

01/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta; Journalists; HRDs - UN; Corruption - Asfura; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Corruption; Militarization; Elections - Reforms, JOH; and Bikes for Tegucigalpa

The trial against David Castillo took a one-day break yesterday. In the meantime, the Observer Mission of the case sent out a press release. "A month into the trial of a retired military intelligence officer and president of the DESA hydroelectric company, David Castillo, for the murder of Lenca leader Berta Cáceres in Honduras, the Expert Observation Mission remains concerned about the right to the truth and the clarification of the acts that led to the murder of the human rights defender on March 2, 2016. Through the evidence presented by the Public Prosecutor's Office, indications have emerged of criminal complicity of other actors in the harassment of Berta Cáceres, COPINH, and the Rio Blanco community, and in the planning and logistics of the assassination. (...) The Observer Mission calls on the Honduran authorities to immediately take the necessary steps to clarify the facts denounced in the Berta Cáceres Case, and thus send a strong signal that crimes against human rights defenders will not be tolerated. Human rights defenders, both in the country and around the world, are following this case, which sets a precedent for generations to come."

<https://www.observacionbertacaceres.org/post/experts-honduras-must-investigate-illicit-actions-denounced-in-berta-c%C3%A1ceres-case>

The arrest of Honduran journalist Thirzia Galeas in the US, denounced by C-Libre two days ago, arrived in the corporate press.

<https://proceso.hn/denuncian-detencion-de-periodista-hondurena-por-inmigracion-de-eeuu/>

Members of the Coalition against Impunity held a meeting with UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1399885419408510977>

Nationalist presidential candidate and current mayor of Tegucigalpa Nasry Asfura can count on the Supreme Court to protect him from a corruption investigation. But at the same time, UFERCO does not seem to give up. "Honduran citizens are confused with the actions of the justice operators because, on the one hand, the Supreme Court refuses to impeach the mayor of the capital, Nasry Asfura, and on the other hand, the Specialized Prosecution Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO) seizes documents from the municipal government headquarters due to the refusal of its authorities to cooperate with a new line of investigation for acts of corruption in the municipal government."

"The head of Uferco, Luis Javier Santos, upon learning of the resolution in favor of Asfura, said that justice in the country responds to political and economic interests."

<https://criterio.hn/la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-declara-sin-lugar-el-antejuicio-contra-nasry-asfura/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1399801840632532996>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/01/justicia-falla-a-favor-de-asfura-uferco-no-podra-continuar-con->

[nuevas-investigaciones/](#)

"The Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) can "potentially" be a "sanctuary for national and international criminals", warned the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) in a public statement released in recent hours."

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-pueden-ser-un-santuario-de-criminales-advierte-colegio-de-abogados-de-honduras/>

So far, there have been 238'820 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6379 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-593-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-238-mil-820-contagios-de-covid-19/>

The Honduran ambassador to the US, Luis Suazo, requested 5 million vaccine doses from the Biden administration.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1467639-466/honduras-solicita-donacion-cinco-millones-vacunas-anticovid-eeuu>

"Criminal lawyer, Fernanda Gonzales, questions the high level of impunity in corruption cases during the pandemic, as well as the fact that despite the millionaire budget of the Public Prosecutor's Office, there are no favorable results for the population. Gonzales mentions that the Public Prosecutor's Office and the investigation entities have not done anything to file strong prosecutorial requirements against these corrupt people, letting them "do whatever they want to do" without any repercussions."

<https://criterio.hn/caso-de-estafa-de-hospitales-moviles-sigue-en-completa-impunidad/>

Quite a while ago, a controversial program initially worth over 4 billion Lempiras was granted for the Armed Forces to boost agriculture production. After heavy criticism, the budget was decreased, now they claim it was "only" 100 million Lempiras. According to the Armed Forces, they have spent 35 million so far.

<https://proceso.hn/segun-las-ffaa-este-ano-han-apoyado-a-mil-123-productores-bajo-programa-agricola-encomendado-por-el-ejecutivo/>

The Network for Democratic Equity in Honduras organized a virtual forum on the upcoming elections together with the United Nations Office in Honduras and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). "In this sense, she [REDH's founder Julieta Castellanos] explained that the political parties did not manage to charm the electorate, that political clientelism was evident in the primaries and violates the right of citizens, there was uncertainty in the legal framework of the electoral bodies and to this must be added the approval of the Electoral Law, without deep reforms such as the second round of elections."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-arrastra-problemas-estructurales-en-su-democracia-y-eso-crearia-abstencionismo-en-sus-comicios-la-redh/>

The political party FAPER filed an appeal against the new Electoral Law before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice.

The Liberal Party presented a bill which would regulate the presidential reelection through a plebiscite.

Political debt, the amount of money given to parties, is a controversial topic in Honduras. With the new reform, the total amount won't increased as hope, but rather change its distribution in favor of large parties.

What is more, there is still no law governing the Electoral Justice Tribunal.

<https://proceso.hn/faper-presenta-amparo-contr-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/liberales-presentan-proyecto-de-ley-para-que-la-reeleccion-se-realice-a-traves-de-plebiscito/>

<https://proceso.hn/con-nueva-ley-electoral-no-baja-pago-de-la-deuda-lo-que-aumenta-es-cuota-para-partidos-mayoritarios/>

<https://proceso.hn/titular-del-legislativo-promete-aprobacion-en-dos-semanas-de-ley-del-tribunal-de-justicia-electoral/>

"Article 213 of the new Electoral Law has generated concern due to the fact that the article gives the authorities of the political institutions the power to appoint at their discretion persons to replace candidates for elected office who resign or die."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/01/articulo-213-de-ley-electoral-genera-alarma-por-una-nueva-candidatura-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ciclistas-piden-habilitar-ciclovias-en-tegucigalpa/>

02/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta; Political Prisoners; HRDs - MILPAH; Hydroelectricity; JOH - Corruption; ZEDEs; US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Elections - Corruption, Reelection, Opposition; Transport Sector; Migration; and the Anti-Militarist Struggle of Berta Cáceres

63 months have passed since the assassination of Berta Cáceres. The day was accompanied by a global call for justice.

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/la-accion-global-por-la-justicia-para-berta/>

"After commuting a four-year prison sentence for the crime of aggravated arson in degree of

complicity, Rommel Baldemar Herrera, who was accused by the U.S. Embassy in Honduras, is still waiting for his release. The legal defense announced that the court accepted the sentence, but the family is still waiting for the judicial system to resolve the administrative process for the release."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3176-caso-rommel-baldemar-herrera-tribunal-acepto-conmuta-de-la-pena-pero-el-joven-aun-espera-la-libertad>

"Wearing a white cassock and red stole, Florentino Hernández, who for 12 years has been the parish priest in the municipality of El Triunfo, bordering Nicaragua, was judicially released for the second time from the lawsuit filed against him by the Bishop of Choluteca in November 2019. Father Florentino Hernández is a human rights defender who has organized the community of El Triunfo, department of Choluteca, to defend natural resources and promote social projects that make the food supply of families sustainable. In December 2018, a consultation was held on the presence of extractive companies, revealing the opposition of the people, and since then began his ordeal."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tribunal-de-choluteca-reitera-cierre-judicial-de-querella-contra-sacerdote-de-el-triunfo/>

COFADEH also has an update on the situation of the criminalized Lenca defender at MILPAH, Víctor Vásquez. He "had been accused of three crimes in the first instance, but for two of them he was provisionally dismissed and was deprived of his liberty for the crime of forced displacement". According to COFADEH's Bertha Oliva, in La Paz "[t]here is a very clear strategy to intimidate, silence and be able to advance in the use of resources such as the forest, then make use of the water resource of the rivers and then dam the waters".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-la-paz-hay-una-estrategia-macabra-para-destruir-a-los-lideres-de-la-zona-y-asi-despojar-a-las-comunidades/>

MADJ held a press release on the withdrawal of the US International Development Finance Corporation from the disputed Jilamito hydroelectric project (see previous e-mail). "According to the MADJ leader, the withdrawal of financing by the U.S. bank is a partial triumph, marking an important moment in the organic life of his organization and all those others, as well as people who support this struggle, solidarity that is all around breathing processes of resistance and justice." There is an ongoing call on the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to also withdraw from the project, i.e. that it withdraws the loan promised to the INGELSA company.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3175-defensores-de-jilamito-consideran-un-triunfo-parcial-la-cancelacion-del-financiamiento-para-el-proyecto>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-exigen-al-bid-invest-retirar-financiamiento-a-proyecto-hidroelectrico-jilamito/>

JOH still tries to paint a very different picture of him and his regime at the international level. "The Honduran President, Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado (JOHA), presented himself on Wednesday at the United Nations Summit against Corruption as an "unwavering defender" in the "fight against corruption and organized crime", while defending himself from accusations linking him to drug

trafficking."

But even business representative now stray from JOH's line. "The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortes, CCIC, Pedro Barquero, said in Radio Progreso that Honduras lost 70% of foreign investment in the last 9 years. He assures that, the lack of rule of law, the government's links with corruption and drug trafficking, have been the main obstacles for foreign investment and the fight against poverty."

And new acts of corruption may follow. "A reform made to the General Budget of Revenues and Expenditures took away constitutional powers from the National Congress and, instead, granted privileges to the Executive Branch to make transfers and budget approvals without any oversight, reveals an analysis by the Center for the Study of Democracy (Cespad)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/joha-afirma-en-la-onu-que-honduras-es-hostil-para-la-corrupcion/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/por-falta-de-estado-de-derecho-honduras-perdio-el-70-de-inversion-extranjera/>

<https://criterio.hn/reforma-al-presupuesto-permite-al-ejecutivo-hacer-transferencias-sin-vigilancia/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/02/analisis-la-reforma-al-presupuesto-general-y-su-implicacion-para-la-campana-electoral-del-partido-de-gobierno/>

Even the private business lobby COHEP concludes in a legal review that the ZEDEs as well as the recently granted tax exemptions for them are unconstitutional.

"Disinformation and deception prevail behind the Special Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) project promoted by the Honduran government, agreed national leaders during the Mesoamerican Forum on Extractivism, ZEDE and Rights held this Tuesday. The event was attended by representatives of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (Clacso), the Borders, Globalization and Regionalization Working Group, the Regional University Center of the Atlantic Coast of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (CURLA-UNAH), the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of Honduras (Asonog), the Organized Social Movement (Moso) and the Common Front against ZEDE."

<https://proceso.hn/zede-carece-de-legitimidad-y-advierten-que-su-inversion-es-de-alto-riesgo-determina-el-cohep/>

<https://criterio.hn/desinformacion-y-engano-detras-de-las-zede-que-promueve-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/212502>

According to COHEP, the US Special Envoy to the Northern Triangle, Ricardo Zúñiga, will travel to Honduras at the end of the month.

Zúñiga will be joined by the assistant administrator of USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Marcela Escobari.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-anuncia-que-en-junio-ricardo-zuniga-visitara-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2956-honduras-empresarios-recibiran-enviado-especial-de-biden>

So far, there have been 239'428 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6403 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-registra-239-mil-428-contagios-y-decesos-suben-a-6-mil-403-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Proceso Digital reports that several ICUs are at maximum capacity or even beyond.

<https://proceso.hn/covid-19-honduras-con-varias-uci-al-100-o-mas-de-su-capacidad/>

Over 100 Liberal and Libre mayors joined forces to buy vaccine doses.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-100-alcaldes-hondurenos-gestionan-compra-de-vacunas-contr-el-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2957-honduras-125-alcaldes-buscan-el-desarrollo-y-dejan-a-la-amhon>

CESPAD's analysis on the budget reform (see above) also has implications for the electoral process. "In this scenario, the central purpose is to have total availability of money for the social programs and projects promoted by the governing party, in view of the general elections. Although the approved reform contains technical administrative issues, they are of a marginal nature, because the central objective is to continue sustaining a robust budget for social assistance for the proselytizing purposes of the PNH. An effective mechanism for political clientelism and electoral propaganda. If these reformed articles, among others, represented matters that should be urgently addressed, why was this not done when the Budget of the Republic was approved, in December 2020, but changes are introduced four months later, in an election year?"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/02/analisis-la-reforma-al-presupuesto-general-y-su-implicacion-para-la-campana-electoral-del-partido-de-gobierno/>

More people voice their fear that the newly reformed article 213 could open the door for another reelection for JOH (see also yesterday).

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/cuestionan-que-articulo-213-de-ley-electoral-puede-habilitar-candidatura-de-joh/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/vacios-en-ley-electoral-violentan-el-derecho-a-elegir-en-honduras/>

While there is only one political alliance at the national level, between PINU and Salvador Nasralla's party, there are a lot of different alliances at the local level.

<https://proceso.hn/alianzas-electorales-municipales-la-sorpresa-de-las-ideologias/>

"Leaders of the Association of Taxi Drivers of Honduras (Ataxis), warned on Wednesday that starting tomorrow, Thursday, they will take to the streets to demand the payment of benefits agreed with the government."

<https://confidencialhn.com/miles-de-taxistas-se-paralizarian-en-demanda-de-pago-de-beneficios-acordados/>

By May 31, almost 23'500 Hondurans were deported to Honduras this year.

<https://criterio.hn/en-2021-mas-de-23000-hondurenos-han-sido-retornados-al-pais/>

<https://criterio.hn/lucha-antimilitarista-de-berta-caceres-es-mas-urgente-que-nunca-en-honduras/>

03/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Corruption - CCINOC, Congress, Asfura; SSF - Post-Electoral Repression; Israel; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Corruption; and Just a Big Misunderstanding

As part of the global action for justice for Berta (see yesterday), several politicians from the EU and the US called for justice. COPINH collected some of the tweets.

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/vigilan-juicio-david-castillo/>

The trial against David Castillo is still suspended due to health concerns regarding two attorneys representing the Cáceres family.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/5/31/day-twenty-nine-trial-against-david-castillo>

These last day, Proceso Digital, now known for his criticism of the JOH regime, has published several articles on the problems with the ZEDEs and two more followed yesterday. They spoke with sociologist Pablo Carías who compared them with the banana concessions made in the last century which had made Honduras the name-giving banana republic.

The second article cites again the business lobby COHEP, which has been very vocal in its criticism.

Especially the criticism by COHEP highlights how ridiculous a recent statement by JOH is. "Those who oppose ZEDEs are against generating employment"...

The newly created Mayors of Honduras Association also opposes the ZEDEs.

<https://proceso.hn/las-zede-reeditan-historia-de-concesiones-bananeras-en-honduras-alerta-sociologo/>

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-reeditan-la-historia-de-las-concesiones-bananeras-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/zede-son-un-riesgo-inminente-para-los-inversionistas-reafirma-el-cohep/>

<https://tiempo.hn/zedes-opiniones-de-economistas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-se-oponen-las-zedes-no-quieren-empleo/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/asociacion-de-alcaldes-de-honduras-se-opone-a-las-zedes/>

Yesterday, the Center against Corruption and Impunity in the North of Central America was presented to the public.

Luis Santos, head of UFERCO, said on this occasion. "It is time for us to move from theory to practice, too much has already been written about corruption, we all know the harm it causes us, when something happens we all know that it is corruption or not (...) it is time that the strengthening or support of all international cooperation is focused not on discourse or more studies, but on bringing all these cases of corruption to light".

<https://ccinoc.org/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/03/inicia-funciones-primer-centro-regional-anticorrupcion-en-el-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/>

<https://proceso.hn/ya-es-momento-que-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-pase-de-la-teoria-a-la-practica-clama-jefe-de-uferco/>

"For three consecutive years, the budget allocated to the Public Prosecutor's Office has been the same, due to an alleged retaliation by the National Congress for the accusations against deputies involved in acts of corruption. This is the conclusion reached by the employees of the Public Prosecutor's Office, whose frontispiece in Tegucigalpa has been displaying banners for more than a week with the demand for a salary increase. The same demand is reproduced in the cities of San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba, as well as in the regional and local prosecutors' offices."

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-no-aumentaria-presupuesto-a-mp-por-acusaciones-contra-diputados/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/03/la-precariedad-salarial-del-personal-operativo-y-la-opulencia-de-los-altos-mandos-del-ministerio-publico-de-honduras/>

UFERCO challenges a recent Supreme Court decision in effect not allowing them to continue their investigation into corruption at the mayors office in Tegucigalpa, a mayor who is running for president for the Nationalist Party.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7812-mp-presenta-recurso-contra-decision-de-la-sala-penal-de-archivar-antejuicio-contra-alcalde-y-regidora-capitalinos>

"OACNUDH notes with concern the two violent deaths that occurred on Saturday, May 28 in the

municipality of Silca, Department of Olancho, and in the municipality of Yoro, where elements of the Municipal Police are allegedly involved."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1400489468516306945>

In a case going back to the post electoral repression of late 2017, early 2018, "[c]ourt agents of the Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights (FEDH) recently obtained a formal indictment against the officer of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP) Edgardo Rodríguez Andrades, for the crime of violation of the duties of officials, to the detriment of a minor".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7813-fiscalia-de-derechos-humanos-logra-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contramiembros-de-la-pmop>

<https://criterio.hn/por-omision-de-deberes-y-lesiones-graves-acusan-a-militar-que-hirio-y-torturo-a-menor-en-choluteca/>

JOH announced that in the last week of June, the installation of the Honduran embassy in Israel in Jerusalem will be formalized.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-abrira-embajada-en-jerusalen-en-ultima-semana-de-junio/>

So far, there have been 240'438 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6415 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-los-240000-contagios-por-la-covid-19-y-los-6400-muertos/>

The Biden administration promised to donate 80 million vaccine doses, some of them are meant for Honduras.

So far, Honduras has applied 352'000 vaccine doses.

The group of over 100 mayors trying to purchase vaccines together (see yesterday) formed the Mayors of Honduras Association.

<https://tiempo.hn/donacion-de-vacunas-covid-19-de-eeuu-para-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/solo-352-mil-dosis-de-la-vacuna-contrala-covid-19-han-sido-aplicadas-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-un-centenar-de-ediles-crean-asociacion-de-alcaldes-de-honduras/>

An appeals court confirmed the pre-trial detention of Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes for the irregular purchase of the mobile hospitals.

The MP then announced that they are about to open trial against them.

Related to this, US authorities seized over 100 million Lempiras from Axel López, the man having sold the mobile hospitals to the JOH regime.

But according to the CNA, the total sum of this particular corruption case is some 800 million

Lempiras.

"The former Attorney General, Edmundo Orellana, warned that the corruption case involving the purchase of seven mobile hospitals by Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Investh) will go unpunished and the money paid to the Guatemalan businessman Axel López will be lost."

<https://tiempo.hn/hospitales-moviles-bogran-y-moraes/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7817-mp-solicitara-apertura-a-juicio-luego-que-tribunal-confirmara-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-en-el-caso-hospitales-moviles>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7810-mas-de-100-millones-de-lempiras-en-primer-aseguramiento-de-cuentas-a-alex-lopez-en-estados-unidos>

<https://proceso.hn/aseguran-mas-de-100-millones-de-lempiras-de-cuentas-de-alex-lopez-en-ee-uu-por-caso-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1400526049142882307>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/03/efiscal-asegura-trama-de-hospitales-moviles-quedara-impune/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ebal-diaz-asegura-que-se-mal-interpreto-la-promesa-sobre-construccion-de-hospitales-en-pandemia/>

04/06/21

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Corruption - US, IHSS; Elections - Opposition, Reelection; Transport Sector; and JOH and Israel

"Three political prisoners, (left to right) Raul Alvarez, Rommel Herrera & Edwin Espinal first met in La Tolva, the maximum-security prison in 2019. Today, all three celebrate as Rommel walks free & is released after 2 years in prison".

<https://twitter.com/EdwinLibertad/status/1401016684522180610>

Pinu congressman Andrés Benedith presented a bill to derogate the ZEDEs.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/04/presentan-al-legislativo-proyecto-de-ley-para-derogar-las-zedes/>

So far, there have been 241'039 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6454 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-241-mil-039-contagios-y-seis-mil-454-decesos-por-covid-19/>

23'454 Hondurans have been deported to Honduras in the first five months, that is a 6.6% increase compared to 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ha-recibido-23-mil-454-deportados-en-este-ano-un-6-6-mas-que-en-2020/>

"The mayors, who last Wednesday created an organization independent from the Association of Municipalities of Honduras, have informed that they have advanced talks with the Government of China to receive the donation of 250 thousand vaccines that the Hernández cabinet had rejected for "geopolitical" reasons. Likewise, they added that next Monday they will present a formal request to the Cuban ambassador in Honduras, Francisco Emilio Delgado, to acquire the "Soberana" vaccine and be able to extend the immunization to 125 municipalities."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2961-honduras-alcaldes-independientes-gestionan-vacuna-con-china-eeuu-y-cuba>

The Biden administration promises a new list of corrupt Central American officials.

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-mantendra-lucha-contra-corruptos-y-anuncia-que-publicara-nueva-lista-este-mes/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office filed a cassation appeal this Friday against the latest ruling of the Sentencing Court that acquitted Mario Zelaya, former director of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), of seven crimes."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1468398-466/presentan-recurso-casacion-ultimo-fallo-favorable-mario-zelaya-ihss>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-interpone-recurso-de-casacion-por-absolucion-de-mario-zelaya/>

ContraCorriente looks at the divided political opposition months before the general election.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/04/la-oposicion-de-honduras-no-logra-acuerdos-y-acudira-dividida-a-elecciones-generales/>

"Leaders of the so-called opposition parties and analysts reject the installation of a fourth ballot box in the general elections process to consult on the presidential reelection, proposed by the president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva. The leaders and analysts reiterate the illegality of the presidential reelection and make clear that there can only be a consultation process to ask the Honduran citizens if they agree to reform the Constitution."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/sectores-rechazan-propuesta-de-cuarta-urna-para-consultar-sobre-reeleccion/>

Cab drivers continue with a nationwide strike.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/04/taxistas-continuan-en-paro-nacional-exigen-rebajas-a-combustibles-y-promesas-incumplidas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/taxistas-anuncian-paro-nacional-y-aducen-que-autoridades-los-tratan-de-tontos/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1400934480035168259>

05/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Political Prisoners; Corruption - CCINOC, MACCIH; US; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education; National Police; and Berta Calls

After a break, the trial against David Castillo continued yesterday. "The trial was held for a few hours today. Castillo's defense attorneys attempted to recuse the private accusers's expert witness Harald Waxenecker because of previous publications Waxenecker had made about Honduras. After a few hours of debate, the court rejected the defense's motion."

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

Defensores en Línea and El Libertador have articles on political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo who was recently released (see yesterday).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/termina-la-pesadilla-rommel-baldemar-ha-vuelto-a-casa/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2963-honduras-en-libertad-joven-maestro-tras-dos-anos-como-pres-o-politico>

El Libertador focuses on the problematic role of Heide Fulton during the recent presentation of the Center against Corruption and Impunity in Northern Central America (CCINOC). ""We want the people of Central America to know that we are on the side of the victims of corruption," said last Thursday U.S. diplomat Heide Fulton, who in 2017 in her capacity as Chargé d'Affaires of her country's embassy, certified the imposition of the illegal presidential reelection, made possible thanks to the scandalous electoral fraud against the Opposition Alliance Against Dictatorship."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2965-honduras-heide-fulton-ahora-ataca-corrupcion-que-monto-en-2017>

CESPAD held a virtual forum discussing the end of the MACCIH and how it came about.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/05/que-incomodo-a-las-redes-de-corrupcion-en-honduras-que-terminaron-expulsando-a-la-maccih/>

"The trip this weekend of Vice President Kamala Harris to Guatemala and Mexico comes at a time of mounting calls in Congress and from civil society groups for a comprehensive approach to the root causes driving migration from Central America at the U.S. southern border. The fact that it is her first trip abroad after accepting President Joe Biden's assignment to lead his efforts in Central America is a sure sign of how urgent a priority the humanitarian crisis there has become for the White House. It's also a delicate and politically dangerous assignment for Harris due to domestic tensions over immigration and the seemingly intractable problem of poverty, corruption and natural disasters in Central America, that has seen record numbers of unaccompanied minors cross the US-Mexico border after Biden rolled back some Trump-era immigration restrictions. Her challenge is made all the more difficult by sharp differences with the leaders of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, that has placed those countries off her travel list, at least for the time being."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/kamala-harris-seeks-new-allies-in-central-america-as-officials-emphasize-anti-corruption-message>

So far, there have been 241'574 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6460 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-241-mil-574-contagios-y-6-mil-460-decesos-por-covid-19/>

More mayors traveled to El Salvador hoping for vaccine donations, among them is even a Nationalist mayor.

ContraCorriente published an article on the failures of the JOH regime's vaccine policies.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2964-honduras-hasta-alcalde-nacionalista-viajo-por-vacuna-a-el-salvador>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/05/mucha-fanfarria-pocas-vacunas/>

"The schooling rate in Honduras, which used to be seven years, has gone back a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, said this Friday the vice-rector of the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán (UPNFM), Darío Cruz."

<https://criterio.hn/indice-de-escolaridad-en-honduras-ha-retrocedido-un-ano-vice-rector-upnfm/>

"The Prosecution Unit for Support to the Police Purification Process (UF - ADPOL) obtained an order to open a trial in the case against the general commissioner of the National Police, Leonel Luciano Saucedo Guifarro and his wife Patricia Sbeltlana Estrada Pacheco for the crime of money laundering."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7827-a-juicio-oral-y-publico-comisionado-general-de-policia-implicado-en-lavados-activos>

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/berta-llama/>

06/06/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Corruption - US; Internal Displacement; COVID-19; Elections – Reforms;

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the May 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=21248

Padre Melo also questions the role of the US in fighting corruption in Honduras (see yesterday).
"Very valid that U.S. government supports fight against corruption in C.A. To be effective, Mrs. Fulton should acknowledge her active endorsement of corrupt and electoral fraud in 2017, and that ASJ clarifies what is seen as close support and collusion with the JOH administration".
An analysis by Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle goes in the same direction.

<https://twitter.com/Melosjmoreno/status/1401601412690239495>

<https://criterio.hn/revistando-la-politica-americana-en-centroamerica-y-honduras/>

Proceso Digital reports on internal displacement in Honduras due to violence. The UNHCR highlights the lack of new data on the issue in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/desplazamiento-interno-otro-efecto-de-la-violencia-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 241'826 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6479 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-241-mil-826-casos-y-6-mil-479-defunciones-por-covid/>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) wants a bigger budget for the coming electoral process. Currently, their budget is at 600 million Lempiras.

<https://proceso.hn/cne-pedira-ampliacion-de-los-l-600-millones-para-garantizar-elecciones-generales/>

"The new electoral law in force subsumes the law of clean politics in a series of articles in good faith, but without the necessary claws for the Clean Politics Unit to enter with force to track the illicit money that enters the political campaigns."

<https://proceso.hn/ley-electoral-resta-brillo-al-financiamiento-de-campanas-politicas/>

07/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH - SUNLA; Extractivism - ZEDEs; Corruption - US, Asfura; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector; Extradition; Armed Forces; BCIE; Maquila; Migration - US; Prisons; and Time to Wake Up

Karen Spring highlights the main points of Day 32 of the trial against David Castillo. "Expert witness presented by the Cáceres family, Harald Waxenecker begins his presentation. Waxenecker outlines the irregular manner in which the Agua Zarca was approved in the post-2009 coup context and the illicit networks of individuals, including Castillo, in the military, state institutions, and business elite, that sought to benefit from influence peddling, corruption, irregularities in the approval process, among other points. On two occasions, the court asked Waxenecker to skip forward in his presentation, forcing him to exclude aspects of his analysis."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/7/day-thirty-two-trial-against-david-castillo>

More than two hundred organizations signed a letter in support of the Committee for the Investigation and Search for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz (SUNLA) calling for its integration into the official investigation.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/06/mas-de-doscientas-organizaciones-de-america-y-europa-exigimos-la-incorporacion-del-sunla-al-proceso-de-investigacion-en-el-caso-de-los-jovenes-garifunas-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada-desde-julio/>

"The road being built between Wampusirpi and Krausirpi, in La Mosquitia, which starts in the Olancho area of Dulce Nombre de Culmí, where extensive cattle ranching in the region is a kind of cancer that increasingly consumes protected areas, should be investigated, said Francisco Escalante, deputy director of the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) on Monday."

The indigenous Tawahka also oppose the road.

<https://proceso.hn/construccion-de-carretera-en-biosfera-del-rio-platano-debe-investigarse-icf/>

<https://proceso.hn/indigenas-tawahka-prohiben-venta-de-tierras-y-dicen-no-a-la-construccion-de-la-carretera/>

The ZEDE called Orchid (Orquídea) planned for San Marcos de Colón, Choluteca, will apply private law from Delaware.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/07/nueva-zede-orquidea-en-choluteca-se-sometera-a-ley-de-un-estado-de-ee-uu/>

Criterio interviewed Padre Melo to further discuss his position of the US' role in fighting corruption in Honduras (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/presencia-de-fulton-y-asj-en-lucha-anticorrupcion-apoyada-por-ee-uu-pone-en-duda-su-efectividad-y-validez/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos is under attack by the legal team of Nationalist presidential candidate and mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/07/apoderado-de-asfura-arremete-contra-el-titular-de-uferco-a-quien-considera-prepotente/>

So far, there have been 242'377 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6493 confirmed deaths.

Yesterday, the Secretary of Health also confirmed the first Mucormycosis case.

They tried to calm the public.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reporta-14-nuevas-muertes-y-confirma-551-casos-mas-por-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/honduras-confirma-primer-caso-de-hongo-negro-en-paciente-afectado-por-covid-19/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/los-hongos-todo-el-tiempo-han-existido-existen-y-no-hay-que-alarmarse-dennis-chirinos/>

The Secretary of Health promises the arrival of over 200'000 vaccine doses for mid-June. According to Carlos Umaña, president of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) in San Pedro Sula, it will take Honduras 4 years to vaccinate 70% of the people if it continues at the current rate.

<https://proceso.hn/salud-anuncia-llegada-de-primer-lote-de-212-mil-940-dosis-de-pfizer-para-el-16-de-junio/>

<https://criterio.hn/faltan-unos-cuatro-anos-para-inocular-al-70-de-los-hondurenos/>

"Of 296 municipal governments that received funds under the Fuerza Honduras program, created to address the health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, to date 64 have not presented the liquidation corresponding to the first disbursement, according to a report by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA)."

<https://criterio.hn/informe-revela-mala-administracion-y-falta-de-liquidacion-en-recursos-para-triajes/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1401902112125108226>

Honduras received a new extradition request from the US, from a Texan court.

<https://proceso.hn/csj-recibe-nuevo-pedido-de-extradicion-y-reconfirma-entrega-de-diaz-contreras/>

"The Human Rights Prosecutor's Office (FEDH) of La Ceiba filed a prosecutorial accusation against military officers Imer Azael Mondragón Zelaya, Edwin Armando Acosta Padilla, Dany Enrique Almendarez Villafranca, William Josué Zapata Figueroa and Kelvin Jesús Roque Suchite

for alleged cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by a public official and injuries to the detriment of José Mario Cantillano Funes."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7832-cuatro-personas-condenadas-y-cinco-militares-acusados-en-la-ceiba>

BCIE and UN Women will distribute credits worth \$1 million to women small business owners as part of the Women, Local Economy and Territories (MELYT) program.

<https://proceso.hn/onu-y-bcie-apoyan-con-creditos-a-mipymes-de-mujeres-en-centroamerica/>

The largest sportswear factory in Central America will start operation in July in San Pedro Sula. Operated by Tegra Global which has Nike among its customers, promises 5000 jobs by the end of this year and 7000 by the beginning of 2022.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1468846-410/julio-comenzara-fabrica-nike-san-pedro-sula>

Bad news from the US. "A unanimous Supreme Court on Monday said immigrants who entered the U.S. illegally cannot apply for green cards simply because they enjoy Temporary Protected Status, or TPS. The decision is a setback for thousands of U.S. residents who are temporarily protected from deportation because of unsafe conditions in their home countries and now want to remain permanently in the U.S."

Additionally, during her recent visit to Guatemala, US vice-president Kamala Harris clearly stated that people should not try to come to the US, that they would not be received. She somehow forgot about the right to seek asylum.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/supreme-court-green-card-tps-holders-illegal-entry/story?id=78131003>

<https://proceso.hn/no-vengan-dice-kamala-a-migrantes-mientras-enfatiza-en-lucha-anticorrupcion/>

<https://twitter.com/AOC/status/1402041820096389124>

Six people were injured during a confrontation inside the maximum security prison El Pozo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-seis-personas-resultaron-heridas-tras-enfrentamiento-en-carcel-de-el-pozo-en-ilama-santa-barbara/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/el-oficio-de-despertar/>

08/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Extractivism - ZEDEs; Femicides; Tolupán; COVID-19 - Vaccines; USAID; Tasa; and Daring to Look Ahead

Day 33 of the David Castillo trial took place yesterday. "Melissa Cardoza, one of Berta's close friends and compañeras testified that she had not witnessed the level of organized and systematic attacks against Berta like she saw in 2013 when COPINH began the struggle in Rio Blanco. She described the efforts to attack and threaten Berta and COPINH members and create a general sense of insecurity in Rio Blanco. Cardoza testified that Berta had told her not to trust David Castillo and that he monitored her, making use of his intelligence training. According to Cardoza, by the end of 2015, Berta insisted to her closest friends that individuals associated with DESA - the Atalas and Castillo - were going to kill her.

Expert witness Harald Waxenecker continued on the stand. He presented an analysis of telecommunications that demonstrates a strategy to compartmentalize information shared between the group of DESA executives and the group of assassins - Douglas Bustillo being the "bridge" between both groups. He argued that this was a military strategy to keep information sharing at a minimum and suppress evidence of the involvement of DESA executives. Waxenecker will present his conclusions tomorrow."

Pasos de Animal Grande published an article focusing on the testimony by Waxenecker. OACNUDH and several embassies announced that they would continually monitor the trial and called for judicial independence.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/8/day-thirty-three-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3178-causa-berta-caceres-las-redes-de-poder-pueden-producir-impunidad-anticipada>

<https://twitter.com/OACNNUDDH/status/1402324564642828292>

<https://tiempo.hn/berta-caceres-juicio-onu-garantizar-independencia-judicial/>

<https://twitter.com/EmbCanCRHNNI/status/1402412689352278016>

<https://twitter.com/EmbEspHonduras/status/1402375127912812552>

A local councilor tries to defend the widely criticized road through the Río Plátano biosphere (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/construccion-de-carretera-solucionara-crisis-economica-en-la-mosquitia-opina-regidora/>

The UN System in Honduras published a press release warning about the human rights implications of ZEDES. "The United Nations System respectfully calls on the State of Honduras to review the compatibility of the constitutional and legal framework of the ZEDE with its international obligations to respect and guarantee the exercise of human rights."

"The Honduran Foreign Ministry said tonight, through a press release, that it is a sovereign State and that it makes decisions respecting the Constitution and its internal legal framework with the objective of guaranteeing the economic and social wellbeing of the population."

The JOH regime is also on the defensive regarding the national business community which expressed concerns.

The newest ZEDE planned in Honduras, revealed last week by JOH, will be in San Marcos de Colón, Choluteca (see also yesterday). Even the mayor of the place had not known about it before JOH's announcement.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/130598-las-zede-podrian-suponer-serios-riesgos-para-la-garantia-de-los-derechos-humanos-por-parte>

<https://proceso.hn/zede-implicarian-riesgos-del-cumplimiento-del-libre-ejercicio-de-los-habitantes-onu>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-responde-a-la-onu-que-es-un-estado-soberano-y-que-respete-la-constitucion-tras-pronunciarse-sobre-las-zede/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/08/joh-carga-contras-empresarios-por-rebelarse-contras-las-zedes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1469159-466/sorpresa-zede-san-marcos-colon-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sorprendidos-habitantes-de-san-marcos-de-colon-choluteca-con-construccion-de-zede>

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-fomentaran-las-desigualdades-en-honduras-coinciden-expertos/>

OACNUDH expressed concern about the increase in femicides.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHhn/status/1402290085081534468>

Proceso Digital portrays the struggles of the Tolupán even citing MADJ representatives.

<https://proceso.hn/tribu-hondurena-tolupan-no-se-cansa-de-pedir-justicia-y-derecho-a-la-tierra>

So far, there have been 242'796 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6532 confirmed deaths.

Criterio published an in-depth article on "the hidden deaths" of the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/confirman-37-fallecimientos-y-419-contagios-mas-de-covid-19-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/covid-19-en-honduras-y-las-muertes-escondidas-entre-la-corrupcion-e-inoperancia>

According to JOH, Mexico will donate 100'000 vaccine doses to Honduras.

Criterio calls this a lie.

But at least 16'000 more doses from El Salvador are also on its way.

<https://tiempo.hn/donacion-de-vacunas-de-mexico-a-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/joh-mintio-con-donacion-de-vacunas-por-parte-de-mexico/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/el-salvador-traslada-vacunas-anticovid-19-para-nueva-ocotepeque-y-choluteca/>

"The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will support the economic reactivation actions coordinated by the Cortés Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIC) in the business sector of northern Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/usa-id-apoyara-reactivacion-economica-de-empresas-en-la-zona-norte-de-honduras/>

Pepe Lobo and later the JOH regime spent 756 million Lempiras on 2317 cars between 2012 and 2017 with money from the obscure security tax (tasa de seguridad).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2971-honduras-gobierno-acepta-que-gasto-756-millones-en-2-317-automoviles>

<https://tiempo.hn/tasa-de-seguridad-carros-toyota-honduras/>

Radio Progreso interviewed former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana on the current context and the months ahead.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/desconfianza-en-elecciones-y-anuncio-de-zedes-agudizan-crisis-en-honduras/>

09/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH - SUNLA; Extractivism - ZEDEs; Corruption - IHSS; Migration - US; COVID-19 - HR; Minimum Wage; Elections - Opposition, JOH; Debt; Fishing; Prisons; and Shoe-Box-Money

Karen Spring highlights the main points of Day 34 of the David Castillo trial. "Expert witness Waxenecker concluded his expert analysis stating that David Castillo's position of power, his institutional relationships and respective business circles, motivated and materialized Berta's murder in the context of the implementation of the Agua Zarca project. Waxenecker also concluded that the principal cause of the murder was the dispute surrounding the "appropriated environment" (the Gualcarque river) and efforts of the power networks mentioned in his analysis, to profit from the Agua Zarca project."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/9/day-thirty-four-trial-against-david-castillo>

"Through the Attorney General's Office, the State of Honduras denied the incorporation of the Committee for the Investigation and Search for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz, SUNLA, in the investigations into the forced disappearance of four Garifuna, as denounced in a public letter released on June 9, 2021, by more than 200 national and international organizations."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3179-estado-de-honduras-niega-la->

[incorporacion-de-sunla-en-las-investigaciones-de-la-desaparicion-de-garifunas](#)

The National Party and the JOH regime seem unmoved by the widespread criticism of the ZEDEs. The president of the National Party, David Chávez Madison, called them "a done deal".

The Secretary of Health intends to promote the ZEDEs by claiming that they will offer health care like in the EU and the US. The later may be true as it stands for a privatized health care system where millions are uncovered or in deep medical debt. But they go on to promise jobs for all Hondurans no matter their education.

La Prensa reports on some of the people behind the Próspera ZEDE on Roatán.

<https://proceso.hn/las-zede-son-cosa-juzgada-y-estan-generando-empleo-sentencia-el-presidente-del-pn/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sesal-en-zede-habra-servicios-de-salud-como-eeuu-europa/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1469714-410/zede-roatan-aprobo-criptomoneda-honduras>

"In the hearing of the accused, the National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) and the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation (ATIC), achieved the judicial arrest against the lawyer Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus, for allegedly being responsible for laundering assets amounting to more than 14 million lempiras, after a new line of investigation for corruption in the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS)".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7854-detencion-judicial-en-contradictoria-y-abogada-por-lavado-de-mas-de-14-millones-lempiras-de-fondos-del-ihss>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7852-nuevas-acusaciones-y-aseguramientos-de-bienes-por-corrupcion-en-el-ihss-2>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-presenta-nuevas-acusaciones-y-aseguramientos-de-bienes-por-corrupcion-en-sonado-caso-del-ihss/>

"If the United States truly wants to stem the increase of immigrants and immigration on the southern border, it must first speak to the root causes of the situation, including the fragile, dangerous reality people and communities in Central America face every day. President Biden has tasked Vice President Kamala Harris and Special Envoy for the Northern Triangle Ricardo Zúñiga with addressing the root causes of migration from that region. The administration announced \$4 billion in aid over four years, in addition to \$310 million in emergency Covid-19 aid to Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Although aid should be a crucial aspect of addressing economic problems, it can have consequences that contradict its intentions, particularly if the money goes to the military and police forces."

<https://nacla.org/news/2021/06/08/immigration-policy-must-look-beyond-border>

So far, there have been 243'467 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and

there are 6559 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-27-muertes-y-671-contagios-mas-por-covid-19/>

Social movements and indigenous organizations published their 49th joint press release during the pandemic.

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/manifiesto-publico-49/>

It seems that in light of the election, JOH suddenly "discovers" the minimum wage. "President Juan Orlando Hernández, said on Wednesday during the celebration of the Honduran Policeman's Day that the country's working class needs a fair minimum wage and that in the absence of agreements to determine it, he will be the one who will end up defining the percentage."

<https://proceso.hn/si-las-cupulas-no-toman-decisiones-sobre-el-salario-minimo-me-tocara-a-mi-decidirlo-presidente-herandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1469551-466/juan-orlando-herandez-instruye-ministros-comite-aprobar-aumento-salario-minimo>

María Luisa Borjas, former police commissioner, also joined the political alliance by Pinu and Salvador Nasralla's party, the Honduran National Opposition Unity (UNOH).

<https://proceso.hn/nelson-avila-y-maria-luisa-borjas-se-unen-a-la-alianza-politica-del-psh-y-pinu-sd/>

El Pulso spoke with two political analysts on the possibility of another run for presidency by JOH.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/09/analistas-no-descartan-que-joh-aspire-por-un-tercer-mandato-presidencial/>

"The Ministry of Finance revealed on Wednesday that public debt in Honduras reached 14,655.3 million dollars in the first quarter of this year, equivalent to 59.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-honduras-alcanzo-una-deuda-publica-de-14-mil-655-millones-de-dolares/>

"The worst threat to the Honduran Caribbean is the current unconstitutional Fishing Law, which ended the three-mile sanctuary, exposing Garífuna fishermen to extinction."

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1402720381409058824>

Reporteros de Investigación reported that "[a] source linked to prisoners reported this morning that the explosion of a grenade inside El Pozo prison and the excessive use of tear gas against prisoners have generated tension in the prison".

OACNUDH visited Honduran prisons to monitor the human rights situation.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/06/09/tras-explosion-de-granada-supuestos-internos-anuncian-bano-de-sangre-en-prisiones-en-disputa-con-el-gobierno/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHHN/status/1402823519839326208>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-una-caja-de-zapatos-recibimos-las-finanzas-del-partido-liberal-luis-zelaya/>

10/06/21

Honduras Daily: Rain; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Gender Violence; LGBTQ+; HRDs; COVID-19; Corruption - US; Elections - US, Reforms; Workers' Rights; Minimum Wage; JOH – Spain;

"The Honduran government has done nothing to rebuild or improve infrastructure that was destroyed during last year's two hurricanes. It's raining tonight & Ulúa river is spilling over into communities flooded last year in southern El Progreso".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1403200416532209667>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1469872-410/precaucion-en-el-valle-de-sula-lluvias-noroccidente-de-honduras-dejan-crecidas-del-rio-ulua>

Day 35 of the David Castillo trial took place yesterday. "Expert Harald Waxenecker continued on the stand and was questioned by the prosecutors, the other team of private accusers, and began to answer questions from the defense's technical consultant, controversial Honduran teacher, Edgardo Rodríguez."

"The guilty verdict against the former manager of the company Desarrollos Energéticos Sociedad Anónima (DESA) Roberto David Castillo is inexorable because there are sufficient and convincing elements that confirm his participation in the crime of the Lenca defender Berta Cáceres, said lawyer Víctor Fernández on Thursday."

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the lack of coverage of the trial by the corporate media outlets.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/10/day-thirty-five-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://criterio.hn/fallo-de-culpabilidad-contradavid-castillo-es-inexorable-dice-abogado-de-la-causa-berta-caceres/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3181-causa-berta-caceres-el-silencio-de-corporaciones-mediaticas-vinculados-a-los-circulos-de-poder>

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras Alice H. Shackelford met with the mayor of Roatán Jerry Hynds to discuss his concerns regarding the Próspera ZEDE.

CONADEH now also raised concerns about the ZEDEs. It calls for the respect of ancestral lands.

<https://twitter.com/ONUHonduras/status/1403047640003141643>

<https://twitter.com/ONUHonduras/status/1403074015124770829>

<https://criterio.hn/en-torno-a-las-zede-conadeh-pide-respetar-los-territorios-de-los-pueblos-originarios/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/10/conadeh-pide-que-se-respeten-territorios-ancestrales-ante-incursion-de-zedes/>

"According to the spokeswoman of the Public Prosecutor's Office, Lorena Cálix, every day in the central district, the prosecutor's office is receiving a complaint for sexual abuse of minors."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/una-denuncia-diaria-por-abuso-sexual-a-menores-se-reporta-en-tegucigalpa>

"Defenders and social communicators of the Lesbian, Gay, Transsexual, Bisexual and Intersexual (LGTBI) community detailed the limitations to participate or work in communication companies and the limitations to freedom of expression that can become a situation of attacks in the face of hate speech."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3180-los-tropezos-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-para-gozar-de-libertad-de-expresion>

"The Association for Participative Citizenship (ACI-Participa) inaugurated the Central Psychosocial Support Unit (UCAP) for human rights defenders."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/06/10/aci-participa-inaugura-oficina-de-atencion-psicosocial-para-personas-defensoras/>

So far, there have been 244'295 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6567 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/fallecimientos-por-covid-19-se-elevan-a-6-mil-567-en-honduras/>

"A Court of San Pedro Sula ordered to repeat the oral and public trial against Santiago Motiño, mayor of La Lima, Cortés. The Special Prosecutor's Office against Organized Crime accused the former police officer of money laundering and concealment of stolen vehicles. However, in 2016 he was found not guilty by the 2nd Chamber of the Sentencing Court."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ordenan-repetir-juicio-contra-alcade-de-la-lima-por-lavado-de-activos-y-ocultamiento-de-vehiculos-robados>

CESPAD looks at the significance of the so-called Torres List of corruption Honduran officials.

"What did the publication of this list represent for the Honduran political context? The question is

part of the debate that took place in recent days regarding the impact that this type of lists had and will have on the actions of the corruption networks that currently control the administration of the Honduran State. In this sense, a favorable answer will be found if one takes into account the public perception that identifies a source of hope in the U.S. government and judicial system, but on the other hand, there is a more skeptical and distrustful look at the policies and the real intentions of this country in the region."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/10/analisis-la-lista-torres-sus-implicaciones-en-el-ambito-de-la-corrupcion-y-las-reacciones-en-la-sociedad-hondurena/>

"A new and harsh message from the Episcopal Conference of Honduras (CEH) to the political class was disseminated a little less than six months before the general elections. It asks voters not to elect drug traffickers and corrupt people and criticizes the 14 political parties because none of them has presented, at this stage of the process, a national plan or a concrete government proposal."

<https://proceso.hn/obispos-piden-a-votantes-castigar-a-corruptos-y-narcos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2975-honduras-iglesia-pide-a-electores-no-ceder-ante-politicos-perversos>

John Perry analyzes the US stake in the coming elections in Nicaragua and Honduras. "Both Honduras and Nicaragua hold presidential elections in November 2021 and the US government has a strong interest in both, although for rather different reasons. Both have incumbent presidents who will either stand again or, in the case of Honduras, more likely be replaced as candidate by a successor seen as reliably committed to the same style of government. Given that both countries are economically and militarily tiny, it might be thought that Washington would be unconcerned by their internal affairs, but in reality it sees much at stake."

<https://www.coha.org/the-us-stake-in-nicaragua-and-hondurass-2021-elections/>

Congress reformed another article of the electoral law. Political parties are now exonerated from paying taxes. The reform had the support of the three main parties, Liberal, National and Libre. But it was rejected and criticized by representatives of smaller parties.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/10/diputados-aprueban-exonerar-del-pago-de-impuestos-a-partidos-politicos/>

<https://proceso.hn/exoneraciones-a-partidos-politicos-es-un-asalto-descarado-y-despiadado-senala-esdras-amado-lopez/>

Public employees of 26 different bodies staged protest actions yesterday in demand of the so-called quinquenios, which I think is a bonus after five-years on the job.

<https://proceso.hn/empleados-publicos-realizan-plantones-y-asambleas-informativas-en-26-dependencias-del-estado/>

<https://criterio.hn/asambleas-informativas-y-toma-de-instituciones-anuncian-empleados-publicos-ante-falta-de-pago-de-quinquenios/>

The discussion about the minimum wage flared up again after JOH's recent statement (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/joha-hace-demagogia-con-el-nuevo-salario-minimo>

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-que-el-mandatario-hernandez-establecera-reajuste-salarial-hasta-que-se-cierre-la-negociacion/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/gobierno-de-joh-sigue-dando-largas-al-aumento-del-salario-minimo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-trabajadores-piden-a-gritos-el-reajuste-al-salario-minimo-senala-dirigente-obrero>

"In the framework of the III Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and Spain, the director of Human Rights Watch (HRW), José Miguel Vivanco, urged the Spanish president, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, to make a statement regarding the deterioration of human rights in the region. (...) In Honduras, he highlighted the accusations against President Juan Hernández for collaborating with organizations linked to drug trafficking. In addition, he denounced the concentration of powers and institutions, carried out by the National Party over the last decade, and which involves the co-optation of the Supreme Court of Justice, where its head has absolute power to select, appoint, dismiss or apply disciplinary measures to all judges in the country."

JOH, meanwhile, used the stage at SICA to do the opposite and paint his government as a success.

<https://criterio.hn/human-rigths-watch-insta-a-presidente-de-espana-a-que-denuncie-deterioro-de-dd-hh-en-centroamerica/>

<https://proceso.hn/hernandez-usa-tambien-el-estrado-del-sica-para-desvirtuar-testimonios-de-narcos-en-su-contra>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-continua-con-su-discurso-de-mentiras-en-ano-electoral/>

11/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDEs; Dengue; COVID-19 - Vaccines; BID; Elections; Migration - Children; and the Lack of Judicial Independence

At yesterday's trial date, "[e]xpert Harald Waxenecker was questioned by Castillo's attorneys all day".

In the afternoon, COPINH announced that the court called Bertha Zúniga to testify the same afternoon.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/11/day-thirty-six-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1403355773590200332>

The next hearing in the Guapinol case will take on Monday.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1403398925952983042?s=20>

The sentencing of JOH's drug trafficking partner Geovanny Fuentes was postponed to August 31, 2021.

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1403357570094469122

CESPAD published a very helpful overview of the state of ZEDEs in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/11/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-las-zedes-y-los-extractivismos-la-perfecta-fusion-para-el-despojo-territorial/>

If true, there are some good news regarding dengue. "Dengue cases in Honduras have been reduced by 73 percent, while deaths from the disease have decreased by 78 percent, according to data provided by the Health Ministry's Communicable Disease Surveillance Unit."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/11/defunciones-y-casos-por-dengue-se-han-reducido-en-73-y-78-por-ciento/>

So far, there have been 245'695 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6599 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-245-mil-695-casos-acumulados-y-6-mil-599-decesos-por-covid/>

The JOH regime has so far applied less than 500'000 vaccine doses.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras- apenas-ha-aplicado-447-mil-vacunas- contra-la-covid-19/>

"The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a US\$45 million loan to finance the Potable Water and Sanitation Program in Honduras, which will benefit nearly 31,000 households in rural areas and towns of up to 30,000 inhabitants by providing them with new and improved access to these basic services."

<https://www.iadb.org/en/news/honduras-improve-drinking-water-and-sanitation-services-support-idb>

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-presta-45-millones-dolares-a-honduras-para-mejorar-suministro-de-agua/>

Proceso Digital (!) summarizes well the upcoming elections. "14 parties, 34 independents and no plan to govern Honduras".

Criterio writes of a "flood of independent candidacies".

<https://proceso.hn/14-partidos-34-independientes-y-ningun-plan-para-gobernar-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/lluvia-de-candidaturas-independientes-para-elecciones-2021-en-honduras/>

Amnesty International published a new report: "The governments of the USA and Mexico have deported tens of thousands of unaccompanied migrant children to their countries of origin, without adequate screenings for potential irreparable harm they could face there. Authorities of both countries have also denied unaccompanied migrant children access to asylum procedures through pushbacks at their respective borders. In some cases, this has resulted in the forced return of asylum-seeking children to ill-treatment (refoulement). As a matter of policy, the Biden administration continues to return almost all unaccompanied Mexican children to Mexico, while the Mexican government has likewise repatriated the majority of unaccompanied Central American children without adequately assessing what harm they could face."

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/4200/2021/en/>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-y-mexico-violan-dd-hh-de-ninas-y-ninos-solicitantes-de-asilo/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/11/la-justicia-en-cuerda-floja-en-centroamerica/>

12/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Rain; ZEDEs - UN; Corruption - Hermes; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration – USAID;

Day 37 of the David Castillo trial took place. "In a short session today, Castillo's defense team continued to interrogate expert Waxenecker and will continue, once again, on Monday at 9 am. Waxenecker touches on possible motives of the crime by affirming that DESA had economic resources to lose if the project was stopped but also, the capabilities to pay for the murder if need be, although he is clear that a more extensive financial analysis is needed to establish how and if this occurred. Waxenecker says that DESA's economic capabilities (to pay for the murder (if that was the case) and push the Agua Zarca project forward), stem from financing granted by international banks to DESA."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/12/day-thirty-seven-trial-against-david-castillo>

"The Sula Valley, as productive as it is vulnerable, will face a new rainy season with stretches of the protection curbs damaged by Eta and Iota still unrepaired, while Copeco has already decreed a three-day yellow alert."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/12/bordos-sin-reparar-el-preambulo-de-severas-inundaciones-en-honduras/>

Libre members of Congress started to collect signatures for a citizens initiative to derogate the ZEDEs.

El Libertador reports on how JOH tries to blackmail business leaders to fall in line regarding the ZEDEs (see previous e-mails).

The president of COHEP reacted on Twitter: "I agree with the Employment and Development Zones, as long as they grant the same benefits to all domestic and foreign companies operating nationwide".

The possible next Nationalist president, Nasry Asfura, does not seem to push the ZEDEs as aggressively, at least not publicly and before the elections. Of course, he must know that they are widely rejected by the public.

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-de-libre-recolectan-firmas-para-iniciativa-ciudadana-en-contra-de-las-zede/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2979-honduras-joh-extorsiona-a-empresarios-por-oposicion-a-zedes>

<https://proceso.hn/si-dan-los-mismos-beneficios-a-inversionistas-nacionales-apoya-las-zede-dice-presidente-del-cohep/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-zede-deben-ser-analizadas-respetando-las-leyes-dice-candidato-presidencial-del-pn/>

After the recent visit by UN Resident Coordinator Alice Shackelford to the Bay Islands, its resident call for UN mediation to stop the Próspera ZEDE.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2982-honduras-islenos-piden-mediacion-de-onu-para-detener-prospera>

Javier Pastor and Carlos Montes, former deputy ministers of Health and Labor, respectively, were released from their pre-trial detention after it expired.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salen-en-libertad-javier-pastor-y-carlos-montes-tras-vencimiento-de-prision-preventiva/>

In the Hermes corruption case, a judge ordered "Judicial Detention for Finance Minister, Administrator, Accountant and Deputy Administrator of Casa Presidencial; also for Carol Alvarado, Claudia Noriega and Guillermo Noriega and alternative measures for 4 more defendants". The hearing will start tomorrow.

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1403588598771953665>

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-la-carcel-envian-a-siete-acusados-por-caso-de-corrupcion-hermes/>

Radio Globo journalists denounce censorship by Youtube regarding their recent revelations of excessive salaries at the MP.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3183-denuncian-censura-a-globo-tv-por-publicacion-altos-sueldos-selectivos-en-el-mp>

So far, there have been 247'074 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6606 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-379-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-247-mil-074-contagios-de-covid-19/>

"The Intensive Care Units (ICU) in the main public hospitals of the capital Tegucigalpa are overflowing, as their occupancy at the moment is 110.34% over their installed capacity, the same scenario happens in the main health care center in Choluteca, southern Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/desbordadas-las-uci-en-tegucigalpa-y-choluteca/>

USAID administrator Samantha Power will visit Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala from June 13 to 17.

<https://tiempo.hn/jefa-de-usaid-llegara-a-honduras-para-abordar-causas-de-migracion/>

13/06/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Astropharma, Congress; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration - Deportations; Minimum Wage;

"The former vice president of the National Congress, Lena Karin Gutiérrez Arévalo; her siblings Julio César Gutiérrez, Ginette Gutiérrez and their father, Marco Tulio Gutiérrez Velásquez, were acquitted of the Astropharma case due to lack of evidence. One of the family's arguments that helped their acquittal was that they sold their shares to the company G.K American Electronic in 2009, before the contracts with the State. However, their relationship with this company starts from its creation to the sale of shares to companies incorporated in Panama. Furthermore, in February 2020, a few months after they were acquitted, a piece of land belonging to Astropharma, valued at more than 16 million Lempiras, was donated to Marco Tulio Gutiérrez Velásquez. The Public Prosecutor's Office filed an appeal for the trial to be repeated. If this happens, the Gutiérrezes could be acquitted again, here we explain the possible reasons."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/07/los-vinculos-de-los-gutierrez-con-astropharma-y-sus-mecanismos-para-ser-absueltos/>

Members of Congress showed a lot of creativity again to enrich themselves...57.6 millions for per diems during a year of lockdown due to the pandemic.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/13/congreso-reparte-cantidad-millonaria-en-viaticos-a-pesar-de-encierro-por-pandemia/>

So far, there have been 247'728 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6631 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/mueren-25-personas-por-covid-y-contagios-se-elevan-a-247-mil-728-en-honduras/>

Epidemiologists criticize the Secretary of Health regarding its reporting on vaccination. There are not 460'000 vaccinated people in Honduras, they have only received one shot so far. Only 57'000 have been completely vaccinated.

<https://tiempo.hn/epidemiologo-de-honduras-cifras-son-enganosas/>

Over 150 Hondurans are on average deported per day from Mexico and the US.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-153-migrantes-hondurenos-son-deportados-a-diario-mientras-eeuu-dice-no-vengan/>

The minimum wage saga continues. JOH once again tries to use it as an electoral tool. But FOSDEH warns that "the government runs the risk of encouraging the closure of companies if it defines the adjustment to the minimum wage without consensus with the other sectors involved".

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-reitera-llamado-para-lograr-acuerdo-sobre-salario-minimo-y-pide-sea-basado-en-justicia-social/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-podria-fomentar-cierre-de-empresas-en-decision-sobre-el-salario-minimo-segun-el-fosdeh/>

14/06/21

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression; Guapinol; Berta - Trial; Femicide - US; ZEDES; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Mobile Hospitals, Poverty, Economy; USAID; Minimum Wage; Elections - JOH; Iota;

"The Court of Appeals, Judicial Section of Choluteca, issued a formal indictment against soldier Edgardo Rodríguez, accused of shooting young Kevin Pérez (then 17 years old) during protests against the illegal reelection of President Juan Hernández. Although the process against the soldier has been confirmed, Kevin's lawyer, Nidia Castillo, has denounced that the Prosecutor's Office eliminated the crimes of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; according to them, after being shot in his leg, the young man was surrounded and beaten to exhaustion by a military squadron."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2985-honduras-perdonan-delitos-de-tortura-y-crueldad-a-militar-que-disparo-a-menor>

In an open letter, several national and international human rights organizations demand a transparent and public hearing for the criminalized Guapinol defenders. "With this letter, we respectfully request that this honorable court guarantee full publicity of said hearing, including in-person observation and live transmission through the Judiciary's social networks, as has been the case in other hearings related to this case and other cases of national and international importance."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/organizaciones-nacionales-e-internacionales-preocupadas-por-transparencia-en-caso-guapinol>

On Day 38, "[e]xpert Harald Waxenecker finished on the stand after four hours of questions today by the defense team. The court heard debates about procedural issues related to the defense's technical consultants and set the trial schedule for the next few days. Tomorrow at 10:30, Berta Zúniga Cáceres will testify and then the court will begin to hear evidence presented by the defense". Radio Progreso looks back at the trial so far and also portrays the Viva Berta solidarity camp accompanying the process.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/14/day-thirty-eight-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/el-juicio-y-el-campamento-que-buscan-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

At least 147 women have been murdered so far this year in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-147-femicidios-en-lo-que-va-del-2021-segun-observatorio-de-la-unah/>

The Washington Post reports that Central American women fleeing violence seldom find refuge in the US.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/06/13/central-america-women-domestic-violence/>

Another important voice raised concerns regarding the ZEDEs. The National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) demanded from Congress to derogate the laws having given birth to the ZEDEs.

But currently, the development still goes in the wrong direction. "The Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras determined the establishment of a special jurisdiction through the creation of courts with exclusive and autonomous jurisdiction in those territories where Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) are established."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/unah-demanda-al-congreso-nacional-derogar-decreto-que-da-vida-a-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/unah-llama-al-congreso-a-derogar-decretos-que-dieron-vida-a-las-zede/>

<https://criterio.hn/corte-de-honduras-otorga-autonomia-judicial-a-las-zede/>

<https://proceso.hn/csj-aprueba-jurisdicion-especial-de-las-zede/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2987-honduras-corte-suprema-juega-con-fuego-creando-jurisdicion-a-zedes>

So far, there have been 248'115 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6653 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-6-mil-653-muertos-por-la-covid-19-y-248-mil-115-casos-positivos/>

The President of the Medical Association of Honduras, chapter of El Progreso, Yoro, Dr. Roberto Castellanos, denounced on Radio Progreso that Hondurans are forced to find vital drugs on the black market because the JOH regime does not provide them.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/mercado-negro-controla-medicamentos-para-pacientes-con-covid-19-en-el-progreso-yoro/>

"Through a press release, the Ministry of Health informed that people who were vaccinated against Covid-19 at the beginning of May will receive their second dose until August. That is, three months after the first one. Dr. Marco Girón, a public health specialist, said on Radio Progreso that the government is seeking to justify not having the second dose of the vaccine, which demonstrates the government's inability to manage and handle the pandemic well."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/lluvia-de-criticas-contra-gobierno-por-retrasar-aplicacion-de-segunda-dosis-de-vacuna-anticovid-19/>

The CNA denounces in a press release that the mobile hospital, 15 months after their purchase, still don't work as the MP stopped investigating those responsible beyond the sole act of purchase.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1404513906668752902>

<https://criterio.hn/15-meses-despues-y-los-hospitales-moviles-nunca-funcionaron-cna/>

Remittances sent to Honduras grew by 45% in the first five months of 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/las-remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-crecen-45-en-primeros-cinco-meses-de-2021/>

According to COHEP, 9 out of 10 Hondurans have employment problems and 7 out of 10 companies are affected by the pandemic.

<https://tiempo.hn/9-de-cada-10-personas-tienen-problemas-de-empleo/>

"U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power traveled to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on June 13, 2021, to assess USAID humanitarian assistance activities and programs that promote economic growth, security, and good governance in the country. (...) The

United States is proud of our longstanding partnership and friendship with the people of Honduras. Through programs that advance security, prosperity, and good governance, USAID is working side-by-side with Hondurans to foster the conditions to build a brighter future in Honduras. During her visit, the Administrator announced nearly \$24 million to expand employment opportunities and promote election participation and integrity in Honduras."

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-14-2021-administrator-samantha-power-visits-honduras>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/06/14/jefa-de-usaid-anuncia-inversion-en-honduras-de-usd-24-millones/>

The negotiations regarding a new minimum wage were suspended yesterday.

<https://proceso.hn/se-suspende-reunion-de-la-mesa-de-negociacion-del-salario-minimo/>

There is another prominent voice claiming that a vote for Nasry Asfura is a vote for the reelection of JOH. Former president Pepe Lobo said: "It is not fear, it is real the intention that he wants to remain in power by pushing Tito Asfura aside, or that Asfura goes, but it is the same thing, there is no difference in that matter, because Tito is JOH's candidate."

<https://confidencialhn.com/porfirio-lobo-reafirma-que-son-reales-las-intenciones-de-joh-para-quedarse-en-el-poder/>

The JOH regime claims to have rebuilt 65% of the retaining walls in the Sula Valley, destroyed by hurricanes Eta and Iota, with an investment of 400 million Lempiras.

<https://proceso.hn/segun-madero-gobierno-ha-invertido-l-400-millones-en-la-reconstruccion-de-bordos-del-valle-de-sula/>

15/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Corruption - IHSS; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Elections; US; Spain; Minimum Wage; and the Security Tax

We witnessed an important trial date in the case of David Castillo with the testimony of Bertha Zúniga Cáceres. Karen Spring highlights the main points of the day. "Bertha Zúniga Cáceres, Berta's daughter and the General Coordinator of COPINH, testified, mentioning her mother's warnings about how David Castillo was more dangerous than other DESA employees who directly threatened Berta. Zúniga Cáceres testified that the communities of Rio Blanco were not consulted about the Agua Zarca dam. She mentioned how at the end of 2015, her mom began speaking about putting together a will and getting life insurance.

Bertha Zúniga's testimony concluded the evidence presented by the Cáceres family legal teams (acusadores privados).

Castillo's defense team called their first witness, Ramon Rosa Rivera Perdomo, a teacher from San Francisco de Ojüera (the location of the dam's construction when it moved to the other side of the

Gualcarque river). Rivera Perdomo is a former DESA employee and since January 2015, part of the DESA-initiated Council for Management and Development of the communities of Northern Intibuca and southern Santa Barbara. Rivera Perdomo's described the consultation process carried out in the communities around the project and made clear his support for "renewable energy" and DESA's presence and contributions to development in his municipality. So far, it's unclear how this witness relates to Castillo and the defense's strategy, other than trying to show the alleged benefits of and conflicting opinions about the Agua Zarca dam's construction."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/15/day-thirty-nine-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://criterio.hn/en-juicio-contracastillo-hija-de-berta-caceres-relata-persecucion-queenfrento-defensora-previo-a-su-asesinato/>

La Vía Campesina warns of the effects by the newest ZEDE planed in Choluteca on local farmers and he fears that they would be evicted from their lands.

There is more criticism regarding the recent decision by the Supreme Court on the ZEDEs (see yesterday). "The resolution of the Supreme Court of Justice that creates a special jurisdiction in the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) closes all possibilities of claims before the Judiciary to rescue the sovereignty of the territories ceded by the "traitors of the homeland", said former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana on Tuesday."

<https://tiempo.hn/via-campesina-zede-en-choluteca/>

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-ya-no-podran-acudir-a-la-csj-para-rescatar-la-soberania-edmundo-orellana/>

CESPAD looks for similarities in the corruption cases involving high-level officials.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/15/que-tienen-en-comun-los-casos-de-corrupcion-que-vincula-a-altos-funcionarios-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 249'118 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6674 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/sinager-cifra-en-6-mil-674-las-muertes-y-en-249-mil-118-los-contagios-de-covid-en-honduras/>

"The renowned doctor Ligia Ramos of the Medical Association of Honduras and fighter in the Platform in Defense of Health and Public Education, said in a television forum in the capital, that she was forced to leave the country after receiving death threats."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/doctora-ligia-ramos-abandono-el-pais-tras-recibir-amenazas-a-muerte/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2988-honduras-dra-ligia-ramos-en-exilio-acusa-que-gobierno-ordeno-asesinarla>

The two accused in the newest line of investigation into the IHSS corruption case were sent to pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7878-prision-preventiva-contrainvolucrados-en-nuevo-caso-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss>

"The presidential candidate of the Honduran National Opposition Unity (UNOH), Doris Gutiérrez, warned this Tuesday that some 500 thousand votes from rural areas will not be transmitted immediately in the general elections, because there is no technology to do so in those parts of the country. According to Gutiérrez, there are many communities in the country that do not even have electric power and, according to calculations, some 500 thousand votes from those rural areas will not be transmitted immediately in the November 28 elections and there is a risk that the same will happen in 2017."

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-500-mil-votos-rurales-no-seran-transmitidos-inmediatamente-el-dia-de-las-elecciones-preve-doris-gutierrez/>

"On the heels of Vice-President Harris' first trip to Central America, over 130 organizations in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and the United States are urging Congress to "re-consider several key aspects" of U.S. economic development assistance towards the region. A "good-faith effort" by the U.S. to address the root causes of forced migration from Central America, they wrote in a letter to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, "would begin with a process of awareness and accountability for how the United States has, historically and in recent years, contributed to the current conditions in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala that continues to cause thousands of people to have to leave their homes in order to survive."

<https://cispes.org/article/over-130-organizations-join-letter-congress-amidst-discussions-biden-funding-request-urge>

"The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) signed an agreement on Tuesday with the European Union (EU) for more than 9.2 million euros (11.2 million dollars) to support the Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Program in the Dry Corridor (Eurosan) in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/la-cooperacion-espanola-y-la-ue-apoyaran-la-seguridad-alimentaria-en-honduras/>

The minimum wage should increase by 4%-8% on July 1, 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/aumento-al-salario-minimo-entre-el-4-y-8-a-partir-del-1-de-julio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-fija-aumento-al-salario-minimo-entre-el-4-y-8-a-partir-del-1-de-julio/>

"The lack of transparency and the application of secrecy in matters of public interest, exacerbate Honduras' uninterrupted. The investment of the Security Tax is on the list of unsolved mysteries."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/15/vehiculos-comprados-con-tasa-de-seguridad-en-poder-de-funcionarios-de-elite/>

16/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; HRDs - OFRANEH; US - JOH; Journalists - Women's Rights; Corruption; COVID-19; Elections; Armed Forces; Minimum Wage; and Militarization

Day 40 of the trial against David Castillo took place. "The defense's witness Ramon Rosa Rivera Perdomo finished on the stand testifying that Castillo had a good relationship with communities in San Francisco de Ojüera and admitting that he (Rivera Perdomo) did not have knowledge of the indigenous ancestry of Rio Blanco or San Francisco de Ojüera, creating doubt about his insistence that free, prior, informed consent was obtained in the communities affected by the Agua Zarca dam.

The defense called another witness, investigative police officer Juan Carlos Cruz who explained, in a very confusing manner, a line of investigation involving an audio file that made reference to the murder of a woman that "had problems with mayors in Intibucá" and a red vehicle allegedly used during the crime. Cruz briefly outlined how his team followed this line of investigation but it was later not continued by the Attorney General's office. This witness seems to be part of the defense's strategy to show that Honduran investigators did not explore all important and relevant lines of investigation, and instead focused on their client."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/16/day-forty-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/06/16/copinh-bajo-espionaje-revela-juicio-por-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

"The head of the Executive Power, Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, delivered this Wednesday to the representatives of the so-called "Employment and Economic Development" Zones (ZEDE), the agreement of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) containing the creation of the Special Courts."

"Lawyer Ramón Enrique Barrios, former judge of sentences and constitutional specialist, said on Radio Progreso that establishing a special jurisdiction that endorses the implementation of the Employment and Economic Development Zones, ZEDEs, by the Supreme Court of Justice, means breaking the jurisdictional unity of the State of Honduras so that judges from other parts of the world can impart justice to these ZEDEs. Barrios said that it is painful that the independence of the Judiciary is broken with the creation of these special courts, in that sense, he said, that the magistrates who voted in favor should be subjected to an impeachment trial."

Resistance against the ZEDEs got a new outlet yesterday with the founding of the National Movement Against ZEDEs and in Defense of National Sovereignty.

Lawyer Maribel Espinoza calls on civil disobedience as the only option now to fight the ZEDEs.

<https://confidencialhn.com/joha-satisfecho-por-tribunales-especiales-a-favor-de-inconstitucionales-zede-que-violan-la-soberania-e-integridad-territorial-de-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/demandan-juicio-politico-para-magistrados-que->

[votaron-a-favor-de-nuevos-tribunales-en-las-zedes/](#)

<https://criterio.hn/se-articulan-organizaciones-en-contras-de-las-zede-en-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1863-organizaciones-conforman-movimiento-nacional-contras-las-zedes-y-por-la-soberania-nacional>

<https://criterio.hn/el-unico-recurso-que-queda-frente-a-las-zede-es-la-desobediencia-civil-maribel-espinoza/>

"So far in 2021 the wave of legal proceedings against human rights defenders, especially environmental and territorial defenders, continues as a method of criminalization against opponents of extractive projects imposed in communities (...). Through monitoring, the Association for Democracy and Human Rights ASOPODEHU, registered so far this year, about 38 active criminal proceedings against defenders of territory and environment".

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3185-hay-38-procesos-judiciales-activos-en-2021-contras-defensores-ambientales-y-territoriales-en-honduras>

Miriam Miranda sent out an alert. "We alert! today was arrested the comrade Silvia Bonilla Flores, 73 years old, criminalized along with 32 other people in Trujillo, accused of usurpation of their own territory. We are persecuted by the criminal mafia that governs this country. ENOUGH NOW!"

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1405301322564448258>

<https://criterio.hn/capturan-a-mujer-garifuna-de-73-anos-por-defender-su-territorio-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

The US Chargé d'Affaires met with the Minister of Human Rights as well as with JOH himself, giving the latter an questionable opportunity for a photo-op.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1405337061650055171>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1405207631011143682>

"Feminist defenders explained how conservative thinking influences the promotion of women's rights, and how freedom of expression is undermined in the media. When they try to raise the issue, they face prejudice, harassment and attacks, just for breaking down the violence that women face in different spheres."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3186-segun-mujeres-comunicadoras-hay-serios-obstaculos-para-hablar-de-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-en-los-medios>

"The president of the College of High School Teachers of Honduras (Copemh), Fidel Garcia, denounced yesterday in a press conference that after an audit of the institution it has been found that in the last 12 years, the previous authorities promoted the looting of the funds of more than 30

thousand affiliates."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2990-honduras-copemh-denuncia-directivos-por-saqueo-de-60-millones-en-13-anos>

So far, there have been 249'931 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6691 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-roza-el-cuarto-de-millon-de-contagios-y-registra-6-mil-691-muertes-por-covid-19/>

Doctor Ligia Ramos, who left Honduras after receiving death threats (see yesterday), hopes to be able to return and continue her run for Congress. "She acknowledged that the death threat is related to her aspirations to run for elected office for the Partido Salvador de Honduras (PSH) and the constant denouncing statements she has issued."

<https://proceso.hn/doctora-ligia-ramos-descarta-abandonar-aspiraciones-politicas-por-amenazas-a-muerte/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-doctora-ligia-ramos-estaba-sentencia-de-muerte/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-seguridad-de-la-dra-ligia-ramos-esta-en-riesgo/>

Going back to the coup d'état in 2009, a military official was finally sentenced to 3.5 years in prison for the assault on Channel 36.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7881-sentenciado-coronel-de-las-ffaa-por-delito-contra-los-medios-de-comunicacion>

<https://confidencialhn.com/condenan-a-mas-de-tres-anos-de-reclusion-a-exoficial-por-asalto-a-canal-36/>

The recent minimum wage talks continue to raise criticism. "This increase in the minimum wage was made arbitrarily, mainly because of inflation and the purchasing power of workers, i.e., what households spend is greater than what they earn, Ismael Zepeda, an economist with the Honduran Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development (Fosdeh), told Criterio.hn."

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-ajuste-salarial-podria-producir-despidos-en-las-microempresas/>

CESPAD published a report written by Eugenio Sosa on "US security policy and militarization in Latin America in the context of democracy".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/16/la-politica-de-seguridad-de-los-estados-unidos-y-la-militarizacion-en-america-latina-en-el-contexto-de-la-democracia/>

17/06/21

Honduras Daily: Prisons; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; HRDs - OFRANEH; Corruption - Hermes; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Migration – US;

A terrible riot took place in the so-called maximum security prison La Tolva. At least 5 inmates died and 39 were injured. According to El Herald, a grenade exploded and different gang factions shot at each other for minutes.

Given the violence inside Honduras' prison system, Proceso Digital writes about "prisons of maximum INsecurity".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1471517-466/cinco-muertos-39-heridos-reyerta-la-tolva>

<https://confidencialhn.com/drama-de-familiares-de-privados-de-libertad-tras-conocer-el-listado-de-heridos/>

<https://proceso.hn/cinco-muertos-y-mas-de-30-heridos-en-la-tolva/>

<https://proceso.hn/carceles-de-maxima-inseguridad/>

Later it was said that only four people died.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-cuatro-sube-cifra-de-los-privados-de-libertad-fallecidos-en-reyerta-en-la-tolva/>

Karen Spring summarizes Day 41 of the David Castillo trial. "Castillo's defense team made a procedural error in not instructing their technical consultants (consultor tecnicos) to present their conclusions in the correct moment established by law. For the second day, the defense presents motions to insist that the court allow their consultants to present their conclusions – despite this meaning that the court would have to call all expert witnesses back to the court - basically requesting that the judges to violate clearly established legal procedures to, according to the defense, ensure Castillo's right to a defense. The court denies their motions.

The defense presented an analysis written by Ruben Chapas, who did not appear in court. Instead, the report was read by the secretary. It outlined how the prosecutor's telecommunications expert Brenda Barahona manipulated and altered evidence including taking messages out of context and ignoring messages that indicated that Berta was receiving threats from other sources (ex. mining companies). The presentation was complicated and used unintelligible words, making it difficult for observers to understand the details of the analysis.

Two of the defense's witnesses, Edgardo Jerezano Sarmiento (a lawyer) and Fabiola Zelaya Hernandez, will not give any declarations in the trial as originally planned. According to the defense, this is because they have been threatened."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/17/day-forty-one-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/berta-caceres-semilla-de-lucha-que-se-multiplico/>

"President Juan Hernandez held a meeting at the Government Civic Center (CCG) with the alleged investors that will shape the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs), despite the opposition of the business elite, complaints of violation of sovereignty and laws and protests from residents, he took the opportunity to deliver the Legislative Decree that reformed the Sales Tax Law (ISV) and the agreement of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) for the creation of "Special Courts."

More media outlets report on the newly created National Movement Against ZEDEs and for National Sovereignty (see also yesterday).

There is also ongoing critical reporting in corporate media outlets. "Rumors that the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) are a state within a state are increasing as more evidence to support this theory emerges. According to the legislation that gave life to the ZEDEs, those who run the controversial model cities will not only have the power to designate their own justice system, but will also be able to set up their own police, prosecutors, hospitals and even schools."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2995-honduras-joh-da-la-cara-por-zedes-y-entrega-ley-inconstitucional-a-inversionistas>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/forman-movimiento-nacional-contra-las-zedes/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/17/se-instaura-movimiento-nacional-contras-las-zedes-se-anuncian-masivas-protestas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1471438-466/zede-policia-fiscalia-hospitales-escuelas-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/con-las-zede-los-hondurenos-enfrentan-un-proyecto-piloto-mundial/>

COFADEH requested special protective measures by the IACHR for defender and Doctor Ligia Ramos (see last two days).

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/solicitan-a-la-cidh-medidas-de-proteccion-para-doctora-ligia-ramos/>

EU Parliamentarian Tilly Metz reacted to the recent arrest of Garífuna defender Silvia Bonilla Flores (see yesterday). "I express my full support to Silvia Bonilla Flores, 73, who was detained by the police yesterday. She is criminalized together with 32 others for defending their ancestral land against exploitation. This systematic persecution against the Garífuna people has to stop!"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/17/alerta-policia-detiene-a-defensora-garifuna-de-73-anos-por-defender-su-territorio-ancestral/>

<https://twitter.com/MetzTilly/status/1405447722950352896>

"In an oral and public trial, the Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Combating Public Corruption (FETCCOP), obtained a conviction against eight municipal officials of the mayor's office of Choloma, Cortés for corruption. (...) For this, the Choloma mayor's office paid this

company a total of 26.4 million lempiras, despite the fact that the company was created 53 days before it was hired to carry out this work and that it had only one employee."

<https://confidencialhn.com/condenan-a-funcionarios-de-la-alcaldia-de-choloma-por-pagos-millonarios-a-empresas-de-fachada/>

Yesterday, the initial hearing in the Hermes corruption trial concluded. Trial was opened against seven of the accused while the charges were dropped against 4.

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1405410855446003713>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1405761546806972418>

So far, there have been 251'149 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6719 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-6719-muertos-y-251149-contagios-por-covid-19-desde-2020/>

"The nurses of the Hospital de Especialidades Pediátricas "María", in Tegucigalpa, held a protest this Thursday demanding respect for their labor rights."

<https://confidencialhn.com/enfermeras-de-hospital-maria-demandan-respeto-a-sus-derechos-laborales/>

Honduras received the third batch of vaccine doses through the COVAX mechanism, 212'940 doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

<https://www.paho.org/es/noticias/17-6-2021-honduras-recibe-212940-dosis-vacunas-pfizer-tercera-entrega-covax>

"Attorney General Merrick B. Garland reversed on Wednesday Trump-era immigration rulings that had made it all but impossible for people to seek asylum in the United States over credible fears of domestic abuse or gang violence, marking one of the Justice Department's most significant breaks with the previous administration. (...) The decisions — applicable to all cases in the system, including appeals — will affect tens of thousands of migrants. Hundreds of thousands of Central Americans fleeing gang extortion and recruitment and women fleeing domestic abuse have arrived in the United States since 2013, and many cases are still being adjudicated, given an enormous backlog in immigration courts."

Additionally, the "State Department and Department of Homeland Security announced this week that they are expanding eligibility for legal migration to the U.S. for some minors from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. The Central American Minors (CAM) program allows immigrant parents or U.S.-based guardians with legal status in the country to petition for their children's resettlement in the U.S. The Biden administration restarted the program in March after a four-year halt."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/16/us/politics/asylum-domestic-abuse-gang-violence.html>

<https://www.voanews.com/usa/immigration/us-expands-migration-eligibility-some-central-american-minors>

18/06/21

Honduras Daily: Prisons; SSF - Represion; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Corruption - Uverco; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines; Migration; Elections - Opposition; Armed Forces; and Alcohol Poisoning

After Thursday's riot at La Tolva, the total of inmates having been killed inside prisons this year rose to 8. In the last decade, 240 inmates were murdered.

OACNUDH visited the prison to document the riot. The official death toll was revised to 4 (not five as reported yesterday). They call for an investigation into what happened.

The Association of Relatives of Prisoners calls for the immediate intervention of penitentiary centers.

Instead of addressing the problems, the JOH regime through the National Anti-Maras and Pandilla Task Force and through the Military Police attacked NGOs working on prisoners' rights.

<https://proceso.hn/en-la-ultima-decada-240-privados-de-libertad-fueron-asesinados-en-carceles-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1406058399746428931>

<https://proceso.hn/oacnudh-pide-investigar-uso-de-armas-de-fuego-en-carceles-hondurenas/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ante-ingobernabilidad-piden-intervenir-los-centros-penales/>

<https://proceso.hn/defensores-de-ddhh-y-ongs-reciben-dinero-de-maras-y-pandillas-acusa-comandante-de-la-fnamp/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1471815-466/honduras-maras-pandillas-derechos-humanos-tolva>

The Honduras Solidarity Network reported on police repression. "Right now, state security forces are firing live rounds & tear gas at protesters in San Pedro Sula who are demanding that the government reconstruct the levees on the rivers that flooded thousands of homes during the two hurricanes last year".

ConfidencialHN also reported on an incident of police violence. ""It was natural, I did not think about it, I just put my body as a shield when I saw that my father was being assaulted" said one of the sons of Marco Orellana, the man whose video went viral, since it is possible to observe the National Police officers with excessive use of force against the father and his two children. Orellana said that it all started when he saw that a policeman hit his young son being a minor, the action generated indignation and when he complained to the aggressor, the response he received was a beating, seconds later Marco's other son rushed on his father to protect him with his body, however he was also brutally beaten."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1405893496309829634>

<https://confidencialhn.com/con-gas-lacrimogenos-policia-nacional-desaloja-protestantes-en-zona-norte-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/les-dimos-el-voto-nosotros-se-los-podemos-quitar-dice-padre-brutalmente-agredido-en-chamelecon/>

Day 42 of the David Castillo trial took place. "The defense presented Honduran lawyer, Jonathan Murillo, to testify as an expert on the topic of cellular data extraction. Murillo extracted data from the LG phone seized by investigative police, including Juan Carlos Cruz (who testified on day 40). The LG phone included an audio file was recovered from protected witnesses in Santa Barbara referring to murdering a woman because she opposed a dam (tiene que reventar esa señora ... se opone a un central). Murillo found that the chain of custody of the LG phone, once in police custody, had been violated and audio files had been deleted and were impossible to recover. It appears that the purpose of his testimony was to advance the defense's argument that Berta faced threats from other sources and to raises questions about how the investigators handled evidence and made decisions to not explore this line of investigation and it's relevance to Berta's murder."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/18/day-forty-two-trial-against-david-castillo>

"In a press release, the Diocese of La Ceiba made a strong call to its parishioners to mobilize and participate as citizens against the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), a project that "smells illegal and unconstitutional from the root".

"For former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana, Article 45 of the Organic Law of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) is the "Gordian knot" for the repeal of Decree 120-2013 approved by the National Congress. (...) The article in question establishes that the Organic Law of the ZEDE, in accordance with Article 329 of the Constitution, which was amended in order to create these special territories, "may only be modified, amended, interpreted or repealed by two thirds (2/3) in favor of the members of the National Congress", i.e. with at least 84 deputies."

The people of La Ceiba try the way of a town hall meeting. ""The expectation we have is that the voice of the people will be heard and to demonstrate that things should not be done as officials intend just because they are in power but based on the law, the population will attend because it is not a problem of an organization but of the whole country in general," said Alba Cano of the Organized Social Movement, MOSO, of La Ceiba, Atlántida, on Radio Progreso."

Last but not least, the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) together with the Association of Mayors of Honduras demand the derogation of the decrees giving life to the ZEDes.

<https://criterio.hn/zede-desde-la-raiz-huele-a-ilegalidad-e-inconstitucionalidad-diocesis-de-la-ceiba/>

<https://proceso.hn/diocesis-de-la-ceiba-dice-que-las-zedes-son-un-proyecto-perverso-y-llama-a-manifestarse-en-su-contr/>

<https://criterio.hn/articulo-45-de-ley-de-las-zede-el-nudo-gordiano-legado-por-los-traidores-a-la->

patria-edmundo-orellana/

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/todo-listo-en-la-ceiba-para-el-cabildo-abierto-y-decidir-el-futuro-de-las-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-de-abogados-y-asociacion-de-alcaldes-de-honduras-exigen-derogacion-de-las-zede/>

<https://madj.org/2021/06/18/las-zedes-atentan-contr-la-soberania-y-biodiversidad-ambiental-y-cultural-del-departamento-de-atlantida/>

There are some very worrisome news from UFERCO coordinator Luis Santos. The MP seems to intimidate him and his fellow prosecutor Juan Carlos Griffin just one day after important progress with the Hermes corruption case linked to JOH.

Additionally, "[t]he Special Prosecutorial Unit Against Impunity and Corruption (UFECIC), together with the Support Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), left some 50 corruption investigations underway in the country. But they are paralyzed because there are no auditors and prosecutors to move towards the prosecution of the cases; the magnitude of the information of each investigation is so extensive that it is impossible for the 5 forensic auditors who are currently part of the Special Prosecutorial Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), to take up these cases. More personnel is needed to thoroughly investigate the crimes, to obtain evidence to support the allegations and facts, and that can be conclusive evidence in a trial. To achieve this, the Attorney General should assign more auditors and prosecutors to UFERCO."

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1405940314796441603>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1405940320806838277>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2999-honduras-11-enjuiciados-por-hermes-con-detencion-judicial-y-otras-medidas>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/18/50-investigaciones-de-corrupcion-que-no-avanzan-porque-no-hay-auditores-fiscales-en-la-uferco/>

The MP asks to bring to trial the case of the mobile hospitals.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1405942693952462850

Honduras will receive a vaccine donations from Mexico after all, 154'100 doses of AstraZeneca. Meanwhile, 86'400 doses of AstraZeneca bought by the IHSS arrived yesterday. In May, the first 204'000 doses arrived in three batches and now the same is scheduled to happen again. In total, the IHSS bought 1.4 million doses.

<https://proceso.hn/mexico-donara-154-mil-100-vacunas-de-astrazeneca-hacia-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/llegan-86-mil-400-dosis-de-astrazeneca-como-parte-del-segundo-lote-de->

[compra-del-ihss/](#)

"Save the Children worked with renowned writer, screenwriter, and film director Guillermo Arriaga and the comic book artist Humberto Ramos to tell the story of Central American child migrants in a new comic, ANA, which launches today. ANA is the story of a girl who flees from Honduras to save her and her family's life. Together they embark on the painful path of forced migration to the United States. Through the narrative and the images, readers enter a reality that thousands of girls, boys, and teenagers live every year on the American continent."

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/comic-tells-harsh-hopeful-story-young-migrant-ana>

"Doris Gutiérrez, presidential candidate for the National Opposition Unity for Honduras (UNOH), expressed her concern due to the fact that the National Electoral Council (CNE) has not certified the coalition between the social democrat Innovation and Unity (Pinu) and the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSD)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/18/alianza-entre-nasralla-y-pinu-preocupados-porque-autoridad-electoral-no-los-inscribe/>

"The Local Prosecutor's Office of Marcala obtained the arrest of the active military officer, Luis Fernando Ramos López, who was captured for allegedly being responsible for the crime of homicide to the detriment of Rubén Antonio Martínez."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7905-militar-es-capturado-por-homicidio-en-san-jose-la-paz>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/06/18/yuscaran-aguardiente-que-contamina/>

19/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; HRDs - OFRANEH; Violence against Women; SSF - Repression; Prisons; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Forced Displacement; and Disappearing Languages

"In a short hearing today, Castillo's defense team raised an issue with the accreditation process of the prosecutor's technical consultant brought in to assist them in questioning the defense's data extraction expert, Jonathan Murillo. The court ruled that the consultant would be permitted to participate after his credentials were reviewed by the court. The defense's expert will continue on the stand on Monday at 9 am."

COPINH published a press release on the trial.

Castillo's defense still claims that there is not sufficient proof to sentence him.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/19/day-forty-three-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/comunicado-el-copinh-hace-un-llamado-a-las-autoridades-correspondientes-la-investigacion-de-los-hechos-de-seguimiento-senalados-por-la-defensa-del-imputado-david-castillo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1471908-466/defensa-david-castillo-espera-sentencia-absolutoria-crimen-berta-caceres-ambientalista-juicio>

A town hall meeting in La Ceiba on the ZEDEs had to canceled as the National Party sent its activist to disturb the proceedings.

MADJ tweeted two hours later that the people said no to the ZEDEs, so I imagine it took place with some delay.

There is more critical reporting on the ZEDEs in El Herald.

<https://twitter.com/DeHondurasHN/status/1406288132027392007>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1406318850623348738>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1471823-466/zedes-expropiacion-honduras>

The 73-year old Garífuna defender Silvia Bonilla Flores will face a hearing on June 29 and 30 (see previous days).

In a related case, ConexiHon reports on a recent IACtHR resolution expressing "its concern over the non-compliance with the judgments issued in 2015 in the cases of the Garifuna community of Punta Piedra and Triunfo de la Cruz, the referred judgments declare the international responsibility of the Republic of Honduras for the violation of the right to collective property to the detriment of both communities".

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1405571119713763329>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1865-corte-idh-manifiesta-preocupacion-ante-incumplimiento-del-estado-de-honduras-en-sentencia-a-favor-de-comunidades-garifunas>

The MP has received at least 4000 complaints for "domestic violence" so far this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-la-fiscalia-ha-recibido-al-menos-cuatro-mil-denuncias-de-violencia-domestica-en-2021/>

ContraCorriente has more details on the repression by state security forces on Friday against the inhabitants of Chamelecón. "Hundreds of residents of one of the largest and most vulnerable sectors of San Pedro Sula gathered on the morning of Friday, June 18 to request the government to repair the protective embankments. In response they were gassed and beaten."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/18/brutalidad-e-indiferencia-estatal-reciben-pobladores-de-chamelecon-que-exigian-reparacion-de-los-bordos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the verbal attacks by the JOH regime on human rights

organizations working on prisoners' rights (see yesterday).

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3188-ffaa-responde-con-campana-de-desprestigio-cprtrt-llama-al-mp-investigar-muertes-de-privados-de-libertad>

So far, there have been 253'128 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6759 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-6-mil-759-decesos-y-253-mil-128-contagios-por-covid-19/>

El Libertador criticizes that the JOH regime increased the time span between receiving the first Sputnik V shot and the second one to three months.

Another 81'600 AstraZeneca doses purchased by the IHSS arrived in Honduras yesterday.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3002-honduras-salud-juega-con-vidas-aplicaria-segunda-sputnik-en-agosto>

<https://proceso.hn/salud-confirma-aplicara-la-segunda-dosis-de-vacuna-sputnik-v-hasta-tres-meses-despues/>

<https://proceso.hn/arriba-otro-lote-de-81-mil-600-de-vacunas-astrazeneca-para-el-ihss/>

The International Red Cross informs about forced displacement in Honduras.

<https://www.icrc.org/es/document/honduras-desplazadas>

<https://proceso.hn/lenguas-maternas-hondurenas-a-punto-de-desaparecer/>

20/06/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration; Spain; Violence;

So far, there have been 253'875 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6766 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-253-mil-875-casos-positivos-y-6-mil-766-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Medical experts continue to criticize the JOH regime's plan to extend the waiting period between two Sputnik V shots to three months (see also yesterday).

<https://proceso.hn/aplicar-segunda-dosis-pide-gremio-medico-que-tilda-de-espejismo-estrategia-de-alargar-inoculacion/>

12% of all global asylum requests come from people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/20/se-disparan-solicitudes-de-asilo-del-triangulo-norte-12-a-escala-global-en-2021/>

Spain wants more Honduran strawberry pickers.

<https://proceso.hn/espana-solicita-mayor-numero-de-personas-para-el-proyecto-piloto-de-contratacion-en-origen-en-honduras/>

The Liberal mayor of Yamaranguila, Intibucá, José Lorenzo Bejarano Rodríguez, was murdered.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1472200-466/matan-alcalde-yaramanguila-jose-bejarano>

21/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, US; ZEDEs; ILO; SSF - Repression; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines; JOH; Migration; Elections - Opposition; and a 200 Lempiras Bill

Karen Spring highlights the main points of Day 44 of the David Castillo trial. "Today, Jonathan Murillo, the defense's data extraction expert, continued on the stand. Both the lawyers for the Cáceres family and the prosecution team managed to create some doubt about Murillo's analysis including that one of the key audio files was oddly not transcribed for the court and that the date that the LG phone was obtained by state investigations, questions the authenticity of the audio file (this is the subject of another legal case against two investigative police for falsifying evidence). This in turn, created doubt about the defense's argument that the audio file suggests there were other threats against Berta Cáceres that were not pursued by authorities."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/21/day-forty-four-trial-against-david-castillo>

"On her recent trip to Guatemala and Mexico, Vice President Kamala Harris drove home two points: that potential immigrants to the U.S. should "stay home," and that the Biden administration will not tolerate corruption, which it sees as a major barrier to development in the region. (...) The U.S. government has generally been on the wrong side of history when it comes to combating corruption in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador — the three Central American countries that currently account for most migration to the United States. It has backed powerful economic and political interests in the region, to the point of overturning elected governments and funding death squads. (...) Then there's the selective nature of how U.S. anti-corruption campaigns are applied. It's significant that Harris didn't make a stop in Honduras, despite the fact that Hondurans account for the majority of Central American migrants. The reason is simple: a photo-op with the Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez would be an embarrassing reflection of the administration's double standard on anti-corruption. (...) A high-profile trial winding up in Tegucigalpa will be an important sign of Honduras' commitment to rule of law and whether or not that matters to the Biden administration. David Castillo, a Honduran former military intelligence agent and CEO of Desarrollos Energéticos, SA (DESA), is accused of playing a central role in the 2016 murder of

internationally renowned indigenous land defender Berta Cáceres."

<https://fpif.org/the-trial-of-berta-caceress-murderer-will-test-bidens-central-america-policy/>

<https://fpif.org/the-trial-of-berta-caceress-murderer-will-test-bidens-central-america-policy/>

There was some confusion regarding the town hall meeting in La Ceiba on a planned ZEDE (see last days). It appears that it took place after all, but there are still questions about its legality. The citizens of La Ceiba will now present the result, a clear rejection of the ZEDEs, to the municipality. The list of opponents of the ZEDEs grows longer every day. "The Association of Pastors of Tegucigalpa (APT) spoke out against the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE). Through a press release, the pastors stated their position against the ZEDE, "since they lack legality, transparency and social justice for the Honduran people".

"The professors at the Faculty of Juridical Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), through a public letter on Monday stated its position regarding the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE). Among other conclusions, the university professors point out that the government initiative is unconstitutional."

The professors also announced legal actions against the ZEDEs.

Proceso Digital also published another critical article on the topic. "In the year of the bicentennial, the project of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs), brings up again the issue of sovereignty and enclaves, identity and human rights, as well as the use of natural resources, to the extent of ensuring that, 200 years after independence, Honduras still has not achieved an identity and seems to turn to the figure of the enclaves, from banana and mining in the last century, to the ZEDEs in the present century."

<https://radioprogresohn.net/portada/asi-fue-el-cabildo-donde-la-ceiba-dijo-no-a-las-ciudades-modelo/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/solicitan-a-alcaldia-de-la-ceiba-refrendar-decision-tomada-contra-las-zedes/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/portada/alcalde-ceibeno-da-la-espalda-al-pueblo-al-no-validar-cabildo-en-rechazo-a-las-ciudades-modelo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1472471-466/pastores-capital-oponen-zede-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pastores-de-tegucigalpa-se-pronuncian-en-contra-de-las-zede-y-demandan-exigir-en-las-calles-la-derogacion-de-la-ley/>

<https://proceso.hn/claustro-de-profesores-de-derecho-de-la-unah-senalan-que-zedes-son-inconstitucionales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ante-violaciones-constitucionales-de-las-zedes-la-unah-anuncia-acciones-judiciales/>

<https://proceso.hn/bicentenario-honduras-a-las-puertas-de-un-enclave/>

The JOH regime was questioned last week at the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva. "This time the conclusions of the ILO on Convention 169 and the State of Honduras led the Commission to take note with concern of reports of assassinations and forced disappearances of representatives and members of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3004-gobierno-espanta-inversion-limpia-zedes-atacan-convenio-sobre-derechos-indigenas-y-afrohondurenos>

"Two years ago a police patrol attacked some young people, among them Junior Alfredo Godoy Velásquez, who will face the courts this June 21, accused by human rights violators."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/victima-de-policia-enfrentara-juicio-oral-y-publico-como-victimario/>

So far, there have been 254'194 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6772 confirmed deaths.

The death toll according to the Funeral Homes Association is at 15'000 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-anade-319-casos-y-seis-decesos-por-coronavirus-en-dia-466-de-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/gobierno-sigue-generando-desconfianza-en-numero-de-muertes-por-covid-19/>

The case against Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes for the purchase of the mobile hospitals will go to trial.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1407114988230262792

<https://proceso.hn/marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-a-juicio-oral-por-caso-de-hospitales-moviles/>

The JOH regime has only vaccinated 0.6% of its population so far.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-solo-ha-vacunado-0-6-del-total-de-la-poblacion/>

JOH announced visits to Germany, Israel and Spain for this week starting in Munich tomorrow.

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-hernandez-visitara-esta-semana-alemania-israel-y-espana/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1472443-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-joh-viaje-alemania-espana-israel-agenda-gira-honduras>

"On the occasion of World Refugee Day, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) notes the persistence of challenges and the intensification of new factors that demand the protection and guarantee of the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and persons in need of

protection in the region. In this regard, the IACHR calls on the States of the region to adopt measures based on a human rights and intersectionality approach to ensure the comprehensive protection of asylum seekers, refugees and persons in need of protection."

<https://criterio.hn/cidh-llama-a-los-estados-a-adoptar-medidas-para-la-proteccion-de-los-derechos-humanos-de-personas-solicitantes-de-asilo/>

CESPAD published an analysis on the use of public funds for political campaigns by the National Party. "During the 2017 election year, the central government of Honduras increased the budget for propaganda and advertising from 32.2 to 83.4 million lempiras. To achieve this, the Executive Branch used a portion of the "tax expenditure" to promote the figure of the President of the Republic, Juan Orlando Hernández, through the Law for the Rescue, Promotion and Development of the Communications Sector (Decree No. 86-2013 dated May 21, 2013) in mass media such as television, radio and written press. To date and in view of the 2021 elections process, this Law is still in force."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/21/analisis-por-que-en-las-elecciones-2021-la-publicidad-estatal-podria-continuar-favoreciendo-al-candidato-del-partido-de-gobierno/>

Some observers still believe that there is a chance for the not-united-opposition to defeat the National Party at the general elections in November. "According to Sosa, there is enormous discontent in society and a huge rejection of how the administration of President Juan Orlando Hernandez has handled the coronavirus pandemic, the promotion of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (Zedes) and the increase of poverty by more than 70 percent and extreme poverty to 50 percent."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/21/afirman-que-lideres-opositores-tienen-posibilidades-de-derrotar-al-oficialismo/>

<https://proceso.hn/nuevo-billete-de-200-lempiras-creara-presion-que-derivara-en-aumento-de-precios-advierte-economista/>

22/06/21

Honduras Daily: Social Protest; Berta - Trial; ZEDES; ILO; Drug Trafficking - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Journalists, Corruption; Elections - Opposition; Violence; Migration - Education; Prisons; and Failed Interventions

Next Monday, an important webinar will take place on "Social Protest and the Criminalization of Political Opposition in Honduras".

Also on this topic, the Protest Observatory published its report on the first trimester of this year. "During the first 90 days of the year, Hondurans carried out a social protest action every 34 hours, voicing different social demands, in nine of the 18 departments of Honduras."

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQug1QcMce5Qi8WICg4wQJHuLeIzVoZ0U0uj2jXfLjYDd6UQ/viewform>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/gestion-del-conocimiento/boletines/1369-observatorio-de-protesta>

The criminalization of social protest was also made evident again yesterday. "Student leader Hery Flores was arrested and has been sent to prison for 6 days while he waits his initial hearing. Flores is accused of aggravated arson stemming from 2019 protests against the privatization of healthcare & education":

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1407556038870454275>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-dpi-captura-a-estudiante-universitario-hery-flores/>

Day 45 of the David Castillo trial took place yesterday. "The prosecutors ask the court to not admit the expert testimony of the defense's telecommunications expert Shaun Vodden arguing that parts of his analysis were submitted to the court in English and not in Spanish as is required. The prosecutors also complained that some of the submitted files could not be opened and thus accessed by all parties. The court took several hours to review all submitted files and ruled that the English translator sworn in to translate Vodden's testimony would spend tomorrow translating parts of Vodden's analysis that were not submitted in Spanish. The judges also ruled that all parties would spend part of tomorrow reviewing the files submitted by Vodden to ensure that all had a copy of all files (in Spanish) prior to hearing Vodden's expert testimony."

"Amnesty International's Americas director, Erika Guevara Rosas, said Tuesday that "we will not rest until justice is guaranteed for Berta" Cáceres and "protection for her family" and the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (Copinh)."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/22/day-forty-five-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://criterio.hn/no-descansaremos-hasta-que-se-garantice-justicia-para-berta-directora-de-amnistia-internacional/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3191-organizaciones-internacionales-piden-evitar-actos-de-acoso-hacia-las-victimas-y-defensores-del-caso-de-berta-caceres>

Much has been written about the ZEDES lately. All of this should not let us forget the following: "As much as the ZEDES have been approved by the National Congress and declared constitutional by a spurious sentence of the Constitutional Chamber, they are still unconstitutional. Like the prohibition of presidential reelection, the articles referring to the national territory are contained in a immutable clause, that is to say, that cannot be modified in any case according to article 374 of the Constitution."

And there may be additional legal problems. "The Honduran Academy of Geography and History of Honduras has raised its voice against the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE),

questioning that these "exclusive cities" are unconstitutional and even violate the first paragraph of the Absolute Independence Act of 1823. The historic document in question, signed in the context of the separation of Honduras and the Central American region from the Mexican Empire, states that the national territory is free and independent of "the former Spain, Mexico and any other power, both from the old and the new world, and that they are not and should not be the patrimony of any person or family".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/las-zedes-son-ilegales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3007-honduras-zedes-violan-leyes-aprobadas-por-padres-de-la-patria-historiadores>

<https://criterio.hn/academia-hondurena-de-geografia-e-historia-se-pronuncia-en-contra-de-las-zede/>

As part of the ILO examination (see yesterday), the JOH regime accepted the visit of an ILO mission.

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_804447.pdf

https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/109/committees/standards/individual-cases/cases/WCMS_800659/lang--en/index.htm

"Today, Judge Kevin Castel, who has been in charge of the cases of several Hondurans who have been charged in the Court for the Southern District of New York for drug trafficking crimes, presented a document called "Opinion and Order" in which he established the legal arguments and a summary of the evidence presented during the trial of Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez, an alleged businessman who operated in the northern part of Honduras. By means of said arguments the judge denied the request presented by Fuentes' defense on April 23, in which they requested a new trial for their client, who was found guilty of three crimes of drug trafficking and use of machine guns and destructive devices for the distribution of cocaine to the United States, said judge was also in charge of the case of drug trafficker and former deputy for the National Party of Honduras Juan Antonio Hernandez."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/06/22/juez-kevin-castel-niega-solicitud-de-un-nuevo-juicio-a-socio-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/juez-niega-repetir-juicio-a-narcotraficante-hondureno-geovany-fuentes/>

So far, there have been 255'117 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6818 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-923-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-255-mil-117-contagios-de-covid-19/>

With the pandemic still raging in Honduras, health experts once again call on Hondurans to not

expose themselves to the virus and to protect themselves.

"The College of Microbiologists of Honduras, through the epidemiologist and spokesperson of the institution, Miriam Aguilera, has suggested this afternoon that the Central District (Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela), should be closed due to the high incidence of Covid-19 infections."

<https://proceso.hn/no-hay-cupos-en-hospitales-no-sigan-exponiendose-en-la-calle-edwin-cruz/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3008-microbiologos-urgen-cierre-de-capital-hondurena-por-descontrol-covid>

Hondurans waited for hours in line in Tegucigalpa hoping to get vaccinated. Proceso Digital called it a "chaos".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1472478-466/vacuna-covid-19-honduras-lentitud>

<https://proceso.hn/caos-por-vacunacion-anticovid-mientras-salud-recuerda-programar-cita-en-linea/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that "there is no real access to vaccines or benefits for journalists, especially for community and independent journalists who are ignored by the authorities in their own municipalities or towns, during the crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic".

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3190-periodistas-comunitarios-e-independientes-estan-quedando-excluidos-de-la-vacunacion-contra-covid19>

CESPAD published a 50-page report on corruption during the pandemic and the challenges of UFERCO.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Contexto-corrupcion-WEB.pdf>

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy published a report on changes to democratic space in Honduras during the last four years. "After the 2015 court ruling, presidential reelection was enabled, which further eroded the democratic rule of law and increased political tension in the country, sharpening the pre-electoral polarization and provoking a post-electoral crisis with serious human rights violations, which had been inherited from the 2009 coup d'état. The irregularities and deficiencies, before, during and after Election Day, and the narrow margin of the results, generated distrust and doubts. This situation affects confidence in the political-electoral institutions, undermines the legitimacy of the electoral process, closes the civic space, increases conflict and generates serious problems of democratic governance." It is important to add that many observers question the legality of the court ruling at the basis of JOH's reelection. Additionally, the 2017 elections were widely seen as fraudulent.

https://proceso.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Cambios-en-el-Espacio-Democratico-y-Pandemia_NIMD-Honduras.pdf

The president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortes (CCIC), and vocal critique of JOH, Pedro Barquero announced to step down to become the coordinator of Salvador de Honduras

Party by Salvador Nasralla.

According to political analysts Raúl Pineda, all comes down to mobilization in the general elections. With a high voter turnout, the opposition will win, otherwise the Nationalist candidate will make the race.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1472650-466/pedro-barquero-renuncia-presidencia-ccic>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/22/analista-augura-que-asfura-sera-derrotado-con-participacion-masiva-en-elecciones/>

The JOH regime, through the Ministry of Security, unconvincingly claims that the homicide rate is at its lowest in 15 years.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tasa-de-homicidios-es-la-mas-baja-en-los-ultimos-quince-anos-alejandra-hernandez/>

"So far in 2021, around 26,088 Hondurans have been deported, of which some 2,204 are minors, with Mexico being the country that expels the most Hondurans, according to data from the Consular and Migration Observatory of Honduras (Conmigho)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/22/mas-de-26-mil-hondurenos-han-sido-deportados-se-anuncia-nueva-caravana-migrante/>

"As of May of this year, 4,300 children have dropped out of school and 50% of this figure has been due to displacement, 30% due to migration and the other 20% due to internal displacement in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/el-50-de-la-desercion-escolar-en-honduras-es-debido-a-la-migracion-y-al-desplazamiento-interno/>

CONADEH highlights the problems with the militarization of the prisons as evidenced by the recent deadly riot last week.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1866-militarizacion-de-carceles-en-honduras-evidencian-las-graves-violaciones-a-los-derechos>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/21/joh-nombro-17-interventoras-en-ocho-anos-muchas-expectativas-y-nulos-resultados>

23/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Miskito; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Corruption; Israel; Migration; Violence; Domestic Workers; Prisons;

Karen Spring highlights the main points of Day 46 of the David Castillo trial. " Today, the prosecution asked the court to reconsider yesterday's decision about admitting the defense's telecommunications expert witness and analysis. The prosecution again argued that many documents were in English and that the printed version of the analysis differs from the digital version. The court maintained their decision and convened the defense's expert and his English translator for tomorrow at 9 am."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/23/day-forty-six-trial-against-david-castillo>

"In the opinion of the former Attorney General, Edmundo Orellana Mercado, the Public Prosecutor's Office should abandon its "slumber" and proceed to criminally accuse the Good Practices Committee for granting the so-called Special Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs)." A former Libre presidential candidate, Nelson Ávila, demanded from the MP to file an injunction for being the main sponsor of the unconstitutional ZEDEs.

Additionally, ASJ warned yesterday that Honduras is exposed to economic and human rights sanctions through the promotion of the ZEDEs.

A protest march took place against the ZEDEs in Tegucigalpa moving from the Supreme Court to the Central Bank.

CESPAD published a human rights impact analysis of the ZEDEs.

<https://proceso.hn/mp-debe-acusar-criminalmente-al-comite-de-buenas-practicas-por-otorgar-mas-zedes-dice-exfiscal-orellana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-tiene-el-balon-en-su-cancha-sobre-inconstitucionales-zede/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-expone-a-sanciones-economicas-por-iniciativa-gubernamental-de-zedes-segun-asj/>

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-siguen-firmes-en-lucha-contras-las-zede-y-afirman-que-movilizaciones-continuaran/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1867-movimiento-nacional-rechaza-las-zedes-frente-a-corte-suprema>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/23/analisis-del-impacto-en-los-derechos-humanos-que-dejaran-las-zedes/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/23/las-verdades-a-medias-detras-de-la-promocion-de-las-zedes/>

Indigenous Miskito continue to denounce the planed highway through La Moskitia.

<https://criterio.hn/pueblos-indigenas-piden-al-gobierno-de-honduras-detener-construccion-de-carretera-en-la-mosquitia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/para-nosotros-no-es-prioridad-la-carretera-sostiene-dirigente-indigena-mientras-misquitos-viven-en-pobreza/>

So far, there have been 255'663 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6844 confirmed deaths.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/sinager-eleva-a-255663-los-infectados-y-la-cifra-de-muertos-es-de-6844-por-covid>

Another 20'000 AstraZeneca doses arrived in Honduras through the COVAX mechanism. Medical experts are concerned that the JOH regime plans to extend the time between two Pfizer vaccines to three months, as they had already announced for the Sputnik V vaccine.

<https://tiempo.hn/llegan-a-honduras-20-mil-vacunas-de-astrazeneca-covax/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-anuncia-que-la-segunda-dosis-de-la-vacuna-anticovid-de-pfizer-se-aplicara-dentro-de-tres-meses/>

The director of UNAH's Violence Observatory, Migdonia Ayestas, criticizes the widely rejected "security tax" (tasa de seguridad). ""The Security Tax has been used for the purchase of presidential airplanes, luxury cars, weapons and rental of patrols," she said. The expert in security issues said that "it is difficult for the State to justify having discretionary resources, they are not very transparent and many resources have been managed as they have wanted". Data from the organization show that around 90 percent of the population does not feel safe."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/23/el-tason-de-seguridad-ha-servido-para-la-compra-de-aviones-presidenciales-carros-de-lujo-armas-y-alquiler-de-patrullas/>

The JOH regime will officially inaugurate the embassy in Jerusalem today. "Several parliamentary committees traveled to Israel to accompany President Juan Orlando Hernández at the opening of the Honduran embassy in Jerusalem, an act described as a waste and embezzlement of public funds."

<https://proceso.hn/el-presidente-de-honduras-llega-a-israel-para-abrir-embajada-en-jerusalen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-bandera-de-honduras-ya-flamea-en-su-nueva-embajada-en-jerusalen/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/23/denuncian-que-diputados-viajaron-a-israel-con-fondos-estatales-sin-ser-asignacion-legislativa/>

The JOH regime has stopped 6300 foreign migrants so far this year on their way to the US.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-detuvo-a-mas-de-6300-migrantes-este-ano-en-ruta-a-eeuu/>

At least 35 people working in the transport sector have been murdered so far this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/observatorio-de-la-violencia-indica-que-al-menos-35-transportistas-han-sido-asesinados-en-2021/>

"The legal team of the Domestic Workers Network, RTD, filed this June 23, 2021, an Appeal for Protection requesting the repeal of the special regime that precariously regulates access to health care for this sector and the approval of a Law for their benefit, which is currently shelved in the Honduran National Congress."

OACNUDH accompanied them.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3192-aunque-la-csj-no-les-escucha-trabajadoras-domesticas-vuelven-a-la-carga-para-que-se-les-restituyan-sus-derechos>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1407800351890329612>

"A massacre between the Barrio 18 and MS13 gangs in Honduras' most notorious prison raises questions on whether the military is having any impact since taking over responsibility for security in December 2019. (...) Over the eighteen months that Honduras' armed forces have been guarding prisons, there have been no measurable signs of progress. And after the latest killings at La Tolve, serious questions are being raised as to whether the situation has only worsened. Foremost among these was how gang members were able to get their hands on military-grade weaponry, including grenades and semi-automatic rifles. (...) The immediate response from authorities was not reassuring. When asked to respond to this call for their removal, instead of promising substantive changes, military officials counter-attacked. In a television interview, the head of the country's anti-gang task force, Colonel Amilcar Hernández, accused Ordoñez and her organization of having been bribed by gangs to exaggerate what is happening in prisons."

Ordoñez has filed a complaint for slander at the MP against Amilcar Hernández.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-army-faces-backlash-after-continued-prison-violence/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-querella-contra-militar-amilcar-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-nuestras-carceles-impera-el-caos-y-la-anarquia-leandro-osorio/>

24/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Indigenous Peoples; ZEDEs; Drug Trafficking; Organized Crime; Torture; Corruption - UFERCO; Police; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Israel; and My Assistant Did It

Day 47 of the David Castillo trial took place yesterday. "Through a translator, the defense's expert witness Shaun Vodde gives a brief presentation about the data found on cell phones in possession of David Castillo, Berta Cáceres, Sergio Rodríguez, and Douglas Bustillo. The two phones belonging to Castillo were either deleted or had a passcode and no data was extracted. The defense questioned Vodde focusing on messages between Berta Cáceres and her contacts that reference security risks. Some make reference to the energy company Blue Energy and a message that talks about "if they lend the piece of land" ... "for a bird to land" ("Si prestan el terreno" ... "para aterrizar un pájaro") which the defense has used, in the Honduran media, to try and link COPINH and Berta to drug trafficking."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/24/day-forty-seven-trial-against-david-castillo>

"DPI illegally captures Nahua Indigenous leaders who denounced threats and dispossession of ancestral lands to @CONADEH a few days ago. @MP_Honduras accuses them of USURPATION to favor Nery Roberto Murillo's MT forestry company."

<https://twitter.com/BufeteBJP/status/1408158127233679362>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-persecucion-judicial-contr-ambientalistas-en-gualaco/>

A new controversy about the ZEDEs erupted yesterday as news made the rounds that people may not be extradited from the ZEDEs...which of course could greatly benefit a post-presidency JOH. The Nationalist secretary of Congress, Tomás Zambrano, disputes this. And then, there is also the question if ZEDEs are allowed to expropriate people/business in their territory.

In the coming weeks, three more communities will hold town hall meetings on the ZEDEs.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/06/24/zedes-escondite-de-extraditables-rompen-la-constitucion-de-la-republica/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-extradicion-se-aplicara-en-las-zedes-dice-el-secretario-del-congreso/>

https://twitter.com/sandra_marybel/status/1408053650447114247

<https://criterio.hn/municipios-de-honduras-anuncian-cabildos-abiertos-para-decidir-instalacion-de-las-zede/>

The MP seized 27 properties and businesses linked to Geovanni Fuentes Ramírez, convicted drug trafficker in the US and alleged JOH ally.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7946-mp-asegura-27-bienes-y-empresas-a-estructura-de-geovanni-fuentes-ramirez-condenado-en-eeuu-por-narcotrafico>

<https://proceso.hn/golpe-al-brazo-financiero-de-fuentes-ramirez-en-honduras/>

"A leader of the notorious MS-13 gang from Honduras was captured this week in Nicaragua after five years on the run. David Campbell Licon – who Honduran prosecutors say was the gang's financial mastermind - was arrested along with five others in an operation carried out by national police in a suburb of the capital Managua. A search of homes and vehicles belonging to his group turned up more than \$400,000 in cash and traces of cocaine. Experts say Saturday's arrest of Campbell, where transnational gangs have a relatively small presence compared with neighboring countries, is further proof of the MS-13's evolution in the drug underworld."

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/3aqpq3/notorious-ms-13-mastermind-was-arrested-with-dollar400000-in-cash>

"The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH) on Thursday urged Honduras to guarantee the right to justice for victims of torture and to investigate this type of aggression."

<https://proceso.hn/onu-pide-a-honduras-garantizar-justicia-y-reparacion-a-victimas-de-tortura/>

The Anti-Corruption Coalition expressed their solidarity with UFERCO coordinator Luis Santos who recently suffered harassment by the MP (see previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/HNSincorrupcion/status/1408160470024982531>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-estaria-fraguando-salida-del-fiscal-de-la-uferco-luis-javier-santos/>

CESPAD published an important analysis on the nine years of the police purge program.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/24/fracaso-o-exito-a-9-anos-un-analisis-de-la-depuracion-policial-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 256'818 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6879 confirmed deaths.

The Alpha, Beta and Gamma strains have all been detected in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/reportan-mil-155-contagios-y-muertes-se-elevan-a-6-mil-879-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1473184-466/confirman-nuevas-variantes-covid-honduras-secretaria-salud>

When it comes to vaccine prioritization, the JOH regime seems to consider Nationalist activists as frontline workers.

Honduras has received 150'000 doses of AstraZeneca from Mexico.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-justifica-vacunacion-de-activistas-politicos-argumentando-que-pertenecen-a-primera-linea/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1473225-466/llegan-honduras-150-mil-dosis-astrazeneca-donadas-mexico>

"In the opinion of analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado, Honduras has become involved in a problem that should have remained on the sidelines, because it has claimed the lives of many innocent people. "Our foreign policy is contradictory and incoherent, because in the previous Honduran government we recognized the Palestinian State", he said, remarking that this action can generate distancing between the government and the Palestinian community, which is very numerous in the country. Pineda believes that the transfer of the embassy to Jerusalem does not respond to the interests of the State of Honduras, but to personal protection, referring to the Honduran president and several of the

officials who are being accused by the US justice system."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/joh-estaria-buscando-proteccion-con-apertura-de-embajada-de-honduras-en-jerusalen-senala-analista/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/marvin-ponce-pide-disculpa-a-periodista-hondurena-quien-lo-evidencio-ante-acoso-sexual/>

25/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, US; Political Prisoners; ZEDES; Corruption - UFERCO; Women's Rights; COVID-19 - Vaccine; Elections; and State-Funded Holidays

Karen Spring summarized Day 48 of the David Castillo trial. " Today, Shaun Vodde, the defense's expert witness testified that his appearance and testimony in the trial had been coordinated with Daniel Atala. During Vodde's presentation, an email between Vodde and Atala remained unintentionally on the projected computer screen for all to see (posted below). In response, the Cáceres family attorneys objected to Atala's interference in the proceedings, particularly as an individual under investigation for the murder. The attorneys accuse Daniel Atala of obstructing justice and argue that Atala's actions show, once again, the networks of power used by the Atalas and Castillo to guarantee impunity. They asked the court to subpoena the communications between the expert and Castillo and call for an investigation. The court denied their requests.

Voice messages and video files recorded by Berta Cáceres (see below) and extracted from her cell phone were played in court, almost as if Berta herself, was testifying in the trial. The recordings denounced DESA and the mayor of San Francisco de Ojüera's (SFO) harassment of COPINH, the presence of military and police in Rio Blanco despite denials from the Ministry of Security and the violence and armed men used to attack members of COPINH in February 2016 in Berta's last major action in SFO to stop the construction of the Agua Zarca dam.

All evidence for the trial has now been presented and heard by the court. Conclusions will begin on Monday at 10 am. An end to the almost 50 day trial is in sight."

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/25/day-forty-eight-trial-against-david-castillo>

A group of US members of Congress and the Senate published a joint letter release urging "the State Department and international community to closely monitor the trial, ongoing investigations into the murder of Berta Cáceres, and related cases involving human rights defenders".

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-schakowsky-merkley-colleagues-urge-state-department-monitor-honduras-trial>

<https://criterio.hn/senadores-y-congresistas-de-ee-uu-urgen-al-departamento-de-estado-monitorear-juicio-contradavid-castillo-y-buscar-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

Criminalized student Hery Flores was released after the initial hearing, but he is still facing trial.

Before the hearing, Hery told COFADEH that he had suffered police surveillance and persecution for some years.

During the hearing, OACNUDH was not allowed to observe the proceedings.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1408554411937382400>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-logra-que-hery-flores-se-defienda-en-libertad/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/hery-habia-denunciado-persecucion-y-vigilancia/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1408496778983493637>

Nationalist presidential candidate seems to fear the negative publicity of the ZEDEs and now suddenly claims that he is against them "if they hurt Honduras".

One important promoter of the ZEDEs is Nationalist congressman Óscar Nájera, who has appeared on US and UK corruption lists.

A group of opposition members of Congress demand the impeachment of the 12 Supreme Court judges who who endorsed the unconstitutional ZEDEs.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/25/asfura-busca-quedar-bien-con-electores-si-hacen-dano-a-honduras-claro-que-si-estoy-en-contrade-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/nasry-asfura-se-declara-en-contrade-zedes-si-violan-la-constitucion-y-le-hacen-dano-a-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1473488-466/cancun-gracias-a-dios-inversion-oscar-najera-zede-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1408406456299307008>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3195-diputados-demandan-juicio-politico-para-los-12-magistrados-de-la-csj-que-avalan-la-creacion-de-las-zede>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3016-honduras-diputados-piden-juicio-politico-para-corte-traidora>

After the most recent developments in the Hermes corruption case, UFERCO and its coordinator Luis Santos came under attack (see previous e-mails. The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the US State Department reacted: "Preserving the independence and operation of prosecutors is vital to strengthen Honduras' fight against corruption and impunity. We support the work of UFERCO and other anti-corruption units to investigate and prosecute corrupt actors at all levels of government."

<https://twitter.com/StateDRL/status/1408499949420044290>

"Several organizations that defend women's rights, presented before the IACHR the issue of abortion, which is criminalized in Honduras and the State has been responsible for establishing policies against women's rights. Somos Muchas por la Libertad y Vida de las Mujeres, the Centro de Derechos de Mujeres CDM, the Equipo Jurídico por los Derechos Humanos, EJDH and the Centro de Derechos Reproductivos, requested a hearing on reproductive and sexual rights in Honduras, this June 24 at the 180th session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3194-organizaciones-de-mujeres-presentan-ante-la-cidh-el-caso-de-la-reforma-constitucional-del-aborto-en-honduras>

So far, there have been 258'349 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6902 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-258-mil-349-contagios-y-6-mil-902-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

Honduras will receive 1.5 million Moderna doses from the Biden Administration.

Pfizer highlights the importance of applying the second dose 21 days after the first one. The JOH regime recently announced that they intend to wait three months.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3018-ee-uu-enviaria-a-honduras-1-5-millones-de-vacunas-moderna>

<https://criterio.hn/pfizer-advierte-que-segunda-dosis-de-vacuna-debe-aplicarse-21-dias-despues-de-la-primer/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-tardanza-en-aplicar-segunda-dosis-de-vacuna-puede-ser-peligroso-ante-circulacion-de-nuevas-variantes/>

CNE Councilor Rixi Moncada warns about the ongoing problems with the census.

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-existe-riesgo-para-los-comicios-generales-de-noviembre-por-los-errores-no-corregidos-en-el-censo/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3015-joh-es-mucha-carga-para-hondurenos-hasta-el-piojo-anda-en-tours-por-el-mundo>

26/06/21

Honduras Daily: Moskitia; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Violence; Elections; and Honduras, the Movie

The Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) ordered to suspend the construction of the controversial highway through the Moskitia (see previous e-mails).

<https://proceso.hn/icf-ordena-suspender-construccion-de-la-carretera-en-la-mosquitia/>

Another important voice joined the criticism against the ZEDEs. "In a public statement, the College of Mechanical, Electrical and Chemical Engineers of Honduras (CIMEQH), in which it expresses its opposition to the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), points out that with the alienation of territory, sovereignty is lost and Hondurans are displaced from their territories."

<https://criterio.hn/con-la-enajenacion-del-territorio-se-pierde-la-soberania-cimeqh/>

So far, there have been 259'628 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6916 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-279-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-259-mil-628-contagios-de-covid-19/>

The BCIE handed out the first 7 out of 35 million Lempiras to the JOH regime meant to purchase

vaccines.

According to JOH, Spain will donate vaccine doses to Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-desembolsa-7-millones-de-dolares-para-compra-de-vacunas-anticovid-a-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/reino-de-espana-gestiona-donacion-de-vacunas-anticovid-para-honduras-confirma-el-presidente-hernandez/>

Some days ago, the JOH regime claim that the murder rate in Honduras is at its lowest since 15 years. Already then, nobody believed this. And yesterday, the Violence Observatory at the UNAH said that just compared to last year, the homicide rate is 13% higher.

<https://proceso.hn/homicidios-incrementaron-13-este-ano-en-honduras-segun-el-ov-unah/>

ContraCorriente looks at the upcoming general elections. "Five million Hondurans are eligible to vote in the November general elections, with an electoral earthquake of 15 presidential candidates. Between millions of lempiras approved for electoral campaign and aimless government plans, what can Honduras expect from the results?"

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/06/26/vispera-electoral-el-regreso-del-circo/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/honduras-la-pelicula/>

27/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education; Bajo Aguán;

The court convenes the hearing of conclusions for today at 10am in the David Castillo trial. COPINH appreciates a lot of national and international attendance to the live stream.

COPINH makes clear that the proof linking Castillo to the murder is "conclusive".

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1409330422614474763>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1871-copinh-las-pruebas-que-vinculan-a-david-castillo-con-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-son-contundentes>

ContraCorriente published a special report on the first 15 months of the pandemic. "Fifteen months ago, the COVID19 pandemic arrived in Honduras and meant not only the worsening of the economic crisis, as in most countries in the world, but also a setback in education that we still cannot measure, an increase in cases of domestic violence and 376 violent deaths against women.

During this time, the State took measures that limited freedoms but also limited attention to priority areas such as education, justice and assistance to small and medium enterprises and the informal sector. In this special we tell stories of resilience in the midst of state abandonment more than a year after experiencing the anomaly that the pandemic has represented in our country."

<https://contracorriente.red/a-15-meses-de-pandemia/>

So far, there have been 260'331 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6922 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/reportan-alta-ocupacion-hospitalaria-703-nuevos-casos-y-seis-decesos-mas-en-honduras/>

The 1.5 million vaccine doses donated by the Biden administration arrived in Honduras.

Even before that donation, the JOH regime had only purchased 4.11% of all the vaccine doses arriving in Honduras, even though it received millions to do so.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/gobierno-de-los-estados-unidos-de-america-dona-a-honduras-1-5-millones-de-dosis-de-vacuna-contra-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/llegan-1-5-millones-de-vacunas-anticovid-donadas-por-estados-unidos-a-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-solo-compro-el-4-11-de-las-vacunas-aplicadas-en-honduras/>

Teachers demand once again to be vaccinated before schools will open.

<https://proceso.hn/maestros-deben-ser-vacunados-de-la-misma-forma-que-el-sector-salud-dirigente-magisterial/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network reported that "[l]ast night, Santos Torres, leader of a paramilitary grp in Aguan Valley was killed by heavily armed men in military uniforms. Torres & his armed grp are part of a state counterinsurgency paramilitary tactic in the Aguan to steal campesino land".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1409146527159750661>

28/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; LGBTQ+; Coup d'état; ZEDEs; Indigenous Peoples; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector; FBI; Corruption - UFERCO; Elections; and a Hurricane Warning

The David Castillo trial concluded yesterday. Karen Spring highlights the main points of the day. "All parties - the prosecution, private accusers, and the defense presented their closing remarks. The prosecution argued that they presented sufficient evidence to demonstrate that David Castillo is guilty of being the intellectual author of Berta Cáceres's murder. The murder was carried out because Berta had caused significant economic losses for DESA and had caused the dam construction company, Sinohydro to pull out of the Agua Zarca project. The prosecutor highlighted important conversations from November 2015 to March 2016 between Douglas Bustillo and David Castillo in key moments in which Bustillo, Mariano Diaz Chavez and Henry Hernandez (all three convicted of the murder) monitored Berta in La Esperanza, discussed the murder, and/or unsuccessfully tried to carry out the murder (the most key being the aborted attempt on February 5, 2016). As Bustillo communicated in these key occasions with the group of hitman and intermediaries, Bustillo would then report directly to Castillo. The prosecutions refuted the defense's accusations of evidence manipulation.

The private accusers representing the Cáceres family argued that David Castillo is responsible for murder as a co-author of the crime (and not intellectual author as the prosecutors contend). They asked the court to break with the impunity in a country where human rights and land defenders are regularly killed for their work. The private accusers #1 (representing Salvador Zúniga) discussed 10 key events that were critical in the planning and execution of the plan to eliminate Berta Cáceres including the creation of the Whatsapp chat group 'PHAZ Security' to report on and monitor Berta and COPINH. the key communications between Douglas Bustillo and David Castillo and how the communications demonstrate how through Bustillo, Castillo planned, supervised and coordinated Berta's murder. Private accuser #2 (representing Marcela, Berta, Laura Zúniga and Austra Berta Flores) refuted two of the defense's arguments used to divert blame from Castillo: 1) the alleged audio recording that the private accusers argued was manipulated to distort the investigation, 2) The defense's inability to generate any doubt about Castillo's involvement in the crime. The private accuser #2 outlined 6 events that clearly demonstrate Castillo's involvement in the murder, including how he strategically compartmentalized communication with Bustillo to protect himself and other DESA executives from blame.

The defense delivered their closing remarks by arguing and listing all the ways that the prosecutors and investigators manipulated evidence. A large focus was on the prosecution's telecommunications analyst, Brenda Barahona, who as they argue, took chat messages out of context. The defense argues that communication between Bustillo and Castillo can be explained by the working relationship between both men, including Bustillo working for Castillo's energy project in southern Honduras. They close by stating that Castillo's guilty has not been established beyond a reasonable doubt.

After the closing remarks, all victims - Marcela Oliva Zúniga, Berta Zúniga, Laura Zúniga, Salvador Zúniga (Berta's daughters and son) and Ms. Austra Berta Flores (Berta's mother) addressed the court. They explained the pain experienced by losing their mother/daughter and the important role that Berta played in their lives and the lives of the Lenca and Honduran people. They

demanded justice and said that there is conclusive evidence that Castillo is responsible for the murder and asked them to declare him guilty.

David Castillo also addressed the court. He denied any involvement - direct or indirect - in the murder, planning, and coordination of Berta's murder, mentioning several times his religious upbringing.

The trial is officially over but no decision was given today. The verdict is expected sometime this week. The Honduran judiciary begins vacation this Wednesday, July 1st but the judges announced they would work to deliver a verdict likely no later than Saturday, July 3rd."

COPINH published a press release.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/6/28/day-forty-nine-trial-against-david-castillo>

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/statement-castillos-guilt-proven-at-trial/>

Hondurans think back on twelve years of an ongoing coup d'état.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/doce-anos/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3199-12-anos-sin-tregua-el-golpe-de-estado-en-honduras-establecio-un-patron-de-ataques-abusos-y-discriminacion>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3021-honduras-a-12-anos-del-28-de-junio-2009-seguimos-en-golpe>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/28/analisis-honduras-a-doce-anos-del-golpe-de-estado-como-resolver-la-crisis-heredada/>

The IACtHR condemned the State of Honduras for the murder of trans woman and activist Vicky Hernández on June 28, 2009, during military curfew after the coup d'état (see below).

OACNUDH welcomed the ruling.

Since the coup, at least 388 members of the LGBTQ+ community violently lost their lives in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1409604404731289603>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3197-corteidh-condena-al-estado-de-honduras-por-crimen-contramujer-trans-en-2009>

<https://proceso.hn/la-corteidh-condena-a-honduras-por-la-muerte-de-mujer-transgenero-en-el-2009/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1409671822610628609>

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-388-muertes-violentas-lgbti-en-honduras-desde-el-golpe-de-estado-de-2009/>

On the occasion of the anniversary of the coup, Hondurans also marched against the ZEDEs.

With every other party rejecting the ZEDEs, they have become clearly linked to the National Party. This is especially evident in the case of the Próspera ZEDE. "The Committee for the Application of Zede's Best Practices or Prosperous Honduras Model City of Roatán, Bay Islands, is made up of 21 representatives of companies or financial consortiums, including four well-known Nationalists: Ebal Díaz, Ricardo Cardona, Octavio Sánchez and Leonel Ayala."

The CNA announced to go after the members of Congress who approved the ZEDEs.

Liberal members of Congress signed a bill intended to derogate the ZEDEs.

JOH claims that all the opposition to the ZEDEs is solely linked to the upcoming elections.

In a fact-check, El Heraldo explains that the autonomy of the ZEDEs cannot be compared to the autonomy granted to the National Autonomous University (UNAH).

<https://proceso.hn/hondurenos-marchan-contrazonas-de-empleo-en-aniversario-del-golpe-de-estado/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/ebal-diaz-y-leonel-ayala-figuran-entre-los-nacionalistas-que-integran-el-comite-para-las-mejores-practicas-de-honduras-prospera/>

<https://proceso.hn/cna-anuncia-que-presentara-demanda-contradiputados-que-aprobaron-las-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-provocaran-la-mayor-migracion-ciudadana-dentro-y-fuera-de-honduras-cna/>

<https://proceso.hn/diputados-liberales-firman-anteproyecto-para-pedir-derogacion-de-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/hernandez-dice-zedes-son-cosa-juzgada-y-cuestionamientos-son-en-momento-electoral/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/factchecking/1473628-504/zede-unah-autonomia>

"Seven indigenous people belonging to the Nahua ethnic group, who live in the department of Olanchito, Honduras, were accused of the crime of land usurpation by the forestry company Murillo Tejada. However, the lands are the lands where they have lived with their families for a long time."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/28/alerta-indigenas-nahuas-son-detenidos-y-acusados-de-usurpar-sus-propias-tierras/>

The IHSS openly goes against the disputed strategy by the JOH regime and announced not to wait 90 days between two vaccine shots (see last week).

So far, only 80'000 Hondurans have been fully vaccinated.

<https://proceso.hn/ihss-adelantara-aplicacion-de-segunda-dosis-de-vacuna-contracovid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sesal-confirmando-que-80-mil-hondurenos-ya-han-recibido-sus-dos-dosis-de-la-vacuna-anticovid/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the death of front line workers during the pandemic.

The director of the University Hospitals warned yesterday that they are at 100% capacity.

There are also warnings from the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3196-muerte-blanca-la-consecuencia-fatal-del-virus>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1474110-410/-pacientes-covid-19-hospital-escuela-pandemia-honduras->

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/28/sube-ocupacion-en-hospital-mario-rivas-por-coronavirus-reciben-pacientes-de-la-capital/>

The Forensic Medicine department is collaborating with the FBI.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7960-en-la-mira-del-fbi-y-de-la-direccion-de-medicina-forense-creacion-de-base-de-datos-geneticos-criminales-con-fines-de-humanitarios-y-de-investigacion>

UFERCO's coordinator Luis Santos gave a 1-hour long interview to Criterio on their important work against corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/entre-pandora-hermes-y-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas-se-sustrajeron-l-445-millones-dice-jefe-de-uferco/>

"The primary elections of March 14, 2021 did not have a system for the Transmission of Preliminary Electoral Results (TREP), causing uneasiness among the population and the politicians who participated, due to the lack of transparency and reliability of the results. Five months before the general elections to be held next November 28, Honduras still does not have a TREP system."

<https://criterio.hn/fantasma-del-fraude-sigue-presente-por-falta-de-sistema-de-transmision-de-resultados-electorales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dos-depresiones-tropicales-se-formarian-en-los-proximos-dias-y-uno-podria-convertirse-en-huracan-centro-nacional-de-huracanes/>

29/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - EU; Guapinol; ZEDEs; Corruption - UFERCO, US, Narcopolítica, IHSS; COVID-19; Elections - Libre; Lawyers; BID;

More than 60 European Parliamentarians called for justice for Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1409899580301381635>

https://twitter.com/EP_President/status/1409899944551591939

<https://copinh.org/2021/06/mas-de-60-parlamentarios-europeos-solicitan-justicia-en-el-caso-berta-caceres/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3200-presion-internacional-ante-retardo-de-justicia-por-crimen-de-berta-caceres>

"The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa and the representatives of 13 communities of the San Pedro sector, neighborhoods and colonies, delivered this June 29, 2021 to MiAmbiente, a Technical Report that evidences the contamination they suffer because of the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares/Ecotec, in the Carlos Escaleras National Park, established in a protected area, as well as in the rivers of the sector. The negative impact on the Guapinol and San Pedro Rivers is due to the mining company's operations that contaminate the water in the sector."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3201-entregan-evidencias-de-la-contaminacion-de-la-minera-inversiones-los-pinares-ecotek-entregan-a-miambiente>

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-informe-sobre-contaminacion-provocada-por-minera-en-el-rio-guapinol-en-tocoa-colon/>

As had to be expected, the Nationalist-controlled Congress rejected an impeachment trial against the Supreme Court judges who recently gave special jurisdiction to ZEDEs. They filed a complaint at the MP against former president Pepe Lobo and the members of Congress from 2010-2014 for the creation of the ZEDEs.

Meanwhile, the mayor of La Ceiba, Jerry Sabio, thinks about protest marches to Tegucigalpa against the planed ZEDE in his town.

And the national business community continues to reject the ZEDEs as well. "The Advisory Council composed of the former Presidents of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP), we address the general public, national and international businessmen, the Authorities and the International Community. That we DECLARE to be in full agreement with the Board of Directors of COHEP in the position expressed in the document of legal analysis of the ZEDES. That the former presidents of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP) express our absolute rejection of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDES), because they were created outside of the Constitution, violating the Constitution's stony or irreformable articles that protect the form of government and the national territory."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3025-diputados-cachurecos-ratifican-traicion-a-honduras-y-no-enjuician-a-magistrados>

<https://proceso.hn/el-legislativo-desaprueba-juicio-politico-contramagistrados-de-la-csj-que-dieron-jurisdicion-especial-a-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/cna-acusa-a-exgobernante-y-diputados-del-cn-del-periodo-2010-2014-por-creacion-de-las-zede/>

<https://proceso.hn/alcalde-de-la-ceiba-no-descarta-realizar-movilizaciones-en-tegucigalpa-contralas-zedes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/alcalde-de-la-ceiba-anuncia-movilizaciones-en-tegucigalpa-contralas-zedes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3023-honduras-cupula-privada-rechaza-zedes-y-pide-a-militares-cumplir-constitucion>

International human rights organizations demand a stop to the attacks against UFERCO's Luis Santos (see previous e-mails).

https://twitter.com/DPLF_info/status/1409989096315961345

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-internacionales-manifiestan-su-apoyo-a-fiscales-de-la-uferco/>

The US Special Envoy to the Northern Triangle, Ricardo Zúniga, participated in a forum organized by the business lobby COHEP. There he reminded his listeners that Honduras lost some \$3 billion to corruption in 2020.

Zúniga also raised concern about the new Penal Code and how it lowered the penalties for corruption.

<https://proceso.hn/es-de-especial-interes-de-eeuu-la-prosperidad-y-democracia-de-honduras-ricardo-zuniga/>

<https://tiempo.hn/funcionario-codigo-penal-dificulta-inversion-honduras/>

In light of the upcoming elections, CESPAD published an overview of the Narcopolítica corruption case. "The "Narcopolitics" case, which was prosecuted by MACCIH-UFECIC, reveals how drug trafficking and organized crime networks have been linked to national political elites, with the central axis being the financing of political campaigns and bribes to receive protection from the military and police institutions. This connection between organized crime networks and political elites has reached such a high level that it even involves presidential candidates."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/06/29/6621/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office, through the Special Prosecutor's Office Against Organized Crime (FESCCO), in a trial hearing obtained a sentence of definitive deprivation of ownership over 74 assets divided into real and personal property, commercial companies, financial products and vehicles, property of several persons linked to the embezzlement of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS)."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/177-junio2021/7976-nueva-sentencia-de-privacion-definitiva-de-dominio-de-bienes-ligados-al-saqueo-del-ihss>

So far, there have been 262'069 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 6980 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-suben-a-262-mil-069-al-confirmarse-1-mil-188-nuevos-contagios/>

Libre presidential candidate Xiomara Castro promises a constituent assembly in the case of her

election.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/29/xiomara-afirma-sera-la-primera-mujer-presidenta-y-promete-asamblea-constituyente/>

The lawyer Eduardo Enrique Castellanos Quiñonez was murdered in San Pedro Sula.

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-abogado-en-pleno-centro-de-san-pedro-sula/>

The JOH regime received another loan by the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) worth \$45 million. It intends to support poor people affected by the pandemic and the damage caused by hurricanes Eta and Iota.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-presta-45-millones-de-dolares-a-honduras-para-mejorar-vida-de-pobres/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-prestamo-con-el-bid-por-44-7-millones-de-dolares/>

30/06/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; EU; US; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education, Poverty, Economy; ID Cards; and to Have Your Cake and Eat It

"The Expert Observation Mission, a group of 19 organizations with expertise in international law and human rights, has observed the trial of David Castillo as alleged co-perpetrator of the murder of Lenca human rights and environmental defender Berta Cáceres. The Mission notes that during nearly 50 days of hearings, the defense was given ample opportunity to respond to the robust presentation of evidence by the public and private Prosecutors and hopes that judicial independence will prevail in the final decision of the Court, which will be issued this week."

<https://www.observacionbertacaceres.org/post/experts-demand-fair-and-lawful-ruling-this-week-in-berta-c%C3%A1ceres-trial-in-honduras>

On Monday, Congress approve the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Union for forest law enforcement, improved governance and trade in timber products to the European Union (AVA FLEGT).

This agreement has been denounced by Garífuna and indigenous peoples for its problem with previous, free and informed consent.

<http://www.fao.org/honduras/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1414233/>

https://twitter.com/sandra_marybel/status/1409836521599995907

US Congresswoman Norma Torres announced "numerous provisions focused on U.S.-Central America policy that she included in the fiscal year 2022 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill".

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-influences-central-america-policy-key-appropriations-bill>

<https://proceso.hn/congresista-norma-torres-presenta-paquete-de-creditos-clave-para-triangulo-norte-de-ca/>

So far, there have been 262'760 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7005 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-supera-las-7-mil-muertes-por-covid-19/>

59'670 Pfizer-BioNTech doses arrived yesterday.

So far, Honduras has received 2.6 million vaccine doses; only 4% were purchased by the JOH regime.

There are more demand on the JOH regime to accelerate the vaccination process and guarantee that people receive both shots in the right time frame (see previous e-mails).

On this, JOH said that the Sputnik V vaccine doses will arrive "at the right moment".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1474639-466/llegan-honduras-vacunas-pfizer-covid-19-presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-compra>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-2-6-millones-de-vacunas-anticovid-y-gobierno-apenas-compro-el-4/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-solo-ha-comprado-46-mil-vacunas/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-debe-acelerar-segunda-dosis-de-vacuna-contr-covid-19-ante-variantes/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1474753-410/-segunda-dosis-sputnik-v-rusia-honduras-vacuna-coronavirus-covid-19->

The Secretary of Education pretends to start opening schools again in the coming days.

"The Coordination of Private Institutions for Children, Adolescents, Youth and their Rights (COIPRODEN) stated on Wednesday that the conditions are not right for the return to classes. Through a press conference, the institution stressed that it is not prudent because there would be serious health consequences due to the fact that the schools do not have adequate hygiene conditions and lack basic resources such as drinking water."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/06/30/aseguran-que-desercion-escolar-y-retorno-a-clases-son-grandes-desafios-del-sistema-educativo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/coiprodén-senala-que-no-hay-condiciones-adecuadas-para-un-retorno-a-clases/>

Electricity prices will rise by over 9%.

<https://tiempo.hn/trancazo-aumento-a-energia-honduras-tarifa/>

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Honduras fell by 7% in the first trimester of 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/la-inversion-extranjera-directa-en-honduras-cae-7-en-el-primer-trimestre/>

The BCIE approved \$9.4 million for the RNP to continue with the Identify Yourself Project to hand out new identity cards.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-aprueba-226-millones-de-lempiras-al-rnp-para-finalizar-proyecto-identificate/>

"Because it is a constitutional mandate, the National Electoral Council (CNE) must disqualify those political candidates who are concessionaires and contractors of the State, said Wednesday former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana. "If the Constitution mandates it, you cannot evade that responsibility without incurring liability", said the lawyer and university professor to Criterio.hn. Article 199 of the Constitution states that State concessionaires for the exploitation of natural resources or contractors of services or public works that are paid for with State funds and those who, for such concepts, have outstanding accounts with the State, cannot be deputies."

<https://criterio.hn/cne-debe-inhabilitar-a-candidatos-que-son-concesionarios-y-contratistas-del-estado-edmundo-orellana/>