a corruption investigation. It needs repeating that the mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura, is the presidential candidate of the National Party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/uferco-ejecuta-inspeccion-en-la-alcaldia-capitalina-por-mal-uso-de-fidecomisos/>

"As part of the teachers' protest against the action taken by the National Congress to reform the law of the pension institutes to take over the funds of these institutions, retired teachers arrived at the facilities of the Instituto de Previsión del Magisterio (INPREMA) to demand from the government the payment of pensions, vacations and Christmas bonuses."

"The former Attorney General of the State, Edmundo Orellana, said this Tuesday that the reforms to the Law of the Complementary Optional Regime for the Administration of Private Pension Funds approved by the National Congress are an attack on the savings of the people who are contributing. (...) In this sense, he pointed out that "it is practically a confiscation of assets because those funds that are in the pension system belong to the account holders", who are the ones who are in this situation."

<https://criterio.hn/docentes-jubilados-denuncian-que-gobierno-no-les-ha-pagado-sus-salarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/maestros-protestan-contrale-que-pretende-trastocar-los-fondos-de-pension/>

<https://criterio.hn/reformas-a-ley-de-afp-son-un-atentado-al-ahorro-de-las-personas-cotizantes-edmundo-orellana/>

Jorge Alberto Barralaga Rivera was found guilty of money laundering and was sentenced to 8 years and 6 months in prison.

<https://proceso.hn/dictan-8-anos-de-carcel-a-jorge-barralaga-hijo-y-lo-multan-con-l-700-millones-por-lavado/>

La Prensa has an article on forced disappearance in Honduras, writing that there are over 770 open cases only since 2019. In the article, they also speak with COFADEH's Bertha Oliva.

COFADEH has been accompanying these last three months the case of Cristian Aguiluz, who was disappeared after having been detained by the National Anti-Mara and Pandilla Force (FNAMP).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1451544-410/honduras-casos-personas-desaparecidas-resuletos-pendientes-policia-investigaciones>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-tres-meses-de-la-detencion-y-posterior-desaparicion-de-cristian-la-fnamp-no-da-respuesta-sobre-su-paradero/>

So far, there have been 208'356 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5212 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-036-nuevos-contagios-y-acumula-208-mil-356-casos-de-la-covid-19/>

ASOPODEHU published a short report on journalistic work in a pandemic.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3144-pandemia-y-periodistas-en-honduras-entre-la-muerte-las-amenazas-precariedad-laboral-y-la-secretividad-de-la-informacion>

Another hospital director, this time in Danlí, warns that "not even one more person can fit". The fate of patients in need of dialysis is still not clear (see previous e-mail), as the JOH regime still has an outstanding debt of 40 million Lempiras to the company offering the service.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-cabe-ni-una-persona-mas-con-covid-19-senala-director-del-hospital-de-danli/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pacientes-renales-piden-compromiso-por-parte-del-gobierno-para-salvar-sus-vidas/>

The promises about new vaccines doses for Honduras just around the corner continue.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1459954-466/medio-millon-vacunas-honduras-astrazeneca>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/mas-de-229-mil-vacunas-anti-covid-19-llegaran-a-honduras-en-los-proximos-dias/>

"In addition, the latest report of the organization, Casa Alianza Honduras, has reported at the end of March that more than two million children (primary and secondary) have been left out of the education system. According to the document, this 2021 only 75 thousand students have enrolled in basic education."

The JOH regime promised \$71 million for some 1200 schools.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2875-honduras-dos-millones-de-ninos-no-estudian-educacion-sin-plan-de-retorno>

<https://proceso.hn/destinaran-unos-71-millones-de-dolares-para-atender-a-mas-de-mil-200-centros-educativos-de-honduras/>

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<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/libres-del-temor-y-la-miseria/>

28/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - UN; SSF - Tigres; COVID-19 - Indigenous Peoples, Health Sector, Vaccines, Poverty, Education; Corruption - IHSS; Elections; Animals; IMF; and Lack of Transparency at the Transparency Office

Day 5 of the trial against David Castillo concluded yesterday. Karen Spring highlighted the following points: "Today, the trial consisted of the witness testimony from investigator Jesús Perdomo and a brief expert analysis by ballistic expert Olman García who studied the gun found in Henry Hernández's home [Hernández was convicted in November 2018 of Berta's murder] that matched fragments and bullets found during the autopsy and at the crime scene. In addition, several documents and the relevant physical evidence were ratified by state agents involving inspections of the crime scene; inspections of the convicted men's houses raided by investigators, several cell phones that were seized; the firearm found in Hernández's home; and the bullets recovered from the autopsy and crime scene.

Investigative agent Jesús Perdomo testified that the first line of investigation into Berta Cáceres murder was based on a theory that it was a crime of passion. The second line of investigation involved an individual that lived in a neighborhood close to the scene of the murder. Then investigators began to consider lines of investigation related to DESA and threats that Berta had received, according to testimonies of COPINH members, for resisting the Agua Zarca dam. COPINH published documents (see below) during the course of today's proceedings questioning the role of Security Minister Julian Pacheco in promoting the first line of investigation mentioned by agent Jesús Pacheco; and documents related to the military careers of Douglas Bustillo and Mariano Díaz Chavez questioning whether high-level military officials also knew about and were part of the murder.

The proceedings ended at 9:35 pm and will begin again tomorrow at 10 am."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/28/day-five-trial-against-david-castillo-co-author-of-berta-caceres-murder>

<https://copinh.org/2021/04/el-papel-de-las-ffaa-en-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

"Four UN Special Rapporteurs sent a letter of allegations[1] to the State of Honduras expressing their "deep concern" about the prosecution and pre-trial detention of Víctor Vásquez and José Santos Vijil, human rights defenders from the department of La Paz."

<https://oacnudh.hn/cuatro-relatorias-especiales-de-la-onu-expresan-su-preocupacion-por-criminalizacion-de-defensores-lencas-de-la-paz/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1387483350311620608>

The second day of trial took place against four TIGRES agents accused of the murder of Rinel Argueta Oliva.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-evacuacion-de-mas-pruebas-continuo-segundo-dia-de-juicio-por-crimen-de-rinel-argueta/>

So far, there have been 209'490 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5223 confirmed deaths.

Health experts warn that the new COVID-19 variants will continue to hit Honduras hard.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-suben-a-209490-y-las-muertes-a-5223-por-covid-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/confirman-la-presencia-de-nueva-cepa-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/nueva-variante-del-covid-19-dispara-contagios-y-muertes-en-honduras/>

"The hospital of Puerto Lempira in Gracias a Dios is abandoned, the few personnel are not enough and there are no supplies, denounced Mirna Wood Flores, vice-president of the Moskitia Asla Takanka Association (MASTA)."

"Territorial organizations of the Mosquitia area denounced this Wednesday before the Public Ministry and the National Commissioner of Human Rights (Conadeh) the political governor of the department of Gracias a Dios, Rina Koritza Mejía Ruiz, for alleged negligence in the management of social assistance directed to the inhabitants of this sector."

<https://proceso.hn/interponen-denuncia-por-contratacion-de-36-medicos-para-la-mosquitia-y-que-no-laboran-en-la-zona/>

<https://criterio.hn/pueblos-misquitos-denuncian-a-gobernadora-de-gracias-a-dios-por-retener-ayuda-y-dejar-vencer-2000-sacos-de-arroz/>

"The workers of the psychiatric hospitals of Honduras will paralyze their work starting next Monday, May 3, if during the course of this week the Ministry of Health does not pay them the salary leveling and readjustment."

<https://confidencialhn.com/trabajadores-de-hospitales-psiquiatricos-paralizaran-labores-desde-el-lunes/>

JOH said in an interview that according to surveys, 37% of Hondurans do not want to get vaccinated.

The former minister of health Juan Manuel Matheu criticized JOH for the statement.

The controversy about the Sputnik V purchase continues. Now, the Finance Minister says that the vaccine cost \$19.90 per person, not \$9.95 as previously stated.

The head of the medical association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, demanded the publication of all relevant documents regarding the purchase.

The representative of AstraZeneca in Central America promises 200'000 for Honduras by the end of

May.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1460156-466/presidente-hernandez-asegura-que-el-37-de-los-hondurenos-no-quiere-vacunarse>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/28/exsecretario-de-salud-cuestiona-dichos-de-joh-sobre-encuesta-de-vacunacion-contr-el-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/finanzas-vacunas-sputnik-v-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-debe-publicar-documentacion-sobre-compra-de-vacunas-para-evitar-especulaciones-suyapa-figueroa/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/astrazeneca-enviara-a-honduras-200-mil-vacunas-a-finales-de-mayo/>

"The director of the Economics Department of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), Henry Rodriguez, estimates that 70% of workers who were formally employed have fallen into the category of underemployed."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-70-de-los-empleos-formales-han-caido-a-categoria-de-subempleo/>

"The president of the College of Pedagogues of Honduras (Colpedagogosh), Edwin Hernandez, said Wednesday that it is impossible to return to in-person classes, blended learning or pilots, because the positive cases of covid-19 are higher."

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigente-magisterial-asegura-que-es-imposible-regresar-a-clases-por-incremento-de-casos-covid/>

In the IHSS corruption case, former IHSS director Mario Zelaya was found guilty on one account but was absolved of four more charges. His sentencing will take place on May 7.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/04/28/tribunal-absuelve-de-siete-delitos-a-mario-zelaya-por-corrupcion-en-desfalco-de-ihss/>

<https://proceso.hn/culpable-mario-zelaya-por-violacion-de-los-deberes-de-los-funcionarios/>

Another report looking at the primaries in Honduras concluded that there was "disorder, violence and institutional weakness".

According to FOSDEH, the primaries cost 700 million Lempiras.

<https://proceso.hn/redh-concluye-que-hubo-desorden-violencia-y-debilidad-institucional-en-elecciones-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/28/yani-asfura-y-chavez-los-candidatos-que-mas-gastaron-en-internas-y-primarias/>

La Prensa reports on the mistreatment of animals in Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1460118-410/honduras-para%C3%ADso-maltrato-animal>

"A mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will conduct an analysis of Honduran finances to corroborate whether it has the capacity to face external indebtedness and how its economy has performed during the last year."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/28/el-fmi-hara-analisis-sobre-capacidad-de-pago-de-la-deuda-externa-hondurena/>

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<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/04/28/abusos-y-remociones-secretas-de-oficiales-de-acceso-a-informacion-publica/>

29/04/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Women's Rights; Climate Crisis; Dams; Corruption - IHSS; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Labor Rights; Education; Judicial Power; Elections; and Honduran Misery

Day six of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring summarized it as follows: " Rosalina Dominguez, a Lenca leader from the community of Rio Blanco testified. Dominguez declared that David Castillo had visited Rio Blanco on a few occasions insisting that the Agua Zarca project be built (see photos below). Dominguez described the role that Berta Cáceres and COPINH played in assisting the community defend their territory and the violence that was caused by DESA including the destruction of crops, murder, threats, etc. Dominguez spoke about Berta mentioning Castillo, telling Dominguez that Castillo would send her weird messages inviting her to go to swim in the river, and that if anything ever happened to her, it would be Castillo's fault.

One investigative document describing the raid on Douglas Bustillo's home included the discovery of parts of an M16 weapon. During the course of the day, COPINH publicly denounced that the weapon belonged to the Honduran Armed Forces and under Honduran law, it is illegal for unauthorized individuals to possess such military-grade weapons (see photos below).

In one investigative document, an agent spoke about finding uniforms with the logos and names of the 'Anti-Narcotics Directorate' (DLCN) and 'Attorney General' in DESA's office when it was raided.

Several documents were ratified by individuals involved in the investigations, raids, and seizures of property related to the murder case. All investigative documents used as evidence by the prosecutors have been presented and ratified.

The live transmission continued to cut out regularly throughout the day making it extremely

difficult to follow the proceedings. Some parts were missed entirely. Trial was suspended at 9:20 pm.

Tomorrow, prosecutors will continue to present their evidence (only expert testimony/analyses and witness testimonies remain). It is possible that the prosecutor's key expert telecommunications witness, Brenda Barahona, will testify. Proceedings are scheduled to begin at 1:30 pm."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/29/day-six-trial-against-david-castillo>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2882-honduras-david-castillo-uso-tacticas-militares-para-acosar-a-berta>

A report by the United Nations Population Fund highlights the lack of Honduran women to have autonomy over their own body.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-le-falta-avanzar-en-autonomia-de-decisiones-de-las-mujeres-sobre-sus-cuerpos/>

Congress declared a state of climate crisis. "According to the articles, within the framework of the climate emergency, governmental and municipal institutions at all levels must implement strong adaptation and mitigation measures and their co-benefits with an environmental justice perspective to reduce vulnerability and develop capacities and resilience to face climate change in the short, medium and long term."

<https://confidencialhn.com/emergencia-climatica-hasta-2030-aprobara-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-nacional-aprobara-decreto-de-emergencia-ambiental-hasta-2030/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) signed today a technical cooperation agreement for \$654'500 with the Republic of Honduras to finance the consultancy for the preparation of the "Technical and Economic Prefeasibility Study for Hydraulic Infrastructures in the Lower Choluteca River Basin"."

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-otorga-cooperacion-tecnica-por-654-mil-para-estudios-iniciales-de-represa-morolica-en-honduras/>

The MP challenges the recent verdict in the case of former IHSS director Mario Zelaya who was only sentenced on one account of corruption (see yesterday).

The verdict has been met with widespread criticism.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7610-mp-prepara-recurso-de-casacion-a-la-espera-que-tribunal-enmiende-ultimo-fallo-favorable-a-mario-zelaya>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-fiscalia-interpondra-recurso-de-casacion-por-la-absolucion-de-siete-delitos-a-mario-zelaya/>



<https://criterio.hn/malestar-y-repudio-por-absolucion-a-mario-zelaya-por-siete-delitos/>

Five departments sent out alerts as they are hit by severe dengue cases.

<https://proceso.hn/alerta-cinco-departamentos-por-dengue-grave/>

So far, there have been 211'076 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5261 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/sinager-reporta-la-cifra-de-78-517-hondurenos-recuperados-por-covid-19>

Doctor Suyapa Sosa calls for an intervention of the medical sector to improve the response to the pandemic. She denounces that the JOH regime and the Secretary of Health lack a strategy.

<https://tiempo.hn/intervencion-del-sector-salud-de-honduras-suyapa-sosa/>

Congress approved the Special Law for the Regulation of Vaccines and Medical Treatments for the Fight against the Humanitarian and Sanitary Emergency as a Consequence of COVID-19, by National or Foreign Individuals or Legal Entities.

"Throughout the debate process, citizens and opposition deputies denounced their resentment at the approval of a law that prevents the population from having access to justice in favor of natural or legal persons, national or foreign, that provide health services, manufacture, and develop medicines or other medical treatment products against Covid-19."

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-compra-de-vacunas-facilitacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/rechazan-aprobacion-de-ley-que-exime-a-proveedores-de-medicamentos-durante-pandemia/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/29/legislativo-aprueba-liberar-de-responsabilidad-a-proveedores-de-medicamentos-anticovid/>

"More than 70% of maquila workers suffer from physical, emotional, economic and social health problems, according to a study conducted between October 2020 and March 2021 by the Honduran Women's Collective CODEMUH."

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/obreras-de-las-maquilas-aseguran-que-su-salud-ha-empeorado-en-el-contexto-de-pandemia/>

The JOH regime will intervene at the National Teachers' Welfare Institute (Inprema). Social sectors fear that the institution will be raided by the JOH regime and in response the Platform for the Defense of Public Health and Education was reactivated.

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-interviene-el-inprema-por-bajos-niveles-de-eficiencia-administrativa/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/29/dirigencia-magisterial-denuncian-que-gobierno-busca-asaltar-al-inprema-con-interventora-y-las-afp/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-y-maestros-anuncian-reactivacion-de-plataforma-para-la-defensa-de-la-salud-y-educacion/>

"The former Attorney General of the Republic, Edmundo Orellana Mercado, considers that the only way to depoliticize the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) is to elect magistrates who do not represent political parties in Honduras. According to Orellana, the independence of the Judiciary is not achieved by increasing the term of office of the magistrates, but by electing suitable professionals who will not represent political parties in the CSJ. (...) Orellana's reaction is in allusion to the proposal presented by Congressman José Luis Cruz before the National Congress, to extend to 30 years the term of the CSJ magistrates, according to him, in order to end the interference of the political class in the Judicial Power."

<https://proceso.hn/csj-se-despolitizara-solo-eligiendo-magistrados-que-no-representen-a-partidos-politicos-exfiscal-orellana/>

An investigation by CESPAD found that only 33% of the candidates having run in the primary elections complied with financial regulations. But due to a lack of effective sanctions, this is without consequence.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/04/29/analisis-en-elecciones-primarias-2021-solo-el-33-por-ciento-de-los-candidatos-cumple-requisito-de-bancarizacion/>

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<https://criterio.hn/honduras-a-la-cabeza-en-indice-de-miseria-en-centroamerica/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2878-honduras-es-el-mas-miserable-de-centroamerica-forbes>

30/04/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, MASS-Vida; Berta - Trial; LaGBTQ+ - IACtHR; Violence - Women; COVID-19 - Poverty, Education; Migration; JOH - G16; Armed Forces; Elections; and the Pandemic of Lies

CEJIL and others invite to an online forum on the Guapinol case on next Friday.

<https://cejil.org/es/foro-internacional-honduras-y-su-responsabilidad-detencion-arbitraria-caso-guapinol>

The Coalition against Impunity denounced the death threats against environmental defender Juan María Cruz from MASSVIDA.

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-amenazas-de-muerte-contra-defensor-ambiental-del-sur-de-honduras/>

The seventh day of the trial against David Castillo concluded yesterday. Karen Spring highlighted the following main points of the day. " Investigative agent José Paloma testified that during the raid on the house and arrest of Mariano Díaz Chavez, Diaz Chavez approached him and told the agent that Douglas Bustillo had contracted hitmen to kill Berta Cáceres and previously, had offered Díaz Chavez 500,000 Lps [~\$20,000 USD] to carry out the murder which he declined. The money was given to Bustillo by a DESA manager. He also specified that Cáceres was killed because she opposed a dam project.

The forensic doctor that conducted the autopsy and determined the cause of Berta's death testified that Berta was shot four times but killed by two bullets that damaged her lungs and caused blood to drain into her thorax (hemothorax). Within minutes, the injuries would have caused her death which was classified as a homicide.

Several documents were ratified [by error, it was reported yesterday that this part of the evidence had concluded, but it continued today].

Castillo's defense team was more insistent today about highlighting and questioning errors made by investigative agents including delays between the moment that property was seized from a suspect and the time the chain of custody was started; the lack of signatures on investigative reports, the expertise of agents to conduct inspections, etc. This questioning is in line with Castillo's defense strategy.

The trial was suspended at 10:11 pm and convened for Monday, May 3rd at 8:30 am after the lawyers representing the Cáceres' family asked the court to reconsider the decision to schedule the trial for tomorrow (Saturday, May 1st). The request was granted."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/4/30/day-seven-trial-against-david-castillo>

"Outraged by a long-ignored slaying in Honduras, lawyers are urging a human rights court in Central America to force governments to better protect transgender people in a region where they are targets."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/29/world/americas/honduras-transgender-rights.html>

Radio Progreso spoke with the director of the UNAH Violence Observatory, Migdonia Ayestas.

<https://radioprogreso.net/pt/en-honduras-la-violencia-tiene-rostro-de-ninez-y-juventud/>

"A year after the pandemic and the partial confinement, between March and June 2020, decreed by the government in Honduras, the condition of violence against women did not take a break in the middle of Covid-19, all the violence has been sustained, says Helen Ocampo, coordinator of the Observatory of the Center for Women's Rights (CDM)."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/medidas-de-restriccion-durante-pandemia-han-agravado-la-violencia-contras-mujeres/>

So far, there have been 212'333 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5281 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-212-mil-333-casos-y-5-mil-281-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

"Poverty in Honduras increased to 70% in 2020, up 10.7 percentage points from 59.3% in 2019, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical storms Eta and Iota, the country's National Autonomous University (UNAH) said Friday."

<https://proceso.hn/la-pobreza-en-honduras-subio-a-70-en-2020-por-culpa-de-eta-iota-y-la-covid/>

<https://criterio.hn/pobreza-en-honduras-aumento-a-70-debido-a-la-pandemia-y-los-huracanes-unah/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/30/piden-erradicar-excesiva-concentracion-de-capitales-y-la-extrema-pobreza-de-hondurenos/>

"The director of the Institute of Educational and Social Research and Evaluation of the Pedagogical University, Russbel Hernandez, revealed this Friday that about 1.4 million children and adolescents are out of the educational system due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-punto-critico-educacion-del-pais-por-covid-19-1-4-millones-de-ninos-excluidos-del-sistema-educativo/>

El Herald reports on a 93-year old Honduran woman, Trinidad Tábora, who fled Honduras to the US in her wheelchair.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenos-en-el-mundo/1460756-471/anciana-honduras-cruza-frontera-eeuu-trinidad-silla-ruedas>

In two tweets, JOH claims to be supported by the G-16 donor countries and institutions and thanks them for it.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1388253273874911242>

A member of the Armed Forces with links to "illicit activities" was arrested yesterday. JOH, meanwhile, praised the Honduran Air Force (FAH) on their 90th anniversary.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/175-abril2021/7622-detienen-a-militar-activo-con-municaciones-prohibidas>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1460741-466/presidente-hernandez-fuerza-aerea-90-aniversario->

[honduras](#)

"Deputies of Libertad y Refundación (Libre) and the Liberal Party denounced that the National Party bench opposes the approval of the new Electoral Law and the Electoral Justice Law with the intention of committing fraud in the general elections."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/04/30/denuncian-que-el-oficialismo-se-opone-a-nueva-ley-electoral-para-cometer-fraude-en-noviembre/>

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<https://revistazo.com/pandemia-de-mentiras/>