

01/11/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Corruption - Elections, Congress; SSF - Keyla; Berta - Gualcarque; Campesinos; Elections - Opposition, JOH, Observation, Women; Drug Trafficking - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector; BCIE - UK; BID; and Images They May Regret Soon

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the October 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=32762

In a blatantly obvious move, the JOH regime just approved over 1.3 billion, yes billion, Lempiras for their Bono Vida Mejor social program which is well-known as a vote-buying machine...

In a similar vein, Criterio reports that the JOH regime has lately forbidden the increase in energy prices, but this could all come crumbling down after the elections.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/01/alerta-electoral-1350-millones-de-lempiras-aprueba-gobierno-de-honduras-dinero-para-el-financiamiento-de-campanas-politicas-y-la-compra-de-conciencias-en-las-elecciones-generales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/01/partido-nacional-votos-por-bono-vida-mejor-bicentenario/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bono-bicentenario-de-1350-millones-de-lempiras-serviria-para-comprar-conciencias-sin-importar-la-deuda-senala-ex-titular-del-bch/>

<https://criterio.hn/subsidios-una-estrategia-enganosa-en-campana-electoral/>

The highly controversial reforms made by the Nationalist in Congress during the Morazán Holiday came into law. UFERCO's Luis Santos speaks of a consolidated impunity pact. Additionally, the reforms include the further criminalization of protest and stigmatization of NGOs.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1500608-466/cobran-vigor-polemicas-reformas-penales-ley-lavado-de-activos>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1455379305568129034

The police officer Jarol Rolando Perdomo Sarmiento will face trial for the murder of nursing student Keyla Martínez inside a police station.

OACNUDH has observed the hearing. "In view of the imminent resolution that will resolve the order to open the case to trial, we urge the judicial authorities to incorporate a gender perspective in their analysis, in line with Honduras' obligations regarding the right of women to live free of violence."

Importantly, he is being accused of "aggravated femicide". Previously, the court tried to accuse him only for homicide. COFADEH had successfully challenged this.

In the same case, students who had protested after the murder of Keyla and were criminalized as a consequence have now seen the charges dropped against them.

https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contr-policia-acusado-de-femicidio-agravado-de-keyla-patricia-martinez/?doing_wp_cron=1635847006.1878089904785156250000

<https://proceso.hn/auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contr-policia-acusado-de-femicidio-agravado-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1455253396861165570>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofاده-interpone-recurso-de-amparo-ante-decision-erronea-de-la-csj-en-el-caso-de-keyla-martinez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/caso-keyla-estudiantes-criminalizados-reciben-cartas-de-libertad/>

The Gualcarque Fraud case will re-start today with a preliminary hearing, now with COPINH recognized as victims in the case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1455201543192461325>

"During the development of the Oral and Public Trial, held this November 1 of this year, José Elvis Martínez, of the peasant group "Los Puentes" member of the National Center of Rural Workers (CNTC), was acquitted for the crime of aggravated damages."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1908-otorgan-carta-de-libertad-a-campesino-miembro-de-la-cntc>

Radio Progreso spoke with Padre Melo about the electoral process.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/las-elecciones-son-oportunidad-entre-los-enormes-desafios-de-honduras/>

Roberto Contreras, the mayoral candidate for the opposition alliance in San Pedro Sula, held a protest yesterday denouncing that the CNE is negating his inscription.

Even Libre magistrate at the CNE, Rixi Moncada, denounced this. She now has only to convince her colleagues.

<https://proceso.hn/roberto-contreras-protesta-en-el-cne-exigiendo-inscripcion-de-su-candidatura-por-la-alcaldia-de-sps/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/negativa-a-inscripcion-de-roberto-contreras-es-acto-injusto-y-de-violencia-politica-electoral-asegura-riximoncada/>

Radio Progreso published a short portrait of JOH - "from professional mafioso to builder of a narco-state" - and the grim legacy he leaves Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/juan-orlando-hernandez-de-profesional-mafioso-a-constructor-de-un-narco-estado/>

Criterio published a critical article on the electoral observation mission in Honduras and their past failures.

<https://criterio.hn/observadores-internacionales-del-proceso-electoral-de-honduras-tienen-poca-credibilidad/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the difficulty faced by women to run for election and how parity is far from being achieved.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3284-partidos-tradicionales-no-cumplen-principio-de-paridad-y-alternancia-en-elecciones-generales>

The Honduran Armed Forces continue claiming great success in fighting drug trafficking (see also yesterday). "The Secretary of National Defense, Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya, assured on Monday that authorities from the US Southern Command congratulated Honduras for its "efforts in the fight against drug trafficking"."

<https://confidencialhn.com/estados-unidos-felicita-a-honduras-por-lucha-contra-el-narcotrafico-secretario-de-defensa/>

So far, there have been 375'778 COVID-19 cases detected in Honduras and there are 10'256 confirmed deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/la-pandemia-suba-a-375-mil-778-casos-con-31-pacientes-en-uci-informa-sinager/>

"The head of the pneumology service of the National Cardiopulmonary Institute, Suyapa Sosa, informed that 225 members of this health care center were left without jobs. "There are 225 employees of the health personnel who have been thrown out of their jobs after working on the front line at the Thorax. How is it possible if their contracts were until December 31!", he lamented. It should be noted that the funds to pay the workers of the capital hospital come from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/01/instituto-nacional-cardiopulmonar/>

<https://tiempo.hn/suyapa-sosa-lamenta-despidos-de-medicos-el-torax/>

Honduras wants to include the UK at the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1500503-466/joh-pide-incluir-reino-unido-bcie-cumbre-climatica>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has a new representative in Honduras, María José Jarquín.

<https://confidencialhn.com/nicaraguense-maria-jose-jarquín-es-la-nueva-representante-del-bid-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1455215661257531403>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1455252534625456136>

02/11/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Mining - Azacualpa; ZEDEs; Criminalization; Elections - JOH, Violence, ID; Corruption - Judicial Power, IHSS; Agriculture; Security Tax; Migration; and Hiding Behind Bible Verses

With the re-start of the hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case, COPINH demanded that all 16 initially accused will be invited to court. According to COPINH, only this would be legal as the Appeals Court clearly said that a re-start is needed nullifying every decision where COPINH had not been previously included in the process.

As expected, the Honduran Judicial System has a different understanding and started without all 16 people on the bench. COPINH filled a complaint.

The hearing was then suspended until late in the evening when the court decided to reject the complaint by COPINH.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1909-copinh-exige-la-reincorporacion-de-funcionarios-sobrescidos-en-caso-gualcarque>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1455556251006423046>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1455570583027060742>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1455575243842539522>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1455710543826853890>

"Last night, employees of the mining company MINOSA, guarded by the Honduran National Police, illegally exhumed one of the remains from the Azacualpa cemetery." (see also previous days)

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1455528628926795783>

"As opposition to ZEDES in Honduras spreads and @OFRANEH takes a case against Zedes from Garifuna community to InterAmerican HR Court, @titusgebel, investor in the ZEDES project in Roatan complains about criticism."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1455724063519870980>

The recent changes by the Nationalist in Congress to further criminalize protest with up to six years in prison came into force yesterday (see also the e-mail the day before).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3326-honduras-a-partir-de-hoy-gobierno-castiga-la-protesta-social-hasta-con-seis-anos-de-prision>

https://twitter.com/sandra_marybel/status/1455356875013300228

The newest attempt at vote buying by the JOH regime (see yesterday) seems to be partially funded with money from the BCIE.

<https://criterio.hn/en-antesala-a-las-elecciones-gobierno-entrega-bono-climatico-con-prestamo-del-bcie/>

In Glasgow, JOH also said that there are conditions met in Honduras for peaceful elections ignoring completely that already 24 candidates and close family members have been murdered in the run-up to the elections.

<https://proceso.hn/hernandez-cree-que-se-dan-condiciones-para-unas-elecciones-en-paz-en-honduras/>

According to the newest numbers by COHEP (and I have heard higher ones only recently), there are still more than 350'000 Hondurans without a new ID needed for the elections.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/02/empresa-privada-lamenta-lento-proceso-en-la-entrega-de-la-nueva-cedula-de-identidad/>

"A Judge of Criminal Letters in matters of corruption issued this Tuesday a definitive dismissal in favor of the former members of the Judiciary Council. The dismissed had been accused of more

than 600 crimes of corruption by diverting funds from the Judiciary during their tenure, from October 2013 to February 2016."

<https://confidencialhn.com/sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-exmiembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura-fueron-acusados-por-mas-de-600-delitos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://proceso.hn/sobreseen-definitivamente-a-expleno-de-la-judicatura/>

"The National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) was notified of the order to open a trial issued against the former administrative and financial manager of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), José Ramón Bertetty Osorio, for three crimes of improper passive bribery and one crime of money laundering."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/elevan-a-juicio-causa-contr-exadministrador-del-ihss-por-fraude-y-lavado/>

"The Government of Honduras and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN agency for rural development, agreed today in Glasgow to work together to access Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing to promote small-scale climate-smart agriculture in the country. To demonstrate that mutual commitment, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández and IFAD's Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Rossana Polastri, signed a joint statement in the context of the UN's COP 26 Climate Change Conference."

<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/honduras-and-ifad-will-work-together-to-foster-resilient-small-agriculture>

The obscure Security Tax will collect some 2.5 billion Lempiras this year according to its director.

<https://confidencialhn.com/arriba-de-2-mil-500-millones-de-lempiras-preve-recaudar-el-fideicomiso-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad/>

Honduras and Haiti lead in asylum demands in Mexico so far in 2021. So far this year, almost 110'000 people requested asylum in Mexico, more than three times in all 2020. 31% of the demands come from Hondurans.

At the same time, deportations back to Honduras have increased by 27.1% so far this year.

<https://proceso.hn/mexico-supera-las-100-mil-peticiones-de-migrantes-que-buscan-asilo-en-2021/>

<https://proceso.hn/sube-un-27-2-la-deportacion-de-inmigrantes-a-honduras-en-diez-meses-de-2021/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/02/jefe-del-poder-judicial-elude-pronunciarse-sobre-la-prision-contra-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1500687-466/rolando-argueta-versiculos-biblicos-honduras->

03/11/21

Honduras Daily: Switzerland - HR; LGBTQ+; Corruption - JOH, BCIE, SDGs; Elections - Opposition, Violence, Economy; Community Radios; Organized Crime; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education; and Right Back at You

Swiss Parliamentarian Fabian Molina traveled to Honduras to inquire about the situation in the country just three weeks before the general elections and about the general human rights situation.

Molina emphasized that the human rights violations taking place during the 2017 elections, i.e. the murder of protesters by state security forces for which no one was brought to justice, cannot be repeated.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/parlamentario-suizo-arriba-a-honduras-para-observacion-de-ddhh-y-situacion-politica/>

https://twitter.com/ContraC_HN/status/1456013847244967944

<https://criterio.hn/violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-del-2017-no-se-pueden-repetir-en-este-proceso-electoral/>

The Association Arcoíris and the Center for Development and Cooperation LGTBIQ+ (Somos CDC) held a press conference denouncing that in "Honduras, being gay, lesbian or transgender means being exposed daily to insults, humiliation and aggression. It is to feel that you can be tortured, or even killed, simply for being the way you are". According to them, 390 members of the LGBTQ+ community have been murdered since the coup d'état in 2009.

Additionally, their participation in Honduran politics is structurally limited, especially for trans persons.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3332-honduras-sin-justicia-casi-400-asesinatos-de-comunidad-lgbti-tras-golpe-de-estado>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3285-estructura-politica-hondurena-limita-participacion-de-la-comunidad-lgbti-en-las-elecciones>

CESPAD published a report on the misuse of public funds for electoral purposes.

According to estimates by FOSDEH, the Nationalists in power have spent some \$10 billion in the last ten years on the Vida Mejor social program, widely known for its partisan use.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/03/honduras-el-uso-irregular-de-los-recursos-estatales-en-periodo-electoral/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/03/unos-tres-mil-400-candidatos-aun-no-abren-sus-cuentas-para-mostrar-gastos-de-campana/>

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/gasto-publico-en-elecciones-ante-el-persistente-blindaje-a-favor-de-la-corrupcion/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos raises the question why the BCIE continues to finance large scale projects in Honduras even though previous ones have been marred in corruption. He would welcome an anti-corruption conditionality for such loans.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1456060326345064452

UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford highlights the clear link in fighting corruption in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1456067179636563968>

As feared, the CNE did not allow the mayoral candidate of the opposition alliance in San Pedro Sula, Roberto Contreras, to inscribe its candidacy.

The decision was made under suspicion circumstances at the CNE allegedly leaving Libre's magistrate out of the decision.

Contreras announced a hunger strike.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cne-decide-no-inscribir-candidatura-de-roberto-contreras/>

<https://criterio.hn/entueritos-en-el-cne-ponen-en-vilo-elecciones-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/03/reunion-ilegal-cne-zarpazo-a-roberto-contreras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-niega-inscripcion-a-roberto-contreras-y-en-respuesta-anuncia-huelga-de-hambre/>

Xiomara Castro presented her government plan and her proposals to reactivate the economy before the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (Cohep).

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/03/xiomara-castro-presenta-plan-y-estrategias-al-cohep/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/xiomara-castro-en-reunion-con-el-cohep-los-pilares-del-desarrollo-y-el-empleo-pasan-por-el-retorno-a-la-democracia-y-la-salida-de-la-dictadura/>

"Evangelical pastors of different faiths issued a statement this November 3, 2021, in which they denounced a campaign of intimidation by President Juan Orlando Hernandez, prior to the general elections, with the aim of sowing fear so that the people do not exercise their suffrage."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3286-pastores-denuncian-campana-de-intimidacion-de-joh-para-que-el-pueblo-no-salga-a-ejercer-el-sufragio>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the challenges faced by community radio stations in Honduras.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3287-radios-comunitarias-se-preparan-para-cubrir-otro-proceso-electoral-en-medio-de-ataques>

The US Attorney in New York filed charges against an MS-13 leader in Honduras. Journalist Jeff Ernst believes that the "[i]ndictment of alleged MS-13 leader in Honduras known as "El Porky" - who violently escaped from prison in Feb 2020 in an operation that must have involved complicity

from authorities at some level - further suggests that the gang has expanded into large-scale drug trafficking. Gangs had long provided security for drug shipments & engaged in street-level distribution, but many believe that as the DEA captured the leaders of major drug clans in Honduras, the MS-13 climbed up the ladder and filled the void."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1455958086708076558>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/11/03/fbi-ofrece-recompensa-de-100000-2-5-millones-de-lempiras-por-informacion-que-conduzca-al-arresto-del-porky/>

"The Committee for Free Expression (C-Libre) presented the Annual Report on Freedom of Expression (ILE) which covers the year 2020 in terms of the defense of human rights, freedom of expression and aggressions against the press, communicators and other factors that violate the exercise of freedom of expression."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1910-vertiginoso-deterioro-del-derecho-a-la-libertad-de-expresion>

After two days of protest, the Toráx Hospital re-hired 125 employees they had fired through WhatsApp on Monday.

<https://proceso.hn/recontratado-personal-sanitario-del-incp-hasta-fin-de-ano-con-fondos-del-bid/>

"The health crisis increases the exclusion of the right to education; according to figures from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OHCHR), 48, 27% of students with fewer resources in the country have been left out of education because they did not have Internet service."

<https://criterio.hn/crisis-sanitaria-aumenta-exclusion-del-derecho-a-la-educacion/>

See yesterday and first link below

<https://confidencialhn.com/lean-proverbios-1222-recomendo-rolando-argueta-a-aquellos-que-andan-haciendo-cuestionamientos-en-otras-capitales-del-mundo/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1455930769050947584

04/11/21

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; Elections - National Party, Opposition, Violence, US; Climate Crisis; ZEDEs - JOH; Lawyers; National Police; USAID; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; Corruption - IHSS; and Solidarity with Guapinol

The MP arrested the former captain of the Armed Forces Santos Rodríguez Orellana together with his wife and his mother-in-law on drug trafficking charges.

They also conducted several raids of houses and businesses linked to the arrest.

He was an outspoken critique of JOH and had raised concern about corruption in the Armed Forces and their link to drug trafficking. He himself was discharged from the Armed Forces in 2014 after their unit had seized a helicopter linked to JOH's convicted drug trafficking brother Tony Hernández.

In 2014, he was one of the first to link Tony to drug trafficking.

He is also running as a presidential candidate in this year's general elections, so there are voices denouncing his arrest as political persecution.

According to the, problematic, Electoral Law, Santos can still run as a candidate; the law only prohibits this if they is a sentence, a circumstance benefiting a lot of candidates accused of corruption, among the the Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura who faces several corruption charges.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/ministerio-publico-captura-a-excapitan-vinculado-a-criminalidad-organizada-y-trafico-de-drogas/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/luego-de-captura-del-excapitan-rodriguez-orellana-mp-inicia-nueve-allanamientos-y-32-aseguramientos-de-bienes/>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1456403229525282818

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/excapitan-antinarco-y-candidato-presidencial-hondureno-santos-rodriguez-detenido-por-presunto-lavado-de-dinero>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1456277469854531595>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1456269264487284746>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3337-honduras-designada-del-capitan-santos-cataloga-arresto-como-sabotaje-politico>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/04/ley-electoral-inhabilitacion-candidatos-cne/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3333-honduras-corte-no-detendra-a-candidatos-senalados-por-corrupcion>

"According to an anonymous complaint, the leadership of the Fire Brigade, formed by José Manuel Zelaya, Marco Antonio Ártica and Marco Valeriano, have committed acts of corruption and nepotism, being accused of helping the ruling National Party with the distribution of the "bolsa solidaria"."

Expediente Público also reports on the use of a Mexican firm by the National Party for a disinformation campaign in Honduras.

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3336-honduras-denuncian-a-jefes-bomberos-por-ayudar-con-bolsa-solidaria-y-corrupcion>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/empresa-mexicana-al-servicio-del-partido-nacional-orquesta-campana-de-desinformacion-en-honduras/>

CESPAD published an analysis highlighting the three strategic challenges faced by the opposition alliance: i) Construction of a focused program for political and social democratization; ii) Delimit a political program of the political opposition; iii) Articulate strategic actions with the social and territorial opposition.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/04/analisis-los-tres-desafios-estrategicos-de-la-coalicion-de-las-fuerzas-de-oposicion-de-honduras/>

Criterio writes about the potential of a new post-electoral crisis in Honduras.

Fonac will create an early warning system for political violence linked to the general elections - a mechanism that will be sponsored by UNDP.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-a-las-puertas-de-nueva-crisis-postelectoral-que-en-materia-economica-seria-demoledora/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/04/crean-sistema-sobre-alertas-de-violencia-politica-a-pocos-dias-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

The US chargé d'affaires met with the Network for Democratic Equity in Honduras to talk about "free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1456391617569492998>

The lack of knowledge about the situation in Honduras became apparent again yesterday when the mayor of Tegucigalpa and Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura was awarded the Climate Positive award by Green Cross UK. Criterio reacts: "Felling of trees, construction of a city designed for vehicles, privatization of water, approval of real estate projects in protected areas, an unfinished legal process courtesy of the Judiciary and the criminalization of environmentalists, are the calling cards of Nasry Asfura Zablah, current mayor of the Central District and candidate for the presidency of Honduras for the National Party."

In general, Honduras' appearance at the COP26 was met with cynicism back home as JOH presented Honduras as a victim of climate change (which is true), while back home he has environmental defenders jailed.

<https://criterio.hn/premio-de-nasry-asfura-en-conferencia-climatica-es-un-trofeo-a-la-tala-de-arboles/>

<https://criterio.hn/discurso-de-joh-en-cumbre-climatica-contradice-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-contra-ambientalistas/>

JOH traveled to the south of Honduras for a ceremony with the BCIE after they had approved a \$207 million credit for the construction of a bridge between the mainland and Amapala. This zone is widely known as the place of a possible future ZEDE and the credit is denounced by local residents and human rights organizations.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1456332803449163781>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3334-honduras-puente-amapala-sin-veeduria-del-bcie-apunta-a-trans-maritimo>

The lawyer Aunner Solís was murdered in La Másica, Atlántida, the third lawyer assassinated this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dos-sujetos-matan-a-un-abogado-al-interior-de-su-bufete-en-el-caribe-de-honduras/>

"Due to the alleged harassment and administrative nonconformity, the basic scale of the National Police of Honduras will go on a national strike in 10 days, warned Thursday the president of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH), Hugo Maldonado."

<https://confidencialhn.com/escala-basica-de-la-policia-se-iria-a-paro-nacional-en-10-dias-advier-te-el-codeh/>

"Today, Administrator Samantha Power announced a five-year, \$300 million initiative to empower local organizations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to address the drivers of irregular migration to the United States. The announcement was made during the Administrator's keynote address at Georgetown University where she presented her vision for USAID's priorities under the Biden-Harris Administration. Under this new initiative, Centroamérica Local, USAID intends to invest up to \$300 million, subject to the availability of funds, toward engaging, strengthening, and funding local organizations to implement programs to advance sustainable and equitable economic growth, improve governance, fight corruption, protect human rights, improve citizen security, and combat sexual and gender-based violence. These programs are being carried out under the Biden-Harris Administration's Root Causes Strategy and deliver on the Agency's goal to foster greater engagement with local organizations and communities in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and advance stability in the region."

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-4-2021-usaid-announces-centroamerica-local-initiative-empower-local>

"The Ministry of Health is making a series of dismissals of personnel who were hired in the response to the pandemic because of a significant drop in Covid-19 cases. The decision has unleashed a series of criticisms and protests against the government."

Yesterday, there were also protest by nurses demanding permanent employment.

<https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/condenan-despidos-de-personal-sanitario/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/protestan-enfermeras-para-exigir-asignacion-de-plazas-y-contratacion-de-personal-anuncian-paro-a-nivel-nacional/>

A new batch of Pfizer vaccine doses, almost 400'000, arrived in Honduras.

At the same time, the Minister of Health warned that 300'000 doses already in the country are about to expire.

<https://proceso.hn/llegan-394-mil-290-vacunas-anticovid-de-pfizer-a-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/04/salud-advierte-que-unas-300-mil-dosis-contras-el-coronavirus-estan-a-punto-de-vencerse/>

<https://tiempo.hn/vacunas-ihss-a-punto-de-vencer/>

In one of the many IHSS sub-cases, the two former ministers Javier Pastor and Carlos Montes were found guilty.

<https://proceso.hn/caso-ihss-culpables-carlos-montes-y-javier-pastor-por-cohecho-y-absueltos-por-lavado/>

A letter of solidarity can be sent online to the criminalized and imprisoned water defenders from Guapinol.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1456335983654416386>

05/11/21

Honduras Daily: HR; ZEDEs; Drug Trafficking; Elections - Violence, ID, Opposition, National Party; Corruption - Judiciary; US; IMF; Malaria; and Lost for Words

OACNUDH published an important press release regarding the recent changes to several laws in order to further criminalize protest and the work of civil society in general (see previous e-mails).

"The Office in Honduras of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expresses its deep concern over the entry into force of the reforms to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Special Anti-Money Laundering Law, which contravene the human rights obligations of the Honduran State, restrict civic space and limit the capacity to conduct effective investigations in corruption cases. (...) The urgency and lack of transparency in the approval of these reforms prevented a citizen debate representative of the diversity of the country and the groups and communities affected by them. The fact that the reforms to the Penal Code extend the application of the crime of usurpation to public spaces, seriously aggravate its penalties and turn it into a crime of continuous flagrancy would result in illegitimate restrictions to the right to participate in public affairs, freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and the right to defend human rights. (...) For their part, the reforms to the Code of

Criminal Procedure enable preventive and immediate evictions without judicial control. (...) "We are concerned that the entry into force of these reforms will aggravate the situation of conflict over access to land, particularly for peasant groups and indigenous peoples. Both our Office and international human rights mechanisms have recommended that Honduras address the structural causes of conflicts over land and territories and avoid the use of criminal law as a response to this conflict," added the Representative. "The work of civil society organizations that carry out social audits and denounce corruption, and in general, of all those that defend human rights, is fundamental for the promotion and guarantee of human rights, the development of the country and the full functioning of the rule of law," said the Representative. Furthermore, OHCHR notes with concern the negative impact of these reforms on the investigative capacities of the Public Prosecutor's Office in corruption cases. The reforms related to bank secrecy and the functions of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in the Special Law on Money Laundering restrict access to financial information needed in the investigation of corruption and organized crime cases."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-expresa-preocupacion-por-recientes-reformas-legales-que-contravienen-obligaciones-de-derechos-humanos-y-restringen-el-espacio-civico-en-honduras/>

Tomorrow, there will be town hall meetings in both Choloma and Villanueva, both Cortés, where the inhabitants have the chance to reject the ZEDEs.

CESPAD summarized some of the newest developments regarding the ZEDEs.

<https://confidencialhn.com/pobladores-de-choloma-y-villanueva-cortes-ratificaran-este-domingo-rechazo-rotundo-a-proyecto-perverso-de-las-zede/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/05/coyuntura-electoral-a-pasos-acelerados-avanza-la-construccion-de-las-zede-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/zede-significan-el-reacomodo-de-las-elites-economicas-en-honduras/>

Presidential candidate and former army captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana as well as his wife, Jennifer Bonilla, and mother-in-law obtained preventive detention accused of money laundering (see yesterday).

According to his defense, they have evidence showing his innocence.

Jennifer Bonilla wrote a letter to the Honduran public about their situation.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/detencion-judicial-contra-excapitan-rodriguez-orellana-y-su-familia-al-no-justificar-lavado-de-mas-de-238-millones/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/defensa-legal-de-santos-orellana-dice-tener-pruebas-listas-probar-su-inocencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jennifer-bonilla-envia-emotiva-carta-al-pueblo-hondureno/>

"The National Electoral Council (CNE) announced that the presidential candidates will sign a peace agreement for the general elections to take place peacefully, but one of the proprietary councilors, Rixi Moncada, considered that it could remain only on paper."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/05/acuerdo-de-paz-candidatos-cne/>

"The representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Richard Barathe, informed this Friday that with 10 days to go before the expiration of the validity of the identity card, it is necessary to deliver some 600,000 new ID cards."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/05/faltan-por-entregar-unas-600-mil-nuevas-identidades-a-pocos-dias-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

The opposition alliance had their mayoral candidate for San Pedro Sula, Roberto Contreras, not recognized by the CNE, i.e. by the Liberal and Nationalist representative of the CNE behind the back of the Libre representative (see previous e-mails). Now, the alliance nominated Contreras brother. "Roberto Contreras stated that his legal advisors came to the conclusion that placing his brother as a candidate is the best way to achieve the mayoralty of San Pedro Sula."

Contreras also denounced that neither him, nor his brother and sons have a new ID card even though they applied for it 14 months ago (see also above).

Meanwhile in Tegucigalpa, there is another attempt to form a strong opposition coalition for the mayoral race.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/roberto-contreras-designa-a-su-hermano-como-candidato-a-alcalde-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sin-dni-roberto-contreras-y-su-hermano-para-ejercer-el-sufragio-en-elecciones-generales/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3339-honduras-martell-dispuesto-a-unificar-candidatura-de-oposicion-en-la-capital>

The National Party announced a march for tomorrow with a topic right out of the Republican playbook - against abortion and communism.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1501152-508/cachurecos-convocan-protesta-pacifica-contra-aborto-comunismo>

The MP presented a challenge to a recent ruling which dropped some 600 corruption charges against the former members of the now extinct Judiciary Council (see previous e-mail).

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-interpone-apelacion-por-decision-de-juzgado-anticorrupcion-al-favorecer-a-exmiembros-del-consejo-de-la-judicatura/>

The Biden Administration nominated Laura Dogu as ambassador to Honduras. The US Senate will still have to confirm her. "Dogu is the current Foreign Policy Advisor to Chief of Staff of Army at the Pentagon. Honduras hasn't had an US ambassador since James Nealon left in 2017".

Foreign minister Lisandro Rosales claims that this will strengthen the bilateral relationship between the US and Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1456796235206176769>

<https://criterio.hn/laura-dogu-sera-la-nueva-embajadora-de-ee-uu-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1501131-466/laura-dogu-embajadora-estados-unidos-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/nominacion-de-laura-dogu-fortalecera-la-relacion-de-eeuu-honduras-destaca-canciller-rosales/>

"The greatest concern of Hondurans is unemployment, poverty and food insecurity. Meanwhile, the IMF's bet is more orthodox economic stability, social compensation and privatization of public enterprises."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/214278>

According to the Ministry of Health, malaria cases are 70% lower this year compared to 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/casos-de-malaria-redujeron-en-un-70-en-honduras/>

The son of a leading Nationalist politician, Fernando Anduray, dressed up as a member of the Waffen SS...

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3342-honduras-hitlercito-ofendedor-judio-anduray-se-disculpa>

06/11/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; LGBTQ+; Land Conflicts; Garífunas; Drug Trafficking - Police, JOH; Elections - Violence, ID; US; Armed Forces - Nica; COVID-19 - Poverty, Health Sector; and Eta's and Iota's Aftermath

Human rights defender and director of ACI-Participa, Hedme Castro, has suffered various attacks in the past even having to leave the country once. This week, there was a fire in her house. She demands an investigation into its cause, but the authorities so far did not pay her attention.

Swiss congressman Fabian Molina, who is currently on a pre-electoral fact-finding mission in the country, denounced the attack and demands her protection.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/06/urgente-incendio-en-casa-de-defensora-de-dd-hh-hedme-castro/>

<https://twitter.com/FabianMolinaNR/status/1457065133381980162>

"Crimes against members of the LGTBIQ+ population in Honduras exceed 200. So far this year alone, statistics show 22 murders, while between 2015 and 2020, reports indicate that 183 victims were killed. In addition, violence, discrimination and hatred continue to exclude and harm them more and more, according to the report on the situation of the queer community in the country."

Reporteros de Investigación covers the role of hate speech in the violence against the LGBTQ+ community.

<https://proceso.hn/la-violencia-y-el-odio-impactan-cada-vez-mas-en-la-poblacion-lgtbiq-en-honduras/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/04/discursos-de-odio-en-los-medios-ha-generado-crimenes-de-odio-contra-personas-lgtbi/>

The Intercept published an investigation into land conflicts in Honduras and how paramilitaries infiltrate local groups and then kill their leaders.

<https://theintercept.com/2021/11/06/honduras-paramilitaries-land-rights/>

Proceso Digital reports on a gathering by Garífunas in Washington celebrating that OFRANEH received the Letelier-Moffitt award while also demanding compliance with IACtHR rulings, a stop to criminalization and the integration of SUNLA into the investigation of the forcefully disappeared Garífuna from Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://proceso.hn/garifunas-en-washington-celebran-premio-a-organizacion-fraternal-negra/>

Six members of the Police Investigation Bureau (DPI) were arrested with at least 50kg of what is thought to be cocaine.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1501262-466/captura-policias-cocaina-colon-allanamiento>

"US prosecutors have charged an alleged MS13 leader in Honduras and his associate with international cocaine trafficking, raising fresh questions about the gang's role in the regional drug trade. (...) The latest indictment provides further evidence that Archaga Carías was not only a central leader of the MS13's criminal activities in Honduras, but has a level of underworld capacity not typically associated with his counterparts in the gang. The military-style operation that led to his remarkable escape from jail last year was arguably the most advanced strike the MS13 is alleged to have carried out in recent years. It was almost certainly aided by official corruption, something a gang leader of Archaga Carías' stature could secure. Not only that, but the escape wasn't bloodless, as various police officers were killed. The fact that he doesn't seem to be heavily targeted by police and remains free almost two years later also speaks to the potential protection he enjoys from authorities in Honduras."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/ms13-honduras-regional-drug-trade/>

Political analyst has a grim outlook on the coming weeks. "I believe that there is neither in the politicians nor in the conduction of the electoral process a spirit of pacification, a spirit of coexistence and mistakes are being made that may derive in a high confrontation that may lead to a crisis", said Pineda to Proceso Digital. The lawyer and political analyst, recalled that the most recent

mistake is the non-registration of Roberto Contreras' candidacy of the Opposition Union for the mayoralty of San Pedro Sula; since cases like this can be the beginning of a process that affects the tranquility with which the elections of next November 28 should be carried out."

<https://proceso.hn/politicos-y-cne-estan-cometiendo-errores-que-pueden-derivar-en-una-crisis-advierte-analista/>

This has been feared for a while: "Marlon Omar Carías Martínez, congressional candidate for the Patriotic Alliance party, denounced this Saturday that the National Party (PN), mapped the whole country to deliver the new identities in the places where his co-religionists are and to take advantage in the general elections."

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-el-partido-nacional-mapeo-todo-el-pais-para-entregar-dni-en-los-lugares-donde-estan-sus-correligionarios/>

"The nomination of Laura Farnsworth Dogu as ambassador of the United States (US) in Tegucigalpa is due to the fact that the government of Joe Biden wants to have its eyes firmly fixed on Honduras, said Graco Perez, an expert in international law. (...) The international law expert expressed that transparency in the upcoming elections will be decisive to strengthen this relationship with the North American country. "The presence of the ambassador will be useful for her to make more direct statements about what is happening in the country, because so far chargé d'affaires have not done so," he said." (see yesterday)

<https://proceso.hn/designacion-de-embajadora-es-porque-eeuu-quieren-tener-los-ojos-bien-puestos-en-honduras-graco-perez/>

The Armed Forces of Honduras and Nicaragua signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation between their Armed Forces.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-y-nicaragua-acuerdan-fortalecer-mecanismos-de-cooperacion-entre-ffaa-y-ejercito/>

According to a study by Latinobarómetro, 60% (!) of Hondurans don't have enough resources to eat daily.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/06/estudio-indica-que-el-60-de-los-hondurenos-no-tienen-la-suficiente-alimentacion-diaria/>

Health workers had an important win which leaves the bad aftertaste that the JOH regime will instrumentalize it politically. "The Ministry of Health initiated this week a series of dismissals of personnel hired in the framework of the pandemic because a significant drop in Covid-19 cases was reported. The decision has unleashed a series of criticisms and protests against the government. After holding a meeting with President Juan Orlando Hernández, health authorities announced the delivery of permanent positions to all personnel who have worked on the front line since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, in compliance with an agreement approved several months ago by the Executive."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/gobierno-se-compromete-con-nombramientos-definitivos-para-personal-de-salud-de-primera-linea/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/06/gobierno-plazas-personal-de-primera-linea/>

The consequences of the hurricanes Eta and Iota from 2020 are still deeply felt in Honduras. "International organizations have documented that, after the passage of hurricanes Eta and Iota, material losses in Honduras amounted to 1.8 billion dollars, while some 4 million people were directly affected. According to a report by the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), the economic losses in Honduras, after the hurricanes, amounted to 45,676 million lempiras; capital that will be difficult to recover in the short and medium term, due to the poor planning and corruption surrounding public administration, said the president of the Medical Association of Honduras, Suyapa Figueroa, in an interview to Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/heridas-provocadas-por-huracanes-eta-e-iota-siguen-doliendo-en-la-ciudadania-hondurena/>

07/11/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Elections - Census; Infrastructure; Drug Trafficking;

In a town hall meeting, the people of Choloma declared their territory free of ZEDEs. In Choloma, the ZEDE Morazán has started construction against the will of the local people and the question arises, what will happen now. "Is Choloma free of ZEDE, we asked Mayor Crivelli: "By the will of the people it is already free, we have to make this claim before the National Congress and we could go all the way to the Supreme Court of Justice and there we will see what can happen. Here the will is already decreed and it is not the will of the corporation, it is the will of the people", he answered. Regarding the possibility of stopping construction in Ciudad Morazán, he said: "There are other issues that are beyond our powers as mayor. That is a decree that comes from Congress. We do not have enough power to be able to say: 'go away'". In simple words, the construction of the ZEDE will continue as before, in spite of the Cholomeño people present in the central park, although the municipality will try to put pressure on Congress."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/07/alcaldia-de-choloma-declara-al-municipio-libre-de-zede-aunque-aun-no-basta-para-detener-ciudad-morazan/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-cabildo-abierto-el-municipio-de-choloma-se-declara-libre-de-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/sector-obrero-exige-frenar-operaciones-de-zede-morazan-tras-decir-no-al-proyecto-en-cabildo-abierto/>

One million less Honduras are called to vote this year than four years ago. This means two things: first, that the census was cleaned up to some extent, second, there was maybe even more fraud in 2017 as previously thought.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/honduras-a-las-urnas-con-un-millon-menos-de-votantes-que-en-2017-KC3466837>

JOH showed off parts of the so-called Dry Channel, the connection between the Atlantic and the Pacific, to the ambassadors of Taiwan, South Korea, Spain and Chile.

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-hernandez-muestra-a-honduras-y-al-mundo-la-infraestructura-logistica-nacional/>

The MP informed about the arrest of the six members of the Police Investigation Bureau (DPI) in possession of 50kg of cocaine (see yesterday).

According to government statistics, more drugs were seized this year than in any of the previous eight years.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/con-50-kilos-de-supuesta-cocaina-detienen-a-seis-miembros-de-la-policia-en-tocoa-colon/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/didadpol-iniciara-procesos-disciplinarios-contraseis-agentes-policiales-que-fueron-detenidos-en-las-ultimas-horas-en-posesion-de-50-kilos-de-cocaina/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-2021-se-encamina-como-el-ano-con-mayor-decomiso-de-drogas-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/otro-golpe-al-narcotrafico-propina-la-atic-en-choluteca-al-incautar-998-paquetes-de-marihuana-oculta-en-hojas-de-tabla-yeso/>

09/11/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection, EU; JOH - US, Poverty; Elections - JOH, TJE, CNE, ID, US, UN, NP; Corruption - US, IHSS; Drug Trafficking - Rosenthal, Police; Migration - Climate Crisis; Colombia; and Who Disappeared the MACCIH?

Indigenous and human rights organizations held a press conference outside the MP to denounce that the protection mechanism does not comply with its mandate, to apply protection to human rights defenders. "This action was taken as a result of a complaint, filed on September 2 of this year, by beneficiaries of precautionary measures of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, "for actions that violate or rather transgress the rights of the beneficiaries of precautionary measures, actions that were committed by officials of the mechanism, including the director of the National Protection System, Mr. José Danilo Morales," said Walter Miguel Díaz, of the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ)."

They also discussed the complaint with OACNUDH.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1913-organizaciones-de-ddhh-califican-de-ineficaz-al-mecanismo-nacional-de-proteccion>

<https://copinh.org/2021/11/pronunciamento-publico-sistema-de-proteccion-en-honduras-vulnera-derechos-y-eleva-riesgos-de-ataques-en-contra-de-las-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1458200714560299018>

EU ambassador Jaume Segura met with human rights defender Hedme Castro after the newest act of intimidation against her (see last week).

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1458224587389509638>

The New Yorker has an in-depth article on the JOH regime with an interesting focus on the US-Honduras relations. "Over the years, Hernández has proved adept at cultivating American politicians. Tim Rieser, an aide to Senator Patrick Leahy who has worked for decades on foreign policy, recalled that Hernández visited Washington and invited him to meet at the Willard InterContinental, a Beaux-Arts hotel near the White House. "He told me how much he loved human rights—he actually used the term ‘love,’" Rieser said. "J.O.H. is a polished politician. He calls you by your first name and tells people in Washington what they want to hear. With me, it was about human rights. With others, it's about capturing drug traffickers." (...) Cresencio Arcos, a former

U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, described the transactional nature of American officials' relationship with the government there: "The most important thing to our people is their access to the élites. It's not important whether they've committed human-rights abuses, or even if they're drug traffickers. J.O.H. is an evil scoundrel, and he outsmarted us because he figured out that by supporting us on drug interdiction and migrants he could blackmail us into going along with him." n January, 2021, a few days after Kamala Harris was sworn in as Vice-President, she was briefed about the allegations against President Hernández. An official who was present said that Harris, a former prosecutor, had an immediate response: "Let's go get him now." (A White House official said that the Vice-President's team has never heard her say anything like this.) The attendees informed Harris that the U.S. government had a long-standing unwritten policy against indicting sitting heads of state—though the official added that he personally would like to "cut him off at the knees." A senior Biden official told me that the Administration intended to work around Hernández, by engaging with other levels of the Honduran government, and would avoid sending officials to visit while he remained in office. Much of this awkward work will fall to Ricardo Zúniga, the newly appointed special envoy for the Northern Triangle—as Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are called. On several trips this year, Zúniga has refrained from stopping in Honduras. Instead, he has held Zoom meetings with leaders in civic society and in the private sector. (...) Roberta Jacobson, who worked for decades as a U.S. diplomat specializing in Latin America, called the Northern Triangle "a poisoned chalice." Harris and Zúniga need reliable partners, but the United States' willingness to encourage despots has left the region largely in the hands of corrupt autocrats. As Jacobson said, "Who is there to trust?"

JOH, meanwhile, invites to a book presentation at the Honduran embassy in Washington DC about his eight years as president.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/11/15/is-the-president-of-honduras-a-narco-trafficker>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3352-the-new-yorker-es-el-presidente-de-honduras-un-narcotraficante>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1458281688413343746>

JOH should talk about poverty in Honduras in his book presentation. "The National Statistics Institute (INE) published last night the executive summary of the LXXII Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey 2021, in which it specified that 73.6% of Honduran households are in conditions of poverty. However, hours later the publication was deleted".

<https://criterio.hn/ine-borro-publicacion-que-establecia-que-pobreza-en-honduras-es-del-74/>

This Friday, Padre Melo, Sociologist Eugenio Sosa and CESPAD investigator Asis Castellanos discuss the current electoral cycle in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1458079022483656713>

Two weeks ago, JOH announced over 1.3 billion Lempiras in new social spending and now the Ministry of Security announced a 900 Lempiras pay rise for members of National Police Force. It seems the elections are coming closer...

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionarios-policiales-recibiran-aumento-salarial-y-bonos-complementarios-a-partir-de-este-mes/>

As mentioned before, the JOH regime tried all along the way to undermine the electoral process, e.g. by holding back the budget for the CNE until the last minute or by not letting the Electoral Procedural Law go through Congress. CESPAD has a new analysis on what the second means for the electoral process. "To date, no person has been sanctioned or, in the extreme, has been imprisoned, despite the fact that the last three electoral processes in Honduras were overshadowed by allegations of fraud, adulteration of original closing minutes, theft of documents, vote buying, intimidation of citizens and manipulation of results, murders, among other crimes that have never been elucidated in a competent body and based on the respective law or regulation. Therefore, experts predict that without an Electoral Procedural Law in the 2021 election process, history will simply repeat itself."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/08/sin-la-ley-procesal-electoral-la-seguridad-juridica-de-las-elecciones-generales-sera-incierta/>

ContraCorriente published a portrait of the Liberal Magistrate at the National Electoral Council (CNE), Ana Paola Hall. "Between 2016 and June 2018, Ana Paola Hall was an official in the Mission of Support Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (Maccih), much of that period she worked within the Anti-Corruption Reform and Advisory Unit, where she shared space with the international investigators who integrated that mission. Sources involved in the work of the Maccih confirmed to Contracorriente that there were suspicions about Hall's work, one of them (who we cannot identify in order to protect them) assured that thanks to her links within the mission, Hall had the capacity to direct which cases were selected, and if in the beginning small cases were selected, it was partly her responsibility. (...) "She was very insistent on continuing with the small cases, and as she was supposedly the expert on the situation in Honduras we trusted her point of view, but when we began to realize that there were other cases that really had substance we asked ourselves why this behavior was happening. We began to do searches and we realized that she has a certain family relationship with Roberto Michelletti Bain, the coup leader in 2009, and finally it was established that her links with the government were extremely strong", the anonymous source assures Contracorriente".

Hall, meanwhile, questioned about her recent position not to allow the inscription of the candidate by the opposition alliance in San Pedro Sula (see last week), says that she is not being pressured by anyone.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/09/los-intereses-politicos-y-empresariales-de-ana-paola-hall/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/consejera-hall-dice-que-no-recibe-presiones-de-nadie/>

The body responsible for handing out the new ID cards, the RNP, officially recognizes that some 500'000 IDs still need to be distributed until the elections.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/medio-millon-de-dni-estan-pendientes-de-reclamar-senala-oscar-rivera-del-rnp/>

The US embassy met with the CNE and "reaffirmed our support for free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1458157251940716550>

The UN System in Honduras launched another call focusing especially on peaceful elections.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/157653-naciones-unidas-llama-candidatas-y-candidatos-politicos-debatir-de-forma-pacifica-y>

Maybe both the UN and the US should talk to the National Party about violence. In a rally on Sunday, National activist held up a banner depicting Libre candidate Xiomara Castro stabbing a pregnant woman calling her a murderer.

The CNE should investigate this immediately.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3354-honduras-impunidad-politica-instituciones-inertes-ante-violencia-electoral>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3290-con-campana-antiaborto-partido-nacional-promueve-el-odio-contra-las-mujeres-de-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3350-alerta-exsfiscal-advierte-que-campana-nacionalista-encamina-a-matanza-de-hondurenos>

Once again, Honduras remains outside the Millennium Challenge Fund due to corruption.

For the ninth time in a row, i.e. during all the years JOH was in power.

The response by the JOH regime: corruption is all about perception...

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-deficiencia-en-la-gobernanza-y-la-corrupcion-vuelven-a-dejar-a-honduras-fuera-de-la-cuenta-del-milenio-hugo-noe-pino/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3355-honduras-juntos-hicimos-historia-mas-del-millon-de-nuevos-pobres-con-joh>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1501619-466/honduras-queda-fuera-cuenta-del-milenio-2021>

<https://confidencialhn.com/indicador-de-la-corrupcion-en-cuenta-del-milenio-tiene-que-ver-mucho-con-percepcion-carlos-madero/>

The evidentiary hearing in the corruption case against congressman Reynado Ekónomo continues today.

<https://proceso.hn/este-miercoles-continuara-audiencia-inicial-a-diputado-reynaldo-ekonomo-por-caso-de-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

"Today the judge for the Southern District of New York Paul G. Gardephe, who is in charge of the case of drug trafficker and former liberal congressman Fredy Nájera Montoya ordered by means of a document that Montoya's sentencing, which was scheduled for November 12, 2021, will be postponed until further notice, due to the need to carry out a criminal procedure called "Fatico hearing" which consists of a pre-sentencing hearing in which both the prosecution and the defense can present evidence to help the judge determine what the defendant's sentence should be, in this hearing both parties can dispute the conclusions of the sentencing report through probative material that may include testimonies, videos or other evidence. (...) Therefore, during the development of the Fatico Hearing the prosecution would be presenting evidence to support these facts that include the participation of the current candidate of the Liberal Party of Honduras Yani Rosenthal for having received one million dollars from the Sinaloa cartel to finance his presidential campaign during the internal elections held in 2012."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/11/08/fiscalia-estaria-presentando-evidencia-sobre-el-millon-de-dolares-que-yani-roenthal-recibio-del-cartel-de-sinaloa/>

"13 Honduran police have been detained for involvement in drug trafficking in the last month. Over half have worked on police units that have received financing or training from the US, Inter-American Development bank & other foreign gov'ts. Suspend police aid to #Honduras NOW!"

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1458275451877482504>

The UNHCR reports on climate change as an important factor sparking displacement.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2021/11/61844eef4/honduras-climate-change-factor-sparking-displacement.html>

Attorney General Oscar Fernando Chinchilla met his Colombian counterpart Francisco Roberto Barbosa.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/fiscales-generales-de-honduras-y-colombia-se-reunen-en-tegucigalpa-para-estrechar-lazos-de-cooperacion-y-asistencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscales-generales-de-honduras-y-colombia-se-reunen-en-tegucigalpa-para-estrechar-lazos-de-cooperacion-y-asistencia/>

"In an exclusive interview with Expediente Público, the former spokesperson of the Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras, MACCIH, talks about the dismantling of the anti-corruption system, the difficult electoral panorama and the possibility of a new Mission in Honduras."

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/juan-jimenez-mayor-no-tengo-duda-que-oea-facilito-desmontaje-de-la-maccih/>

<https://proceso.hn/jimenez-mayor-cree-que-la-oea-participo-en-desmontaje-de-la-maccih/>

10/11/21

Honduras Daily: Lencas; Guapinol - EU; Berta - Trial, EU; OFRANEH - UN; Elections - Women, Surveillance, Transparency, BCIE, Libre, US, EU; Poverty; Drug Trafficking; Corruption; COVID-19 - Vaccines; and He Steals even Book Titles

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert. "Approximately 120 families of the Lenca Tierras del Padre Indigenous Community are under threat of being dispossessed of their land by a violent eviction order from the Criminal Court, scheduled for this Thursday, November 11."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/11/alerta-urgente-honduras-juzgados-de-tegucigalpa-ordenan-desalojo-contr-la-comunidad-indigena-lenca-tierras-del-padre/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1915-en-cuenta-regresiva-ejecucion-de-orden-de-desalojo-para-comunidad-indigena-lenca-2>

The EU Spanish, French and German representatives in Honduras met with representatives of the criminalized Guapinol defenders.

They will also observe in person the trial scheduled to start in December.

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1458541134804881408>

<https://criterio.hn/union-europea-solicitara-observar-presencialmente-juicio-contr-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Efe spoke with Víctor Fernández, lawyer representing Berta Cáceres's family and COPINH, on the lack of a sentence for David Castillo.

<https://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/temen-impunidad-por-la-demora-de-una-sentencia-en-el-caso-hondurena-bertha-caceres/20000013-4672797>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/familia-de-bertha-caceres-muestra-preocupacion-por-retraso-en-sentencia-en-el-caso>

Berta Zúniga, general coordinator of COPINH, wrote an open letter to the EU Commission. "I am writing to you from Honduras regarding the proposed European Union (EU) Sustainable Corporate Governance legislation. On behalf of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations of Honduras (COPINH), I call on you to ensure that the legislation is robust and effective, in order to prevent brutal corporate human rights abuses, like what my family have experienced."

<https://copinh.org/2021/11/carta-bertha-zuniga-a-comisionados-ue-esen/>

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford, met with Miriam Miranda and Yessica Trinidad from OFRANEH.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1458456221888000008>

The Convergence against Continuity held a press conference to comment on the upcoming elections. "We note that these elections are being held in the context of a narco-dictatorship, whose builders came to control the State through violent and unconstitutional means and are not willing to hand over power through democratic political means, because they do not believe in democracy nor the rule of law. This mafia is the enemy of Honduras, and its members are determined to continue with the hijacking of the State through the control of electoral results, the militarization of society, repression and stricter laws. In this sense, we ratify our repudiation of the mafia led by Juan Orlando Hernandez and at the same time we note that his days are numbered because the people cannot stand another day of this nightmare of a government. There are clear indications that the criminal group in power perceives its imminent defeat and therefore orchestrates a great electoral fraud based on the manipulation of the voting process and vote counting. For such mechanism to work, they need the voter to give in to the purchase of his conscience for a few coins, to stay passively at home and allow them to apply their fraudulent strategy. For this reason we make a vehement call to the noble Honduran people to ignore the attempts to corrupt their conscience or to put fear in them to go to vote; we urge them to mobilize massively to the polls and to defend their vote from these anti-democratic machinations. (...) To the authorities and the basic scale of the military and police we make a patriotic appeal to them not to lend themselves to violate once again the sovereign will of the people. (...) To the Government of the United States and the Secretary General of the OAS we strongly demand that they do not support once again the drug-trafficking mafia that has hijacked the State of Honduras, as they did in 2017, endorsing the scandalous electoral fraud that the regime is preparing, to the shame of the world and its own taxpayers."

Also yesterday, the Network for Democratic Equity in Honduras (REDH) presented a preliminary report of the electoral process in which they point out six important findings that could be a determining factor to avoid a new political crisis and for the voting to be carried out with transparency.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ante-la-ebullicion-politica-hondurena-posicionamiento-de-convergencia-contr-el-continuismo/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-la-convergencia-contr-el-continuismo-esta-lista-para-accionar-y-avanzar/>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-de-sociedad-civil-proceso-electoral-tiene-mucha-incertidumbre/>

Women's rights and feminist organizations denounce a hate campaign against women by the National Party as part of their electoral campaign (see also yesterday).

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/10/la-campana-de-odio-hacia-las-mujeres-detras-de-la-campana-politica-del-partido-de-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-campana-de-odio-contra-mujeres-en-honduras/>

"The government of President Juan Orlando Hernández is allegedly installing cameras and panic buttons in neighborhoods and neighborhoods that are strongholds of struggle and protests, which is presumed to be the preparation of a repressive scenario for the elections of November 28, 2021, as denounced by human rights organizations."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3292-camaras-de-vigilancia-estarian-siendo-instaladas-en-barrios-y-colonias-emblematicos-de-protestas-en-elecciones-2017>

"In spite of the fact that the 2021 electoral process is one of the most audited in the political history of the country and that there has been a lot of pressure for the candidates to render accounts, 463 elected candidates, most of them mayoral candidates and some congression candidates, attend the general elections without providing reports indicating the origin of the money that finances their political campaigns, violating a law that establishes that they can even be suspended from the electoral contest. These 463 aspirants to positions of popular election participated in the primary elections, last March 14, without having presented their income and expenditure reports before the Financing, Transparency and Fiscalization Unit (UFTF), better known as Clean Politics Unit (UPL), as referred to in the report called "Accountability: Primary Elections 2021, preliminary report". This report also finds that the National Party, publicly, spent \$9.5 million on its electoral campaign, the Liberal Party \$3 million and Libre less than \$900'000.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/10/por-que-decenas-de-candidatos-no-deberian-participar-en-las-elecciones-generales-2021/>

"The Citizen Board of Honduras demanded through a letter sent to the executive president of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Dante Mossi, to refrain from disbursing a multimillion dollar loan to the government of Juan Hernandez that would be used to buy votes for the general elections." (see also previous e-mails)

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-al-bcie-suspender-fondos-que-podrian-estar-siendo-utilizados-en-campana-politica-del-partido-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/redh-asevera-que-autoridades-aun-pueden-generar-confianza-electoral-y-unas-elecciones-pacificas/>

Libre met with representatives of the Armed Forces to present their plan for government.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3358-honduras-xiomara-y-salvador-presentan-plan-de-gobierno-a-cupula-militar-2>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-y-ffaa-dialogaron-sobre-el-respeto-a-resultados-y-garantias-a-elecciones-pacificas/>

Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, tweeted: "The United States supports the people of Honduras as they prepare to hold elections on November 28. The Honduran people deserve free, fair, transparent, and peaceful elections that reflect their will."

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1458474106698059783>

<https://tiempo.hn/eeuu-elecciones-transparentes-en-honduras/>

Similar words from the EU. "In view of the beginning of the trial, which we will request to observe in person, we trust that it will be carried out with the utmost transparency, publicity and guarantees, and with full respect for the rule of law."

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1458541144258883601>

The business community in the form of COHEP denounced that some 500 billion Lempiras were spent "to reduce poverty" these last year with nothing to show for it, even worse, poverty is higher than when JOH took office.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-cuestiona-que-se-gastaron-500-mil-millones-de-lempiras-y-no-se-redujo-la-pobreza/>

"The Federal Court of the Southern District of New York postponed Wednesday the reading of the sentence against former Honduran Congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya accused of drug and

firearms trafficking in the United States. In a brief, the US Court informed that there is no definite date to hear the verdict and recommended the US Government to send a letter before November 16, 2021 indicating if it intends to offer additional evidence in a special hearing."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1501786-466/aplazada-manera-indefinida-lectura-sentencia-fredy-najera>

"The Sentencing Court in matters of corruption unanimously declared guilty the former members of the municipal corporation of Yoro, among them the former mayor Arnaldo Urbina Soto."

<https://proceso.hn/culpables-excorporacion-municipal-de-yoro-entre-ellos-arnaldo-urbina-soto/>

The Ministry of Health announced to purchase 3 million vaccine doses to vaccinate children.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1501792-466/salud-comprara-tres-millones-vacunas-ninos-menores-12-anos>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/10/titulo-de-libro-publicado-por-el-presidente-hernandez-coincide-con-obra-de-politica-mexicana/>

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-hernandez-viaja-a-washington-a-exponer-logros-y-luego-visitara-en-taiwan/>

11/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Lencas; JOH; Elections - ID, Violence, Armed Forces, Palmerola, ZEDEs; Drug Trafficking; Poverty; Corruption – IHSS;

"In just three weeks, eight water defenders from Guapinol and Sector San Pedro in Honduras will go to trial. In what is yet another arbitrary ruling, judges Franklin Marvin Arauz Santos, Ricardo Rodríguez Barahona and Henry Geovany Duarte Zaldivar notified the legal team yesterday that the trial location will move to La Ceiba - their motivation? Ensuring no one exercises their right to protest during the legal proceedings."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/guapinol-why-yesterday-s-arbitrary-ruling-to-move-trial-location-is-so-repudiable>

The resistance by the indigenous Lenca community Tierras del Padre in Santa Ana, Francisco Morazán, was a success and a judge stopped the eviction order (see yesterday).

OACNUDH welcomed the decision but expressed concern that an eviction could still happen in the future.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/suspenden-desalojo-a-comunidad-indigena-tierras-del-padre-en-francisco-morazan/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1458848652353576972>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1458922647635513352>

JOH was met with protest in New York where he presented his book (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/fuera-joh-asesino-gritan-en-lanzamiento-de-libro-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-ee-uu/>

"According to a survey conducted by the Institute of Economic and Social Research (IIES) and the Economic and Entrepreneurship Observatory of the UNAH, Honduran families have no confidence in the government, political parties and electoral bodies."

<https://confidencialhn.com/segun-encuesta-familias-hondurenas-no-tienen-confianza-en-el-gobierno-partidos-politicos-y-organismos-electorales/>

Two weeks before the election, there are still 400'000 Hondurans without an ID.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-17-dias-para-las-elecciones-generales-400-mil-dni-no-han-sido-entregados-reconoce-el-rnp/>

Criterio has another article on the role of the Armed Forces in the electoral process. "According to sociologist and political analyst Julio Navarro, the National Party, which has governed Honduras for twelve years, controls the security institutions and in case of losing power could resort to them. Navarro assures that "the National Party is an armed party" because it has the armed forces and the National Police on its side, being a key piece in its continuity in power."

<https://criterio.hn/fuerzas-armadas-generan-incertidumbre-en-elecciones-por-su-falta-de-credibilidad/>

Óscar Moya, a Liberal councilor in Santiago de Puringla, La Paz, was shot and killed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-regidor-liberal-en-santiago-de-puringla-la-paz/>

It seems that the JOH regime wants to push through the construction of the Palmerola airport just in time of the elections. "They point out that the installation shows that those in charge are accelerating the pace to start air traffic, by sacrificing the basic requirements to fulfill the vision they initially announced. "(The tower) is improvised like everything else in that airport, they are racing to start operating next Monday," denounced the former president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa (CCIT), José María Betancourt. "I am waiting to see if the lines will really be ready to reach that airport with a shameful tower that looks more like a dovecote than a control structure," he added."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/11/califican-como-vergonzoso-palomar-torre-de-control-de-palmerola/>

Even though the National Party is the only one supporting the ZEDEs, given its unpopularity, its presidential candidate now says that he will revise them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/revisare-las-zedes-nasry-tito-asfura-ante-el-cohep/>

"Honduras has seen a surge in marijuana seizures and plantations, indicating a booming trade in illegal cannabis that stands to benefit the country's largest street gang."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/ms13-profits-marijuana-boom-honduras/>

Criterion fact-checked recent statements by JOH made at the UN where he unconvincingly claimed that poverty decreased by 7% while in reality it is higher than before he became president.

There is a clear lack of strategy to fight poverty, social programs are completely politicized and used as vote buying mechanisms by JOH, and Hondurans count mostly on remittances to improve their situation.

<https://criterio.hn/es-falso-que-la-pobreza-bajo-7-como-dijo-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-la-asamblea-de-la-onu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/estrategia-de-reduccion-de-la-pobreza-fracaso-por-su-politizacion-asegura-economista/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-no-tiene-estrategia-de-reduccion-de-la-pobreza-tiene-remesas/>

A ruling is expected for Monday in the corruption case against Liberal congressman Reynaldo Ekónomo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-lunes-se-conocera-resolucion-en-caso-contr-reynaldo-ekonomo-por-presunta-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

12/11/21

Honduras Daily: Lencas - Río Blanco; Elections - JOH, Opposition, Violence, ID, Transparency; National Police; Transport Sector; Health Sector; Corruption; and Not Traveling without his Posse

A court ordered a repeat of the trial against the former member of the Armed Forces Kevin Yasser Saravia Ortiz. He had been found guilty of the murder of Tomás García Domínguez, the murder had taken place in repression of the protest by the local community and COPINH against the hydroelectric project Agua Zarca. Saravia Ortiz now will also face trial for attempted murder against Allan Evey García Domínguez, son of Tomás.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/sala-de-lo-penal-ordena-repetir-juicio-contr-ex-militar-que-disparo-su-arma-en-contr-de-miembro-de-comunidad-indigena-lenca/>

The Latin America Working Group sent out a warning about the conditions under which Hondurans will go to the polls at the end of the month.

<https://www.lawg.org/honduras-goes-to-november-28th-elections-with-rules-uncertain-corruption-and-human-rights-abuses-unchecked/>

Javier Suazo has more on vote buying by the JOH regime, especially its newest attempt through the \$70 million from the BCIE (see previous days). "Less than a month before the general elections to elect the new government authorities, it was necessary to wait for them to take office before entering into a transaction of this type. Several civil society organizations are demanding that this loan be frozen, and that SEFIN not authorize the use of public resources and other social programs

to cover this political requirement. Honduras needs to regulate these corrupt and clientelistic practices, so as not to traffic with the hunger of the people."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/214344>

Independent presidential candidate and journalist Milton Benítez joined the opposition alliance led by Xiomara Castro.

<https://confidencialhn.com/xiomara-castro-y-milton-benitez-firman-en-marmol-su-compromiso-por-una-honduras-humana-y-libre/>

"The secretary of the women's department of the Libertad y Refundación (Libre) party, Tatiana Lara, filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor's Office against the National Party for carrying out campaigns of gender violence against candidate Xiomara Castro." (see also previous days)

The hate campaign promoted by the National Party is one of many examples why the fear about violent elections remains high.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/12/denuncian-al-partido-nacional-ante-la-fiscalia-de-la-mujer-por-violencia-de-genero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mujeres-militantes-de-libre-interponen-denuncia-ante-el-mp-contra-david-chavez-por-campana-de-incitacion-al-odio/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-ansiado-acuerdo-de-paz-electoral-que-todos-evocan-pero-las-reservas-persisten/>

Libre magistrate Rixi Moncada demands an extra effort to hand out the missing identity cards needed for the elections.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dni-deben-ser-entregados-en-extensas-jornadas-indica-rix-moncada/>

"Several civil society organizations demand the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP) to rule on the petition they filed to declare null the resolution that classifies as reserved the information on the data of those who contribute, privately, to the electoral campaigns of candidates for elected office, at any elective level."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/12/organizaciones-exigen-al-iaip-resolver-recurso-de-nulidad-que-clasifica-de-reservada-la-informacion-sobre-el-financiamiento-de-las-campanas-politicas/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3293-iaip-mantiene-engavetado-recurso-de-nulidad-contra-informacion-reservada-para-financiamiento-de-campanas-politicas>

Eight members of the police were arrested accused of murdering Erick Rafael Vallecillo on August 1, 2021 during a police stop in the Bajo Aguán. The police agents were all assigned to the Xatruch Mission.

The six police agents at the DPI arrested for drug trafficking two weeks ago will await trial in pre-trial detention.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/ministerio-publico-ejecuta-capturas-contra-policias-que-dieron-muerte-a-ciudadano-en-un-reten-carretero/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-logra-prision-preventiva-contra-seis-policias-y-nueve-civiles-por-trafico-de-50-kilos-de-cocaina/>

"Helpless in the face of crime, public transport leaders are calling on the authorities to get rid of their idleness and act to protect operators and users at a time of year when robberies are on the rise."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/12/transportistas-claman-proteccion-en-epoca-de-asaltos/>

"The nursing personnel in several areas of the country continue to carry out protest actions to demand the assignment of permanent jobs and the payment of outstanding wages for up to two months, the sit-ins have been going on for about 15 days without any response from the authorities."

Additionally, "the coordinator of the Union of Medical Workers, Hospitals and Similar (Sitramedhys), of the northern region of Honduras, Concepción Rivera, warned Friday that several hospitals in that area of the country, could paralyze work next week for several allegations of corruption that have not been addressed".

<https://confidencialhn.com/enfermeras-siguen-demandando-asignacion-de-plazas-y-pago-de-salarios-pendientes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/trabajadores-de-los-hospitales-de-la-region-norte-anuncian-posible-paralizacion-de-labores-para-la-proxima-semana/>

The trial against Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes in the mobile hospital corruption case was reprogrammed for January 19-31, 2022.

<https://proceso.hn/reprograman-hasta-enero-de-2022-juicio-oral-en-caso-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3364-honduras-derroche-bestial-lista-de-74-allegados-a-joh-que-fueron-a-europa>

13/11/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Elections - Violence, Opposition; Femicide; SFS;

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

<https://copinh.org/2021/10/copinh-presenta-solicitud-exigiendo-sentencia/>

Francisco Gaitán, the mayor of Cantarranas, Francisco Morazán, was shot dead yesterday in the midst of a political rally. He was running for reelection for the Liberal Party.

Another mayoral candidate, David Castro from Cedros, Francisco Morazán, said to have suspended his campaign due to death threats.

UNAH's Violence Observatory documented 64 cases of electoral violence.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1502253-466/matan-alcaldede-cantarranas-francisco-gaitan-honduras-elecciones-2021>

<https://proceso.hn/alcaldede-cedros-david-castro-cancela-campana-politica-por-amenazas-de-muerte/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/13/observatorio-de-la-violencia-reporta-64-casos-de-violencia-politica-en-lo-que-va-del-ano/>

"Hundreds of fake Twitter accounts targeted opposition candidates and urged citizens not to vote in an upcoming Honduran presidential election, according to research published Wednesday. The 317

accounts appear to be part of an effort to influence the Nov. 28 Honduran presidential election by denigrating two of opposition candidates running against the incumbent National Party of Honduras' candidate, Nasry Asfura, according to Nisos, the threat intelligence firm that published its findings Wednesday. The network of profiles in some cases used authentic photos from Peruvian Facebook accounts in an attempt to aid legitimacy, some cases apparently using computer-generated images as avatars. (...) "This takes a lot of organization to obtain these accounts, to create all of the content that these accounts were sharing, to make the phrases, to make the memes, this takes a lot of preparation," Hicks said of the company's findings. "Even though from our view this may not look like the most sophisticated thing, somebody, somewhere, some group took the time to plan this and to coordinate this. The actors are very determined to make this type of influence."

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/honduras-twitter-influence-operations-election/>

"Three women were arrested by people wearing National Anti-Gang Task Force (FNAMP) uniforms & later found murdered in Tegucigalpa. FNAMP, a joint military & police force, denies involvement. Kidnappers "dressed in" police/military uniforms is a pattern reported around the country".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1459644920042504195>

"Police and military from the municipality of San José, La Paz, arrived in the community of Llano Largo on Wednesday, November 10, and attacked two young men, warned social communicators from the National Center of Rural Workers (CNTC). Ronald Alexander Gutiérrez Molina (24), has bruises on his chest and a bullet wound in his right ankle."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/joven-denuncia-ataque-policia-militar-en-san-jose-la-paz/>

14/11/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Elections - Violence, Transparency, Opposition; JOH – Taiwan;

Human rights defender Lucía Enamorado was detained and beaten by the police yesterday. She was freed again after national and international pressure.

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/11/alerta-urgente-honduras-policia-nacional-detiene-y-golpea-a-la-defensora-lucia-enamorado-integrante-de-la-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-de-honduras/>

It has been a deadly weekend with at least three candidates murdered, two mayoral candidates (see yesterday) and the local Libre leader in Santa Bárbara and councilor candidate Elvir Casaña. Unknown assailants came to his house and murdered him.

In San Jerónimo, Copán, a Liberal rally ended in a shootout which left at least one person dead.

At a rally by the National Party in Corquín, Copán, at least two people were killed.

OACNUDH, the UN and the OAS all denounced the violence and called for peaceful elections.

OACNUDH has documented 28 murders of candidates and close relatives so far.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-su-casa-asesinan-a-dirigente-de-libre-santabarbarens/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1502304-466/matan-balazos-dirigente-libre-evento-politico-santa-barbara>

<https://proceso.hn/violencia-politica-se-agudiza-a-14-dias-de-las-elecciones-en-honduras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/fiesta-politica-en-copan-deja-un-joven-muerto-y-dos-heridos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1502391-466/dos-muertos-heridos-enfrentamiento-cierre-campana-copan>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1460032890234880000>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oacnudh-ve-con-preocupacion-muertes-violentas-previo-a-proceso-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1460001477603348488>

<https://confidencialhn.com/onu-expresa-preocupacion-por-violencia-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/oea-condena-actos-de-violencia-politica-y-aboga-por-un-acuerdo-de-paz-en-honduras/>

"Under the concept of "emergency loans", the National Congress of Honduras approved, in August and September 2021, several millionaire loans with various international credit banks. These are

funds that were taken with the argument of providing aid to the most vulnerable sectors, but that, being issued in the context of an election campaign, generates suspicion. Citizens are asking themselves: is this money linked to the electoral competition and what role do international lending institutions play in this context? The loans were justified under the category of "emergencies" due to the Covid19 pandemic, and to tropical storms Eta and Iota, and were approved by a National Congress made up, in great majority, by deputies of the National Party, which has been in government for 12 years. There are five loans: two granted by the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), two by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and one by the World Bank (WB). These loans, in addition to indebting the country, call into question the use of this money, a few weeks before the 2021 general elections are to be held in this Central American country."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/14/no-se-descarta-financiamiento-de-campanas-politicas-con-prestamos-internacionales-por-eso-urge-veeduria/>

Libre also continues to be attacked, even from a US newspaper, as a promoter of communism.

But the fear mongering may not work this time. According to former Attorney General and former Minister of Defense, Edmundo Orellana Mercado, the designation of a new ambassador to Honduras by the US means that "the United States has clear evidence that the opposition is going to win the elections".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1502314-466/diario-eeuu-asegura-plan-gobierno-libre-hecho-venezuela>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/edmundo-orellana-estados-unidos-tiene-clara-evidencia-de-que-la-oposicion-va-a-ganar-las-elecciones/>

Unexpectedly, JOH traveled to Taiwan last week.

He promoted the idea of a logistical hub in the south of Honduras which many observers believe to be linked to a ZEDE.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/presidente-de-honduras-inicia-visita-sorpresa-a-taiwan/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-golfo-de-fonseca-protagonista-en-la-reunion-entre-hernandez-y-tsai/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1459897076351971330>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1459368658115911686>

<https://canal6.com.hn/presidenta-tsai-impulsara-la-inversion-de-navieras-taiwanesas-en-el-golfo-de-fonseca.html>

15/11/21

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity; Mining; Berta - Gualcarque; Elections - Violence, Women, US, Taxes, ID; ZEDEs; Military Police; Corruption; and the Dirty Palm Oil Business

"The communities of the municipality of Arizona organized in the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ) established in the Dignity Camp for the Defense of Water, gathered this day with international organizations in front of the offices of HERMACASA in Honduras and SIMONDS SAW INTERNATIONAL in Massachusetts, USA, both companies are partners of INGELSA and the IESA Group owned by Emin Abufele Marcos main shareholder of the Jilamito Hydroelectric Project (PHJ). (...) That the people of Arizona have already decided, in at least three open town hall meetings, that the waters of the Jilamito River will be used exclusively for the consumption of present and future generations of the municipality and in this way overcome the shortage of water supply that nearly 30,000 inhabitants are already suffering."

<https://madj.org/2021/11/15/las-aguas-del-rio-jilamito-son-para-la-gente-fuera-ingelsa/>

<https://criterio.hn/aguas-del-rio-jilamito-son-para-la-gente-dicen-pobladores-de-arizona-atlantida/>

"The Bufete Estudios Para la Dignidad denounced the militarization of the cemetery of the community of Azacualpa in La Union, Copán, by members of the Armed Forces and the National Police with the objective of ensuring exhumations despite the resistance of the community." (see also last week).

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-militarizacion-de-cementerio-maya-chorti-en-azacualpa-la-union-copan/>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1460285964157435906>

As feared, the courts dismissed the challenge by COPINH to include all 16 original accused in the re-start of the Gualcarque Fraud case (see last week). With this decision, only 6 will be accused.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1460352659672776708>

ContraCorriente put together a searchable database of the candidates running in the current election.

<https://aquienelejo.contracorriente.red/>

Another candidate in the general election was murdered, Darío Juárez, deputy mayoral candidate for the Liberal Party in Concordia, Olancho.

According to UNAH's Violence Observatory, the number of murders linked to political violence rose to at least 30.

As a first reaction to the violence, Congress plans a decree prohibiting the carrying of arms 10 days before and after the elections.

Without much investigating, the Minister of Security felt confident to say that the most recent murders of candidates had nothing to do with the elections...

The Electoral Observation Mission of the EU condemned the violence and called again for peaceful elections.

Also yesterday, the UNDP together with the EU activated the Early Warning System (SAT). "The SAT for electoral and gender conflict creates a system of anticipation and early warning that warns of this type of events, which will allow Honduran authorities to adopt measures to give "an effective response", said Esquivá in declarations to Efe."

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-aspirante-a-vicealcalde-por-el-municipio-de-concordia-olancho/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/15/muertes-por-politica-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-preve-decreto-para-la-prohibicion-de-armas-en-honduras-en-marco-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-nacional-descarta-que-hechos-violentos-estén-vinculados-al-tema-politico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mision-de-la-ue-hace-un-llamamiento-en-contra-de-la-violencia-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/activan-en-honduras-un-sistema-de-alerta-temprana-por-conflictos-electorales/>

Hate speech can also lead to violence and feminist organizations protested yesterday outside the CNE demanding that they make a stop to campaign promoting hate against women (see also last week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/organizaciones-feministas-protestan-frente-al-cne-y-piden-eliminar-propaganda-politica-que-incita-a-la-violencia-contras-las-mujeres/>

US Senators and members of Congress wrote a joint letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken pushing the U.S. State Department to do more to ensure a free and fair elections in Honduras. “With only two weeks remaining before the general elections take place, there is increased potential for violence, fraud, or restrictions on the ability of Honduran citizens to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, all of which are protected under the Honduran constitution,” the members wrote in a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. “We believe it is essential that the United States be viewed as a neutral, credible, and impartial observer and support an outcome in Honduras that is genuinely democratic and inclusive.”

<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/members-of-congress-lead-push-to-ensure-free-and-fair-elections-in-honduras-2021>

<https://criterio.hn/solicitan-al-departamento-de-estado-de-ee-uu-que-garantice-elecciones-libres-y-justas-en-honduras/>

According to the Revenue Administration Service (SAR), 595 candidates have a high tax arrears of more than 203 million Lempiras.

And out of all the candidates, less than 10% pay any taxes.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-mas-de-1-203-millones-asciende-mora-tributaria-de-candidatos-de-distintos-partidos-politicos/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3370-honduras-insolito-el-93-porciento-de-candidatos-a-eleccion-no-paga-impuestos>

Congress intends to extend the validity of the current ID until December 31, BUT only for administrative matters, for the general elections, the new ID is needed.

At least this was the plan, but somehow Congress failed to schedule a vote on this so starting today, the old ID is no longer valid.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-ampliara-vigencia-de-la-actual-tarjeta-de-identidad-hasta-el-31-de-diciembre/>

<https://proceso.hn/sin-vigencia-tarjeta-de-identidad-tras-no-entrar-en-agenda-de-congreso/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1502562-466/congreso-nacional-no-prorroga-tarjeta-identidad-nuevo-dni-honduras-elecciones>

CESPAD put together a 61-page profile of the Próspera ZEDE.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/15/zonas-de-empleo-y-desarrollo-economico-zede-el-caso-crawfish-roatan-prospera/>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Women (FEP-Mujer) obtained convictions for several crimes that were committed by two military police officers in 2019 in the capital."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/policias-militares-son-sentenciados-por-violacion/>

Radio Progreso published an overview of the corruption case against congressman Reynaldo Ekónomo.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/portada/reinaldo-ekonomo-salpicado-por-corrupcion-y-lavado-de-activos/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/09/honduras-el-pais-aceitero-donde-ninguna-empresa-ha-sido-sancionada-por-danos-al-ambiente/>

16/11/21

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Gualcarque; Guapinol; ZEDEs; Elections - Opposition, JOH, Violence, HR, Poverty, Economy, Education, ID; Corruption; Drug Trafficking;

COPINH denounces that the Gualcarque trial will be reopened with only 6 of the initially 16 accused (see also previous days).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1460634689199394821>

<https://criterio.hn/decretan-apertura-de-juicio-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque-con-solo-6-de-los-16-funcionarios-implicados/>

An amicus brief will be presented today in the case of the Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1460711269514850308>

Congress approved the first batch of the disputed \$207 million loan from the BCIE for the bridge connecting the mainland with Amapala.

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprobo-prestamo-entre-el-bcie-y-el-gobierno-para-la-construccion-de-puente-maritimo-en-coyolito-amapala/>

CESPAD published an overview of the context in which the elections take place, the risk the elections face and the opportunities that arise with it.

The CNE had a test run of the Preliminary Electoral Results Transmission System (TREP) yesterday.

Afterwards, Libre magistrate Rixi Moncada said that "[t]he process in its basic steps is assured". Alluding to 2017, she also said that "the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE) guarantees the efficient and uninterrupted supply of energy service on election day, and that no maintenance of transmission lines is scheduled for that date".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/16/elecciones-hondurenas-en-la-recta-final-su-contexto-riesgos-y-oportunidades/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-realizara-este-dia-un-simulacro-de-elecciones-para-probar-el-trep/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/proceso-electoral-en-sus-pasos-basicos-se-encuentra-listo-asegura-integrante-del-cne-rixi-romana-moncada-godoy/>

More Liberal Party leaders have left their presidential candidate to join the opposition alliance led by Xiomara Castro.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1502659-508/alianza-liberal-opositora-integracion-xiomara-castro-libre>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3373-honduras-dirigentes-liberales-dejan-a-yani-para-unirse-a-xiomara>

The Time reports on the disinformation campaign in Honduras favoring the National Party. "They're part of an ongoing online influence campaign to boost the ruling party of President Juan Orlando Hernández, amplifying Hernández's profile and sowing distrust and confusion among voters. Twitter and Facebook have taken down several inauthentic networks in recent years tied to people close to Hernández, who was reelected in 2017 despite fraud allegations."

<https://time.com/6116979/honduras-political-disinformation-facebook-twitter/>

Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, tweeted: "The U.S. condemns the violence against political candidates over the weekend. We urge Honduran candidates and political parties to commit to a pact of non-violence during peaceful elections. The Honduran people deserve a safe and secure electoral process."

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1460607765806821382>

"Ahead of the upcoming general elections in Honduras, Amnesty International sent today an open letter to the candidates for the presidential candidates, in which it shares seven points necessary to build a more just and human rights-based country."

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/11/honduras-next-president-must-ensure-more-just-human-rights-based-country/>

<https://proceso.hn/ai-pide-que-nuevo-presidente-de-honduras-garantice-un-pais-mas-justo/>

"Democracy must be understood as a system of government and organization of the State and society that assumes that no person is excluded and can participate on an equal footing in decision-making. (...) As the United Nations Development Program points out, poverty and exclusion make illusory the democratic principle that people are full citizens who act in the public sphere as equals. (...) In the words of the Inter-American Commission, "extreme poverty can seriously affect democratic institutions, since it constitutes a denaturalization of democracy and makes citizen participation illusory [...]. In this sense, the recent data on poverty, which reached 74% and which the National Institute of Statistics subsequently erased from its web page so as not to harm the National Party, is one more sign of the weakness of the electoral process that is approaching."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/la-pobreza-y-la-calidad-del-proceso-electoral/>

El Libertador has a long interview with the president of the business lobby COHEP, Juan Carlos Sikaffy, about the failures of the last twelve years under the National Party and the significance of the general elections.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3372-burocracia-y-crimen-bloquean-desarrollo-de-honduras-empresarios>

Less than two weeks before the elections, the JOH regime came to an agreement with a teachers' union to give permanent employment to 6000 teachers. Something similar happened two weeks ago with health workers.

But there is later turned out to be mostly empty promises.

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprobo-la-nivelacion-del-salario-y-permanencia-a-maestros-proheco-en-todo-el-pais/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/16/el-congreso-nacional-autoriza-plazas-permanente-para-maestros-de-educacion-comunitaria/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sigue-la-demanda-de-asignacion-de-plazas-en-salud/>

The old identity card became invalid yesterday. According to the RNP, some 300'000 new ones still have to be distributed.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/16/entra-en-vigencia-el-documento-nacional-de-identificacion-quedan-300-mil-por-entregar/>

Trial will be opened against congressman Reynaldo Ekónomo for fraud, but the money laundering charges were dropped.

The MP will appeal the decision.

<https://confidencialhn.com/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-por-fraude-a-ekonomo-aunque-es-sobreseido-por-lavado/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-apelara-resolucion-de-magistrado-de-la-csj-que-sobresee-a-diputado-por-lavado-de-activos-en-el-ihss-pese-a-que-por-este-mismo-caso-y-delito-ya-hay-15-personas-con-auto-de-formal-procesamiento/>

Reporteros de Investigación has a multi-chapter series on drug trafficking in Honduras. The first chapter has five parts. Part 1: From big cartels to narco-politics; Part 2: Military pioneers of drug trafficking in Honduras; Part 3: Drug trafficking in the 21st century; Part 4: First narco-deputies detained; Part 5: The final lunge and the change of command.

Chapter 2 has only one part: Part 6: The Narco Log in Honduras: JOH's Betrayal

Chapter 3 will follow in the coming days.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/08/parte-i-de-los-grandes-carteles-a-la-narcopolitica/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/09/el-inicio-de-la-ruta-hacia-el-control-total-los-militares-iniciaron-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/10/el-narcotrafico-a-inicios-del-siglo-xxi/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/11/el-narco-en-el-nuevo-siglo-la-primera-guerra-y-exterminio-de-rivales/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/12/el-hermano-del-presidente/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/13/capitulo-2-la-traicion-de-joh-y-el-origen-de-la-nueva-mafia/>

17/11/21

Honduras Daily: Campesinos; Berta - IACHR, Trial; Penal Code; Guapinol; ZEDEs; Elections - Violence, Opposition, Transparency, Campaigning; Corruption - CNA, Open Chest, Pandora, ENEE; Israel;

Defensores en Línea denounced that state security forces were about to evict the Empresa Asociativa Campesina "11 de Marzo" in El Porvenir near Siguatepeque, Comayagua. "The eviction would be in favor of the alleged owner, timber and transportation businessman Marco Antonio Valeriano, who accused the president of the peasant group, Vicente Castro, together with Juan Mejía and José Vásquez, members of the association, of the crimes of damages, threats and usurpation."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-desalojo-contr-empresa-campesina-en-siguatepeque/>

"On November 15, 2021, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued Follow-up Resolution No. 88/2021, in which it addressed the implementation of precautionary measures in favor of the family members of Berta Cáceres, members of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations (COPINH) and others in Honduras. (...) In this Resolution, it analyzed the information provided by the parties regarding the investigation processes and urged the State to continue with the corresponding investigations in order to clarify the alleged facts."

<https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2021/305.asp>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (RELE) warn about the regressive impact on the exercise of human rights due to the entry into force of reforms to the Penal Code and the Special Law on Money Laundering in Honduras, which by their wording could affect the right to protest, and call on the State to ensure that the regulations are in line with Inter-American standards."

Human rights organizations and social movements will challenge the changes before the Supreme Court.

<https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2021/304.asp>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1461129449982803971>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for the Prosecution of Officials and Servants of the Justice Sector (FEEFS-SJ) was notified of the resolution of an Appeals Court that revokes the final dismissal and orders to continue with the process against an active policeman and a former member of the police force, who were initially assigned to the investigation of the crime of environmentalist Berta Isabel Cáceres and tried to adulterate the course of the circumstances surrounding the event."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/revocan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-policias-que-con-pruebas-falsas-pretendian-desviar-investigacion-del-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/revocan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-policias-que-con-pruebas-falsas-pretendian-desviar-investigacion-del-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

"International and national organizations filed an amicus curiae brief before the Honduran Supreme Court of Justice demanding compliance with international standards and justice for the eight Guapinol River defenders who continue to be imprisoned under arbitrary and illegal detention."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/grupo-de-expertos-pide-el-cese-inmediato-de-la-persecucion-judicial-en-el-caso-guapinol>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1919-organizaciones-presentan-recurso-legal-demandando-apoyo-a-estandares-internacionales-en-caso-guapinol>

ContraCorriente has an article on the thread of a ZEDE faced by the communities in the south of Honduras. The threat became even more urgent with the approval by the BCIE of a \$207 million loan for a bridge between the mainland and Amapala.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/17/puente-vehicular-maritimo-de-coyolito-amapala-una-amenaza-para-las-comunidades-del-sur/>

There was an attack against the mayoral candidate in Campamento, Olancho, Héctor René Estrada. He was hurt when the car he drove in was shot at.

In El Progreso, the car of mayoral candidate for the party of Salvador Nasralla, Juan Carlos Carbajal, was shot at. The car was parked outside the PSH headquarter where several candidates held a meeting.

And more violence may follow. Honduras Now reports: "3 MS-13 gang members were arrested tonight in "Molotov cocktail" factory in San Pedro Sula. Police seized enough materials to make at least 500 molotovs, slingshots, weapons & drugs. Media reports that the materials are being made for electoral-related activities".

<https://confidencialhn.com/aspirante-a-la-alcaldia-por-campamento-sufre-atentado-en-olancho/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/atentan-contracandidatos-del-psh-en-el-progreso-yoro-IN3780903>

<https://proceso.hn/abogada-maribel-espinoza-denuncia-atentado-criminal-en-yoro/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1461172090812387330>

This is not something I expected to read in a corporate news outlet in Honduras some months ago: "The Libertad y Refundación Party (Libre), has today a clear option to come to power according to polls. After the alliance at presidential level with the Salvador Party of Honduras, according to experts, its options are clearer."

ConfidencialHN has more on the strengthening of the opposition through Liberal Party defectors (see yesterday).

El Pulso writes that Yani Rosenthal even threatened them.

<https://proceso.hn/libre-sus-alianzas-rotas-y-reconstruidas-un-favorito-segun-encuestas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/motivadas-por-vientos-de-cambio-fuerzas-liberales-se-adhieren-a-libre/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/17/dirigente-liberal-revela-que-yani-lo-amenazo-con-retirarle-amistad-si-se-iba-con-xiomara/>

In the past, there was an active market for the credentials of the members of the polling stations, i.e. the National Party bought them from all the minor parties to control the count of the votes. This time, the CNE announced that the political parties should give them the complete name of their representatives so not to give out blank credentials. But so far, only Libre and the National Party have done so.

According to Libre magistrate Rixi Moncada, they hope to counteract this by making the vote count public prohibiting to close down the polling stations.

As the great majority of candidates have not presented a report on their financial situation (see previous e-mail), the commissioner of the Clean Politics Unit (UPL), Javier Franco, warned that they would face a penalty of at least 50 minimum salaries.

<https://confidencialhn.com/solo-libre-y-pn-han-presentado-lista-de-los-miembros-de-las-juntas-receptoras-de-votos-revela-kelvin-aguirre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/escrutinio-sera-publico-prohibido-cerrar-centros/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/una-multa-de-50-salarios-minimos-se-impondra-a-politicos-que-no-presenten-informe-financiero-de-campanas-politicas/>

The state electricity company ENEE informed that they collected more than 14'000 illegally hung billboards by candidates on power poles.

<https://confidencialhn.com/enee-retira-mas-de-14-mil-vallas-publicitarias-de-candidatos-a-cargos-de-eleccion-popular/>

US Congresswoman Norma Torres spoke with the director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Gabriela Castellanos.

<https://twitter.com/NormaJTorres/status/1461133301427490820>

"For the third time, a judge with National Jurisdiction for the Deprivation of the Domain of Assets of Illicit Origin, resolved to admit the request for securing the assets of those involved in the Open Chest case, filed on October 1, 2021." This is one of the corruption cases by the MACCIH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/juez-de-privacion-de-dominio-de-bienes-de-origen-ilicito-ordena-el-aseguramiento-de-bienes-a-involucrados-en-caso-arca-abierta/>

In a second case from the MACCIH era, Pandora, the only high-ranking official left, Jacobo Regalado, could also walk free, "because the Public Prosecutor's Office did not comply with the agreements made with the main witness in the case, Fernando José Suárez, to become a collaborating witness and this could lead to the nullity of the whole process".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/17/por-estas-razones-se-podria-declarar-nulo-juicio-contra-jacobo-regalado-principal-cabeza-del-caso-de-corrupcion-pandora/>

"An exhaustive investigation of the mechanisms and business and family networks behind the energy contracts with the State reveals that some private companies are profiting from the crisis of the National Electric Energy Company, ENEE".

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3295-las-cuentas-de-empresas-se-inflan-con-energia-sobrevalorada-mientras-la-enee-esta-al-borde-de-la-quebra>

The JOH regime had moved its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem last year to please the Trump administration and strengthen its ties with Israel. Now, Israel opened an embassy in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/inauguran-embajada-de-israel-en-honduras/>

18/11/12

Honduras Daily: Campesinos; Elections - Corruption, Religion, MP, ID; Corruption - ENEE, Banks; Israel; and a Record High in Remittances

ConxeiHon published an update on the eviction of the campesino group Empresa Asociativa Campesina “11 de Marzo” (see yesterday).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/39-conflictos/1921-destruyen-cultivos-a-grupo-campesino-en-siguatepeque>

The problems with the accreditations resurfaced (see also yesterday). "An army of more than 182 thousand people will be in charge next November 28 of operating the Voting Boards (JRV), the electoral bodies responsible for the scrutiny and transmission of results of the general elections. Formerly known as Electoral Receiving Tables (MER), the JRVs are the gateway to the exercise of suffrage but also to fraud, a constant concern in the electoral process taking place in Honduras. Hence, the new Electoral Law, approved last May, included a series of provisions, among them the implementation of an Electoral Results Transmission System (TREP) and the use of fingerprint readers. The new legislation also included reforms related to the integration of the JRVs, considered as the main weakness within the electoral system. One of them mandates political parties, fourteen in this electoral process, to deliver to the CNE a list with the names of their representatives in the JRVs, with the purpose of putting an end to the delivery of blank credentials that allowed the trafficking of these accreditations. The mandate is that "credentials were not going to be handed out, but that the list was going to appear in the electoral suitcase and there at the moment of integrating the table the identification (of the representatives of the political parties) was going to be with the identity cards", explained to Expediente Público the former president of the extinct Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and one of the drafters of the new Electoral Law, Augusto Aguilar. For Aguilar "there is some irregularity" in the fact that credentials will now be handed out, despite the fact that article 251 of the Electoral Law, related to the accreditation of the JRV members, states that they must present themselves at the voting center with their National Identification Document (DNI)."

COHEP is concerned that the staff at the polling stations won't be equipped to handle the equipment.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-en-contra-de-la-nueva-ley-electoral-reactivan-las-credenciales-a-los-partidos-para-las-mesas-de-voto/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-alerta-ante-la-falta-de-preparacion-de-personal-en-el-uso-de-la-tecnologia-para-elecciones-generales/>

Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura made international headlines, but not the ones he would have liked. "Documents accessed by the international news agency AFP have shown the link of the presidential candidate of the ruling National Party, Nasry Asfura, in the notorious "Diamante" corruption case against Mayor Johnny Araya of San José, Costa Rica, a report confirmed by the Costa Rican newspaper La Nación."

Yani Rosenthal, the presidential candidate of (part of) the Liberal Party, also made corruption-related headlines. "Attorney Juan Carlos Sánchez Cantillano, as legal representative of Cementos del Norte, S.A., filed a complaint against the presidential candidate, Yani Rosenthal. The legal representative of the cement company explained that the accusation is that Rosenthal transferred funds from Cementos del Norte to other companies in 2015, while he was president of the Board of Directors of the cement company."

Expediente Público published an interview with Rosenthal.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3376-honduras-asfura-nombrado-en-diamante-escandalo-de-corrupcion-en-costa-rica>

<https://tiempo.hn/asfura-corrupcion-costa-rica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cementera-interpone-denuncia-contra-yani-rosenthal-por-autorizar-prestamo-de-200-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/18/presentan-denuncia-contra-rosenthal-por-presunto-fraude-de-200-millones-de-lempiras-en-cementera/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/yani-rosenthal-hidalgo-cometi-un-error-pero-tengo-la-autoridad-moral-para-gobernar-a-honduras/>

ContraCorriente covers the role of organized religion in the elections. "In Honduras, both the Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church have been part of public decision-making in the

country. This definitely marks the positions of candidates for elected office on issues such as sex education, the teaching of the Bible in schools, and sexual and reproductive rights."

In the case of Nasry Asfura, it goes even further. " The Network of Pastors and Evangelical Leaders of Honduras (REPLIEH), the Lucas Foundation for Health and the Latin American Theological Fellowship of Honduras (FTL-Honduras), representing an independent evangelical sector, point out that the Evangelical Confraternity has acted with abuse of authority by signing an agreement with the presidential candidate of the National Party, Nasry Asfura. In a public letter sent to the Evangelical Confraternity they point out that the agreement covers issues such as abortion, family and geopolitical issues that have become topics of manipulation by the party campaign agendas before the elections of November 28."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/18/la-confesion-religiosa-de-los-politicos-hondurenos-una-influencia-en-temas-de-debate-publico/>

<https://criterio.hn/confraternidad-evangelica-cometio-abuso-al-firmar-convenio-con-nasry-asfura/>

The MP announced that some 400 prosecutors will be on stand-by for the elections to handle complaints for electoral crimes.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mas-de-400-fiscales-atenderan-denuncias-durante-el-proceso-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/organo-acusador-del-estado-recibira-denuncias-sobre-delitos-electorales/>

Congress approved to prolong the validity of the old ID to December 31, but only for administrative tasks and not for the election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-autoriza-que-vieja-identidad-sirva-para-tramites-administrativos-hasta-el-31-de-diciembre/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1503079-466/identidad-ampliacion-tarjeta-31-diciembre-2021-honduras-dni-sesion-congreso>

Radio Progreso published its investigation into Honduras' electricity sector (see yesterday): Overvalued Energy - The consortium behind the ENEE crisis.

<https://energiasobrevalorada.radioprogreso.net/>

CESPAD published an article on the role of banks in corruption cases. "The Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS) is the entity in charge of supervising the institutions of the financial system such as commercial banks (state banks, financial companies, representative offices and second-tier banks), pension and insurance institutions (public pension funds, private pension funds, insurance administrators and institutions), and other institutions such as private financial development organizations, money remittance companies, guarantee fund administrators and private credit bureaus. According to estimates by organizations dedicated to the subject, each year corruption costs the people of Honduras approximately 12% of its GDP, or 3,000 million dollars. Much of the money linked to corruption cases is deposited in many banks that belong to a banking system that should have a CNBS as a guarantor of the correct use of banking in the country."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/18/el-silencio-del-sistema-bancario-sobre-el-dinero-que-los-corruptos-depositan-en-los-bancos-del-pais/>

"In the opinion of sociologist Armando Orellana, President Juan Hernández is committing an abuse of authority by giving space in the Government Civic Center to the Israeli embassy, because the building was built with Honduran money." (see also yesterday)

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3377-honduras-embajada-de-israel-en-presidencial-es-abuso-de-autoridad>

Remittances sent to Honduras rose to 26% of GDP, a record.

<https://proceso.hn/aumento-historico-de-remesas-este-ano-que-alcanza-el-26-del-pib-bch/>

19/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; OFRANEH - SUNLA; COPINH; Penal Code; Elections - Political Prisoners, Journalists, Violence, National Party, Polls, Observation; Corruption; SSF; Health Sector, Vaccines; Migration - Deportations; Drug Trafficking;

"UN human rights experts* today urged Honduras, elected to the Human Rights Council last month, to release eight environmental defenders in line with recommendations made by another UN body. "As a new member of the UN Human Rights Council, Honduras should be redoubling efforts to clean up its human rights record, and an obvious first step is to release the Guapinol defenders," said Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders."

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27835&LangID=E>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/senior-un-officials-condemn-honduras-for-actions-in-guapinol-case-call-for-release-of-defenders>

16 months have passed since the forceful disappearance of Sneider Centeno, Suami Mejía, Milton Martínez and Gerardo Trochez from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz. "From the SUNLA Human Rights Board we continue to support the work of OFRANEH, since we have the collective responsibility to translate indignation into action; to send a clear message to the world that at this decisive moment [the elections], history will judge us, and that those with the power to change or who aspire to have it must intensify their efforts to change the course of this systematic escalation of criminalization, prosecution, disappearance and murder of the Garifuna people in Honduras."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/11/sunla-a-10-dias-de-las-elecciones-en-honduras-y-16-meses-exigiendo-la-aparicion-con-vida-de-sneider-centeno-suami-mejia-milton-martinez-gerardo-trochez/>

"On November 17, 2021, the population of this municipality has held a sit-in because the Minister of the Institute of Community Development, Water and Sanitation (IDECOAS), Mr. Nelsón Márquez, has budgeted 10 million Lempiras for the construction of a "ford" in response to the demand for the construction of a bridge that allows communication to the communities of the municipality of San Francisco de Opalaca. The community denounces that used material has been delivered in poor condition, which puts the lives of those who travel this route at risk, without explaining the millions budgeted."

<https://copinh.org/2021/11/poblacion-de-san-francisco-de-opalaca-intibuca-se-manifiesta-por-entrega-de-material-usado-para-la-construccion-del-puente-en-la-comunidad-de-ojo-de-agua/>

Social movements, campesino and indigenous organizations presented a constitutional challenge to the newest reforms to the Penal Code which further increased the penalties for social protest to up to 10 years in prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/organizaciones-defensoras-de-la-tierra-presentan-recurso-contrareformas-al-codigo-penal/>

<https://copinh.org/2021/11/pronunciamento-publico-no-mas-criminalizacion-por-reivindicarnuestros-derechos-territoriales/>

"Several large media outlets in #Honduras publish a note that they will not disseminate, publish or comment on election results before the three hours after polls close (~8:00 pm) when National Electoral Council (CNE) announce preliminary results".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1461903347074551808>

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces that "3 of the 11 people from Pimiento criminalized for protesting 2017 electoral fraud were suddenly ordered to a hearing today- the hearing had been set for Nov 30. A reminder that there is a risk of more political prisoners".

In the case of political prisoner Henry Bonilla, accused of setting fire to the door of the US embassy during a protest in 2019, COFADEH "filed a request for prompt dismissal before the Criminal Court of Appeals of Tegucigalpa, this is in relation to the appeal filed by the committee against the resolution issued by the judge of first instance, which decreed a formal indictment with the measure of preventive imprisonment against the young student".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1461807085222600710>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-presenta-solicitud-de-pronta-resolucion-en-el-caso-del-pres-politico-henry-bonilla/>

"The Honduran government violated journalist Adriana Sivori's right to inform by denying her entry into the country on Friday, November 19, 2021, when she arrived in the country by air to cover the electoral process to be held in eight days."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3296-migracion-niega-ingreso-a-periodista-internacional-que-llegaba-a-la-cobertura-de-las-elecciones-en-honduras>

In an inadequate response to electoral violence, Congress approved a prohibition to carry arms ten days prior and after the general elections on November 28.

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprobo-decreto-que-prohibe-la-portacion-de-armas-10-dias-antes-y-10-dias-despues-de-elecciones-generales/>

"Criticism and rejection provoked the leaked audio of the head of the Ministry of Education, Arnaldo Bueso, who invited teachers and citizens to vote for the candidates of the National Party in the next elections. In the speech made by the high official in Intibucá, he urged each member of his audience to get at least 20 more people to vote in favor of the ruling party".

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/19/tachan-de-verguenza-y-extorsion-que-secretario-de-educacion-pida-votos-para-el-oficialismo/>

Even though polls are prohibited in the days before the elections, a poll with the logo of the Mexican company TResearch made the rounds on social media. It has Nasry Asfura in the lead. TResearch announced that this poll is fake. The last poll they had made in September had Xiomara leading Asfura even before the opposition alliance had been announced.

<https://confidencialhn.com/encuestadora-mexicana-desmiente-imagen-grafica-donde-se-da-como-ganador-a-nasry-tito-asfura/>

The CNE will accredit some 7000 national and 400 international electoral observers.

<https://proceso.hn/cne-acreditara-alrededor-de-siete-mil-observadores-nacionales-y-400-internacionales/>

The MP filed charges against the former director of the Administrative Office for Seized Goods (OABI), Francisco Ernesto Ruiz Nieto.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-tras-extitular-de-la-oabi-francisco-ernesto-ruiz-nieto-quien-actualmente-labora-en-copeco/>

Just days before the elections, the Nationalist-controlled Congress approved several promotions for officers of the National Police and Armed Forces.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-aprueban-ascensos-de-oficiales-de-la-policia-nacional-y-fuerzas-armadas/>

"Nursing personnel working in the triage centers and hospitals of the capital are staging a sit-in this Friday and demanding that the health authorities keep them in the health system."

<https://confidencialhn.com/enfermeras-realizan-planton-frente-a-sesal-para-exigir-plazas/>

Honduras received almost 400'000 more vaccine doses.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-recibe-nuevo-lote-395-mil-460-dosis-de-vacuna-contra-la-covid-19/>

At least 11'000 minors have been deported back to Honduras so far this year compared to 9000 in all of 2020.

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-total-de-11-mil-menores-hondurenos-han-sido-deportados-en-2021/>

Reporteros de Investigación published chapter 3 of its multi-part series on drug politics in Honduras. It consists of four parts.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/15/narcoalcaldes-van-a-reeleccion/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/17/tierra-de-sangre/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/18/los-narco-diputados-y-los-17-legisladores-asesinados-en-una-decada/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/19/narcopoliticos-van-por-la-extradicion-quieren-blindar-el-proximo-congreso-nacional/>

20/11/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Transparency, ID, US; Journalists; Corruption - Pandora; and Smoking in Honduras

COFADEH calls for a vote against fear. "At the gates of the most important political event of the year, the main owners of the powers of the State, their media forces, their evangelical brigades and their military squads, are making diverse efforts to touch the primary emotions of the people, who are torn by poverty, violence and despair. The objective of the mafias that have hijacked the helm of the Honduran State is to stop the independent voters, the undecided people and every human being suffering from identity paralysis, in order to keep the votes of the corral high, and to open spaces of disturbance that allow them to maneuver illegality, and to keep sucking the blood of 9 million people. (...) In that conviction, the 2021 elections will not be defined either by hate campaigns against Chavism, communism, socialism or by calls against abortion, sexual diversity marriage or even by the criminal corruption of the partners of the Sinaloa cartel. They will be defined precisely by this anti-narcotic thirst, by this urgency to replace the filthy model of organized crime that has been shaming us for some time now as a Nation. (...) In this program we understand democracy as the participatory construction of social justice with economic equity, because inequalities are not resolved in the market with its implacable law of supply and demand, nor are they resolved with the family support of the remittances of exploited workers. In this equation, the State must recover its stabilizing role, not as a distributor of 7 thousand pesos in elections. Scoundrels! (...) We see each other on the 28th, we meet on the 28th, we continue together on the 28th and we meet immediately afterwards to continue. The struggle is permanent. The people always win, united never defeated."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/votar-contra-el-miedo/>

Human rights organizations denounce that the JOH regime impeded the entry of journalist Adriana Sivori to cover the elections (see yesterday).

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/20/alerta-gobierno-de-honduras-prohibe-ingreso-de-periodista-internacional-a-cubrir-elecciones-generales/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1406-migracion-hondurena-impone-cerco-informativo-al-expulsar-a-periodista-de-telesur>

"The Legislative's decision to reactivate the old ID card [see previous e-mail], three days after it lost its validity, has raised suspicions among the opposition parties. The Libre deputy, Jari Dixon, declared to Expediente Público that the extension of the validity of the identity card has two risks, one of them is "that it generates in the population disinterest in going to claim their new identity card and, therefore, they stop voting". Dixon said that there are more than 230'000 people who have not claimed the new ID card. The second risk, "more serious, is that in this week remaining (for the elections) the Nationalists and Liberals meet again in the National Congress and tell us that we are going to vote with the two identity cards", he affirmed. If this happens, "it means that we would be working for the electoral process of November 28 with two electoral censuses, an electoral census totally contaminated with more than 400'000 people deceased or no longer living in the country", which is the 2017 census, and the 2021 census that was purged. The difference between the census that served as the basis for the 2017 and 2021 elections is almost 700 thousand voters. "That could open a big door to the next electoral fraud," he said."

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/en-honduras-renuevan-validez-de-vieja-tarjeta-de-identidad-pero-no-se-podra-votar-con-ella/>

"Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian A. Nichols will visit Tegucigalpa, Honduras from Sunday, November 21 through Tuesday, November 23, 2021. In Tegucigalpa, he will meet with Honduran Government leaders, National Electoral Council leadership, as well as representatives of Honduran civil society and the business community. Through these engagements, Assistant Secretary Nichols will relay U.S. support for Honduras' democratic institutions and encourage the peaceful, transparent conduct of free and fair national elections on November 28. USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mileydi Guilarte, will join Assistant Secretary Nichols on the trip."

<https://www.state.gov/assistant-secretary-of-state-for-western-hemisphere-affairs-brian-a-nichols-travel-to-honduras-november-21-23/>

<https://twitter.com/whaasstsecty/status/1462188041750122497?s=12>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-envia-mision-para-vigilar-proceso-electoral-en-honduras/>

"Bessy Sánchez reported on November 10 that she was threatened by unknown persons through the profile Anónimos La Paz, the same Facebook account that has launched a smear campaign against Salustio "Tito" Cervantes, Gilberto "Chichí" Gálvez and other journalists in La Paz."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/amenazas/1404-periodista-bessy-sanchez-recibe-amenazas-de-perfil-anonimo-en-la-paz>

Another important corruption case, Pandora, is about to be completely undermined as its key witness, Fernando Josué Suárez Ramírez, apparently left the protected witness program by the MP. "For his part, defense attorney Omar Menjívar responded that he had just been notified by prosecutor Luis Javier Santos of his client's determination. "It could be that they have applied what they call "escape law", or that he really escaped knowing that he could be killed", reacted the legal professional. Menjívar pointed out that the Public Prosecutor's Office refused to grant a benefit to his client after he collaborated with the State Prosecutor's Office, exposing himself to risks. "It is a strange situation, because in the first place Fernando Suarez never had that intention, at least that he let us know or we would have allowed him to have such an intention", he declared. Suarez's lawyer asserted that two situations could have occurred: the first one is that the "Fugitive Law" will be applied to him because he handled very sensitive information. Menjívar condemned that the State prosecutor did not want to use the information provided by Luis Suárez and did not grant him any benefit such as the reduction of the sentence and the removal of his relatives from the criminal process. He confirmed that his client spent around three years under the custody of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the witness protection unit."

<https://proceso.hn/caso-pandora-actor-clave-suarez-ramirez-abandona-programa-de-testigos-prottegidos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/actor-clave-del-caso-pandora-abandona-programa-de-testigos-prottegidos-afirma-portavoz-del-mp/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/20/se-deben-regular-las-donaciones-de-la-industria-tabacalera-a-la-campana-politica/>

21/11/21

Honduras Daily: Campesinos; Elections - JRV, Protests, Debt; Dengue; COVID-19;

"terrible news- two members of the Honduran campesino org CNTC from the base group in Guaymaca FM were assassinated this morning. this community has been constantly threatened and evicted. Honduras going to elections in a climate of violence."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1462564188891627525>

CESPAD published an English version of its great final electoral observatory edition: "Honduran Elections in the Final Stretch: Context, Risks and Opportunities".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/21/electoral-observatory-honduran-elections-in-the-final-stretch-context-risks-and-opportunities/>

Journalist Jeff Ernst reported from the closing events of the Asfura and the Xiomara presidential campaign. "Xiomara concludes roughly 30 minute speech focused on education, healthcare, jobs and fighting corruption, said her challenge is not to equal husband Mel Zelaya's government, but surpass it. Mel is notably absent from the event, as he has been throughout most of the campaign. The ruling National Party held it's final event in a stadium. Religion, family values, jobs and the supposed threat of communism/Venezuela were primary themes."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1462523653787168773>

CESPAD covers the challenges faced by the members of the Voting Boards, las Juntas Receptoras de Votos (JRV). "The National Electoral Council (CNE), will test in the general elections of next November 28, what it calls state-of-the-art technology, acquired to reinforce the Preliminary Electoral Results Transmission System (TREP). The process generates fears because the members of the Voting Boards (JRV), key pieces in the process, are integrated by people with very little technical instruction, and they are the ones who will have the obligation to guarantee the transparency of this stage of the process. What will happen on election day if the TREP equipment fails, or those responsible for transmitting the data have not been sufficiently trained?"

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/21/en-el-ojo-del-huracan-los-miembros-de-las-juntas-receptoras-de-votos/>

Further laying the ground for a possible electoral fraud and asphyxiating possible protests, the Multisectoral Roundtable has stated that it is considering the possibility of a curfew after the general elections in Honduras if an atmosphere of confrontation persists.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/21/toque-de-queda-tras-las-elecciones/>

"The new ruler, who will come out of this Sunday's elections, will take office on January 27, 2022, but they will already have to see how they will face the gigantic problems that they will receive as an inheritance. Although there are many great ills, those who know the subject have selected the ones they consider the main ones. Among them is the enormous public debt whose service means for the government to allocate more than 52 billion lempiras in next year's budget. Debt service, together with the payment of public sector salaries, will absorb almost 100 billion lempiras, which is almost all that the government will collect in taxes and fees from taxpayers."

<https://proceso.hn/enorme-gasto-y-deuda-publica-debe-gestionar-el-proximo-presidente/>

"The coordinator of the Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health, Homer Mejía, warned this Sunday that Honduras is heading to close this year with a dengue epidemic and start 2022 in the same conditions."

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-honduras-finalizara-el-2021-con-epidemia-de-dengue-por-el-incremento-de-casos/>

Honduras received another batch of COVID-19 vaccine doses. According to the JOH regime, 3.2 million Hondurans have been completely vaccinated and 4.5 million have received one shot.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/masnoticias/honduras-recibio-nuevo-lote-de-395460-dosis-de-vacunas-anticovid-YL3836076>

22/11/21

Honduras Daily: Campesinos; Mining - Azacualpa; Elections - Fraud, Violence, HR, Opposition, ID; Corruption - Pandora, National Party; Extradition;

OACNUDH condemned the assassination of campesino defenders Nelson García and Celenia Bonilla (see yesterday). ""This case reminds us that the lack of land tenure security generates numerous conflicts and is the cause of various human rights violations, including criminalization practices against environmental and land defenders. Conflict related to land and territories requires addressing the structural causes, including the development of public policies on land access and

tenure, avoiding the use of criminal law and the practice of forced evictions," said the Representative."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-los-asesinatos-de-los-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-nelson-garcia-y-celenia-bonilla/>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/11/alerta-defensoras-asesinan-a-defensora-celenia-bonilla-y-a-su-esposo-nelson-garcia-integrantes-de-la-empresa-campesina-hombres-y-mujeres-de-fe-en-guaimaca/>

"This Wednesday at 9:00 am, the Nullity Hearing will be held against the illegal authorization to exhume, move and close the cemetery of the Maya-Chortí community of Azacualpa. This resolution was issued by Judge Rafael Rivera of the Santa Rosa de Copán courts and would allow the MINOSA mining company to carry out detonations to exploit the grounds of the cemetery."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1462934927616401413>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1462860850847440902>

The recommendation by the Advisory Council of the National Electoral Council (CNE) to print the credentials of the members of the Voting Boards (JRV) without names causes alarm. This would be a huge entry point of fraud (see previous e-mails).

James North also raises the alarm about electoral fraud in the Washington Monthly and asks what the US will do about it. "It is giving U.S. policy makers splitting headaches that the current Honduran president, Juan Orlando Hernández, will almost certainly be indicted in a New York federal court for massive drug trafficking—either the day after he leaves office in January, or possibly even sooner. In the meantime, he heads the nation's electoral fraud machine that will try to install his successor. Dana Frank, a former professor of history at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a leading expert on Honduras, told me, "The U.S. created a monster, and now they don't know what to do with him. They've lost control of their own monster." Further complicating the U.S. response, Honduras hosts a major American military base at Soto Cano, where between 500 and 1,500 American service personnel are stationed." (...) Frank said, "What I fear is that once again mainstream U.S. media reports will describe 'clashes after a disputed election'—when the truth should be 'Hernández's security forces opened fire on peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators.'" Frank predicted that the State Department will hope for "a plausible enough result" that the U.S. can try to sell internationally. She called American policy since the 2009 coup "sickening and heartbreaking," and asked, "Why are the Honduran people not allowed to have democracy and free and fair elections?" If the State Department does try to endorse a fraud, however, it might run into big trouble from an unusual quarter. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, which put Hernández's brother in prison for life, is so far regarded by everyone who follows Honduras as incorruptible. Until now, the U.S. Attorney's Office has observed the unwritten

American policy not to indict a sitting president. But Hernández leaves office in late January. If he's charged, will he be extradited? Will Honduran courts, which are packed with his allies, agree to let him be put on a plane and flown to stand trial in the U.S.? Or, if he remains the de facto ruler of Honduras, how many more Hondurans will flee north, having lost all hope in their country's future?"

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brian A. Nichols, continues his visit to Honduras where he met yesterday with the CNE as well as the Minister of Security and the Head of the Armed Forces.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/22/consejo-consultivo-sugiere-al-consejo-electoral-que-las-credenciales-deben-ir-en-blanco/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jorge-aldana-las-credenciales-sin-nombre-es-lo-peor-que-le-puede-pasar-al-proceso-electoral-del-28-de-noviembre/>

<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2021/11/22/hondurass-president-is-preparing-to-rig-the-countrys-election-what-will-the-u-s-do-about-it/>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1462782266170482691>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1503506-508/brian-nichols-consejo-nacional-electoral-reunion>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1462903040613097474>

<https://proceso.hn/alto-funcionario-de-eeuu-habla-con-autoridades-de-honduras-sobre-los-comicios/>

OACNUDH put together an infographic on electoral violence documenting among other incidents 29 murders.

<https://oacnudh.hn/infografico-sobre-casos-de-violencia-politica/>

OACNUDH also announced to monitor the human rights situation during the electoral process.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-monitoreara-la-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-durante-el-proceso-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-monitorea-situacion-de-d-humanos-en-honduras-durante-proceso-electoral/>

Another party, the Independent Movement for Dignity and Hope (Mide) joined the opposition alliance at the presidential level.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1503590-508/movimiento-independiente-dignidad-esperanza-mide-suma-xiomara-castro-santos-orellana-elecciones>

According to the RNP, 95% of the new ID cards that were requested have been distributed. Even if this is true, this applies only to Hondurans living in Honduras. Out of the more than 1 million Honduran adults living in the US, only 12'867 have the new ID and can vote.

And this also means that there are still some 500'000 Hondurans living in the country without a new ID.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1503567-466/nueva-tarjeta-identidad-honduras-registro-entrega>

<https://proceso.hn/por-desorden-en-rnp-muchos-hondurenos-no-tendran-derecho-al-voto-acusa-miembro-de-asj/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos expresses deep concern about the departure of Fernando Suarez as a protected witness in the Pandora case (see yesterday). "UFERCO is extremely concerned about the departure of protected witness FERNANDO SUAREZ from the MP facilities, without his lawyer's knowledge, on a Saturday and his whereabouts are unknown. A call is made to human rights organizations to investigate what happened. Witness feared for his life. After 48 hours of "disappeared", no human rights organization has pronounced itself on the real danger in which the witness and accused Fernando Suarez is in. His lawyers and UFERCO do not know his whereabouts, his family is out of the country, and he has not renounced to his protection..."

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1462833921700290574

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1462949971066601475

Several independent media outlets collaborated in an investigation into "the scandalous and accelerated enrichment of the Chávez Madison family". "Seventeen years ago, David Guillermo Chávez, the apparent head of this powerful family, began to hold public office. He is currently the president of the National Party and candidate for mayor of the Central District, and all facts and evidence point to him becoming the political successor of Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3297-el-escandaloso-y-acelerado-enriquecimiento-de-la-familia-chavez-madison>

A judge approved the extradition of Michael Dixon Rivers to the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1503529-466/juez-ordena-extradicion-michael-dixon-rivers-trafico-drogas-honduras>

23/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Elections - HR, Fraud, National Party, JOH, Drug Trafficking, Observation, US, EU, Armed Forces; National Police; and on Top of the World

In 8 days, the trial against the Guapinol defenders will take place.

Today at 10am, the Observatory for Justice for the Guapinol River Defenders will inform about their situation and the upcoming trial.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1463356462944509953>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/invitaci%C3%B3n-observatorio-por-la-justicia-de-los-defensores-del-r%C3%ADo-guapinol>

With the elections just days away, the interest of international media outlet increases. Newsweek printed an OpEd by Gustavo Irías , the Executive Director of the Center for Democracy Studies (CESPAD).

Giorgio Trucchi calls the elections "the challenge of ending twelve years of neoliberalism".

The International Crisis Group published a briefing, which in my opinion does not justice to what happened in 2017 not even calling the well-documented murders by state security forces by its name and fails to mention that no one was brought to justice for them, which means an increased risk of further bloodshed this time.

<https://www.newsweek.com/plea-democracy-honduras-opinion-1651876>

<http://www.tortillaconsal.com/tortilla/node/13443>

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/central-america/honduras/b045-handling-risks-honduras-high-stakes-poll>

There are also national organizations commenting on the elections, both COPINH and MADJ published statements.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés also called for peaceful elections.

<https://copinh.org/2021/11/copinh-elecciones-2021/>

<https://madj.org/2021/11/23/compromiso-por-una-gestion-legislativa-digna/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ccic-reitera-que-las-elecciones-generales-deben-ser-en-paz-y-tranquilidad/>

"UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday expressed her deep concern about political violence in Honduras, which has already claimed 29 lives, and called on the authorities to ensure an environment conducive to holding peaceful, transparent and genuine elections. (...) Since primary elections were called in September 2020, the UN Human Rights Office in Honduras has recorded 63 cases of political violence, including 29 killings, 14 attacks, 12 instances of aggressive behaviour, as well as seven people directly threatened and one kidnapped. (...) Some political figures have also widely used hate speech as a political tool, including against people defending women's sexual and reproductive rights, leading in some cases to discrimination and violence. "Hate speech has no place in a democracy," the High Commissioner stressed. The UN Human Rights Chief called for prompt, thorough, impartial and effective investigations into all acts of political violence, with a view to holding those responsible accountable. Bachelet also raised her concerns regarding shrinking civic space in the country, with members of civil society and human rights defenders regularly harassed, persecuted and attacked. So far this year, the Office in Honduras has recorded 240 attacks against human rights defenders and journalists. (...) The UN Human Rights Chief stressed the importance of all those involved in the electoral process adopting measures to avoid a repeat of the events in 2017, when serious human rights violations were committed in the context of post-election protests."

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford tweeted: "A solo 6 días, un fuerte apoyo por elecciones libres, justa, transparente y pacíficas en Honduras! Por un voto informado, sin intimidación y violencia! No dejar a nadie atrás!"

The International Forum for Human Rights in Honduras also demands a fair, transparent and free electoral process.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27845&LangID=E>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1463123493944532992>

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/organizaciones-demandan-proceso-electoral-representativo/>

What was feared has now been confirmed, the credentials for the people staffing the voting boards (JVR) will be handed out in blank opening the door for fraud (see also yesterday).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/credenciales-imprimen-nombres-fotos-elecciones-honduras-LE3897490>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rixi-moncada-reitera-que-se-debe-respetar-el-principio-de-las-credenciales-normativas/>

Several independent media outlet published part 2 of an investigation into the corruption network surrounding the Nationalist mayoral candidate of Tegucigalpa, David Chávez Madison. "David Chávez Madison's privileged position as director of the National Institute of Vocational Training (Infop) allowed him to award contracts for almost 60 million lempiras to his associates through the companies Grupo Visión and Dynamic".

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3298-la-red-empresarial-de-david-chavez-y-sus-socios-una-estructura-de-corrupcion>

Radio Progreso put together a great overview of the problems with JOH's Vida Mejor social program, especially relevant in the run up to the election as it serves as a well-oiled vote-buying machine.

The newest iteration of the program was just announced weeks before the election handing out 7000 Lempiras to over 230'000 Honduran families.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/joh-presumio-vida-mejor-en-la-onu-pero-el-programa-apunta-al-clientelismo-y-no-ha-reducido-la-pobreza/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/bono-7-mil-forma-descarada-de-comprar-voluntades-afirman-analistas/>

Criterio put together a short history of illegal party financing by the National Party through corruption and drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/campanas-politicas-en-honduras-en-las-garras-del-financiamiento-estatal-y-criminal/>

Radio Progreso highlights the importance of "a consistent international monitoring mission". "Honduran society only aspires to have a reliable and transparent electoral process that guarantees that the electoral results are consistent with the will of the people. For this reason, international electoral observation missions play a fundamental role in promoting the transparency of the process, citizen confidence and avoiding electoral fraud. But this requires that such missions be truly independent, professional, coherent and avoid double standards. We make a special call to the European Union Election Observation Mission to redress its regrettable role in the 2017 elections and demonstrate consistency with the promotion of human rights and democracy."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/net/np/la-importancia-de-una-observacion-internacional-coherente/>

El Heraldo cites Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brian A. Nichols saying that the US has no preference for a candidate.

The Nationalist president of the National Electoral Council (CNE) Kelvin Aguirre told media outlets that Nichols, told him that he is concerned about the polarization in Honduras. This is rich coming from Aguirre as it is his party whose electoral program is just an attack of the political opposition including hate speech against women.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1503697-508/brian-nichols-elecciones-honduras-2021-estados-unidos>

<https://proceso.hn/las-elecciones-estan-en-sus-manos-dice-eeuu-a-hondurenos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/brian-a-nichols-expreso-al-cne-su-preocupacion-por-la-polarizacion-existente-en-honduras/>

"After her visit to San Pedro Sula, in northern Honduras, Željana Zovko, head of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM), made a strong call to several sectors of the country regarding the upcoming general elections on November 28. "I would like to call on the Honduran people and politicians to make a pact with the objective of having peaceful elections and on the National Electoral Council to assume its responsibilities," she said on Tuesday."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1503682-508/jefa-moe-union-europea-elecciones-pacificas-honduras-2021>

<https://proceso.hn/union-europea-aboga-por-elecciones-pacificas-y-al-cne-que-asuma-sus-responsabilidades/>

The head of the Armed Forces Tito Livio Moreno, expressed his hope that the process will be a transparent and peaceful democratic civic celebration for Honduras. He does not have to hope for this, just make sure that his men don't start shooting people again as in 2017.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-ff-aa-espera-que-los-comicios-generales-sean-una-fiesta-civica-democratica-para-honduras/>

COFADEH denounces that "[t]he judge of the Juticalpa Court, Rosa Posadas, does not allow the entry of international observers during the Initial Hearing against police agents who tortured and captured the Amaya brothers."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-impiden-observacion-internacional-en-caso-de-hermanos-torturados-en-olancho/>

"Honduras is among the countries that best managed the fight against the pandemic in the world, according to the assessment of government authorities. The government rendered accounts this Thursday on what was done to overcome the natural phenomena Eta and Iota and the attack of the coronavirus and, according to the general coordinator, Carlos Madero, the country is a world example in their health care response." What else is there to say...

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/23/el-gobierno-afirma-que-figura-entre-los-que-mejor-manejo-la-pandemia-del-coronavirus/>

24/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Criminalization; Violence against Women - Journalists; Elections - Violence, Opposition, National Party, Post-Electoral Repression, Political Prisoners, Observation, Parlacen; Corruption - Pandora, JOH; Migration;

"Today, national, and international organizations announced the formation of the "Observatory for the Justice of the Guapinol River Defenders", an initiative that aims to monitor the development of the trial that the eight water defenders of the Guapinol community, who have been deprived of their freedom for more than two years, will face as of Dec. 1, 2021."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/guapinol-press-statement-for-immediate-release>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-crean-el-observatorio-por-la-justicia-de-los-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://proceso.hn/crean-observatorio-para-seguir-juicio-contra-defensores-del-agua-en-honduras/>

The CNA presented a constitutional challenge against the reforms made to the money laundering law a month ago intended to criminalize and undermine the work of civil society organizations (see previous e-mails).

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1463531123414237189>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-presenta-garantia-de-inconstitucionalidad-contrareformas-a-la-ley-especial-de-lavado-de-activos/>

Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

CEPAD published a new report on femicide in the region. Honduras has the highest per capita rate in Latin America.

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/11/alerta-urgente-mesoamerica-ante-la-estigmatizacion-represion-y-criminalizacion-de-los-feminismos-en-mesoamerica-este-25-de-noviembre-los-estados-deben-garantizar-el-derecho-a-la-protesta-de-las/>

<https://oig.cepal.org/es/documentos/la-pandemia-la-sombra-femicidios-o-feminicidios-ocurridos-2020-america-latina-caribe>

ConexiHon published an investigation into violence against female journalists and social communicators.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1924-contexto-de-las-agresiones-cometidas-contramujeres-comunicadoras-sociales-y-periodistas-en-honduras>

"The Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), presents the fifth monitoring report of the electoral institutionalization, with a view to the elections of November 2021, entitled: "Between delays and uncertainties, electoral process approaches the end", which records the events from October 20 to November 23. This report is released to the public when we are hours away from November 28, when the question that has accompanied this electoral process, "Are there going to be elections?" has already disappeared from the political environment, an expression of the crisis of democracy that Honduran society is experiencing."

"Rixi Moncada, counselor of the National Electoral Council (CNE), corroborated this Wednesday that at least 2 thousand 400 multifunctional printers of the 6 thousand to be used in the elections of Sunday, November 28, have not arrived in the country. The Councilor clarified that "the problem at this moment is not with the software of the Preliminary Electoral Results Transmission system, it is with the equipment that has not finished arriving and that is under the responsibility of another company, not the one in charge of the software"."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/24/entre-retrasos-e-incertidumbres-proceso-electoral-se-aproxima-a-la-final/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/2-mil-400-impresoras-multifuncionales-no-han-llegado-al-pais-a-dias-de-las-elecciones-senala-rix-moncada/>

Electoral violence continues to overshadow the electoral process in Honduras. Liberal mayor candidate Dario Urbina in Yocón, Olancho, was shot dead yesterday.

Further north, in Esparta, Atlántida, Libre mayor candidate Javier Villalba suffered an assassination attempt.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-emboscada-asesinan-a-dirigente-liberal-en-yocon-olancho/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1463721745504825349>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1503885-466/matan-lider-partido-liberal-atentan-contracandidato-de-libre-olancho-atlantida>

Jeff Ernst reports for the Guardian on the elections in Honduras. In his newest piece, he covers the candidacy of Xiomara Castro. "A week ahead of what may be Honduras's most consequential election since the country's return to democracy in 1982, the leading opposition candidate for president delivered her final address to an audience of fervent supporters. (...) Hondurans desperate for change are betting on Castro to alter the nation's course. "She's the only option we have to get rid of this narco-government," said Edwin Cruz, 29, on a recent afternoon in Tegucigalpa's central park. Castro would be the country's first female president, but to win undecided voters she may

have to overcome her own baggage from the past. She first became a household name in 2005 when her husband, Manuel “Mel” Zelaya, won the presidency for the center-right Liberal party. After he took office, Zelaya shifted to the left and allied himself with governments that had come to power as part of Latin America’s “pink tide” – including Venezuela’s late socialist leader Hugo Chávez. Such associations prompted the country’s conservative political and economic elite to oust Zelaya in a 2009 military-backed coup. In the ensuing political crisis, Castro led the largest protest movement in the nation’s recent history. “She did it bravely, with talent, she never let her speeches be guided by feelings or emotions, she was always very rational,” said Edmundo Orellana, who served in Zelaya’s cabinet. “From then on, Honduras identified her as a political figure with her own personality. Very different from Mel’s political personality,” he added.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/24/honduras-presidential-election-xiomara-castro-nasry-asfura>

"Four days before the general elections are held in Honduras, complaints against the National Party for offering gifts in exchange for votes are the order of the day. Criterio.hn learned of at least two cases in which university students and beneficiaries of the 2020 scholarship program received calls urging them to vote for the National Party. (...) From Twitter user @RicSoto denounced that the humanitarian aid donated by Taiwan is being used for partisan campaigning in favor of the National Party presidential candidate and current mayor of the Honduran capital, Nasry Juan Asfura Zablah, ignoring the electoral silence established since the early hours of Tuesday, November 23."

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-al-partido-nacional-de-ofrecer-regalias-a-cambio-de-votos/>

With the elections coming ever closer, the memories of the post-electoral repression from four years ago are back to hunt the public. And this time, things could be even worse due to recent changes made to the Penal Code. "The entry into force of the new Penal Code represents a serious risk for the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, association and peaceful demonstration, in an electoral context characterized by the existence of widespread impunity and processes of criminalization and misuse of criminal law to prevent the exercise of the right to defend human rights."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3300-reformas-al-codigo-penal-listas-para-aplicarse-en-las-elecciones-en-honduras>

There are still several political prisoners accused in 2017 facing trial. A press conference on the subject will be hold today outside the MP.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1463730886101254154>

The long-term observers of the electoral observation mission have been in the country for a while, now most short-term observers have also arrived in the country. Today at 11am, the International Election Observation Mission (MIOE) coordinated by the US-based organization Global Exchange and the Honduran think tank CESPAD will hold a press conference in Tegucigalpa.

US Congresswoman Torres and Congressman Sires wrote a letter to the OAS observation mission. "After the heavily disputed 2017 election process, whose outcome was rejected by significant portions of the Honduran population and led to significant violence and unrest, it is critical that the international community is unified and relies on credible, independent voices to secure the trust of the Honduran people in the process and the outcome. The OAS observation mission has a central role to play in this regard and we hope it will engage closely with civil society groups across the political spectrum, urge patience among the population in waiting for the election results, continue to condemn acts of violence, and work with credible voices to mitigate tensions."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1463735532752564226>

<https://torres.house.gov/sites/torres.house.gov/files/documents/Pres%20Solis%20Letter.pdf>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/misiones-de-observacion-internacional-inician-vigilancia-de-elecciones-en-honduras/>

CESPAD covers the run of the current president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, for a seat at the Central American Parliament. "The president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva Herrera, participated as a presidential pre-candidate in the primary elections held in March 2021, but was defeated by Nasry "Tito" Asfura, the current candidate for the presidency of the National Party of Honduras. So why is he in the electoral race and participating in search of a deputation to the Central American Parliament? The news came out only last November 2 and was made public by the counselor of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, who told the media that it was the president counselor of that entity, representing the National Party, Kelvin Aguirre, who registered Mauricio Oliva as a candidate for the Central American Parliament, despite having participated in the internal elections of March 2021."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/24/mauricio-oliva-diputado-al-parlamento-centroamericano-premio-de-consolacion-o-premio-politico/>

The whereabouts of Fernando Suárez is still unknown (see last week). The former protected witness in the Pandora corruption case disappeared last week. Now a court ordered his arrest.

ContraCorriente covers the story. "Just a week before the elections that will define a change of government, the protected witness and also accused in the Pandora case, Fernando Suarez,

disappeared. Today a sentencing court issued an immediate arrest warrant for him and declared him in absentia. The Public Prosecutor's Office, through the Directorate of the protected witness program, maintains that Suarez abandoned the program, however there is still no report to determine what happened to him."

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1463595954716745730

<https://confidencialhn.com/tribunal-en-materia-de-corrupcion-ordena-detencion-o-captura-y-prohibicion-de-salida-del-pais-a-actor-clave-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/24/que-paso-con-fernando-suarez/>

Expediente Público published an article on "eight years of President Juan Orlando Hernandez, eight years of corruption". According to the article, under the JOH regime more than \$20 billion were robbed and lost to corruption.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/ocho-anos-de-corrupcion-del-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-herandez/>

The World Food Program and others published a report on "The Complex Motivations and Costs of Central American Migration".

<https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000134199/download/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-el-salvador-y-guatemala-en-la-era-de-las-migraciones-masivas/>

25/11/21

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Femicides; Journalism - Women; Elections - JRV, TREP, Domicile, Observation, Disinformation, Diaspora, Violence, Political Prisoners, National Party, Extradition; and the Post-Election Ghost of 2017

Reporteros de Investigación published an investigation into the Próspera ZEDE.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/11/25/entre-prospera-y-pandora-abrimos-la-caja-de-las-zede/>

"Feminist activists and UN Women on Thursday called on the Honduran state to act "more firmly" to protect the lives of Honduran women and defend their rights in the country, where more than 300 have been murdered this year. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, dozens of women marched today in Tegucigalpa against the wave of femicides that shakes the Central American country."

At least 308 women have been murdered this year in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/activistas-y-onu-mujeres-piden-mayor-firmeza-frente-a-violencia-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/308-femicidios-se-han-registrado-en-honduras-en-2021/>

Criterio published an investigation by Lourdes Ramírez and Daisy Bonilla on the lack of female voices in Honduran journalism.

<https://criterio.hn/la-pantalla-chica-y-el-dial-reflejan-un-machismo-historico-en-honduras/>

As reported yesterday, the CNE started sending out the more than 190'000 credentials for the Voting Boards (JRV). The small parties have only access to 2400 this in comparison to previous years and to avoid credentials trafficking. But the bigger problem is that the credentials have been sent out without names which favors their trafficking (see previous days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-inicio-entrega-de-190-mil-credenciales-electorales/>

"Jesús Mejía, technician of the National Party and former manager of the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (Enee), considers that the Trep system is not reliable and that there is fear because there will be a deficient system and it is still not complete hours before the general elections. (...) Rixi Moncada, counselor of the CNE, pointed out that the Trep has been under attack for six months. "There is a line aimed at destroying the Trep and making it fail". Moncada recalled that the drill was successful in 90% of the places."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/trep-provoca-dudas-dolores-cabeza-clase-politica-elecciones-honduras-NF3968078>

"Thousands of Hondurans will have to exercise their suffrage in the same voting center where they did it in 2017, despite having updated their domicile. The news had already been announced since last month by the National Electoral Council (CNE), after the National Congress (CN) did not

consult this collegiate body to annul the changes of domicile made by the compatriots in September. In this sense, more than 876,000 citizens will have to exercise their vote this coming Sunday in the place where they did it in the last general elections, even though they updated their address in the registration to process the new identity."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/hondurenos-votaran-2017-elecciones-generales-2021-DG3967005>

"Stranded for hours, mistreated at customs and border points and many did not even manage to enter Honduras, this was the odyssey that international observers from the World Network of Young Politicians claim to have endured for the upcoming general elections."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/25/denuncian-malos-tratos-y-prohibicion-de-ingreso-a-observadores-internacionales/>

"A monitoring conducted during the last two months by the Observatory of Disinformation, Honduras Verifica, reveals that about 180 Facebook profiles have been dedicated to distribute about 400 daily messages of disinformation, hate messages and discrimination, during the last two months, i.e. from September 25 to November 22, 2021."

<https://confidencialhn.com/unas-180-cuentas-de-facebook-difunden-al-dia-400-mensajes-de-desinformacion-y-odio-segun-estudio/>

The Honduran diaspora denounced that a great majority of them won't be able to vote on Sunday. Only 15'713 Hondurans have been registered to vote.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-15-mil-hondurenos-habilitados-para-votar-en-el-extranjero-segun-el-cne/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/comunicado-publico-a-onu-por-la-comunidad-hondurena-viviendo-en-el-exterior-del-pais/>

"In this fifth monitoring report "Without peace agreement and with requests for a halt to violence, Honduras enters the final stretch of the 2021 general election process", carried out between October 25 and November 25, 14 very violent events are reported that put mayors, mayoral candidates and supporters of various political parties, who were assaulted in various ways, in the midst of political rallies, at the center as protagonists/victims."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/25/sin-acuerdo-de-paz-y-con-peticiones-de-un-alto-a-la-violencia-honduras-entra-a-la-recta-final-del-proceso-de-elecciones-generales-2021/>

"The Committee for the Liberation of Political Prisoners in Honduras, demanded today through a sit-in and press conference in front of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the closure of the files and the immediate release of the people who remain imprisoned for demonstrating. Since the electoral crisis of 2017 provoked by the monumental fraud of the continuistas, two young people are still in prison subjected to torment, deprived of justice and respect for their dignity. And 174 prosecuted people have to sign-in every week in different courts of the country."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-proceso-electoral-del-28-de-noviembre-no-debe-ser-fabrica-de-nuevos-presos-politicos/>

Criterio published a portrait of the Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura. "Asfura is undoubtedly the Honduran presidential candidate with most corruption accusations both in Honduras and internationally, recently, he was named in the international investigation "Pandora Papers" in which corrupt politicians of the world are linked to the creation of companies in tax havens such as Panama and British Virgin Islands. (...) In addition, ten days before the general elections in Honduras, in Costa Rica, he was singled out in "Operation Diamond" in which several mayors of that Central American nation were accused of alleged bribery. (...) In 2019, he was internationally denounced before the International Environmental Coalition in Switzerland for having granted permits for the construction of a residential building in the surroundings of La Tigra National Park, Honduras' first national park and protected area."

<https://criterio.hn/los-mecanismos-de-blanqueo-de-activos-de-nasry-asfura-el-alcaldede-que-va-tras-la-silla-presidencial/>

Nasry Asfura was the only presidential candidate who did not respond to a question by Proceso Digital if he would maintain the extradition of drug traffickers to the US.

<https://proceso.hn/brujula-electoral-contundente-respaldo-para-mantener-la-extradicion-de-hondurenos-a-eeuu/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/25/el-fantasma-postelectoral-de-2017-espanta-al-valle-de-sula-ante-nuevas-elecciones/>

26/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; HRDs; Journalists; LGBTQ+; Elections - Fraud, Transparency, Journalists, HR, US, Diaspora, Corruption, Armed Forces; National Police; COVID-19 - Vaccines; and the End of the Narcostate?

"The Guapinol Case seems doomed to regress to an inquisition-type trial where opacity guarantees ease of arbitrary actions to convict the defenders, according to the legal defense team that today was notified that judges Franklin Marvin Arauz Santos, Ricardo Geovanny Rodríguez Barahona and Henry Geovany Duarte Zaldivar have denied the request for observation and transmission. "Once again, the Court has demonstrated why it is not suitable to preside over this case. It is preparing everything to condemn the defenders without society knowing it. Through another arbitrary ruling, the court is not going to guarantee the right of the defenders to have presence in the courtroom through observation, and they have not managed to ensure the live transmission and guarantee transparency in a case of public interest," said lawyer Edy Tabora upon receiving the notification."

OACNUDH expressed concern.

One of the main reasons the Guapinol water defenders are in prison, the Libre mayor of Tocoa, Colón, is seeking reelection.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/court-prepares-to-convict-guapinol-defenders-in-secret>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1464383777380225030>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1464422810931978244>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/adan-funez-de-protegido-de-los-cachiros-a-complice-de-minera-los-pinares/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the JOH regime uses provisional dismissals of charges against criminalized defenders as blackmail.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3303-mp-utiliza-los-sobreseimientos-provisionales-contradefensores-de-derechos-humanos-como-un-chantaje>

"The correspondent of the Televisión corporation in Santa Rosa de Copán, Ramón Rojas, denounced that on Saturday, November 20, he was beaten by the liberal mayor of that city, Aníbal Erazo Alvarado, who also allegedly stole his cell phone and threatened to kill him."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1410-alcalde-de-santa-rosa-de-copan-agrede-a-periodista-y-le-amenaza-de-muerte>

"The LGBTI community of Honduras presented this Friday a bill for the legal recognition of the change of name of trans persons".

<https://criterio.hn/comunidad-lgbti-de-honduras-presenta-ante-el-congreso-iniciativa-ciudadana-para-cambio-de-nombre/>

A good preparation of tomorrow's election would be to listen to the newest episode of the Honduras Now podcast covering exactly this.

If you don't have 16min, you can also read the Twitter thread by journalist Jared Olson explaining why one should pay close attention to the elections.

<https://redcircle.com/shows/honduras-now-podcast>

<https://twitter.com/jolson321/status/1464048082962857987>

The CNE held a press conference yesterday informing about the state of the elections and how they will inform about the procedure. "The CNE does not have and will not have secrets. All information will be public. In view of the doubts implanted in the population, we unwaveringly ratify that in compliance with the Electoral Law of Honduras, on November 28 at 08:00 at night in public session, we, the three councilors, will begin the disclosure of the results at the presidential level, making known what we have up to that time, continuing periodically, in the understanding that these preliminary results do not define the election."

"The legal representative of the Central American Technological Consortium (CTC), Alejandro Carbajal, assured this Friday that the equipment of the system for the Transmission of Preliminary Electoral Results (TREP) would be arriving to the country in the next hours to complete the delivery to the National Electoral Council (CNE)." (see yesterday)

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/800-pm-cne-divulgara-primeros-resultados-preliminares-elecciones-honduras-ID3995684>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1464435019275857924>

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-en-las-proximas-horas-estaria-llegando-al-pais-el-equipo-del-sistema-trep/>

Javier Suazo lists six facts that undermine a fair electoral process. "Since the beginning of this process with the celebration of primary elections in March 2021, it has been facing a boycott, manifested in the following actions: a) The new Electoral Law was approved with delays, and did not include the obligatory nature of the vote abroad and electronic voting; b) The budgetary resources for the financing of the process managed by the National Electoral Council (CNE) were delivered late and subordinated to the approval by the Executive, especially by the presidency; c) The contracting of the companies that would handle the transmission of results was delayed, as well as the training of the persons in charge; d) There are reports of blank credentials delivered to political parties, being trafficked by the so-called "briefcase" [small] party leaders; e) The new electoral census was delayed, and there are still more than 200,000 identity cards that have not been claimed; e) The new electoral census was delayed, and there are still more than 200,000 identity cards that are not claimed; but the worrying thing is that the Congress of the Republic (National and Liberal Party benches in virtual sessions) extended the period of validity of the old identity card with the purpose of discouraging the population to claim the new one, or to vote with it once the Congress reconvenes virtually and decides to vote with two identities, as denounced by the LIBRE deputy, Jari Dixon (Public Record, 20-11-2021) ; f) In the exterior, very few Hondurans are "enrolled" and will be able to exercise the suffrage".

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/214454>

"In the fourth report, Honduras: the irregular use of state resources during the electoral period, we pointed out that the non-compliance with the Electoral Law of Honduras, due to the public exposure of public officials to promote the candidates of the ruling party, particularly the figure of the President of the Republic, has been cynical and obscene. This condition intensified and completely deformed the equity that is supposed to prevail in a fair electoral competition."

El Libertador denounces that the National Party continues with its campaign even during the period of "electoral silence which started on Tuesday".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/26/la-intensificacion-de-la-competencia-desigual-el-uso-abusivo-de-los-recursos-publicos/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3390-honduras-silencio-electoral-partido-nacional-derrocha-en-mentiras-y-sigue-campana-de-odio>

The JOH regime denied entry to a second journalist wanting to cover the elections (see last week). C-Libre installed an observatory of freedom of expression during the general elections.

<https://twitter.com/CMonteroOficial/status/1464383186172063753>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1926-c-libre-instala-observatorio-de-libertad-de-expresion-elecciones-generales-2021>

CESPAD looks at what either a win of the National Party or of the opposition would mean for the territorial struggles in Honduras. "A hypothetical triumph of the National Party would imply the continuity/deepening of the land concentration and neo-extractivist project. (...) The triumph of the forces of the Opposition Political Coalition may represent an opportunity to move towards democratizing access to land and control of territory, to the benefit of rural, indigenous, peasant and Garifuna communities."

Also on this topic, "Honduran civil society organizations issued a letter aimed at responding to the agrarian crisis and socio-environmental violence faced by women, indigenous and peasant communities in the struggle and defense of the territory in the face of the next government".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/26/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-elecciones-generales-riesgos-y-oportunidades-para-las-luchas-territoriales/>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-a-aspirantes-presidenciales-dar-respuestas-a-crisis-agraria-y-violencia-socioambiental-en-honduras/>

These last days, we have seen many statements by Brian A. Nichols and the US embassy in Honduras. The Honduras Solidarity Network reacted: "State Dept keeps telling parties to tell supporters to be patient during elections- but in 2017 it was the Honduran dictatorship that mobilized State security forces violence against non violent protests. US Dept of State should be clear on that".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1464439674953478147>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504081-508/brian-nichols-candidatos-exhortar-paz-paciencia-simpatizantes-domingo-elecciones>

"The head of the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (MOE-OAS), the former Costa Rican president Luis Guillermo Solís suggested this Friday to Honduras to reinforce the vote abroad, after meeting with the Honduran Foreign Minister, Lisandro Rosales."

On the importance of the diaspora voice, Jeff Ernst also has a new article. "Four years after a disputed election was decided by a margin of roughly 50,000 votes, Honduras is set to elect a new president on November 28 in what most independent observers expect to be a close race between the two primary contenders. (...) Over the past four years, emigration from Honduras has far surpassed any previous presidential term in the country's history. A migration model compiled by the Strauss Center at the University of Texas at Austin estimates that around 450,000 Hondurans permanently left for Mexico or the United States during that period. Tens of thousands more emigrated to other parts of the world, including Spain. Studies on diaspora voting and the political preferences of emigrants suggest that such a mass exodus could produce an electoral disadvantage for the Honduran opposition. "From the migrants' perspective, typically there is an anti-official tendency, anti-incumbent tendency from the period of migration, so if people are leaving the country, they will often times blame the incumbent party, at least implicitly, for the conditions under which they left," said Michael Paarlberg, an associate professor at VCU who studies diaspora politics. Although Hondurans have enjoyed the legal right to vote abroad since 2001, access is more limited than at any time since. Honduran emigrants – 99 percent of whom will not be able to vote – are estimated to favor the opposition by as much as a two to one margin."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/jefe-de-la-mision-de-la-oea-sugiere-a-honduras-reforzar-voto-en-el-exterior-FF3986227>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/honduras-election-excludes-diaspora-votes-could-determine-outcome>

The CNA produced a report naming the members of Congress seeking reelection who have been involved in corrupt behavior - or as the report calls them, "the allies of impunity".

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/La-reeleccion-de-los-aliados-de-la-impunidad.pdf>

In a new article, CESPAD asks if the Armed Forces will respect the will of the people tomorrow. "During the last three government administrations, the Armed Forces of Honduras has been one of the institutions that has benefited the most with the strengthening of its budget, the approval of laws and the placement of military and ex-military in key and important positions within the Executive Branch. Therefore, it is valid to ask what role will the military play in the scenarios that Hondurans will face in the general elections?"

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/26/respetaran-los-resultados-de-las-elecciones-generales-las-fuerzas-armadas-de-honduras/>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights (FEDH) obtained a formal indictment for the crime of illegal detention and harassment against four National Police officers."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-cuatro-policias/>

According to the Secretary of Health, 3.35 million Hondurans have been fully vaccinated.

<https://proceso.hn/el-35-3-de-los-hondurenos-ya-recibio-esquema-completo-de-vacuna-anticovid/>

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2021/november/end-of-a-narcostate>

27/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Campesinos; ZEDEs; Elections - Fraud, National Party, SSF, ID, Asfura, Minorities; and the Most Expensive and Violent Elections

Two good news item to start election day in Honduras. The trial of the criminalized Guapinol water defenders will be public after all (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1464630906283606023>

"Landowners who threatened to kill peasants in Santa Barbara found guilty. Yesterday the oral and public trial was held against landowners Florencio Ríos Pineda and Renán Ríos Pineda, who since 2011 have harassed and threatened members of the "Jardines del Valle" Peasant Company of Santa Bárbara, in order to take their land. Despite having property titles granted by the INA, Florencio and Renán Ríos have repeatedly threatened and carried out actions against the community leaders, putting their lives at risk. The landowners were found guilty and are awaiting their individualized sentencing hearing."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1464694861995679752>

The ZEDEs are also on the ballot and El Heraldo covers the importance of today's election regarding their fate.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504125-508/zede-futuro-juego-elecciones-generales-honduras-2021>

For those interested in a more detailed context of the elections, I copied the part on the electoral context from my monthly report, which will be published next week, in an online document.

<https://cryptpad.fr/pad/#/2/pad/view/fE588GbIFgZcMksEGo-MomgPIMh3K62A9jpzIO4KPYA/>

There are more calls on Hondurans to vote massively to counteract fraud, by the Episcopal Conference of Honduras, PANAL, CCIC, the Network for Democratic Equity in Honduras (REDH), COHEP and more.

The UN also published another press release calling for peaceful and transparent elections.

The CNE, meanwhile, reiterated that they will publish the first results 3 hours after the polls close, i.e. at 8pm.

<https://criterio.hn/diversos-sectores-exhortan-a-hondurenos-votar-de-forma-masiva-para-evitar-un-nuevo-fraude-electoral/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504230-508/llamado-cohep-salir-votar-elecciones-honduras-2021-juan-carlos-sikaffy-sin-miedo>

<https://honduras.un.org/es/160597-elecciones-pacificas-participativas-y-transparentes>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-reitera-que-dara-resultados-preliminares-3-horas-despues-del-cierre-de-votaciones/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/las-elecciones-estan-aseguradas-cne/>

Fraud is a given in today's election, just the amount is up for discussion. "The deputy of the opposition Partido Innovación y Unidad-Social Demócrata (PINU-SD) and also a member of the opposition unit headed by the Partido Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Luis Redondo, denounced on his Facebook account the disguised vote buying and delivery of bonds by the Partido Nacional. (...) The Electoral Youth Platform (PJE), a space promoted by the Center for the Study of Democracy (Cespad) and Karla García, secretary of international relations of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (Ofraneh), denounced the buying and selling of votes a few hours before the electoral process."

"Audios are circulating in which neighbors in Nicaragua bordering the department of Choluteca are given instructions to vote for the National Party and are offered money in exchange for voting for the National Party. For its part, the Network of Human Rights Defenders of the South (REDEHSUR), denounces that several buses with Nicaraguans have entered the country, obtaining cloned identity cards."

"Several people who are on duty this weekend have denounced that their employers have informed them that they will not be allowed to go to vote tomorrow, Sunday, November 28. (...) Therefore, employees of private companies, such as the maquila sector, denounce that they will not be able to go to vote, which is a human right contemplated in the Constitution of the Republic, in Article 40 numeral 3."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/irregularities-reported-on-day-prior-to-elections/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-que-nacionalistas-compran-votos-con-bonos-a-pocas-horas-de-las-elecciones/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/choluteca-alerta-por-ingreso-de-nicaraguenses-para-votar/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/empresa-privada-niega-permiso-a-empleados-de-turno-para-ir-votar/>

Jeff Ernst has an article dedicated to vote-buying by the National Party. "A few days before Honduras holds a crucial general election on Sunday, Adolfo Valladares, 50, already had his vote set in stone. "I'm going to vote for the National Party all the way down the ballot," said Valladares, a subsistence farmer from the mountaintop town of Ojojona, about an hour outside the capital Tegucigalpa. His vote wasn't decided because of a candidate he likes or the party's proposals, but rather because of a promise that he'd receive a direct-cash transfer, called a bonus, in December if he votes for the ruling National Party – and they win. "Otherwise, I wouldn't even vote," he said. Across the country, National Party politicians and activists have feverishly been doling out cash and promises of future payments totaling well over a hundred million dollars in what critics say is a desperate attempt to swing the election in its favor. (...) Four years after a disputed election that was decided by roughly 50,000 votes, hundreds of thousands of households have been targeted by the campaign in the three months leading up to the November 28 vote. (...) To obtain the bonuses in Ojojona, residents must fill out an application that is then delivered to National Party activists. Univision obtained one of the applications and the political implications are clear. People are asked questions that include how many votes are in their household, what their designated voting center is, whether or not they have obtained the new identity card needed to vote in this election, and perhaps most telling of all, what they think of the party's mayoral candidate Aguilar."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/could-the-ruling-party-of-honduras-buy-another-election>

The state security forces are also mobilized for the election day, 48'000 men and women.

The head of the Armed Forces promised a peaceful election day.

Many Hondurans do not believe in that promise as seen in businesses shielding their stores and people buying emergency food supplies.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504140-508/seguridad-proceso-electoral-honduras-militares-policias>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504202-508/cne-ffaa-seguridad-urnas-elecciones-honduras-2021>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ffaa-y-policia-nacional-piden-a-hondurenos-confiar-y-ratifican-que-están-preparados-para-cumplir-su-misión-en-el-proceso-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/comercios-se-blindan-y-hondurenos-se-abastecen-previo-a-comicios/>

161'000 new identity cards had not been distributed by yesterday morning.

<https://proceso.hn/alrededor-de-161-mil-nuevas-identidades-pendientes-de-entregar/>

By now, those interested in Honduras know that Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura has been named in several corruption cases. Less known, he also had part of his property seized. Yesterday - as an early election gift? - a judge, unilaterally, without hearing the MP and while the case is pending an appeal, released Asfura's real estate.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1464679804129665033

<https://criterio.hn/de-manera-unilateral-liberan-bienes-asegurados-a-presidenciable-del-partido-nacional-nasry-asfura/>

CESPAD published an article on the lack of political representation of the LGBTQ+ sector and indigenous peoples.

"People with disabilities are invisibilized in the Honduran elections. They are one of the most invisible groups in politics and government plans; they represent only 4.43 percent of the electoral roll, 43% have no education and only 9.79% finished high school, according to official figures."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/11/27/indigenas-y-diversidad-sexual-grupos-que-no-tiene-espacios-para-optar-a-cargos-de-eleccion-popular-en-honduras/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/personas-con-discapacidad-invisibilizadas-en-las-elecciones-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-se-prepara-para-afrentar-las-elecciones-mas-caras-y-violentas-de-su-historia/>

28/11/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Results, Election Day, National Party, Journalists, Polls, Observation; Corruption – Asfura;

Hondurans went in higher numbers (participation is currently estimated at 68.35%) than feared to the polls yesterday. A change is in the air. But some words of caution are also warranted. As in 2017, the opposition has a lead in the presidential race and we all know what happened back then. So, the international community has to stay vigilant. But unlike 2017, the lead of opposition candidate Xiomara Castro is significantly higher. At the time of writing (01:05am local time), with 46.5% of votes counted, she leads with 53.55% over Nasry Asfura's 33.87%. Close attention to the further development is additionally needed because the congressional races are especially important this time around, as the new Congress will elect both the new Attorney General as well as new Supreme Court judges. Last but not least, let's not forget that the current Congress in a meeting without the attendance of the opposition, prolonged the current session to January (instead of ending at the end of October), which means that in the case of an opposition win, the old Congress could try to undermine the new government with new laws.

<https://resultadosgenerales2021.cne.hn/#resultados/PRE/HN>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/elecciones-honduras-cierran-las-casillas-tras-los-comicios>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/28/honduras-presidential-election-juan-orlando-herandez>

And now lets turn to the election day itself. Promises by the Armed Forces that they had distributed the electoral equipment to all polling stations turned out to be false as voting was supposed to start yesterday morning. There were various reports by electoral observers that equipment was missing and voting delayed, up to several hours.

Some observers denounced not being granted access to the voting centers.

Additionally, the website of the census, where Hondurans were meant to see where to vote, was down for various hours yesterday. The CNE later claimed in a press release that their website had suffered an attack.

There were also innumerable reports of further vote-buying by the National Party.

At around 12pm, something new happened, the National Party held a press conference more or less declaring itself the winner hours before any official vote count even started.

The head of the EU observation mission expressed concern about this.

According to the Libre magistrate at the CNE, some 60'000 people tried to vote a second time.

In the evening, there were still long lines before various polling stations. According to the Electoral Law, the CNE should prolong the time for voting. While Libre magistrate Rixi Moncada asked centers to attend to people in voting line, her Nationalist counterpart Kevin Aguirre publicly said to close centers at 5 pm.

For a good overview of yesterday, please consult the live blogging by CEPR.

<https://criterio.hn/con-retrasos-fallas-y-denuncias-se-desarrolla-proceso-electoral-en-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1931-descoordinacion-y-faltas-tecnologicas-impactan-en-las-juntas-receptoras-de-votos>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1464984595833651206>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/28/consejo-nacional-electoral-anuncia-que-uno-de-sus-servidores-fue-atacado/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1465072546873704449>

https://peninsula360press.com/es_mx/reportan-compra-de-votos-en-honduras/

<https://twitter.com/pjelectoralhn/status/1465000158429683714?s=20>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-se-declara-ganador-de-elecciones-una-hora-despues-de-abiertas-las-urnas/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1465035971053895682?s=20>

<https://criterio.hn/mision-de-la-ue-preocupada-porque-partido-nacional-se-han-declarado-ganador-en-horas-tempranas/>

<https://proceso.hn/unas-60-mil-personas-pretendieron-ingresar-dos-veces-en-las-juntas-receptoras-de-votos-revela-consejera-moncada/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1465111163457261569>

<https://cepr.net/honduras-2021-elections-live-blog/>

Even with the 20% led, the National Party still claims that they will win the elections.

Libre, meanwhile, declared Xiomara the winner.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-partido-nacional-aun-cree-que-voto-rural-les-dara-victoria-pero-libre-lleva-gran-ventaja/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-declara-a-xiomara-castro-ganadora-de-elecciones-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1503708-508/elecciones-generales-honduras-2021-xiomara-castro-declara-ganadora-libre-presidenta>

C-Libre documented a dozen of attacks against journalists.

Pasos de Animal Grande documented 15 attacks.

"Journalists Kevin Villatoro, Héctor Menjívar and other journalists of the Canal 6 press team received aggressions and threats by nationalist activists, members of the Junta Receptora de Votos at the "Carlos Alberto Rivera Ramos" School in Col."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/gestion-del-conocimiento/boletines/1412-obstrucciones-informativas-y-agresiones-contra-periodistas-se-registran-en-el-primer-cierre-del-observatorio-al-proceso-electoral-en-materia-de-libertad-de-expresion>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3304-15-agresiones-a-periodistas-y-comunicadores-sociales-destaca-monitoreo-en-primera-entrega>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1416-periodistas-de-canal-6-amenazados-por-activistas-nacionalistas>

Various media outlets have violated the electoral law by publishing non-certified exit polls.

<https://criterio.hn/medios-en-honduras-violan-ley-al-dar-resultados-no-autorizados-por-el-ente-electoral/>

"According to statements made by the head of the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States (EOM - OAS), Luis Guillermo Solís, the 2021 general elections in Honduras took place calmly and with high participation." A first preliminary report by them is expected this week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/moe-oea-indica-que-desarrollo-de-elecciones-generales-2021-se-hizo-en-calma-y-alta-participacion/>

"The Court of Deprivation of Ownership clarified in the last hours that six assets of the mayor of the Central District, Nasry Asfura and members of the municipal corporation are still under seizure. In the last hours, the Specialized Prosecutor Unit Against Corruption Networks (Uferco) denounced that these assets had been released by the resolution of a judge. However, the Court of Deprivation of Ownership clarified that the measure dictated on March 19 of this year is still in force. He pointed out that the defense attorney of the accused filed an appeal to adjust the security measure, alleging that it represents a value that exceeds the claim of the Public Prosecutor's Office. In this sense, he informed that the judge resolved the appeal partially, but that the security measure continues. According to the appraisal of the experts, the amount of the assets is sufficient to cover the value of 28 million 559 thousand 062 lempiras with 20 cents, which is the money that the accused stole according to the Public Prosecutor's Office." (see yesterday)

<https://proceso.hn/csja-clara-que-se-mantiene-aseguramiento-de-seis-bienes-de-nasry-asfura/>

29/11/21

Elections - Results, Xiomara, Int. Coverage, Cities, Congress, CNE, Journalists, Observation; COVID-19; and a Historic Election

After being constantly updated, the CNE site has remained the same since 6:55am yesterday. At first sight, this may lead to fear a repeat of 2017, but this time, Xiomara's lead is not 5 points as Nasralla's was in 2017, but 20 points. Additionally, she also leads in the departments of Lempira, La Paz and Intibucá, infamous for turning the 2017 elections.

She has been recognized as the winner by the Liberal Party, whose front runner Yani Rosenthal conceded to her, as well as the business lobby COHEP.

The corporate press in Honduras also recognized her victory, El Herald writes about a "irreversible and resounding triumph".

The National Party has not officially recognized its defeat but one of their principal strategists did just that.

Libre magistrate at the CNE, Rixi Moncada, later explained "that the results page has not stopped the counting of votes but only stopped transmitting the preliminary results because the final scrutiny phase has already begun, once the figures are confirmed the portal will be reactivated. In a press release, the highest electoral body informed that tomorrow the scrutiny of the tally sheets that were not disclosed with the TREP system will begin, once the 54,879 documents are reviewed and validated, it will be disclosed in an uninterrupted manner".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1465377381116428288>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3395-honduras-urgente-xiomara-derrota-curva-de-batson-con-voto-rural>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1465386595343814659>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-cohep-reconoce-el-triunfo-de-xiomara-castro-y-del-partido-libertad-y-refundacion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504574-508/xiomara-castro-claves-victoria-elecciones-generales>

<https://proceso.hn/con-sentido-y-reflexivo-mensaje-estratega-del-partido-nacional-reconoce-derrota/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3400-honduras-rix-moncada-pide-paciencia-y-explica-paron-de-resultados>

After declaring herself the winner, Xiomara Castro announced her will to form "a government of reconciliation, peace and justice".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/xiomara-castro-propone-formar-un-gobierno-de-reconciliacion-paz-y-justicia/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K92u6fbaqQc>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/29/masiva-participacion-electoral-premia-a-xiomara-castro-y-castiga-al-partido-nacional/>

International press coverage

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/29/xiomara-castro-declares-victory-in-honduras-presidential-election>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/resultados-de-elecciones-en-honduras-xiomara-castro-lidera-conteo>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/29/world/americas/honduras-election-xiomara-castro.html?smid=tw-share>

Apart from the national level, the opposition also won the two biggest cities in Honduras, the capital Tegucigalpa and the economic hub San Pedro Sula.

ContraCorriente reported on the race in San Pedro Sula as a journey from fear of fraud to catharsis.

<https://criterio.hn/alcaldes-de-tegucigalpa-y-san-pedro-sula-reconocen-su-derrota-ante-candidatos-del-partido-libre/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jorge-aldana-las-actas-revisadas-nos-indican-que-la-capital-es-libre/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/roberto-contreras-celebra-con-sus-simpatizantes-el-triunfo-arrollador-de-la-alcaldia-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/29/del-miedo-al-fraude-a-la-catarsis-en-san-pedro-sula/>

El Heraldo published projections of the congressional races giving Libre 50 seats compared to 42 seats for the National Party. A simple majority in Congress would not suffice to derogate some of the most problematic laws, such as the ZEDEs.

"Observers of the general elections in Honduras called for continued vigilance in the scrutiny of the municipal and congressional elections to ensure the transparency and quality of the data published by the National Electoral Council (CNE) at the presidential level."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/interactivos/1504656-529/resultados-congreso-nacional-honduras-proyeccion>

<https://criterio.hn/llaman-a-vigilar-el-escrutinio-de-alcaldias-y-diputaciones-al-congreso-en-honduras/>

After having suffered severe criticism over the last months, there are now words of praise for the work of the CNE.

The CNE highlights the importance of the TREP system.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/papel-del-cne-ha-sido-clave-para-garantizar-transparencia-en-elecciones/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1465381006278598658>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/elecciones2021/cne-trep-exito-tranquilidad-elecciones-honduras-2021-XK4048880>

The number of attacks against journalists documented by C-Libre during the elections rose to 28.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/el-observador/1933-un-total-de-28-agresiones-a-la-prensa-ocurridas-en-el-marco-del-proceso-electoral>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1420-periodistas-de-tv-azteca-agredidos-y-amenazados-por-activistas-politicos-en-sps>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/1419-comunicador-de-roatan-agredido-por-activista>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/censura/1418-prohibido-tomar-fotos-dice-militar-a-periodista-en-valle-de-angeles>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/amenazas/1417-defensor-de-c-libre-amenazado-por-activistas-nacionalistas-por-denunciar-irregularidades>

The electoral observation mission of the EU will present a first preliminary report today.

<https://proceso.hn/moe-ue-dara-el-martes-informe-preliminar-sobre-elecciones-generales-en-honduras/>

Honduras ends the month of November with 377'888 detected COVID-19 cases and 10'403 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-suma-29-nuevos-casos-covid-y-acumula-377-mil-888-desde-inicio-de-pandemia/>

Many observers highlight the importance of the massive voter turnout in allowing Honduras to break with the JOH regime. "For lawyer Joaquín Mejía, doctor in Human Rights, it has been a historic electoral participation. "... because we must remember that one of the factors that characterized the context of this electoral process was the citizens' distrust in the institutionality, there was a kind of collective depression that led us to think that people had given up using the voting mechanism as a way to present, on the table, their will", said Mejía, member of the Reflection, Research and Communication Team, Eric-sj. "It is a sign that the Honduran people are fed up, there have been 12 years of impunity, of corruption, of turning the State into a narco-state, into a dictatorship, of serious abuses, of surrendering the territory, and I believe that the impunity that surrounded the regime of Juan Orlando Hernández, the National Party, that criminal structure that has governed during this time, made them believe that they were so unpunished that they could commit abuses in the light of day", Mejía analyzed."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/honduras-ha-vivido-unas-elecciones-historicas/>

30/11/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; COFADEH; Elections - Results, Observation, Congress, Mayors, Xiomara, Nasralla, Sula Valley; ZEDEs; Mining - El Corpus; and the Daughters and Sons of the Coup

"On Wednesday, December 1, the long-awaited trial of the Guapinol Defenders will begin in Tocoa, Honduras. The eight water protectors have been arbitrarily detained for more than 27 months in response to criminal complaints filed by the Los Pinares mining company - part of the mining division of Grupo Emco, owned by Lenir Perez and Ana Facusse - against at least 32 community members for protesting the implementation of several mining projects that affect the water of nearby communities. There is serious concern that the highest levels of the Judiciary are interfering in the case to benefit Perez and Facusse, who maintain closeness to the National Party through several megaprojects in the country."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/trial-begins-under-worrisome-conditions-for-guapinols-defenders-in-honduras>

"This November 30, the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (Cofadeh) celebrates its 39th anniversary. Almost four decades of commitment to the rescue of memory and the demand for truth and justice."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-39-anos-de-memoria-y-presente/>

It is official, Xiomara Castro will be the new president of Honduras as both the US and the National Party recognized her victory.

"The United States congratulates the people of Honduras on their election and Xiomara Castro on her historic victory as Honduras' first female president. We look forward to working with the next government of Honduras. We congratulate Hondurans for the high voter turnout, peaceful participation, and active civil society engagement that marked this election, signaling an enduring commitment to the democratic process. The United States and Honduras enjoy a long-standing relationship grounded in shared values, commerce, culture, and family ties. The United States will continue to support Honduras in strengthening its democratic institutions, promoting economic growth, and fighting corruption and transnational crime."

Before the US had recognized the results, "Senator Merkley drills Brian Nichols, Assistant Secretary of Western Hemispheric Affairs about support for Xiomara's victory & platform & the US State Department's messaging & position on various issues".

The Nationalist presidential candidate Nasry Asfura met personally with Xiomara to congratulate her.

After 24 hours without an update to the results, a few more ballots have been processed, but the overall percentage still hasn't moved much being at 53.2% at the moment.

The CNE calls for patience.

<https://apnews.com/article/elections-honduras-caribbean-presidential-elections-tegucigalpa-88a1cba3fe8997ee7741d17eaa8367fb>

<https://www.state.gov/the-election-in-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1465843630455902208>

https://twitter.com/PNH_oficial/status/1465833134818275328

<https://twitter.com/titoasfura/status/1465869161616355335>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-reconoce-triunfo-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://criterio.hn/rixi-moncada-pide-paciencia-a-candidatos-a-diputados-en-el-conteo-de-votos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rixi-moncada-pide-paciencia-y-tranquilidad-no-es-justo-que-se-quiera-ensuciar-el-proceso/>

While welcoming the peaceful elections, the EU Electoral Observation Mission expressed criticism about the TREP which only worked in have the voting centers. They also criticized the fact that not all Hondurans had received the new ID card in time. Additionally, their preliminary report highlighted the illegal use of state funds by the JOH regime on electoral campaigning.

The same day, the OAS observation mission also presented their preliminary report.

EN: https://eeas.europa.eu/election-observation-missions/eom-honduras-2021/108150/el-pueblo-hondure%C3%B1o-mostro%C3%B3-su-compromiso-con-el-proceso-democr%C3%A1tico-pesar-de-una-gesti%C3%B3n_es

ES: https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/hond_2021_ps_final_es.pdf

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/trep-ha-sido-un-fracaso-union-europea/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/30/misiones-de-observacion-electoral-de-union-europea-y-organizacion-de-estados-americanos-destacan-alta-participacion-en-elecciones-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3401-honduras-abuso-de-gobierno-ilegalidad-y-campana-violenta-en-eleccion-europa>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1465701545333256197>

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=C-108/21

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/comunicado_prensa.asp?sCodigo=D-014/21

<https://confidencialhn.com/mensaje-del-jefe-de-la-mision-de-observacion-electoral-de-la-oea-en-honduras-luis-guillermo-solis-con-motivo-de-la-presentacion-del-informe-preliminar/>

The newest projections for Congress gives the opposition a majority. Apart from Libre and Saviour of Honduras Party (PSH), the Liberal Party is split between a wing having supported Yani Rosenthal and another supporting the opposition alliance. The later are estimated to have won at least 10 seats. Combined with between 52 and 55 for Libre and 12 to 15 for PSH, this makes at least 74 out of 128 seats. At the same time, it is important to stress that many important reforms will need an absolute majority.

Future vice-president Salvador Nasralla denounced "irregularities in the registration of votes at the level of deputies in several departments, and has called on candidates to be alert and observers to pronounce themselves on the situation".

CNE's Rixi Moncada rejects the accusations.

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-opositores-seran-mayoria-en-proximo-congreso-nacional-de-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3402-honduras-oposicion-perfilas-de-70-diputaciones-libre-el-mas-votado>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504675-508/elecciones-salvador-nasralla-denuncia-irregularidades-diputados-partido-salvador-honduras-cne>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/11/30/autoridades-del-psh-denuncia-presunto-fraude-en-resultados-de-diputados-electos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504710-508/elecciones-generales-2021-riximoncada-paciencia-candidatos-procesamiento-actas-sistema-no-caprichos>

One Nationalist mayor recently arrested for drug trafficking, Roosevelt Eduardo Aviléz Santos, has been voted out of office.

A part from the capital and San Pedro Sula (see yesterday), the National Party also lost Lempira, La Lima, Siguatepeque and more cities to the opposition.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504772-508/alcaldia-talanga-saca-roosvelt-avilez-partido-liberal-gana>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/galeriaelecciones2021/1504762-509/alcaldias-perdidas-partido-nacional-elecciones-honduras-2021?mainImg=1>

Jeff Ernst and David C Adams published a portrait of Xiomara and the challenges her government will face.

InSight Crime looks at what her victory could mean for the fight against drug trafficking and corruption as well as for the demilitarization of public security.

Xiomara and her team met with the business community yesterday.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/who-is-xiomara-castro-the-first-woman-to-win-the-presidency-in-honduras>

<https://insightcrime.org/news/security-takeaways-xiomara-castro-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1504723-508/xiomara-castro-plan-economico-reunion-cohep-presidenta-honduras-pedro-barquero>

Nasralla gave an interview to El Faro. "Salvador Nasralla, assures that his party will reach out to its opponents, without this implying forgiving those who have to pay for the accusations of corruption and drug trafficking."

<https://elfaro.net/es/202111/centroamerica/25872/Salvador-Nasralla-%E2%80%9CNo-podemos-dejar-impune-ni-el-robo-ni-los-asesinatos-de-2017%E2%80%9D.htm>

"With 53.13% of the ballots processed in his municipality, Leopoldo Crivelli, mayor of Choloma for four terms, is being defeated in his quest for a fifth term. On the other hand, in San Pedro Sula, the defeat of Mayor Armando Calidonio seems imminent. The population of these cities affected by the 2020 storms felt abandoned by their rulers and took their toll at the polls."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/11/30/podrian-caer-pequenos-imperios-en-el-valle-de-sula/>

The ZEDE promoters know that they will now face even more resistance. Próspera sent a letter to Xiomara congratulating her and inviting her to talks. But the voice of the Honduran people has been clear, the clear victory of the opposition is a clear no to ZEDes.

"Regarding the issue of the ZEDes he [Pedro Barquero, coordinator of PSH] said that the government of Xiomara Castro maintains its position that "they will be eliminated, the commitment of our president since the campaign was clear that eliminate the law of the ZEDes and this will be one of the first decrees that will be taken to the National Congress of the Republic"."

<https://twitter.com/eledelcid/status/1465827367985762313>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-sostiene-compromiso-de-reducir-la-pobreza-y-eliminar-las-zedes/>

"El Corpus is a mining town in Choluteca, southern Honduras. Its history is marked by tragedies such as the one that occurred in 2014, when 11 miners died underground during gold mining. Mining activity dates back to colonial times, several centuries later the communities, rather than wealth, face contamination of their water sources and increased violence. The State has been the main absentee. This reality extends to other communities in the country. Honduras currently has 217 mining projects in operation, 183 in exploration and 292 mining concessions."

<https://radioprogreso.net/especiales/el-corpus-la-pobreza-de-un-pueblo-hondureno-donde-hay-mas-oro-que-agua/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/las-hijas-y-los-hijos-del-golpe-y-del-fraude/>