

01/06/20

Honduras Daily: Berta; ZEDES; Rain; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Extractivism, WHRDs; Penal Code; Violence; Elections; Corruption - de Lobo; and MAÍZ to the Rescue

51 months ago today, Berta Cáceres was assassinated. To commemorate her and her struggle, a new book about her life will be presented to the public today.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1267471984683651077>

OFRANEH reports on the recent inauguration of the charter city (ZEDE) PROSPERA in Roatán. "The establishment of model cities in Roatan goes beyond a simple Special Economic Zone by having the additional characteristic of a kind of tabula rasa in legal matters, which can easily be converted into new forms of tyranny where social and technological experiments will take place. (...) It is interesting that the governing body of the ZEDE has issued a statement, disassociating itself from governance experiments and now it is the same promoters of the conference "Disrupting Democracy in Honduras" in San Francisco, who appear as the promoter of the ZEDE PROGESA. It should be noted that the communiqué was removed from the ZEDE website."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/06/01/disrumpiendo-la-democracia-en-honduras-libertarios-neorreaccionarios-y-apertura-de-zede-en-roatan/>

As heavy rainfalls continue in Honduras, at least four people have fallen victim to them, while three more are missing.

The yellow alert for 10 departments has been prolonged for another 2 days.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1383817-466/luto-y-devastaci%C3%B3n-dejan-lluvias-en-el-sur-y-occidente-de-honduras>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/lluvias-dejan-primeras-victimas-mortales-en-honduras/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/por-48-horas-mas-extienden-alerta-amarilla-para-diez-departamentos-de-honduras-y-el-resto-en-alerta-verde/>

575 tests resulted in 160 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 5362, Five more deaths were reported for a current death toll of 217. There are still over 500 people hospitalized (533), 38 in intensive care units.

Among those infected are various Nationalist leaders.

Another journalist also got infected.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1383799-466/honduras-con-160-nuevos-infectados-covid-19-deja-217-muertos-y-5362-casos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/varios-dirigentes-nacionalistas-dan-positivo-a-la-prueba-del-nuevo->

[coronavirus-estan-en-autoaislamiento/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/periodista-de-san-pedro-sula-da-positivo-al-coronavirus-y-ya-esta-bajo-tratamiento-medico/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/01/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-1-de-junio-del-2020/>

The JOH regime receives even more money from the IMF. "The decisions increase total Fund support to about US\$531 million. This immediately releases US\$233 million, more than a fivefold increase in the amount originally approved by the Executive Board."

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/01/pr20230-honduras-imf-execboard-completes-2nd-rev-under-sba-scf-arrange-approves-support-covid19>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fmi-aprueba-segunda-revision-del-programa-con-honduras-y-aumenta-a-531-millones-de-dolares-asistencia-para-lucha-contra-el-covid-19.html>

And as the money flows, so do corruption allegations. "About 420 million lempiras that have been executed by Invest-H (Inversiones Estratégicas de Honduras), "do not fit" with what the Ministry of Finance (Sefin), has published, said the Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh)."

<https://tiempo.hn/fosdeh-invest-h-presentando-irregularidades-cuentas-sefin/>

"Environmentalist and researcher Pedro Landa told Progreso Radio that the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic is being taken advantage of by extractive companies which, through the Secretary of State in the Office of Economic Development, have the green light to continue operating despite the confinement."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/crisis-por-coronavirus-beneficia-a-empresas-extractivista-denuncia-ambientalista/>

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Honduras published its April Newsletter on the situation of WHRDs during the pandemic.

http://im-defensoras.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BOLETIN-INFORMATIVO-RNNDH-ABRIL-2020BC_BC-1.pdf

The CNA published its second and third part of an investigation into the "Penal Code of Impunity".

<https://www.cna.hn/2020/05/24/estudio-al-codigo-penal-tomo-ii/>

<https://www.cna.hn/2020/06/01/estudio-al-codigo-penal-tomo-iii/>

Since the beginning of the lockdown, 9 mass killings took place in Honduras and on average there are still 7 people murdered per day.

In the yearly ranking of the Mexican NGO Citizens' Council for Public Safety and Criminal Justice, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa are still among the 50 most violent cities in the world.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/siete-personas-mueren-diariamente-en-tiempo-de-cuarentena-en-honduras-observatorio-de-la-violencia/>

<http://www.seguridadjusticiaypaz.org.mx/sala-de-prensa/1590-boletin-ranking-2019-de-las-50-ciudades-mas-violentas-del-mundo>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1383816-466/san-pedro-sula-tegucigalpa-honduras-ciudades-violentas-mundo-2019>

Due to the corona crisis, the budget for the primary elections will be reduced by 25%. Last time, they cost 1.2 billion Lempiras.

The former president Pepe Lobo, meanwhile, reiterates that he won't support any Nationalist movement but rather supports opposition alliances to end the JOH regime.

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-reducira-25-presupuesto-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lobo-anuncia-que-no-apoyara-ningun-movimiento-nacionalista-y-se-sumara-a-alianzas-que-busquen-la-salida-de-joh/>

Lobo's wife, meanwhile, still hopes to get out of prison. The Constitutional Chamber just appointed a judge to execute a habeas corpus appeal in favor of her.

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-designa-juez-para-ejecutar-habeas-corpus-a-favor-de-ex-primera-dama-rosa-bonilla/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/los-pacientes-que-iniciaron-tratamiento-maiz-han-tenido-una-mejoria-de-mas-del-80-por-ciento/>

<https://ltv.hn/2020/06/01/manana-se-entregaran-200-mil-tratamientos-maiz-en-el-pais/>

02/06/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Berta - Book; Migration - US; Penal Code; Dengue; COVID-19 - Mining, IMF, Health Sector, Economy, Poverty, Prisons, Debt; Education; and Silenced Zones

El Libertador raised the alarm writing that there is a plan to assassinate its director Jhonny José Lagos Henríquez. "The information was released Tuesday, June 2, by a source linked to the high police and military spheres of the Central American nation, who explained to journalist Lagos

Henriquez that he should "take strict measures", because he has been followed and monitored for some time now. "The people who are on the target list [black list], are tagged with a security code and two months ago his code was activated [green light, as it is known in criminal jargon] and since then you are being followed up ...," the source said, indicating that the crime against the journalist has been ordered."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2028-alerta-honduras-fuerzas-oscuras-ordenan-asesinar-al-director-de-el-libertador>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-conspiracion-para-asesinar-a-director-de-periodico-el-libertador-jhonny-lagos/>

Thanks to the new book on Berta's life, struggle and death, there is again more international coverage. In an opinion piece in The Guardian, the author Nina Lakhani writes about Berta and the open case of her assassination.

"InSight Crime spoke with Lakhani about her book on Cáceres' life and death, the nexus between elites and organized crime in Honduras and the ongoing fight for justice in her murder case." There will also be another webinar on the book and case, organized by Amnesty International on Friday.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/02/berta-caceres-was-exceptional-her-was-all-too-commonplace>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/berta-caceres-book-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/AmnistiaOnline/status/1267600098097270787>

In the midst of a global pandemic, desperation led some 300 people to make their way to the US from Choluteca.

Some report that they are Hondurans, others write that they are migrants who had been stranded in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2026-urgente-nueva-caravana-de-honduras-huye-de-la-muerte>

<https://criterio.hn/migrantes-haitianos-se-cansaron-de-esperar-la-voluntad-politica-y-humanitaria-del-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1587-migrantes-retenidos-en-honduras-inician-caravana-por-la-libertad>

There have been several cases of deported migrants from the US to Honduras, but also EL Salvador and Guatemala who tested positive for COVID-19. The Miami Herald reports on the failed response by the Trump administration to this. "The Department of Homeland Security is only testing a

sample of the detainees it is removing from the United States and using a 15-minute rapid test to determine if they have the coronavirus. The response by DHS to a Miami Herald inquiry comes as immigration advocates continue to call for an end to deportations amid surging COVID-19 infections in Latin America and the Caribbean and as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns about the accuracy of the test being used, called the Abbott ID NOW. Earlier this month, the FDA cautioned that early data “suggests potential inaccurate results from using the Abbott ID NOW point-of-care test to diagnose COVID-19. Specifically, the test may return false negative results.” Made by Abbott Laboratories, the test, promoted by the Trump administration, is said to provide inaccurate results that could have patients falsely believing they are not infected with the coronavirus.”

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/immigration/article243054631.html>

There are many reasons to criticize the new Penal Code, one of them is the fact that it reduces penalties for sexual crimes. “[T]he reduction of penalties for sexual crimes is not in keeping with the high levels of violence faced by women and ignores that it represents an offense against human dignity, as stated in the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. If the National Congress wanted to demonstrate its commitment to eradicating violence against women, it should establish penalties appropriate to the seriousness of the crimes. For the time being, the new Penal Code shows that such a commitment does not exist.”

<https://radioprogresohn.net/np/violencia-sexual-y-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

Two minors died of dengue in the last 24 hours.

There are currently 13'030 dengue cases in Honduras, 1169 of which are cases of severe dengue. There are 21 suspected deaths, 9 were confirmed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mueren-dos-menores-de-edad-a-causa-del-dengue-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44361>

573 new tests, 165 new cases, a new total of 5527. Eight more people died for a current death toll of 225.

At least 18 people working in the media sector have been infected with COVID-19.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384048-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-con-165-casos-m%C3%A1s-cifra-de-muertos-sube-a>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1383994-410/periodistas-honduras-coronavirus-contagios-covid-19-periodismo-tegucigalpa-san-pedro-sula>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1180-en-menos-de-48-horas-dos-periodistas-mas-dan-positivos-de-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/02/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-2-de-junio-del-2020/>

Over 330 organizations signed an open letter in solidarity with communities, indigenous peoples as well as workers at risk from mining companies trying to profit from the global pandemic. "Mining companies are ignoring the real threats of the pandemic and continuing to operate, using any means available. (...) Governments around the world are taking extraordinary measures to shut down legitimate protests and promote the mining sector (...) Mining companies are using the pandemic as an opportunity to hide their dirty track records and present themselves as public-minded saviours (...) Mining companies and governments are using the crisis to secure regulatory change that favours the industry at the expense of people and planet".

https://miningwatch.ca/sites/default/files/global_solidarity_statement_on_mining_pandemic_profiteers_0.pdf

<https://inequality.org/research/mining-profiteers-covid/>

Javier Suazo critically reflects on IMF loans for the JOH regime (for the newest one see yesterday) and fiscal responsibility. "Within that framework, the IMF quickly approved \$143 million for Honduras to deal with the pandemic, and decided to increase the credit to \$530 million. In this regard, a new agreement with this organization is urgently needed, together with contributions from economic and social actors, and an evaluation of the scope of the Fiscal Responsibility Law in order to propose reforms to it or its repeal. The concern is that this straitjacket will remain in place after the pandemic without considering the ceilings required for public investment spending, and the incremental and sustainable amounts in the health and education budgets, as well as the incorporation of the CNA and independent social auditing for greater control of corruption and transparency in the management of state resources. Honduras cannot continue to apply economic adjustment policies when there is an absence of technical criteria for allocating resources and a clear manifestation of the population's rejection of social programs that use these resources for political-electoral purposes."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/206943>

The director of the Hospital Escuela, Osmín Tovar, warned yesterday of a possible collapse of the hospital he directs.

WHO representative Piedad Huerta announced yesterday that Honduras will confront the corona pandemic with three new treatments as part of a study.

Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Honduran Medical Association, is critical about the wonder treatments MAÍZ and Catracho touted by the JOH regime. She links their promotion with a will to open up the economy (see below). "The idea that there is a magic medicine they want to use for the opening of the shops so that the population doesn't worry because Maíz exists and that Maíz can be distributed in an indiscriminate way in the whole population and that if you have at your hand these medicines don't worry."

<https://confidencialhn.com/director-del-hospital-escuela-advierte-colapso-sanitario-por-indiferencia-del-ejecutivo/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oms-ops-anuncia-que-honduras-enfrentara-pandemia-con-tres-nuevos-tratamientos.html>

<https://criterio.hn/maiz-y-catracho-estan-siendo-utilizados-para-abrir-los-comercios/>

JOH's plan to open up the economy continues to be met by criticism. "Speaking to Radio Progreso, the President of the Honduran Medical Association, Dr. Suyapa Figueroa, said that it is a serious mistake to open up the economy, because the real situation of the pandemic in Honduras is unknown because there is a considerable deficit of tests to detect Covid-19. Figueroa lamented the fact that businessmen insist on returning "to normal" when there are not even beds available in hospitals for patients with the virus. For his part, Dr. Héctor Bonilla of Social Security in San Pedro Sula, said that Honduras is not prepared to open its economy because cases are on the rise and the trend indicates that the number of positive patients will not drop in the coming weeks. The same opinion is held by the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Yoro, Dr. Guadalupe Almendarez, who was interviewed by Radio Progreso and said that it is a mistake to open the economy even in his municipality Yoro."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/pese-a-los-cuestionamientos-empresarios-van-por-la-reapertura-de-la-economia/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2027-honduras-denuncian-apertura-del-comercio-sin-inteligencia-ni-conciencia>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the measure to fine people not wearing a mask with 200 Lempiras as unconstitutional (see previous e-mails).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2860-uso-obligatorio-de-mascarillas-es-inconstitucional-y-criminaliza-a-las-personas-en-precaria-situacion-economica>

Another inmates suspected of COVID-19 died.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1384026-466/muere-reo-sospechoso-de-covid-19-en-puerto-cortes>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-privado-de-libertad-por-sospechas-de-covid19-en-el-presidio-de-puerto-cortes/>

The Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies (Icfei) estimates that the corona crisis will increase debt by 12 points of GDP. This would mean that Honduras' public debt could reach 61.7% of GDP, yet the JOH regime is only allowed to borrow money up to 55% of GDP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondurenos-deberan-aportar-61-de-cada-100-lempiras-para-el-pago-de-la-deuda-externa/>

Teachers announced possible strike measures if their salary for the month of May is not paid this week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-amenazan-con-paro-en-los-proximos-dias-por-falta-de-pago/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/06/01/zonas-silenciadas-en-honduras/>

03/06/20

Honduras Daily: Berta; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Deportations; MADJ; Mining - Guapinol, Aura Minerals; Femicide; Rain; Migration; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, WHRDs, Prisons, Mental Health; Elections; and the MP

For those who missed it, the presentation of the book "Who Killed Berta Cáceres" by Nina Lakhani organized by COPINH, Front Line Defenders, the Goldman Environmental Prize and 350.org can be watched online.

<https://copinh.org/2020/06/presentaciones-del-libro-quien-mato-a-berta-caceres/>

Tony Hernández' newest defense team request another postponement of the sentencing scheduled for tomorrow, June 5.

In the case against the former Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera the sentencing has been postponed to August 10.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384350-466/abogado-de-tony-hernandez-solicita-aplazar-sentencia-hasta-julio>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384344-466/postergan-sentencia-contra-fredy-najera-en-estados-unidos>

The oldest trick in the book, the Honduran foreign minister Lisandro Rosales tries to use the corona pandemic for a possible reform to the extradition bill. Various sectors have denounced that this only serves to help political allies. "If Fredy Najera reached an agreement with the New York prosecutor's office, expect new extradition requests", published Libre congressman Jari Dixon Herrera in his Twitter account".

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44366>

The Organization of the Tolupan People (OPT) and the Board of the La Candelaria Tribe denounce

that "[o]n May 28, 2020, eight agents of the Investigative Police Directorate (DPI) and four of the Preventive Police arbitrarily detained José Luis Mejía and José Ricardo Bermúdez, both members of our indigenous tribe La Candelaria, one of the 31 tribes that make up the Tolupe people in Honduras". Both men are members of MADJ.

In a second case, MADJ denounces a recent attack against the Camp of Dignity for Water and Life in Pajuiles (the third link to an article from last month offers more information on the situation there).

Lastly, MADJ denounces that the municipality of Yoro continues to disobey a court order which called for compensation for damages caused to the San Francisco Locomapa tribe.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/06/02/nuevo-proceso-de-criminalizacion-contr-el-pueblo-tolupan-comunicado-opt-y-consejo-directivo-tribu-la-candelaria/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1268269930568454145>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/05/25/territorios-madj-pajuiles-y-sus-alternativas-frente-al-covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1268345191058100224>

"The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Common and Public Property of Tocoa, Colón, warned that in the Olanchito, Yoro penal center, where seven Guapinol defenders are located, there is already one prisoner infected by Covid19, which will lead to further contagion, as they had warned the State of Honduras, which through the Judiciary is bent on keeping them illegally in custody, and this committee holds the government of Juan Orlando Hernández and the Judiciary responsible for a possible fatal outcome."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2864-contagio-por-covid19-llego-al-centro-penal-de-olanchito-donde-se-encuentran-los-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://radioprogreso.net/instante/preocupacion-causa-casos-de-coronavirus-en-carcel-de-olanchito-yoro/>

"Azacualpa Environmental Committee denounces that US & Cda-based mining company Aura Minerals has reopened operations, bringing ppl from outside the area in to work. They fear this will heighten spread of #COVID19 #Honduras. Committee continues to defend its community cemetery."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1268185551246553089>

The Center for Women's Rights (CDM) denounces that at least 113 women were murdered in the last six months, 59 of which in the last three months during lockdown.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-113-mujeres-asesinadas-en-seis-meses/>

Due to the ongoing heavy rainfall, alerts in 12 departments have been extended for another 72 hours.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384365-466/lluvias-extienden-alertas-72-horas-12-departamentos-honduras>

There is more coverage of the caravan of stranded migrants who took off from Choluteca to reach the US (see yesterday).

According to the National Institute of Migration (INM), they offered them flights home, i.e. to deport them, which was denied.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/06/alerta-defensoras-hn-personas-migrantes-de-haiti-y-cuba-se-enuestran-en-riesgo-al-intentar-salir-de-choluteca-en-busca-de-refugio-y-asistencia-medica/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/caravana-de-migrantes-haitianos-y-africanos-avanzan-rumbo-al-norte/>

<https://tiempo.hn/inm-ofrece-retornar-migrantes-sus-paises/>

549 tests brought forward another 163 COVID-19 cases for a total of 5960. 9 more people died, which means that already 234 Hondurans have fallen victim to COVID-19. The number of people hospitalized is 549, 44 in intensive care units.

Among those tested positive is the head of epidemiology at the Health Secretariat. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384339-466/confirman-163-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-hay-234-muertos-y>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefa-de-vigilancia-epidemiologica-confirma-que-dio-positivo-al-coronavirus-esta-en-autoaislamiento/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/03/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-3-de-junio-del-2020/>

Another medical institution warns of its imminent collapse. "The president of the association of doctors of the National Cardiopulmonary Institute, Suyapa Sosa, warned this Wednesday that they are on the verge of collapse due to the lack of beds to care for patients with coronavirus, while denouncing that the Executive and Sinager have not fulfilled their promises."

The Honduran College of Microbiologists and Clinical Chemists warned that they would not report to their jobs if biosecurity measures are not guaranteed for them.

There is more criticism against the Maíz and Catracho treatment (see also yesterday).

Especially media outlets close to the JOH regime tout them as wonder drugs. When a reporter from TSiHonduras asked a doctor about them, she did not get the, positive, answer, she expected and the doctor was just cut off.

There are at least 150 auxiliary nurses in Honduras who tested positive for COVID-19. This is not surprise. "The employees of the Hospital Integrado in Tela, Atlántida, have denounced on Radio Progreso that they have to make their own nylon gowns and wash the masks to reuse them to protect themselves from Covid-19, in view of the abandonment by government authorities."

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-el-instituto-cardiopulmonar-esta-por-colapsar-ante-negligencia-de-sinager/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-microbiologos-pide-a-sus-agremiados-no-presentarse-a-sus-puestos-si-no-se-garantizan-medidas-de-bioseguridad/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2029-honduras-formulas-maiz-y-catracho-no-son-cura-magica>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1268388623944224768>

<https://twitter.com/HoyMismoTSI/status/1268205807633563649>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/autoridades-toman-represalias-contrapersonal-en-hospital-tela-integrado/>

ConfidencialHN and Radio Globo got access to documentation showing that the JOH regime received \$2.4 million from Taiwan to confront the corona crisis. "No official from the Ministry of Health and the National Risk Management System (Sinager) was able to explain how the money and supplies donated by Taiwan were used to stop the pandemic".

<https://confidencialhn.com/taiwan-dono-a-honduras-2-4-millones-de-dolares-e-insumos-para-combatir-el-coronavirus-autoridades-callan-su-paradero/>

IM-Defensoras published a report on women human rights defenders and the corona crisis highlighting that the crisis for many WHRDs precedes the global pandemic and further exacerbates it.

<http://im-defensoras.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/La-crisis-ya-estaba-aqu%C3%AD-Defensoras-mesoamericanas-ante-COVID-19-28052020.pdf>

"On May 29, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) requested from the State of Honduras to provide information on the situation of persons deprived of liberty in the context of the health emergency caused by COVID-19. The request was made in the context of monitoring compliance with the High Court's rulings in the cases of Alfredo López Álvarez and Pacheco Teruel and others v. Honduras, issued in 2006 and 2012, respectively. In these judgments, the Inter-American Court ordered the Honduran State to adopt measures to substantially improve conditions, especially physical and health conditions, in prisons; to avoid overcrowding and overcrowding; and to guarantee the population deprived of its liberty medical care and access to food, among other

issues."

<https://www.cejil.org/es/corte-idh-solicita-informacion-al-estado-honduras-situacion-personas-privadas-libertad-marco-del>

UNAH conducted two studies on the mental health of Honduras during the pandemic. Fear for COVID-19 is not very high, more people are worried about their economic situation.

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-covid-19-hondurenos-entre-menos-preocupados/>

A discussion has taken off yesterday about the so-called "political debt" (deuda política), i.e. the amount of money political parties will receive depending on the votes they get. Some want to raise the amount per vote from 20 or 30 (the reporting differs) to 60 Lempiras.

<https://criterio.hn/con-aumento-de-20-a-60-lempiras-por-voto-congreso-comenzara-a-debatir-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-descarta-aumento-al-valor-de-la-deuda-politica-y-pide-que-cualquier-incremento-sea-para-combatir-del-sars-cov2/>

<https://tiempo.hn/economistas-apoyan-idea-no-aumentar-deuda-politica/>

CESPAD published a short analysis on "The Public Prosecutor's Office: Between Laziness and Loss of Relevance".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/03/cronologia-ministerio-publico-entre-la-desidia-y-la-perdida-de-relevancia/>

04/06/20

Honduras Daily: IACHR - Journalists, Tolupeán; Femicide; UN; COVID-19 - HR, Health Sector, Economy, Poverty, Prisons, COPINH, Domestic Workers; Elections; Corruption; and Single Mothers and the Crisis

COFADEH informs the IACHR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Edison Lanza, about state repression against journalists. "The letter focuses on events in the city of Choluteca, in the south of the country, where the regime's security forces attacked journalists, reporters and social communicators covering protests and demonstrations demanding food and work due to curfews, company closures and the suspension of public and private transport."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-denuncia-al-regimen-de-joh-ante-la-cidh-por-ataques-a-la-prensa/>

"In view of the aggravated food crisis currently faced by the inhabitants of the Tolupeán indigenous communities of the San Francisco Locomapa Tribe, due to the health emergency by COVID-19, the

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ) requested from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) new protection measures in favor of 18 members of MADJ living in the communities.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-solicitan-proteccion-cidh-crisis-alimentaria-y-salud-covid19-comunidades-tolupanes-san>

ConexiHon reports on the brutal murder of the 67-year old Priscila Mendoza, a community leader in Concepción de María, close to the Nicaragua border, and member of the Regional Women's Network.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1589-caso-priscila-mendoza-la-verdadera-justicia-es-que-ella-viviera>

I wonder what it says about the situation in Honduras that it was found eligible by the UN to access its Peacebuilding Fund, next to countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

<https://twitter.com/UNPeacebuilding/status/1268628444625108995>

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/list-pbf-countries-declared-eligible>

As expected (see yesterday), the sentencing date for JOH's brother Tony Hernández was again postponed. It is now scheduled for September 16.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2030-urgente-pasan-sentencia-de-tony-al-16-de-septiembre>

524 new tests, 190 new confirmed cases, a total of 5880 COVID-19 cases. 9 more people died for a current death toll of 243. The number of people in intensive care units increased to 49. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384614-466/honduras-casos-coronavirus-4-junio-sinager-muertos-infectados>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/04/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-4-de-junio-del-2020/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 12th joint press release during the corona pandemic. "The weeks advance, as do the infections, and with a rhythm similar to that of official corruption and looting, violence, lies and domination that lay bare the collapse of the neoliberal capitalist model. In contrast, popular organization advances, social and collective consciousness grows, and hope increases, and the citizenry grows in historical coherence and commitment, which are expressed in unequivocal signs of breaking the fears of the criminal group that leads the State. In this scenario, the voices of the various social movements make themselves felt in this twelfth edition of our Public Manifesto".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/manifiesto-publico-doce/>

There are more and more voices warning about the imminent collapse of the Honduran health system, especially regarding the situation at the main hospitals.

The University Hospital has setup tents to attend patients.

There is also the ongoing lack of medical supplies and biosafety equipment. At the National Cardiopulmonary Institute, for example, several rooms for patients are not equipped with oxygen. 10 more employees of the San Felipe Hospital tested positive of COVID-19.

Another doctor, Glenda Yamile Mejía Petit, allegedly died of COVID-19.

As did the microbiologist Julio César Licona at the University Hospital.

The reaction of the JOH regime? The Secretary of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores, claims that there is still response capacity in hospitals.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1384551-410/hospitales-honduras-colapso-covid-19-coronavirus-bioseguridad->

<https://confidencialhn.com/hospital-escuela-habilita-carpas-para-atender-aumento-de-casos-sospechosos-del-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-varias-salas-del-hospital-cardiopulmonar-se-estan-quedando-sin-suministro-de-oxigeno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/confirman-unos-10-empleados-del-hospital-san-felipe-positivos-de-covid19/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/1384647-410/salud-muerte-reconocida-doctora-san-pedro-sula->

<https://criterio.hn/muerte-de-microbiologo-desnuda-vulnerabilidad-de-personal-de-salud-en-hospitales-colegio-medico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-asegura-que-aun-hay-capacidad-en-los-hospitales-para-atender-paciente-de-covid-19/>

There are by now at least 65 COVID-19 cases at the Támara prison.

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) also informs about three cases at the El Porvenir prison and the infection of three prison guards of different prisons.

Delma Ordóñez of an association of family members of inmates denounces that the Támara prison director lied to her saying that the inmates were sick with dengue.

<https://radiohrn.hn/aumentan-a-65-los-casos-de-coronavirus-en-la-carcel-de-tamara-francisco-morazan/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-agentes-del-sistema-penitenciario-dan-positivo-a-prueba-del->

[coronavirus/](#)

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/04/director-de-tamara-me-dijo-que-privados-de-libertad-estan-enfermos-por-dengue-y-no-por-covid19-delmaordonez-asociacion-de-familiares/>

The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (Icefi) calls for a universal basic income for the region. "This generates a minimum guarantee of social protection that could meet the needs of the general population and, at the same time, contribute to economic recovery to counteract the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This measure would also contribute to the fulfillment of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and, by proposing a structural change in the model of welfare and economic growth, could be the basis for the discussion of new social, political, economic and fiscal pacts in Central America."

<https://criterio.hn/estados-centroamericanos-deben-avanzar-hacia-una-renta-basica-universal-icefi/>

Somehow blind to the situation described above, Sinager authorized the reactivation of economic activities in Honduras starting next Monday. The country will be divided into three zones for "an intelligent opening".

The Judicial Power will also start working again.

Radio Progreso reports on the situation of sex workers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sinager-autoriza-reapertura-de-actividades-comerciales-a-partir-del-proximo-8-de-junio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-de-honduras-reiniciara-operaciones-a-partir-de-la-proxima-semana/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/noticias-nacionales/trabajadoras-sexuales-entre-precariedad-economica-el-hambre-y-expuestas-al-contagio-del-covid-19/>

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with COPINH's Berta Zúniga about the situation in the rural and indigenous parts of Honduras and their response to the corona crisis. "It [the crisis] came to exacerbate those problems that are already almost chronic, in particular the lack of food. Fortunately, most of the organized communities in Copinh are producers of basic grains. But there are others that are suffering from water shortages and are going through very difficult times. In addition, the quarantine made it impossible to sell community products and other informal commercial activities. There is also an upsurge in gender-based violence and an increase in police and military abuses."

<http://www.rel-uita.org/honduras/debemos-avanzar-en-la-soberania-alimentaria/>

"An appeal for protection lodged in April has not been resolved by the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice in favor of domestic workers who are highly vulnerable due to the lack of biosecurity inputs from their employers and the constant risk of contagion from Covid19. The Chamber has argued that there are other more urgent resources, violating the access to justice

of this sector composed of thousands of women and girls who are exploited."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2866-recurso-de-amparo-sin-resolver-sala-de-lo-constitucional-violenta-acceso-a-la-justicia-a-trabajadoras-domesticas>

The discussion about a possible raise to the "political debt" continues (see yesterday).
The National Electoral Council (CNE) says that they have not yet been consulted on the matter.

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-del-tsc-afirma-que-deuda-politica-es-para-evitar-filtracion-de-la-delincuencia-organizada-y-narcotrafico/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/es-una-ofensa-pedir-aumento-a-deuda-politica-en-tiempos-de-pandemia-cuestiona-esdras-lopez.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-dice-no-le-han-pedido-opinion-sobre-incrementar-valor-del-voto-en-proximas-elecciones/>

Criterio reports on the irregular extension of a concession for the José Cecilio del Valle hydroelectric plant by the Nationalists in Congress.

Energy projects in Honduras are ripe with corruption and OFRANEH denounces Patuca III as a "monument of corruption" of the Pepe Lobo government and his successor.

<https://criterio.hn/aplanadora-nacionalista-en-el-congreso-nacional-amplia-concesion-de-central-hidroelectrica-de-nacaome/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1268525061276946432>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1268526120623890437>

"The impact of the pandemic on Honduran women is threefold, due to domestic violence and economic and employment pressure. In the face of these difficulties, the exchange of products, biosecurity initiatives, community communication and emotional support through phone calls have been the keys to overcoming the COVID-19 crisis. Roxana, Marta and Alejandra tell how they overcome the health crisis and the complexities it brings from one of the most violent countries for women in Central America."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/04/madres-solteras-en-honduras-le-plantan-cara-a-la-pandemia-no-podemos-quedarnos-de-brazos-cruzados/>

05/06/20

Honduras Daily: Rain; Drug Trafficking - Extradition, JOH; HRDs - Environment, Digital Security; Extractivism; Journalists; COVID-19 - Poverty, Health Sector, Education; Public Health; Labor Rights; and When Normality is Deadlier than a Pandemic

COPECO warns of ongoing heavy rain fall.

At the same time, the rain filled up the water storage at the La Concepción dam. SANAA announced that the inhabitants of Tegucigalpa would now get water rations every three instead of five days.

<https://confidencialhn.com/copeco-advierte-lluvias-mas-intensas-en-todo-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sanaa-lluvias-reducen-rationamiento-agua-cada-tres-dias/>

This week, it was made public that the JOH regime is thinking about reforming the extradition bill, most certainly to benefit themselves (see Thursday's e-mail). Lawyer Omar Menjivar reflects on the importance of this bill in Honduras. "In an independent and sovereign republic, with a justice system that is moderately close to the standards of the rule of law, the extradition of its nationals to another state for trial is inadmissible. However, when the rule of law has been dismantled and the institutions that make up all the links in the justice system have been placed under a single, vertical command against which there are serious and proven allegations of links to drug trafficking and in the planning, execution, direction and direct benefit of gigantic acts of public corruption, albeit with shame, we must recognize that extradition represents the only hope for justice so that the country's main drug traffickers are punished. This is clear to those who run the country, and particularly to those who hold the presidency of the Republic, since they are the main accused in U.S. courts as CC4, the head of drug trafficking in Honduras. That's why they identify extradition as their main threat, and although CC4 has always promoted himself as the promoter of the reform of Article 102 of the constitution, which allowed for extradition (which was actually an imposition by the United States, which the government of Pepe Lobo was unable to resist), now he will do whatever is necessary to inoculate it as a threat that unsettles it. (...) However, to ensure the effectiveness of the plan, man needs to remain in power, directly or through a figurehead, and to that end, I have no doubt that he will do what is necessary, including avoiding general elections, under any pretense. For him, for CC4, it is vital to remain in power."

<https://criterio.hn/asistimos-a-la-vispera-del-fin-de-la-extradicion/>

The Pro Honduras Network informs that the District Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York declassified part of the documentation related to the case of Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez, an alleged drug trafficker who was captured on March 1, 2020 while he was at the airport in Miami. "In these documents the prosecution informs the judge in charge of the case, Stewart D. Aaron, that during the course of the legal proceedings against Geovanny Fuentes they will present evidence against him and his co-conspirators and partners, which will be taken from the electronic devices he was carrying at the time of his arrest. So far, these electronic devices are kept in a security vault located in Washington DC and will be sent to the Court when they are required." His case is interesting as in the accusation presented on March 1, JOH a.k.a. CC-4 was mentioned once again.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/06/05/fiscalia-para-el-distrto-sur-de-new-york-extraera-pruebas-contra-geovanny-fuentes-y-sus-socios-de-celulares-decomisados-al-momento-de-su-captura/>

Yesterday was World Environment Day.

There were several calls from national and international organizations for the liberation of the criminalized environmental defenders from Guapinol.

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky reiterated a previous call for their liberation voicing concern regarding their health. This week a first COVID-19 case was detected at the prison they are held in (see previous e-mails).

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/dia-mundial-del-medio-ambiente/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1595-defender-el-medio-ambiente-no-es-un-crimen>

<https://twitter.com/EntrepbsHarte/status/1268923322894614529>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1269006537084809227>

<https://twitter.com/RMigradas/status/1268981981104287745>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1269011470618103810>

Fundación Acceso published an important report on digital security in Central America focusing on "Digital Surveillance Tools Identified in Central America".

https://acceso.or.cr/assets/files/Art_Herramientas_Vigilancia_CA-mayo2020.pdf

It is to be feared that there will be more cases of criminalized environmental defenders (see above) as the "extractivist counter-offensive in times of COVID-19" takes place in Honduras. "In the current context, the measures of the Juan Hernández regime continue to give way to extractive companies in different modalities and continue with the perpetuation of social inequalities and the deepening of socio-environmental conflicts in the country: 1. Online environmental licensing (...) 2. Construction of the first ZEDE begins in Roatán (...) 3. Projects in Garifuna communities marginalizing territorial voices (...) 4. The worsening of the agricultural crisis".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/05/coyuntura-desde-los-honduras-saqueo-extractivista-y-defensa-del-territorio-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

C-Libre expressed concern about the situation of journalist Luis Almendares. "Almendares, in communication with C-Libre, assured that a fortnight ago, he disseminated information regarding the change of members of the board of directors of the business community in Comayagua, where the outgoing president stated that he was forced to resign." The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Comayagua now tries to force him to reveal his source.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1182-periodista-es-empleado-para-revelar-su-fuente-en-denuncia-contra-empresarios>

Sinager did not inform about the amount of tests conducted yesterday, but there were 91 new cases of COVID-19 detected for a total of 5971. % more people died for a new current death toll of 248. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384809-466/honduras-suma-muertes-por-covid-19-cifra-de-contagios-suben>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/05/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-5-de-junio-del-2020/>

"The Study Center for Democracy (CESPAD), together with the Association for the Development of the Zacate Grande Peninsula (ADEPZA), in the framework of the Project "Inclusive Public Policies", financed by TROCAIRE, are developing a community monitoring process to learn about the use of public funds approved by the government to manage the current humanitarian and health crisis, caused in Honduras by Covid-19."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/05/por-que-no-han-llegado-los-programas-para-combatir-la-crisis-alimentaria-en-zacate-grande/>

There are at least 152 auxiliary nurses in Honduras who got infected with COVID-19. There are more articles covering the death to COVID-19 of the doctor Glenda Yamile Mejía Petit (see also yesterday).

<https://radiohrn.hn/mas-de-150-auxiliares-de-la-enfermeria-se-han-contagiado-con-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/doctora-glenda-mejia-es-recordada-como-una-guerrera-gran-profesional-en-sps/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sps-muere-segunda-doctora-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

The Property Institute (IP) was opened up on orders of the presidential minister Ebal Díaz on May 22, on June 3 it had to close again due to a corona case.

Workers from the maquila companies forced to return to work on Monday during a still spreading global pandemic denouncethat they do not know if they will be provided with biosecurity measures.

<https://criterio.hn/cierran-el-ip-por-empleado-contagiado-de-covid-19/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44454>

While there exists an "intelligent" plan to open up the economy again, there is no date for the return to university classes.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-hay-fecha-para-retorno-de-clases-presenciales-en-las-universidades-hondurenas/>

The fight between the JOH regime and the company Diálisis de Honduras continues on the back of Hondurans in need of dialysis (see previous months). The company that it will be forced to reduce sessions of hemodialysis for kidney patients from three to two per week because Health Secretary Alba Consuelo Flores does not want to resolve the payment of some 250 million Lempiras owed to them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bajaran-a-dos-sesiones-de-hemodialisis-a-pacientes-renales-por-negligencia-de-secretaria-de-salud/>

Workers from the National Institute of Vocational Training (Infop) protested yesterday against the measure to eliminate collective contracts.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-infop-advierten-que-quieren-suspenderles-contratos-de-trabajo/>

"The perversity of the normality before the COVID-19-crisis somehow "killed more than the virus itself" in poor Latin American countries like Honduras, Esteban Ramos, peace coordinator of the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS), told Efe on Friday. In statements to Efe in Tegucigalpa, via Zoom, Ramos stressed that for the past week and a half the Latin American Council for Peace Research (CLAIP) has been promoting the "Manifesto for a New Normality" as part of the campaign "A New Normality is Possible (and Necessary)" (...) The coordinator of IUDPAS, which is part of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), said that the privatizing public policies, those aimed at maximizing profits, which have generally been applied in recent years, were all contributing to y generation of popular impoverishment."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/05/la-normalidad-antes-del-covid-19-en-latinoamerica-mataba-mas-que-el-virus/>

06/06/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Transparency; Electoral Reforms; COVID-19 - BCIE, Health Sector, Economy, HR, Inequality, Poverty, Corruption, Prisons; and Dying in the Streets

The political prisoner Carlos Daniel Tinoco was able to leave prison yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/EdwinLibertad/status/1269133951278485504>

<https://criterio.hn/liberan-al-presos-politico-carlos-daniel-tinoco/>

In a statement, the Liberal Party demanded that the Commissioners of the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP) take immediate action to prevent abuses intended to be committed by the "Digital Government", created by the JOH regime with financing from the Inter-American Bank (BID). "This measure is presented by the government as necessary to reduce bureaucracy and to promote innovation and state efficiency through the use of technology. However, it is proven that the massive accumulation of data, including personal data, means that "each citizen is evaluated and observed in his or her daily life. Therefore, the personal and social conduct of every person is subject to permanent surveillance". This is aggravated in countries like ours, where the authorities themselves have admitted that the databases of state institutions have been sold and there are even complaints about the irregular use of them in electoral processes and organized crime. Now everything worries us even more when they announce a digital government with its own budget, without having any limit on the personal data of each citizen."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2032-advienten-peligro-que-gobierno-digital-espie-hondurenos>

ContraCorriente investigates the importance of a two-round presidential election for Honduras and if this could be the key to avoid another political crisis.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/06/aprobacion-de-segunda-vuelta-la-clave-para-evitar-una-nueva-crisis-politica/>

Again Sinager did not inform about the corona tests conducted yesterday. 184 new cases were detected for a new total of 6155. Sinager reported the death of a new born baby and of a 24-year old man. The current death toll is at 250.

The former Minister of Health, Elsa Palou, was hospitalized with COVID-19.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385042-466/coronavirus-honduras-muertos-pandemia-covid-junio>

<https://confidencialhn.com/internan-a-exsecretaria-de-salud-y-epidemiologa-elsa-palou-por-sars-cov2/>

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

The money flow from the BCIE to Honduras does not seem to stop. Another \$2.5 million credit line was granted this week.

<https://www.bcie.org/novedades/noticias/articulo/bcie-otorga-us25-millones-de-dolares-para-la-mipyme-hondurena-a-traves-de-la-fundacion-covelo>

The head of the National Cardiopulmonary Institute reiterates that they are on the board of collapse. USAID donated biosafety equipment to two hospitals in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

COPECO received 9 million masks purchased by Invest-H. They are made out of cotton and allegedly can be washed and reused up to 15 times.

Another former health minister, Carlos Aguilar, proposes that hospital administer the resources to address the pandemic.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44485>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-usaid-dona-insumos-bioseguridad-hospitales-hondurenos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-nueve-millones-de-mascarillas-reutilizables-recibe-copeco-a-traves-de-investh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/exministro-de-salud-hospitales-administrar-fondos-covid-19/>

There is ongoing criticism of health experts regarding the "intelligent" opening of the Honduran economy starting tomorrow.

<https://criterio.hn/si-el-proximo-lunes-la-gente-sale-a-la-calle-a-lo-loco-empezaremos-a-ver-esas-escenas-dolorosas-como-en-ecuador/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/suyapa-figueroa-advierte-sobre-crecimiento-de-contagios-de-covid-19-con-apertura-economica-y-mayor-circulacion-de-personas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2033-honduras-reapertura-preludio-del-apocalipsis-zombie>

"The lack of respect for international human rights instruments by Latin American States has unleashed a series of violations of the fundamental rights of populations in the context of the Covid-19 pandemi, according to the conclusions of the virtual conference "Restrictions and suspension of rights and their consequences in the framework of the COVID", this June 5, 2020, sponsored by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, IACHR."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2867-segun-expertos-estados-de-la-region-siguen-aprovechandose-de-la-pandemia-para-restringir-derechos>

El Heraldo reports on the popular demand of salary reductions of senior public officials. "In Honduras there are civil servants with salaries exceeding 250,000 lempiras per month, something considered unacceptable due to the conditions the country is going through, much less in times of pandemic where the government has sacrificed the least."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1384977-466/exigen-al-gobierno-de-honduras-rebaja-salarial-de-altos-funcionarios>

In May, remittances sent to Honduras were 7.7% lower than last year.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/remesas-a-honduras-registran-caida-interanual-de-7-7-segun-bch.html>

Analyzing the Honduras Solidaria social program meant to help poor families during the corona crisis, Jared Olson concludes that the JOH regime is playing "starvation politics". "But according to many, the ruling conservative party, Partido Nacional, is both targeting delivery to supporters to expand their political base and neglecting communities with majority support for opposing parties. "The bolsas solidarias are arriving only and exclusively to the communities that are already aligned with the Partido Nacional," Mario Argeñal, a teacher and TV show host in Danlí, told me over WhatsApp, speaking from his rural home in the El Paraíso Department near the Nicaraguan border."

<https://elfaro.net/en/202006/internacionales/24507/Starvation-Politics-in-Honduras.htm>

Criminal lawyer Marlon Duarte claims that there are some 300 inmates who tested positive for COVID-19 and not just 68 as claimed by the authorities.

Last month, a prison massacre left six female inmates dead. The Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (CPTRT) demands that the authorities of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) immediately suspend the director and deputy director of the National Women's Penitentiary for Social Adaptation (PNFAS), in order to carry out an impartial investigation.

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-asegura-300-reos-covid-19-inp-dice-68/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2868-cptrt-demanda-suspension-de-las-autoridades-de-la-carcel-de-mujeres-para-que-se-investigue-masacre>

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-sospechoso-de-coronavirus-mientras-esperaba-ser-atendido-en-clinica-del-ihss-en-choloma/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-en-calle-en-sps-otro-sospechoso-del-coronavirus-van-dos-en-36-horas/>

07/06/20

Honduras Daily: HR; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, HR, Prisons; Electoral Reforms; Penal Code; and a Famous Drug Trafficker

Pasos de Animal Grande published its weekly update on the human rights situation in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/noticiero-pasos/item/2870-se-profundiza-la-discriminacion-contra-grupos-vulnerables-en-honduras-en-contraste-con-el-silencio-informativo-de-los-medios-corporativos>

647 tests resulted in 172 new COVID-19 cases. So far, 6327 cases have been detected. 8 more people died, among them an 18-year old man. The number of people hospitalized has risen to 620, 47 in intensive care units.

Among the newest cases is the journalist Jorge Zelaya and congressman Bernardo Enrique Medina Yllescas.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385216-466/honduras-muertos-coronavirus-casos-confirmados-pandemia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/periodista-jorge-zelaya-confirma-que-es-portador-del-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-diputado-enrique-yllescas-anuncia-que-contrajo-la-enfermedad/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/07/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-7-de-junio-del-2020/>

The state of exception was prolonged another week until June 14. But at the same time, the "intelligent" opening starts today. As part of this, the JOH regime authorized 24 public institutions to start work again. "[O]nly 20 percent of each institution will be able to work, excluding seniors, people with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease or who have been receiving cancer treatment who will have to work from home."

The MP is not among the public institutions opening up again.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385221-466/honduras-extiende-el-toque-de-queda-hasta-el-14-de-junio>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-detalla-las-24-instituciones-publicas-que-retoman-sus-labores-desde-este-lunes.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ministerio-publico-amplia-suspension-de-labores-hasta-el-14-de-junio.html>

A male nurse from La Ceiba died probably of COVID-19.

The Honduran Coalition of Doctors in Action asks for the resignation of the Secretary of Health Alba Consuelo Flores. "If she had any humility at all, she would have resigned from her post by now because she is not a doctor. She does not have the academic and technical preparation in the health area".

Carlos Umaña, president of the doctors of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in the north of Honduras, warns again about the consequences of the bad management of the corona pandemic (see also yesterday).

He warns that in a month, Honduras will close down again and impose an even stricter quarantine.

<https://tiempo.hn/enfermero-originario-de-la-masica-muere-por-sospecha-de-covid/>

<https://tiempo.hn/coalicion-de-medicos-pide-renuncia-de-ministra-de-salud-no-tiene-la-capacidad/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-distrito-central-se-le-viene-un-desastre-por-manejo-de-la-pandemia-de-covid-dice-doctor-umana.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/umana-advierte-que-en-menos-de-un-mes-volveran-a-cerrar-el-pais-bajo-una-cuarentena-mas-rigida/>

ContraCorriente reports on the role of corruption in Honduras for failing to react properly to the corona pandemic and protect its people.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/07/honduras-sin-capacidad-para-enfrentar-pandemia-y-auditorias-por-compras-irregulares/>

"This Monday, a group of 16 residents of Santa Elena, La Paz, are summoned to a declaration hearing at the Court of Letters of Marcala, accused of unjust deprivation of liberty, to the detriment of Juan Antonio López, José Ordenel Rodríguez Amaya and Salatiel Rodríguez Amaya. According to the villagers, the three people tried to enter the community with lies and without any security measures, when they were protecting their communities from the pandemic that is affecting the whole world."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/16-pobladores-de-santa-elena-la-paz-van-a-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputados-por-defender-su-comunidad-del-covid-19/>

The JOH regime now concedes that there are at least 120 COVID-19 cases at the Támara prison. Estimates go up to 600 (see yesterday).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/se-elevan-a-120-casos-de-covid-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara.html>

FOSDEH calculated that the possible increase of the "political debt" to 60 Lempiras per vote would cost over 200 million Lempiras (see e-mails last week).

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/mas-de-l-200-millones-sera-el-impacto-si-se-aumenta-la-deuda-politica.html>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that Congress never took into account the opinion of the people or of national and international organizations in the approval of the new Penal Code.

Instead, Congress organized a Zoom call for today with "influencers" to discuss the Penal Code...is this symptomatic for the world we live in now?

<https://criterio.hn/es-una-falacia-que-el-congreso-nacional-quiera-escuchar-al-pueblo-cna/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1269802952824422402>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1385159-410/congreso-nacional-propuestas-dudas-influencers-nuevo-codigo-penal>

A Honduran worker at the National Port Company (ENP), Dennis Varela, was arrested on the high sea with 1000kg of what is considered to be cocaine.

According to El Tiempo, he is the father of the little girl on the Time Cover facing Trump.

<https://tiempo.hn/empleado-de-la-enp-cae-en-costa-rica-con-una-tonelada-de-droga/>

<https://tiempo.hn/hondureno-detenido-en-costa-rica-es-el-padre-de-la-nina-que-aparecio-en-la-revista-time/>

<https://criterio.hn/empleado-de-la-enp-capturado-en-costa-rica-declaro-en-2018-que-trafico-de-drogas-hacia-ee-uu-no-iba-a-parar/>

08/06/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection; Drug Trafficking - Extradition; COVID-19 - Violence against Women, Public Health, Economy, Militarization, Prisons; Taxes; Penal Code; and the Electoral Law

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the National Protection Council has not met so far during the crisis to take crucial decisions on the human rights violations of groups benefiting from the Protection Law such as HRDs and journalists who are suffering serious attacks for carrying out their work.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2873-consejo-nacional-de-proteccion-no-se-ha-reunido-desde-que-gobierno-decreto-la-emergencia-por-covid19>

Congress recently approved a new bill targeting drug planes (see previous e-mail). InSight Crime highlights how this bill further exposes the contradictory US-Honduras drug partnership. "When it comes to curbing drug trafficking, the relationship between the United States and Honduras is beginning to appear schizophrenic. On one hand, Washington's praise for the legal reforms passed by the Hernández government presents Honduras as a key ally in the joint fight against drug trafficking in Central America. But on the other, multiple allegations made by US prosecutors have alleged that President Hernández acted as a co-conspirator in an international cocaine trafficking operation run by his brother, Tony. High-ranking police and military officials close to the president have also been accused of trafficking."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/airspace-us-honduras-drug-partnership/>

<https://criterio.hn/extradicion/>

The push against the extradition agreement with the US continues, which under the current situation in Honduras mostly benefits JOH and his allies.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lo-que-mal-comienza-mal-acaba-dice-abogado-penalista-sobre-auto-acordado-de-extradicion.html>

682 tests brought forward 123 cases for a total of 6450. Four more Hondurans died, among them a 33-year old woman. The current death toll is at 262. There are 657 people hospitalized, 53 in intensive care units.

At least four more journalists tested positive.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385490-466/honduras-suma-262-muertos-y-6450-infectados-de-coronavirus>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1183-se-confirman-cuatro-nuevos-casos-de-periodistas-positivos-de-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/08/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-8-de-junio-del-2020/>

"According to data from the National Emergency System 911 hotline, in Honduras the numbers of complaints of violence against women have increased significantly, reporting more than 40,000 cases of aggression so far this year, reaching its highest number last April with almost 10,000 complaints. (...) Loany Alvarado, deputy director of prosecutors at the Public Prosecutor's Office, said that this body also recorded an increase in complaints during the period from March to May, reporting 1,259 complaints received, 393 minor arrests and 304 hearings with appearances."

<https://criterio.hn/es-prioridad-asegurar-la-continuidad-de-la-atencion-a-victimas-de-violencia-durante-la-pandemia/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-inseguridad-de-la-pandemia-para-las-mujeres/>

As expected, accompanied by the so-called intelligent opening of the economy (see previous days and below), the Health Secretary now claims that Honduras "has flattened the curve"...against all evidence.

The same day, the Honduran Medical Association (CMH) issued a statement highlighting how the health crisis that threatens to exceed the hospital capacity of the rickety Honduran health system worsened by government authorities ordering the reopening of the economy.

A public health center on the Bay Islands had to close as some of its employees tested positive for COVID-19.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) donated personal protection equipment to the National Cardiopulmonary Institute in Tegucigalpa and to the Leonardo Martinez Hospital in San Pedro Sula.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-honduras-salud-asegura-haber-aplanado-la-curva/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-economia-no-mejorara-si-se-atenta-contr-la-integridad-de-la-salud-cmh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cierran-centro-de-salud-en-islas-de-la-bahia-por-casos-positivos-de-covid19-entre-colaboradores/>

<https://twitter.com/OIMhonduras/status/1270114030888288257>

The, heavily criticized (see also the first link below), "intelligent" opening of the Honduran economy is accompanied by a Multisectorial Board for Economic and Social Opening. This board now presented a Surveillance Committee which will verify the compliance with biosecurity measures.

The business lobby COHEP presents itself as a responsible actor.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/abrir-economia-es-un-camino-de-enfermedad-y-muerte-trazado-por-el-gobierno/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1385445-466/reapertura-economia-honduras-comite-vigilancia-unah>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-cohep-afirma-que-1-6-millones-de-personas-se-reincorporaron-a-sus-labores/>

Another consequence of the opening is the further militarization of Honduras. "The spokesman of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP), Mario Rivera said this Monday that his and other security forces of the State of Honduras, will increase surveillance operations in strategic areas where citizens carry out their procedures in the context of the resumption of economic activity in the country."

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/reinicio-inteligente-de-la-economia-requiere-incrementar-acciones-policiales-segun-pmop.html>

The JOH regime announced widespread testing at both the Támara men and women prison (see also the last two days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/97259-2/>

Tax collection in the first five months of 2020 is 21.9% lower than last year due to the corona crisis.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/caida-en-la-recaudacion-tributaria-es-de-21-9-por-ciento-al-31-de-mayo-revela-ministra-de-finanzas.html>

Congress announced that a possible abrogation of the new Penal Code cannot be discussed again

until the next legislature, i.e. January 2021. The CNA as well as other civil society and human rights organizations have asked for this on various occasions.

This demand was made again yesterday by a group of national and international human rights organizations from the area of freedom of expression. "The concerns of this group of organizations lie in the inclusion of crimes against honor such as slander and libel in the criminal sphere and the provisions related to criminal responsibility for crimes committed during the exercise of the right to demonstrate that could lead to the infringement of rights such as freedom of expression, access to information, association, among others."

The Forum of Women in Political Parties reported also submitted a draft decree to reform the new Penal Code with regard to the articles containing crimes against women.

The CNA published its fourth study on the new Penal Code.

CIPRODEH presented a proposal for reforming the new Penal Code to make it compliant with the right to free assembly.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/abrogacion-del-codigo-penal-solo-se-discutira-en-proxima-legislatura-senala-el-cn.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/nuevo-codigo-penal/item/2871-dicen-organizaciones-internacionales-nuevo-codigo-penal-contribuye-a-la-adversidad-para-ejercer-el-periodismo-y-lesiona-seriamente-los-ddhh-en-honduras>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44488>

https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Tomo-IV_Los-delitos-dirigidos-a-la-delincuencia-comu%CC%81n.pdf

http://ciprodeh.org.hn/images/Doc/Analisis_propuesta_sobre_complimiento_CIPRODEH.pdf

The new Electoral Law has not yet been approved creating even more uncertainty about the coming electoral cycle.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44495>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/incertidumbre-se-apodera-del-panorama-politico-hondurena/>

09/06/20

Honduras Daily: Tolupán; Berta - Book; Elections - JOH, Census; Drug Trafficking - TIGRES; Dengue; COVID-19 - HRDs, State Reaction, Health Sector, Economy, Prisons; and Autonomy and Dignity

"Organization MADJ denounces that [the indigenous Tolupán] Novel Matute Vieda (32 years old) was found murdered in La Reinada Tribe territory in department of Yoro. The circumstances surrounding his murder are unknown. His body was found last Saturday".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1270512921236267008>

John Perry published a helpful review of the book "Who Killed Berta Cáceres?: Dams, Death Squads, and an Indigenous Defender's Battle for the Planet" by Nina Lakhani.

<http://www.coha.org/nina-lakhanis-who-killed-berta-caceres-on-the-life-death-and-legacy-of-a-courageous-honduran-indigenous-and-environmental-leader/>

It is worrisome that JOH feels the need to repeat again and again that he won't run for another reelection even though the constitution still clearly prohibits it anyway.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385721-466/presidente-hernandez-sobre-reeleccion-no-voy-a-participar>

The president of the National Electoral Council, Rixi Moncada, denounced that the three commissioners at the National Registry of Persons (RNP) intend to deliver an incomplete electoral census before the call for elections scheduled for September 13. "It is unacceptable that for the construction of the National Electoral Census, the National Registry of Persons proposes to the National Electoral Council to deliver an incomplete list with only one million seventy-four thousand citizens registered and thus call for elections on September 13, violating the constitutional and legal right of all citizens to participate in clean, free and transparent elections." CESPAD also dedicates a new piece of analysis to this topic. "During the month of May, the electoral political scenario moved from the controversy of an alleged plan to suppress the 2021 primary elections, denounced during the first week, to another one: the danger of primary elections without a new national identification document and without a purified and updated National Electoral Census."

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-del-cne-denuncia-a-comisionados-del-rnp-por-pretender-enviar-incompleto-el-censo-para-comicios-de-2021/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/09/analisis-del-plan-para-suprimir-las-elecciones-a-los-riesgos-de-ir-a-elecciones-sin-nueva-cedula-y-censo/>

A drug trafficking operation involving TIGRES agents made headlines in 2014. In the operation directed against the Valle Valle clan, \$12.5 million were seized of which \$1.3 million were stolen by the special forces. In 2016, the accused agents were absolved, but now the Supreme Court ordered a re-trial.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ordenan-repetir-juicio-a-nueve-expolicias-tigres-por-sustraccion-de-narcodolares.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ordenan-repetir-juicio-a-expolicias-tigres-por-sustraccion-13-millones-de-dolares-de-los-valle-vallex/>

Honduras reports 13'511 dengue cases among them 1202 severe ones. There are 21 suspected deaths, of which 9 have been confirmed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-salud-notifica-el-incremento-de-casos-de-dengue-clasico-y-hemorragico-en-honduras/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/honduras-registra-13511-casos-de-dengue-y-21-fallecidos-en-lo-que-va-de-2020/>

Honduras saw a record increase in new cases yesterday, 485, for a new total of 6935. This is especially significant that it took place one day after the start of the "intelligent" reopening of the economy. 9 more people died, 271 have died so far to COVID-19.

Among the newly infected is the controversial director of Invest-H, Marcos Bográn. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385749-466/sinager-honduras-pandemia-casos-coronavirus-muertos-junio-2020>

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/09/director-de-invest-h-marcos-bogran-da-positivo-a-coronavirus/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/09/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-9-de-junio-del-2020/>

"The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice rejected more than 20 appeals for protection lodged by human rights defenders last May to restore their right to defend human rights, which had been hindered by executive decrees under Covid19 that suspended constitutional guarantees, including the right to freedom of movement."

The same court also rejected protection for domestic workers.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2874-politica-estatal-alimentada-en-el-covid19-sala-de-lo-constitucional-declara-inadmisibles-recursos-de-amparo-para-defender-los-derechos-humanos>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1598-corte-suprema-niega-admisibilidad-a-recurso-para-protger-a-trabajadoras-domesticas>

People tested positive for corona have to self-isolate now for 21 instead of 14 days.

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-cuarentena-pacientes-covid-19-sera-21-dias/>

El Heraldo and ConfidencialHN published an eye witness report by a doctor on the collapsing Honduran medical system. "Heartbreaking and distressing is the audio of an internist leading the battle against covid-19 in Honduras, who for almost six minutes recounts the shortcomings she has witnessed in her shifts. (...) Listening to her words it is difficult not to cry with her in the face of the impotence experienced by the health personnel of the various hospitals authorized to treat

coronavirus patients." These are the words chosen by El Herald, a newspaper outlet known to be close to the JOH regime.

The director of the University Hospital, Osmin Tovar, was dismissed from his post. Tovar had reported a lack of supplies and biosecurity equipment for the doctors and nurses at the hospital. He further denounced that they had not received any resources from the funds earmarked for the coronavirus pandemic.

The emergency chief of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), César Henríquez, warns: "[W]e are at 90 or 95 percent in the emergency unit to attend only Covid19 patients, there are many people who are admitted. We're swamped."

According to official figures, 350 doctors and 163 nurses had been infected with the corona virus by the end of May.

The head of COPECO claims that there is still capacity at Honduran hospitals. According to him, only 439 out of the 848 hospital beds are occupied. At the same time, Sinager reported in its daily update on the corona virus (see above) that 665 people are hospitalized for COVID-19 alone.

The JOH regime also claims that they have distributed over 4 million masks. Even if this were true, it is still less than one mask per every two Hondurans. Not wearing one will be fined with 120 Lempiras, which many human rights organizations have called "criminalization of poverty".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385673-466/desgarrador-audio-doctora-hondurena-colapso-hospitales-coronavirus-pandemia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lloran-porque-se-les-acaba-el-oxigeno-voy-a-renunciar-medico-narra-sufrimiento-de-pacientes-que-atiende-en-el-ihss/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1385792-410/destituyen-director-hospital-escuela-tegucigalpa-osmin-tovar->

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-un-90-por-ciento-de-capacidad-llegan-salas-del-ihss-para-atender-pacientes-con-coronavirus/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2037-honduras-muerte-de-microbiologo-prueba-colapso-en-sistema-sanitario>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/todavia-hay-capacidad-para-atender-pacientes-con-covid-en-la-red-hospitalaria-asegura-rosales.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-asegura-han-entregado-4-3-millones-de-mascarillas-en-honduras.html>

On Monday, the Ministry of Health claimed that Honduras has flattened the curve (see yesterday) to accompany the widely criticized "intelligent" reopening of the economy. Just a day later, the same ministry announces that "Honduras has entered phase five of the coronavirus pandemic, which implies an exponential growth of those affected by the pathogen"...this is beyond parody.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-indica-que-honduras-esta-en-fase-cinco-de-pandemia-del-coronavirus-pide-elevar-bioseguridad>

An inmate at the Támara prison died. The authorities claim it was from natural causes, but at the same prison, there are dozens of corona cases.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reportan-la-muerte-de-un-interno-en-la-penitenciaria-de-tamara.html>

"We continue to accompany the journey of the Lenca communities towards autonomy. We are grateful for the solidarity of comrade Wilmer Barahona who donated 3,000 laying hens for the communities."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1270471524085108737>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1270471526136139778>

10/06/20

Honduras Daily: MP; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy, Repression, Prisons, Education, BID; Penal Code; and the Pebble in JOH's Shoes

CESPAD continues to investigate the role of the MP under its Attorney General in fighting corruption or the lack thereof. "A few weeks ago, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), maintained that two issues force us to stop and reflect on the Public Ministry. The first one is related to the lack of interest that this institution is showing to act on the allegations of corruption in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic. The second issue is related to the irrelevance that the Public Prosecutor's Office is acquiring in the face of the actions of the National Congress to protect people with power who are involved in corruption cases[1]. How much does the Attorney General's commitment to power groups weigh so that he does not fulfill his functions, what happened to the fight against crime and corruption announced in January 2020, and what happened to the conspiracies and conspirators that the Public Prosecutor's Office would face? It is important that we reflect and debate these questions in Honduran society."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/10/analisis-un-fiscal-general-en-su-caverna-combatiendo-sombras-y-fantasmas-del-crimen-y-la-corrupcion/>

For the second consecutive day, Honduras tested more than 1000 people, 1129 yesterday. As with previous increases in tests, the amount of positive cases increased accordingly. 425 new cases were detected yesterday for a total of 7360. 19 more people died, as far as I remember the highest daily increase so far, and this three days after the start of the "intelligent" reopening of the economy. So far, 290 people died to COVID-19 in Honduras.

Among the newest cases is also the president of the Supreme Court and close ally of JOH, Rolando Argueta.

Another journalist, Ariela Cáceres, got infected.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1385935-466/honduras-registra-425-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus-cifra-suba-a-7360>

<https://proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-de-la-csj-da-positivo-de-covid-19.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/ariela-caceres-covid-19-honduras-hch-infectada/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/10/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-10-de-junio-del-2020/>

On Tuesday, the head of the University Hospital, Osmin Tovar, was fired. He was known for criticizing the management of the crisis by the JOH regime (see yesterday). This led to protest by medical staff.

Then, the Minister of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores, backtracked claiming that he was never fired in the first place.

"At the National Virology Laboratory there are more than 4,000 Covid-19 tests, refrigerated and unprocessed, which correspond to patients who underwent the PCR test more than 20 days ago, and who are still waiting for the result as reported by the Honduran Medical Association."

<https://criterio.hn/destituyen-a-director-del-hospital-escuela/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/galenos-protestan-por-separacion-de-director-del-hospital-escuela-y-amenazan-con-renunciar/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2040-honduras-huelgas-marcan-tercer-dia-de-apertura-inteligente-del-comercio>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ministra-flores-desmiente-destitucion-del-director-de-hospital-escuela-y-dice-comision-investigara-denuncias.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/mnistra-salu-osmin-tovar-alba-consuelo-flores-hospital-escuela-director/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/sin-capacidad-laboratorio-para-procesar-mas-pruebas/>

"Honduran Women's Collective (CODEMUH) denounces various North American-owned factories that demand that employees return to work even as COVID19 cases rise"

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1270862838773383170>

The National Preventive Police was reported to have intimidated residents of the municipality of Dulce Nombre de Culmí, Olancho, who have been maintaining a roadblock to protect them from the COVID-19 for several days.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2875-en-reten-de-control-contra-el-covid19-policia-nacional-intimida-a-pobladores-de-dulce-nombre-de-culmi>

The Association of Family Members of Inmates denounces that staff from the Ministry of Health have not gone to the Támara prison, a COVID-19 hotspot.

Another inmate, who had suffered from asthma, died, probably due to COVID-19.

OACNUDH and CONAPREV will inspect various prisons.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/familiares-de-reos-denuncian-que-personal-de-salud-no-llega-a-penitenciaria-de-tamara.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-de-otro-privado-de-libertad-en-penitenciaria-de-tamara/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1270521839438217217>

According to COIPRODEN, some 500'000 children in Honduras do not have Internet access and therefore cannot access virtual classes.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/medio-millon-de-ninos-y-ninas-no-tienen-acceso-a-clases-virtuales/>

The JOH regime continues to receive financial support to address the corona crisis. Japan, the BIDH and Comisca donate \$331,500.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/japon-el-bid-y-comisca-donan-331-500-dolares-a-honduras-para-el-coronavirus.html>

Congress held its "socializing" event yesterday with the invited influencers to discuss the new Penal Code (see previous e-mail). ConexiHon also attended. "[T]here was no option to write in the chat or raise your hand to ask questions. In addition, several users, when given the opportunity to speak, expressed the view that the moderators were restricting freedom of expression. (...) At the meeting, Congress mounted a campaign to try to continue legitimizing this repressive regulation of fundamental rights. The CN lawyers tried to discredit the work of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), for showing the impunity and acts of corruption that they are provoking with public funds to combat the COVID-19 in Honduras."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1601-nuevo-codigo-penal-beneficia-a-los-politicos-corruptos-de-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1600-las-periodistas-hondurenas-una-luz-en-las-tinieblas-durante-la-epoca-del-nuevo-codigo-penal>

11/06/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - HR, HRDs, State Reaction, Economy, Prisons; Electricity; Congress - Education; Elections; Penal Code; and Three Months In

The former police commissioner Maria Luisa Borjas claims that the former head of police Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla is already in the US collaborating with the authorities. Back on April 30, the US Department of Justice officially charged him with drug trafficking and his case is, once again, linked to JOH.

<https://tiempo.hn/maria-luisa-borjas-el-tigre-bonilla-fiscalia-new-york/>

828 new tests resulted in an additional 309 COVID-19 cases for a total of 7669. Four more people dead; the current death toll is at 294.

Two more journalists tested positive.

14 new lab technicians were hired in the hope that more people can be tested. The president of the microbiologist of Honduras promises some 2000 tests per day.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1386294-466/honduras-cifras-covi19-coronavirus-pandemia-sinager-11junio>

<https://tiempo.hn/periodistas-dennis-andino-y-leonidas-maradiada-positivo-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/microbiologos-apuntan-a-realizar-dos-mil-pruebas-diarias-de-coronavirus/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-junio-del-2020/>

Social movements and indigenous organizations published their 13th joint press release during the corona pandemic.

<https://copinh.org/2020/06/manifiesto-publico-13-junio-2020/>

There are additional articles on the role of the Supreme Court in keeping HRDs defenseless by not admitting cases demanding protection to do their work during the pandemic (see also yesterday).

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/06/10/sala-constitucional-profundiza-indefension-del-pueblo-hondureno/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1602-poder-judicial-deja-en-riesgo-la-defensa-de-derechos-humanos>

While at the national level, the "intelligent" reopening of the economy continues, San Pedro Sula just prolonged its health alert for three more months due to the ongoing spread of the virus in the

city.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1386268-466/ampl%C3%ADan-hasta-agosto-la-emergencia-sanitaria-en-san-pedro-sula>

According to the business lobby COHEP, 83% of the companies are ready to take up their operations again.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-dice-que-un-83-por-ciento-de-las-empresas-estaban-listas-para-reiniciar-operaciones/>

The fourth inmate died this week at the Támara prison. The authorities claim that it is for natural causes, but Támara is a hotspot for COVID-19 cases. Even the authorities had to admit that there are at least 120 cases there, estimates go up to 600.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/reportan-otra-muerte-natural-en-la-carcel-de-tamara-la-cuarta-en-la-semana.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44617>

There are continuous protests in Honduras against the recurrent power cuts.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1386343-410/apagones-energ%C3%ADa-honduras-enee-eeh-servicio-crisis->

"True to its tradition, the National Congress has once again stirred up indignation among the Honduran population by authorizing a trust fund for the construction of the offices of the National Commission of Banks and Insurance Companies (CNBS), whose budgetary execution, preliminarily, would be around \$40 million."

<https://criterio.hn/otra-prioridad-congreso-autoriza-construccion-de-oficinas-a-cnbs-valoradas-en-unos-40-millones/>

Congress additionally approved \$80 millions to remodel, improve and sometimes build from scratch 105 schools. The money comes from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE). Opposition politicians denounce a lack of transparency regarding the credit, e.g. they don't even know the names of the schools.

<https://criterio.hn/mas-endeudamiento-para-honduras-ahora-a-traves-de-idecoas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/congreso-aprueba-prestamo-de-80-millones-para-construir-y-reparar-mas-de-100-escuelas-del-pais.html>

Radio Progreso summarizes the different points of the parties regarding the primary elections, if

they should take place and how. Noteworthy is that the RNP has promised for months that the new census and the new identity cards will be ready but now doubts resurfaced. CESPAD published an analysis by Ninoska Alonzo on the need to "depatriarching politics".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/se-abre-discusion-sobre-futuro-de-las-elecciones-primarias/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/11/analisis-despatriarcalizar-la-politica-apuntes-sobre-las-elecciones-desde-una-perspectiva-feminista/>

Given the numerous problems with the new Penal Code, even the Central American Technological University (UNITEC) felt the need to speak up against it.

<https://blog.unitec.edu/2020/06/10/posicion-de-unitec-sobre-el-codigo-penal/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/a-tres-meses-de-la-pandemia/>

12/06/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Violence against Women; Domestic Workers; UNAH; COVID-19 - Protests, Corruption, Health Sector, Economy, Tourism; Electricity; and the Right to Say Goodbye
Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that heavily armed, but unidentified men forced entry into the house of a human rights defender at Human Rights Without Borders (DHSF). They intimidated him and threatened his sister with arrest as she tried to call for help.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2877-hombres-fuertemente-armados-irrumpen-en-la-casa-de-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-sin-fronteras>

"At least 260 women in Honduras report domestic and intra-family violence every day during the quarantine. Although many cases are reported, when they reach the courts, investigations and legal proceedings are slowed down. (...) "No work is done with diligence or opportunity. This is a tool and if it is not documented we will have a vacuum and vulnerability as a consequence", emphasizes the former director of Forensic Medicine, Dr. Semma Julissa Villanueva. The women don't go to public trial because they give up, they don't have money, because the courts are too far away or they are threatened, Ayestas said."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44644>

Nine years ago, General Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted Convention 189 on domestic workers. Since then, both the Lobo administration and the JOH regime refused to respond to this call to guarantee rights despite the continuous demands of the affected workers.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-urge-ratificacion-del-convenio-189-de-la-oit-para-garantizar-derechos-a-las-trabajadoras-domesticas/>

Comments by the former UNAH dean, Nationalist congressman Oswaldo Ramos Soto, caused a stir. He proposed to eliminate the autonomy of the UNAH. Students launched an online campaign calling for him to be declared a persona non grata.

Libre published a press release highlighting its support for the autonomy of the UNAH.

Soto later declared that he was misunderstood...

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2043-honduras-comunidad-universitaria-pide-declarar-non-grato-a-ex-rector-magnifico>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-a-autoridades-de-la-unah-declarar-non-grato-a-oswaldo-ramos-soto/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2044-honduras-partido-libre-declara-total-apoyo-a-autonomia-de-universidad-nacional>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/diputado-ramos-soto-dice-que-se-malinterpreto-su-declaracion-sobre-la-autonomia-de-la-unah.html>

For a second time, Honduras tested over 1000 people in a day, 1363 to be exact. This resulted in 463 new cases for a total of 8132. 12 more Hondurans died, 306 had died so far in total. Over 750 people are hospitalized, 48 in intensive care units.

Red Cross Honduras will start offering additional testing capacity next week.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1386499-466/sinager-coronavirus-muertos-contagios-12-junio-pandemia>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cruz-roja-comenzara-la-proxima-semana-a-aplicar-pruebas-para-detectar-anticuerpos-de-covid-19.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-junio-del-2020/>

OACNUDH published a new visualization tool of all the protests taking place in Honduras relating to the corona crisis and how it is being handled by the JOH regime. They documented 370 protests so far. 41.1% were for the lack of food.

<https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/dc0665e9-8cc8-4c34-abdc-b294713d999e/page/PEdPB?s=rISZhHiKy1c>

FOSDEH denounces the fact that the JOH regime has approved so many funds to fight COVID-19 but at the same time, there is still a great lack of medical and biosafety equipment.

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/06/12/a-estas-alturas-es-lamentable-que-los-hospitales-no-estén-abastecidos-fosdeh/>

According to the World Health Organization, Honduras has 7 doctors per 100'000 inhabitants while the recommended number is 15.

"To respond to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has started treating patients in critical condition who need oxygen support in a 20-bed coronavirus ward attached to the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). MSF has intervened to help prevent Tegucigalpa's hospitals from becoming overcrowded."

<https://tiempo.hn/oms-honduras-15-medicos-cada-100-mil-habitantes-hay-siete/>

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/honduras-msf-starts-caring-critical-covid-19-patients-tegucigalpa>

ContraCorriente reports from San Pedro Sula, where the "intelligent" reopening of the economy presents a special challenge. "The economic reactivation has already completed the first phase and San Pedro Sula, the epicenter city of the pandemic, is adjusting to a new reality. According to figures from the Municipal Statistics Division, this city contributes 40% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). As if it were a paradox, according to figures from the National Risk Management System, 61% of infections originated in this area."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/12/san-pedro-sula-se-debate-entre-la-reapertura-inteligente-y-la-amenaza-del-colapso-sanitario/>

El País reports that the Honduran tourism sector has so far lost over \$1 billion as a consequence of the corona crisis.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/12/honduras-busca-reactivar-turismo-que-ha-perdido-1-048-millones-de-dolares/>

"The director of the System Operator (ODS), Guillermo Peña Panting said Friday that rationing or interruptions of energy in different regions of Honduras had been planned since the end of last year. The representative explained that even though Honduras has a deficit of electric energy, it cannot buy more due to limitations in the capacity of the transmission lines."

<https://confidencialhn.com/justifican-interrupciones-del-servicio-de-energia-alegan-que-estaban-planificados-desde-2019/>

<https://www.icrc.org/es/document/honduras-todos-tenemos-derecho-decir-adios-campana-por-una->

[despedida-digna-de-personas](#)

13/06/20

Honduras Daily: Femicide; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; and Dangerous Experiments

At least 55 women had been murdered since the start of the lockdown measures mid-March to June 6.

<https://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-55-muertes-violentas-mujeres-durante-pandemia/>

1114 tests resulted in an additional 323 COVID-19 cases for a total of 8455. Four more people died for a current death toll of 310. The number of hospitalized people increased to 763 with 50 people in intensive care units.

There is still some doubt regarding the reliability of the official numbers. While Sinager reported 4 deaths (see above) yesterday, there were apparently 11 deaths to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours at the University Hospital.

Corona has now reached all 18 departments of Honduras, Gracias a Dios being the last one. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/cifra-contagiados-covid-19-honduras-asciende-8455/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/once-personas-han-muerto-por-coronavirus-en-las-ultimas-24-horas-en-el-hospital-escuela-de-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gracias-a-dios-registra-su-primer-caso-confirmado-de-covid-19.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/13/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-13-de-junio-del-2020/>

The director of the Virology Laboratory, Engels Banegas Medina, resigned from his post. Officially due to personal reasons, but his resignation raises questions. El Tiempo reports that there are rumors that Engels had to resign from his position due to threats received.

Banegas previously complained that the laboratory survived thanks to the support of external aid in the absence of a state budget. According to reports from doctors, the laboratory has reached the limit of its capacity to quickly deliver tests during Covid-19, so much so that it is estimated that there are at least 3,000 undelivered tests for the treatment of patients.

The president of the College of Microbiologists, Marco Moncada, later talked of over four thousand tests that have not been analyzed.

<https://tiempo.hn/renuncia-director-laboratorio-de-virologia-ambiente-desfavorable-amenazas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2045-honduras-por-agentes-externos-renuncia-jefe-nacional-de-virologia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/microbiologos-afirman-que-no-se-han-procesado-cuatro-mil-pruebas-del-sars-cov2/>

The head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, tweeted: "I understand Dr. Samuel Santos, when he reports that there is a business with [corona] tests, SINAGER does PCR tests and it takes more than a month to give results. While in Private Clinics the average cost is L4, 000 but results come out in 24 hours, who benefits from the delay?"

El Pulso published a great article on Honduras' health system, how it is organized and how it was lacking already pre-corona. And how corruption has further harmed it before and even more during the crisis.

FOSDEH continues to emphasize the role of corruption during the pandemic. "Ismael Zepeda, an economist with the Social Forum on Foreign Debt (Fosdeh), said it is regrettable that there is no accountability for the more than 100 billion lempiras approved by the legislature to combat the new coronavirus.(...) He regretted that the crisis in the health system continues to deepen, while recalling the existence of reported cases of corruption regarding the acquisition of medical machinery and supplies."

Casa Alianza, meanwhile, reassures the public that there wouldn't be any children living on the streets in Honduras without the corrupt JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1271888787119972352>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44688>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-fosdeh-lamenta-falta-de-insumos-en-hospitales-de-honduras-mientras-aflora-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/director-de-casa-alianza-senala-que-si-el-ejecutivo-no-fuera-corrupto-no-habrian-ninos-en-la-calle/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-experimentos-peligrosos/>

14/06/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; JOH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Economy, Health Sector, HR, Prisons; Elections; Child Labor; Organized Crime; and a Violent Weekend

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

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=2328

The musician and composer of the popular song "JOH es pa' fuera que vas", Delio Mejía, died yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/muere-delio-mejia-compositor-de-la-cancion-joh-es-pa-fuera-que-vas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/fallece-delio-uno-de-los-hermanos-mejia-reconocido-duo-folclorico-del-pais.html>

1187 new tests, 403 new cases, 8858 cases in total. Two more people died, 312 have died in total so far.

The deputy health minister promised 2000 tests per day starting next week.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1386889-466/honduras-nuevos-casos-covid-19-muertos-pandemia-sinager>

<https://tiempo.hn/secretaria-salud-covid-19-coronavirus-roberto-cosenza-pruebas-pcr/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-junio-del-2020/>

For the first time, the state of exception was prolonged by two weeks instead of a week at a time.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1386900-466/toque-de-queda-honduras-28-junio-coronavirus-pandemia>

"The first week of the "intelligent opening" of the economy went by amidst congratulations and applause from businesspeople and the government for the initiative, with plans announced for the early reopening of airports, but on the opposite side a health crisis announcing the collapse of the entire health system. This health crisis showed, according to journalistic information, various aspects, all of them pointing to a worsening of the conditions of control of the pandemic, medical care and hospitalization, but also evidencing the institutional crisis of the health system".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/14/analisis-entre-el-optimismo-empresarial-por-la-apertura-y-la-alarma-ciudadana-por-la-crisis-sanitaria-quien-gana-el-pulso/>

The number of infected health workers rose to 583.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/583-sanitarios-honduras/>

According to the National Police, they have arrested more than 33'000 people so far for violating the lockdown orders.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/14/mas-de-33-mil-personas-han-sido-detenidas-por-violar-el-toque-de-queda-en-honduras/>

Proceso Digital reports on child labor in Honduras. Last week, the MP held a conference on this topic.

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/explotacion-laboral-infantil-muchos-tratados-poca-conciencia.html>

Another inmate died of COVID-19. He had been held at the Támara prison. According to the National Penitentiary Institute, five inmates died last week.

<https://tiempo.hn/privado-de-libertad-muere-por-covid-19-en-el-hospital-san-felipe/>

The Nationalist secretary of Congress, José Tomás Zambrano, presented a bill aimed to conclude the new electoral census before the next electoral process. He proposes that this should be carried out jointly by the National Registry of Persons (RNP) and the National Electoral Council (CNE).

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/proponen-ley-transitoria-para-construir-nuevo-censo-electoral-de-cara-a-las-proximas-elecciones.html>

The National Anti-Maras and Pandilla Force (Fnamp) seized more than one million lempiras and an arsenal from the Mara Salvatrucha in an operation carried out in San Pedro Sula.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fnamp-confisca-arsenal-y-un-millon-de-lempiras-a-pandilla-en-san-pedro-sula/>

Several people were murdered in Honduras this weekend as if there was no lockdown.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-pleno-toque-de-queda-masacran-a-tres-personas-en-colonia-de-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1386584-410/crimen-choloma-matan-hombre-violencia>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/matan-a-un-taxista-en-el-caribe-de-honduras.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1386620-410/crimen-entrada-copan-hombre-muerto>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1386565-410/trafico-ilicito-droga-matan-dos-menores-baracoa-cortes>

15/06/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; LGBTIQ+; COVID-19 - Trust, Health Sector, Corruption, Prison, Economy; Water - World Bank; Fiscal Policy - US; and Six Years of Bad News

"A pair of Guatemalan cousins who were indicted by U.S. federal prosecutors on drug trafficking charges in December appear to have turned themselves over to authorities, according to court documents that show they are scheduled to be arraigned in New York court later this week. The cousins, Otto and Ronald Salguero, are linked to the former leader of the Sinaloa Cartel Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman and were indicted as co-conspirators of former Honduran congressman, Juan Antonio 'Tony' Hernandez, the brother of president Juan Orlando Hernandez. (...) A key witness in the trial identified the Salguero cousins as being present at a meeting in El Paraiso, Honduras, when Guzman allegedly gave \$1 million dollars in cash to Tony Hernandez as a contribution to his brother's 2013 election campaign later that year."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/new-arrests-in-honduras-case-implicating-president-juan-orlando-hernandez>

<https://criterio.hn/arrestan-dos-guatemaltecos-vinculados-en-el-caso-de-tony-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387100-466/audiencia-fianza-contr-guatemaltecos-ligados-tony-hernandez>

Valery Elizabeth Palencia, trans woman, LGBTIQ+ activist and member of the National HIV/AIDS Forum, denounced that on June 9th she was assaulted by three individuals in her house in the city of La Paz, who attacked her with a stone on her head and neck to strip her of her belongings.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2878-mujer-trans-y-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-es-agredida-en-el-interior-de-su-casa-en-la-paz>

1023 tests resulted in 320 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 9178. 10 more people died for the current death toll of 322.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387141-466/honduras-suma-320-nuevos-casos-hay-322-fallecidos-y-9178-infectados>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-15-de-junio-del-2020/>

ContraCorriente conducted a survey on trust during the pandemic. They also spoke with doctors and asked for information about COVID-19 hospitalizations from doctors, hospitals and the Ministry of Health, which indicated that what was reported did not match the official numbers (also see article below).

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/14/borrador-automatico/>

"Health workers in Honduras live amidst the saturation of hospitals, the virtual applause through social networks, the stigma in their communities and the silence imposed by triumphalist rhetoric. Their forms of expression are very diverse, some have thousands of followers on Twitter and others

are hired by the media to advertise treatments that in Honduras are labeled "the cure" for COVID-19. In spite of this, the population has put its trust in them, as shown by the survey carried out by Contracorriente."

Nurses at the San Felipe Hospital protested demanding biosafety gear.

The president of the association of doctors of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in the north of the country, Carlos Umaña, denounced that private hospitals have "collapsed", and that the regional sanatorium is also out of capacity to attend to patients with COVID-19.

Even the minister of health, Alba Consuelo Flores, warns that the system could collapse within 15 days.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/14/mientras-los-datos-no-coinciden-el-sistema-de-salud-colapsa-%ef%bb%bf/>

<https://tiempo.hn/enfermeras-hospital-san-felipe-exigen-equipo-de-bioseguridad/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2047-honduras-historia-sin-fin-trabajadores-de-salud-exigen-bioseguridad>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/carlos-umana-asegura-en-hospitales-privados-ya-no-hay-cupo-para-atender-pacientes-covid-19/>

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/15/situacion-ya-es-muy-dificil-hospitales-podrian-colapsar-en-15-dias-ministra-salud/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published its fourth report on corruption during the corona crisis. The report focuses on the purchase by INVEST-H of 740 lung ventilators for \$23 million of which only 20 have arrived in the country and the rest may follow in December. They paid 880% of the purchase price in advance.

But corruption during the pandemic is much more widespread. Padre Melo tweeted: "With Social Security there was talk of seven billion looted over several years. In three months of the pandemic, 100 billion has been approved. How much has been spent on the emergency? Where's all that money? Is there any overseer to tell us? What about the MP? What about us?"

MADJ organizes a webinar for Sunday on corruption and its lack of punishment in Honduras.

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/La-Corrupcio%CC%81n-en-tiempos-del-COVID-19-Parte-IV.pdf>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-expone-irregularidades-invest-h-compra-740-ventiladores/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387015-466/cna-investh-pagos-anticipados-ventiladores-mecanicos>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1272721838133526528>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1272694385956868096>

The number of confirmed corona cases at the Támara prison has risen to 122.

But at least 1000 inmates have shown symptoms for COVID-19.

Five more inmates died and the JOH regime announced to investigate their cause.

Human rights organizations demand a "humanitarian intervention" for Honduras' prisons.

During the pandemic, 1624 inmates have benefited so far from special measures, i.e. they were released from prison. "Of this group of inmates, 782 were released on parole, 330 on probation, 331 on commutation, 126 on completion of sentence and 50 on review of measures for minors."

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-122-privados-de-libertad-positivos-de-coronavirus-en-carcel-marco-aurelio-soto/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/claman-atencion-para-mil-sospechosos-de-covid-19-en-carcel-de-tamara.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2879-fuera-de-control-casos-positivos-de-covid-19-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional>

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-el-deceso-de-cinco-privados-de-libertad-en-la-carcel-de-tamara-y-se-investigan-sus-causas/>

<https://criterio.hn/demandan-intervencion-humanitaria-en-carceles-ante-alarmantes-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-1-600-privados-de-libertad-beneficiados-con-diferentes-medidas-durante-pandemia.html>

Workers in the maquila industry, in the north of the country, have protested yesterday denouncing mistreatment, lack of biosecurity measures and non-payment of wages.

ConexiHon reports on the Network against Anti-union Violence, "a space for articulating efforts to build the capacity of unions, federations and workers' centers to document cases of violence, accompany and support victims, and subsequently take the necessary measures to access national and/or international justice".

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/protestan-trabajadores-de-maquilas-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1605-informe-sobre-violencia-antisindical-el-coste-de-defender-el-derecho-a-la-libertad-sindical>

The World Bank grants the JOH regime a \$70 million credit for a drinking water project in the Dry Corridor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1387074-466/para-mejorar-acceso-agua-honduras-banco-mundial-aprueba-70-millones>

Honduras qualified in the US State Department report on fiscal transparency for "meeting the minimum requirements".

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-aprueba-en-transparencia-fiscal-en-el-informe-anual-del-departamento-de-estado.html>

<https://www.state.gov/2020-fiscal-transparency-report/>

In 2014, the National Congress began the process of formulating, elaborating and socializing the new and very controversial Penal Code, which to date continues to be discussed before its entry into force this coming June 25.

<https://confidencialhn.com/esta-semana-se-cumplen-seis-anos-del-comienzo-de-la-socializacion-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

16/06/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - JOH, Militarization, Health Sector, Economy, Corruption, Violence; South Korea; US; MP - US; and Criminalizing Human Rights Work

There were 478 new COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras yesterday for a total of 9656. 8 more people died, the current death toll being at 330. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387404-466/covid-19-en-honduras-casos-suman-casos-muertes>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/16/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-16-de-junio-del-2020/>

The main headline made the news that JOH and his wife tested positive. It was widely covered and Honduras being Honduras where one, rightly, mistrusts the government, some interpreted this as a media stunt to bolster support for JOH.

La Tribuna transcribe a speech he held, presenting himself as a leader who even in sickness continues to work for his country...

He and his wife are being treated at the Military Hospital.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387442-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-presidente-de-honduras-positivo-al-covid-19>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-va-cumpliendo-el-guion-de-jj-rendon-joh-da-positivo-al-sars-cov2/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1387479-468/medios-internacionales-juan-orlando-hernandez-covid-19>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/06/16/mensaje-presidencial-en-cadena-nacional-confirma-esta-en->

[cuidado-medico-por-contagio-covid-19/](#)

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387447-466/joh-honduras-hospitalizado-covid-coronavirus-neumonia-pandemia-juan-orlando>

Maybe part of the same playbook, the Military Police published a musical tribute to the people fighting the corona pandemic, mostly presenting themselves as the sung about "Heroes of Love"... The same day, the Military Police also announced to increase their operations "to protect the population" that visits banks after receiving the fourteenth month's salary.

This important additional pay check is estimated to be about 6 billion Lempiras instead of the 10 billion expected before the crisis.

<https://tiempo.hn/heroes-de-amor-tema-musical-homenaje-personal-covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1272907614934925315>

https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/06/16/policia-militar-fortalece-operativos-por-pago-del-decimo-cuarto/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/pandemia-afecta-pago-del-aguinaldo-de-junio/>

According to the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), 270 nurses tested positive in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

The president of the Union of Workers of the University Hospital, Mauricio Corrales, denounced that their morgue is in total negligence and on the verge of collapse.

Proceso Digital reports that medical brigades started to work yesterday "going through neighborhoods, house by house, with the aim of detecting patients infected with coronavirus and, if necessary, give them the primary treatment MAIZ to avoid having to go to the hospital system".

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-270-asciende-cifra-de-enfermeras-auxiliares-contagiadas-del-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/unas-270-enfermeras-contagiadas-de-covid-en-honduras.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/sindicato-trabajadores-denuncia-total-descuido-de-la-morgue-del-hospital-escuela.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2051-honduras-macabro-se-acumulan-cadaveres-en-morgue-capitalina>

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/brigadas-medicas-visitaran-colonias-con-mayor-incidencia-de-covid-en-la-capital.html>

1180 university teachers employed by the hour had been fired as a consequence of the corona crisis. The Union of Workers of the National Autonomous University of Honduras is representing them and just presented a legal challenge to the Supreme Court.

El Tiempo took up the calls of maquila workers denouncing that the companies they work for are turning into corona hotspots.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/listas-demandas-por-despido-de-docentes-por-hora-segun-sitraunah.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/choloma-operarios-advierten-sobre-brotes-de-covid-19-en-maquilas/>

The CNA published recommendations for mayors for a transparent management of emergency funds.

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Recomendaciones-Generales-Municipales.pdf>

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, 696 homicides and 12 multiple killings took place so far this year during the lockdown, i.e. since mid-March. In all of 2020, there has not been a single day without a violent death.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44780>

<https://criterio.hn/ni-la-pandemia-detiene-las-masacres-en-el-pais/>

"South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he expects continued cooperation between his country and Honduras in areas such as digital government, green public transport and smart agriculture."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/16/presidente-de-corea-del-sur-espera-continuar-cooperacion-con-honduras/>

As expected, the Secretary of Finance boasts about being one of the 76 countries, out of 141 tested, which received a positive evaluation on fiscal transparency by the US State Department (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-finanzas-externa-satisfaccion-sobre-evaluacion-de-transparencia-hecha-por-ee-uu/>

The MP and the US embassy inaugurated a virtual training cycle for public prosecutors.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/157-junio2020/5904-ministerio-publico-y-embajada-americana-inauguran-ciclo-de-capitacion-virtual-para-fiscales>

"The new Penal Code provides in article 587 that a terrorist association is constituted by two or more persons to commit an offense with the aim of seriously subverting the constitutional order or

provoking a state of terror in the population or part of it. As drafted, it removes one of the essential elements for considering that an action can be considered terrorism: the intent to cause death or serious injury to persons. In doing so, it turns any crime into a terrorist act, even if it is not serious. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders expressed concern about the excessively broad scope of this crime, which would allow for the criminalization of other types of conduct and could be used against human rights defenders."

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/la-defensa-de-la-vida-puede-ser-terrorismo-segun-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

17/06/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - MADJ, Petacón, Agriculture; IACHR; COVID-19 - JOH, Social Movements, Corruption, Prison, Economy; Corruption; Women - Prisons; and a Toxic Dump

MADJ informs about a community water project in Jilamito as part of community struggle against a hydroelectric project.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1273388649896448001>

Criterio published a special investigation into the imposition of the hydroelectric project on the Petacón River and its links with power and corruption. "A jewel that transnational capital seeks to snatch from the Lenca People".

<https://criterio.hn/especial-de-investigacion-hidroelectrica-rio-petacon/>

The criticism of the executive decree PCM 30-2020 continues (see also last month). "The Honduran peasant movement, articulated by La Via Campesina - Honduras, the National Center of Rural Workers,(CNTC), and the Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women,(CODIMCA), highlighted their concern for the rights of land workers who during the pandemic are exposed, and denounced that the decree is a façade for granting land concessions to economic groups. According to this decree, the production generated by the use of these idle lands shall be used to supply the national market, with the Ministry of State in the Offices of Agriculture and Livestock and the Honduran Institute of Agricultural Marketing supervising compliance with the government provision."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2880-a-traves-de-decreto-gobierno-entregaria-tierras-a-extranjeros-y-terratenientes>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is launching the Inter-American System to Monitor Recommendations—also known as the Inter-American SIMORE—in the context of a broad strategy to boost the effectiveness and impact of the Inter-American Human Rights System.

The Inter-American SIMORE is an online tool that systematically collects all recommendations

made by the IACHR through its various mechanisms. In particular, it is a crucial channel to exchange and receive information concerning efforts to monitor the Commission's recommendations concerning the Americas."

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2020/132.asp

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2884-sistema-de-monitoreo-de-recomendaciones-de-la-cidh-podria-ayudar-en-evidenciar-las-violaciones-de-ddhh-en-honduras>

1294 tests resulted in a record 643 new cases yesterday. Six more Hondurans died for a current death toll of 336.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387689-466/honduras-coronavirus-deja-muertes-casos-suben>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/17/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-17-de-junio-del-2020/>

While JOH's Twitter feed is full of happy recovery wishes, there is still doubt about the veracity of his corona infection.

Former president Pepe Lobo stated that he does not believe that JOH is infected.

La Prensa reports that JOH suffers from a pneumonia. One heading in the article states "First Latin American President with COVID-19".

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-ponen-en-duda-que-hernandez-este-contagiado-con-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2052-joh-sale-con-covid-tras-entrega-del-tigre-y-narcos-en-ee-uu-hondurenos-no-creen>

<https://criterio.hn/pepe-lobo-cree-que-enfermedad-de-joh-es-puro-circo/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1387536-410/presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-neumon%C3%ADa-covid19-estable>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-juan-orlando-hernandez-honduras-covid-19-apoyo-presidente/>

"We recently wrote about how OFRANEH, a social movement of the Afro-Indigenous Garifuna people supported by the Fund, drew on their long-standing traditions of communal eating to alleviate hunger. Within days of the pandemic hitting Honduras, they had established ollas comunitarias, or community pots, in nearly 20 Garifuna communities. Now, inspired by the work of OFRANEH, Fund-backed Red de Defensoras de Honduras has organized community pots in communities throughout Tegucigalpa. The group is using WhatsApp to circulate important news about COVID-19 and combat disinformation, as well as to spread the word about the availability of community pots. Using the slogan "Es tiempo de echarle mas agua a la sopa" ("It's time to add

more water to the soup”), Red de Defensoras is able to notify community members about when and where community pots of food are available for them to access."

<https://globalhumanrights.org/blogs/honduran-activists-offer-community-meals/>

According to the speaker of the MP, up to date they have not received any report or audit by the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) on the emergency purchases made by the JOH regime.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-no-ha-recibido-ninguna-auditoria-realizada-por-el-tsc-sobre-compras-de-emergencia-del-estado.html>

"In view of the imminent risk situation faced by persons deprived of liberty in Honduran prisons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizations that make up the Follow-up Committee for the Enforcement of Sentences and Resolutions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (Follow-up Committee) make an urgent call to the State of Honduras to take immediate measures to guarantee the rights of this population."

Meanwhile, another inmate died probably to COVID-19.

The reforms to article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code regarding the change of precautionary measures of imprisonment were published in La Gaceta, i.e. they came into force. These provisions are aimed at decongesting the prison system in the current context of the corona pandemic.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/mesa-seguimiento-sentencias-interamericanas-urge-honduras-tomar-medidas-inmediatas-garantizar-vida-y>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/por-sospecha-de-covid-fallece-otro-privado-de-libertad-de-carcel-de-tamara.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/entran-en-vigencia-reformas-al-articulo-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal-sobre-la-prision-preventiva/>

Labor movements denounce that the JOH regime caves in before the maquila industry leaving workers exposed to dangerous working conditions.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2882-gobierno-no-les-sanciona-personas-trabajadoras-de-maquilas-entre-las-mas-expuestas-al-covid-19-en-sus-centros-de-labores>

Doris Obdulia Gradiz Sevilla, a former employee at the Health Secretariat, was sentenced to over 1000 years in prison for a corruption case involving fake scholarships for medical students. When does the JOH regime start going after the big fish with the same vigor?

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1387540-410/sentencian-1000-a%C3%B1os-prision-exempleada-salud>

InSight Crime reports on gang violence in women's prisons. "Deadly violence within female prisons in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador is rare. But a spate of recent murders in a Honduran prison is a warning that underestimating the role of women within gang and prison structures could be costly."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/gang-violence-women-prison-honduras/>

In the virtual session on Tuesday, Congress approved a bill authorizing the importation of car batteries in poor condition, to be recycled and buried in the national territory, denounced Libre congressman Jari Dixon Herrera.

<https://radioprogreso.net/instante/partido-nacional-convertira-a-honduras-en-basurero-toxico-denuncia-diputado/>

18/06/20

Honduras Daily: Mining - Azacualpa; JOH - Drug Trafficking, US; Journalists; Dengue; COVID-19 - JOH, State Reaction, Health Sector, Women, Garífuna, South Korea, Extractivism, Economy; Penal Code - Journalists; Migration - Extortion; Prisons - Militarization; and Taking Control of the BID

"For years, villagers have been courageously resisting the environmentally harmful, socially divisive, open-pit, cyanide-leeching gold mine of the U.S./ Canada-based Aura Minerals (and MINOSA, its Honduran subsidiary) that are backed by the coercive power of the Honduran regime's police and military. As Covid19 further devastates the lives of the poor majority in Honduras, Azacualpa villagers see even more need to do whatever they can to peacefully stop this mine. (...) Azacualpa Environmental Committee denounces Aura Minerals/MINOSA increased risk of spreading Covid19. Lisbeth Jiménez: "The regime's military-imposed quarantine applies only to the poor. This company does what it wants, destroying, dispossessing, digging up and re-burying the dead. Aura Minerals/MINOSA lies.""

Yesterday, Maria Ermita Rodriguez from the Azacualpa Environmental Committee was insulted and threatened at her home. "They told her there would be consequences for her, her son Hector Antonio and all the NGOs supporting the Azacualpa Environmental Committee."

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/azacualpa-villagers-resist-aura-minerals-covid19-spreading-mine>

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/aura-minerals-linked-threats-against-azacualpa-villager>

InSight Crime picks up the recent arrest of two Guatemalan drug traffickers linked to JOH and his brother Tony Hernández (see previous e-mail). "The two cousins, Otto and Ronald Salguero, turned themselves in to US authorities and are set to appear before a court in the Southern District of New York (SDNY), according to a report by Univisión. Last December, the US Justice Department charged the two men with being part of a drug trafficking ring in Honduras and Guatemala led by Tony Hernández, the brother of current Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández. "These

defendants conspired with the corrupt Honduran officials they bribed to facilitate the importation into the US of large quantities of cocaine for the Sinaloa Cartel,” wrote US Attorney Geoffrey Berman in the indictment. A witness in the case against Tony Hernández told US prosecutors that the Salguero cousins were present at a meeting where Joaquín Guzmán Loera, alias “El Chapo” and the former leader of Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel, gave Hernández \$1 million to finance the presidential campaign of his brother Juan Orlando in 2013.”

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/tony-hernandez-sinaloa-cartel-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2055-fiscalia-de-eeuu-el-tigre-mato-narco-rival-de-tony-y-juan-hernandez>

CESPAD published an analysis of the newest support from the Trump administration for JOH, the certification by the State Department to receive US support (see previous e-mails”.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/18/analisis-a-proposito-de-democracias-tuteladas-otro-espaldarazo-de-donald-trump-hacia-juan-hernandez-alvarado/>

C-Libre denounces that an employee at the Property Institute in Roatán obstructed the work of journalist Isaac Calix.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1185-instituto-de-la-propiedad-obstruye-trabajo-de-periodista-en-roatan>

There are almost 14'000 dengue cases in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-reportan-casi-14-mil-casos-de-dengue-distrito-central-y-el-valle-de-sula-los-mas-afectados/>

1111 tests, 440 new cases, seven more deaths, for a total of 10'739 cases and 343 deaths. The number of hospitalized Hondurans has almost doubled since the "intelligent" reopening of the economy to 933.

Miriam Aguilera of the Microbiologists Association estimates that there are some 40'000 undetected COVID-19 cases in Honduras.

CESPAD published its daily monitor,

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387965-466/honduras-coronavirus-sinager-distrito-central-foco-pandemia>

<https://radiohrn.hn/unos-40-mil-pacientes-covid-19-circulan-en-honduras-sin-haber-sido-detectados-segun-colegio-de-microbiologos/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/18/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-18-de-junio-del-2020/>

The discussion about JOH's state of health has reached the international level. "When health officials in Honduras announced this week that President Juan Orlando Hernández had been hospitalized after testing positive for the coronavirus, there were the expected outpourings of support. But skepticism — voiced by the president's political opponents as well as ordinary Hondurans — quickly followed, with some questioning whether Hernández was sick at all. Memes circulated online, including a widely shared cartoon showing Hernández in a hospital bed being coached on how to look ill. Erick Benjamins, a 26-year-old barber in the northern department of Santa Barbara, said he thinks the president is lying to divert attention from his controversial handling of the coronavirus as well as a sweeping U.S. drug trafficking investigation that has implicated Hernández and several members of his family. (...) the fact that such theories have gained so much traction underscores just how deeply divided this small Central American nation has become — and just how much legitimacy Hernández has lost. (...) Tirza Flores Lanza, an appeals court judge who has clashed with Hernández in the past, said she doesn't know whether the president has the coronavirus, and doesn't really care. But she was worried about what the rampant conspiracies said about the state of things in Honduras. "People here are utterly distrustful," she said. "We don't believe absolutely anything, especially not what comes from the government.""

Even the president of the College of Journalists of Honduras (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, questions the veracity of JOH's claims. The CPH is rather close to corporate media outlets and not known to be very critical of the JOH regime.

At the same time, a doctor at the Military Hospital informed that JOH is stable and does not need to be intubated.

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-06-18/the-president-of-honduras-says-hes-been-hospitalized-with-covid-19-but-conspiracy-theories-rage>

<https://www.univision.com/shows/noticiero-univision/opiniones-dividas-en-honduras-tras-conocerse-que-el-presidente-hernandez-y-su-esposa-tienen-covid-19-video>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2054-honduras-presidente-de-periodistas-duda-sobre-diagnostico-de-joh>

<https://twitter.com/darocohn/status/1273843203444289536>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1387953-466/presidente-honduras-coronavirus-juan-orlando-hernandez-hospital-militar-tomografia-intubado>

As the COVID-19 cases in the capital are growing even faster than feared, the mayor announced the temporary closure of the markets, just a week after the "intelligent" reopening started. The head of COPEC gives the responsibility to the citizens of the capital to avoid that the Central District becomes the next COVID-19 hotspot in Latin America...

<https://confidencialhn.com/alcalde-capitalino-y-fonac-socializaran-con-sinager-cierre-temporal-de-los-mercados/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/depende-de-los-capitalinos-que-tegucigalpa-no-se-convierta-en-la-capital-del-covid-en-ca-dice-cordero.html>

More than 800 health workers have been infected with the new coronavirus.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/mas-de-800-empleados-de-la-salud-se-han-contagiado-de-covid-19-confirma-presidente-de-aneeah/>

At the Supreme Court, the court responsible for gender violence had to close due to corona cases.

<https://tiempo.hn/csj-cierran-juzgados-violencia-domestica-contagios-covid-19/>

OFRANEH and the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders published a booklet on ancestral Garífuna medicine.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/06/medicina-ancestral-garifuna-alternativas-para-combatir-el-coronavirus/>

South Korea donated medical gear worth \$300'000 to the JOH regime.

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/06/18/corea-del-sur-dona-300-mil-dolares-en-insumos-para-atender-pandemia-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Peace Watch Switzerland explains how the corona crisis is used to further hand over Honduras' land to business interests. "One of the first measures implemented by the Honduran regime in response to the crisis generated by the Coronavirus was the creation of a virtual platform[1] from the MIAMBIENTE secretariat, with the purpose of continuing to promote investment in the country. This is a platform to be able to process environmental license permits for extractive projects, projects that have generated serious social conflict in Honduras in recent years. In the opinion of the Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia (MADJ), this measure is a response to pressure from business sectors which, taking advantage of the crisis in Honduras, see an opportunity to deepen the handing over of territory, while the majority of the population and the ancestral peoples are developing preventive measures to avoid contagion."

<https://peacewatch.blog/2020/06/08/honduras-coronavirus-la-nueva-puerta-para-continuar-la-entrega-del-territorio/>

The Commerce and Industry Chamber of Tegucigalpa (CCIT) expressed concern about the ineffectiveness of the prolongation to pay one's taxes. They criticize that it does not include any measure that generates relief.

They also present themselves in a dilemma of having to choose between paying taxes or the fourteenth month salary for their employees (see also previous e-mail).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aprobacion-de-prorroga-de-pago-del-isr-no-genera->

alivio-ni-certidumbre-denuncia-ccit.html

<https://confidencialhn.com/ccit-expresa-que-empresarios-estan-en-un-dilema-entre-pagar-decimocuarto-mes-e-impuestos/>

Mauricio Velasco, president of Pro-Justicia Honduras, explains how the new Penal Code is both unconstitutional and fraudulent. "An analysis of publications in the Official Gazette, recordings, videos and minutes of the plenary sessions of the National Congress, related to the discussion and approval of the new Penal Code, shows that some deputies, in addition to violating parliamentary procedure, incurred in crimes defined in the Criminal Code as forgery of public documents and abuse of authority. Article 214 of the Constitution of the Republic stipulates that bills must be voted on after three debates on different days, except in cases of urgency, which must be approved by a simple majority of the deputies present. The new Penal Code, without taking into account its unquestionable importance and long duration, was voted on in an irresponsible and hasty manner, in a single debate and without having justified the case of emergency as required by the Constitution of the Republic. The two extensions of the *vacatio legis* of the new Penal Code that the National Congress had to approve, among other reasons, because of the lack of socialization and preparation of the necessary personnel for its application in the Judiciary, prove that the vote should have been carried out in three debates."

CNA published a short video on their campaign supported by over 100 organizations that the code should not come into force.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1609-nuevo-codigo-penal-es-inconstitucional-y-fraudulento>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP7QbvyWpTI&feature=emb_title

Congress recently held a virtual event with "the public" on the topic but when journalist Nely Larice expressed a critical opinion on the new Penal Code, he was thrown out of the meeting.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1184-poder-legislativo-saca-de-reunion-virtual-a-periodista-por-criticar-nuevo-codigo-penal>

The Norwegian Refugee Council published a report on forced migration in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and the role of extortion. "This snapshot explores the links between extortion, internal displacement and forced migration in the North of Central America (NCA) and the migration route in Mexico. Although the definition varies across different national legislations, we understand extortion as being the use of intimidation, violence or threats to force someone to do something or to obtain someone's property. This type of aggression one of the main drivers of displacement in the region, but it is also one of the main crimes that people are subjected to during displacement, as well as after deportation back to their countries of origin. As such, extortion transcends international borders as one of the main human rights violations committed against displaced people and migrants."

<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/violence-and-protection-north-central-america-redlac-snapshot-8-extortion-key>

"After six months of military presence in the management of the prison system, the Centre for the Prevention, Rehabilitation and Treatment of Torture Victims (CPTRT) demanded their release and an appointment of a citizen intervention commission. In a statement, the human rights organization recalled that today (June 18, 2020) is the six-months deadline to govern the prisons in the country and therefore they should report on their management, especially with a focus on human rights."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1608-cptrt-demanda-desmilitarizacion-de-carceles-en-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1273789415274364930>

19/06/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; HR - UN; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Extractivism - Toxic Waste; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy, Prisons; Penal Code - UN; and Testing Positive...

The human rights defenders and community leaders Jorge Espinoza and Lucas Cardenas were murdered three days ago in Las Minas, El Progreso.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1273954751214833664>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1273955591824654339>

Two important reports by UN bodies on Honduras were recently published. First, the "Report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises". Second, the "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers".

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/44/43/Add.2>

<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/44/47/Add.2>

The accused Guatemalan drug trafficker Ronald Enrique Salguero Portillo, with links to JOH's brother Tony Hernández, declared himself innocent.

Another trial linked to the case, against the former Honduran police official Mauricio Hernández Pineda, was postponed to July 28.

Then, there was also reporting on the supposed resignation of US Attorney Geoffrey Berman, the one "overseeing many of the drug trafficking cases against Hondurans including the one that names Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez as a co-conspirator".

Moments later, Berman tweeted that he only found out in the press about his supposed resignation.

He made clear that he would only step down once the Senate has confirmed a presidentially appointed nominee.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388167-466/presunto-socio-de-tony-hern%C3%A1ndez-se-declarano-culpable-en-ee-uu>

<https://criterio.hn/primos-guatemaltecos-ligados-a-tony-hernandez-se-declaran-inocentes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388179-466/postergan-audiencia-contra-expolic%C3%ADa-ligado-a-tony-hern%C3%A1ndez>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1274179086038913027>

<https://criterio.hn/renuncia-geoffrey-berman-fiscal-que-conocio-el-caso-de-tony-hernandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2057-urgente-trump-ya-designo-nuevo-fiscal-federal-para-new-york>

<https://twitter.com/SDNYnews/status/1274178732476059650>

There has been more coverage of Congress' intent to make Honduras a place for toxic waste.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-plena-pandemia-cn-aprueba-la-importacion-de-desechos-toxicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/ingenieros-ambientales-recuerdan-al-gobierno-que-es-prohibido-introducir-desechos-toxicos-a-honduras/>

Another 519 COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday for a total of 11'258. 6 more people died, the death toll now being at 349.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388198-466/honduras-confirma-nuevos-casos-total-sube-hay-muertos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/19/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-19-de-junio-del-2020/>

Both CESPAD and ContraCorriente take a closer look at the collapsing Honduran health system. The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, demanded to activate the contracting mechanism of the Health Secretariat. Another doctor, Alexis Javier Reyes Amaya, died to COVID-19.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/19/analisis-honduras-del-colapso-sanitario-al-colapso-politico/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/19/la-pandemia-pone-en-evidencia-la-precariedad-hospitalaria->

[del-pais/](#)

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/urge-activar-mecanismo-de-contratacion-ante-contagios-en-personal-medico-sugiere-la-aneeah.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388041-466/muere-el-doctor-alexis-reyes-por-covid-19-en-san-pedro-sula>

Given the precarious situation in Honduras, even the business lobby COHEP now asks for a further waiting period before the second step of the "intelligent" reopening of the economy.

Markets had to be closed down again (see yesterday) and some government agencies never even opened.

The Honduran Civil Aeronautics Agency (AHAC) announced a four-phase air reactivation plan to gradually restore commercial transport.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-pide-posponer-por-dos-semanas-la-segunda-fase-de-reactivacion-economica-ante-escalada-del-covid19/>

<https://criterio.hn/responsabilizandolos-del-repunte-en-contagios-gobierno-cierra-seis-mercados-capitalinos/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-cierra-reapertura-inteligente-de-sus-oficinas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/preven-reapertura-en-cuatro-fases-los-vuelos-nacionales-e-internacionales/>

OACNUDH expressed concern about the situation of inmates in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1273990629601705990>

<https://tiempo.hn/oacnudh-preocupada-contagios-covid-19-carceles-honduras/>

"OACNUDH is holding meetings with human rights, women's rights and trade union organizations to discuss the necessary reforms to the new Penal Code to guarantee effective protection of human rights and access to justice."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1274069484647731200>

...for corruption, drug trafficking, violating the constitution, etc

<https://radioprogreso.hn/np/hace-tiempo-dio-positivo/>

20/06/20

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy, MP, Indigenous Peoples, Prisons, Militarization; JOH - Digitalization; ENEE; and Singing for Another Honduras

OFRANEH denounces the death of another Garífuna, the 71-year old Antonio Bernardez was found yesterday near the Punta Piedra community. "The assassination of Antonio Bernardez underlines the delicate situation in the area, which for decades has been subject to acts of violence as part of the strategy of dispossession of the Garifuna territory (...) The Punta Piedra case was presented to the Inter-American human rights system in 2003 and by 2015 the Inter-American Court issued a ruling in favor of the community, which has been ignored by the state."

Later, Miriam Miranda denounced: "Forensic medicine informs us that they won't pick up body of our comrade Antonio Bernardez".

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/06/20/1906/>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1274368461746118657>

US prosecutor Geoffrey S. Berman seemed to have lost his battle against Trump (see also yesterday) and as the later fired him. On the upside, Trump was not able to force through his appointee; for the time being, Berman will be replaced by his deputy. Hopefully, this also helps the cases made against Honduran drug traffickers, among them JOH's brother Tony Hernández. InSight Crime also wonders what the ousting of Berman means for drug trafficking cases. "Berman spearheaded the prosecution of Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández's brother, Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, who was ultimately convicted of drug trafficking in October 2019. Since then, however, Tony Hernández's sentencing has been postponed five times and is now scheduled to take place in September, more than a year after his conviction, raising questions as to how the shakeup in New York might impact those proceedings. In addition, prosecutors with the Southern District of New York have repeatedly called President Hernández a co-conspirator in his brother's drug trafficking ring, even implicating him in providing protection to a drug lab producing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine per month along a stretch of the country's Caribbean coast. Prosecutors have also accused a number of Honduran officials with links to the president of drug trafficking, most recently former police chief Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, also known as "El Tigre." (...) The circle of accusations around President Hernández has generated suspicion that he could be indicted, though that is unlikely, given that the United States does not usually indict sitting or former heads of state."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/20/nyregion/trump-geoffrey-berman-fired-sdny.html>

<https://criterio.hn/geoffrey-s-berman-finalmente-acepta-renunciar/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/ousting-prosecutor-impact-drug-cases-latin-america/>

Honduras saw the biggest one day jump in new COVID-19 cases; out of 1913 tests, 1048 resulted positive. There are now 12'306 official COVID-19 cases in Honduras and 358 deaths.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388404-466/honduras-cifra-record-contagios-coronavirus-pandemia-junio>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/20/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-20-de-junio-del-2020/>

Three doctors and at least one nurse died in less than 2 days to COVID-19.

At the University Hospital, 50 employees have tested positive, another 60 are suspected of being infected with the corona virus.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2058-honduras-tres-medicos-mueren-por-covid-en-ultimas-24-horas-ya-suman-cinco>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/tres-medicos-han-muerto-en-24-horas-en-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fallece-por-covid-19-una-enfermera-en-el-progreso.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/mas-de-50-empleados-positivos-de-coronavirus-y-unos-60-sospechosos-en-el-hospital-escuela-de-tegucigalpa/>

While the health consequences of the "intelligent" reopening have most probably been devastating, its economic effect has at best been "negligent" according to FOSDEH.

Former president of the Central Bank, Hugo Noé Pino, warned of a historic economic crisis for Honduras.

<https://rdsradio.hn/archivos/5119>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/se-vienen-tiempos-dificiles-pronostica-economista/>

At least 25 employees of the MP's morgue tested positive for COVID-19 because they have to work without biosafety equipment.

<https://criterio.hn/empleados-de-la-morgue-contagiados-de-covid-19-por-falta-de-equipo/>

COPINH opened up its Utopia community center offering a place to stay for people suspected or suffering of COVID-19.

<https://copinh.org/2020/06/copinh-dispone-de-sus-instalaciones-para-aislamiento-por-covid-19/>

OACNUDH and CONAPREV made a monitoring visit to two prisons, in one of which the environmental defenders from Guapinol are held.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1274354655984791552>

The Military Police is "kindly" asking you to stay at home...

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1274387762427428865>

El Pulso reports on the plans of JOH regarding digitalization, especially a digital government.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44925>

The JOH regime successfully placed 10-year bonds worth \$600 millions which will be used to pay off the debt of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=44917>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1274488329350729728>

21/06/20

Honduras Daily: MASSVIDA; Garífuna; COVID-19 - Tegucigalpa, Health Sector, Prisons, COPINH; Elections; Penal Code - UN; and Against Despair

The house of environmental defender and coordinator of MASSVIDA, German Chirinos, was illegally raided by ATIC agents. Chirinos should benefit from special protection measures granted by the IACHR.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/allanan-ilegalmente-domicilio-de-defensor-del-ambiente/>

OACNUDH laments the murder of Garífuna defender Antonio Bernardez (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1274743963254231040>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/21/alerta-asesinan-a-antonio-bernardez-lider-garifuna-en-punta-piedra/>

1078 tests resulted in 519 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 12'769. 5 more Hondurans died, there have been 363 deaths so far.

Lawyer and Libre activist Fredy Rodríguez died of COVID-19. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-confirman-519-nuevos-casos-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/muere-abogado-fredy-rodriguez-militante-de-libre-por-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/21/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-21-de-junio-del-2020/>

Tegucigalpa has overtaken San Pedro Sula as the most affected region and as the city in the north had previously done, Tegucigalpa now also suspended any de-confinement measures. They also went back to stage 0 of the "intelligent" reopening of the economy.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1388538-466/reapertura-tegucigalpa-contagios-coronavirus-honduras-pandemia-cifras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1388585-466/cierre-tegucigalpa-distrito-central-toque-queda-honduras-reapertura>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-cierran-el-distrito-central-por-aumento-de-casos/>

The University Hospital won't take up corona cases anymore, i.e. not directly, only if they are referred by one of the centers operated by Infop, El Hato and El Sitio. The San Felipe Hospital announced that they are full.

<https://radiohrn.hn/hospital-escuela-ya-no-atendera-a-pacientes-con-sintomas-o-sospechosos-por-covid-19/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/hospital-san-felipe-sin-cupos-para-pacientes-covid-clama-por-unidad-para-enfrentar-pandemia.html>

"Relatives of prisoners in the Choluteca penal center denounced the lack of timely medical attention for their relatives who have shown signs of illness without being properly attended to." Due to the high number of cases in the Támara prison, the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) announced that they had opened up a laboratory inside the prison.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-covid-19-complica-situacion-de-privados-de-libertad-en-choluteca/>

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/21/inp-habilita-laboratorio-en-carcel-de-tamara/>

COPINH and the Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University will hold a press conference today at 10am on a citizen proposal to the corona crisis in Intibucá.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1274822722615414784>

Libre will hold an emergency meeting today at 11am to discuss if they will participate or not at the primary elections in 2021.

<https://confidencialhn.com/zelaya-llama-de-emergencia-a-cupula-de-libre-para-decidir-si-van-o-no-a-primarias-de-marzo-de-2021/>

OACNUDH presented its analysis of the new Penal Code to Congress.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1274873773305597953>

"One symptom of this political syndrome is low political self-esteem. Those who suffer from this syndrome hope that a gringo court will take JOH away and end his dictatorship. This only reflects a lot of naivety and the degree of mental colonization that is common in our country, since they pass over the fact that the solution to our problems will come from outside, from the "great master" and not from ourselves. They believe that as a people we are not capable of self-organizing and doing the task by our own means. That is why they project frustration on the desire for others to come and save us."

<https://criterio.hn/el-despido-del-fiscal-berman-y-el-sindrome-del-hondureno-desesperanzado/>

22/06/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Journalists; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, Transport, Repression, Economy; Elections; Police; and the Worldview of Garifuna Women

C-Libre has additional information on the illegal raid of the house of human rights and environmental defender Germán Chirinos (see also yesterday).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1188-por-equivocacion-agentes-antiextorsion-allanan-vivienda-de-defensor-ambientalista>

Accused drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez declared himself innocent in a US court (see also previous days).

The next hearing will be on September 16 and the Pro-Honduras Network reports that the US authorities have over 1 terabyte of data as evidence against the alleged former partner of Tony Hernández and JOH.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388766-466/capo-hondure%C3%B1o-geovanny-fuentes-se-declara-inocente-en-estados-unidos>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/06/22/fiscalia-tiene-un-terabyte-de-informacion-contra-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez-supuesto-socio-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

C-Libre reports on the creation of fake online profiles of Radio Marcala from La Paz. "C-Libre communicated with its director, Carlos Galeas, who mentioned that, in the current context of the suspension of constitutional guarantees, there is fear that they intend to end the work of Radio Marcala on social networks."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1187-crean-perfiles-en-facebook-con-imagen-de-radio-marcala>

1335 tests discovered 584 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 13'356. Honduras reported the highest one-day increase in deaths, 32, for a new death toll of 395.

Funeral homes have even registered 883 deaths following a COVID-19 protocol, more than double the official number. This is partly explained by the great backup in testing, some 10'000 samples have not yet been tested in labs.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388827-466/honduras-confirma-584-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-suben-a-13356-hay>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1388636-528/coronavirus-muertos-honduras-funerarias>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/22/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-22-de-junio-del-2020/>

The CNA published its fifth report on corruption during the corona pandemic focusing on the purchase of the mobile hospital. There have been previous articles and investigations into this, but this new report caused widespread reactions even in corporate medial outlets. The sum in question is over \$47 million for the purchase of 7 mobile hospitals.

They highlight various irregularities committed by Invest-H, from a lack of planing up to suspicious purchase conditions.

The Turkish company SDI Global LLC, which fabricates mobile hospitals, denounced that their name and business registry was misused to sell mobile hospitals to Invest-H.

The MP announced to investigate the authenticity of the documents.

Congress cited the head of Invest-H, Marco Bográn, for questioning.

Opposition politicians asked for his resignation.

He continues to claim that everything is alright and two mobile hospitals are on their way to Honduras.

All of this led even ASJ to abandon ship and leave the social auditing body of Invest-H investments.

https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/La-corrupcio%CC%81n-en-tiempos-del-COVID-19_tomoV.pdf

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/22/compra-de-hospitales-moviles-fue-una-estafa-las-irregularidades-de-invest-h-continuan/>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-escandalo-de-corrupcion-en-torno-a-compra-de-hospitales-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empresa-turca-demandara-penalmente-a-guatemalteco-intermediario-en-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-pedidos-por-investh/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/inicio/1388681-417/fraude-compra-hospitales-moviles-millones-invest-honduras-pandemia>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/fosdeh-advierte-posible-estafa-internacional-sin-precedentes-en-compra-de-hospitales-moviles.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388760-466/mp-verificar%C3%A1-autenticidad-de-documento-emitido-por-empresa-turca-en-caso-invest-h>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-cita-a-marco-bogran-a-rendir-cuentas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/interpelaran-a-jefe-de-investh-por-gastos-ante-pandemia-bancadas-opositoras-pedirán-separación-de-bogran/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388788-466/bogran-todo-esta-en-orden-los-documentos-los-tenemos>

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-niega-adquirido-hospitales-moviles-sdi-global-llc/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asj-se-retira-de-la-veeduría-y-auditoría-social-de-invest-h.html>

Honduras' medical staff, over three months into the pandemic, continues to demand for safety equipment.

The president of the Honduran Medical Association, Suyapa Figueroa, launched a call to Honduras' medical professionals to rescue the country's health system.

WHO representative Piedad Huerta expressed concerns about the situation in Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/medicos-reclaman-al-gobierno-equipo-de-proteccion-ante-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/presidenta-del-colegio-medico-de-honduras-llama-al-gremio-a-rescatar-el-sistema-de-salud/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/oms-preocupada-por-situación-de-honduras-ante-la-pandemia.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/representante-de-la-ops-esta-preocupada-ante-contagios-y-fallecimientos-por-coronavirus/>

The transport sector protested yesterday in various parts of Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/vuelven-las-protestas-de-los-transportistas/>

"Disturbing videos are circulating on social media of Honduras' "community police" beating protesters in San Pedro Sula this morning as ppl protest against the lack of economic & food support from the govt & healthcare workers protest over depleted hospitals & clinics".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1275156206198255616>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/22/alerta-exigimos-un-alto-a-la-brutalidad-policial-en-contra-de-ciudadanos-que-solo-buscan-alimento-para-sus-familias/>

Javier Suazo analyzes the "intelligent" reopening of the economy by the JOH regime in the midst of a pandemic. "Honduras was left behind in the fight against COVID-19, not only in the application of rapid tests and PCR, delivery of results and protection of health personnel, especially doctors and nurses, but also in the reduction of negative impacts on the economy and monetary income of families."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/207404>

Libre decided yesterday that they would not participate in primary elections without a new electoral census and new identity cards.

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-no-ira-elecciones-sin-nueva-tarjeta-censo-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-libre-no-acepta-ir-a-elecciones-primarias-con-el-viejo-censo-electoral/>

A former member of the National Police Force was sent to pre-trial detention accused of murder.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/157-junio2020/5932-fedcv-y-atic-logran-prision-preventiva-contra-expolicia-acusado-de-homicidio-de-sexagenario>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1610-la-cosmovision-de-la-mujer-garifuna-en-tiempos-de-covid-19>

23/06/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH; HRDs- UN; COVID-19 - Health Sector, HRDs, Repression, Assassination, Journalists, Corruption, Prisons, Militarization; MACCIH; World Bank; Penal Code - Extradition; and Electoral Reforms

Two days ago, COPINH announced that it would open up its community center Utopia for people infected with or suspected of infection with the corona virus. Now, they face a defamatory campaign and threats are voiced to burn down Utopia.

<https://copinh.org/2020/06/denuncia-publica-copinh-rechaza-amenazas-a-instalaciones-de-utopia/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/06/alerta-urgente-honduras-amenazan-con-incendiar-el-centro-utopia-del-copinh-en-santa-catarina-intibuca/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published its weekly video summary of the human rights situation in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/noticiero-pasos/item/2886-honduras-en-el-abismo-de-la-ilegalidad>

OACNUDH met with human rights defenders from the Aguán Valley.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1275529708302712837>

1353 tests, 587 new cases, 13'943 in total, as well as 10 additional deaths for a new total of 405. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389086-466/honduras-suma-587-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-hay-405-muertos-y-13943>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/23/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-23-de-junio-del-2020/>

The situation at the IHSS is very grave; even El Heraldo writes of an "alarming collapse" which "only reflects the chaos in the country to come" for the lack of more health centers.

At least 170 IHSS employees have been isolated.

Four auxiliary nurses and members of ANEEAH have died so far to COVID-19 and more than 400 have been infected.

Medical staff continued to protest for the second day in a row for better protection.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389086-466/honduras-suma-587-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-hay-405-muertos-y-13943>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hospital-escuela-reporta-aislamiento-de-170-empleados-por-contagio-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuatro-auxiliares-de-enfermeria-han-perdido-la-lucha-contrapor-covid19-durante-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/por-segundo-dia-consecutivo-medicos-le-reclaman-al-gobierno-equipo-de-proteccion/>

The International Forum on Human Rights in Honduras published a press release demanding a secure environment for human rights defenders to exercise their important work.

Interestingly, even Proceso Digital picked this up.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/foro-internacional-derechos-humanos-honduras-debe-garantizar-condiciones-seguridad-ejercicio-defensa>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/piden-a-honduras-garantizar-seguridad-de-defensores-de-ddhh-durante-pandemia.html>

After the brutal repression of protesters on Monday (see yesterday), the police announced its own investigation.

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky has a better solution: "Now more than ever the U.S. must defund Honduran police and Congress must pass the Berta Caceres Human Rights in Honduras Act. Police violence anywhere is a threat to humanity everywhere."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45036>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/06/22/policia-investiga-golpiza-a-manifestantes-en-sps/>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1275579158555439104?s=20>

And as if there had not already been enough reason to stop funding the Honduran police: Defensores en Línea denounced that TIGRES special forces and the police murdered the 38-year old Riner Argueta Oliva on his way to work. Apparently, he did not stop at a checkpoint, which according to witnesses was not really visible as a checkpoint, and as a result, they shot him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/escuadron-tigre-y-policia-nacional-asesinan-a-joven-en-san-esteban-olanchito/>

C-Libre documented at least 41 acts of aggression against journalists and media outlets during the pandemic up to June 11.

<https://criterio.hn/covid-19-escenario-fertil-para-las-violaciones-y-agresiones-contra-la-prensa-de-honduras/>

The newest corruption case involving Invest-H, the purchase of the mobile hospitals, remains in the headline. Interestingly, the case in itself is not new, its main facts have been known and denounced for weeks. But maybe as more, powerful, people grasp the reality of the crisis, corruption in the health sector has become more frowned upon. El Heraldo published a long article on the main irregularities found in the purchase of the mobile hospitals.

The MP started an investigation into Invest-H's director holding him responsible for fraud, abuse of authority and embezzlement of public funds.

The TSC now also announces an audit on Invest-H's purchases.

Bográn appeared before Congress yesterday but he could not offer convincing answers.

Opposition politicians demanded Bográn's suspension.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1389033-528/falsos-registros-cat%C3%A1logos-duplicados-y-un-pago-adelantado-una-sombra-de-irregularidades>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1388941-466/investigacion-director-invest-h-marco-brogan-ministerio-publico-hospitales-moviles>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/tsc-afirma-que-emitira-en-corto-plazo-informe-sobre-auditoria-de-invest-h.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-investh-se-derrite-en-explicaciones-ante-el-congreso-por-irregularidades-en-compras-directas-y-se-resiste-a-renunciar/>

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-opositores-piden-destitucion-de-director-de-invest-h-por-inconvincente/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mocionan-que-suspendan-de-su-cargo-a-marco-brogan/>

Radio Progreso published a general article on corruption and negligence in the response to corona in Honduras.

The deputy attorney general, Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso, seems to play the blame game. As the pressure on the MP has grown again recently to investigate corruption cases linked to the corona pandemic response (see also above), he now shifts the blame to the Judiciary.

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/corrupcion-y-negligencia-el-manejo-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1275452526528061445>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1275476887016550400>

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1275561515022798848>

This Friday, there will be a webinar on "The human rights crisis of COVID-19 and prisons in Honduras".

https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rUEWE3pRQVuwVWs1sRAfOw

The Military Police once again asks you "kindly" to stay at home.

CESPAD published an important piece of analysis on "Democracy, Soldiers and the Pandemic". "In conclusion, militarization was already a strong and widespread trend in Latin America before the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special emphasis on public security. With COVID-19, this trend towards militarization has deepened. The broad participation of the military in different tasks to combat the pandemic, ranging from distributing food rations to repressing protests, has strengthened the role of the military in different national scenarios. In a context of institutional weakness, as in most Latin American countries, the democratic subordination of the military is put at risk, and with it, democracy itself."

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1275443194700787715>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/23/analisis-democracia-militares-y-pandemia/>

Charles Call published a new paper on the MACCIH and its legacy in Honduras. "Fleeting Success: The Legacy of Honduras' International Anti-Corruption Mission". "This report draws conclusions about the legacy and lessons of MACCIH, analyzing the political, juridical, social, and institutional impact of the OAS Mission. The report considers the extent to which MACCIH has contributed to the fight against corruption and impunity. It assesses the Mission according to its mandate, but also seeks to understand its social and political significance for Honduran society. Finally, it analyzes MACCIH as an example of a particular type of tool of national and international decisionmakers – an international body created at the request of a national government to work in close collaboration with authorities and civil society in the realm of rule of law and anti-impunity."

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3633943

At the beginning of the month, the World Bank granted the JOH regime a \$70 million credit for a drinking water project in the Dry Corridor. Yesterday, they announced the approval of a \$45 million project to grant better access to drinking water to 360'000 households. I am not sure, if it is the same project.

<https://www.bancomundial.org/es/news/press-release/2020/06/22/banco-mundial-otorgara-us45-millones-para-mejorar-provision-de-agua-potable-a-360000-hogares-en-honduras>

Former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla denounces that the new Penal Code also serves to stop the extradition of powerful public officials.

<https://criterio.hn/el-codigo-penal-es-para-evitar-las-extradiciones-salvador-nasralla/>

A group of congresswo/men presented a bill asking for a public consultation on the two-round presidential election and the presidential reelection.

The new Electoral Law, meanwhile, is currently in its last revision.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presentan-proyecto-de-decreto-de-consulta-ciudadana-para-definir-segunda-vuelta-y-reeleccion-presidencial.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/nueva-ley-electoral-de-honduras-esta-en-su-ultima-revision/>

24/06/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code - FoE;; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Fake News; US; LGBTIQ+; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, HR, Prisons, Labor Rights; and an Unpaid Debt

The new Penal Code was supposed to come into force today, but then something interesting happened. Opposition politicians from Libre, Pinu and the Liberal Party called for an extraordinary session to stop the Penal Code based on article 191 of the Honduran constitution.

They installed their own board with a president, vice-presidents and two secretaries. The 70 congresswo/men present voted all for the abrogation of the new Penal Code. According to an analysis by the Coalition against Impunity, this extraordinary session was legal and constitutional. They also received support from the Commerce and Industry Chamber of Cortés (CCIC). In the evening, there were reports of a militarized center of Tegucigalpa near Congress. The pro-JOH side of Congress did not recognize the session and its results. Nevertheless, the National Party later announced that they are in favor of prolonging once again the vacatio legis, i.e. the time until the Penal Code comes into force. Last but not least, the Association of Public Prosecutors also spoke out against the new Penal Code, i.e. that it should not come into force in the current form.

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-de-oposicion-convocan-a-sesion-extraordinaria-para-detener-codigo-penal/>

<https://criterio.hn/historico-congreso-extraordinario-decide-abrogar-nuevo-codigo-penal-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cci-reconoce-como-un-acto-democratico-y-constitucional-sesion-que-realizan-diputados-para-que-no-entre-en-vigencia-codigo-penal/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/en-sesion-extraordinaria-diputados-de-oposicion-derogan-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/24/militarizado-se-encuentra-el-centro-de-la-capital-a-cercanias-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1275987933783158789>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-pide-que-se-amplie-vacatio-legis-al-codigo-penal/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1275906768447692802>

The CNA wrote a letter/analysis to the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye, on the effects of the new Penal Code on freedom of expression.

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Nota-325-2020-Carta-de-denuncia-Relatori%CC%81a-Libertad-de-Expresio%CC%81n-ONU-F.pdf>

"In normal times, sharing U.S. drug intelligence with a foreign government led by a president tainted by drug trafficking corruption would be a non-starter. But these seem to be anything but normal times. An innocuous sounding tweet last month from the U.S. Embassy in Honduras congratulating the government on an amended "aerial sovereignty law" barely registered in either

country. But this law, combined with revelations published by Univision on June 15 th about alleged senior Honduran government involvement in cocaine trafficking, including the Honduran President – Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH) - should set our hair on fire. The President denies any involvement in the scheme. The innocent sounding changes to the Law for Protection of Aerial Sovereignty will facilitate renewed counter-narcotics cooperation between the U.S. and Honduran security forces. This implies the United States would share intelligence, likely including radar tracking of possible drug flights, with a foreign government headed by an unindicted co-conspirator in a drug trafficking case under investigation by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/opinion/contradictory-signals-undermine-u-s-credibility-in-honduras-and-central-america>

Reporteros de Investigación published an investigation into fake news and the JOH regime.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/06/22/asi-crean-noticias-falsas/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/06/24/empresa-de-israel-con-artilleria-de-mentiras-y-fake-news-virales-para-distraer/>

The US State Department officially announced its \$252 million support for Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Money could have been hold back for reasons of human rights violations and corruption, but somehow the State Department did not found anything to worry.

The same day, Mauricio Oliva, Nationalist president of Congress, met with US chargé d'affaires Colleen Hoey.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/estados-unidos-aportara-252-millones-adicionales-a-honduras-guatemala-y-el-salvador.html>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/24/mauricio-oliva-y-colleen-hoey-dialogan-sobre-avances-del-proceso-de-elecciones/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with LGBTI defender Valery Elizabeth Palencia about her situation two weeks after she was attacked by unknown assailants in her home.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2887-mes-del-orgullo-gay-es-opacado-por-la-impunidad-para-las-agresiones-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi>

Another day were some 50% of all corona-tests resulted positive. 1260 tests, 628 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 14'571. Additionally, 12 more people died for a current death toll of 417.

CESPAD published its daily report.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389329-466/covid-19-suma-casos-muertes-aumentan-en-honduras>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/24/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-24-de-junio-del-2020/>

According to the Health Secretariat, 1221 health workers have been infected so far with the new corona virus, almost 10% of all corona cases in Honduras at the time of measurement.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1389343-528/coronavirus-honduras-medicos-enfermeras-personal-salud>

ASJ published additional new audits of the purchases of Invest-H. In the headline case of the mobile hospitals, they accuse Invest-H to have overpaid each of the seven hospitals up to 50 million Lempiras.

There are now even more calls for the resignation of Marco Bográn, head of Invest-H.

Foprideh withdrew from the executive council of Invest-H.

ConfidencialHn reports on how Bográn is trying to cover up his actions.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asj-halla-sobrevaloracion-de-50-millones-de-lempiras-por-cada-hospital-movil-comprado-en-turquia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asj-invest-h-hallazgos-compras-insumos-covid-19/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389211-466/asj-informe-investh-compras-millonarias-hospitales-coronavirus-honduras-estafa>

https://asjhonduras.com/covid19/informe_resumen_adquisiciones_invest_h.html

https://asjhonduras.com/covid19/informe_hospitales.html

https://asjhonduras.com/covid19/informe_bioseguridad.html

https://asjhonduras.com/covid19/informe_ventiladores290.html

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/24/fonac-propone-suspension-del-director-de-invest-h-marco-bogran/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/foprideh-anuncia-que-se-retira-del-consejo-directivo-de-investh-por-senalamientos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bogran-busca-cubrir-sus-huellas-en-fabuloso-negocio-con-estafador-guatemalteco1/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2062-investigacion-honduras-compro-hospitales-en-una-tienda-de-ups>

PWS offers a view from below explaining how the corona crisis affects the communities they are accompanying.

<https://peacewatch.blog/2020/06/15/honduras-como-afecta-el-covid-19-a-los-as-pobladores-as-de-las-comunidades-acompanadas-por-pws/>

There are 24 cases at the so-called maximum-security prison El Pozo.
There are also over 50 dengue cases at the El Progreso prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/24-casos-de-covid-activos-en-el-pozo-reos-personal-administrativo-y-de-seguridad/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/brote-de-dengue-afecta-mas-de-50-privados-de-libertad-en-penal-de-el-progreso.html>

"Experts in Honduras estimate that some 250,000 jobs have been lost to the pandemic in recent months. The few actions taken by the government to sustain the Honduran economy have not benefited the workers. On the contrary, the state of emergency has provided an opportunity for many companies to violate labor rights, under the inoperative eyes of the entities in charge of protecting them. With the loss of jobs and lack of opportunities, many Hondurans are waiting for the opportunity to leave the country."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/24/empleos-perdidos-y-violaciones-laborales-la-crisis-desatendida-por-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/que-paguen-los-autores-intelectuales-por-las-victimas-del-golpe-de-estado/>

25/06/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code - Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, US; Corruption - IMF, IHSS; BCIE; Lawyers; and Collective Gardening

After the extraordinary session by the political opposition on Wednesday (see yesterday and the first link below), there was a lot of uncertainty about the fate of the new Penal Code. Even though the National Party late in the evening spoke out in favor of another prolongation of the vacation legis, the Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, now says that the Penal Code has come into force.

Opposition lawmakers, meanwhile, have been officially accused by the legal service of Congress for abuse of authority and other alleged crimes.

El Herald published some of the statements of the accused politicians. "To act against opposition deputies, the Public Prosecutor's Office is open at 11:51 PM."

Still not giving up, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) presented a constitutional complaint at the Supreme Court.

Yesterday evening, the presidential advisor Ebal Díaz tweeted: "In the next few hours, the

Executive Branch will send a formal communication to the National Congress asking for the complete repeal of the new Penal Code or, if necessary, for profound reforms that will be shared with all sectors".

Díaz also announced that the executive would analyze the certification of the derogation of the Penal Code by the political opposition.

Maybe taking its cue from the JOH regime, La Prensa, meanwhile, published several critical articles of the Penal Code, e.g. on deepening corruption or limiting freedom of expression. As most corporate medial outlets, La Prensa has not been very vocal before against the Penal Code. Something must have changed.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1618-abrogacion-o-vigencia-limbo-juridico-para-la-normativa-penal-en-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-congreso-reafirma-que-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-ya-esta-en-vigencia/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-presenta-acusacion-contradiputados-de-la-oposicion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389449-466/congreso-nacional-denuncia-por-usurpacion-de-funciones-a-diputados-opositores>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389579-466/miembros-de-la-oposicion-reaccionan-tras-denuncia-del-congreso-nacional>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389506-466/cna-presenta-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contrael-codigo-penal>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1389625-410/-nuevo-codigo-penal-ejecutivo-congreso-nacional->

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ebal-diaz-recibe-decreto-de-abrogacion-del-codigo-penal-aprobado-por-diputados-de-oposicion.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1389585-410/nuevo-codigo-penal-combate-corrupcion-honduras-expertos->

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1389554-410/libertad-expresion-nuevo-codigo-penal-honduras-corrupcion->

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1389400-410/-nuevo-codigo-penal-honduras-articulos-polemicos->

While the new Penal Code brings many problems for journalists and media outlets, it may favor the criminalized director of Radio Globo, David Romero Ellner. The crime of defamation was eliminated from the Penal Code and so his lawyer filed a petition to have him released.

<https://tiempo.hn/interponen-escrito-liberar-periodista-david-romero-ellner/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389510-466/presentan-escrito-para-liberar-al-periodista-david-romero-ellner>

1620 tests, 795 new COVID-19 cases, 15'366 in total. 9 more people died, 426 in total. The numbers above are the official ones from SINAGER; at the same time, Radio HRN reported that in Tegucigalpa alone, 21 people died. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389594-466/honduras-confirman-nuevos-contagios-covid-muertes-suben>

<https://radiohrn.hn/mas-de-20-muertos-por-covid-19-en-tegucigalpa-este-jueves-pacientes-llegan-muy-tarde-segun-hospitales/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/25/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-25-de-junio-del-2020/>

Three more employees at the IHSS hospital died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mueren-tres-empleados-del-ihss-de-tegucigalpa-a-causa-del-coronavirus/>

El Heraldo continues to cover the corruption case regarding the purchase of mobile hospitals (see previous days). They spoke to Elmed Medical Systems, a Turkish company, which reiterated that they never fabricated nor sold mobile hospitals. They also never received money from Honduras, everything went over a US-based company which illegally used their documents and name.

"The signs of corruption committed in the context of the pandemic, at the hands of the Permanent Commission for Contingencies, Copeco, and Strategic Investment of Honduras, Invest-H, represent an opportunity for the Public Prosecutor's Office to claim responsibility, said the former Attorney General of the Republic, Edmundo Orellana, on Radio Progreso. Orellana said this is a golden opportunity for the Public Prosecutor's Office to regain the prestige achieved through the now defunct Special Prosecutor's Unit against Impunity of Corruption, Ufecic, when corruption cases that shook the country's political class were brought to light."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1389472-528/hospitales-moviles-honduras-coronavirus-elmed-medical>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/corruccion-en-la-pandemia-oportunidad-para-mp-se-reivindique/>

The US has donated 50 ventilators worth almost \$1 million to the JOH regime. They also donated biosafety equipment to the police.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1276315088182480897>

<https://tiempo.hn/estados-unidos-dona-50-ventiladores-pacientes-covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1276184184260833281>

"One issue that has been ignored or poorly addressed by IMF officials who make up the missions responsible for assessing the performance of countries' economies and the results obtained from the implementation of economic stabilization and institutional reform policies is corruption. The underlying thesis is that achievements in economic stabilization, structural change and state reform may be accompanied by more corruption, either because of the appearance of businesses that provide services to the state with non-transparent contracting processes led by corrupt officials, or because development projects are executed with external funds, without any guarantee that the resources allocated will be handled with clean hands. (...) The IMF has a representative in Honduras, and they should report on allegations of corruption with funds allocated to the Covid-19 pandemic, and support the efforts of those civil society institutions that like the CNA have been struggling to report and combat acts of corruption by public officials, and not just applaud the actions of institutions like the TSC that have been questioned and politicized. We have insisted on several occasions that the applause for governments' achievements in fulfilling objectives and goals of economic stabilization and state reform are contaminated when the actions carried out are accompanied by acts of corruption, where the corrupt and the corrupt protect each other. For the time being, the IMF must pronounce itself against the enforcement of the Criminal Code, which by protecting the corrupt more, will permanently contaminate the government's achievements in economic stabilization, or put pressure on the government and legislature so that this legal aberration does not come into effect."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/207477>

Two people linked to the IHSS corruption case won't be able to leave prison due to the corona pandemic as they had petitioned.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/157-junio2020/5949-deniegan-excarcelacion-a-dos-implicados-en-el-sonado-caso-ihss>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deniegan-excarcelacion-a-dos-implicados-en-sonados-casos-del-mega fraude-al-ihss.html>

The Central Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) has increased the credit line for the Honduran bank Ficosah to \$130 million.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-bcie-aumenta-a-130-millones-de-dolares-el-credito-a-ficohsa-de-honduras.html>

A lawyer, Héctor Manuel Tenorio, was murdered in San Manuel, Cortés.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/matan-a-tres-personas-en-cortes-y-atlantida-entre-ellas-a-abogado-y-una-mujer.html>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/06/25/siembras-comunes-alternativa-alimentaria-pos-pandemia/>
26/06/20

Honduras Daily: Penal Code; COVID-19 - Health Sector, HR, Protests, Corruption, Prisons; MP - US; Migration; and the Coup's 11th Anniversary

There is a new podcast on Honduras from Honduran expert Karen Spring. "The Honduras Now Podcast shares human rights stories and connects them to global issues and North American policy. Honduras Now provides on-the-ground analysis from host, Karen Spring, a long-time human rights activist and researcher, and Hondurans from all walks of life through interviews and trips around the country."

<https://redcircle.com/shows/c6fd8a9f-ad5b-44d1-804c-2d82e909a13d>

Apart from the corona crisis, the Penal Code has been the main topic these last days. One question that recently arose is about a possible division between JOH and the Nationalist-controlled Congress (see yesterday and the first link).

The executive has now officially requested that Congress derogate the new Penal Code which came into force on Thursday.

The Nationalist vice-president of Congress, Mario Pérez, said that this is not possible, the code can only be reformed.

Sociologist Pablo Carías considered the actions by the JOH regime "a strategy to confuse the Honduran population in these moments of pandemic".

The son of former president Pepe Lobo, Nationalist congressman Jorge Lobo, agrees calling it a "smoke screen".

If JOH were serious about derogating the Penal Code, why did he not veto its coming into force? ConfidencialHN sees in it a strategy to divert attention away from the most recent corruption cases.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45114>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ejecutivo-hace-solicitud-formal-al-congreso-para-derogar-el-codigo-penal.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1389795-410/codigo-penal-honduras-nuevo-vicepresidente-congreso-nacional-mario-perez>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/sociologo-considera-como-estrategia-para-confundir-la-accion-del-ejecutivo-de-pedir-reformas-al-codigo-penal.html>

<https://criterio.hn/pleito-entre-mauricio-oliva-y-el-ejecutivo-es-una-cortina-de-humo-jorge-lobo/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-juego-politico-de-hernandez-sobre-el-codigo-penal-por-que-no-lo-veto/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/diaz-busca-olvidar-ilicitos-en-investh-y-manda-al-congreso-iniciativa-contracodigo-penal/>

1291 tests, 628 new cases, 15'994 in total. 45 people died, the highest one-day increase so far; the death toll rose to 471. There are also 1115 people hospitalized, 54 in intensive care units.

ContraCorriente published an investigation into the under-reporting of corona deaths. They found 575 cases, i.e. the real death toll may be more than double the official number.

CESPAD published its daily report.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389839-466/honduras-suma-471-muertos-y-15994-infectados-tras-confirmar-628-nuevos-casos>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/26/asi-va-el-subregistro-de-muertes-por-covid19-en-el-interior-de-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/26/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-26-de-junio-del-2020/>

El Tiempo reports about the collapsed morgue at the University Hospital and how the hospital authorities placed a cooling container for corpses at the morgue.

<https://tiempo.hn/colapso-morgue-he-ubican-contenedor-ingresar-cadaveres/>

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/26/tras-colapso-de-morgue-instalan-contenedor-para-cadaveres-en-el-hospital-escuela/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 15th joint statement during the pandemic. "Old and new elements move every week in the swaying of an institutionality totally shipwrecked in the rotten waters of the politicians and small businessmen [reducidos empresarios], builders of the narco-dictatorship, led by Juan Orlando Hernández, in the framework of the collapsed neoliberal capitalist model. In this turbulent situation, the social movement remains in constant analysis, and from our insertion in the entrails of our people, we build proposals that open the way to respond to the multiple crises that threaten the lives of the people. And from our faith in the popular struggle and in a future full of hope, we manifest ourselves in this Fifteenth Public Manifesto".

Various local human rights networks also published a joint press release.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/decimo-quinto-manifiesto-publico/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pronunciamiento-redes-de-defensores-y-defensoras-de-ddhh-durante->

[la-crisis-sanitaria-por-el-covid-19/](#)

OACNUDH has so far documented 410 protests since the start of the lockdown measures.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2891-oacnudh-ha-documentado-410-manifestaciones-en-honduras-durante-la-suspension-de-garantias>

The CNA published its sixth report on corruption during the corona pandemic. It looks at nepotism and favoritism in the purchase of emergency goods. "It was possible to determine the degree of consanguinity of the executive director of Invest-H, Marco Antonio Bográn Corrales, with Mr. Napoleón Bográn Idiáquez, who is a partner and president of the commercial company CINSA, being a nephew and uncle respectively; this family bond is by virtue of the fact that the father of the director of Invest-H (Mr. Marco Antonio Bográn Idiáquez) is the brother of Mr. Napoleón Bográn. (...) It was determined that the Honduran State Contracting Law, in its Article 15, already determines the inabilities that limit the ability to contract with the State, specifically in numeral 6 in which it is contemplated that one of these disabilities is: "Being a spouse, common-law spouse or relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or second degree of affinity of either of the officials or employees under whose responsibility the prequalification is of companies, the evaluation of proposals, the award or signature of the contract."

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/La-corrupcio%CC%81n-en-tiempos-de-COVID-19-Parte-VI.pdf>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/cna-en-su-6to-informe-evidencia-que-se-favorecio-al-tio-de-marco-bogran-director-de-invest-h/>

Inmates at the Támara prison protested to demand family visits. Delma Ordóñez, president of the Association of Relatives of Prisoners, requested the intervention of at least 10 prisons in response to the coronavirus infections.

<https://tiempo.hn/protesta-tamara-reos-exigen-visitas-familiares-privados-libertad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/solicitan-intervencion-de-10-carceles-de-honduras-por-contagios-de-coronavirus/>

The US embassy spoke with Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla about "emblematic human rights cases and the fight against corruption". Chinchilla has been prominently absent during these last weeks and months filled with high-profile corruption cases.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1276633060474314752>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/encargada-de-negocios-de-eeuu-dice-hablo-con-fiscal-chinchilla-sobre-estado-de-derecho-y-casos-emblematicos.html>

"In a state of emergency, a group of migrants from Haiti, stranded for several days in the sector of Chaguite, kilometer 26, Pan-American Highway, requested this Friday of the authorities of the government of Honduras, to manage their early departure from Honduran territory."

<https://criterio.hn/grupo-migrante-haitiano-clama-a-gobierno-gestionar-su-salida-de-territorio-hondureno/>

Tomorrow, Honduras and the world commemorate the struggle of the Honduran people on the 11th anniversary of the coup d'état.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/articular-al-movimiento-social-y-popular-reto-a-11-anos-del-golpe-de-estado/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1276728266670305280>

27/06/28

Honduras Daily: Coup d'état; COVID-19 - Corruption, JOH;

Today is the 11th anniversary of the coup d'état in Honduras, not a one-time event, but a continuous process met with community-organized counter-coups. "Eleven years of incessant coup d'état have also been years of rebellion by Honduran communities organized in defense of their territory and natural wealth, their culture and their dignity. (...) These eleven years have also seen the rise of organizations and movements in defense of human rights, and especially the leadership of human rights defenders, who have been threatened and stigmatized most harshly by those who have deepened the dynamics of the coup d'état. (...) These eleven years have also seen the emergence of alternative communication, both at the individual level and in networks, especially community radio stations, but also digital productions, in a creative combination of traditional media and social networks. (...) These eleven years have been of migrants and of the awareness that society has taken about the defense of the rights of migrant workers, increased by the growing discrimination and racism that sustains the approval of the anti-immigrant legislation promoted by the policies of the governments of the United States, first and foremost with Barak Obama, and continued with greater scorn by the government of Donald Trump. "Neither coup d'état nor coup d'état for women", has been the symbolic expression of the irruption and strength of the feminist struggles against the patriarchal culture. (...) In these eleven years the Central and Latin American focus of our struggles has grown. This approach is the result of the awareness that our problems and conflicts do not originate only in our countries, and that many of the springs and actors that energize our problems are found outside our borders. This awareness leads to the need to articulate networks and commitments from Central and Latin American solidarity. Let new signs continue to burst forth, sowing the seeds that will now and forever drown out all the ignominious signs of the coup d'état."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/once-anos-senales-de-contra-golpe/>

On Friday, we witnessed the highest one-day death count during the pandemic in Honduras so far, yesterday, it was the highest one-day increase in cases, 1013 new cases out of 1796 tests. There are now 17'007 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country and 479 deaths.

While Sinager only reported 8 new deaths, 17 people died at the IHSS hospital yesterday. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390006-466/honduras-registra-cifra-r%C3%A9cord-con-1013-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hospital-escuela-reporta-este-sabado-la-muerte-de-17-personas-por-coronavirus/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/27/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-27-de-junio-del-2020/>

The head of Invest-H, Marco Bográn, was either fired or he resigned, the board of Invest-H confirmed yesterday that he is no longer its director. He and Invest-H have been accompanied by accusations of corruption laid out in detailed reports since the beginning of the corona crisis.

Most media outlets report that he resigned.

Invest-H has so far spent over \$84 million.

The Secretary of Finance, meanwhile, tries to distance itself from any emergency purchases and the underlying corruption.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1389955-466/marco-bogran-renuncia-investh-hospitales-moviles-estafa-honduras-coronavirus>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2066-honduras-ante-presion-popular-renuncia-director-de-invest-h>

<https://criterio.hn/con-salida-de-director-de-invest-h-gobierno-de-honduras-pretende-aplacar-escandalosa-corrupcion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sefin-invest-h-ejecuto-84-millones-pandemia-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-se-desmarca-de-cualquier-controversia-sobre-compras-en-actual-emergencia/>

JOH tweeted from the hospital accompanied by two pictures showing him "serving my people".

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1276992479678681105>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390012-466/presidente-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-hospitalizado-coronavirus>

28/06/20

Honduras Daily: Coup d'état; Political Prisoners; Penal Code; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Prisons; and Discrimination-Free Spaces

Several articles and statements were published on the occasion of yesterday's 11th anniversary of the coup d'état.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2068-honduras-11-anos-despues-del-golpe-de-estado>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/06/28/a-11-anos-de-golpes-estamos-en-pie-de-lucha/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/a-11-anos-de-golpes-y-de-golpismo/>

<https://criterio.hn/11-anos-de-expresiones-de-rebeldia-y-resistencia-de-las-comunidades-padre-melo/>

The "political prisoner Felipe Esquivel was released, after having been in the Choluteca prison center since December 19, 2019 (...) Esquivel spent about 6 months in the Choluteca prison after being arrested for allegedly storing pyrotechnic material, but the real reason for his arrest is for opposing the regime of Juan Orlando Hernandez."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/preso-politico-felipe-esquivel-fue-puesto-en-libertad-y-ya-se-encuentra-con-su-familia/>

CESPAD published an analysis of this week's development around the new Penal Code.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/28/analisis-semanal-honduras-la-oposicion-politica-sale-de-su-confinamiento-e-intenta-detener-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

For the first time, more than 2000 Hondurans were tested in one day, 2212, almost half tested positive, i.e. there are 1075 new COVID-19 cases. 19 more people died, for a new death toll of 479. There is a prominent new COVID-19 patient, the head of the business lobby COHEP, Juan Carlos Sikaffy.

The first congressman died to COVID-19 yesterday, the Nationalist Rafael Arita.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390177-466/sinager-confirma-nuevos-casos-coronavirus-muertes-aumentan>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-cohep-da-positivo-al-nuevo-coronavirus-esta-en-aislamiento/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390176-466/nacionalistas-lamentan-muerte-covid-19-diputado->

[rafael-arita](#)

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/28/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-28-de-junio-del-2020/>

The state of exception has been prolonged another two weeks to July 12. Hondurans are already only allowed to leave their homes once every two weeks depending on the last digit of their identity card. Now, they added that on one day only cars with an even last digit on the license plate can be driven and on the other those with an odd number. But this only applies to the regions in stage 3 of the economic reopening.

This caused a lot of confusion. The JOH regime tried to explain it, but a lot of question remain unanswered. What happens if you are allowed to go out according to your identity card, but your car has to stay at home according to its license plate...

<https://confidencialhn.com/prolongan-toque-de-queda-hasta-el-12-de-julio-implementan-restriccion-vehicular/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/prolongan-toque-de-queda-hasta-el-12-de-julio-implementan-restriccion-vehicular/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1390240-410/circulacion-placas-genera-confusion-poblacion-hondure%C3%B1a>

The disputed director of Invest-H who stepped down on Friday, Marc Bográn, made some 250'000 Lempiras per month..

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390096-466/marco-bogran-escandaloso-sueldo-director-invest-h>

22 prison guards who tested positive for COVID-19 were isolated.

<https://hch.tv/2020/06/28/aislan-a-22-agentes-penitenciarios-tras-dar-positivos-por-covid-19-en-prueba-rapida/>

<https://criterio.hn/declaran-espacios-libres-de-estigma-y-discriminacion/>

29/06/20

Honduras Daily: ZEDE; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Economy, Prisons, Deportations; Energy; Corruption; IMF; Penal Code; Elections; and JOH and K-Pop

OFRANEH published an article on the PROSPERA charter city planned on Roatán (see previous e-mails). "The Special Economic Zones (SEZs), of which there are more than 5,400 on the planet, have become the new strategy of colonialism. This is the case of the ZEDE in Hondura, a unique

variant, since it is used to outsource justice as an incentive to attract investment, a situation that will lead to the creation of islands of prosperity in the midst of a sea of misery."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/06/29/una-ciudad-modelo-zede-dentro-de-un-aparente-narco-estado/>

Bail was denied in a US court to the accused Guatemalan drug trafficker with links to Tony Hernández, Otto René Salguero.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390348-466/niegan-fianza-a-narco-guatemalteco-ligado-a-tony-hern%C3%A1ndez>

1540 tests, 736 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 18'818. Six more Hondurans died and the current death toll reached 485.

The head of the Central District's metropolitan health region, Harry Bock, projected that July 15-30 will be the time when the Honduran capital will be at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390414-466/honduras-registra-nuevos-casos-covid-19-suma-contagios-y-muertes>

https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1389802-410/honduras-salud-coronavirus-pandemia-covid_19

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/29/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-29-de-junio-del-2020/>

Sunday's announcement by the JOH regime to further restrict movement based on the last digit of license plates caused a stir and much confusion (see yesterday). The measure was withdrawn again yesterday.

Apparently, Sinager had not even approved the measures beforehand.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390450-466/placa-vehicular-anulada-honduras-pandemia-circulacion-sinager>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/el-observador/1622-restriccion-de-la-circulacion-vehicular>

Another doctor as well as a nurse died to COVID-19 in Honduras.

The president of the Medical Association of the IHSS, Carlos Umaña, warned that San Pedro Sula entered stage 6 of the crisis. "The city has entered phase six of the pandemic and it is the one that indicates that the hospital network is about to overflow, the death of health personnel is increasing, ambulance services are no longer able to attend to them quickly and finally common illnesses are no longer attended to, leading to complications and many deaths".

Doctor Marco Eliud Girón warns of a situation out of control while the JOH regime is unable to recognize its failure in managing the crisis.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/29/mueren-dos-destacadas-profesionales-de-la-salud-con-sospechas-de-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/otra-heroina-mas-doctora-fidelia-andonie-muere-sps-covid-19/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/06/29/carlos-umana-san-pedro-sula-alcanzo-ya-la-fase-seis/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/honduras-estaria-llegando-a-la-fase-de-descontrol-del-covid-19/>

The business lobby organization COHEP resigned from the multi-sectoral board accompanying the "intelligent" reopening of the economy. They denounce a mismanagement of the crisis. The decision was communicated just hours after it was made public that COHEP's president got infected.

<https://criterio.hn/cohep-abandona-organo-gubernamental-encargado-de-reactivacion-economica/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390320-466/cohep-retira-mesa-multisectorialreapertura-economica>

An inmate died in the Juan Manuel Gálvez Hospital in Gracias suspected of COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-reo-en-el-hospital-de-gracias-por-sospecha-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>

The Intercept has an in-depth article on the "export" of COVID-19 by the Trump administration through deportation flights. "Central America's Northern Triangle, however, has received the majority of flights, since many of the migrants arriving at the U.S.'s southern border in recent years have been from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Of 351 likely deportation flights between February 3 and June 24, according to CEPR, 240 went to the Northern Triangle. Guatemala was the top recipient with 100 flights."

<https://theintercept.com/2020/06/26/coronavirus-ice-detention-deportation-haiti-guatemala/>

The Energy Company Honduras (EEH) receives more than 200 million lempiras a month, but it does not comply with the terms of its contract, according to Gabriel Perdomo, auditor of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

<https://tiempo.hn/interventor-de-la-enee-se-le-pagan-1216-millones-mensuales-a-eeh-y-no-ha-cumplido/>

Civil society organizations and the political opposition in Juticalpa called for an extraordinary meeting to ask the municipal treasurer Miguel Armando Figueroa Banegas to clarify several acts that are at odds with the law. Councilmen of tLIBRE have conducted an investigation where they

discovered that Figueroa Banegas is self-issuing several checks in his name for amounts up to more than one million Lempiras.

<https://criterio.hn/regidores-de-oposicion-y-sociedad-civil-piden-destitucion-de-tesorero-municipal-de-juticalpa/>

The Honduran Central Bank (BCH) ratified a \$232.9 million loan by the IMF to strengthen its international reserves.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bch-ratifica-nuevo-prestamo-de-232-9-millones-de-dolares-del-fondo-monetario-internacional/>

InSight Crime reports on the new Penal Code in Honduras. "Honduras' congress has passed a new criminal code that lowers the sentence for corruption and drug trafficking cases, among other controversial measures. The move is poised to worsen impunity in a country whose foremost political figures have been linked to organized crime."

Meanwhile in Honduras, the discussion about the extraordinary session of Congress organized by the political opposition to eradicate the Penal Code continues.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-new-criminal-code/>

<https://criterio.hn/es-erroneo-llamarlo-congreso-paralelo-porque-es-legal-y-no-creara-nueva-crisis-politica/>

The Social Forum of the Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (FOSDEH) presented the report "The cost of democracy in Honduras" where it details the expenses incurred by the Honduran people in holding elections and the cost of the old electoral bodies.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45180>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/06/29/presidente-de-honduras-mas-popular-que-los-bts/>

30/06/20

Honduras Daily: MASSVIDA; Migration; LGBTIQ+; Penal Code; Drug Trafficking - Extradition; Agriculture; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Poverty, US; Prisons; Elections; and the End of the Banana Republic?

Since I started writing these daily e-mails over six years ago, the interest for them has steadily grown. This fills me with hope that the world takes notice of the situation in Honduras and accompanies its social movement, human rights organizations, its people in their

important struggles for the Honduras they deserve. Personally, the increasing interest in the e-mails have caused me some technical problems, as my e-mail address has been blocked on several occasions because the artificial intelligence believes I am a SPAM bot. After the most recent incident last weekend, I decided to create a mailing list. Starting today, you will receive Honduras Daily from the following e-mail address "honduras_daily@lists.riseup.net" Please add it to your address book. You can unsubscribe here (or subscribe if it did not work):

https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/honduras_daily

I will continue to write directly to all of you for another week but then will start only writing through the mailing list. Thanks for your ongoing interest in the situation in Honduras.

The coordinator of MASSVIDA and human rights defender German Chirinos wa awarded the Oscar Romero Award 2020.

MASSVIDA is active in the south of Honduras. COFADEH just published a new report on the human rights situation there.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1625-coordinador-del-massvida-recibe-premio-internacional-oscar-romero-2020-por-su-lucha-en-defensa-de-los-bienes-comunes-en-honduras>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BOLETIN-La-Zona-Sur-el-nuevo-escenario-de-la-violencia-capitalista.pdf>

A new migration caravan, at the start some 100 people, took off from San Pedro Sula. Radio Progreso reports that the Honduran police arrested some of them.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390594-466/nueva-caravana-migrantes-hondurenos-rumbo-a-eeuu>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/detienen-a-primeros-miembro-de-caravana-de-migrantes-que-salio-hoy-con-rumbo-a-estados-unidos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2074-urgente-gobierno-detiene-hondurenos-de-nueva-caravana>

In a press release, OACNUDH highlights the need for "legislation and public policies aimed at eliminating discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression in Honduras".

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-resalta-la-necesidad-de-contar-con-legislacion-y-politicas-publicas-orientadas-a-la-eliminacion-de-la-discriminacion-y-la-violencia-basada-en-la-orientacion-sexual-la-identidad-y-la-expresion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/urge-legislacion-para-eliminar-violencia-y-discriminacion-contra-comunidad-lgtbi-alto-comisionado-de-onu.html>

The opposition congresswo/men who participated in the extraordinary session on the new Penal Code visited the MP yesterday to find out more about the accusations leveled against them (see also previous e-mails).

The Coalition against Impunity stated in a press release that "hat based on Article 216 of the Constitution of the Republic, if the Executive does not take a stand on the decree presented by the opposition deputies, the [Penal] Code will be considered abrogated".

<https://tiempo.hn/diputados-sesionaron-contra-nuevo-codigo-presentaron-ante-mp/>

<https://criterio.hn/abogados-de-diputados-de-oposicion-denunciados-por-sesion-del-congreso-piden-desestimar-denuncia/>

<https://criterio.hn/si-el-poder-ejecutivo-no-se-pronuncia-por-decreto-de-la-oposicion-el-codigo-se-considerara-abrogado/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-de-la-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad/>

CESPAD takes a close look at the newest attempts to limit extraditions of Honduran citizens accused of drug trafficking.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/30/analisis-en-el-reino-de-la-impunidad-podran-los-politicos-y-funcionarios-publicos-mencionados-en-las-cortes-estadounidenses-blindarse-ante-una-possible-extradicion/>

CESPAD published a "community audit" of the food security programs by the JOH regime.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Veedur%C3%ADa-LaPazFinalCESPAD-1.pdf>

Radio Progreso reports on the role of state security forces in harassing and even attacking journalists during the pandemic.

The journalist and human rights defender Andrés Molina denounced actions against his journalistic work promoted by Román Ruiz, the mayor of Guarizama, Olancho.

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that a SINAGER public official continuous to be able without consequences to not share information about the corona crisis from a journalist because "she does not like how he does interviews".

C-Libre denounces a similar cases involving an official at the Health Secretariat and the journalist Fernando del Rincón.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/policiales-y-militares-responsables-de-agresiones-contra-periodistas-en-tiempo-de-covid-19/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1195-periodista-denuncia-agresiones-y-censura-en-su-contra-promovidas-por-alcalde-municipal>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2895-funcionaria-de-sinager-en-copan-se-muerte-de-la-risa-ante-la-impunidad-de-sus-acciones-para-negar-informacion-sobre-covid19-a-periodista-santiago-lopez>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1196-continua-el-bloqueo-informativo-por-parte-de-funcionarios-hondurenos-a-medio-internacional>

1697 tests, 740 new cases, 19'558 in total. 12 more people died with the current death toll standing at 497. 1201 persons are hospitalized, 56 in intensive care units. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390679-466/confirman-casos-de-covid-19-total-sube-y-muertes>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/06/30/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-30-de-junio-del-2020/>

La Ceiba now also wants to close off the city completely as San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa had done.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC) proposes a salary cut of 50% of all public employees making more than 75'000 Lempiras per month.

<https://confidencialhn.com/alcaldia-de-la-ceiba-pide-el-cierre-de-la-ciudad-por-dos-semanas-ante-subida-del-sars-cov2/>

<https://criterio.hn/ccic-pide-al-gobierno-rebajar-en-50-salarios-de-burocratas-que-ganan-mas-de-75-mil-lempiras/>

The Secretary of Health recognized that the health systems in San Pedro Sula and the capital are unable to respond to the "flood of suspected coronavirus patients".

At the same time, the president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, announced the closure of several health centers, due to the spread of the coronavirus among health personnel.

The emergency chief of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), Cesar Henriquez, also warns about the current situation in Honduras. "Henríquez said that the data currently being handled does not respond to reality at the same time he revealed that there have been no swabs for two weeks so patients are being treated without a true result if they are carriers of the virus."

The 160 mechanical ventilators bought in response to the crisis will finally be distributed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-reconoce-que-hospitales-de-la-capital-y-region-norte-estan-a-punto-de-quedarse-sin-capacidad-de-respuesta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aneeah-anuncia-cierre-de-centros-de-salud-por-contagios-de-coronavirus-en-personal-sanitario/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45226>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/salud-inicia-distribucion-de-160-ventiladores-mecanicos.html>

ContraCorriente reports on poverty and hunger in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/06/30/freir-rezar-y-sobrevivir/>

The US embassy announced financial support worth \$4 million for Honduran families affected by the corona crisis. It will be implemented through the World Food Program.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/gobierno-estados-unidos-apoyara-familias-hondurenas-afectadas-emergencia/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1390569-410/estados-unidos-millones-dolares-hondure%C3%B1os-afectados-pandemia>

The Penitentiary Board demanded from the intervening board of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) a "serious and objective" report regarding the results of its intervention during the last six months.

<https://confidencialhn.com/familiares-de-reos-piden-rendicion-de-cuentas-a-interventores-del-sistema-penitenciario/>

In preparation of the electoral cycle, the data base at the National Persons Registry (RNP) needs to be updated. They will start today, but not in San Pedro Sula and the capital due to the corona pandemic.

The National Electoral Council (CNE), meanwhile, presented the Institutional Strategic Plan (PEI), which promises transparent elections and guarantees respect for the decision of citizens.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-rnp-comienza-enrolamiento-para-nueva-cedula-de-identidad-excluidas-tegucigalpa-y-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://criterio.hn/cne-promete-elecciones-transparentes/>

Or rather just the move of Chiquita from Honduras to Guatemala.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390612-466/chiquita-brands-cierra-operaciones-en-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2075-se-va-de-honduras-bananera-historica>