

01/05/20

Honduras Daily: May Day; JOH - US, National Police, Extradition; LGBTQ+; Extractivism - OFRANEH; Forced Disappearance; Journalists; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, Repression, Prisons, UNAH; Corruption - Pandora; Penal Code; and the Rediscovery of Women in the Global South

Honduras commemorated May Day in the midst of a global pandemic and with ten thousands of people losing their work in the recent weeks. Social movements, civil society organizations and human rights organizations published their seventh joint statement on this occasion. They denounce that "business people not only despise human beings, as cheap labor, but they also destroy the environment, sucking up water with residential projects, as is the case with the destruction of La Tigra National Park. This is the "solidarity" of big private enterprise in the times of COVID-19. The contempt for the salaried working class, as well as for the immense population that lives in the logic of "coyol partido, coyol comido", has no limits on the part of this gloomy alliance. It is expressed in the continuity and increase of the electricity and water bills by EEH and SANAA, which puts the population that has been left without its source of income in a more precarious situation". In a press release, the Honduran Women's Collective (CODEMUH) denounce that "transnationals that exploit workers, don't pay taxes which allows them to accumulate huge amounts of wealth. They very much can maintain salaries of their workers during crisis caused by COVID-19".

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/manifiesto-publico/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/manifiesto-publico-7-1o-de-mayo-2020/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1256439597841743872>

<https://criterio.hn/trabajadores-de-honduras-conmemoran-su-dia-encerrados-y-en-la-peor-de-sus-crisis/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1978-amargo-1-de-mayo-125-mil-hondurenos-quedaron-sin-empleo-durante-la-peste>

The newest events in the drug trafficking saga involving JOH (see yesterday), also caused a reaction in the US. "Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, said Thursday that he and others in Congress had for years urged the U.S. to cut ties with Bonilla. "Those warnings were ignored, and our embassy treated him as a credible partner. That was inexcusable," he said." Regarding the role of the US, history professor and Honduran expert Dana Frank said: "It's very clear that the U.S. has known all these years who they were working with. They've chosen to look the other way. And chosen to pour money into this government and its security forces".

<https://apnews.com/2afdedc283ac07ead5e6d9ea8cd34371>

The accusations against Bonilla have also laid bare once again the farce that is the police purge.

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/caso-del-tigre-bonilla-demuestra-que-depuracion-policial-es-una-farsa/>

Yesterday, the Judicial Power granted the extradition of José Rafael Sosa Méndez to the US. He is accused of drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/corte-suprema-de-justicia-concede-a-ee-uu-extradicion-de-hondureno-por-distribucion-de-droga/>

Criterio denounces a physical attack against Rihanna Ferrera, director of the Human Rights Association Cozumel Trans.

<https://criterio.hn/rihanna-ferrera-defensora-de-ddhh-es-victima-de-agresion-y-robo/>

OFRANEH denounces in a Twitter feed, including videos, how the JOH regime through MiAmbiente continues to force through projects without consultations and that MiAmbiente currently even grants "express environmental licenses".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1256309932854595585>

"This is the first time in 40 years that the relatives of detainees-disappeared in Honduras for political reasons are not present as they are every Friday of the month in the Plaza La Merced in Tegucigalpa. The risk of contagion with a virus as lethal as impunity, corruption and oblivion, prevents us from spreading our banners in the proximity of the legislative branch, in the old center of the capital where a religion from the past with a tradition of popular moral resistance cohabits, without truce."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/asistimos-al-primer-planton-virtual-de-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada/>

C-Libre denounce that journalist Francisco Javier Aguirre was the victim of threats and physical aggression by Sabino Montes, municipal councillor of El Triunfo, Choluteca.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1160-regidor-municipal-amenaza-y-agrede-a-periodista-en-zona-sur>

Honduras reported almost 100 new cases yesterday for a total of 899 confirmed COVID-19 cases. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-ascienden-899-casos-covid-19-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/01/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-1-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Criterio published a helpful overview of the role of Invest-H in the newest corruption cases in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/tentaculos-de-la-corrupcion-sacuden-a-honduras-desde-invest-h/>

A group of radiologist from the University Hospital protested yesterday demanding protective gear. The same day, an explosion of transformers left the University Hospital without electricity. Radio Progreso reports on the lack of lung ventilators in the intensive care unit at the hospital in El Progreso.

<https://confidencialhn.com/radiologos-exigen-equipo-de-bioseguridad-para-atender-pandemia-del-sars-cov2/>

<https://hch.tv/2020/05/01/explosion-de-transformadores-deja-sin-energia-electrica-al-hospitalescuela/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/paciente-sospechosa-de-covid-19-a-punto-de-morir-por-falta-de-cupo-en-sala-de-uci-en-hospitales-de-san-pedro-sula/>

John Perry writes for the Council on Hemispheric Affairs on the corona crisis and how it is used as pretext for repression. "While the US props up the regime, public order in Honduras is nearing collapse. It faces the epidemic with a health and social security system that has been drained of resources, both through rampant corruption[10] and because the government prioritises spending on the security forces. When 2,600 of the demoralised medical staff were chosen to tackle the virus, a quarter of them resigned.[11] Hernández has been using la mano dura[12] (the firm hand) to enforce a lockdown and nightly curfews, provoking hunger and repressing the inevitable protests.[13] On April 24, three brothers selling bread were stopped by police[14]: one was shot dead and two injured. Food parcels handed out to some families only contain two days' worth of supplies. The state is buying medical equipment at excessive prices[15] largely via companies owned by the president's cronies.[16]"

<http://www.coha.org/covid-19-as-pretext-for-repression-in-the-northern-triangle/>

After the registration of the first prisoner dying of COVID-19 on April 20 (see previous e-mail), the Center for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and their Families (CPTRT), reported that the "State creates conditions of contagion".

On the occasion of May Day, there was also another call for the liberation of the political prisoners in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1530-cptrt-estado-de-honduras-crea-condiciones-de-contagio-de-covid-19-a-privados-de-libertad>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-estado-de-honduras-no-le-importa-la-vida-de-los-presos-politicos/>

The National Autonomous University (UNAH) plans to reopen again on June 6.

<https://criterio.hn/unah-reprograma-periodo-academico/>

The organization Democracy without Borders presented a new report, "Social Audit of the Court and the Criminal Courts with National Competence in matters of Corruption". In order to create the Anti-Corruption Courts, the Supreme Court of Justice had approved an agreement in 2016 later also

approved by Congress, but with the entry into force of the new Penal Code four crimes that are within the competence of this circuit disappear and it does not have competence to judge the "highest officials". Furthermore, the report also finds that the court "lacks the necessary competencies to punish the corrupt, it can extend its jurisdiction to simple cases to guarantee the continuity of its work, but it risks diluting its purpose of punishing corruption".

<http://elpulso.hn/informe-expone-debilidades-de-tribunales-en-materia-anticorrupcion/>

<http://fdsf.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Informe-Veedur%C3%ADa-Social-al-Circuito-en-Materia-de-Corrupci%C3%B3n.pdf>

InSight Crime reports on the newest development in the Pandora corruption case (see e-mail from the end of March). "Francisco Reyes Pacheco is facing his share of legal problems, being embroiled in a drug trafficking scandal in the United States and having been forbidden from leaving Honduras while awaiting trial for a landmark state corruption case. Last month, his luck seemed like it was about to turn. The Honduran government asked a judge to allow him to leave the country, ostensibly on a humanitarian mission. This was granted but was then reversed in late April on appeal, anti-corruption prosecutors told InSight Crime."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/francisco-reyes-pacheco-honduras/>

The CNA will hold a webinar every day of the week next week on the problems with the new Penal Code.

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that a precept, described in article 232 of the new Penal Code, "completely disrupts the right to freedom of expression by making insulting and defamatory statements a criminal offense, thereby aggravating them in the concept of publicity, which entails an increase in the penalty".

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1256403339350335488>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/nuevo-codigo-penal/item/2817-nuevo-codigo-penal-sutil-censura-desde-el-concepto-de-difusion-de-injuria-y-calumnia-a-traves-de-publicidad>

"The minimum conditions required for full quarantine include access to safe water, a fixed salary (or a universal basic income), and free access to biosecurity equipment. In Honduras, only 11% of the population has the purchasing power to meet these conditions, and they are in the middle and upper classes [2]. The truth is that here, in the Third World, there are millions of people who are not confined. On the contrary, they continue to work in the productive sectors that are strategic for the national economy, and there are many others who risk their lives daily, guaranteeing food for their communities and the cities that are going through the most critical situation in the face of high levels of contagion. And, as in any disaster scenario, women bear the brunt."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/01/analisis-cuarentenas-del-tercer-mundo-o-por-que-las-mujeres-hondurenas-mantienen-al-pais-con-vida/>

03/04/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption; and the Penal Code

The trans woman Luz Clarita was found dead on May 1 in La Ceiba. OPROUCE denounced it as a hate crime.

<https://criterio.hn/transfemicidio-asesinan-a-mujer-trans-en-la-ceiba/>

Due to the newest accusations against "El Tigre" Bonilla involving once again JOH, there is a renewed public criticism of him. Luis Zelaya, president of the Liberal Party, fears that JOH may try to stay in power through a constituent assembly or a self-coup.

At the same time, he still has support in the Nationalist Party. Congresswoman Wesly Vásquez attacked Luis Zelaya as well as Salvador Nasralla and Manuel Zelaya: "They only know how to criticize, they are bad Hondurans who definitely should not live in this country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-advierte-que-joh-puede-perpetrar-un-autogolpe-para-no-someterse-a-justicia-de-ee-uu/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/luis-zelaya-nasralla-y-mel-son-malos-hondurenos-ni-deberian-vivir-aqui-segun-diputada-nacionalista.html>

Journalist Ely Vallejo denounced that a police agent harassed him by filming him. "Channel 36 denounced what happened to Vallejo on its website www.cholusatur.com as an obstruction to his journalistic work. "In the style of the 80's, he profiled the communicator by taking photographs and videotaping him."

Something similar took place in Tegucigalpa when Military Police agents tried to stop journalists from covering their work.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1163-policia-impide-cobertura-y-perfila-a-periodista-de-zona-norte>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1162-policia-militar-restringe-cobertura-de-suceso-en-tegucigalpa>

With 45 new cases, the total of confirmed COVID-19 cases rose to 1055. Six more people have died for a total of 86.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/86-personas-fallecidas-por-coronavirus-y-1-055-casos-suma-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/03/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-3-de-mayo-del-2020/>

The state of exception including the lockdown was once again prolonged for another two weeks. Hondurans are allowed to leave the house only once in the next two weeks corresponding to the last digit of their identity card.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-extienden-cuarentena-hasta-el-domingo-17-de-mayo/>

Libre congressman Jorge Cálix denounced that the official of the Municipal Mayor's Office of the Central District (AMDC), Martín Fonseca, was moving the so-called solidarity bags to the facilities of his restaurant located in the colony Lomas de Mayab in Tegucigalpa.

<https://tiempo.hn/bolsas-solidarias-captan-funcionario-trasladandolas-a-su-restaurante/>

PEN International, Reporters without Borders and other human rights organizations denounced in a joint press release the new Honduran Penal Code which comes into force on May 10.

<https://pen-international.org/es/noticias/honduras-nuevo-codigo-penal-exhibe-a-un-estado-que-criminaliza-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-el-acceso-a-la-informacion>

04/05/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - HRDs, Garífuna, Repression, Health Sector, Domestic Workers, Economy, Prisons, Lawyers; Penal Code; Corruption; Water; and Children under Lockdown

COPINH presented another request demanding that the MP indict Daniel Atala Midence for Berta's murder as an intellectual author.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1257314229213749248>

"Yani Rosenthal, a 54-year-old former Honduran politician who twice ran for president, is seeking early release from a Miami federal jail where he is serving time for drug money laundering, arguing that his health is in jeopardy amid the coronavirus pandemic. The former politician who twice ran for president, pleaded guilty in 2017 to one count of money laundering in the United States and received a substantially reduced three-year sentence after paying a \$2.5 million fine. (...) Rosenthal is one of a long list of Honduran politicians and businessman accused of aiding drug traffickers in recent years, including another former legislator, Tony Hernandez, brother of the current president Juan Orlando Hernandez. Tony Hernandez was convicted of drug crimes last year and is awaiting sentencing in New York. President Hernandez has denied any ties to drug traffickers."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/powerful-honduran-businessman-seeks-compassionate-release-from-us-prison-due-to-coronavirus>

In the newest case, meanwhile, "El Tigre" Bonilla announced to hold a press conference in the coming days.

He also wrote: "I do not have and have not had any relationship, for the purpose of committing a crime, with convicted drug trafficker Juan Antonio Hernández, his brother or other criminals mentioned in the testimony and allegations of the United States Federal Court."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1984-el-tigre-niega-relacion-con->

[tony-joh-u-otros-delincuentes](#)

<https://criterio.hn/en-pronunciamiento-publico-el-tigre-bonilla-califica-a-joh-como-delincuente/>

According to El Libertador, Honduras has so far only conducted 4810 tests, while the much smaller El Salvador conducted over 30'000.

Also due to this, Honduras still has one of the highest case fatality rates worldwide.

In recent days, the testing capacity has increased and yesterday, there were for the first time more than 400 tests conducted, 433. They confirmed 123 new cases for a total of 1178. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 rose to 83.

Sixty percent of coronavirus cases belong to men and 40 percent to women, while the largest number of those infected is in the 21-30 age range.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1982-honduras-el-que-menos-investiga-infeccion-del-covid-en-la-region>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-se-convierte-en-el-tercer-pais-mas-mortifero-del-mundo-por-decesos-de-coronavirus/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1377471-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-ya-deja-83-muertos-y-1178-infectados>

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/jovenes-con-mayor-rango-de-contagios-de-covid-19-en-honduras.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/04/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-4-de-mayo-del-2020/>

In a joint press release, over 100 civil society and human rights organizations wrote an open letter to the governments of Honduras and Colombia. "In response to the increased vulnerability of human rights defenders brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, a broad assortment of civil society organizations today urged the governments of Honduras and Colombia to adopt all measures necessary to guarantee the human rights of defenders, social leaders, and ethnic communities in those countries. Defenders and social leaders are under increased attacks from armed groups illegally mobilized to harass and attack them as the defenders respect necessary social isolation orders."

<https://earthrights.org/media/organizations-urge-governments-to-protect-activists-and-communities-threatened-by-armed-groups-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network organizes a webinar for tomorrow with Garífuna defender and general coordinator of OFRANEH, Miriam Miranda, on "afro-indigenous and indigenous resistance in the era of COVID-19".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1257317746930356226>

"The Honduran population does not have the discipline to respect the curfew so contagion continues to advance (...) there are always cases in which they consider it necessary to apply other measures, said Jair Meza, spokesman for the Honduran National Police, referring to the countless complaints of torture, ill-treatment, live gunfire and other abuses committed by police officers against people who break the curfew."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2821-vocero-de-la-policia-nacional-justifica-el-uso-de-la-fuerza-para-someter-a-la-poblacion-al-toque-de-queda>

ConfidencialHN reports that a auxiliary nurse was fired for a suspected corona virus infection.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ihss-despide-a-enfermera-por-sospechas-de-padecer-del-coronavirus/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the situation of domestic workers in Honduras during the pandemic.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2820-concluyen-en-conversatorio-virtual-las-trabajadoras-domesticas-viven-discriminacion-en-las-leyes-y-las-sociedades>

A new study by the Institute for Economic and Social Investigations (IIES) estimates that between 300'000 and 500'000 Hondurans could lose their jobs in the coming months.

"In order to reactivate the country's micro and small businesses negatively affected in their finances by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy, the Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi) will channel 40 million lempiras through the Covelo Foundation, an organization that in turn works in alliance with 25 microfinance companies."

<https://www.tunota.com/hasta-500-mil-personas-desempleadas-en-honduras-podria-dejar-el-covid-19-segun-estudio>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1377403-466/banhprovi-coloca-l-40-millones-para-rehabilitar-micro-y-pequenas-empresas>

More than 1000 inmates have been released earlier from prison as a response to the corona crisis.

<https://tiempo.hn/mil-reos-preliberados-durante-cuarentena-poder-judicial/>

Some weeks ago, the Bar Association of Honduras (CAH) held internal elections where the opposition won. The outgoing leadership now caused widespread indignation by handing out 500 Lempiras vouchers to its members - lawyers - for the hardship they may encounter during the corona crisis...

<https://criterio.hn/indignacion-causa-bono-de-colegio-de-abogados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/miseria-colegio-de-abogados-da-bonos-de-500-lempiras-a-sus-agremiados-para-hacer-frente-a-la-crisis/>

The CNA published a timeline highlighting how the new Penal Code contributes to undermine anti-corruption efforts.

New criticism also came from the former Human Rights Minister, Ana Pineda.

The Coalition against Impunity has started to collect signatures calling for an extension of the vacatio legis.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1257368063890120705>

<http://elpulso.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-no-corresponde-a-lo-que-se-aprobo/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/recolectan-firmas-para-pedir-ampliar-vacatio-legis-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

"Representatives of the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) asked the Constitutional Chamber of the Judiciary on Monday to resolve the appeals of unconstitutionality filed against the limitations on the exercise of the criminal action of the Public Prosecutor's Office. ASJ member Lester Ramírez said they are asking that several legislative norms be declared unconstitutional in order to effectively combat corruption and impunity."

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-quitar-trabas-legales-al-ministerio-publico-para-combatir-corrupcion/>

Water rationing will continue in Tegucigalpa.

But SANAA also hopes that the water levels will be normal again by the end of the year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sanaa-confirma-prolongacion-de-los-rationamientos-de-agua-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/sanaa-espera-que-a-finales-del-año-se-hayan-recuperado-niveles-de-embalses-de-la-capital.html>

<https://criterio.hn/que-pasa-con-las-ninos-y-ninas-durante-el-confinamiento/>

05/05/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Elections; Penal Code; COVID-19 - HRDs, Repression, Health Sector, Agriculture, Corruption, Migration, Economy; Congress; and Citizen Arrests

InSight Crime also picked up the most recent drug trafficking-related news coming from the US. Focusing in JOH, they write that "[t]he latest accusations against Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández are the most damning yet and add further weight to his alleged role as a co-conspirator in his brother's drug trafficking ring, but it still remains unlikely that the United States will indict the head of state". Shortly after the accusations against "El Tigre" Bonilla were made public, the MP in Honduras, lead by a JOH-ally, announced that Bonilla is charged with money laundering which

means that he cannot be extradited if indicted for this in Honduras. InSight Crime calls this "an unexpected move", but it is exactly what to expect by the JOH regime.

The Pro Honduras Network focuses in a new article on Bonilla's role as JOH's hitman.

Víctor Meza reflects on the meaning of a narco-state for Honduras. "No matter how much they deny it or pretend to question it, the truth is that the concept of the narco-state, used in the New York courts to describe the Honduran state, has begun to acquire citizenship status among national and international public opinion. As much as we dislike it or are uncomfortable with it, the truth is that the image of the country and the use of its symbols - the passport among them - have become suspiciously linked to drug trafficking practices. One more disgrace! (...) Once this distressing process has been completed, we have before us the aforementioned narco-state, already identified and presented to the public in New York. It is sad, but it is so."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/accusations-honduras-president/>

<https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1352923431562341/?d=n>

<https://criterio.hn/el-narco-estado/>

One way for JOH to protect himself is to stay in power. It is, therefore, no surprise that rumors become louder that the coming elections could be suspended.

The president of the newly formed National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, said that they would do everything possible to ensure that the dates of the primary and general elections in Honduras are respected.

<https://criterio.hn/politicos-despiertan-tras-denuncia-de-anulacion-de-elecciones-por-pandemia/>

<https://criterio.hn/haremos-respetar-calendario-de-elecciones-rici-moncada/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1986-honduras-en-alerta-autoridad-electoral-por-amenaza-reeleccionista>

With the new Penal Code about to come into force, the public rejection of it took force again in the last days, even amidst the corona crisis. Radio Progreso published a great summary of why the Penal Code is problematic, in form and procedure, which is worth reading in full. "In 5 days the new Penal Code will come into force. Not even the national emergency caused by the Coronavirus pandemic makes those who authoritatively control the National Congress desist from their decision to put into effect a strongly questioned regulation. The reasons for this questioning are both formal and substantive. Among the reasons are that the draft Criminal Code and its four versions were not published on the website of the National Congress, nor was it known which version was finally approved. In spite of being such an important norm for democracy and human rights, the three debates in Congress were dispensed with and the schedule of the sessions in which they were discussed was not duly published, and, therefore, the citizens did not know the content of what was being discussed. Finally, the Supreme Court of Justice's ruling on the constitutionality of the Criminal Code was sent to the National Congress seven months after the discussion began, despite the fact that the Constitution states that the ruling must first be known before discussions begin. And among the fundamental reasons we can point out two in particular: first, it is a code that

reduces the penalties for the crimes of corruption, drug trafficking and sexual violation; second, it contains vaguely and ambiguously worded crimes that limit citizens' rights and freedoms. In other words, the new Penal Code seems to have two faces: one that favours corrupt people and drug traffickers, and sexual violators, and another that openly limits rights, especially those related to freedom of expression, assembly, association and participation."

The Coalition against Impunity wrote a letter to Congress' president Mauricio Oliva demanding that new Criminal Code not become active for at least another year.

There was also a petition launched on Change.org calling on Congress to vote against the Penal Code.

The Articulation 611, consisting of some 20 social movements and human rights organizations, also published a press release against the Penal Code.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/un-nuevo-codigo-penal-infestado-del-virus-de-la-desconfianza-ciudadana/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1257810330903695361>

<https://www.change.org/p/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-congreso-nacional-de-honduras-sesionen-presencial-para-vacatio-legis-del-c%C3%B3digo-penal>

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-al-congreso-nacional-votar-por-no-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1987-honduras-sociedad-civil-retoma-protesta-contra-nuevo-codigo-penal>

As expected, with an increased testing rate, more COVID-19 cases are detected in Honduras. Yesterday, 410 tests resulted in 92 new cases for a total of 1270. The number of deaths increased by 10 to 93.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-ascienden-1270-casos-covid-19-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/05/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-5-de-mayo-del-2020/>

"Members of the Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia from different territories of the country, presented an action of protection before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice this day, asking for the restitution of their rights to defend rights, to freedom of movement and expression, which they consider violated by the validity of the decrees that impose the suspension of "guarantees" in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic."

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that "[t]he different institutions of the State of Honduras have made a knot to prevent human rights defenders from carrying out their work in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, where there is repression against the population demonstrating in the streets due to lack of food or discrimination".

The IACHR agrees. "The IACHR calls on States to protect and guarantee the work of human rights defenders in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic". "According to publicly available information, since the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Americas, murders of human rights defenders

have been recorded in countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/05/02/madj-pide-amparo-para-realizar-su-labor-de-defensoria-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2825-estado-de-honduras-un-solo-nudo-para-evitar-que-personas-defensoras-de-ddhh-ejerzan-su-labor-frente-a-las-arbitrariedades-en-la-emergencia-por-covid-19>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/es/contexto/item/2822-senala-la-cidh-algunos-actores-estarian-aprovechando-las-medidas-de-excepcion-para-atentar-contr-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos>

Two brothers were arrested and beaten by police in the community of Pavana, Choluteca. They were accused of having violated the lockdown.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-detiene-y-golpea-a-hermanos-en-choluteca/>

Doctor Carlos Aguilar criticized the purchase of over-priced mobile hospitals as with the same money existing hospitals could have been prepared to confront the crisis while also having a long-lasting positive impact on the Honduran health system.

<http://elpulso.hn/con-dinero-de-compras-sobrevaloradas-se-pudo-mejorar-los-hospitales-publicos/>

"In Honduras, the current crisis generated by COVID-19 has generated a series of economic, political, environmental and social measures that are generating an unprecedented crisis in the human rights of the Honduran population. In a context of food crisis, one of the fields prioritized by the political elite and the business sector has been the agrarian field, which through Executive Decree PCM-030-2020 aims to reconfigure the current agrarian policy of the country through greater control and presence of the agro-industrial and agro-export sector, while displacing the peasant sector, small and medium producers and worsening the food crisis."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/05/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-el-pcm-030-2020-y-la-agudizacion-de-la-crisis-alimentaria-en-honduras/>

FOSDEH published an analysis of the purchases made by the JOH regime in response to the corona crisis. "For the Honduran Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development (FOSDEH), the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the serious flaws in the systems on which our daily lives are based."

<https://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Propuestas-econo-covid19-III-parte.pdf>

Doctors without Borders calls for a stop of deportations flights from the US to other countries, mostly Central America and Mexico.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), meanwhile, reported on their work in Honduras with deported migrants. "Since 1 March, Honduras has received returning migrants from the United States at a rate of 100 men and women per day. Thus far none have tested positive for

COVID-19, yet the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been helping Honduran authorities to prepare for any sign of the contagion appearing. IOM, working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has concentrated on the logistics related to the purchase and transportation of extraction and re-agent kits in Guatemala, which will allow for 15,000 tests for COVID-19 to be performed once those kits are deployed in Honduras as per the requirements of that country's Ministry of Health."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/05/05/medicos-sin-fronteras-pide-frenar-deportaciones-desde-ee-uu-por-el-covid-19/>

<https://www.iom.int/news/iom-usaid-deliver-15000-covid-19-tests-honduras>

Banco Ficohsa signed a subordinated loan with the eco.business Fund for \$10 million "to boost the economic development of the country". "The seed capital was provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the German Development Bank KfW acting as the main sponsor, Finance in Motion, a leading impact investment company is also an investor."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1377725-466/banco-ficohsa-y-ecobusiness-fund-firman-pr%C3%A9stamo-subordinado-por-10-millones>

Congresswomen denounced that with the new modality of virtual sessions, they have even less time and space to express themselves leading to important issues regarding women unattended.

<http://elpulso.hn/diputados-descartan-proyectos-de-ley-que-beneficien-a-la-mujer/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1377642-528/coronavirus-amarran-a-policias-que-visitaban-a-familias-en-la-paz>

06/05/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Penal Code; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, LGBTQ+, Indigenous Peoples, Women, Judicial Power, Agriculture, Economy; Corruption - Pandora; and the End of the MACCIH

Some news outlets reported that "El Tigre" Bonilla has left Honduras for the US to testified at the DEA.

Radio HRD later cited his lawyer saying that he had not left Honduras.

ConfidencialHN and Radio Globo further claimed that the US through its embassy had played an important role in the nomination of Bonilla as the head of police.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1990-urgente-el-tigre-pidio-auxilio-para-entregarse-a-la-dea>

<https://radiohrn.hn/el-tigre-bonilla-no-se-ha-entregado-a-la-justicia-norteamericana-dice-su-abogada/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-tigre-bonilla-habria-salido-de-honduras-para-entregarse-a-ee-uu-por-cargos-de-narcotrafico/>

As May 10 approaches fast, there are more and more calls to stop the entry into force of the new Penal Code (see also last few days).

Pasos de Animal Grande published a long article on all the problems with the Penal Code.

<https://criterio.hn/facultad-de-derecho-de-la-unah-pide-suspendan-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1536-urge-extension-del-vacatio-legis-para-el-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/mas-voces-piden-no-vigencia-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1258048000976437255>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/nuevo-codigo-penal/item/2826-honduras-nuevo-codigo-penal-el-blanqueo-del-regimen-ante-una-democracia-ilusoria>

Nathalie Southwick, coordinator for Central and South America at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) explains why Honduras does not appear on its impunity index regarding the murder of journalists. "CPJ has an index of impunity for Latin American countries that we publish every year and the only reason Honduras does not appear in that index is because the vast majority of journalists murdered in Honduras are characterized as unconfirmed, that is, there is no level of reliable information about those cases to allow us to confirm that they do or do not have to do with journalistic work". Fortunately, there are organizations such as C-Libre documenting the situation in Honduras. "In the last two years to date, the Committee for Free Expression (C-Libre), through the Alert Network for the Protection of Journalists and Social Communicators (RAPCOS), registered 289 alerts against journalists and media outlets. Of these, in the first months of 2020 alone, 52 alerts were issued for violations of freedom of expression and 24 in the context of the state of emergency, declared on 15 March through PCM 021-2020 due to the emergency caused by Covid-19."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1535-estado-de-honduras-invisibiliza-los-asesinatos-a-periodistas>

Inline with the increased testing rate, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is on a steep rise. Yesterday, an additional 191 people tested positive for a total of 1462. Six more people died to COVID-19 which means that so far there have been 99 confirmed deaths.

Among those infected are some 387 children and youths.

ConexiHon reports on the situation of 13 Honduran sailors abandoned to their fate after the presence of COVID-19 was detected on board a luxury cruise ship in Uruguayan waters and unable to go ashore.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/casos-covid-19-aumentan-1462-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-honduras-suma-380-ninos-jovenes-contagiados/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1533-agonia-en-altamar-trece-marinos-hondurenos-abandonados-en-crucero-greg-mortimer>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/gobierno-abandona-a-13-marinos-en-crucero-infectado-por-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/06/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-6-de-mayo-del-2020/>

ConfidencialHN claims that the notorious JJ Rendón is behind JOH's media campaign to accompany his response to the corona crisis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jj-rendon-esta-detras-de-campana-mediatica-de-joh-sobre-emergencia-del-coronavirus/>

"UNAIDS and MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights are extremely concerned that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people are being singled out, blamed, abused, incarcerated and stigmatized as vectors of disease during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNAIDS and MPact are also deeply troubled that this discriminatory action is compounding the challenges that LGBTI people already face in accessing their rights, including safe and quality health services."

https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2020/april/20200427_lgbti-covid

OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda denounced that the police was threatening to use tear gas against a group of young Garífuna safeguarding the community Travesía, Cortés.

Defensores en Línea reports on similar intimidation against indigenous Lenca in La Paz, organized by MILPAH, who also try to protect their communities.

The webinar by the Honduras Solidarity Network with Miriam Miranda on indigenous resistance in the era of COVID-19 can now be watched online.

Next week, another webinar will take place with the participation of Berta Zúniga and other indigenous leaders from Latin America.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1258051148382179328>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/retenes-anti-covid-19-estan-militarizados-en-la-paz/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1258232033391738881>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1258194482186633217>

"Over the last few decades, Honduras has managed to improve its sexual and reproductive health indicators: the maternal mortality rate fell from 108 to 60 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births between 1997 and 2015, and 83% of deliveries were attended by qualified health personnel in adequate medical infrastructure, which had a direct impact on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. Similarly, between 2006 and 2012 the fertility rate fell from 3.3 to 2.9 children per woman and contraceptive use increased from 56 to 64 per cent, giving Honduran women greater control over the exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights." This is now in danger due to the corona crisis.

This warning also comes from the United Nations Population Fund.

Some 200 men have been arrested for domestic violence in the capital in recent weeks, according to the DPI.

At the same time, HRD María Felicita explains that because of the confinement due to the pandemic, the attention given to women in their community has been complicated. The distance and lack of resources, even a phone call or access to a telephone, leaves the victims more vulnerable.

<https://criterio.hn/se-debe-asegurar-la-continuidad-de-los-servicios-de-salud-sexual-y-reproductiva-durante-la-pandemia/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/la-onu-insta-a-honduras-a-garantizar-servicios-de-salud-sexual-y-reproductiva.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dpi-informa-que-200-hombres-han-sido-detenido-por-agredir-a-sus-parejas-sentimentales/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2829-instituciones-estatales-sin-respuestas-contundente-ante-el-incremento-de-la-violencia-en-la-emergencia>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that "[i]n view of the current crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, several sectors representing vulnerable groups in Honduras have filed for amparo to protect the integrity and lives of the people, but the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, CSJ, has not responded to any petition, so justice for the victims is being denied".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2830-retardo-pone-en-peligro-miles-de-vidas-denegacion-de-justicia-se-incrusta-en-la-sala-de-lo-constitucional-de-la-csj>

El Pulso reports on the abandonment of coffee growers by the State in Honduras. "Due to the emergence of covid-19, the state recently approved a coffee fertilization bond in which 300 million lempiras have been allocated to benefit more than 90,000 families. However, coffee growers consider that "it is a trap and a deception with two bags of fertilizer"."

<http://elpulso.hn/productores-aseguran-que-bono-cafetalero-del-gobierno-es-un-engano/>

More than 2,000 university teachers at the UNAH will become unemployed after authorities decided to dispense with their services, citing financial problems caused by the corona crisis.

<https://criterio.hn/docentes-por-hora-de-la-unah-se-quedan-sin-empleo/>

The Pandora case was one of the most important ones by MACCIH (see also below), but as the other cases, it led nowhere. Reporteros de Investigación (RI) gives an update focusing on the key witness Fernando Suarez. "Menjivar [his lawyer] told RI that "Fernando Suarez, a witness in the Pandora case, denounced all the corruption through which President Juan Orlando Hernández plundered the state through a network that used NGOs, ghost companies and front men to plunder state funds and finance his political campaign. (...) According to Menjivar, his client decided to come forward and collaborate with the Public Prosecutor's Office by offering all the information he had available, which included "not only the looting of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, which is why the Pandora case was formulated, but the looting of other state institutions, practically all the institutions that manage the significant budget, including the Pani, the Secretariat of Health and Education, the National Congress, Banadesa and Infop. All this information was left in the custody of the Public Prosecutor's Office. "Since that date, the Public Prosecutor's Office has not issued any judicial decision that would imply what the procedural treatment to be given to Fernando Suárez will be"."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/06/fernando-suarez-en-peligro/>

"The work of the Mission of Support against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras, Maccih, had a relatively low impact because they did not manage to have the necessary legal instruments to reinforce their objectives to extend the investigation processes to key figures of the political elites linked to government and private corruption in that country, who also opted to legislate initiatives to reinforce impunity and limit the accusations of that investigative body. The continuity of the Maccih and a more effective performance depended on the role that various interest groups in that nation, genuinely committed to the fight against corruption, were able to play. In this series of eight installments, Expediente Público highlights the strong personal motives of Mauricio Oliva, president of the National Congress and the main inquisitor, to get the Maccih out of the country."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/especiales/lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

07/05/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - JOH, Repression, Health Sector, Poverty, Economy, IMF; Corruption; Elections; and Hidden Suffering

OACNUDH published an important press release on the new Penal Code. "OACNUDH calls for a process of review and reform of the new Penal Code in accordance with the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms of the universal and inter-American systems. It is important that this process be broad, transparent and participatory and include broad sectors of Honduran civil society."

At the same time, the Judicial Power dismissed the initiative presented by the CNA demanding that the Penal Code does not come into force this Sunday.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-a-desarrollar-un-proceso-de-revision-y-reforma-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-desestima-peticion-del-cna-y-reafirma-entrada-de-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

El Libertador provides further evidence that "El Tigre" Bonilla left Honduras for the US, supposedly to testify.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1996-honduras-exclusiva-asi-llego-el-tigre-a-ee-uu>

"Personalities and organizations defending human rights at the international level have sent a letter to leaders of the Americas to demand the release of political prisoners, whose only crime has been to express their rejection of the policies exercised by their governments, defend their territories and raise their voices in defense of their countries' natural resources."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/carta-abierta-por-la-libertad-de-las-y-los-presos-politicos/>

Up until this week, the testing capacity for COVID-19 in Honduras was very low, even compared to neighboring countries. Given the high percentage rate of positive tests, it was feared that the real number of cases must be substantially higher. The last days seem to confirm this. The positive rate stayed high even with higher testing capacities and the confirmed COVID-19 cases are on a steep rise. 527 tests resulted in 224 new cases for a new total of 1685. An additional six people died for a total of 105 deaths.

There are at least 29 doctors and 41 nurses infected with COVID-19.

Last week, a nurse was fired because she got infected. The President of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, denounced this on Radio Progreso.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1378265-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suma-105-muertos-y-1685-casos-positivos>

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/05/07/un-total-de-29-medicos-y-41-enfermeras-estan-contagiados-de-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/enfermeros-y-enfermeras-preocupados-por-despidos-en-medio-de-la-emergencia/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/07/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-7-de-mayo-del-2020/>

There is more reporting on JOH's media strategy in confronting the corona crisis (see also yesterday). "Rendón advises the Hernández regime that "measures must be taken" against the alternative press that exposes the government for corruption and drug trafficking, threatening the free exercise of the press."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1995-informe-arana-negra-operacion->

[politica-de-joh-atras-de-covid-19](#)

Inhabitants of a neighborhood in Tegucigalpa protested against the burial of people who had died of COVID-19 in their cemetery. State security forces used tear gas to repress and evict them. InSight Crime reports on the failure of state security forces in Honduras to peacefully enforce the lockdown. "Honduran authorities, particularly the PMOP, have come under fire on numerous occasions for the excessive use of force. Yet now in the middle of a pandemic, the flaws in a public security apparatus built around meeting violence with more violence are further exposed."

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/con-gas-lacrimogeno-desalojan-a-pobladores-que-impiden-entierro-de-muertos-por-covid.html>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-coronavirus-lockdown-gunpoint/>

Already a month ago, the mobile hospital in Villanueva, Cortés, was installed. It is still not functional. ENEE only now began to install the electrical service. "It should be noted that the Villanueva mobile hospital cost more than 5.5 million Lempiras, not counting the cost of running the hospital, which has already been abandoned for more than 26 days and for which the Public Prosecutor's Office has initiated an investigation. "The Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and the Fight against Corruption, in San Pedro Sula, is conducting an investigation into why it is not working, it was found that there are no public services in the sector where the hospital is installed. Information has already been gathered and if a crime is committed, we will proceed once this investigation is completed," said Yuri Mora, spokesperson for the Public Ministry."

<http://elpulso.hn/en-los-proximos-dias-se-habilitara-el-cuestionable-hospital-movil/>

Remittances will fall by 14% in the second semester according to the Honduran Central Bank (BCH).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/remesas-a-honduras-sufriran-caida-de-14-en-segundo-semester.html>

Criticism is raised against the JOH regime that in the midst of an exponential growth of cases, some restaurants are opened again.

At the same time, the former Health Minister Elsa Palou rightly points out that "people cannot die of hunger" in the face of the consequences of the corona crisis.

Criterio columnist Lucía Vijil Saybe, meanwhile, presents her conditions for the reopening of the economy, e.g. "[f]or each employee who tests positive for Covid-19, the company will pay for treatment and medication in a private hospital".

<http://elpulso.hn/sin-control-y-con-escalada-de-casos-de-covid-19-gobierno-prepara-reapertura-economica/>

<http://elpulso.hn/subsidios-para-trabajadores-todavia-no-son-una-realidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-19-empresas-de-comida-reinician-labores-bajo-medidas-de->

[bioseguridad/](#)

<https://tiempo.hn/palou-sobre-apertura-restaurante-no-es-ideal-pero-realidad-se-impone/>

<https://criterio.hn/reabramos-negocios-con-las-siguientes-condiciones/>

The IMF came to an agreement with the JOH regime to expand its credit line by another \$222 million to \$530 million.

<https://tiempo.hn/fmi-acuerda-honduras-ampliar-credito-530-millones/>

Even the deputy Attorney General now openly says that their investigation capabilities into corruption are limited by the powers given to the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) through decree 116 - 2019.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscal-adjunto-reconoce-que-ministerio-publico-tiene-limitadas-sus-facultades-dadas-al-tsc/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1258284745852583938>

Mauro Oliva, Nationalist president of Congress, wants to run for the presidency next year. He seems to be already in election mode. "Since Wednesday, residents of the area adjacent to the entrance of Danlí, shared through social networks their discomfort at being surprised by an excessive number of advertising posters that exalt the president of the legislature." This, of course, violates the law which only allows campaigns 50 days before the election, in this case on January 31, 2021, 50 days before the primaries.

The former president Pepe Lobo, meanwhile, announced that he would support the opposition to make sure that JOH does not stay in power.

<https://criterio.hn/mauricio-oliva-utiliza-pandemia-para-arrancar-prematura-e-ilegal-campana-proselitista/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-lobo-asegura-que-se-sumara-a-la-oposicion-para-forzar-la-dimision-de-hernandez/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-sufrimiento-que-no-se-ve-en-la-cuarentena-por-covid-19/>

08/05/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code; National Police; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, State Reaction, JOH, Agriculture, Economy, HR, Corruption, Women, Poverty, Migration; and Imitating Trump

Already the whole week, human rights, social movements, civil society organizations and the political opposition published press release and held press conferences warning about the Penal Code and demanding that it would not come into force on Sunday. More demands were voiced yesterday.

The CNA also published a new 75-page study on the Penal Code with an "approach based on a democratic state and the rule of law". The CNA "was able to identify a series of irregularities within Legislative Decree No. 130-2017, in that the legislative technique used by the deputies does not respond to Honduran legal culture. Similarly, the structure of how this penal norm was developed was not correct because there was a breach between the general part and the special part of the Penal Code." "This code presents marked inconsistencies in the theory of punishment. On the one hand, it advocates a new and broad catalogue of penalties that represent an alternative to the deprivation of liberty, and, paradoxically, it imposes the penalty of life imprisonment in the commission of certain crimes, in contravention of constitutional principles."

Radio Progreso reports that due to all this pressure, the president of the National Congress called an emergency session to discuss a decree extending the Vacatio Legis of the new Penal Code until June 25, 2020.

According to Criterio, the Prevention, Security and Defense Cabinet reported that on instructions from JOH, it has asked the National Congress for some reforms to the new Penal Code that will enter into force on May 10. If this is true, JOH wants to make changes to one of the most controversial reforms just hours before it comes into force.

In the evening, Mauricio Oliva announced that the decision to extend the vacatio legis or not will be taken today, Saturday.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/nuevo-codigo-penal-entrara-en-vigencia-carente-de-legitimidad-y-credibilidad/>

<https://criterio.hn/frente-parlamentario-contrala-corrupcion-pide-que-nuevo-codigo-penal-no-entre-en-vigencia/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/manifiesto-publico-8-mayo-2020/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/octavo-manifiesto-publico-no-al-codigo-penal/>

<https://criterio.hn/codigo-penal-no-debe-entrar-en-vigor-porque-es-lesivo-para-honduras-articulacion-611/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1258974289597837314>

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ESTUDIO-FINAL-Y-ANA%CC%81LISIS-AL-DECRETO-LEGISLATIVO.pdf>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/bajo-presion-congreso-nacional-aprobara-vacatio-legis-de-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://criterio.hn/hernandez-pide-reformas-al-codigo-penal-pero-no-incluye-delitos-vinculados-a-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-ejecutivo-pide-al-congreso-reformar-varios-articulos-de-legislacion-penal-para-reducir-el-crimen/>

<https://criterio.hn/entrara-en-vigencia-o-se-ampliara-la-vacatio-legis-para-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1999-honduras-manana-discutiran-ampliar-vacatio-legis-de-codigo-penal>

With the recent accusations against "El Tigre" Bonilla, questions regarding the police purge in Honduras rightly rose to prominence again. CESPAD published a great analysis on the topic. "Scandals such as that of Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla[1], puts more doubts on a process of police purging, which has been full of enormous flaws and criticisms. In this area it is important to consider that the purge is not reduced to the change of some police leaderships that are replaced by others through administrative channels; nor is it reduced to the massive departure of police of different ranks for different reasons; there are always doubts about whether all those who should have left have done so; on the other hand, very few - without having conflicts of interest - would risk ensuring that all the criminal networks that have operated within the police disappeared."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/08/analisis-acusaciones-desde-nueva-york-contr-el-tigre-bonilla-que-paso-con-la-depuracion-policia/>

UNE TV denounces a defamation campaign against them.

Journalist Renato Álvarez criticized that after pointing out issues related to JOH and the trial of his brother no public official comes to the program anymore.

After being reported for acts of corruption, the director of INVEST-H, Marco Bográn, threatened to criminally prosecute the directors of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Gabriela Castellanos and Odir Fernández.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1167-une-tv-denuncia-campana-de-desprestigio>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1166-ningun-funcionario-de-gobierno-viene-al-programa-denuncia-periodista>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1165-titular-de-invest-h-amenaza-con-querellar-a-responsables-de-informe-sobre-corrupcion-por-covid-19>

86 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed yesterday for a total of 1771, and two more Hondurans died for a total of 107 deaths.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/08/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-8-de-mayo-del-2020/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-ascienden-1771-casos-covid-19-honduras/>

El Heraldo warns about an "imminent" "hospital breakdown" in the country.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1378319-466/honduras-contagio-comunitario-coronavirus-fase-5-covid19>

These last days, a manual made the rounds supposedly by JJ Rendón to instruct JOH on how to handle the crisis (see previous e-mails). Political analyst Víctor Meza does not believe that it is written by JJ Rendón. "Mr. Rendon is much more skilled, much smarter. Unlike how the ideas are expressed in that document that has been circulating," said Meza, who is director of the Honduran Documentation Center. This document is a disinformation maneuver that, as happens many times, disinformation can contain small truths; as some truths can contain small lies, Meza said. (...) What happens with these documents is that they are false, but with partially true content, and in some cases, almost completely true. This document, which is attributed to Mr. Rendón, is a document of dubious origin, but its content, in large part, not totally, responds to circumstances of reality that we can verify every day in public life, said Meza. When one reads it, as these documents should be read, that is between the lines, then it is easy to capture the intention of the authors, because that is not a document made by one person, there are at least a couple of hands. The document contains information that tends to stir up anger and internal division, doubt, suspicion and mistrust within the ranks of the opposition; and more specifically within the Libre Party. This is a calculated maneuver to make the opposition fall into the game of the regime and get busy with these internal discrepancies in the name of an alleged analysis of these situations, Meza stressed."

<https://criterio.hn/supuesto-documento-de-jj-rendon-es-para-entretener-y-dividir-la-oposicion/>

JOH announced a collaboration with Israel to address the corona crisis.

<https://forbescentroamerica.com/2020/05/08/honduras-e-israel-acuerdan-unir-esfuerzos-contrapandemia-de-covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1258772484247166980>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1378392-466/honduras-e-israel-unen-esfuerzos-para-luchar-contrael-coronavirus>

The Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi) disposes of a 30 million Lempiras credit line for the pig-farming sector.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/economia/1378405-410/millones-aprobados-sector-porcicultor-afectados-emergencia-coronavirus>

JOH claims that 17'000 jobs were created by the maquila industry to produce biosafety equipment.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1258861751665377280>

OACNUDH informed about a recent conversation with the International Forum on Human Rights in Honduras on the current human rights situation in the country.

"A United Nations panel of independent experts today recalled that "the prohibition of arbitrary detention is absolute even in times of public emergency" and urged governments around the world to avoid arbitrary detention in the context of current measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1258894563504279552>

<https://oacnudh.hn/covid-19-no-es-una-excusa-para-la-privacion-ilegal-de-la-libertad-grupo-de-expertos-de-la-onu-sobre-la-detencion-arbitraria/>

The MP interviewed the fired former head of COPECO, Gabriel Alfredo Rubí Paredes, as part of their investigation into the purchase of the abandoned mobile hospital in Villanueva, Cortés (see previous e-mails).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/156-mayo2020/5779-mp-tomo-declaracion-a-exministro-de-copeco-por-denuncia-de-abandono-de-hospital-movil>

"Care for women in reproductive health and in cases of sexual violence has always been restricted in Honduras. It took three weeks from the time a quarantine was decreed for the Ministry of Health to ensure that the care centres would provide contraceptives. Although there are no official figures for cases of sexual violence during the pandemic, organizations and institutions that care for women claim that there is an increase, and with the confinement measures, access to health and justice is decreasing."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/08/mujeres-con-menos-acceso-a-la-salud-durante-pandemia/>

Javier Suazo analyses the response by the JOH regime to the crisis through the lens of hunger. "A second public agenda item is the problem of hunger. There are voices from civil society organizations that the government of the Republic with the Private Sector, grouped in the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP), has designed a plan to reopen the economy to favor the entry of large companies, mostly maquiladoras, located in the area where the epicenter of the pandemic is, the Department of Cortes. This is not the case with the micro and small businesses - mostly informal - where everything revolves around promises of future credit, when the immediate thing is to have income to pay the workers that, at most, allows them to acquire basic foodstuffs and feed their families."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/206419>

COFADEH presented a habeas corpus for stranded migrants in the south of Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-interpone-habeas-corpus-a-favor-de-ciudadanas-cubanas/>

"Honduran President, Echoing Trump, Promotes Unproven Treatment for COVID-19"

<https://elfaro.net/en/202005/internacionales/24389/Honduran-President-Echoing-Trump-Promotes->

[Unproven-Treatment-for-COVID-19.htm](#)

09/05/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code; Corruption - Impunity; Congress; Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDE; Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy; Migration; Elections; and Drunk on Power

Congress sent mixed messages regarding the new Penal Code yesterday. They rejected by a small majority, 69-to-52 votes, the citizen's initiative by the CNA.

But at the same time, they prolonged the vacatio legis for another 45 days, i.e. the Penal Code may enter into force on June 25.

The Nationalist secretary of Congress, Tomás Zambrano, pretended that civil society organizations who have only complained so far have time to help improve the Penal Code...ignoring completely that there have been manifold proposals for improvements.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1259190245834326016>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1259123219849764866>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-suspende-por-45-dias-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/publican-en-la-gaceta-la-extension-de-la-vacatio-legis-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://tiempo.hn/diputado-propuestas-reforma-codigo-penal-no-quejas-medios/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/sectores-que-se-quejan-del-codigo-penal-tienen-45-dias-para-presentar-propuestas-tomas-zambrano/>

A part from the Penal Code, these last days there was also a renewed discussion regarding impunity and the lack of investigation by the MP. The MP itself presented laws which they claim stop them from investigating (see previous e-mails). The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana Mercado disagrees. The situation is much simpler. The MP does not go after the corrupt because they don't want to do so.

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-no-acusa-a-los-corruptos-porque-no-quiere-edmundo-orellana-mercado/>

In a long article, Criterio explains a simple thing - the cost-benefit analysis for having congressmen in Honduras does not work in favor of the Honduran public. They are paid too much for approving laws shielding them from investigations and harming the public.

<https://criterio.hn/opulencia-de-los-diputados-versus-miseria-de-los-obreros/>

None seems to know where "El Tigre" Bonilla is.

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/policia-nacional-desconoce-paradero-de-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla.html>

La Prensa reports on a possible Employment and Economic Development Zone (ZEDE), the former charter cities, on Roatán.

OFRANEH denounces them as unconstitutional and "paradises for drug trafficking and corruption".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/economia/1378478-410/zede-en-roat%C3%A1n-busca-diversificar-y-fortalecer-econom%C3%ADa-de-la-isla>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1259189391270064130>

Defensores en Línea has an additional article on the international campaign to free political prisoners.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/campana-internacional-por-la-liberacion-de-las-presas-y-los-presos-politicos/>

59 new cases and one more death were confirmed yesterday, for a total of 1830 and 108 respectively. 257 people are hospitalized, 14 in intensive care units.

El Herald reports on some irregularities in the official numbers. Regarding deaths, health care centers had already counted 135 deaths when the official death toll was still at 85.

SINAGER announced to be revising their data.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1378649-528/casos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras-suben-a-1830-y-108-los-muertos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1378614-528/casos-coronavirus-honduras-duplicados>

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-estamos-revisando-dato-verificar-error-comunicados/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/09/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-9-de-mayo-del-2020/>

There are new problems with the mobile hospitals. A part from being overpriced, the one installed in Villanueva not working, and the purchase being investigated for corruption, the Red Cross of Honduras now withdrew from an agreement to run the mobile hospitals because the JOH regime never shared the required information with them.

<https://hch.tv/2020/05/09/cruz-roja-hondurena-desiste-de-manejar-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cruz-roja-desmiente-al-ejecutivo-afirman-que-no-fueron-informados-sobre-hospitales-moviles/>

The BCIE approved financing for the economic reactivation of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises worth \$300 million. The Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi) will be responsible for channelling these resources.

The exchange rate for the dollar has risen to 25 Lempiras.

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-aprueba-financiamiento-ayudar-mipyme-despues-crisis/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/economia/1378590-410/economia-honduras-precio-venta-dolar-aumento-lempiras-crisis-coronavirus>

136 Hondurans were deported yesterday from Mexico.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/05/09/a-cuarentena-mas-de-130-hondurenos-deportados-desde-mexico/>

The Minister of the Presidency, Ebal Díaz, once again felt the need to assure everyone that JOH would not run for president again.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/la-oposicion-le-tiene-miedo-pero-tranquilos-el-presidente-hernandez-no-se-va-reelegir-ebal-diaz.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2000-honduras-influencia-de-mario-segura-libero-diputados-borrachos>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1998-honduras-diputados-borrachos-con-inmunidad-para-amenazar-la-vida>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/suspenden-licencia-por-seis-meses-a-diputado-bader-dip-y-el-mp-no-registra-denuncia.html>

10/05/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; COVID-19 - State Reaction; Penal Code - FoE; Migration; Elections; and Mother's Day

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the April edition of its monthly human rights monitor (I had this before that after saving a document, some footnotes were lost, i.e. just a regular number appears where the footnote has been. Last time it took me hours to fix this. I think it is more important that the report is out now and if someone needs the foot note, they can be found in this daily news-roundup - sorry for the inconvenience). 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=861

No new deaths for COVID-19 were documented yesterday, but there are additional 142 cases for a

total of 1972.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1378841-528/con-142-nuevos-casos-cifra-en-honduras-por-coronavirus-sube-a-1972>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/10/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-10-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Criterio published an overview of the most problematic parts of the new Penal Code and also links to it for those who want to read the 145-pages for themselves.

ConfidencialHN focuses on the role of Libre and its congresswo/men in the debate about the new Penal Code and they accuse them of not having proposed alternatives.

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-sigue-siendo-un-fantasma-para-los-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/prorroga-de-vacatio-legis-es-un-acto-demagogico-del-poder-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/96095-2/>

Reporteros de Investigación highlights those articles of the new Penal Code, now coming into force on June 25 (see yesterday), violating freedom of expression.

https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/10/nuevo-codgo-penal-criminaliza-la-libertad-de-expresion/#Comparte_esto

The state of exception has once again been prolonged for another week to May 17.

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-extiende-alerta-roja-hasta-el-17-de-mayo-en-toda-honduras/>

Deportations to Honduras were 35.4% lower in the first four months of 2020 due to the corona virus.

<https://tiempo.hn/por-covid-19-deportacion-de-hondurenos-se-reduce-un-35/>

Congress' vice-president Antonio Rivera Callejas claims that the elections will go through as planned next year, i.e. the primaries in March and the general election in November.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidente-del-legislativo-dice-que-en-2021-habran-elecciones-primarias-y-electorales/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/10/y-entonces-de-quien-es-el-plan-de-suprimir-las-elecciones-primarias-y-generales-en-honduras/>

Honduras commemorated Mother's Day while also highlighting the difficulty faced by women living in Honduras. Defensores en Línea writes about the mothers of the disappeared, the assassinated and the political prisoners.

Family members of migrants who had disappeared demanded answers.

The Center for Women's Right warned about the expected increase in domestic violence this year due to the lockdown.

And then, there are the mothers too young to be mothers. 33'000 girls and teenagers between the ages of 10 and 18 gave birth in Honduras last year.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/las-madres-de-los-desaparecidos-asesinados-y-presos-politicos-siguen-clamando-justicia/>

<https://departamento19.hn/no-tenemos-nada-que-celebrar-la-contrastante-realidad-de-madres-de-desaparecidos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/este-2020-habra-un-repunte-importante-de-casos-de-violencia-domestica-por-el-confinamiento.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-33000-mujeres-se-convirtieron-en-madre-entre-los-10-a-18-anos/>

11/05/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; COPINH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Penal Code - Women; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Indigenous Peoples, Corruption, Journalists, Violence; and Today's Angels

"A week ago, a formal request was made to the Public Prosecutor's Office for an injunction against Daniel Atala Midence for the crime of murder and illicit association, as part of the intellectual authorship of the murder of Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores, General Coordinator and founding member of COPINH. (...) There is strong evidence about the participation of Daniel Atala Midence, in the persecution, criminalization and surveillance resulting in the assassination of Berta Cáceres, for which this person should be prosecuted and brought to justice."

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/daniel-atala-midence-responsible-for-the-murder-of-bertha-caceres-must-be-prosecuted-and-punished/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/daniel-atala-midence-responsable-asesinato-bertha-debe-ser-enjuiciado-y-castigado/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2834-copinh-solicito-ante-mp-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-daniel-atala-por-participacion-en-crimen-contra-bertha-caceres>

COPINH sent out an alert yesterday that soldiers detained José Trochez, member of the general coordination of COPINH, while he was handing out food in indigenous communities. José was in possession of papers allowing him to do humanitarian work.

Two hours later, COPINH announced that he was let go. They will press charges against a soldier for the illegal detention.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1260019972857716738>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1260039635826282503>

It is still unclear where "El Tigre" Bonilla is. But now, El Tiempo reports that he will collaborate with the New York City District Attorney's Office in the United States and will be a protected witness against Honduran drug traffickers.

<https://tiempo.hn/tigre-bonilla-colaborara-eeuu-casos-narcos-hondurenos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-tigre-sera-colaborador-estrella-de-la-fiscalia-de-nueva-york-y-testigo-protegido-contr-narcos-hondurenos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande links to some of the proposals made to improve the Penal Code whose vacatio legis was prolonged recently (see Sunday's e-mail).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/nuevo-codigo-penal/item/2835-nuevo-codigo-penal-entre-la-derogacion-y-la-reforma>

ConexiHon explains how the new Penal Code leaves women having suffered violence "completely defenseless".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1542-nuevo-codigo-penal-dejara-en-completa-indefension-a-mujeres-victimas-de-violencia>

349 tests brought forward 128 COVID-19 cases. Honduras has still a very high positive rate, which means that the real number of cases, currently, 2100, is likely much higher. 8 more people died for a total of 116.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1379074-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suma-116-muertos-y-2100-casos-positivos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-mayo-del-2020/>

The labor union of the workers at the University Hospital announced that at least 11 employees tested positive for COVID-19. Among those infected include resident doctors, x-ray staff, laboratory technicians and laundry staff.

At the same time, doctors at the same hospital gave the JOH regime 48 hours to provide them biosecurity supplies, in addition to assigning more personnel to attend to the coronavirus pandemic, otherwise they will go on strike.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/alarma-11-empleados-del-hospital-escuela-positivos-de-covid.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-11-empleados-del-hospital-escuela-dan-positivo-a-la-prueba-del-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-plazo-de-48-horas-dan-medicos-internos-del-hospital-escuela-al-ejecutivo-para-que-les-de-insumos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefa-sanitaria-asegura-que-revisaran-peticiones-de-los-medicos-internos-del-hospital-escuela/>

ASJ revealed that a company that participated in the embezzlement at the IHSS is also linked to the emergency purchases by COVID-19.

<https://tiempo.hn/asj-empresa-desfalco-ihss-vinculada-compras-emergencia/>

The UN Population Fund reports on the response by the Garífuna community to the corona-crisis. "As countries grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are among the most vulnerable, with many facing poverty, poor health-care access and limited information. In Honduras, members of these communities are joining together to ensure information and resource reach the most vulnerable. "We have had to get creative in these times," said Yimene Calderón, head of the Organization for Ethnic Development, which is working with the Garífuna community to raise awareness of infection control measures and provide support to households in need. They are "being resilient, relying on our traditional medicine and foods, and seeking support and solidarity to receive assistance from the government -- not individually, but collectively, and operating as a network," she said."

In explaining why a simple return to "normal" is not an option for Honduras, Karen Spring also uses the example of OFRANEH and its work with Garífuna communities. "Like in La Travesía, and other Garífuna communities along the coast, Hondurans from all parts of the country are finding ways to protect themselves and gathering together, like in Tegucigalpa, to organize food distribution networks to support the families most in need. These efforts are ways that Hondurans hope to avoid returning to "normal" which according to Miriam Miranda, "would be irresponsible." "The pandemic really calls upon us to reflect about how the current ferocious, murderous, capitalist system that kills our environment and natural resources does not work for humanity" says Miranda, "we should not go back to the same as before."

<https://www.unfpa.org/news/indigenous-afro-honduran-communities-join-together-fight-pandemic>

<https://taskforceamericas.org/honduras-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-why-we-shouldnt-go-back-to-normal/>

Journalists and social communicators denounce the limited access to reliable sources, the lack of biosecurity equipment, the loss of jobs and the unreliable information from the state authorities in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2836-periodistas-estan-entre-el-virus-la-cancelacion-de-la-pauta-publicitaria-y-la-violacion-a-derechos-laborales>

Since the beginning of the lockdown on March 14, at least 391 people were murdered in Honduras

and seven mass-killings took place.

Femicides also continue and in the first week of this month, 5 women were murdered.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-medio-de-toque-de-queda-se-han-perpetuado-siete-masacres/>

<https://criterio.hn/cinco-mujeres-asesinadas-en-tiempos-de-confinamiento/>

<https://tiempo.hn/angeles-en-la-tierra-mural-en-honor-a-personal-medico-en-la-ceiba/>

12/05/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Political Prisoners; Penal Code; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Militarization HR, Corruption, Construction; National Police; Corruption - Narcopolitics; and Welcome to the Autocracy JOHonduras

In a series of videos, Victor Fernandez, attorney on COPINH's legal team, explains in detail how the MP hasn't indicted Daniel Midence Atala for his involvement in Berta's murder despite overwhelming evidence showing his involvement in her murder (see also yesterday). "Delayed justice is no justice".

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1260339293312221184>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/video-la-justicia-tardia-no-es-justicia/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/quien-es-daniel-atala-midence/>

On May 30th, Rommel Herrera Portillo will have suffered one year of unjust imprisonment. The young teacher is being held in a psychiatric hospital awaiting trial, after being the victim of a false positive from a tire fire in front of the entrance to the U.S. Embassy in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nunca-dejaremos-de-luchar-por-rommel/>

"The National Congress decided last weekend to extend the period of socialization of the new Penal Code by more than 40 days. From civil society's analysis, this is not enough time to reform the Code. Representatives of the Coalition against Impunity, assure that there is a problem of origin, and it is that according to the Constitution a law cannot be reformed without first entering into force, but this was violated in Congress, because in the first stage of socialization of the Code, reforms were applied to several articles of the Code."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/se-debe-presionar-para-derogar-delitos-que-favorecen-la-corrupcion-y-violan-derecho-humanos/>

Over a week has passed since the discovery of the body of Edwin Noel Flores Sacaza, a Garífuna who worked as a security guard for a thermoelectric plant. There is still no official version of what

happened and OFRANEH wonders "how much is the life of a Garifuna in Honduras worth?". "The Laeisz Group - owner of the thermoelectric plant in question - and the municipal authorities are hermetically silent, thus confirming the inappropriate style with which they have handled their relations with the Garifuna communities of Sambo Creek and Corozal, which are located a few kilometers from the thermoelectric plant, and will be affected by contamination from the burning of Bunker C fuel (Fuel #6) which is considered highly toxic and is banned in several countries."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/05/12/cuanto-vale-la-vida-de-un-garifuna-en-honduras/>

Five more people died of COVID-19 in Honduras for a total death toll of 121. There were also an additional 75 confirmed cases yesterday resulting in a total of 2080. But this number was then corrected down.

SINAGER admitted that they made a mistake counting COVID-19 cases and corrected the number (see last week) - they had counted the number of confirmed cases of one day twice. According to their newest numbers, they have tested 8154 people which led to 2006 confirmed cases, a very high percentage.

One worrisome fact regarding the future development of the pandemic is that some 8% of Hondurans suffer from asthma.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1379346-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suma-121-muertos-y-2080-casos-tras-detectar-74>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2008-honduras-insolito-autoridades-de-sinager-no-saben-sumar>

<http://elpulso.hn/alrededor-del-8-de-la-poblacion-hondurena-padece-de-asma/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Health workers celebrated the International Nurse Day "silently amidst the stigma, exploitation and vulnerability resulting from the ravages of Covid-19."

"In an interview with Radio Progreso, a nurse denounced that the owner of the apartment where she lived changed the key in her room without notifying her, leaving her on the street without her things, just because she worked in a public hospital, and he believed her to be the bearer of the Covid-19."

ConfidencialHN and El Libertador report that according to Congress' president Mauricio Oliva, JOH vetoed an initiative aimed at giving health workers who are fighting the coronavirus pandemic a permanent job.

Some believe that this also represents a split in the National Party given that Oliva wants to run for president.

<https://criterio.hn/enfermeras-de-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/personal-de-salud-denuncia-discriminacion-y-estigmatizacion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ruptura-joh-veta-a-oliva-iniciativa-para-dar-permanencia-laboral-a-personal-sanitario/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2006-honduras-joh-reta-a-oliva-y-veta-empleo-a-personal-de-salud>

<https://confidencialhn.com/parlamentarios-lamentan-que-grupos-poderosos-y-el-ejecutivo-de-joh-transgredan-atribuciones-del-congreso/>

The disputed Invest-H director Marco Bográn announced that mobile hospitals in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa will start their work in the first week of July.

The Armed Forces will administer at least two mobile hospitals deepening the militarization of Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-la-primera-semana-de-julio-estaran-atendiendo-pacientes-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ffaa-confirma-que-administrara-al-menos-dos-hospitales-moviles-durante-pandemia/>

OACNUDH met the heads of various Honduran ministries as part of the "Articulation Mechanism to promote the guarantee of the socio-economic rights of people in a situation of vulnerability" in response to the corona-crisis.

The same day, Hondurans with disabilities expressed that they have been abandoned by the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1260396167134875649>

<http://elpulso.hn/personas-con-discapacidad-denuncian-que-gobierno-no-ha-brindado-ayuda/>

<https://criterio.hn/personas-con-discapacidad-se-declaran-en-calamidad-domestica/>

CNA published its third report on corruption during the corona-crisis focusing on i) the purchase of 40 ventilators for 15.5 million Lempiras, ventilators which are incomplete and useless for intensive care patients; and ii) unfinished works at the National Cardiopulmonary Institute, better known as El Tórax worth almost another 4 million Lempiras.

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Corrupcio%CC%81n-en-tiempos-del-COVID-19-Parte-3.pdf>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1260412427860049922>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-copeco-perjuicio-economico-120-millones/>

The construction sector started to operate again yesterday and already on the first day, four workers at the site of the Palmerola airport were tested positive...

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2004-honduras-cuatro-empleados-de-palmerola-con-covid-en-reinicio-de-construccion>

Last week, two Liberal congresswo/men made a scandal drunk in public violating the lockdown (see previous e-mail). ConexiHon denounced that they got preferential treatment from the police, police spokesperson Jair Meza even lying that they did nothing wrong.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/el-observador/1546-falso-no-hay-delito-en-hecho-protagonizado-por-los-diputados-sobeyda-andino-y-bader-dip>

In the Narcopolitics corruption case, the former mayor of Tegucigalpa, Miguel Rodrigo Pastor, has to remain in pre-trial detention.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2007-honduras-exedil-miguel-pastor-seguira-preso-por-narcopolitica>

"The Economist's Intelligence Unit publishes the annual Democracy Index, a ranking that measures the democratic strength or fragility of 165 countries in the world. (...) Honduras has been classified as a hybrid regime and a link away from being totally authoritarian, characterized by the lack of an independent judiciary, widespread corruption, harassment and pressure on the media, low levels of citizen participation and pressure on the political opposition. In addition, the Bertelsmann Index, which measures the processes of transformation towards democracy, which is the result of the collaboration of nearly 300 countries' academics, recently pointed out that Juan Orlando Hernández turned Honduras into an autocracy. (...) Is there anyone who objectively believes that we live in a democracy?"

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/una-autocracia-llamada-johonduras/>

<https://atlas.bti-project.org/>

13/05/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Militarization, Journalists, HR, Prisons, EU, Education; Elections; Democracy; Penal Code - FoE; and Corona- vs. Tik-Tok-Pandemic

InSight Crime picked up the recent investigative work by Expediente Público on the drug trafficking links of Congress' president Mauricio Oliva (see previous e-mails). "The report, published by Central American magazine Expediente Público, details how Mauricio Oliva Herrera, president of the National Congress, allegedly acquired a series of properties in Tegucigalpa from a business associate at Inversiones Acrópolis, a company linked to a notorious Honduran drug trafficking family known as the Cachiros. This news came as Oliva Herrera, of the of the National Party (Partido Nacional – PN), confirmed he would run for president of Honduras, ahead of elections in March 2021."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/president-honduras-congress-cachiros/>

Maybe linked to all the focus on corona, the number of dengue cases has been substantially higher than last year, there are 3488 more cases, 11,977 in total. The good news is that there are 90 fewer severe dengue cases.

<http://elpulso.hn/aumenta-casos-de-dengue-sin-signos-de-alarma-pero-disminuyen-los-graves/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/mientras-se-combate-al-coronavirus-el-dengue-hace-de-las-suyas-en-honduras/>

451 tests led to another 175 confirmed COVID-19 tests for a total of 2225 cases. A 38-year old woman and a 80-year old man died from COVID-19 yesterday, which means that 123 people so far have died in Honduras. At the same time, the number of people treated in intensive care unit has increased to 21.

On Tuesday, a police deputy commissioner died from COVID-19.

Tuesday's concession from SINAGER regarding the counting error (see yesterday's e-mail) further undermined the trust in the official numbers.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1379626-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suma-123-muertos-y-2255-casos-tras-confirmar-175>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/muere-por-covid-19-un-subcomisionado-de-la-policia-en-la-capital.html>

<https://criterio.hn/incertidumbre-en-honduras-por-manipulacion-de-cifras-oficiales-de-covid-19/>

<http://elpulso.hn/los-errores-y-desinformacion-del-sinager-generan-desconfianza-en-la-poblacion/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/13/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-13-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Even though the JOH regime already disposed of billions of Lempiras to address the crisis with little effect, Congress approved another \$170 millions.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/el-congreso-aprobara-tres-nuevos-prestamos-para-atender-la-pandemia-anuncia-diputado-nacionalista/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-sigue-endeudando-al-pais/>

Nurses at the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula protested demanding biosecurity equipment.

The 120'000 face masks from Taiwan arrived in Honduras yesterday.

"The National Congress approved, with a waiver of two debates, requested by its President, Deputy Mauricio Oliva, the Draft Decree sent by the Executive Branch to grant the appointment by agreement of all health and administrative support personnel in the health sector that are under contract and have effectively participated in the care of patients infected by COVID-19 and in

preventive actions to avoid contagion."

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/enfermeras-protestan-exigiendo-insumos-para-enfrentar-covid-en-hospital-catarino-rivas.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1379563-410/taiwan-dona-mascarillas-honduras-coronavirus->

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/congreso-aprueba-permanencia-a-empleados-de-la-salud/>

The president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, denounced the involvement of the Armed Forces in the health sector, they will administer two mobile hospitals (see yesterday). "We wonder what the objective of this is, they have already been given the resources to manage the agro-economic sector, nothing has been done about it, they have been given the distribution of food, really the role of them (the military) is to protect the territory and to enforce the constitution".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/militares-ocultaran-informacion-de-hospitales-moviles-suyapa-figueroa/>

"Dr. Gloria Fajardo, Departmental Director of the Health Office in Copán and spokesperson for the National Risk System, SINAGER, sent a note to Channel 49 Telecaes, where journalist Santiago López works. She said that she would no longer be giving interviews to him. The official justified herself on a call with the communicator that she would not give her any interviews because "you always throw things at me," denounced the social communicator to ASOPODEHU on May 13, 2020."

In a second article, Pasos de Animal Grande describes the difficult situation of journalists for doing their work in this pandemic using the example of journalist Oscar Castro. Working for Channel 50 in San Lorenzo, Valle, he denounces the lack of access to information while at the same time suffering an economic blow as all the advertisement money has stopped.

The lack of transparency is a more general problem. The Permanent Commission of Contingencies, Copeco, was denounced before the Institute of Access to Public Information, IAIP, for denying information related to the funds received and their destination.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2839-directora-salud-y-vocera-de-sinager-en-santa-rosa-de-copan-niega-entrevistas-al-periodista-santiago-lopez-sobre-covid-19>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2837-el-periodismo-en-la-zona-sur-de-la-pandemia-a-la-falta-de-acceso-a-la-informacion-y-precariedad-economica>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2836-periodistas-estan-entre-el-virus-la-cancelacion-de-la-pauta-publicitaria-y-la-violacion-a-derechos-laborales>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/copeco-niega-informacion-sobre-uso-de-fondos-de-la->

[emergencia/](#)

OACNUDH met with 35 representatives of social movements and human rights organizations to discuss the human rights situation during the corona crisis..

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1260725414521188354>

The president of the Association of Relatives of Prisoners, Delma Ordóñez, again requested that those inmates prone to contracting the coronavirus be allowed to leave prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/familias-de-reos-exigen-libertad-inmediata-de-quienes-son-propensos-al-coronavirus/>

El País held an interview with the EU ambassador to Honduras, Alessandro Palmero, talking about EU support for Honduras. "We are working on a programme that initially could be up to EUR 30 million and this for the relatively short term and then to programme a significant amount of funds but this is not yet known for the six successive years 2021-2027."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/05/13/union-europea-apoyara-lucha-contr-a-covid-19-y-la-recuperacion-economica-de-honduras/>

According to the National Persons Registry (RNP), there will be a new census and new identity card ready for the elections next year.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-habra-nueva-identidad-y-censo-electoral-para-el-2021-pero-bajo-otro-cronograma-reafirma-rnp.html>

Javier Suazo analyzes the corona crisis and its effects on higher education, mainly at UNAH.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/206521>

Reporteros de Investigación published two more articles on the implication of the new Penal Code on freedom of expression.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/12/codigo-penal-decreta-prision-para-afianzar-ley-de-secretos/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/13/21-periodistas-expuestos-a-prision-solo-en-cinco-anos/>

More than 50% of Hondurans are dissatisfied with democracy, resulting in the weakening of the democratic political regime according to a study by the University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS).

<http://elpulso.hn/mas-de-la-mitad-de-poblacion-hondurena-no-cree-en-instituciones-y-democracia/>

For two days now, the widespread coverage of the corona crisis in Honduras was rivaled by the story of a soldier who was fired after dancing on TikTok.

<https://confidencialhn.com/paja-en-ojo-ajeno-moreno-echa-de-ffaa-a-soldado-por-usar-tik-tok-y-calla-ante-hermano-bailarin/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/el-era-el-sustento-de-la-familia-madre-del-soldado-hondureno-dado-de-baja-tras-bailar-en-tiktok/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensoria-del-pueblo-investigara-de-oficio-baja-deshonrosa-a-militar-por-baile-en-tik-tok/>

<https://tiempo.hn/militar-tiktokero-dispuesto-volver-ffaa-sin-represalias/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/espectaculos/1379599-410/milagro-flores-enciende-tik-tok-bailando-duo-militar-hondure%C3%B1o-ffaa>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1379617-410/ffaa-militar-tiktok-honduras-portavoz-yuri-chavez-esdras-lainez-viral>

14/05/20

Honduras Daily: Ahuas; Journalists, Forest Fires; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQ+, Prisons, US; JOH; Militarization; and the Catracho Treatment

ConfidencialHN has an in-depth article on how the DEA, the former Honduran Security Minister Arturo Corrales and the former US anti-drug czar William Brownfield impeded an thorough investigation into the Ahuas massacre from 2012. The article is based on the 2017 report by the Office of the Inspectors General, "A Special Joint Review of Post-Incident Responses by the Department of State and Drug Enforcement Administration to Three Deadly Force Incidents in Honduras".

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-dea-corrales-y-zar-antidroga-de-ee-uu-bloquearon-investigacion-por-masacre-en-la-mosquitia/>

<https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2017/o1702.pdf>

Reporteros de Investigación lists 19 journalists facing prison after being sued for their work. C-Libre published two alerts regarding the situation of journalists. "Journalist Ernesto Alonso Rojas, who is recovering after testing positive for COVID 19, described his situation as a "Way of the Cross" in statements to the channel Hable Como Habla (HCH), where he works, this Tuesday, May 12. Rojas said that he has not been able to get access to a test to see if he is still affected by the Coronavirus, the same situation is faced by his cameraman, Victor Carranza."

"The regional authorities of the National System of Risk Management (SINAGER), in the municipality of Santa Rosa de Copán, began censorship against journalist Santiago López, who filed a complaint with C-Libre on Wednesday, May 13."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/14/periodistas-en-prision-en-honduras/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1171-periodista-contagiado-de-covid-19-reclama-atencion-medica>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1172-periodista-denuncia-censura-de-sinager-en-copan>

Forest fires continue to be a problem in Honduras. The Commission for the Defense of La Tigra National Park published a press release raising concern.

COPINH denounces that the community La Cuchilla, Santa Bárbara, is also facing a fire while their calls for support are left unanswered.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1261002346705956874>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/denuncia-publica-4/>

10 more Hondurans died from COVID-19 yesterday as the death toll rises to 133. 63 new people tested positive for a total of 2318.

In a home for the elderly in San Pedro Sula, 16 inhabitants and 7 employees have tested positive. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1379805-528/con-10-muertos-m%C3%A1s-por-covid-19-en-honduras-cifra-suba-a-133>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1379779-466/23-personas-dan-positivo-a-covid-19-en-un-asilo-en-san-pedro>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Money continues to flow to the JOH regime. Congress approved another \$20 million loan yesterday from the World Bank. Just a day before, they already had approved a \$111.65 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) (see yesterday).

FOSDEH denounces the speed with which these loans are approved. This started on April 2, when Congress gave the Secretary of Finance (Sefin) permission to directly acquire debt up to \$2.5 billion.

Yesterday, Congress went further approving to suspend for a maximum of two years the multi-year rules of fiscal performance for the non-financial public sector which means that Sefin is authorized to exceed the deficit above 1% of GDP in the next two years.

The Minister of Finance, Rocío Tábora, presents the recent loans as good deals for Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprueba-otro-prestamo-por-20-millones-de-dolares-para-combatir-el-covid19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/fosdeh-preocupa-rapidez-aprueban-prestamos-covid-19/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cn-autoriza-a-sefin-poder-sobrepasar-el-deficit-arriba-del-1-del-pib-en-los-proximos-dos-anos.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/prestamo-del-bid-aprobado-por-el-cn-es-altamente-concesional-afirma-ministra-de-finanzas.html>

The Canadian government announced to support Honduras through 2.5 million Canadian Dollar for the Pan American Health Organization.

One of the new loans, the \$20 million from the World Bank (see above), should serve to purchase "primarily" medical supplies.

According to German Leitzelar, who is part of the intervention body at the IHSS, the social security institute has so far invested some 700 million Lempiras to buy supplies and drugs to confront the corona-crisis.

Meanwhile, medical staff continuously needs to protest for biosecurity equipment.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1379827-410/canada-coronavirus-covid-honduras-ayuda-pandemia-crisis-sanitaria>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/prestamo-del-bm-por-20-millones-es-para-comprar-insumos-medicos-explica-ministra-de-finanzas.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-700-millones-de-lempiras-se-han-invertido-en-el-ihss-para-emergencia-por-coronavirus/>

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-en-servicio-social-siguen-en-protesta-por-falta-de-equipo-de-bioseguridad/>

Some two or three weeks back, a court ordered the provision of sufficient and quality food to all members of the Tolupe community of San Francisco de Locomapa, in the department of Yoro. This ruling was disobeyed by the municipality of that area and the mayor has not been criminally sanctioned so far.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2840-municipalidad-de-yoro-desobedece-a-juzgado-que-ordeno-dotar-de-alimentos-y-otras-necesidades-a-tolupanes-de-locomapa>

"On the eve of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) on 17 May 2020, a group of United Nations and international human rights experts* call on States and other stakeholders to urgently take into account the impact of COVID-19 on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender diverse (LGBT) persons when designing, implementing and evaluating the measures to combat the pandemic."

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25884&LangID=E>

Reuters published a photo essay by Adrees Latif and Sarah Kinoshian on the situation of Honduras' inmates during the corona-crisis. Being cut-off from anyone due to corona, they suffer additionally.

<https://widerimage.reuters.com/story/cut-off-by-coronavirus-hondurans-in-packed-prison-suffer-mental-toll>

The US ambassador to Honduras tweeted: "Today I spoke with Minister Cueva, @sedhHonduras, about the importance of continuing to promote human rights, increasing collaboration and protection of the fundamental rights of Hondurans, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1261122988533047297>

El Libertador continues to cover the confrontation between JOH and Congress' president Mauricio Oliva on the backs of the medical staff (see previous e-mails). Oliva presented a bill to give permanent employment to some temporary medical staff. JOH vetoed the bill and had his own bill just recently approved by Congress which has the same objective while also getting rid of a tripartite commission initially proposed by Congress, i.e. more power for the executive, less for the legislative branch.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2011-honduras-pepe-critica-sumision-de-oliva-ante-imposicion-de-joh>

The Military Police has 407 new members, even though there is continuing national and international criticism of this unit.

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1261001843121029121>

<http://elpulso.hn/tratamientos-hondurenos-contra-covid-19-han-disminuido-mortalidad/>

15/05/20

Honduras Daily - COVID-19 - Protests, HR, Health Sector, Women, Poverty, Migration - US, Prisons, Violence; Electricity; National Police; ATIC; BID; Drug Trafficking; and Criminalized Peasant Farmers

519 tests led to 142 new cases and an 71-year old man died yesterday to COVID-19 for a current death toll of 134.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1380026-528/con-142-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras-cifra-suba-a-2460>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-mayo-del-2020-2/>

Members of the transport sector protested yesterday in El Progreso demanding compensation for not having been able to work for two months.

"They were violently repressed. At least one person was injured after beaten by police and

detained."

A protest by mototaxi drivers in Pespire, Choluteca, was also brutally repressed by state security forces.

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-protestan-para-exigir-bono-compensatorio-durante-la-pandemia-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1261505842060251137>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-golpes-danos-y-criminalizacion-responde-policia-militar-a-motoristas-en-pestpire/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their ninth joint press release during the corona crisis. It is disheartening to see that two months into the crisis, they still have to demand a greater role for health professionals in the response of the JOH regime or more transparency and an independent auditing system for government expenses.

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/manifiesto-publico-9-mayo-2020/>

There is a delay in the delivery of some 800,000 masks from China, reported the executive director of the China Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Honduras, Alejandro Young.

Dr. Carlos Umaña states that at the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), in San Pedro Sula, there are no reagents to perform COVID-19 PCR tests.

<https://confidencialhn.com/informan-atraso-en-la-entrega-de-800-mil-mascarillas-provenientes-de-china/>

<https://tiempo.hn/el-ihss-de-san-pedro-sula-se-queda-sin-reactivos-para-las-pruebas-pcr-de-covid-19/>

Doctors without Borders has attended 54 cases of sexual violence during the corona crisis.

<http://elpulso.hn/mas-de-50-personas-han-sido-atendidas-por-violencia-que-sigue-en-aumento/>

Radio Progreso reports on the installation of community soup kitchens as a response to the crisis.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/comedores-comunitarios-la-apuesta-de-mujeres-para-sobrevivir-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

"Once the COVID-19 pandemic crisis is over, experts predict a wave of migration from Honduras driven by an unprecedented economic crisis and the need for parents to feed their children."

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/expertos-preven-ola-migratoria-desde-honduras-post-pandemia.html>

The UNHCR informs about internal displacement due to violence in Honduras. "According to

government statistics, some 247,000 Hondurans are estimated to have been internally displaced within the country since 2004 – the vast majority of them fleeing extortion, coercion and targeted threats by gangs and other criminal organizations."

The UNHCR also warns that this situation is aggravated by COVID-19.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2020/5/5eb0a3b94/honduran-family-starts-new-life-across-country-terror-far.html>

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2020/5/5ebe47394/central-americas-displacement-crisis-aggravated-covid-19.html>

CEPR is keeping tabs on US deportation flights in the midst of the pandemic. Honduras just displaced Guatemala as the primary destination. There were ten flights in the last ten days.

<https://twitter.com/JakobJohnston/status/1260637167593938945>

There has been another positive corona case in a prison, this time the Támara prison just north of Tegucigalpa. A temporary closure of the prison was announced.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ordenan-cierre-temporal-de-la-carcel-de-tamara-para-evitar-contagios-de-coronavirus/>

Eight multiple killings have taken place so far during the lockdown.

<https://radioprogreso.net/instante/van-ocho-masacres-durante-toque-de-queda/>

"Huniberto Madrid, mayor of the municipality of Juticalpa, department of Olancho exposed the constant power cuts and abuses by the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), and the Energy Honduras Company (EEH), and announced actions in case of no response in the coming days. Huniberto Madrid explained in the Cuarto Poder program that the department of Olancho is without electricity for more than eleven hours a day, generating economic losses and causing more poverty. (...) Gabriel Perdomo, Commissioner of the ENEE Board of Auditors, indicates that the electricity problem in Olancho is a "historic" problem and that a private thermal energy generator has taken advantage of the crisis to force ENEE to pay high energy prices."

<http://elpulso.hn/olancho-sin-energia-electrica-y-la-ilusoria-patuca-iii/>

<http://elpulso.hn/como-extorsion-y-estafa-desmedida-catalogan-cobros-de-eeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresa-energia-honduras-argumenta-promediacion-de-facturas-electricas/>

Defensores en Línea reports on a torture case of a 18-year old by the police in the Jamastrán valley in El Paraíso.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-amenaza-a-joven-tras-torturarlo/>

In a virtual session with little legislative debate, Congress reformed the Law of the MP to expand the investigative powers of the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation (ATIC).

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-reforma-ley-del-ministerio-publico-para-ampliar-facultades-a-la-atic/>

"The coronavirus crisis will increase poverty and generate an unfavourable phase in Honduras, which is why the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) sees the need for Central America to make an effort to advance on the integrationist path promoted since 1986 in order to face social problems."

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/centroamerica-debe-integrarse-para-enfrentar-problemas-sociales-segun-bid.html>

Congress approved a new Law for the Protection of the Sovereignty of the Air Space sent by the Executive claimed to strengthening the fight against drug trafficking in the country.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1379987-410/congreso-nacional-aprueba-ley-protoger-espacio-aereo>

For an alleged crime of usurpation, Francisco Celedonio Ramírez, survivor of the massacre at the El Tumbador farm, , was taken to the courts of Trujillo, Colón. COFADEH presented a Habeas Corpus in his defense.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-interpone-habeas-corpus-por-detencion-de-victima-de-el-tumbador/>

16/05/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; LGBTQ+; Military Police; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, Prisons; and a Different Lockdown

The former Nationalist congressman Hugo Pinto was murdered in El Paraíso, Copán yesterday. In 2015, while still in Congress, various goods belonging to him, his brothers and other family members were seized. On several occasions, he has been linked to organized crime and drug trafficking.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1380248-466/matan-al-exdiputado-nacionalista-hugo-pinto-en-cop%C3%A1n>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1261854473288396801>

OACNUDH commemorates the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1261823879556804610>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1261461385185091586>

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation of Miguel Padilla who had been brutally beaten by the Military Police. "Miguel has been bedridden for eight days because of the multiple blows caused by the state's repressive elements, just for asking the reason for the arrest of his brother-in-law". Pasos de Animal Grande denounces how the suspension of constitutional guarantees has placed young people as a specific target of state security forces (see also yesterday).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-fracturas-y-lesiones-se-encuentra-el-joven-agredido-por-la-pmop-en-guarizama-olancho/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2844-nadie-detiene-los-abusos-jovenes-en-honduras-son-un-blanco-de-amenazas-y-abusos-por-agentes-policiales>

Violeta Rodríguez, deputy director of the Honduran Production and Housing Bank (BANHPROVI) had the two journalists Oscar Morán Méndez and Erick Murillo removed for asking uncomfortable questions.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2843-tambien-por-preguntas-incomodas-funcionaria-de-banhprovi-ordena-expulsion-de-dos-periodistas-y-se-disculpa>

<https://twitter.com/RCVHonduras/status/1260617576759144452>

Out of 531 tests resulted 105 new confirmed COVID-19 cases for a total of 2565. For more Hondurans died which means that so far 138 people died of COVID-19 in Honduras. An IHSS model predicts 5000 cases by the end of June and 500 patients in intensive care units. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380242-466/honduras-con-105-nuevos-infectados-covid-19-deja-138-muertos-y-2565-casos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380116-466/modelo-del-ihss-visualiza-5000-contagiados-de-covid-19-a-junio>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/16/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-16-de-mayo-del-2020/>

According to the Secretary of Finance, they have signed and managed \$797.3 million so far with international organizations to address the corona crisis.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/un-total-de-797-millones-de-dolares-se-han-gestionado-para-atender-la-emergencia-del-covid-19.html>

Red Cross Honduras warns that their blood bank only has supplies for the next two weeks to supply hospitals.

<https://confidencialhn.com/banco-de-sangre-de-la-cruz-roja-se-queda-sin-insumos-para-atender-hospitales/>

Congressman Edgardo Castro said yesterday that Hondurans condemn the "mediocre attitude" of Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla for the lack of investigation into all the emergency purchases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/califican-de-mediocre-desempeno-de-chinchilla-por-nula-investigacion-por-crisis-sanitaria/>

There is more coverage on the first COVID-19 case in the Támara prison (see also yesterday).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/declaran-emergencia-y-prohiben-ingreso-de-mas-reos-a-la-carcel-tamara-tras-primer-caso-de-covid-19.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380160-466/un-recluso-dio-positivo-al-covid-19-en-la-carcel-de-tamara>

"Carlos Fonseca, a member of the Chamber of Land Cargo Transport, warned of the closure of the borders, given the negligence of the nationalist Executive with this area during the health crisis due to the new coronavirus pandemic."

<https://confidencialhn.com/dirigentes-del-transporte-de-carga-amenazan-con-el-cierre-de-fronteras-por-negligencia-del-ejecutivo/>

17/05/20

Honduras Daily: Zacate Grande; LGBTQ+; Berta - Commemoration; Drug Trafficking; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector; Forced Disappearance; and Ongoing State Repression

Faustino Mejía, a campesino leader in Puerto Grande on Zacate Grande, was arrested by the police for collecting dry wood. After REDEHSUR involved COFADEH, he was later released 4 hours after his arrest.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/por-recoger-lena-seca-policia-captura-a-campesino-en-zacate-grande/>

There has been more coverage of yesterday's International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2845-en-el-dia-internacional-contra-la-homofobia-imparables-las-violaciones-contras-los-derechos-humanos-de-las-personas-lgtbi-en-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1262136431033683968>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1262171063217278976>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1262143496825311233>

The Mural of Change was presented to the public in The Hague and it includes the image of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1262103356740419585>

Reporteros de Investigación has a more in-depth coverage of the assassination of the former Nationalist congressman Hugo Pinto (see yesterday).

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/17/asesinan-a-ex-diputado-del-caso-ak-47-con-diamantes-que-seria-del-presidente-de-honduras/>

81 Honduras tested positive for COVID-19 out of 366 tests. There are now 2646 cases in Honduras and 142 deaths.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380408-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suma-81-nuevos-infectados-hay-142-muertos-y-2646>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/17/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-17-de-mayo-del-2020/>

The state of exception has been prolonged for another week to May 24. The JOH regime also announced the creation of a multisectoral body for the elaboration and proposal to Sinager on the management of the Covid-19 pandemic and "intelligent opening" of the different sectors of society. According to the Secretariat of Strategy and Communications, the JOH regime has spent over 3.3 billion Lempiras from the beginning of the crisis to May 8.

ConfidencialHN denounced that there was no mention of the various accusations of corruption and irregular purchases.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-amplian-confinamiento-hasta-el-24-de-mayo-y-continua-reactivacion-economica/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/crean-instancias-multisectoriales-para-gestion-de-la-pandemia-y-reapertura-inteligente.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-ha-invertido-mas-de-l-3-340-millones-para-hacer-frente-a-lucha-contra-el-covid-19.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-ignora-corrupcion-y-sostiene-que-gasto-mas-de-tres-mil-millones-por-emergencia/>

Five more workers at the University Hospital have been isolated suspected of being infected.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-cinco-empleados-del-hospital-escuela-estan-aislados-por->

[sospechas-de-coronavirus/](#)

"The police do not give any answer about the whereabouts of young Denis Eduardo Maradiaga Molina (28), even though he disappeared on a night with curfew, due to the health emergency of COVID-19."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ayudenme-a-encontrar-a-mi-hijo-suplica-madre-de-desaparecido/>

COFADEH presents another case of state repression (see also previous e-mails); Noé Alexander Velázquez López was attacked in the town center of Danli, El Paraiso, by the police.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sigue-la-brutalidad-policial-en-diferentes-partes-del-pais/>

18/05/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Political Prisoners; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Corruption, Indigenous Peoples, Labor Rights, Agriculture; Penal Code; Elections; Migration; and Different Perspectives

Pasos de Animal Grande published another article on the situation of the LGBTQ+ community in Honduras (see also last two days). "The situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, LGBTI, in Honduras is unfavorable for this vulnerable group, and with the arrival of the COVID-19, the inequality gap has become more marked and the State of Honduras has not respected essential human rights obligations."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2846-la-situacion-de-las-personas-lgbti-en-honduras-es-de-exclusion-y-de-ataques-de-violencia>

Aleyda Huete, leader of the opposition group "Bastion of the South", wanted to bring food to the political prisoner Antonio Esquivel. She found out that the prison authorities changed the rules and not only canned food can be brought to inmates, something that poor people cannot afford.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/ni-comida-dejan-llevar-a-carcel-de-choluteca/>

The number of dengue cases rose to 12'311 of which 1126 are severe cases. There are currently suspected 19 deaths to dengue.

<https://tiempo.hn/casos-dengue-ascienden-a-12311-reportan-muertes/>

For a few days now, Honduras has tested around 500 people per day and the positive rate remains very high. Yesterday, 532 tests brought forward 152 new cases for a total of 2798. Four more people died and the death toll reached 146.

Some days ago, there was a corona outbreak in a nursing home (see previous e-mail). By now, there are already 39 confirmed cases, half the residents.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380660-466/coronavirus-honduras-18-mayo-covid19-muertos-casos-positivos-sinager>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380564-466/de-78-pruebas-realizadas-en-asilos-39-dieron-positivo-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/18/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-18-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Criterio reports that the Ministry of Labor and Social Security is allowing the violation of human rights by exposing workers to Covid-19 infection, by not ensuring compliance with biosecurity protocols. This time, it concerns workers at the Cervecería Hondureña in San Pedro Sula.

<https://criterio.hn/cerveceria-hondurena-pone-en-riesgo-salud-de-sus-trabajadores-en-complicidad-con-el-gobierno/>

The first \$75 million promised for micro, small and medium-sized business should be available in the second half of June.

The funds are coming from the BCIE.

Proceso Digital published two infographics on the claimed expenses by the JOH regime to attend the corona crisis up to May 8 (see also yesterday).

Honduras' foreign debt rose to \$9.7 billion, 29.8% of GDP and 7.8% higher than a year ago.

<https://tiempo.hn/en-junio-daran-75-millones-creditos-mipymes-que-dice-sector/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bcie-entregara-en-junio-a-banhprovi-los-primeros-75-millones-de-dolares-del-prestamo-para-mipymes.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/1-48-millones-en-gel-y-l-1-180-millones-en-hospitales-moviles-figuran-en-gastos-del-gobierno-por-pandemia.html>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/desconfianza-y-dudas-en-manejo-de-los-fondos-de-emergencia-covid-19/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-la-danza-de-millones-y-los-cuestionamientos-de-la-sociedad-civil/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/deuda-externa-de-honduras-llega-a-los-9-737-4-millones-de-dolares-en-3-meses.html>

The Human Rights Board published a press release on the failures of the JOH regime to address the corona pandemic. "All the measures taken by the government to date are undemocratic, tarnished by allegations of corruption, abuse of power, lack of transparency, lack of accountability and lack of genuine and legitimate citizen participation. (...) We view with concern how the government of Juan Orlando Hernández has weakened public institutions, taking advantage of them in the context of the COVID-19 emergency to quash the dissent of the various political opposition sectors, obstruct the work of human rights defenders and evade the social monitoring carried out by the various sectors

of society, undermining the rule of law and further deteriorating democratic institutions to the detriment of human rights." They further call on Congress to impeach JOH as well as Attorney General Oscar Fernando Chichilla. Last but not least, they call on the multilateral banks to "suspend support for this illegitimate, illegal, and human rights-violating regime. Their continued support may contribute to the prolongation of this serious crisis and the further deterioration of democracy." Amnesty International calls on Latin American authorities to "protect people from COVID-19 instead of resorting to repressive measures".

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/506-la-crisis-solo-puede-ser-superada-con-un-gobierno-legitimo>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/05/americas-authorities-must-protect-people-covid19-repressive-measures/>

ASJ has now published their own report on irregularities in the emergency purchases. Reflecting their closeness to the JOH regime, instead of speaking of corruption as previous reports clearly did, they write about "technical deficiencies". They looked at the purchase of the 450 mechanical ventilators and the 250'000 testing-kits. More reports will follow.

They also send confusing messages. On the one hand, they write that the qualities of the purchased goods is well, but on the other hand, Honduras can currently use not use the ventilators for lack of educated personnel nor the testing-kits for lack of the necessary equipment.

http://asjhonduras.com/covid19/informe_ventiladores1.html

<https://tiempo.hn/auditoria-asj-quita-manchas-rostro-invest-h/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asj-1600-ventiladores-250-mil-pruebas-no-pueden-usar/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/invest-honduras-compra-pruebas-de-covid-19-incompletas/>

The new UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Cali Tzay, expressed serious concern about the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on indigenous peoples, beyond the health threat.

On this topic, COPINH's general coordinator Berta Zúniga will participate in a webinar organized by the IACHR today.

<https://oacnudh.hn/covid-19-esta-devastando-a-las-comunidades-indigenas-del-mundo-y-no-solo-se-trata-de-la-salud/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1262542494685954048>

There are some hopeful news from the FAO. "Honduras will not have food production problems due to the problems generated by the coronavirus around the world, according to Dennis Latimer, representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Honduras." CESPAD doesn't share this conclusion taking an in-depth look at the Honduras agricultural sector in

their weekly pieces of analysis. They call the current situation in Honduras a "counter-reform" of the agrarian sector. "During the period from May 11 to 17, two events marked the country's situation in terms of human rights and constitutional political freedoms: 1) The entry into force of Executive Decree PCM-041-2020 on agriculture, published in the Gazette on May 11, 2020, which derives from Executive Decree PCM-030-2020, published in the Gazette on April 9, 2020. 2) Approval of a loan request for US\$55 million from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the "Comprehensive Rural Development and Productivity Project"."

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-no-tendra-problemas-de-produccion-de-alimentos-post-pandemia-segun-la-fao.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/18/reporte-semanal-4-covid-19-y-la-crisis-de-los-derechos-ciudadanos-en-honduras-la-contrarreforma-agraria-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

The CNA published the first out of four publications on the consequences of the new "Penal Code of Impunity".

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1262468655700475905>

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Estudio-al-Co%CC%81digo-Penal-Tomo-I.pdf>

Libre convoked an emergency meeting for tomorrow to discuss the Electoral Law, the primary elections and the census as well as the new identity cards promised for these elections.

According to ConfidencialHN, there is a discussion of postponing the primary elections for two months to give enough time to the RNP for the census and the identity cards. ConfidencialHN fears that this will help JOH to stay in power as it increases the likelihood that the elections will be cancelled altogether.

Last but not least, there may even be a constituent assembly as mentioned by JOH's advisor Ebal Díaz. Pedro Barquero, president of the Commerce and Industry Chamber of Cortés, announced that the business class would oppose this.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/mel-convoca-a-su-bancada-a-sesion-urgente-para-tratar-temas-politicos.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/xiomara-en-sintonia-con-joh-de-suspender-de-primarias-mendez-pide-respeto-a-calendario-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-de-la-ccit-anuncia-oposicion-a-constituyente-que-realizaria-el-ejecutivo/>

Radio Progreso spoke with Ludym Ayala of the Norwegian Refugee Council about the situation in Honduras. "According to our data, so far this year we have received a total of 9,475 people deported from the United States, including men, women and family members, and 3,867 people deported from Mexico."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/pandemia-incrementa-desplazamiento-y-migracion->

[de-familias-hondurenas/](#)

"Ten media outlets in Mexico and Central America report on how migrants, informal workers, women living with violence, sex workers and people deprived of their freedom are living day-to-day with the pandemic. We came together to investigate from #OtrasMiradas"

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/18/coronavirus-desde-otras-miradas/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/18/los-llevan-o-los-quemamos-el-dramatico-retorno-de-los-migrantes-a-sus-comunidades/>

19/05/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Forest Fires; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Women, Indigenous Peoples, Prison, Economy; Migration - US; Elections; Congress; and Hunger or Corona

HispanTV denounces an ongoing harassment of them. In the newest incident, their correspondent was illegally detained for more than an hour, threatened and suffered physical aggression.

"Under the argument of the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 250 information workers in Honduras have been victims of dismissals, suspensions, salary reductions and non-payment of salaries".

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/466454/detencion-corresponsal-orlando-hernandez>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2847-policias-detienen-amenazan-con-arma-de-fuego-y-tratan-de-quitarle-la-camara-al-periodista-dassaev-aguilar-de-hispantv>

<https://criterio.hn/medios-de-comunicacion-en-honduras-argumentan-pandemia-para-afectar-derechos-de-sus-trabajadores/>

"The Program for Assuring Food Sovereignty and Security, approved in the PCM-030-2020, states in article 4 that it will make available to the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) the fiscal lands that can be used for agricultural production, of which a rate of one hundred lempiras per year per manzana will be established. "The fires began after the publication of the PCM in the Official Gazette, in which it allows to rent at a low cost the fiscal lands to big farmers and we know that in the mountain of the Tigra there are fiscal lands, as a result of that we believe that fires have come, we already know how this mafia of the government acts and it makes us think many things", explained the farmer, Lesly Soto of the Commission Pro defense of the Communities of the Tigra."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1554-incendios-en-la-tigra-iniciaron-despues-que-el-gobierno-aprobo-programa-de-soberania-alimentaria>

Confirmed COVID-19 cases almost reached 3000 yesterday. 535 tests resulted in 157 new cases for a total of 2955. One more person died which means that so far 147 people died of COVID-19 in Honduras.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380920-466/suben-a-2955-los-casos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras-hay-147-muertos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/19/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-19-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Criterio reports that the JOH regime wants to fine people 300 Lempiras if they don't wear a mask in public.

<https://criterio.hn/300-lempiras-pagaran-hondurenos-que-no-usen-mascarilla/>

The JOH regime has boasted about the contraction of medical staff to attend the crisis. Some 1400 people were hired and more than 30 million Lempiras spend. But according to the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), there are still only 3000 doctors when 15'000 would be needed and a lot of the newly employed people do not really work "in the field". "Santos mentions that many of them work in teleconsultations, attending patients via cell phones and on the other hand "other young people are given jobs in tents in subhuman conditions and others are given the comfort of working at home."

According to the president of the National Association of Nurses and Assistants of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, 54 nurses have tested positive for COVID-19 at the national level. He raises concern that they have to continue to work while awaiting the test results possibly infecting more health workers and patients.

There are also 26 confirmed cases of workers at the University Hospital.

The company Dialysis of Honduras has been denounced by the Association of Renal Patients of San Pedro Sula for denying care to patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those who have recovered from the disease.

<http://elpulso.hn/personal-medico-contratado-no-trabaja-directamente-en-las-primeras-lineas/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/aneeah-unas-54-enfermeras-han-dado-positivo-de-covid-19-nivel-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/26-empleados-hospital-escuela-contagiados-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-unos-26-empleados-del-hospital-escuela-resultaron-positivos-a-la-prueba-del-sars-cov2/>

<https://criterio.hn/dialisis-de-honduras-niega-atencion-a-pacientes-contagiados-por-covid-19/>

Based on data by all the offices by the MP in Honduras, at least 651 have accused their partners for domestic violence since the start of the lockdown mid-March.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mujeres-han-denunciado-a-651-hombres-por-violencia-durante-periodo-de-aislamiento-social.html>

The IACHR webinar on the human rights of indigenous peoples in times of corona (see also yesterday) can be watched online now.

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

Another prison had its first confirmed COVID-19 case, El Porvenir in Francisco Morazán. "Due to the health emergency, El Porvenir prison will not be admitting prisoners sent by different courts for the time being, and has also ordered the closure of the establishment on a temporary basis."

<https://criterio.hn/declaran-emergencia-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir-tras-detectar-brote-de-covid-19/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1380858-466/decretan-emergencia-carcel-porvenir-confirmar-caso-covid-19>

"As countries begin to ease the recent restrictions put in place by the coronavirus pandemic, a group of UN human rights experts is urging governments and companies to ensure that all workers are protected from exposure to COVID-19."

<https://oacnudh.hn/todo-trabajador-es-esencial-y-debe-protegerse-de-covid-19-pase-lo-que-pase-afirman-expertos-de-la-onu/>

"Refugees International and Human Rights Watch conducted research on the impact of the ACA ["safe third country agreement"] in Guatemala in February 2020, investigating the vulnerabilities of transferees and the lack of support for them in Guatemala, as well as their access to the Guatemalan asylum system and its capacity to provide protection to those needing it. (...) Only one person out of the 30 people subject to the ACA interviewed by Refugees International and Human Rights Watch said they were applying for asylum in Guatemala. Several said they had no family or support networks in Guatemala and that they feared for their safety in Guatemala. Many indicated they would return to El Salvador and Honduras despite continuing to express a fear of persecution there."

<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2020/5/8/deportation-with-a-layover-failure-of-protection-under-the-us-guatemala-asylum-cooperative-agreement>

According to RNP commissioner Oscar Rivera, COVID-19 virus has only stopped the process in the field, but the schedule for the delivery of a new electoral census and the new identity is still in effect.

The National Party announced that they want to go ahead with the planned primary and main elections next year as scheduled.

The president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, is thinking about running for president for the Liberal Party.

Criterio reports on the situation of women in politics and how Honduras fails to comply with its own laws to support women running for office.

<http://elpulso.hn/rnp-asegura-que-para-2020-habra-nuevo-censo-e-identidad/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-nacional-acuerda-que-elecciones-se-realicen-como-se-encuentra-establecido-en-la-ley-electoral.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/suyapa-figueroa-postulacion-presidencia-partido-liberal/>

A controversial reform to the Foreclosure Act, which had been vetoed by JOH two years ago, may now come into force after all.

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-se-apresta-a-plantar-cara-a-joh-al-ratificar-reformas-a-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

<https://criterio.hn/formacion-politica-de-la-mujer-en-honduras-una-deuda-empantanada-por-falta-de-transparencia/>

"One hundred and forty million people in Latin America and the Caribbean survive in informal jobs, according to the ILO. The pandemic has revealed the precariousness and vulnerability in which they live and also makes them look into the abyss of famine. In Central America, they have begun to use white flags to show their tragedy, and in Mexico, merchants lament the lack of state protection."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/19/hambre-o-coronavirus/>

20/05/20

Honduras Daily: Blackout; Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - HR, State Reaction, Health Sector, Women, Corruption, Poverty; Elections; Drug Trafficking; Water; and Two Buddies

Honduras suffered a nation-wide blackout yesterday, 90% of Hondurans were left without electricity.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1381071-466/autoridades-detallan-origen-del-apagon-general-honduras>

COFADEH denounces that the JOH regime failed to follow UN recommendations to liberate the political prisoners. Therefore, they, together with the Committee for the Liberation of Political Prisoners and the Convergence against Continuity (CCC), sent another letter to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-regimen-se-niega-a-adoptar-recomendaciones-de-la-onu-para-liberar-a-los-presos-politicos/>

For days the picture is more or less the same in Honduras. They test around 500 people a day and between a forth and a third test positive. This means the real number of infected in Honduras is likely much higher and it is very problematic that the JOH regime has not successfully increased the daily testing rate. Yesterday, 145 new cases were confirmed for a total of 3100. 4 more people died for a total of 151.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1381120-466/honduras-registra-3100-infectados-de-coronavirus-hay-151-muertos-y-145-nuevos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/20/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-20-de-mayo-del-2020/>

COFADEH published its second human rights monitor of the corona-crisis covering the whole month of April. They documented, among other things, the arbitrary arrest of 11'000 people, five cases of torture and and death.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presentacion-publica-del-ii-informe-en-el-marco-del-covid-19/>

Report: <http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2do-INFORME-SITUACION-DH-EN-HONDURAS-marco-Covid19-abril20.pdf>

Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábora, announced yesterday that another \$1.05 billion will be disbursed to address the corona-crisis.

<https://tiempo.hn/aumentan-fondos-para-atender-covid-19-desembolsaran-1047-millones/>

"As government representatives meet at the World Health Organization's annual assembly to make crucial decisions regarding the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Amnesty International released a report today on the dire state of the rights of health workers in the Americas. The report urges countries in the region to prioritize and protect health workers' rights during and beyond the pandemic and calls on the United States to take swift and decisive action to guarantee continued funding to the WHO."

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/05/americas-states-failing-protect-rights-health-workers-covid19-pandemic/>

In a press release, the "Assembly of Women Fighters of Honduras repudiates this dictatorial government and calls on us to build another pact of coexistence in this country that has become a political experiment during the last 10 years. It is not with more of the same that we will save Honduras".

Giorgio Trucchi writes about the "alarming situation of violence against women" exacerbated by the pandemic.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1263168409241628675>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alarmante-situacion-de-violencia-contra-las-mujeres/>

The president of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), José Juan Pineda, continues to negate that corruption was committed during the emergency purchases of the JOH regime. Furthermore, he now threatens to sue media outlets which rightly point out the problematic link between his son living in the US and the director of Invest-H, Marcos Bográn.

The same Bográn repeated yesterday that he would not resign even though it has been shown that Invest-H bought overpriced and nonfunctional goods.

In an audit of the controversial Honduras Solidarity program (see previous e-mails), the TSC may not have found corruption, but they found "administrative inconsistency".

The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) presented the first verification report on the emergency spending of State institutions belonging to the National Risk Management System (Sinager) and the municipalities. Of 305 institutions monitored, only 80 were rated "excellent", 60 "good" and 165 institutions were evaluated as "bad" and "deficient".

The US embassy tweeted yesterday that its chargé d'affaires Colleen Hoey met with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla "on the importance of increasing anti-corruption initiatives".

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/magistrado-del-tsc-niega-que-su-hijo-sea-proveedor-del-estado-y-dice-presenten-pruebas-sobre-corrupcion-en-compras-por-covid.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/marco-bogran-no-renunciare-hospitales-moviles-julio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tsc-revela-deuda-142-millones-dejo-entrega-bolsas-solidarias/>

<http://elpulso.hn/iaip-evalua-bien-a-invest-h-pero-reprueba-a-copeco/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1263179803986976770>

FOSDEH warns that the economy paralyzed by the coronavirus pandemic will lead to a the massive closure of microenterprises, which will deepen poverty.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-advierte-masivo-cierre-de-microempresas-por-falta-de-estimulos-del-ejecutivo/>

Ricardo Álvarez withdrew his hat for the Nationalist presidential race and joined the campaign of the current president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva.

The same Oliva promises that the electoral reforms will be approved by September.

The Liberal Party, meanwhile, has split in at least two groups, one around former presidential candidate Luis Zelaya and the other around Mario Segura.

And there is still JOH, who continues to send mixed messages regarding his will to stay in power.

Radio Progreso thinks about the politicians Honduras really needs. "The politicians we need after the confinements are the sowers and builders of a new generation that understands public offices and positions as the responsibility to contribute to the common good, from a State that exercises sovereignty over all public and common goods and services to put them at the service of the welfare of the whole society."

<https://criterio.hn/mauricio-oliva-y-ricardo-alvarez-se-unen-en-busca-de-la-presidencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ricardo-alvarez-dice-adios-a-precandidatura-y-se-une-a-oliva/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-asegura-que-reformas-electorales-estaran-aprobadas-en-septiembre-proximo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-divide-el-liberalismo-surge-bando-leal-a-luis-zelaya-y-su-jefe-sera-mauricio-villeda/>

<https://criterio.hn/zozobra-ante-senales-de-utilizacion-reeleccionista-de-la-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/la-politica-y-los-politicos-que-necesitamos-para-despues-de-los-encierros/>

1.4 tons of cocaine was seized in France in a shipping container with Honduran coffee.

<https://criterio.hn/en-francia-incautan-1-4-toneladas-de-cocaina-procedente-de-honduras-en-contenedor-de-cafe/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/05/20/incautan-1-4-toneladas-de-cocaina-provenientes-de-honduras-en-un-puerto-frances/>

Thanks to the recent rain, the water reservoirs of Tegucigalpa are in a better shape but still only 40% and 23% full respectively.

<https://confidencialhn.com/represas-de-tegucigalpa-han-aumentado-su-caudal-por-las-recientes-lluvias/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/guaido-agradece-a-hernandez-apoyo-en-lucha-contr-el-narcotrafico-y-apoyo-a-migrantes.html>

21/05/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; MADJ; Penal Code; MP; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Repression, Corruption, Prisons, Economy; Journalists; Elections; Agriculture; and a New Agricultural Model

Edwin Fernandez, member of the Garífuna community Rio Tinto, was killed, probably by drug traffickers, for not handing out the key to the Rio Tinto community security gate, which was established as a preventive measure in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/05/21/aparente-grupo-de-narcos-liquidan-a-garifuna-encargado-de-vigilancia-de-la-comunidad-de-rio-tinto/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/05/alerta-urgente-honduras-por-no-entregar-llave-de-porton-de-bioseguridad-asesinan-al-companero-de-ofraneh-edwin-fernandez/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1263544920314388485>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/asesinan-a-balazos-a-dirigente->

[garifuna-en-tela.html](#)

MADJ commemorates its 12th anniversary with a digital public forum on "Defeating the Dictatorship with Ethics and Dignity" this Sunday.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1263501450031894531>

Instead of taking up the task to improve the new Penal Code, Congress took the newest prolongation of the vacation legis as a change to further worsen it. A bill was introduced, that the MP has to announce previously, if they go and seize important documents linked to an investigation. The head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, denounced: "If this reform is approved, which is most likely, it will be almost impossible to investigate new cases. (...). Another obstacle to investigating corruption."

But do not dare protesting against such things as the new Penal Code includes penalties for up to 30 years for this.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1339814-466/buscan-coartar-al-ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-para-la-confiscaci%C3%B3n-de-documentos>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1263653985665376256>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-castigara-hasta-con-30-anos-de-prision-por-manifestarse/>

Close to the second anniversary of her murder, InSight Crime takes up the case of regional ATIC coordinator Sherill Yubissa Hernández Mancía (see previous e-mails). ATIC continues to try to present it as a suicide. "But the country's former director of forensic medicine, Semma Julissa Villanueva, says that all the evidence points to murder. Since signing her autopsy report about two years ago, she has not budged from her initial finding: that Hernández Mancía was killed and then the crime scene staged — poorly at that — to look like a suicide. For speaking out, Julissa Villanueva was removed from her post and has received death threats. Attempts to discredit her have come from the highest levels, including Honduras' attorney general. (...) "This was not a suicide. They killed her because she was investigating drug trafficking," an official from Honduras' National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Honduras – CONADEH), who asked for anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the case, told InSight Crime."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/two-deaths-sherill-hernandez-honduras/>

505 new tests resulted in 104 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Additionally, 5 more people died for a death toll of 156.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1381420-466/honduras-contabiliza-3204-infectados-y-156-muertos-por-coronavirus-hay-104-nuevos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/21/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-21-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Radio Progreso summarizes the main challenge with the measures by the JOH regime in Honduras. "All those voices are right, both those demanding to stay home and those explaining why it is not possible to stay home. The fundamental problem is not to go out or not to go out, or who pays attention or not, the fundamental problem is in the confidence you have in the person who tells you to stay at home. (...) Nobody in their right mind trusts a president who was not elected by the will of the people, a president with a brother who was extradited and convicted of drug trafficking, a president who is investigated and charged with drug trafficking in the United States, a government where almost all of its members are accused of looting public institutions, a cabinet that has criminalized and assassinated those they claim to represent. Well, that president with all that criminal record is the one who shows up every night telling us not to leave the house and warns us that the worst is yet to come, the same one who wants to stay in power and manages the emergency as an electoral political campaign, the same one who, while embezzling emergency funds, begs God to bless Honduras. (In this scenario of confinement and death, two challenges can be seen: first, as a society we must avoid pointing out the victims as victimizers and winking at the executioner, and second, avoid the continuity of JOH. There are no recipes for this, but there is no executioner who can cope with the inventiveness and transforming power of the people." Congress passes the law to force the use of masks. If someone does not, or rather cannot, comply, they have to pay a 200 Lempiras fine.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/de-victimas-y-victimarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/autoritarismo-congreso-de-honduras-aprueba-ley-para-obligar-el-uso-de-mascarillas/>

Given its weak health care system, Honduras makes use of doctors doing social service. These doctors now denounce that they "are in economic distress in the midst of the pandemic. After 90 days, about 170 of them have begun the process of signing the agreement with the Ministry of Health. This contract assures them the scholarship salary of 7700 lempiras per month, which has been owed to them for three months, however this does not guarantee that they will receive payment immediately".

According to the Red Cross of Honduras, the Health Secretariat owes them some 20 million Lempiras.

Five radiology technicians have tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/21/medicos-en-servicio-social-atienden-emergencia-en-la-calamidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-salud-debe-mas-de-20-millones-de-lempiras-a-la-cruz-roja-hondurena/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cinco-tecnicos-radiologia-positivo-covid-19/>

Defensores en Línea reports of yet another act of repression by state security forces during the corona lockdown. "At least nine agents of the National Police attacked and imprisoned Heidy and Roberto Amaya, yesterday in the municipality of Campamento, Olancho, hurting their personal and

psychological integrity through beating and obscene words, especially against her."

Member organizations of the Latin American Litigation Group against Torture published a report on illegal detention in Latin American as a response to corona-counter-measures.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/olanchodetenciongolpesyamenazaspolicialescontrahermanosencampamento/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-covid-19-y-detencion/>

"After 21 days after Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Invest-H) cancelled the purchase order of 474,000 N95 masks, made during the emergency by COVID-19, GYT has not returned the advance payment of 20.3 million lempiras given by the Government to guarantee the delivery. On April 8, Invest-H issued purchase order 019-2020, which stipulates that GYT will provide that amount of masks at a unit price of 107.25 lempiras, making a total amount of 50.8 million lempiras. The company demanded an advance payment and Invest-H advanced 20,334,600 lempiras, equivalent to 40% of the contract, supposedly to guarantee delivery in 7 days. GYT did not comply, asked to extend the delivery but Invest-H decided to cancel the purchase."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1381216-528/empresa-recibi%C3%B3-1-20-millones-de-anticipo-por-mascarillas-cancel%C3%B3-compra-y>

At least three different prisons had confirmed COVID-19 cases so far. ContraCorriente describes the situation of Honduras' penitentiary system as "the realm of precariousness, violence and militarism that the pandemic has reached".

Another inmate from El Pozo was tested positive for COVID-19. According to the prison authorities, he was not infected at the prison outside when he had to have some tests done for leukemia.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/21/prisiones-de-honduras-el-reino-de-precariedad-violencia-y-militarismo-al-que-llego-la-pandemia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1381406-466/reo-de-el-pozo-se-contagia-de-coronavirus-al-estar-hospitalizado-en>

"Labor Minister Carlos Madero detailed that the coronavirus pandemic will leave massive unemployment, but special protocols are being worked on that can guarantee the intelligent opening of the economy to avoid complete collapse. (...) In total, adding the hotel sector, more than 268,000 employees have been suspended from work due to the effects of the COVID pandemic."

The National Association of Informal Economy Workers of Honduras, meanwhile, estimates that the number of street vendors had increased by 50%.

Transport workers took over a highway to pressure the JOH regime to give them a compensatory bonus so that they can subsist because they cannot work.

<http://elpulso.hn/desempleo-masivo-y-aumento-de-la-pobreza-los-efectos-devastadores-del-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/van-mas-de-200-mil-despidos/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/en-un-50-por-ciento-sube-la-economia-informal-en-honduras-por-actual-emergencia-sanitaria/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/transportistas-bloquean-la-carretera-ca5-sur-para-exigir-bonos-al-ejecutivo-ya-que-no-pueden-laborar/>

<https://criterio.hn/los-transportistas-tambien-comen/>

Reporteros de Investigación denounces that some 200 journalists have been fired since part of the mainstream press and JOH fell out of love when the former covered the trial of JOH's brother Tony Hernández.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/21/despidos-y-ataques-a-la-prensa-se-suman-a-la-amenaza-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) once again confirms that they want to follow the electoral schedule and hold the primary elections in March.

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-pide-elecciones-voto-electronico-menos-20-ciudades/>

After the approval of an executive decree on boosting the agricultural sector, peasant farmers fear that their land could be confiscated.

<http://elpulso.hn/pequenos-productores-temen-confiscacion-y-concesiones-de-tierras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/21/analisis-mas-mercados-territoriales-menos-mercados-depredadores/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/206715>

22/05/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Penal Code; HRDs; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, HR, Poverty, Women, Prisons, Transport Sector, US; and a Digital Government

On June 2, the 50-month anniversary of the assassination of Berta Cáceres, a new book on her life, struggle and death will be launched. The author Nina Lakhani together with Berta Zúniga and Bill McKibben will join in discussion for an online presentation of the book.

<https://twitter.com/ninalakhani/status/1263940241754329091>

COPINH published a new short video with lawyer Víctor Fernández talking about the connection of Daniel Atala Midence, financial manager of DESA, with the murder of Berta.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1263854595186593793>

In yesterday's e-mail, it was formulated as a possibility, now it is already a fact - Congress' new interpretation of Procedural Criminal Code means that the MP will have an even harder time to investigate corruption.

UFERCO's head Luis Santos tweeted: "Not only does it bureaucratize, it limits the action of the Public Prosecutor's Office, especially in the investigation of corruption cases. This is extremely serious, and we see it as something normal, even worse when within those who promote these initiatives there are people who are publicly known to be investigated."

Even Proceso Digital cites a source at the MP saying that this "impedes" investigations into corruption.

Later the same day, Congress started to dispute this.

The new Penal Code, meanwhile, will be "socialized" between next Monday, May 25 and Friday, June 5. It is almost cynical what Congress' president Mauricio Oliva said to that regard given the national and international expertise comments on the Penal Code: "During two weeks recognized experts in criminal law will explain in a simple, practical and friendly way for a better understanding of all of us who are not law professionals the most important aspects of the new Penal Code"...

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-impone-nueva-barrera-al-ministerio-publico-para-combate-a-la-corrupcion/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1263875106973061121>

<https://proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/mp-no-podra-investigar-corrupcion-post-covid.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-deja-claro-que-no-se-le-han-quitado-competencias-al-ministerio-publico-sobre-secuestro-de-documentos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cn-convoca-para-el-lunes-a-socializacion-abierta-del-codigo-penal.html>

"OACNUDH urges that a gender perspective be guaranteed in the handling of the case of violence suffered by Mirtha Gutiérrez".

Mirtha is a Honduran HRD working for Protection International.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1263875701465284608>

Yesterday, almost 50% of the 592 people tested resulted positive, 273. 11 additional people died for a total of 167. There are 381 people hospitalized, 20 in intensive care units.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1381607-466/honduras-suma-3477-infectados-y-167-muertos-por-coronavirus-hay-273-nuevos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/22/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-22-de-mayo-del-2020/>

By May 18, the JOH regime had over 3.8 billion Lempiras at its disposal to address the corona crisis.

At the same time, there seems to be no money to repatriate stranded Hondurans abroad.

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-informa-que-a-tres-mil-824-millones-de-lempiras-ascienden-recursos-asignados-para-crisis-sanitaria/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-pesar-de-multimillonario-presupuesto-para-combatir-coronavirus-cancilleria-alega-que-no-puede-financiar-vuelos-humanitarios/>

Nursing students should return to their social service even though their safety is not guaranteed.

<https://criterio.hn/sin-garantias-de-bioseguridad-obligan-a-estudiantes-de-enfermeria-a-retomar-el-servicio-social/>

Honduras' social movements and human rights organizations published their 10th joint press release during the corona crisis.

International civil society and human rights organizations "urge the Honduran government to end excessive use of force by security forces and cease the restrictions and abuses that make it difficult for human rights defenders and journalists to carry out their vital work. (...) We urge the international community to withhold funding for security forces, as called for in the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act. We urge the international community to strongly press the Honduran government to comply with these urgent recommendations to protect the rights of its citizens".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/decimo-manifiesto-publico/>

<https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/Civil-Society-Organizations-Denounce-Abuses-in-Honduras-in-the-Course-of-the-COVID-2-May-20.pdf>

Radio Progreso denounces the new law fining people for not wearing a mask with 200 Lempiras (see yesterday) as criminalizing poverty.

Health Secretary recommended just making one's own masks...

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ley-de-uso-obligatorio-de-mascarilla-criminaliza-la-pobreza-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/96608-2/>

Radio Progreso published an article on violence against women during the lockdown, "Women: The Silent Victims of COVID-19".

Taking the example of the "We are all Alejandra" campaign demanding justice for a sexual violence victim, CESPAD explains how impunity still prevails in many such cases.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/mujeres-las-victimas-silenciosas-del-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/22/la-perversion-impune-de-tres-muchachos-que-casi-destruyen-la-vida-de-una-nina/>

Radio HCH reports that there are 15 COVID-19 cases at the Támara prison.

<https://hch.tv/2020/05/22/se-reportan-15-casos-de-coronavirus-en-penitenciaría-de-tamara11/>

Yesterday, protests by the transport sector continued in various parts of the country.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nueva-jornada-de-protestas-de-transportistas-en-san-pedro-sula-y-juticalpa.html>

"President Hernandez thanked Donald Trump for the support the United States has been giving Honduras in different areas, including the fight against the coronavirus."

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-agradece-ayuda-de-eeuu-en-medio-de-pandemia-que-deja-156-muertos.html>

Maybe it will be lead by a bot...

<http://elpulso.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-anuncia-gobierno-digital-y-feria-virtual/>

23/05/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code - Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Prisons; Electricity; and No Excuses for State Violence

Reporteros de Investigación dedicated various articles to the new Penal Code and the situation of journalists in Honduras (see previous articles). "Throughout this series we have revealed that in only three years there were 21 journalists exposed to prison and one of them has been in prison for more than a year; 200 fired, 83 killed and 35 exiled, in a country with a little more than a thousand journalists and communicators. In this context, a new Criminal Code will come into force that exposes journalists to prison or bullets."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/23/entre-balas-y-carcel-la-prensa-hondurena/>

The testing-rate was a bit higher yesterday with 715 test conducted resulting in 266 new confirmed cases for a total of 3743. 7 more people died, among them a 20-year old woman, for a total of 174 deaths so far.

According to COIPRODEN, there are at least 238 children and minors infected.

There are also three children with the Pediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome, a Kawasaki-like inflammatory disease, in two hospitals in San Pedro Sula.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1381790-528/honduras-confirma-3743-casos-y-174-muertos-por-coronavirus-hasta-este-s%C3%A1bado>

<https://tiempo.hn/coiprodenn-mas-mil-ninos-jovenes-presas-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-menores-diagnosticados-en-hospitales-de-sps-con-variante-de-enfermedad-de-kawasaki/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/23/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-23-de-mayo-del-2020/>

At least six employees at the San Felipe Hospital tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/seis-empleados-del-hospital-san-felipe-dan-positivo-al-sars-cov2/>

The corrections board announced that they have already "strengthened" biosecurity measures in the Tamara and El Porvenir prisons as a response to the first COVID-19 cases there (see previous e-mails).

<https://confidencialhn.com/refuerzan-medidas-de-bioseguridad-en-los-presidios-de-tamara-y-el-porvenir/>

The people of Olancho will hold a protest tomorrow against "more than ten years of constant blackouts and lousy power service".

<https://criterio.hn/olanchanos-a-planton-este-lunes-por-falta-de-energia-electrica/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nada-justifica-la-brutalidad-ni-siquiera-una-pandemia/>

24/05/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption; Prisons; Agriculture - Gender; Elections; and Border Wars

ContraCorriente published an article on the Penal Code, the problems with it, and what to think of the newest prolongation of the *vacatio legis*, i.e. the time before it comes into force. "However, Guillermo López Lone, judge of the Sentence Court in Tegucigalpa and member of the Association of Judges for Democracy (AJD) points out that this extension of the *vacatio legis* is "a measure of a political nature to please the critical voices that exist from society, private enterprise and different sectors. The board of directors of the Congress is doing nothing more than a measure of legislative populism". In addition, López Lone assures that the overstated interest in its coming into force is suspicious and is confirmed by civil society's arguments that this is a criminal code that has already established its addressees: "It is the high government officials who in a few years will no longer be civil servants and could be investigated and taken to court, who would be interested in the fact that as the penalties in the new code are established, which are quite light penalties, whatever they

would be accused of, there are several benefits from which they could benefit. It is a criminal code that arises to favor certain sectors of the public administration and persons who have already been sentenced."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/24/juez-guillermo-lopez-lone-es-un-codigo-penal-con-destinatarios-ya-establecidos/>

667 new tests resulted in 207 positive COVID-19 cases for a total of 3950. At the same time, six more people died for a death toll of 180. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1381941-528/muertes-por-coronavirus-en-honduras-suben-a-180-y-3950-casos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/24/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-24-de-mayo-del-2020/>

As in every week since the beginning of the crisis in Honduras, the state of exception was prolonged for another week.

<https://criterio.hn/sinager-extiende-alerta-roja-en-toda-honduras-hasta-el-31-de-mayo/>

A new analysis by CESPAD shows how much acts of corruption during the corona crisis are already shielded from investigations.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/24/analisis-otro-pacto-de-impunidad-casos-de-corrupcion-durante-la-pandemia-estaran-blindados-hasta-los-dientes/>

A fire caused a prison riot in the Támara women's prison. At least six inmates died and two were wounded.

The former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo is held at the same prison, but she is fine.

<https://confidencialhn.com/seis-mujeres-muertas-y-varias-heridas-deja-reyerta-en-carcel-femenina-de-tamara/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ex-primera-dama-rosa-de-lobo-esta-bien-de-salud-tras-reyerta-en-carcel-femenina/>

CGIAR published a report on the importance of integrating a gender perspective in agriculture, food security and climate change policies.

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/108290>

The RNP once again emphasized that the new identity cards as well as the new census will be ready for the primaries in March.

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-garantiza-que-habra-nueva-identidad-y-censo-completo-para-los->

[comicios-de-2021/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-restringe-ingreso-y-circulacion-de-camiones-costarricenses-por-72-horas/>

25/05/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Prisons; Corruption; ZEDE; OFRANEH - UNDP; Drug Trafficking; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, HR, Repression, Prisons; US; Water; Elections; Migration - Children; and #EsteCodigodapena

Yesterday, Honduras commemorated the Day of the Honduran Journalist.

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the lack of coverage by the main media outlets on the attacks suffered by journalists in Honduras. Just during the lockdown, Pasos de Animal Grande documented 18 attacks against journalists. All in all, they documented 29 attacks, 5 against women journalists.

The same day, journalist Josué Quintana Gómez started a hunger strike. He was fired from La Tribuna because he refused to accept a 20% salary cut as an act of "solidarity" with the corporate media outlet.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1564-labor-periodistica-indispensable-para-la-sociedad-hondurena>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-deuda-estatal-con-los-periodistas-en-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2850-mujeres-periodistas-no-escapan-de-los-ataques-periodistas-han-enfrentado-mas-de-dos-docenas-de-agresiones-en-lo-que-va-del-2020>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1176-periodista-despedido-por-no-firmar-deduccion-de-su-salario-inicia-huelga-de-hambre>

OACNUDH reacted to the mass killing in the Women's National Penitentiary for Social Adaptation, i.e. the women's prison in Támara (see previous e-mail). OACNUDH reminds the Honduran State about its responsibility to guarantee the life and integrity of inmates and demands an exhaustive investigation.

The Network of Civil Society Organizations for Persons Deprived of Liberty urged the JOH regime to reform the parole system; evaluate prison staff and the situation of women prisoners to avoid further loss of life.

El Pulso looks back at the prison massacres of the last 20 years in Honduras. They also highlight that the prison population in 2012 was 12'588 and now it is 21'700.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1264988787635077120>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2849-red-de-organizaciones-y-familiares-exigen-respuestas-del-estado-hondureno-ante-muertes-de-privadas-de-libertad-en-penitenciaria-de-mujeres>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/piden-destituir-a-las-autoridades-de-carcel-de-mujeres-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/las-violentas-masacres-en-centros-penales-de-honduras/>

Last week, Congress further impeded corruption investigations by reinterpreting three articles of the Criminal Procedural Code (see last week's e-mails and first link below). The MP now published a short analysis of these changes concluding that "contrary to helping investigations of illicit acts, it hinders the fight against corruption at a time when democratic societies demand more transparency and the proper use of public resources".

<https://www.efe.com/efe/america/politica/el-parlamento-hondureno-frena-la-investigacion-anticorrupcion-del-ministerio-publico/20000035-4253847>

<https://criterio.hn/interpretacion-de-articulos-217219-y-220-obstaculiza-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion-mp/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/156-mayo2020/5829-mp-se-pronuncia-sobre-reforma-tacita-hecha-por-el-congreso-nacional-en-torno-a-articulos-relacionados-con-el-comiso-y-secuestro-de-documentos>

Neoliberal economist Tyler Cowen published an e-mail on his blog by Mark Lutter from the Charter Cities Institute on a Charter City, now called ZEDE (Zone for Employment and Economic Development), on Roatán.

The company behind it is called Próspera and they are partnered-up with Ernst & Young (EY).

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1264908463244787713>

<https://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2020/05/a-charter-city-finally-in-honduras-from-mark-lutter.html>

<https://prospera.hn/>

OFRANEH wrote an open letter to the UNDP representative in Honduras, Richard Barathe, regarding the RECOVER Honduras program on biodiversity and ecosystems. The project neighbors Garífuna communities which were neither informed nor consulted.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1265049650605809664>

InSight Crime reports on the murder of the former Nationalist congressman Hugo Pinto two weeks ago (see previous e-mails). "The recent murder of Hugo Pinto Aguilar, a former congressman for Honduras' ruling National Party, suggests a shift in criminal power in one of the country's prized

drug trafficking enclaves. (...) The Pinto family was also prominently mentioned in the 2019 drug trafficking trial of Tony Hernández, the brother of Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández. During the trial, Alexander Ardón, a former mayor of El Paraíso currently imprisoned in the United States, revealed that Los Pinto had been his drug trafficking partners in Copán."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-hugo-pinto-murder/>

There are by now 11'185 dengue cases in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-11-mil-casos-ascienden-los-confirmados-de-dengue-en-honduras-mientras-avanza-el-sars-cov2/>

569 new tests resulted in an additional 239 COVID-19 cases for a total of 4189. Two more people died which means that so far 182 lost their lives to COVID-19 in Honduras. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1382205-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-registra-182-muertos-y-4189-infectados-hay-239-nuevos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/25/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-25-de-mayo-del-2020/>

More than 90 health workers alone in the central district region have already been infected with the corona virus.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-incremento-casos-de-personal-de-salud-contagiados-por-covid-19/>

CESPAD published a short analysis on the dangers of human and especially territorial rights defenders in times of the pandemic.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/25/reporte-semanal-5-covid-19-y-la-crisis-de-los-derechos-ciudadanos-en-honduras-los-riesgos-de-defender-el-territorio-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

COFADEH launched an urgent action against state violence during the pandemic.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/accion-urgente-cofاده-exige-al-regimen-que-detenga-los-abusos-de-fuerzas-policiales-militares-en-contra-de-la-ciudadania/>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) informed yesterday that already 28 inmates tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, two guards also tested positive.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-28-reos-y-dos-miembros-de-la-seguridad-de-la-penitenciaria-nacional-dan-positivo-al-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/a-28-cifra-reclusos-covid-19-carcel-tamara/>

According to journalist Jeff Ernst, the US Chargé d'Affaires had her first public appearance with

JOH since his brother was convicted of drug trafficking last year. "If I'm not mistaken, this is the first public appearance by the chargé d'affaires with President Hernandez since the day after his brother was convicted of drug trafficking. Great way to commemorate Memorial Day!" Even more cynical, the same day she was present during the inauguration of the Combined Interagency Operations Center meant to fight drug trafficking...

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1265053124638773251>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1265032868939644929>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/hernandez-inaugura-centro-de-operaciones-interagencial-y-sanciona-ley-de-proteccion-del-espacio-aereo.html>

According to SANAA, starting next week, the supply of water will be gradually improved in the Honduran capital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-partir-de-la-proxima-semana-se-mejorara-el-abastecimiento-de-agua-en-la-capital-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1265032868939644929>

According to the political analyst Raúl Pineda, the actions of the political opposition will determine if there are transparent elections in Honduras.

Libre reiterated that they won't accept the primary and general elections based on the current census.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/papel-de-la-oposicion-determinara-si-las-elecciones-son-transparentes-o-no-segun-analista.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/libre-rechaza-ir-a-elecciones-con-el-actual-censo-electoral.html>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2020/05/honduras-comunicado-del-partidolibre-no.html>

According to COIPRODEN, 2408 Honduran children have been deported from Mexico and the US so far this year.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/alarmanete-numero-de-menores-deportados-en-medio-de-cuarentena/>

The CNA launched an online campaign against the new Penal Code.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1263652682620899333>

https://twitter.com/hashtag/EsteCodigodapena?src=hashtag_click

26/05/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; HRDs; ADEPZA; Prisons; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, HR, Transport Sector, Economy; and Beware the Mega-Fraud

The former Liberal congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya agreed to cooperate with US authorities and changed his testimony. He now pleaded guilty for drug trafficking and possession of fire arms. The sentencing is planned for June 23.

Journalist Jeff Ernst writes that his cooperation "could further entrench several politicians, in particular Oscar Najera (no relation), Victor Sabillon & President Hernandez".

<https://criterio.hn/en-acuerdo-con-fiscalia-de-nueva-york-fredy-najera-se-declara-culpable/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1382361-466/fredy-n%C3%A1jera-se-declara-culpable-de-tr%C3%A1fico-de-drogas-y-posesi%C3%B3n-de>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1265321521142210560>

An online presentation of a report on the criminalization of women for abortion was Zoom-bombed, a "racist, sexist and misogynist cyber attack".

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1265456334633394179>

Roxana Vasquez, HRD at ADEPZA, denounced that the militarization has been advancing on Zacate Grande through the biosecurity checkpoints, which are in charge of police and military. The corona crisis is used as a pretext to deepen this strategy of dispossession that aims to protect the interests of powerful families in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2851-honduras-fuerzas-represivas-usan-el-miedo-y-la-intimidacion-para-someter-a-la-comunidad-de-zacate-grande>

There are reports of a second riot in the Támara women's prison just days after six inmates were murdered. There are currently 897 inmates held at a prison built for 450.

Radio Progreso calls on the Honduran society to join the voice of Glenda Ayala of the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CONAPREV), who courageously demanded the immediate dismissal of the director and deputy director of this prison for negligence and complicity.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nuevos-enfrentamientos-en-carcel-femenina-esta-tarde.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/nuevamente-la-carcel-de-mujeres-en-tamara-vuelve-a-ser-escenario-del-panico-audio-revela-el-miedo/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/net/np/sumandonos-a-la-voz-de-conaprev/>

"Allan Martínez, president of the Journalism Students' Association of the UNAH, said that from the

students' perspective, they are not preparing professionals who understand, criticize, and point out the bad actions of officials and governors, but rather forming a cheap labor force for media companies."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2852-mientras-afuera-las-amenazas-y-la-impunidad-acechan-escuela-de-periodismo-forma-mano-de-obra-barata-y-profesionales-no-criticos-a-los-gobiernos>

212 positive COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday for a new total of 4401. 6 more people died, among them a 35-year old woman. The new death toll is at 188. Currently, there are 456 people hospitalized, 23 in intensive care units.

Among those infected are also police agents, 45 confirmed cases so far and another 50 suspected cases.

In one particular case, a police agent suspected of having COVID-19 "escaped" from the IHSS hospital denouncing poor care.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1382468-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suma-212-nuevos-casos-hay-188-muertos-y-4401>

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/suben-a-45-los-agentes-policiales-positivos-de-covid-19-y-50-con-sospecha.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/agente-policial-sospechoso-de-covid-19-escapa-del-ihss-y-denuncia-mala-atencion.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/26/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-26-de-mayo-del-2020/>

According to the Finance Secretariat, the JOH regime has spent 4.1 billion Lempiras so far to attend the corona pandemic.

Criticism against the criminalization of poverty, through fining people 200 Lempiras who do not wear a mask, continues. ConexiHon writes that the underlying law is unconstitutional.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/1-4-100-millones-se-han-ejecutado-para-atender-emergencia-por-pandemia-del-covid-19-informa-sefin.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1566-ley-de-uso-obligatorio-de-mascarillas-es-inconstitucional>

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/ley-de-uso-obligatorio-de-mascarilla-una-ley-clasista-y-autoritaria/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2023-honduras-juliette-handal-seguimos-en-el-reino-de-lo-absurdo>

The president of the Association of Physicians at the IHSS in San Pedro Sula, Carlos Umaña, warned that Honduras is fast approaching phase 5, which would mean the collapse of the health

system.

"Postgraduate directors of the UNAH-VS School of Health Sciences suspend resident doctors from attending COVID-19 wards at the Mario Catarino Rivas National Hospital and limit their presence to 24-hour guards in the emergency and labor and delivery areas, due to the high number of residents infected by lack of biosecurity equipment."

<https://radiohrn.hn/honduras-se-acerca-al-colapso-del-sistema-sanitario-por-aumento-en-casos-de-covid-19-sinager-ya-colapso-umana/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/casos-en-honduras-podria-superar-los-20-mil-segun-especialista/>

<https://criterio.hn/por-falta-de-bioseguridad-medicos-residentes-del-mario-catarino-rivas-se-retiran-de-las-salas-de-covid-19/>

CESPAD investigates the discourse used by the JOH regime to justify its corruption. "One of the spokespersons for the MACCIH, Luis Guimaraez Marey, coined the phrase that corruption in Honduras "is in the open", because it is done by leaving evidence totally visible. This means that it is not difficult to investigate and follow the money trail, but it is very difficult to achieve results in justice because of the impunity that protects people and groups in power or with power. When institutions do not work, impunity is so widespread that it not only increases corruption and proliferates corruption networks, but also generates a kind of culture of the corrupt, like acting "in the open". But, in addition, they construct discourses with which they seek to justify themselves before the Honduran society. Some are more cynical than others, let's see some examples." The Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Combating Public Corruption (Fetccop) is investigating the Atlántida Regional Hospital in La Ceiba.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/26/analisis-los-discursos-de-la-corrupcion-y-de-la-falta-de-transparencia-en-el-contexto-covid19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/encuentran-ventiladores-mecanicos-sin-usar-en-el-hospital-regional-atlantida/>

Jared Olson has a great piece, in English, on the current situation in Honduras, i.e. the human rights violations talking place daily by the JOH regime.

<https://towardfreedom.org/story/pandemic-response-a-partisan-war-on-the-people-in-honduras/>

Next week, taxi services in the capital and San Pedro Sula will start again.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1382356-410/honduras-transporte-pilotaje-pandemia-coronavirus-covid>

According to COHEP, Honduras has suffered a 80-90 billion Lempiras blow to GDP due to the corona crisis and the lockdown measures.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/unos-l-80-mil-millones-de-su-pib->

[ha-perdido-honduras-por-el-covid-segun-sikaffy.html](https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1382737-466/confirman-239-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-hay-194-muertos-y)

"Without a new census and a new identity card "we are on the verge of a new mega electoral fraud," warned Doris Gutiérrez, congresswoman for the Innovation and Social Democratic Unity Party (Pinu-SD)".

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-estamos-puertas-mega-fraude-electoral/>

27/05/20

Honduras Daily: US; FoE; COVID-19 - Protests, Prisons, Transport Sector; Coffee; Prisons; Elections; and an Old or New Normal

EFE reports that the US State Department once more certified Honduras, i.e. the JOH regime, for receiving millions in US assistance. The certification includes the assessment that the JOH regime fights corruption and drug trafficking...at the same time, a source at the State Department told EFE that "Washington still has major "concerns" about the degree of compliance with those points in the region, particularly "the alleged links with drug trafficking" of Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez".

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-da-paso-clave-para-envio-de-fondos-a-guatemala-honduras-y-el-salvador.html>

PBI Honduras highlights the importance of freedom of expression during the current state of exception and the lockdown.

<https://pbi-honduras.org/es/news/2020-05/libertad-de-expresi%C3%B3n-un-derecho-en-cuarentena>

616 tests resulted in 239 new COVID-19 cases, still a very high positive test rate. An additional six people died, among them a 28-year old man, for a new total of 194. There are over 50 more people hospitalized than reported the previous day, 519 in total, 27 in intensive care.

Honduras tests on average 172 people out of 100'000 inhabitants, one of the lowest test rate in Latin America and the lowest in Central America. The much smaller El Salvador over five times as many people.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1382737-466/confirman-239-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-hay-194-muertos-y>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1382682-528/coronavirus-curva-cuarentena-honduras>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/27/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-27-de-mayo-del-2020/>

After two riots and six deaths at the women's prison in Támara, some inmates were transferred to the minimum-security prison El Porvenir.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trasladan-a-privadas-de-libertad-desde-la-carcel-de-mujeres-al-penal-de-el-porvenir-tras-cruenta-reyerta/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/trasladan-a-privadas-de-libertad-hacia-otra-carcel-ante-ultimos-disturbios-en-pnfas.html>

C-Libre has documented at least 180 protests since March 23, 2020.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1568-honduras-protestas-se-agudizan-en-la-emergencia-por-mal-manejo-de-la-cuarentena>

According to a representative of the Health Secretariat, the positive COVID-19 cases at the Támara prison came to be because the prison authorities did initially not listen to them and continued to transfer inmates between prisons.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/por-error-de-autoridades-llego-el-covid-19-a-carcel-hondurena/>

Cab drivers protested yesterday in various parts of Honduras blocking roads and demanding State support. In Tegucigalpa, they were repressed with tear gas.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1265644288949358593>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/transportistas-protestan-por-bono-y-por-trabajo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/taxistas-realizan-protestas-para-exigir-el-reinicio-de-operaciones-son-reprimidos-con-dureza/>

The members of the Association of Independent Coffee Producers rejected the assistance promised by the JOH regime as they consider it to be a "malevolent strategy lacking in transparency". They also pointed out that the bonus they intend to grant them has serious flaws due to a lack of accountability.

<https://confidencialhn.com/caficultores-rechazan-la-ayuda-del-ejecutivo-nacionalista-por-falta-de-transparencia/>

Former president Manuel Zelaya announced that the Technical Commission of the National Congress will discuss today the two-round presidential election. Libre is in favor, the National Party against it and the Liberal Party seems split.

At the same time, talks have flared up again regarding an opposition alliance against the National Party.

And there are still a lot of questions regarding the Honduran census.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1382763-466/mel-zelaya-entra-a-comisi%C3%B3n-t%C3%A9cnica-la-discusi%C3%B3n-de-la-segunda-vuelta>

<http://elpulso.hn/una-nueva-alianza-la-unica-opcion-para-derrotar-al-partido-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/lideres-opositores-analizan-enfrentar-en-alianza-al-oficialismo/>

<http://elpulso.hn/que-paso-con-la-alianza-y-la-coalicion-oposicion-contr-la-dictadura/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/me-siento-como-sardina-entre-tiburones-contreras-asegura-que-el-sera-el-constructor-de-la-unidad-opositora/>

<http://elpulso.hn/prometen-nuevo-censo-e-identidad-para-elecciones-pero-justificaciones-no-convencen/>

"The current actions of the JOH regime around the management of the crisis of the country, point to a post-pandemic scenario that leads to a return to the old normal, through a conception of the future that produces fear, uncertainty and insecurity and, deep down, invites us to get used to living in a society closer to chaos than to order, to poverty than to good living. Before going into detail about the return to the old normal, we will stop to identify the way in which JOH's regime dimensions the future of Honduran society in the post-pandemic. From the presidential chains, three social senses of the future are evident: i) the future as a sentence, ii) the future as uprooting, and, iii) the future as a challenge. (...) The way in which JOH's regime is leading Honduran society towards the old normal is worrying. The return to the old normal is taking place in a country context marked by four basic elements: 1) Attempts to reconfigure the political elite (postponing elections, new impunity pacts, the entry into force of the new Penal Code). 2) The flexibilization of an economic model that aims at the reconcentration of the wealth of the economic elite. 3) Greater control and surveillance of the police and military forces towards the population. 4) The fragility of social norms that attempt against social integration and peaceful coexistence."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/27/4152/>

28/05/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Book; COVID-19 - Health Sector, UN, State Reaction, Economy, Prisons, HR, Journalists, Corruption; Transport Sector; RNP; Liberal Party; ENEE; and Congratulations

In just a few days, the book "Who Killed Berta Cáceres? Dams, Death Squads, and an Indigenous Defender's Battle for the Planet" by Nina Lakhani will be published. Hilary Goodfriend published a review. "A full investigation into the murder of Honduran indigenous leader Berta Cáceres doesn't just uncover the story behind her assassination. It also provides a glimpse into the US-backed militarized narco-state of post-coup Honduras."

<https://jacobinmag.com/2020/05/berta-caceres-murder-honduras-nina-lakhani>

112 COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday for a total of 4752 and two more people died for a total of 196.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1382961-528/con-dos-muertos-y-112-casos-m%C3%A1s-honduras-suma-4752-contagios-y>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/28/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-28-de-mayo-del-2020/>

The UN published a "Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19" for Honduras.

Some 350 people working in the health sector (nurses, doctors, etc) have tested positive for COVID-19 so far.

The head of the Central District Metropolitan Health Region, Harry Bock, said that in recent weeks they have seen an increase in patients arriving too late at healthcare facilities.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/honduras-plan-de-respuesta-humanitaria-covid-19-mayo-2020>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1382764-528/coronavirus-covid-medicos-enfermeras-contagiados-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-pacientes-positivos-de-covid19-llegan-muy-tarde-a-los-centros-asistenciales/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/hospitalizados-con-coronavirus-en-honduras-supera-los-600/>

There is a disagreement between the UN and the JOH regime. The latter asked the UN for 250'000 testing kits. The UN denied this request saying that they have donated already 85'000 functional testing kits to Honduras. But according to the special commissioner for the pandemic of the JOH regime, Lisandro Rosales, they only received 5600 tests.

Talking to deputy secretary of Health Nery Cerrato, El Tiempo highlights that one problem with the Honduran testing capacity is not just the access to testing material but to people qualified to do the testing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/onu-recuerda-a-embajadora-lizzy-flores-que-la-oms-dio-a-honduras-85-mil-pruebas-para-detectar-el-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-aclara-que-solo-ha-recibido-kits-de-extraccion-para-5-600-pruebas-de-parte-de-onu.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/onu-dono-honduras-85-mil-pruebas-pcr-solo-aplicado-15-mil/>

The JOH regime has received more than \$500 million from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) to address the corona crisis. And another \$250 million packet is planned.

Yesterday, Congress approved a \$100 million loan from the BCIE intended to support the reactivation of the Honduran economy. The loan could later be increased to up to \$300 million.

<https://radiohrn.hn/mas-de-500-millones-de-dolares-ha-recibido-honduras-por-parte-del-bcie/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/prestamo-de-bcie-es-para-apoyar->

[reactivacion-de-las-empresas-explica-ministra-de-finanzas.html](https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1382898-466/este-lunes-iniciar%20la-reapertura-inteligente-de-la-economia-en-honduras)

Secretary of Labor and Social Security, Carlos Madero, announced that Honduras aims to start opening up its economy again next Monday.

FOSDEH presented their own plan on how to respond to the crisis.

[https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1382898-466/este-lunes-iniciar%20la-reapertura-inteligente-de-la-economia-en-honduras](https://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Fosdeh-2020-plan-de-rescate-Covid.pdf)

<https://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Fosdeh-2020-plan-de-rescate-Covid.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/propuesta-de-transformacion-nacional-requiere-de-un-pacto-social-economico-y-politico/>

An inmate from the so-called maximum-security prison El Pozo died on Wednesday from COVID-19 in the hospital.

<https://tiempo.hn/el-antecedente-clinico-del-segundo-reo-de-el-pozo-que-muere-de-covid-19/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 11th joint statement during the corona crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/undecimo-manifiesto-publico/>

Two journalists and a cameraman were violently attacked by the National Police in Choluteca when they were covering a protest.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2855-dos-periodistas-y-un-camarografo-resultados-agredidos-por-antes-policiales-cuando-cubrian-la-entrega-de-un-donativo-a-personal-de-salud>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-de-choluteca-arremete-contra-taxistas-y-periodistas/>

According to a report published by the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP), the Permanent Commission on Contingencies (Copeco) did not present information regarding purchases made to attend the crisis. Copeco outright denies this and claims they did everything according to the law.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-copeco-niega-senalamientos-del-iaip-por-nula-transparencia-en-compras-de-emergencia/>

Cab drivers continued with their protests yesterday (see also the previous e-mail).

<https://confidencialhn.com/taxistas-exigen-bono-compensatorio-en-segundo-dia-de-protestas-para-enfrentar-la-pandemia/>

The RNP presented the design of the new identity card.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1383010-410/presentan-dise%C3%B1o-nueva-tarjeta-identidad-hondure%C3%B1os>

<https://criterio.hn/rnp-presenta-nueva-identidad/>

The president of the Central Committee of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, announced a purge of his party. Liberal congresswo/men involved in corruption cases and drug trafficking have made some headlines in recent times.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/tras-citar-noticias-de-ny-caso-pandora-y-actuacion-de-diputados-luis-zelaya-anuncia-depuracion-en-pl.html>

"The National Congress consented to the modification of a debt to the Ministry of Finance as part of a credit to cover the expenses that the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) owes to the generators of the energy supply that hold the oligopoly of the sale of electric energy in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-endeuda-mas-a-honduras-con-600-millones-de-dolares/>

ERIC-SJ celebrates its 40th anniversary.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/eric-sj-celebra-40-anos-de-caminar-junto-a-las-comunidades-organizadas-y-en-movimiento/>

29/05/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; ADEPZA; Rain; Journalists - Women; Forced Disappearance; COVID-19 - Public Health, Women, Poverty, Disability, Economy, Corruption, Agriculture, US; Migration - US; and Don't Badmouth Uncle Sam

COPINH published an update on the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://copinh.org/2020/05/actualizacion-causa-berta-caceres-2/>

COFADEH denounces that the peasant leader and beneficiary of precautionary measures, Elía Hernández, has received on several occasions threats from an alleged employee of the Facussé family. Hernández is also a social communicator at the community radio station La Voz de Zacate Grande.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/empleado-de-terrateniendo-amenaza-integrante-de-adepza/>

Due to heavy rainfall, a yellow alert was emitted for 10 departments in Honduras.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/05/29/alerta-amarilla-para-10-departamentos-por-deslizamientos-e-inundaciones/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the situation of women journalists in Honduras. "Women journalists practice journalism in the midst of the country's structural violence, mockery, harassment, along with male journalists who in most cases make the media environment in Honduras more problematic."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2856-las-mujeres-periodistas-deben-ejercer-la-profesion-en-un-ambiente-hostil-patriarcal>

This week was the Week of the Forcefully Disappeared. "OACNUDH expresses its solidarity and recognition for the tireless struggle of the families of disappeared persons and urges the State to guarantee the #DDHH to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition for the victims".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1266536233825599490>

The JOH regime published two corona-updates yesterday, but with different numbers. There were either 630 people tested and 198 new cases or 567 people tested and 134 new cases. Accordingly, the total lies between 4886 and 4950. The total number of deaths is 199 in both cases, i.e. 3 more than the previous day.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1383179-528/nuevas-incongruencias-dos-comunicados-con-distintas-cifras-de-covid-19-oficializa-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/29/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-29-de-mayo-del-2020/>

The Deputy Minister of Health, Nery Cerrato, informed that permanent agreements for 3,000 employees in the health sector were granted for the duration of the corona crisis. In the agreement it is stated that the crisis will end of December 31, 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-empleados-salud-gozaran-acuerdo-permanente/>

Between March 15 and May 27, there were at least 45 femicides in Honduras and some 200 reports of domestic violence per day.

<http://elpulso.hn/al-menos-45-mujeres-han-sido-asesinadas-durante-la-pandemia-del-covid-19/>

The World Food Program will open three new food corridors in Latin America as a response to the corona crisis. One will be setup in Honduras to support the needs in Central America. They estimate that an additional 10 million people in Latin American will become food insecure this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-corredores-alimentarios-abrira-el-programa-mundial-de-alimentos-y-honduras-tendra-su-base-de-distribucion/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1065032>

"People with disabilities are a very vulnerable sector that during the quarantine has suffered even more from the lack of prioritization of help, so families have difficulty in obtaining medicines, cleaning products, food and basic need resources".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2857-en-calamidad-las-personas-con-discapacidad-a-tres-meses-de-la-llegada-del-covid-19-a-honduras>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), with the support of the German Financial Cooperation through KfW and the European Union, launched a \$350 million Financial Sector Support Facility for the financing of micro, small and medium enterprises affected by the corona crisis.

<https://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/bcie-kfw-y-ue-aportan-350-millones-para-mipymes-afectadas-por-covid-19.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-aportara-350-millones-mantener-empleos-mipymes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/como-acceder-financiamiento-otorgo-bcie-mipyme/>

CESPAD summarizes the civil society reports published so far on corruption during the corona pandemic. "In this context, corruption and misuse of funds in times of COVID 19 accentuates social inequalities, denies the right to health and can even deny the right to life to people affected by COVID 19, when they do not access timely health care and/or do not have access to medicines. The constant demands made by the medical sector for the supply of biosecurity equipment, hospital equipment and the provision of medicines to hospitals and health centres have highlighted the shortcomings of our health system, in addition to the demands of the most vulnerable population for food. So corruption in this context diverts resources that should reach the poorest sectors and / or can serve to provide medical equipment and supplies, so the consequences in times of the pandemic COVID 19 are disastrous."

"The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (Icefi) conducted an evaluation, from the perspective of fiscal transparency standards, of the plans to address the crisis and emergency caused by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Central America. The results of this exercise reveal a disparity in the degrees of transparency of the emergency plans that the Central American governments are implementing, for which reason it made recommendations to facilitate access to public information and allow for adequate social monitoring and auditing."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/29/analisis-la-pandemia-de-la-corrupcion-quienes-pagan-los-costos/>

<https://criterio.hn/icefi-urge-a-los-gobiernos-de-ca-mejorar-la-transparencia-en-los-gastos-del-covid-19/>

There is ongoing criticism towards the response by the JOH regime for the agricultural sector. La Vía Campesina denounces: "They are taking advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to grant concessions for national and ejido lands, all this is only for the benefit of Agribusiness, and no involvement of small and medium producers".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1570-programa-de-soberania-alimentaria-deja-en-vulnerabilidad-a-pequenos-productores>

The US embassy warned about the growing COVID-19 cases in Honduras and organized new repatriation flights.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/embajada-gringa-en-honduras-facilita-el-regreso-de-sus-ciudadanos/>

"A Honduran who was deported from the US, quarantined & now receiving treatment for COVID-19 was strangled to death by a fellow patient in the covid ward of a Tegucigalpa hospital."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1266551231197085698>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1383216-410/matan-a-paciente-de-covid-19-internado-en-el-hospital-san-felipe>

<https://confidencialhn.com/destituyen-a-portavoz-de-ffaa-por-criticar-al-ejercito-de-ee-uu-lo-pasan-a-disponibilidad/>

30/05/20

Honduras Daily: Tolupán; HRDs - EU; COVID-19 - Journalists, Repression, Economy; and Forbidden to Forget

"Broad Movement for Justice and Dignity (MADJ) denounces that 2 indigenous leaders from dept of Yoro were sent to detention while awaiting initial hearing next week. Both leaders were arrested during an eviction of piece of land collectively farmed by Tolupan community".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1266869813516709889>

EU Parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo denounced a "democratic crisis" in Mexico and Central America highlighted by the management of the corona crisis. In the case of Honduras, he denounces the ongoing criminalization of social movements and HRDs in the case of Guapinol, the attacks and murder of Garífuna defenders, and the ongoing impunity in the Berta Cáceres case. He further denounces "the inoperability of the Protection Mechanism, a resource that continues to receive European funds through the Eurojustice program".

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1266685563790413825>

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1266685565610741765>

Apparently the lower of the two case numbers was correct on Friday (see yesterday's e-mail), but with another 208 cases detected yesterday, the total number still surpassed 5000 - there are now

5094 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Honduras. Two more people died for a current death toll of 201. At the same time, the number of people in intensive care units has doubled in the last week to 40.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1383364-466/honduras-coronavirus-muertos-30-mayo-pandemia-sinager-cifras-comunicado>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/30/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-30-de-mayo-del-2020/>

Two journalists got infected with COVID-19 between May 21 and May 25.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1177-honduras-registra-dos-periodistas-contagiado-de-covid-19>

According to the Honduran police, some 30'000 Hondurans have been detained since March 15 for violating the lockdown orders.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1266865052730011649>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/05/30/unos-30000-detenidos-por-violar-toque-de-queda-y-otras-faltas/>

Lear Corporation, a manufacturer for Ford and General Motors, announced a 1000 new jobs for June and July. And they also call on the suspended workers to return claiming that they implemented a biosafety protocol.

The international airport in Tegucigalpa also plans to start with commercial operations again.

The maquila industry also promises 5000 new jobs and claims that just in a few weeks they will be back at the 168'000 jobs plus the 5000 new ones.

Cab drivers can start operate again next with, initially only with two passengers.

All of this in the midst of still exponentially growing corona case numbers in the country and in a week in which health experts warned of the total collapse of the health system (see previous e-mails).

<https://confidencialhn.com/maquiladora-lear-anuncia-mil-nuevas-plazas-de-trabajo-para-contratar-entre-junio-y-julio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aeropuerto-de-toncontin-se-prepara-para-reiniciar-operaciones-comerciales/>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/05/30/maquilas-en-honduras-estiman-generar-unos-5000-empleos/>

<https://criterio.hn/taxis-comenzaran-a-operar-con-dos-pasajeros-esta-proxima-semana/>

"In May 2019, the Dictator deployed all his power against the doctors and teachers. On May 31, the teacher Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo, 23, was captured and sent to a maximum security

detention center, accused of the crime of aggravated arson, for burning tires on the facade of the U.S. Embassy. The crime he is charged with, in addition to being disproportionate, does not admit of preventive detention, although the court that heard the case played its established role in sustaining the dictatorship and has kept him in preventive detention for a year, affecting his professional development. At the time of his arrest he was a professional student at two universities, in addition to his profession teaching children. Rommel Baldemar has not enjoyed the right to a fair trial, as established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant international instruments accepted by the State of Honduras."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-prolongado-autoritarismo-y-abuso-de-poder-de-juan-orldo-afecta-profundamente-la-vida-de-un-joven-maestro-desde-hace-un-ano/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1571-prohibido-olvidar-rommel-valdemar-herrera-portillo-presos-politicos>

31/05/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; HRDs; COVID-19 - Dengue, State Reaction, Economy, Labor, Children; and Monarchic Gestures

There are more articles on the political prisoner Rommel Valdemar Herrera Portillo, who has been imprisoned for a year now (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/joven-profesor-acusado-de-incendiar-embajada-de-ee-uu-arriba-a-un-ano-de-prision/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-cumple-un-ano-del-arresto-del-presos-politico-rommel-baldemar-herrera-portillo/>

"Human rights & land defender Renan Zelaya Vasquez has been threatened by mayor of Reitoca municipality for denouncing illegal logging".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1267279231668547584>

404 tests brought forward an additional 108 COVID-19 cases for a total of 5202. 11 more people died, the death toll rising to 212.

Proceso Digital reports on the first COVID-19 death in the San Felipe nursing home. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1383533-466/honduras-muertos-212-5202-infectados-covid19-pandemia-31-mayo>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-reporta-el-primer-fallecido-por-covid-19-en-asilo-de-ancianos-del-san-felipe.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/31/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-31-de-mayo-del-2020-2/>

The New York Times on the "two-front public health battle" in Honduras as both dengue and the coronavirus ravage the country. "The outbreak hit Honduras particularly hard, overwhelming a public health system that had already been weakened by budget cuts and pervasive corruption and was barely equipped to meet usual demands, much less an epidemic of record size. By the end of 2019, Honduras had suffered about 61 percent of the dengue deaths in Central America."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/30/world/americas/virus-central-america-dengue.html>

The state of exception was prolonged again for another week.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-extienden-toque-de-queda-hasta-el-7-de-junio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/prorrogan-estado-de-emergencia-en-honduras-por-una-semana-mas-para-evitar-el-sars-cov2/>

At the same today, the JOH regime presented a reopening plan drawn up by a multi-sector board. "Ebal Díaz, Secretary of the Presidency, said that the strategy is contemplated to be developed gradually, by region and respecting the quarantine."

Cab drivers in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula need to wait longer before they can work again. CESPAD analyzes the "intelligent reopening plan" by the JOH regime. "There are several reasons to doubt the coherence and sustainability of the intelligent plan for economic openness and to reaffirm the public's distrust of the fact that the remedy for economic recovery is more harmful than the disease of the pandemic. First of all, the government strategy to combat the pandemic has neither technologies for the detection and control of the infected population nor massive testing. On the contrary, the plan has the original sin of lacking objective epidemiological information, because the number of tests has been insufficient. (...) Secondly, the country does not have the conditions required to ensure that the economy is reopened safely. In a prototype assessment of these conditions, prepared by the World Bank, it is pointed out as a key indicator for such reopening that propagation trends have been reduced, which is far from being the case in Honduras. (...) The other key indicator, which is also not met, is that public health and health care systems are ready to contain new outbreaks and care for patients, which involves testing, contact tracing and isolation, the ability to test health workers, among others, and the availability of ICU beds, ventilators and other medical equipment. (...) Finally, among other factors, the Plan relies on the ability of companies to comply with biosecurity protocols and of the government to monitor compliance, but these conditions are not easily met given the shortcomings of both actors."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1383558-466/luz-verde-a-la-fase-preparatoria-de-reapertura-inteligente-el-1-de>

<https://confidencialhn.com/excluyen-a-taxistas-de-tegucigalpa-y-sps-en-pruebas-de-reinicio-del-transporte-publico/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/31/analisis-honduras-que-tan-inteligente-es-el-plan-de-reapertura-que-proponen-los-grupos-de-poder/>

Employees of the Honduran brewery have protested for the last three days against the dismissals and the lack of biosafety equipment for the workers and the breach of contract by the company. Historic and current labor leader Carlos H Reyes comments on the situation in Honduras. "Capitalism and its neoliberal model are still in crisis and with COVID 19 the health crisis has made it even more acute. Since the "market" cannot solve it, then it is up to the State to do so, but since the neoliberals have reduced it, it cannot solve it either, and in the case of Honduras, the corrupt dictatorship linked to drug trafficking cannot solve it either, because it is on its knees by the creditors and needs to get into more debt. So it is a political problem that the dictatorial regime will not be able to solve, and since it can succumb in its treatment, then the regime and the owners of the country take it out on the working people, hence the labor massacre."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/empleados-de-la-cerveceria-protestan-por-suspension-de-trabajadores-y-la-falta-de-equipos-de-bioseguridad/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/masacre-laboral-en-honduras/>

Criterion reports on the state abandonment of children and youth during the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/ninez-y-juventud-en-abandono-estatal-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda denounces that after the death of the mayor of Santa Rosa de Aguán in Colón, Pablo Castro, the National Party forced through that his son takes up his position instead of the Garífuna deputy mayor. "Let them explain to us when the system of government in Honduras changed, it is now monarchical, parents inherit the government to their children."

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1267171534902382592>