

01/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs; Corruption - US; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Economy; Electricity; and Look Away, Nothing to See Here

"The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OACNUDH) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) call on the Honduran authorities to guarantee effective access to justice, to establish the truth of what happened and to punish the perpetrators and masterminds of the murder of Berta Cáceres, in order to avoid impunity."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-y-cidh-hacen-un-llamado-a-garantizar-el-acceso-efectivo-e-imparcial-a-la-justicia-en-el-juicio-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

OACNUDH met with representatives of the Coalition against Impunity "to develop strategies to create a safe and enabling environment for defenders".

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1410774924369797122>

The anticipated Engel's list of corrupt officials from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras was published yesterday.

"Many of the cases were known in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, but the inclusion of names on the U.S. list buoyed the hopes of anti-corruption crusaders. The list was provided to the U.S. Congress in compliance with the "U.S.-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act" pushed last year by U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel. (...) Ricardo Zúñiga, White House special envoy for the Northern Triangle, said Thursday that the list was not final and that pulling U.S. visas from those named does not exclude the possibility of other sanctions. The law requires the State Department to provide a list to Congress at least once a year. (...) Among the most prominent figures on the list are former Honduras President Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo Sosa and former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. The State Department report says Lobo Sosa took bribes from a drug cartel and his wife was involved in fraud and misappropriation of funds. Both deny the allegations. Bonilla's conviction on related charges was invalidated by the Supreme Court last year and she is awaiting a new trial. Perhaps as significant as Lobo Sosa's inclusion or that of more than a dozen current lawmakers, was the omission of current Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández. U.S. prosecutors in New York have signaled Hernández as having funded his political ascent with bribes from drug traffickers, but he has not been formally charged. (...) Honduras analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado, said there had been high expectations for the list, but that in general it did not include the top perpetrators, leaving him underwhelmed: "If this is the way the United States Congress wants to battle corruption in Honduras, it's like wanting to cure cancer with aspirin."

In a press conference, the US Special Envoy to the Northern Triangle, Ricardo Zúñiga, called the list "one tool among several ones" to help fighting corruption in the region.

The list contains 21 Hondurans, the great majority is linked to the National Party.

19 out of the 21 had been accused in corruption cases by the MP, i.e. by cases brought forward by the now defunct MACCIH and replaced UFECIC.

The MP announced to continue to go after them.

The former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, welcomes the list as "a true moral sanction".

This positive outlook is not widely shared (see also article above). ""The names of Juan Orlando Hernandez and company are absent. The names of Ebal Diaz, Reynaldo Sanchez, for example, do not appear. It seems that the list responds to a pact to remove the sector linked to Pepe Lobo, and leave Juan Orlando's gang and businessmen linked to acts of corruption in suspense", said Jesuit priest Ismael Moreno, "Father Melo", in an interview to Radio Progreso."

Criterio cites State Department official Rubén López saying that a second list will be published before the end of 2021. "The official also said that they are working on another list, which will be published before the end of the year and which includes relatives of current President Juan Orlando Hernandez."

The list also includes people running for office in November's election. But according to the former Attorney General, the CNE does not have a legal basis to disqualify them for being on the list.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-releases-section-353-list-of-corrupt-and-undemocratic-actors-for-guatemala-honduras-and-el-salvador/>

<https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1410667182594330626>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-publishes-list-of-corrupt-officials-in-central-america/2021/07/01/e18f5e0e-da8c-11eb-8c87-ad6f27918c78_story.html

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/qj8wp3/the-white-house-just-sanctioned-a-bunch-of-corrupt-officials-but-left-some-off-the-list-too>

<https://criterio.hn/senalados-en-lista-engel-pueden-ser-sancionados-con-ley-magnitsky-y-otras-leyes-en-ee-uu/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/01/lista-engel-mayoria-de-implicados-son-del-partido-nacional-dos-liberales-y-uno-de-libre/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1410738564766199808

<https://proceso.hn/mp-afirma-que-continuara-las-acciones-contr-senalados-en-la-lista-engel/>

<https://proceso.hn/para-juan-jimenez-mayor-la-lista-engels-es-una-verdadera-sancion-moral/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/padre-melo-lista-engel-es-pirrica-no-compensa-niveles-de-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/a-finales-de-2021-ee-uu-publicara-otra-lista-que-incluye-a-familiares-de-juan-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/ocho-diputados-senalados-en-lista-engel-buscan-reeleccion-en-elecciones-de-noviembre/>

<https://proceso.hn/edmundo-orellana-dice-que-cne-no-podra-inhabilitar-de-cargos-publicos-a-senalados-en-la-lista-engel/>

Radio Globo denounces harassment against its director Héctor Amador.

In a second incidence, Marvin Ponce, adviser to Casa Presidencial, made a series of disparaging comments against journalist Marvin López Zuccin, during a press conference after the later asked a critical question regarding the lack of a vaccination strategy.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3026-alerta-honduras-desconocido-vigila-al-director-de-radio-globo>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1373-asesor-presidencial-descalifica-a-periodista-que-cuestiono-lento-proceso-gubernamental-de-vacunas-anti-covid19>

So far, there have been 263'376 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7030 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/julio-inicia-con-25-muertos-y-616-nuevos-contagios-de-la-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Another hospital, this time in Danlí, warns about being on the brink of collapse.

<https://criterio.hn/hospital-de-danli-a-punto-de-colapsar-debido-a-la-covid-19-y-negligencia-de-las-autoridades/>

"Epidemiologists, scientists, virologists and other health experts observing the development of the coronavirus pandemic in Honduras called on the authorities to speed up the vaccination process in order to complete the dosage schedule to prevent the spread of the pathogen."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/01/en-honduras-no-se-respeta-el-protocolo-de-vacunas-segun-las-farmaceuticas/>

"Delta Apparel, a transnational clothing manufacturer, dismissed 430 workers during the pandemic. Many of them had work-related musculoskeletal conditions. Thousands more were furloughed without pay. The Ministry of Labor shut down for six months amid widespread labor abuses."

<https://contracorriente.red/en/2021/06/30/people-sick-or-incapacitated-due-to-working-conditions-fired-with-pandemic-as-the-excuse/>

The JOH regime claims that Hondurans won't have to pay the announced increase in electricity prices (see yesterday).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1474999-466/aumento-precio-energia-electrica-honduras-enee-cree>

"At least 320 obligated institutions did not comply with their responsibility to provide public information, for which some 400 pecuniary sanctions were established, said Julio Vladimir Mendoza, Commissioner of the Institute of Access to Public Information, IAIP."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3206-320-instituciones-del-estado-incumplieron-la-ley-de-transparencia-y-acceso-a-la-informacion-publica>

02/07/21

Berta - Trial; LGBTQ+; Militarization - Prisons; Corruption - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Liberal Party; and Fake News in Honduras

The verdict in the David Castillo trial will be presented on Monday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1411064338643816448>

<https://avispa.org/a-cinco-anos-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres-aun-esperan-sentencia-contr-a-autor-intelectual/>

Reporteros de Investigación looks at the consequences of the important IACtHR sentence this week in the case of Vicky Hernández (see previous e-mail). "One effect of this judgment is the obligation of the State to reform the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras and the Law of the National Registry of Persons (RNP)."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/07/02/honduras-obligado-a-reformar-ley-y-reconocer-identidad-de-genero-sentencia-de-corteidh-por-transfemicidio/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-recibe-segunda-sentencia-por-violacion-de-dd-hh-en-el-contexto-del-golpe-de-estado/>

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/y3d5dv/honduran-government-responsible-for-trans-womans-murder-watershed-court-ruling-says>

CESPAD looks at the last 12 years of militarizing public security in Honduras. "With a view to the new 2021 electoral process, the question remains as to whether the opposition political parties will be capable of making counter-proposals to the iron fist and punitive populism or whether they will ignore these issues out of political calculation or whether we will see innovative public policy proposals with a comprehensive approach, framed within the rule of law, human rights and strengthening democratic development."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/02/analisis-los-12-anos-de-militarizacion-de-la-seguridad-publica-seguiran-marcando-la-agenda-de-las-politicas-publicas/>

The prisons have also been militarized in Honduras, with equally bad consequences.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/02/muertes-violentas-en-carceles-desnudan-crisis-y-falta-de-transparencia-en-intervencion-militar/>

"The expert lawyer and political thinker, Raúl Pineda, observes the fear of the United States to lose its influence, that is why it would be protecting high corrupt officials of the Hernández Government that do not appear in the Engel's list, apparently, the most important thing is to maintain relations with the last two countries that are still loyal to them: Honduras and Guatemala, even if it means supporting impunity. The names of sectors that the State Department itself had announced did not appear either, among others, businessmen, military, evangelical and Catholic churches, police,

social leaders, executives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and politicians of recognized criminal background who publicly support the abuse of power and corruption of the regime. To Pineda, this behavior of Washington with the regime of Juan Hernandez, reminded him of the famous phrase of former U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, about the dictatorship of Nicaraguan Anastasio Somoza, of whom he said: "Somoza is a son of a bitch, but he is our son of a bitch".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3030-en-lista-engel-eeuu-protege-altos-corruptos-sus-serviles-analista-hondureno>

So far, there have been 265'174 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7059 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-265-mil-174-casos-y-7-mil-059-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Even Proceso Digital warns that the lack of payment of health staff "threatens public health".

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) warns of strike measures if the last four monthly salaries are not paid.

"Since the arrival of the pandemic, the health crisis has been worsening in the country, which has been hit for more than 15 months, not only by the aggressiveness of the virus and its mutations, but also by the lack of access to supplies, medicines and vaccines. The health crisis has been marked by the purchase of seven mobile hospitals that should be operating to address the pandemic, as well as a series of lines of investigation for alleged corruption and multiple complaints from various sectors of Honduran society."

<https://proceso.hn/falta-de-pago-a-medicos-amenaza-salud-publica-de-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/02/dan-ultimatum-al-gobierno-para-el-pago-de-salario-a-medicos-advierten-paro-de-labores/>

<https://proceso.hn/triajes-y-hospitales-los-otros-detonantes-de-la-pandemia-en-honduras/>

After widespread pressure, the Health Secretariat announced that people having received the first dosis of AstraZeneca will receive the second one 21 days later and not three months as previously stated.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1475200-466/vacuna-coronavirus-pandemia-astrazenaca>

There is an ongoing dispute inside the Liberal Party which culminated in attempt to get its presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal on the Engel's List (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-ex-precandidato-presidencial-estuvo-tratando-que-me-incluyeran-en-lista-engel-yani-rosenthal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yani-rosenthal-no-esta-en-la-lista-engel-pero-si-en-la-ofac-y-eso-es-peor-responde-luis-zelaya/>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-un-millon-de-hondurenos-consumen-desinformacion-en-redes-sociales/>

03/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Garífunas; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Elections; Debts;

The legal team of the Berta Cáceres cause expressed several concerns in expectation of the verdict tomorrow. In one case, they denounced the interference by COHEP and AHPER in favor of David Castillo.

In a press release, the International Forum for Human Rights in Honduras expressed solidarity with COPINH and Berta's family.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3211-los-movimientos-bajo-la-mesa-serian-los-que-bres-de-la-justicia-en-la-sentencia-que-favoreceria-a-david-castillo>

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/un-paso-mas-en-el-camino-hacia-la-justicia-causa-berta-caceres/>

"Silvia Bonilla, a Garífuna defender who has recently been detained and prosecuted for defending her ancestral territory, obtained a provisional dismissal in two open cases for the crimes of usurpation, damages, violence, intimidation and threats, a charge brought by the company Bienes Raíces JUCA S.R.L., which has criminalized 32 other people."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3208-defensora-garifuna-logra-dos-sobreseimientos-provisionales-en-procesos-penales-por-defender-su-territorio-ancestral>

Criterio portrays town hall meetings as an important tool against ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/cabildos-abiertos-herramienta-efectiva-del-pueblo-contras-zede/>

So far, there have been 266'918 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7081 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Homes Association has reported over 15'000 deaths so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-266-mil-918-contagios-y-7-mil-081-decesos-porcovid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asociacion-de-funerarias-registra-siete-mil-628-muertes-porcovid-19-en-el-primer-semester-de-2021/>

Proceso Digital warns that according to official statistics, only two ICU beds are free for corona patients.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-en-punto-critico-con-solo-dos-camas-uci-disponibles/>

According to the CNE, the approved budget for the general elections, 600 million Lempiras, won't suffice and they asked for another 800 million "to guarantee the transparency of the coming elections". Nationalist vice-president of Congress, Enrique Medina Yllescas, rejects the request.

<https://proceso.hn/no-hay-condiciones-para-aprobar-presupuesto-solicitado-porel-cne-segundiputado-yllescas/>

Public debt in Honduras has reached the highest levels in the last two decades.

<https://criterio.hn/deuda-publica-en-honduras-en-su-nivel-mas-alto-de-las-ultimas-dos-decadas-fosdeh/>

04/07/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Elections; and the country that abandoned Quejá

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the June edition of its monthly human rights monitor. Those wishing to receive the report in a separate e-mail can subscribe using the following e-mail address: foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=22847

COPINH sent out an alert. "Hours before the issuance of the ruling in the case against David Castillo, we recall the lack of report on the complaint of the meeting that Judge José Anaim Orellana allegedly held with the organization JOPRODEH, which plays an active role in the defense of the accused Castillo. JOPRODEH is the same organization that lied when it said in an official document that David Castillo had been granted precautionary measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The JOPRODEH organization with which Judge Anaim Orellana met, is the same one that is mentioned in the falsification of a document used to request a visa to Switzerland supposedly to hold meetings at the United Nations on behalf of Castillo's defense."

Last year, JOPRODEH presented a habeas corpus for Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1411874760439603201>

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/david-castillo-seeks-to-evade-the-judicial-process-for-the-murder-of-berta-caceres/>

Last week, Congress approved the Low-Cost Air Transportation Development Law. Libre congressman Edgardo Castro, who voted against it, denounces that this law will only benefit airports planed in the ZEDEs.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-ley-de-transporte-aereo-de-bajo-coste-solo-beneficiara-a-los-aeropuertos-de-las-zedes/>

So far, there have been 267'858 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7089 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-escala-a-267-mil-858-casos-positivos-y-7-mil-089-decesos-por-covid-19/>

More than 100 triage and stabilization centers for covid-19 patients have suspended their work in Honduras due to a lack of financial resources, according to a report released by the National Convergence Forum (Fonac).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1475493-466/fonac-reporta-mas-100-triajes-cerrados-16-departamentos-honduras>

There is some critical reporting by Proceso Digital on the upcoming general elections. "Less than four months remain before the general elections in which Hondurans must elect the country's president, deputies and mayors. Time is running short and the specter of a process without the required transparency is once again a constant threat to the country's weak democracy. The National Electoral Council (CNE) does not have a system for the Transmission of Preliminary Electoral Results (TREP). The National Congress has not yet approved the budget that would allow the contracting."

<https://proceso.hn/opacidad-se-acorta-plazo-para-contratar-trep/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3214-el-pais-que-abandono-a-queja>

05/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Corruption - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Elections; Climate Crisis; and Going the Wrong Way

Guilty! David Castillo was convicted as co-perpetrator of the murder of Berta Cáceres.

"The verdict was welcomed by Cáceres's family, friends and colleagues as an important step in their struggle to hold to account all those who had a role in ordering, financing and enabling the murder – as well as in the attempted cover-up that followed. Outside court, Laura Zúniga Cáceres, Berta's youngest daughter and the only family member allowed to attend the trial, said: "Today is a day of victory in a long process. This is one more step on that long path to justice. We will keep contributing to this process so that [such crimes] are not repeated, but also so that the judicial process can lead to healing."

The verdict has been welcomed worldwide.

The MP praises its work, but there have been many problems with their work throughout the investigation.

The struggle continues to bring to justice all involved, #FaltanLosAtala.

David Castillo and its legal team still claim his innocence, but I don't know how seriously the latter take their work given their most recent press release - they signed with "Equipo de Desemfa (sic!) del Ingeniero..."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/178-julio2021/8002-mp-demuestra-la-culpabilidad-del-presidente-de-desa-en-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2021/7/5/verdict-david-castillo-is-found-guilty-of-berta-caceres-murder>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/05/berta-caceres-assassination-roberto-david-castillo-found-guilty>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/world/americas/honduras-Berta-Caceres-murder.html>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1412216872150487043>

https://twitter.com/EmbaFrancia_Teg/status/1412242969030270977

<https://twitter.com/AranchaGlezLaya/status/1412149704360669185>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1412100871240962049>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2021/07/05/fiscal-general-destaca-trabajo-en-caso-emblematico-de-berta-caceres>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3215-ex-fiscal-general-edmundo-orellana-los-agentes-fiscales-asignados-a-investigar-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres-deben-ser-procesados-penalmente>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/05/tras-fallo-contradavid-castillo-familia-de-berta-exige-se-sigan-sentenciando-a-culpables/>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-trabaja-en-identificar-a-otros-autores-intelectuales-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1475703-466/defensa-roberto-david-castillo-denuncia-mentiras-manipulacion-juicio-bertha-caceres>

InSight Crime raises some criticism against the recently published Engel's List (see previous e-mails). "[A]s with previous corruption lists, there were few surprises and some glaring omissions, which created the impression that these are just names on a list rather than one piece of a broader strategy to tackle graft in the region. (...) As with previous US corruption lists, the main sticking point from Honduras was once again the omission of current President Juan Orlando Hernández. (...) The State Department's decision to sanction former president Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo for having accepted bribes from Honduran drug traffickers will surely raise further questions about the consistency of the Engel List selections. (...) In absence of top-level officials, the brunt of the State Department's sanctions fell on congress, with 15 incumbent representatives accused of corruption."

The newly created Center Against Corruption and Impunity in Northern Central America (CCINOC) greeted the list.

In Honduras, the CNA asked the Attorney General to continue the investigation into those mentioned on the list.

And the Anti-Corruption Coalition asked the CNE to disqualify those candidates for Congress who appeared on the list.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/criteria-undermines-us-corruption-list-central-america/>

<https://ccinoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Pronunciamiento-CCINOC-Lista-Engel.pdf>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1412055144196415492>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-exige-al-ministerio-publico-proceder-contra-senalados-en-la-lista-engel/>

<https://criterio.hn/coalicion-anticorrupcion-pide-al-cne-que-inhabilite-candidatos-a-diputados-de-la-lista-engel/>

So far, there have been 269'000 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7129 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-142-nuevos-casos-y-40-decesos-por-la-covid-19/>

"Dr. Marco Eliud Girón, pointed out this Monday that the country's health system has been collapsed for many years, however, with the poor management of the pandemic, the government's negligence has become even more evident. "We have verified with our own eyes, making home visits of patients who have called us to be attended, that they have gone up to two times to a triage or stabilization center that are saturated up to 85%, he detailed. According to the physician, a patient who should have been hospitalized is literally drowning at home because these centers do not have an oxygen tank to support him, nor medicines to de-inflate his lungs without anticoagulants and anti-inflammatory drugs". "

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-sistema-sanitario-esta-colapsado-porque-en-honduras-se-han-robado-el-dinero-marco-giron/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-cierre-de-triajes-y-nuevas-cepas-tienen-colapsado-el-sistema-hospitalario/>

JOH claims that over 900'000 Hondurans have been vaccinated, but only 58'125 have been vaccinated twice.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1475739-466/joh-honduras-900-mil-vacunados-covid>

The CNE urges Congress again to approve the additional budget which is needed to setup the system for the Transmission of Preliminary Electoral Results (TREP).

<https://criterio.hn/cne-urge-al-congreso-nacional-la-aprobacion-de-los-fondos-para-las-elecciones/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-vuelve-a-urgir-al-cn-aprobar-presupuesto-y-procedimiento-especial-para-elecciones-generales/>

<https://proceso.hn/opacidad-se-acorta-plazo-para-contratar-trep/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a report on the situation on the Pacific coast of Honduras. "Cedeño, a village in Honduras, is being eaten by the sea. Extensive agriculture, irrational logging of mangrove forests and shrimp farms, together with climate change, are causing the massive migration of its inhabitants. The community faces the voracity of large companies that put profit before environmental sustainability and a weakened and co-opted public institutionalality, from which they get no answers."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3212-la-agonia-de-una-aldea-tragada-por-el-mar>

"80% of Hondurans believe the country is "heading in the wrong direction" according to latest @cidgallup poll".

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1412106041442045954>

06/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Journalists; Femicides; Corruption; US; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals; Migration; Elections; Drug Trafficking; and Escaping from Capitalism

The Dutch development bank FMO reacted to the guilty verdict (see yesterday). "We have taken notice of the verdict in the trial of David Castillo in Honduras. The assassination of Berta Cáceres was a tragedy. We have the deepest sympathy with all those affected by her death and hope this conviction brings some solace to her family and all those close to her. The verdict means we financed a company whose CEO has now been found guilty of being involved in murder. We are devastated by this."

<https://www.fmo.nl/news-detail/f88c7c19-f553-4279-91cf-2703aff5dbd8/fmo-s-reaction-to-the-verdict-in-the-trial-of-david-castillo>

<https://criterio.hn/financiamos-empresa-ligada-a-un-asesinato-fmo-sobre-culpabilidad-de-david-castillo/>

The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (ICEFI) joins the ever longer list of institutions and organizations rejecting the ZEDEs.

At the same time, UNAH "will proceed to file legal actions to have the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) declared unconstitutional. This was announced by the rector of the university, Francisco Herrera Alvarado, who stated that this is not a whimsical position, but a position based on the exclusive mandate to defend what the Constitution of the Republic mandates".

<https://criterio.hn/icefi-recomienda-derogar-la-ley-organica-de-las-zede/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unah-prepara-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contras-las-zede/>

"RSF launched in April of this year a Research Project, which will be developed during the remainder of the year on the Mechanisms for the Protection of Journalists in Latin America, with the support of UNESCO, to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of protection programs for this sector in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and Honduras."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3217-emmanuel-colombie-rsf-debemos-recordar-la-memoria-de-los-periodistas-que-los-asesinaron-porque-se-enfrentaron-al-poder>

"The lesbian feminist organization Cattrachas will launch in the coming days the Keres Femicide Observatory, to measure different variables around this crime and generate insights to analyze the failures of the justice system in reducing impunity. The project will be operational during 2021 and 2022, said Cattrachas coordinator Indira Murillo."

<https://criterio.hn/cattrachas-lanzara-observatorio-del-femicidio-para-buscar-raices-de-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) claims to have investigated those mentioned on the Engel's List (see previous e-mails) and sent the information to the MP.

<https://proceso.hn/senalados-en-lista-engel-han-sido-investigados-por-el-tsc-e-informes-fueron-enviados-al-mp-dice-magistrado-rodriguez/>

CESPAD takes a close look at US policies towards Central America under the Biden administration. "The United States has proposed a new investment plan amounting to US\$ 4 billion dollars over four years for the nations of the Northern Triangle of Central America, in order to try to improve the living conditions of its citizens and in this way, according to its vision, seek to stop migration to the United States, something that is very unlikely to have positive results in the short term, which is what this Plan is betting on."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/06/analisis-nueva-politica-biden-en-el-triangulo-norte-podra-desafiar-el-poder-de-las-elites-corruptas/>

So far, there have been 270'020 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7149 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-de-covid-19-llegan-a-270-mil-al-confirmarse-otros-1-mil-020/>

Proceso Digital published an update on the mobile hospitals one year after the arrival of the first two to Honduras. "Of the seven mobile clinics purchased through an opaque transaction and paid in advance, only those in San Pedro Sula and Santa Rosa de Copán attend COVID cases, those located in Tegucigalpa and Choluteca attend patients with other pathologies, while the remaining three sleep the sleep of the just. (...) The fraudulent operation has three defendants in the Honduran courts: the former director of Invest-H, Marco Bográn; the administrator, Alex Moraes; and the Guatemalan intermediary, Axel López, to whom the Public Prosecutor's Office has seized assets for around 100 million lempiras in the US."

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-moviles-el-caso-mas-oscuro-en-la-pandemia-a-un-ano-de-su-llegada-al-pais/>

A Honduran woman pregnant with twins lost her babies after being deported 8.5 months pregnant together with her husband and two-year old from the Arizona border back to Mexico.

<https://proceso.hn/hondurena-fue-deportada-embarazada-y-perdio-bebes-en-frontera-de-mexico-eeuu/>

There is more and more criticism of Congress for not approving the budget of the CNE (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1412598356803833857>

<https://proceso.hn/clase-politica-juega-con-fuego-al-no-aprobar-presupuesto-a-organos-electorales-redh/>

InSight Crime picked up the story of the planed highway through La Moskitia (see previous e-mails last month).

<https://insightcrime.org/news/narco-highway-honduras-national-news/>

<https://orinocotribune.com/escaping-from-capitalism-or-first-class-migrants-vs-second-class-migrants/>

07/07/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Indigenous Peoples; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - State Reaction; Elections;

"The international solidarity delegation "Vamos a la Milpa" will support the eight imprisoned Guapinol defenders until they are released and can defend themselves in freedom. They also intend to take the voices of the community outside of Honduras to be heard, to put an end to mining, with the cancellation of the environmental license of Inversiones Los Pinares-Ecotek. This July 7, 2021, through a press conference, the delegation was visiting the communities of Bajo Aguán, including Guapinol, where they pledged to take the petitions of the defenders of water and life to demand the release of those imprisoned because they are innocent."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3218-delegacion-internacional-abogara-por-la-libertad-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol-desde-estados-unidos>

"The indigenous [defenders] Lauriano Escobar Guillén and Elvin Munguía Solís, from the community of San Antonio de Gualaco, who for defending their territory were accused of the crimes of usurpation, damages and threats against the Murillo Tejada corporation, were formally indicted with the substitutive measure of preventive imprisonment. According to Karol Cárdenas, lawyer of the Access to Justice area of the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), who represents the criminalized indigenous people, the Public Prosecutor's Office failed in its principle of objectivity and obtained an inappropriate attitude and has used in a disproportionate way the criminal law and once again the selectivity of justice can be confirmed".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ministerio-publico-desconoce-derechos-de-pueblos-nahuas-al-darle-prioridad-a-reclamos-de-empresario-maderero/>

"A few days ago, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), called on the Honduran population to collect signatures and present a citizen initiative before the National Congress (CN), for the repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE). The CNA also urged the Association of Mayors to collect signatures in all departments and municipalities, and called on the heads of the political parties' benches to strategically unite to continue collecting signatures at the national level. For their part, the board of directors of the Association of Mayors, representing 160 mayors, were present to sign the initiative at the CNA facilities."

<https://criterio.hn/alcaldes-se-unen-al-cna-con-iniciativa-ciudadana-de-recoleccion-de-firmas-en-contra-de-las-zedes/>

So far, there have been 270'689 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7175 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/sinager-reporta-26-decesos-669-casos-de-covid-y-ucis-colapsadas-en-honduras/>

Given the ongoing health crisis in Honduras, the multi-sectorial board announced to meet again today after a long break

<https://tiempo.hn/medidas-mesa-multisectorial-covid/>

Radio Progreso has a helpful overview of the current dispute between Congress and the CNE about making the electoral process more transparent.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/oficialismo-se-opone-a-la-transmision-digital-de-resultados-electorales/>

08/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta; Corruption - Hermes; Elections - JOH; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Vaccines, Health Sector; Electricity; BCIE; and Lynching in Honduras

"The Honduran justice system has taken an important step in the case of the murder of Berta Cáceres by finding David Castillo, former executive director of the company Desarrollos Energéticos SA (DESA), guilty as co-intellectual author. The family of the environmentalist and her defense will continue to fight until the other material and intellectual authors of the murder of indigenous leader Berta Cáceres are brought to justice and sentenced. Víctor Fernández, lawyer for Cáceres' family, told Criterio.hn that the assassination allowed them to build a strategy in different components which they call "Causa Berta Cáceres" and from the legal perspective involves a series of cases, one of them is the case of David Castillo."

<https://criterio.hn/causa-berta-caceres-no-termina-con-culpabilidad-de-david-castillo/>

CESPAD published a great overview of the Hermes corruption case which saw some interesting developments last month. "Two witnesses, out of five proposed by the Attorney General's Office, put seven of the eleven implicated in the Hermes case in check. Both told in the initial hearing that took place in the Honduran courts, how a front company was used for the looting of more than 122 million lempiras from the Presidential House. In addition, what role the accused played and who made the deposits to personal accounts of the beneficiaries. The Fiscal Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), identified that the deposits began to be made systematically once President of the Republic, Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, took office in his first term (2014-2018) of government. But Hernández, in his statement, according to the prosecutorial requirement presented to the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), said he was unaware of the entire administrative process that was handled; he only affirmed that everything was delegated to the Minister of Financial Management, Pedro Alexander Pineda Díaz."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/08/hermes-dos-testigos-revelan-como-se-saquearon-fondos-desde-casa-presidencial-con-los-que-se-beneficio-a-periodistas/>

There are more and more calls on Congress to approve the budget of the National Electoral Council for the upcoming general elections (see previous e-mails). Part of the budget has already been approved but an important part that would allow for a Transmission of Preliminary Results (TREP) system is still missing.

<https://criterio.hn/diversos-sectores-exigen-al-congreso-que-apruebe-presupuesto-para-las-elecciones-generales/>

ContraCorriente reports on how the JOH regime only pays attention to the people living in the Chamelecón neighborhood in San Pedro Sula, "one of the hardest hit by violence, poverty and environmental vulnerability", in an electoral year and even then, not everyone benefits.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/08/bolsas-solidarias-listados-y-votos-asi-se-mueven-las-estructuras-clientelistas-en-chamelecon/>

Three departments are in alert due to the high number of dengue cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-alerta-tres-departamentos-por-el-incremento-de-casos-de-dengue/>

Piedad Huerta, representative of the Pan American Health Organization in Honduras, warned again about the situation in the country.

The Multi-Sectorial Board met recently and is currently analyzing a new lockdown.

JOH also hinted in this direction.

The business lobby COHEP is against it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ops-reitera-preocupacion-ante-alto-indice-de-casos-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/08/mesa-multisectorial-quiere-cerrar-economia-por-sars-cov-2-surge-rechazo-a-iniciativa/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/08/joh-advierte-que-se-podrian-cerrar-ciudades-si-hay-desbordamiento-del-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cierre-de-la-economia-seria-fatal-lo-que-corresponde-es-mayor-eficiencia-en-vacunacion-cohep/>

54'990 doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrived in Honduras.

At the same time, Hondurans are still awaiting the delivery of more Sputnik V vaccine doses.

"People who received the first dose of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V and have not yet received the second component have fallen into despair, said infectologist Tito Alvarado. It should be recalled that the Honduran government announced in March the purchase of 4.2 million Russian vaccines, of

which six thousand arrived in April and 40 thousand in May; however, to date the second dose has not arrived."

<https://confidencialhn.com/llega-a-honduras-segundo-lote-de-54990-dosis-de-vacunas-de-pfizer/>

<https://criterio.hn/hay-desesperacion-en-personas-que-no-han-recibido-segunda-dosis-de-la-sputnik-y-tito-alvarado/>

"The Mario Mendoza Hospital Workers Union denounced that the Government, through the Ministry of Health, has not fulfilled its salary obligations with several employees of the psychiatric centers in Tegucigalpa."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/secretaria-de-salud-incumple-obligaciones-salariales-a-empleados-de-hospitales-psiquiatricos/>

Proceso Digital writes that "[t]echnical and non-technical losses represent 35% of the energy produced in Honduras".

<https://proceso.hn/perdidas-tecnicas-y-no-tecnicas-representan-35-de-energia-producida-en-honduras/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) will finance with US\$36 million a project that will guarantee drinking water to more than 76,000 people in Honduras, the regional organization announced Thursday in Tegucigalpa. The loan will support the project to expand the drinking water supply system in the city of Gracias, department of Lempira, in the western part of the Central American country, according to a BCIE press release."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1476620-410/-bcie-financiar-proyecto-agua-honduras->

<https://proceso.hn/pobladores-asesinan-a-italiano-acusado-de-ultimar-a-indigente-en-la-zona-sur-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/policia-nacional-conforma-equipo-de-investigacion-para-dar-captura-a-responsables-de-la-muerte-de-un-italiano-en-choluteca/>

09/07/21

Honduras Daily: Campesines; OFRANEH - UN; Berta - Trial, US; Indigenous Peoples; ZEDES; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Drug Trafficking; National Police;

"The Office in Honduras of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) condemns the violent death of Juan Manuel Moncada, human rights defender and leader of the peasant enterprise "Gregorio Chávez", who died as a result of gunshot wounds on Tuesday, July 6 in the municipality of Tocoa, department of Colón. Mr. Moncada had previously reported threats to the

Public Prosecutor's Office and was a beneficiary of the National System for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-del-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-juan-manuel-moncada-lider-de-la-empresa-campesina-gregorio-chavez/>

OFRANEH will be awarded the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award. "We are honored and pleased to accept this prestigious award and thereby honor the memory and outstanding work of human rights defenders Orlando Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt," said Miriam Miranda, General Coordinator of OFRANEH. "OFRANEH and the Garífuna people are facing systematic persecution, criminalization, judicialization and extermination. In the last two years alone, more than forty Garífuna have been murdered and a large number of others have fled their communities due to threats, criminalization and persecution. Among the recent blows to our organization is the forced disappearance of the president of the Triunfo de la Cruz community board, an active member of OFRANEH, along with three other young people from the same community on July 18, 2020. This recognition of our work by IPS will help advance our cause in defense of the collective and human rights of our people, as well as to contribute to the work of the Garífuna Research and Search Committee for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz (SUNLA), which will carry out investigations and serve as a mechanism of truth and justice for their families. We applaud IPS's long legacy of awarding courageous defenders of life in the United States and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, and we are proud to stand in the company of our fellow honorees."

<https://ips-dc.org/ips-announces-45th-annual-letelier-moffitt-human-rights-awards/>

In a press release, "UN experts* today urged the Government of Honduras to put an end to the arbitrary detention and criminalization of human rights defenders from the Garífuna community".

<https://oacnudh.hn/honduras-debe-dejar-de-criminalizar-la-defensa-de-los-derechos-humanos-de-las-comunidades-garifunas-advierten-expertos-de-la-onu/>

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1413483639573123079>

Lawyer Victor Fernández, who represents Berta's family and COPINH talked with Pasos de Animal Grande about the prospect of bringing the Atala family to trial.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3219-victor-fernandez-el-enjuiciamiento-de-los-atala-sera-un-proceso-mas-duro-por-el-poder-que-tienen-pero-estamos-preparados>

"In the midst of the trial against the convicted murderer David Castillo, co-author of the assassination of our comrade Berta Cáceres, it was made public that the FICOHSA Bank of Camilo Atala, hired a firm of lobbyists in the United States to act against the Berta Cáceres Law for Human Rights, as well as against the anti-corruption law and human rights in Honduras. Banco FICOHSA hired former congressman Alan Wheat from a lobbying firm called Polsinelli, a firm of more than 900 lawyers, to act against legislative initiatives for human rights in Honduras led by congressmen and social organizations in the United States."

<https://copinh.org/2021/07/ficohsa-bank-lobbies-in-the-u-s-against-the-berta-caceres-law-and-lies-again/>

Defensores en Línea has an update on one of the more recent criminalization case in Gualaco, Olancho. "The company M.T.S de R.L. de C.V., dedicated to the extraction of resin, accused Lauriano Escobar Guillén and Elvin Munguía Solís, peasants, descendants of the Náhuatl people, before the Catacamas courts, for the crime of land usurpation. Following details of the hearing held on Tuesday, July 6, in the courts of Catacamas, department of Olancho, it was learned that the Prosecutor's Office extended the crimes to include damages and threats against the landowner and timber merchant Nery Murillo, owner of the company M.T.S. de R.L. de C.V. Both Escobar and Munguía are members of the Environmental Committee of Gualaco, an organization that for decades has been fighting against the irrational exploitation of the forest and in favor of the conservation of the rivers and fauna in Olancho."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/voracidad-de-terratenientes-esta-generando-la-criminalizacion-de-pueblos-indigenas/>

In a press release, the Diocese of Choluteca spoke out against the ZEDEs.

Also in the south, in Amapala, under the leadership of the Association for the Development of the Zacate Grande Peninsula (Adepza), the municipal coordination against the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) was created.

<https://proceso.hn/diocesis-de-choluteca-se-une-al-clamor-popular-y-rechaza-implementacion-de-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/municipios-de-honduras-continuan-organizandose-en-contra-de-las-zede/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3042-honduras-trabajadores-del-campo-se-pronuncian-contras-las-zede-2>

So far, there have been 272'730 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7221 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-7221-muertes-y-272730-contagios-por-la-covid-19/>

It needs repeating that the Honduran health system is on the brink of collapse. "COVID-19 patient stabilization centers in the Central District are running out of oxygen due to the high demand in recent weeks, while hospitals report maximum occupancy and only release slots when there is a deceased or eventually a recovered patient."

"Dr. Franklin Gómez, deputy director of the Hospital Escuela in the capital, describes what is happening in the country's main health care center as a tragedy and calls on the authorities to take drastic action. "A closure is practically imminent, we are already collapsed", it is understood that there is opposition to a closure of cities because of the economy, but it should be valued when it comes to life, said the doctor."

<https://proceso.hn/triajes-se-quedan-sin-oxigeno-hospitales-no-aguantan-contencion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estamos-colapsados-director-del-hospital-escuela-pide-el-cierre-de-ese-centro-asistencial/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/09/triajes-estan-sobresaturados-de-pacientes-con-coronavirus-ya-queda-poco-oxigeno-y-personal/>

The sentencing of convicted Honduran drug trafficker Fredy Nájera in the US has been postponed to September 3.

<https://proceso.hn/ahora-sera-el-3-de-septiembre-la-sentencia-para-diputado-fredy-najera-en-eeuu/>

The US helped train 39 border police agents.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1413663893503741956>

10/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration - Deportations, US; Elections – EU;

The Expert Mission accompanying the Berta Cáceres case published the full transcript in English of the guilty verdict of David Castillo.

<https://www.observacionbertacaceres.org/post/full-transcript-court-rules-david-castillo-guilty-for-murder-of-berta-c%C3%A1ceres-in-honduras>

The head of the Armed Forces, Tito Livio Moreno Coello, made a recent comment that many understood to be linked to the ZEDEs. "Any threat of any kind will be countered at the cost of our own blood, but our geographical, maritime, air and land spaces are non-negotiable and we will defend them as soldiers ready to maintain our territorial integrity, sovereignty and our dignity as a nation".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1476987-466/jefe-fuerzas-armadas-soberania-no-negociable>

So far, there have been 273'702 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7250 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/con-972-nuevos-casos-honduras-llega-a-94-mil-243-casos-confirmados-de-covid-19/>

Honduras received 187'200 more vaccine doses through the COVAX mechanism.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-recibe-187-200-vacunas-de-astrazeneca-del-mecanismo-covax/>

"The number of undocumented Honduran migrants deported in the first half of 2021 increased by 18.7% compared to the same period in 2020, according to a report released Saturday by the Honduran Consular and Migration Observatory."

<https://proceso.hn/aumentan-un-187-los-hondurenos-deportados-en-el-primer-semester-de-2021/>

"Immigration and Customs Enforcement has issued a new policy that states women known to be pregnant or nursing should not be detained, arrested or taken into custody unless release is prohibited, according to newly-released guidance. The move is a shift away from the Trump

administration, when immigration officers were directed to no longer default to trying to release pregnant women who fall into immigration custody. The Obama administration policy urged officers to presume a pregnant woman could be released except for extreme circumstances."

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/07/09/politics/immigration-detention-pregnant-women/index.html>

"A mission of election observation specialists from the European Union (EU) met with Honduran Foreign Ministry authorities to learn more about the upcoming general elections in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/union-europea-entrega-instructivo-para-observar-elecciones-en-honduras/>

11/07/21

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Corruption - Investment; COVID-19; Armed Forces;

OFRANEH denounces the arrest of Jenny Boden, a 63-year old Garífuna woman traveling from the US to Honduras. She hasn't been in the country for three years but is now criminalized for usurpation. Once again, the disputed new Penal Code is being used for that.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1414204203568934912>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1414323038997385220>

Proceso Digital investigates the link of the publicity of corruption in Honduras, e.g. through the Engel's List, and foreign investment in the country. "Kroll, a well-known digital services firm, pointed out in a document to its clients that, due to the Engel List allegations, they should be careful in their investments in the three countries marked by allegations of corruption. (...) Mauricio Diaz Burdett, coordinator of the Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (FOSDEH), in a conversation with Proceso Digital notes that the list in terms of the economic impact that the country may have, linked to the image abroad, can be long."

<https://proceso.hn/deterioro-en-prestigio-e-inversion-efectos-de-la-lista-engels-en-ca/>

So far, there have been 274'7478 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7259 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-de-covid-llegan-a-274-mil-478-y-los-decesos-a-7-mil-259-en-honduras/>

Proceso Digital published a long interview with the Minister of Defense, general in retirement Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya.

<https://proceso.hn/detener-construccion-de-carretera-en-la-mosquitia-requiere-de-que-operadores-judiciales-den-la-orden-ffaa/>

12/07/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDES; Discrimination; MP - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Poverty; Elections; Transparency; and Virtual Corruption

An important new voice joined the opposition to the ZEDES, the Fiscal Association of Honduras.

https://twitter.com/af_hond/status/1414764445369257985

<https://proceso.hn/asociacion-de-fiscales-de-honduras-se-pronuncia-en-contras-de-las-zedes/>

"Human rights defenders have high expectations that the proposed draft of the Anti-discrimination Equality and Equity Law (LIE) will be approved, which will contribute to improve the conditions of the populations that are discriminated against in the country."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3220-crean-propuesta-de-ley-de-equidad-y-no-discriminacion-en-honduras>

The MP published a Twitter feed on their actions regarding the people mentioned on the Engel's List.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1414619083560075267

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1414619773619552262

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1414622698383216648

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1414625388785975304

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1414627107884445704

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1414629718524059655

<https://proceso.hn/las-acusaciones-que-han-tocado-a-los-hondurenos-en-la-lista-engels/>

So far, there have been 274'977 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7288 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-agrega-499-casos-y-29-decesos-en-inicio-del-mes-17-de-pandemia/>

"The number of cases of SARS-CoV-2 is still at 100% in both triage and hospital centers, in the face of a sharp increase in SARS-CoV-2 cases, health authorities said."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/12/reportan-que-julio-mantiene-una-escalada-alarman-te-en-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/12/hospitales-capitalinos-no-tienen-cupo-para-pacientes-criticos-de-coronavirus/>

"This day transcended through social networks what citizens, doctors, opposition deputies and analysts called "extortion of vaccine for vote", since the National Party used buses with political propaganda of the mayor of the Central District, Nasry Asfura wrongly called "Papi a la Orden" and the transport businessman who seeks for the third time a deputation Blas Ramos. Inside a well conditioned bus, Nationalist activists and followers were transported and inside the bus a nurse with a Government uniform and logo was applying a supposed anti-virus vaccine, and according to the photographs, members of the Permanent Contingency Commission (Copeco) attended the vaccination process."

This coincided with the news that somehow 1.8 million vaccine doses disappeared.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3049-honduras-delito-extorsion-del-partido-nacional-vacuna-por-voto>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/12/denuncian-perdida-aplicacion-y-venta-ilegal-de-vacunas-contr-el-covid-19/>

"The poverty rate in Honduras could increase from 70 to 75% by the end of 2021 due to the economic crisis caused by the covid-19 pandemic, the high cost of living and the lack of job opportunities, warned economists consulted by Efe on Monday."

<https://proceso.hn/la-pobreza-en-honduras-podria-aumentar-de-70-a-75-en-2021-por-la-covid-19/>

Congress has still not approved the second part of the budget of the National Electoral Council (CNE) after weeks of different sectors, including the UN, asking for it. Opposition politicians blame the National Party denouncing that they want to commit another fraud.

ConfidencialHN reports on new problems linked to the Identify Yourself program, which should get new ID cards to Honduras for the elections.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/12/opositores-acusan-al-partido-nacional-de-querer-fragar-un-nuevo-fraude-en-generales/>

<https://criterio.hn/reticencia-a-aprobar-presupuesto-del-cne-solo-manda-un-mensaje-de-fraude-edmundo-orellana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresa-pbs-en-colusion-con-pnud-incumple-contrato-con-rnp-a-un-coste-de-mas-de-3-millones/>

Fiscal transparency in Honduras does not comply with basic IMF standards.

<https://criterio.hn/transparencia-fiscal-de-honduras-no-cumple-con-principios-basicos-del-fmi/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3048-sesiones-virtuales-nueva-estrategia-de-corrupcion-de-diputados-hondurenos>

13/07/21

Honduras Daily: Forced Disappearance; Abortion; ZEDES; Elections; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector, Education; BID; Child Labor;

"Next July 18 marks one year since the forced disappearance of our comrades in Triunfo, while state policy in reference to the Garifuna consists of persecution and criminalization of defenders of ancestral territory and mother earth. Alive they were taken alive we want them alive".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1414980478847922180>

"The Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras admitted an appeal of unconstitutionality against article 196 of the Penal Code that criminalizes abortion in its entirety, announced several feminist organizations through social networks. The appeal was filed on April 13, 2021 and admitted last June, confirmed to Criterio.hn Erika García, coordinator of the Young Women's Autonomy Program of the Women's Rights Center (CDM)."

<https://criterio.hn/csj-admite-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contr-articulo-que-penaliza-el-aborto/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1878-corte-admite-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-que-busca-despenalizar-el-aborto-en-honduras>

Criterio has more articles on the opposition against the ZEDEs, the first one refers to a recent virtual forum on the topic which includes the video.

<https://criterio.hn/cabildos-abiertos-son-la-salida-para-abolir-las-zede/>

<https://criterio.hn/zede-no-patria-si-dicen-organizaciones-indigenas-y-campesinas-de-honduras/>

Now even two CNE magistrates warn that the elections are in danger due to the unwillingness of the Nationalist-controlled Congress to approve the necessary budget.

"The sociologist and political analyst, Julio Navarro, stated that the National Party is betting on not holding the general elections in November, having lost control of the electoral bodies, as it is afraid of leaving power."

<https://proceso.hn/dos-magistradas-dicen-que-elecciones-estan-en-riesgo-su-colega-aguirre-dice-que-no-es-cierto/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/13/sociologo-asevera-que-oficialismo-no-quiere-elecciones-por-no-controlar-el-cne/>

So far, there have been 275'675 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7324 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-alcanzan-275-mil-675-al-confirmarse-698-nuevos-contagios/>

There is rising pressure on the JOH regime to get more Sputnik V vaccine doses as people are awaiting their second shot. The Health Secretariat claims to do everything in its power and also alludes to a Plan B but without giving any details.

JOH, meanwhile, promised on national television that the second shot is guaranteed.

There are also more and more voices denouncing irregularities and lack of transparency in managing the vaccines.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ante-el-desafio-de-la-vacuna-sputnik-v/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sesal-preve-un-plan-b-en-caso-que-no-llegar-segunda-dosis-de-sputnik-v/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/segunda-dosis-esta-asegurada-dice-mandatario-hernandez-en-cadena-nacional/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/13/cuestionan-irregularidades-en-compras-de-vacunas-anticovid/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-de-la-sesal-piden-al-mp-perseguir-delito-de-comercializacion-y-trafico-de-vacunas-anticovid/>

"Different doctors and personnel working in the triage and hospitals of Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, protested in front of the facilities of the Health Secretariat (Sesal) demanding that the authorities grant permanent positions to health personnel under contract and giving a period of 48 hours, otherwise they will hold informative assemblies."

<https://criterio.hn/personal-de-salud-da-ultimatum-al-gobierno-para-que-otorgue-plazas-laborales/>

""We see with great concern that more than 1,200 teachers, active and retired, have died from covid-19 and the government cares little or nothing about the lives of teachers. We are losing

invaluable colleagues in the public education system and we are still not a priority for vaccination", lamented the teachers' leader, Onán Cáliz.

We are losing invaluable colleagues in the public education system and we are still not a priority for vaccination", lamented the teachers' leader, Onán Cáliz."

"It is impossible to return to on-site classes at this moment, number one because many educational centers are in total abandonment and number two because teachers have not been inoculated against Covid-19, said the teachers' leader, Eulogio Chávez, on Tuesday."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/13/al-gobierno-no-le-interesa-la-educacion-esta-preocupado-por-planificar-fraude-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/es-imposible-regresar-a-clases-en-este-momento-eulogio-chavez/>

"The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced Tuesday that it will provide \$600,000 to support the implementation and evaluation of a technological platform in rural areas of Honduras, so that three million young people in vulnerable situations can graduate from high school."

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-y-japon-impulsan-plataforma-tecnologica-en-zonas-rurales-de-honduras/>

Proceso Digital reports on child labor in Honduras. "The child population in Honduras is 2,472,798, that figure represents 26% of a country with more than 9.4 million; of this number of minors, 412,122 are children and adolescents who work for a living, that is to say that 16.67% perform work that represents a risk, according to figures from the National Institute of Statistics (INE)."

<https://proceso.hn/el-trabajo-infantil-un-lastre-que-se-acentua-en-honduras/>

14/07/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - US; ZEDEs; Corruption - Patuca III; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector, Education; BCIE; Elections; and Software from a Ghost Company

"A Bay Area family member of slain environmental and Indigenous rights defender Berta Cáceres is calling on the federal government to stop U.S. funding of Honduran military and police."

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11880834/nephew-of-slain-activist-berta-caceres-renews-calls-for-ending-aid-to-honduran-military>

CESPAD investigates the role of local government in resisting the ZEDEs.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/14/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-el-papel-de-los-gobiernos-locales-en-la-lucha-contras-las-zedes/>

CESPAD published an overview of the Patuca III corruption case and its role in the Honduran energy system.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/14/caso-patuca-iii-colusion-y-corrupcion/>

So far, there have been 276'989 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7356 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-aumentan-a-276-mil-989-al-confirmarse-otros-1-mil-314-contagios/>

While more than one million Hondurans have received one vaccine shot so far, only 79'737 have received both shots, 0.8% of the population.

El Libertador reports on the ongoing lack of transparency regarding vaccine transparency. "The contract for the purchase and sale of vaccines between the Government of Honduras and the pharmaceutical company Pfizer for 4.4 million anticovid vaccines and the contract with Sputnik V for 4.2 million have not yet been published, in addition, the doses that would have fully immunized 4 million 315 thousand Hondurans do not appear or fall by the drop, which is why the population at risk of getting sick and dying is wondering: Where are they? There is no trace of them in the official public procurement system."

<https://proceso.hn/apenas-el-0-8-de-los-hondurenos-completo-la-vacunacion-contrala-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3050-honduras-porque-el-gobierno-ordeno-secreto-para-contratos-con-pfizer-y-sputnik>

Proceso Digital reports on how the collapse of the health system spread from the capital - with a University Hospital not able to take up new patients (see second link) - to the north of the country.

Instead of improving the situation, the JOH regime rather disputes a recent report that more than 100 triage centers are closed - they claim that it is "only" 63.

<https://proceso.hn/centroamerica-desbordada-por-covid-honduras-al-tope-en-hospitales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-hay-cupos-en-el-hospital-escuela-confirma-doctor-franklin-gomez/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-dice-que-solo-63-triajes-estan-cerrados-por-falta-de-liquidacion-de-alcaldias/>

"The infrastructure of schools is 82% destroyed, and there are only 12 thousand teachers vaccinated against COVID-19, so it would be suicide to return to semi-presential and face-to-face classes, said Wednesday the president of the College of Pedagogues of Honduras (Colpedagogosh), Edwin Hernandez."

<https://proceso.hn/regreso-a-clases-seria-un-suicidio-por-infraestructura-destruida-y-falta-de-vacunas-reitera-el-magisterio/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) financed the purchase of 22 new ambulances to support Honduras in the fight against the covid-19 pandemic, the regional bank informed on Wednesday. The resources for the purchase of the ambulances come from the reorientation of 14.9 million dollars of a credit that BCIE granted to Honduras for the Road Infrastructure Program (PIV) redirected to address the health emergency caused by the coronavirus, the agency said in a statement."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/07/14/el-bcie-financia-compra-de-22-ambulancias-para-enfrentar-pandemia-en-honduras/>

CNE magistrate Rixi Moncada reiterated that the elections are in danger (see also yesterday).

Especially the National Party is being blamed for this.

The National Party tries to turn the tables and blames the CNE for "improvising".

<https://confidencialhn.com/proceso-electoral-se-encuentra-en-riesgo-alerta-concejal-del-cne-rixi-moncada/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/estancada-extension-de-presupuesto-para-el-consejo-nacional-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/es-muy-preocupante-el-comunicado-del-cne-dice-expresidente-del-tse/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-provoca-crisis-al-no-aprobar-presupuesto-al-cne/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/14/dirigente-nacionalista-critica-al-cne-por-estar-improvisando-a-meses-de-comicios-generales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3051-honduras-ina-desconfia-y-rechaza-software-de-empresa-fantasma>

15/07/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Abortion; Hydroelectricity; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Vaccines; Coffee; Elections - JOH, ID Card; and Rescuing Sailors

A global call of solidarity was launched in light of the one year anniversary of the forced disappearance of the young Garífuna defenders from Triunfo de la Cruz.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2021/07/llamado-global-de-solidaridad-muestra-tu-solidaridad-con-las-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada-del-pueblo-garifuna-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz-sus-familiares-y-la-ofraneh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande has more on the recent Supreme Court decision on abortion (see previous e-mail). "Suyapa Martinez, Director of the Center for Women's Studies-Honduras, CEMH, said that with the admissibility of the appeal of unconstitutionality against the prohibition of abortion on three grounds by the Supreme Court of Justice, sends a message to the National Congress to legislate in favor of women's rights, in addition to giving a boost to the struggle of feminists and women's movement that have historically fought for this right."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3221-con-admision-de-recurso-sobre-despenalizacion-del-aborto-corte-suprema-manda-un-mensaje-claro-al-congreso-nacional-para-legislar-a-favor-de-las-mujeres>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/15/aborto-podria-ser-reconocido-como-derecho-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

Congress approved a decree furthering the approval of building new dams.

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-decreto-para-la-construccion-de-represas-en-14-sectores-del-pais/>

So far, there have been 277'974 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7391 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Home Association has documented over 15'500 deaths so far.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-alcanzan-277-mil-974-al-sumarse-985-nuevos-contagios/>

<https://criterio.hn/asociacion-nacional-de-funerarias-contabiliza-8375-muertos-por-covid-19-en-2021/>

The JOH regime has so far received \$250 million from the BCIE for its corona response.

Rather fittingly, Radio Progreso published an interview with former deputy Health Minister José Manuel Matheu about the deadly mix of corruption and a pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/250-millones-han-sido-entregados-por-el-bcie-a-honduras-destinados-a-la-emergencia-del-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/corrupcion-y-pandemia-combinacion-mortal-en-honduras/>

40'950 more Pfizer vaccine doses arrived in Honduras, together with two previous shipments and the Sputnik V vaccine, the JOH regime has so far only bought about 200'000 vaccine doses, the rest was donated.

<https://confidencialhn.com/arriba-tercer-lote-de-las-vacunas-pfizer-compradas-por-honduras/>

"The Superior Court of Accounts (TSC) notified the Honduran Coffee Institute (Ihcafé) and the National Coffee Council (Conacafé) about the Report of the Special Audit conducted on the loan for US\$20 million granted by the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and administered by the Honduran Coffee Institute (Ihcafé), which concludes in the finding of administrative weaknesses. The analysis also revealed weaknesses in the internal control of the processes and areas involved in the registration and control of the funds from China (Taiwan)."

<https://proceso.hn/prestamo-de-20-millones-de-taiwan-no-cumple-finalidad-de-beneficiar-a-productores-de-cafe-segun-informe-del-tsc/>

""Here there are going to be elections on November 28, no matter who gets in the way, and we guarantee that" said this Thursday the president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Ana Paola Hall. However, she insisted that the elections are at risk because "there is a clear gap in the electoral schedule" due to the lack of approval of the budget and of a special procedure to make direct purchases. (...) The CNE official reiterated that there will be general elections, but "not as we would wish them, if the Congress does not approve this, they will not be the elections we all expect"."

<https://criterio.hn/presidenta-del-cne-garantiza-que-habra-elecciones-generales-pero-no-que-seran-transparentes/>

""Juan Orlando is capable of turning the National Congress into a new constituent assembly in order to remain in power, this process is totally illegal, but we already know that everything they do violates the Constitution, so it would not hurt to think about it, any opportunity he has to stay, he will do it," said former President of the Republic, Porfirio (Pepe) Lobo Sosa."

<https://criterio.hn/juan-orlando-podria-convertir-al-congreso-nacional-en-una-constituyente-para-seguir-en-el-poder-pepe-lobo/>

According to the UNDP, more than 3 million new identity cards have been handed out so far to Hondurans.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-tres-millones-de-dni-han-sido-entregados-en-honduras-segun-el-pnud/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rescatan-10-de-los-15-marinos-hondurenos-desaparecidos-de-la-embarcacion-falling-star/>

16/07/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs- Surveillance; ZEDES; Hydroelectricity; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Elections - UN, Armed Forces; Migration; Violence; and Lost in a Labyrinth

"Experts say that seized devices have become a trove of information for authorities cracking down on social movements and opposition leaders. (...) Fundación Acceso, a digital rights advocacy organization based in Costa Rica, said in a report last year that El Salvador and Honduras have both purchased licenses from the firm Cellebrite, while Guatemala has used Magnet AXIOM, digital investigation software that lets law enforcement recover deleted information from cellphones. The same report said that Nicaragua sought a contract for EnCase, a suite of tools that claim to decrypt devices and copy their data."

<https://restofworld.org/2021/latin-america-phone-security/>

The CNA has collected over 15'000 signatures against the ZEDEs.

Proceso Digital cites Padre Melo calling for the defense of Honduras against the ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-15-mil-firmas-a-favor-de-iniciativa-ciudadana-para-que-se-derogue-ley-de-las-zede/>

<https://proceso.hn/defendamos-a-honduras-contra-las-zedes-clama-el-padre-ismael-moreno/>

Radio Progreso reports on how Congress approved the construction of new dams (see yesterday) without consulting the affected communities.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/sin-consultar-a-las-comunidades-congreso-nacional-aprueba-construccion-de-represas-hidroelectricas/>

"In Honduras, vaccination against COVID-19 is progressing with the immunization of different priority sectors, and while some are waiting to complete the vaccination scheme, others denounce that there are people marketing the inoculant."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/16/donaciones-sacan-a-flote-vacunacion-en-medio-de-serias-denuncias/>

The fight about transparent elections opened a new chapter with Libre filing a complaint against the 61 Nationalist deputies for opposing the approval of the increase in the budget of the National Electoral Council (CNE).

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/16/partido-libre-presenta-denuncia-penal-contra-congresistas-del-partido-nacional/>

For the second time in a few days, the UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford, called for transparent elections, i.e. that Congress approve the budget for the CNE.

The Nationalist representative at the CNE, meanwhile, continues to claim that all is well.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1416159857019924483>

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-aboga-por-elecciones-generales-creibles-y-transparentes-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-hay-crisis-en-el-cne-habran-elecciones-transparentes-kelvin-aguirre/>

"Sociologist and political analyst Julio Navarro assured that the National Party will plot to stay in power, even predicting that it will use state security forces in case it loses the elections."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/16/auguran-que-oficialismo-utilizara-militares-y-policias-en-caso-de-perder-elecciones/>

Radio Progreso reports on "the nightmare" Haitian refugees go through when traveling through Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/migrantes-haitianos-viven-una-gran-pesadilla-en-su-paso-por-honduras/>

The homicide rate has increased by 16.2% in the first semester of 2021 compared to last year.

<https://proceso.hn/los-homicidios-subieron-un-16-2-en-primer-semester-de-2021-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/16/nasralla-en-su-laberinto-el-senor-de-la-contradiccion-que-quiere-ser-presidente/>

17/07/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Sunla; ZEDEs; Elections - National Party; Labor Rights; COVID-19 - Vaccines; and an End to Impunity?

There will be an online solidarity forum today organized by OFRANEH on the one year commemoration of the disappeared Garífuna men.

OACNUDH published a press release on this occasion. "OACNUDH calls on the authorities to redouble their efforts to search for the five missing persons alive and to clarify the facts, through effective investigations that result in the punishment of all those responsible."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1416561975417458692>

<https://oacnudh.hn/a-un-ano-de-las-desapariciones-en-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz-oacnudh-reitera-la-obligacion-del-estado-para-el-esclarecimiento-de-los-hechos/>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-pide-a-honduras-redoblar-esfuerzos-en-busqueda-de-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

Honduras marched on Friday in the capital against the ZEDEs. And yesterday, Arizona, Atlántida, held a town hall meeting on the subject.

<https://www.jornada.com.mx/notas/2021/07/16/mundo/marchan-en-honduras-contra-ciudades-modelo/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1416404574525607936>

After weeks of widespread calls on Congress for the approval of the additional budget of the CNE, the Nationalist vice-president of Congress Antonio Rivera Callejas now suddenly says that it will be approved next week.

<https://proceso.hn/cn-aprobara-la-proxima-semana-la-ampliacion-presupuestaria-del-cne-anuncia-tono-rivera/>

The Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura is behaving already very presidential. He had a journalist asking critical questions removed during an event in Washington.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3059-honduras-nacionalistas-en-washington-echan-a-periodista-de-evento-de-asfura>

ContraCorriente reports on a worrying case of labor rights violation in Honduras. "Mario Aguilar and Gilberto Paredes must be at work every day at 7 a.m. They never know what time they will return home. Nor do they know if they will get a salary that day or if they will return without a peso. They work for a large food processing company, but they do not appear on their payroll. They have never received their thirteenth and fourteenth salary. They have no vacation and, if they are called in, they have to work holidays. There is no possibility to complain because they are told that

they are not employees of the company. On many occasions, they have had to leave after 10 p.m. and some in the early hours of the morning, but religiously they have to report at 7 a.m. It sounds like a quasi-novelistic story of modern slavery, but it is real. The company Industrias Molineras S. A. (IMSA) is located in the jurisdiction of Choloma, in northern Honduras, specifically on the boulevard that connects the cities of San Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortés, where the largest and most profitable commercial machinery in Honduras moves. Gilberto and Mario work there."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/17/los-43-cargadores-que-se-cansaron-de-una-procesadora-de-alimentos/>

El Libertador continues to report on how the JOH regime favors Nationalists to get the vaccine first.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3058-honduras-gobierno-prioriza-vacuna-para-activistas-nacionalistas>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jul/15/will-caceres-verdict-help-end-honduras-cycle-of-violence>

18/07/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Alert, Surveillance; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector;

Defensores en Línea sent out an alert yesterday: "Honduran immigration authorities prevented the entry into the country of human rights defender Marine Pezet, coming from France, this Sunday, July 18, 2021. Marine Pezet was a representative of the Honduras Accompaniment Program (PROAH), the first international organization that came to provide accompaniment and observation of human rights after the 2009 coup d'état".

Her husband Pavel Núñez later denounced that she was expelled from Honduras. "She was practically expelled from the country, under the verbal legal form they used of retained and returned and the reality is that they did not allow her to enter the country".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/autoridades-de-migracion-retiene-a-defensora-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-expulsa-defensora-francesa-de-derechos-humanos/>

The Guardian has another article on the surveillance of human rights defenders (see two days ago).

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/18/revealed-leak-uncovers-global-abuse-of-cyber-surveillance-weapon-nso-group-pegasus>

According to the Secretary of Health, Honduras has documented 4642 dengue cases so far this year, but no deaths yet.

<https://proceso.hn/casi-cinco-mil-casos-de-dengue-sin-fallecimientos-registra-honduras-este-2021/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/casi-a-cinco-mil-casos-de-dengue-llega-honduras-durante-el-2021/>

Honduras still has a positive rate of corona tests of up to 40%, i.e. a lot of cases are still not detected. At the same time, IHSS reported that they have almost surpassed the number of COVID-19 deaths of all 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/positividad-por-covid-alcanza-entre-35-y-40-en-honduras/>

"Josué Orellana, President of the National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), announced that starting tomorrow, Monday, there will be sit-ins in the municipalities of Olanchito and Yoro, due to violations in the granting of labor rights."

<https://confidencialhn.com/aneeah-anuncia-protestas-a-partir-de-manana-por-violaciones-a-sus-derechos-laborales/>

19/07/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; ZEDEs; Femicides; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Elections; Extradition; Corruption - de Lobo; Migration; and Insecurity

The IACHR also called on Honduras to redouble its efforts to find the forcefully disappeared Garífuna men (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1417213098918883331>

The CNA presented the collected signatures, 15'041, against the ZEDEs to Congress.

CESPAD analyzes the strategic challenges for the National Movement against the ZEDEs.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1479119-466/consejo-nacional-anticorrupcion-iniciativa-congreso-zede>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/19/analisis-10-desafios-estrategicos-del-movimiento-nacional-contra-las-zedes/>

Criterio reports on the normalization of femicide and violence against women in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/feminicidio-y-violencia-sexual-contra-mujeres-delitos-que-se-normalizan-en-honduras/>

After three days of silence, the JOH regime reported new corona statistics. So far, there have been 281'604 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7482 confirmed deaths.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luego-de-tres-dias-sin-brindar-cifras-oficiales-sinager-confirma-2347-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/tras-silencio-de-tres-dias-gobierno-hondureno-notifica-2-mil-347-nuevos-casos-y-55-decesos-por-covid/>

Only 102'000 Hondurans have been completely vaccinated so far.

Maybe this lack of access to vaccines helps explains the following. "What about this? At no time has the Honduran Government through its officials informed or warned the population about the fact that the French multinational pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur initiated a global study in Honduras for Phase III of its candidate vaccine against COVID-19. The trial application of the biologic began in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula on June 21, 2021 and, to date, several Honduran volunteers have attended the injections and others are requesting appointments online at the vaccination centers designated by the pharmaceutical company."

<https://criterio.hn/apenas-unas-102-mil-personas-han-recibido-la-segunda-dosis-anticovid-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3061-exclusiva-farmaceutica-francesa-experimenta-vacuna-covid-19-con-hondurenos>

"Luis Mata, Minister of the Ministry of Finance confirmed this Monday that this State institution is working on the revision of the budget of all governmental institutions in order to redirect resources to meet the request for an increase in the budget requested by the National Electoral Council (CNE)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-reorientara-recursos-para-atender-ampliacion-presupuestaria-del-cne/>

Miguel Carlos Cerdón López, requested for extradition by the US, was captured in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1479142-466/capturan-narco-honduras-extradicion-copan-miguel-cordon>

<https://proceso.hn/capturan-a-hondureno-extraditable-en-la-aduana-el-florido/>

"The former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo will return this day to the bench to answer for the diversion of more than 12 million lempiras from state coffers. This is the second time that Bonilla de Lobo appears in court for the same case, in which she had been sentenced to 58 years in prison by the Anti-Corruption Court, but was favored by the Criminal Court by ordering the repetition of her trial for detecting formal and substantive abnormalities."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1479239-410/hoy-arranca-nuevo-juicio-de-mi-rosa-por-el-desvio-de-12-millones-honduras-juicio-anulado>

"The Honduran Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development (Fosdeh) stated that Honduras has become a country that expels its population and that the country's extreme poverty does not compare with any other country in Latin America. Rodulio Perdomo, economist and Fosdeh's research coordinator, told Criterio.hn that approximately 400 Hondurans leave the country daily."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-pais-expulsor-de-su-poblacion-a-la-cabeza-de-la-pobreza-en-america-latina/>

Proceso Digital reports on a recent report by the business lobby COHEP on insecurity in Honduras and its effects on inequality. Crime and violence cost Honduras 13% of its GDP and there are seven times more private security guards than police agents.

<https://proceso.hn/crimen-e-inseguridad-impulsan-una-honduras-desigual-destaca-informe-del-cohep/>

20/07/21

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; ZEDEs; HRDs; COVID-19; Elections; Corruption - Lobo, de Lobo, Congress;

Garífuna defenders marched to the MP yesterday demanding justice for the forcefully disappeared Garífuna men.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hasta-las-instalaciones-del-mp-llegan-garifunas-exigiendo-justicia-por-la-desaparicion-desde-hace-un-ano-de-lideres-en-el-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-garifunas-exigen-al-ministerio-publico-respuestas-ante-rapto-de-cuatro-activistas/>

There were mobilizations against the ZEDEs in different parts of the country yesterday.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/inician-las-acciones-de-protestas-contras-las-zede/>

"Following the denial of entry to Honduras of the international human rights defender, Marine Pezet, last July 18 at night, Councilor Donny Reyes requested that the Minister of the Secretariat of Human Rights, Iris Rosalia Cruz and the Director of the National Protection System, Danilo Morales, provide a report to the Protection Council." (see two days ago)

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3222-donny-reyes-consejo-nacional-de-proteccion-debe-conocer-informe-detallado-del-por-que-gobierno-de-honduras-no-permitio-ingreso-de-defensora-internacional-de-ddhh>

So far, there have been 282'686 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7507 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-282-mil-686-casos-positivos-y-7-mil-507-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Congress approved an additional budget for the CNE, but according to Libre, it is below the one demanded by the CNE and additionally, they reduced the powers of the CNE.

This was also denounced by Pinu and they additionally denounce planned changes to the Intensity Project.

Criterio spoke with several political analysts on possible electoral fraud this year.

<https://proceso.hn/nueva-disputa-entre-libre-y-partido-nacional-impide-aprobacion-de-decretos-a-favor-del-cne-y-rnp/>

<https://criterio.hn/nacionalistas-en-el-congreso-pretenden-aprobar-reformas-en-el-cne-que-son-inconstitucionales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-discute-en-primer-debate-contrato-de-prestamo-para-continuar-la-ejecucion-del-proyecto-identificate/>

<https://criterio.hn/un-fraude-en-las-elecciones-generales-puede-traer-graves-consecuencias-para-el-pais-edmundo-orellana/>

"The United States is designating former Honduran President Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo Sosa (Lobo) and former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla Avila (Rosa Lobo) due to their involvement in significant corruption. While in office, President Lobo accepted bribes from the narco-trafficking organization Los Cachiros in exchange for political favors. As First Lady, Rosa Lobo engaged in significant corruption through fraud and misappropriation of public funds for her personal benefit. While their corrupt acts undermined the stability of Honduras' democratic institutions, former President Lobo has not yet been convicted and Rosa Lobo has been released from prison awaiting a retrial."

This statement was accompanied by a tweet by US Foreign Secretary Antony Blinken: "Former President of Honduras Lobo's corrupt acts undermined democracy in Honduras. I am designating Lobo and his immediate family members as ineligible for entry into the United States. We remain #UnitedAgainstCorruption with our partners in Honduras."

Hmm, and what about the current president who undermined democracy with an illegalm reelection forced through by violence killing dozens civilians...

<https://www.state.gov/designations-of-former-honduran-president-porfirio-pepe-lobo-sosa-and-former-first-lady-rosa-elena-bonilla-avila-for-involvement-in-significant-corruption/>

<https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1417458733655986176>

The re-trial of de Lobo did not start as scheduled (see yesterday).

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/hoy-inicia-repeticion-del-juicio-contr-ex-primeradama/>

Congress continues to protect its members. In a corruption case going back to the MACCIH, Congress approved a mechanism to protect members of Congress Sara Medina and Román Villeda.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/legislativo-aprueba-mecanismo-para-exonerar-a-los-diputados-sara-medina-y-roman-villeda/>

21/07/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; OFRANEH; Bajo Aguán; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Economy; Corruption - de Lobo; Elections - ID Cards; Electricity; Teenage Pregnancies; BCIE; and Three Security Taxes

It was announced some time ago and yesterday, UNAH presented a constitutional challenge against the ZEDEs.

Radio Progreso reports on the planed ZEDE Mariposa.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3224-argumentos-de-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contr-las-zede-la-unah-nunca-habia-estado-tan-amenazada>

<https://proceso.hn/unah-presenta-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contr-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-zedes-una-falsa-simulacion-de-estado-de-derecho/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/zede-mariposa-un-paraiso-para-el-trafico-de-organos-y-personas/>

"The Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras, Ofrañeh, requested the Public Prosecutor's Office to appoint a Special Prosecutor to investigate and search for the four residents of the Garífuna community of El Triunfo de la Cruz, Tela, Atlántida." (see previous days)

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/piden-a-un-fiscal-especial-para-investigacion-y-busqueda-de-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

The Agrarian Platform denounces a new plan to criminalize campesino defenders.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3223-defensores-de-bajo-aguan-denuncian-una-nueva-estrategia-para-perseguirlos-a-traves-de-la-atic-y-la-umviba>

So far, there have been 284'187 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7535 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-aumentan-a-284-mil-187-al-confirmarse-otros-1-mil-501-contagios/>

The mobile hospital in San Pedro Sula is at maximum capacity.

At the triage centers, staff is too scarce to handle the inflow of patients.

Lastly, drugs are running out at the Toráx hospital in Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-hay-cupo-para-pacientes-covid-19-en-hospital-movil-de-sps/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/es-insuficiente-el-personal-en-los-triajes-ante-repunte-de-contagios-por-la-covid-19-en-el-distrito-central/>

<https://proceso.hn/insuficiente-personal-de-triajes-capitalinos-ante-incremento-de-pacientes-por-covid/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-torax-se-quedara-sin-medicamentos-importantes-la-proxima-semana-suyapa-sosa/>

There is an ongoing mystery about the delivery of the second batch of Sputnik V vaccine doses.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/nadie-sabe-cuando-llegara-segunda-dosis-de-la-sputnik-v/>

Honduras remains with a B1 qualification from Moody's.

<https://proceso.hn/moodys-mantiene-calificacion-credicia-de-b1-a-honduras/>

CESPAD has an overview of the re-trial of former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo (see last two days).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/21/en-segundo-juicio-tribunal-ratificara-los-cargos-del-primer-juicio-o-absolvera-a-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras/>

The National Party now rather cynically blames Libre to try to stop the elections from taking place.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/21/partido-nacional-afirma-que-libre-quiere-boicotear-votaciones-de-noviembre/>

Criterio has more on the problems with the Identify Yourself project and its link to the general elections (see previous day).

El Libertador published an article on why the opposition did not vote in favor of the additional budget. "The Honduran opposition has denounced that the ruling National Party's bench, has issued a ruling on the budget of the National Electoral Council (CNE), where it intends to impose that its representative Kelvin Aguirre be the only counselor able to disclose data of the contest. In the 2017 elections, the issuance of data was in charge of the Nationalist David Matamoros Batson, who surprised the world of electoral statistics, affirming that the rural votes gave the triumph to Juan Hernández, who besides being illegally reelected, "came back" from an irreversible tendency."

<https://criterio.hn/entrega-de-identidades-otro-entuerto-de-cara-a-las-elecciones-generales-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3066-honduras-partido-nacional-conspira-con-voto-rural-2-0-y-bozal-en-el-cne>

Congress approved another loan for the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), this time worth 9 billion Lempiras. "The loan was criticized by opposition deputies, who stated that this is a never-ending issue, and that far from putting an end to the state-owned company's crisis, it deepens it."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/congreso-nacional-aprobo-nuevo-prestamo-por-mas-de-9-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nuevo-endeudamiento-aprobado-para-la-enee-solo-refleja-la-mala-administracion-del-sistema-electrico-senala-experto/>

Every day, three minors below 19 give birth in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-la-natalidad-en-mujeres-menores-de-19-anos-va-aumentando-en-honduras/>

"With resources from Italian cooperation, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) has celebrated the official launch of a financial contribution of 23,950,000 lempiras to support the growth and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises led by women."

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3065-honduras-bcie-e-italia-canalizan-24-millones-para-emprendedoras>

"The Social Forum on External Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh) questioned on Wednesday that in Honduras up to three taxes are paid for security. The Fosdeh economist, Obed Garcia, said that in Honduras a tax is paid out of the pockets of Hondurans, to put gates on a pedestrian street, to place security cameras at the entrance of a neighborhood or house and for hiring private security. Also, the tax charged by the State of Honduras for the Security Tax, in which the results of an improvement in security in the country are not seen. In addition, he pointed out that there is a third security tax that is not talked about and that is the one paid to gangs to have a certain level of tranquility."

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-pagan-tres-impuestos-de-seguridad-fosdeh/>

22/07/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Femicides; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Corruption - de Lobo, Iota; Migration – US;

The trial in the US for drug trafficking against former Honduran police official and JOH cousin Mauricio Hernández Pineda was rescheduled to September 20.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1479795-466/expolicia-mauricio-hernandez-negocia-fiscales-estados-unidos>

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

At least 167 women violently lost their lives in Honduras so far this year.

<https://criterio.hn/observatorio-de-cattrachas-registra-167-muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-hasta-el-19-de-julio/>

So far, there have been 285'375 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7558 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-aumentan-a-285-375-al-confirmarse-otros-1-188-contagios-en-honduras/>

Health workers call on the government for much needed support.

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-del-torax-exigen-al-gobierno-incrementar-medicamentos-y-oxigeno-para-pacientes-con-covid/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-del-hospital-el-torax-exigen-al-gobierno-que-proporcione-insumos-para-la-atencion-de-pacientes-con-covid-19/>

Honduras received another 1.5 million vaccine doses from the US through the COVAX mechanism. JOH wants more.

But his regime has so far only bought less than 190'000 doses out of 4.4 million doses received by Honduras.

The JOH regime has only used up 31% of its 2.2 billion budget to purchase vaccines...

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/gobierno-de-los-estados-unidos-de-america-realiza-nueva-donacion-a-honduras-de-1-5-millones-de-dosis-de-vacunas-contra-covid-19/#.YPmyF-QPSzw.twitter>

<https://proceso.hn/hernandez-a-eeuu-tras-recibir-3-millones-de-vacunas-en-dos-envios-las-cuentas-de-ustedes-con-nosotros-son-otras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/22/sin-donaciones-honduras-solo-tendria-187-mil-660-dosis-de-vacunas-anticovid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-ha-ejecutado- apenas-el-31-de-2200-millones-presupuestados-para-la-compra-de-vacunas/>

The re-trial against the former first lady was rescheduled to August 16, 2021 (see previous days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/reprograman-para-agosto-la-repeticion-del-juicio-oral-y-publico-del-caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama/>

"Before a possible appointment of the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP) to clarify why he did not disclose information on what was spent 1,200 million lempiras to address the emergency generated by Eta and Iota, the former minister of the presidency, Ebal Diaz, said that during his administration was always respectful of the Law of Transparency. On Wednesday, July 21, the Investigative Unit of EL HERALDO revealed that in the sector of Lomas del Diamante, Santa Rosa village, exit to the south of the capital, a project of container houses is being built, which presents a series of irregularities and there is no public information on how the funds have been executed."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1480005-466/ebal-diaz-acceso-informacion-casas-contenedores-corrupcion-honduras>

CESPAD has a two-part series on the role of the US in pushing Hondurans to flee their country.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/13/analisis-la-responsabilidad-de-estados-unidos-en-la-creacion-de-un-fenomeno-migratorio-que-hoy-no-puede-contener/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/22/analisis-asi-contribuyo-estados-unidos-a-la-creacion-de-las-caravanas-de-migrantes/>

23/07/21

Honduras Daily: HRDS; ZEDES; Corruption; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; US; Elections;

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on acts of intimidation by state security forces against journalist and human rights defender Cesario Padilla who should benefit from special protection measures.

<https://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3225-el-riesgo-por-que-la-dpi-y-la-policia-nacional-casi-botan-la-puerta-de-la-casa-de-cesario-padilla>

Proceso Digital reports on a protest by inhabitants of Choloma against the ZEDES.

<https://proceso.hn/pobladores-de-choloma-protestan-contra-las-zedes/>

"Analysts consulted by Radio Progreso point out that the Public Prosecutor's Office only prosecutes cases when those implicated in acts of corruption are individuals or officials without power and political backing."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/critican-al-ministerio-publico-por-sus-acciones-timoratas-contra-actores-intelectuales-de-la-corrupcion/>

There are 67% less reported dengue cases this year in Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/23/casos-de-dengue-en-honduras-se-han-reducido-en-2021-hasta-un-67-por-ciento/>

So far, there have been 286'635 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7594 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-alcanza-los-7-mil-594-decesos-y-286-mil-635-contagiados-por-covid-19/>

The president of the Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH) is hopeful that some 400 temporarily employed nurses will get a contract in August.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sesal-contratara-400-enfermeras-auxiliares-a-partir-de-agosto-aneeah/>

After weeks of silence, the JOH regime now promises the second batch of Sputnik V doses in the coming three weeks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-confirma-que-segunda-dosis-de-sputnik-v-llegara-en-proximas-tres-semanas/>

The US and Honduras signed a cargo security agreement.

<https://twitter.com/CBPIntlAffairAC/status/1418293490384089098>

The Liberal and Libre magistrates at the CNE speak out against the newest attempt by the National Party to silence them.

Radio Progreso spoke with the director of the Dutch Institute for Democracy, Luís León, about the upcoming elections.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/23/hall-y-moncada-advierten-que-no-guardaran-silencio-y-no-permitiran-ley-bozal/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-una-eleccion-conducida-por-los-acuerdismos-pierde-el-pueblo/>

24/07/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Elections; Congress; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Prisons;

"The defender of the land and territory, Reynaldo Domínguez, was released at five o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, July 23, after being detained for an hour by elements of the national police. The Municipal Committee in Defense of Common and Public Goods, through its page on the social network Facebook, informed of the capture and later that the acquittal of charges of the fellow defender, Reynaldo Domínguez, was confirmed through his letters of release."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/continua-la-persecucion-contra-defensores-de-guapinol/>

ContraCorriente published an overview of the recent development in Congress regarding the coming elections. "A group of deputies of the National Congress, all related to the National Party, modified a ruling sent by the CNE and proposed that only their representative in that institution can give results on election day, also threatening with imprisonment the other councilors who dare to give preliminary results. Meanwhile, the budget increase needed for the elections has not been approved."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/24/congreso-nacional-pone-en-peligro-desarrollo-de-elecciones-en-honduras/>

"The Board of Directors of the National Congress (CN), once again endorsed and allowed the approval of a project harmful to Hondurans, now granted two companies of dubious origin, a 25-year concession for the construction of a private dock in Omoa, department of Cortés, as denounced by the liberal deputy, Mauricio Villeda."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3074-honduras-inaudito-congreso-zoom-da-concesion-portuaria-por-25-anos>

ContraCorriente describes the current state of the Honduran health sector and the failing of the JOH regime. "Disbelief among the Honduran population about the Government of the Republic's handling of COVID-19 infections is steadily increasing. For the pandemic containment plan, millionaire budgets have been approved in the Legislative, however, 109 out of 298 triage centers have been closed nationwide in the last months."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/24/honduras-cierra-un-tercio-de-los-triajes-y-ralentiza-la-yacunacion/>

In a prison riot, two inmates and a police agent were hurt.

<https://proceso.hn/tres-heridos-en-nuevo-enfrentamiento-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir/>

25/07/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; Violence - Liberal Party, Transport Sector; Corruption - Pandora; ENEE; and JOH's Hybrid Warfare

"Honduras' customs are a haven for organized crime thanks to the weak inspection system that exists at the maritime, air and land levels. Puerto Cortes is the only one of the country's 15 operational customs offices, through which goods are imported and exported, where non-intrusive x-ray inspection is carried out. Experts on the subject informed EL HERALDO that many containers leave Honduras pregnant with drugs or arrive loaded with components to manufacture narcotics, but due to weak customs surveillance, nobody notices or is not informed."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1479225-466/aduanas-honduras-desfasados-controles-seguridad>

The former Liberal congresswoman Carolina Echeverría Haylock was shot dead in Tegucigalpa yesterday. Her husband, former army coronel and lawyer Andrés Urtecho, was gravely hurt. He was the legal representative of the former head of police, Jorge Barralaga, who was found guilty for money laundering.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1480681-466/matan-exdiputada-carolina-echeverria-haylock-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-exdiputada-carolina-echeverria-haylock-en-tegucigalpa/>

44 members of the transport sector have so far been murdered this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-44-transportistas-han-sido-asesinados-en-honduras-durante-el-2021-segun-el-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

CESPAD published an article on the Pandora corruption case focusing on the person of Jacobo José Regalado Weizemblut, former Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/25/las-firmas-que-tienen-en-jaque-a-jacobo-regalado-hernandez-en-el-caso-pandora/>

FOSDEH denounces the ongoing taking up of debts for the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) (see previous week).

<https://tiempo.hn/endeudamiento-de-honduras-por-enee-fosdeh/>

Javier Suazo analyzes JOH's "hybrid warfare" to destroy Honduras' institutions from the inside. "It is a kind of hybrid war that destroys the institutions from within, for the benefit of the constituted power itself; a group of politicians and businessmen linked to the circle of President Hernandez. It is argued that it is part of the Modernization of the State, since the institutions had been operating - until before the coup d'état- in an inefficient way and lacking in technification and qualified human resources, a discourse sold to the population as a justification for the institutional assault. The hybrid war has been carried out, not to make public institutions more efficient, but to have greater control over decisions and budget resources. The questioning of the government for the poor management of the pandemic, to the extent that the Medical Association and businessmen are asking for the dismissal of the Minister of Health, shows that the argument of inefficiency is not valid, since JOH and his team turned out to be more inefficient in the management of "public affairs" than his predecessors, since he chose his ministers and collaborators."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/213190>

26/07/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; HRDs - Bajo Aguán; Lawyers; Corruption - Asfura, Pandora, Lobo; Labor Rights; COVID-19 - Vaccines; BCIE; Energy;

"In recent weeks more than a dozen municipalities in Honduras have declared themselves free of Special Economic Development Zones, ZEDE. From La Ceiba to the municipalities in the south of

the country, the west or east, citizens are pressuring their authorities not to allow the project promoted by the National Party and the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez, JOH."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/mas-municipio-se-suma-al-rechazo-contras-las-zede/>

"The Coalition Against Impunity (CCI) denounced this Monday actions of harassment by the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation (ATIC) against defenders of the territory in Bajo Aguán, department of Colón, in the northern part of Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-a-la-atic-por-hostigamiento-y-sobornos-en-perjuicio-de-defensores-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/26/la-coalicion-contrala-impunidad-se-pronuncia-ante-criminalizacion-y-judicializacion-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

Disappointingly, but as expected, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the MP to have a pre-trial against the Nationalist presidential candidate and mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura.

Journalist Thelma Mejía reacted: "Papi a la orden [Asfura's nickname], saved by the CSJ from a pre-trial and now it will be the TSC that has three years to say if something sticks regarding the diversion of millions of resources for which he is accused by the Uferco. A low blow to the Public Prosecutor who will have to wait three years. Due process, they call it."

<https://criterio.hn/la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-cancela-antejuicio-contranasry-asfura/>

<https://proceso.hn/rechazan-recurso-de-reposicion-del-mp-para-solicitar-antejuicio-contranasry-asfura/>

https://twitter.com/thelma_mejia/status/1419821161706401793

The murder of former Liberal Carolina Echeverría Haylock congresswoman and candidate for Congress (see yesterday) was widely denounced. She and her husband, who was also hurt during the attack, were both lawyers. According to the vice-president of the Honduran Bar Association, Tony García, at least 165 lawyers have been murdered in Honduras during the last ten years.

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-total-de-165-abogados-han-sido-asesinados-en-honduras/>

The trial against three accused in the Pandora corruption case started yesterday.

UFERCO's coordinator Luis Santos expresses optimism.

<https://criterio.hn/primer-dia-del-juicio-del-caso-pandora-inicia-con-fernando-suarez-como-testigo/>

<https://proceso.hn/inicia-juicio-oral-y-publico-contra-tres-imputados-en-el-caso-pandora/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/uferco-medios-de-prueba-sentencia-condenatoria-caso-pandora/>

The former president Pepe Lobo asked the MP to investigate him regarding the accusations coming from the US - he had been mentioned in the Engel's List (see previous e-mails).

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-porfirio-lobo-llega-al-ministerio-publico-a-pedir-que-lo-investiguen-por-acusaciones-en-su-contr/>

"The contradiction that exists is that the Technical Commission of Disability, a body contemplated in the Regulations of the IHSS Law, states that the certification of the disability qualification due to accidents or occupational diseases must be issued in 90 days, but the process takes about eight years, due to the cumbersome nature of the examinations by labor inspectors, as denounced by the Collective of Honduran Women, CODEMUH, in a statement released on July 26, 2021."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3231-peligra-la-vida-de-miles-de-mujeres-ihss-tarda-ocho-anos-en-dictaminar-accidentes-o-enfermedades-laborales-a-trabajadoras-de-la-maquila>

Radio Progreso reports that still only 1.3% of Hondurans have been fully vaccinated.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/solo-1-3-de-la-poblacion-hondurena-esta-vacunada/>

The BCIE approved a 400 million Lempiras loan for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-aprueba-mil-400-millones-de-lempiras-para-creditos-a-mipymes/>

The JOH regime wants an investment of \$1 billion for a natural gas plant.

<https://proceso.hn/se-requiere-de-una-inversion-de-1000-millones-para-generar-450-megavattios-de-energia-a-gas-natural-segun-la-cree/>

27/07/21

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Elections - US; Lawyers; and No Independent Audit

"The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OACNUDH) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) call on the State of Honduras to adopt measures to prevent the criminalization of Garífuna human rights defenders, particularly those who defend land, territory and natural resources. They also urge to guarantee an environment free of hostilities for the defense of human rights and to intensify measures to respect and protect the rights of the Garífuna people over their lands, territories and natural resources in accordance with international and inter-American standards."

<https://oacnudh.hn/cidh-y-oacnudh-llaman-al-estado-a-abstenerse-de-criminalizar-a-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-garifunas-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/piden-honduras-evitar-criminalizacion-defensores-garifunas/>

"Residents of the sector of Las Tapias in San Marcos de Colón, Choluteca, denounced that the managers of the Employment and Economic Development Zone (ZEDE), Orquídea, threatened them with expropriation of their land if they do not sell."

<https://proceso.hn/pobladores-denuncian-que-les-expropiaran-sus-terrenos-para-construccion-de-zede-en-san-marcos-de-colon/>

Again, there were no new corona statistics published for three days until yesterday. So far, there have been 291'687 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7713 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-mil-240-nuevos-casos-y-acumula-291-mil-687-contagios-de-covid-19/>

Criterio reports on the death of various patients in triage centers because they did not get a place in a hospital.

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-fallecen-en-los-triajes-por-falta-de-cupos-en-los-hospitales/>

As there is still no sign of more Sputnik V vaccines, the JOH regime started discussing the possibility of mixing vaccines, i.e. giving those who received a first Sputnik V shot something else. Experts recommend against this.

<https://proceso.hn/experta-sugiere-pedir-prestamo-de-sputnik-v-y-evitar-mezcla-de-vacunas-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/cruce-de-vacunas-contr-la-covid-19-no-es-recomendable-autoridades-de-salud/>

CNE magistrate Rixi Moncada warns that the electoral time schedule is in red due to the lack of the necessary budget.

Another problem lies with the failure to distribute the new identity cards.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1481149-508/cronograma-electoral-sin-presupuesto-rix-moncada>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cronograma-electoral-esta-en-rojo-senala-rix-moncada-al-no-aprobarse-la-ampliacion-presupuestaria-al-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-con-proceso-electoral-incierto-ante-fracaso-de-entrega-de-nueva-identidad/>

CESPAD has some great reporting on the recent trip by the Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura to the US and his intention to convince the US that he is the right person to follow JOH.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/27/nasry-tito-asfura-el-candidato-a-la-presidencia-de-honduras-que-quiere-convencer-a-los-estados-unidos/>

Another lawyer has been assassinated in Honduras, Cinthia Yarely Sierra Maradiaga was found dead in Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-una-abogada-en-colonia-prados-universitarios-de-la-capital/>

Honduras fares badly in a ranking by the World Bank on the independence of auditing bodies.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-en-la-cuarta-categoria-del-indice-de-independencia-de-entidades-fiscalizadoras-superiores/>

28/07/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education; Migration - US; Palmerola; Drug Trafficking; and Doña Yolanda Vive!

COFADEH sent out an alert. "Men dressed as police officers burst into the house of environmental defender Olga Velázquez, located in Valle de Siria, Francisco Morazán, without any justification."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-urgente/>

The Episcopal Conference of Honduras came out strong against the ZEDEs and demanded from Congress to derogate the laws giving life to them.

In an interview about the murder of his wife, the Liberal congressional candidate Carolina Echeverría Haylock, Andrés Wilfredo Urtecho Jeamborde stressed his wife's opposition to the ZEDEs.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/obispos-de-honduras-piden-derogar-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/conferencia-episcopal-exige-al-cn-derogar-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-abogado-urtecho-revela-paso-a-paso-como-fue-el-crimen-de-su-esposa-carolina-echeverria/>

So far, there have been 292'969 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7758 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/otros-45-hondurenos-mueren-por-covid-y-93-permanecen-en-cuidados-intensivos/>

According to the Health Secretariat, more than 1.7 million Hondurans have received at least one shot so far and 194'020 have been fully vaccinated.

<https://confidencialhn.com/194020-hondurenos-han-sido-inmunizados-con-dos-dosis-contra-la-covid-19/>

The Minister of Education announced that pupils will return to school in some schools, but only semi-presential and voluntary.

Teachers' organization denounce this decision.

<https://proceso.hn/anuncian-apertura-de-clases-semipresenciales-a-partir-del-16-de-agosto-en-municipios-con-bajo-nivel-de-contagios/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/28/magisterio-rechaza-retorno-a-clases-por-pandemia-y-deterioro-en-infraestructura-educativa/>

"The Biden administration on Tuesday unveiled an outline of its full strategy on immigration, with activists and advocacy groups decrying a new push for expedited removals. The 21-point plan released by the White House comes as the administration is taking flak from both sides of the aisle: from the left over the call for swift deportations, and from Republicans over the increase in migrants at the southern border."

<https://thehill.com/latino/565005-biden-releases-21-point-immigration-plan-amid-bipartisan-criticism>

The new Palmerola airport should start operations in less than 80 days with Spirit airlines flying there from three US cities.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1481551-410/otras-siete-aerol%C3%ADneas-negocian-palmerola-comayagua-honduras>

The Armed Forces announced that they had destroyed coca plantation as well as a drug lab in Iriona, Colón.

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-y-destruyen-plantacion-de-arbustos-de-hoja-de-coca-y-un-narcolaboratorio-en-iriona-colon/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3084-honduras-ni-llanto-ni-luto-para-los-libertarios-dona-yolanda-vive>

29/07/21

Honduras Daily: Transparency; ZEDEs; Femicides; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Education; Prisons; US - Migration; National Police; Elections; and Disinformation

ContraCorriente published a new platform to promote transparency. "Abriendo Datos Honduras is a platform of Contracorriente.red that makes transparent public information and data that until now was only partially accessible and offered little possibility for public and citizen analysis and auditing."

<http://abriendodatos honduras.com/home>

"More than twenty organizations from the Caribbean city of Tela, located in northern Honduras, have spoken out against the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) in a message in which they also call on the community to attend the town hall meeting called by the municipal authorities this Friday, July 30."

Criterio reports on the similar widespread rejection of the ZEDEs further south, in Choluteca where people fear losing their land. "Inhabitants of the community of Las Tapias in San Marcos de Colón, Choluteca, in southern Honduras, denounced that the managers of the Employment and Economic Development Zone (ZEDE) Orquídea, have given them 40 days to sell their land, otherwise they would be using the articles of the Organic Law of the ZEDE to expropriate it."

"The president of the Episcopal Conference, Monsignor Angel Garachana Perez, said Thursday that the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs) are a violation of the Constitution of the Republic."

<https://criterio.hn/sociedad-civil-de-tela-se-pronuncia-contras-zede-este-viernes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tela-se-suma-al-rechazo-y-solicita-se-declare-municipio-libre-de-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/zede-de-choluteca-amenaza-a-pobladores-para-que-vendan-sus-tierras-o-seran-expropiados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-zedes-son-una-violacion-a-la-constitucion-y-a-la-integridad-de-la-patria-monsenor-angel-garachana/>

CONADEH expressed concern about the alarming number of femicides.

<https://criterio.hn/defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-preocupadas-por-alta-tasa-de-femicidios-en-honduras/>

So far, there have been 294'561 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 7793 confirmed deaths.

There is the fear now that the Delta variant has arrived in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reporta-1592-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-para-un-total-de-294561/>

<https://proceso.hn/internista-alerta-de-primer-caso-de-variante-delta-en-honduras-sesal-dice-no-hay-capacidad-de-diagnostico/>

<https://criterio.hn/sector-salud-en-alerta-tras-la-posible-circulacion-de-la-variante-delta-en-honduras/>

After quite some time, another doctor, Laura Julia Salgado Elvir, died to COVID-19. She had only received one shot of Sputnik V so far. 89 doctors have died during the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-por-covid-19-en-ihss-tegucigalpa-la-doctora-laura-julia-salgado/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1481782-466/muere-covid-19-doctora-laura-julia-salgado-honduras>

Honduras received 42'120 more vaccine doses.

<https://confidencialhn.com/llegan-42-mil-120-vacunas-pfizer-contra-la-covid-19-compradas-por-el-gobierno/>

The announcement about a possible, partial, return to classes led to a lot of reactions (see also yesterday). Teachers' union reject the idea, saying it is not worth risking the lives of teachers.

There are also parents who oppose the decision.

At the same time, Honduras is only one of eight countries with closed schools and a solutions needs to be found - of course, an effective vaccine policy would help.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1481696-466/copemh-no-regreso-clases-presencial-coronavirus>

<https://confidencialhn.com/padres-de-familia-rechazan-retorno-a-clases-anunciado-por-autoridades-de-educacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/clases-semipresenciales-generarian-una-onda-expansiva-de-la-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3087-desesperacion-honduras-entre-unicos-ocho-paises-del-mundo-con-educacion-cerrada>

<https://proceso.hn/retorno-a-aulas-inaplazable-para-frenar-catastrofe-educativa/>

Two inmates were killed in a riot at the so-called maximum security prison El Pozo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/nueva-reyerta-deja-dos-muertos-en-el-pozo-ilama-santa-barbara/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1481758-466/matan-reos-carcel-el-pozo-honduras>

The Biden administration continues to inform about its planed immigration policies (see also yesterday). "Today, the United States is launching a plan to address the root causes of irregular migration from Central America and to manage migration humanely throughout North and Central America. As President Biden announced shortly after taking office, the United States is committed to a multi-year, \$4 billion, comprehensive, regional strategy to improve people's lives throughout the region. We are partnering with civil society, the private sector, labor unions, governments in the region, and international partners to carry out an effective strategy that achieves results. To address the root causes of irregular migration we are focusing our efforts on five areas: (1) Address economic insecurity and inequality, (2) Combat corruption, strengthen democratic governance, and advance the rule of law, (3) Promote respect for human rights, labor rights, and a free press, (4) Counter and prevent violence, extortion, and other crimes perpetrated by criminal gangs, trafficking networks, and other organized criminal organizations, (5) Combat sexual, gender-based, and domestic violence."

Kamala Harris also spoke out on the issue.

<https://www.state.gov/contributing-to-the-united-states-comprehensive-approach-to-migration/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/29/u-s-strategy-for-addressing-the-root-causes-of-migration-in-central-america/>

<https://proceso.hn/casa-blanca-presenta-plan-para-abordar-la-migracion-desde-centroamerica/>

A former police agent was found guilty of murder.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/178-julio2021/8057-declaran-culpable-a-ex-policia-por-el-homicidio-de-ciudadano-en-intibuca>

CESPAD started its -pre-electoral monitoring publishing the first issue covering July.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/29/institucionalidad-electoral-elecciones-hondurenas-en-riesgo/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2021/07/29/contexto-electoral-violencia-politica-y-protestas-sociales/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/monitoreo/item/3234-relatora-de-libertad-de-opinion-y-expresion-de-la-onu-la-desinformacion-y-el-desorden-informativo-agravan-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos>

30/07/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; FoE; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Education, Economy; Prisons; Elections; and Political Violence

The people of Tela spoke out against ZEDEs in a town hall meeting.

Polache also spoke out against them.

In Congress, the verification process started of the signatures calling on the derogation of the organic law giving life to the ZEDEs.

At the same time, a second citizens' initiative calling for the same thing was presented to Congress.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/tela-ejerce-soberania-se-declara-libre-de-ciudades-modelo/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1421278937246752768>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/congreso-nacional-ordena-verificar-firmas-de-iniciativa-ciudadana-contras-las-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-segunda-iniciativa-ciudadana-para-derogar-las-zede-en-honduras/>

"During the virtual forum "How is freedom of expression in Honduras", the manual "The regulation of freedom of expression in Honduras" was presented, with the presence of lawyer Edy Tábor, author of said document. This manual addresses everything related to protected and unprotected content, and explains the tools available to demand public information, which is usually denied. In addition, it delves into the regulatory obstacles that limit freedom of expression in our country."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/30/la-regulacion-de-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras-un-nuevo-manual-para-periodistas/>

"The Instituto Nacional Cariopulmonar Tórax, informed through a communiqué, that they will not accept the admission of any COVID-19 patient given the high number of patients they have admitted at the moment."

At the same time, its employees demand the compliance of their work agreements with the authorities.

Meanwhile, more Hondurans die at the triage centers because they cannot be transferred to hospitals.

<https://criterio.hn/el-hospital-el-torax-no-ingresara-mas-pacientes-graves-de-covid/>

<https://proceso.hn/personal-medico-del-torax-realiza-planton-exigiendo-cumplimiento-de-acuerdos-laborales/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/continuan-falleciendo-ciudadanos-en-triajes-ante-la-falta-de-cupos-en-los-hospitales-capitalinos/>

Due to the lack of more Sputnik V doses, UNAH is now investigating the possibility to mix Sputnik V with a different second dose.

Russia claims that it can be safely mixed with AstraZeneca.

<https://criterio.hn/unah-realizara-estudio-para-combinar-sputnik-v-con-moderna-y-pfizer/>

<https://criterio.hn/combinacion-entre-sputnik-v-y-astrazeneca-es-eficaz-segun-estudio-preliminar/>

The debate about the possible and partial reopening of schools continues (see last two days). The UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford welcomes the plans.

But medical experts warn about its possible consequences.

And teachers are in fear of their lives.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1421179810215256064>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-es-el-momento-de-abrir-las-escuelas-ante-el-repunte-de-contagios-en-el-pais-doctora-elsa-palou/>

<https://hondudiario.com/covid-19/no-es-correcto-un-retorno-a-clases-semipresenciales-podrian-empeorar-los-casos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3089-honduras-clases-presenciales-es-exponernos-a-un-genocidio-magisterio>

Radio Progreso spoke with the former president of the Economist Association of Honduras, Martín Barahona, about the situation of the Honduran economy.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/honduras-estaria-a-las-puertas-de-nuevo-paquetazo-fiscal/>

OACNUDH expressed concerns about the situation in Honduras' prisons after a violent incidence leaving two inmates dead.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1421149923341389826>

The CNE warns that some 400'000 Hondurans could be left without the right to vote due to inconsistencies in the census data.

Congress, meanwhile, intends to approve additional electoral reforms.

And some stylize the general elections as a referendum on the ZEDEs.

<https://proceso.hn/unas-400-mil-personas-podrian-quedarse-sin-votar-en-las-elecciones-segun-cne/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprobara-mas-reformas-a-la-recien-sancionada-ley-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/anuncian-mas-reformas-a-la-recien-aprobada-ley-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/elecciones-generales-seran-un-referendum-en-contra-de-las-zedes-segun-julio-navarro/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/07/30/el-partido-nacional-es-el-ente-con-mas-victimas-de-violencia-politica/>

31/07/31

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection; Elections; ZEDEs; Femicides; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration - Caravan; ENEE;

The Bar Association of Honduras (CAH), since this year not anymore in the hands of the National Party, will withdraw from the Protection Mechanism denouncing its inefficiency in combating violence and crime against lawyers.

Their decision is also linked to the recent murder of lawyer and Liberal congressional candidate Carolina Echeverria. ContraCorriente has an important overview of the case.

<http://tiempo.hn/colegio-de-abogados-retira-mecanismo-de-proteccion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-abogados-se-retiran-de-mecanismo-de-proteccion-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/31/carolina-echeverria-el-asesinato-de-una-candidata-cercana-a-la-familia-rosenthal/>

The CNE magistrate become ever more vocal about the danger the general elections face. ""They don't want to say it, the transmission of results from each Voting Reception Board is dead", said

lawyer Moncada, in her Twitter account. The representative of the Libre Party in the CNE asserted that the political parties that discuss the allocation of the budget, never approved it and the term granted by law expired."

Criterio has more on the inconsistencies in the electoral census (see also yesterday).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1482038-410/rix-moncada-sobre-presupuesto-cne-nunca-lo-aprobaron-se-vencio-plazo>

<https://proceso.hn/mientras-mas-tiempo-pasa-se-pone-mas-en-entredicho-credibilidad-de-contratacion-de-trep-hall/>

<https://criterio.hn/400-mil-inconsistencias-domiciliarias-registra-el-censo-electoral/>

Another community, Juticalpa in Olancho, declared itself free of ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/juticalpa-olancho-tambien-se-declara-libre-de-zede/>

Women's rights organization demand answers from the National Defense and Security Council regarding the high number of femicides in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/feministas-demandan-respuestas-del-consejo-de-seguridad-por-muertes-de-mujeres/>

Honduras held a vaccination day in Tegucigalpa yesterday and more than 57'000 got their shot.

On first sight, this is good news, but of course, the JOH regime tries to vaccinate for political gains. "Complaints about the politicization of vaccines by the National Party have worsened in Honduras. But it is not only the wrongdoing of the central government that is being denounced, but also that of some mayors who are taking advantage of the situation to obtain sympathy and translate it into votes in the general elections, scheduled for the last Sunday of November."

Medical experts also criticize that 50'000 shots in one day is not a great success.

<https://proceso.hn/primera-jornada-de-vacunaton-logra-mas-de-57-mil-vacunados/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/07/31/vacunaton-honduras-uso-de-vacunas-para-campanas-electorales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3093-honduras-nos-estan-tomando-el-pelo-con-vacunaton-dr-giron>

HispanTV reports on the formation of a new migrant caravan.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/496594/migracion-honduras-eeuu>

"The National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) has so far paid more than \$600 million to the Energy Company of Honduras (EEH), as part of the contract established between both parties."

<https://proceso.hn/enee-ha-pagado-mas-de-600-millones-a-eeh-senala-interventor/>