

01/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; ZEDEs; Corruption; Elections - Results, Xiomara, US, China, Congress, Mayors, Small Parties; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Migration; and Still 200'000 Missing IDs

Yesterday, the trial of the criminalized Guapinol defenders started with OACNUDH observing the proceedings.

US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky tweeted before the trial: "The #Guapinol River defenders have been arbitrarily detained in Honduras for more than two years & are now being subjected to a sham trial. I join the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions in calling for their immediate release!"

Human rights organizations denounced that "[t]he prosecutors in the Guapinol case @MP_Honduras are refusing to give the defense the supposed proofs they plan to use - secret and invented "proofs" are the only way the MP can try this unjust case".

The trial was then rescheduled due to health reasons of one of the defense attorneys.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1466057013297926157>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1466068719625506816>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1466109696964710403>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3307-ministerio-publico-esconde-pruebas-contra-defensores-de-guapinol-en-el-preambulo-del-juicio-oral-y-publico>

<https://radioprogreso.net/pt/ministerio-publico-sigue-cometiendo-arbitrariedades-en-caso-guapinol/>

Some 70 municipalities have already spoken out against the ZEDEs.

The question is, will Congress take up their call. To repeal the law, a two-third majority in Congress is needed. Will some Nationalist members of Congress after the demise of JOH and his legacy join the opposition? Some analysts explain that a repeal by itself won't suffice. "However, its repeal is not enough, since, according to the doctor in economics, the legislation already contemplates the suppression of the Employment and Economic Development Zones, but "they left so many locks with the ZEDE" that, in case of repeal, it is established that the benefits received will remain in force for ten years after the law is repealed. The only way to deal with all the locks left by Juan Orlando Hernández during his time as president of the National Congress, he said, would be to present an appeal of unconstitutionality once the new magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice are elected in two years, which if accepted would mean that "everything that has been done would be in a certain way illegal"."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1466222558546694147>

<https://criterio.hn/joh-blindo-las-zede-para-que-solo-puedan-ser-derogadas-por-%e2%85%94-del-congreso/>

<https://criterio.hn/eliminacion-de-las-zede-debera-esperar-hasta-que-haya-una-nueva-corte/>

By now, almost 60% of the ballots have been processed with Xiomara surpassing 1'000'000 votes and maintaining a lead of over 17 points.

<https://resultadosgenerales2021.cne.hn/#resultados/PRE/HN>

"At least ten cases of those charged with money laundering - among them two involved in the embezzlement of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), four people linked to "Los Cachiros" and a former mayor - were acquitted after the reforms to the Money Laundering Law approved in the National Congress, as a shield of impunity after the revelations of the "Pandora Papers"."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/01/reformas-a-la-ley-de-lavado-de-activos-derivan-en-absoluciones/>

More countries, people and institutions congratulated Xiomara on her victory, among them Spain, US Senator Merkley, US Rep. Joaquín Castro and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

And after three days of silence, JOH also recognized her victory.

COPINH also congratulated her while also expressing some wishes for the future government. "We urge the newly elected government to fulfill the proposals of social justice for Honduras, justice for the martyrs and to promote the necessary structural changes through the convening of a National Popular Constituent Assembly that will give rise to the re-foundational process for the construction of a Honduras of rights and inclusion."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/01/espana-felicita-a-xiomara-castro-por-su-victoria-en-las-elecciones-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/SenJeffMerkley/status/1466227748037402628>

<https://twitter.com/JoaquinCastrotx/status/1466214326663008262>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/12/01/el-bid-felicita-y-promete-apoyo-a-xiomara-castro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-felicita-a-la-presidenta-electa-xiomara-castro-por-su-triunfo-electoral/>

<https://copinh.org/2021/11/comunicado-ante-victoria-xiomara-castro/>

Dana Frank in an OpEd in the Washington Post writes about the chance for the US to finally do the right thing in Honduras. "Castro's control over Honduras's democratic institutions could be threatened by its terrifying military and police forces. They're loyal to Hernández, tight with drug traffickers, long practiced at repressing dissent and capable of anything. Hondurans are rightly worried about a new coup or more complex disruption and violence involving provocateurs, paramilitaries, drug traffickers and gangs. Despite all of this, the United States has continued to fund, train and share intelligence with the Honduran military and police, in the face of powerful congressional opposition. What message is President Biden sending to the Honduran military and police now? The final, and deepest issue, is if the Biden administration will try to interfere to stop Castro from governing in accordance with the policy mandate she was given. Despite media efforts to cast her as a flaming leftist looking to turn Honduras into Venezuela or Cuba, Castro has reached out the business community and there is no indication that she will eject the United States from the Soto Cano Air Base. She has promised to restore the rule of law and civil liberties, rebuild the country's health care and education systems, address mass poverty and stop the repression of Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous communities devastated by extractivist industries. Her agenda is likely to clash with Washington's, which often sides with transnational capital only interested in profits from dams, mines, garment factories and bananas and is deeply invested in keeping Honduras geopolitically under the U.S. thumb. Washington spends hundreds of millions on "soft power" civil society initiatives that it chooses itself, not the Hondurans through a democratic process. That needs to change. There's common ground around addressing mass migration, but contradictory approaches to what the root causes are. Biden now must demonstrate a commitment to the democratic will of the people. Hondurans want to see their aspirations flourish, without interference. Castro might reach out to Washington for support, but a new dynamic must take root based on mutual respect and sovereignty."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/12/01/us-biden-honduras-xiomara-castro-do-the-right-thing/>

Many an observer wonder what the new government's China policy will be. "In an apparent attempt to salvage the relationship, Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, on Wednesday congratulated Castro for her victory and reminded her of their bilateral relations. "I look forward to working with you to

benefit the people of our countries & strengthen the longstanding Taiwan–Honduras partnership,” Ing-wen said on Twitter. Castro retweeted the message with a terse reply: “Many thanks President Tsai Ing-wen.” Castro’s proposal has prompted concern in Washington, which has urged her to maintain the relationship with Taiwan, according to sources within her campaign. During a visit to Honduras the week before the election, a US delegation made clear its hope that the country would maintain its current relationship with Taiwan – which the Chinese foreign ministry denounced as “arm-twisting and bullying behavior”. But experts say a move to establishing diplomatic relations with China would be partly motivated by a desire to counter US influence – and that the potential financial benefits were too enticing to pass up.” (...) Although Taiwan has donated generously to its poorer allies, including Honduras, it cannot compete with the economic largesse of China, which has showered gifts, loans and investments upon other countries in the region who have switched diplomatic allegiances in recent years. Panama cut ties with Taipei in 2017 and has since seen a wave of Chinese investment. And Castro will take the reins of a country still reeling from the impacts of the pandemic and a pair of major hurricanes. Seventy-four per cent of residents fall below the poverty line – the highest percentage in at least four decades.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/01/honduras-xiomara-castro-taiwan-china-diplomacy>

Salvador Nasralla is optimistic that the opposition alliance will chose the new president of Congress. For this, they will need a simple majority, i.e. 65 seats.

At the same time, he and his Savior of Honduras Party continue to denounce fraudulent behavior to steal congressional seats from them.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/nasralla-afirma-que-elegira-al-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-YJ4083364>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/01/psh-denuncia-fraude-para-quitale-al-menos-cinco-diputaciones-en-francisco-morazan/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aspirantes-a-diputados-del-psh-denuncian-que-el-partido-nacional-pretende-robar-diputaciones/>

Libre is posed to win 69 mayoral races compared to 31 in 2017. The National Party will lose 37 but still hold 136 municipalities. But the main ones are in the hand of the opposition.

<https://proceso.hn/partidos-liberal-y-libre-ganan-alcaldias-de-las-principales-ciudades/>

Honduran law states that parties which do not win any post have to disappear - in this elections this would apply to five parties.

<https://confidencialhn.com/partidos-minoritarios-desapareceran-en-honduras-tras-elecciones-del-28-de-noviembre/>

The outgoing JOH regime dramatically increased its vaccination rate by subtracting over 1 million Hondurans from the pool of eligible Hondurans for a vaccine claiming that they had left the country. So the new vaccination rate, those who received both shots, is 56% now.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-del-76-de-poblacion-recibio-vacuna-contr-la-covid-19-en-honduras/>

"Mexico and the United States announced on Wednesday "Sowing Opportunities", a program to enhance the development of Central America and that "addresses the root causes of irregular migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras", according to a joint statement."

<https://proceso.hn/mexico-y-ee-uu-anuncian-programa-de-desarrollo-sembrando-oportunidades/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/200-mil-dni-estan-sin-entregar/>

02/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Elections - Violence, Results, Xiomara, US, Fraud, MP; Journalists; Corruption - Judicial Power; Migration;

"The oral and public trial against eight Guapinol defenders who have been imprisoned for more than two years could not begin on December 2, 2021 because the Public Prosecutor's Office still refuses to hand over important evidence to the court hearing the case, which must show it to the defense. The next date is December 9 of this year."

The EU had intended to observe the trial and and called for the respect of the rule of law.

The US embassy also calls for due process and transparency.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3308-juicio-oral-y-publico-contr-defensores-de-guapinol-no-inicio-porque-mp-no-quiso-entregar-seis-medios-de-prueba>

<https://proceso.hn/justicia-de-honduras-aplaza-audiencia-del-juicio-contradefensores-del-agua/>

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1466464707892682758>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1466530691626242061>

Today at 2pm, Padre Melo and Joaquín Mejía will discuss the elections and what may follow.

https://twitter.com/EquipoERIC_SJ/status/1466413547504783379

"Armed men attempted to enter the house of the coordinator of the Partido Libertad Refundación (Libre), Sabino Sorto, in the community of Nueva Esperanza, La Campa, Lempira. Sorto, a recognized political leader, denounced to the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), that around 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, unknown persons went to look for him at his house, who "supposedly" mistook the place, so the intention to attack did not materialize, according to some witnesses. The leader of the Libre party fears for his life and that of his family, since in October 2020, his son, who is a municipal councilor for Libre, was the victim of an attack."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/coordinador-de-libre-en-la-campa-lempira-teme-por-su-vida/>

With 68% of the ballots counted, Xiomara leads still with 16 points and almost 400'000 votes.

She also won 189 out of the 298 municipalities in Honduras, whereas Nasry Asfura won 88. The votes from some 20 municipalities have not been counted yet.

The CNE announced to only present projections of a future Congress once 80% of the ballots will have been processed.

<https://resultadosgenerales2021.cne.hn/#resultados/PRE/HN>

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-total-de-120-alcaldias-lidera-el-partido-nacional-segun-el-cne/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-aclara-que-no-se-visualizara-integracion-del-cn-y-alcaldias-hasta-que-haya-80-de-actas-procesadas/>

After meeting with the business sector (see yesterday), president-elect Xiomara also met with representative of the education sector.

The virtual president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, sent a message to the Honduran diaspora, where she affirms that she will listen and advocate for them "who have sacrificed so much for our country", and that her commitment is to all Hondurans no matter where they are.

Giorgio Trucchi interviewed "Natalie Roque Sandoval, social activist, feminist and official in Manuel Zelaya's government, to review the keys to Xiomara Castro's victory and the challenges facing the next Honduran government". She states that "[d]uring the 60 days of transition prior to the inauguration (end of January) we will lay the foundations to respect the commitments made for the first 100 days of government".

El Pulso also dedicates an article to start of the transition period.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-electa-xiomara-castro-se-reune-con-rectores-de-unah-y-unitec-para-tratar-temas-orientados-a-fortalecer-el-sistema-de-educacion-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/virtual-presidenta-de-honduras-promete-abogar-por-derechos-de-los-migrantes/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/214499>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/02/gobierno-de-castro-inicia-proceso-de-transicion-con-la-mirada-a-la-reactivacion-economica/>

She also met with US chargé d'affaires who congratulated her, and talked to Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1466469833848070145>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505058-508/xiomara-castro-reunion-encargada-negocios-eeuu-colleen-hoey>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1466506325882511362>

Nationalist congressional candidate María Antonieta Mejía denounced electoral fraud in favor of JOH's right hand man and also Nationalist congressional candidate Ebal Díaz.

Libre magistrate at the CNE, Rixi Moncada, showed a ballot on Twitter which shows an adulteration favoring Díaz.

The Savior of Honduras Party also continues to denounce fraud at the congressional level (see last two days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/estamos-en-empate-tecnico-con-ebal-diaz-lo-extrano-es-que-a-medida-pasa-el-tiempo-el-sube-y-los-demas-vamos-de-bajada-maria-antonieta-mejia/>

<https://proceso.hn/candidata-a-diputada-del-pn-denuncia-que-le-estan-dejando-fuera-de-forma-irregular-para-favorecer-a-otro-candidato/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/02/senalan-injerencia-sobre-ultima-diputacion-nacionalista-en-francisco-morazan/>

<https://twitter.com/riximga/status/1466647262155579393>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505059-508/elecciones-generales-honduras-rixi-moncada-impugnaciones-fraude-diputados-cne>

<https://proceso.hn/se-estan-robando-las-diputaciones-hay-pruebas-denuncia-candidata-a-diputada-por-psh/>

There are calls that Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla and the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argutea, both close allies of JOH, should step down.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-poder-judicial-y-el-fiscal-general-deben-renunciar-senala-nelson-avila/>

Journalist Melissa Hernández Quintana had her car sabotaged (three tires were loosened) and broken into.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1422-en-48-horas-periodista-melissa-hernandez-sufre-atentado-y-asalto>

An appeal has been admitted against the decision to drop the charges against the former members of the Judiciary Council (see last month).

<https://confidencialhn.com/corte-de-apelaciones-ordena-nulidad-absoluta-de-actos-procesales-en-caso-de-exconcejales/>

48'051 Hondurans were deported from January to November, 33.8% more than last year.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/deportados-inmigrantes-deportaciones-honduras-aumento-2021-mexico-estados-unidos>

03/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Elections - Results, Congress, Xiomara, China, US; Migration - US; SSF - Keyla; BID; Corruption;

"The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint program of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and FIDH, has received new information about acts of intimidation and threats against the Guapinol River defenders: Porfirio Sorto Cedillo, José Abelino Cedillo, Kelvin Alejandro Romero, Arnol Javier Alemán, Ever Alexander Cedillo, Orbin Nahún Hernández, Daniel Márquez and Jeremías Martínez Díaz and their families. (...) In this context [of the trial], the campaign of intimidation and threats on social networks has intensified, especially on Facebook and Twitter, which, through anonymous accounts, stigmatizes the work in defense of the human rights of the eight detained defenders and aims to misinform the users of these social networks about the criminalization case against the Guapinol defenders. Likewise, on December 1, 2021, unknown individuals went to the "Justice and Freedom for Guapinol" camp, installed outside the Tocoa Palace of Justice, to take videos and photographs of the families of the eight defenders and people who are accompanying the process against them."

<https://criterio.hn/intimidacion-contra-las-familias-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol-ha-arreciado-en-honduras/>

With 75.60% of the ballots counted, Xiomara continues to lead with 15 points and 400'000 votes.

<https://resultadosgenerales2021.cne.hn/#resultados/PRE/HN>

As expected, with such a clear presidential race, all possible fraudulent efforts by the JOH regime were diverted to congressional races and in the last days, more and more complaints are being made.

In one case, PHS candidate Isis Romero denounces that she has zero votes on a ballot where all her family members went to vote for her.

Nationalist candidate Waleska Zelaya running for reelection says she will challenge 57 ballots in total.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) prolonged the time to file complaints for another 72 hours.

They also called on the MP to urgently start investigating the complaints.

The MP took this up and requested the necessary information from the CNE.

Criterio cites system engineer and expert on electoral matters David Raudales who claims that "there is duplicity in the Electoral Results Transmission System (TREP) allowing electoral fraud at the level of deputies".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cne-no-es-supermercado-ni-tienda-para-hacer-negociaciones/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/miembros-del-psh-denuncian-que-se-esta-violando-la-voluntad-del-pueblo-con-la-adulteracion-de-actas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505219-508/lleve-padres-votar-candidata-diputada-partido-salvador-honduras-acta-elecciones-honduras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505208-508/elecciones-generales-waleska-zelaya-actas-adulteradas-partido-nacional-diputados>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cne-amplia-plazo-para-imaginaciones-y-pide-al-ministerio-publico-investigar-adulteracion-de-actas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505185-508/cne-pide-investigacion-actas-irregulares-elecciones-honduras-diputados-fiscalia>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/unidad-contradelitos-electorales-solicita-al-cne-respaldo-documental-y-electronico-de-supuestas-adulteraciones-de-actas/>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-abre-investigacion-de-oficio-sobre-delitos-electorales-denunciados/>

<https://criterio.hn/investigador-afirma-que-existen-dos-sistemas-de-resultados-electorales-en-plataforma-del-cne/>

Xiomara met with UN resident coordinator Alice H. Shackelford to discuss their future collaboration to implement the Agenda 2030 in Honduras.

She also met with the BCIE president in Honduras, Dante Mossi.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1466754178911453185>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/bcie-gobierno-honduras-xiomara-castro-dialogo-proyectos-AB4164288>

"The government of incoming Honduran president Xiomara Castro does not plan to establish diplomatic ties with China as it prioritizes U.S. relations, a high-ranking ally of Castro said on Thursday, signaling a reversal of her pre-election stance."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/top-ally-incoming-honduran-president-casts-doubt-initiating-china-ties-2021-12-02/>

The chair of the progressive caucus at the US Congress, Rep. Pramila Jayapal congratulated Xiomara on her victory and presents her win as an opportunity of the US "to reset our countries' relationship".

<https://twitter.com/USProgressives/status/1466861229184536579?s=20>

"The Biden administration's move to revive Donald Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy will subject thousands of people to "enormous suffering" and leave them vulnerable to kidnap and rape as they languish in dangerous Mexican border cities, migration advocates have warned. After reaching a deal with Mexico, the US will by 6 December start returning asylum seekers from other Latin American countries to Mexico, where they will be obliged to wait while their case is assessed."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/03/remain-in-mexico-migrants-face-deadly-peril-as-biden-restores-trump-policy>

"The Sentencing Court of the city of Siguatepeque, suspended this day the hearing of exceptions and nullities in the case of the basic scale police officer Jarol Rolando Perdomo, accused of the femicide of the nursing student Keyla Martinez, in police custody, the night between February 6 and 7, 2021. (...) The cancellation of the trial was due to the fact that the defense rejected the request for

the annulment of the trial. Attorney Cárdenas pointed out that "with this withdrawal of the defense it is proven that it did not have a legal argumentation to support its claim". She also expressed that "the use of this term by the defense, without having a legal basis, was forced to retract it".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/defensa-de-policia-acusado-del-crimen-de-keyla-martinez-desestima-audiencia-de-excepciones-y-nulidades/>

The BID approved another \$400 million loan for Honduras to address natural and public health disasters.

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-aprueba-ayudas-por-1650-millones-de-dolares-para-seis-paises-entre-ellos-honduras/>

"A Honduran court sentenced this Friday the former mayor of the municipality of Yoro, department of the same name, Arnaldo Urbina Soto, and his municipal corporation, to a three-year prison sentence for the crime of violation of the duties of public officials."

<https://confidencialhn.com/condenan-a-tres-anos-de-prision-al-ex-alcalde-de-yoro-arnaldo-urbina-soto/>

04/12/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Elections - Fraud, Xiomara, Mayors, SPS, Women, Penal Code; LGBTQ+; Migration - Mexico; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Palmerola;

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert. "Unknown individuals damage defender Nidia Castillo's vehicle. On December 2, Nidia Castillo was at her home after doing multiple activities as a member of the Network of Women Human Rights Lawyers in Choluteca. (...) Upon leaving her house with the damaged vehicle and in the company of a family member, she was followed by an unknown man on a motorcycle to her destination. That same day, the defender had been at a press conference to denounce the impact of the ZEDES."

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1466920316068933634>

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1466920801840549893>

With 84% of the votes counted, Xiomara will be the most voted Honduran presidential candidate with almost 1.5 million votes. Her lead over Asfura is still almost 15 points.

<https://resultadosgenerales2021.cne.hn/#resultados/PRE/HN>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505342-508/xiomara-castro-logra-maximo-votos-historia-honduras>

Xiomara answered some questions by AFP about priorities for her government. She emphasized her intention to get rid of the ZEDEs and to install a UN-backed anti-corruption mission.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505277-508/xiomara-castro-pedira-comision-onu-contra-impunidad-honduras>

The MP has sent teams of public prosecutors to the CNE to investigate denounced changes to ballots (see previous two days and first link below).

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/04/afloran-denuncias-por-inflacion-de-votos-y-un-fraude-para-controlar-el-legislativo/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/equipos-fiscales-se-desplazan-hasta-el-cne-para-continuar-con-investigaciones-por-supuestas-adulteraciones-de-actas/>

The National Party has lost its grab on the most important cities and lost 41 mayoral posts. Tegucigalpa was in the hand of the National Party the last 24 years. At the same time, they still control 132 municipalities.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/elecciones-en-honduras-partido-nacional-pierde-principales-alcaldias-pero-conserva-el-control-territorial/>

"The lawyer Omar Menjívar denounced this Saturday the destruction of documents by employees of the municipal mayor's office of San Pedro Sula. Menjívar, who is the virtual vice mayor of this municipality, revealed that he has seen videos and images of employees removing documentation in boxes and bags. "There are videos, information and photographs circulating that show employees of the municipal mayor's office of San Pedro Sula taking out documentation in boxes, even destroying them and taking it out in garbage bags", he declared to a radio station."

<https://proceso.hn/virtual-vicecalde-de-sps-denuncia-destruccion-de-documentos-por-actuales-empleados-municipales/>

Women will still be a minority in Congress, projected to reach 34 out of the 128 seats. This would be seven more than in the previous Congress.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/interactivos/1505254-529/mujeres-minoria-congreso-nacional-honduras>

CESPAD highlights the need of the new administration and Congress to reform and even replace completely the Penal Code by the JOH regime.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/04/la-herencia-del-gobierno-saliente-las-aberraciones-aprobadas-y-derogadas-en-el-codigo-penal/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an article on the challenges for trans women to find work in Honduras. "Thalía, Amelian and Lucía are women from different realities, but they face discrimination and lack of opportunities both in the workplace and in the community. They struggle day by day for their livelihoods. Meanwhile, the State of Honduras ignores the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that mandate the recognition of the gender identity law to allow transgender people to adapt their identity data, something crucial to improve their quality of life."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2021/12/04/discriminacion-prejuicios-y-exclusion-los-obstaculos-para-el-acceso-al-trabajo-de-las-mujeres-trans-en-honduras/>

In the first ten months of this year, Mexico arrested almost 230'000 migrants, a number not seen in the previous 15 years. Most of those arrested were Hondurans, almost 100'000.

<https://proceso.hn/mexico-rebasa-228000-arrestos-de-migrantes-y-82000-deportaciones-en-2021/>

"Many vaccine doses against COVID-19 are expiring in Honduras due to the refusal of thousands of people to be immunized, citing "religious principles and media campaigns associated with pseudo-scientific information," Honduran scientist Marco Tulio Medina told Efe on Friday."

<https://proceso.hn/vacunas-contr-la-covid-19-se-vencen-en-honduras-por-los-que-las-rechazan/>

"The teachers' leader, Daniel Esponda, denounced that there is an intention to take 110 million dollars out of the coffers of the Teacher's Welfare Institute (Inprema), to invest them in the Palmerola airport project, in Comayagua, central Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/magisterio-denuncia-que-110-millones-de-inprema-irian-a-parar-a-proyecto-de-palmerola/>

05/12/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Results, Fraud, DC, Xiomara; Humanitarian Aid;

The CNE informed that no new updates were published because people are overworked and needed a break. Regular updates are expected again starting this morning at 8am.

<https://proceso.hn/cne-informa-que-este-domingo-no-se-actualizaron-resultados-porque-personal-esta-agotado/>

"The next National Congress of Honduras will have four important benches, which we list in hierarchical order: Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Partido Nacional, Partido Liberal and Partido Salvador de Honduras (PSH). Despite the fact that at the presidential level there was a crushing defeat for the ruling party, in the Legislative of 2022 there will be no concentration of power of either Libre or the National Party. Currently there are allegations of fraud favoring the National Party, which, according to some analysts, is due to an extra-electoral arrangement."

Congressional candidates of the Partido Salvador de Honduras (PSH), challenged more than three thousand ballots of the department of Francisco Morazán.

El Herald reports on ballots favoring the National Party.

Libre magistrate at the CNE, Rixi Moncada, called on Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla to combat electoral crimes. She also asked for the attendance of anti-corruption prosecutor and head of UFERCO, Luis Santos.

He said that he would need an invitation by Chinchilla.

Additionally, there are calls for a vote-by-vote counting at the congressional level.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/05/partidos-manchan-proceso-electoral-en-conteo-de-votos-para-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://proceso.hn/candidatos-a-diputados-del-psh-piden-impugnar-mas-de-tres-mil-actas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505409-508/video-muestran-actas-infladas-diputados-partido-nacional>

<https://proceso.hn/consejera-moncada-pide-al-fiscal-general-combatir-delitos-electorales/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1467219532427276290

<https://proceso.hn/aspirante-del-pinu-sd-tambien-pide-recuento-de-votos-en-el-nivel-electivo-parlamentario/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505465-508/partido-nacional-pide-conteo-voto-por-voto-nivel-diputados-elecciones>

Probable future congressman for the Christian Democrats (DC), Carlos Raudales, denounced death threats from leaders of his own party who dispute the only seat DC is predicted to win.

<https://proceso.hn/periodista-carlos-raudales-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte-por-entrar-como-diputado-de-la-dc/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-periodista-carlos-raudales-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte-por-entrar-como-diputado/>

The former head of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) and future congressman, Hugo Noé Pino, is a close ally of Xiomara. He spoke with Proceso Digital about some of the plans of the coming administration. According to him, the 2022 budget presented by the JOH regime will be revisited.

"The Convergence Against Continuism (CCC) expressed its satisfaction with the overwhelming victory of Xiomara Castro in the November 28 elections and expressed its confidence that the new government will free political prisoners and restore respect for human rights in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/vamos-a-formar-un-gobierno-que-restaure-las-heridas-profundas-noe-pino/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ccc-confia-en-que-nuevo-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-liberara-a-los-presos-politicos-y-restaurara-el-respeto-por-los-ddhh/>

"Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela were included in the 2022 assistance plans of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which has allocated a total of US\$1,692.5 million from its global appeal."

<https://confidencialhn.com/onu-incluye-a-seis-paises-de-latinoamerica-entre-ellos-honduras-en-planes-de-asistencia-para-2022/>

<https://gho.unocha.org/>

06/12/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Elections - Fraud, Reform, Congress, MP, Observation, Cities, Small Parties, Xiomara, FoE; Public Health; Corruption - IHSS, TSC; Migraiton; and No More TikTok for the PMOP

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the Novemner 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/?page_id=13

During the last days, electoral fraud became once again a main topic when talking about the Honduran election - unlike 2017, the focus was on the congressional races. The Episcopal Conference of Honduras called on the responsible bodies to attend the calls of electoral fraud at the congressional level.

"The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortes (CCIC), regarding the vote counting process at the level of deputies to the National Congress, stated this Monday that the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the Public Ministry (MP) must set a precedent regarding the tampering of electoral records."

The time to officially present challenges run out yesterday at midnight.

The National Party called for an audit, but some observers fear that it is part of a fraudulent scheme.

The CNE announced to start a recount today, but it seems not a complete recount but only of the ballots which show inconsistencies and have been challenged.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505529-508/conferencia-episcopal-honduras-dudas-transparencia-elecciones>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-y-mp-deben-sentar-un-precedente-y-castigar-en-manoseo-de-actas-pide-la-camara-de-comercio-de-cortes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505599-508/vence-prorroga-impugnaciones-actas-elecciones-cne-honduras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505539-508/partido-nacional-pide-auditoria-general-actas-fernando-anduray->

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-reconteo-de-votos-para-garantizar-la-democracia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505552-508/verificacion-recuento-votos-comienza-este-martes-anuncia-cne>

"Director of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, Luis León, said this Monday that the Voting Boards (JRV) did not work because it was there where the tampering of the ballots in the framework of the general elections held last November 28th in Honduras took place. (...) He pointed out that Libertad y Refundación, Partido Nacional and Liberal, knew that by putting a representative as president, secretary and scrutineer, this problem could occur "what this indicates is that Honduras must continue advancing in electoral reforms and having citizens control the polling stations may be the best option", he said."

<https://proceso.hn/jrv-no-funcionaron-hay-que-avanzar-a-la-ciudadanizacion-de-las-mesas-electorales-luis-leon/>

As mentioned before, Congress will play a key part in shaping the future of Honduras, on the one hand by supporting or undermining the Xiomara presidency and on the other hand by directly electing a new Attorney General and new Supreme Court judges in 2023. This explains why the National Party will try everything to hold on to power at the congressional level (see above). A part from possible fraud, this also includes possible back room dealings with the Liberal Party to control the presidency of the new Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-si-nacionalistas-y-liberales-realizan-acuerdos-para-elegir-al-presidente-del-legislativo-seguira-la-podredumbre/>

The MP informs that they have received 18 official complaints "by persons who have felt that their rights have been violated in relation to alleged acts that could be affecting their participation in the political life of the country".

<https://confidencialhn.com/18-denuncias-de-supuestos-delitos-electorales-ha-recibido-el-ministerio-publico-asegura-lorena-calix/>

The long-term observers from the EU left the country again this Sunday. But the main team will remain to observe the ongoing process.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505568-508/elecciones-observadores-largo-plazo-moe-ue-regresan-a-su-pais>

Both the mayor-elect of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula comment on their plans for Honduras' main two cities.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jorge-aldana-no-somos-escoba-de-personas-solo-vamos-a-barrer-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/roberto-contreras-funcionarios-que-ganaban-mas-de-l100-mil-seran-despedidos-la-gente-pobre-no/>

According to the Electoral Law, six small parties should disappear as they did not have one successful candidate either in Congress or as a mayor.

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-seis-partidos-deberian-ser-extinguidos-con-base-a-la-ley-electoral/>

Radio Progreso spoke with sociologist Leticia Salomón about the challenges of the new administration.

ContraCorriente takes a particular look at the challenges regarding improving the life of Honduran women.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/entrevistas-categoria/nuevo-gobierno-tiene-el-reto-de-no-fallarle-al-pais/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/06/puede-xiomara-castro-resolver-los-problemas-de-las-mujeres-hondurenas/>

"In a period of 15 days, 30 aggressions against communication workers were registered by the Observatory for Freedom of Expression in the context of the electoral process of November 28, 2021. With the support of 50 members of the Network of Alerts for the Protection of Journalists and Social Communicators (RAPCOS), for the third time (2014, 2017 and 2021), C-Libre set up the Observatory for Freedom of Expression to the electoral process of 2021, documenting and systematizing aggressions in the days before, during and after the general elections in Honduras."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/el-observador/1937-informe-del-observatorio-de-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-las-elecciones-generales-2021>

Health workers protested outside the Government Civic Center (CCG) demanding permanent employment as promised by the JOH regime in the run up to the elections.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-medico-en-primera-linea-exigen-nombramientos/>

The Constitutional Court once again showed its preference for the corrupt. In the IHSS corruption case, after an anti-corruption judge filed charges and an appeals court confirmed them, the highest judges revoked the indictment against 10 former IHSS board members.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/sala-constitucional-favorece-a-exdirectivos-del-ihss-acusados-por-mega fraude-de-118-millones-de-dolares/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1467910327878758401

Journalist Jeff Ernst sees an opportunity in improving the work of the Superior Court of Audits with Roy Pineda taking over its presidency.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1467962609790074887>

"In response to alarming levels of gender-based violence in the north of Central America, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is calling for more effective, innovative and immediate measures to protect the rights of women, girls and LGBTIQ+ people on the move in the region."

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/12/61ae0e8a4/unhcr-urges-effective-action-against-gender-based-violence-north-central.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1505591-466/militar-baja-deshonrosa-honduras-tiktok-video>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/videos/?mId=bfuIWNs0>

07/12/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Mining - Azacualpa; Elections - Recount, Parlacen, Reforms, Xiomara, COPINH, SPS; Military Police; Migration - US; Palmerola; and the Resistance of Juana Ramona Zúñiga

The German collective HondurasDelegation invites to a webinar on the criminalization of social protest with Honduran lawyer and defender Víctor Fernández from MADJ.

<https://cadeho.blogspot.com/2021/11/cuando-la-defensa-de-derechos.html>

In less than 72 hours apart, two well-known human rights defenders in the department of Choluteca reported acts of intimidation. On December 2, lawyer Nidia Castillo, director of the Red de Abogadas del Sur, was targeted (see previous e-mail). On December 5, German Chirinos, coordinator of MASSVIDA, was approached by an unknown man who threatened to kill him.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1424-dos-sabotajes-sistematicos-a-automoviles-de-periodista-y-defensor-de-ddhh-en-zona-sur-de-honduras>

"Contrary to the order of protection issued by the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), which orders the cessation of exhumations in the cemetery of San Andres in Azacualpa, La Union, Copán, the Court of Santa Rosa de Copán declared without place the appeal for annulment filed by the law firm Estudios Para la Dignidad. The resolution was issued by Judge Rafael Rivera, who at the end of October of this year granted a court order to "urgently" order the exhumation, transfer and burial of the skeletal remains from the Maya-Chortí cemetery, which are at least two hundred years old."

<https://criterio.hn/juez-desconoce-resolucion-de-csj-sobre-cementerio-de-azacualpa-la-union-copan/>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1468244651782119429>

The special recount started yesterday at the CNE. The minutes of 2'581 ballot boxes, 14% of the total, will be recounted one by one.

CNE magistrate Germán Lobo, estimates that it will take up to 12 days.

Libre magistrate Rixi Moncada pointed out that it is time to fight against electoral crime in order to set a precedent in the country and that the will of the people would be respected.

The Savior of Honduras Party (PSH) demands to observe the process.

Criterio reports that an additional forensic audit is needed. "According to IT experts, part of the fraud mounted at the deputy and even presidential election level could be discovered by performing

a forensic audit of the results system due to a possible duplicity in the system that prevents the true results from not being fully accounted for even though they appear in the platform data."

<https://criterio.hn/recuento-voto-por-voto-en-mas-de-4300-urnas-por-fraude-en-papeleta-de-diputados/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1505652-508/mas-dos-mil-maletas-escrutinio-general-inconsistencias-elecciones-honduras-actas>

<https://proceso.hn/hasta-12-dias-podria-durar-el-escrutinio-especial-preve-consejero-german-lobo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ya-es-momento-de-combatir-el-delito-electoral-senala-rix-moncada-al-iniciar-recuento-de-votos/>

<https://proceso.hn/psh-pide-espacio-para-observar-reconteo-de-votos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/auditoria-al-sistema-electoral-podria-revelar-fraude-entre-votos-y-porcentaje-a-nivel-presidencial/>

The new setup of the Honduran delegation to the Central American Parliament, Parlacen, is 10 seats for Libe, 8 for the National Party and 2 for the Liberal Party. The current Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva Herrera, was also elected and may enjoy immunity for some more years...

<https://proceso.hn/definidos-los-diputados-al-parlamento-centroamericano/>

Fonac also calls for reforms to the setup of the Voting Boards having citizens constitute them and not party activists (see also yesterday).

<https://proceso.hn/fonac-propone-que-mesas-electorales-se-integren-por-ciudadanos-independientes-a-partidos/>

"The transition commission of President-elect Xiomara Castro de Zelaya established yesterday a first contact with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in which the issue of vaccination against the coronavirus in Honduras was discussed."

The JOH regime will inherit the new administration a huge debt load whose service costs more than \$2 billion, i.e. some 30% of the national budget.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/comision-de-xiomara-castro-aborda-temas-economicos-con-el-bid-y-banco-mundial-EB4201372>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/nuevo-gobierno-de-honduras-enfrentara-deuda-deficit-electrico-y-subempleo-DI4192324>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nuevo-gobierno-debera-reorientar-la-deuda-externa-senala-expresidenta-de-economistas/>

"Following Xiomara Castro's victory in the Honduran elections, Bertha Zúniga Cáceres, Coordinator, COPINH, spoke to Peoples Dispatch about what this means for people's movements in the country. She talks about the government's plans in its first 100 days, what movements like COPINH think are the next steps for rebuilding democracy, and more."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg55GURdKmU&t=787s>

"After the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation, ATIC, seized documents in the Municipality of San Pedro Sula, the Vice Mayor-elect Omar Menjívar said in Radio Progreso that he expects that some possible illicit acts committed by the current mayor Armando Calidonio will come to light."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/demanda-investigacion-seria-en-supuesta-destruccion-de-documentos-en-alcaldia-sampedrana/>

The Military Police for Public Order (PMOP) was created by JOH back in 2013. It was widely criticized from its inception from national and international human rights bodies. On various occasions, the JOH regime promised that it is only a temporary body only to increase its budget and staff. Now, the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces (FFAA), Tito Livio Moreno, wants the PMOP to acquire constitutional rank. They want to stop the Xiomara administration to get rid of JOH's private army.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-las-ffaa-aboga-por-rango-constitucional-para-la-pmop/>

Hondurans have one of the lowest acceptance rate of asylum in the US of all nations.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-entre-paises-las-tasas-mas-bajas-de-obtencion-de-asilo-en-eeuu/>

"EL HERALDO's sources informed that operations have not started because the operator Palmerola International Airports (PIA) has not complied with all the requirements of international airline regulators."

On this topic, Salvador Nasralla commented that the new administration won't close the Toncontín airport.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1505704-466/agencias-transporte-aereo-todavia-no-visto-bueno-palmerola>

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-no-cerrara-toncontin/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/07/perseguida-amenazada/>

08/12/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Guapinol; COPINH - Gualcarque; OFRANEH; ZEDEs; Elections - Results, Mayors, Fraud, Parlacen, JOH, Xiomara, Armed Forces, Small Parties; Femicide; Lawyers; Corruption - US; Public Health; Migration - US; and Got Milk?

Defensores en Línea denounced that state security forces, DPI and ATIC, raided the house of environmental defender Pedro Iván Juárez in Cuaca, Olancho.

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert denouncing that the authorities are postponing the investigation into a fire at the house of human rights defender Hedme Fátima Castro. The fire, which destroyed at least half of the house, took place on November 5 and now the authorities say that they will look into it in January or maybe even February.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-dpi-y-atic-allanan-vivienda-de-defensor-del-ambiente-en-olancho/>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/12/alerta-defensoras-honduras-retrasan-investigacion-del-incendio-en-casa-de-la-defensora-hedme-castro/>

Today, the hearing in the case of the criminalized Guapinol defenders is scheduled.

It is accompanied by calls for their freedom and different protest actions.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1468724289289531400>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/grandes-expectativas-ante-audiencia-de-guapinol>

COPINH informs that David Castillo Mejía will also go to trial for the Gualcarque Fraud case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1468646698788474881>

<https://copinh.org/2021/12/a-pesar-de-apelacion-de-defensa-david-castillo-mejia-va-a-juicio-en-el-proceso-del-fraude-del-gualcarque/>

"The narco-gov still vicious - CONATEL (governs communications) going after Faluma Bimetu Garifuna community radio in Triunfo de la Cruz. The radio is the voice of defense of territory and has been shut down, burnt out and threatened for years."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1468582798994853888>

Libre coordinator Mel Zelaya proposes to get rid of the ZEDEs by a plebiscite.

<https://proceso.hn/las-zedes-las-dejaron-amarradas-pero-pueden-ser-derogadas-por-plebiscito-mel-zelaya/>

98.83 of the votes have been counted and Xiomara Castro leads with over 1.7 million votes (50.63%) over Nasry Asfura with 1.2 million votes (36.43%).

<https://resultadosgenerales2021.cne.hn/#resultados/PRE/HN>

The National Party will hold on to 139 municipalities, compared to 173 in 2017, the Liberal Party won 93 municipalities, compared to 89 in 2017, and Libre holds power in 50 municipalities, compared to 31 in 2017. But as written before, the main cities are all in the hand of the now opposition and future government.

<https://criterio.hn/nacionalistas-y-liberales-tendrian-mayoria-de-alcaldias-y-libre-gana-principales-ciudades/>

With the publication of the results at the Parlacen-level, critical voices emphasized again its main function as a place for corrupt politicians to enjoy immunity.

<https://criterio.hn/sindicados-por-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-entre-los-diputados-que-integraran-el-parlacen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/parlacen-refugio-de-politiqueros-senalados-por-actos-de-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

The MP cited seven people to give testimony on electoral fraud issues.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/08/fiscalia-cita-a-declarar-a-las-primeras-siete-personas-por-denuncias-de-fraude-electoral/>

The JOH regime continues to undermine the new government. "With a little more than a month to go before the end of the current government, the ministries, decentralized and deconcentrated entities began a sort of piñata of permanent contracts, despite repeated complaints from the transition team of Xiomara Castro's government. El Pulso gathered information in some entities such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where established budgetary norms are being violated, since appointments are being made with retroactive payments, promotions of officials to the detriment of the diplomatic career ladder and payment of labor indemnity to those who worked under contract."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/08/al-descubierto-pinata-de-contratos-permanentes-en-cancilleria-al-cierre-de-actual-gobierno/>

Future vice-president Doris Gutiérrez promises a more participative democracy under the new government.

"The new government that will take office on January 27, must rescue and strengthen the public education system, which in recent years has reached its maximum deterioration, to the detriment of children and the most impoverished youth in Honduras, said Joel Navarrete, President-elect of the College of Secondary Education Teachers of Honduras, Copemh, on Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/nuevo-gobierno-apostara-por-una-democracia-participativa-doris-gutierrez/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/proximo-gobierno-debe-rescatar-la-educacion-publica/>

First, he called for a constitutional rank for the Military Police (see yesterday), now the head of the Armed Forces Tito Livio Moreno said that they are available to work with the new government.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/las-ff-aa-se-ponen-a-disposicion-para-trabajar-con-el-nuevo-gobierno-que-liderara-xiomara-castro/>

One of the small parties, the Patriotic Alliance, will survive as it won a mayoral race.

<https://proceso.hn/la-alianza-patriotica-sobrevive-al-ganar-la-alcaldia-de-san-marcos-en-santa-barbara/>

At least 314 women have been murdered this year, according to CONADEH.

<https://tiempo.hn/conadeh-muerte-violenta-de-una-hondurena/>

Two lawyers were murdered yesterday in Honduras.

One, Miguel Varela Medina, was the cousin of Nationalist congresswoman Sara Medina.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1505826-466/matan-abogado-juez-paz-honduras-homicidios-olancho-danli>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-un-juez-de-paz-en-la-union-olancho/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/fallece-abogado-atacado-a-balazos-en-danli/>

The US recognized the work of Gabriela Castellanos, director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). She is one of 12 anti-corruption champions of 2021.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1468626640443953156>

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeuu-reconoce-lucha-anticorrupcion-de-gabriela-castellanos/>

Even though the JOH regime promised them a fixed contract before the elections, more than 60 doctors at the National Emergency System 911 were informed about their dismissal on January 1, 2022.

<https://confidencialhn.com/finalizan-contrato-a-mas-de-60-medicos-del-911/>

"A transnational labor trafficking network brought dozens of individuals from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico to the United States under the guise of agricultural work only to exploit them using brutal conditions, highlighting how criminal networks can manipulate legal work visa programs."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/laborers-mexico-central-america-exploited-us-work-visa/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/08/unos-30-mil-vasos-de-leche-es-la-meta-a-recaudar-este-ano-por-lecheton-2021/>

09/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Community Radios; ZEDEs; Corruption - Congress, Int. Day, Laws, IHSS; HRDs; Elections - Congress, US, Youth, Nájera; Debt; and the Next AG?

The trial against the Guapinol defenders started yesterday. Here is Honduras Now with a summary:

"Despite there being no electricity in the court and the inability to publicly broadcast the trial, all parties decided to begin the trial. The prosecutors begin by formalizing the charges against the eight accused water defenders followed by the defense's response to the official accusations.

In their opening statement, the prosecutors explain the incident on September 7 and surprise the defense by adding an additional charge of aggravated damages allegedly suffered by Inversiones Los Pinares, in addition to three other accusations: aggravated arson against Santos Correa [Los Pinares security guard]; unjust detention of Santos Correa; and aggravated arson in damage to Inversiones Los Pinares.

The team of defense attorneys highlight: that the prosecutors lack of evidence of the alleged facts, and in fact, are lying about what happened on September 7, 2018; that adding the additional charge of damages at this phase of the process is not procedurally permitted; failed to explain the individual participation of each accused in the September 7 incident which is required at this phase of the process; and lack objectivity.

After lunch, the court ruled in favor of the prosecutors, allowing prosecutors to add a fourth accusation against the water defenders, sparking an entire afternoon of the defense attorneys explaining why the court's decision is "procedural fraud." Defense attorneys asked the court to reconsider the decision. Trial was suspended for judge's to deliberate and is convened for tomorrow at 9 am."

"The International Committee of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), based in the United States, announced its incorporation to the coalition of international organizations that are part of the Observatory for Justice for the Guapinol River Defenders, whose purpose is to monitor the development of the trial against the eight water defenders."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-three-the-trial-begins/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ministerio-publico-busca-sumar-nuevo-delito-contra-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://criterio.hn/gremio-de-abogados-estadounidenses-se-une-a-observatorio-justicia-para-guapinol/>

"Two individuals wearing ski masks beat the social communicator, Carlos Antonio López, as he left the premises of Radio Lepaterique, located in the municipality of the same name."

C-Libre has more on the threat by Conatel to close a Garífuna community radio station (see yesterday).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1426-encapuchados-golpean-a-comunicador-social-frente-a-radioemisora-donde-labora>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/censura/1425-conatel-amenaza-con-cerrar-radio-comunitaria-garifuna-faluma-bimetu-en-tela>

"The National Party could vote in the Legislative for the elimination of the Economic "Employment" and "Development" Zones (ZEDE), after they themselves approved them in 2013 and put them into effect, in violation of the Constitution of the Republic. The announcement was made by the "cachureco" deputy for Santa Barbara, Mario Perez, who would present the initiative in the next National Congress to be installed on January 25, 2022."

<https://confidencial.hn.com/nacionalistas-votarian-en-el-legislativo-por-eliminar-las-zede-luego-que-ellos-las-aprobasen/>

Different regional human rights networks have joined forces in the RENADH-COFADEH. "In the framework of the International Day of Human Rights Defenders, the National Network of Human Rights Defenders of the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (RENADH-COFADEH) is formed. We are a network that brings together defenders from the departments of: Ocotepeque, Lempira, Santa Barbara, La Paz, Olancho, El Paraíso, Choluteca, Valle and Francisco Morazán; we are trained in human rights by COFADEH and represent different local peasant, environmental, political and indigenous organizations."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/se-conforma-la-renadh-cofadeh/>

Some weeks before the elections, the Nationalist-controlled Congress expanded the time of the current Congress to January 2022 instead of terminating before the elections. As feared, they seem to use this power now for their own good.

"The deputy of the Partido Innovación y Unidad, Social Demócrata (Pinu-SD) and vice-president-elect, Doris Gutiérrez, revealed in the last hours, that the Legislative in the next session would be approving a new law of special protection for high officials and ex-officials."

"Fosdeh has called it a new "legislative spill", the intention of the National Congress to approve the initiative, "they have made an effort of many years to try to protect themselves and the legislative effort they have been making is oriented to benefit from a large number of initiatives and to feel that they are above the law and justice, for that reason it is very likely that they can achieve the approval of these laws," warned the executive."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/09/en-el-fin-de-su-mandato-hernandez-ordena-otorgar-plazas-permanentes-y-busca-blindar-a-altos-funcionarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-el-legislativo-pretende-aprobar-nueva-ley-de-proteccion-especial-de-altos-funcionarios-y-exfuncionarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/derrama-legislativa-y-nombramientos-laborales-son-estrategias-de-autoproteccion-y-proteger-a-sus-bebesaurios-mauricio-diaz-burdett/>

Yesterday, Honduras commemorated the International Day against Corruption with a high-level panel on the issue including the former head of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor. "Jiménez Mayor, who knows Honduras extensively, said that this is a historic moment for the new government of Xiomara Castro to fight corruption, and in that sense, he hopes that the new authorities will not let the people down or waste the opportunity."

Of course, the question of a new anti-corruption mission, wanted by the new administration, was also discussed.

Jiménez Mayor named the UN as the best-suited body to host such a mission.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-podra-desmontar-la-corrupcion-y-reconstruir-la-justicia-juan-jimenez-mayor-ex-vocero-de-la-maccih/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/instante/nuevo-congreso-nacional-podria-aprobar-la-instalacion-de-una-cicoh/>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-seria-el-ente-mas-idoneo-para-instalar-una-mision-anticorrupcion-en-honduras-sugiere-exvocero-de-la-maccih/>

One big challenge to fight corruption are the laws approved by Congress under the JOH regime to protect the powerful from investigations. To get rid of them must be the starting point for a turnaround in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/derogar-leyes-que-limitan-la-investigacion-de-la-corrupcion-es-punto-de-partida-para-nuevo-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-en-honduras-pasa-por-derogar-la-ley-de-secretos/>

"The Sentencing Court in matters of corruption imposed a sentence of one year of imprisonment to the former Vice Ministers of Health and Labor, Javier Pastor and Carlos Montes, respectively, for a case of embezzlement of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS). Both former officials were sentenced for the crime of passive bribery. They were also sentenced for the accessory penalty of special disqualification for two years, which they will serve in addition to the prison sentence. Pastor and Montes also received the accessory penalty of civil interdiction for the duration of the main sentence and declared the responsibility for the amount that they could prove before the competent authority for the reparation of the expenses incurred, compensation and indemnification of the damages caused. It should be noted that both had been sentenced to 16 years in prison together with Mario Zelaya on February 6, 2019 for the case of "Coimas a Viceministros". However, the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), annulled the conviction and ordered the repetition of the oral and public trial for Javier Pastor and Carlos Montes."

<https://proceso.hn/caso-ihss-penas-conmutables-e-inhabilitacion-especial-para-javier-pastor-y-carlos-montes-por-cohecho/>

The Liberal Party announced in a press conference that their members would only vote from someone from the Libre party as the new president of Congress.

<https://criterio.hn/liberales-anuncian-que-solo-votaran-por-diputado-del-partido-libre-para-presidencia-del-cn/>

<https://proceso.hn/partido-liberal-apoya-que-un-diputado-de-libre-presida-el-congreso/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1469145719797809152>

ConfidencialHN reported on another fraudulent ballot. In the US, in Seattle, the head of the Patriotic Alliance Romero Vásquez Velásquez got 800 votes even though only five people voted there.

In general, the voting in the US was problematic, or as Criterio cites Juan Flores for the organization 15 de Septiembre: "A resounding failure, a farce".

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-el-cne-altero-una-acta-electoral-en-el-extranjero-para-favorecer-a-romero-vasquez-velasquez/>

<https://criterio.hn/voto-en-el-extranjero-rotundo-fracaso-que-culmino-con-manipulacion-de-resultados/>

Radio Progreso reports on the importance of the youth vote.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/con-voto-masivo-juventud-envio-mensaje-claro-a-la-clase-politica/>

El Faro reports on the loss of the congressional seat for Nationalist Óscar Nájera. "Congressman Oscar Najera admits that Honduras is a narco-state. He knows this because he has been representing a prominent province in the cocaine corridor for three decades. He knows this because he is and has been, in his own words, a friend of the main drug lords in the department of Colon. His name is included in all the US sanctions lists for links to drug trafficking and corruption, but he, a master of survival, is one of the few who are not in prison in the United States. But his political career has just come to an end, with the defeat in last month's election. The septuagenarian cacique of Colon has lost his immunity."

<https://elfaro.net/es/202112/centroamerica/0000025889>

"The resident representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Honduras, Jaume Puig-Forne, assured that the Central American country's debt level is sustainable and also payable." (see also yesterday)

Debt service is estimated to cost 56 billion Lempiras next year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/deuda-de-honduras-es-sostenible-y-pagable-dice-representante-del-fmi/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-calcula-que-servicio-de-deuda-superara-los-56-mil-millones-de-lempiras-en-2022/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-javier-santos-no-descarta-participar-en-proceso-para-ser-el-fiscal-general-de-la-republica/>

10/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; HRDs - US; Corruption - Congress, Open Chest; Elections - Fraud, Congress, Budget 2022, US, Parlacen; SSF - Coup; Violence; Public Health; and the Darwinist Nature of Omar Rivera

"The court hearing the Guapinol case just made it INCREDIBLY CLEAR that they are working on behalf of Inversiones Los Pinares & Nucor Corporation. This is a sham trial. The court just allowed the addition of another charge." (see yesterday and also first link below)

Later, the trial was suspended after the defense recused the Sentencing court arguing partiality from three judges. The appeals court now has 72 hours to resolve this.

As Honduran courts go on holidays starting December 15, it is very unlikely that the defenders can spend the holidays at home.

Joaquín Mejía calls on the new Congress to, once in power, impeach the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla and the president of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta for their role in criminalizing the Guapinol defenders.

The people of Guapinol continue to denounce acts of persecution and vigilance against community members. "According to reports from fellow defenders in the Aguán area, there have been more incidents of surveillance in private homes and workplaces, such as the one that occurred on Thursday, December 9 at the San Alonso Rodríguez Foundation when a vehicle was found to be watching the institution."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/10/alerta-juicio-contradefensores-de-guapinol-avanza-en-medio-de-inconsistencias-y-arbitrariedades/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1469337783747629060>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/tras-recusacion-contrajueces-suspenden-juicio-de-guapinol/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/juicio-guapinol/item/3314-en-segundo-dia-de-juicio-oral-y-publico-abogados-defensores-de-guapinol-recusan-al-tribunal-por-parcializacion-con-la-empresa>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1469516418089558020>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-congreso-deberia-aplicar-juicio-politico-a-chinchilla-argueta-y-jueces-de-caso-guapinol/>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/12/alerta-urgente-honduras-vigilancia-y-control-se-incrementan-alrededor-de-la-reanudacion-del-juicio-contralos-defensores-de-guapinol-y-sector-san-pedro/>

The US embassy met with human rights defenders and praised their important work on yesterday's International Human Rights Day. But there was no public statement on the most recent developments in the Guapinol case (see above).

The EU awarded the Honduran human rights and LGBTQ+ organization Cattrachas with the European Human Rights Award.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1469373877641961473>

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/honduras/108761/node/108761_en

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1469350264880746497>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1469407075352645635>

As feared, the outgoing Nationalist-controlled Congress approved in just one session a reform to the law to protect public officials and former public officials (see yesterday). It vastly expands the number of public officials for which the Honduran public now has to pay their private security.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/10/legislativo-aprueba-reformas-de-ley-a-proteccion-de-exfuncionarios-y-funcionarios-en-riesgo/>

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-rechazo-ciudadano-diputados-aprueban-reformar-ley-que-protege-a-funcionarios-y-exfuncionarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fernando-emilio-garcia-rodriguez-condena-gasto-de-250-millones-de-lempiras-en-dar-seguridad-a-funcionarios-y-exfuncionarios-publicos/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/subcuenta-tason-daran-fondos-unidad-proteccion-honduras-funcionarios-FH4292531>

But there is also some good news. "The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), by a unanimous vote, ruled in favor of the State of Honduras through a writ of amparo that was filed by attorney Tanya Arasely Pavón Solís, against the resolution issued by a judge assigned in the "Open Chest" case."

<https://confidencialhn.com/sala-de-lo-constitucional-falla-a-favor-del-estado-de-honduras-en-caso-de-arca-abierta/>

Expediente Público covers the fraud at the congressional level. First projections had Libre and the PSH win 51 and 14 seats respectively, current projections dropped to 50 and 10, i.e. not sufficient for a simple majority. It remains to be seen if the vote by vote recount could change this once again.

The CNE now says an error in the transmission system TREP led to a wrong vote total in the US for the Patriotic Alliance (see yesterday). They now declared that Xiomara also won the most votes abroad.

The CNE also announced that their official declaration on the elections can only be expected once the recount is over.

Meanwhile, the MP has received more testimonies regarding electoral fraud.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-denuncias-de-fraude-en-eleccion-de-diputados-enturbian-comicios/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-rectifica-xiomara-castro-y-no-romeo-vasquez-gano-el-voto-en-el-exterior/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-declaratoria-oficial-de-los-comicios-se-dara-cuando-se-acabe-el-conteo-y-las-inconsistencias-remarca-kelvin-aguirre/>

<https://proceso.hn/fiscales-toman-declaracion-a-mas-personas-en-investigacion-sobre-delitos-electorales/>

It is widely seen as a positive development that the Liberal Party will support Libre in Congress (see yesterday).

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/10/aseguran-que-respaldo-liberal-garantiza-dominio-de-actual-oposicion-en-el-proximo-congreso/>

<https://proceso.hn/rasel-tome-aplaude-decision-del-pl-de-apoyar-a-libre-para-eleccion-de-presidente-del-cn/>

Congress approved the 2022 budget, and this without discussing it with the transition team of the incoming administration.

<https://proceso.hn/cn-aprobo-el-presupuesto-general-para-el-ano-2022/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hugo-noe-pino-asegura-que-gobierno-saliente-no-quiso-discutir-con-el-entrante-la-aprobacion-del-presupuesto-general-para-el-ejercicio-fiscal-de-2022/>

US Vice-President Kamala Harris congratulated Xiomara Castro and talked with her on the phone. The US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights will travel to Honduras tomorrow and met with Xiomara.

Jeff Ernst analyzes the possible change to US-Honduran relations under the Xiomara administration. "If incoming President Xiomara Castro lives up to her promises, there's a chance to address the root causes of forced migration."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1506010-508/kamala-harris-felicita-presidenta-xiomara-castro-resultado-elecciones>

<https://criterio.hn/subsecretaria-de-derechos-humanos-de-ee-uu-se-reunira-con-xiomara-castro/>

<https://proceso.hn/subsecretaria-para-democracia-y-ddhh-visitara-honduras-el-12-y-13-de-diciembre/>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/12/10/honduras-election-xiomara-castro-us-relations-migration/>

Apart from the current president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva (see some days ago), another National Party official, current vice-president Ricardo Álvarez, will hid the next for years in the Central American Parliament (Parlacen).

<https://criterio.hn/cuestionado-exalcalde-de-tegucigalpa-es-nombrado-diputado-al-parlacen/>

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-elige-a-ricardo-alvarez-como-diputado-al-parlacen-2022-2026/>

"With the hope that justice will finally be done, teacher Agustina Flores arrived this morning from Olancho for the oral and public trial against two policewomen who tortured her during a peaceful demonstration on September 22, 2009, upon the return of ousted President José Manuel Zelaya to the country. The trial against police officers Aracely García and Esther Ponce, who mercilessly attacked the human rights defender, has been postponed for more than five times, although there were more officers involved."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-juicio-policias-torturadoras-de-agustina-flores-durante-el-golpe-2009/>

The Wilson Center published a commentary by Gema Santamaría on violence in Mexico and Central American in which she outlines why describing the violence as "non-political" or "post-political" is misguided.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/politics-criminal-violence-mexico-and-northern-central-america>

The JOH regime spends only \$101 per person per year on public health, much less than the regional average of \$392. It is estimated that 18% of Hondurans do not have any access to health care.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/el-18-de-la-poblacion-en-honduras-no-tiene-acceso-a-la-salud-DH4292665>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/10/omar-rivera-y-el-darwinismo-de-la-llanura-con-la-resistencia-a-las-mieles-del-gobierno/>

11/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Elections - Results, Violence, Xiomara; Palmerola;

Honduras Now has a helpful summary of Friday's development at the Guapinol trial.

"After deliberations regarding the defense's request to reconsider, the court again rules in favor of the prosecutor's request to add an additional charge of aggravated property damage. In their ruling, the judges clearly step outside of its mandate and adds additional arguments not made by the prosecutors in order to justify their unlawful ruling.

The defense team pushes back on the judges with legal clarifications, arguing that the court is bias and partial towards the prosecutors and the private accusers representing mining company Inversiones Pinares. Among other arguments, the defense points out that the prosecutors do not have the authority without a formal legal complaint filed by Inversiones Pinares for damages in order to charge the water defenders with such crime.

After a long debate, the defense recuses the court after filing a legal complaint against them for breach of public duty on November 27th following the hearing where the same court ruled that the defenders must remain in pre-trial detention.

The trial is suspended until the Appeals court based in La Ceiba rules the recusal. Since the Honduran judiciary goes on vacation on December 15, it's unlikely that the trial will be adjourned again until January. The Guapinol water defenders will likely spend another Christmas unjustly in prison and away from their families."

In an interview with Efe, Americas Director at Amnesty International Erika Guevara Rosas, expressed concerns about the human rights situation in Honduras and demanded the liberation of the Guapinol defenders.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-four-the-court-is-recused-trial-suspended-until-further-notice/>

<https://proceso.hn/ai-ve-preocupante-situacion-de-ddhh-en-honduras-y-pide-liberar-ambientalistas/>

Initially, the CNE announced that the recount will take up to 12 days, now, its president Kelvin Aguirre says they will be finished in 15 days.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/11/consejero-aguirre-indica-que-proceso-de-escrutinio-especial-podria-tardar-15-dias/>

The former mayoral candidate from the Liderh party in Olanchito, Yoro, César Cálix Zelaya, was shot dead in an ambush.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1506058-466/matan-julio-calix-excandidato-alcalde-olanchito-yoro-honduras>

Criterio reports on the challenge for the incoming administration to control public spending. Of the 179 million Lempiras budget, 35.5% are for salaries and 29.5% for debt service. One lever will be reevaluating the tax exemptions in place in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/reducir-el-gasto-publico-y-eliminar-las-exoneraciones-el-reto-del-nuevo-gobierno-para-sanear-las-finanzas/>

After months of delays, the first commercial flight, from Spirit Airlines, landed at the new Palmerola airport.

President-elect Xiomara wrote on Twitter: "Monopolies are constitutionally prohibited and harmful to the national interest. Palmerola is an illegal contract and a monopoly that closes Toncontin affecting the people who gave me their mandate to defend it. This contract eliminates competition and will be reviewed and modified by law."

"The executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Tegucigalpa (CCIT), Rafael Medina, mentioned that it is necessary to review the existing contract with the Palmerola International Airport."

<https://proceso.hn/spirit-primer-vuelo-comercial-en-atterizar-en-palmerola/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1469687585874366470>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506057-466/presidenta-xiomara-castro-planea-revisar-contrato-palmerola-monopolio-ilegal-aeropuerto>

<https://tiempo.hn/ccit-pide-revision-contrato-palmerola/>

12/12/21

Honduras Daily: JOH; Xiomara - US; San Pedro Sula;

David C Adams and Jeff Ernst report on what JOH may expect in the coming weeks. "After eight years as president, Hernandez is due to step down on January 27 after his ruling National Party suffered a humiliating defeat at the polls late last month. That leaves him vulnerable to possible –

some say inevitable – indictment in U.S. federal court, likely to be followed by a request for extradition to stand trial in New York. That is what many Hondurans would like to see happen. On election night, Nov 28, after it became clear that opposition candidate Xiomara Castro had won, thousands of Hondurans took to the streets, some ome singing along to a song whose chorus ends “Yuanchi [Hernández] is going to New York.”

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/imminent-extradition-is-that-what-awaits-juan-orlando-hernandez?>

President-elect nominated the members of the commission coordinating her presidential handover, Jari Dixon, Natalie Roque and Belinda Martínez.

<https://proceso.hn/jari-dixon-natalie-roque-y-belinda-martinez-coordinaran-traspaso-de-mando-a-xiomara-castro/>

US Under Secretary Uzra Zeya arrived in Honduras yesterday. "Great to meet with @XiomaraCastroZ and her team. The U.S. will continue its partnership with Honduras under the new administration to fight corrupt, increase transparency, address migration, promote human rights & achieve economic growth for all."

"Terrific conversation with private sector leaders. We are committed to working closely with businesses to combat corruption and support economic development with the goal of providing opportunity for all Hondurans."

Previously, Xiomara had also talked to Vice-President Kamala Harris on the phone. She later tweeted: "Vice President Harris, thank you for your call and your words about the urgency to combat corruption in Honduras, and support for Democracy. I trust that our governments will work in defense of human rights and women's rights. A fraternal embrace".

<https://proceso.hn/la-subsecretaria-de-ee-uu-para-seguridad-civil-inicia-su-visita-a-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1470205301051822083>

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1470193373814345732>

<https://proceso.hn/subsecretaria-de-eeuu-y-presidenta-electa-de-honduras-hablan-sobre-corrupcion-y-migracion/>

<https://proceso.hn/trabajaremos-en-defensa-de-los-ddhh-y-de-la-mujer-dice-xiomara-castro-a-vicepresidenta-de-eeuu/>

"Roberto Contreras, mayor-elect of San Pedro Sula, has promised to build a maternity hospital and to buy an old hotel building to centralize municipal offices and reduce the millions of dollars in rent paid. But the Libre Party's most important promise during the campaign was to repeal the Siglo XXI project; the makeup of the new Congress makes it less clear whether it will be possible to fulfill it."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/12/revocar-siglo-xxi-en-san-pedro-sula-una-promesa-de-campana-cuyo-cumplimiento-depender-de-un-congreso-sin-mayoria/>

13/12/21

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; Guapinol; ZEDEs; Berta; Xiomara - Congress, Corruption, MP, Spain; US; Palmerola; Migration – Violence;

"Under the care of the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), Henry Arturo Bonilla Acevedo, regained his freedom after four months and 10 days in the National Penitentiary "Marco Aurelio Soto". The good news that the university student Henry Bonilla was waiting for, was ratified when he signed his letter of release with alternative measures to prison, together with his legal representatives Karol Cárdenas and Cinthia Turcios, human rights attorneys of COFADEH, the organization that represents him. The student of Banking and Finance at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) had remained in preventive detention since last August 3, accused of the alleged crime of aggravated arson against the headquarters of the Embassy of the United States of America, in Tegucigalpa, on May 31, 2019, during a day of protests in defense of health and education."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-logra-libertad-de-henry-bonilla/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/henry-bonilla-estoy-desesperado-pero-con-esperanza-que-pronto-tendre-buenas-noticias/>

There will be a press conference on the Guapinol case this morning at 10:30am before the Supreme Court.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1470566701305675783>

Omoa declared its territory free of ZEDEs.

Congress' Nationalist vice-president Antonio Rivera reiterated a willingness to derogate the ZEDEs (see also last week), but wants to maintain fiscal incentives for businesses.

Some of the promoters of ZEDEs will meet in Guatemala in January.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/bajo-presion-popular-omoa-se-declara-libre-de-zede/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/antonio-rivera-dice-que-esta-dispuesto-a-derogar-las-zedes-pero-con-incentivos-fiscales-a-inversionistas/>

<https://www.antiguaforum.ufm.edu/>

Human rights defender and lawyer Víctor Fernández denounces that Congress intends to illegally grant a customs concession to the company CAMOSA which is linked to the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1470483878515298307>

"The transition commission informed that Xiomara Castro's government will concentrate its work in seven main areas of the country in the first 100 days of the State's administration. The member of the transition commission, Marcio Sierra, explained that these areas are the generation of employment, economic reactivation and the analysis of the internal and external debt. It also includes an analysis of the finances of the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE), review of tax evasion and the general budget for 2022 and the intensification of the fight against corruption. According to Sierra, for each area there is a working group designated to carry out plans within certain timeframes."

FOSDEH estimates that the JOH regime took up more than \$1 billion in debt in the last five months.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/13/nuevo-gobierno-anuncia-que-priorizara-generacion-de-empleo-y-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-mas-de-mil-millones-en-dolares-se-endeudo-gobierno-en-los-ultimos-cinco-meses/>

While it is a good sign, that the Liberal Party spoke out in favor of Libre holding the presidency at Congress (see last week), the Pro Honduras Network reminds us that in 2014, the Liberal Party was bought by JOH to vote for his candidate in Congress, Mauricio Oliva.

But at the same time, even Nationalist congressman Antonio Rivera says that Libre should have the presidency in Congress.

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1470533086995701767

<https://proceso.hn/quien-presida-el-proximo-cn-debe-ser-de-libre-opina-diputado-rivera-callejas/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos recommends to the incoming government to investigate corruption networks at the level of municipalities.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-javier-santos-recomienda-al-nuevo-gobierno-investigar-redes-de-corrupcion-en-alcaldias-de-honduras/>

CESPAD presents different scenarios of the role to be played by the current Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla in his last 1.5 years in office. Will he try to undermine the Xiomara Castro administration or will he be helpful?

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/13/los-escenarios-del-penoso-fiscal-general-de-honduras/>

The Spanish ambassador to Honduras, Guillermo Kirkpatrick, announces plans to support the new administration with 215 million Euros. However, he indicated that "for this to happen, we need to confirm them in concrete projects, look for local partners, develop good projects and execute them".

<https://confidencialhn.com/espana-anuncia-que-apoyara-al-nuevo-gobierno-hondureno-con-215-millones-de-euros/>

US Under Secretary Uzra Zeya finished her visit to Honduras yesterday. On her second day, she met with civil society representatives.

The Sisters of Mercy called on her to speak out for the Guapinol defenders.

Zeya also met with the outgoing foreign minister Lisandro Rosales.

Back in the US, Vice-President Kamala Harris gave an update on a controversial program to tackle migration. "As part of her role addressing the root causes of migration from Central America, Vice President Kamala Harris announced seven new commitments as part of the Call to Action she launched on May 27 for businesses and social enterprises to make new, significant commitments to sustainably address the root causes of migration by promoting economic opportunity. Commitments announced today include those from: CARE International, Cargill, Grupo Mariposa, Parkdale Mills, PepsiCo, JDE Peet's, and PriceSmart."

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1470415789593440259>

<https://twitter.com/SistersofMercy/status/1470468351319232515>

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1470476467217833997>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/13/vice-president-kamala-harris-announces-new-commitments-as-part-of-the-call-to-action-for-the-private-sector-to-deepen-investment-in-central-america-now-totaling-over-1-2-billion/>

Two airlines, Avianca and Copa, announced to change their operations in Honduras from Toncontín to Palmerola.

<https://confidencialhn.com/avianca-traslada-sus-operaciones-al-nuevo-aeropuerto-palmerola/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/copa-traslada-sus-operaciones-de-tegucigalpa-al-aeropuerto-de-palmerola/>

Different digital media outlets published an investigation into violence against migrants passing through Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/cubanas-y-haitianas-sufren-abusos-sexuales-y-asaltos-en-frontera-con-nicaragua/>

14/12/21

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol, Sabá; Elections - Recount, Mayors; Xiomara; Police; Drug Trafficking; Palmerola; Violence; and Honduran Dreams

"The Plenary of the Supreme Court of Justice must immediately resolve the release of the [Guapinol] defenders in arbitrary detention for more than 27 months so that they can finally spend this Christmas with their families, this in response to the writ of habeas corpus filed today for the illegality of detention given the extension of preventive detention by order of the Criminal Chamber that in 11 words justifies 6 months of preventive detention against 8 citizens who have the status of environmental defenders."

"The Constitutional Chamber appointed public defender Claudia López as Executing Judge of the Habeas Corpus filed by the legal representatives of the defenders of the Guapinol River, on December 14, 2021, as a new action to stop the imprisonment of the eight people imprisoned for more than two years."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/supreme-court-must-release-arbitrarily-detained-guapinol-river-defenders-in-time-for-christmas>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/las-cortes/item/3315-sala-de-lo-constitucional-nombra-jueza-ejecutora-para-investigar-las-anomalias-cometidas-en-ampliacion-de-prision-a-defensores-de-guapinol>

The people of Sabá, Colón, have declared their territory free of mining in no less than three town hall assemblies. Nevertheless, the JOH regime illegally granted the environmental licensing and mining permit to the company Canteras y Más.

"Residents and members of the water boards of the municipality of Sabá, Colón, represented by the law firm Estudios Para la Dignidad, filed an amparo action before the Constitutional Court due to the threat of destruction posed by the mining company Canteras y Más to the Carlos Escaleras National Park and its water basins."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1470816505873018888>

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-accion-de-amparo-ante-instalacion-de-proyecto-minero-en-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

The CNE informed about the state of the recount. "The fact that the minutes have more votes than the number of people qualified to vote in the polling station is a frequent error identified during the general scrutiny process, said this Monday two members of the National Electoral Council (CNE). (...) However, he pointed out that they have also identified other inconsistencies, such as stains, erasures and also minutes that could not be read by the system and, therefore, must be compared with each ballot. In spite of the irregularities identified, Aguirre asserted that the recount is being carried out in due time and under the necessary transparency measures. He reminded that the process is public and can be monitored through the government's Channel 8, live transmissions on CNE's social networks and there is also national and international oversight."

According to FONAC, the process should be accelerated and a public oversight should be guaranteed.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/14/mas-votos-que-votantes-un-error-frecuente-identificado-en-escrutinio-senalan-consejeros/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cne-ya-reviso-unas-400-maletas-electorales/>

<https://proceso.hn/sociedad-civil-pide-acelerar-escrutinios-especiales-y-que-exista-observacion-ciudadana/>

140 mayors were reelected.

<https://proceso.hn/reelectos-140-alcaldes/>

On her first day as president Xiomara Castro will request an international anti-corruption commission.

The work of such a body could be more effective with a new Attorney General, accordingly, the voices calling to get rid of Óscar Fernando Chinchilla have become louder lately.

CESPAD published a proposal for the new administration on how to increase citizen security and promote human rights

The transition team of Xiomara announced to conduct a forensic audit of state institutions once in power.

They also announced that they won't use public money for the inauguration of the new administration.

Honduras will also go back to its original colors on its flag. "Tiburcio Carias Andino was a right wing (Partido Nacional) dictator in the first half of the 20th century. He had the original colors changed to navy blue during his reign. The navy colors do not represent the people of Honduras or the HND that is about to reset & begin anew."

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-su-primer-dia-de-gobierno-xiomara-castro-solicitará-comisión-internacional-anticorrupción/>

<https://criterio.hn/destituir-al-fiscal-general-una-de-las-acciones-para-recuperar-el-estado-de-derecho-afirman-expertos/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/14/a-proposito-del-nuevo-gobierno-en-honduras-propuesta-de-politicas-de-seguridad-en-democracia-y-fortaleciendo-los-derechos-humanos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-hará-auditoría-forense-a-todas-las-instituciones-comisión-de-transición/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ct-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-no-utilizará-fondos-del-estado-para-financiar-traspaso-de-mando/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1506395-508/toma-posesion-xiomara-castro-presidenta-honduras-investidura-27-enero>

https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1470823205245968384

As part of the Omega XII operation, ATIC seized goods and properties from two former police commissioners, Leonel Luciano Saucedo Guifarro and Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-ejecuta-operacion-omega-xii-con-privacion-de-bienes-vinculados-a-excomisionados-de-policia/>

Michael Dixon Rivers was extradited yesterday to the US accused of drug trafficking.

<https://confidencialhn.com/extraditan-a-michael-dixon-rivers-a-eeuu/>

American Airlines also announced to move their operations to the new Palmerola airport.

At the same time, there are calls to wait for the new administration to take over before further decisions are being made about Palmerola and Toncontín.

<https://confidencialhn.com/american-airlines-tambien-movera-sus-operaciones-al-aeropuerto-de-palmerola-desde-el-16-de-diciembre/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/14/expertos-solicitan-no-cerrar-aeropuerto-toncontin-a-llegada-y-salida-de-vuelos-internacionales/>

The Wilson Center published a report analyzing three strategies employed by the US to reduce violence in the region: cognitive behavioral therapy, tracking violence through a health model and group violence intervention.

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/uploads/documents/CAN%20U.S.%20ANTI-VIOLENCE%20MODELS%20SUCCEED%20IN%20MEXICO%20AND%20THE%20NORTHERN%20TRIANGLE%3F%20.pdf>

<https://insightcrime.org/news/could-us-anti-violence-models-work-latin-america/>

Honduran expert Dana Frank writes about the current historic moment in Honduras focusing on the role of the US. "But the biggest threat to the president's ability to govern as she chooses is the United States. The US not only supported the overthrow of Castro's husband; for twelve long years it has provided the Honduran security forces with training, equipment and funding and looked the other way at drug trafficking up top. For twelve long years it has propped up a government that criminalized and slaughtered Indigenous, Afro-Indigenous, and campesino activists. Leopards don't change their spots; they find new strategies for capturing their prey. (...) In trying to manage Castro, the Biden administration's goal at the deepest level will continue to be defending and expanding the operations of US-based transnational corporations in the region, whether in garment factories, export agriculture or extractivism. Beyond the interests of any particular company, it wants ensure a wider regional context in which all forms of corporate capitalism can flourish. Its close alliance with transnational capital was made clear in a May 2021 programme launched in a supposed attempt to stop migration, a 'Call to Action to the Private Sector to Deepen Investment in the Northern Triangle', in which the administration announced it was working with PepsiCo, MasterCard, Nespresso and other corporate behemoths to expand their investments in the region. (...) All these challenges are formidable indeed. In the wake of Castro's astonishing victory, we must once again take up the hard work of solidarity, supporting the grassroots social movements who will challenge their new president to realize their dreams for Honduras's future, and reject the profit fantasies of the United States."

<https://newleftreview.org/sidecar/posts/honduran-dreams>

15/12/21

Honduras Daily: Berta; Mining - Guapinol, Sabá; Xiomara; Health Sector; Violence; and a New Female Power Couple?

"An anti-corruption court orders the extraction of data from Daniel Atala's computers. Atala was the Chief Financial Officer of the Honduran energy company DESA & the judicial order is related to the investigation into Berta Cáceres' murder".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1471337551969456133>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/berta-caceres/item/3316-por-orden-judicial-expertos-examinaran-dos-computadoras-de-daniel-atala-ejecutivo-de-la-hidroelectrica-des>

"Nine national and international human rights organizations filed an amicus curiae brief (...) before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras, in which they pointed out the path to follow to interpret international standards on preventive detention and due process in the case of the Guapinol defenders."

IM-Defensoras denounced that National Police agents denied access to the Supreme Court of Justice to two defenders from the Guapinol Environmental Committee.

OACNUDH called on the Constitutional Chamber to swiftly resolve the habeas corpus (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-amicus-curiae-para-que-csj-resuelva-habeas-corpus-a-favor-de-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2021/12/alerta-defensoras-honduras-obstaculizan-el-ingreso-de-dos-defensoras-parte-del-comite-ambiental-de-guapinol-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1471261053564915713>

Inhabitants of Sabá, Colón presented an injunction before the Constitutional Chamber to guarantee their rights to health, life, water, political participation, access to justice and due process in the case of the Las Golondrinas mining project.

https://twitter.com/ASFC_CA/status/1471128898872266752

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/comunidades-de-saba-colon-presentan-recurso-de-amparo-contra-proyecto-minero-las-golondrinas/>

The rumor mill spins heavily at the moment with possible nomination by the new administration. PSH congressman Luis Redondo may preside Congress; Juan Jimenez Mayor may return as the head of a new int. anti-corruption mission; and Ramón Sabillón Pineda may be the new Minister of Security.

"All contracts that have been negotiated during the current administration in a dubious manner will be reviewed and any necessary corrections will be made, as guaranteed this Wednesday by Congressman Jorge Cálix."

FOSDEH presented a Economic, Social and Political Reconversion Plan for Honduras in the face of the sanitary, political and corruption collapse.

<https://proceso.hn/luis-redondo-seria-presidente-del-congreso-tras-acuerdo-psh-libre/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506526-466/juan-jimenez-mayor-candidato-corrupcion-nuevo-gobierno-xiomara-castro>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/perfilan-a-ramon-sabillon-como-posible-nuevo-ministro-de-seguridad-BM4349267>

<https://proceso.hn/todos-los-contratos-leoninos-seran-revisados-y-corregidos-garantiza-jorge-calix/>

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/elementos-de-diagnostico-y-lineamientos-de-propuesta-para-un-plan-de-reconversion-economica-social-y-politica-de-honduras-frente-al-colapso-sanitario-politico-y-de-corrupcion/>

JOH tries to blame others for the lack of permanent employment for health workers (see previous e-mail).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506524-466/joh-acuerdos-laborales-no-tiene-excusa-ministra-salud>

At least 36 people were murdered yesterday, one of the most violent days in the last three years.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1506545-466/dia-mas-violento-honduras-homicidios-2021>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/15/afirman-que-binomio-entre-xiomara-castro-y-embajadora-fortalecera-relaciones-con-ee-uu/>

16/12/21

Honduras Daily: Bajo Auán; Journalists; Corruption - UFERCO; Results - Fraud, Recount, Congress, Xiomara, Small Parties; JOH; Workers - Health Sector, Hondutel; Climate Crisis; Palmerola; and a Protocol of Hope

A court illegally ordered yesterday to evict the San Isidro campesino community in the Aguan Valley.

OACNUDH expressed concerns.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1471482493165391875>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1471541682294476811>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHHN/status/1471510476571828226>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the persecution and criminalization of journalist Jairo López who faces 28 years in prison.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3319-tras-ocho-anos-de-persecucion-periodista-jairo-lopez-tendra-otra-navidad-sin-libertad>

CESPAD presents some ideas on how to strengthen UFERCO under the new administration.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/16/el-fortalecimiento-de-la-uferco-uno-de-los-retos-del-gobierno-electo/>

The MP informed that they took 32 testimonies so far related to possible electoral fraud.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscales-han-obtenido-testimonios-de-32-personas-en-condicion-de-investigados-por-supuestos-delitos-electorales/>

The CNE has so far recounted only a fifth of the tallies highlighted for possible fraud.

Vice-President-elect, Doris Gutiérrez, asked to accelerate the process fearing that they won't be finished until the date established by law to present the official results.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/16/autoridad-electoral-reporta-mas-de-mil-actas-verificadas-en-francisco-morazan/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-debe-buscar-estrategia-que-acelere-escrutinio-especial-sugiere-doris-gutierrez/>

Various members of Congress marred in corruption allegations did not get reelection.

But Gladis Aurora López did.

<https://criterio.hn/principales-diputados-del-partido-nacional-sindicados-en-corrupcion-quedan-fuera-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/gladis-aurora-lopez-la-unica-sindicada-en-corrupcion-que-logro-ser-reelecta-como-diputada/>

"The head of the transition commission of the new government, Héctor Zelaya, stated that they identified 29 public entities created in the last government periods, which did not provide feasible results for the country. "It has been identified that there are 29 more institutions that were created in the last 10 years, which represent around 100 million lempiras in budget increase. From this point of view, we analyze that if these institutions were created, why are there no good results for the country," he emphasized. He indicated that many state agencies have duplicity of functions and that is why a restructuring should be made in the Executive Branch."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/16/equipo-de-transicion-revela-que-29-oficinas-publicas-no-generan-resultados-al-pais/>

Four small parties are about to disappear: Frente Amplio (Frente), Partido Nueva Ruta, Unificación Democrática (UD) and Partido de Centro Social Cristiano Va Movimiento Solidario (Vamos).

<https://proceso.hn/cuatro-partidos-en-corredor-de-la-muerte/>

Criterio and Reporteros de Investigación published a joint investigation into the death under suspicious circumstances of JOH's sister, minister Hilda Hernández, on December 16, 2017.

<https://criterio.hn/investigadores-de-ee-uu-indagan-sobre-accidente-aereo-y-muerte-de-hilda-hernandez/>

Before the elections, the JOH regime promised health workers permanent contracts. This has not materialized and health workers have protested on several occasions, yesterday again in Tegucigalpa.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-de-primera-linea-de-lempira-protesta-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506622-466/personal-salud-lempira-protesta-centro-civico-gubernamental-acuerdos-permanencia-primera-linea>

"The workers of Empresa Hondureña de Telecomunicaciones (Hondutel) paralyzed their work this Thursday demanding the payment of the November salary, the fourteenth month and the salary increases for 2020 and 2021, based on the collective bargaining agreement."

<https://criterio.hn/hondutel-otra-carga-heredada-al-nuevo-gobierno-sus-trabajadores-exigen-pago-de-salarios-atrasados/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the European Union (EU) signed on Thursday in Tegucigalpa an agreement for more than US\$5.5 million for the preparation of climate change adaptation and disaster management projects in the region."

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-y-ue-financian-proyectos-contra-cambio-climatico-en-centroamerica/>

The incoming mayor of San Pedro Sula denounced that qualified personnel is being taken away from the airport in his city and brought to the new Palmerola airport.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/16/contreras-denuncia-traslado-desleal-de-personal-del-aeropuerto-de-san-pedro-sula-a-palmerola/>

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/protocolo-de-la-esperanza-primera-herramienta-internacional-para-responder-a-las-amenazas-contra-las-personas-defensoras-de-los-derechos-humanos/>

17/12/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - Twitter; Bajo Aguán; Elections - Results, Fraud, EU; Xiomara - JOH, Corruption, Armed Forces, National Police. Palmerola; Migration; COVID-19 - Education; and Reproductive Rights, Now

"The lawyer of the law firm Estudios para la Dignidad, Víctor Fernández, denounced that the Twitter account of the institution was censored after making public the resolution of the Anti-Corruption Court ordering the removal of two computers owned by the former financial manager of the company Desarrollos Energéticos S.A. (DESA), Daniel Atala Midence."

<https://criterio.hn/twitter-censura-a-bufete-de-dd-hh-en-honduras-tras-publicar-resolucion-judicial/>

"On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, the Regional Agrarian Platform of the Aguán Valley and the Coalition of Popular Organizations of the Bajo Aguán (COPA) held a joint press conference in the city of Tocoa, Colón, Honduras. Their purpose was to draw attention to a developing situation in the

Bajo Aguán region, where Honduran state authorities are enforcing unlawful eviction orders against peasant farmers." (see yesterday)

"On Dec. 16th, 2021, the eviction of the San Isidro community took place without any injuries, and no community members were detained. The eviction order was presented to the community, with a Juez Ejecutor/Executing Judge present, and the remaining community members soon after left the property. The CONADEH (Honduras Government Human Rights Agency) was present when we arrived at the 2nd entrance of the property, where the eviction order was presented. After a closer examination of the order, it seems to be an order issued in 2019. We have not been able to verify yet whether the order was actually valid, or if the police carried out an eviction using an expired order. The cooperative of San Isidro, affiliated with the Plataforma Agraria, has a definitive land title for the San Isidro farm, and they have been on the land for 2 years. Dinant Corporation claims to have tenure over the land and had planted the land with oil palm trees before it was last occupied by the cooperative. The cooperative had removed small sections of Dinant's palm plantings to plant yucca, maize, beans, plantains, and other subsistence crops."

<https://www.uusc.org/press/uusc-condemns-forced-evictions-in-honduras/>

<https://www.solidaritycollective.org/post/december-2021-evictions-in-the-bajo-aguan-honduras>

The CNE will present the official results of the presidential and Parlacen elections next Monday. The congressional and municipal results should follow on December 28.

<https://proceso.hn/el-20-de-diciembre-se-dara-declaratoria-de-resultados-a-nivel-presidencial-y-parlacen/>

PSH continues to denounce electoral fraud. "A group of companies contracted by the National Electoral Council (CNE) for the transmission of data from the general elections are intertwined and cause a systematic fraud in the results, denounced members of the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/17/psh-denuncia-que-consorcio-fantasma-contratado-por-cne-manipula-las-elecciones/>

The EU electoral observation mission left Honduras yesterday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1506761-508/mision-observadores-union-europea-se-retira-honduras-elecciones-generales-promete-volver-informe>

It seems that JOH does not want to assist the inauguration of Xiomara Castro as the new Honduran president.

<https://criterio.hn/tras-doce-anos-en-el-poder-juan-orlando-hernandez-rehuye-asistir-a-envestidura-de-xiomara-castro/>

ContraCorriente has more details on the beginning negotiations about a new international anti-corruption body in Honduras.

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/17/gobierno-entrante-comienza-a-negociar-la-posible-instalacion-de-una-cicih/>

The current head of the Armed Forces, Tito Livio Moreno Coello, said that he will retire and announced his successor: José Jorge Fortín Aguilar, the current head of the Naval Forces.

It seems that the Armed Forces wants to avoid that the new administration can nominate the new leadership. But it is unclear if this works out for them. El Libertador reports that the Constitution stipulates that the new president will have to ratify the nominations.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506757-466/contraalmirante-jose-jorge-fortin-aguilar-nuevo-jefe-estado-mayor-conjunto-tito-livio-moreno>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2021/12/17/honduras-nuevo-jefe-y-junta-de-comandantes-debera-ser-ratificada-por-xiomara/>

Xiomara's transition team met with the leadership of the National Police Force.

<https://confidencialhn.com/inicia-acercamiento-con-la-policia-nacional-para-brindar-seguridad-en-el-traspaso-de-mando/>

Criterio reports on the challenges faced by the new government when it comes to the Palmerola airport.

ContraCorriente fact-checked the JOH regime on some promises regarding cheap flights from the new airport.

<https://criterio.hn/palmerola-el-millonario-aeropuerto-de-honduras-que-se-traduce-en-una-estafa/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/17/es-falso-que-diez-personas-puedan-viajar-desde-palmerola-a-miami-por-el-precio-que-lo-hace-una-persona-desde-toncontin/>

Proceso Digital spoke with Doctors without Borders about the situation of migrants transitioning through Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/aumenta-flujo-de-migrantes-en-transito-por-honduras/>

So far, there have been 378'804 documented COVID-19 cases in Honduras and 10'428 deaths.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-no-reporta-decesos-y-acumula-378-mil-804-casos-positivos-de-covid-19/>

"The Honduran epidemiologist, Fidel Barahona, advised this Friday against a return to classes because there is a risk of increasing the number of Covid-19 cases in the country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/epidemiologo-recomienda-no-retornar-a-clases-todavia-de-forma-presencial/>

<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/2021/12/17/honduras-pildora-anticonceptiva-orix/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/17/una-accion-por-el-derecho-a-decidir/>

18/12/21

Honduras Daily: Corruption - Congress, UN; Xiomara - PSH; COVID-19 – Vaccines;

As a reminder, before the elections, the Nationalist-controlled Congress illegally prolonged their session from the end of October to mid-January, i.e. until the new government will take office.

Since the elections, they have already used this undue power and yesterday, they did so again.

"Without prior notice, and without knowing precisely the number of deputies connected virtually, last night the National Congress approved four loans valued at US\$590.4 million (14,464.8 million lempiras)." Additionally, they promoted members of the police force, reformed the Law of the National Institute of Retirement and Pensions for Public Employees, and more.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506813-466/congreso-nacional-aprueba-prestamo-pandemia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-sigue-endeudando-al-pueblo-hondureno-al-aprobar-convenios-de-financiamiento-entre-bch-y-gobierno-para-atender-calamidad-y-pandemia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprobo-amnistia-para-las-obligaciones-con-la-enee-ihss-conatel-y-hondutel/>

"The resident coordinator of the United Nations (UN) in Honduras, Alice Shackelford, said Saturday that the international organization wants to work on strengthening institutions to fight corruption in the country. (...) When questioned on whether she will support the new government for the installation of an international anti-corruption commission, she responded that it will depend on the focus of action and nature."

<https://confidencialhn.com/onu-asegura-que-le-interesa-trabajar-en-la-lucha-contrala-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-interesada-en-trabajar-para-fortalecer-institucionalidad-en-lucha-anticorruption-senala-alice-shackelford/>

"On January 27th, Xiomara Castro will be sworn in as President of the Republic and has promised a Government of unity and reconciliation. But this will depend on how much the "de facto" alliance signed by Libre and the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH) will be maintained after defining who will preside over the National Congress, if the promise of Salvador Nasralla to elect the president of that power is fulfilled, despite the fact that his party is not achieving a large bench. We interviewed Pedro Barquero, co-coordinator of the transition commission appointed by the president-elect to know the near future of this alliance and its plans for the first 100 days of government."

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/18/la-alianza-es-inseparable-entrevista-con-pedro-barquero-co-coordinador-de-comision-de-transicion-del-nuevo-gobierno/>

JOH claims that Honduras signed a purchase agreement for 2 million vaccine doses to vaccinate children between 5 and 11 years old. But he does not give a date when they should arrive.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506816-466/vacuna-pediatrica-honduras-coronavirus>

19/12/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Corruption; Elections - Fraud; Transport Sector; Health Sector; Migration - Mexico; National Police;

This morning at 10am, there will be a virtual forum on the Guapinol case.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/guapinol-el-caso-que-el-estado-hondure%C3%B1o-se-niega-a-resolver-conforme-a-la-ley>

"The Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), with the support of Open Society Foundations (OSF), conducted a documentary and empirical research during the period from February 2021 to September 2021 focusing on the development of proposals for public policy reforms in the field of criminal justice and the design of the national anti-corruption system in Honduras. This research investigates three aspects: The main normative blockages to anti-corruption criminal action; the alternatives or possibilities for the legal and institutional dismantling of these blockages, through reforms or laws and; proposals for the legal and institutional design of an effective national anti-corruption system, taking as a reference the recent report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on: Corruption and Human Rights (2019)."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/19/reformas-penales-y-sistema-anticorrupcion-en-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN reports on another possible electoral fraud case involving the current Nationalist congresswoman Leda García Pagán.

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-a-diputada-de-inflar-actas-electorales-segun-ha-transcendido-por-fuentes-cercanas-del-ministerio-publico/>

The transport sector announced strike actions today in the capital.

"Due to the government's failure to comply with the signed agreements, the urban transportation sector of Honduras announced this Sunday that it will hold a public service strike this Monday at noon in Tegucigalpa, under the threat that it could be extended nationwide, announced Jorge Lanza, leader of this union."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/19/dirigente-de-transporte-rompe-en-llanto-narrando-la-calamidad-del-rubro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1506876-466/anuncian-paro-transporte-tegucigalpa-nivel-nacional-honduras>

The National Association of Auxiliary Nurses (ANEEAH) demanded fixed contracts for 1200 health workers.

<https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-sesal-contratacion-empleados/>

"The Youths Building the Future program was launched two and half years ago, and now nearly 4,000 Honduran youths are working at 130 companies in jobs funded by a Mexican government program. They are paid a stipend that is half the minimum wage in Honduras. Despite its slow implementation, Mexican President Andres Lopez Obrador is urging the United States to adopt and fund this model as an incentive for Central American young people to stay home instead of migrating north."

<https://contracorriente.red/en/2021/12/09/mexican-youth-employment-program-in-honduras-has-serious-shortcomings/>

"At least seven prosecutorial requirements against high-ranking officials of the National Police for alleged money laundering will be ready in the next few days to be presented by the Prosecutorial Unit of Support to the Police Purification Process, said prosecutor Luis Echeverría, head of the unit."

<https://proceso.hn/se-aproximan-juicios-contrapolicias-mientras-alistan-nuevos-casos/>

20/12/21

Honduras Daily: Agua Zarca - FMO; Guapinol; Elections - Results, Fraud, SPS, Mayors, National Party; Xiomara - ZEDEs; COVID-19; Transport Sector; Health Sector; Palmerola; and JOH's Traps

"The FMO bank of the Netherlands is sanctioned for not complying with anti-money laundering regulations and at the same time terminates all relations with the FICOHSA bank of Honduras."

<https://copinh.org/2021/12/statement-revelations-in-the-netherlands-prove-the-lenca-people-right/>

<https://copinh.org/2021/12/comunicado-revelaciones-en-holanda-dan-razon-al-pueblo-lenca/>

"The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice went on vacation without having resolved the habeas corpus filed on Tuesday, December 14 by the legal team of the eight Guapinol

defenders. The legal body will not return until January 5, 2022, informed the lawyer of the Justice for the Peoples law firm, Edy Tabora."

<https://criterio.hn/csj-se-fue-de-vacaciones-sin-resolver-habeas-corpus-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol-en-honduras/>

Xiomara Castro has been officially declared the next president of Honduras; the first female president and the one who has received the most votes. In the end, she won with almost half a million more votes than the Nationalist candidate Nasry Asfura.

<https://twitter.com/CneHonduras/status/1473001900681408518>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/con-1-7-millones-de-votos-xiomara-castro-es-electa-presidente/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1507002-508/xiomara-castro-presidenta-gano-eleccion-honduras-diferencia-votos>

<https://proceso.hn/oficial-xiomara-castro-presidenta-electa-de-honduras/>

CESPAD published a report on the illegal financing of political parties in Honduras.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/20/los-modelos-irregulares-de-financiamiento-politico-que-operan-en-honduras-las-pistas-disponibles/>

Mayor-elect of San Pedro Sula, Roberto Contreras, continues to denounce that the outgoing mayor tries to undermine him. Previously, his staff had destroyed documents and now he denies meeting with Contreras' transition team.

<https://tiempo.hn/contreras-alcaldia-no-recibe-comision-transicion/>

El Heraldo reports on the age of the incoming mayors which shows a partial rejuvenation of those holding office.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldodata/1506584-528/millennials-generacion-x-alcaldes-honduras>

While they continue to undermine the incoming government, e.g. by taking up even more debt (see yesterday), at the verbal level, National Party representative changed shift somehow. They are open to discuss derogating the ZEDEs (see some days ago), they express interest to work with the new government (while attacking the previous opposition of not having done the same in the past), and Reinaldo Sánchez even asked the Honduran people for forgiveness for the errors made by JOH. Of course, this is all very self-serving and the weeks and months to come will show if anything substantial has changed.

<https://proceso.hn/bancada-nacionalista-no-sera-una-oposicion-que-rechace-todas-las-iniciativas-del-nuevo-gobierno-senala-tomas-zambrano/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reinaldo-sanchez-pide-disculpas-a-los-hondurenos-por-el-accionar-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

"The member of the transition commission of the new government, Hugo Noé Pino, revealed this Monday that they will initiate a dialogue with the owners of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), since they were created in an irregular manner."

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-nuevo-gobierno-iniciara-dialogo-con-los-propietarios-de-las-zedes/>

Medical experts fear that the Omicron variant will hit Honduras over the holidays.

The vaccine doses for children between 5 and 11 should arrive by the end of January (see yesterday)

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/20/advierten-que-se-acerca-ola-de-omicron-a-honduras-y-piden-reforzar-vacunacion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/omicron-en-honduras-cientifico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vacunas-contr-la-covid-19-para-ninos-llegarian-al-pais-la-ultima-semana-de-enero/>

The transport sector postponed possible strike actions giving the outgoing JOH regime a bit more time to comply with past promises (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/queda-en-suspenso-el-paro-de-transporte-anunciado-para-hoy-lunes/>

"Health personnel who were dismissed from the San Felipe Hospital, after working on the front line during the Covid-19 pandemic, are holding a protest this Monday in front of the hospital, demanding reinstatement and permanent positions."

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-sanitario-del-hospital-san-felipe-exigen-reintegro-y-plazas-permanentes/>

The badly planned opening of the Palmerola airport led to traffic jams on the highway to Comayagua. Now, there is a demand to provisionally close the toll system on the way there to speed up traffic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fedecamaras-recomienda-la-eliminacion-provisional-del-peaje-de-zambrano/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nuevo-gobierno-debe-buscar-escapes-a-las-trampas-que-les-deja-joha/>

21/12/21

Honduras Daily: Berta - US; Elections - Fraud, National Party, Armed Forces; Extradition; COVID-19; Poverty - Remittances; and From Paradise to Prison

Chiara Eisner published an article for The Guardian on the role of the US military in the murder of Berta Cáceres. "When Roberto David Castillo graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point, the Honduran cadet was confident he'd leave behind a legacy. "He will be remembered by all as being a fearless leader committed to God, his family and serving others," read the caption under his yearbook portrait. Castillo is certain to be remembered: earlier this year, the Honduran high court found him guilty as the joint perpetrator in the 2016 assassination of the indigenous activist Berta Cáceres, then one of Latin America's most prominent environmental defenders. (...) A Guardian investigation reveals how Castillo's time at the prestigious military academy helped shape his career – and raises questions about the training provided by the institution to generations of Central American soldiers, some of whom later became involved with human rights abuses."

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/dec/21/the-us-military-trained-him-then-he-helped-berta-caceres>

There is an ongoing dispute among Nationalist congressional candidates including accusations of fraud.

<https://criterio.hn/pedro-chavez-la-estampa-detras-del-fraude-electoral/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1507085-508/renan-inestroza-denuncia-fraude-partido-favoreciendo-pedro-chavez>

<https://proceso.hn/candidatos-a-diputados-del-pn-se-acusan-de-hacerse-fraude-en-comicios-generales/>

Criterio reports on how the National Party used social media during the electoral campaign.

<https://criterio.hn/el-modus-operandi-del-partido-nacional-de-honduras-en-la-pasada-campana-electoral/>

Libre coordinator and former president Manuel Zelaya claims that the Armed Forces in person of its outgoing head general Tito Livio Moreno Coello intervened at the CNE after the election to get them to publish the first results.

<https://proceso.hn/habia-obstruccion-para-dar-los-resultados-tuvo-que-intervenir-tito-livio-moreno-revela-expresidente-zelaya/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/21/mel-ffaa-intervinieron-en-disenso-electoral-y-evitaron-una-guerra-civil/>

The new leadership of the Armed Forces took over yesterday with José Jorge Fortín Aguilar replacing Tito Livio Moreno Coello at its head.

"Moreno leaves the institution after two years in which the involvement of security forces and public officials in drug trafficking has increased. Now, there are Xiomara Castro's promises to remove the role of the Armed Forces in public security."

<https://proceso.hn/asume-nueva-junta-de-comandantes-en-la-vispera-de-nuevo-gobierno/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2021/12/20/tito-livio-moreno-concluye-su-periodo-entre-promesas-del-nuevo-gobierno-de-quitar-protagonismo-a-las-ff-aa/>

According to the president of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta, there are some 14-16 outstanding extradition orders by the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507103-466/rolando-argueta-presidente-csj-captura-pendientes-extraditables>

According to Roberto Cosenza, deputy minister of health, the Omicron variant is already in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507077-466/variante-omicron-honduras-casos-covid-roberto-cosenza-pandemia-2021-navidad>

Radio Progreso reports on the rising consumer, especially food, prices in Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/consumidores-en-alarma-por-aumento-de-precios-de-los-productos-de-la-canasta-basica/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-peligro-los-tamales-navidenos-por-alto-costo-de-sus-insumos/>

Remittances sent to Honduras reached more than \$7 billion this year.

<https://proceso.hn/bch-proyecta-cierre-de-remesas-con-7150-millones-en-2021/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/la-mina/item/3322-de-un-paraiso-a-una-prision-la-comunidad-cambiada-de-guapinol>

22/12/21

Honduras Daily: Congress - ZEDEs; Elections - Fraud, Women, US; Xiomara - Constitution; Secrecy Law; COVID-19 - Vaccines, Health Sector, Education; and Neither Forgetting nor Forgiving

The outgoing Nationalist-controlled Congress once again held an irregular session (see previous e-mails). Among other things, they approved 70 million Lempiras for the transport sector.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507236-466/congreso-nacional-aprueba-bono-excepcional-transporte-70-millones-contratos-alcaldia>

Congress also discussed a citizen's initiative from the CNA to derogate the ZEDEs. Some months ago, they handed in almost 15'000 certified signatures.

The CNA denounced that the Nationalist intended to ignore the popular demand.

The Liberal Party published a press release supporting the derogation of the ZEDEs, but they also said that they would not attend the session because they consider it irregular. But they also said to support the derogation in an upcoming session under the leadership of the new government.

These last days, corporate media outlets reported on a possible reform of the ZEDE law instead of repealing it. They even cited members of the transition committee on this. But apparently, this was fake news. "Economist Hugo Noé Pino himself came out and denied the alleged news of a reform to maintain the ZEDEs, while promising that the bet will be the total repeal of the regimes. "The ZEDES are going to be repealed, it is the mandate of the people. No second thoughts about it," he wrote on his Twitter account."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1473791296368164878>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1473730534027182082>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-liberal-pide-derogacion-zede/>

<https://criterio.hn/proximo-gobierno-de-honduras-aclara-que-su-lucha-sera-por-lograr-la-derogacion-de-las-zede-no-reformarlas/>

CESPAD published its sixth electoral monitor covering November 20 to December 15 called "Amidst uncertainty, boycotts and distrust, the electoral institutions guaranteed transparent and peaceful elections".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/22/institucionalidad-electoral-entre-la-incertidumbre-el-boicot-y-la-desconfianza-la-institucionalidad-electoral-garantizo-la-realizacion-de-elecciones-transparentes-y-pacificas/>

The MP captured someone accused of falsifying votes.

<https://proceso.hn/capturan-a-una-persona-por-adulterar-actas-electorales-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/tras-un-detenido-por-delitos-electorales-se-avizoran-capturas-mayores/>

Among the 298 elected mayors, only 17 will be women.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1506985-508/17-alcald%C3%ADas-honduras-dirigidas-mujeres-elecciones-2021>

"Castro's victory could be a turning point for Honduras, but it also has wider significance. It marks a rare retreat by the United States in Central America. US officials, led by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, cheered when the elected president of Honduras was overthrown in a coup in 2009. We considered him too leftist and eagerly embraced a new regime allied with US political and economic interests. That regime, however, became so corrupt and repressive that it set off mass migration toward the United States. The prospect of more migration terrifies the Biden administration, because it is an intensifying issue in US politics."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/12/22/opinion/politics-immigration-makes-us-sing-new-tune-central-america/>

El Pulso reports on the possibility of a constitutional assembly convoked by the new administration.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/22/constituyente-xiomara/>

Both ConexiHon and Criterio cover the secrecy law, its nefarious impact in Honduras and the hope that the Xiomara administration will repeal it.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/el-observador/1941-la-ley-de-secretos-de-honduras-se-mantiene-en-la-opacidad>

<https://criterio.hn/ley-de-secretos-ha-profundizado-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

Doctor and president of the Medical Association of the ISS in San Pedro Sula, Carlos Umaña, warns that Honduras is not ready for the Omicron variant.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507164-466/carlos-umana-salud-no-preparada-atender-casos-omicron-honduras>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/posible-presencia-de-la-variante-omicron-de-la-covid-19-dispara-las-alarmas-en-honduras/>

The Health Minister announced that Honduras will apply a booster shot three months after the second shot.

<https://proceso.hn/salud-aplicara-la-dosis-de-refuerzo-a-los-tres-meses-a-mayores-de-18-anos/>

For the third day in a row, staff at the Leonardo Martínez hospital are protesting demanding three months of unpaid wages.

Radio Progreso reports on the demand by health workers for permanent employment.

<https://proceso.hn/que-nos-paguen-hoy-dice-personal-del-hospital-leonardo-martinez-ante-falta-de-pago/>

<https://tiempo.hn/personal-del-leonardo-protesta-en-sps/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/personal-de-salud-denuncia-falta-de-voluntad-politica-en-otorgamiento-de-plazas/>

"The president of the Colegio de Pedagogos de Honduras (Colpedagogosh), Edwin Rodríguez, suggested that there should be a return to face-to-face classes next year, for which they will present a proposal to president-elect Xiomara Castro. "We have been working on a proposal for the safe return to face-to-face classes and we will present a plan for the recovery of the educational system to the new authorities," he said."

""They have left us with an educational system that is a disaster, 12 years of anguish and misery", reproached this Wednesday the president of the First Honduran Professional Teachers' Association (Pricphma), Yuri Hernández, when he blamed the Government for the "bankruptcy of the country".

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/22/expertos-sugieren-retorno-a-clases-presenciales-a-partir-de-2022/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nos-dejan-un-sistema-educativo-hecho-un-desastre-reprocha-dirigente-magisterial/>

<https://criterio.hn/ni-olvido-ni-perdon-clamor-de-hondurenos-ante-disculpas-por-perjuicios-cometidos-por-el-partido-nacional/>

23/12/21

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Congress - ZEDEs, Prisons; Elections - Congress, Xiomara;

JOH seemed to have said the quiet part loud. There have been various theories circulating on how JOH will protect himself from an extradition after leaving office: moving to a ZEDE, going to Nicaragua or taking a seat at the Central American Parliament (Parlacen). It seems that the third option won out. In an interview with El País, in which he once again disputed all accusations against him, JOH said: "By law, each president of Central America must be a member of the Central American Parliament at the end of his term of office. That is what has been proposed and from there we are going to contribute to Central American integration. I want to take advantage of my presence here to expand the customs union with Guatemala, which has had a tremendous impact on the GDP of Honduras and Guatemala. There is a whole interesting and productive agenda that will be good for Central America."

According to lawyer and former Parlacen congressman Raúl Pineda Alvarado, JOH, as a member of Parlacen, would only have immunity in all the member countries of the Parlacen, but not Honduras itself.

<https://elpais.com/internacional/2021-12-22/las-acusaciones-de-narcotrafico-contra-mi-son-una-venganza-de-los-capos.html>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/12/23/juan-orlando-hernandez-intentaria-evadir-la-justicia-de-eeuu-prolongando-su-inmunidad-diplomatica-por-medio-del-parlacen/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507275-466/parlacen-no-inmunidad-juan-orlando-hernandez-honduras-narcotrafico>

Both Criterio and El Libertador report on the irregular Zoom-sessions by the Nationalist members of Congress and their allies (see previous days).

Yesterday, the outgoing Congress approved the authorization for the Municipal Mayor's Office of the Central District (AMDC) to contract municipal bonds for up to 3 billion Lempiras.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-recurre-a-arbitraria-aprobacion-masiva-de-leyes-ante-cierre-de-gobierno/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2021/12/23/congreso-zoom-busca-amarrar-gobierno-de-xiomara/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/abuso-de-poder-consideran-parlamentarios-la-contratacion-de-bonos-municipales-admc-por-1-3-mil-millones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-varios-contratos-para-la-alcaldia-municipal-del-distrito-central/>

The CNA denounced that the Nationalist-controlled outgoing Congress wants to disapprove the citizens' initiative to have the ZEDEs repealed (see also yesterday). Without the attendance of the Libre, Liberal and Pinu party, they would not have the necessary quorum for a vote.

Unlike previous occasions, the protest may have served its purpose, the Nationalist members of Congress postponed the decision on the citizens' initiative.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1474056371259727873>

https://twitter.com/Doris_Gutierrez/status/1474065007759474688

<https://criterio.hn/cn-posterga-sesion-encaminada-a-declarar-desfavorable-iniciativa-contras-zede/>

Congress also approved the continuation of the (failed) militarization of Honduras' penitentiary system until the end of February.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-aprueba-que-continue-la-intervencion-del-sistema-penitenciario-hasta-el-28-de-febrero-del-2022/>

CESPAD published two more reports on the elections, on the context and on public spending.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/23/contexto-electoral-mientras-asume-nuevo-gobierno-la-justicia-en-honduras-se-ensana-con-pobladores-de-guapinol/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/23/gasto-publico-proceso-electoral-2021-no-se-sanciono-incumplimiento-a-la-ley-de-politica-limpia-y-continua-bloqueada-informacion-sobre-el-origen-de-los-fondos-utilizados-por-los-partidos-politicos/>

Luis Redondo may be the next president of Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/luis-redondo-confirma-tener-venia-de-presidenta-xiomara-castro-para-ser-presidente-del-cn/>

<https://twitter.com/Lredondo/status/1474185823704731660>

The Xiomara administration is inheriting a huge debt burden (see previous e-mails). Yesterday, Roxana Rodríguez, Vice Minister of Finance, informed that more than 200 million lempiras had been disbursed to pay salaries to employees of the "Con chamba vivís mejor" program.

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-finanzas-desembolsa-mas-de-200-millones-de-lempiras-para-pago-de-empleados-del-programa-con-chamba-vivis-mejor/>

24/12/21

Honduras Daily: Bajo Aguán; Elections - Congress; Xiomara - Corruption, Agriculture, JOH, ZEDES; Migration - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector; and The Weight of Books

Reuters published a special report from the Bajo Aguán. "Fighting over farmland in Honduras has led to nearly 150 murders and disappearances. But few cases have been fully investigated, let alone solved. Reuters examines a conflict that leads poor Hondurans to flee the rich fields of the Aguán Valley."

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/honduras-migration-land/>

President-elect Xiomara Castro supports the nomination of Luis Redondo for the presidency of Congress (see yesterday).

The Liberal Party announced to support the candidate nominated by Libre.

Redondo has already present a plan, a legislative commitment, for his presidency.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1474372897602945042>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1507349-508/xiomara-castro-mensaje-luis-redondo-presidente-congreso-nacional-psh-presidenta-libre>

<https://proceso.hn/pl-apoyara-a-diputado-que-libre-designe-para-presidencia-del-congreso-confirma-mario-segura/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2021/12/24/desarmar-la-dictadura-y-montar-la-republica-mision-de-redondo/>

"With the triumph of President-elect Xiomara Castro Sarmiento and the nomination of Congressman Luis Redondo to the presidency of the National Congress, Honduras could be at the doorstep of a great opportunity to recover the rule of law, establish auditing systems for public institutions and achieve the installation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity, said sociologist Elvin Hernández on Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/honduras-podria-estar-a-las-puertas-de-recuperar-el-estado-de-derecho-y-acabar-con-la-corrupcion/>

CESPAD published an analysis of the challenges faced by the new administration to resolve the agrarian crisis.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2021/12/24/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-honduras-la-crisis-agraria-y-alimentaria-que-heredara-el-nuevo-gobierno/>

"Hugo Noé Pino, member of the Transition Commission of the government to be presided over by Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, revealed this Friday that a team of legal experts has been appointed to advise on the review of all contracts signed by the current government administration."

<https://proceso.hn/nombran-equipo-legal-para-asesorar-nuevo-gobierno-en-revision-de-contratos-heredados-de-actual-administracion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-equipo-especial-asesorara-al-nuevo-gobierno-en-la-revision-de-contratos-heredados-por-la-actual-administracion/>

The discussions about the ZEDEs and what can be done about them by the new administration continue (see previous days).

<https://criterio.hn/para-derogar-las-zede-basta-usar-el-poder-y-movilizar-al-pueblo/>

Five Honduran children were picked up by US border security agents. They had notes with them with phone numbers of relatives.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1507360-471/cinco-ninos-honduras-solos-eeuu-telefonos-notas-texas-migrantes>

<https://proceso.hn/cinco-ninos-migrantes-hondurenos-entran-solos-a-eeuu-con-telefonos-escritos-en-notas/>

"After the announcement of the closure of several triage centers, the head of the Pneumology Service of the National Cardiopulmonary Institute of Honduras, Suyapa Sosa, said that closing triage centers and dismissing trained personnel is the worst mistake that health authorities are making, given the threat of omicron in the country."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/12/22/doctora-suyapa-sosa-cierre-de-triajes-es-el-peor-error-que-estan-cometiendo/>

"According to statements made by the president of the National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, as of January 1, 2022, health personnel who were left out of the system after being hired under the Green Code program will be given permanent employment."

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-a-partir-del-proximo-1-de-enero-se-podria-dar-la-permanencia-laboral-al-personal-de-primera-linea-pendiente/>

<https://proceso.hn/quienes-se-robaron-equipo-tecnologico-llenaron-cajas-con-libros-revela-cne/>

25/12/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Xiomara; Remittances; and the Top Villain of 2021

The Citizen Board (Mesa ciudadana), consisting of social and human rights leaders of Honduras, published a press release on the election of Xiomara Castro. "The Mesa Ciudadana celebrates the victory that makes Xiomara Castro Sarmiento president-elect, thanks to a successful campaign, since the people of Honduras - determined and clear - voted for her massively. The great winner is the people, who analyzed the person, listened attentively to her positions, interpreted her sincere intention and decided to believe in her. (...) Beyond satisfying party demands or good relations with the powers that be, from inside and outside, the new government has acquired a commitment to the profound change that the nation needs to survive and prosper. It must immediately implement changes that respond to the widespread demands of a population beset by burdens. (...) On the very day of the inauguration, the President must propose to Congress the unavoidable repeal of all unconstitutional laws. And to proclaim an amnesty to immediately release political prisoners and defenders of the common goods and nature, as well as to announce the repatriation of the politically persecuted of the regime. Afterwards, with more time, it will be necessary to build new legal norms to fill the legal vacuum. But what is null and void cannot survive and does not require negotiation. The recovery of Honduras, in addition to being an economic and social project, must be a project of civic, moral and ethical recovery, of the sense of national identity, of the Homeland, which involves guaranteeing the rights of all. LIBRE and Xiomara swore that the sovereignty of the people would be above any private utility, privilege, group benefit or sectorial or partisan convenience. The new government also has an obligation of transparency. (...) The people voted to take back their own role in guiding their destiny. The new government must continuously dialogue with the people, empower citizens and enrich its policies with the permanent flow of popular opinion. In the same way, laws must be forged democratically to ensure the improvement of the systems with which the citizenry generates institutional democracy, the electoral and consultation systems."

<https://criterio.hn/una-eleccion-democratica-es-un-pacto-sagrado-con-el-pueblo/>

Xiomara sent a holidays message to Hondurans thanking them for their support and promising that "the re-foundation of Honduras will be a reality to respond to our youth and children, an active and participatory democracy in which we will all have opportunities".

<https://proceso.hn/no-mas-corrupcion-y-oportunidades-para-todos-promete-xiomara-castro/>

Honduras has received almost 30% more in remittances this year, \$6.85 billion.

<https://proceso.hn/remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-crecen-289-y-suman-6-8547-millones-de-dolares/>

https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1474837592927522820

26/12/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Results; Xiomara - Guapinol, Electricity; Poverty - Child Labor; COVID-19 – Vaccines;

Tomorrow, the CNE is expected to announce the final results at the congressional level.

The CNE also informed that starting yesterday, they are making the necessary corrections to the electoral results that were challenged.

<https://proceso.hn/sera-redondo-el-presidente-que-impulsara-la-agenda-de-libre-en-el-congreso/>

<https://proceso.hn/cne-inicia-correcciones-a-resultados-electorales-tras-escrutinio-especial-por-impugnaciones/>

Libre coordinator José Manuel Zelaya Rosales announced that they will fight for the liberation of the imprisoned Guapinol defenders.

<https://proceso.hn/lucharemos-por-liberacion-de-ambientalistas-de-guapinol-expresidente-manuel-zelaya/>

Former head of the Central Bank of Honduras and member of Xiomara's Transition Commission, Hugo Noé Pino, fears that energy prices will rise because the JOH regime froze them in an attempt to gain popularity. But Pino also announced that those using less than 150kw of energy per month will receive support by the new administration.

ConfidencialHN even cites him as promising that the most vulnerable sector not having to pay for energy at all.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1507458-466/hugo-noe-pino-subsidio-energia-bajo-consumo-energia-electrica-xiomara-castro-2022>

<https://proceso.hn/preocupa-que-tarifas-de-energia-estuvieron-congeladas-hugo-noe-pino/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-personas-que-consuman-menos-de-150-kw-no-pagaran-energia-electrica/>

"The national advocacy coordinator of the NGO World Vision, Mauricio Valladares, said that child labor is an invisible phenomenon in Honduras. "Child labor is a phenomenon that has not been given the importance it requires, it has been made invisible and this is noticeable in the absence of public policies and laws to protect this population group," he said. According to World Vision data, before the Covid-19 pandemic there were more than 400'000 children between 5 and 17 years of age working in Honduras. However, Valladares estimated that this figure increased to 900'000 minors due to the loss of jobs in many families as a collateral cause of the health emergency, in addition to the closing of educational centers and the onslaught of the tropical phenomena Eta and Iota."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/26/trabajo-infantil-trunca-los-suenos-de-unos-900-mil-ninos-en-honduras-estima-oenege/>

There is an uptick in Hondurans attending COVID-19 triage centers.

<https://tiempo.hn/largas-filas-en-ihss-de-sps-tras-navidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/triajes-de-la-capital-muestran-un-aumento-en-la-afluencia-de-pacientes/>

According to the deputy secretary of health, Fredy Guillén, 620'000 minors have been vaccinated since September.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/26/honduras-mas-de-620-mil-menores-de-edad-se-han-vacunado-contra-covid-19-asegura-salud/>

27/12/21

Honduras Daily: Bajo Aguán; Guapinol - US; JOH; Elections - Results, Fraud; Xiomara - Education, Unions; Hondutel; Health Sector;

"At least seven people were injured early this morning when they were attacked by alleged security guards of Inversiones Ceibeñas, said in Radio Progreso the Coordinator of the Agrarian Platform, Jaime Cabrera."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/enfrentamiento-entre-campesinos-y-supuestos-guardias-deja-siete-heridos-en-tocoa-colon/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3324-recrudece-violencia-contra-campesinos-en-el-aguan-guardias-de-seguridad-disparan-contra-familias-a-vista-y-paciencia-de-la-policia>

The US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya, tweeted: "During my recent trip to Honduras I underscored the importance of transparently and expeditiously resolving legal processes, including #Guapinol and other human rights cases. We continue to monitor these processes closely."

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1475530578535632900>

<https://proceso.hn/subraye-la-importancia-de-resolver-el-caso-de-guapinol-recuerda-subsecretaria-uzra-zeya/>

Journalist Jeff Ernst has a Twitter thread on the question if JOH is protected from an extradition to the US as a future member of the Parlacen (see also last week). "In conclusion, there is no international or national law or treaty that prevents the possible capture and extradition of JOH in Honduras. However, JOH's influence over the MP and the CSJ could protect him while their mandates continue."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1475550693738127360>

CNE magistrate Rixi Moncada confirmed that today they will present the final results of the congressional races.

<https://confidencialhn.com/rixi-moncada-confirma-que-declaratoria-de-diputados-sera-manana/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office obtained a formal indictment with preventive detention against a member of a political party [Liberal Party] who participated as a member of a Special Verification Board in the last electoral process of November 28, who was charged the previous week for the crime of falsification of electoral documents."

Two women were captured yesterday accused of electoral fraud.

ConfidencialHN reports on the lack of investigation into the intellectual authors of electoral fraud.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-y-prision-preventiva-contra-escurador-por-falsificacion-de-documentos-electorales/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1507571-466/capturan-dos-mujeres-delitos-electorales-honduras->

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondurenos-exigen-castigo-contra-autores-intelectuales-y-materiales-de-fraude-electoral/>

The new administration wants to return to in-person classes in their first 100 days in power.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/27/el-nuevo-gobierno-buscara-el-retorno-a-clases-presenciales-en-sus-primeros-100-dias/>

Xiomara's transition commission met with labor representatives. Among their demands is the derogation of the Hourly Employment Law and the elimination of the intervention bodies of several state bodies.

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/27/piden-al-gobierno-entrante-derogar-el-empleo-por-hora-y-eliminar-juntas-interventoras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-de-transicion-se-reune-con-centrales-obreras-para-escuchar-propuestas-y-planteamientos/>

Hondutel workers continue to protest demanding outstanding salaries.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-de-hondutel-continuan-en-protesta-por-falta-de-pago-salarial/>

At the University Hospital, health workers demand fixed contracts.

Further north, health workers at the Hospital Leonardo Martínez hospital demand the payment of the three last monthly salaries.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-medico-reclama-asignacion-de-plazas-en-el-hospital-escuela/>

28/12/21

Honduras Daily: Bajo Aguán; Elections - Results, TJE; COVID-19 - Vaccines; Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH; Poverty;

OACNUDH expressed concerns about the attack on members of a campesino cooperative in the Bajo Aguán (see yesterday). They demand an investigation into the attack.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1475848285525004303>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/naciones-unidas-demandan-investigacion-pronta-imparcial-y-exhaustiva-sobre-la-violencia-campesina-en-el-aguan/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2021/12/28/la-onu-pide-a-honduras-investigar-retorno-violento-de-campesinos-desalojados/>

The CNE presented the final results yesterday of the congressional and mayoral races. In Congress, Libre will have 50 seats, the National Party 40, the Liberal Party 22, the Savior of Honduras Party 10, and the Christian Democrat and PAC each one.

At the mayoral level, the National Party won 142 races, the Liberal Party 90 and Libre 50. Some cities were won by smaller parties and alliances.

The CNE called the elections a success.

<https://proceso.hn/estos-son-los-diputados-del-congreso-nacional-2022-2026/>

<https://proceso.hn/conozca-los-alcaldes-vencedores-de-los-principales-municipios-del-pais/>

<https://proceso.hn/pese-a-adulteracion-de-actas-el-proceso-electoral-ha-sido-un-exito-consejera-del-cne/>

Not everyone shares the reading by the CNE and over 35 challenges of the results have been presented to the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE).

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/28/denuncian-escrutinio-selectivo-del-cne-en-actas-impugnadas-por-candidatos/>

<https://criterio.hn/tje-comienza-a-recibir-recursos-de-apelaciones-a-los-resultados-electorales-en-honduras/>

With an increase in cases, health authorities call on the public to pay attention to biosafety measures.

At the same time, Copeco promises to keep the four triage centers in Tegucigalpa and Comayguela open.

But health experts demand to reopen some of the triage centers that had been closed in the previous weeks.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pide-extremar-medidas-sanitarias-ante-leve-aumento-de-casos-de-covid/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/28/copeco-descarta-cierre-de-triajes-en-la-capital-tras-aumento-de-atenciones/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/28/medicos-y-sociedad-civil-piden-reapertura-de-triajes-ante-amenaza-de-omicron/>

ConfidencialHN reports on people waiting in long lines to get the booster shot.

<https://confidencialhn.com/largas-filas-de-capitalinos-buscando-dosis-de-refuerzo-contr-la-covid-19/>

The Armed Forces report to have captured over 1000 people linked to drug trafficking this year as well as seized almost 18 tons of cocaine and half a million coca plants.

<https://proceso.hn/ffaa-capturo-este-ano-a-mas-de-mil-trafficantes-de-drogas-en-honduras/>

Further north, the picture presented by the Armed Forces looks less successful. "Yesterday, December 27th, the defense of Geovanny Fuentes requested the Southern District Court in New York headed by Judge Kevin Castel, the minimum sentence of forty years, Fuentes has been identified as a direct partner of Juan Orlando Hernandez in the production and distribution of hundreds of tons of cocaine that were sent to the United States, in addition the prosecution requests the seizure of more than \$151.7 million dollars he obtained through his drug trafficking activities and a fine of \$10 million dollars."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2021/12/28/geovanny-fuentes-se-enfrenta-a-la-misma-condena-de-tony-hernandez-cadena-perpetua-mas-treinta-anos/>

More than 2000 people employed by the JOH regime as part of the “Con Chamba Vivís Mejor” program are demanding to be paid.

<https://proceso.hn/cientos-de-empleados-de-con-chamba-vivis-mejor-reclaman-pago-de-salario/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-de-con-chamba-vivis-mejor-demandan-pago-de-salario/>

"Food insecurity, which continues to rise in Honduras, is another pandemic that the new government, headed by Xiomara Castro, will have to face as of January 27, 2022. This is what analysts and the office of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) warn."

<https://proceso.hn/la-inseguridad-alimentaria-la-otra-pandemia-que-arrastra-honduras/>

29/11/12

Honduras Daily: Elections - Results, CNE, Congress; Xiomara - Campesines; Drug Trafficking - JOH; JOH; Fuel Prices; COVID-19; and the Dark Side of the Liberal Party

With the official results out, it has become clear that JOH's right-hand man Ebal Díaz has not succeeded in becoming a congressman.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1507724-508/listado-nombres-congreso-nacional-2022-2026-honduras-elecciones>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ebal-diaz-y-pedro-chavez-quedan-fuera-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1507726-508/candidatos-partido-nacional-mas-votados-en-primarias-no-quedaron>

The CNE ordered the repeat of two local elections, in Duyure, Choluteca, and Wampusirpi en Gracias a Dios.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cne-ordena-repetir-elecciones-municipales-en-duyure-choluteca-y-wampusirpi-gracias-a-dios/>

Pedro Barquero, coordinator of the Savior of Honduras Party (PSH), says that they have more than 70 votes for the election of Luis Redondo as the president of Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/pedro-barquero-tenemos-los-70-diputados-y-otros-que-estan-dispuestos-a-apoyarnos/>

<https://proceso.hn/luis-redondo-cuenta-con-70-votos-para-presidir-el-proximo-cn-asegura-pedro-barquero/>

"Jari Dixon Herrera, coordinator of the presidential transition commission, revealed that more than one million lempiras have been collected to date for the inauguration of the president-elect of Honduras, Xiomara Castro de Zelaya."

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-un-millon-de-lempiras-han-recaudado-para-la-toma-de-posesion-de-la-presidenta-electa-xiomara-castro/>

"The peasant organizations asked the transition commission of the new government to desist from the criminalization of workers and to regulate the prices of basic grains, since these are the main causes affecting the country's agrarian system."

"A study conducted by the Council for the Integral Development of Rural Women (Codimca) indicated that 86 percent of women do not have access to property."

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/29/campesinos-piden-al-nuevo-gobierno-que-frene-criminalizacion-del-estado/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/29/acceso-a-la-propiedad-principal-problema-de-la-mujer-campesina/>

The trial in the US for drug trafficking against JOH's alleged cousin and former police agent Mauricio Hernández Pineda will take place on January 25, 2022 after having been postponed on several occasions.

<https://tiempo.hn/posponen-juicio-mauricio-hernandez/>

ConfidencialHN reports on the role of intervention bodies during the JOH regime - "with juicy salaries and people close to Hernández Alvarado" - and what the new administration should do about them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/papel-de-juntas-interventoras-en-regimen-cachureco-de-joha/>

Honduras paid over \$1.5 billion to import fuel in the first ten months of 2021, that is 77.7% more than in 2020.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pago-1503-9-millones-de-dolares-por-los-combustibles-en-diez-meses/>

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 are on the rise again in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/hospitalizaciones-por-covid-en-hospital-escuela/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2021/12/29/medico-advierte-trampa-viral-para-proximo-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/acusan-al-lado-oscuro-del-partido-liberal-de-perjudicar-eleccion-de-eduardo-martell/>

30/12/21

Honduras Daily: Elections - Xiomara, National Party, Fraud, Reforms; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Gangs; Migration; and a Failure of Humanity

Xiomara Castro received the official credential by the CNE as the next president of Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-punto-de-llorar-xiomara-castro-recibe-credencial-del-cne-como-la-presidenta-de-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1507829-508/xiomara-castro-recibe-credencial-presidenta-constitucional-honduras>

One day after reporting that Natinalist big-wig Pedro Chávez would not be part of the new Congress (see yesterday article on Ebal Díaz), he now seems to have won the internal race against Renán Inestroza after all.

<https://proceso.hn/pedro-chavez-recibe-credencial-como-diputado-del-pn-al-desplazar-a-renan-inestroza/>

The CNE recognized that fraudulent acts were committed during the elections, but they also emphasize that the elections have been the most transparent and reliable in the history of Honduras, especially thanks to the massive voter turnout.

<https://criterio.hn/autoridades-electorales-reconocen-fraude-mientras-candidatos-exigen-conteo-de-votos/>

CNE magistrate Rixi Moncada presented some proposals for electoral reforms such as more independence for the CNE as well as a two-round presidential election.

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-desafios-son-que-el-cne-no-sea-mercado-de-venta-y-compra-de-candidaturas-y-la-segunda-vuelta-electoral-rix-moncada/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/30/aprobar-segunda-vuelta-y-manejo-de-presupuesto-son-desafios-de-cne/>

Prosecutor Emil Bove, who lead the case against Tony Hernández in New York, departed from the US Attorney's Office. Journalist Jeff Ernst asked for a reason and was given the following answer: “After a distinguished tenure as a federal prosecutor, Mr. Bove decided to pursue a career opportunity in the private sector.”

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1476596630187040771>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1476585111269294086>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507828-466/emil-bove-fiscal-nueva-york-despido-acusador-narcotraficantes>

Medical experts warn about the COVID-19 situation in Honduras with a new urgency.

In Juticalpa, Olancho, the mayor declared a health emergency.

<https://proceso.hn/gremio-medico-avizora-punto-critico-en-saturacion-de-hospitales-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2021/12/30/por-acelerado-aumento-de-casos-de-covid-19-juticalpa-en-emergencia-sanitaria/>

Health workers at the Toráx hospital protest the dismissal of 40 employees.

At the Leonardo Martínez Valenzuela hospital, 238 health workers are without employment since yesterday.

"The employees of the San Felipe hospital demanded this Thursday that the director of this health care center, Edwin Cruz, be investigated for abuse of power by earning two salaries with the same schedule, having several family members in jobs and persecution of the workers."

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-sanitarios-protestan-por-despidos-en-hospital-el-torax/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-238-empleados-de-salud-recibieron-su-finiquito-del-hospital-leonardo-martinez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-exigen-que-se-investigue-al-director-del-hospital-san-felipe-edwin-cruz-por-abuso-de-poder/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/formalizan-despidos-a-medicos-bajo-contrato-covid/>

The National Anti-Mara Force (FNAMP) claims to have seized over 600 million Lempiras this year and arrested 500 gang members.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/mas-de-l600-millones-decomiso-este-ano-la-fuerza-antimaras-CD4522361>

"Record numbers of migrant crossings and deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border marked the year 2021, making it one of the deadliest for those seeking protection and a better life outside their countries. "This year we undoubtedly experienced one of the most difficult times for migrants at the border. The crossings, detentions, deportations and above all the deaths were something very regrettable," Vicki Gaubeca, director of the Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC), told Efe. According to official figures from Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in fiscal year 2021, which ended Sept. 30, a total of 557 deaths were recorded at the border with Mexico."

<https://proceso.hn/record-de-cruces-y-muertes-de-migrantes-marcaron-frontera-sur-de-eeuu-en-2021/>

<https://criterio.hn/caravanas-migrantes-son-una-expresion-del-fracaso-del-sistema-y-de-la-humanidad-padre-melo/>

31/12/21

Honduras Daily: COVID-19; Violence; Transport; ID;

Honduras closed the year with 379'542 detected COVID-19 cases and 10'434 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumulo-10-mil-434-muertos-por-covid-y-379-mil-542-contagios-desde-2020/>

The University Hospital implemented a contingency plan due to the increase of cases.

<https://proceso.hn/hospital-escuela-activa-plan-de-contingencia-ante-incremento-de-casos-covid/>

3607 Hondurans were murdered this year leading to a homicide rate of 37.9 per 100'000, slightly higher than in 2020.

53 multiple killings were registered this year in Honduras taking the lives of 168 people.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-contabilizo-cerca-de-10-homicidios-cada-dia-en-el-transcurso-de-2021/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1507933-466/masacres-2021-honduras-homicidios-violencias-datos>

Almost 1500 people died in Honduras this year in traffic accidents.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-1-mil-470-muertos-en-accidentes-viales-este-ano-en-honduras/>

The old ID card is no longer valid in Honduras. 300'000 people still have not picked up their new one.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hoy-vence-vigencia-de-vieja-tarjeta-de-identidad/>