

01/10/21

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Gualcarque; Bajo Aguán; Femicides; Elections - ID, Opposition, EU; JOH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Vaccines, Mobile Hospitals; Extradition;

CESPAD published a report on how one formal complaint filed by Berta Cáceres led to the investigation of the Gualcarque Fraud case.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/09/30/una-de-las-48-denuncias-de-berta-caceres-ayudo-a-construir-el-caso-de-corrupcion-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

"They traveled hundreds of kilometers to be heard. And with banners and land titles in their hands, members of various communities of Bajo Aguán, stood in front of the MP in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Their presence was incited by the repression, violence and accusations that they live in their communities, in defense of their territories."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/01/con-titulos-de-propiedad-en-mano-comunidades-del-bajo-aguan-exigen-alto-a-la-violencia-y-represion/>

The UN System in Honduras expressed grave concern about the recent murder of four young women active on social media.

<https://twitter.com/ONU Honduras/status/1444061104955699203>

Criterio looked at the plans for Honduras presented by the presidential candidates. "The candidates for the presidency of the Republic, in their eagerness to gain followers, have presented documents that they call "government plans", but in reality what they are, are offers, proposals, and unsupported promises. There are fifteen presidential candidates, thirteen representing political parties and two under independent movements. Of these, twelve have presented their supposed government plans, while three have not even made the minimum effort to emulate their contenders."

With the Nationalist contender Nasry Asfura, one can at least look at the promises he made as the mayor of Tegucigalpa and how he failed them, such as the Trans450 project.

<https://criterio.hn/presidenciables-quedan-en-deuda-con-sus-cacareados-planes-de-gobierno/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/01/a-pocos-meses-de-dejar-alcaldia-capitalina-asfura-no-podra-cumplir-con-el-trans450/>

There are still 850'000 Hondurans without the new identity card.

<https://proceso.hn/rnp-ha-entregado-42-millones-de-dni-y-tiene-850-mil-por-entregar/>

The chances for an opposition alliance went immediately down again one day after its announcement (see yesterday). The planned meeting on Monday was cancelled.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-ego-los-intereses-personales-de-grupo-economicos-y-partidarios-frustran-alianza-entre-xiomara-castro-y-nasralla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-zelaya-medrano-ve-dificil-una-alianza-mientras-prevalezca-el-ego-y-los-intereses-politicos-partidarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/llamado-de-luis-zelaya-para-una-alianza-de-hecho-entre-salvador-y-xiomara-termina-en-fracaso/>

<https://proceso.hn/nasralla-descarta-hacer-alianzas-con-xiomara-castro-ante-propuesta-de-luis-zelaya/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reunion-alianza-xiomara-y-nasralla/>

EU ambassador Jaume Segura was interviewed on the Honduran elections.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-necesita-elecciones-pacificas-democraticas-y-transparentes-jaume-segura-embajador-de-la-union-europea/>

According to an investigation by Criterio, JOH spent over 1 million Lempiras on social media ads.

<https://criterio.hn/joh-gasto-mas-de-un-millon-en-publicidad-en-redes-sociales-para-fortalecer-su-imagen/>

So far, there have been 367'275 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 9855 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-un-total-de-367-mil-275-casos-y-9-mil-855-decesos-por-covid-19/>

After 18 months, the JOH regime lifted the nightly curfew.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1496482-466/suspenden-toque-queda-honduras-feriado-morazanico-semana-sinager-covid-19>

The US donated 81'900 additional vaccine doses to Honduras.

At the same time, doctor Marco Eliud Girón denounced that 1 million vaccine doses already in Honduras are about to expire. The Secretary of Health disputes this.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/gobierno-de-los-estados-unidos-de-america-realiza-nueva-donacion-a-honduras-de-81900-de-dosis-de-vacunas-pfizer-contra-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/vacunas-se-venceran-en-honduras-salud-contesta/>

It says a lot that even the investigation into the mobile hospitals failed...

<https://proceso.hn/fracasa-auditoria-forense-de-hospitales-moviles/>

A Honduran judge allowed the extradition of Óscar Fernando Santos Tobar, wanted for drug trafficking by the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1496437-466/oscar-tobar-extraditable-honduras-estados-unidos-teto-narcotrafico>

02/10/21

Honduras Daily: Guanaja - ZEDEs; Prisons; Extraditivism; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines;

A devastating fire on the Guanaja island affected up to 4000 people, destroyed dozens of homes, and at least three people were hurt.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1496604-466/reporte-copeco-danos-isla-guanaja-incendio-bahia-caribe-hondureno-afectados>

<https://proceso.hn/guanaja-destruida-por-las-llamas/>

Honduras Now reports that many people are suspicious of the cause of fire as Guanaja was announced as being a location for a ZEDE.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1444487144995627012>

Two inmates were murdered at the so-called maximum-security prison La Tolva.

In a bit more than two years, at least 95 inmates were murdered in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/reportan-dos-reclusos-muertos-en-carcel-de-la-tolva-en-moroceli/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1496601-466/muertos-carcel-tolva-honduras-homicidios-pandilla-18>

"Mining concessions extend over 185 municipalities and electric power generation concessions over 81 municipalities. Another 25 municipalities on the Caribbean coast could be affected by the extraction of hydrocarbons, according to a study entitled "Territories at risk III Mining, hydrocarbons and power generation in Honduras", carried out by the National Autonomous University of Honduras, the Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development in Honduras, FOSDEH, the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, COSUDE and OXFAM."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3263-honduras-es-una-mina-de-oro-para-megaproyectos-pero-un-reservorio-de-pobreza-y-desplazamientos-para-comunidades>

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/territorios-en-riesgo-iii-mineria-hidrocarburos-y-generacion-de-energia-electrica-en-honduras/>

Another doctor, Esteban Uclés, died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/otro-galeno-pierde-la-batalla-contra-la-covid-19/>

First the Secretary of Health denied that vaccine doses are about to spoil (see yesterday), but now they conceded that thousands of doses have to be applied by Thursday or they have to be discarded.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3246-honduras-increible-en-seis-dias-miles-de-vacunas-covid-seran-inutiles>

03/10/21

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Corruption - Lobo, Asfura, US; Guanaja; ZEDEs; Elections - Libre, National Party, Church;

"Wilmer Joel Fúnez Ochoa (31), operator of the HRN radio station in the Cantagallos sector of the Central District, was found dead last Wednesday in a vacant lot on the side of the road, with several gunshots in his body, making him the first media worker to be murdered so far in 2021."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1389-asesinan-a-operador-de-radio-en-el-districto-central-primera-victima-del-2021>

ContraCorriente was part of the investigation into the recently published Pandora Papers. They include at least two important cases relating to Honduras. "An analysis of thousands of documents from the Pandora Papers has revealed that the former politician and cattle rancher owned three shell companies in Panama, and that his wife, Rosa Elena Bonilla, managed an offshore company while she was first lady. Lobo's son and a former right-hand man both sought to create companies in tax havens. Adding to their woes, the former president and his wife were both named on the Engel List, and Bonilla is currently facing a corruption trial."

<https://contracorriente.red/en/2021/10/03/pepe-lobos-secret-offshore-companies/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1496671-466/pepe-lobo-rosa-elena-jorge-wilfredo-cerrato-paraiso-fiscal-honduras>

"Current mayor of Tegucigalpa and popular presidential candidate Nasry Asfura, and former mayor and current vice-president of Honduras, Ricardo Álvarez, managed offshore companies in Panama while in office. The revelation is particularly important considering they have both been investigated for alleged embezzlement. So far neither of them has offered explanations for the offshores."

<https://contracorriente.red/en/2021/10/03/a-tale-of-two-mayors-of-tegucigalpa-and-their-offshores-in-panama/>

"During Kamala Harris's trip to CA earlier this year, creation of an anti-corruption force was discussed. According to [this] article, plans have slightly changed & the task force won't work alongside public prosecutor's office in each country. Instead US investigators will be leading it. This article reveals several powerful actors behind US policy in the region. It's disturbing."

<https://proceso.hn/ee-uu-impulsa-fuerza-de-tarea-anticorrupcion-sin-centroamerica-cita-el-periodico/>

The fires on the Guanaja island (see yesterday) went on for 9 hours and two thirds of the local population was affected.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1496637-466/guanaja-dia-despues-tragedia-afectados-escombros-incendio>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1496647-466/pobladores-guanaja-claman-ayuda-quedar-damnificados-incendio>

The National Movement Against Zede and for National Sovereignty held a protest sit-in in front of the facilities of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

<https://criterio.hn/en-honor-al-natalicio-de-francisco-morazan-protestan-contra-las-zede/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ccc-condena-al-regimen-de-joh-por-desfigurar-la-imagen-y-legado-de-morazan/>

"The Libertad y Refundación (Libre) party rejected this Sunday the campaign of lies against it and pointed out that it is promoted by the ruling National Party."

<https://proceso.hn/libre-denuncia-campana-de-mentiras-y-desinformacion-promovida-por-el-oficialismo/>

In the north of Honduras, in El Negrito, Yoro, an unknown assailant shot at presumed Nationalist activist painting the local headquarter. One young man died.

<https://tiempo.hn/tirotean-a-nacionalistas-sede-en-yoro/>

The Catholic Church in Honduras through the Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez used Sunday's mass to comment on the elections and go after those supporting LGBTQ+ and women's rights.

<https://tiempo.hn/homilia-cardenal-imposicion-lgtb/>

04/10/21

Honduras Daily: Guanaja; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration - Minors; Elections - Libre, Economy; and Coffee Beans, Credit Cards and Wi-Fi

After the horrible fire on Saturday (see previous days), the Guanaja island declared a state of emergency.

An estimated \$10 million will be needed for reconstruction.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/04/guanaja-se-declara-en-estado-de-emergencia-por-perdidas-del-incendio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-10-millones-se-ocuparian-para-reconstruir-guanaja-asegura-experto/>

So far, there have been 368'324 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 9879 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/reportan-mas-de-un-millar-de-contagios-y-24-decesos-por-covid-en-honduras/>

The US donated another 250'000 vaccine doses through COVAX to Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/estados-unidos-dona-a-honduras-250-mil-dosis-de-vacunas-contra-la-covid-19-de-moderna/>

7612 minors have been returned to Honduras so far this year. The number is expected to rise to at least 10'000 which would be more than double than in 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/un-total-de-siete-mil-612-menores-han-retornado-a-honduras-la-mayoria-viajaban-solos/>

Defensores en Línea reports on an attack on Libre activist Óscar Enríquez in Lepaera, Lempira. Unidentified persons stoned the vehicle in which he was being transported.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/por-denunciar-desperdicio-de-alimentos-apedrean-a-defensor-en-lempira/>

"Uncertainty about what will happen in the next general elections generates an adverse outlook for investment in Honduras, according to experts. Investment levels have had a clear downward trend due to the pandemic, but the concern about the future of the country scares businessmen even more, said to El Pulso the doctor in economics Rodulio Perdomo."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/04/inversion-elecciones-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1445203988484296704>

05/10/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Militarization; Drug Trafficking - US; Corruption - Open Arch, Rosenthal, US; Elections - OAS, Polls; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Violence; and a Digital Laggard

Rest of World published a detailed article on the Próspera ZEDE in English.

<https://restofworld.org/2021/honduran-islanders-push-back-libertarian-startup/>

PBI published an article on the remilitarization of Honduras.

<https://pbi-honduras.org/news/2021-09/other-side-militarisation-human-rights-violations>

"On September 10, 2021, Honduran drug trafficker Bayron Ruiz was sentenced in the Eastern District Court of New York to sixty months in prison (5 years), after signing a cooperation agreement with the US Attorney's Office and pleading guilty to the three crimes he was charged with in the US. Through this collaboration agreement Ruiz obtained a significant reduction in his sentence and agreed to pay US\$500,000 approximately 12.5 million lempiras from the proceeds of his drug trafficking business."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/10/05/luego-de-colaborar-con-la-justicia-norteamericana-y-brindar-informacion-sobre-sus-socios-bayron-ruiz-es-sentenciado-a-60-meses-de-carcel/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1496832-466/condena-narco-hondureno-bayron-ruiz>

"For the Lenca communities in several areas of the department of La Paz, there was no surprise when they learned that the Prosecutor's Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), requested information on the companies, businesses and assets of Gladis Aurora López, former president of the Central Executive Committee of the National Party and current vice president of the National Congress of Honduras, her husband Arnold Gustavo Castro and her daughter Ana Lucía Castro López. Far from making them happy, the action promoted by the Prosecutor's Office only generates more distrust, since they feel that it is a smoke screen, one more show, which will not prosper in the courts of justice because the Castro-Lopez armor is of high level. "There are no results; in Honduras there is no application of justice", agree the paceños, gently applied to the inhabitants of the department of origin of this Honduran politician. They do not forget that although Gladis Aurora López, her husband and daughter were accused in the "Arca Abierta" case, everything remained in impunity because they were acquitted, "not even the assets that they say were part of what they squandered were seized. They continue to enjoy everything," says a Lenca leader from an area of the department of La Paz, who defends the human rights of the indigenous communities of her people and who requested anonymity for fear of reprisals."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/05/por-que-la-uferco-pide-informacion-de-los-negocios-y-empresas-a-la-diputada-de-gladis-aurora-lopez/>

The Nationalist contender for the presidency, Nasry Asfura, reacted to his appearance in the Pandora Papers. It is worthwhile to mention that he also faces corruption charges as the mayor of Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasry-asfura-justifica-los-senalamientos-en-los-papales-de-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasry-asfura-asegura-que-respeta-mucho-el-dinero-que-le-cuesta-sudor-y-lagrimas-al-pueblo-hondureno/>

The Pandora Papers also brought to light that the offshore imperium of Yankel Rosenthal Coello was bigger than previously thought. Yankel is the cousin of the Liberal presidential candidate and convicted drug trafficker Yani Rosenthal.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/05/tras-su-maraton-con-la-justicia-al-hondureno-yankel-rosenthal-le-salieron-nuevas-offshore/>

"Criterio.hn spoke with socio-political analysts Víctor Meza and Joaquín Mejía about the viability of activating the Anti-Corruption Task Force without the active participation of the governments of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Both believe that this action could strengthen the fight because the United States would apply more direct and effective pressure through the Magnitsky Act and other legal mechanisms. However, Joaquin Mejia notes that, given the dismantling of special anti-corruption and impunity prosecution units in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, which had the backing and trust of the United States, the Anti-Corruption Task Force will resort to working with civil society, which could be a danger. "What civil society is this unit [Anti-Corruption Task Force] going to relate to?" questioned Mejia. "Because depending on that also that fight against corruption is going to be selective" or will it investigate all people linked to corruption equally."

<https://criterio.hn/operacion-anticorrupcion-sin-gobiernos-de-ca-fortaleceria-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-siempre-que-accionar-sea-imparcial/>

"The Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), presents the third citizen monitoring report on public spending in the context of the 2021 general elections. This citizen monitoring, for the month of September, addresses the central government's revenue budget, its relationship with the public debt, international loans, and the political management exercised by the governing party."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/05/gasto-publico-el-peso-de-los-prestamos-internacionales-en-la-campana-electoral-del-2021/>

CESPAD also published a report on electoral violence.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/05/contexto-electoral-la-violencia-amenaza-el-proceso-electoral/>

In a third report, CESPAD covers the electoral institutionalality.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/05/institucionalidad-electoral-a-menos-de-60-dias-crecen-las-tensiones-en-el-cne-en-torno-a-la-modernizacion-del-proceso-de-votacion/>

The Network for Democratic Equity in Honduras (REDH) highlighted ten obstacles in the way of clean elections.

<https://www.radioamerica.hn/la-redh-manifiesta-su-preocupacion-por-los-constant-obstaculos-en-el-proceso-electoral/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3254-honduras-organos-civiles-alertan-indicios-de-boicot-electoral>

The former president of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís, will head the OAS Electoral Observation Mission for Honduras.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/10/05/oea-nombra-a-ex-presidente-de-costa-rica-como-jefe-de-mision-de-observacion-en-elecciones-de-honduras/>

In a new poll by Tecnimark, Xiomara Castro leads 8 points before Nasry Asfura.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/05/xiomara-castro-lidera-encuesta-presidencial-a-dos-meses-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

So far, there have been 368'654 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 9913 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-otros-330-casos-de-covid-19-y-34-decesos/>

Minors 12-years and older started to get vaccinated in Honduras last week and 225'000 have received a shot so far.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-225-mil-adolescentes-se-han-vacunado-contra-la-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Compared to last year, the homicide rate has increased by 6.5% for the time period of January to September.

<https://proceso.hn/los-homicidios-en-honduras-suben-65-y-superan-los-2700-en-9-meses-de-2021/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/05/estudio-calidad-de-vida-digital-honduras/>

06/10/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial: HRDs - UN; ZEDEs; Tolupán; Femicides; Elections - Census, ID; COVID-19; Migration – Mexico;

"The Expert Observation Mission in the Berta Cáceres Case calls on the Sentencing Court to issue the sentence in accordance with the conviction handed down 3 months ago today against Roberto David Castillo Mejía for the murder of Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores, defender of the rights of the Lenca People and the environment on March 2, 2016."

<https://www.observacionbertacaceres.org/post/experts-urgent-need-for-sentence-in-berta-caceres-case-to-guarantee-justice-for-victims>

<https://criterio.hn/a-3-meses-de-fallo-condenatorio-urgen-sentencia-contra-david-castillo-por-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

On October 12, a talk will be held with UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs Mary Lawlor on the situation in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1445851990949564418>

The ZEDE Ciudad Morazán announced to expropriate more land which the former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana calls illegal.

On October 15, the community of Yamaranguila will hold a town hall to declare itself free of ZEDEs.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1445788428579258368>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3256-honduras-duenos-de-zede-morazan-incurren-en-grave-delito-exfiscal-orellana>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/06/preocupacion-por-ampliacion-de-zede-morazan/>

Radio Progreso reports on the dire situation of the “Las Vegas de Tepemechín” indigenous Tolupán tribe.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/indigenas-de-la-tribu-las-vegas-de-tepemechin-sobreviven-entre-pobreza-despojo-y-humillacion/>

"Impunity in cases of femicide sends a message to other men that they can continue to commit violent acts against women, said the coordinator of the Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (OV-UNAH), Migdalia Ayestas."

<https://proceso.hn/impunidad-es-mensaje-para-que-continuen-femicidios-dice-migdonia-ayestas/>

1704 people are running for the 128 congressional seats in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/15-candidatos-buscan-ser-presidente-de-honduras-y-1-704-ciudadanos-quieren-llegar-al-cn/>

The extended deadline to hand in the electoral census ran out yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-si-el-rnp-no-estrega-este-miercoles-el-censo-electoral-incurrira-en-un-delito/>

700'000 Hondurans have not yet the new ID card.

Among them are 200'000 young Hondurans who would be able to vote for the first time this election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-700-mil-dni-hacen-falta-por-entregar-a-nivel-nacional/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3257-cuantos-hondurenos-que-cumplen-18-anos-en-2021-quedaron-fuera-de-elecciones>

So far, there have been 369'030 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 9949 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-9949-muertos-por-covid-19-desde-marzo-de-2020/>

Mexico detained 103 migrants on their way to the north, 69 were Hondurans among them 28 minors.

"At the end of September, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid reported 90,314 applicants for refugee status, of which 31,884 were Hondurans; surpassing Haiti, which followed with 26,007 requests, informed via Twitter the head of said organization Andres Ramirez."

<https://confidencialhn.com/detienen-a-mas-de-100-migrantes-en-el-sur-de-mexico-en-su-mayoria-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-lidera-solicitudes-de-refugio-en-mexico-con-31884-en-2021/>

07/10/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; OFRANEH; ZEDES; Congress - Protest, Corruption; LGBTQ+; Femicide; Elections; COVID-19 - Vaccines; and the Dry Corridor

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the September 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=29317

The Institute for Policy Studies invites for a conversation with OFRANEH next Monday. " While the US government invests in borders and policing to keep Central Americans from migrating north, OFRANEH--the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras--is fighting for the right of Garifuna people to stay in Honduras. Join us on Indigenous Peoples Day for a conversation with OFRANEH organizers, including Miriam Miranda, General Coordinator, and OFRANEH human rights defenders, Carla García, Yillian David and Rony Castillo, about the violence they face, how they are resisting forced displacement, and what role people in the US and elsewhere can play to stand in solidarity."

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6sORQchrSzSmE9qX2DKZeA

ARCAH published a national and international alert about an upcoming conference taking place in Switzerland by some of the groups pushing ZEDES in Honduras.

https://twitter.com/Arcah_hn/status/1446174662149513221

<https://criterio.hn/promueven-zede-prospera-morazan-y-guanaja-hills-en-evento-organizado-por-free-private-cities-en-suiza/>

Congress used both the Morazán Holidays and a game by the national soccer team to push through various problematic bills. Only 71 members were present as Libre and small parties boycotted the session. "This afternoon the National Congress approved reforms to the national legislation on the criminal definitions of usurpation and forced displacement currently used to criminalize and prosecute social protest actions and demands for rights of human rights organizations, articulated in peasant organizations, indigenous and Black peoples, and social movements. The changes in the Penal Law take place two months before the General Elections, in which there is the possibility of multiple occasions of social protest."

"The new Penal Code included the crime of usurpation aimed at criminalizing the defense of land and contemplated a sentence of two to four years, but with the reform of October 7, 2007, the sentence was increased from four to six years."

Well aware that this could happen, OACNUDH tweeted shortly before the session took place: "The Office respectfully calls for these projects to be previously submitted to a public debate with the participation of all the sectors concerned and to reflect on their possible consequences in the current electoral context of the country."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/10/alerta-urgente-honduras-congreso-nacional-aprueba-reformas-al-codigo-penal-que-atentan-contrala-protesta-social-y-el-legitimo-ejercicio-y-defensa-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3264-congreso-nacional-agrava-penas-por-los-delitos-de-usurpacion-y-desplazamiento-forzado-con-reformas-al-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1446165364707143972>

<https://proceso.hn/oacnudh-pide-al-cn-que-somete-a-un-debate-publico-las-reformas-penales/>

But it was not enough to further criminalize social protest, Congress also needed once more to protect its members from criminal investigation. "Just five days after the Pandora Papers were revealed in Honduras, in a session questioned by opposition deputies, the National Congress approved reforms to the Money Laundering Law. One of them defines as Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) civil society organizations that carry out oversight, investigation, evaluation or analysis of public administration and others take away the power of the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate corruption. They also reformed articles of the Penal Code that could criminalize

social protest. They also approved extensions for tax benefits in the Bay Islands and benefits for politicians who have not submitted their campaign finance reports."

UFERCO's Luis Santos tweeted: "Every day I am convinced that in Honduras we live in a state of barbarism... with the reforms approved today, bank secrecy is imposed to investigate crimes of corruption, they want the prosecutors to limit ourselves to investigate abuses of authority..."

The tactic by Congress to decide all of the above without media attention did not work as even corporate media outlets reported on it.

And ASJ, otherwise known for its closeness to the JOH regime, called the move to have civil society organizations PEP "dictatorial".

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/07/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-se-blinda-de-impunidad-tras-revelaciones-de-pandora-papers/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/07/reducido-congreso-aprueba-reformas/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-exonera-candidatos-que-no-presentaron-informe-de-gastos-de-campana/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1446288563071504384

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1446287096092798977

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1497254-466/congreso-aprueba-decreto-que-exonera-a-candidatos-que-no-presentaron-informes-financieros>

<https://proceso.hn/en-opacidad-cn-aprueba-leyes-de-impacto-para-el-pais/>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-reformas-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://proceso.hn/asj-condena-reforma-del-cn-que-amplia-lista-de-las-personas-expuestas-politicamente/>

Apart from all of the above, Congress also prolonged its session, i.e. it won't stop on December 30, but will continue until January 20. More time for corrupt deals if they were to lose the elections?

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-amplia-hasta-el-20-de-enero-sesiones-del-pleno/>

"Unknown persons entered the house of human rights, indigenous and sexual diversity defender, Fausto Vázquez, setting fire to his room. The attack occurred between the night of September 30 and October 1, in the community of Azacualpa, municipality of Santa Elena, said the representative of the women of the Independent Indigenous Lenca Movement of La Paz-Honduras (MILPAH), Felícita López."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/incendian-habitacion-de-defensor-indigena-lgtbi/>

The number of murdered women in Honduras rose to 240 according to UNAH's Violence Observatory.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/07/femicidios-en-honduras-2021/>

The publication of the electoral census was postponed again.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-anuncia-retraso-en-la-publicacion-del-padron-electoral-por-inconsistencias/>

The JOH regime received another vaccine donation from the US, 101'790 doses.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1446220007382425607>

"The Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved financing for the Central American Dry Corridor program in the amount of US\$174.3 million, informed the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)."

<https://proceso.hn/fondo-verde-para-el-clima-aprueba-174-3-millones-para-financiar-programa-del-corredor-seco/>

08/10/21

Honduras Daily: IACtHR; UN; Congress; Elections - Census, Violence; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Vaccines;

Honduran human rights organization organized in the Board to Follow-Up on the Compliance with Sentences by the IACtHR invites to two webinars, one on the case of Vicky Hernández and one on the Miskito divers.

https://www.facebook.com/events/391120012480003?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=fcf0708e-964c-4642-886e-3ea91f99900f&_fb_noscript=1

Human rights organizations denounce the possible integration of the State of Honduras at the UN Human Rights Council. The decision will be made on October 14.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1446561604850618399>

The laws approved by the Nationalist-controlled Congress on Thursday (see yesterday) continues to be the main headline in Honduras and there is widespread rejection of what happened. Human rights organizations and social movements published a joint press release denouncing what happened, especially the further criminalization of social protest.

OACNUDH expressed concern and asked Congress to reconsider the decisions made.

ASJ will present a constitutional challenge regarding the changes made to the Money Laundering Law.

The later further shields politicians from investigations and makes the already weak Clean Politics Unit obsolete.

<https://copinh.org/2021/10/reformas-aprobadas-al-codigo-penal-por-el-congreso-nacional-en-la-sesion-ordinaria-del-jueves-7-de-octubre-del-2021/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1446537018012536841>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1497332-466/oacnudh-reformas-congreso-nacional-atentan-lucha-corrupcion>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1497316-466/asj-recurso-inconstitucionalidad-reformas-ley-lavado-activos-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/reformas-a-la-ley-de-lavado-de-activos-estocada-final-a-la-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1497360-466/reformas-congreso-nacional-feriado-morazanico>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unidad-de-politica-limpia-esta-perdiendo-su-razon-de-ser-segun-luis-leon/>

The electoral census has finally been published.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/publicado-censo-nacional-electoral-definitivo/>

Libre mayoral candidate in Santa Ana de Yusguare, Cholutecam Nery Fernando Reyes Pineda, was murdered yesterday.

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-candidato-de-libre-en-la-alcaldia-de-santa-ana-de-yusguare/>

After the first audit on the purchase of the mobile hospitals failed (see some weeks ago), Invest-H just announced a second one.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/08/investh-contratara-firma-auditora-para-determinar-irregularidades-en-hospitales-moviles/>

Radio Progreso reports on the vaccination campaign in Honduras and how it trails its neighbor in the region.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/honduras-en-deuda-con-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19/>

09/10/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Violence; Tolupán; National Police; and Laws vs. the Constitution

On Friday, Libre mayoral candidate Nery Reyes was murdered (see yesterday). And just a day later, there was an attempt on the life of Libre congresswoman Olivia Zúniga, daughter of Berta Cáceres. At least four unknown assailants broke into her house in La Esperanza, Intibucá. They tried to strangle her, but she was able to break loose and flee.

Olivia Zúniga should benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR.

Since December 2020, 15 Hondurans running for office have been murdered.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/atentan-contr-la-vida-de-hija-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3265-aun-con-camaras-de-seguridad-olivia-zuniga-hija-de-berta-caceres-fue-atacada-dentro-de-su-casa>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/09/asesinato-de-candidato-a-alcalde-en-yusguare-y-atentado-contr-diputada-olivia-zuniga-caceres-crispan-ambiente-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1497414-466/atentado-olivia-zuniga-hija-bertha-caceres-diputada-libre-intibuca-honduras>

ASONOG denounces the ongoing impunity for the murder of indigenous Tolupán defender Milgen Idan Soto Ávila, who was murdered in 2019.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1446921943475802125>

<https://madj.org/2021/10/09/ante-el-ataque-a-la-lucha-comunitaria-resistencia-y-soberania-popular/>

The MP is preparing to present charges for seven members of the National Police accused of drug trafficking.

They were arrested with 19kg of cocaine.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/fiscales-antidrogas-preparan-requerimiento-fiscal-contr-siete-policias-por-trafico-de-cocaina/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1497402-466/siete-policias-gualaco-narcotrafico-olancho-honduras-drogas>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1497401-466/policia-nacional-comunicado-olancho-gualaco-narcotrafico-criminales>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-el-gran-problema-son-las-leyes-que-violentan-la-propia-constitucion-de-la-republica/>

10/10/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Congress; National Police; Elections - Transparency; COVID-19;

Last week's action by the Nationalist-controlled Congress (see previous e-mails), endanger important corruption and drug trafficking cases as denounced by UFERCO's Luis Santos.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/144737984545372979

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1447385566522208262

The seven members of the police force captured with 18kg of cocaine (see yesterday) were sent to pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-acusa-y-logra-la-detencion-judicial-de-siete-policias-arrestados-con-18-kilos-de-cocaina/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/10/infiltracion-en-la-policia/>

"Due to the short margin of difference in the opinion polls between one presidential candidate over another, experts in electoral matters consider that the useful vote will be conclusive to define the winner in the general elections in November. The useful vote or strategic vote is nothing more than the voter's decision to vote based on an eventual result, that is, a citizen who sympathizes or supports a candidate, however, knows that he/she does not have options to win the electoral race and therefore decides to vote for the candidate with the best options."

<https://criterio.hn/voto-util-sera-determinante-para-elegir-al-ganador-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

Out of the over 4000 candidates running in next months election, only some 200 have registered a bank account as mandated law.

<https://proceso.hn/unos-200-candidatos-han-abierto-su-cuenta-bancaria-senala-comisionado-de-la-upl/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/politica-limpia-revela-que-solo-200-aspirantes-a-cargo-de-eleccion-popular-han-aperturado-cuentas-bancarias/>

Medical experts fear that last week's Morazán holiday will lead to an increase in COVID-19 cases.

<https://proceso.hn/en-dos-semanas-habra-repunte-de-casos-covid-19-a-causa-de-semana-morazanica-advierten-medicos/>

11/10/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; LGBTQ+; Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; Corruption - Asfura, Health Sector, Money Laundering; Elections; COVID-19; BCIE; Women's Rights; National Police;

Some good news to start the day. "Two Lenca indigenous land defenders, Victor Vásquez & José S. Vigil from La Paz, will be released from pre-trial detention after an appeal court overturned a prior decision to imprison them pending trial. They have been in jail for 9 hard months".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1447771557024124932>

"OACNUDH condemns the attack suffered by Vicky Rodríguez, a trans woman from La Libertad, Comayagua, who was beaten last October 7 in her home by unknown persons. This is the second physical attack against her after another aggression suffered in 2017."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHON/status/1447632353245990913>

COPINH called for a press conference today in front of the Supreme Court on the lack of a sentence against David Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1447714697462140933>

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda writes about the role of the US pushing (indigenous) Hondurans to leave their country. "Our livelihoods are threatened by the expansion of the global tourist industry, African palm plantations, so-called "Special Economic Development and Employment Zones" (also called Model Cities), and drug cartels that run cocaine through our territories, destined for U.S. markets. We're also under threat from gated retirement communities with U.S. and Canadian financing, as well as mining and hydroelectric projects, including projects with development bank financing."

<https://inthesetimes.com/article/garifuna-honduras-indigenous-peoples-day-human-rights-corruption>

There is an update in the corruption case against Nationalist presidential candidate and mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura. "The Court of Appeals in corruption matters referred to the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC), the investigative file against the mayor of the Central District, Nasry Asfura, and the municipal councilor, Nilvia Castillo. (...) He pointed out that the Superior Court of Accounts must evaluate the file, give its resolution of the audit to know if the State prosecuting entity can file a criminal action."

<https://proceso.hn/csj-remite-al-tsc-expediente-de-solicitud-de-antejuicio-de-nasry-asfura/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/corte-en-materia-de-corrupcion-remite-a-la-sala-penal-expediente-acusatorio-contras-nasry-tito-asfura>

"The National Anticorruption Council (CNA) presented this Monday a new line of investigation for corruption in the Ministry of Health called "Criminal network of officials involved in hiring and granting salary increases to their family and trusted circle"."

The Ministry of Health rejected the accusations and went on the attack against the CNA.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1497676-466/cna-presenta-red-contrataciones-familia-ministra-salud>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-denuncia-corrupcion-y-familion-en-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

<https://proceso.hn/sesal-rechaza-denuncia-de-presunta-corrupcion-dice-que-el-cna-actua-con-sesgo-politico/>

The criticism of the recent changes to the Penal Code relating to money laundering continues. "The reforms to article 349 of the Penal Code on money laundering take away powers from the Public Prosecutor's Office and become a form of cover-up for deputies who are investigated for illicit acts. This conclusion was reached by the head of the Specialized Prosecutor Unit Against Corruption Networks (Uferco), Luis Javier Santos, who expressed that the suspension of bank secrecy for the crimes of extortion and money laundering, limits the prosecuting entity since it will be a judge who will decide whether or not to provide this information."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/11/asj-y-uferco-adviertan-que-reforma-por-lavado-de-dinero-quita-facultades-a-la-fiscalia/>

<https://criterio.hn/coalicion-anticorrupcion-demanda-al-poder-legislativo-abrogar-reformas-que-protegen-corruptos/>

Only 15'000 of the Hondurans living abroad will be able to vote. More than 2 million Hondurans live abroad but most don't have access to the new ID card.

And even in Honduras, there are still several 100'000 Hondurans without the new card and just yesterday, once again, their distribution was put on hold due to a protest by RNP employees demanding outstanding salaries.

The business lobby COHEP informed in a press release that they asked its members to start demanding the new ID card from October 16 onward.

<https://proceso.hn/solo-15-mil-hondurenos-podran-votar-en-el-exterior-en-proximas-elecciones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-proyecto-identificate-suspenden-entrega-del-dni-debido-a-incumplimiento-de-su-salario/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-paro-indefinido-personal-de-identificate-a-pocos-dias-de-la-vigencia-de-la-dni/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-partir-el-sabado-16-de-octubre-la-empresa-privada-solo-permitira-el-nuevo-dni-para-cualquier-transaccion/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3263-honduras-desde-este-sabado-vieja-tarjeta-de-identidad-sera-invalida-cohep>

So far, there have been 370'262 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'010 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/sobrepasan-las-10-mil-muertes-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

The BCIE donated \$500'000 as emergency help for those affected by the fires on the Guanaja island a week ago.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-dona-500-mil-dolares-para-las-personas-afectadas-por-el-incendio-en-guanaja/>

According to Plan International, Honduras has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Latin America.

<https://confidencialhn.com/segun-plan-internacional-honduras-se-ubica-en-primer-lugar-en-latinoamerica-con-la-mayor-tasa-de-embarazos-de-ninas-y-adolescentes/>

Trial will be opened against a member of the police force for abuse of authority.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-subinspector-de-policia/>

12/10/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Corruption - Congress, IHSS; HRDs - Criminalization; Elections - Violence, ID; Dengue; COVID-19; Drug Trafficking - US; and Taking Off?

COPINH held a protest rally outside the Supreme Court denouncing the lack of a sentence for David Castillo convicted in the murder case of Berta Cáceres.

<https://copinh.org/2021/10/falta-de-sentencia-contradavid-castillo-e-incertidumbre-juridica-en-el-caso-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://avispa.org/tras-demora-judicial-copinh-exige-sentencia-en-caso-berta-caceres/>

<https://criterio.hn/copinh-reclama-falta-de-sentencia-contradavid-castillo-por-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos explains how the recent attacks by the Nationalist-controlled Congress on corruption investigation were just one in a long line of attacks. "All these reforms of Thursday do not surprise me, because it is the product of a shielding in a systematic way that has been taking place since 2017, and that are directed against investigations in corruption cases". "At the same time, he warned that the next step of the Legislative before the end of this year, is to carry out reforms to the Law of Deprivation of Domain so that assets are not seized for corruption crimes and so that all funds "that have been pocketed by the corrupt cannot be recovered"."

In the meantime, even the MP denounced the actions by Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-javier-santos-advierte-que-el-siguiente-paso-del-legislativo-es-reformar-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio/>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1447974345431818247

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-reformas-al-codigo-penal-representan-retroceso-en-combate-a-la-criminalidad/>

Yesterday, the trial against Javier Rodolfo Pastor Vásquez and Carlos Montes Rodríguez started. They are accused of money laundering and bribery in one of the many IHSS corruption sub-cases.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/hoy-inicia-juicio-por-coimas-y-lavado-de-ex-vice-ministros-javier-pastor-y-carlos-montes-en-el-caso-ihss/>

Apart from the reforms undermining corruption investigation (see above), Congress also furthered the criminalization of human rights defenders by increasing the penalties for social protest (see last week). So far, Honduras' human rights ombudsman, CONADEH, has stayed quiet.

<https://criterio.hn/conadeh-guarda-silencio-sobre-reformas-del-cn-que-prometen-carcel-a-hondurenos-que-protesten/>

"The National Anticorruption Council (CNA) revealed this Tuesday a series of irregularities contained in the companies that were hired by the National Electoral Council (CNE), for the transmission and certification of data within the process of the general elections of November 28."

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-revela-incongruencias-en-cuatro-empresas-contratadas-por-el-cne-previo-a-las-elecciones-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-senala-irregularidades-en-empresas-contratadas-por-el-cne-para-transmision-de-datos/>

In a press release, OACNUDH expressed concern about acts of political violence in Honduras. "OACNUDH has recorded at least 45 serious incidents of political violence in Honduras since the call for primary elections in October 2020, of which 23 constitute violent deaths of candidates, their families, activists and voters, which represents an increase in violent deaths with respect to the pre-electoral stage of 2017[1]."

"According to the National Violence Observatory, between December 23, 2020 and September 15, 2021, the following serious acts of political violence occurred: 20 homicides, 15 coercions, 20 threats, 10 attacks, 1 coercion and 1 abduction for that cause."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-expresa-preocupacion-por-los-actos-de-violencia-politica-en-el-contexto-electoral-e-insta-a-honduras-a-tomar-medidas-para-garantizar-elecciones-pacificas/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/violencia-politica-y-proceso-electoral/>

Even though the old ID is only valid two more days, about 1 million Hondurans still have no new one (and many more Hondurans abroad). At the same time, the strike at the RNP (see yesterday) continues.

<https://proceso.hn/en-paro-indefinido-personal-de-identificate-a-pocos-dias-de-la-vigencia-de-la-dni/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/un-millon-de-identidades-no-han-sido-entregadas/>

The dengue situation in Honduras has worsened with 4 deaths and 25 new serious cases every week.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-a-un-paso-de-la-epidemia-por-dengue-alertan-autoridades/>

So far, there have been 370'968 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'045 confirmed deaths.

According to the Ministry of Health, there was a 20% decrease in COVID-19 cases in recent days. Sadly, this could be very shortlived as last week's Morazán Holiday may lead to a surge in cases again.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-otros-706-casos-de-covid-19-y-35-decesos/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-un-20-han-disminuido-los-casos-de-covid-19-segun-vigilancia-de-la-salud/>

The sentencing in the US of convicted drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez was postponed for the fourth time. It is now scheduled for January 11, 2021.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3268-honduras-capo-geovanny-fuentes-abre-nuevo-recital-en-new-york>

The first flight for the new Palmerola airport is scheduled for November 17.

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-que-el-proximo-17-de-noviembre-se-registrara-el-primer-vuelo-en-el-aeropuerto-de-palmerola/>

13/10/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Opposition, JOH, Violence, TREP, Church; Bajo Aguán; HRDs; OFRANEH; UN; COVID-19; Corruption - de Lobo; and a Failed Purge

Unexpectedly and after having failed on several occasions in the previous months, the political opposition formed a powerful alliance yesterday. Salvador Nasralla ceded his presidential run to Libre's Xiomara Castro. He is now listed as the first vice-presidential candidate of the alliance. Back in 2017, this alliance (with Nasralla as the front runner and Castro as the vice-presidential candidate) won the elections and was only stopped by an obvious fraud and unprecedented state violence leaving over 30 people dead, most killed by state security forces.

The alliance is restricted to the presidential race, i.e. congressional and mayoral candidates continue to run for their respective party.

Official alliances should have been declared until May 26, but it is still possible to change the ballots as Nasralla will only have to resign and then he will be listed as the vice-presidential candidate.

Even though part of the Liberal Party demands it, their presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal said that he won't join the alliance.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-xiomara-castro-encabeza-alianza-de-hecho-con-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/13/acuerdo-politico-de-la-alianza/>

<https://proceso.hn/xiomara-y-nasralla-se-unen-de-cara-a-elecciones-generales/>

<https://proceso.hn/aliados-de-libre-y-salvador-de-hn-piden-voto-en-planca-para-sus-diputados/>

<https://proceso.hn/inscripciones-tras-la-alianza-son-posibles-sin-contratiempos-secretario-del-cne/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1497984-508/papeleta-xiomara-castro-salvador-nasralla>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3276-honduras-liberales-piden-a-yani-sumarse-a-salvador-y-xiomara>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1497959-508/yani-rosenthal-no-se-integra-a-la-alianza-de-salvador-nasralla-y>

JOH, meanwhile, tries to distract the public with a territorial dispute with El Salvador.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1497999-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-isla-conejo-territorio-hondureno-punto>

Libre congresswoman Olivia Zúniga "bravely speaks up about the murder attempt she survived in Oct 8 & the patriarchal & outrageous actions of Honduran national police to defame her & never assist her despite calls for help" (see two days ago).

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1448167930383020036>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) announced to investigate the accusations made by the CNA against four companies the former had hired for the verification and transmission of data (see yesterday and first link below).

<https://www.cna.hn/2021/10/12/el-consejo-nacional-anticorrupcion-revela-irregularidades-en-cuatro-empresas-contratadas-por-el-cne-encargadas-para-la-verificacion-y-transmision-de-datos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/kelvin-aguirre-asegura-que-se-hara-un-analisis-de-la-denuncia-del-cna-sobre-contratacion-de-empresas-encargadas-del-trep/>

"In a three-page statement addressed to the population, candidates for elected office and electoral authorities, the bishops of the Episcopal Conference of Honduras urged citizens to share the "collective responsibility of fully recovering democracy", putting moral duty and patriotic obligation before personal preferences and sympathies."

<https://criterio.hn/conferencia-episcopal-llama-a-hondurenos-a-acudir-a-las-urnas-para-recuperar-la-democracia/>

"The young peasant Óscar Javier Pérez, was murdered last Sunday, October 10, 2021, at about eight o'clock at night in his home in the community of Quebradas de la Arena, municipality of Tocoa, department of Colón, Honduras. Perez was a member of the Empresa Asociativa Campesina "El Chile" from its founding in 2009 until 2016, when he was an eyewitness to the murder of Jose Angel Flores, president of MUCA and Silmer Dionisio George, who also served as leader of the movement, both were beneficiaries of precautionary measures of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3267-en-el-bajo-aguan-asesinan-a-testigo-protégido-de-crímenes-contra-líderes-campesinos-de-muca>

COPINH denounced that the police blocked of the surroundings of the judiciary building in Comayagua during the criminalization trial of indigenous Lenca defenders José Santos Vigil and Víctor Vásquez.

The situation inside the court room was not better. "Despite the resolution of the Court of Appeals revoking their pre-trial detention imposed nine months ago, the Sentencing Court of the city of Comayagua refuses to release the two environmentalists." The trial will continue on October 22.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1448340631810682881>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/uncategorized/tribunal-de-sentencia-de-comayagua-niega-libertad-de-ambientalistas-victor-vasquez-y-jose-santos-vigil/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mp-se-niega-a-cumplir-resolucion-de-la-corte-de-apelaciones-que-libera-a-dos-líderes-indígenas/>

Mongabay interviewed OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda on the general situation in Honduras and especially the challenges faced by the Garífuna people.

<https://es.mongabay.com/2021/10/honduras-amenazas-pueblo-garifuna-entrevista-premio/>

More than 50 national and international civil society organizations spoke out in a joint letter against Honduras assuming a seat at the UN Human Rights Council.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-el-estado-no-es-apto-para-el-consejo-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/50-organizaciones-denuncian-la-integraci%C3%B3n-de-honduras-en-el-consejo-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu>

So far, there have been 371'431 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'065 confirmed deaths.

The Funeral Home Association, meanwhile, has documented over 20'000 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-mas-de-casos-de-covid-19-desde-marzo-del-ano-pasado/>

<https://tiempo.hn/funerarias-hay-unos-20-mil-muertos-debido-al-covid-19-en-honduras/>

The re-trial of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo will take place in February 2022.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1498018-466/programan-febrero-2022-juicio-rosa-elena-bonilla-caja-chica-dama>

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-depuracion-narcotrafico-sigue-permeando-estructuras-de-la-policia-nacional/>

14/10/21

Honduras Daily: UN; IACtHR; HRDs; ZEDEs; Elections - Opposition, ID, Boards; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector; Migration; National Police; Rule of Law; and JOH's Legacy

Against the protest of human rights organizations (see yesterday), Honduras was elected to the UN Human Rights Council.

And as feared, JOH presented this, without irony, as a recognition of their human rights record...

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-electa-para-el-consejo-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1448742326373867529>

It is very fitting that the same day (see above), Honduras was condemned at the Inter-American Human Rights Court (IACtHR) for violating the rights of Miskito divers.

<https://proceso.hn/corteidh-condena-a-honduras-por-violar-derechos-humanos-de-buzos-miskitos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1498195-466/corte-interamericana-condena-honduras-violacion-derechos-humanos-misquitos>

And if another example is needed: COPINH denounces that the two indigenous Lenca defenders Víctor Vásquez and José Santos Vigil remain in pre-trial custody even though an appeals court has ordered to lift it (see also yesterday).

<https://copinh.org/2021/10/alerta-detencion-arbitraria-contraloscampesinosindigenaslencas/>

CESPAD reports on the imposed ZEDE Orquídea in the south of Honduras.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/14/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-zede-orquidea-y-la-lucha-socioterritorial-en-el-sur-de-honduras/>

The calls on Liberal presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal to join the new opposition alliance (see yesterday and first article below) continue.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/14/una-alianza-tardia-cambia-el-panorama-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/14/yani-contralascuerdasdiputadosyalcaldes-exigen-que-se-una-axiomara/>

Congress prolonged the validity of the current ID to November 15 (see also previous days).

While it makes sense from the viewpoint that 1 million Hondurans have no new ID yet, it also raises the fear that the next step would be to allow voting with both the new and old ID which many fear to be another entry point for electoral fraud.

The private business lobby COHEP reiterated that they are against this.

Nevertheless, Liberal congressman Enrique Yllescas presented a bill requesting just this.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1498217-466/tarjeta-identidad-vigencia-congreso-nacional-extension-15-noviembre-2021>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3277-honduras-congreso-revive-fraude-con-doble-tarjeta-de-identidad>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/14/presentan-proyecto-para-votar-con-dos-identidades-sociedad-civil-se-opone-a-la-iniciativa/>

<https://proceso.hn/no-se-puede-permitir-ir-a-elecciones-con-dos-tarjetas-de-identidad-dice-presidente-del-cohep/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/presentan-iniciativa-de-ley-para-que-ciudadania-vote-con-doble-identidad-en-noviembre/>

Another entry point for fraud are the voting board and how they are set up. There are some bad news on this as well. "Blank credentials for the members of the voting boards (JRV) of the general elections of November 28 will be delivered, announced an authority of the National Electoral Council (CNE). (...) "The credential market occurs when there are no names", said the deputy of the Innovation and Unity Party (Pinu), Doris Gutiérrez, in conversation with this media."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/14/credenciales-en-blanco-cne-fraude/>

Honduras will receive 250'000 vaccine doses from Haiti which otherwise would expire.

<https://proceso.hn/haiti-dona-250000-vacunas-a-punto-de-caducar-a-honduras/>

"Doctors employed in the Health Secretariat's Telemedicine program assigned to the National Emergency System 911 have denounced in a communiqué that they are owed four months' salary."

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-del-911-denuncian-que-les-adeudan-cuatro-meses-de-salario/>

"A Criterio.hn team traveled to the border of Corinto, in the department of Cortés on the border with Guatemala, where it found that thousands of Honduran migrants are being abandoned in the early hours of the morning, leaving them vulnerable and in degrading conditions. This new humanitarian migration crisis arose in mid-September with the "express chain deportations" with around 250 to

450 Honduran migrants being deported daily, in the early morning hours, from the United States under Title 42, the U.S. public health law that prohibits the entry of persons without proper immigration documentation."

<https://criterio.hn/el-legado-de-joh-reflexiones-sobre-la-pandemia-61/>

The members of the police force caught with 18 kg of cocaine (see a week ago) had their pre-trial detention confirmed by a judge.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/prision-preventiva-a-siete-policias-arrestados-con-18-kilos-de-cocaina/>

Honduras loses further ground in the rule of law index by the World Justice Project.

<https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2021>

<https://criterio.hn/el-legado-de-joh-reflexiones-sobre-la-pandemia-61/>

15/10/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; IACtHR; ZEDEs; Corruption - US, IHSS; Elections - ID; COVID-19; Migration - US; and Forced Religion

Good news, after initially ignoring the appeals court decision to release the criminalized indigenous Lenca defenders José Santos Vijil and Víctor Vásquez (see previous days), the court finally released them after nine months in prison. They can now await trial in freedom.

<https://criterio.hn/libres-los-defensores-de-la-tierra-jose-santos-vijil-y-victor-vasquez/>

The sentencing of Honduras at the IACtHR in the case of the Miskito divers (see yesterday) is welcomed by human rights organizations and OACNUDH. CEJIL highlighted that the "Court held

that States must adopt measures to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations, are held accountable for human rights violations committed in their territory".

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/honduras-sentencia-de-la-corte-idh-en-caso-buzos-miskitos-reconoce-responsabilidad-de-empresas-en-la-proteccion-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1449118145390813192>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-saluda-sentencia-a-honduras-por-violar-derechos-humanos-de-buzos-miskitos/>

The people of Yamaranguila, Intibucá, said no to ZEDEs and declared their territory free of them.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1449090101867393028>

<https://copinh.org/2021/10/yamaranguila-intibuca-dice-no-a-las-zedes/>

"The Department of Justice today announced a tip line to help assist its Anticorruption Task Force fight corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, a key component of the Vice President's work to address the root causes of migration."

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-anticorruption-task-force-launches-new-measures-combat-corruption-central>

<https://proceso.hn/departamento-de-justicia-de-ee-uu-anuncia-nuevas-medidas-para-combatir-la-corrupcion-en-centroamerica/>

The MP requested pre-trial detention for congressman Reynaldo Geovanny Ekonomo Fúnes accused of fraud in one of the IHSS corruption cases.

But the court decided otherwise and he is allowed to await trial outside prison.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-pedira-detencion-judicial-contraparlamentario-implicado-en-nuevo-caso-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ekonomo-comparece-en-primera-audiencia-sobre-caso-de-corrupcion-del-ihss/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/diputado-reynaldo-ekonomo-se-defendera-en-libertad-CA2763343>

RNP president Óscar Rivera claims that there won't be the possibility to vote with both the old and new ID (see previous days).

This means, they have a bit more than a month to distribute the remaining one million IDs so every Honduran has a chance to vote.

It will help that RNP employees stopped their strike yesterday.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3280-honduras-no-habra-elecciones-con-dos-identidades-asegura-presidente-de-rnp>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-retraso-en-entrega-de-nuevo-documento-de-identificacion-aumenta-incertidumbre-en-proceso-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-proyecto-identificate-suspenden-el-paro-de-labores-y-comienzan-a-entregar-el-dni/>

So far, there have been 372'179 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'097 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-10-mil-097-muertes-y-372-179-contagios-de-covid-19/>

ContraCorriente also reports on the dire situation of returned migrants at the Corinto border (see yesterday). "Early Thursday morning, October 14, 11 buses arrived carrying deported migrants who traveled by plane from the United States to Mexico and then by bus to the Guatemala-Honduras border. They arrived and no one from the government was there to register them. According to non-governmental organizations that receive deportees at the border, between 250 and 450 deportees from the United States have been arriving every night since mid-September."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/15/en-la-madrugada-e-ignorados-por-el-estado-llegan-a-corinto-miles-de-hondurenos-deportados/>

"The United States, through the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), is providing more than \$20 million in additional assistance to help meet urgent humanitarian needs for the nearly 700,000 asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable migrants in Central America and Mexico. This additional funding brings the total U.S. humanitarian assistance for Central America and Mexico to more than \$331 million for Fiscal Year 2021."

<https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-announces-new-humanitarian-aid-in-central-america-and-mexico/>

"The National Congress decided to ratify the motion presented by congressman Tomas Zambrano to establish a working table to establish the reading of the bible for all educational centers in the country."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/15/advierten-involucion-al-fundamentalismo-con-aprobacion-de-la-lectura-de-la-biblia-en-escuelas/>

16/10/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; ZEDEs; Violence against Women; HR - UN; COVID-19 - Poverty; Pamerola; Migration;

Human rights defender and coordinator of ARCAH, Christopher Castillo, was attacked by an unknown man in Tegucigalpa on his way home. It was the third attack in recent time and he has also received death threats and is being criminalized.

https://twitter.com/Arcah_hn/status/1449428498997776385

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1449406392801050624>

Hondurans protested against an event that took place yesterday in Switzerland, where both ZEDE Morazán and ZEDE Próspera were presented to the public and possible investors.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3285-criminales-mercaderos-de-zede-subastaron-hoy-a-honduras-en-suiza>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1449383404324204554>

ContraCorriente takes the recent attack against Libre Congresswoman Olivia Zúniga Cáceres as an example of the multiple revictimization of women in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/16/las-tres-agresiones-contra-la-diputada-olivia-zuniga-caceres/>

Criterio speaks with Honduran human rights experts on Honduras getting a seat at the UN Human Rights Council (see also previous days).

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-en-el-consejo-de-dd-hh-de-la-onu-una-contradiccion-que-presionaria-el-cumplimiento-de-resoluciones-postergadas/>

In a year, food insecurity in Honduras almost doubled from 1.8 million in 2020 to 3.3 million now.

<https://proceso.hn/inseguridad-alimentaria-en-honduras-casi-se-ha-duplicado-segun-la-onu/>

Event though, the first flight is expected for next month, construction at the Palmerola airport is expected to be finished in May 2022.

"After two years of delay since the original delivery date, the inauguration of the new Palmerola International Airport took place on October 15. However, the air terminal is still not ready to start operations, and now an executive decree has been issued to allocate more resources that were not agreed in the contract and that will supposedly help accelerate the start-up of the project."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1498380-466/obras-pendientes-palmerola-mayo-2022>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/16/aeropuerto-palmerola-la-inauguracion-de-una-obra-multimillonaria-sin-terminar/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3284-honduras-lenir-saca-el-barrio-en-inauguracion-de-incompleto-palmerola>

Criterio has more on the situation at the Corinto border with Guatemala (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/cronica-de-la-nueva-crisis-migratoria-en-la-frontera-de-corinto-honduras/>

17/10/21

Honduras Daily: Miskito; HRDs; Elections - EU; Corruption - US; Palmerola; Debt;

"Members of the Miskito community denounce that people of Colombian origin have entered the Patuca National Park and Tawahka Biosphere without permission with heavy machinery and equipment in search of gold."

<https://twitter.com/ConfidencialHN/status/1449807279004475395>

CESPAD published a short analysis on how the recent changes to the Penal Code will affect territorial struggles in Honduras. "Undoubtedly, the political elite in power has known how to read tactically and situationally the important political moment of organization and territorial struggle that exists in the country against the ZEDE, concretized through the realization of open town meetings to declare the municipalities free of these projects; mobilizations, sit-ins and blockades of strategic routes. It is therefore not surprising that the current reforms seek to criminalize the various social protest actions that threaten the interests of the economic and political actors behind this project."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/17/la-relacion-entre-las-reformas-del-codigo-penal-y-las-luchas-territoriales-en-honduras/>

The first people, nine analysts, of the European Electoral Observation Mission (MOE) arrived in Honduras yesterday. By the end of the month, they will be joined by 30 observers who will spread out to all departments.

The mission is headed by EU Parliamentarian Željana Zovko.

<https://confidencialhn.com/analistas-de-la-mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-la-union-europea-llegan-a-honduras-para-observar-comicios/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1498509-508/moe-analistas-honduras-elecciones-2021-moe-diputada-croata>

Proceso Digital reports on the newest attempt by the US to fight corruption in the region through the FBI (see also two days ago).

<https://proceso.hn/ee-uu-refuerza-su-fuerza-para-atrapar-corruptos-en-el-triangulo-norte/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) also questions the obscure manner how more funding was approved for the Palmerola airport (see yesterday).

ConfidencialHN reports on the very strange speech held by the president of the airport, Lenir Pérez.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/17/aprueban-fondos-para-poner-en-operacion-aeropuerto-de-palmerola-cna-cuestiona-medida/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/con-un-discurso-vacio-y-grotesco-lenir-perez-presidente-de-la-concesionaria-inaugura-aeropuerto-de-palmerola/>

Honduras' external debt has grown to almost \$11 billion.

<https://proceso.hn/la-deuda-externa-de-honduras-suma-10817-millones-de-dolares-en-ocho-meses/>

18/10/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs - HRDs, BCIE; Garífunas; Lencas; Drug Trafficking - National Party; Elections - MADJ, Reforms, Opposition, JOH, Fake News, Polling; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education; Migration - US; and Remembering Carlos Escaleras

PBI-Honduras accompanied human rights defender and ZEDEs opponent Christopher Castillo to file complaint after an attack last Friday (see previous e-mail).

<https://pbicanada.org/2021/10/18/pbi-honduras-accompanies-zedes-opponent-christopher-castillo-to-file-complaint-after-attack/>

The JOH regime requested \$200 million from BCIE to construct a bridge between Zacate Grande to Tiger Island. Honduras Now denounces that this area has long been known as a likely location for a ZEDE and tht it is a key area for long-standing land conflicts.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2021/10/18/a-espana-y-corea-del-sur-invitaran-para-cofinanciar-puente-amapala/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1450262347826798592>

15 months have passed since the forceful disappearance of five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1450182756059734016>

"In the morning hours of Friday, October 15, a strong contingent of the National Police and riot police were present in the Lenca Indigenous Community of Tierras del Padre, using the power of firearms they kept the entire community in fear and terror with the supposed order to measure their territory as part of a judicial process against several defenders of the community by the businessman Mario Facusse."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/10/alerta-urgente-honduras-fuerte-contingente-policial-genera-caos-y-mantiene-en-zozobra-a-defensoras-y-sus-familias/>

The Nationalist mayor of Talanga, Roosevelt Eduardo Avilés López, as well as his wife, Nancy Santos Ríos, and son were arrested yesterday accused of drug trafficking and money laundering. An analysis of their finances found 164 million Lempiras without a clear origin.

Nancy Santos Ríos is running as a substitute Congressional candidate Pedro Chávez, brother of National Party mayor candidate for Tegucigalpa and Congressman, David Chávez.

The authorities also seized goods belonging to them, "mansions, businesses, luxury cars, and even jet skis".

Political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado believes that this will have grave consequences for the National Party.

"In the opinion of the director of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, Luis León, the political institutes must purge their ranks, especially the National Party, because there are already many candidates implicated in cases of corruption, drug trafficking, organized crime and other crimes."

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-ejecuta-capturas-contralcalde-de-talanga-y-su-circulo-familiar/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/portada/captura-de-alcaldede-talanga-podria-tener-de-fondo-librarlo-de-extradicion-por-narcotrafico/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/145030152227736577>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/18/capturan-a-alcaldede-talanga-y-su-esposa-que-aspira-a-diputacion-por-nexos-con-el-narco/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/alcalde-talanga-roosevelt-avilez-fotos-propiedades-mansiones-carros-moto-acuatica-sucesos-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/raul-pineda-captura-de-alcalde-de-talanga-implicara-graves-consecuencias-para-el-partido-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exhortan-a-partidos-politicos-depurar-sus-filas-por-muchos-candidatos-implicados-en-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

ConexiHon reports on how the CNE is blocking the independent candidacy of human rights defender Albertina López even though she has fulfilled all requirements.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1904-cne-niega-inscripcion-de-candidatura-independiente-de-defensora-a-derechos-humanos>

There is a growing fear, especially now that the opposition joined forces, of last-minute changes to the electoral law. "The previous Electoral Law, in force until May 2021, had in its articles regulations that blocked any modification of the rules of the game for 18 months prior to the general elections. On the other hand, the new Electoral Law can be modified "at any time, even a week before the elections", said Irías. The concern increases after the virtual session of the National Congress held on October 7 approved a series of decrees, one of them is the extension of the period of sessions from November 1 to January 20, 2022, when the four years of this government will end. Legally, the session should end on October 31. "That means that we will have a Congress with the conditions to issue any regulation that may modify this Electoral Law during all this time", referred Irías."

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/observadores-critican-proselitismo-del-oficialismo-en-honduras-con-fondos-publicos/>

Members of the Liberal Party continue to call on their presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal to join the opposition alliance.

At first, i.e. last week, Rosenthal rejected the idea, but now he says he has not yet received an invitation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/liberales-insisten-a-yani-rosenthal-sumarse-a-la-alianza-de-xiomara-castro-y-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aun-no-he-recibido-invitecion-para-conformar-la-alianza-opositora-asegura-yani-rosenthal/>

The elections are around the corner...the JOH regime froze petrol prices.

Additionally, they took up loans worth \$285 million which can be used for political purposes.

Even though the law prohibits this. "Article 166 of the recently approved Electoral and Political Organizations Law establishes the prohibition to use State resources outside the financing granted by the State and the programs duly approved by the CNE, this regulation is regulated by the Law of Financing, Transparency and Control of Political Parties and Candidates."

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-congela-precios-de-los-carburantes/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/18/gobierno-anuncia-subsidio-para-combustibles/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/observadores-critican-proselitismo-del-oficialismo-en-honduras-con-fondos-publicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-prohibicion-nacionalistas-usan-proyectos-del-estado-para-campana-politica/>

The Coalition of Media Outlets against Disinformation, among them Radio Progreso and Pasos de Animal Grande, launched a campaign against fake news during the electoral campaign.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3272-por-que-varios-medios-hondurenos-se-han-unido-contra-la-desinformacion>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3273-cerocasaka-no-te-dejes-enganar-con-informaciones-falsas-o-enganosas>

Among fake news is also fake polling. "In the midst of the electoral race, false surveys have appeared in local media and social networks, and others that are not in the official list of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and lack information on their methodology, including that of a firm that has had multiple agreements with the current government."

https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/18/cerocasaka_encuestasfalsas/

"The appointment of permanent positions is a common demand among doctors, teachers and nurses in Honduras, who today raised their voices and took action to protest the fulfillment of these promises by Honduran authorities."

<https://proceso.hn/plazas-permanentes-una-exigencia-de-medicos-maestros-y-enfermeras-en-honduras/>

"More than 40 teachers of the Faculty of Humanities and Arts of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) announced this Monday a virtual work stoppage, due to the lack of payment of six months of salary."

<https://confidencialhn.com/docentes-de-la-unah-realizan-paro-por-falta-de-pago/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/18/medicos-reclaman-ante-posible-impuesto-cachureco-en-otorgamiento-de-plazas/>

"The Biden administration said on Friday it plans to reinstate the Trump-era border policy known as Remain in Mexico, which forced at least 70,000 asylum seekers to stay in Mexico, many for extended periods and in deprived and dangerous conditions, while they waited for their cases to be considered US courts. Joe Biden suspended the policy formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) in his first days in office, but a federal judge ordered his administration to put it back into place. In a court filing late on Friday, the US justice department said the program's reinstatement depended on approval from the Mexican government, which is asking for the asylum cases to be settled in six months and for the US to ensure the people affected have timely and accurate information as well as better access to legal counsel. The program is expected to be back in effect in mid-November."

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/oct/15/biden-reinstate-remain-in-mexico-trump>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/carlos-escaleras-referente-de-la-lucha-ambiental-y-social-en-honduras/>

19/10/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - National Party, US; Elections - Opposition, Corruption, ID, SoME; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Corruption, Education, Japan, Agriculture; Migration; National Police; and Stolen Songs

Talanga's mayor and several of his family members were sent to pre-trial detention accused of drug trafficking and money laundering (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/decretan-detencion-judicial-para-alcaldede-talanga-y-su-circulo-familiar/>

<https://proceso.hn/detencion-judicial-para-alcaldede-aviles-y-cuatro-personas-mas-por-lavado/>

Dixon Rivers, wanted by the US for drug trafficking, was arrested yesterday in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/capturan-al-extraditible-dixon-rivers-socio-de-fredy-marmol/>

Prominent Liberal political figures announced to vote for Xiomara Castro and not the Liberal candidate Yani Rosenthal.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1498839-508/luis-zelaya-vota-alianza-elecciones-generales-xiomara-castro>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3289-honduras-mas-liberales-piden-a-yani-firmar-unidad-con-xiomara-y-salvador>

According to UFERCO's Luis Santos, they are investigating various people running for office.

<https://proceso.hn/el-fiscal-javier-santos-advierte-investigaciones-en-curso-contra-politicos-que-aspiran-a-cargos/>

Bad news for all the Hondurans still without a new identity card. "Employees of the Identifícate project threatened this Tuesday with a new work stoppage, arguing that their salaries have not been paid in full."

On this topic, CESPAD published an important piece of analysis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-de-proyecto-identificate-amenazan-con-nuevo-paro-de-labores/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/19/como-avanza-la-depuracion-del-censo-electoral-y-la-entrega-del-nuevo-documento-de-identificacion-en-honduras/>

Proceso Digital reports on a study by Honduras Verifica and SmartCom which found that since March, Honduran politicians spent 3.4 million Lempiras on social media ads and that many accounts are managed by professionals abroad.

<https://proceso.hn/redes-sociales-de-presidenciables-de-honduras-se-manegan-desde-ocho-paises-revela-estudio-de-smartcom/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/monitoreo-revela-que-redes-sociales-de-candidatos-presidenciables-son-administradas-desde-7-paises/>

So far, there have been 373'206 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'148 confirmed deaths.

According to the Ministry of Health, the occupancy rate due to COVID-19 patients has dropped significantly and the mortality rate also went down.

<https://proceso.hn/contagios-de-covid-19-siguen-hacia-la-baja-honduras-suma-286-nuevos-casos-y-27-decesos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/segun-cifras-de-la-sesal-la-mortalidad-por-covid-19-en-honduras-ha-bajado-en-un-50/>

Honduras immunization rate is stuck at around 35% according to the president of the IHSS doctors in the north of Honduras, Carlos Umaña.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-tres-millones-de-hondurenos-no-han-acudido-a-vacunarse-contra-la-covid-lamenta-doctor-umana/>

The IACHR granted special protective measures to doctor Ligia del Carmen Ramos Zúniga, who received death threats for denouncing acts of corruption in the health sector during the pandemic.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cidh-otorga-medidas-cautelares-a-dra-ligia-ramos-y-exige-investigacion-del-caso/>

The JOH regime and Japan signed a \$100 million loan meant to finance the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1498786-466/honduras-firma-prestamo-jica-pandemia-covid-19-emergencia>

There are still a lot of open questions regarding a return to in-person classes.

<https://proceso.hn/clases-presenciales-enigma-sobre-el-desarrollo-educativo-en-2022/>

CESPAD published a report on the effects of the pandemic on the Honduran agriculture sector.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/19/politicas-agrarias-en-tiempos-de-pandemia-y-su-impacto-en-los-derechos-humanos/>

"The Government of Honduras asked this Tuesday its counterparts in Guatemala, Mexico and the United States to guarantee "a dignified and safe return" to the Honduran immigrants they are deporting, informed an official source in Tegucigalpa." But at the same time, recent reporting has shown that the JOH regime does nothing to support returned migrants (see previous e-mails).

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pide-a-guatemala-eeuu-y-mexico-retorno-digno-para-sus-inmigrantes/>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights (FEDH) obtained a conviction against preventive police officer Daniel Esaú Torres Mendoza for the crime of harassment to the detriment of the public administration and a citizen"

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/sentencia-condenatoria-para-policia-preventivo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/19/partido-nacional-plagia-canciones/>

20/10/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Opposition, ZEDEs, Journalists, Armed Forces; ZEDEs - Journalists; Drug Trafficking - National Party; Corruption - IHSS; Violence; and No Debates

Just as at the presidential level, Libre and Salvador Nasralla's party also joined forces in the mayoral race in San Pedro Sula.

<https://criterio.hn/roberto-contreras-sera-el-candidato-de-libre-a-alcaldia-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://proceso.hn/conforman-alianza-para-la-alcaldia-de-sps-entre-roberto-contreras-libre-y-psh/>

According to Latinobarómetro, the satisfaction with democracy of the Honduran people is at its lowest in recent history with only 15% stating to be satisfied. And only 2.9% of Hondurans believe Honduras to be a full democracy. Accordingly, 51.4% said that they would not vote if the elections were the coming Sunday. But there is some hope that the rejection of the JOH regime (77.8% compared to 56.4% in 2018) will motivate Hondurans to vote against the National Party.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-el-pais-centroamericano-mas-insatisfecho-con-la-democracia/>

Nasralla also said in an interview, that he will dedicate his time to fighting the ZEDEs. "In declarations to Noticieros Hoy Mismo, the now aspiring vice-presidential candidate for the Libertad y Refundación Party, insisted that something has to be done about it, that there is time to do it because if not in the next few years the Honduran territory will become the property of foreigners."

CESPAD looks at the different positions on the ZEDEs as part of the electoral campaign. "The first, who promote the repeal of the ZEDE Law and are openly against it, because it violates national sovereignty and territorial autonomy, to the benefit of large national and international capital. The second group is openly in favor, arguing that the ZEDE are an engine for the generation of employment and economic development, although empirical evidence shows otherwise. And the third, who argue that the ZEDE can be beneficial if they are developed within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic and if the State has a direct intervention on these projects; this sector advocates for a reconversion of the ZEDE."

<https://proceso.hn/renuncie-a-mi-candidatura-para-detener-las-zede-desde-el-congreso-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/20/campanas-politicas-en-honduras-sin-propuestas-alternativas-a-las-zede/>

"To guarantee the coverage of election days by journalists from different media in the voting areas as well as access to public information on the subject, to stop the stigmatizing speeches from the power and to investigate crimes against people who practice journalism in Honduras, are some of the recommendations that Reporters Without Borders, RSF, the Foundation for Press Freedom, FLIP and the Association for Democracy and Human Rights, ASOPODEHU, left to the State of Honduras in a press conference, this October 19, 2021, almost a month before the general elections."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3276-rsf-flip-y-asopodehu-deben-haber-garantias-para-las-personas-que-ejercen-el-periodismo-en-las-elecciones-de-noviembre-en-honduras>

"Starting next Tuesday, October 26, the Armed Forces of Honduras will be at the disposal of the National Electoral Council (CNE), in view of the general elections of November 28. According to the information provided by the spokesman, José Coello, the institution will make available all its logistic capacity and human resources to distribute the ballot boxes that will be installed in all the voting centers."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/20/las-ffaa-pasaran-al-control-de-autoridad-electoral-de-cara-a-los-comicios-de-noviembre/>

El Libertador denounces that Massimo Mazzone, the man behind the ZEDE Ciudad Morazán, verbally attacked its journalists.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3291-azerbaiyan-saluda-honduras-y-presenta-semillas-para-el-futuro-en-expo-2020-de-dubai>

El Heraldito traveled to Talanga to speak with its people about their recently arrested mayor Roosevelt Avilez (see previous e-mails). They encounter an atmosphere of fear.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1498890-466/terror-pueblo-talanga-alcalde-roosevelt-avilez-lavado-activos>

"The National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) was notified of the holding of an abbreviated procedure hearing on Wednesday, October 27 against the businesswoman and lawyer Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus, who will willingly accept having committed money laundering in the notorious case of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS)."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/empresaria-se-declarara-culpable-de-participar-en-el-saqueo-del-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresaria-se-declarara-culpable-de-participar-en-el-saqueo-del-ihss/>

Proceso Digital reports on the ongoing high levels of violence in Honduras with a focus on multiple killings, femicides and electoral violence.

<https://proceso.hn/la-violencia-galopa-sin-freno-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/20/observatorio-de-la-violencia-advierte-que-honduras-registra-un-promedio-de-11-decesos-diarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/candidatos-a-cargos-electorales-rehuyen-debatir-publicamente-contradversarios/>

21/10/21

Honduras Daily: Journalists; HRDs - Azacualpa, Guapinol; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Elections - Opposition, Violence; Extradition; COVID-19; Germany; IMF - Electricity;

I made a mistake with copying my text into the e-mail, don't really know how I ended up with an e-mail from six days ago. I don't have the energy to rewrite everything now, so I just send you the links to the articles I had summarized.

Journalists;

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1451344474433458179>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3277-atentado-contraperiodista-y-exdiputada-por-el-partido-libre>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/hombre-ataca-a-presentadora-de-tv-y-luego-se-quita-la-vida-en-san-pedro-sula-LB3003296>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3296-honduras-periodistas-en-riesgo-mortal-mas-de-90-asesinados-y-140-alertas-en-2020>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1499112-466/centenar-periodistas-asesinados-honduras-dos-decadas>

HRDs - Azacualpa,

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1451202746934251527>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1451267274900447240>

Guapinol;

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1451351966559342599>

Berta - Trial;

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1451273907282096136>

ZEDEs;

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/21/exigen-cabildo-abierto-en-choloma-contras-zedes/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3297-honduras-italiano-de-zede-al-borde-de-conflicto-internacional-por-insulto-a-el-libertador>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3295-honduras-hasta-200-millones-perdera-choloma-porzede-morazan>

<https://proceso.hn/zedes-sera-como-un-vaticano-dentro-de-choloma-advierte-regidor/>

Elections - Opposition,

<https://proceso.hn/cne-confirma-inscripcion-de-nasralla-y-doris-gutierrez-como-designados-en-la-formula-de-libre/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/21/nasralla-cierra-puertas-de-alianza-a-rosenthal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yani-rosenthal-tiene-acuerdos-con-joh-para-autoprotgerse-aseguranasralla/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-tegucigalpa-tambien-buscaran-la-alcaldia-mediante-una-alianza/>

Violence;

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-candidato-a-regidor-de-la-alianza-patriotica-en-choloma-cortes/>

Extradition;

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/dos-hondurenos-mas-son-extraditados-por->

[narcotrafico/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/extraditan-hacia-eeuu-a-martin-diaz-contreras-y-miguel-carlos-cordon-por-el-delito-de-narcotrafico/>

COVID-19;

<https://proceso.hn/suben-a-10182-los-muertos-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Germany;

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1499050-471/alemania-plazas-trabajo-hondurenos-migracion-2021>

IMF - Electricity;

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/21/cohep-solicitara-al-fmi-que-presione-al-gobierno-para-aplicar-la-ley-de-industria-electrica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/juan-carlos-sikaffy-lamenta-que-el-fmi-aplique-recetas-sin-conocer-la-realidad-del-pais/>

22/10/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Azacualpa, Guapinol; ZEDEs; Violence against Women; Drug Trafficking; Elections - Violence, Women, ID; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, HR; Migration - US; and Legal Highs

Good news. The seven defenders from Azacualpa were declared innocence. The trial brought to light that the MP had hidden and even fabricated proof to criminalize them and in defense of the mining company MINOSA.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1451621031106519048>

There is more reporting on the upcoming bail hearing for the criminalized Guapinol defenders (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/admiten-revision-de-medidas-contra-defensores-de-guapinol-tras-mas-de-dos-anos-de-prision-arbitraria/>

Labor unions organizing maquila workers announced protest actions against the ZEDE Morazán in Choloma.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3300-honduras-obreros-de-choloma-convocan-a-protestas-para-cerrar-zede-morazan>

<https://proceso.hn/sindicatos-de-la-maquila-en-choloma-anuncian-protestas-en-contra-de-zedes/>

"The preliminary draft of the Shelter Homes Law in 2018 was passed by the National Congress, but since then it has not entered into debate. The law seeks that the ten existing shelters in the country have state funding to operate and not survive only with international cooperation, this occurs despite the fact that in August 2020 the Government approved the emergency decree against gender violence, in response to the increase in cases observed during the pandemic by COVID-19."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/22/anteproyecto-de-ley-de-casas-refugios-lleva-tres-anos-engavetada-en-el-cn-entrevista-con-ana-cruz-de-asociacion-calidad-de-vida/>

The Nationalist mayor of Talanga, Roosevelt Avilez López, and some of his family members have to remain in prison awaiting trial accused of money laundering linked to drug trafficking.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1499316-466/prision-preventiva-alcalde-talanga-familia-roosevelt-avilez>

<https://proceso.hn/prision-preventiva-a-edil-de-talanga-y-su-circulo-familiar/>

In less than a week, OACNUDH expressed again concern about the electoral violence in Honduras which cost at least 23 lives of candidates in the last 12 months.

<https://proceso.hn/al-menos-23-candidatos-a-cargos-electorales-han-perdido-la-vida-de-forma-violenta-en-ultimos-12-meses-oacnudh/>

Proceso Digital reports on the particular challenges faced by women candidates.

<https://proceso.hn/candidatas-a-cargos-de-eleccion-enfrentan-violencia-y-barreras-socioeconomicas/>

The distribution of the new ID, needed for the general elections, is still not up to the task. It was again interrupted yesterday for two hours as workers protested against outstanding salaries.

<https://proceso.hn/personal-de-identificate-amenazan-con-suspender-entrega-de-dni-despues-de-mi-dia/>

Tegucigalpa faces a dengue emergency.

<https://confidencialhn.com/region-metropolitana-de-salud-podria-declarar-emergencia-por-dengue-en-los-proximos-dias/>

"The Medical College of Honduras (CMH) announced this Friday that it joins the protest initiated by 911 doctors, demanding the payment of five months of salary arrears."

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-respalda-protesta-que-realizan-galenos-del-911-en-demanda-del-pago-de-salarios/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3298-honduras-indignante-medicos-911-se-declaran-en-calamidad-cinco-meses-sin-paga>

COFADEH will present at a session at the IACHR the human rights violations that occurred during the pandemic in Honduras.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofاده-expondra-ante-la-cidh-las-graves-violaciones-a-ddhh-durante-la-pandemia-del-covid-19-en-honduras/>

"U.S. authorities detained more than 1.7 million migrants along the Mexico border during the 2021 fiscal year that ended in September, and arrests by the Border Patrol soared to the highest levels ever recorded, according to unpublished U.S. Customs and Border Protection data obtained by The Washington Post."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/border-arrests-record-levels-2021/2021/10/19/289dce64-3115-11ec-a880-a9d8c009a0b1_story.html

<https://confidencialhn.com/proponen-proyecto-de-ley-para-legalizacion-del-cannabis-medicinal-en-honduras/>

23/10/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption - US; Elections - ID, Disinformation, Political Debt; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education, Economy; National Police; and Striktober, Honduras Version

El Pulso reports that the US Senate Committee on Appropriations will hold back \$861 million of aid from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras because the countries did not show progress in fighting corruption.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/23/la-corrupcion-privada-al-triangulo-norte-de-800-millones-de-dolares-en-asistencia-de-ee-uu/>

According to the RNP, they have 15'000 new ID cards ready to be shipped to Hondurans living abroad. At first sight, this sounds good, but only if one doesn't know that some 2 million Hondurans live in the US alone and the great majority won't be able to vote.

<https://tiempo.hn/rnp-dni-estan-listas-para-ser-enviadas-al-extranjero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-alrededor-de-15-mil-dni-ya-estan-listos-para-ser-enviados-a-los-hondurenos-en-el-extranjero/>

"The United Nations (UN) resident coordinator, Alice Shackelford, expressed on Friday (22.10.2021) the concern of her office in Tegucigalpa about so much disinformation in Honduras that is being spread prior to the general elections of November 28, 2021."

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/onu-manifiesta-preocupacion-por-desinformacion-en-honduras-a-pocos-dias-de-las-elecciones>

CESPAD published an important piece of analysis on the so-called "political debt" a finance mechanism for political parties in Honduras. "In the last four election periods (2005 to 2017) the Honduran people have paid more than 500 million lempiras in political debt to the political parties. This is a very high cost in the midst of such a weak democracy, since these are millions and millions of lempiras that are managed at the discretion and with little or no accountability on the part of the leaders of the political parties."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/23/la-deuda-politica-el-botin-de-los-partidos-politicos-que-nadie-audita-en-honduras/>

Due to a decrease in COVID-19 cases, triage centers in Tegucigalpa may close on November 1. The Ministry of Health promises instead a "mega" triage center at the Olympic Village.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1499365-466/cierre-centros-triajes-distrito-central-honduras-coronavirus-capital-honduras>

"The Education Observatory of the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán (UPNFM) opposed the automatic promotion of students to the next grade, as they assured that at least 60 percent have a very low level of learning."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/23/seguro-no-saben-leer-lo-mas-minimo-experto-se-opone-a-promocion-automatica-de-estudiantes/>

"Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) report a 70 percent recovery in sales, said the manager of Sustainable Enterprise of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (Cohep), Gabriel Molina."

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-las-mipymes-han-tenido-una-recuperacion-del-70-por-ciento-en-sus-ventas/>

"A team of the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation (ATIC) captured in the last hours an active police officer who is linked to crimes against human rights."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/atic-captura-subinspector-de-policia-por-tratos-crueles-e-inhumanos/>

Cab drivers announced a national strike for tomorrow denouncing the high gas prices.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ataxish-convoca-a-paro-nacional-a-partir-del-lunes-por-alto-costos-de-los-combustibles/>

24/10/21

Honduras Daily: UN; Elections - Observation; Drug Trafficking - Mayors; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Transport Sector;

"The United Nations resident coordinator in Honduras, Alice Shackelford, told Efe on Sunday that it is necessary to strengthen hope in the Central American country and look at the structural causes of the problems that burden it. "This year we are going to sign a new cooperation framework for the period 2022-2026, very focused around strengthening hope in the country, in its institutions, looking at the structural causes of poverty, inequality, migration and also focusing on the person, not leaving anyone behind, the focus on the most excluded groups in the country," Shackelford stressed."

<https://proceso.hn/hay-que-fortalecer-la-esperanza-en-honduras-dice-representante-de-la-onu/>

Russia will also send an electoral observation mission to Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/rusia-enviara-mision-electoral-a-honduras-dice-dirigente-de-libre-NJ3038971>

Proceso Digital reports on the grasp of drug trafficking on local politics, especially mayors.

<https://proceso.hn/el-narco-y-su-estrecha-relacion-con-el-poder-local/>

First, the JOH regime announced to close triage centers (see yesterday), now JOH himself says they will stay open.

Health workers announced strike actions in various departments denouncing labor law violations.

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-asegura-que-triajes-seguiran-abiertos-para-atender-pacientes-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/aneeah-anuncia-que-mantiene-las-protestas-para-el-martes-por-violaciones-a-derechos-laborales/>

Honduras will start with the so-called booster shot, i.e. a third vaccine shot, today, even though less than 2.5 million Hondurans have received two shots so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-inicia-a-aplicar-refuerzo-de-vacuna-con-amplia-mayoria-con-una-sola-dosis/>

After coming to an agreement with the Honduran Institute for Terrestrial Transport (IHTT), cab drivers suspended a planned protest for today.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1499507-466/taxis-honduras-suspenden-paro-transporte>

25/10/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; COPINH - Río Blanco; SSF - Keyla; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Poverty; Migration - Mexico, Haiti, Climate Crisis; Elections - Opposition, Vaccines; Hydroelectricity; Drug Trafficking - Extradition; and Saudi Arabian Surgeons for Honduras

This afternoon, the bail hearing of the criminalized Guapinol defenders takes place.

Human rights organization demand due process as well as a public hearing.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1452814118105255949>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-transparencia-y-publicidad-en-audiencia-de-revision-de-medidas-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ahora-que-honduras-integra-el-consejo-de-ddhh-de-la-onu-debera-liberar-a-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

COPINH denounces that the president of the community council of Río Blanco was disappeared on October 19. He was found the next morning with grave head injuries and was hospitalized.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1452697523324391433>

Tomorrow, the trial against one of the police agents accused for the femicide of nursing student Keyla will take place in Intibucá.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1452772089879015424>

So far, there have been 374'569 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'202 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-covid-19-aumentan-a-374-mil-569-al-confirmarse-otros-421-contagios/>

Health workers at the Leonardo Martínez Valenzuela Hospital demanded the payment of outstanding salaries as well as the change of their contract to a permanent employment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-de-salud-del-hospital-mario-catarino-rivas-exige-plazas-y-pago-de-salarios-atrasados/>

According to FOSDEH, Honduras has not made any advancement in fighting poverty these last 20 years.

<https://proceso.hn/segun-fosdeh-indices-de-pobreza-no-han-mejorado-en-los-ultimos-20-anos/>

The Washington Post report on the migrant caravan which formed in the south of Mexico made up of mostly Central American migrants. "Yaneli Castillo fled Honduras with her two young children after gang members killed her husband in front of their house and threatened that she would be next. The 29-year-old arrived in southern Mexico four months ago and filed an asylum claim. She was still waiting for her application to be processed when new threats arrived — text messages from gang members who said they knew where to find her, she said. "I was trying to do the right thing, and waited and waited with all my papers, and they never helped me," she said. "So I decided to join the caravan out of fear."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/10/24/migrant-caravan-south-mexico/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-caravana-migrante-avanza-lentamente-por-el-estado-mexicano-de-chiapas/>

El Herald reports on the dire situation of stranded Haitian migrants in Tegucigalpa.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1499510-466/calles-llenas-migrantes-haitianos-tegucigalpa-honduras>

The World Bank estimates that there will be up to 2.1 million climate refugees from Central American and Mexico by the year 2050.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/eta-iota-desplazaron-937-mil-personas-honduras-EI3093897>

The CNE announced that the ballots are ready to be printed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-papeletas-electorales-estan-listas-para-su-impresion-cne/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/inicia-impresion-de-16-millones-de-papeletas-electorales/>

The National Party reacts to the united opposition with a campaign of hate and fear trying to stir-up anti-communist feelings.

<https://criterio.hn/consideran-que-campana-anticomunista-del-partido-nacional-es-para-desviar-verdaderos-problemas/>

<https://criterio.hn/oficialismo-de-honduras-recurre-a-campana-anticomunismo-ante-ascenso-de-libre/>

Additionally, the JOH regime and its National Party use vaccine rallies as electoral events.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/25/vacunaton-y-empleaton-estrategias-para-ganar-votos-a-favor-del-partido-de-gobierno/>

The BCIE will support the modernization of the hydroelectric plant El Cajón.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-anuncia-apoyo-para-la-modernizacion-de-la-central-hidroelectrica-el-cajon/>

The Supreme Court allowed the extradition of Óscar Santos Tobar to the US.

Former police commissioner Leandro Osorio criticized that only low-profile drug traffickers are being extradited.

<https://confidencialhn.com/csj-ratifica-extradicion-de-oscar-santos-tobar/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-hondurenos-esperamos-ver-extradiciones-de-personajes-de-alto-perfil-no-de-desconocidos-leandro-osorio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/arabia-saudita-ofrece-enviar-brigadas-medicas-para-realizar-cirugias-en-honduras/>

26/10/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; SSF - Keyla; ZEDEs - Próspera; Elections - PSH, Liberal Party, OAS; BCIE; Hydroelectricity;

The bail hearing of the criminalized Guapinol defenders concluded yesterday and a decision is expected for today.

Both OACNUDH as well as the French, Spanish, German and European Union embassies have spoken out in favor of the Guapinol defenders.

OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo even said: "I want to express my deepest support to the Guapinol community and defenders. We hope that the judicial authorities will finally confirm the immediate release of the defenders."

CESPAD published some important background information to understand the Guapinol case.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1453002278869381132>

https://twitter.com/EmbaFrancia_Teg/status/1453039436606869510

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1453153020330586114>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/26/los-pinares-le-apuesta-al-desmoronamiento-y-los-guapinoles-a-la-esperanza/>

Defensores en Línea has more on today's trial in the murder case of Keyla Martínez (see yesterday) involving members of the police force.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/hoy-es-la-audiencia-preliminar-contr-femicida-de-keyla-martinez/>

Clear words on the ZEDEs from the president of the Honduran Bar Association (CAH), Fredis Cerrato: "What is being done and what these gentlemen have done in Congress with the President of the Republic and the collusion with the Court, they are traitors to the country, it is an act of evil

against the Honduran people, and we must all unite against the actions of these sell-outs of the homeland."

Hondurans agree as seen for example by town hall meetings held all over Honduras rejecting the ZEDEs. More than 30 communities have already rejected the installation of a ZEDE on their territory. At the same time, over 100 mayors have spoken out against the ZEDEs.

<https://proceso.hn/zedes-son-un-acto-de-maldad-en-contra-del-pueblo-sostiene-presidente-del-cah/>

<https://tiempo.hn/municipios-hondurenos-le-dan-un-no-a-las-zedes/>

The ZEDE Próspera announced in a press release that they started construction of a residential tower.

<https://tiempo.hn/zede-prospera-inicia-construccion-en-roatan/>

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) rejected the inscription of candidates by the Savior of Honduras Party (PSH), Salvador Nasralla's party, in the Cortés and Choluteca departments.

The decision was widely criticized.

Nasralla called it a "political move".

The TJE, meanwhile, says that their decision has been wrongly interpreted. According to them, they sent the decision regarding the inscription back to the National Electoral Council (CNE).

Later on, PSH itself stated that the ballots in Cortés and Choluteca are not in danger and that they had already presented the necessary paperwork to the CNE.

<https://proceso.hn/tje-deja-fuera-las-planillas-de-diputados-del-partido-salvador-de-honduras-de-cortes-y-choluteca/>

<https://proceso.hn/resolucion-del-tje-es-tendenciosa-por-crear-algo-que-no-procede-critica-diputado-redondo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salvador-nasralla-asegura-que-la-decision-del-tje-es-una-jugada-politica-de-quienes-están-en-el-poder/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/magistrado-del-tje-asegura-que-se-esta-mal-interpretando-resolucion-emitida-en-algunas-planillas-del-psh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/planillas-no-estan-en-riesgo-esclarecen-directivos-del-partido-salvador-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3308-salvador-de-honduras-desmiente-que-sus-candidatos-esten-anulados>

"Months after losing in the primary elections and vacating the seats of party authority, the former Executive Council of the Liberal Party (CCEPL) has not rendered accounts on funds given to it by the National Electoral Council (CNE). The electoral body demands the liquidation of more than seven million that it gave to the previous directive of the red and white entity, but although the situation has already escalated to the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC), Luis Zelaya prefers to play down the matter. In view of the mismatch and the lack of clarity in the handling of the money, the electoral authority filed a complaint before the Court, which was admitted and an investigation was opened."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/26/desvio-de-fondos-anterior-directiva-del-partido-liberal/>

The OAS sends a pre-electoral observation mission to Honduras. They will stay in the country from today to Saturday.

<https://proceso.hn/mision-de-la-oea-anuncia-visita-previa-a-las-elecciones-en-honduras/>

The BCIE approved \$207.8 million credit to finance a 2km bridge between the Honduran mainland in the south and the Tiger Island.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-aprueba-207-millones-para-proyecto-logistico-integral-de-desarrollo-en-la-zona-del-golfo-de-fonseca/>

The El Cajón hydroelectric plant may get a fifth turbine financed by the BCIE (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-preve-instalacion-de-una-quinta-turbina-en-represa-el-cajon/>

27/10/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Berta - Trial; Mining - Azacualpa; ZEDEs - Education; Elections - Polls, Observation, Teguz; Journalists; Corruption - US; COVID-19 - HR; Drug Trafficking - Extradition; and Congratulations María Felícita López

The bail hearing in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defenders took place on Tuesday. Its result was expected yesterday, but the court has so far not presented its ruling.

OACNUDH repeated its call for their liberation.

And its representative even visited them in prison.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3280-secuestrada-la-decision-sobre-la-revision-de-medidas-para-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1453426042048323584>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1453539233843589121>

In the case of Berta Cáceres, her family and COPINH have been waiting for months on the Judicial Power to emit the sentence for the already convicted Daniel Atala.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1453445897556217858>

There is an alert that the mining company MINOSA in collusion with the Municipal Corporation of La Unión, Copán, is once again preparing to carry out illegal exhumations in the Azacualpa cemetery.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1453571287079600130>

First, the BCIE announced to finance a \$200 million bridge in the Golfo de Fonseca (see yesterday and first link below). Then, JOH signed an agreement with Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega to clear a dispute between the two countries in the region. JOH presents it as a win for national sovereignty. But the real reason may be the complete opposite. There have been talks for a while, that a ZEDE is planned in the region, i.e. the selling off of national sovereignty. El Tiempo now spoke with Graco Pérez about just that.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-aprueba-207-millones-para-proyecto-logistico-integral-de-desarrollo-en-el-golfo-de-fonseca/>

<https://tiempo.hn/graco-perez-zede-en-golfo-de-fonseca-la-disfrazan-con-soberania/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1453341342642364418>

"The Higher Education Council (CES), rejected on Wednesday the intention to create universities within the framework of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs) and warned that they lack legality and therefore it makes no sense to enroll in them."

<https://proceso.hn/consejo-de-educacion-superior-rechaza-creacion-de-universidades-en-las-zedes/>

In an intention of vote poll by CESPAD, opposition candidate Xiomara Castro leads 38% to 21% for the Nationalist candidate Nasry Asfura. At the same time, 21% said that they are undecided.

<https://elpulso.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CESPAD.pdf>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/27/tras-alianza-libre-aventaja-al-partido-nacional-cespad/>

<https://proceso.hn/alianza-libre-nasralla-deja-efectos-favorables-para-la-oposicion-politica-en-honduras/>

The 30 long-term electoral observers from the EU arrived in the country.

<https://confidencialhn.com/llegan-a-honduras-los-30-observadores-de-largo-plazo-de-la-moe-ue/>

"David Chavez, president and maximum defender of the National Party, could win the mayoral race in the Central District in the next elections. His strength is based on clientelism, violence against opposition candidates and the accompaniment of corrupt and possibly criminal politicians."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/27/violencia-clientelismo-y-corrupcion-un-perfil-de-david-chavez-madison/>

After critical reporting on the work of the mayoralty of La Paz, journalist Gilberto "Chichí" Gálvez denounced that the municipal authorities are after him with a defamation campaign.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1400-periodista-de-la-paz-denuncia-campana-de-difamacion-en-su-contra>

A two-day international forum against corruption and impunity started yesterday in Washington. US Representative Norma Torres participated and said that the US cannot work together with the current presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras because they are not committed in fighting corruption.

The former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayo, was also present and he denounced that back when the MACCIH was about to be disposed, he did not feel the support of the OAS and its Secretary General Luis Almagro.

He also said that the Honduran Supreme Court is one of the main accomplices in sustaining corruption in Honduras. Another reason why the current elections are so important - the new Congress will elect the new Supreme Court judges.

Michael Camilleri, senior advisor at the State Department, said that Honduras is losing 12.5% of its GDP to corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-se-puede-trabajar-con-los-gobiernos-del-triangulo-norte-porque-no-estan-comprometidos-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-senala-norma-torres/>

<https://criterio.hn/oea-no-defendio-a-la-maccih-ni-a-sus-funcionarios-juan-jimenez-mayor/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1453564910550519810>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-pierde-el-12-5-del-pib-debido-a-la-acentuada-corrupcion-e-impunidad/>

So far, there have been 375'009 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'219 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/pandemia-registra-375-mil-009-contagios-y-10-mil-219-decesos-en-honduras/>

"The human rights situation in Honduras is deteriorating further every day, human rights organizations denounced today in a public hearing via virtual channel of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which is holding its 181st period of sessions. The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights (OHCHR) and the State of Honduras participated in the hearing to present the "Situation of human rights in the context of the pandemic in Honduras".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cada-dia-la-situacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-es-precaria/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/victimas-de-violaciones-a-ddhh-comparecen-ante-la-cidh/>

Vice portrayed Digna Valle, "The Brutal Drug Trafficking Matriarch Who Brought Down Her Own Clan".

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkbj9v/drug-trafficking-matriarch-el-espiritu-honduras-digna-valle>

The extradition of Fredy Mármol took place yesterday and he was handed over to the FBI.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/atic-entrega-al-fbi-al-extraditable-fredy-marmol/>

"The Honduran María Felícita López, of the Lenca ethnic group, won the sixth edition of the Carlos Escaleras National Award on Wednesday, in honor of the environmentalist of the same name, who was assassinated 24 years ago."

<https://proceso.hn/indigena-lenca-hondurena-gana-premio-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1907-premio-carlos-escaleras-es-otorgado-a-maria-felicita-lopez>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/premio-carlos-escaleras-ratifica-mi-compromiso-con-la-defensa-del-territorio-maria-felicita-lopez/>

28/10/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Mining - Azacualpa; ZEDEs; Corruption; Climate Crisis; Elections - National Party, Opposition, Peace, Armed Forces, Religion; Violence; Dengue; IMF; and Honduras on Sale

The JOH regime continues to imprison the Guapinol defenders. "In a ruling without any legal basis, the Trujillo Court has ordered the arbitrary detention of eight Honduran water defenders. The ruling, which comes a day late after a pre-trial detention review hearing, shows once again not only the lack of judicial independence but also the deep complicity between the highest levels of the Honduran judiciary and economic interests linked to the ruling elite and the executive branch.

Without any legal basis, the Court (...) resolved to maintain the preventive detention while the defendants await their trial, which is scheduled to begin on December 1, 2021, just a few days after the country's general elections. According to local news sources, the judges in Trujillo waited to issue the ruling on the preventive detention until they received a phone call from the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta. After today's notification, we are absolutely convinced that there are no conditions for this trial to develop independently or in compliance with due process guarantees."

CONADEH called on the state to take into consideration the recommendation of international bodies, such as the UN.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/collusion-between-rolando-argueta-lenir-perez-keeps-guapinol-defenders-in-illegal-detention>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1453832935543648264>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3281-tribunal-de-sentencia-cerro-las-rejas-para-la-libertad-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://proceso.hn/conadeh-recomienda-al-estado-tomar-en-cuenta-opiniones-internacionales-de-ddhh-en-caso-guapinol/>

The people of Azacualpa announced to resist the destruction of their cemetery (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1453872676536258566>

<https://criterio.hn/minosa-vuelve-a-impulsar-exhumaciones-en-cementerio-de-azacualpa/>

Choloma plans to declare its territory free of ZEDEs today.

<https://tiempo.hn/municipalidad-choloma-libre-de-zede-cabildo/>

Fighting corruption in Honduras is dangerous and could yourself get targeted by the State. This seemed to have happened now to Gabriella Castellanos, the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). While a two-day event in Washington on corruption in Central America takes place, where the CNA played an important role and the widespread corruption in Honduras up to

the highest ranks was a prominent topic, back home a group of lawyers filed a complaint against Castellanos for embezzlement of public funds and nepotism. To be continued...

In the same forum, UFERCO's Luis Santos explained the evolution of corruption in Honduras taking the Pandora case as an example. "I have 23 years of experience in the Public Prosecutor's Office and it never ceases to amaze me how several State Secretariats have colluded to steal money and devote it to luxuries and political campaigns". The Pandora Case has not moved forward since it has been blocked by an amparo since 2018.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1500022-466/denuncian-gabriela-castellanos-malversacion-caudales-publicos-nepotismo-cna>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-javier-santos-caso-pandora-muestra-como-ha-evolucionado-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1453727633313722387>

Nina Lakhani has an important piece in the Guardian on the effects of the climate crisis on Honduras, especially its economically poorest inhabitants. "Honduras is one of the most unequal, corrupt and violent countries in Latin America, where a handful of politically powerful clans control the economy while more than two-thirds of the population live in poverty. Its geography and socio-economic deficiencies make Honduras one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to extreme weather events like droughts, heatwaves, storms and floods which are increasing in intensity due to global heating."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/28/honduras-climate-crisis-floods-hurricanes-poor-community>

Even though the law clearly prohibits the government from political campaigning with public funds, including the inauguration of public works, the JOH regime regularly violates this. On October 15, he opened the new Palmerola airport where he included people running for office. By law, he should be sanctioned by the CNE. "For the analyst and researcher of the Center of Studies for Democracy (Cespad), Asis Castellanos, the National Party, being in power, has privileged access to State resources without the governing institutions of the electoral processes being able to effectively apply the provisions. "This will not be solved until we have independent, autonomous bodies and there is independence of the powers of the State in which there really is political will to apply the sanctions that exist regarding the use and misappropriation of public resources during the electoral period", he said."

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-hernandez-viola-ley-electoral-para-beneficiar-candidatos-del-partido-nacional/>

Opposition candidate Xiomara Castro met with the head of the OAS electoral mission, the former president of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera. "With peace and democratic spirit we must overcome the hate campaigns, the incitement to violence, the constant attacks on the National Electoral Council that seek to weaken it, the intention to use two identity cards to distort the new census and the discrediting of the results transmission process; we will overcome all these threats and we will guarantee the triumph of the people of Honduras."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/28/reunion-xiomara-castro-mision-de-la-oea/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-democracia-en-honduras-esta-amenazada-por-el-partido-nacional-debemos-trabajar-juntos-para-garantizar-los-derechos-de-la-ciudadania-xiomara-castro/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-democracia-esta-amenazada-en-honduras-dice-xiomara-castro-de-zelaya-a-la-oea/>

The Nationalist president of the CNE, Kevin Aguirre, called on the political parties to sign an agreement on peaceful elections.

<https://proceso.hn/cne-exhorta-a-politicos-a-firmar-un-acuerdo-de-paz/>

El Libertador reports on the role of the Armed Forces in the elections. "In 30 days, Hondurans will vote to choose a new Government for the period 2022-2026 and (...) the Armed Forces have already placed themselves "at the order" of the National Electoral Council (CNE) when last Tuesday, in a strange event where the president of the body [CNE], Kelvin Aguirre, bowed to the illegal and illegitimate ruler - according to the Constitution - Juan Hernandez. The ceremony took place in the exclusive Campo Parada Marte park, west of the capital Tegucigalpa; with the presence of several military squads and the high command, Hernández assured that his questioned government was going to "guarantee" a peaceful democratic process. (...) Analyst Raúl Peña has been emphatic that this division of the CNE and the lack of confidence of the population in the Armed Forces and its high command mean that the process should be closely watched by the citizenry. Peña criticized that "orlandism" has hijacked the highest command of the Army and even "the new command that will take office in December is already politicized".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3310-honduras-militares-politizados-y-division-en-cne-motivan-accion-de-ciudadania-en-urnas>

"Politicians, especially those of the ruling National Party, have resorted to fundamentalist campaigns, using religious doctrines, to discredit their contenders and at the same time gain the sympathies of the most conservative."

<https://criterio.hn/politicos-conservadores-de-honduras-utilizan-el-nombre-de-dios-para-hacer-campanas-politicas/>

There has been an increase of homicides by 17% in the first half of 2021 compared to 2020.

<https://twitter.com/PNUDHonduras/status/1453771223922614289>

<https://www.hn.undp.org/content/honduras/es/home/presscenter/articles/2021/analisis-multidimensional-de-la-seguridad-ciudadana-en-honduras-0.html>

The municipal health authorities in Tegucigalpa declared the capital in the state of a dengue epidemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-epidemia-en-el-distrito-central-por-incremento-en-casos-de-dengue/>

A Honduran delegation traveled to Washington DC to meet with the IMF to discuss the fifth revision of its program.

<https://proceso.hn/delegacion-hondurena-en-washington-para-cerrar-quinta-revision-de-programa-con-fmi/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/un-pais-en-venta/>

29/10/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, Reitoca; Mining - Azacualpa; ZEDEs; Corruption - UFRRCO, CNA, IHSS; Elections - TJE, Polls, Violence, Disinformation; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Education; Southcom; Migration - US; and the Crime of Defending Nature

In a press release, OACNUDH "expressed its most serious concerns" about the decision by the Trujillo court to maintain pre-trial detention for the Guapinol defenders (see last two days). ""The Office I represent has repeatedly called for a review of the preventive detention of defenders and for compliance with due process guarantees based on Honduras' international obligations in this area. We regret that, once again, and without accrediting the elements that justify maintaining preventive detention, the defenders continue to be subjected to this measure," said Isabel Albaladejo Escribano, OACNUDH Representative in Honduras."

The European Union as well as the Spanish, French and German embassies also showed their concerns.

Criterio highlights the problematic role of the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Rolando Argueta, in this case.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-lamenta-resolucion-del-tribunal-de-sentencia-de-trujillo-que-ordena-mantener-en-detencion-preventiva-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1454150425565880325>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-complicidad-de-presidente-del-poder-judicial-en-detencion-ilegal-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

In a second case of criminalization, "OACNUDH accompanied the defenders of the Lenca Indigenous Council of Reitoca at the hearing where alternative measures to pre-trial detention were ordered. The Office notes with concern that this is the second criminal proceeding initiated against Reitoca leaders".

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1454208471281307648>

The inhabitants of Azacualpa continue to face threats by employees of the mining company MINOSA as well as the police. The people are resisting the illegal expansion of the mine (see last two days).

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1454194187340075013>

Colomoncagua is the fourth municipality in Intibucá which declared its territory free of ZEDEs and one of over 30 nationwide.

Another one which may join soon is Choloma where a town hall meeting is scheduled for November 7.

Additionally, the Supreme Court admitted a constitutional challenge against the ZEDEs brought forward by the national university UNAH.

The nation-wide and sector-wide resistance against the ZEDEs continues strong, a fact even recognized by Proceso Digital.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1454166417704632323>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/choloma-convocado-a-cabildo-abierto-contras-las-zede-el-domingo-07-de-noviembre/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/bajo-presion-popular-se-define-fecha-para-cabildo-abierto-sobre-las-zede-en-choloma/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/obreros-senalan-que-las-zedes-violentan-el-codigo-laboral-hondureno/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1500163-466/sala-constitucional-admite-recurso-contras-zede>

<https://proceso.hn/en-alza-presion-social-contras-zedes-pero-estas-resisten/>

Reuters published an important article on the struggle by Luis Santos, head of UFERCO, in Honduras. "A prosecutor made gains against graft in Honduras. As probes got ever closer to President Juan Orlando Hernández, though, the government fought back. Reuters looks at the corruption and impunity leading record numbers of Hondurans to migrate north."

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/honduras-corruption-prosecutor/>

FOSDEH sent out a press release in solidarity with Gabriela Castellanos, the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), who suffers an act of criminalization just a day after exposing corruption in Honduras in an event in Washington (see first link below and yesterday).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3315-tras-exponer-sobre-corrupcion-en-honduras-acusan-directora-del-cna-por-nepotismo>

<https://fosdeh.com/pronunciamentos/comunicado-ante-ataque-en-contra-del-consejo-nacional-anticorrupcion/>

The MP requested pre-trial detention for congressman Reinaldo Ekónimo, accused of fraud and money laundering linked to the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-pedira-prision-preventiva-contra-parlamentario-implicado-en-nuevo-caso-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-solicita-prision-preventiva-para-el-diputado-reinaldo-ekonomo-por-los-delitos-de-fraude-y-lavado-de-activos/>

CESPAD published its fourth monitoring report of the general elections in Honduras covering September 25 to October 22.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/29/entre-disensos-en-el-cne-en-temas-relevantes-proceso-electoral-avanza-y-entra-en-la-recta-final/>

In its efforts to undermine the electoral process, the National Party had previously stopped the approval of the Electoral Procedural Law needed for the work of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE). Now, a provisional regulation will govern this electoral body.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/29/reglamento-provisional-apelaciones-elecciones-generales/>

Since noon yesterday, it is illegal to publish polls regarding the general elections. The ones published before, especially since the announcement of the opposition alliance favor the opposition candidate Xiomara Castro.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hoy-vence-plazo-para-publicar-encuestas-electorales-cne/>

<https://news.trust.org/item/20211027223105-hvqkb/>

After meeting with the OAS electoral observation mission (see yesterday), Xiomara Castro also met with the one by the EU. She expressed concern about electoral violence. "We are concerned about the atmosphere of violence during this month and on election day, we want Honduras to have peaceful and transparent elections".

<https://proceso.hn/preocupa-que-exista-un-ambiente-de-violencia-el-dia-de-las-elecciones-dice-xiomara-castro-a-ue/>

Leo Schwartz reports on the use of disinformation in the current electoral cycle in Honduras, especially targeting the opposition. "After the publication of this month's Pandora Papers, a massive leak of documents revealing global corruption, the Honduran investigative outlet Contracorriente found that two leading politicians from the country's ruling National Party were owners of offshore companies in tax havens. Then, the next day, a website purporting to be a news site called Universal Noticias published a story suggesting that a major opposition figure, Manuel Zelaya, also appeared in the Pandora Papers. But unlike the claim from Contracorriente, this second claim was untrue — Agence France-Presse described it as disinformation. (...) The Wish Win firm has worked extensively with Honduras' National Party, especially over the past year, ahead of November's elections. The company's chairman appeared on a flyer posted on Facebook earlier this year by a Mexican political strategist named Sergio José Gutiérrez. The flyer promoted a training camp for political candidates, run by the party, as well as several posts on Twitter alongside well-known National Party figures."

<https://restofworld.org/2021/political-pr-firm-disinformation-honduras-elections/>

So far, there have been 375'381' COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'420 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-llega-a-375-mil-381-contagiados-y-10-mil-420-decesos-por-covid-19/>

Honduras has received another 250'040 vaccines doses from the US through COVAX, in total the US has sent 3.9 million doses to Honduras.

Less than a third of Hondurans have received two shots so far, but they already started with the booster shot. 42'000 doses have been applied.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/gobierno-de-los-estados-unidos-de-america-realiza-nueva-donacion-a-honduras-de-250040-dosis-de-vacunas-moderna-contr-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-42-mil-personas-han-recibido-dosis-de-refuerzo-contr-covid-19/>

"The president of the College of Secondary Education Teachers of Honduras (Copemh), Fidel Garcia, denounced this Friday that teachers' salaries continue to be delayed and in recent months have been used for political purposes."

<https://confidencialhn.com/magisterio-denuncia-que-sigue-el-retraso-de-salarios-a-docentes-advierde-paralizacion-de-labores-si-persiste-la-situacion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3314-honduras-gobierno-amplia-penuria-para-20-mil-docentes-exigen-pago>

The Honduran Minister of Defense, general Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya, attended the change of command ceremony of the U.S. Southern Command.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/10/29/oficiales-hondurenos-estuvieron-en-cambio-del-jefe-del-comando-sur/>

"The Biden administration is trying for a second time to end the controversial Trump-era "Remain in Mexico" policy after it was thwarted earlier this year by a federal judge. The policy forced non-Mexican migrants to stay in Mexico until their immigration court date in the US. It was suspended at the beginning of President Joe Biden's term and formally terminated months later. But in August, a federal judge in Texas said that the Biden administration had violated federal law in how it went about unwinding the program and required it be restored. Friday, the Department of Homeland Security will release a new memo justifying its desire to end the policy, formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols, DHS officials say."

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/29/politics/biden-border-remain-in-mexico/index.html>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ser-ambientalista-en-honduras-es-un-crimen/>

30/10/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption - UFERCO; Elections - EU, ZEDEs; Drug Trafficking - Armed Forces; CESPAD published an interview with UFERCO's Luis Santos. "From that fiscal unit, he has been in charge of the most emblematic and high impact corruption cases involving high-ranking and former

public officials, private individuals and dozens of deputies of the National Congress of Honduras. His work and that of his team of prosecutors has been hindered by the legal shield that Congress approved in favor of corruption. (...) Santos says that he feels frustration not so much because the deputies of the National Congress of Honduras approve laws to shield themselves, but because the media of the country, far from taking up their role of social control and denunciation, remain silent. But, despite the fact that they have been decimated as a prosecutor's office, he assures that he keeps the hope of revival and "sooner rather than later" this unit will be strengthened to accompany the efforts that international cooperation is consolidating to create an Anti-Corruption Task Force in the Northern Triangle."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/30/luis-santos-la-ley-de-privacion-de-dominio-el-siguiente-blindaje-de-los-corruptos-en-honduras/>

Željana Zovko, the head of the Electoral Observation Mission of the European Union, concluded a first three-day visit to Honduras. She called for peaceful elections. The mission will publish a first preliminary report two days after the election which are held on November 28. About two months later, a representative of the mission will return to Honduras to present the final report.

<https://proceso.hn/jefa-de-la-moe-ue-pide-no-haya-conflicto-en-proceso-electoral-hondureno/>

<https://criterio.hn/no-nos-importa-quien-gane-o-quien-pierda-jefa-de-mision-de-la-union-europea/>

"The presidential aspirant of the National Party, Nasry Asfura, maintains a changing position regarding the installation of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (Zedes) in the country and such indecision could place him in a compromising situation with respect to the government of President Juan Orlando Hernández. In less than a month he issued two statements, one in favor and the other against, regarding the special regions; both have been made to a society in the middle of an electoral campaign."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/10/30/contradiccion-postura-nasry-asfura-zedes/>

The former head of the Armed Forces, René Ponce Fonseca, has been linked to drug trafficking in the trials held in New York (see first link below).

Now he claims that because he was invited to attend the change of command ceremony of the U.S. Southern Command the accusations are somehow false...

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/presidente-hondureno-planeaba-meter-drogas-en-narices-de-los-gringos-dice-testigo>

<https://proceso.hn/invitacion-a-traspaso-de-mando-del-comando-sur-descarta-acusaciones-en-mi-contrar-rene-orlando-ponce/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-invitecion-a-evento-del-comando-sur-exjefe-de-las-ffaa-descarta-senalamientos-en-su-contrapor-fiscales-de-eeuu/>

31/10/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption - CNA; Elections - Violence, OAS, Opposition; Climate Crisis - BID; Economy; and Family Matters

The Anti-Corruption Coalition published a statement condemning the attacks against Gabriela Castellanos, the director of the CNA (see last two days).

ContraCorriente published an important investigation into Doris Imelda Madrid, the woman behind the attack against Castellanos (see also yesterday). "The former head of the IAIP has a long trajectory defending cases of people linked to corruption, so for political analyst Raúl Pineda, Madrid's interest in denouncing Castellanos could be due to two things: "That she is a fervent patriot or that she is fulfilling a mandate from a client who is enthroned in the high spheres of power; it is a personal initiative of hers -which I do not believe- or it has been the fulfillment of the satisfaction of a request from someone in the high spheres who is upset by this type of situations and who did not dare to show their face and who used the distinguished lawyer Madrid to exercise this type of actions"."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1454944806845755394>

<https://confidencialhn.com/coalicion-anticorrupcion-condena-hostigamiento-contradirectora-del-cna-gabriela-castellanos/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/31/los-clientes-de-doris-imelda-madrid-la-denunciante-de-gabriela-castellanos/>

CESPAD published its final report on the electoral context focusing on electoral violence and drug trafficking ties of candidates.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/10/31/la-narcoactividad-y-violencia-politica-la-tendencia-en-la-cuenta-regresiva-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

A rally by Libre was shot at and at least one young man was hurt.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tiroteo-en-contra-de-simpatizantes-de-libre-deja-a-joven-herido-de-bala/>

There are concerning statements from Congressman Luis Redondo. He disputes the statement that the OAS electoral observation mission met with Congress According to him, they only met with National Party representatives and their allies.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1454888117928964096>

ContraCorriente reports on the opposition alliances at the city level. "The municipal alliance of San Pedro Sula -formed by three candidates who managed to reach an agreement to try to defeat Armando Calidonio- has encouraging forecasts, however, it is in danger after it has been announced that the ruling of the National Electoral Council (CNE) would prevent its registration. Meanwhile, in Tegucigalpa, the main opposition leaders at municipal level have not been able to reach an agreement and hopes for a robust alliance to stop David Chavez, who is positioned as favorite, are diluted."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/31/alianzas-municipales-buscan-derrotar-a-los-caudillos-nacionalistas/>

JOH traveled to Glasgow to the COP 26 hoping to get access to more funds while at home his regime continues to illegally imprison environmental defenders.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mandatario-hernandez-viaja-a-la-cop26-para-solicitar-nuevamente-fondos-verdes/>

The Inter-American Development Bank announced to align all its projects with the goals of the Paris Agreement by 2023.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-alineara-todos-sus-proyectos-desde-2023-con-el-acuerdo-de-paris/>

Honduras' commercial deficit in the first eight month of 2021 is 74.8% bigger than in 2020, almost \$4.8 billion in total.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registro-deficit-comercial-de-4-767-millones-de-dolares-en-8-meses/>

"With less than a month to go before the general elections in Honduras, disagreements between candidates for popular election from different political parties are growing, but if there is one thing they all agree on, it is not to talk about their relatives in party politics."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/10/31/herencia-de-caudillos-una-amenaza-para-desarrollo-democratico-en-honduras/>