

01/05/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Deforestation; Femicides; COVID-19 - Health Sector; and May Day  
"OACNUDH condemns the attack suffered by Rebecca, a trans woman from Santa Barbara, who was assaulted by four men, and calls on the State to conduct an investigation into the facts that includes the hypothesis of a hate crime because of her gender identity."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1388626999858585602>

"Honduras' Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve occupies a large portion of the country's eastern region. However, despite official protection and recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Río Plátano is plagued by deforestation; satellite data show the biosphere reserve lost 13% of its primary forest cover between 2002 and 2020. Deforestation shot up in 2020, nearly doubling the amount of forest loss over 2019. 2021 may be another rocky year for the biosphere reserve, with satellite data showing several "unusually high" spikes of clearing activity so far this year. Sources say deforestation in the reserve is being driven by logging, agriculture and the drug trade."

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/drugs-and-agriculture-cause-deforestation-to-skyrocket-at-honduran-unesco-site/>

In less than 24 hours, three women were murdered in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/en-menos-de-24-horas-tres-mujeres-han-sido-asesinadas-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 213'167 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5318 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-213-mil-contagios-y-suma-37-decesos-para-acumular-cinco-mil-318-muertes/>

ContraCorriente reports that the JOH regime chose to use the 48'000 vaccine doses received through Covax to give one shot to 48'000 health workers instead of fully immunizing 24'000 health workers giving them two shots.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/04/30/en-aparente-baja-de-contagios-medicos-del-norte-de-honduras-esperan-completar-su-inmunizacion/>

The second May Day during the pandemic took place yesterday and also in Honduras, there were smaller, more local protest marches.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/alto-a-las-suspensiones-laborales-y-construccion-de-bordos-demandas-de-clase-obrera-este-1-de-mayo/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/vacuna-urgente-y-gratuita-entre-las-demandas-del-01-de-mayo-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-justicia-social-el-calvario-de-la-clase-trabajadora-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicalistas-exigen-vacunas-para-hondurenos-en-conmemoracion-del-dia-del-trabajador/>

02/03/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Garífuna; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Elections - Opposition; Migration – Deportation;

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the April 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=18833](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=18833)

Sara Curruchich interviewed OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda.

<https://www.facebook.com/Sara.Curruchich/videos/2814653575442137/>

So far, there have been 213'970 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5334 confirmed deaths.

<https://covid19honduras.org/Comunicado-120-2021>

More than 200'000 vaccines doses should arrive this week in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/sesal-mas-200-mil-vacunas-anticovid-llegaran/>

Xiomara Castro expresses optimism about a possible political alliance to get rid of the National Party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hay-posibilidades-de-una-alianza-xiomara-castro/>

<https://proceso.hn/libre-asegura-que-la-alianza-politica-esta-suspendida-pero-sigue-construyendo-otras/>

16'291 Hondurans have been deported between January 1 and April 25.

<https://proceso.hn/en-promedio-cada-dia-son-deportados-136-hondurenos/>

03/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Journalists - UN; COVID-19 - Children; Elections - Opposition; Transport Sector;

After the weekend break, the trial against David Castillo continued yesterday. Karen Spring highlighted the main points of the day. " Expert witness David Alexander Amador presented data extracted from Douglas Bustillo and David Castillo's phones and outlines conversations between both men about an aborted mission and not having sufficient logistics in the weeks leading up to Berta's murder, amongst other conversations. There were also two photos extracted - one of Berta and another of her house (the site of the murder). Both were extracted from Bustillo's phone (see below). Castillo's defense complained that the messages were being taken out of context

An expert in cellphone data extraction answered procedural questions about an extracted voice message dated March 31, 2016 discussing a plan to carry out a murder. COPINH publicly denounces that this evidence is linked to a case in which DPI agent Juan Carlos Cruz (who will testify later in the trial) is accused of falsifying evidence attempting to change the course of the Berta Cáceres murder investigation. This line of investigation was at the time not pursued by investigators but is being presented by the defense as part of it's strategy in this trial.

Trial was suspended at 10:37 pm and will continue tomorrow at 9:00 am with David Alexander Amador, the same witness testifying about cell phone data extraction."

Last Saturday, Victor Fernández and Carmen Haydeé López, who represent COPINH and the victim's family, as well as Laura Zúniga Cáceres held an online talk summarizing the first week of the trial.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/3/day-eight-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3146-abogado-victor-fernandez-despues-de-este-juicio-vamos-contra-esta-estructura-empresarial-criminal-violenta-y-corrupta>

"On World Press Freedom Day, the United Nations in Honduras highlights the fundamental role of journalists in ensuring the enjoyment of the collective right to information."

C-Libre held a protest rally outside CONADEH demanding that the State comply with its obligation to promote and respect the work of the media at all times.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/126149-en-el-dia-mundial-de-la-libertad-de-prensa-naciones-unidas-en-honduras-resalta-el-rol>

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-pide-mas-esfuerzos-para-proteger-a-los-periodistas-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-necesita-generar-ambiente-seguro-y-propicio-para-periodistas-onu/>

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-de-covid-19-debilito-aun-mas-la-libertad-de-prensa-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 214'475 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5367 confirmed deaths.

The current director of the Directorate of Police Disciplinary Affairs (DIDADPOL), Alan Edgardo Argeñal Pinto, is among those who died to COVID-19 yesterday.

The Funeral Home Association of Honduras has registered more than 11'000 COVID-19 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-los-214-mil-475-positivos-de-covid-19-tras-sumar-505-nuevos-casos/>

<https://proceso.hn/muere-alan-argenal-director-de-la-didadpol/>

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-1400-hondurenos-murieron-en-abril-por-covid-segun-asociacion-de-funerarias/>

Out of 100 infected children, three have to be hospitalized in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/de-cada-100-menores-positivos-de-covid-19-tres-necesitan-hospitalizacion/>

One day after expressing optimism about a political alliance (see yesterday), Xiomara Castro now announces that there won't be any alliance.

Alliances can be formed and registered at the CNE until May 27.

<https://criterio.hn/no-habra-alianza-presidencial-xiomara-castro/>

<https://proceso.hn/xiomara-castro-notifica-que-no-habra-alianza-en-la-candidatura-presidencial-de-libre/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1461291-508/alanzas-politicas-elecciones-2021>

The transport sector has suspended an announced strike so long as the negotiations with the JOH regime continue.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1461368-466/paro-transporte-interurbano-honduras-descuento-combustible>

04/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Garífunas; Journalists - UK; JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; National Police; Migration - US; Elections; Corruption - Inprema; and an End to the JOH Pandemic?

On day nine of the trial against David Castillo, Karen Spring highlights the following: " Data extraction expert David Alexander Amador reads Whatsapp chat messages written by and extracted from Daniel Atala's cell phone. Atala makes several racist and classist remarks against the Lenca indigenous people and the Rio Blanco community. The messages outline how Castillo's defense attorney (and DESA's lawyer) Juan Sanchez, along with others, at the direction of and reporting to Daniel Atala, used their influence to criminalize Berta Cáceres in 2013 (see messages below). Tomorrow, expert David Alexander Amador will continue testifying. The trial was suspended at 7:20 pm and will begin again tomorrow at 10 am."

Yesterday, social movements inaugurated the Campamento Feminista ¡Viva Berta! in front of the

Supreme Court to accompany the trial.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/4/day-nine-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/pruebas-esclarecen-vinculo-del-gerente-de-desa-y-asesinos-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://criterio.hn/extraccion-telefonica-de-uno-de-los-condenados-en-crimen-de-berta-caceres-involucra-a-david-castillo-copin/>

<https://criterio.hn/inauguran-campamento-feminista-exigiendo-justicia-para-berta-caceres-en-capital-de-honduras/>

The JOH regime in the form of the Human Rights Secretariat held a virtual conference on "Historical and risk context of Garifuna communities and human rights defenders". OFRANEH reacts: "Two unfulfilled judgments of the @CorteIDH issued five years ago regarding usurpation of territory and denial of prior consultation, four disappeared in Triunfo 2020, and more than a dozen leaders murdered since 2019. Anything to celebrate?"

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1389608839926923267>

In a virtual forum, the UK ambassador Nick Whittingham expressed concern about the criminalization and violence suffered by journalists in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/reino-unido-preocupado-por-la-violencia-a-los-periodistas-en-honduras/>

"The questioned President Juan Orlando Hernández is giving away things, left and right, the famous solidarity bonus to families affected by the hurricanes in the Sula Valley, as part of his welfare policy which consists of converting the poor into votes, to guarantee the continuity of the National Party, said sociologist Eugenio Sosa on Radio Progreso. (...) The political analyst sustains that Juan Orlando Hernández knows that his ratings dropped by the rejection of the people but he is using the economic resources of the State to ensure that his party and its candidate, Nasry Asfura, wins the presidency, to negotiate a quota of power and to continue enjoying impunity."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/con-regalias-joh-busca-la-continuidad-del-partido-nacional-eugenio-sosa/>

<https://criterio.hn/con-regalias-juan-hernandez-busca-continuidad-del-partido-nacional-para-seguir-en-la-impunidad/>

So far, there have been 215'833 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5386 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-358-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-y-supera-los-215-mil-contagios/>

"The Vice Mayor of the municipality of Tela, Atlántida and Triage Coordinator, Dr. Gloria Zelaya, is clear in stating that due to lack of funds from government transfers, the triage of the municipality will be closing operations. "Since January we are only with municipal funds and you know that taxes have dropped as is normal due to business closures because of the pandemic, so there has been between 30 and 40% less income", explained Dr. Zelaya."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/se-viene-el-cierre-del-triaje-en-tela-atlantida/>

But there are also some good news, 189'000 vaccines doses arrived through the Covax mechanism in Honduras.

<https://www.paho.org/es/noticias/4-5-2021-entrega-covax-segundo-lote-vacunas-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/llegan-a-honduras-189-mil-600-dosis-de-vacunas-donadas-mediante-covax/>

A court rejected an appeal by the former general commissioner of the police, Leonel Luciano Saucedo Guifarro. He and his wife Patricia Sbeltlana Estrada Pacheco are accused of money laundering. The court confirmed the opening of a trial against them as well as the pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7637-confirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-y-prision-preventiva-al-comisionado-general-de-policia-leonel-sauceda>

<https://proceso.hn/confirman-formal-procesamiento-y-prision-al-exoficial-de-policia-leonel-sauceda/>

A Honduran migrant was hit by a car of the border patrol near Kingsville, Texas and died.

<https://proceso.hn/inmigrante-hondureno-muere-tras-ser-atropellado-por-la-patrulla-fronteriza/>

We are back to the argument already months ago that there is no more time for electoral reforms...

<https://proceso.hn/ya-no-hay-tiempo-ni-voluntad-para-aprobar-nueva-ley-electoral-dice-vicepresidente-del-cn/>

Protests against the attacks by the JOH regime on the Inprema pension fund of teachers continue (see previous e-mail).

<https://criterio.hn/magisterio-continuara-protestas-por-reformas-a-la-ley-de-pensiones/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/212105>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/dispuestos-a-poner-fin-a-pandemia-llamada-joh-dice-pepe-lobo-en->

[alianza-con-dc-y-ud/](#)

05/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Tolupán; Extractivism: Deforestation; SDGs - UN; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education; Corruption - Inprema; Migration; ID Cards; Elections - Reforms; and Health Lessons

The trial against David Castillo paused yesterday.

Radio Progreso reported that the trial will be extended for another three weeks.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/4/day-nine-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/tres-semanas-mas-de-juicio-contra-roberto-david-castillo-en-caso-berta-caceres/>

Criterio reports on the threat of eviction against more than 5000 members of the Tolupán community Agalteca in Yoro.

<https://criterio.hn/bajo-amenaza-de-desalojo-ilegal-mas-de-5-mil-integrantes-de-comunidad-tolupan-en-yoro/>

"Residents of Baracoa, Cortés, in northwestern Honduras, demonstrated against the installation of a thermoelectric power plant in the vicinity of their community. They denounced that by means of a virtual town hall, the authorities intend to approve the project in spite of the opposition of the citizens."

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-de-baracoa-protestan-contra-instalacion-de-planta-hidroelectrica/>

"According to the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), approximately 80,000 hectares of forest are lost each year in Honduras as a result of fires and uncontrolled logging, a situation that generates rejection among the inhabitants of affected communities."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/05/icf-alerta-sobre-agravamiento-por-quema-y-tala-descontrolada-de-bosques/>

"The Secretariat for General Government Coordination (SCGG) and the United Nations System and other representatives of the G-16 presented the Joint Collaboration Framework, which includes a mechanism for participation, consultation and transparency, for the validation and subsequent launch of the Reconstruction and Sustainable Development Plan (PRDS), around which financing arrangements will be made to enable its implementation."

<https://honduras.un.org/es/126354-gobierno-de-honduras-y-el-g-16-presentan-el-marco-de-cooperacion-conjunta-para-el-plan-de>

So far, there have been 216'964 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and

there are 5439 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-216-mil-964-contagios-y-5-mil-439-fallecimientos-por-coronavirus/>

After the good news regarding the arrival of a much needed batch of vaccines doses through Covax (see yesterday), bad news followed regarding the purchased Sputnik V vaccine. They are still delayed.

According to the Secretary of Finance, they have also held talks with Pfizer for the purchase of 4.2 million doses.

The Secretary of Health promised to have journalists vaccinated in the last week of May.

Other groups of people that should benefit from the Covax doses are medical staff, the elderly and renal patients.

<https://tiempo.hn/ministra-alba-flores-vacunas-rusas-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-negocia-con-farmaceutica-moderna-cobertura-de-vacunacion-a-largo-plazo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/vacunacion-periodistas-covid-honduras-en-mayo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/grupos-de-personas-que-recibiran-vacuna-anti-covid-19-durante-mayo-en-honduras/>

Pilot in-person classes won't take place for the time being.

<https://proceso.hn/sinager-descarta-pilotaje-en-el-sector-educacion-para-retornar-a-clases-presenciales/>

The protests by the teachers seem successful; the JOH regime agreed on a new decree replacing the one ordering the intervention of the teachers' pension fund Inprema.

<https://criterio.hn/magisterio-vuelve-a-las-calles-pidiendo-derogacion-del-pcm-que-autoriza-intervencion-del-inprema/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-y-magisterio-acuerdan-redactar-nuevo-pcm-que-reemplace-la-intervencion-de-inprema/>

Deportations of Hondurans have decreased by 11.8% in the first for months of 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/la-deportacion-de-hondurenos-indocumentados-disminuye-11-8-en-cuatro-meses/>

Hondurans living in the US denounce that they cannot apply for the new Honduran ID card from the US.



<https://proceso.hn/hondurenos-en-eeuu-indignados-por-falta-de-enrolamiento-para-adquirir-la-nueva-identidad/>

"With 22 days to the end of the deadline for the approval of the new Electoral Law and Electoral Justice Law, the political actors accuse each other of being responsible for not approving the regulations. Experts on the subject warned that the lack of instruments to regulate the upcoming elections would generate a political crisis of greater dimensions."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/05/advierten-que-sin-nueva-ley-electoral-se-preve-crisis-politica-de-mayores-dimensiones/>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2888-honduras-dr-giron-explica-a-profe-de-salud-como-actua-covid>

06/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Social Movements; IMF; Iota - BCIE; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Congress; Coffee; Armed Forces; Corruption - Inprema; Elections – Reforms;

The trial against David Castillo continued yesterday after a questionable suspension the day before. As always, Karen Spring highlights the main points of the day. "After a suspicious suspension of the trial yesterday, COPINH, the Honduras Solidarity Network (HSN) and others, raised concern of a possible attempt to shut down or influence the trial at a critical moment, specifically during the examination of data extracted from a cell phone found in DESA's office and belonging to Daniel Atala. Although still unclear why the suspension occurred, the proceedings began today at 11:20 am.

More Whatsapp and text messages involving Daniel Atala, David Castillo, Jose Eduardo Atala, Carolina Castillo, and Maria Fernanda Rivera, were read in court. The messages illustrated a few themes: Racism; Daniel Atala's hatred of Berta Cáceres and COPINH; the Atala Zablah family using their influence with Ministers, judges, mayors, prosecutors, government officials from the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA), former President Porfirio Lobo, amongst others, to provide security and support for the Agua Zarca project, prosecute Berta and others, as well as take action against the resistance in Rio Blanco. The messages also illustrate how bribes were paid to government officials and food was purchased for police guarding the dam site. COPINH published some of the chat transcripts (see below).

A USB memory containing data extracted from Sergio Rodriguez's cellphone was found to contain much less data (37 gbs) than what the data extraction expert noted on his written analysis (51.8 gbs) suggesting evidence manipulation or a major administrative error. The defense argues that the evidence be thrown out - claiming that prosecutors key expert witness Brenda Barahona, who still has not testified, is responsible for this "criminal act" - and the private accusers and prosecutors insist that an investigation occur. Apparently the prosecutors knew of the missing data beforehand. After a lengthy debate, the judges rule that the evidence will be examined as it had already been admitted by the court."

Padre Melo commented on the importance of the trial. "Punishing David Castillo will open a door against impunity."

Also yesterday, the Expert Mission accompanying the Berta Cáceres Cause met with CONADEH "to address follow-up strategies to ensure risk prevention and protection of human rights defenders acting as parties to the proceedings in the Case".

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/6/day-ten-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3149-padre-melo-si-se-castiga-a-david-castillo-se-abrira-una-puerta-contra-la-impunidad>

<https://twitter.com/MisionCaso/status/1390443667903721472>

CESPAD published an analysis on widespread social mobilizations in Honduras in the last years. "In the last decade, Honduras has had four significant waves of protests and social mobilizations. These cycles of demands have been the product of reactions by social and popular organizations and citizens to threats stemming from the deterioration of democracy, the aggressiveness of neoliberal policies and corruption."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/06/investigacion-diez-anos-de-protesta-social-y-los-desafios-democraticos/>

A technical mission by the IMF, currently in Honduras, proposes increasing the IMF loan to Honduras to \$769 million, that would be a \$239 million increase.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-se-endeuda-con-fmi-en-mas-de-18-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://proceso.hn/fmi-propone-aumentar-a-769-millones-el-apoyo-a-honduras-tras-concluir-cuarta-revision-del-acuerdo-stand-by/>

The Central-American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) approved \$3.5 million for the Central American countries who suffered the consequences of the Eta and Iota hurricanes in November 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-aprueba-3-5-millones-de-dolares-para-paises-afectados-por-eta-e-iota/>

So far, there have been 217'595 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5502 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-5500-muertos-por-covid-19-y-los-contagios-suman-217595/>

The CNA published an investigation into the triage centers in Honduras highlighting numerous problems.

"Due to labor abuses and lack of biosecurity supplies, the National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH) will call for informative assemblies in the southern part of the country starting next Monday, May 10."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1390311878820343808>

<https://criterio.hn/personal-medico-oxigeno-y-medicamentos-son-insuficientes-en-triajes-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/triajes-carecen-de-personal-medico-y-falta-de-presupuesto-para-su-manejo-revela-cna-en-informe/>

<https://criterio.hn/enfermeras-de-la-zona-sur-a-paro-por-falta-de-insumos-y-abuso-laboral/>

"The Board of Directors led by the National Party, refuses to meet again in person in the National Congress, this, in the opinion of analysts and opposition deputies, makes it easier to approve acts that affect the citizens. From the point of view of the lawyer and deputy of the PINU, Doris Gutiérrez, the virtual sessions serve for those who manage this power of the State, to regulate the expression of the legislators and also to completely control the vote counting system at the moment of submitting initiatives for discussion or voting."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/sesiones-virtuales-facilitan-corrupcion-e-impunidad-afirman-diputados-y-analistas/>

"Central American women play a crucial role in coffee production, despite the barriers they face in the cultivation, processing and commercialization of the aromatic bean, concluded the participants in the "I Forum on Women and Organic Coffee in the Trifinio Region". In the coffee industry, one of the main and most traditional export items and job generation in the countries of the Northern Triangle, the division of productive functions, cultural barriers, the technological gap and inequality in access to land, are components that ostensibly affect women coffee growers in their incursion into the industry."

<https://proceso.hn/mujeres-del-trifinio-impulsan-cafe-organico-para-reducir-brecha-de-genero-y-prevenir-la-migracion/>

A member of the Armed Forces was sent to pre-trial detention accused of trafficking in forbidden ammunition.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7651-dictan-prision-preventiva-en-contra-de-militar-por-trafico-de-municiones-prohibidas>

The problems at Inprema, the teachers' pension fund, continues. "In a meeting of deputies of the National Congress, several issues were discussed, among them a Decree which benefits the teachers' colleges, regarding the debts they have with the Instituto Nacional de Previsión del Magisterio (INPREMA). The proposal presented by Nationalist Deputy David Chávez, caused controversy, because the amnesty benefits the teachers' colleges, but not the teachers who for years have saved for their retirement. (...) Meanwhile, the Libre deputy Sergio Castellanos, questioned the promoters of the Decree, and made it clear that the initiative harms teachers and puts at risk the money for their old age."

Copenh, one of the colleges, also came out against the decree. "If they want to benefit IMPREMA

affiliates, the amnesty should be for the loan debts that teachers have with the institution, since thousands of teachers survive on miserable salaries".

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/amnistias-y-beneficios-para-colegios-magisteriales-destacan-en-sesion-de-congreso-nacional/>

<https://confidencial.hn/copemh-pide-al-legislativo-excluirlos-de-lista-de-instituciones-beneficiadas-por-amnistia/>

<https://criterio.hn/copemh-exige-al-cn-que-lo-elimine-de-la-amnistia-por-no-tener-deuda-con-el-inprema/>

The political alliance between the Christian Democrats (DC) and the Democratic Unity Party (UD) nominated Lorena Herrera as their presidential candidate.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2894-honduras-coalicion-para-el-cambio-designa-presidenciable-a-lorena-herrera>

A virtual forum took place yesterday to discuss electoral reforms regarding political financing.

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-once-propuestas-de-reformas-sobre-el-financiamiento-politico-en-honduras/>

07/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; COVID-19 - Poverty, Prisons; Corruption - Congress, US, IHSS; Migration;

Day 11 of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring highlighted the following: "An examination of data extracted from Sergio Rodriguez's cell phone included several messages sent to the "Security PHAZ [Agua Zarca hydroelectric project]" Whatsapp chat group and others. The chats read in court today demonstrate the level of monitoring, intelligence gathering and actions related to security strategy and promotion, conducted by DESA's executives - Daniel Atala, Jose Eduardo Atala [Daniel Atala's father], and Pedro Atala - David Castillo, Sergio Rodriguez, paid informants, DESA's employees, and police and military in Rio Blanco. The discussions inside these chats include: Details about Berta and other COPINH leaders' whereabouts and activities in Rio Blanco and other parts of the country; divisions within the communities; visits by foreign delegations; media strategies; positions of different individuals in Rio Blanco about the project, etc. The group chats also discuss requesting and receiving security and support from the National Police including several police commissioners and the Minister of Security.

The trial was suspended at 10 pm and will continue on Monday, May 10 at 8:30 am. The same data extraction expert will continue reading messages extracted from Sergio Rodriguez's phone." COPINH denounces that the opposing lawyer Sánchez Cantillano continues to attack and criminalize Lenca communities and COPINH.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/7/day-eleven-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/en-juicio-contr-ex-gerente-de-des-a-queda-demonstrado-el-racismo-contr-el-pueblo-lenca/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1390888142979440646>

So far, there have been 218'330 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5585 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-218-mil-330-infectados-y-5-mil-585-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

"This week, in collaboration with agencies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the annual report of the Global Network Against Food Crisis (GNAFC) was published, revealing that 2.9 million Hondurans are suffering from famine."

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2897-tres-millones-de-hondurenos-mueren-de-hambre-segun-onu>

<https://criterio.hn/unos-2-9-millones-de-hondurenos-sufren-escasez-de-alimentos/>

Ten COVID-19 cases were detected in the women's prison in Támara.

<https://tiempo.hn/casos-de-covid-19-carcel-de-mujeres-honduras/>

"Opposition parliamentarians denounced that the ruling party of the National Congress intends to reform the Money Laundering Law which would prevent the Public Prosecutor's Office from accessing the records of persons suspected of the crime of money laundering for the benefit of corrupt individuals and drug traffickers. The whistleblowers described the reform of 13 articles as a norm to shield themselves, especially the modification of paragraph 30, numeral 9 where it exempts the Public Prosecutor's Office from knowing the information of the Financial Intelligence Unit (UIF) of the National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/07/denuncian-que-reforma-a-ley-de-lavado-de-activos-blindaria-a-corruptos-y-narcos/>

"The Biden administration plans to release by the end of June a list of corrupt Central American officials who may be subject to sanctions, a U.S. special envoy told Reuters, as Washington seeks to cut back on a root cause of increased migration to the U.S.-Mexican border. (...) Asked whether Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez might be targeted, Zuniga said: "I'm not going to comment on him because of the Department of Justice engagement on his case." Hernandez is under U.S. investigation for alleged links to drug cartels. He denies any involvement in drug smuggling."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-centralamerica-exclus-idCAKBN2CM2HR>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2895-eeuu-afirma-que-en-junio-publicara-nombres-de-altos-corruptos-de-honduras>

In the IHSS corruption case, the former director Mario Zelaya and former board member José Ramón Bertetty had been found guilty about a week ago. Yesterday was their sentencing, 31 years for both of them.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7654-mp-obtiene-penas-de-31-anos-de-carcel-para-mario-zelaya-y-jose-bertetty-y-de-15-anos-para-su-socio-en-caso-jc-maradiaga-ihss>

<https://proceso.hn/imponen-penas-de-31-anos-de-prision-a-mario-zelaya-y-jose-bertetty-16-anos-para-juan-carlos-maradiaga/>

"On the tenth anniversary of the discovery of the clandestine graves in San Fernando, the National Human Rights Institutions of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico (hereinafter "the Institutions") and the Offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico (hereinafter "the Offices") call on the States of the region to redouble their efforts to protect migrants in the face of persistent human rights violations and to guarantee the rights of migrants in the region, as well as to guarantee the victims their rights to truth, justice and reparation, so that events such as those in San Fernando are not repeated."

<https://oacnudh.hn/indh-y-onu-derechos-humanos-llaman-al-respeto-y-garantia-de-los-derechos-humanos-de-las-personas-migrantes/>

08/05/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19; Migration; Forests; and No Option B

So far, there have been 219'288 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5167 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-958-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-previo-al-dia-de-la-madre/>

"United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Kelly Clements said Saturday that the situation of Hondurans who have fled for their lives "is devastating.""

<https://proceso.hn/la-situacion-de-los-hondurenos-que-han-huido-es-devastadora-segun-acnur/>

According to Honduran Fire Fighters, there have been 70% less forest fires so far this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-incendios-en-2021/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/08/zelaya-y-castro-dicen-no-a-opcion-b-nacionalistas-rechazan-idea-que-hizo-perder-a-callejas-en-1985/>

<https://proceso.hn/opcion-b-demuestra-desesperacion-de-yani-roenthal-por-no-encontrar-aliados-luis-zelaya/>

09/05/21

The EU announced the creation of an award to recognize the work of Honduran human rights defenders.

<https://proceso.hn/ue-anuncia-creacion-de-premio-europa-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 220'185 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5665 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-220-mil-185-contagios-y-48-nuevos-decesos-por-covid-19/>

"Because it is urgent to independently supervise the financing of political parties; to carry out high impact investigations in conjunction with the Public Prosecutor's Office on the use of illicit resources in electoral campaigns; to ensure compliance with the Clean Politics Law by political parties and candidates in the area of accountability and to lift bank secrecy for political parties and their candidates, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD) proposes reforms to the Law on Financing, Transparency and Oversight of Political Parties and Candidates."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/09/cespad-propone-reformas-a-la-ley-de-financiamiento-y-fiscalizacion-a-partidos-politicos/>

"In the Chamelecón sector and the municipality of La Lima, churches and NGOs have taken a leading role in assisting those affected by storms Eta and Iota. The government announced support through the "No están Solos" program, but six months after the catastrophe, it has not reached all those affected."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/08/seis-meses-despues-del-desastre-damnificados-buscan-reconstruir-sus-vidas-abandonados-por-el-estado/>

Proceso Digital reports on the role of Honduras in Latin American drug trafficking. "The disproportionate amounts of cocaine seized this year in Honduras demonstrate how Colombian cartels flood Honduras with cocaine, a strategic bridge where their Mexican partners pick up the product to take it north on its final route to the United States."

<https://proceso.hn/carteles-colombianos-inundan-honduras-de-cocaina/>

10/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Tolupán; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Extractivism - ZEDEs, Concessions; SSF - Tigres; Campesines; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines; Iota; Elections;

The trial against David Castillo was scheduled to continue yesterday. But first, the start was postponed from 8:30am to 3pm and then ended after just one hour due to technical problems with the live transmission. "During the short session today, data extraction expert David Alexander Amador continued to read Whatsapp chat messages on request from the Cáceres family attorneys. The chat messages again highlight how DESA's executives used their state contacts, specifically with the Minister of Security Julián Pacheco, to send state security forces into intimate and repress actions in Rio Blanco; how local hitman were used to carry out violence, and how DESA's executives and Castillo spoke about strategies to delegitimize and undermine COPINH and Berta Cáceres."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/10/day-twelve-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/10/el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-un-asunto-de-mucho-dinero-y-capital-politico/>

MADJ sent out an alert as the Honduran police besieges the Tolután community of San Francisco de Locomapa, even shooting at Tolután defenders.

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1391924897077673986>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1391940646043361284>

"The sentencing hearing was held today for former police officer Ludwig Criss Zelaya, accused of crimes related to drug trafficking and the use of machine guns and destructive devices. During the hearing, Judge Lorna G. Schofield sentenced Criss Zelaya to 144 months in prison (12 years). Criss Zelaya worked as a collaborator of members of the Cachiros cartel in their criminal activities, including multiple murders, including that of journalist Anibal Barrow. Jason Richman, representing the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, participated in the hearing and during the defense arguments, Criss Zelaya's attorney mentioned that Honduras is a narco-state, where corruption prevails and even the president of this country is involved in drug trafficking. "

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/05/10/ex-policia-ludwig-criss-zelaya-es-sentenciado-a-doce-anos-de-carcel-juan-orlando-es-nuevamente-nombrado-por-sus-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://proceso.hn/expolicia-ludwig-criss-zelaya-condenado-a-12-anos-de-prision-en-eeuu/>

"The Secretary of the Presidency, Ebal Diaz, announced the delivery of a bill aimed at granting tax exemptions for the Special Economic Development Zones (Zedes) despite the rejection of the majority that qualify them as the sale of Honduran territory. Díaz explained that the initiative, promoted by President Juan Orlando Hernández, is aimed at granting tax benefits to the Zedes, as is established for the free trade zones."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/10/joh-envia-ley-al-legislativo-para-otorgar-exenciones-de-impuestos-a-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/zedes-impactaran-en-la-recaudacion-fiscal-y-profundizaran-la-desigualdad-en->



[honduras/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-busca-que-zedes-tengan-los-privilegios-de-las-zonas-francas/>

"More than a thousand metallic and non-metallic mining concessions, energy and hydrocarbon projects have been granted by the Government, 100 of these have been settled in indigenous territory; due to the seriousness of this reality, which other media outlets address superficially or simply do not include in their agendas, EL LIBERTADOR presents this investigation with the purpose of creating active awareness in society."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2905-honduras-investigacion-mas-de-1-100-concesiones-aprobo-gobierno>

"The First Chamber of the Sentencing Court of Juticalpa, Olancho, absolved of criminal responsibility four police agents of the Special Integrated Governmental Security Response Unit (TIGRES), for the crime of Rinel Argueta Oliva, which occurred in the municipality of San Esteban on June 21, 2020. Argueta Oliva was killed on June 21, 2020 in the early hours of the morning in the municipality of San Esteban, during an alleged operation carried out by seven police officers, five belonging to the Special Integrated Governmental Security Response Unit (TIGRES), and two to the Preventive Police, assigned to the delegation of that jurisdiction."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-voto-disidente-jueces-absuelven-a-policias-tigres-del-crimen-de-rinel-argueta/>

While state security forces are let go accused of murder (see above), campesines continue to be criminalized. "A single judge of the Sentencing Court of the City of Comayagua sentenced two peasants from San Pedro de Tutule, La Paz, who are members of the Empresa Asociativa Campesina 8 de febrero in that department, for the crime of usurpation."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/juez-de-comayagua-condena-a-dos-campesinos-que-se-encuentran-en-proceso-de-recuperacion-de-tierra/>

So far, there have been 220'988 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5701 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-5-mil-701-muertes-y-220-mil-988-contagios-por-coronavirus/>

The mobile hospitals were never good enough to serve as real hospitals. But some at least served as very expensive triage centers. Now, Dr. Carlos Umaña denounces that the mobile hospital in San Pedro Sula is being looted. "I have information that there is some extraction of equipment; we know that there is a mobile hospital whose beds have been removed and are being moved to another place. I have been informed by residents of where the mobile hospitals are," he revealed. The MP announced an investigation.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/10/denuncian-saqueo-de-equipo-de-los-hospitales-moviles-fiscalia->

[anuncia-investigacion/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-oficio-investiga-mp-denuncias-sobre-saqueo-en-hospital-movil/>

Desperate to protect their citizens, a group of Honduran mayors asked El Salvador for support in the form of vaccines. Their wishes were granted which caused diverse reactions on either sides of the border.

<https://criterio.hn/alcaldes-y-vacunas/>

<https://proceso.hn/alcaldes-hondurenos-cifran-en-88-mil-las-vacunas-solicitadas-a-el-salvador/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2904-honduras-locura-salud-quiere-apoderarse-de-vacunas-que-bukele-dara-a-alcaldes>

<https://tiempo.hn/arsa-ingreso-vacunas-donadas-por-el-salvador/>

The JOH regime presented a reconstruction plan for Honduras which would cost almost \$7.9 billion.

<https://proceso.hn/plan-de-reconstruccion-para-honduras-requerira-7875-millones-de-dolares/>

"The presidential candidate of the Partido Innovación y Unidad Socialdemócrata (Pinu-SD), Doris Gutiérrez warned this Monday that due to the winds that are blowing, a fraud would be brewing from now on, which will be difficult to control, as it happened in past elections. (...) She mentioned that a resolution of the National Electoral Council (CNE) is circulating in which practically makes it impossible for the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH) to make any alliance before May 27."

The Liberal presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal, meanwhile, faces other problems. "Inversiones Alianza and Corporación Internacional Cemcal announced Monday that they have initiated legal actions against businessman Yani Rosenthal for the diversion of more than US\$25 million from the shareholders' equity of Cementos del Norte SA (Cenosa)."

<https://proceso.hn/se-fragua-un-fraude-y-obstruyen-las-alianzas-desde-el-cne-denuncia-candidata-presidencial/>

<https://criterio.hn/anuncian-acciones-legales-contra-yani-rosenthal-por-desvio-de-mas-de-25-millones-de-cementera/>

11/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Tolupeán - Journalists; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Economy; Corruption - Pandora; ID Card; Elections - Women; Drug Trafficking - Women, JOH;

Day 13 of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring highlighted the main points of the day. "More messages extracted from the "Security PHAZ" WhatsApp chat in Sergio Rodríguez's phone were read in court.

The Cáceres family attorneys requested chats that discussed: (see chats published below by COPINH)

how Pedro Atala, using his connections, and was told by Julian Pacheco, the Minister of Security, that Berta's murder was a "lío de faldas" (a passionate crime);

How DESA's executives, David Castillo and DESA's employees discussed communication strategies after Berta's murder to hide and downplay DESA's involvement in the crime

How police guaranteed exclusive information about the murder investigation to DESA's executives.

On request from the Castillo's defense, the data extraction expert read several messages from the same data extraction that discussed:

Projects carried out by DESA such as fixing the road and the soccer field in communities close to the dam site and meetings held with elected community councils (in La Estancia and Santa Fe)

Security concerns around the project including: An armed criminal gang, safety concerns by community residents; and possible vandalism and attacks by COPINH members

Monitoring and communication after the murder: Media reporting about the news of the murder including about how the principal suspect (Aureliano Molina) had been detained and that COPINH members were allegedly involved in the murder; and statements by COPINH's allies in the press about the murder.

The investigation, including that ATIC agents were destroying legal documents [it's unclear where this occurred];

The urgency of communicating with the international banks supporting the project after the murder occurred, including a phone call with the FMO, Finnfund and BCIE bank representatives on March 16, 2016.

In order to keep the trial moving forward, documents presented as evidence by the prosecutors, the private accusers, and the defense were examined and read by the court. The trial was suspended at 5:30 pm and will begin again tomorrow at 9 am."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/11/day-thirteen-trial-against-david-castillo>

There is more information about the newest attack against Tolupán defenders (see yesterday). "A contingent of the National Police at gunpoint supported the illegal logging of the forest of the Tolupán indigenous people of the San Francisco de Locomapa Tribe, in the department of Yoro, this May 10, 2021. The National Police was responsible and acted with total impunity under the command of Class I, officer Pineda, who arrived in patrol car number PN-952."

MADJ denounces that there has been no investigation announced so far.

OACNUDH also expressed concern.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3150-balazos-contra-indigenas-indefensos>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/05/alerta-defensoras-honduras-policia-nacional-de-honduras-asedia-la-comunidad-de-san-francisco-de-locomapa-y-dispara-contra-defensoras-y-defensores-del-pueblo-tolupan/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1392143885728731138>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1392251962201157639>

As part of the attack against the Tolupe community, armed men linked to the logging company also attacked the community radio.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1359-personas-afines-a-empresario-maderero-destruyen-instalaciones-de-radio-comunitaria>

"Journalist Pablo Chavarría was assaulted by members of the national police while covering a protest by cab drivers in the municipality of Santa Cruz de Yojoa, on Thursday morning, May 6."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1357-corresponsal-de-hch-agredido-por-policias-en-protesta-de-transportistas>

There is ongoing criticism regarding the most recent push for ZEDEs by the JOH regime (see yesterday). FOSDEH denounces it as "a bet on institutional weakness".

<https://proceso.hn/esfuerzos-de-implementacion-de-zede-constituye-debilidad-institucional-indica-fosdeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/fosdeh-preocupado-por-continuos-esfuerzos-por-implementar-las-zede-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 222'118 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5789 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-88-decesos-por-covid-19-y-suma-mil-130-nuevos-contagios/>

Seven Honduran mayors will receive 34'000 vaccine doses from El Salvador (also see yesterday). JOH thanked El Salvador, but somehow blamed "diplomatic reasons" for why Honduras has no access to vaccines...

Criterio reacted: "Hernández's speech is interpreted as an act of manipulation and an insult to the intelligence of Hondurans because the vaccine has been acquired by governments of right, center and left in Latin America and without intermediation of any actor. For the expert in constitutional law and human rights, Joaquín Mejía, Hernández's argument only reflects his incapacity and mediocrity in assuming his responsibility in the face of the pandemic and specifically in the provision of the vaccines, "because if one looks at the region, all governments, regardless of their ideological position, from what is called the left, such as Nicaragua, to the right in Guatemala or the center in Costa Rica and El Salvador, everyone did their homework", as well as Panama and the rest of Latin America."

<https://criterio.hn/el-salvador-dona-34000-dosis-de-vacuna-anti-covid-19-a-alcaldes-de-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1463063-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-honduras-ha-donado-medicamentos-el-salvador>

<https://criterio.hn/el-absurdo-y-ridiculo-discurso-ideologico-del-presidente-de-honduras/>

Public sector workers are holding talks about possible strike actions.

<https://criterio.hn/sindicatos-de-instituciones-publicas-anuncian-paro-de-labores/>

"Almost three years have passed and the collaboration agreements between Fernando Suarez and the Public Prosecutor's Office have not been fulfilled. Suarez is the main witness who revealed the facts that gave life to the Pandora corruption case. However, the collaboration agreement remained on paper and it was worthless for him to reveal how the structure that diverted more than 12 million dollars from the funds of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) to the electoral campaign of the National Party in 2013, which led Juan Orlando Hernández to the Presidency of Honduras, was formed."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/11/mientras-mayoria-de-vinculados-a-pandora-quedan-en-libertad-principal-testigo-sigue-estancado-en-su-juicio/>

The RNP announced that the delivery and enrollment for the new identity card will start again.

<https://criterio.hn/se-reanuda-proceso-de-enrolamiento-y-entrega-de-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad/>

Ana Ortega published an analysis for CESPAD on the primary elections through a gender perspective.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/11/analisis-las-recientes-elecciones-primarias-y-la-participacion-politica-de-las-mujeres-una-mirada-con-perspectiva-de-genero/>

The former congressman Fredy Nájera, found guilty for drug trafficking, will be sentenced on June 11.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1463069-410/exdiputado-fredy-n%C3%A1jera-ser%C3%A1-sentenciado-en-junio-por-narcotr%C3%A1fico>

"A new report suggests women are increasingly playing an active role in the extortion activities of Central American gangs – part of a larger pattern in which women's roles in crime groups are expanding. Women have shifted from being on the periphery of extortion activities, such as collecting payments, to being more central, according to a report published in April by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), a Geneva-based research group"

<https://insightcrime.org/news/women-taking-bigger-role-central-america-extortion-schemes/>

The BBC asks: "Has Honduras become a 'narco-state'?"

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-56947595>

12/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Tolupán; SFF - Keyla; Forced Disappearance; Corruption - US; Penal Code; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy; Elections; National Police; Extradition; Iota; and the IMF, JOH's Reliable Friend

Day 14 of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. "After ratifying documents presented as evidence, Castillo's defense asked the court secretary to read approximately 2.5 to 3 hours of chat messages between David Castillo and Berta Cáceres. The chats were extracted from Berta's phone found at the scene of the crime. The first messages were dated June 27, 2013 and the last in late February 2015, just days before Berta was killed. The chats discussed the following topics: Most were pleasantries (good morning, Merry Christmas, have a safe trip, how are you, I appreciate your friendship, etc.); about health issues including those of Castillo's and Berta's mother; discussions about automobile agencies and car rentals, discussing places and times to meet, and David commenting about information he received about Berta's whereabouts or activities in Rio Blanco and Tegucigalpa. The defense hopes to use these messages to argue that Castillo and Berta were friends. While the Cáceres family attorneys - who also asked that the messages be read - argue that they demonstrate how Castillo kept tabs on Berta, monitored her activities, and hoped to gain her trust. Below are some of these chats published by COPINH".

The International Forum for Human Rights in Honduras published a press release on the case. Meanwhile outside of the court, the Feminist Camp Viva Berta had been established some days ago. Yesterday, the police intimidated the defenders taking part. OACNUDH called on the State of Honduras to respect and guarantee the integrity of the defenders and their right a peaceful protest.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/12/day-fourteen-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/foro-internacional-por-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-estamos-vigilantes-justicia-para-bera/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/05/alerta-defensoras-policia-nacional-toma-videos-y-fotografias-de-los-y-las-defensoras-que-permanecemos-en-el-campamento-feminista-viva-bera/>

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1392490023308693507>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1392646339670990860>

MADJ informs about the most recent attack against the Tolupán community in Locomapa (see previous days).

<https://madj.org/2021/05/12/barbarie-y-terrorismo-de-estado-contra-el-pueblo-tolupan-de-locomapa-la-vida-digna-del-pueblo-tolupan-no-puede-valer-menos-que-una-troza-de-madera/>

On yesterday's International Nurses Day, various human rights organizations called for justice for Keyla Martínez, who was murdered inside a police station. "Although more than a dozen people are mentioned as being involved in the crime, only the basic scale policeman Jarol Rolando Perdomo, who is being held at the "COBRA" police barracks in Tegucigalpa and not in a penal center, has been summoned."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/invitacion-encuentro-internacional-contrala-impunidad-caso-keyla/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-el-dia-de-la-enfermera-exigen-justicia-para-keyla-martinez/>

COFADEH denounces the lack of response by the authorities regarding the forced disappearance of Osman Daniel Vásquez Martínez, son of the well-known defender Susana Vásquez in La Paz. Osman was disappeared on July 27, 2020. He was last seen being taken into a patrol car.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/autoridades-no-dan-respuesta-de-la-desaparicion-de-hijo-de-reconocida-defensora-de-la-paz/>

CESPAD will organize an online forum on corruption and impunity pacts in Honduras tomorrow at 10am.

[https://twitter.com/CESPAD\\_HONDURAS/status/1392491852956413953](https://twitter.com/CESPAD_HONDURAS/status/1392491852956413953)

Patrick Ventrell, Director for Central America at the US State Department, and Chargé d'Affaires Colleen A. Hoey met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla to discuss "the importance of attacking corruption and strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights". The Pro Honduras Network reacts by pointing out once more that Chinchilla was presented as a pillar of defense for JOH in New York courts shielding him from investigations into his drug trafficking activities.

[https://twitter.com/Prohn\\_Honduras/status/1392652090921701376](https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1392652090921701376)

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1392603256023654406](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1392603256023654406)

The CNA once again called for having the new Penal Code declared unconstitutional.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1392580380973228032>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-exige-declaratoria-de-inconstitucionalidad-del-codigo-penal/>

Iveth Zeped, a 29-year old doctor, died to COVID-19. 32 doctors have died so far this year, in total 86 have died.

At least 50 nurses have died as well and their lives were commemorated in Honduras yesterday on the International Nurses Day.

<https://proceso.hn/otra-joven-doctora-fallece-por-covid-19-en-la-capital-hondurena/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dia-internacional-enfermera-aneeah-lamenta-muerte-companeros/>

Members of 19 public unions protested outside the Ministry of Finance demanding the payment of outstanding paychecks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicalistas-realizan-protestas-por-el-incumplimiento-a-los-derechos-laborales/>

Yani Rosenthal still believes in the so-called option B, i.e. that Libre and the Liberal Party join in an alliance without naming a presidential front runner. If together they get more votes than the National Party, the president will be decided between Libre and the Liberal Party depending on who got more individual votes, Xiomara Castro or Yani Rosenthal. But the CNE has already said that this would not be allowed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/yani-roenthal-propone-opcion-b-insiste-en-una-alianza-partidaria/>

A former police agent accused for the murder of two other police agents will await trial in prison.

<https://proceso.hn/detencion-judicial-a-expolicia-por-asesinato-de-dos-agentes-de-la-policia-nacional/>

Martín Adolfo Díaz Contreras, accused of drug trafficking, will be extradited to the US.

<https://proceso.hn/conceden-extradicion-a-eeuu-del-hondureno-martin-adolfo-diaz-contreras-por-narcotrafico/>

CESPAD published an analysis of the recently presented Sustainable Reconstruction Plan.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/12/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-el-plan-de-reconstruccion-sostenible-y-sus-posibles-repercusiones-en-las-luchas-territoriales/>

"The leaders of the political opposition and presidential candidates for the LIBRE and Salvador de Honduras parties do not accept that the IMF and other IOFs continue granting resources to the JOH government a few months before the end of its term, since they will not endorse such actions once in power. In this sense, the IMF should wait until the new government takes office to negotiate, unless its officials in Washington consider that JOH will govern even after 2021, but behind the scenes."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/212211>

13/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - ARCAH; National Police; Cholera; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Drug Trafficking - Extradition; Elections – Reforms;

The trial against David Castillo continued for a very short 2-hour session yesterday. It is scheduled to continue today at 9am.

The Feminist Camp Viva Berta published a short newsletter on their protest accompanying the trial.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/13/day-fifteen-trial-against-david-castillo>



<http://im-defensoras.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/1.BOLETIN-CAMPAMENTO-11-Y-12-DE-MAYO.pdf>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the newest threats against the criminalized ARCAH defenders. "The circulation of cars without license plates and tinted windows with unknown men in front of the houses of the seven environmentalists on trial is already unbearable, they believe there could be an imminent attack against their lives."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3151-vigilancia-extrema-contra-ambientalistas-enjuiciados>

Trial will be opened against a police sub inspector for attacking a young man during a protest in March 2018.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7686-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-sub-inspector-de-policia>

The Secretary of Health confirmed the presence of the Cholera-causing bacteria in Honduras; it was detected in Santa Cruz de Yojoa.

<https://proceso.hn/salud-confirma-presencia-de-la-bacteria-causante-del-colera-en-santa-cruz-de-yojoa/>

So far, there have been 223'922 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5898 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-alcanzan-los-223-mil-922-con-la-confirmacion-de-otros-930-contagios/>

17'000 of the 34'000 vaccine doses donated from El Salvador arrived in Honduras yesterday. The mayors who called on the president of El Salvador to receive vaccine doses are now being threatened by the Honduran foreign minister.

But the newest case of vaccine diplomacy goes beyond the regional level. "Taiwan condemned China on Wednesday for seeking to use vaccines for political gain after Taipei's diplomatic ally Honduras said it was considering opening an office in China in a bid to acquire much needed COVID-19 shots."

Yesterday, Congress in Honduras approved the opening of such an office.

Patrick Ventrell, Director for Central America at the US State Department, concluded his visit to Honduras yesterday and remarked on this situation that the US does not use the topic of vaccination to manipulate other nations...

The JOH regime signed an agreement with the BCIE to finance the purchase of vaccine doses for \$2.8 million.

The Secretary of Health unconvincingly claims that by October, 81% of Hondurans will be vaccinated. So far, only 248'600 vaccine doses have arrived in Honduras (and out of this, only 6000 were purchased by the JOH regime, the rest was donated).

The COVID-19 Observatory at Unitec believes that it will take Honduras eight years to immunize its people.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1463583-466/honduras-vacunas-donadas-salvador-bukele-alcaldes>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/alcaldes-amenazas-de-parte-de-canciller-de-la-republica/>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-05-12/taiwan-says-china-seeking-political-gain-with-honduras-vaccine-move>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-mocion-para-instalar-oficina-comercial-en-china-para-adquirir-vacunas-contr-el-covid-19-2/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1463584-410/nuestra-pol%C3%ADtica-no-es-usar-las-vacunas-como-manipulaci%C3%B3n-como-otros-lo>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-comprara-2-8-millones-de-vacunas-con-financiamiento-del-bcie/>

<https://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-vacunados-en-octubre-ministra-de-salud/>

<https://proceso.hn/asj-desnuda-precariedades-de-la-vacunacion-y-exige-respeto-para-grupos-priorizados-en-honduras/>

The US requested the extradition of the former head of the National Police, Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla. "A few months ago, Manhattan U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman stated that "Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, former chief of the Honduran National Police, allegedly abused his positions in Honduran law enforcement to flout the law and play a key role in a violent international drug trafficking conspiracy"."

"Experts say the extradition request raises the stakes for President Juan Orlando Hernández, who U.S. prosecutors have already accused of receiving millions in bribes from drug traffickers, including \$1 million from the former leader of Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel, Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán. “[Bonilla] is a very pivotal figure, and if he was extradited to the United States and decided to cooperate, it would be the final nail in the coffin of Hernández,” said Mike Vigil, a former chief of international operations for the Drug Enforcement Administration."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1463575-466/estados-unidos-pide-extraditar-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-narcotrafico>

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/epnxbz/an-ex-cop-allegedly-killed-for-the-honduran-president-now-the-us-wants-him-in-prison>

CESPAD published another analysis of the upcoming election. "Fragmentation and the need for political articulation: an analysis of partisan loyalty and voting intention in Honduras".

"More than one million Hondurans living in the United States may lose their right to vote in the general elections of the Central American country next November because they do not have a valid

national identity card, a pro-immigrant association in Florida denounced Thursday."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/13/analisis-fragmentacion-y-necesidad-de-articulacion-politica-un-analisis-sobre-la-fidelidad-partidaria-y-la-intencion-del-voto-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-un-millon-de-hondurenos-en-eeuu-pueden-perder-derecho-al-voto-este-ano/>

"The former president of the defunct Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), Augusto Aguilar, accused a segment of members of the ruling party's parliamentary bench in the National Congress for refusing to approve the new Electoral Law and Electoral Justice Law."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/13/expresidente-del-tse-acusa-a-diputados-afines-a-joh-por-negarse-a-aprobar-ley-electoral/>

14/04/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; HRDs - SSF; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Corruption; SOUTHCOM; Secrecy Law; Corruption - Pandora; and the Illegal Sea Cucumber Trade

Trans woman Valery Pereira was murdered in La Lima, Cortés yesterday.

OACNUDH condemned the murder.

The assassination took place just days before the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

In Geneva, "[h]uman rights experts from the UN and regional bodies today urged governments, faith-based institutions and religious leaders to embrace the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and gender diverse (LGBT) community with respect and compassion, and to reject policies, laws and practices that discriminate or fuel prejudice."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1463784-466/matan-miembro-comunidad-lgtbi-la-lima-honduras-violencia>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1393378021709602824>

<https://criterio.hn/comunidad-lgtbi-de-honduras-exige-un-cese-a-los-crimenes-de-odio/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/los-expertos-de-la-onu-istan-a-los-lideres-religiosos-a-mostrar-respeto-y-compasion-por-las-personas-lgbt/>

"Marlon Neptali Osorto, mayor of the municipality of Reitoca, illegally entered the house of Renán Ovidio Zelaya, active member of the Lenca Indigenous Council of Reitoca CILR, to threaten him to death, which may have a direct connection with the defense of the Petacón River in that community, as denounced by the organization Madre Tierra in a public statement, this May 14, 2021."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3152-alcalde-se-mete-a-la-casa-para->

[amenazar-a-muerte-a-defensor-de-derechos-humanos](#)

"This Friday, May 14, human rights defender Marlon Alexander García appeared before the Public Prosecutor's Office to hand over some videos that he himself recorded, where a police officer shoots him with a rubber bullet, during a social protest on June 25, 2019. Although the Public Prosecutor's Office called the member of the Network of Human Rights Defenders of the South of the country (REDEHSUR), the investigation process is late and there is no progress, lawyer Dora Oliva, who accompanied him to the meeting, told [defensoresenlinea.com](#)."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/dos-anos-despues-mp-solicita-informacion-a-defensor-victima-de-policia/>

On Thursday, the trial against David Castillo only took 2 hours, yesterday, even less. "There was a very short session today of approximately 20 minutes. Just as the prosecutor's expert witness Brenda Barahona was about to begin, Castillo's defense attorneys argued that the witness should testify using the written submitted analysis and not a Powerpoint presentation. After arguments were heard, the judges ruled that the visual presentation will be allowed but that the defense has the right to review it before it is examined in court. The trial was suspended to allow for the defense to review it and the expert witness will begin testifying tomorrow at 9 am."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/14/day-sixteen-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://tiempo.hn/suspenden-juicio-de-berta-caceres-perito-reconoce-133-errores/>

<https://criterio.hn/juicio-de-berta-caceres-ha-establecido-un-patron-de-odio-y-racismo-contra-la-poblacion-indigena/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1851-justicia-para-berta-conversaciones-develan-expresiones-racistas-en-el-juicio-contra-david-castillo>

El Pulso and Criterio report that the community of Satuyé, located near La Ceiba, will become the third Special Economic Development Zone (ZEDE) under the management of the Prospera Honduras consortium.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/14/controvertido-consorcio-edificara-tercera-zede-en-area-garifuna-cercana-a-la-ceiba/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-anexan-puerto-de-satuye-en-la-ceiba-a-zede-prospera-de-roatan/>

So far, there have been 225'256 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5937 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Home Association, meanwhile, documented more than 13'000 deaths. The situation may further worsen with the arrival of the Indian COVID-19 strain.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-225-mil-256-infectados-y-5-mil-937-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

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

<https://proceso.hn/llegada-de-la-cepa-india-provocara-una-catastrofe-en-honduras-alerta-el-colegio-de-microbiologos/>

Doctor Bernardo Ávila Castellano died to COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/muere-por-covid-19-medico-bernardo-avila-castellanos/>

Yesterday, I wrongly wrote that the BCIE will loan the JOH regime \$2.8 million to buy vaccines. In reality, the loan reaches \$35 million to buy 2.8 million vaccine doses. 40'000 more Sputnik V doses arrived in Honduras yesterday.

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-prestamos-a-honduras-compra-de-vacunas/>

<https://proceso.hn/lote-de-40-mil-vacunas-rusas-llegan-a-honduras/>

"The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) denounced that they identified that during the vaccination days against SARS-CoV-2 at least six officials of public and private entities, together with their families, were vaccinated without being a priority and even falsified documents."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/14/asj-denuncia-que-funcionarios-estatales-y-privados-se-vacunaron-sin-ser-prioridad/>

El Tiempo reports on a "humanitarian" Southcom mission to Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/comando-sur-de-eeuu-asistencia-humanitaria-honduras/>

"Magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice admitted this week the excuse presented by the president of the Judiciary, Rolando Argueta in order to not hear the unconstitutionality appeals filed against the Official Secrets Law and the New Penal Code of Honduras, by the Committee for Free Expression (C-Libre). The admission of these excuses within the plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice opens the way for a definitive resolution of the unconstitutionality appeals that have been filed against these laws, as mentioned by attorney Mario Rojas, coordinator of the Area of Access to Justice of C-Libre."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1852-presidente-de-la-corte-supremo-de-justicia-no-conocera-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-sobre-la-ley-de-secretos-oficiales>

CESPAD published a summary of a recent webinar on corruption in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/14/asi-funciona-la-corrupcion-y-los-pactos-de-impunidad-en-honduras/>

"The Court for the Deprivation of Domain of Assets of Illicit Origin declared the definitive deprivation of domain of three vehicles, several real estate assets and commercial companies of the defendants in the Pandora case."

<https://proceso.hn/declaran-con-lugar-privacion-de-dominio-sobre-varios-bienes-de-imputados-del-caso-pandora/>

"With supplies of sea cucumber waning in large parts of East Asia, Honduras has stepped into the breach. Brokers from Vietnam and Taiwan are now incongruous figures in small Honduran fishing villages, financing a thriving black market for the in-demand echinoderm."

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/the-illegal-sea-cucumber-trade-in-kaukira-honduras/>

15/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Cholera; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Elections - ID; Electricity;

After two very short days in court, Day 17 of the trial against David Castillo went on a bit longer again. Karen Spring highlights the main points of the day. "The prosecutor's expert witness Brenda Barahona began an over 400 page presentation and analysis of telecommunications (phone calls and texts) of and between the seven men convicted for involvement in Berta's murder, David Castillo, Daniel Atala, and other unidentified numbers. Through cell phone tower localization data, Barahona traced the physical locations of each person over different periods of time (24 hours before/after Berta's murder, 2015, 2016, etc) and related each to the physical locations of the other suspicious individuals. This data was presented without conclusions (so far).

The data is similar to what was presented in the previous trial against the seven convicted men but included more telecommunication and localization data about David Castillo and possibly Daniel Atala. The following was revealed:

In the 24 hours period 12:00 am on March 2, 2016 to 12:59 pm on March 3, 2016, the phone number used by David Castillo called Douglas Bustillo, Sergio Rodriguez, Jorge Avila (DESA's head of security), and Daniel Atala. Castillo exchanged four text messages from Bustillo and sent one. According to phone towers, Castillo was in Tegucigalpa around this time frame

In the same 24 hour period, Daniel Atala communicated with David Castillo and Jorge Avila and according to phone towers, was located in Tegucigalpa.

The data seems to show that communication increased amongst the criminal group - between some more than others (for example between the lead hitman Henry Hernandez and Douglas Bustillo; and amongst some the hitman) - in the 24 hour period around the time of the murder and around February 5 and 6, 2016. Douglas Bustillo's telecommunications data seems to be the key of linking Castillo with the communication between Bustillo and the group of hitman."

The Intercept, as part of its Deconstructed podcast, published an episode on the trial.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/15/day-seventeen-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://theintercept.com/2021/05/14/deconstructed-bertha-caceres-des/>

Some days ago, Honduran authorities reported on the existence of cholera-causing bacteria in Santa Cruz de Yojoa. Now, they try to reassure the public that so far, there have been no cholera cases detected.

<https://tiempo.hn/brote-de-colera-yojoa-se-toman-medidas/>

So far, there have been 225'964 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5954 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-roza-los-seis-mil-decesos-por-la-covid-19-y-acumula-los-225-mil-964-contagios/>

Even though the JOH regime proudly claimed that 40'000 Sputnik V vaccine doses arrived in Honduras (see yesterday), the news is not as good as it seems. "The batch of 40 thousand Russian Sputnik V vaccines that arrived on Friday in Honduras, will be kept refrigerated until the second component arrives and inoculate the same number of people, reported Saturday the head of the Expanded Program of Immunization (PAI), Ida Berenice Molina. (...) In this sense, she explained that the batch of 40 thousand doses of Sputnik V that arrived yesterday to the country is of component one; this vaccine has two components, one is in the first application and component two is the one that is applied with an interval of 21 days. "We are waiting for component two to start with the inoculation and ensure that second dose in the time interval, we need to have both components," she argued."

To divert attention away from this, health minister Alba Consuelo Flores promised to sign a purchase agreement with Pfizer for 4.4 million vaccine doses.

ContraCorriente has a great overview of the story around the donated vaccine doses from El Savador (see previous days).

<https://proceso.hn/lote-de-40-mil-vacunas-rusas-se-congelaran-hasta-que-llegue-segundo-componente/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2923-honduras-inaudito-gobierno-dice-que-sputnik-están-incompletas>

<https://tiempo.hn/compra-de-vacunas-de-pfizer-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/15/alcaldes-de-honduras-reciben-primeras-17000-vacunas-de-nayib-bukele-y-despiertan-un-conflicto-geopolitico/>

Option B talk has gained momentum again (see previous e-mail). Liberal Party leaders present it as an alternative to electoral reforms.

Former TSE president Arístides Mejía claims that it would make the elections "free and transparent".

The CNE continues to oppose the idea. "In this sense, CNE Councilwoman Rixi Moncada said that in defense of the principle of legality and as a fundamental pillar in the framework of the rule of law, option B has no constitutional support in Honduras."

<https://tiempo.hn/opcion-b-dirigentes-liberales-es-una-alterativa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/aristides-mejia-opcion-b-alianza-elecciones-generales/>

<https://proceso.hn/opcion-b-es-como-someter-nuevamente-a-la-ciudadania-a-elecciones-primarias-riximoncada/>

So far, the RNP have (only) handed out 1.7 million new identity cards.

<https://proceso.hn/un-millon-738-mil-identidades-ha-entregado-el-rnp-a-la-poblacion/>

According to the deputy vice-minister Leonardo Deras, Honduras needs an investment of some \$300 million to improve power transmission lines.

<https://proceso.hn/unos-300-millones-de-dolares-necesita-honduras-para-mejorar-lineas-de-transmision-electrica/>

16/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Iota; Elections - PSH, TJE; Migration – Children;

The trial against David Castillo continued on Sunday and will take a break today. Karen Spring highlights the main point of Day 19.

"A series of conversations between Mariano Díaz Chávez, Henry Hernandez and Douglas Bustillo were read and played in court. The conversations followed a specific timeline starting on January 4, 2016. The conversations outline discussions about planning and meeting to discuss the murder, finding the gatilleros (hitman), how much the hitman and Henry charge to do the job, the need to do the job quickly, Mariano only wanting to help coordinate, the "higher ups" cancelling the plan, among other details.

The conversations also discussed a failed attempt to murder Berta Cáceres on February 5, 2016."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/16/day-eighteen-trial-against-david-castillo>

So far, there have been 226'719 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5960 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-casi-seis-mil-muertos-y-rebasa-los-226-mil-casos-confirmados-de-covid-19/>



71 triage centers had to close so far due to lack of funding.

<https://proceso.hn/suman-71-los-triajes-cerrados-para-enfrentar-el-covid-19/>

CESPAD has another analysis on the reconstruction plan by the JOH regime (see previous e-mails). They highlight five critical points. 1. Legitimacy crisis of the Hernandez administration. 2. The inability of political and social articulation around the PRDS. The construction of dams without community participation and the specter of extractivism. 4. External indebtedness as the main axis of financing. 5. Reconstruction measures of an economic nature and disregard for political and social issues.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/16/cinco-puntos-criticos-sobre-el-plan-de-reconstruccion-de-desarrollo-sostenible-en-honduras/>

"The Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), measured the degree of party loyalty, the intention to vote for the presidential candidates at this moment, as well as the weight of support of segments by age, sex (between men and women), in urban and rural areas. For this purpose, a short national opinion poll was conducted between April 26 and May 7, with a margin of error of 2.88 and a sample of 1,888 surveys." At this moment, the National Party would win with 14.9% of the votes for Tito Asfura before 11.7% for Xiomara Castro. But 51.1% still don't know who to vote for or did not answer.

The CNE informed about the official procedure to hold surveys linked to the election. "[P]olls are prohibited to pollsters, as well as surveys in social networks and websites, to those who do not have the proper authorization."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/16/si-las-elecciones-fueran-hoy-honduras-tendria-de-nuevo-al-partido-nacional-dirigiendo-el-pais/>

<https://criterio.hn/cne-abre-oportunidad-para-realizar-encuestas-politicas-de-cara-a-las-elecciones-generales/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-prohibe-sondeos-electorales-en-redes-sociales-y-a-quienes-no-gocen-de-su-autorizacion/>

The problems at the Salvador de Honduras Party (PHS) continue. "Tensions in the newly created Salvador de Honduras party (PSH) worsened after a faction loyal to Salvador Nasralla proclaimed him as the presidential candidate for next November's general elections and authorized him to make alliances, while board member Henry Osorto warned him that he would incur in a crime if he insisted with the assembly held on Saturday."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/16/se-agudiza-crisis-en-salvador-de-honduras-nasralla-denuncia-infiltracion-y-osorto-piensa-demandarlo/>

"The presiding magistrate of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) Gaudy Bustillo, stated this Sunday that it is time for the National Congress to approve the Electoral Justice Law due to the approaching general elections to be held Sunday, November 28."

<https://proceso.hn/no-solo-se-trata-de-crear-instituciones-se-necesita-la-ley-y-presupuesto-segun-magistrada-del-tje/>

So far this year, 502 minors have been deported to Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/un-promedio-de-12-menores-retornados-a-diario-registra-honduras/>

17/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque, ZEDEs; LGBTQ+; OFRANEH - SUNLA, Land; Tolupán; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Corruption; Elections - Opposition, Reforms; Extradition; and Permanent Democratic Abnormality

CESPAD published a report on the Gualcarque Fraud case.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/17/las-redes-de-corrupcion-detras-de-la-concesion-de-rios-en-honduras-gualcarque-la-evidencia-de-la-colusion-entre-la-empresa-privada-y-los-poderes-del-estado/>

Linked to the trial against David Castillo, social movements followed the call by COPINH to protest the extractive development model in Honduras.

Riot police harassed protesters.

<https://copinh.org/2021/05/liberation-of-territories-is-justice-for-bertha/>

<https://copinh.org/2021/05/honduras-lenca-victims-lead-mobilization-during-bertha-caceres-trial/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3155-movilizacion-para-el-cierre-de-concesiones-que-no-aprueban-las-comunidades-indigenas>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1394355465488715776>

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1394357237523566596>

The protest was also directed against the ZEDEs.

In the south, people in Zacate Grande live under threat of the imposition of such a ZEDE.

The National Party and the JOH regime, meanwhile, continues to defend the idea of the ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/manifestacion-contra-las-zede-proyectos-hidroelectricos-y-otras-formas-de-despojo-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/zacate-grande-en-alerta-ante-amenaza-de-instalacion-de-zede/>

<https://proceso.hn/pn-condena-ataques-de-nasralla-contra-ebal-diaz-y-defiende-las-zede/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/17/joh-asegura-que-las-zedes-no-es-venta-de-territorio-y-quienes-se-oponen-no-saben-leer/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/17/secretario-de-presidencia-arguye-que-zedes-son-para-evitar-exodo-de-hondurenos/>

"This May 17, 2021, as part of the International Day against Homophobia, Lesbophobia and Transphobia, human rights organizations of the LGTBI community in Honduras, highlighted the advances and challenges that still keep a community of diversity, marginalized and without respect for their sexual orientation."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3154-la-homofobia-es-un-obstaculo-para-que-la-comunidad-lgtbi-goce-de-derechos-en-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/37-lgtbi/1856-organizaciones-lgtbi-de-honduras-exigen-respeto-y-aprobacion-de-leyes-en-el-dia-internacional-contr-la-homofobia-lesbofobia-y-transfobia>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1394459593481273344>

Today at 10am, a virtual conference will take place on "Institutional racism and the denial of access to truth and justice to the Garifuna people in the context of the forced disappearance in Triunfo De la Cruz, Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/jessicfernandez/status/1394421290895912963>

The MP presented a challenge against a court ruling to drop the charges against a public employee who "in her capacity as registrar of the IP, registered the donation of a plot of land of 10,439.33 square meters, thus violating the provisions of the law in relation to the prohibition of registration of properties in favor of third parties, when the land belongs to indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7696-recurso-de-apelacion-por-sobreseimiento-a-favor-de-funcionaria-del-ip-de-la-ceiba-acusada-de-registrar-tierras-garifunas-a-terceros>

32 international NGOs present in Honduras published a joint statement in support of Tolupán defenders from the Tribu San Francisco de Locomapa who suffered an attack on May 10 (see previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1394395500716175360>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1855-autoridades-estatales-coludidas-con-empresario-maderero-ejercen-violencia-contr-tribu-tolupan>

"In this first of four parts, Lourdes Ramírez, Emy Padilla, Wendy Funes and Dunia Orellana collect the testimonies of three women who were physically, psychologically and sexually harassed in the

Honduran media. This is a collaborative report by En Altavoz, Criterio, Reporteros de Investigación and Reportar sin Miedo. The names of the protagonists of the stories have been changed to preserve their identities."

<https://criterio.hn/cuatro-mujeres-periodistas-revelan-el-acoso-en-las-salas-de-redaccion-de-honduras/>

So far, there have been 227'516 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 5970 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-797-casos-de-covid-19-en-un-dia-y-acumula-227-mil-516-contagios/>

At least 8 doctors are currently treated in ICUs for COVID-19.

<https://tiempo.hn/doctor-chirinos-ocho-medicos-estan-internos-en-uci/>

Several media outlets report on high-level disputes at the Secretary of Health regarding the (lack of a) vaccine strategy in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2925-honduras-dr-cosenza-muestra-desacuerdo-con-decisiones-en-salud>

<https://confidencialhn.com/viceministro-de-la-sesal-denuncia-que-al-interior-de-ese-ministerio-lo-cuestionan-y-el-solo-defiende-el-derecho-a-la-vacuna/>

<https://proceso.hn/viceministro-de-salud-denuncia-que-propias-autoridades-le-cuestionan-y-defiende-derecho-a-la-vacuna/>

"The former head of the former Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), Ana María Calderón, spoke out on the current situation of corruption in the country by questioning the weak actions of the Public Prosecutor's Office against the scourge. For the Peruvian prosecutor, the Public Prosecutor's Office is a diminished entity, without the capacity to confront, investigate and prosecute acts of corruption".

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/17/exjefa-de-maccih-cuestiona-accionar-de-fiscalia-ante-flagelo-de-la-corrupcion/>

"The sociologist and political analyst, Pablo Carías, affirmed that in Honduras there is no political opposition as such, due to a well orchestrated plan by the ruling party in collusion with a segment of the Liberal Party."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/17/sociologo-afirma-que-resquebrajamiento-de-la-oposicion-es-un-plan-del-oficialismo/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva claims that some pending electoral reforms will be approved. They would have until next week, May 27.

<https://proceso.hn/reformas-electorales-pendientes-se-estarian-aprobando-esta-semana-segun-el-presidente-del-cn/>

<https://proceso.hn/a-elecciones-sin-nueva-ley-y-pujando-por-opcion-b/>

Martín Adolfo Díaz Contreras appealed the extradition request against him.

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-apelaran-solicitud-de-extradicion-de-hondureno-martin-diaz/>

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<https://criterio.hn/honduras-vive-en-anormalidad-democratica-permanente-joaquin-mejia/>

18/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH - SUNLA; Corruption - US, Open Chest, Pandora; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Journalists; Elections - Reforms; Prisons; and Machismo Kills

After a one-day break, the trial against David Castillo continued. Karen Spring has the highlights of the day. "Expert telecommunication witness, Brenda Barahona presents a timeline of chats and conversations between Daniel Atala, David Castillo, Douglas Bustillo, Mariano Díaz, and Henry Hernandez and less frequently mentioned actors including Jacobo Atala, Jorge Avila, and others. The timeline begins to paint a bigger picture of the coordination between all of the actors in the lead up to the failed murder attempt in February 2016 and Berta's murder in March.

Using chat messages and telephone location data, Barahona provides several observations and explanations of the relationship between Berta Cáceres and David Castillo. Some include: Castillo and Cáceres met in person on at least 4 occasions between January 10, 2015 and November 2, 2015.

Observation: "When Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores proposed meeting with David Castillo, which was not planned or not in his interests, David Castillo would be unavailable meet, claiming he was outside of Tegucigalpa and in other occasions, was ill."

Observation: "Roberto David Castillo made Berta Cáceres believe that despite their different points of view and interests, he appreciated her. This is disputed because when she tried to reason with him (defend her convictions), many times he ignored her and did not respond to her messages. Later he would write back because he hoped to obtain information about her and her activities"

Observation: "Various messages sent by David Castillo, emphasized his friendship with Berta. One can perceive his subtle form of complaining about Berta in situations like: motivating people to protest against the PHAZ [Agua Zarca hydroelectric project]; not paying attention while busy with her environmental activities or family; coordination and COPINH's accompaniment in "the Indignados marches", using this as a means to obtain information from Berta and about her own movements."

Observation: "In February 2016, Berta Cáceres showed disappointment and annoyance with David

Castillo. She began to doubt the friendship that existed between them.””

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/18/day-nineteen-trial-against-david-castillo>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1859-berta-zuniga-caceres-existen-pactos-de-corrupcion-y-muchos-tratos-que-se-realizan-entre-los-grupos-oligarquicos-y-los-funcionarios-del-estado>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/05/18/jacobo-atala-quiso-contactar-a-julian-pacheco-tinoco-y-oscar-chinchilla-luego-de-la-captura-de-uno-de-sus-empleado-implicado-en-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

Pasos de Animal Grande has an overview of yesterday's virtual forum on the forced disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz which led to the creation of SUNLA, the Garifuna Committee for the Investigation and Search for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3157-estado-de-honduras-evidencia-que-no-quiere-llegar-a-la-verdad-sobre-desaparicion-de-garifunas>

In response to a request by US Congresswoman Norma Torres, the US State Department published a list of corrupt officials in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

This is not the Engel's List expected for June and is expected to be much more exhaustive.

Six Nationalist members of Congress are mentioned.

They claim that it is a campaign against the National Party.

Observers fear that even though they are clearly linked to corruption cases, some may still be reelected in November.

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-list-corrupt-officials-shines-light-dark-secrets-n-triangle>

<https://proceso.hn/norma-torres-dice-que-gobiernos-centroamericanos-estan-plagados-de-corrupcion-y-lista-solo-es-solo-el-comienzo/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1394697743881363456>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/05/18/listado-de-politicos-corruptos-publicado-hoy-no-es-la-lista-engel-sino-un-listado-publicado-por-el-departamento-de-estado-a-solicitud-de-la-congresista-norma-torres/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/18/congresista-de-ee-uu-torres-sindica-a-seis-diputados-nacionalistas-en-nomina-de-corruptos/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-sanciona-a-seis-diputados-hondurenos-por-corrupcion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/18/implicados-en-lista-de-funcionarios-corruptos-afirman-es-campana-contra-el-oficialismo/>

<https://criterio.hn/lo-grave-de-esa-lista-es-que-muchos-van-como-candidatos-en-las-proximas-elecciones-maribel-espinoza/>

<https://proceso.hn/ley-no-inhabilita-a-diputados-senalados-internacionalmente-de-corrupcion-dice-expresidente-del-tse/>

At the same time, another US delegation traveled to Honduras (see previous e-mail). They met with representatives of different sectors, among them the head of the anti-corruption body UFERCO, Luis Javier Santos.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1394786049847595009>

<https://proceso.hn/funcionarias-de-eeuu-reafirman-apoyo-a-uferco-en-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionarias-de-eeuu-visitaran-honduras-para-sostener-reuniones-con-diferentes-sectores-de-la-sociedad/>

Some of the corrupt official highlighted by the US State Department and investigated by UFERCO are part of the Open Chest case. "For more than two years, the Specialized Prosecutorial Unit Against Corruption Networks (Uferco) has been waiting for a court to rule on the appeals filed in the corruption case known as Arca Abierta. "It is unusual that it takes so long for an appeal in such a case" although "we are not surprised," Uferco head Luis Javier Santos told Criterio.hn."

<https://criterio.hn/uferco-lleva-mas-de-dos-anos-esperando-sentencia-de-justicia-hondurena-en-caso-arca-abierta/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/18/oscar-najera-y-diputados-implicados-en-arca-abierta-incluidos-en-reporte-de-corrupcion-presentado-al-congreso-de-eeuu/>

CESPAD has an update on the Pandora corruption case.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/18/por-estas-razones-jueza-privada-del-dominio-de-bienes-a-personajes-que-drenaron-fondos-en-el-caso-pandora/>

So far, there have been 228'287 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6019 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-las-seis-mil-defunciones-y-llega-a-228-mil-287-contagios-por-covid/>

Honduras signed a pre-purchase for 4.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-contrato-compra-vacunas-de-pfizer/>

So far, some 150 journalists in Honduras have suffered from COVID-19 and 20 have died.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1858-alrededor-de-150-periodistas-contagiados-y-20-fallecidos-por-covid-19-en-honduras>

"The United Nations System in Honduras is encouraged by the promising news about the deliberations in the National Congress to achieve the approval of the new Electoral Law and the Electoral Process Law. In this regard, with due respect for national sovereignty, we urge the political forces in the National Congress to finalize this important task so that the new electoral regulations can provide legal security to the electoral contest and certainty to the Honduran people."

<https://honduras.un.org/es/127033-comunicado-del-sistema-de-naciones-unidas-en-honduras-sobre-las-importantes-leyes>

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-aplaude-anuncio-de-concluir-aprobacion-de-ley-electoral-y-advierte-conflictividad-por-falta-de-reglas-claras/>

"The commissioner of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Conaprev), Glenda Ayala, said that a report on the treatment received by prisoners in the National Penitentiary was sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office so that the high commanders can be investigated."

<https://proceso.hn/conaprev-exige-investigar-a-subdirector-de-la-penitenciaria-nacional-ante-castigos-sin-control/>

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<https://radioprogreso.hn/net/np/el-machismo-una-plaga-que-mata/>

19/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, FMO; SERNA; COHEP; UN - OFRANEH, MP, Forced Displacement; Journalists; Corruption - MACCIH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Education; Prisons; Elections - Reforms, Women; and Honduran Gig Workers

Already Day 20 of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring highlights the following: "Expert telecommunications data analyst Brenda Barahona finishes her over 450 page presentation. About David Castillo, Barahona concludes: "according to the participation of each of the phone numbers analyzed, the individuals responsible for the murder and attempted murder of Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores and protected witness ABC-03-03-2016 are: "9990-0946 in use of Roberto David Castillo Mejía, who was in charge of obtaining information about the victim from Sergio Rodriguez, give Douglas Bustillo the order to murder Berta Cáceres, and offer the money that was paid to commit the crime ...". The conclusions also connected David Castillo into a timeline that demonstrates his role within the context of actions carried out by the seven individuals convicted of murdering Berta."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/19/day-twenty-trial-against-david-castillo>



COPINH reports on some good news regarding the Agua Zarca case. "The Dutch development bank FMO will not grant a loan to the Ficohsa bank from Honduras after all. According to a spokesperson for FMO, negotiations on the \$60 million loan have been discontinued. This marks a remarkable turn in an extremely sensitive dossier for the Hague-based development bank. (...) The most piquant accusation is that, according to the NGOs, Ficohsa was involved in financing DESA, a Honduran company that wanted to build a hydroelectric plant that was also financed by FMO. During the local people's opposition to the construction of that power plant, the prominent activist Berta Cáceres was murdered in 2016. This caused a storm of international criticism of the human rights situation in the Central American country. When it became clear that DESA employees were involved in the murder, FMO withdrew from the Agua Zarca project."

<https://copinh.org/2021/05/ingles/>

And more good news. "The Prosecutor's Office of Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage obtained in oral and public trial the conviction of the former vice minister of the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), Norman Gilberto Ochoa Henríquez for abuse of authority, after proving that in 2010 the accused irregularly granted the environmental license for the development of the hydroelectric dam La Ensenada, located in La Ceiba, Atlántida, particularly to the detriment of the Garifuna communities of Sambo Creek and Corinto."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7716-historico-fallo-contr-ex-vice-ministro-que-otorgo-ilegalmente-licencia-ambiental-a-hidroelectrica-en-territorio-garifuna>

<https://criterio.hn/culpable-vice-ministro-de-serna-por-aprobar-proyecto-en-comunidades-garifunas/>

"Peasant and indigenous organizations arrived in front of the National Commissioner for Human Rights, CONADEH, this May 19, demanding that the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise COHEP, make a public apology for urging the criminalization of people who have been forced to exercise a territorial struggle against the surrender policies of the State."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3159-organizaciones-campesinas-e-indigenas-condenan-discurso-estigmatizante-y-discriminatorio-del-cohep>

OACNUDH met with members of OFRANEH and it reiterated "its commitment to continue accompanying @ofraneh's valuable work for dignity and justice."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1395191135145013256>

OACNUDH and the MP signed a "Letter of Understanding with the purpose of establishing a framework for technical cooperation aimed, among other things, at strengthening the capacity for criminal investigation of human rights violations in the country".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7715-oficina-del-alto-comisionado-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-los-derechos-humanos-y-ministerio-publico-acuerdan-frente-comun-para->

[la-investigacion-de-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos](#)

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1395097399115255810>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-y-oacnudh-acuerdan-cooperacion-de-fortalecimiento-de-las-investigaciones-de-violaciones-de-ddhh>

"The Committee of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees in Honduras (Cofadeh) today requested the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to demand that the Honduran government create a special unit to search for disappeared detainees and to put an end to this practice."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/grupo-de-trabajo-escucho-a-nuevas-familias-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada/>

"In the first part of "Harassment among pens", Lourdes Ramirez, Emy Padilla, Wendy Funes and Dunia Orellana collected the testimonies of three women who were physically, psychologically and sexually harassed in the Honduran media [see previous e-mail]. In this second installment of four, we present the stories of five other women who have encountered harassing bosses and colleagues. This is a collaborative report by En Altavoz, Criterio, Reporteros de Investigación and Reportar sin Miedo. The names of the protagonists of the stories have been changed to preserve their identities."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/19/un-48-de-mujeres-periodistas-en-honduras-han-sufrido-acoso-en-las-salas-de-redaccion/>

93% of those accused in corruption cases brought forward by the MACCIH have been let go since the disappearance of the MACCIH.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/19/el-93-por-ciento-de-acusados-por-la-extinta-maccih-fueron-puestos-en-libertad/>

So far, there have been 229'211 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6051 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-32-muertes-y-924-contagios-por-covid-19/>

The CNA published a second report on the triage centers. "The report indicated that triage staffing is insufficient to meet the population demand for suspected and infected COVID-19 patients. It added that some triage centers are understaffed on the front line to ensure optimal care. In addition, the CNA found that 80 percent of the triage centers visited do not have enough oxygen to cover the total number of patients."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1395017792068390914>

<https://proceso.hn/cna-detecta-escasez-de-insumos-e-insuficiencia-en-satisfacer-demanda-poblacional-en-triajes-del-occidente/>

Medical experts criticize the JOH regime for presenting the pre-purchase agreement with Pfizer (see yesterday) as a success with imminent benefits. "Figuerola said that it is "risky to say that they have purchased when all they are really doing is the first step, which is to sign a letter of intent to purchase, and obviously the shipment of the vaccines takes and may take a long time and they do not deliver the whole quantity. (...) The president of the CMH said that, by selling false hopes, the government intends to "remove the impression left by their own irresponsibility in the Honduran people, who we see that they have been more than irresponsible by not signing, by not making a purchase of vaccines on time"."

Almost 200 organizations, churches, businesses sent a joint letter to the Biden administration asking for the donation of vaccine doses to Honduras.

COHEP, meanwhile, announces that the first 200'000 AstraZeneca doses purchased through the IHSS will arrive in Honduras on Saturday.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-sigue-vendiendo-falsas-expectativas-a-hondurenos-suyapa-figueroa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sociedad-civil-y-sectores-envian-carta-a-joe-biden-para-obtener-donacion-de-vacunas-anticovid/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-anuncia-que-el-sabado-llegan-primeras-200-mil-dosis-de-vacunas-astrazeneca-compradas-por-ihss/>

According to ASJ, 680'000 Honduran school children only have class, virtually, for one hour a day.

<https://tiempo.hn/asj-680-mil-alumnos-clases-virtuales/>

El Herald reports on the so-called The Beast, a prison cell at the Támara prison "to break the will of the prisoners" where they are held under "most inhumane conditions".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1464937-466/la-bestia-celda-carcel-tamara>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) has a 600 million budget for the general election this November.

<https://proceso.hn/cne-cuenta-con-un-presupuesto-de-l-600-millones-para-realizar-las-elecciones-generales/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-unos-600-l-millones-costaran-elecciones-generales/>

Nincy Perdomo published an important analysis on the discussions about the electoral reforms. "What the current state of affairs shows is that there are no solid agreements between the majority benches of the National Congress on the approval of the electoral law. Beyond this, it is important to emphasize that the way in which the opinion process has been developed suggests that this decree, if socialized and approved in the next few days, would not reflect a real will to rethink the electoral system and solve the impasses of the primary elections, but would simply produce a document in which the three largest parties of the country will place some rules of the game

designed exclusively for the purpose of serving the interests of their leaderships. Although the need for a new electoral law is very real, the rush for its approval at the present time is not due to a concern for modernizing the democratic mechanisms of government election, but, rather, to the fulfillment of an external agenda to try to legitimize the current state of our politics."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/19/de-donde-viene-la-agenda-de-las-reformas-electorales/>

Criterio published an analysis on the difficulties faced by women to run successfully for office.

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-lejos-de-alcanzar-el-poder-politico-en-honduras/>

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<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3158-empleo-delivery-incumple-los-derechos-laborales-en-honduras>

20/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; SSF; Women's Rights; ZEDEs - Protests; Journalists; COVID-19; Elections - Primaries, Transparency, Reforms; and If You Cannot Stay Home

Day 21 of the David Castillo trial was "largely uneventful. Telecommunications data analyst Brenda Barahona continued on the stand and answered clarifying questions from the prosecutors and private accusers".

The Viva Berta Feminist Camp published its second bulletin.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/20/day-twenty-one-trial-against-david-castillo>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/05/campamento-feminista-viva-bera-boletin-2-17-y-18-de-mayo-2021/>

"OACNUDH accompanied Kevin Pérez and the @reddeabogadas at the initial hearing against a military officer in command of an operation where the young man was shot at and beaten in Choluteca during the 2017 post-election crisis."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1395376573675622400>

"Victoria suffered an obstetric emergency in 2010, she did not know she was pregnant and when she went to the hospital, the medical staff who attended her reported her for abortion. The legal process she faced lasted eleven years. She was exposed in the media and had to flee the place where she lived, for years she was unable to get a stable job and has dealt with post-traumatic stress since that day. During the oral and public trial in April 2021, the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) asked for an acquittal due to lack of evidence and the court acquitted her. She now tells her story under protection to avoid being stigmatized or discriminated against."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/20/criminalizada-once-anos-por-una-emergencia-obstetrica/>

ContraCorriente has an important article on the ZEDEs and a ruling coming from Vienna. "In October 2020 Patrice Fuchs, an Austrian journalist, shared information about ZEDEs on her twitter. In one tweet she wrote that Barbara Kolm, vice president of the Austrian National Bank (Österreichische Nationalbank), was building a luxury tax oasis in Honduras for the world's libertarians, adding that such a project had been the subject of local protests and that a human rights activist had been killed. Kolm then proceeded to prosecute him on charges of defamation, libel and slander. At today's court hearing on May 20, 2021, the Regional Court for Criminal Matters in Vienna (Landesgericht für Strafsachen Wien) ruled in favor of Barbara Kolm. Although there are many substantive aspects that deserve further analysis, at least two relevant issues that were discussed in Kolm v. Fuchs are highlighted below. The first is the composition of the Committee for the Adoption of Best Practices (CAMP). And the second is on the conceptualization of ZEDEs as tax oases."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/20/las-zede-en-los-tribunales-de-viena/>

Protests against ZEDEs took place both in Roatán and Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-movilizaciones-contral-las-zedes-en-roatan-y-tegucigalpa/>

Journalist Milton Turcios was threatened in person by an unknown man on two occasions.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3160-estas-hablando-demasiado-le-dice-hombre-en-motocicleta-al-periodista-milton-turcios>

So far, there have been 230'111 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6093 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-rebasa-los-230-mil-casos-y-mas-de-seis-mil-decesos-por-covid-19/>

"Fake accounts, bots, puppet accounts, political advertising registered as commercial and disseminated at the wrong time to simulate support for candidates or harm others are some of the findings of the analysis of social networks made by Laboratorio Ciudadano Honduras during the last primary elections."

<https://criterio.hn/informe-revela-manipulacion-politica-en-redes-sociales-durante-las-elecciones-primarias-de-honduras/>

"Civil society organizations filed this May 20, 2021, an appeal for annulment before the Institute of Access to Public Information, IAIP, on resolution 086-2018 that prevents Honduran citizens from knowing who is financing political campaigns in Honduras."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3161-demandan-organizaciones-ante-iaip-resolucion-que-reserva-informacion-sobre-campanas-politicas-debe-ser-anulada>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/20/presentan-recurso-para-que-se-anule-secretividad-en-datos-sobre->

## [el-financiamiento-politico-en-honduras](#)

Libre congressman Jari Dixon warns that the National Party is still not interested in electoral reforms. "From his point of view, the leaders of the political institution will insist on going to an electoral process "fraudulent, to live in chaos because that is what they feed on because they have enough money to manage an electoral process, the most joyful of not having an electoral law are they". He mentioned that "they only want to look good with the international community through communiqués, so that they can say that they are fine with the electoral reforms, and when they fail they blame the opposition, it is the never ending story"."

<https://confidencialhn.com/jari-dixon-el-mas-interesado-en-no-tener-nueva-ley-electoral-es-el-partido-nacional/>

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<https://elfaro.net/en/202105/centroamerica/25482/People-of-Honduras-%E2%80%94-Stay-Home.htm>

21/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, FICOSAH; OFRANEH - SUNLA; Femicides; COVID-19; Elections - US; and a Failed Purge

Yesterday, Day 22 of the David Castillo trial took place. Karen Spring highlighted the main points of the day. "Accompanied by a technical consultant, Castillo's attorneys began questioning expert Brenda Barahona about her telecommunication analysis. They focused on calling into question the following claims: that Castillo's SIM card was used in 26 different devices; that Berta Cáceres's phone listed the last activation date as January 16, 2016 but messages and calls came into and out of the phone according to the data, up until March 2016; that Mariano Diaz went to La Ceiba in January 2016 to allegedly plan the murder but received phone calls discussing another job that could explain his presence in La Ceiba; amongst others. The defense also listed one phone number (8929-5274) that made contact with Elvin Rápalo and Edilson Duarte Meza (both convicted of the murder) on March 2 and 3, 2016 and asked why the number was not identified as suspicious and thus investigated. The defense appears to be calling the expert's work into question but it is yet to be seen how the questions relate directly to their client David Castillo."

he trial will continue throughout the weekend.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/21/day-twenty-two-trial-against-david-castillo>

During a press conference yesterday, COPINH demanded the clarification of the responsibilities of the banks Ficohsa, BCIE and the Dutch bank FMO in the violence suffered by the Lenca indigenous community of Rio Blanco and the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://criterio.hn/copinh-exige-esclarecer-responsabilidad-de-ficohsa-bcie-y-fmo-en-crimen-de-bera-caceres/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1395849027112120320>

EU Parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo supports OFRANEH in calling for SUNLA to be part of the official investigation into the forced disappearance of the young Garífuna men.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1395763816965689345>

At least 110 women have been murdered so far this year.

<https://proceso.hn/110-mujeres-han-sido-asesinadas-en-honduras-durante-2021-60-de-casos-perpetrados-por-sus-parejas/>

So far, there have been 231'560 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6133 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-231-mil-560-contagios-6-mil-133-decesos-por-covid/>

Julie Chang, Acting Assistant Secretary for the US Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, highlighted the importance of electoral reforms for Honduras and urges the Honduran Congress to approve them.

Congress' vice-president Mario Alonso Pérez announced that a session will be held on Monday. But it is still unclear on what Libre, the Liberal Party and the National Party can agree on.

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1395873650386014215>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-convoca-a-reunion-el-proximo-lunes-para-aprobar-reformas-electorales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/21/oficialistas-y-opositores-se-culpan-mutuamente-de-no-aprobar-la-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/continuan-los-desacuerdos-entre-los-tres-principales-partidos-politicos-para-aprobar-nueva-ley-electoral/>

"Has the police purge in Honduras implied a state effort to build a reliable, efficient and transparent National Police or is it part of the project of militarization of public security, what have been the main achievements and obstacles of the police purge in Honduras, and what is the context and implications of militarization in the country? In the CESPAD Forum, "In the Context of Militarization: Has the police purge in Honduras been effective?", sociologists Eugenio Sosa and Mirna Flores, analyzed the issue of militarization in Honduras and whether or not the police purge that began in the last decade has worked."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/21/en-contexto-de-militarizacion-ha-sido-efectiva-la-depuracion-policial-en-honduras/>

22/05/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Berta - Trial; Indigenous Peoples; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Poverty; Corruption – Impunity;

"Today the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York filed new documents in the case of Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez, due to a request from his defense, in which they ask for a new trial for their client due to alleged "inconsistencies" presented during the trial held in March 2021, in which Fuentes was found guilty of three crimes related to drug trafficking and the use of machine guns and destructive devices to move hundreds of tons of cocaine to the United States.

Within the fifty-six page document entitled "Prosecution's Opposition to Defendant's Post-Trial Motions," the prosecution recounts the involvement of Honduran Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla and National Congress President Mauricio Oliva in the illicit activities carried out by Juan Orlando Hernandez, as accomplices in protecting and creating laws to prevent the future extradition of Hernandez and his drug trafficking associates."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/05/22/oscar-chinchilla-y-mauricio-oliva-involucrados-en-el-trafico-de-drogas-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-segun-fiscales-en-new-york/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2934-honduras-chinchilla-y-oliva-conspiran-para-evitar-extradicion-de-joh-fiscalia-de-ny>

The trial against David Castillo did not continue as planned yesterday. "A judge was reportedly not feeling well causing the proceedings to be suspended until tomorrow (Sunday, May 23) at 9 am."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/21/day-twenty-two-trial-against-david-castillo>

The alleged murderers of indigenous leader Félix Vásquez López, who was assassinated in December 2020, will face pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7744-mp-logra-prision-preventiva-en-contra-de-cuatro-presuntos-asesinos-del-lider-indigena-felix-vasquez-lopez>

<https://proceso.hn/prision-preventiva-a-implicados-en-asesinato-del-lider-indigena-felix-vasquez-lopez/>

So far, there have been 232'141 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6143 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-232-mil-141-casos-y-6-mil-143-muertes-por-covid/>

The first batch of the vaccine doses purchased by the IHSS arrived in Honduras, 86'400 out of 204'000.

JOH promised to start vaccinating the "working class".

"According to data from the Ministry of Health (Sesal), Honduras has vaccinated only 1% of its population. Only 5687 frontline health personnel have been vaccinated with the two doses, and 108,538 people, including health personnel and older adults, have been vaccinated with the first



dose."

<https://proceso.hn/llegan-primeras-vacunas-anticovid-adquiridas-por-el-ihss/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1465644-466/presidente-herandez-vacunacion-trabajadores-astrazeneca-ihss>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/22/vacunacion-avanza-lento-en-honduras-esta-semana-continuan-los-adultos-mayores/>

Honduras, together with Mexico and Ecuador has seen the highest rise in extreme poverty in 2020. "The president of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH), Wilfredo Cerrato, stated that so far this year, \$2.3 billion in remittances have been received, \$700 million more than at the same time last year."

<https://criterio.hn/mexico-honduras-y-ecuador-paises-donde-aumento-la-pobreza-extrema/>

<https://criterio.hn/remesas-siguen-sosteniendo-la-economia-en-honduras/>

"Five years later, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) is still awaiting justice for the overpriced purchase of a computer system in the Ministry of Health involving seven public officials. The investigation dates back to 2015, when the CNA received the complaint of this irregularity and proceeded to request information through the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP)."

<https://criterio.hn/cinco-anos-y-no-hay-justicia-por-compra-sobrevalorada-de-sistema-informatico-en-salud/>

23/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; SSF - Keyla; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Journalists; National Party; Extradition;

The trial against David Castillo was suspended for two additional days and will continue tomorrow.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/21/day-twenty-two-trial-against-david-castillo>

"The family of nurse Keyla Patricia Martínez Rodríguez, murdered in a police cell in the city of La Esperanza, department of Intibucá on February 7 of this year, requested asylum in Costa Rica due to persecution and fear for their lives."

<https://criterio.hn/familia-de-enfermera-asesinada-por-la-policia-pide-asilo-en-costa-rica/>

So far, there have been 232'672 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6146 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-232-mil-672-contagios-y-6-mil-146-decesos-por-covid/>

The second batch of vaccine doses bought by the IHSS arrived yesterday in Honduras, another 81'600 doses.

The Secretary of Health claims that Honduras can offer the cold chain needed for the Pfizer vaccine.

<https://proceso.hn/llega-segundo-lote-de-vacunas-compradas-por-el-ihss/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1465776-410/secretaria-salud-cadena-frio-almacenar-vacunas-pfizer-junio-pandemia-covid>

According to the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH), journalists started to get vaccinated with Sputnik V yesterday.

At the same time, Reporteros de Investigación denounces that the JOH regime promotes hate against independent journalists and leaves them without the vaccine.

<https://proceso.hn/vacunas-rusas-sputnik-v-para-los-periodistas-hondurenos/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/23/joh-promueve-discurso-de-odio-contra-periodistas-independientes-mientras-los-deja-sin-vacunas>

The National Party elected David Chávez as the president of its Central Committee. Chávez is a current congressman and running for mayor of Tegucigalpa.

<https://proceso.hn/david-chavez-asume-la-presidencia-del-partido-nacional/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva once again claims that there is enough time for electoral reforms.

<https://proceso.hn/todavia-existe-tiempo-para-aprobar-nueva-ley-electoral-senala-oliva/>

Proceso Digital published an overview of all the 23 Hondurans extradited so far to the US.

<https://proceso.hn/cortes-de-nueva-york-donde-mas-confiesan-los-capos-hondurenos/>

24/05/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Elections - Reforms, JOH; ZEDEs; Dams; SSF - Keyla; Forced Disappearance; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Journalists; Prisons; and Thank You MADJ MILPAH, CEHPRODEC and PBI Honduras produced a short video on Víctor Vásquez who has been in prison for 6 months awaiting trial for defending ancestral Lenca lands.

<https://twitter.com/PBIcanada/status/1396880762671190018>

Congress held a session yesterday to discuss the electoral reforms. Congress' president Mauricio Oliva announced the session just hours before its start.

El Libertador summarized the agreements. "The Libre, National and Liberal parties have reached a consensus on the approval of the new Electoral Law, they have overcome the "obstacles" regarding the payment of political debt, which will now be paid according to the valid votes for each party, thus eliminating the small parties from being wrapped up in the majority parties, which in the last elections allowed them 10 million lempiras, although they only obtained 3,000 votes, of the 40,000

credentials, which were clearly sold to the National Party, according to the critics of the old scheme. They also mention that the tables will be represented by five members, three from the majority and two from the minority, randomly selected, but now they will be known as "Electoral Board". The final approval is scheduled to take place today.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/congreso-nacional-sesionara-hoy-para-discutir-sobre-la-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2939-honduras-nueva-ley-electoral-elimina-negocio-de-partidos-pequenos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1465988-508/ley-electoral-elecciones-generales-honduras-2021-sesion-congreso-nacional>

<https://proceso.hn/legislativo-convoca-para-este-martes-reunion-para-aprobar-reformas-electorales/>

JOH presented himself and his party as victims of an international campaign trying to get rid of them in the coming elections. "They have sought to convince a group of radical politicians and NGOs that we are living in a dictatorship, these groups have an international political agenda against the National Party and are determined to seek any mechanism to prevent the party from winning the elections."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/24/quien-dijo-miedo-joh-carga-contrasus-adversarios-y-medios-de-comunicacion/>

"Without a qualified majority, according to the opposition's denunciation, and with a waiver of two debates, the National Congress of Honduras approved on Monday a reform to the Organic Law of Employment and Economic Development Zones, which grants these zones more tax benefits." Even corporate media outlets reported on the criticism raised against this.

<https://criterio.hn/sin-los-votos-requeridos-congreso-nacional-de-honduras-aprueba-reforma-a-la-ley-de-las-zede/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprueba-ley-de-zonas-de-empleo-y-desarrollo-economico-zede/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reforma-expertos-reaccionan-zede-ciudades-modelo-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/sectores-alzan-la-voz-contras-las-zedes-en-honduras/>

Congress also approved a reform to speed up dam constructions.

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueba-reformar-contrato-agilizar-construccion-represas/>

Nancy Martínez Rodríguez, sister of Keyla Patricia Martínez Rodríguez, negates that she and her family asked for asylum in Costa Rica (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/familia-de-keyla-martinez-niega-solicitud-de-asilo-politico-en-costarica/>

COFADEH commemorates the International Week of the Disappeared.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/semana-internacional-del-detenido-desaparecido-3/>

So far, there have been 233'116 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6188 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-42-muertes-mas-por-covid-19-y-suma-6-mil-188-durante-la-pandemia/>

"The leader of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (Aneeah) in San Pedro Sula, Luis Cerrato, informed this Monday that the vaccination day was paralyzed in that region of the country, to carry out informative assemblies in protest to the non-compliance of the agreements with the Ministry of Health."

<https://confidencialhn.com/aneeah-realiza-asambleas-informativas-en-san-pedro-sula-por-incumplimientos-de-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

<https://criterio.hn/enfermeras-exigen-seguridad-ante-ola-de-asaltos/>

The third batch of vaccines doses bought by the IHSS arrived in Honduras, 36'000 additional AstraZeneca doses for a total of 204'000. Congress approved a \$35 million credit to buy vaccines.

<https://proceso.hn/llega-al-pais-el-tercer-lote-de-vanunas-astrazeneca-adquiridas-por-el-ihss/>

<https://proceso.hn/aprueban-prestamo-de-35-millones-para-compra-de-vacunas-contra-el-covid-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/mas-endeudamiento-para-comprar-vacunas-contra-la-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2936-honduras-segun-joh-quienes-lo-criticaron-no-tienen-derecho-a-vacunarse>

Many observers questioned the decision to have journalists vaccinated before more vulnerable groups (see yesterday). Why would someone want to benefit journalists in an electoral year...

<https://criterio.hn/agenda-oculta-en-la-vacunacion-de-periodistas-en-honduras/>

OACNUDH visited the Támara prison to inspect the so-called "La Bestia" cell and allegations of inhuman treatment (see also last week).

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1396977525360889856>

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<https://madj.org/2021/05/24/a-13-anos-de-lucha-seguimos-en-pie-de-lucha/>

25/05/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Berta - Trial; Journalists; ZEDEs; HR; Elections - Reforms; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Vaccines; Extraditions; National Police; and Recovery or Invasion?

Another trans woman was murdered in Honduras, Karencita. OACNUDH condemned the murder.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1397378034462826503>

After a break, the trial against David Castillo continued yesterday. "Castillo's defense continues to question telecommunications analyst Brenda Barahona, attempting to create doubt about her investigative methods and pointing out details that may aid in undermining her analysis. The most noteworthy are the number of phone calls made by two unidentified phone numbers that were not investigated, to two of the hitman on March 2 and 3, 2016. Most of the questioning focused on details that did not create doubt about the strongest evidence against Castillo (message between him and Douglas Bustillo) to date."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/25/day-twenty-three-trial-against-david-castillo>

"Of the nearly 140 reporters killed in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and Honduras during the past decade, about half covered organized crime. Between 2011 and 2020, these four countries accounted for 80 percent of journalists killed in Latin America, making them the most dangerous in the region for media, according to a Reporters Without Borders (Reporteros Sin Fronteras – RSF) report published in May. Of the 139 journalists murdered, 46 percent covered organized crime in some capacity and 39 percent reported on politics, according to the journalism watchdog group, which examined information on the killings of journalists in the region."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/killings-journalists-show-black-hand-organized-crime/>

The president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortes (CCIC), Pedro Barquero, described the approval of the tax exemptions for ZEDEs (see yesterday) as illegal, since it was based on a law that is unconstitutional in itself.

There is also more criticism regarding the way the reform was approved (see also yesterday).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466218-466/pedro-barquero-beneficios-zede-farsa-gobierno>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-de-honduras-modifico-articulo-32-de-la-ley-de-las-zede/>

Iris Rosalía Cruz is the new Minister of Human Rights.

<https://proceso.hn/juramentan-a-nuevas-ministras-de-derechos-humanos-y-miambiente/>

Corporate media outlets as well as the US embassy celebrate the approval of the new electoral law. But it is less than certain that this was a victory for democracy. "The new Electoral Law approved in the National Congress this Tuesday does not bring anything new and is the same as the current law, so the political parties can make the fraud they want, reacted the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana. "The law is the same as the current law, only worded differently, it is more of the same", said Orellana regarding the approved reforms."

Salvador Nasralla announced that he would not run in the elections if his party does not have a representative at the polling stations.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466059-466/congreso-nacional-ley-electoral-elecciones-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/aprobada-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1397366307482447877>

<https://proceso.hn/embajada-de-eeuu-aplaude-la-aprobacion-de-las-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/nueva-ley-electoral-es-igual-a-la-ley-vigente-solo-que-redactada-de-forma-diferente-edmundo-orellana/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-representacion-en-mesas-retiro-de-elecciones/>

So far, there have been 233'916 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6210 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Homes Association has documented more than 14'000 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-800-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-233-mil-916-contagios-de-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/14-mil-decesos-por-la-covid-19-registra-la-asociacion-de-funerarias-en-honduras/>

The CNA published a third report on the triage centers.

"Lack of medicines, medical personnel, biosecurity equipment, infrastructure and even Covid-19 rapid tests were some of the deficiencies detected by the anti-corruption agency. Other difficulties are the infrastructure and the delay in the payment of salaries."

But there are also some good news. "The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras, ANEEAH, Josué Orellana, reported that after the Ministry of Health failed to comply with several agreements related to payment of debts, retirement and the hiring of personnel, they have reached new agreements."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1397193069074780165>

<https://criterio.hn/triajes-de-yoro-atlantida-colon-y-olancho-con-carencias-hasta-para-realizar-pruebas-rapidas/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/enfermeras-logran-nuevos-acuerdos-con-el-gobierno/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the first of a six-part investigation into corruption and the response to COVID-19.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/25/covidgate-como-llegamos-a-esta-propuesta/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/25/juan-orlando-hernandez-ligado-a-saqueo-de-mas-de-mil-millones-que-eran-para-covid-19/>

JOH got his first (public) shot.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466275-466/presidente-hernandez-vacuna-covid-astrazeneca>

"The president of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), Rolando Argueta, said Tuesday that among the extradition requests are people linked to organized crime and former members of the Security Secretariat."

<https://proceso.hn/exmiembros-de-la-secretaria-de-seguridad-entre-solicitados-en-extradicion-revela-el-presidente-de-la-csj/>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for the Prosecution of Justice Sector Officials and Servants (FEEFS-SJ) appeared at a strict compliance hearing in the case against active policeman José Armando Flores Centeno, who was sentenced to nine years and eight months of imprisonment for the crimes of aggravated robbery and violation of the duties of public servants."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/176-mayo2021/7751-mas-de-nueve-anos-de-prision-en-contra-de-policia-implicado-en-robo>

"There have been many statements issued by representatives of private companies, public officials and congressmen about the "invasion" of "private" lands, mainly in the north and west of Honduras. But it is necessary that in the face of this advanced discourse that criminalizes peasant groups, we place in context and discuss from where these types of statements are issued and, most importantly, what interests are behind them?"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/25/recuperacion-o-invasion/>

26/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; Journalists; ZEDEs; Elections - Reforms; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Vaccines, Corruption; Iota; and a New Agriculture Cycle

Day 24 of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring highlights the main points of the day. "Telecommunication expert Brenda Barahona finished on the stand. The court notifies all parties that the prosecution's evidence has mostly been presented. Over the next few days, the attorneys representing the Cáceres family will present their evidence including testimony from Daniel Atala, three expert witnesses, and testimony from Berta's daughter, Bertita Zúniga, among others."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/26/day-twenty-four-trial-against-david-castillo>

"Human rights organizations, peasant organizations and the team of defense lawyers demanded that the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice resolve the Appeal for Protection filed in favor of Víctor Vázquez and José Santos Vijil, indigenous leaders who are being accused of forced displacement and are in jail. The Coalition Against Impunity CCI, the Justice for the Peoples Law Firm BJP, the Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development CEHPRODEH and the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz-Honduras MILPAH, held the Press Conference "Access to land and territory: the criminalization of indigenous peoples and peasants", this May 26, 2021."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3166-sistema-de-justicia-hondureno-se-encarga-de-tener-bajo-prision-a-defensores-indigenas>

<https://twitter.com/BufeteBJP/status/1397725781921570818>

C-Libre published three alerts regarding threats against journalists.

In one case, journalist Dassaev Aguilar received several threats after an interview with Secretary of the Presidency, Ebal Diaz, questioning him about the Honduran government's position to promote the ZEDEs.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1363-periodista-es-amenazado-al-publicar-reportaje-en-yoro>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1365-estas-hablando-demasiado-amenazas-de-un-motociclista-a-periodista-en-el-occidente-de-honduras>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1364-amenazan-a-periodista-luego-de-entrevistar-a-funcionario-de-gobierno>

Radio Progreso presents ZEDEs as "the sign of institutional weakening in Honduras".

In a second article, they speak with the former president of the Honduran Central Bank, Hugo Noé Pino, who criticizes the newest tax exemptions approved for ZEDEs (see previous days).

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published an analysis on the ZEDEs for Criterio.

"EL LIBERTADOR presents the list of deputies of the National Party who have voted in favor of handing over the territory to foreigners and Honduran enemies of the Nation, in order to establish Special Development and Employment Zones (ZEDE), called "emirates" or the perfect place for impunity of criminal groups, according to several sectors of Honduran society."



<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/zedes-son-la-muestra-del-debilitamiento-institucional-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/reforma-tributaria-a-favor-de-las-zedes-es-una-aberracion-juridica-hugo-noe-pino/>

<https://criterio.hn/las-noticias-del-dia-ciudades-modelo-y-destino-nacional/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2943-conozca-los-diputados-traidores-de-honduras-votaron-por-zede>

More criticism is voiced against the recently approved electoral reforms denouncing them as merely cosmetic.

It is also denounced that the two-round presidential election was not included in the reforms. The National Electoral Council (CNE) defends the reforms.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466431-466/criticas-senalamientos-nueva-ley-electoral-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1397598102211776512>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466422-466/cna-honduras-ley-electoral-fuerzas-politicas-alinearon-impunidad>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-de-honduras-blinda-a-corruptos-y-criminales-para-que-participen-en-elecciones-de-noviembre/>

<https://proceso.hn/ley-electoral-blinda-a-corruptos-y-es-excluyente-bloque-de-partidos-nuevos-y-bonsai/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/26/advierten-que-segunda-vuelta-podria-haber-evitado-una-nueva-crisis-politica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-lo-fundamental-de-la-nueva-ley-electoral-es-la-integracion-de-las-mesas-electorales/>

So far, there have been 234'923 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6240 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/afirman-30-decesos-y-mas-de-un-millar-de-contagios-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

JOH promises vaccine doses for one million Hondurans for June.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-vacunacion-honduras-dosis-pfizer/>

"Honduras, in 2020, spent close to 6 billion lempiras (about 248.8 million dollars) in response to the pandemic. However, although the promise was that with that budget hospitals would be built and

vaccines would be purchased, more than a year later, not a single hospital has been built and the only purchase made for hospital infrastructure was seven mobile hospitals that turned out to be a fraud. In terms of vaccination, Honduras is currently the most backward country in Central America."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/26/de-las-promesas-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-al-fraude-de-los-hospitales-moviles/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the second out of six installment on corruption during the pandemic by the JOH regime. "At least four indications suggest that Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández was personally interested in the purchase of the seven mobile hospitals that were supposed to serve COVID-19 patients. However, his interest had little to do with the national pandemic emergency. The evidence suggests that JOH was interested in the possibility of using the money from the overvaluation of the hospitals to buy favors and indefinitely postpone the conviction of his brother Juan Antonio Hernández, alias Tony, accused of drug trafficking in the United States."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/26/el-dinero-de-hospitales-moviles-quizas-haya-ido-a-parar-al-juicio-del-hermano-del-presidente/>

"In order to address impunity and corruption, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) in Honduras and the Myrna Mack Foundation (FMM) in Guatemala signed an agreement to promote transparency and social auditing processes for the prosecution of crimes in public administration."

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-anticorrupcion-firman-convenio-para-impulsar-procesos-de-transparencia-en-honduras-y-guatemala/>

"The response of the Honduran government and other actors to requests for help from citizens affected by tropical storms Eta and Iota six months after their passage through Honduras has been insufficient, warned the international organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) on Wednesday."

<https://proceso.hn/respuesta-de-gobierno-a-seis-meses-de-eta-e-iota-ha-sido-insuficiente-alerta-msf/>

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<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/212400>

27/05/21

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity: ZEDEs; Berta - Trial; Journalists; Elections - Reform, Opposition; Iota - Spain; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Corruption; Economy - US; Survey; and an Insincere Apology

Some good news to start the day. "The U.S. government withdrew financial support this week from a proposed dam in Honduras that is at the center of a simmering conflict between local residents

and developers. Two opponents of the project have been killed. The decision by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, (DFC), which provides funding for private-sector projects, marked a victory for the activist groups in Honduras and the United States that had urged the agency to drop the project."

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1398109392680128514>

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/bvzm43/biden-just-killed-funding-for-a-controversial-dam-trump-tried-to-build-in-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/Ilhan/status/1397990617695854594>

"Inhabitants of La Mosquitia declared their autonomy to govern themselves and warned the government of Juan Orlando Hernández that they will not allow the installation of a Special Economic Development Zone (ZEDE) in that region."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/05/27/habitantes-de-la-mosquitia-proclaman-autogobernanza-y-advierten-no-permitiran-zedes/>

Yesterday, the trial against David Castillo took the form of a bail hearing. "The court denied the defense's request to release David Castillo from pre-trial detention. As a result of the delays caused by motions presented by Castillo's attorneys, the court extended his pre-trial detention until September 23, 2021."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/27/day-twenty-five-trial-against-david-castillo>

"The National Observatory of Violence (ONV) of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) on Thursday called on the Government to investigate and not leave in impunity the violent deaths of 90 journalists and communicators killed between 2005 and 2020."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1466648-410/piden-investigar-la-muerte-violenta-de-90-periodistas-hondure%C3%B1os-desde-2005>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3167-muertes-violentas-contra-periodistas-envian-un-mensaje-de-restriccion-para-decir-la-verdad>

The CNE has officially called for the general elections for November 28, 2021.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466718-466/elecciones-generales-convocatoria-honduras-cne-2021>

With the publication in La Gaceta, the "new" electoral law has come into force. ContraCorriente published a helpful overview of the criticism leveled against the law. The UN System in Honduras also reacted: "It is our hope that this new instrument, together with the pending reforms, will contribute to strengthening citizen confidence in the electoral system."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1466612-508/publican-la-gaceta-nueva-ley->

[electoral-honduras-cne-elecciones-2021](#)

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/05/27/nueva-ley-electoral-de-honduras-no-garantiza-evitar-una-nueva-crisis-segun-analistas/>

<https://honduras.un.org/es/128842-comunicado-del-sistema-de-naciones-unidas-en-honduras-sobre-la-recien-adoptada-ley-y-otras>

On the last day possible, Salvador Nasralla and Pinu announced a political alliance for the general elections.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466724-466/salvador-nasralla-y-el-pinu-confirman-alianza-presidencial>

"Some 70 million Euros for concrete projects for the reconstruction of the Honduran territory, made available by Spain, announced Thursday the ambassador of that European country in Honduras, Guillermo Kirkpatrick."

<https://confidencialhn.com/espana-pone-a-disposicion-70-millones-de-euros-para-la-reconstruccion-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-ofrece-a-espana-oportunidad-de-negocios-con-su-plan-de-recuperacion/>

So far, there have been 235'599 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6259 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-aumentan-a-235-mil-599-al-confirmarse-otros-676-contagios/>

Triage centers in Yoro may have to close due to lack of funding.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/anuncian-posible-cierre-de-triajes-y-centro-de-estabilizacion-en-el-progreso-yoro/>

Honduras still trails the list of vaccination rate of Central American countries.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-con-526-mil-600-dosis-de-vacunas-contra-la-covid-sigue-a-la-zaga-de-vacunacion/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the third installment on corruption during the pandemic.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/27/diez-mega-saqueos-y-cinco-mil-muertes-por-covid-19/>

"Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday unveiled the agreements of 12 companies and

organizations to invest in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador as part of the administration's efforts to deal with a surge of migrants from Central America at the U.S. southern border."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden-administration-taps-private-sector-to-invest-in-central-america-11622113201>

Based on a survey of almost 2000 Hondurans, CESPAD concludes: "While socioeconomic conditions became precarious during the pandemic for thousands of Hondurans who identify unemployment, health and corruption as the country's main problems, the population, faced with high levels of corruption and the discrediting of the main State institutions, is demanding the formation of an International Anti-Corruption Mission."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/27/a-un-ano-de-la-pandemia-valoracion-de-la-ciudadania-sobre-la-gestion-de-la-crisis-sanitaria-la-corrupcion-y-la-demanda-de-una-mision-internacional-anticorrupcion/>

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<https://proceso.hn/el-general-pide-perdon-por-el-golpe-de-2009/>

28/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; Journalists; ZEDEs; Tolupán - UN; Miskito; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Corruption; BCIE; Spain; and Dreaming of a Different Honduras

The David Castillo trial saw an important day in court with Daniel Atala Midence on the stand, even though just for a short moment. "Daniel Atala Midence first appeared on zoom to testify but after objections from the prosecutors, was told by the court he had to appear in person. Once he took the stand in person, Atala Midence informed the court that he was making use of his constitutional right not to testify, arguing that he is under investigation. After the prosecutors confirmed that this is indeed correct and after several protests by the private accusers, Atala will not be required by the court to testify.

Convicted murderer and DESA's former head of security, Douglas Bustillo testified that he informed David Castillo about COPINH and Berta Cáceres's actions related to the project. Former DESA employee, Hector García Mejía described the divisions and conflicts in the Rio Blanco sector as a result of the project's arrival to the area."

Lawyer Edy Tábora still sees Atala's appearance as a great success. "[I]t is already a great political, legal and social achievement that Daniel A. invokes that he cannot "testify against himself" and that the @MP\_Honduras recognizes that he is under investigation."

And the real problem is that after three years in possession of proof against him, the MP has not presented an accusation.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/28/day-twenty-six-trial-against-david-castillo>

[https://twitter.com/Edy\\_Tabora/status/1398449360933900290](https://twitter.com/Edy_Tabora/status/1398449360933900290)

[https://twitter.com/Edy\\_Tabora/status/1398453624758546432](https://twitter.com/Edy_Tabora/status/1398453624758546432)

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3169-artimanana-u-observancia-de-la-ley-mp-anuncia-que-daniel-atala-es-investigado-y-pide-que-no-testifique>

A judge denied the criminalized defenders Víctor Vásquez and José Santos Vijil to await trial outside prison.

The hearing was observed by OACNUDH.

<https://twitter.com/BufeteBJP/status/1398398409313292296>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1398338899202789378>

"During the pandemic, attacks on journalists increased in Honduras. The Committee for Free Expression (C-LIBRE), from March 2020 to date, has registered more than 100 aggressions and threats to journalists and social communicators."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/n/libertad-de-prensa-en-honduras-bajo-ataque-y-acorralada-podcasts/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/los-periodistas-no-estamos-para-aplaudir-a-los-funcionarios-del-gobierno/>

Criticism regarding the ZEDEs continues, even in the corporate press.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466924-466/zede-honduras-ley-votacion-diputados-congreso-nacional>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/con-56-votos-a-favor-50-en-contra-y-2-abstenciones-fueron-aprobadas-las-reformas-a-las-zonas-de-empleo-y-desarrollo-economico-zede-aqui-la-lista-oficial-de-votaciones-del-congreso-nacional/>

OACNUDH traveled to Yoro and met with Tolupán communities. "During the visit to the San Francisco Locomapa tribe, #OACNUDH condemned the acts of violence against people of the Tolupán people and reiterated its call for authorities to take the necessary measures to prevent violence."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1398404138027864069>

"The College of Biologists of Honduras (CBH) reacted Friday to the denunciations of organizations representing the indigenous peoples of the Honduran Mosquitia regarding the accelerated and excessive deterioration of the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve. Through a statement, the CBH condemned the uncontrolled advances of migratory agriculture, extensive cattle ranching, the authorization and opening of sawmills, and the development of highway infrastructure and roads to the reserve, which is considered a "World Heritage Site in Danger" by UNESCO."

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-de-biologos-condena-deterioro-acelerado-y-desmedido-de-biosfera-del->

[rio-platano/](#)

So far, there have been 236'451 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6284 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-236-mil-451-contagios-y-no-reporta-recuperados/>

Given the lack of vaccines for Hondurans, their country ranking worst in the region regarding the vaccination rate (see yesterday), El Heraldito reports that some Hondurans travel to Nicaragua to get vaccinated there.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466318-466/hondurenos-nicaragua-destino-vacuna-covid>

Reporteros de Investigación published the next installment of its report on corruption during the pandemic.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/28/la-gran-mentira-del-negocio-de-las-vacunas-al-25-de-mayo-solo-hay-para-el-2/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) will contribute 200 million dollars for the improvement of the highway between the municipalities of Santa Rosa de Copán and Ocotepeque".

<https://proceso.hn/el-bcie-aportara-200-millones-de-dolares-para-mejorar-carretera-en-honduras/>

"Spain and Honduras have committed this Friday to strengthen their bilateral relationship through the signing of several agreements, including one on circular migration and collaboration between diplomatic schools."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/05/28/espana-y-honduras-refuerzan-su-relacion-con-un-acuerdo-de-migracion-circular/>

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<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/iglesia-catolica-alza-su-voz-ante-la-ingobernabilidad-corrupcion-e-impunidad-en-honduras/>

29/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; ZEDES; Indigenous Peoples; Cholera; COVID-19 - Corruption; Elections – Reforms;

Day 27 of the trial against David Castillo took place yesterday. Karen Spring has the main points of the day. " Witness Indyra María Mendoza Aguilar from the organization Cattrachas was called by the attorneys representing the Cáceres family to testify. As someone who monitored and reported to the InterAmerican Commission on Human Rights about threats against and security incidents experienced Berta Cáceres, Mendoza provided a comprehensive overview of these concerns

including meeting David Castillo, being told by Berta not to trust him, and testifying that DESA played a large role in Berta's difficult security situation in and post-2013.

The defense proposes controversial Honduran teacher Edgardo Rodríguez, as a technical consultant to question expert witness Gladys Tzul who began presenting her analysis: "Situation and Condition of Violence Experienced by Indigenous Women and Women Human Rights Defenders: The case of Berta Cáceres and the defense of the Gualcarque river"

Expert witness Tzul uses sociological theories and various chat messages presented as evidence in the case to describe gender-based violence that occurred between Castillo and Cáceres; and Castillo and DESA's mechanisms of control over Berta as an indigenous, female, human rights defender, among others. Tzul also discussed the complex means in which control over women's bodies and subjugation are necessary in order to achieve control over communal territories."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/29/day-twenty-seven-trial-against-david-castillo>

Pasos de Animal Grande has more on the case of the criminalized defenders Víctor Vásquez and José Santos Vijil (see yesterday).

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3170-poder-judicial-parcializado-jueza-violento-el-debido-proceso-en-juicio-contra-defensores-de-la-paz>

Almost daily, either Proceso Digital or El Heraldito have a critical article on ZEDES. "The former president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Honduras (Fedecámaras), Menotti Maradiaga, said Saturday that with the Employment and Economic Development Zones (Zede), micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) "will be abandoned"."

<https://proceso.hn/mipymes-quedaran-abandonadas-con-instalacion-de-las-zede-en-honduras-menotti-maradiaga/>

"Water samples from the tributaries that were again taken to various laboratories show minimal levels of the bacteria that transmits cholera, so there is no risk of an outbreak of the disease, said Marlon Pineda, mayor of the municipality of Santa Cruz de Yojoa."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1466948-466/descartan-colera-honduras>

So far, there have been 236'952 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6296 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-501-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-236-mil-952-contagios-de-covid-19/>

In the fifth article on corruption and the pandemic, Reporteros de Investigación focuses on the US. "In the same appearance Heide Fulton [former chargé d'affaires to Honduras], Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Programs in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, to a question about the expulsion of Maccih from the country, responded that "the United States, its allies and independent civil society remain committed



to combating corruption and impunity, in addition to the continued promotion of transparency, accountability and Honduran law".

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/29/ante-el-saqueo-planean-nueva-mision-anticorrupcion-que-viene-a-honduras-impulsada-por-ee-uu/>

The OAS oversells the Honduran electoral reforms by calling them "a significant step forward".

<https://proceso.hn/oea-califica-como-avance-significativo-aprobacion-de-la-nueva-ley-electoral-de-honduras/>

30/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Journalists; ZEDEs - Protests; COVID-19 - Corruption; Elections – ID;

On Day 28 of the trial against David Castillo, expert witness Gladys Tzul continued on the stand.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/30/day-twenty-eight-trial-against-david-castillo>

"Honduran journalist Thirzia Karina Galeas Núñez was detained in Georgia, United States, upon requesting political asylum after fleeing Honduras for having been threatened and assaulted since 2010 by agents of the government of Juan Orlando Hernández (2014-present) and Porfirio Lobo (2010-2014). The 34-year-old journalist is being held at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia. Galeas, a freelance journalist, has worked for several media outlets, including the daily Conexihon and the organization C-Libre."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/30/detienen-a-periodista-hondurena-al-solicitar-asilo-en-estados-unidos/>

"In the opinion of the former president of the Honduran College of Economists (CHE), Liliana Castillo, the tax benefits granted to the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) leave national investors in unfavorable conditions to compete."

<https://proceso.hn/beneficios-fiscales-a-las-zede-dejan-en-condicion-desfavorable-a-inversionistas-nacionales-segun-economista/>

There was another protests against the ZEDEs in La Ceiba.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1399070920782880778>

So far, there have been 237'581 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6316 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/confirman-17-decesos-y-mas-de-600-nuevos-contagios-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the final installment of its investigation into corruption during the pandemic.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/05/30/la-basura-movil-y-una-empresa-turca-sin-interacciones-en-la-web/>

Proceso Digital reports that Hondurans living in the US can obtain the new ID at 14 mobile consulates.

<https://proceso.hn/hondurenos-podran-enrolarse-en-14-consulados-moviles-en-ee-uu/>

31/05/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH - SUNLA; Extractivism - ZEDEs; MP; Journalists; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education; Elections - Opposition; Migration - Haiti; Violence; Corruption; and Preparing for Black Fungus

Another day in court at the David Castillo trial focused on expert witness Gladys Tzul.

EU Parliamentarian Tilly Metz tweeted at the EU "to urge for the thorough investigation of all the alleged masterminds of the murder" Berta.

Criterio reports on a recent incident linked to the trial. "The Honduran Women's Collective (Codemuh) joined Monday the rejection generated by the hiring of former university professor Edgardo Rodríguez as a gender expert in the trial for the murder of environmental defender Berta Cáceres. (...) This fact generated the reaction of jurist, writer and international expert on gender and human rights in Latin America Alda Facio Montejo, who published an extensive message on Facebook. "I just found out that the Judiciary of Honduras accepted as "gender expert Mr. Edgardo Rodríguez proposed by the defense of David Castillo! This is the last straw. This gentleman is not a gender expert, on the contrary, he is a macho man accused multiple times of harassment and violence against women," reads part of the message."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/31/day-twenty-nine-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://twitter.com/MetzTilly/status/1399411411504275456>

<https://criterio.hn/polemica-por-nombramiento-de-perito-de-genero-en-el-juicio-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

Miriam Miranda, OFRANEH's General Coordinator, sent out an alert: "We denounce the systematic pressure and siege that we are facing in the last few days in Vallecito, they are bringing in cattle to destroy our crops. In Vallecito we are planting to guarantee the future of the Garifuna youth. Enough of harassment! We demand respect!"

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1399359948124045312>

Avispa Midia covers the recent forum on SUNLA, the Garifuna Committee for the Investigation

and Search for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz (see previous e-mails).

<https://avispa.org/estado-hondureno-juez-y-parte-en-la-desaparicion-de-cuatro-jovenes-garifunas/>

"15 municipalities in the department of Santa Bárbara in Honduras are on the verge of witnessing population displacements and evictions, as well as loss of productive areas, forest lands and roads. Since 2009 to date, 31 hydroelectric projects and 13 forest management plans for timber harvesting have been granted by the State and Government of Honduras in an area that, at the same time, has left a scenario of threats, persecution, prosecution and even the murder of environmental defenders."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/31/por-que-hay-tanto-temor-en-santa-barbara-honduras/>

Both Criterio and Pasos de Animal Grande have more on the recent protests against the ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/ceibenos-se-movilizan-y-dicen-no-a-las-zede-en-honduras/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3171-las-zede-son-una-estructura-que-violenta-la-soberania-nacional-y-de-auto-gobernanza-regida-por-extranjeros>

CESPAD reports on protests by employees of the MP. "In silence and located outside the offices of the different Public Prosecutor's Offices in Honduras, the employees of the Public Prosecutor's Office have held sit-ins throughout the week. They seek to call the attention of the Attorney General and the payment of the salary is the petition that emerges as a superficial aspect of a protest that has as its background, a long-standing crisis in a Public Ministry that for a long time has not supported its own prosecutors, including the Special Prosecution Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), the unit that handles cases of high-impact corruption."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/31/por-que-los-fiscales-del-ministerio-publico-de-honduras-llevan-una-semana-en-protesta/>

"Members of the Presidential Honor Guard (GHP) blocked journalist Gabriela Campos from covering the "Álvaro Contreras" award ceremony on May 25 at a hotel in Tegucigalpa. Campos, who works for Canal 36 (Cholusat Sur), said that when she arrived at the hotel for the award ceremony and where Juan Orlando Hernández arrived, members of the Presidential Honor Guard denied her access to the place, arguing that they were "simply following orders"."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1367-guardia-presidencial-impide-a-comunicadora-cubrir-entrega-de-premios-a-periodistas>

So far, there have been 238'227 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6353 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-cierra-mayo-con-646-nuevos-casos-y-37-decesos-por-la-covid-19/>

The CNA and COHEP published an update on the attempts by private business to buy vaccines.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1399453298277728264>

Teachers insist to be vaccinated before returning to in-person classes.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/maestros-insisten-en-ser-vacunados-para-volver-a-las-aulas-de-clases/>

El Heraldo published a special report into the "nightmare" situation of Haitians in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/investigaciones/1467289-529/haitianos-viven-pesadilla-honduras-violan-mujeres-matan-multa-discriminacion>

Proceso Digital has a rather critical article on the situation in Honduras focusing on crime and violence, criticizing impunity and weak criminal investigation.

<https://proceso.hn/desbordado-el-crimen-en-honduras/>

"The CNA is concerned about the brazenness of the political class, with the new Electoral Law in its article 161, which obliges the State to advance to the parties, in mid-June, 60% of the political debt, without defining under what amount of votes this calculation will be."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1399390594594754566>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published an important analysis on the political opposition with a focus on Salvador Nasralla and what his new alliance will mean for the chance of an opposition candidate to win.

Both PANAL and the movement by Wilfredo Méndez joined the opposition alliance by PINU and Nasralla.

"The former sentencing judge of San Pedro Sula Gracia Maria Bertrand filed this Monday before the National Electoral Council (CNE) a request for disqualification of the candidacy of the presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, Yani Rosenthal."

<https://criterio.hn/la-tercera-es-la-vencida-o-nasralla-otra-vez-candidato/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/plataforma-panal-que-dirige-juliet-handal-se-une-a-unoh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/wilfredo-mendez-anuncia-su-respaldo-a-la-alianza-politica-denominada-unoh/>

<https://criterio.hn/abogada-hondurena-pide-inhabilitacion-de-yani-roenthal-como-candidato-presidencial/>

"The outlook is not at all flattering. While 93% of Hondurans say that corruption in this country is high and 65.9% consider that it will never be eradicated because the authorities are very corrupt, 64.7% agree with the creation of another International Anti-Corruption Commission, disconnected

from the country's institutions to eradicate corruption."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/05/31/ciudadania-hondurena-solo-con-otra-mision-internacional-de-podra-luchar-contra-la-corrupcion>

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<https://tiempo.hn/colegio-medico-preparacion-hongo-negro-honduras/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2021/may/11/what-is-the-dangerous-black-fungus-being-seen-in-covid-patients-in-india-mucormycosis>