

Another Month in Honduras...

Human Rights Monitor – August 2021

The electoral campaign officially started this month. But it is certainly not a good sign that the same month, a fight broke out between party representative at the official event deciding the place of every party on the ballot. Not allowing oneself to hope for much change from an electoral process, there were still hopeful signs in August. The widespread rejection of the ZEDEs continued, taking the form of street protests as well as an ever increasing number of communities declaring their land free of ZEDEs. The Judicial System continues to send mixed messages. On the one hand, COPINH was finally recognized as a victim in the Gualcarque Fraud case. On the other hand, the Supreme Court extended the pre-trial detention of the criminalized Guapinol defenders by another six months; they have been arbitrarily detained for two years already. And yes, the pandemic is still reigning large with August having been the most deadly month so far. Welcome to another month in Honduras.

In solidarity,

Daniel Langmeier

Honduras Forum Switzerland

Table of Contents

Abbreviations.....	3
The COVID-19 Crisis.....	4
Health Sector.....	4
Corruption.....	5
Economy.....	5
Poverty.....	6
Education.....	6
Human Rights and Their Defenders.....	6
Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment.....	7
Indigenous Peoples.....	7
FPIC.....	9
The Case of Berta Cáceres.....	9
LGBTQ.....	9
Freedom of Expression and Journalists.....	10
Violence against Women.....	10
Political Prisoners.....	10
Extractive Industries.....	11
ZEDEs.....	11
Corruption and Its Enemies.....	13
The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies.....	13
Asfura.....	14
Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.....	14
Pandora.....	14
IHSS.....	14
State Security Forces.....	14
Post-Electoral Human Rights Violations.....	15
Assassinations.....	15
Penitentiary System.....	16
International Community.....	16
Drug Trafficking.....	17
Varia.....	18
Forceful Disappearance.....	18
JOH.....	18
Elections.....	18
Insecurity.....	21
Migration.....	21
Congress.....	22
Electricity.....	23
And Light at the End of a Month.....	23

Abbreviations

ASJ	Association for a More Just Society
ATIC	Technical Bureau for Criminal Investigation
BID	Inter-American Development Bank
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CDM	Center for Women's Rights
CIPRODEH	Center for Human Rights Research and Promotion
CMH	Medical Association Honduras
CNA	National Anti-Corruption Council
COFADEH	Committee of Families of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras
COIPRODEN	Coordination of Private Institutions for Children's Rights
CONADEH	National Human Rights Commission
COPINH	Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras
FEPRODDHH	Special Public Prosecutor Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators
FOSDEH	Social Forum on the External Debt of Honduras
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IACtHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
ILO	International Labor Organization
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights
MACCIH	Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras
MADJ	Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice
MP	Attorney General's Office
OACNUDH	UN Human Rights Office in Honduras
TSC	Supreme Audit Court
UFERCO	Special Prosecuting Unit against Corruption Networks
UNAH	National Autonomous University of Honduras
ZEDE	Zone for Employment and Economic Development

The COVID-19 Crisis

August began with 300'572 detected COVID-19 cases in Honduras and 7902 confirmed deaths.¹ The Funeral Home Association documented more than 16'800 deaths since the start of the pandemic.² The month ended with 339'841 COVID-19 cases detected and 8932 confirmed deaths.³

As previously reported, the pandemic has become more deadly and more widespread in the last weeks. ContraCorriente presented an example of this. "From January to June 2021, no deaths from COVID-19 were reported in the village of San Antonio, municipality of Sulaco, northern Honduras. However, since July, infections and deaths have increased. Since then, an average of six people per week have died, most of them in the village, even though it has only 7,000 inhabitants."⁴

Health Sector

After a short time without any reported deaths of health workers, the situation worsened again. On August 7, doctor Jimmy Figueroa died to COVID-19.⁵ On August 15, anesthesiologist Ángel David Macpui Fajardo died. By that point, 91 doctors had died to COVID-19.⁶ A few days later, a third doctor, Luis Beltrán Irías, died.⁷

On August 3, Proceso Digital reported that Honduran ICUs operate above capacity, at 106%.⁸ The same day, over 2000 people were attended in the triage centers of Tegucigalpa.⁹ But there were also some good news. The University Hospital in Tegucigalpa announced a new corona ward for up to 50 patients.¹⁰ At the same time, the JOH regime failed to comply its promise to employ some 5000 health workers who have risked their lives during the pandemic while being only temporarily employed.¹¹

Over the first weekend this month, a vaccination rally took place in Tegucigalpa which was used by the JOH regime as a political tool.¹² ¹³ On August 5, Honduras received 186'030 more additional vaccine doses.¹⁴ By that point, Honduras had received almost 5 million doses, over 90% of them donated.¹⁵ Nevertheless, the JOH regime had only vaccinated 3.13% of Hondurans.¹⁶ On August 7,

1 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-rebasa-los-300-mil-contagios-y-a-punto-de-llegar-a-ocho-mil-muertos-por-covid/>

2 <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1484124-410/cifra-muertes-coronavirus-honduras-funerarias->

3 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-roza-los-9-mil-decesos-por-covid-19/>

4 <https://contracorriente.red/2021/08/07/muertes-por-covid-19-san-antonio-la-aldea-martir-de-honduras/>

5 <https://proceso.hn/medico-y-candidato-a-vicealcalde-por-libre-en-comayagua-pierde-la-batalla-contra-el-covid-19/>

6 <https://proceso.hn/muere-por-covid-el-galeno-hondureno-angel-david-macpui-fajardo/>

7 <https://www.radiohmn.hn/fallece-de-covid-el-medico-hondureno-luis-beltran-irias>

8 <https://proceso.hn/desbordadas-106-las-unidades-de-cuidados-intensivos-en-honduras/>

9 <https://proceso.hn/mas-de-2-mil-atenciones-se-brindaron-en-ultimas-24-horas-en-triajes-capitalinos/>

10 <https://confidencialhn.com/hospital-escuela-habilita-nueva-sala-con-capacidad-para-50-pacientes-covid-19/>

11 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3122-honduras-protestan-medicos-en-mosquitia-unos-5-000-sin-plaza-permanente>

12 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3100-honduras-cinismo-ebal-diaz-uso-vacunaton-para-campana-electoral>

13 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/02/joh-alaba-su-gestion-y-afirma-que-honduras-dejo-de-ser-el-pais-mas-violento/>

14 <https://confidencialhn.com/llega-a-honduras-nuevo-lote-de-186-mil-treinta-vacunas-anticovid-de-pfizer/>

15 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/06/gobierno-de-joh-solo-ha-adquirido-9-9-por-ciento-de-todas-las-vacunas-anticovid-19/>

16 <https://proceso.hn/ apenas-un-3-13-de-personas-han-completado-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-en-honduras/>

Honduras received 72'000 more vaccine doses purchased by the IHSS¹⁷ and the next day another 67'200.¹⁸ On August 12, another 105'300 vaccine doses arrived in Honduras.¹⁹ By that point, 23.1% of Hondurans had received at least one shot and 5.6 were fully vaccinated.²⁰

By mid-August, with some great delay, 20'000 more Sputnik V doses arrived in Honduras. 20'000 more were still missing to give everyone who had received a first shot the second one.²¹ On August 19, Honduras received 105'300 more Pfizer vaccine doses.²² And two days later, the missing 20'000 additional Sputnik V doses also arrived.²³

On August 25, the BCIE disbursed another \$5.8 million to the JOH regime to buy vaccines. Since June, the regime had received \$12.8 million. Given that most vaccine doses which had arrived in Honduras by that moment were donated, one wonders on what the money is being spent.²⁴ Just a day later, Honduras received 100'000 doses from Spain.²⁵ JOH, meanwhile, JOH announced that he extended the purchasing agreement with Pfizer-Biontech from 4.4 million to 7.1 million doses.²⁶ On August 27, 92'150 of those doses arrived.²⁷

By the end of the month, according to the Ministry of Health, almost 4 million Hondurans had received one shot and 1 million had been fully vaccinated.²⁸

Corruption

The CNA published a new report on acts of corruption by Invest-H as part of the response to the pandemic. They also investigate the role of the auditing body of Invest-H and find that 1.6 million Lempiras in salaries were paid for very questionable work.²⁹

Economy

The commercial deficit of Honduras grew by 76.1% in the first semester of 2021 compared to 2020.³⁰ Honduras spent \$667.6 million on debt service in the first semester of this year.³¹ The total external debt rose to over \$11 billion, 1.7% more than in 2020.³²

17 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibe-72-mil-vacunas-de-astrazeneca-compradas-por-el-ihss/>

18 <https://proceso.hn/llegan-al-pais-67-mil-300-vacunas-de-astrazeneca-del-ihss/>

19 <https://confidencialhn.com/llegan-105-mil-300-vacunas-pfizer-compradas-con-impuestos-del-pueblo-hondureno/>

20 <https://confidencialhn.com/el-231-de-los-hondurenos-ya-fue-vacunado-con-alguna-dosis-contra-la-covid-19/>

21 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1485503-466/llega-primer-lote-vacuna-sputnik-covid-salud-segundo-componente>

22 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibe-un-nuevo-lote-de-105-mil-dosis-de-la-vacuna-pfizer/>

23 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibe-20-mil-dosis-restantes-de-sputnik-v/>

24 <https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-desembolsa-mas-de-5-millones-de-dolares-a-honduras-para-vacunas-anticovid/>

25 <https://confidencialhn.com/espana-dona-100-mil-vacunas-anticovid-de-astrazeneca-a-honduras/>

26 <https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1431113348180025349>

27 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-recibe-92150-vacunas-anticovid-de-pfizer-y-suma-197730-en-dos-dias/>

28 <https://confidencialhn.com/salud-asegura-que-cuatro-millones-de-hondurenos-recibieron-primera-dosis-de-vacuna-contra-el-covid/>

29 <https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1431293246890729475>

30 <https://proceso.hn/el-deficit-comercial-de-honduras-crece-un-76-1-en-primer-semester-de-2021/>

31 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1486769-466/servicio-deuda-publica-honduras>

32 <https://proceso.hn/la-deuda-externa-de-honduras-sube-a-11015-1-millones-de-dolares-en-6-meses/>

Poverty

According to the FAO, some 3.9 million Hondurans are in a situation of food insecurity.³³ Additionally, the number of children begging in the streets increased from 6000 to 20'000 during the pandemic.³⁴ The pandemic together with the two hurricanes generated 700'000 new poor in Honduras.³⁵

Remittances sent to Honduras have grown by 38% so far this year compared to the same period in 2020. They make up 21.5% of GDP.³⁶

Education

In January, CONATEL promised free internet for some 75'000 financially poor families in order that their kids could access their virtual classes. It is August, and the promise has still not been complied.³⁷ Some months ago, the JOH regime made some big show about handing out tablets to pupils to support distance learning. Already then, it was mostly show as they handed out only 4000 tablets while there are 2.2 million children and teenagers in school (and initially, 200'000 tablets were promised). Even worse, pictures made the round of the tablets with bloated batteries on the point of exploding.³⁸

On August 9, the Education Secretariat confirmed that non-government educational organizations can reopen again on August 16 if they comply with the standards set by SINAGER.³⁹ But then when the date came, no schools opened.⁴⁰ ⁴¹ Probably, this was for the better given a reported increase of hospitalization of children with COVID-19 in Honduras.⁴² There is also the ongoing problem of the sorry state of school infrastructure.⁴³ By the end of August, there were again promises about school reopening, but without any concrete follow-ups.⁴⁴

Human Rights and Their Defenders

The Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders published a report on the situation of WHRDs in the region.⁴⁵

33 <https://proceso.hn/casi-4-millones-de-personas-en-inseguridad-alimentaria-en-honduras-segun-fao/>

34 <https://tiempo.hn/incremento-de-mendicidad-en-honduras/>

35 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/24/covid-19-eta-e-iota-genero-mas-de-700-mil-nuevos-pobres-segun-el-cohep/>

36 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/09/hondurenos-en-el-extranjero-sostienen-la-endeble-economia-con-remesas/>

37 <https://confidencialhn.com/conatel-no-cumple-con-servicio-de-internet-a-75-mil-familias-hondurenas-para-que-sus-hijos-recibieran-clases/>

38 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1484184-466/circulan-fotos-estallar-baterias-tablets-gobierno-educacion-honduras>

39 <https://confidencialhn.com/educacion-anuncia-que-instituciones-educativas-no-gubernamentales-podran-iniciar-clases-semipresenciales-este-16-de-agosto/>

40 <https://confidencialhn.com/desmienten-que-147-instituciones-educativas-privadas-retornan-a-clases-presenciales-el-proximo-lunes/>

41 <https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/no-hubo-regreso-de-clases-presenciales/>

42 <https://confidencialhn.com/aumentan-hospitalizaciones-en-emergencias-de-ninos-por-covid-19/>

43 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1485969-466/abandono-centros-educativos-honduras>

44 <https://confidencialhn.com/todo-listo-para-reiniciar-clases-en-el-sector-publico-asegura-arnaldo-bueso/>

45 <http://im-defensoras.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/IMD-TierrasTerritorios-V02-4.pdf>

Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment

The MP requested to extend the pre-trial detention of the criminalized Guapinol defenders by another six months.⁴⁶ Over 70 national and international organizations wrote an open letter to the president of the Honduran Supreme Court Rolando Argueta demanding the freedom of the Guapinol defenders after two years of arbitrary detention.⁴⁷ Ignoring the calls from national and international human rights organizations as well as UN bodies, the Supreme Court decided to extend the pre-trial detention of the criminalized Guapinol defenders for another six months. They have already been imprisoned for 2 years.⁴⁸ The decision was widely rejected.⁴⁹ OACNUDH "laments" the decision and "observes with concern" that the decision was made without listening to the defense.⁵⁰ UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor, called the detention arbitrary and the extension disappointing also linking it to Honduras' run for a seat at the UN Human Rights Council.⁵¹ The trial of the defenders is scheduled for December 1.⁵²

"The beginning of the night was a nightmare for the families of the peasant group Unidos Al Campo, who have spent moments of terror when armed men arrived to kick in the doors of their houses and fire shots, at about 6:15 pm this August 18, 2021. After nine o'clock at night they had apparently left, but the violence may escalate in the darkness of the night, for which they hold landowner Maximiliano Elvir responsible."⁵³ But there were also some good news regarding campesino struggles. "The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), obtained the suspension of the sentence of peasants of the Empresa Asociativa Campesina 8 de Febrero, located in San Pedro de Tutule in the department of La Paz, who were sentenced to two years in prison for the crime of usurpation."⁵⁴

The human rights movement MASSVIDA and its coordinator German Chirinos are suffering a harassment campaign since they have come out against ZEDEs.⁵⁵

Indigenous Peoples

This month was the International Day of Indigenous Peoples. MADJ demands a stop to extractive projects and ZEDEs.⁵⁶ According to Asonog, at least 23 indigenous leaders have been murdered in Honduras this last decade.⁵⁷ OACNUDH "encourages the State of Honduras to respect and

46 <https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-pide-ampliar-prision-preventiva-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

47 <https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/guapinol-75-orgs-piden-libertad-tras-2-anos-de-detencion-arbitraria-en-honduras/>

48 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3249-arbitraria-decision-poder-judicial-amplia-a-seis-meses-mas-la-prision-preventiva-para-defensores-de-guapinol>

49 <https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-de-derechos-humanos-lamentan-extension-de-la-prision-preventiva-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

50 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1431013651088084993>

51 <https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1431269443078967305>

52 <https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1431300199507533827>

53 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3245-terateniente-envio-hombres-armados-para-atacar-a-campesinos-en-guaimaca>

54 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-logra-libertad-absoluta-de-campesinos-de-empresa-asociativa-8-de-febrero/>

55 <https://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1383-emprende-campana-contra-mass-vida-luego-de-posicionarse-contras-zedes>

56 <https://madj.org/2021/08/09/no-mas-concesiones-extractivistas-y-no-a-las-zedes-en-los-pueblos-indigenas-nuevo-contrato-social/>

57 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/09/en-la-ultima-decada-unos-23-lideres-indigenas-han-sido-asesinados-en-honduras/>

effectively comply with its obligations towards indigenous peoples in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned".⁵⁸

On August 5, Honduran security forces raided the house of several indigenous Lenca leaders in Reitoca arresting 5 of them. They Reitoca community has been fighting for years an internationally financed hydroelectric dam being built by company named Progelsa.⁵⁹ Journalist Sandra Marybel Sánchez denounced the use of tear gas during the repression of the community, even just before a children's clinic.⁶⁰ Pasos de Animal Grande reported later that a judge accepted an unfounded request from the MP to keep the defenders in custody.⁶¹ OACNUDH expressed grave concerns.⁶² As did the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defender Mary Lawlor.⁶³ The five defenders were then released at 2am.⁶⁴ The judge condition the release among other things with them not allowed to return to their community.⁶⁵ Pasos de Animal Grande later reported that the MP tried to use a suspicious protected witness to uphold the criminalization of the defenders.⁶⁶ This strategy failed and the judge provisionally dismissed the charges during the initial hearing, observed by OACNUDH⁶⁷, allowing the defenders to return to their community.⁶⁸

In mid-August, "[r]esidents of the indigenous community of Wampusirpi, a municipality in the department of Gracias a Dios in eastern Honduras, bordering Nicaragua, denounced that (...) they were victims of a violent eviction by State repressors, in which several houses were burned, leaving the people living in this area unprotected. Last weekend a video circulated on social networks showing the military evicting families from a community in the municipality of Wampusirpi."⁶⁹ ConfidencialHN linked this to the elaboration of a ZEDE.⁷⁰ As a first reaction, the Armed Forces denied it.⁷¹ Later, they said an eviction had taken place but on order of the MP and they had not burnt houses.⁷²

The Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACtHR) will try another case involving Honduras. "The present case is related to the alleged violation of multiple rights to the detriment of a group of persons belonging to the Miskito indigenous people living in the department of Gracias a Dios."⁷³

58 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1424792642953568262>

59 <http://im-defensoras.org/2021/08/alerta-urgente-honduras-policia-nacional-allana-ilegalmente-viviendas-de-defensora-y-defensores-del-consejo-indigena-lenca-y-reprime-a-la-poblacion-de-reitoca/>

60 https://twitter.com/sandra_marybel/status/1423274160927694855

61 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3238-caso-capturas-en-reitoca-juez-acepto-requerimiento-fiscal-sin-fundamento-del-mp>

62 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1423780519741902862>

63 <https://twitter.com/MaryLawlor/status/1423672180362170375>

64 <https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/quedan-libres-defensores-del-ambiente-de-reitoca/>

65 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3239-desarraigados-juez-les-prohibe-a-defensores-del-rio-petacon-volver-a-sus-casas>

66 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3242-ministerio-publico-hace-trampa-con-testigo-protegido-para-incriminar-en-delitos-a-defensores-de-reitoca>

67 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1427631325599703052>

68 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3244-sobreseimiento-provisional-ministerio-publico-no-logro-probar-delitos-contra-defensores-de-reitoca>

69 <https://criterio.hn/militares-desalojan-comunidades-de-la-mosquitia-hondurena/>

70 <https://confidencialhn.com/militares-expulsan-a-compatriotas-de-sus-territorios-ancestrales-para-dar-via-libre-a-las-zede/>

71 <https://confidencialhn.com/es-falso-el-desalojo-violento-que-denuncian-misquitos-en-wampusirpi-portavoz-de-las-ffaa/>

72 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3131-honduras-ffaa-dice-no-quemo-casas-y-desalojo-fue-orden-del-ministerio-publico>

73 https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/tramite/lemoth_morris_y_otros.pdf

An investigation by Expediente Público found that the JOH regime donated 150 hectares of land belonging to Garífuna communities to the company Castilla Refinería S.A. de C.V..⁷⁴

FPIC

FOSDEH published a report on the debate in Honduras about free, prior and informed consent.⁷⁵

The Case of Berta Cáceres

After the guilty verdict last month, the individualized sentencing hearing of David Castillo started on August 2.⁷⁶ COPINH demanded the maximum penalty of 25 years.⁷⁷

Linked to the Berta Cáceres case is the Gualcarque Fraud case.⁷⁸ CESPAD published an analysis on it and its recent legal controversies. "This report is divided into three parts. The first part presents a contextual assessment of the case in order to determine, from a perspective sensitive to human rights and socio-political impacts, its main implications. Once the context has been positioned, the key elements of the procedural development are addressed, with the aim of providing an overview that will allow us to extract, in the third and final part, the relevant legal issues, with emphasis on the applicable international standards. This report concludes with a series of essential conclusions and assessments based on the analysis."⁷⁹ Additionally, over 60 national and international human rights organizations asked the Supreme Court of Honduras to recognize COPINH as a victim.⁸⁰

On August 17, the initial hearing in this case started, just to be suspended immediately and rescheduled for August 23.⁸¹ Before this, COPINH had denounced the lack of a live transmission as well as the ongoing lack of recognizing them as victims in the case.⁸² On August 23, the hearing resumed.⁸³ ⁸⁴ But just two days later, the trial was suspended again, this time due to a very welcome reason. The Constitutional Court had finally recognized COPINH as a victim in the Gualcarque Fraud case.⁸⁵ The decision was widely welcomed.⁸⁶

LGBTQ

"The Center for Development and Cooperation LGTBI, SOMOS CDC, denounced this August 6, 2021, that the Patronato de la Colonia Payaquí of Tegucigalpa and the private security of that sector, keep them under constant surveillance and harassment for being an organization of sexual diversity,

74 <https://twitter.com/ExpePublico/status/1425849357660721164>

75 <https://fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/fosdeh-2021-Ley-o-no-Ley-cpli-respuesta.pdf>

76 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1422287351779405833>

77 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1422660053216206856>

78 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/23/fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque-la-certeza-de-la-corrupcion-en-la-concesion-de-rios-en-honduras/>

79 <http://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/08/caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque-arbitrariedad-procesal-y-exclusion-de-las-victimas/>

80 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1423707464852246533>

81 <https://criterio.hn/posponen-nuevamente-juicio-sobre-el-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

82 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1427668673117016066>

83 <https://copinh.org/2021/08/the-gualcarque-fraud-trial-begins-in-violation-of-the-rights-of-the-victims/>

84 <https://copinh.org/2021/08/juicio-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque-dia-1/>

85 <https://copinh.org/2021/08/posicionamiento-del-copinh-ante-reintegro-como-victima-en-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

86 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1430583768100839426>

also they said that although they requested that the Protection Mechanism, an agency of which they are a collective beneficiary due to threats against them, send them an officer to verify the facts, they did not get a response".⁸⁷

"Donny Reyes, defender of the LGTBI community, member of the National Protection Council, Director of CIPRODEH and member of the Arcoiris Association, suffered a series of incidents which could have a direct relation with the defense of his rights and which are linked to the presentation of an Appeal for Protection against the State of Honduras for denying him his right to marriage. In light of these events, she requested the National Protection Mechanism to provide him with the necessary measures to protect him."⁸⁸

Freedom of Expression and Journalists

Journalist Herny Fiallos was hurt and harassed by five police agents on August 1. The same journalist had received death threats linked to his investigation into the murder of nursing student Keyla Martínez in a police station previously this year.⁸⁹ The violence that broke out at the sortition process for the elections (see below) also affected journalists. C-Libre documented two cases.⁹⁰

Violence against Women

"The Women's Human Rights Observatory of the Women's Rights Center (CDM), through a report reveals the high rates of violence against women in the context of confinement due to the COVID-19 sanitary emergency, reflecting that Honduras is currently the country with the second highest rate of violence against women in the Central American region."⁹¹ By the beginning of August, the number of femicides has risen to 172.⁹²

Political Prisoners

Two years after the fire in front of the US embassy during an anti-government protest, the JOH regime is bringing to court a second accused. In the first instance, they had criminalized and imprisoned a young teacher for almost two years. Now they went after 25-year old student and Libre activist Henry Bonilla.⁹³ The initial hearing took place on August 6.⁹⁴ He was sent to pre-trial detention.⁹⁵

87 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3241-denuncian-a-patronato-por-hostigamiento-contr-organizacion-lgtbi-y-falta-de-accion-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion>

88 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3246-donny-reyes-defensor-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-sufrio-diferentes-hechos-de-violencia>

89 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3236-falta-de-castigo-contr-policias-involucrados-en-muerte-de-keyla-propicio-mas-violencia-contr-periodista>

90 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1384-periodistas-son-agredidos-en-cobertura-de-sorteo-para-papeletas-electorales>

91 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-segundo-pais-de-la-region-con-mayor-indice-de-violencia-contr-las-mujeres-cdm/>

92 <https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/mas-de-170-femicidios-se-registran-en-honduras/>

93 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3240-acusado-de-la-quema-de-la-embajada-americana-enfrentara-al-poder-imperial-y-a-una-justicia-sometida>

94 <https://www.defensoresonline.com/henry-bonilla-comparece-en-audiencia-inicial/>

95 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/179-agosto2021/8139-prision-preventiva-a-segundo-involucrado-en-incendio-de-la-embajada-americana>

On August 9, the trial against the political prisoner Jhony Salgado Fuentes was supposed to start, but the trial was suspended the same day.⁹⁶ He had been imprisoned for four months at the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018 as part of the post-electoral repression. He was released on April 25, 2018 awaiting trial ever since.⁹⁷ Amnesty International called on the MP to drop the charges⁹⁸ and a group of international and national organizations filed an amicus curiae, before the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras demanding strict adherence to international standards and justice for him.⁹⁹

Extractive Industries

ZEDEs

CESPAD takes a closer look at the different sector opposing the ZEDEs. "In the struggle against the ZEDEs, three resistance blocs have been identified, although they carry out actions in different ways, they do so with two common objectives: to repeal the ZEDE Law and to defend national sovereignty. The first block is made up of public institutions with a certain degree of autonomy from the Hernández Administration: the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), and sectors of private enterprise, promoting citizen initiatives, appeals of unconstitutionality, academic analysis and public positions. A second block is made up of trade unions and urban organizations, developing protest actions, public positions and virtual actions through social networks. A third block, made up of regional, territorial and local actors, promoting strategic road blockades, peaceful mobilizations, community forums, local-regional organization actions and sit-ins."¹⁰⁰

One important tool against the ZEDEs are town hall meetings. Already several ones took place over the last week (see also July monitor). On August 2, El Libertador reported on how the Nationalist mayor of San Pedro Sula tried to block a town hall meeting on the ZEDEs.¹⁰¹ Another mayor went even further. The mayor of Roatán announced that they were analyzing to turn the island into a ZEDE.¹⁰² Libre congresswoman presented a motion in Congress against him.¹⁰³ Meanwhile in other parts of the country, more town halls took place. On August 4, Criterio reported on one in Catacamas, Olancho and another one in Santa Rosa de Aguan, Colón.¹⁰⁴ Later, another one was held in Chinacla in La Paz.¹⁰⁵ On August 12, the people of Esparta, Atlántida, declared their community free of ZEDEs.¹⁰⁶ The same happened in Jutiapa, Atlántida¹⁰⁷ and Amapala.¹⁰⁸ And in Choloma,

96 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/suspenden-inicio-de-juicio-oral-y-publico-contrajhony-salgado-presopolitico/>

97 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/jhony-salgado-y-su-lucha-frente-a-la-justicia-hondurena/>

98 <https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2021/08/honduras-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla-debe-retirar-cargos-contrajhony-salgado-fuentes/>

99 <https://criterio.hn/presentan-amicus-curiae-exigiendo-justicia-para-victima-de-crisis-postelectoral-de-2017-en-honduras/>

100 <http://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/02/analisis-honduras-la-lucha-ciudadana-contralas-zedes/>

101 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3099-honduras-alcaldesampedrano-admite-apoyo-a-las-zede-y-acosa-regidores>

102 <https://proceso.hn/municipalidad-de-roatan-analiza-convertirse-en-una-zede/>

103 <https://confidencial.hn.com/diputada-de-libre-patricia-murillo-presenta-mocion-en-contrade-alcaldede-roatan/>

104 <https://criterio.hn/municipios-exigen-cabildos-abiertos-para-declarar-sus-territorios-libres-de-zede/>

105 <https://proceso.hn/chinacla-en-la-paz-tambien-dice-no-a-las-zedes/>

106 <https://proceso.hn/esparta-atlantida-se-suma-a-municipios-libres-de-zedes/>

107 <https://proceso.hn/jutiapa-en-atlantida-convoca-a-cabildo-abierto-para-declararse-libre-de-zedes/>

108 <http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1888-amapala-es-declarada-como-municipio-libre-de-zedes>

people took to the streets protesting against the ZEDEs and demanding a town hall meeting of their own.¹⁰⁹ In La Ceiba, the people were also still demanding a town hall meeting on the subject.¹¹⁰ Similarly in Tegucigalpa, where community leaders of 17 communities around the La Tigra National Park demanded that the capital will be declared a municipality free of ZEDEs.¹¹¹

But even with all this opposition, there are also new ZEDEs appearing out of nowhere. OFRANEH denounced the plan for another ZEDE, Guanaja Hills.¹¹² After the German ambassador, the Próspera ZEDE was now also visited by the UK ambassador.¹¹³ But at the same time, critical reporting on the ZEDEs continues to come even from corporate media outlets. Proceso Digital reported on the "growing rejection against the ZEDEs from North to South".¹¹⁴ The business lobby COHEP also spoke out against the ZEDEs stating that the promised jobs, if ever, would only materialize in decades and what is needed is "legal security, social tranquility, and no political danger to society".¹¹⁵

On August 18, Radio Progreso reported on the situation in Roatán where authorities still deny their citizens a open town hall meeting on the Próspera ZEDE.¹¹⁶ Meanwhile in Comayagua, the people had the chance to declare their city free of ZEDEs.¹¹⁷ Over the remaining days of the month, Danlí, Islas de Bahía and Intibucá followed.^{118 119 120}

CESPAD published an analysis on how the imposition of the ZEDEs works in Honduras.¹²¹ One actor trying to impose a ZEDE on Roatán, is its mayor Jerry Dave Hynds Julio. He was arrested this month accused of drug trafficking.¹²² On August 29, he was sent to pre-trial detention.¹²³ The Próspera company behind the ZEDE on Roatán went on the defensive publishing a press release rejecting the links made with the arrested mayor and them.¹²⁴

The month ended with a protest march against the Zedes.^{125 126} The protesters received some support from further north. The former vice-president of the US Chamber of Commerce spoke out against the ZEDEs.¹²⁷

109 <https://confidencialhn.com/sindicatos-vuelven-a-protestar-en-choloma-contras-zedes-y-exigen-cabildo-abierto-transparente/>

110 <https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/sigue-demanda-de-cabildo-abierto-contras-zede-en-la-ceiba-atlantida/>

111 <https://criterio.hn/comunidades-aledanas-a-la-tigra-exigen-declarar-capital-hondurena-libre-de-zede/>

112 <https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1423625103561068546>

113 <https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1426242160064663554>

114 <https://proceso.hn/de-norte-a-sur-y-de-oriente-a-occidente-crece-rechazo-a-las-zedes/>

115 <https://confidencialhn.com/generacion-de-empleo-en-las-zedes-no-ocurrira-de-un-dia-para-otro-cohep/>

116 <https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/autoridades-de-roatan-no-muestran-interes-de-realizar-cabildo-abierto-sobre-las-zede/>

117 <https://criterio.hn/comayagua-se-declara-libre-de-zede/>

118 <https://criterio.hn/danli-tambien-se-declara-libre-de-zede/>

119 <https://proceso.hn/en-islas-de-la-bahia-tambien-dicen-no-a-la-zede/>

120 <https://copinh.org/2021/08/intibuca-dice-no-a-las-zedes/>

121 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/24/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-asi-se-instalaran-las-zedes-en-honduras-concesionamiento-y-saqueo-de-bienes-comunes-naturales/>

122 <https://proceso.hn/atic-intercepta-cisterna-que-transportaba-varios-fardos-de-droga-en-roatan/>

123 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/requerimiento-fiscal-y-detencion-judicial-para-alcalde-de-roatan-por-trafico-de-casi-2-5-toneladas-de-cocaina/>

124 <https://confidencialhn.com/prospera-rechaza-acusaciones-vinculadas-con-la-detencion-del-alcalde-de-roatan/>

125 <https://contracorriente.red/2021/08/31/movilizacion-nacional-exige-derogacion-de-las-zede/>

126 <https://avispa.org/protestan-en-honduras-contras-la-cesion-de-territorios-a-inversionistas/>

127 <https://tiempo.hn/creador-de-las-zede-richard-ranh-honduras/>

Corruption and Its Enemies

On August 4, the Biden administration announced new measures against corrupt Central American officials. "Today we're taking a new action to support democracy and fight corruption by launching an additional visa restriction policy for corrupt and undemocratic actors in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. This is another important step toward addressing the root causes of migration."¹²⁸

129

Criterio denounces that members of Congress spent almost 80 million Lempiras on banquets, car rentals and per diems in one year of the pandemic without in-person sessions.¹³⁰ In another case, [t]The Corruption Sentencing Court found guilty three former employees of the Metropolitan Health Region of the Central District, who left patients with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) without reagents."¹³¹

Congress in Honduras is well known for such controversial bills and this has now been recognized regionally as well. "Characterized by significant restrictions on access to public information, the imposition of the agenda and the tendency not to listen to citizens' demands, the National Congress of Honduras ranks second to last in the ranking of legislative transparency in Latin America".¹³²

The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies

Biden's Special Envoy to the Northern Triangle countries, the Honduran Ricardo Zúñiga, was nominated as the new Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the State Department.¹³³ On August 3, he commented on the situation in Honduras. "In the case of Honduras we are concerned that bills have been accepted and signed, which in our opinion, strengthened impunity, lowered the costs of public corruption and for us that not only goes against the interests of the United States, but affects the confidence of the population".¹³⁴ In Honduras, Luis Javier Santos, head of UFERCO denounced that due to lack of personnel, several lines of investigation are paralyzed in the country.¹³⁵

CESPAD published an analysis of the conditions met in Honduras to allow for the ongoing impunity in corruption cases.¹³⁶

128 <https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1423068445214642179>

129 <https://www.state.gov/u-s-visa-actions-supporting-democracy-and-combatting-corruption-in-guatemala-honduras-and-el-salvador/>

130 <https://criterio.hn/l-79-6-millones-gasto-el-congreso-en-banquetes-alquiler-de-vehiculos-y-viaticos-en-ano-de-pandemia/>

131 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/179-agosto2021/8146-mp-logra-condena-contra-exfuncionarios-de-salud-que-gestaron-un-fraude-y-dejaron-sin-reactivos-a-pacientes-con-vih-sida>

132 <https://proceso.hn/la-opacidad-del-congreso-nacional-en-el-ranking-latinoamericano/>

133 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1482756-466/ricardo-zuniga-subsecretario-estado-asuntos-hemisferio-occidental>

134 <https://proceso.hn/eeuu-preocupado-por-entrada-del-dinero-sucio-a-la-campana-politica-hondurena/>

135 <https://confidencialhn.com/fiscal-luis-javier-santos-senala-que-por-falta-de-personal-varias-lineas-de-investigacion-estran-paralizadas/>

136 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/17/analisis-el-triptico-de-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

Asfura

CESPAD published an analysis on how the structure stealing public funds in Tegucigalpa worked and the role of mayor and Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura.¹³⁷

Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo

The former first lady presented a medical examination claiming that she is not fit for her re-trial.¹³⁸ CESPAD published an overview of the case.¹³⁹

Pandora

On August 4, the head of UFERCO did not rule out new investigations as part of the Pandora corruption case.¹⁴⁰ CESPAD published an update on the case focusing on the role of the "star witness".¹⁴¹

IHSS

The MP demands a new trial against former IHSS board members for the corruption case involving their institution.¹⁴² This was later granted.¹⁴³ An additional trial will be opened against José Ramon Bertetty.¹⁴⁴

On August 26, the MP made another arrest in the IHSS corruption case, nine people (out of 12 targeted) were arrested accused of stealing at least 158 million Lempiras.¹⁴⁵ But all of them were released again allowed to await trial outside prison¹⁴⁶...unlike criminalized human rights defenders.

State Security Forces

At the beginning of the month, CONADEH expressed concerns about the behavior of the police mentioning two cases; one in Nacaome, Valle, where police agents hit a hand-cuffed man; and one in Tegucigalpa, where in an operation by the Military Police and the FNMP a young man was killed.¹⁴⁷

137 <http://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/11/no-hay-antejuicio-pero-asi-opero-la-estructura-de-tito-asfura-para-sustraer-fondos-de-la-municipalidad-de-tegucigalpa/>

138 <https://proceso.hn/rosa-elena-bonilla-no-esta-en-condiciones-para-someterse-a-juicio-oral-segun-dictamen-medico-forense/>

139 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/16/analisis-primera-damas-y-la-estela-de-corrupcion-e-impunidad-en-honduras/>

140 <https://proceso.hn/jefe-de-la-uferco-no-descarta-nuevas-investigaciones-a-mencionados-en-caso-pandora/>

141 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/15/el-testigo-estrella-que-podria-ayudar-a-sentenciar-a-los-unicos-3-acusados-en-el-caso-pandora/>

142 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3118-honduras-fiscalia-exige-nuevo-juicio-contra-exdirectivos-del-ihss>

143 <https://tiempo.hn/caso-ihss-zelaya-bertetty-polanco-juicio-fraudes/>

144 <https://tiempo.hn/caso-ihss-procesamiento-bertetty/>

145 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/capturas-y-aseguramientos-por-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-en-el-ihss/>

146 <https://confidencialhn.com/en-libertad-se-defenderan-acusados-del-desfalco-del-ihss/>

147 <https://confidencialhn.com/conadeh-los-miembros-de-los-cuerpos-de-seguridad-del-estado-deben-respetar-la-integridad-fisica-y-la-vida-de-la-poblacion-hondurena/>

ATIC and the MP announced an investigating into a rape of a minor inside a police station in San Pedro Sula.¹⁴⁸ ATIC captured a member of the Armed Forces accused of raping a indigenous Lenca girl.¹⁴⁹

Two members of the police force were sent to pre-trial detention accused of kidnapping.¹⁵⁰ Two additional cases involving police agents accused of different crimes will go to the courts.¹⁵¹ A member of the Military Police was found guilty for letting an inmate flee.¹⁵²

Post-Electoral Human Rights Violations

On August 26, there was a hearing against a member of the Military Police accused of murdering David Octavio Quiroz in December 2017 during the post-electoral repression.¹⁵³

Assassinations

Six months passed since the murder of nursing student Keyla Martínez in a police station. Her family and human rights organization denounce the ongoing impunity (only one low-level police agent is in pre-trial detention) in the case including the harassment of Keyla's family.¹⁵⁴ ¹⁵⁵ Even corporate media outlets cannot ignore the case and its aftermath. El Heraldo published three articles on it. They reminded the public that six months have passed since her murder without a response.¹⁵⁶ They also picked up the denouncement by Keyla's family that the only low-level, member of police in custody for the crime benefits from special treatment in prison.¹⁵⁷ Lastly, they published a list of 15 unresolved questions around the case.¹⁵⁸

On August 4, El Heraldo reported: "Six members of the National Police who participated in the operation at a checkpoint where Erick Vallecillo, a university student, was shot in the head, were taken into custody by security authorities."¹⁵⁹

A former police agent was sentenced to 15 years in prison for murdering his work partner. He had a relationship with his wife.¹⁶⁰

148 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/179-agosto2021/8114-fiscales-y-atic-investigacion-denuncia-de-supuesta-violacion-a-menor-de-edad-en-posta-policia-de-aldea-el-ocotillo-en-san-pedro-sula>

149 <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/179-agosto2021/8141-atic-captura-a-militar-acusado-de-violar-a-nina-indigena-lenca>

150 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-logra-prision-preventiva-contr-un-transportista-y-dos-policias-activos-implicados-en-secuestro/>

151 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/agendan-audiencias-contr-policias-ligados-a-actos-irregulares/>

152 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/condenan-a-policia-militar-que-por-negligencia-permitio-fuga-de-un-privado-de-libertad-en-catacamas/>

153 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/manana-se-realizara-juicio-oral-y-publico-contr-agente-de-la-pmop-acusado-del-asesinato-de-un-manifestante/>

154 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/seis-meses-de-impunidad-por-crimen-contr-keyla-martinez-y-persecucion-a-su-familia/>

155 <https://proceso.hn/a-seis-meses-del-feminicidio-contr-keyla-la-policia-sigue-en-el-centro-del-caso/>

156 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1483622-466/keyla-martinez-seis-meses-injusticia-muerte-intibuca>

157 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1483703-466/unico-presos-asesinato-keyla-martinez-privilegios-carcel>

158 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1483669-468/15-datos-sin-esclarecer-caso-keyla-martinez-seis-meses-asesinato>

159 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1483157-466/policias-custodia-estudiante-derecho-asesinado-erick-vallecillo-tocoa>

160 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/15-anos-de-reclusion-en-contr-de-expolicia-por-el-homicidio-de-su-companero/>

Penitentiary System

After two reported riots last month, another one took place on August 7. "At least five inmates were injured in a confrontation in the Siria prison, El Porvenir, Francisco Morazán, confirmed the president of the Association of Relatives of Inmates, Delma Ordoñez."¹⁶¹

A member of the Military Police was found guilty for introducing illegal objects into the Támara prison.¹⁶²

An analysis by El Heraldo showed that half the deaths inside prisons were by fire arms.¹⁶³

International Community

The UN and Honduras signed the cooperation agreement for the years 2022-2026.¹⁶⁴ The UN also launched the Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 which requires \$222 million to assist 1.8 million.¹⁶⁵

Congress approved a \$16 million financial agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)¹⁶⁶ as well as a \$45 million project with the World Bank on the urban water supply.¹⁶⁷ ConfidencialHN denounced that these two of the multi-million projects serve as electoral tools for the National Party.¹⁶⁸

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and Honduras signed a financing agreement for the execution of the US\$70 million program Relief Bond for Vulnerable Families Affected by Natural Phenomena Due to Climate Change."¹⁶⁹ And more loans were to follow. The BCIE announced two more loans worth \$470 million.¹⁷⁰ Additionally, the JOH regime requested the support from the UK in getting access to the Green Climate Fund.¹⁷¹ On August 28, ContraCorriente reported: "The National Congress approved, in a matter of minutes and without showing the votes, a series of contracts and loans that have been cataloged as harmful to the interests of the citizens. Opposition deputies who were not connected to the virtual session denounced that there was no quorum and that there was usurpation of functions."¹⁷²

161 <https://proceso.hn/otro-amenamiento-deja-dos-heridos-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir/>

162 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/condenan-a-militar-que-intento-introducir-lote-de-telefonos-celulares-a-modulo-de-maxima-seguridad-del-penal-de-tamara/>

163 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1486484-466/asesinatos-homicidios-carceles-honduras-armas-fuego-cifras>

164 <https://honduras.un.org/es/138512-gobierno-de-honduras-y-naciones-unidas-firman-el-marco-de-cooperacion-de-las-naciones-unidas>

165 <https://honduras.un.org/es/139410-honduras-requiere-us222-millones-para-brindar-asistencia-humanitaria-18-millones-de-personas>

166 <https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-millonario-financiamiento-para-inclusion-economica-y-social-de-productores-rurales-de-honduras/>

167 <https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprueba-prestamo-por-45-millones-de-dolares-para-la-ejecucion-del-proyecto-agua-urbana/>

168 <https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-60-millones-de-dolares-aprueba-partido-nacional-para-financiar-campana-politica/>

169 <https://proceso.hn/bcie-presta-a-honduras-70-millones-para-bono-a-afectados-por-fenomenos-naturales/>

170 <https://proceso.hn/presidente-del-bcie-anuncia-dos-nuevos-prestamos-para-honduras-por-470-millones-de-dolares/>

171 <https://www.elpais.hn/2021/08/27/honduras-solicita-ayuda-al-reino-unido-para-acceder-a-fondos-verdes-del-clima/>

172 <https://contracorriente.red/2021/08/28/en-sesion-virtual-y-en-tiempo-record-congreso-nacional-aprueba-contratos-y-prestamos-millonarios/>

Drug Trafficking

The defense of sentenced drug trafficker and JOH ally Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez request the minimum sentence for him, 40 years in prison.¹⁷³ The New York Prosecutor demanded the maximum penalty.¹⁷⁴ In reporting on the upcoming sentencing of convicted drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes, El Heraldo wrote: "For the US justice system, Fuentes Ramirez was a violent drug trafficker who produced and distributed thousands of kilograms of cocaine for importation into the United States, and who also had influence in the upper echelons of power. In the same document, once again, the name of President Juan Orlando Hernandez came up. "The corruption of the accused reached the highest level of the Honduran government. He entered into a drug trafficking partnership with President Juan Orlando Hernández to flood the United States with cocaine," the document states. According to prosecutors, the relationship with the president "made the defendant untouchable; his drugs had safe passage, courtesy of the Honduran Army; he was protected from investigation; and, perhaps most importantly for the defendant, from extradition to the United States." Investigations revealed that in 2019, "while the case against President Hernandez's brother was proceeding before this Court, the defendant traveled to the Honduran presidential residence to pay more cocaine bribes to Hernandez."¹⁷⁵ By the end of August, his sentencing was postponed to October 19.¹⁷⁶

The sentencing of former Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya, who pleaded guilty, changed his mind and then changed it again, was once again postponed; it should take place on October 15.¹⁷⁷

According to the JOH regime, they have seized 17.7 tons of cocaine in the first seven months of this year. This is more than 5 times what has been seized in all 2020. The number of destroyed coca plantation in Honduras also increased but only slightly.¹⁷⁸

The US sent two new extradition requests to Honduras.¹⁷⁹ On August 18, Honduran authorities captured Fredy Donaldo Mármol Vallejo.¹⁸⁰ Two days later, they conducted raids and seizures linked to his arrest.¹⁸¹ On August 23, the MP arrested another accused drug trafficker wanted by the US.¹⁸² At that point, four Hondurans were awaiting their extradition to the US.¹⁸³

On the topic of extraditions, the Pro Honduras Network cited US prosecutor Matthew Laroche: "It is also important to say that many of the defendant's co-conspirators [in the case of JOH's brother] have been publicly pointed out and remain in Honduras and nothing happens to them. Extradition

173 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/08/18/cuarenta-anos-de-carcel-solicita-defensa-de-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez-socio-de-juan-orlando-herandez-en-el-trafico-de-cocaina/>

174 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/08/25/fiscalia-solicita-cadena-perpetua-para-geovanny-fuentes-socio-de-juan-orlando-herandez-ademas-de-la-incautacion-de-151-7-millones-de-dolares-y-el-pago-de-una-multa-de-10-millones/>

175 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1488420-466/eeuu-narco-hondureno-geovanny-fuentes-presos-por-vida>

176 <https://confidencialhn.com/aplazan-lectura-de-sentencia-contra-trafficante-hondureno-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez/>

177 <https://proceso.hn/sentencia-para-diputado-fredy-najera-se-reprograma-para-el-15-de-octubre/>

178 <https://proceso.hn/casi-18-toneladas-de-cocaina-incautadas-este-2021-en-honduras/>

179 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1485254-466/solicitudes-extradicion-eeuu-funcionarios-hondurenos-csj>

180 <https://proceso.hn/capturan-al-extraditable-fredy-donaldo-marmol-vallejo/>

181 <https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-asegura-varios-bienes-del-extraditable-hondureno-fredy-donaldo-marmol-vallejo/>

182 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/ministerio-publico-ejecuta-orden-de-captura-contra-otro-extraditable-pedido-por-estados-unidos-eeuu/>

183 <https://proceso.hn/cuatro-hondurenos-a-las-puertas-de-ser-extraditados-a-eeuu/>

requests have been sent and have not been honored as to several individuals we have identified in our judgment of submission."¹⁸⁴

Varia

Forceful Disappearance

On August 30, Honduras commemorated the Day of the Forcefully Disappeared.¹⁸⁵ OACNUDH sent out a press release "urging the State of Honduras to guarantee the right to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition for past and present victims of enforced disappearance".¹⁸⁶ James T. Phillips wrote an important article on "When Remembering is a Political Act of Resistance" and the important work of COFADEH.¹⁸⁷

JOH

According to a consultative opinion of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), the presidential reelection is not a human right. This argument was used by JOH around his illegal and then fraudulent 2017 reelection.¹⁸⁸ "Public debt has increased by more than US\$ 8,762 million since President Juan Orlando Hernández took office, causing poverty to rise to 34.4 percent, according to data gathered by El Pulso."¹⁸⁹

With the elections coming closer, JOH presented his party as the only defenders of the Armed Forces even claiming the other parties were after them.¹⁹⁰ ¹⁹¹ He especially praised them for the alleged and widely disputed decrease in violence. On August 26, El Pulso reported that the homicide rate had increased by 12% compared to 2020 and there was also an increase in the number of multiple killings.¹⁹²

He also tried to jump on the cryptocurrency craze and met with Brock Pierce.¹⁹³ Observers fear that this will open just another door for corruption and the influx of money from drug trafficking.¹⁹⁴

Elections

August began without the necessary budget for the National Electoral Council (CNE). As a consequence, its president Ana Paola Hall announced "several important and immediate actions will

184 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/08/20/miembros-del-crimen-organizado-en-honduras-a-la-espera-de-su-extradicion-a-estados-unidos/>

185 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/dia-nacional-del-detenido-desaparecido/>

186 <https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-insta-al-estado-de-honduras-a-garantizar-el-derecho-a-la-verdad-justicia-reparacion-y-no-repeticion-de-las-victimas-de-desaparicion-forzada-del-pasado-y-del-presente/>

187 <https://www.counterpunch.org/2021/08/30/where-are-they-the-disappeared-when-remembering-is-a-political-act-of-resistance/>

188 <https://proceso.hn/jimenez-mayor-relaciona-fallo-de-idh-que-reeleccion-presidencial-no-es-derecho-humano-con-honduras/>

189 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/16/pobreza-y-endeudamiento-externo-subio-al-35-por-ciento-en-los-dos-mandatos-de-joh/>

190 <https://confidencialhn.com/joh-se-muestra-temeroso-ante-potencial-extincion-de-las-ff-aa/>

191 <https://criterio.hn/juan-herandez-acusa-a-opositores-de-querer-desaparecer-las-fuerzas-armadas/>

192 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/26/masacres-superan-las-de-2020-cortes-el-departamento-con-mas-violencia/>

193 <https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-se-reune-con-el-multimillonario-y-lider-del-bitcoin/>

194 <https://criterio.hn/cryptomoneda-en-honduras-podria-ser-utilizada-para-lavar-fondos-de-la-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-hugo-noe-pino/>

be instructed today at an operative level to guarantee the electoral process".¹⁹⁵ Maybe in reaction to this, Libre congressman Jorge Cáliz announced that Congress would approve the additional budget the next day as well as the loan for the RNP.¹⁹⁶ And so it was.¹⁹⁷ They also approved a mechanism to allow the CNE to directly purchase the necessary tools for the election.¹⁹⁸ As part of their decisions, Congress extended the validity of the old identity card to October 15, this means that people without a new identity card won't be able to vote in the November elections.¹⁹⁹ Later on, the RNP promised to have the new identity cards ready for the elections.²⁰⁰ On August 12, the RNP presented the results of the Identify Yourself²⁰¹ project.²⁰²

PINU denounced that the agreement between the three main parties that led to the above decisions included the following. "They are eliminating the transmission of the results of the tally sheets from the Voting Centers. The National Party has pressured so that the results are not transmitted from the Voting Boards or what used to be known as the MERs (Mesas Electorales Receptoras)."²⁰³ Maybe it won't come so far. "CNE Counselor, Rixi Moncada, wrote in her Twitter account: "45 days to enforce the law! The project to transmit the digitized minutes from each Voting Center is the new challenge. My commitment in the CNE is for clean elections. 100%. Thanks to all the benches."²⁰⁴

On August 5, the CNE approved "the guidelines with which the transmission, scrutiny and disclosure of results of the general elections of November 28, 2021 will be developed. The electoral body established the transcription from each voting center and that fingerprint reader will be in all the Voting Boards".²⁰⁵ But just a few days later, the Libre and Liberal representatives at the CNE denounced that "the electoral process continues to be hindered in order to prevent the Transmission of Electoral Results on election day on November 28".²⁰⁶

On August 10, "[t]he director of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), Luis Leon, said that the Clean Politics Unit does not have the investigative capacity to identify organized crime financing of elected candidates and is therefore nothing more than a "toothless unit".²⁰⁷ There are also ongoing problems with the lack of transparency regarding the financing of political campaigns.²⁰⁸ The situation turned even worse on August 18. Opposition politicians denounce that the Nationalist-controlled Congress made some changes to the decree containing the additional budget for the National Electoral Council (CNE) giving JOH control the purchase of the CNE.²⁰⁹

195 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1482493-508/cne-vence-plazo-trep-lector-huellas-obstruccion-proceso-electoral>

196 <https://proceso.hn/tras-acuerdos-este-martes-se-aprobara-presupuesto-al-cne-prestamo-al-rnp-y-compras-directas-para-comicios/>

197 <https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-ampliacion-de-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-el-cne/>

198 <https://confidencialhn.com/cn-aprobo-autorizar-al-cne-adquisicion-de-bienes-suministros-y-servicios-de-forma-directa/>

199 <https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-1-1000-millones-para-el-cne-y-ordena-la-contratacion-directa-del-trep/>

200 <https://proceso.hn/rnp-dice-que-la-nueva-identidad-estara-lista-para-las-elecciones-generales/>

201 <https://contracorriente.red/2021/08/07/honduras-retrasa-entrega-de-17-millones-de-dni-en-medio-de-irregularidades/>

202 <https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-presenta-resultados-del-proyecto-identificate/>

203 <https://criterio.hn/el-congreso-aprobo-presupuesto-del-cne-a-cambio-de-no-trasmitir-las-actas-electorales-luis-redondo/>

204 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3102-honduras-45-dias-tiene-cne-para-montar-sistema-digital-de-transmision-de-actas>

205 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1483391-466/transmision-elecciones-honduras-consejo-nacional>

206 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/consejeras-siguen-denunciando-trabas-en-proceso-electoral/>

207 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/10/cuestionan-que-unidad-de-politica-limpia-no-tiene-capacidad-de-investigar-financiamientos-ilicitos/>

208 <https://expedientepublico.org/honduras-financiamiento-politico-sin-transparencia-en-ano-electoral/>

209 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3136-honduras-joh-quito-chequera-al-consejo-electoral-peligro-advierte-oposicion>

Apparently, the changes were made without even being discussed in Congress.²¹⁰ The CNE reacted with a press release writing that "[w]e won't allow the elections to be directed from the Executive Branch".²¹¹ Criterio wrote that the JOH regime would violate the constitutional order were it to control the electoral budget.²¹² The CNE presented a request to Congress to reform a controversial bill undermining its autonomy.²¹³

On August 21, the CNE was scheduled to hold the sortition process to decide on the position of the ballots of the different parties. According to the law, the three main parties will have their position chosen first. This was misunderstood by other parties as the three main parties getting the first three spots. This misunderstanding led to a fight inside and outside the CNE.²¹⁴ El Heraldo called the whole thing a "a resounding failure in which there were verbal and physical aggressions, injuries, confrontation among supporters and towards representatives of the media". The process was rescheduled for the next day, where it concluded without further problems.^{215 216 217} As a follow-up to the initial chaos and violence, UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford called on all political actors to be peaceful.²¹⁸ The incidence was widely read as a worrisome sign of more widespread political violence in Honduras.²¹⁹ Political analyst Julio Navarro accused the National Party of generating chaos and terror as a political strategy.²²⁰

On August 27, the CNE announced that two Honduran and an Argentinian company would be responsible to transmit the preliminary results of the general election.²²¹ Three days later, the UN System in Honduras called for peace and the respect of human rights during the electoral campaign which officially started the same day.²²² At the same time, the "president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Ana Paola Hall, denounced this Monday that there is an external effort to control the electoral body, in charge of organizing and coordinating the general elections of November 28th of this year in Honduras".²²³

CESPAD reported on how the right to vote is further and further undermined for Hondurans living abroad.²²⁴ El Heraldo later reported that more 50'000 Hondurans living in the US won't be able to vote in the general elections due to a lack of an updated census.²²⁵ CESPAD also published an analysis on public spending by the JOH regime as an electoral tool.²²⁶ US Special Envoy Ricardo

210 <https://criterio.hn/irregularidades-que-restan-autonomia-e-independencia-presupuestaria-al-cne-no-fueron-discutidos-en-el-cn/>

211 <https://confidencialhn.com/cne-pide-que-no-se-permita-que-las-elecciones-sean-dirigidas-desde-el-poder-ejecutivo/>

212 <https://criterio.hn/gobierno-viola-rango-constitucional-del-cne-al-querer-controlar-su-independencia-presupuestaria-y-manejar-fondos-de-las-elecciones/>

213 <https://proceso.hn/cne-remite-iniciativa-al-cn-para-reformar-de-decreto-que-violenta-autonomia/>

214 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1429269683551625219>

215 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1487106-508/caos-sorteo-papeletas-elecciones-generales-2021>

216 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1487190-508/zafarrancho-golpes-activistas-infop-sorteo-papeletas>

217 <https://confidencialhn.com/definidas-las-posiciones-presidenciales-en-la-papeleta-electoral/>

218 <https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1429493074112258049>

219 <https://contracorriente.red/2021/08/24/el-sorteo-electoral-evidencio-la-violencia-politica-en-honduras/>

220 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/24/analista-asegura-que-oficialismo-quiere-generar-terror-para-evitar-elecciones/>

221 <https://tiempo.hn/empresas-que-estaran-a-cargo-del-trep-elecciones/>

222 <https://honduras.un.org/es/142291-el-sistema-de-las-naciones-unidas-llama-la-paz-y-respeto-de-derechos-humanos-durante-la>

223 <https://proceso.hn/consejera-ana-paola-hall-denuncia-un-afan-externo-para-controlar-el-cne/>

224 <http://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/01/analisis-hondurenos-en-el-extranjero-cada-dia-mas-lejos-de-ejercer-el-sufragio-en-elecciones-generales-2021/>

225 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1486150-466/elecciones-generales-hondurenos-votar-extranjero-no-enrolamiento-noviembre>

226 <http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Primer-Informe-GP-PDF-1.pdf>

Zúñiga commented on the electoral process: "In the case of Honduras, there is concern about the entry of money from organized crime into the political process through campaign donations".²²⁷ CESPAD took a closer look at the role of the ZEDEs in the coming elections²²⁸, so did ContraCorriente.²²⁹ CESPAD also looked at the importance of the youth vote.²³⁰ They also published its newest edition of the electoral monitor covering August 1 to 24.²³¹

Insecurity

CESPAD published an analysis on the situation of insecurity in Honduras highlighting several key points. "1. The Homicide epidemic persists, persists and threatens to rebound 2. The reduction in homicides has not changed the perception of insecurity as the country's most important problem 3. Structural causes of insecurity are not addressed 4. The rule of law has been weakened by the impunity with which criminality operates"²³² The homicide rate has increased this year by 13% according to official statistics.²³³

Migration

By the beginning of the month, 32'279 Hondurans had been deported, among them over 2600 minors.²³⁴ "The total number of people deported from Mexico and the United States to the Northern Triangle of Central America fell by 2.6% at the end of the first half of 2021, compared to the same period in 2020, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) consulted Monday by Efe."²³⁵ By the end of the month, the number of deported minors rose to 4660.²³⁶ That is more than in all 2020.²³⁷

"The regional director for Central America, North America and the Caribbean of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Michele Klein-Solomon, reaffirmed Friday the commitment to respect the rights of migrants, during her tour of the Central American Northern Triangle. "From (the) IOM we reaffirm our commitment to continue working and watching over the rights of migrants, and to continue advancing towards a more effective migration management," said Klein-Solomon in Honduras."²³⁸ "The trauma experienced by Central American minors before, during, and after their unaccompanied journeys to the United States puts them at high risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health problems, creating further obstacles to their success in school and broader integration into U.S. society. New research into results from the CLALS Pilot

227 <https://confidencialhn.com/preocupa-entrada-de-dinero-del-crimen-organizado-en-proceso-politico-a-traves-de-donaciones-en-las-campanas-ricardo-zuniga/>

228 <http://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/09/analisis-las-zedes-el-silencio-de-joh-y-las-elecciones-generales-en-honduras/>

229 <https://contracorriente.red/2021/08/14/honduras-posturas-politico-electorales-frente-a-las-zede/>

230 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/25/en-honduras-por-que-los-y-las-jovenes-pueden-inclinar-la-balanza-del-poder-con-su-voto/>

231 <https://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/27/contexto-electoral-pandemia-confrontacion-politica-y-social-un-caos-se-avecina/>

232 <http://cespad.org.hn/2021/08/03/analisis-honduras-avances-o-retrocesos-en-la-seguridad-desde-la-perspectiva-democratica-y-el-estado-de-derecho/>

233 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-un-aumento-de-13-en-los-homicidios-en-7-meses-de-2021/>

234 <https://elpulso.hn/2021/08/04/la-pesadilla-del-sueno-americano-que-franquean-los-hondurenos/>

235 <https://proceso.hn/deportaciones-de-centroamericanos-bajan-un-2-6-en-primer-semester-de-2021/>

236 <https://proceso.hn/casi-cinco-mil-menores-han-sido-retornados-a-honduras/>

237 <https://proceso.hn/retornos-de-ninez-migrante-a-honduras-ya-superan-estadisticas-del-2020/>

238 <https://proceso.hn/directora-regional-de-oim-reitera-compromiso-migratorio-en-visita-a-honduras/>

Project Household Contexts and School Integration of Resettled Migrant Youth, which included interviews and qualitative surveys (including a validated PHQ-9 Modified for Teens and the Child PTSD Symptom Scale, CPSS), revealed that about one-third of unaccompanied minors from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala show symptoms of moderate to severe PTSD — significantly higher than the general population."²³⁹

On August 17, US News reported: "Under pressure from the U.S. government to contain illegal immigration, Mexico has been quietly flying thousands of undocumented migrants to the south of the country to expedite their departure, according to officials and migrants."²⁴⁰ The next day, more bad news followed. "Faced with the highest number of migrants crossing the U.S.' southwestern border in 21 years, senior officials in the Biden administration are embracing some of former President Donald Trump's most hard-line policies and considering whether to adopt others, including one that required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their cases were decided."²⁴¹ A week later, the "Supreme Court (...) said the Biden administration must comply with a lower court's ruling to reinstate President Donald Trump's policy that required many asylum seekers to wait outside the United States for their cases to be decided".²⁴²

Congress

The Liberal members of Congress withdrew from the session on August 10 demanding that they stop the virtual sessions and meet in person again.²⁴³ The Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, refused stating health risks. This is of course ridiculous, as the health risks are completely ignored when it comes to political rallies held as part of the electoral campaign.²⁴⁴ During its session, Congress approved loans worth 173 million Lempiras.²⁴⁵ Additionally, they approved a decree intending to allow pension institutes to invest in energy projects.²⁴⁶ Especially this last part was denounced by the opposition as a new entry point for corruption.²⁴⁷

The coming days, there was more criticism of Congress' ongoing virtual meetings.²⁴⁸ ²⁴⁹ Sinager and Copeco then went on to analyze if a return to Congress is possible for its members.²⁵⁰ On August 19, the state bodies then claimed that Sinager claims that it was not safe for Congress to return to in-person sessions ignoring that politicians run from rally to rally exposing themselves to many more people.²⁵¹

239 <https://aulablog.net/2021/08/26/central-american-youth-migrants-show-signs-of-ptsd-and-stress/>

240 <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-08-15/pressed-by-us-mexico-hastens-migrant-expulsions-with-flights-south>

241 <https://www.vice.com/en/article/qj8a3d/the-biden-admin-is-considering-reviving-trumps-remain-in-mexico-policy-for-migrants>

242 https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts-law/supreme-court-remain-in-mexico/2021/08/24/6bba350a-0507-11ec-a654-900a78538242_story.html

243 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1484560-466/bancada-liberal-retira-sesiones-virtuales-exige-retorno-presencial-congreso>

244 <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3114-honduras-oliva-prefiere-congreso-por-zoom-y-diputados-tienen-hasta-tres-dosis>

245 <https://confidencialhn.com/doris-gutierrez-advierte-que-el-cn-aprobara-mas-privilegios-a-las-zedes-y-prestamos-millonarios/>

246 <https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-busca-reforma-para-que-institutos-de-prevision-inviertan-en-proyectos-energeticos/>

247 <https://criterio.hn/el-partido-nacional-pretende-saquear-los-fondos-de-pensiones-luis-redondo/>

248 <https://proceso.hn/el-cn-ya-no-puede-justificar-que-las-sesiones-sean-virtuales-cuestiona-sociologo/>

249 <https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/diputados-de-oposicion-se-retiran-de-sesiones-virtuales-demandan-sesiones-presenciales/>

250 <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1485221-410/inspecciones-condiciones-congreso-nacional-diputados-sesiones-presenciales-covid>

251 <https://confidencialhn.com/sinager-concluye-que-no-es-seguro-volver-a-sesiones-presenciales-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

Electricity

On August 10, a proposal made the rounds to split up the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) into three entities.²⁵² But it is doubtful that this would resolve anything²⁵³ and Radio Progreso denounced it as a privatization scheme.²⁵⁴ Two days later, rumors made the round that the JOH regime wanted to expropriate the private company EEH which would cost some 800 million Lempiras.²⁵⁵ EEH itself denounced a possible intervention by the Superintendence of Public Private Partnership (SAPP).²⁵⁶ At the same time, the CNA presented a complaint against the former head of the ENEE, Jesús Mejía, for ordering a payment to EEH for 104.4 million Lempiras.²⁵⁷ ²⁵⁸ On August 13, the EEH announced to suspend serving Hondutel because it owns them 450 million Lempiras.²⁵⁹ ContraCorriente published a helpful overview of the whole situation.²⁶⁰ On August 17, "[t]he authorities of the Superintendence of Public-Private Partnerships (SAPP) notified Empresa Energía Honduras (EEH) (...) of the grounds for the intervention of the contract. The president of the SAPP, Leo Castellón, informed that as of this day (...) EEH has a period of 10 days to correct the cause for intervention. This means that the process of intervention of the contract and, therefore, of EEH has begun".²⁶¹ The director of EEH did not accept this and went on the offensive.²⁶² ²⁶³ "Empresa Energía Honduras (EEH), has informed through an official statement that in its fourth year of operation, it has managed a recovery of more than 3,717 million Lempiras, which represents 52% of the delinquent portfolio it received, set at more than 7,122 million Lempiras."²⁶⁴ At the end of the month, Javier Suazo published a helpful overview also highlighting the role of the IMF.²⁶⁵

And Light at the End of a Month

After eleven years of legal harassment and criminalization, six campesinos from the Rancho del Obisp community in El Paraíso had the charges against them dropped.²⁶⁶ Additionally, "[t]he Court of Appeals partially resolved an appeal filed by the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), in favor of five students who were detained during a cultural event to demand justice for Keyla Martínez, a student murdered in police custody in La Esperanza, Intibucá".²⁶⁷

252 <https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-el-sector-electrico-va-en-picada-por-eso-se-debe-dividir-la-enee-en-tres-empresas/>

253 <https://confidencialhn.com/division-de-la-enee-no-solventara-problema-del-sector-electrico-mario-zelaya/>

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