

01/01/21

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Corruption; Elections; JOH - Israel; and Born into a New Honduras?

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the December 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:

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https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=40979

The head of the investigation unit at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Odir Fernández, calls for a purge of the MP and the Supreme Court as a prerequisite to fight corruption in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1508002-466/odir-fernandez-depuracion-poder-judicial-ministerio-publico-congreso-nacional>

El Pulso reports on how politics is to a wide part a family matter in Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/01/estas-familias-ocuparan-al-menos-dos-cargos-de-eleccion-popular-en-el-nuevo-gobierno/>

JOH gave an interview to The Times of Israel on the Honduran-Israeli relationship. "Shortly before he leaves office, Juan Orlando Hernández, a close ally of Israel, says his left-wing successor will face resistance if she tries to move Jerusalem embassy".

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1477005657039683584>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/outgoing-honduras-president-christians-parliament-will-protect-strong-israel-ties/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1507978-466/tres-ninas-primeras-nacer-honduras-ano-nuevo-2022>

02/01/21

Honduras Daily: Xiomara - Security; and Forgiveness vs. Justice

After five years in exile, the former head of police Ramón Sabillón returned to Honduras. He was met at the airport with the member of the transition committee, Pedro Barquero. It is widely believed that Sabillón will occupy an important post in the Xiomara administration.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/02/regresa-a-honduras-el-general-ramon-sabillon-para-ocupar-cargo-importante-en-seguridad/>

<https://criterio.hn/regresa-del-exilio-ramon-sabillon-inminente-ministro-de-seguridad-del-nuevo-gobierno/>

Some sectors close to JOH seem to push the forgiveness narrative, but forgiveness needs justice and accountability.

"Forgiveness, in any case, is subsequent to the right to truth, justice, determination of punishment, reparation and the certainty of non-repetition. Stop to the pretended impunity, disguised as reconciliation and forgiveness."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/02/rechazan-campana-de-perdon-y-exigen-busqueda-de-justicia-en-nuevo-gobierno/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-impunidad-solo-provocaria-mas-dano-reacciona-barquero-a-campana-de-perdon/>

<https://twitter.com/VictorFerG/status/1477701534104358912>

03/01/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; WHRDs; Indigenous Peoples; Elections - TJE, Congress, Xiomara; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines, Education; Electricity; Migration – Caravan;

Pasos de Animal Grande explains why the ongoing pre-trial detention of the Guapinol defenders is illegal.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/las-cortes/item/3328-como-puede-la-corte-justificar-la-detencion-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol-no-puede>

Jeff Ernst reports on a "Honduran sanctuary for female rights defenders". "Inaugurated earlier this year, the 10-day retreat at La Siguata is part of a tiny but growing movement led by the

Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders, which funds this and another centre in Oaxaca, Mexico, addressing the mental health issues that come with working in one of the world's most dangerous regions for activists and women. "We realised that there was lots of burnout and also strong impacts on women defenders as a result of structural violence, as well as patriarchal violence that was very invisible and normalised," says Ana María Hernández of Casa La Serena healing centre in Oaxaca, Mexico, which opened in 2016 and has since welcomed hundreds of women from across the region."

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jan/03/house-of-healing-the-honduran-sanctuary-for-female-rights-defenders>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) presents its thematic report "Right to Self-Determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples" in which it recognizes the current demands of indigenous and tribal peoples, analyzes international standards, and makes recommendations to States with the aim of contributing to efforts to recognize and implement the right to self-determination. This report is part of the strategic plan of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which seeks to make visible practices, experiences, and challenges that these peoples face in the recognition and exercise of this right."

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2021/355.asp

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) started yesterday the process of the jurisdictional recount of the polling stations. So far, they have received 85 appeals, mainly from the municipal and deputy levels.

<https://proceso.hn/tje-inicia-recuento-jurisdiccional-de-juntas-receptoras-de-votos/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/03/justicia-electoral-inicia-el-primer-recuento-jurisdiccional-de-las-elecciones-generales/>

The Liberal Party repeated that they would respect the will of Libre regarding the presidency of Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/la-bancada-liberal-respetara-la-decision-de-libre-sobre-quien-presida-el-cn-indica-diputado-segura/>

The Liberal Party additionally announced to support the agenda of the Xiomara presidency.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/bancada-liberal-apoyara-proyectos-enviados-por-la-presidenta-electa-xiomara-castro/>

COVID-19 cases in need of artificial respiration dramatically increased at the University Hospital in the last weeks.

<https://proceso.hn/pacientes-covid-19-se-han-triplicado-en-ultimas-semanas-en-el-hospital-escuela/>

"The employees of the Mario Mendoza Psychiatric Hospital in Tegucigalpa complied with their warning to begin the year with a work stoppage as a pressure measure and to demand payment of their salaries."

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-del-hospital-mario-mendoza-paralizan-consulta-externa/>

4.1 million Honduras have been fully vaccinated so far, i.e. 43.7% of the population. Almost half a million has received a booster shot.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-suma-mas-de-41-millones-de-personas-vacunadas-con-las-dos-dosis-contra-la-covid-19/>

The Omicron variant complicates the plan of the incoming administration for a swift return to classes.

Proceso Digital has a longer article on the challenges faced by the Honduran education system. "Not that education was doing well in the country before the COVID-19 pandemic, however, it is undeniable that the crisis has worsened in the last two years, with the massive closure of face-to-face classes in all educational institutions. One of the most dramatic points that should draw the attention of decision makers in the country and society in general is that there are currently an estimated 1.2 million (1,231,676) children and youth between the ages of 3 and 18 outside the Honduran educational system, which is equivalent to 39.7% of the school-age population."

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/03/retorno-a-clases-2022-amenazado-por-omicron/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/educacion-indica-que-apertura-de-los-centros-educativos-dependera-de-los-lineamientos-que-establezca-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-educacion-en-honduras-debe-salir-de-las-sombras-en-2022/>

The Regulatory Commission of Electric Energy (CREE) announced a 13% price increase for the first three months of 2022.

The outgoing Minister of Energy Roberto Ordoñez stated that as last October, when the price was meant to increase 12%, the government would pay for the increase.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/03/anuncian-aumento-de-13-3-a-tarifa-energetica-gobierno-dice-que-mantendra-subsidio/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/03/feliz-ano-nuevo-meten-tarifazo-a-energia-electrica/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1508183-466/gobierno-subsidia-tarifa-energia-electrica-trancazo-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-detiene-trancazo-de-la-cree-a-la-energia-electrica/>

Some media outlets report on the formation of a new migrant caravan.

<https://tiempo.hn/caravana-de-migrantes-hondurenos-en-2022/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/03/alrededor-de-dos-mil-hondurenos-podrian-migrar-hacia-ee-uu-en-los-proximos-dias/>

04/01/22

Honduras Daily: Elections - Violence; Xiomara - Security, Armed Forces, Education; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Electricity; Corruption;

The former Libre mayoral candidate in Brus Laguna, Gracias a Dios, Erick Esterbrook Valladares, was murdered.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1508311-466/asesinan-candidato-alcalde-brus-laguna-violencia-honduras>

President-elect Xiomara Castro met with the former head of the National Police Ramón Sabillón to discuss a possible cabinet post, most likely Minister of Security (see also previous days). The official confirmation will come with her inauguration.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/eleccioneshonduras2021/1508303-508/ramon-sabillon-comision-transicion-gobierno-xiomara-castro>

Xiomara had announced already last year that Honduras would go back to the previous colors for the national flag. Now, the Armed Forces confirmed that they would start using the new colors on January 17.

<https://criterio.hn/con-la-llegada-del-nuevo-gobierno-honduras-retornara-a-los-colores-legitimos-de-la-bandera-nacional/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1508282-466/17-enero-fuerzas-armadas-usara-turquesa-bandera-nacional>

"Hugo Noé Pino, member of the President-elect's transition commission, stated that "there is an intense work to be able to resume classes in some parts, those that have the possibilities and biosafety already established to start; with this we are working with different organizations. We are also talking with the United States Cooperation Agency in relation to vaccines because in order to return to classes it is required that both children and teachers are vaccinated; yes, there is an intense work in the planning so that we can return even partially to the classroom", he said."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/clases-presenciales-seran-realidad-este-ano-en-honduras-CG4549765>

The Funeral Home Association has documented almost 22'000 COVID-19 deaths in Honduras during the pandemic, double the official number.

Proceso Digital warns about a ever more tense health situation again in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/funerarias-cifran-en-21-mil-730-los-muertos-por-covid-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-comienza-a-desbordarse-por-covid-y-sus-variantes/>

"The president of the Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, said Tuesday that his union is sad, anguished, dissatisfied and upset with the Ministry of Health (SESAL) for the "lies" when it comes to providing them with some positions." They have been calling for months for permanent employment for health workers who stepped up during the pandemic, but expect from empty promises by the JOH regime, nothing materialized.

<https://tiempo.hn/masacre-laboral-gremio-enfermeros/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/caos-en-salud-provocara-masivo-despidos-de-enfermeras-advierten-sindicalistas/>

The announcement by the JOH regime to further subsidize the price hike in electricity prices (see yesterday) was met with criticism as it ignores the underlying problems.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/04/senalan-que-subsidios-energeticos-no-son-solucion-dinero-debe-reorientarse/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-que-subsidio-otorgado-a-los-clientes-de-la-enee-saldra-del-bolsillo-de-los-hondurenos/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/04/gobierno-deja-bomba-de-tiempo-con-subsidio-a-energia/>

The charges for money laundering were dropped against the former police commissioner Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez.

The MP denounced that the recent changes to the Money Laundering Act by the Nationalist in Congress (see last October) made this possible.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1508278-466/libertad-sobreseimiento-definitivo-excomisionado-ambrosio-maradiaga-ordonez-lavado-activos-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/logra-su-libertad-ambrosio-madariaga-ordonez-quien-enfrentaba-proceso-judicial-por-supuesto-lavado-de-activos/>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-condena-que-reformas-a-la-ley-de-lavado-de-activos-sobreseyeran-a-ambrosio-maradiaga-ordonez/>

<https://criterio.hn/continua-la-impunidad-en-casos-emblematicos-por-lavado-de-activos/>

05/01/21

Honduras Daily: Xiomara - Women, Security, Poverty; Elections; Femicide; Migration - Deportations; Corruption - Laws, Police; Electricity; COVID-19; and No City of Angels

CESPAD shares some thoughts on why president-elect Xiomara Castro should govern with other women at her side.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/01/05/algunas-razones-del-por-que-xiomaracastro-debe-gobernar-con-mujeres-a-su-lado/>

ConfidencialHN published additional details on the meeting between Xiomara's transition team and the possible next Minister of Security, Ramón Sabillón (see last two days).

He spoke out in favor of a community policing approach.

<https://confidencialhn.com/quien-cometio-delitos-en-perjuicio-de-la-sociedad-debe-pagarlos-con-carcel/>

<https://elibertador.hn/2022/01/05/honduras-policia-debe-ser-gestora-de-seguridad-comunitaria-ramon-sabillon/>

"A joint work between the Executive Power and the National Congress must be developed to avoid hits to the pockets of Hondurans, according to the presidential designate-elect Doris Gutiérrez. She indicated that they must unite to carry out, in the first 100 days, a strategic plan that would serve to stop the possible blows to the people due to increases in electricity rates and the price of oil derivatives."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/05/vicepresidenta-busca-estrategia-para-evitar-trancazos-con-nuevo-gobierno/>

In a press release, the CNE confirmed that the elections in the municipality of Duyure, Choluteca will be repeated this Sunday as well as in one voting center in Wampusirpi, Gracias a Dios.

<https://criterio.hn/cne-ordena-repetir-elecciones-en-duyure-choluteca-y-en-urna-de-wampusirpi-gracias-a-dios/>

At least 322 women were murdered last year in Honduras, 44 more than the previous year according to the Center for Women's Studies (CDM).

<https://proceso.hn/violencia-contra-la-mujer-otro-ano-en-numeros-rojos/>

44.8% more Hondurans were deported to Honduras last year than in 2020, 52'968 in total.

Already in the first five days of 2022, another 60 minors had been deported to Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/honduras-recibio-52968-deportados-en-2021-un-448-mas-que-en-2020-FG4558513>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ha-recibido-casi-60-menores-deportados-en-primeros-dias-de-2022/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos highlights key laws that need to be repealed or reformed to fight corruption in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/radioamericahn/status/1478811141392547846>

<https://criterio.hn/instan-al-nuevo-congreso-nacional-derogar-las-leyes-que-impiden-combatir-la-corrupcion/>

The MP thinks about challenging the recent court decision to drop the charges of money laundering against the former police commissioner Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez (see yesterday).

At the same time, a court approved that 21 goods be seized from him, among them buildings and bank accounts.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-considera-interponer-recurso-ante-sobreseimiento-definitivo-al-excomisionado-ambrosio-maradiaga/>

<https://proceso.hn/afirman-aseguramiento-de-21-bienes-del-exfuncionario-policia-ambrosio-maradiaga/>

The electricity prices continue to be hotly debated (see last two days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/consideran-que-se-esta-creando-una-bomba-fiscal-por-el-no-incremento-de-la-tarifa-energetica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-andi-senala-que-el-subsidio-por-aumento-a-la-tarifa-energetica-siempre-lo-pagan-los-contribuyentes/>

The positivity rate of corona tests in triage centers is on the increase again, ConfidencialHN reports of 15-20% positive tests.

<https://confidencialhn.com/positividad-de-covid-19-en-triajes-del-distrito-central-es-del-15-y-20/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-logra-pena-maxima-de-11-anos-11-meses-de-reclusion-contra-gerente-de-ciudad-del-angel/>

<https://eliberador.hn/2022/01/05/condenan-a-11-anos-de-prision-a-gerente-de-ciudad-del-angel/>

06/01/21

Honduras Daily: Elections; Xiomara - State Institutions, Security; JOH - Security Tax, Interventions; COVID-19; Corruption;

The elections in Duyure, Choluteca won't be repeated for the time being (see previous e-mail) as the Constitutional Chamber admitted an appeal by the Nationalist mayoral candidate Célfiida Bustillo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sala-de-lo-constitucional-admite-recursos-de-candidatos-a-alcaldes-y-suspende-repeticion-de-elecciones-en-duyure-y-wampusirpi/>

Hugo Noé Pino, member of Xiomara's Transition Commission, is convinced that the new administration will recuperate the state institutions ENEE, HONDUTEL and BANADESA through a "strong restructuring".

Regarding ENEE, Proceso Digital writes that BCIE may offer \$250 million if the new administration is willing to divide up ENEE into different bodies. But many fear that such a division would lead to the privatization of ENEE.

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-recuperara-enee-hondutel-y-banadesa-con-reestructuracion-fuerte-y-nueva-filosofia/>

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-ofrece-prestamo-de-250-millones-al-nuevo-gobierno-con-la-condicion-que-la-enee-se-divida/>

Reporteros de Investigación portrays the possible new Security Minister Ramón Sabillón.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/01/06/que-antecedentes-tiene-ramon-sabillon-el-candidato-a-ministro-de-seguridad/>

The highly controversial security tax seems to have accumulated at least \$3 billion Lempiras in debt according to the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP). The security tax is considered a petty cash box of the JOH regime.

<https://proceso.hn/actualidad-tasa-de-seguridad-acumula-deuda-de-unos-l-3-mil-millones-revela-el-iaip/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/06/observatorio-de-la-violencia-y-policia-discrepan-por-tasa-de-homicidios/>

"After twelve years in power in the nation, during the three terms of government of the conservative National Party, which runs from January 2010 to January 2022, 31 Intervention Boards were appointed to state institutions with little or no results."

<https://criterio.hn/en-doce-anos-el-partido-nacional-nombro-31-juntas-interventoras-con-pocos-resultados/>

The Secretary of Health warns of "an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases".

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-enfrenta-2022-con-creciente-positividad-del-covid-19/>

As announced (see yesterday), the MP presented a legal challenges to the changes made by Congress in October to the money laundering status undermining its investigation.

https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/comunicado-2/?doing_wp_cron=1641491033.1914319992065429687500

<https://proceso.hn/mp-interpone-inconstitucionalidad-a-decreto-aprobado-por-el-cn-sobre-el-lavado-de-activos/>

07/01/21

Honduras Daily: Social Movements; Elections; Tegucigalpa - Trans-450; Xiomara - Land, Agriculture, Palmerola; Drug Trafficking; COVID-19; and a Patent-Free Vaccine

Some 50 representatives of social movements in Honduras met in Siguatepeque for the "First Meeting of Grassroots Organizations of Honduras".

"We continue dialoguing, getting to know each other, finding consensus and proposing actions for the permanent articulation of the Honduran social movement, without being antagonistic to the new government."

<https://twitter.com/movampliohn/status/1479158873214930949>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1479140894959976456>

Not just in Duyure, Choluteca (see yesterday) the repeat of the election is suspended, but also in the one voting center in Krausirpi, Gracias a Dios.

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) continues to deal with the received appeals, yesterday it ordered a vote-by-vote recount of 9 ballots in Masaguara, Intibucá.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/repeticion-elecciones-suspenso-ser-admitidos-amparos-honduras-IF4575381>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/07/cuestionan-recursos-que-impiden-repetir-elecciones-en-dos-municipios/>

<https://proceso.hn/recuentan-votos-en-nueve-urnas-en-el-municipio-de-masaguara-intibuca/>

The mayor-elect of Tegucigalpa, Jorge Aldana, promises an audit of the failed Trans-450 project.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/01/07/jorge-aldana-asegura-que-hara-auditoria-al-fallido-trans-450/>

"The transition commission of the new government meets with various sectors working on the issue "land and territory." The movement against the ZEDEs asks the new government to suspend the military treaty with the US & remove foreign troops from #Honduras"

During the meeting, COPINH presented six proposals for the respect of the territorial rights of indigenous and campesino communities.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1479503298155581440>

<https://copinh.org/2022/01/propuestas-del-copinh-para-los-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras/>

"The representative of the peasant movement and former congressman Rafael Alegría assured that the government of President Xiomara Castro contemplates the rescue and strengthening of agrarian institutions. Among the entities to be restructured, according to the peasant leader, are the National Agrarian Institute, the Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi), the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) and the National Bank for Agricultural Development (Banadesa)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/07/gobierno-busca-rescatar-banca-estatal-para-fortalecer-produccion-nacional/>

Hugo Noé Pino, member of Xiomara's transition commission denounces that the JOH regime intends to use 3 billion Lempiras of the teachers' pension fund to pay the debt of the Palmerola airport.

Lenir Perez feels the pressure of the incoming government regarding the new Palmerola airport and goes on the discursive offensive.

<https://eliberador.hn/2022/01/07/maestros-se-resisten-a-pagar-multimillonaria-deuda-de-palmerola/>

<https://tiempo.hn/lenir-perez-contratos-de-energia-y-beneficios-a-azucareros/>

The sentencing of Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez in New York will take place on February 8, 2022.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sentencia-para-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez-sera-el-8-de-febrero-de-este-2022/>

Expediente Público offers an overview of the corona situation in Honduras, which still has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the region.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-rezago-en-vacunacion-contracovid-19-mientrasenfrenta-nueva-ola-de-contagio/>

"Honduran microbiologist Maria Elena Bottazzi offers the world a patent-free vaccine against covid. India has already authorized its emergency use"

https://elpais.com/ciencia/2022-01-06/los-ejecutivos-de-pfizer-y-moderna-deberian-ser-mas-altruistas-al-calcular-sus-ganancias.html?ssm=TW_CM

08/01/21

Honduras Daily: Campesines; Elections; Xiomara - Youth, Drug Trafficking, Mexico; JOH - Evangelicals, Drug Trafficking; Palmerola - Teachers; Congress;

"Next Monday, January 10, an eviction could take place that will affect 52 families of the peasant company "Horizontes del Ayotal" in the community of El Carrizo, Marcovia, Choluteca, according to a court order supported by the Departmental Police Unit (UDEP #6) and the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP)."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-orden-de-desalojo-amenaza-a-familias-campesinas-en-marcovia/>

Criterio reports on the role of the Supreme Court on electoral matters. This week, it decided to stop the CNE from having two municipal elections repeated, in both a Nationalist candidate won with a few votes before a Libre candidate.

<https://criterio.hn/determinacion-de-la-csj-debilita-organismos-electorales-en-honduras/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/08/corte-avala-crimen-electoral-en-choluteca-y-gracias-a-dios/>

"More than 100 youth, student and independent organizations of the Libertad y Refundación Party (Libre) delivered their proposals to the Transition Commission for Social Movements, so that they can be analyzed by the new government to be presided over by Xiomara Castro de Zelaya. Among the demands of the National Youth Board are the abolition of the National Youth Institute and the creation of the National Secretary of Youth (Senaju) for the next four years."

<https://proceso.hn/jovenes-proponen-a-nuevo-gobierno-crear-secretaria-de-la-juventud-y-ampliar-presupuesto-a-la-unah/>

<https://copinh.org/2022/01/propuesta-juventud-del-copinh-rebeldias-construyendo-el-presente/>

El Heraldo writes about possible attempts by organized crime to infiltrate the new government. While they most certainly will try to do that, president-elect Xiomara Castro and her team are also aware of it. In one particular case, they put out a press statement clarifying that the mentioned former commissioner Ramon Martínez Hernández is neither an advisor nor part of the transition committee. The El Heraldo article also states that organized crime is trying to get rid of Luis Redondo as the likely new president of Congress and they they oppose Ramón Antonio Sabillón as the new Minister of Security.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1508758-466/comisionados-policia-depurados-buscan-colarse-nuevo-gobierno-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1479967446564061187>

<https://tiempo.hn/niegan-participacion-aliado-fuentes-toma-presidencial/>

Xiomara will meet with Mexican president AMLO on January 15.

<https://proceso.hn/xiomara-castro-se-reunira-con-manuel-lopez-obrador-en-mexico/>

El Libertador reports on how JOH bought the loyalty of evangelical priests focusing on the case of Alberto Solózano who made headlines this week by asking for forgiveness, and nothing more, for the outgoing JOH regime.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/08/investigacion-pastor-solorzano-en-la-mira-por-millonaria-ofrenda-de-la-dictadura/>

"The routes where most Honduran drug traffickers operated before being prosecuted coincide with the airfields inaugurated during the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/01/08/aeropuertos-en-la-ruta-de-la-droga-inaugurados-por-joh-no-reportaron-turismo/>

Teachers will hold a protest rally in front of their pension fund denouncing its planned misuse for paying off debt of the new Palmerola Airport.

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-convocan-a-un-planton-este-lunes-en-contra-de-intencion-de-extraer-fondos-del-inprema-para-palmerola/>

<https://proceso.hn/no-han-comenzado-clases-y-magisterio-anuncia-protestas-a-partir-del-lunes/>

According to the outgoing secretary of Congress, the Nationalist Tomás Zambrano, they will return to in-person sessions.

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-nacional-reanudara-sesiones-presenciales-en-honduras/>

09/01/21

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Assassination; ZEDEs; Elections - Violence; COVID-19; Insecurity - Military Police, Femicide; Xiomara – Agriculture;

"Pablo Isabel Hernández, member of the Network of Human Rights Defenders organized and accompanied by the Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH), was murdered this morning on his way to church from his home in Tierra Colorada, San Marcos de Caiquín, Lempira where he lived with his wife and three young children. This Sunday, January 9, 2022, unknown actors shot him three times in the back with a firearm at approximately 800 meters from his home, according to preliminary reports. Pablo Hernandez was a well known Lenca leader, social communicator and opposition political leader since the 2009 coup. He was a constant target of persecution and threats."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-asesinan-a-defensor-y-comunicador-social-de-la-red-de-lempira-cofadeh/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1427-asesinan-a-director-de-la-radio-comunitaria-tenan-en-lempira>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-lider-indigena-lenca-en-el-occidente-de-honduras/>

"Despite strong opposition to Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) in the country, the "Startup City Mariposa" announced on its Facebook account that its investors plan to visit in July some of the potential sites that could host their future ZEDE in Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/inversionistas-vendran-a-honduras-en-julio-a-explorar-territorios-para-instalar-nueva-zede-mariposa/>

Dagoberto Montalván, former Liberal Party alternate congressional candidate, was murdered in the municipality of San Francisco de La Paz, Olancho.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1508850-466/asesinan-excandidato-liberal-dagoberto-montalvan-olancho>

There is an ongoing increase in hospitalization due to COVID-19.

"The president of the Association of Doctors of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) of San Pedro Sula, Carlos Umaña, warned of a collapse in the coming days of hospitals and triage centers due to the new Covid-19 Omicron variant."

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-aumento-ingresos-por-covid-19-en-hospitales-capitalinos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-colapso-en-hospitales-de-san-pedro-sula-por-nueva-variante-omicron/>

"Insecurity is second only to the economic crisis on the list of the main problems the country is suffering. According to the latest citizen perception survey on insecurity and victimization by the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), 35.7% of Hondurans say that insecurity is one of the problems that most affects them."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/honduras-el-77-que-es-victima-de-un-delito-no-lo-denuncia-NI4596791>

In the same article above, both Migdonia Ayestas, director of UNAH's Violence Observatory, and criminologist Gonzalo Sánchez, asked for the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from public security tasks, i.e. an end to the Military Police.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/honduras-el-77-que-es-victima-de-un-delito-no-lo-denuncia-NI4596791>

In the first days of 2022, already six women were murdered in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/imparables-crimenes-contra-mujeres-en-primeros-dias-de-2022/>

Xiomara's transition commission met with the agriculture sector.

<https://confidencialhn.com/una-agricultura-solidaria-solicitan-productores-solicitan-a-presidenta-electa-xiomara-castro/>

10/01/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+ - Assassination; HRDs - Assassination; Corruption - UFERCO; Xiomara - Women, Congress, US, Mel; Armed Forces; Elections - Fraud; JOH - El Salvador; Violence; Migration - US; Palmerola;

Sexual diversity defender and trans woman Thalía Rodríguez was murdered yesterday in her home in Tegucigalpa.

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/01/alerta-defensoras-honduras-transfemicidio-de-defensora-thalia-rodriguez-parte-de-la-red-lesbica-cattracha/>

<https://reportarsinmiedo.org/2022/01/10/asesinan-a-la-lider-trans-thalia-rodriguez-en-tegucigalpa/>

The murder of indigenous Lenca defender Pablo Isabel Hernández (see yesterday) was widely condemned, among others by US Representatives Meeks and García, the US embassy and OACNUDH.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/indignacion-social-y-silencio-oficial-en-asesinato-de-pablo-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/condena-internacional-por-el-asesinato-de-defensor-indigena-lenca-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/houseforeign/status/1480597063922556936>

<https://twitter.com/RepChuyGarcia/status/1480652808001138693>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1480624162116931590>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-de-pablo-isabel-hernandez-defensor-de-derechos-humanos-y-comunicador-social/>

UFERCO presented a new case against a corruption network inside the Property Institute for illegally granting land inside a national park.

<https://twitter.com/UFERCO1/status/1480675980024987650>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/uferco-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-por-fraude-y-falsificacion-de-documentos-por-la-venta-de-zona-nucleo-del-parque-nacional-blanca-jeannette-kawas/>

Xiomara Castro's transition team met with women rights and feminist organization to discuss 18 proposals to improve the lives of women in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mujeres-piden-al-gobierno-que-nombre-al-frente-del-instituto-nacional-de-la-mujer-personas-comprometidas-y-no-activistas-politicos/>

While now also Yani Rosenthal stated to support Libre's decision on who should be the next president of Congress, the discussions inside Libre seem to continue even after Xiomara publicly supported Luis Redondo's nomination.

<https://tiempo.hn/yani-pl-respaldara-a-libre-presidente-del-cn/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-dividido-por-eleccion-presidente-cn/>

<https://proceso.hn/beatriz-valle-dice-desconocer-acuerdo-entre-psh-y-libre-para-nombrar-presidente-del-congreso/>

According to Xiomara's transition team, US vice-president Kamala Harris will assist the inauguration.

<https://confidencialhn.com/kamala-harris-asistira-a-la-toma-de-posesion-de-xiomara-castro-confirma-comision-de-traspaso/>

Mel Zelaya tested positive for COVID-19 but according to him, he has no symptoms.

<https://twitter.com/manuelzr/status/1480690333453275136>

Three members of the Armed Forces were detained with 59 bags of marijuana.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/atic-detiene-a-tres-miembros-de-las-ffaa-cuando-transportaban-59-sacos-con-supuesta-marihuana-en-camion-de-la-institucion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/atic-detiene-a-tres-miembros-de-las-ffaa-cuando-transportaban-59-sacos-con-supuesta-marihuana-en-camion-de-la-institucion/>

Five more people are being charged with electoral crimes.

<https://eliberador.hn/2022/01/10/fiscalia-emite-mas-ordenes-de-captura-para-electores-del-crimen/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cinco-personas-mas-son-acusadas-por-falsificar-documentos-electorales-tras-proceso-de-elecciones-generales-llevado-a-cabo-en-el-pais/>

JOH is trying to end his presidency with a focus on foreign policy. "The president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, regretted on Monday that El Salvador still does not recognize the final judgment of The Hague on the country's maritime exit to the Pacific."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1508933-466/joh-el-salvador-tratado-bicentenario-honduras-nicaragua>

<https://proceso.hn/el-salvador-rechaza-tratado-de-honduras-con-nicaragua-que-ratifico-la-sentencia-de-la-haya/>

Honduras saw a violent start into the new year with 97 murders and three multiple killings in the first nine days of 2022.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1508934-466/homicidios-honduras-2022-muertes-violentas>

"Senate Democrats in Washington on Monday asked the Biden administration to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) be extended to migrants of four Central American countries from where most are migrating to the U.S. Southwest border. The request was made to re-designate TPS for migrants from El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. And for the first time, they are asking that Guatemalan migrants also be granted TPS."

<https://www.borderreport.com/hot-topics/immigration/democrats-request-temporary-protected-status-for-migrants-from-4-central-american-countries/>

<https://proceso.hn/senadores-democratas-piden-tps-para-mas-de-un-millon-de-centroamericanos/>

As announced, teachers protested outside their pension fund Inprema against the use of their pension to cover the debt of the Palmerola airport.

"This Monday an emergency meeting was called between the Transition Commission of Xiomara Castro's government and representatives of the Instituto Nacional de Previsión del Magisterio (Inprema) to analyze the issue of the investment in the Palmerola Airport with funds from the institute. TC member, Pedro Barquero, assured that the decision will fall to the new administration when the new authorities are appointed."

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-rechazan-que-fondos-del-inprema-se-destinen-a-cubrir-deudas-de-aeropuerto-internacional-palmerola-de-comayagua/>

<https://criterio.hn/inprema-podria-enfrentarse-a-un-desvio-de-fondos-valorado-en-110-millones-de-dolares/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pedro-barquero-asegura-que-inversion-en-palmerola-con-fondos-de-inprema-se-discutira-en-el-nuevo-gobierno/>

13/01/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+ - Assassination; Guapinol; Berta - Trial; Corruption - IP; Xiomara - Congress, Women; Elections - SPS; JOH - Corruption, Nicaragua; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education; Poverty; and People Power

The US embassy laments the murder of trans activist Thalía Rodríguez (see yesterday) and demands a swift investigation.

https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1480910079364849666?cxt=HHwWhICzjd_3n40pAAAA

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-justicia-por-transfemicidio-de-lideresa-y-defensora-de-dd-hh-thalia-rodriguez-en-honduras/>

"One month after the defense of the Guapinol River Defenders filed a writ of recusal against the court presiding over the Guapinol trial, Judges Dilia Irasema Guillen Sanchez, Garin Enoc Urquia Castro and Joel Edgardo Serrano Carcamo of the Court of Appeals of La Ceiba have declared the legal action inadmissible and the trial is set to resume this Thursday in Tocoa. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Justice has FAILED to rule on the Habeas Corpus action filed ONE MONTH ago to put an end to the arbitrary detentions of the defenders, in total disregard of its legal obligations. Despite having the duty to immediately resolve the legal action, the Constitutional Chamber has failed to do so, and is yet another example of how the judiciary has failed to protect the lives and rights of the Guapinol River Defenders."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org//post/guapinol-trial-will-resume-thursday-while-supreme-court-fails-to-rule-on-arbitrary-detention>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office informed that the resolution on the number of evidence to be admitted by the Sentencing Court in the criminal case against a policeman and a former member of the police force in the case of the crime of environmentalist Berta Cáceres is scheduled for January 19. According to the file, the two accused were initially assigned to the investigation of the crime of the environmentalist, however, they tried to adulterate the material investigations."

<https://proceso.hn/el-19-de-enero-sera-resolucion-de-audiencia-de-medios-probatorios-contr-dos-imputados-en-caso-de-berta-caceres/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/proximo-19-de-enero-tribunal-resolvera-sobre-admision-de-pruebas-para-juicio-contr-policias-que-pretendian-desviar-investigacion-del-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

The initial hearing in the corruption case of employees of the Property Institute accused of illegally granting land in a national park (see yesterday) will take place on January 19.

The accused can await trial outside prison.

18 properties were seized. UFERCO's Luis Santos demands that the titles of property be annulled.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1481115758138638342?cxt=HHwWjICysem7_Y0pAAAA

<https://proceso.hn/en-libertad-se-defenderan-imputados-por-fraude-y-falsificacion-de-documentos-en-caso-parque-jeanette-kawas/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1480980305271996416?cxt=HHwWgICy8bbvv40pAAAA

<https://criterio.hn/capturan-dos-empleados-del-ip-y-aseguran-18-bienes-por-adjudicacion-irregular-en-parque-jeanette-kawas/>

President-elect Xiomara Castro, Libre coordinator Manuel Zelaya and the elected Libre representatives will meet on January 18 to discuss the presidency of Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/diputados-electos-de-libre-se-reuniran-el-18-de-enero-con-mel-zelaya-y-xiomara-castro-para-tratar-presidencia-del-cn/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/diputados-electos-de-libre-se-reuniran-con-manuel-zelaya-y-xiomara-castro-para-tratar-presidencia-del-cn/>

"Women have been at the forefront of struggle in Honduras throughout its history, from fighting dictatorships to challenging political corruption to seeking civil improvements such as gender parity in politics and education. The recent presidential election of Xiomara Castro Sarmiento Zelaya of the Libertad and Refundación (Libre) party has exhilarated women from various sectors and in the diaspora. In a country battered by 12 years of impunity, corruption, and aggressive neoliberalism in the wake of the 2009 U.S.-backed coup, Castro's victory—and her pledge to convene a National Constituent Assembly to rewrite the constitution—is at once a vindication and ray of hope for women's rights and other hard-fought social struggles."

<https://nacla.org/news/2022/01/10/honduras-xiomara-castro-women>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1947-proponen-devolver-anticoncepcion-de-emergencia-en-los-primeros-dias-de-gobierno-de-xiomara>

With a widely considered questionable move, the Liberal and National representative at the CNE had prohibited Roberto Contreras to run for mayor in San Pedro Sula (see last year). The opposition alliance circumvented the prohibition by having run his brother instead with Libre representative Omar Menjívar as his vice-president. As they won the race, Menjívar was supposed to step down, Roberta Contreras would take his position and then his brother would step down and he would be the new mayor. Now, Contreras seems to become nervous if everyone sticks to his word.

But Menjívar reassured him that he, Contreras, would be mayor of SPS.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509050-466/roberto-contreras-omar-menjivar-alcaldia-san-pedro-sula-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/menjivar-contreras-cargo-de-alcalde-sps/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/roberto-contreras-ya-nos-pusimos-de-acuerdo-con-omar-menjivar-para-que-interponga-su-renuncia-ante-el-cne/>

The JOH regime continues to spend money it does not have on people who do not deserve it. "Juan Carlos Barrientos, a constitutional lawyer, regretted that ministers and trusted officials of the outgoing government are claiming payment of "benefits", calling it an "abuse of power and something never seen before"."

Even the former Nationalist president Pepe Lobo denounced this as illegal.

<https://confidencialhn.com/es-un-abuso-de-poder-y-algo-nunca-antes-visto-el-pago-de-prestaciones-a-ministros-abogado-constitucionalista-juan-carlos-barrientos/>

<https://criterio.hn/pago-de-prestaciones-a-secretarios-de-estado-del-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-es-abusivo-e-ilegal/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1509046-468/ministros-vice-ministros-pagos-prestaciones-gobierno-juan-orlando-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/expresidente-lobo-rechaza-pago-de-prestaciones-a-altos-funcionarios-legalmente-no-tienen-derecho-dice/>

JOH assisted Ortega's inauguration in Nicaragua which some consider more evidence of a possible exile for JOH in the neighboring country.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mandatario-hernandez-busca-refugio-en-nicaragua-ante-posible-extradicion-asegura-eugenio-sosa/>

<https://criterio.hn/catalogan-como-un-final-patetico-y-un-refugio-la-asistencia-de-joh-a-toma-de-daniel-ortega/>

"The National Cardiopulmonary Institute better known as "El Tórax" Hospital reports this Tuesday an increase in hospital occupancy of 79.4 % and already has only seven slots available for COVID-19 patients."

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-torax-reporta-incremento-del-79-4-en-la-ocupacion-hospitalaria-solo-quedan-siete-cupos/>

"Edwin Hernández, president of the Colegio de Pedagogos de Honduras (Colpedagogosh), stated on Wednesday that the return to classes in February will only be possible if vaccination against COVID begins for children over five years of age in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/solo-vacunando-contra-el-covid-a-mayores-de-5-anos-se-podra-retornar-a-las-aulas-segun-dirigencia-magisterial/>

According to the consumers' protection organization ADECABA, the minimum salary in Honduras only covers 37% of the cost of basic goods.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salario-minimo-promedio-solo-cubre-el-37-de-las-necesidades-basicas-en-honduras-asegura-adalid-irias/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-oficializan-conformacion-de-asamblea-permanente-del-poder-popular/>

12/01/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Corruption - IP; Xiomara - Congress, Indigenous Peoples, Social Movements, Gangs; Elections - Fraud, TJE; JOH; ID Card; Education; Migration - Children; and Central America: The Great Failure of Capitalism

OACNUDH condemns the murder of trans activist and defender Thalía Rodríguez (see two days ago).

USAID's Samantha Power also denounces her murder as well as the one of indigenous defender Pablo Hernández three days ago.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-de-thalia-rodriguez-defensora-trans-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://twitter.com/ACNURhonduras/status/1481443402969460741>

<https://twitter.com/PowerUSAID/status/1481038933404397576>

One of the newest corruption case led by UFERCO regards the Property Institute and illegal land grants in a national park (see previous days). El Tiempo now reports that during the time of the alleged crimes, the head of IP was no other than JOH ally and failed congressional candidate Ebal Díaz.

<https://tiempo.hn/ebal-diaz-terrenos-jeanette-kawas/>

With new uncertainty rising regarding the election of Luis Redondo as the president of Congress, Salvador Nasralla now claims that he has 72 votes in favor of him in the new Congress.

The position of the National Party is unclear.

<https://proceso.hn/en-alza-resistencia-para-que-redondo-presida-el-congreso/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509126-466/luis-redondo-presidente-congreso-nacional-honduras-nasralla->

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-nacional-niega-diputados-votaran-por-redondo/>

COPINH presented to the new administration 8 minimum criteria for the respect of the rights and territories of the indigenous peoples of the country.

<https://copinh.org/2022/01/propuestas-del-copinh-para-un-gobierno-de-justicia-y-vida-para-los-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/representantes-indigenas-y-afrodescendientes-demandan-al-nuevo-gobierno-21-puntos-entre-ellos-investigaciones/>

Social movements organized in the Permanent Assembly of People Power (APPP) wrote an open letter to president-elect Xiomara Castro. "We are also interested that your administration is clear that the APPP understands the fact that your government is and must be for all Hondurans and that it is integrated by a coalition of political forces and part of them represent economic structures historically and currently antagonistic to the interests and rights of the Honduran people, particularly the popular movement. In this sense, we trust that your administration will prioritize a management in favor of the people, but we also trust that you and your administration understand

that in the APPP you will find popular support for that management, as long as it promotes and defends the great desires of the Honduran people and not the national or international economic sectors that have filled our people with shame, plunder and corruption."

<https://madj.org/2022/01/12/carta-de-la-asamblea-permanente-del-popular-a-la-presidenta-electa-de-honduras/>

"On January 5, a communiqué from the Transition Commission of the new Government was reported in the national and international media stating: "The four historic sports clubs (of Honduran soccer) signed a commitment to peace and joint work to improve relations among the country's young sports fans". However, three of the four leaders of these sports clubs confirmed to Contracorriente that what was achieved was a non-aggression agreement to attend a meeting in which they would present their needs to the new government."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/12/es-falso-que-hubo-una-tregua-entre-barras-lideres-dicen-que-un-acuerdo-de-paz-es-un-proceso/>

Another person was arrested for alleged electoral crime; in total 10 people face charges. El Libertador wonders if the MP will also go after the politicians who benefited from their crimes.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/fiscales-del-mp-y-dpi-logran-cuarta-captura-por-la-supuesta-comision-de-delitos-electorales/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/12/cuatro-electores-del-crimen-arrestados-politicos-cuando/>

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) needs to resolve at least 63 pending electoral challenges.

<https://criterio.hn/tribunal-de-justicia-electoral-contra-el-tiempo-para-resolver-recursos-de-apelaciones-a-votaciones/>

The decision by the JOH regime to pay huge bonuses to public officials (see yesterday) continues to be denounced.

The incoming administration announced to not pay the bonuses.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/12/pago-de-prestaciones-a-funcionarios-es-excusa-para-seguir-saqueando/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-acuerdo-a-analisis-juridico-del-cohep-es-improcedente-el-pago-de-indemnizaciones-laborales-a-funcionarios-de-la-administracion-publica>

<https://proceso.hn/pedro-barquero-asegura-que-nuevo-gobierno-reparara-pago-de-prestaciones-a-altos-funcionarios/>

There are still some 259'000 unclaimed new ID cards even though the previous one is no longer valid since January 1. It is estimated that some 120'000 of them belong to Hondurans who have left the country.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/honduras-259000-dni-no-han-sido-entregados-aun-BK4639553>

"Arnaldo Bueso, Minister of Education, announced that this coming February 1, school enrollment will begin nationwide. Bueso anticipated that for this year they expect an enrollment of two million students, at the same time he commented that approximately 500 thousand dropped out of school in 2021."

<https://confidencialhn.com/matricula-escolar-dara-inicio-el-1-de-febrero-a-nivel-nacional-anuncia-educacion/>

"Children and adolescents (NNA) from Honduras were the main applicants for refugee status in Mexico in 2021, the head of the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid, Andrés Ramírez, reported this week. Of a total of 31,688 accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents seeking refuge, at least 10,945 were of Honduran nationality in 2021, which translates into approximately 34.5% of all children seeking refuge."

<https://criterio.hn/el-34-5-de-ninez-solicitante-de-refugio-en-mexico-en-2021-es-hondurena/>

<https://aulablog.net/2022/01/12/central-america-the-great-failure-of-capitalism/>

13/01/21

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Mining - Guapinol, Azacualpa; OFRANEH; HR; Corruption - JOH, Eta; Xiomara - BID, IMF; Taiwan; Elections - PN; Electricity; and an Ever Rising Debt

The Spanish and other European embassies also denounce the murder of trans activist Thalía Rodríguez.

And so does the IACHR.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3330-defensoras-trans-enfrentan-serios-riesgos-por-su-labor-en-favor-de-los-derechos-lgtbi>

<https://twitter.com/EmbEspHonduras/status/1481320592464875525>

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1481656946591612930?cxt=HHwWhICqyZHJ848pAAAA>

Honduras Now published a summary of yesterday's day in court in the Guapinol case. "The trial starts up again after suspended on December 13, 2021 when defense attorneys recused the judges hearing the case. The recusal was sent to the Appeals court in La Ceiba over the holidays and was later rejected. The trial will continue with the same three judges despite demonstrated partiality and an illegal addition of a fourth charge.

Today's session begins with discussions and debates about new evidence presented by the prosecutors. The defense asked for access to the contents of a USB memory; and objected to the 'protected' status of a protected witness.

The defense also presents seven documents and three testimonies as new evidence. The prosecutors object to all the documents presented.

The defense argues that the above documents show the real reason why a large group of people are protesting the project and were present on September 7, 2018, the day of the incidents in question. They were exercising their legitimate right to protest, a constitutionally protected right, and the documents show that the motives behind the protests were to protect the environment and local water supply. They also demonstrate that the project is based on corrupt acts.

The trial is suspended for the day at 3:00 pm to allow the judges time to deliberate and determine what additional evidence will be admitted by the court. The trial will resume tomorrow at 9 am."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-five-the-trial-resumes/>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/nuevas-pruebas-propuestas-por-defensa-demuestra-ilegalidad-de-proyecto-minero-en-tocoa>

The indigenous Maya Chortí community in Azacualpa continue to struggle in defense of their cemetery which is being destroyed by a mining company. They occupied a street leading to the cemetery.

https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1481683556422328321?cxt=HHwWgoC5oYTW_48pAAAA

<https://criterio.hn/piden-a-la-csj-cumplir-resolucion-que-ordena-cese-de-exhumaciones-en-cementerio-de-azacualpa-copan/>

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda denounces the arrest of two Garífuna land defenders from Trujillo, Colón. She denounces that they are being tortured by the police.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1481796703409688579?cxt=HHwWhsCigYeQs5ApAAAA>

Human Rights Watch published its annual report. On Honduras, they write: "Violent organized crime continues to disrupt Honduran society and push many people to leave the country. Journalists; environmental activists; human rights defenders; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals; and people with disabilities are among the groups targeted for violence. Impunity remains the norm. Efforts to reform public security institutions have stalled. Marred by corruption and abuse, the judiciary and police remain largely ineffective. Support and resources from a four-year Organization of American States (OAS) mission to strengthen the fight against corruption and impunity, concluded in January 2020, have not produced lasting reforms. Anti-corruption prosecutors have been left defenseless."

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/honduras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509253-466/honduras-vulnerable-situacion-ddhh-informe-human-rights-watch->

<https://confidencialhn.com/human-rights-watch-senala-que-la-impunidad-sigue-siendo-la-norma-en-honduras/>

Expediente Público reports on the distribution of money to loyal officials by the JOH regime (see previous e-mails). "This action has provoked indignation and repudiation in part of the Honduran population because, according to Article 3 of the Civil Service Law, social benefits are not applicable to a group of public servants, among them trusted officials such as the Chancellor."

Lawyer Raúl Suazo announces possible legal actions against the members of Congress who voted for the benefits.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/funcionarios-del-gobierno-de-joh-en-honduras-por-prestaciones-ilegales-e-inmunidad-parlamentaria/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-los-proximos-dias-podria-presentarse-acusacion-por-pago-de-prestaciones-a-altos-funcionarios-abogado-raul-suazo/>

More bad news for JOH ally Ebal Díaz. "The Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Combating Public Corruption (FETCCOP) and the Technical Agency for Criminal Investigation (ATIC) inspect this Thursday the 200 containers purchased by the Secretariat of the Presidency, led by Ebal Diaz, at a cost of 1.2 billion lempiras, for the victims of hurricanes Eta and Iota. The failed project denounced by the daily EL HERALDO was erected in residencial Morazán and Lomas del Diamante where the goal was that the metal boxes should be installed and inhabited by the affected families since February 2021, to date the project did not materialize."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509234-466/atic-fetccop-inspeccionan-contenedores-damnificados-eta-iota>

Xiomara's transition commission met with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). \$600 million are planned for Honduras in the next four years.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/bid-dispone-600-millones-gobierno-xiomara-castro-honduras-YI4921661>

There also have been talks with the IMF.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fmi-listo-para-trabajar-con-nueva-administracion-asegura-su-representante/>

According to El Heraldo, a representative of Taiwan will be presented at the inauguration of Xiomara Castro.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509262-466/taiwan-no-china-continental-estara-toma-posesion-xiomara-castro>

The fight between different fractions of the National Party before the electoral authorities continues.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509264-466/consejera-piden-investigar-diputado-electo-pariente-designado>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/13/ras-denuncia-de-waleska-cne-inhabilitaria-presunto-familiar-de-ricardo-alvarez/>

"The National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), began to invoice the increase in the electricity tariff for the first quarter of 2022, informed this Thursday the intervening commission of the state institution. Through a press release, the ENEE's commission said that the National Congress, through legislative decree 85-2021, empowered the Executive Power to grant a subsidy to energy consumers for the tariff of the first quarter of 2022. However, it clarified that the Electric Energy Regulatory Commission (CREE) did not receive any official confirmation of the application of a subsidy to the current electric rate."

<https://proceso.hn/vigente-incremento-del-13-a-tarifa-de-energia-al-no-recibir-la-cree-notificacion-de-subsidio-del-ejecutivo/8>

<https://confidencialhn.com/incremento-a-tarifa-de-la-energia-se-aplicara-ante-falta-de-oficializacion-del-subsidio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/deuda-hondurena-sube-1-7-y-llega-a-11321-9-millones-de-dolares-en-11-meses/>

14/01/21

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Guapinol; Climate Crisis; Corruption - IHSS; Drug Trafficking; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19; Elections – Fraud;

Leonard Brown and Luis Gutierrez, who had been beaten by the police and arrested the day before were sent to court yesterday.

Later, Leonard Brown was released awaiting trial on January 26. There was no news on Luis.

OFRANEH denounces that they were detained without arrest warrants and that they were tortured.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1482096381703725057?cxt=HHwWgoC9pdCzu5EpAAAA>

https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1482106447186046976?cxt=HHwWgMC5_cH9v5EpAAAA

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1482088827560751105?cxt=HHwWgsCrxX7t5EpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1482132797242298369?cxt=HHwWgsCqmaX7y5EpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1482138703485095936?cxt=HHwWgMCykYrTzpEpAAAA>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-tortura-contrad-dos-defensores-garifunas-tras-detencion-policial/>

Honduras Now continues with its close coverage of the trial against the Guapinol defenders. "The trial began today with a ruling by the judges that the defense will be allowed to review the contents of a new USB memory stick presented by the prosecutors. The defense had asked to review it before commenting on whether they formed a legal opinion about whether it should be allowed or not in trial. After reviewing the videos on the USB memory, the defense objected to it being used in trial because it had been edited and therefore, its authenticity could not be guaranteed." The judges then ruled on the admissibility of various items of evidence. The trial is scheduled to continue on Monday.

OACNUDH is observing the trial and once again called for their immediate release.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-six-judges-admit-important-evidence-presented-by-defense/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/siete-dictamenes-senalan-que-concesion-minera-de-inversiones-los-pinarees-es-ilegal-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1481983452719296515?cxt=HHwWhsC55aWGjJEpAAAA>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/naciones-unidas-pide-libertad-inmediata-para-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

"Humanitarian organization Care International has published its annual report of the 10 countries that had the least attention in online articles in five languages around the world in 2021, despite

each having at least 1 million people affected by conflict or climate disasters." Honduras is among those countries.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jan/14/worlds-poorest-bear-brunt-of-climate-crisis-10-underreported-emergencies>

"With 29 pieces of evidence admitted, the National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) will go to trial against the businesswoman and lawyer Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus, accused of having committed money laundering in the notorious case of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS). (...) The case against Andrade Lemus, which was worked on in conjunction with the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation (ATIC), also links the former Deputy Administrative and Financial Manager of the IHSS, José Ramón Bertetty Osorio, for the crime of improper passive bribery and money laundering, and his former Deputy Manager of Supplies, Materials and Purchases, José Alberto Zelaya Guevara (fugitive) for the crime of violation of the duties of public servants."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/en-abril-ira-a-juicio-empresaria-implicada-en-el-saqueo-del-ihss/>

"Fredy Donald Marmol Vallejo, 40, will enter his guilty plea in federal court in Miami, Florida on January 27 at 10:15 a.m. ET after being extradited from Honduras. The indictment by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Florida charges Marmol with conspiring to traffic narcotics internationally, distributing narcotics internationally with the intent to import them into the United States, and laundering the proceeds of narcotics trafficking."

There are at least 11 more extradition orders in Honduras.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/01/14/fredy-marmol-vallejo-se-declarara-culpable-de-tener-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico-y-actuales-diputados-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/hondureno-fredy-marmol-vallejo-podria-declararse-culpable-por-delitos-relacionados-al-narcotrafico/>

<https://proceso.hn/una-decena-de-ordenes-de-captura-para-extraditables-estan-pendientes-reconoce-ministro-pacheco/>

A new migrant caravan may soon take off from San Pedro Sula.

<https://www.tunota.com/migracion/articulo/caravana-migrante-amenaza-con-salir-de-honduras-el-proximo-sabado>

El Libertador denounces that the JOH regime failed to prepare for the newest corona wave and instead actively undermined the health system for example by laying off health staff.

Health workers protested yesterday outside the Secretary of Health demanding contracts.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/14/alerta-honduras-enfrenta-nueva-ola-viral-sin-triajes-hospitales-sin-insumos-y-personal-despedido/>

<https://proceso.hn/personal-sanitario-realiza-planton-frente-a-salud-en-su-lucha-por-asignacion-de-plazas/>

Investigations into electoral fraud continue. Nancy Marina Avilez Santos, daughter of the mayor of Talanga, Roosevelt Eduardo Avilez López (who himself is in custody for corruption and drug trafficking), was arrested.

In another case, a candidate may lose his post due to being a relative of a public official. The CNE explains that it is "complex" to find out about the relationships of 4000 candidates...

The people in Duyure, Choluteca demand that their election can be repeated after a court order stopped it.

<https://criterio.hn/captura-de-hija-de-un-alcalde-y-posible-inhabilitacion-de-diputado-son-nuevas-acciones-por-fraude-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/es-complejo-determinar-parentescos-en-mas-de-4-mil-candidatos-titular-del-cne/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/14/pobladores-de-duyure-exigen-a-la-justicia-que-se-repitan-elecciones-municipales/>

15/01/21

Honduras Daily: Mining - Azacualpa; Women's Rights; Elections; Xiomara - Congress, COPINH; Corruption - Congress; Migration - Caravan; Monetary Policy;

The situation in Azacualpa heated up again this week (see previous e-mails). Yesterday, the inhabitants of Azacualpa denounce a military deployment in the area as well as shots being fired in the air.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1482557207698935811>

Proceso Digital interviewed Margarita Bueso Fiallos, coordinator of UN Women in Honduras. "We are indeed concerned because Honduran women are in a multi-crisis, ranging from poverty, which increased due to the effects of storms Eta and Iota, as well as the pandemic. (...) On the other hand, the enormous violence that has been unleashed, which increased with the confinement by COVID, directed towards women and which has not only immediate consequences, but also in the medium and long term."

<https://proceso.hn/es-inaceptable-que-en-honduras-mueran-mas-mujeres-que-en-los-paises-en-guerra-margarita-bueso/>

"The National Electoral Council of Honduras (CNE) could disqualify two deputies of the conservative National Party, elected in the last general elections, for being relatives of high state officials when the Constitution itself prevents it. (...) In this case, the reelected deputy for the department of Copán, Roy Dagoberto Cruz Pérez, is a cousin of the president of the CSJ, Rolando Argueta Pérez, a situation which violates constitutional regulations, and therefore should be disqualified. However, there is a precedent with Perez after the electoral process of 2017 when he managed to win the deputation for the period from January 2018 to 2022, since the then and now extinct, Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), under the command of David Matamoros Batson, member of the National Party, validated his election even though the supreme norm of the State of Honduras was violated. (...) Another congressman who runs the risk of being disqualified is Erasmo Portillo, who admitted being the son-in-law of the presidential appointee Ricardo Álvarez."

<https://criterio.hn/primo-del-presidente-de-la-csj-y-yerno-de-designado-podrian-ser-inhabilitados-como-diputados/>

Libre's elected members of Congress will meet with Xiomara Castro to discuss the presidency of Congress.

Luis Redondo is still hopeful that he will be the next president of Congress.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/15/bancada-de-libre-se-reunira-con-presidenta-xiomara-castro-en-busqueda-de-consensos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-redondo-asegura-que-seguira-dialogando-con-los-50-diputados-de-libre/>

COPINH welcomed Xiomara's transition commission at their Utopia center to listen to the voices of the indigenous Lenca communities.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1482409712083783680>

<https://copinh.org/2022/01/copinh-presenta-exigencia-del-pueblo-lenca-a-comision-de-transicion/>

JOH's close ally Ebal Díaz left the country just as two corruption investigations against him were made public.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/15/jurista-asegura-que-ebal-diaz-salio-del-pais-como-las-ratas-cuando-se-esta-hundiendo-el-barco/>

The Nationalist-controlled Congress approved a new reform handing out more money to politicians, this time to the alternate deputies.

"The approval of the reform that allows alternate deputies to earn a salary demonstrates the indifference of the National Congress with the Honduran people, said legislator Doris Gutiérrez. "This is another example of the indifference of this National Congress, which has dedicated itself to legislate and approve laws for the benefit of all the powerful and for themselves", said Gutiérrez."

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-aprueba-reforma-para-que-diputados-suplentes-devenguen-salario/>

<https://proceso.hn/aprobacion-de-sueldo-a-diputados-suplentes-demuestra-la-indiferencia-del-cn-doris-gutierrez/>

As announced, a migrant caravan consisting of up to 500 people left San Pedro Sula yesterday.

Proceso Digital reported of 800 people.

El Herald reports that the group dispersed once reaching the Guatemalan border.

There, it also came to a confrontation leaving at least 7 people injured.

La Prensa even reports of 15 injured.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sale-pequena-caravana-de-hondurenos-y-hondurenas-para-estados-unidos/>

<https://proceso.hn/unos-800-inmigrantes-dejaron-honduras-y-cruzaron-a-guatemala-en-ruta-a-eeuu/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/mundo/1509412-466/caravana-migrante-disipa-guatemala>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/mundo/1509425-466/enfrentamientos-caravana-migrantes-autoridades-guatemala>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/15-personas-heridas-enfrentamiento-migrantes-hondurenos-autoridades-guatemala-HF4979283>

FOSDEH raises concerns about the accelerating devaluation of the Lempira.

<https://confidencialhn.com/recomiendan-acceso-democratico-a-las-divisas-sin-movimientos-bruscos-para-no-tener-devaluacion-acelerada-del-lempira/>

<https://proceso.hn/acceso-democratico-a-las-divisas-sin-movimientos-bruscos-recomienda-fosdeh-para-que-lempira-no-se-devalue/>

16/01/21

Honduras Daily: Xiomara - OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Education; Corruption - Congress, Land; Migration - Caravan; JOH - Dry Corridor; Elections – Spending;

Xiomara's transition commission met with OFRANEH yesterday which presented 13 proposals to the incoming administration among them the derogation of all the harmful laws implemented since the coup d'état.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1482810323409190913>

Health workers announce protest actions for today demanding the rehiring of fired health workers.

<https://proceso.hn/aneeah-tambien-anuncia-protestas-el-lunes-para-exigir-recontratacion-de-personal-despedido/>

"It has been almost two years since the Ministry of Education suspended academic activities after confirming the first cases of Covid-19 in March 2020. The pandemic forced the educational system to develop virtually in a country with alarming rates of poverty and technological stagnation;

Honduras is currently the only country in Latin America that has not yet returned to face-to-face classes."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/16/honduras-iniciara-ano-lectivo-en-febrero-como-el-mas-rezagado-de-america-latina/>

Criterio has a helpful overview of the newest reforms decided by the outgoing Nationalist-controlled Congress (see also yesterday). "With the dispensation of two debates, the National Congress of Honduras approved on Saturday a reform to the Organic Law of the Legislative Power which establishes that all 128 alternate deputies will be incorporated and remunerated with 60% of the salary of the regular deputies, plus other rights and benefits."

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-suplentes-de-honduras-gozaran-de-jugoso-salario-con-reforma-a-la-ley-organica-del-congreso/>

La Prensa reports on the destruction of the Jeannette Kawas National Park through the illegal expansion of palm oil production. This is linked to a recent corruption case at the Property Institute handing out illegal land grants (see previous week).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/palma-africana-arrasa-con-los-parques-kawas-y-punta-izopo-FA4983869>

There is additional reporting on the newest migrant caravan.

Guatemala claims that 15 police agents were hurt when detaining some 300 migrants.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/535811/migracion-honduras-eeuu-guatemala>

<https://confidencialhn.com/caravana-migrante-se-enfrenta-a-soldados-y-policias-en-guatemala-reportan-15-heridos/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/devuelven-a-mayoria-de-migrantes-de-la-caravana-otros-se-resisten-y-esperan-entrar-a-guatemala-XY4980671>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/mundo/1509459-466/migrantes-hondurenos-detenedos-caravana-guatemala-enfrentamiento-estados-unidos>

JOH will be leaving office in less than two weeks, but today he will search the lime light again inaugurating the dry corridor, a controversial 20 year infrastructure project costing 6.5 billion Lempiras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509481-466/canal-seco-honduras-inaguracion-obra-carretera>

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-del-bcie-felicita-a-honduras-por-inauguracion-del-canal-seco/>

Proceso Digital reports on electoral spending by candidates. Almost 140 million Lempiras were, officially, spent on the presidential races. But there is a general lack of transparency on electoral spending, only 400 out of the over 3000 candidates have rendered accounts to the Clean Politics Unit.

<https://proceso.hn/las-campanas-politicas-caras-intensas-y-sin-mayor-fiscalizacion-publica/>

17/01/2022

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; COVID-19 - Health Workers; Xiomara - JOH, Education; Forest Fires; Nicaragua;

Honduras Now summarized Day 7 of the trial against the Guapinol defenders. "The day begins with the judge asking the eight water defenders if they would like to make use of their right to declare before the court. All decline.

The part of the trial where evidence is presented, examined, and debated by all parties officially started today. Several documents and testimonies were heard and debated. In the morning, the defense objected to two documents admitted as evidence. The documents are two internal reports written by and for Inversiones Los Pinares' Head of Physical Security, Miguel Izaguirre and include written reports and photos of the incident on September 7, 2018. The defense argues that the reports violate the legal regulations established in the "Private Security Service Regulations," which prohibits private individuals and security forces to carry out intelligence gathering and monitoring without a license. Security guards cannot substitute the work of police or state investigators and carrying out such monitoring is a violation of the fundamental rights of individuals that were present that day. Prosecutors refute the defense's arguments saying that it's not the correct procedural moment for the defense to object and that the evidence has been admitted. The defense asks the judges not to allow these two documents.

The judges suspended the trial for lunch at 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm. It started again at 3:15 pm as the prosecution showed up 40 minutes late. The judges then suspended the proceedings until tomorrow morning when they will rule on whether the two documents will be admitted. If the schedule continues as such, this trial could drag on for quite some time."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-seven-evidence-begins-to-be-debated-and-examined/>

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-de-guapinol-piden-excluir-prueba-ilegal-que-violenta-los-dd-hh/>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1483090971973795840>

Radio Progreso reports on how the newest Omicron-wave is collapsing the Honduran health care system.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/omicron-colapsa-sistema-de-salud-en-honduras/>

As announced, health workers held protest rallies in different parts of the country demanding the reemployment of fired colleagues.

The JOH regime reacted with the promise to create almost 9000 places for front line workers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-sanitario-intensifica-protestas-a-nivel-nacional-exigiendo-plazas-permanentes/>

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-medico-exige-al-gobierno-permanencia-de-mas-de-4-mil-profesionales-de-la-salud/>

<https://proceso.hn/personal-sanitario-en-plantones-a-nivel-nacional-y-paralizan-jornada-de-vacunacion-anticovid/>

<https://proceso.hn/finanzas-certifica-creacion-de-mas-de-8-mil-plazas-para-personal-de-primera-linea/>

President-elect Xiomara Castro and her team may present their nominations to head the state bodies of the new government.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/17/nuevo-gobierno-definira-gabinete-esta-semana/>

The outgoing JOH regime has created in the last eight years various additional state entities, in the form of three secretariats, four under-secretariats and one directorate. This leaves a heavy financial burden on the incoming administration.

Marcio Sierra, a member of the transition commission, announced that the new government will get rid of some institutions and merger others.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldodata/1509509-528/administracion-juan-orlando-hernandez-gran-burocracia-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-gobierno-extinguira-instituciones-estatales-que-generaron-duplicidad-de-funciones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/varias-instituciones-seran-suprimidas-y-otras-fusionadas-en-nuevo-gobierno-marcio-sierra/>

According to the transition commission, close to 75% of the school infrastructure is in poor condition in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-el-75-de-infraestructura-escolar-se-encuentra-en-mal-estado-en-honduras/>

Fires affected over 90'000 hectares of forest in Honduras last year.

<https://proceso.hn/incendios-afectaron-90547-hectareas-de-bosques-en-honduras-durante-2021/>

"The Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (Cohep) urged the National Congress this Monday to urgently approve the Bicentennial Maritime Boundary Treaty, as the National Assembly of the Republic of Nicaragua did unanimously on October 28, 2021 and published the following day in the Official Gazette."

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-insta-al-congreso-nacional-para-que-apruebe-el-tratado-de-limites-maritimos-del-bicentenario/>

18/01/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Xiomara - US, JOH, HR, Culture; Elections - Liberal Party, Reforms; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals, JOH; Health Sector; Migration - Mexico; and Just a Negligent Bunch

Honduras Now has a helpful summary of Day 8 of the Guapinol trial. "Today, the prosecution's star witness Santos Hernandez Correa, a contracted security supervisor for Los Pinares, testified before the court. Hernandez Correa is the allegedly victim of an unjust detention by the accused.

Hernandez Correa first gave his testimony, was questioned by all parties and finished on the stand. (...) The defense established that Santos Hernandez Correa holds an active contract with Inversiones Los Pinares. This might suggest that he has a vested interest in the mining company's position and stance against the Guapinol water defenders. The trial took place from 9:30 am to 2 pm, when it was suspended by the judges. It is convened again tomorrow at 9 am."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-eight-mining-company-security-guard-and-prosecutions-star-witness-testifies/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/las-cortes/item/3331-juicio-contradefensores-de-guapinol-mp-minera-y-tribunal-de-sentencia-unidos-para-mantenerlos-prisioneros>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/inversiones-los-pinares-debe-ser-investigada-por-acciones-delictivas/>

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Honduras to attend the Inauguration of Her Excellency Xiomara Castro on January 27, 2022, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras."

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/president-biden-announces-presidential-delegation-to-the-republic-of-honduras-to-attend-the-inauguration-of-her-excellency-xiomara-castro/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/01/18/politics/kamala-harris-xiomara-castro-honduras/index.html>

"The outgoing government is not being transparent regarding the number of posts it has been granting, nor is it providing financial statements of the country, denounced the transition commission appointed by President-elect, Xiomara Castro. Marcio Sierra, member of this commission, explained that Luis Matta, who serves as Minister of Finance, has not provided the information they need to know how they will receive the nation."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/tomadeposicion/1509611-537/gobierno-saliente-rendicion-cuentas-juan-orlando-hernandez-nuevo-mandato-honduras-xiomara-castro>

"Last Saturday, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the Union of Workers of the Beverage and Similar Industries (STIBYS), to make proposals for the National Plan on Human Rights, to be presented to the government of Xiomara Castro. The meeting was organized by the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (Cofadeh), as part of the human rights commission coordinated by Berta Oliva and Reina Rivera, for the presidential transition process."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-de-ddhh-realizan-propuestas-para-el-plan-de-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

Different sectors call on the new administration to create a Secretary of Art, Culture and Sports.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-a-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-crear-la-secretaria-del-arte-cultura-y-deportes/>

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) admitted a challenge demanding to annul the election of congresswoman Kritza Pérez.

The Liberal Party is divided and one wing in the form of Luis Zelaya calls it a persecution of those who don't want the Liberal Party to follow the National Party anymore.

<https://confidencialhn.com/me-sometere-al-proceso-senala-kritza-perez-luego-de-reclamo-para-anular-su-diputacion-ante-el-tje/>

<https://proceso.hn/como-una-persecucion-califica-luis-zelaya-pretension-de-anular-diputacion-de-kritza-perez/>

Criterio reports on the need to depoliticize electoral bodies such as the CNE and the TJE.

<https://criterio.hn/despolitizar-los-organismos-electorales-seria-una-solucion-para-evitar-imposiciones-de-fraudes/>

The trial against three people (one of them still on the run) involved in the mobile hospital corruption case is scheduled to start today.

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-moviles-un-juicio-tres-imputados-muchos-responsables-y-miles-de-preguntas/>

"Congressman Jari Dixon Herrera and attorney Mario Sorto, both representing the Libertad y Refundación Party (LIBRE), arrived this noon before the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), to present an appeal of unconstitutionality against decree 107-2021 which allows the payment of benefits to high government officials." (see last week)

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-recurso-ante-la-csj-en-contra-del-decreto-que-aprueba-el-pago-de-prestaciones-a-altos-funcionarios/>

The Secretary of Finance reiterated that it certified the hiring of health workers (see yesterday) and asked the Secretary of Health to speed up the process.

"The president of Sitramedhys expressed that these positions are not enough because there are more than 7,300 workers who are under the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) fund and others under the Social Security funds, without counting those who are under a decentralized modality."

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-ratifica-la-contratacion-de-mas-de-8-mil-trabajadores-sanitarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-certifica-creacion-de-plazas-para-personal-de-primera-linea-y-pide-agilizar-nombramientos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ocho-mil-822-plazas-no-son-suficientes-para-salud-sitramedhys/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/18/solicitan-ampliar-presupuesto-para-cubrir-totalidad-de-plazas-del-personal-sanitario/>

"Reported kidnappings have decreased significantly in Mexico, but in recent years, at least one out of every 10 kidnapping victims has been a migrant trying to reach the United States, a situation that could deteriorate further to the benefit of organized crime groups with the relaunch of a controversial US immigration policy."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/us-policy-mexico-crime-groups-opportunity-migrants/>

<https://criterio.hn/nacionalistas-prefieren-hablar-de-negligencia-pero-nunca-reconocen-la-corrupcion-durante-su-gestion-explica-analista/>

19/01/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; HRDs - Impunity; Corruption - Congress, Mobile Hospital, Impunity; Xiomara - Corruption, Congress, Spain; Organized Crime; COVID-19 - Health System, Vaccines;

Honduras Now summarized Day 9 of the Guapinol trial.

"The prosecution's second witness Miguel Rafael Izaguirre Padilla, the head of physical security for Inversiones Los Pinares, takes the stand and describes the events of September 7, 2018. In various occasions, Izaguirre inadvertently outlines different facts that help to expose lies described yesterday by Santos Hernandez, the prosecution's star witness. For example, Izaguirre admitted that Hernandez was never detained by community members and had access to his cellphones, as Hernandez was calling Izaguirre to ask him to pick him up because the mining company's employees had left him behind at the company's plant. This contradicts Hernandez and the prosecution's accusation that Hernandez had been detained by community members and his cell phones stolen. Izaguirre also testified that accused water defender, Orbin Hernandez, maintained a friendly and helpful demeanour towards him the day of the incidents. Izaguirre described the tension and conflict created by the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares' presence in Tocoa and divisions it creates for local people.

A medical forensic doctor testified about the lesions found on Santos Hernandez's body when he was examined on September 8, 2018. The doctor said there was no bleeding or serious wounds or injuries but he found some bruises and a mark made by an unidentified object on Hernandez's back.

The trial will continue tomorrow at 8:30 am."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-nine-prosecutions-witness-exposes-lies-of-star-witness-santos-hernandez/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/testigo-en-caso-guapinol-se-contradice-dejando-en-evidencia-intereses-de-minera/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-represion-y-vigilancia-ilegal-durante-juicio-contra-defensores-de-guapinol-en-honduras/>

COFADEH denounces that the MP fails to investigate attacks against human rights defenders. In the case of the recently murdered Pablo Isabel Hernández, COFADEH had denounced before his death that the MP had failed to act regarding the threats Hernández was receiving. The MP then said they could not react appropriately because they only count with one agent to cover all these cases.

Hernández's murder has been recently condemned by the IACHR and its Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression as well as the Inter-American Press Society (SIP).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-ministerio-publico-demuestra-su-inoperancia-e-incompetencia-ante-denuncias-presentadas-por-ataques-a-defensores-de-ddhh-en-honduras/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3332-demanda-internacional-al-estado-de-honduras-por-investigacion-en-el-crimen-contra-pablo-hernandez>

The outgoing Nationalist-controlled Congress continues to show no shame. Even El Heraldo finds clear words. "The deputies of the National Congress (NC) are preparing to approve today a series of contracts for the same holding company, ranging from multimillionaire businesses in the electricity sector to port businesses. This same economic group already concentrates other businesses in the country that have been questioned for their transparency and, in addition, because in some of them the contribution of the State has been very important. This is described by experts as a greedy and abusive concentration of power that the NC and the current government have granted to the economic group". The group in question is no other than Grupo EMCO, belonging to Lenir Pérez who is linked to the Guapinol case and is also behind the new Palmerola airport.

One of the contracts that would benefit Grupo Emco would go to its subsidiary Puente Alto Energy for coal-fired electricity production.

OFRANEH denounces that Congress must not have understood how climate change works.

The business lobby COHEP also denounced the plan by Congress.

In the evening, while still in session, the Nationalist secretary of Congress Tomás Zambrano announced that they would not vote on the subject this night.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509734-466/congreso-aprobara-millonarios-contratos-mismo-grupo-empresarial>

<https://proceso.hn/rechazan-que-congreso-apruebe-contrato-de-energia-a-base-de-carbon/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/19/senalan-millonario-interes-en-posible-aprobacion-de-contrato-de-energia-a-base-de-carbon/>

https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1483913530692800514?cxt=HHwWhMC4pc_f9ZcpAAAA

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/19/cohep-acusa-de-ilegal-concesion-a-grupo-de-lenir-y-ana-facusse/>

<https://criterio.hn/cn-niega-discusion-de-contrato-energetico-a-favor-de-lenir-perez-ante-fuertes-cuestionamientos/>

"On Wednesday, the Public Prosecutor's Office formally charged Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes, both former officials of Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Invest-H), with two counts of fraud and two counts of violation of the duties of public servants in the case of the Mobile Hospitals."

In the first day of trial, the MP presented over 70 pieces of evidence.

<https://proceso.hn/mp-formaliza-acusacion-de-fraude-y-violacion-de-los-deberes-de-los-funcionarios-por-caso-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-aportara-mas-de-70-medios-de-prueba-en-el-juicio-hospitales-moviles-el-acto-de-corrupcion-mas-bochornoso-durante-la-pandemia-covid-19/>

CESPAD outlines how impunity in corruption cases is maintained and what has to be done to overcome it.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/01/19/los-blindajes-de-las-elites-politicas-implicadas-en-corrupcion-es-posible-el-desmontaje-del-muro-de-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

The incoming administration announced to eliminate and reform over 200 laws to allow for its anti-corruption agenda to work.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/19/revelan-que-nuevo-gobierno-buscara-eliminar-o-modificar-mas-de-200-leyes-y-decretos/>

There is still no clarity regarding the new president of Congress. There was a deal between Libre and PSH to vote for someone supported by Nasralla who then presented PSH congressman Luis Redondo. But some inside Libre want to break with the deal. Honduras Now explains: "Among those that want to be next Prez of Congress is ambitious LIBRE Congress rep, Jorge Calix. It's believed that wealthy Atala family is behind gathering support for Calix, who legally represents Atala family & Ficohsa bank. Calix is part of a more conservative sector of LIBRE. Jorge Calix is cousin to José Mario Calix (alias Cubeta), indicted by U.S. on drug trafficking charges & is distantly related to JOH's sister through marriage."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1483887093365551111?cxt=HHwWjsC57eHc6ZcpAAAA>

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-de-libre-que-no-respalden-a-luis-redondo-estarian-violentando-estatutos-del-partido/>

King Felipe VI of Spain will attend the inauguration of Xiomara Castro.

<https://confidencialhn.com/confirman-asistencia-del-rey-de-espana-a-investigacion-de-xiomara-castro-en-honduras/>

InSight Crime published the first of three parts on the MS13 gang and its businesses. "This chapter looks at how the MS13 has taken over aspects of the trash recycling sector in Honduras and connections between the gang and the highest rungs of Honduran politics and business."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-how-ms13-became-lords-trash-dump/>

Health workers at the Torax hospital continue with their protests.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-de-el-torax-mantiene-protestas-exigiendo-plazas-permanentes/>

Honduras received over 200'000 more vaccine doses purchased by the IHSS.

<https://confidencialhn.com/llegan-216620-dosis-de-vacunas-contra-la-covid-19-adquiridas-por-el-ihss/>

20/01/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Azacualpa; Guapinol; Corruption - Congress, Mobile Hospitals; Xiomara - Congress, Agriculture, US; and Take What You Need

Police agents hit and detained a community leader from the indigenous Maya Chortí community of Azacualpa, Nicolás Rodríguez. Hours later, there was still no information on his whereabouts.

In defense of their cemetery, the people of Azacualpa occupied the street leading to it.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1484200415751290882?cxt=HHwWhIC-xcOa-JgpAAAA>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-desaparicion-de-lider-comunitario-en-azacualpa-copan-tras-ser-golpeado-y-detenido/>

https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1484260879747198984?cxt=HHwWkMC5tf_Zk5kpAAAA

Honduras Now summarized ten 10 of the Guapinol trial. The witnesses of the prosecution continued to get entangled in contradictions (see also previous two days). The trial is scheduled to continue today at 9am.

"The general coordinator of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), Bertha Zúniga Cáceres, highlighted the parallels of the use of private security companies for the profiling of leaders in communities that oppose extractive projects, as occurred in Río Blanco and was repeated in Guapinol. Bertha Zúniga pointed out that it is clear that the military knowledge of those who come out of institutions such as the Armed Forces is used by security companies to create profiles that are used in the development of attacks against community leaders."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-ten-more-witness-contradictions/>

<https://criterio.hn/desa-y-los-pinares-emplean-empresas-de-seguridad-para-vigilar-a-lideres-comunitarios-bertha-zuniga/>

The Nationalist-controlled Congress concluded yesterday after having been illegally prolonged for three months. Especially since the election and the win of the opposition, Congress has not held back in distributing money and granting impunity to themselves and their allies. The last day in session was no different.

They prolonged one of the many impunity pacts in place. It gives immunity to the outgoing administration as long as an audit by the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) is going on. The audit has already lasted three years with no results and now was prolonged for four more years...

They approved the contract for the supply of one million electronic passport books and twenty thousand cards for foreigners residing in Honduras.

The company benefiting from this is linked to Marco Tulio Gutiérrez, father of former Nationalist congresswoman Lena Gutiérrez who herself was linked to corruption.

They also nominated three members of Congress, Oswaldo Ramos Soto, Carlos Alfredo Lara Watson and Óscar Nájera, as members for life. They all failed to get reelected and Expediente Público writes that it is a form to protect those close to JOH.

Nájera is further known as "a friend of drug lords".

<https://criterio.hn/concluye-mandato-del-considerado-peor-congreso-nacional-en-la-historia-democratica-de-hondu/>

[https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1484349253996531712?
cxt=HHwWgMCi8Ybyu5kpAAAA](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1484349253996531712?cxt=HHwWgMCi8Ybyu5kpAAAA)

[https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1484351491645214722?
cxt=HHwWhMCs1ab0vJkpAAAA](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1484351491645214722?cxt=HHwWhMCs1ab0vJkpAAAA)

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/20/en-este-momento-amplian-por-4-anos-mas-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-cierre-de-legislatura-congreso-nacional-amplia-por-4-anos-vigencia-del-decreto-116-2019-que-limita-accion-penal-del-ministerio-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-autoriza-aprobar-contrato-de-suministro-de-un-millon-de-libretas-para-pasaportes-electronicos/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/20/otorgarian-contrato-de-pasaportes-electronicos-a-empresa-que-pertenecio-a-familia-gutierrez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-nombra-como-diputados-vitalicios-a-oswaldo-ramos-soto-carlos-lara-watson-y-oscar-najera/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/gobierno-saliente-de-honduras-protege-con-diputacion-vitalicia-a-fieles-a-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://elfaro.net/en/202112/centroamerica/25897/In-Honduras-a-Friend-of-Drug-Lords-Loses-His-Seat-in-Congress.htm>

The trial in the case of the mobile hospitals continued yesterday.

The MP presented additional proof.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1484240732563071002?cxt=HHwWtICzmaPFipkpAAAA

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/20/fiscalia-presentara-seis-nuevos-medios-de-prueba-por-megafraude-en-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/con-la-participacion-de-dos-testigos-continua-juicio-por-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

Libre coordinator Manuel Zelaya called for a meeting with the elected Libre members of Congress to discuss the presidency of the legislative power (see also previous days).

But things did not turn out as planned and 20 Libre members did not show up to the meeting. Xiomara called it a treacherous act.

In a press release, Libre denounced the act of the 20 elected members of Congress and stayed firm on the will to have Luis Redondo become the next president of Congress.

We see the successful Nationalist strategy at play, divide and conquer.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mel-zelaya-se-reunira-con-diputados-de-libre-para-definir-la-titularidad-del-cn/>

https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1484400448761180161?cxt=HHwWgsC5zf2V05kpAAAA

https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1484415628740018179?cxt=HHwWhoCyocmJ2pkpAAAA

<https://twitter.com/PartidoLibre/status/1484404851949854720>

<https://proceso.hn/libre-ratifica-a-redondo-para-presidencia-del-cn-y-llama-traidores-a-diputados-disidentes/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1484373128222425089?cxt=HHwWgoCq3dvfxpkpAAAA>

CESPAD looks at the challenges faced by the new administration in the agricultural sector.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/01/20/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-que-propuesta-campesina-promovera-el-nuevo-gobierno-en-materia-agricola-y-de-seguridad-alimentaria/>

Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the US State Department commented on his planned attendance of Xiomara's inauguration. "Honduras is an important partner and we look forward to working with the new government to bring greater prosperity & security to the region."

US Senator Bob Menéndez, a Democrat with a conservative line on Latin America, promised US support if they advance towards democracy and respect of human rights.

Honduras Now expresses concern: "It's becoming quite clear that Xiomara's gov't will be sandwiched between the powerful interests of private sector backed by US, & the Honduran social movement."

[https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1484149964481703940?
cxt=HHwWiMC5pfCh4ZgpAAAA](https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1484149964481703940?cxt=HHwWiMC5pfCh4ZgpAAAA)

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-es-muy-optimista-sobre-su-relacion-con-honduras-bajo-nueva-presidenta/>

[https://proceso.hn/si-honduras-da-paso-a-democracia-tendra-apoyo-de-eeuu-dice-senador-
democrata/](https://proceso.hn/si-honduras-da-paso-a-democracia-tendra-apoyo-de-eeuu-dice-senador-democrata/)

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1484228888209199105?
cxt=HHwWgsCo8euThZkpAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1484228888209199105?cxt=HHwWgsCo8euThZkpAAAA)

[https://criterio.hn/oabi-se-ha-convertido-en-especie-de-caja-chica-autoridades-deberan-rendir-
cuentas-senala-analista/](https://criterio.hn/oabi-se-ha-convertido-en-especie-de-caja-chica-autoridades-deberan-rendir-cuentas-senala-analista/)

21/01/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Azacualpa; Guapinol; Xiomara - Congress; Elections; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals, ICF, INP; and I Don't Need Traitors to Support Me

24 hours after having been arrested and beaten by the police, community leader from Azacualpa, Nicolás Rodríguez, reappeared.

[https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1484555454126727168?
cxt=HHwWgIC9yb3UmZopAAAA](https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1484555454126727168?cxt=HHwWgIC9yb3UmZopAAAA)

[https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1484693349902790656?
cxt=HHwWgMC5lYmv2JopAAAA](https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1484693349902790656?cxt=HHwWgMC5lYmv2JopAAAA)

[https://criterio.hn/por-querer-entrar-al-cementerio-fue-que-me-golpearon-dice-lider-comunitario-
que-fue-detenido-y-agredido-por-la-policia-en-azacualpa-copan/](https://criterio.hn/por-querer-entrar-al-cementerio-fue-que-me-golpearon-dice-lider-comunitario-que-fue-detenido-y-agredido-por-la-policia-en-azacualpa-copan/)

On Day 11 of the Guapinol trial, two more witnesses testified for the prosecution. Honduras Now again published a helpful summary. "None of the witnesses identified any of the accused Guapinol water defenders at the scene or witnessed their participation. The trial was suspended at 11 am and convened for Monday at 8:30 am."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-eleven-two-more-witnesses-for-prosecution/>

The conflict about the new leadership of Congress went from bad to worse yesterday (see previous e-mails). What has been feared has become true, 21 Libre members of Congress broke the deal between Libre and the PSH which led the opposition to victory in November. Instead of supporting the joint candidate Luis Redondo, they made a deal with the National Party and the Liberal Party and had their own leadership of Congress elected with Jorge Cálix its president. Under protest by the Xiomara wing of Libre, they were elected with 85 votes - by the way, the first time Congress met in person for a long time and to celebrate the occasion, a fight broke out...

The vote has to be confirmed on Sunday but it seems unlikely that the power shifts again.

JOH's Ministry of Government, Justice and Decentralization confirmed yesterday's provisional vote.

Libre went on to expel 18 members (three backtracked and withdrew their support for Cálix).

"The Armed Forces of Honduras (FFAA), condemned the events that occurred this Friday during the installation of the provisional board of directors of the Legislative Power and asked all political actors to respect the Constitution of the Republic, while guaranteeing the investiture of Xiomara Castro as president on January 27."

Xiomara Castro also found a judge to have her inaugurated as she does not want Jorge Cálix as the likely president of Congress to have the honor.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-medio-del-rechazo-y-agresiones-juramentan-a-jorge-calix-como-presidente-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/leonel-ayala-con-83-votos-calix-fue-electo-presidente-provisional-del-congreso-nacional-de-la-republica/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1509937-466/junta-directiva-provisional-congreso-nacional-2022-2026-honduras-zafarrancho>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/grupo-disidente-de-libre-impone-junta-directiva-provisional-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/eleccion-del-presidente-del-legislativo-desata-crisis-institucional-en-honduras/>

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1484588880804388864?
cxt=HHwWgIC53ZXuqJopAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1484588880804388864?cxt=HHwWgIC53ZXuqJopAAAA)

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-expulsa-de-forma-definitiva-a-18-diputados-disidentes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510021-466/xiomara-castro-expulsa-diputados-libre-irrespetaron-acuerdo-alianza>

<https://proceso.hn/ffaa-piden-respeto-a-la-constitucion-y-garantizan-investigacion-de-castro-el-27-de-enero/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/tomadeposicion/1510001-537/jueza-karla-romero-promesa-ley-xiomara-castro-toma-posesion-honduras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/tomadeposicion/1510001-537/jueza-karla-romero-promesa-ley-xiomara-castro-toma-posesion-honduras>

Overview: <https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/21/fractura-en-libre-genera-primer-conflicto-en-el-poder-legislativo/>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) disqualified the deputy of the National Party for the department of Francisco Morazán, Erasmo Portillo, after verifying his kinship with the vice-president, Ricardo Álvarez.

Or maybe not, just hours later, the CNE published a second press release saying that it is not up to them to decide this and referred to the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE).

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-parentesco-de-afinidad-con-el-designado-presidencial-ricardo-alvarez-cne-inhabilita-a-erasmo-portillo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-desautoriza-comunicado-inhabilitacion-erasmo-portillo/>

The trial in the case of the mobile hospitals was suspended as the defense team did not show up in court.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/01/21/el-juicio-por-la-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-se-suspende-por-la-falta-de-defensa/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) filed a complaint regarding nepotism at the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF).

<https://criterio.hn/cna-denuncia-familion-de-icf-ante-el-ministerio-publico/>

The MP investigates a possible 7 million embezzlement case at the National Penitentiary Institute (INP).

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-investiga-desvio-de-mas-de-siete-millones-de-lempiras-del-inp-dinero-para-indemnizacion-por-incendio-en-penal-de-sps/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-investiga-desvio-de-7-millones-de-lempiras-del-inp-destinados-a-indemnizacion-de-familiares/>

<https://proceso.hn/no-necesito-que-traidores-me-blinden-respuesta-de-xiomara-castro-a-diputado-disidente-a-su-linea/>

22/01/22

Honduras Daily: Tolupán - Assassination; Xiomara - Congress; Elections;

MADJ denounces the murder of indigenous defender Selvin Geovany Mejía of the La Candelaria tribe in Morazán, Yoro.

[https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1484982759277879296?
cxt=HHwWgICzhfX825spAAAA](https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1484982759277879296?cxt=HHwWgICzhfX825spAAAA)

The newly elected members of Congress have been called to vote on the new leadership of Congress for this morning at 7am.

After Friday's betrayal of 21 Libre members of Congress (see yesterday), Xiomara Castro called for a vigil outside Congress to stop a hostile take over of Congress.

She also ordered the police to remove the wired fences around Congress which had been installed by the National Party.

Baker Street Herald links Jorge Cálix, the Libre splinter candidate for Congress backed by the National Party, to ZEDEs through him being supported by the bank FICOSAH.

There are also rumors that the Libre members of Congress who support Cálix have been bought off.

They seem themselves as victims of a hate campaign.

The only DC representative in Congress, Carlos Raudales, announced to withdraw his support of Cáliz and he would instead support Xiomara's candidate Luis Redondo.

A much discussed question is the role of the Liberal Party. With the 22 Liberal votes plus the remaining 32 Libre votes, 10 PSH votes and the one DC vote, one gets to 65 votes, exactly what is needed for the election of the new congressional leadership.

Additionally, there were some calls for talks between the opposing groups, e.g. by the US embassy and the business lobby COHEP.

<https://proceso.hn/diputados-convocados-a-las-700-de-la-manana-de-forma-presencial-para-elegir-presidente-del-cn/>

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485081969075449856?
cxt=HHwWgMCj0deLiZwpAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485081969075449856?cxt=HHwWgMCj0deLiZwpAAAA)

[https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1485071512197599232?
cxt=HHwWgMC46YGrhJwpAAAA](https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1485071512197599232?cxt=HHwWgMC46YGrhJwpAAAA)

<https://criterio.hn/multiples-sectores-se-unen-a-xiomara-castro-en-vigilia-para-recuperar-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510099-466/polic%C3%ADa-levanta-portones-resguardaban-congreso-nacional-solicitud-xiomara-castro>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510095-466/algarabia-ovaciones-reciben-xiomara-castro-bajos-congreso-nacional>

<https://twitter.com/bakerstherald/status/1484760811725799425>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/22/tres-millones-de-lempiras-costo-la-consciencia-de-los-traidores-denuncia-barahona/>

<https://tiempo.hn/doctor-denis-chirinos-expulsado-libre-odio/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510078-466/diputado-carlos-raudales-retira-apoyo-jorge-calix>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/22/pueden-los-liberales-revivir-la-aspiracion-de-luis-redondo-de-presidir-el-congreso/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/22/las-ultimas-24-horas-y-yani-tu-decision-sera-tu-final/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1484999198659559425?cxt=HHwWgoC- ee545spAAAA>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-llama-al-dialogo-a-actores-politicos-ante-llamado-de-libre-a-movilizaciones/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/sector-privado-hondureno-pide-politicos-dialogar-resolver-diferencias-JG5091496>

Nationalist congressman Roy Dagoberto Cruz Pérez, a relative of the president of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta Pérez, had his election cancelled by the CNE. But now the TJE reversed the decision.

<https://proceso.hn/tje-desestima-resolucion-del-cne-sobre-inhabilitacion-del-diputado-roy-cruz-perez-pariente-del-presidente-de-la-csj/>

23/01/21

Honduras Daily: Xiomara - Congress, Journalists, US, Analysis; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Migration – Deportations;

So where to start...if you enjoyed your weekend without reading e-mails, please first read the last two editions of Honduras Daily. Congress was meant to elect the new congressional leadership yesterday morning after a provisional election had taken place a day before. Xiomara and her followers had taken already to Congress the night before to protect the will of the people. Then in the morning, "a second call was put out for a session outside Tegucigalpa at 8:20 am, which began minutes later. Legislators who planned to vote for Luis Redondo were trapped in Tegucigalpa. Legislators who planned to vote for Calix, including dissident Libre, National Party & Liberal Yanistas appeared at the secret location & proceeded to vote, electing Calix. Those stuck in Tegucigalpa then held vote & elected Redondo, but were far short of a majority."

Honduras Now then reported that Cáliz may have received 79 votes and Redondo 49, but they caution that the numbers are unconfirmed. "It seems like Redondo doesn't have enough votes whereas others are calling the session in Zambrano illegal."

The session at Congress additionally suffered an electrical sabotage.

Cálix's election has to be printed in La Gaceta to be official. Union workers of the National Company of Graphic Art (ENAG) then went on to protect their building and stop the printing.

Xiomara recognized Luis Redondo as the president of Congress.

They also created a Twitter profile of Redondo's Congress.

The National Party, in a press release, called for the respect of the rule of law and invited the dissident Libre representatives to join their party. OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda found the right words for this. "This is a joke, or we live in the country of the absurd. The narco-dictatorship, which plunged the country into the worst crisis in its history for 12 years, which gave a technical coup to the Supreme Court of Justice on 12.12.12, now proclaims itself the guarantor of democracy and governability."

Cálix's Congress published a press release with an agenda for the first 30 days highlighting five points. The derogation of the ZEDEs and the Secrecy Law, to revise the Penal Code, and to approve the Extradition Law and the Efficient Collaboration Law.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1485275134009167872?cxt=HHwWgMCyxa734JwpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/KawsachunNews/status/1485300534525534209?cxt=HHwWgoC9ke-97JwpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485283796991692806?cxt=HHwWjMCq5c7v5JwpAAAA>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/23/honduras-entra-en-una-nueva-crisis-tras-instalacion-de-la-junta-directiva-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/pueblo-hondureno-respalda-presidencia-de-luis-redondo/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/crisis-parlamentaria-en-honduras-amenaza-gobernabilidad-de-presidencia-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510154-466/aseguran-sabotaje-energia-congreso-nacional-apagon>

<https://tiempo.hn/sindicato-trabajadores-toma-instalaciones-enag/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1485287469092376580?cxt=HHwWiMC4ia7F5pwpAAAA>

https://twitter.com/cn_honduras

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1485270676458156036?cxt=HHwWiMC9mfPz3pwpAAAA>

<https://tiempo.hn/primeras-acciones-legislativas-junta-directiva-en-cn/>

The US continued to call for a dialogue (see also yesterday).

But Honduras Now warns. "We are in another political crisis where there isn't a clear winner. This moment is like time immediately after 2017 electoral fraud. What normally happens now? The US waits a few days to see how things play out & then declares a winner or sets the rules to resolve it."

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1485457659805503489?cxt=HHwWgsC42eH3s50pAAAA>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-reitera-llamado-al-dialogo-y-respeto-al-estado-de-derecho/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485367579434635265?cxt=HHwWgsCq0bL8ip0pAAAA>

Six armed bodyguards of Congressman Jorge Cálix physically and verbally attacked journalist Karen Mejía (33) of TV Azteca and other journalists who were trying to interview him in after the in-promptu election of the congressional leadership in Bosques de Zambrano.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1429-guardaespaldas-de-jorge-calix-agreden-a-periodista-karen-mejia>

CESPAD director Gustavo Irías offers three reasons for the political crisis. "First, the difficulties of LIBRE to build internal consensus. This is a politically very diverse party; it is a fact that the dissident deputies were not in favor of the opposition Coalition that added the PSH and much less with the inter-party agreement on the distribution of power quotas, in case they won the electoral contest. The LIBRE leadership did not ensure the internal debate nor the construction of a unique and shared approach on how to assume the reconstruction of the country. This is a more fundamental issue, it has to do with internal political formation processes, collective and shared readings on the complex reality of the country, as well as with the alternative model of the country to be built. The second, the conspiracy of the right wing against the elected government, with its main weapon: the number of votes in the National Congress (the sum of the National Party and the Liberal Party represents 51.5% of the total number of legislators). There is no doubt that the

dissident sector was seduced by the easy access to the Congress board, without this implying sharing this power with the PSH. In addition, a hard fact is that the sum of the representatives of LIBRE and PSH did not reach the simple majority to have access to these directive positions. With this, the right wing has tried to divide the opposition Coalition and create a crisis of governance, and has made some progress in this direction. But the basic question is, what did the right wing negotiate with the dissidents to hand over the leadership of Congress so easily? Third, the participation of other powerful actors such as organized crime and sectors of big national capital, who feel threatened by the program of changes committed by the Coalition (revision of contracts, repeal of laws and issuance of new legal frameworks). It is likely that money from these sectors has circulated to buy consciences, we have no proof of this, but in Honduras corruption in the political system is so deeply rooted that it has been a recurrent practice in this type of elections."

Criterio talked to several experts and most coincide that it is mostly a political and not solely a legal problem, but the way out is not clear.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/01/23/se-abre-crisis-constitucional-en-honduras-con-dos-directivas-paralelas-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-sumergida-en-una-nueva-crisis-politica-como-se-saldra-de-ella/>

"In 2020, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a US\$50 million loan for the containment and response to Covid-19 cases in Honduras. This fund was used to hire medical personnel to combat the virus on the front line. However, from September to November 2021, more than 5,000 health workers were dismissed, even though there is a decree for their permanent appointment."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/22/heroes-desempleados-personal-de-primera-linea-contra-el-covid-19-se-queda-sin-trabajo/>

Over 1100 Hondurans have been deported so far this year.

<https://proceso.hn/un-promedio-de-50-hondurenos-son-deportados-a-diario-en-enero/>

24/01/21

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial; Keyla - Impunity; Hydroelectricity - Jilamito; Xiomara - Congress, US, Analysis, JOH; Corruption - UFERCO, Mobile Hospital; Education; and a People's Congress

Honduras Now summarized Day 13 of the Guapinol trial. " The trial started with a serious concern raised by the defense. The attorneys representing the water defenders asked the prosecution to clarify why armed men in civilian clothes were standing outside the court room. They expressed fear and denounced that the armed men were intimidating them, the water defenders and the family

members gathered outside the courthouse. The defense threatened to leave the courthouse if the judges did not take control of the situation emphasizing the role that private security and retired military and police have played in the trial and the conflict on behalf of Inversiones Los Pinares. The prosecution told the court that the men were police and then said they are private security. After the defense insisting several times, the judges finally ordered the men to leave the courthouse and the defense notified the national protection mechanism that they felt intimidated by the attitude and actions of the armed men, the prosecutors and the lawyers representing Inversiones Los Pinares.

When the trial finally got started, Selvin Eduardo Silva, an investigative (DPI) police agent ratified a document testifying that he received a USB memory containing videos of the incident on September 7, 2018. These will be viewed later in the trial.

Another DPI agent, Lester Yalil Martinez, took the stand to ratify a diagram that he had drawn of the area near the mining company's plant that describes the location of the car and the containers that were burned on September 7, 2018. The defense argued that the prosecution was presenting a document that reconstructed the events of the crime scene, which is its elaboration, by law, require the presence of the defense. The document was also different from what the prosecution had originally told the court it was and there was no judicial control to ensure its authenticity. Despite several arguments to not admit the expert testimony, the judges decided to allow it.

Later, a protected witness took the stand testifying that he had been present the day of the incidents. His testimony contradicted previous witnesses including details about alleged threats against and injuries suffered by Santos Hernandez and descriptive information about the person that was shot that day. The witness repeated the same defamatory message used by many linked to Inversiones Los Pinares, that the water defenders are accusing the company of shooting someone that day in order to receive money from human rights organizations.

The trial is convened tomorrow at 9:00 am."

IM-Defensoras denounced the surveillance, harassment and threats against the Guapinol defenders.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-thirteen-armed-men-intimidate-defense-inside-courthouse/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3334-empresa-minera-estaria-detras-hombre-de-civil-y-armados-amenazan-a-abogados-en-el-caso-guapinol>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/01/alerta-urgente-honduras-vigilancia-hostigamiento-y-amenazas-contra-las-defensoras-y-defensores-de-guapinol/>

It has been almost a year since nursing student Keyla Patricia Martínez was murdered inside a police station. A letter is circulating collecting signatures to demand justice for her and her family.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLPjn6RVqznuOjXLocuRvgunOs6yTwcHrqnUtb_3NnVSjFw/viewform

Contra Corriente published a long article on the struggle by the Arizona community to protect their Jilamito river. "Honduran businessman Emin Abufele Marcos has a concession on the Jilamito River. A river that starts in the community of Arizona, in northwestern Honduras, and is seen as the last source of water for human consumption in the area. This businessman has received millionaire contracts with the State and his business goes beyond the Honduran borders with offshore companies for the generation of energy. Now he is facing a socio-environmental conflict in which four residents and a mayor have already been criminalized, a divided community and various irregularities that could have a negative impact on a protected area."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/21/conflicto-en-jilamito-un-empresario-y-una-comunidad-se-disputan-el-ultimo-rio/>

Honduras still has two Congresses (see previous days).

In the newest La Gaceta, Luis Redondo is named as the president of Congress. Since Sunday, Libre activist and graphic arts union members have been occupying the La Gaceta building to stop Jorge Cáliz to be named the president of Congress.

Redondo's support also grew as Libre congressman Sergio Castellanos, who was named a vice-president of Congress under Cáliz, announced to change sides.

Later, congresswoman Melbi Ortiz did the same.

<https://proceso.hn/se-instalan-dos-congresos-este-martes-sin-salida-a-la-crisis/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-gaceta-confirma-a-luis-redondo-presidente-legislativo/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1954-protestan-para-que-no-se-publique-ilegitima-junta-directiva-del-congreso-nacional>

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485713045498122240?
cxt=HHwWgMCisZWJqJ4pAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485713045498122240?cxt=HHwWgMCisZWJqJ4pAAAA)

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/24/dos-diputados-de-libre-retiran-su-apoyo-al-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-jorge-calix/>

Since Saturday, there have been many calls for dialogue to resolve the crisis, somehow forgetting that Hondurans have a bad memory of such dialogues thinking back to 2017 after JOH's violent illegal reelection. The questions about the dialogue grew further, when Cáliz's side announced

yesterday that the two parties would meet with the help of an international mediator which later was found out to be the US embassy.

Criterio reports on the possible role of the US during the Xiomara presidency.

Some commentators call for a political pact to resolve the crisis as Honduras does not offer the conditions for a judicial resolution.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1485800571663646720?cxt=HHwWgICske7vz54pAAAA>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/24/urgente-luis-y-jorge-esta-tarde-a-cita-con-embajada-de-eeuu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-luis-redondo-confirma-reunion-con-la-embajada-americana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeuu-llama-a-la-calma-en-honduras-antes-de-la-toma-de-posesion-de-castro/>

<https://criterio.hn/presidenta-de-honduras-aparenta-contar-con-el-respaldo-de-ee-uu-pese-a-conspiracion-en-su-contr/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/24/crisis-del-legislativo-debe-resolverse-a-traves-de-un-pacto-politico-afirman-expertos/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network translated an important insight by Padre Melo. "JOH & his mafia are active than ever. They took advantage of the triumphalist euphoria to pull the floor out from under democracy from inside Libre. Today we are on the threshold of a coup. Only an active and conscious population will save democracy."

https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1485804654248308738?cxt=HHwWhMC94b_d0Z4pAAAA

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1485806924406874112?cxt=HHwWgICz4dHh0p4pAAAA>

The outgoing JOH regime has another "gift" for the Xiomara Castro administration. They just confirmed the disputed Miriam Guzmán, the former head of the Revenue Administration Service (SAR) as the new head of the Central Bank...

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/01/24/abuso-cargan-a-nuevo-gobierno-dos-activistas-de-joh-miriam-y-madero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/antietico-los-nombramientos-de-miriam-guzman-en-bch-y-carlos-madero-en-fosede-asegura-hugo-noe-pino/>

According to the head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, they are working on over 100 lines of investigations into corruption cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trabajamos-en-mas-de-100-lineas-de-investigacion-tenemos-aseguradas-las-pruebas-jefe-de-la-uferco/>

The corruption trial regarding the purchase of the mobile hospital continued yesterday.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/con-pericia-forense-y-cruce-de-correos-electronicos-se-retoma-juicio-por-mega fraude-en-la-adquisicion-de-hospitales-moviles/>

UNHCR reports on the challenges faced by teachers in Honduras.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2022/1/61eaf864/schoolteachers-honduras-face-threats-inside-classroom.html>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/24/asi-sera-siempre-aplauden-apertura-del-congreso-nacional-al-publico-tras-quitar-valla/>

25/01/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial, UN; Women's Rights; Congress; Xiomara - US, Mayors; Corruption - CPI, Mobile Hospitals, Narcopolitics; Maquilas - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Vaccines; and Sending the Cars Ahead

Day 14 of the Guapinol trial took place yesterday.

" Important video evidence presented by the prosecution and the defense was shown today in court. An expert forensic witness described eight videos that were submitted by the prosecution and also, played five videos presented by the defense attorneys.

The prosecution's video evidence contradicted witness testimony, showing that the car and the two containers were not lit on fire or damaged at the same time, and that none of the accused were seen as committing any criminal acts. In addition, the videos showed that the community members were not armed, again, directly contradicting the prosecution's witnesses.

The defense's video evidence consisting of a recorded live broadcast and follow-up interviews by a local media outlet that was present the day of the incident. In the videos, the local journalist said several times as did the individuals interviewed, that the only people armed that day, were individuals working with or related to Inversiones Los Pinares.

The videos were very touching and powerful. Through the interviews of young and old, It almost felt like the entire community of Guapinol was testifying in court about the importance of defending their water, the reasons they were present and maintaining an encampment on and before September 7, 2018, and the intentions of the mining company to provoke violence, division, conflict, and destruction.

Tomorrow, the prosecution will likely finishing presenting their evidence and the trial is convened for 9 am."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-fourteen-important-video-evidence-tells-the-real-story-of-the-guapinol-struggle/>

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, expressed concerns about the threats received by the Guapinol defenders, their family members and accompanying defenders during the trial (see yesterday).

[https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1486020903469293573?
cxt=HHwWioC9ge6ItJ8pAAAA](https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1486020903469293573?cxt=HHwWioC9ge6ItJ8pAAAA)

<https://criterio.hn/relatora-de-la-onu-pide-investiguen-amenazas-contr-familiares-y-representantes-legales-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Honduras commemorated the Day of the Honduran Woman. There were a lot of mobilizations and a combative mood was in the air. "Every January 25, the patriarchal culture tries to hide the true historical and political character of this day, with flowers, gifts and phrases that refer to the sacrifice and unconditional love of women. We, who carry the memory in the soles of our feet and in the names of those who walked before, the organization and the struggle for the dignity of women and their peoples, know that in the daily life of this country and its transformation processes, we women are building today other possible realities."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/01/pronunciamiento-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-de-honduras-conmemoran-su-dia-en-la-antesala-de-la-asuncion-de-la-primera-mujer-presidenta/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1956-en-el-dia-de-la-mujer-las-hondurenas-condenan-violencia-politica-de-genero>

Both Congresses started their first legislative period yesterday. The Redondo Congress inside Congress, the Cáliz Congress on Zoom.

JOH participated on the Zoom session which for many observers and Hondurans further undermines the legitimacy of the Cáliz Congress.

Journalist Jeff Ernst highlights that "President-elect Xiomara Castro has stated that she recognizes the Redondo legislature. This is important because she can assign the legislature's budget to that group & refuse to sign into law any bills passed by the Calix group. The Redondo legislature's strength lies in that support from Castro as well as from the people, but any bills it passes could be subject to legal challenges. Thus, so long as the crisis continues, neither legislature can function with certainty."

The president of the Liberal Party, Yani Rosenthal, tweeted yesterday that "the Liberal Party offers all his support to the President Xiomara Castro and started a dialogue with her".

The fight about the legitimacy of the two Congresses also takes place on Wikipedia. Currently, the English version has Redondo as its president, the Spanish version Cáliz.

Luis Redondo promised the creation of a Citizen Commission against Corruption and the repeal of all the harmful laws approved in the last 12 years.

The Cáliz Congress announced that they have repealed the disputed Secrecy Law.

They also claim that a first step to repeal the ZEDEs has been taken.

Cáliz himself, in what is portrayed as a mistake by not muting his microphone, made a comment expressing annoyance about questions regarding the extradition, presumably of JOH. It is unclear what his position is and some fear that he wants to stop the extradition of drug traffickers.

<https://criterio.hn/instalacion-de-dos-congresos-paralelos-agudiza-crisis-politica-en-honduras/>

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1485993299009843202

<https://criterio.hn/con-el-saludo-joh-jorge-calix-instala-congreso-desde-la-virtualidad/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1486015711193575427?cxt=HHwWhsC9xdDasZ8pAAAA>

[https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1486063879792861190?
cxt=HHwWjIC9ybTOx58pAAAA](https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1486063879792861190?cxt=HHwWjIC9ybTOx58pAAAA)

<https://proceso.hn/partido-liberal-anuncia-respaldo-y-el-inicio-de-un-dialogo-con-xiomara-castro/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Congress_of_Honduras

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congreso_Nacional_de_Honduras

<https://criterio.hn/luis-redondo-promete-derogacion-de-leyes-nocivas-e-instalacion-de-comision-ciudadana-anticorrupcion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/25/congreso-nacional-presidido-por-jorge-calix-anuncia-derogacion-de-ley-de-secretos/>

<https://proceso.hn/se-ha-dado-el-primer-paso-que-honduras-esperaba-para-derogar-zedes-asegura-mauricio-villeda/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510405-466/jorge-calix-video-extradicion-honduras-primera-legislatura>

CESPAD presents Xiomara Castro as up for the task to overcome the current institutional crisis, but highlights that the support of the international community is needed. "For this reason, those who analyze the country's crisis consider that international accompaniment in a dignified and transparent manner is fundamental to find a solution not only to this crisis, but to the entire crisis that the country has been dragging along and that has not been resolved, unfortunately, for more than a decade."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/01/25/una-tesis-institucional-que-muestra-a-xiomara-castro-sin-miedo-a-tomar-decisiones/>

The Latin American Working Group calls on the US government to support the Xiomara administration.

<https://www.lawg.org/press-release-lawg-encourages-u-s-government-to-support-incoming-president-xiomara-castros-anti-corruption-efforts-vice-president-harris-to-attend-inauguration/>

One day before the inauguration of Ximoara Castro, the new and reelected mayors were inaugurated which means that the two mayor cities of Honduras, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, are now in the hands of the previous opposition. They arrive in offices with a will to change their cities for their better but also facing many obstacles.

<https://proceso.hn/alcaldes-toman-posesion-de-sus-cargos-en-los-298-municipios-del-pais/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/alcalde-de-la-capital-pide-apoyo-ciudadano-para-reconstruir-tegucigalpa/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/empobrecida-y-con-finanzas-en-bancarrota-asi-deja-calidonio-a-san-pedro-sula/>

The newest Corruption Perceptions Index was published by Transparency International. Honduras reached a historic low.

<https://www.transparency.org/en/press/2021-corruption-perceptions-index-press-release-regional-americas>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/25/transparencia-internacional-honduras-lidera-lista-de-naciones-mas-corruptas-del-mundo/>

"In the trial of Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes, for the overpriced purchase of seven mobile hospitals, the names of Juan Orlando Hernández and Mauricio Oliva have come to light, as parties involved in this notorious case of corruption registered at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. "These names are part of the telephone dump that was carried out both to the WhatsApp chats that were found in the phone of both Mr. Alex Moraes and Mr. Marco Bográn, specifying that information was requested about the purchase orders, how the shipments from Europe would be made, by air, in the first instance or by sea in the second instance," said the spokesman of the Judiciary, Carlos Silva."

<https://criterio.hn/en-pericias-del-mp-sale-a-relucir-joh-y-mauricio-oliva-en-caso-hospitales-moviles/>

UFERCO denounces mistakes have been made by the Supreme Court of Justice in the Narcopolitics corruption case and demands clarifications.

[https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1486169238972862468?
cxt=HHwWiMC40Y_D958pAAAA](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1486169238972862468?cxt=HHwWiMC40Y_D958pAAAA)

The Guardian covers the Honduran garment industry and the role of the US and its corporations. "The story of Honduras's emergence as a garment exporter began in the 80s, when Ronald Reagan moved to confront what he saw as a rising threat to US interests – a communist drift in the Caribbean Basin. His two-pronged strategy was to consolidate US military hegemony over the region, and to encourage the growth of export processing. He launched the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), which granted military aid and one-way duty-free access to the US market for a designated range of products. (...) In 1984, the year the CBI first went into effect, US textile corporations, apparel firms, importers and retailers began lobbying to loosen import quotas and reduce tariffs in the Caribbean Basin. They added an important caveat: if US markets were to be thrown open to clothing sewn in the Caribbean Basin, they had to be made with US cloth. The result of these lobbying efforts was the 1986 Special Access Program (SAP), which allowed clothes made of US fabric and sewn in the Caribbean Basin to enter the US with low or no tariffs. (...) Although the CBI was intended to spur economic growth, in practice, apparel brands used the Caribbean as a source of cheap labour while scrupulously curtailing any independent production that might benefit local competition. US companies brought little technology, and low-skill and low-wage work. At the same time, quotas made it almost impossible for local companies to develop their own export products for the American market."

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/jan/25/behind-the-label-how-the-us-stitched-up-the-honduras-garment-industry>

"The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (Aneeah), Josué Orellana, announced that they will go on indefinite national strike as of this day, due to the non-compliance with the Executive Decree on hiring."

<https://confidencialhn.com/paro-indefinido-de-profesionales-de-la-enfermeria-por-falta-de-nombramiento-de-plazas-anuncia-la-aneeah/>

Honduras received the first batch of vaccine shots for children.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibe-el-primer-lote-de-vacunas-pediatricas-contra-la-covid-19/>

<https://proceso.hn/aterrizan-en-honduras-los-carros-blindados-que-transportaran-a-kamala-harris-y-comitativa-de-eeuu/>

26/01/22

Honduras Daily: Toluapán - Assassination; Guapinol - Trial; Garífunas; Xiomara - Inauguration, US, Spain, Congress, Social Movements; Corruption - Narcopolitics; and JOH Has Left the Building
OACNUDH condemns the murder of Toluapán defender Melvin Geovany Mejía (see previous e-mail).

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-de-melvin-geovany-mejia-defensor-indigena-tolupan/>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-pide-a-honduras-investigar-muerte-de-defensor-ambiental-de-etnia-tolupan/>

Honduras Now summarizes Day 15 of the Guapinol trial. "The trial started today with an expert testimony from a forensic psychologist based in the Public Prosecutor's office in San Pedro Sula. Oscar Aguilar examined the alleged victim and security manager for Inversiones Los Pinares, Santos Hernandez Corea, a few years after the incident on September 7, 2018. Aguilar gave testimony that Hernandez had difficulty recalling memories and appeared to have signs of trauma and depression. The defense made it clear that the results are not scientific and heavily rely on the opinion of the expert that examined him. The report did not involve or mention the accused in the crimes in any way.

At least three witnesses presented by the prosecution were unable to attend the trial, but in their absence an investigative police report and two testimonies of a witness were read or played (audio) in court. Upon request from the defense, two testimonies of Akbar Reyes Lagos, Inversiones Los Pinares logistics manager and member of the Board of Directors were heard in court. Reyes had previously participated in other hearings. Again, the testimonies contradicted the other witnesses, as well as the two separate versions that Reyes had given in court. Reyes is seen as having a direct interest in criminalizing the water defenders and the community that are resisting the mine and mentioned several of the accused as being present that day on September 7, 2018.

In the afternoon, the prosecution rests their case. The bulk of the trial is over. Tomorrow, the defense will begin presenting their evidence and it's possible that the trial could end by Friday. The judges convened all parties for 9 am tomorrow."

Inversiones Los Pinares, meanwhile, is on the offensive further attacking the Guapinol defenders in a press release.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-fifteen-the-prosecution-rests/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/inversiones-los-pinares-evidencia-contra-acusados-en-caso-guapinol-es-contundente/>

Two Garífuna defenders were arrested and beaten two or three weeks ago. One of them, Leonard Brown, had his initial hearing yesterday. "Charges against him are linked to his defense of ancestral Garífuna land titles. OFRANEH denounces the systemic dispossession of land suffered by Garífuna communities in Trujillo Bay."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1486390675914387458?cxt=HHwWhMCjtbmc3KApAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1486449786421133314?cxt=HHwWhICygZGN96ApAAAA>

Today, Xiomara Castro will become the next president of Honduras. People have already started to gather outside the National Stadium and even Proceso Digital seems exited.

Xiomara's team has recollected 36 million Lempiras in donations for the inauguration.

Her cabinet has not yet been revealed, probably this is linked to the search of an agreement to resolve the crisis of the two Congresses (see below).

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-inicia-manana-un-periodo-inedito-con-xiomara-castro-como-presidenta/>

<https://proceso.hn/hoy-asume-xiomara/>

<https://proceso.hn/unos-36-millones-de-lempiras-se-recaudaron-para-toma-de-posesion-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510517-466/nombres-integrantes-gabinete-gobierno-xiomara-castro-honduras>

US Vice President Kamala Harris tweeted: "I'm preparing for our trip to Honduras tomorrow where I will attend the inauguration of President Xiomara Castro. This visit is an opportunity for our two nations to deepen our cooperation on key issues, from anti-corruption, to economic recovery."

<https://twitter.com/VP/status/1486492902352117767?cxt=HHwWjoCz3efaiqEpAAAA>

Xiomara met with the King Felipe VI of Spain. He also met with JOH.

<https://proceso.hn/el-rey-de-espana-se-reune-con-hernandez-y-castro-en-honduras/>

Many feared that the saga of the two Congresses could overshadow the start of Xiomara's presidency. But there is some hope in the air. The first Nationalist congressman, Rolando Barahona, changed sides from Cáliz to Redondo.

Xiomara met with Cáliz and offered him the post of Cabinet Coordinator.

He thanked her for the invitation - "It would be a great honor to be part of the government of resistance and national reconciliation" - and offered an answer soon.

Redondo and his team met with a delegation from Argentina.

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1486492795028348930?cxt=HHwWhIC9jcjUiqEpAAAA

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510536-466/partido-nacional-diputado-luis-redondo-honduras>

[https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1486480432606683136?
cxt=HHwWgIC58fyEhaEpAAAA](https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1486480432606683136?cxt=HHwWgIC58fyEhaEpAAAA)

[https://twitter.com/JorgeCalixHN/status/1486519661634199555?
cxt=HHwWhoC59bPwlqEpAAAA](https://twitter.com/JorgeCalixHN/status/1486519661634199555?cxt=HHwWhoC59bPwlqEpAAAA)

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1486535891246014465?cxt=HHwWgoCz-YuhnqEpAAAA

Both MADJ and COPINH published press releases on their proposals for the incoming administration from a social movement perspective.

<https://madj.org/2022/01/26/mas-alla-del-gobierno-de-xiomara-por-una-verdadera-transformacion-politica-social-y-economica-de-nuestra-patria/>

<https://copinh.org/2022/01/asuncion-de-xiomara-castro-nuevas-esperanzas-mismas-resistencias-y-compromisos/>

Both El Pulso and Criterio report on the criticism leveled against the Constitutional Chamber by the head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, in the Narcopolitics corruption case (see also yesterday).

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/26/justicia-constitucional-falla-a-favor-de-miguel-pastor-uferco-apelara-el-fallo-por-narcopolitica/>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscal-anticorrupcion-denuncia-que-sentencia-de-la-csj-beneficiaria-a-implicados-en-caso-narcopolitica/>

Jeff Ernst reports for The Guardian on the end of the term of JOH. "Hernández is widely expected to be indicted by US prosecutors on drug trafficking conspiracy charges upon leaving office. It would mark a spectacular fall from grace for a president who was once considered one of Washington's top allies in the region."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/26/honduras-juan-orlando-herandez-president>

[https://twitter.com/andreaigomez_/status/1486521312596082689?
cxt=HHwWgoCyxcDQl6EpAAAA](https://twitter.com/andreaigomez_/status/1486521312596082689?cxt=HHwWgoCyxcDQl6EpAAAA)

[https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1486457785793630210?cxt=HHwWhMC-
eDe-qApAAAA](https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1486457785793630210?cxt=HHwWhMC-eDe-qApAAAA)

<https://criterio.hn/las-mentiras-disfrazadas-de-joh-en-sus-ocho-anos-de-gobierno/>

27/01/22

Honduras Daily: Xiomara - Cabinet, Guapinol, COPINH, Women, ZEDEs, Education, Congress, US; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Prisons;

Habemus presidenta. Xiomara Castro was inaugurated as the first female president of Honduras. Her first speech as president can be seen and listened to following the first link.

At least 57 international delegations were present.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPPug4g3H8E>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/educacion-salud-seguridad-y-empleo-seran-anclas-del-desarrollo-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-asume-la-presidencia-de-honduras-con-la-promesa-de-refundar-una-nacion-en-quebra/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-57-delegaciones-de-gobiernos-acompanaron-a-xiomara-castro/>

Xiomara presented her cabinet picks to the public. Among them is Rixi Moncada, who played a key role at the National Electoral Council (CNE) and will be the new Secretary of Finance, and Ramon Sabillon as the new Minister of Security.

Jeff Ernst and David C. Adams have an article on him. "Five years after he fled Honduras under threat, former national police chief Ramón Sabillon was nominated Thursday as the country's new Minister of Security by President-elect Xiomara Castro. The nomination comes hours before Castro is due to be sworn in as Honduras' first female president and only a few weeks after Sabillon returned from exile in the United States, kneeling down to symbolically touch the ground outside the San Pedro Sula airport where he received a hero's welcome. (...) During his time as national police chief, Sabillon made a name for himself by capturing several of the country's biggest drug traffickers – results that he says got him fired by President Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1486704421149065216>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-confirma-su-gabinete-de-gobierno/>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/a-top-cop-feared-by-drug-traffickers-gen-sabillon-to-be-honduras-new-security-minister>

Xiomara called for the freedom of the Guapinol defenders during her inauguration.

This could materialize as part of a planned amnesty law.

<https://criterio.hn/libertad-para-guapinol-piden-en-toma-de-posesion-de-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-en-honduras/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3336-las-primeras-acciones-de-xiomara-castro-ley-de-amnistia-para-presos-politicos-y-retorno-de-exiliados>

As part of the inauguration ceremony, COPINH presented the Vara Alta Lenca to Xiomara.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1486820516224815106?cxt=HHwWhMC-pbnYn6IpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1486796102619865097?cxt=HHwWkoC94bHLlKIpAAAA>

<https://copinh.org/2022/01/la-vara-alta-lenca/>

Journalist Jeff Ernst reports on the role she could play in improving the lives of Honduran women. "Activists are optimistic that Castro, of the center-left Libre party, will not only take actions that help improve conditions for women in the immediate, but also accelerate broader changes in the country's culture. "This small break in the patriarchy that her win represents can become bigger and bigger, in the sense that it can open even more spaces for participation in government and political participation in general for women in the country," said Carmen Haydée, a human rights lawyer and representative of the feminist group Luchemos. Among the first order of business, Castro is expected to undo a prohibition against emergency contraceptives enacted in the wake of the coup. Honduras is the only country in Latin America with absolute bans on both abortion and emergency contraceptives. (...) Since emergency contraceptives were outlawed by decree, Castro will be able to act unilaterally to undo the ban. When it comes to abortion, however, the situation is much more complex. (...) Castro's proposal – the first such proposal from a president in Honduras – is nonetheless significant. "I do believe that Xiomara's openness to that possibility does allow us to generate spaces for dialogue, reflection, awareness and discussion," said Fonseca."

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jan/26/honduras-first-female-president-xiomara-castro-women>

The people behind the Próspera ZEDE used a US congressman to threaten the incoming administration with millions in damage payments if they dare to repeal the ZEDEs law.

https://twitter.com/All Things_HND/status/1486698356655144965?cxt=HHwWioCyyemR6KEpAAAA

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/preocupa-a-congresista-de-ee-uu-posible-derogacion-de-las-zede-XC5242145>

The new Minister of Education, Daniel Esponda, hopes for a return to in-person classes already next week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/daniel-esponda-nuevo-ministro-de-educacion-anuncia-el-inicio-de-clases-para-el-primer-de-febrero/>

There has not been an official answer yet by Cáliz on Xiomara's offer of a cabinet post to resolve the congressional dispute (see yesterday). So the fate of the two Congresses remains unresolved.

There was even another setback. "In the midst of the current crisis, the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), presided by Rolando Argueta Pérez, through a writ ordered "special disqualification" for the deputies of Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Rassel Tomé and Edgardo Casaña, generating suspicion for taking it as a repressive measure for supporting and conforming the Board of Directors presided by Luis Redondo."

Additionally, El Tiempo reports that Cáliz's group may present a constitutional challenge against Redondo.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/27/presidencia-del-congreso-nacional-sigue-en-suspenso-tras-negociacion-entre-actores-politicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/represalias-en-medio-de-crisis-poder-judicial-inhabilita-a-diputados-rasel-tome-y-edgardo-casana/>

<https://tiempo.hn/recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-luis-redondo/>

Xiomara met with US Vice President Kamala Harris. "Our relationship with Honduras is an important one. Today I met with President Xiomara Castro to discuss deepening our cooperation across a broad range of issues, including addressing the root causes of migration, combatting corruption, and expanding economic opportunity."

<https://twitter.com/VP/status/1486869847887818755>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1486833064848371722?cxt=HHwWlMC96e-ypaIpAAAA>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/27/viaje-de-harris-a-honduras-oportunidad-para-avanzar-la-gestion-migratoria-opinan-expertos/>

<https://criterio.hn/kamala-harris-deja-honduras-con-muchas-expectativas/>

US representative Norma Torres called on the US Department of Justice "to immediately indict and request the extradition of President Juan Orlando Hernandez for his role in protecting and assisting drug traffickers to move their materials through Honduras and to the United States".

JOH himself started a long Twitter thread once again presenting himself as a victim.

At the same time, he did not lose a second before coming sworn in as a member of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen). "The former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernández - strongly accused of having direct links with drug trafficking - was sworn in Thursday as deputy to Parlacen, thus obtaining prerogative, privilege and immunity. Hernandez was sworn in today by the president of Parlacen through a session held via zoom. This week U.S. Congresswoman Norma Torres recommended to the U.S. Justice Department to extradite the former president for drug trafficking."

<https://twitter.com/NormaJTorres/status/1486733263326617600?cxt=HHwWgIC5xdSB-KEpAAAA>

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congresswoman-norma-j-torres-calls-us-department-justice-indict-and>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1486799300600471557?cxt=HHwWioC5ycSFlqIpAAAA>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/27/juan-orlando-hernandez-jura-como-diputado-del-parlacen-en-medio-de-acusaciones-de-narcotrafico/>

<https://criterio.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-se-refugia-de-inmediato-en-el-parlacen/>

"A riot left 4 prisoners dead and several wounded inside the prison of El Porvenir, Atlántida."

<https://confidencialhn.com/amotinamiento-en-carcel-de-el-porvenir-deja-preliminarmente-4-privados-de-libertad-fallecidos-y-varios-heridos/>

28/01/22

Honduras Daily:Garífuna; Indigenous Peoples; Guapinol - Trial; Congress; BCH; Women; Energy; Armed Forces; Poverty; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Extradition; Prisons; Health Sector; Education; US; and Hope in a Broken Country

The hearing against the criminalized Garífuna defender Leonard Brown continued yesterday.

He was conditionally released after the hearing concluded.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1487110828243533828?cxt=HHwWiIC-serao6MpAAAA>

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1487286881708650496?
cxt=HHwWgMC99b7i86MpAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1487286881708650496?cxt=HHwWgMC99b7i86MpAAAA)

ContraCorriente has more background information on the recent murder of indigenous leader and social communicator Pablo Hernández. "Hernández constantly denounced acts of corruption by the municipality's authorities, including the sale of ancestral territories and the complicity of other indigenous leaders in this, according to confidential sources. The relevant authorities have not yet made any progress in the investigation of the criminal and intellectual authors of his murder."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/28/pablo-hernandez-lider-indigena-asesinado-denunciaba-redes-de-corrupcion-en-el-occidente-de-honduras/>

Honduras Now summarized Day 16 of the Guapinol trial. " Today, the defense presented a witness, Juana Esquivel, a human rights defender and the director of the Fundación San Alonso. Esquivel testified about the struggle to protect the Guapinol and San Pedro rivers, the purpose of the peaceful encampment, and the environmental damage and violence that Inversiones Los Pinares was creating in the communities. She talked about the violent groups created by the mining company that threatened community members and created a conflictive environment, particularly for individuals speaking out against the mine. Esquivel also testified extensively about all the actions taken by the affected communities and organizations to denounce the environmental damage, demand an investigation, organize a town hall consultation about the project, and the selective and corrupt manner that the justice system and prosecutor's office have operated. The defense also presented six documents related to the illegality of the mining concession and environmental license granted to Inversiones Los Pinares. Some were official documents from Honduran institutions in charge of protecting the national park indicating that the mining operation is not feasible inside a protected area; that mining would impact the flora and fauna; that the environmental license for the project should be rejected based on the damage the mine could cause; and that the boundaries of the national park were modified to permit illegal mining operations.

The trial will be reconvened on Tuesday, February 1 after a request by the prosecutors for more time to prepare concluding remarks. It is believed that the trial could be further delayed in a

malicious manner to prolong the detention of the water defenders. At the moment, the trial is reconvened for Tuesday, February 1st at 9 am but some suspect it could be changed for a later date."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-sixteen-the-defense-presents-their-evidence/>

Cálix has still not responded to Xiomara's offer about a cabinet post for him (see last two days).

His ally, congresswoman Beatriz Valle told Proceso Digital that the offer won't solve anything.

The situation further worsened as the National Party presented a constitutional challenge against Luis Redondo, accusing him of four crimes, including falsifying documents and illegal usurpation of a public function. According to Honduras Now, "[t]his is further evidence of how much support ex-LIBRE Congress representative Jorge Calix has from Nat't party, dictatorship & the economic elite. He's using their institutions to legitimize his Congressional leadership & maintain status quo of the corrupt & the elite".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510733-466/crisis-congreso-nacional-sin-respuesta-jorge-calix-xiomara>

<https://proceso.hn/propuesta-de-presidenta-xiomara-castro-a-jorge-calix-no-solucionara-crisis-beatriz-valle/>

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1487281093820755974?
cxt=HHwWjMC55cuR8aMpAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1487281093820755974?cxt=HHwWjMC55cuR8aMpAAAA)

<https://criterio.hn/pugna-por-presidencia-del-congreso-nacional-se-traslada-a-corte-suprema-acrecentando-la-crisis/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510810-466/partido-nacional-interpone-denuncia-criminal-luis-redondo-usurpacion-congreso->

<https://confidencialhn.com/interponen-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contrajunta-directiva-del-congreso-que-lidera-luis-redondo/>

The outgoing JOH regime had nominated Miriam Guzmán as the new head of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH). Xiomara nominated Rebeca Santos as its director and the latter announced to look into what could be done regarding Guzmán.

<https://tiempo.hn/nueva-directora-del-bch-nombramiento-de-miriam-guzman/>

Out of the 40 cabinet posts, only 10 were filled with women which led to some criticism by social movements.

<https://criterio.hn/sigue-brecha-de-desigualdad-de-genero-10-mujeres-y-30-hombres-integran-primeras-designaciones-del-gabinete-de-xiomara-castro/>

A day before, she welcomed the new president, now Proceso Digital is back on the offensive questioning if the campaign promise of free energy for poor Honduras families and lower fuel prices are feasible.

The new Minister of Economic Development, Pedro Barquero, reiterated that they aim to fulfill the promise shortly.

<https://proceso.hn/energia-gratis-y-subsidio-a-combustibles-son-posibles/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/subsidio-a-combustibles-se-aplicara-a-corto-plazo-asegura-pedro-barquero-ministro-de-desarrollo-economico/>

President Xiomara has sworn in the new leadership of the Armed Forces, José Jorge Fortín Aguilar and José Ramón Macoto Vázquez.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510808-466/xiomara-castro-ratifica-jefes-estado-mayor-conjunto->

"Some 3.3 million people in Honduras are expected to face a situation of acute food insecurity that will worsen from February to May 2022, according to projections by the World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)."

<https://criterio.hn/35-de-la-poblacion-en-honduras-seria-afectada-por-agudizacion-de-inseguridad-alimentaria-entre-febrero-y-mayo/>

The corruption trial in the case of the mobile hospitals continues. The MP presented the money trail yesterday.

<https://proceso.hn/revelan-la-insolita-ruta-del-dinero-en-juicio-sobre-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

For the second time in a row, JOH went all in on Twitter, now in Spanish and English. shooting left and right. He also went on the attack against US congresswoman Norma Torres who called for his extradition.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1487195919019880454?cxt=HHwWjMC5ieKzyqMpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1487171571366174720?cxt=HHwWgIC59cWqv6MpAAA>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1487174231033008133>

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-hernandez-a-norma-torres-las-mentiras-se-estan-derrumbando-se-acabo-te-perdono-por-no-verlo-todavia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-tweets-norma-torres/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-mentiras-se-estan-derrumbando-se-acabo-te-perdono-responde-hernandez-a-torres/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510732-466/juan-orlando-nueva-york-nexos-narcotrafico>

Extradited drug trafficker Fredy Donaldo Marmol Vallejo pleaded guilty.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hondureno-fredy-marmol-extraditado-a-eeuu-se-declara-culpable-de-trafico-de-cocaina/>

OACNUDH expressed concern about Thursday's prison riot leaving four inmates death.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1487186345147650050?cxt=HHwWhMCyIb-GxqMpAAAA>

In support of the colleagues demanding fixed contracts, health workers at various health centers protested. The incoming Minister of Health, José Manuel Matheu, called for some time to get an overview of the situation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-de-salud-mantiene-toma-en-diferentes-sectores-del-pais-titular-de-salud-pide-retornar-a-sus-labores/>

The new Minister of Education Daniel Esponda met with teachers' union to discuss the reopening of schools.

He promised a return to classes in the first 100 days of the new government.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministro-de-educacion-daniel-esponda-y-dirigentes-magisteriales-definen-ruta-de-trabajo-para-reactivar-el-sistema-educativo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/28/clases-semipresenciales-inician-en-febrero-anuncia-nuevo-secretario-de-educacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/plan-de-retorno-a-clases-se-ejecutara-en-primeros-100-dias-de-gobierno-dice-ministro-de-educacion/>

The White House published a readout of Harris's meeting with Xiomara.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/27/readout-of-vice-president-harriss-meeting-with-president-castro-of-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/VP/status/1487067186464051202>

"Xiomara Castro took office on January 27 as the first woman president of Honduras in an emotional act full of symbolism that invoked the return of popular power after twelve years since the coup against her husband, former president Manuel Zelaya. Castro promised respect for women's rights, free energy for the poor, lower fuel costs, attention to the needs of indigenous peoples and the LGTBI community and the installation of an international commission against impunity in the first 100 days of his government. However, these promises come up against what she describes as a broken country."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/01/28/la-esperanza-en-xiomara-castro-se-enfrenta-a-un-pais-quebrado/>

29/01/22

Honduras Daily: Congress - US, Region; COPINH; Public Health; Corruption - UN; Migration; China; Mexico; Parlacen; Violence; and Politicization of Justice or Judicialization of Politics

Cáliz's own alternate deputy, Grimaldi Josué Paz Sos, withdrew his support to join the Redondo Congress.

<https://criterio.hn/diputado-suplente-de-calix-lo-abandona-pero-crisis-por-presidir-el-congreso-nacional-continua/>

The crisis with the two Congresses continues and so does the call by the US for dialogue. But according to critical observers, this completely misses the point.

"This is disgusting both sides-ism, and a reminder of disastrous U.S. policy. The only "acts of intimidation" will be committed by the outgoing narco president and his thugs, who the @StateDept supported for years."

"One side being narco-golpistas (coup plotters) and the other side the representatives of the democratic will of the people."

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1487430794117267460>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-pide-a-politicos-que-participen-en-un-dialogo-pacifico-que-resuelva-conflicto-del-congreso/>

<https://twitter.com/jamesnorth7/status/1487443778747121665?cxt=HHwWgoCy-YyPu6QpAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1487449468362543105?cxt=HHwWgsC-8aPavaQpAAAA>

CESPAD discusses possible regional implications of the crisis.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/01/29/crisis-politica-en-honduras-preocupa-a-paises-de-la-region/>

COPINH met with the new head of the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Environment (MiAmbiente) "to address proposals on climate justice, land and territory defense, and environmental conservation as government priorities".

[https://twitter.com/MIAMBIENTE_HN/status/1487257871582732304?
cxt=HHwWoIC90fDJ5qMpAAAA](https://twitter.com/MIAMBIENTE_HN/status/1487257871582732304?cxt=HHwWoIC90fDJ5qMpAAAA)

"The Secretary of Health, José Manuel Matheu, concerned about forming a good working team in the direction of the battered hospital system that he announces to recover, proposed Dr. Suyapa Sosa for the position of undersecretary in the offices of Health." She played a key role in the nation-wide protests against the privatization of the public health and education system two years ago.

<https://criterio.hn/secretario-de-salud-propone-equipo-de-alto-nivel-y-reestructuracion-del-area-sanitaria/>

The coming week, the Xiomara administration will send a request to the UN to form a UN-backed anti-corruption mission.

"The CCINOC welcomes the determination of the new government to reinstall a commission to fight corruption and impunity. This determination can be seen as an example to be followed by other countries in the North of Central America. We are encouraged by the firm stance of the president-elect to fight against corruption and impunity in Honduras and by the popular indignation that gave life to the MACCIH and that continues to be latent."

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-proxima-semana-gobierno-hondureno-enviara-solicitud-oficial-a-la-onu-para-instalacion-de-una-cicih/>

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/pronunciamiento-del-centro-contra-la-corrupcion-e-impunidad-en-el-norte-de-centroamerica-ccinoc-sobre-la-instalacion-de-mision-internacional-anticorrupcion-en-el-marco-de-la-toma-de-posesion-de-la-p/>

"The Vice Chancellor for Migratory and Consular Affairs of Honduras, Antonio Garcia, presented his work plan and answered questions from community leaders of migrants in the United States through a Honduran radio program. Garcia said "I wanted to give my first speech to the media as the new Vice Chancellor for Consular and Migratory Affairs in a specialized program dedicated to migrants, because I am going to work for them"."

<https://confidencialhn.com/preven-que-en-los-proximos-seis-meses-los-consulados-de-honduras-seran-como-los-de-argentina-o-mexico/>

"The new Foreign Minister of Honduras, Eduardo Enrique Reina, said today that for the moment, for the government of President Xiomara Castro, international relations with China are not a priority. However, he made it clear that Taiwan is an important partner due to the historical

connection that has been maintained between the two nations. "We will remain in the field that all these relations are of benefit to the people. That reflects the national interest we have as a State and we will maintain an open relationship that can be fruitful for the country".

<https://tiempo.hn/canciller-relaciones-de-honduras-con-china/>

"Mexico informed President Xiomara Castro yesterday that Honduras will benefit from a social program that includes an investment of some 630 million dollars (15.12 billion lempiras) to promote employment and curb the migratory caravans."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1510831-466/estados-unidos-mexico-empleos-honduras-xiomara-castro>

"A bill for Honduras to withdraw from the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), will be submitted to the National Congress (CN) by Ramón Barrios, deputy of the Libertad y Refundación (Libre) party,"

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentaran-ante-el-legislativo-una-mocion-para-que-honduras-se- retire-del-parlacen/>

The first month of 2022 was a very violent one with over 300 reported murders.

<https://tiempo.hn/unas-300-muertes-violentas-registra-honduras-2022/>

<https://criterio.hn/politizacion-de-la-justicia-o-judicializacion-de-la-politica/>

30/01/22

Honduras Daily: ARCAH; Congress; Libre; Debt; USAID; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; COVID-19; and Legality vs. Legitimacy

7 defenders of ARCAH from Loarque, Choluteca, are being criminalized for defending the Choluteca river. Their trial starts today.

https://twitter.com/Arcah_hn/status/1487872209137942531?cxt=HHwWhoC-jYT5_aUpAAAA

The Redondo Congress called for a congressional session next Tuesday at 3pm. They also invited the employees of the National Congress to start work today.

<https://proceso.hn/redondo-convoca-a-sesion-legislativa-el-martes-proximo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/30/empleados-del-congreso-nacional-comenzaran-labores-a-partir-del-lunes/>

A planned meeting with Mel Zelaya and dissident Libre members of Congress yesterday was postponed until further notice.

<https://tiempo.hn/posponen-reunion-diputados-libre-y-mel/>

Debt restructuring for Honduras may be on the agenda. "The Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh) and the Honduran College of Economists (CHE) consider that the new government of Xiomara Castro, in addition to renegotiating with international organizations, should not pay the "odious debt" contracted by previous administrations."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/deuda-odiosa-nuevo-gobierno-honduras-xiomara-castro-EB5322633>

USAID announced additional funding, \$500'000, to combat the pandemic in Honduras as well as a \$1.35 million program for "infrastructure revitalization".

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/new-usaid-initiatives-honduras>

The trial in the case of the mobile hospital is about to conclude.

<https://proceso.hn/a-conclusiones-este-lunes-juicio-oral-en-caso-de-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

"Currently there are 35% of positive cases of COVID-19 at national level, estimated the spokesperson of the College of Microbiologists of Honduras, Miriam Aguilera. (...) Aguilera analyzed that Honduras is lagging behind in the issue of vaccination, therefore, she called for the process to be resumed in order to continue advancing in immunization."

The Sula Valley seems particularly hit and the medical workforce is not spared with some 100 doctors and nurses infected.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-tiene-un-35-positividad-de-casos-de-covid-19-segun-microbiologa/>

<https://proceso.hn/dentro-de-dos-semanas-valle-de-sula-sera-el-epicentro-de-la-pandemia-alerta-doctor-umana/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/30/crisis-legislativa-envuelta-entre-legalidad-y-legitimidad-de-las-juntas-directivas/>

31/01/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - UN; Protests; Congress; National Police; Debt; Electricity; Education; JOH - US, Health Sector, SEDIS; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; and Now, It Is Up to You

OACNUDH met with family members and legal representatives of the criminalized Guapinol defenders together with the new Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque and head of CONADEH Blanca Izaguirre.

https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1488335222001307653?cxt=HHwWisC44fa_0KcpAAAA

C-Libre documented 458 protests at the national level last year in Honduras, topics were the ZEDEs, outstanding payment of salaries, etc.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1959-cada-20-horas-se-realizaron-protestas-en-honduras-segun-comite-por-la-libre-expresion>

With the crisis of the two Congresses unresolved, the dissident Libre members of the Cáliz Congress announced yesterday to contemplate self-exile.

Libre declared that there exists no persecution of them in Honduras and called on the dissidents to return to the Redondo Congress.

"In view of this situation, Congressman Jari Dixon said that it is crazy for his colleagues to consider that they are in danger and that they should leave the country. Likewise, he said that it is time for them to put an end to it and return to the party's bases."

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-de-calix-contempla-exilio-redondo-convoca-a-sesion-hoy/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/31/defensor-de-disidentes-de-libre-si-no-se-resuelve-el-problema-pediran-asilo-en-costa-rica/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/31/diputados-de-libre-afirman-que-no-existe-persecucion-con-sus-companeros-expulsados/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jari-diputados-piden-asilo-dejen-locura/>

The Xiomara administration nominated Héctor Gustavo Sánchez Velásquez as the new head of the National Police Force.

Journalist Jeff Ernst commented: "Sánchez holds a doctorate in sociology, wrote his dissertation on gangs & has a stellar reputation as an honest cop."

<https://confidencialhn.com/hector-gustavo-sanchez-es-nombrado-como-nuevo-director-de-la-policia-nacional/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1488275158766800898?cxt=HHwWhMCq5eSXtaccpAAAA>

There is more coverage of the immense burden on the Xiomara administration from the debt that accumulated under the JOH regime. "After 12 years of dictatorship the amount of internal debt increased from 20 billion lempiras (USD \$810 million) to 179 billion lempiras (USD \$7.3 billion)," Castro said in her inauguration speech. "With these figures it is clear that the state does not have the capacity to sustain the outrageous and shameful debt that we are inheriting," the new Honduran president added. "It is practically impossible to meet the debt requirements."

<https://multipolarista.com/2022/01/31/coup-honduras-unpayable-odious-debt/>

President Xiomara presented a decree to Congress to reform the General Law of the Electric Industry to allow to subsidize energy prices for over 1.3 million poor Honduran families.

"According to economist Martín Barahona, the subsidies promised by President Xiomara Castro should be temporary (...) "The Castro Sarmiento administration, it must be recognized, receives the public finances and the economy in general, in a very complicated situation. They have to be very clear and very committed to that solutions, and this will involve a review of economic policies because you can not continue applying the same economic policies of Juan Orlando Hernandez, you

have to give a change of direction, "said Barahona. He said that there must be much clarity about the subsidy to the poorest and be very careful that those benefits in the end affect the poorest."

<https://twitter.com/manuelzr/status/1488144793121214466?cxt=HHwWhMCyhHz-aYpAAAA>

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1488146633149890561?cxt=HHwWgoC-qc7e-qYpAAAA

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-impulsa-en-el-congreso-un-proyecto-de-energia-gratis-para-los-pobres/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/subsidios-electricos-deben-ser-temporales-senala-economista/>

Teachers protesting outside the Casa Presidencial demanding fixed contracts were surprised when Mel Zelaya opened the gate and let them in to organize a dialogue with the new Minister of Education.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-protestas-maestros-proheco-iniciaran-dialogo-con-el-gobierno-el-proximo-10-de-febrero/>

<https://proceso.hn/expresidente-zelaya-permite-el-ingreso-a-maestros-proheco-a-casa-presidencial/>

"Honduras's defense minister quietly requested asylum from the U.S. government after the country elected a new leader in November, The Intercept has learned. (...) Now the Biden administration is faced with the decision of whether to grant Díaz asylum before possible corruption charges, given that in his role as defense minister, he was at the helm of the Honduran military. The question will serve as a test of how serious the current U.S. government is about respecting the autonomy of governments in the region. A senior Democratic congressional aide, who was not authorized to speak publicly, told The Intercept: "If the Biden administration wants to make good on its commitment to democracy and human rights, this should be an easy call.""

<https://theintercept.com/2022/01/31/honduras-defense-minister-asylum-biden-xiomara-castro/>

<https://criterio.hn/exministro-de-defensa-de-honduras-fredy-diaz-habria-pedido-asilo-en-ee-uu/>

The incoming administration has received status reports from the different state bodies of the JOH regime. In the case of the Ministry of Health, a Libre representative denounces that over 600 million Lempiras are missing in to buy oxygen this year, another 100 million are missing to conduct PCR tests, etc.

<https://confidencialhn.com/informe-sobre-presupuesto-refleja-deficit-asegura-ministro-de-salud/>

In the case of the Secretary of Development and Social Inclusion (Sedis), its new director José Carlos Cardona also denounces various irregularities, e.g. that most cars belonging to the institution are gone or that in the last minute, the JOH regime had employed 581 additional staff.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/01/31/nuevo-titular-de-sedis-toma-posesion-de-oficinas-y-denuncia-masivo-saqueo-de-fondos/>

The former Invest-H director Marco Bográn took to the stand yesterday on the concluding day of the mobile hospital corruption trial. He continues to defend his actions.

"The investigation of the case of the mobile hospitals must go further after the conclusions of the trial of Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes, it must not stop there, it must be exhaustive until all the "big fish" involved in the case are brought down, said analyst Jorge Illescas on Monday."

<https://proceso.hn/bogran-defiende-proceso-de-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://proceso.hn/investigacion-en-caso-de-hospitales-moviles-debe-ser-exhaustiva-hasta-que-caigan-peces-gordos-sugiere-analista/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-busca-imponer-sus-promesas-incumplidas-a-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>