

01/02/22

Honduras Daily: Webinar; Guapinol - Trial; HRDs - Police; Xiomara - UN, Electricity, Education, Prisons, US; Congress; Corruption - JOH, de Lobo, IHSS; Health Sector - Vaccines; and Congratulations María Elena Bottazzi

In a webinar tomorrow evening, several Honduras experts will discuss "what is coming for Honduras after Xiomara Castro became President of our beloved but hurt Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/globalexchange/status/1488617066886307840?cxt=HHwWgIC95brV0KgpAAAA>

The conclusion hearing in the Guapinol case will take place this Friday at 8:30am. "The evidence presented in the trial has demonstrated not only the innocence of the defendants, but also why it is the company that should be investigated and the environmental license cancelled."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1488699490483716104?cxt=HHwWkICyuZKT9qgpAAAA>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that a resolution by the special prosecution unit meant to protect defenders is actually justifying abuse by state actors.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/denuncias/item/3337-fiscalia-de-proteccion-con-resoluciones-normaliza-agresiones-de-la-policia-contr-defensores-de-derechos-humanos>

Alice H. Shackelford, UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, welcomed the new administration and reaffirmed the commitment of the UN to work together.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1488479991188922372?cxt=HHwWiIC9oc2qkqgpAAAA>

According to Pedro Barquero, head of the Ministry of Economic Development and Social Inclusion, the electricity subsidy for poor households will cost some 300 million Lempiras. Economists propose to finance this by getting rid of tax exemptions which cost Honduras some 43 billion Lempiras.

Apart from electricity prices, the question about the fate of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) is also on the table. "Mario Zelaya, an expert in energy issues, assured that the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) can recover in seven years, by making the right decisions, placing the right people and approaching friendly countries to help solve this problem."

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/01/subsidio-de-energia-a-poblacion-en-pobreza-costara-300-millones/>

<https://criterio.hn/enee-podria-recuperarse-en-siete-anos-al-ejecutar-decisiones-idoneas-ahora-dice-experto/>

"President Xiomara Castro guaranteed that free tuition will be implemented in the basic and middle levels of public education and that the immunization scheme will be completed."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/01/presidenta-castro-garantiza-matricula-gratis-y-vacunacion-en-el-sistema-educativo-publico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-garantiza-vacunacion-y-matricula-gratis-para-ninez-hondurena-en-su-retorno-a-clases/>

"The Minister of Defense, Manuel Zelaya Rosales, said this Tuesday that they are analyzing the demilitarization of the country's prisons and the return to the Penitentiary Police."

<https://proceso.hn/nuevo-gobierno-analiza-desmilitarizar-centros-penales-y-volver-a-la-policia-penitenciaria/>

US chargé d'affaires met with the new Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina.

US representatives send a letter to Assistant Secretary Brian Nichols at the State Department and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator Peter Natiello "expressing concern over closing civic spaces in Central America and requesting that the Administration prioritize advocacy on behalf of and protections for civil society organizations (CSOs) in the region".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1488644448162615299?cxt=HHwWhsC4maGP3agpAAAA>

<https://torres.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/torres-markey-castro-and-mcgovern-request-state-department-protections>

The Redondo Congress met yesterday. They approved a fuel subsidy and continued talks about derogating the ZEDEs law.

El Tiempo reports that a meeting took place between Mel Zelaya and Jorge Cálix to solve the problem with the two Congresses.

Cáliz's side announced to have withdrawn their constitutional challenge against Redondo, but they accompany this with a demand to have all members of Congress met together. This could then be used by them to again elect Cáliz as the president and call it legitimate.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/hoy-sesionan-diputados-convocados-por-junta-directiva-que-dirige-luis-redondo/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-que-preside-luis-redondo-da-senales-de-acabar-con-practicas-impositivas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-jorge-calix-larga-reunion-revela-fuente/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1511038-466/congreso-nacional-crisis-honduras-punto-muerto>

"The new authorities that make up the cabinet of Honduran President Xiomara Castro have unveiled the first findings of significant corruption in state institutions after eight years of the government of former President Juan Orlando Hernández." (see also yesterday)

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-gobierno-comienza-a-destapar-corrupcion-de-exfuncionarios-del-gobierno-de-joh/>

The retrial of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo started yesterday. "Bonilla was accused by the MACCIH of taking just over 12 million lempiras -- more than \$510,000 -- from the first lady's office account to a personal account just four days before her spouse's term ended on January 27, 2014. She was also linked to money laundering, embezzlement of public funds and illicit association for allegedly keeping 16 million lempiras and the creation of a money laundering network to hide money from the state destined for social works."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/01/somos-inocentes-inicia-repeticion-del-juicio-por-la-causa-penal-caja-chica-de-la-dama/>

"The National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) filed a cassation appeal against the sentence of the repetition of the oral and public trial against the former vice ministers of Health, Javier Rodolfo Pastor Vásquez and Labor and Social Security, Carlos Montes Rodríguez, who last November were convicted of improper passive bribery but were acquitted of money laundering in the notorious case of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS)."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-presento-recurso-de-casacion-contr-sentencia-que-absuelve-por-lavado-de-activos-a-ex-viceministros-implicados-en-el-caso-ihss/>

Health workers at psychiatric hospitals announced a strike action demanding the payment of their salaries.

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-psiquiatricos-anuncian-paro-de-labores-para-manana-miercoles/>

Honduras received 108'000 vaccine doses meant for children.

<https://proceso.hn/llegan-108-mil-dosis-de-vacunas-pediatricas-contr-la-covid-19-a-honduras/>

"Honduran scientist Maria Elena Bottazzi was nominated Tuesday for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize for her work to develop and distribute a low-cost covid-19 vaccine to people around the world without patent limitation."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/01/nominan-a-la-cientifica-hondurena-maria-elena-bottazzi-al-premio-nobel-de-la-paz/>

02/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial; Zacate Grande; Mining - Azacuapla; Bajo Aguán; Political Prisoners; Congress - Corruption, Amnesty, Electricity; UN; Japan; ZEDEs; Elections - TJE; Corruption; Public Health; Education; Armed Forces - Military Police; a Commitment for Change

"Just as the Guapinol River Defenders completed 29 months of arbitrary detention (38 months in the case of Jeremías), we were notified that the hearing to present the conclusions in their sham trial will be held this Friday, February 4 at 8:30am at the Tocoa Court. (...) As the trial draws to a close, the company is desperately and dangerously attacking. Lenir Perez/Los Pinares, part of the Emco Group, has issued false and defamatory press releases, while the national media is publishing outlandish claims in favor of the company in what appears to be paid advertising. Online defamation campaigns against the defenders and the Municipal Committee have increased, while we have documented intimidation and threats at the local level against the defenders, their families, the Municipal Committee, the legal team and others who are accompanying the judicial process."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/trial-of-guapinol-river-defenders-to-conclude-this-friday-in-honduras>

ADEPZA sent out an alert: "Fredy Lobo representative of the Facusse family and Cooperacion DINANT arrives this afternoon to intimidate the farmers of the Puerto Grande peasant group with

legal proceedings if they do not withdraw from the land. This land has been in the possession of the peasant group for more than 21 years."

https://www.facebook.com/100011392043776/posts/1885468148509568/?d=n&fb_noscript=1

OACNUDH welcomes the legal actions taken by Bufete Estudios Para la Dignidad to stop the exhumation of the cemetery of the Maya-Chortí community in Azacualpa, Copán. An appeals court admitted the challenge and ordered a suspension of the exhumation.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1489060389455282180?cxt=HHwWiICyqZ2imqopAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1489025745322192906?cxt=HHwWlMC5tdbBiqopAAAA>

"On Wednesday, January 26, more than a month after being forcibly and unlawfully evicted, campesino landowners in the Bajo Aguán region of Honduras regained possession of their lands, according to a statement from the Regional Agrarian Platform of the Aguán and the Coordinator of Popular Organizations of the Bajo Aguán (COPA). Eighty-four families, all members of the San Isidro Cooperative, will be able to return home. This victory was only possible thanks to the steadfast resistance of the campesino families themselves, as well as the Platform and the COPA. UUSC is proud to be in solidarity with them and their work, but we must not consider the fight over."

<https://www.uusc.org/press/wrongfully-evicted-cooperative-landowners-in-honduras-regain-their-lands/>

COFADEH successfully gained freedom of the political prisoner Joseph Castillo. The young man had been detained since December 2019.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-audiencia-de-revision-de-medidas-cofadeh-logra-la-libertad-del-pres-politico-joseph-castillo/>

Most observers agreed that the condition in Honduras are not there for a legal resolution of the current political crisis of the two Congresses. It seems that even the constitutional court agrees as it declared as inadmissible the cases filed both in favor and against the Cáliz court.

Mel Zelaya, meanwhile, announced that an agreement will be found in the coming days.

<https://criterio.hn/poder-judicial-declara-inadmisibles-recursos-planteados-por-ambas-juntas-directivas-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/02/expresidente-zelaya-en-los-proximos-dias-habria-un-acuerdo-y-se-ratificaria-a-luis-redondo/>

The Redondo Congress keeps itself busy. Yesterday, they approved the creation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission.

[https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1489099091795611654?
cxt=HHwWjMCsnYDvq6opAAAA](https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1489099091795611654?cxt=HHwWjMCsnYDvq6opAAAA)

Additionally, they approved "an amnesty for the Hondurans criminalized & imprisoned for defending democracy, territory, public education & healthcare & their dignity since the 2009 coup until now".

This is more than needed given the innumerable processes of criminalization against human rights defenders and activists. At the same time, Jeff Ernst highlights a possible downside as the law may grant impunity for acts of corruption before the coup.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1489100934823043076?cxt=HHwWiICj7aParKopAAAA>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3338-presentan-proyecto-de-ley-para-condenar-el-golpe-de-estado-y-otorgar-amnistia-para-presos-politicos-y-presos-de-conciencia>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1489104024439861249?cxt=HHwWgsC9pY-OrqopAAAA>

The energy subsidy for poor families (see previous days) were also approved.

And regarding electricity, "[t]he National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) unveiled a report revealing that Honduran politicians and businessmen benefited from amnesties and debt cancellations with the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), which caused a multi-million dollar damage to the state-owned electric company".

<https://criterio.hn/salvacion-de-la-enee-y-de-mas-de-1-7-millones-de-pobres-con-recibos-altos-de-energia-es-sacrificio-de-todos/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-de-honduras-aprueba-subsidio-energetico-y-rebaja-de-l-10-a-los-combustibles/>

<https://criterio.hn/politicos-y-empresarios-fueron-beneficiados-con-amnistias-que-ocasionaron-multimillonario-perjuicio-a-la-enee/>

The new Minister of Finance, Rixi Moncada, met with UN permanent resident coordinator Alice H. Shackelford. They talked about "domestic debt reprofiling, anti-corruption, decent work, social protection, gender budgeting".

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1489043505964007428?cxt=HHwWiICywb3LkqopAAAA>

Japan granted a \$100 million loan to the Xiomara administration.

<https://tiempo.hn/japon-presta-100-millones-dolares-honduras/>

"Maribel Espinoza, deputy of the Salvador Party of Honduras, presented the bill for the repeal of the Model Cities disguised as Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) promoted by the previous government, which is nothing more than the sale of territory and national sovereignty."

But the Roatán ZEDE pretends that nothing changed since the last elections and holds a pre-sale event of luxury apartments...

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-de-luis-redondo-se-encamina-a-derogar-las-zede-penalizar-reeleccion-y-aprobar-beneficios-sociales/>

<https://twitter.com/ArtSuaTgu/status/1488652926520369155>

CESPAD looks back at the work of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) during the electoral period and comes to the conclusion that it failed at its task.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/02/02/elecciones-politicas-2021-en-honduras-la-evidencia-del-fallido-tribunal-de-justicia-electoral/>

The disputed reform of the Money Laundering Law by the outgoing Nationalist-controlled Congress last fall helped another person to get free. "Although Leonel Saucedo could not disprove the crime of money laundering - since he had been in prison for two years because he had not been able to justify 13.8 million lempiras that circulated in thirteen of his bank accounts between 2006 and 2017 -, according to the Judiciary, the Public Ministry could not prove the existence of the crime of embezzlement of public funds, a preceding crime to the charge of money laundering, so it determined to acquit Leonel Saucedo also of the crime of money laundering."

Saucedo had been named in the drug trafficking trials in New York as co-conspirator 9, CC-9.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/02/el-comisionado-leonel-saucedo-es-absuelto-del-delito-de-lavado-de-activos/>

<https://criterio.hn/reformas-a-ley-de-lavado-de-activos-favorecen-a-comisionado-de-policia-leonel-saucedo/>

[https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1489063641374732290?
cxt=HHwWhMC5gcLfm6opAAAA](https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1489063641374732290?cxt=HHwWhMC5gcLfm6opAAAA)

The new Minister of Health José Matheu had a rough start under pressure by health workers demanding fixed contracts. They had been promised by the JOH regime for months but it never delivered. Now, the National Party suddenly changed gear and demands an immediate employment of them by the new administration further trying to undermine its work. Libre congressman Sergio Castellanos offers words of support for Matheu explaining that change needs time and he welcomes some of the actions already taken by Matheu, e.g. that the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) will be the main auditor of the Ministry of Health.

And regarding the health workers, Matheu now offers a three-month contract to use the time to get an overview of the situation and clean up irregularities.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/02/diputado-de-libre-respalda-labor-del-secretario-de-salud-y-pide-que-lo-dejen-trabajar/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1511171-466/equipo-cna-acompa%C3%B1a-revision-acuerdos-otorgados-personal-sanitario>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/02/salud-dara-contratos-temporales-mientras-depura-los-salarios-excesivos-y-plazas-dobles/>

The new Minister of Education Daniel Sponda inaugurated the school year 2022 announcing semi-face-to-face classes in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/02/salud-y-educacion-apuntan-a-reinsertar-dos-millones-de-escolares-excluidos/>

Former members of the Armed Forces ousted by the JOH regime for not supporting him have been reintegrated into the force.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/02/reintegran-en-sus-cargos-a-varios-coroneles-de-ffaa-que-se-opusieron-al-gobierno-de-joh/>

"The Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, José Jorge Fortín, declared that the future of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP) will depend on President Xiomara Castro."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/02/jefe-de-ffaa-preve-que-la-presidenta-castro-definira-cual-sera-el-futuro-de-la-policia-militar/>

Radio Progreso published an interview with Padre Melo on the hopes for the new administration.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ismael-moreno-sj-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-muestra-compromiso-por-refundar-el-pais/>

03/02/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+ - Assassinations; JOH - US; Guapinol - Trial; Amnesty; ZEDEs; Corruption - Palmerola; Bajo Aguán - US; La Moskitia; Police; Migration; Violence; and a Surge in Protests;

Three members of the LGBTQ1 community, Jonathan Gabriel Martínez, Cesar Gustavo Zúñiga & María Fernanda Martínez, were murdered last night.

OACNUDH condemned the murders.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1489426848253714438?cxt=HHwWjIC9kfj0wKspAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHhn/status/1489355333801852930?cxt=HHwWhIC--Z-yoKspAAAA>

"Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-N.J) today sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen formally requesting that the Biden administration immediately revoke outgoing Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez's visa and sanction him as a "significant foreign narcotics trafficker" under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. Citing a growing body of incriminating evidence of the ex-President's direct participation in drug trafficking, Chairman Menendez urged the Administration to hold Hernandez to account as a co-conspirator and to take a firm stand in support of the rule of law in Central America."

JOH reacted again with a long Twitter thread addressing Menendez directly as they "have worked together in fighting drug trafficking". This goes to the point of the matter that the issue is a delicate one for the US as it has backed up the JOH regime for years even though it was already then widely known to be linked to drug trafficking.

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/chair/release/chairman-menendez-officially-requests-narcotics-kingpin-designation-for-honduran-ex-president-juan-orlando-hernandez->

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1489401369492611076>

[https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1489467360742367233?
cxt=HHwWgoCz2Ymr06spAAAA](https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1489467360742367233?cxt=HHwWgoCz2Ymr06spAAAA)

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, once again called for the freedom of the Guapinol defenders.

OACNUDH traveled to the Guapinol community to visit the river together with community members. They also called for the freedom of the defenders.

UN Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky tweeted; "This week marks 29 months of unjust arbitrary imprisonment of #Guapinol water defenders. They should be immediately freed and given reparations for the trauma and injustice they have endured!"

US Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García spoke about the Guapinol trial during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing State Department and USAID officials. The State Department was not able to answer if they were sending an observer to the conclusion of the trial.

The US embassy later tweeted: "The U.S. continues to monitor the #Guapinol case closely, and encourages a transparent, fair, and due process process process. We will continue to follow the trial."

[https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1489279892646682632?cxt=HHwWkICzxf-
K_qopAAAA](https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1489279892646682632?cxt=HHwWkICzxf-K_qopAAAA)

[https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHHN/status/1489399844313735169?
cxt=HHwWgoC9jY3RtKspAAAA](https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHHN/status/1489399844313735169?cxt=HHwWgoC9jY3RtKspAAAA)

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1489381395399168007?cxt=HHwWjsC- Z2frKspAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/RepChuyGarcia/status/1489359430856675333>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1489376003382288384?cxt=HHwWgIC9qbDlqaspAAAA>

With the approval of the amnesty law by the Redondo Congress, there is a growing hope that it will help liberate the Gapinol defenders.

While this part is undisputed in civil society circles and the new administration, another part stirred widespread criticism (see also yesterday). "This law includes an amnesty decree that favors defenders of sovereignty, land and water sources, but would also give impunity to public officials from the period between 2006 and 2009, who could be extinguished for corruption-related crimes." Ligia Ramos, PSH congresswoman, called for the creation of a commission led by COFADEH and the Ministry of Human Rights and accompanied by OACNUDH which would decide a case-by-case if amnesty would be granted. "Ligia Ramos stated in the plenary session that she was making these suggestions because "the spirit of this decree is to get our political prisoners out of prison and to allow the exiled people to return, at no time is this decree to give impunity to any criminal"." In the same session, Congress elected the new Solicitor General and his deputy. As the necessary quorum was not there, this was also met with criticism.

El Libertador, meanwhile, cites legal experts who called it above board.

Regarding the amnesty bill, head of UFERCO Luis Santos tweeted: "At a time when citizens are demanding PUNISHMENT against the corrupt, it is ill-advised to include in an Amnesty decree crimes against the public administration, such as Illicit Enrichment and Embezzlement of Public Funds."

Edmundo Orellana, who assesses the new administration on transparency and corruption, even called it a new impunity pact.

COFADEH later also reacted. "The spirit of the amnesty law is to guarantee that those who have been criminalized for fighting for democracy, for natural resources and those who fight for the right to public demonstration in Honduras receive justice. The catalog of crimes was included because many defenders of property and nature were criminalized with the new penal code. COFADEH, together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, can certify who are victims of this persecution. We have the files. Regarding the criteria to determine who are the politically persecuted, these last years we have been publishing who are the politically persecuted and why. We have those criteria clear and established."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/03/tras-aprobacion-de-ley-de-amnistia-crece-la-expectativa-sobre-como-terminara-juicio-de-guapinol/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/03/diputados-oficialistas-aprueban-amnistia-que-favorece-a-exfuncionarios-del-gobierno-de-manuel-zelaya/>

<https://twitter.com/dermaligia/status/1489310967427121158?cxt=HHwWjICy2eSbjKspAAAA>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-que-preside-luis-redondo-aprueba-pacto-de-impunidad-disfrazado-de-amnistia/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/03/nombramientos-en-procuraduria-son-legales-dicta-analisis-juridico/>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1489297309376598016?cxt=HHwWgMCypeSAhqspAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1489304867306942464?cxt=HHwWgMC5odu4iaspAAAA>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1489324945662488583?cxt=HHwWjsC51bbJkqspAAAA

<https://twitter.com/mundoorellana/status/1489266762189131778?cxt=HHwWhMCigdQo-KopAAAA>

<https://confidencialhn.com/como-un-nuevo-pacto-de-impunidad-califica-ministro-asesor-en-materia-de-transparencia-y-combate-a-la-corrupcion-la-amnistia-aprobada-por-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://canal6.com.hn/cofadeh-aclara-puntos-del-decreto-de-amnistia-no-es-para-defender-delincuentes.html>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-amnistia-para-los-presos-politicos/>

"As the National Congress prepares for a legislative session that seeks to initiate the process of repealing the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), Prospera has resorted to threats of a lawsuit in excess of US\$1.3 billion against the State and says that the repeal of the law is an indirect and illegal expropriation that contravenes the Constitution."

<https://criterio.hn/demanda-superior-a-us1300-millones-interpondria-zede-prospera-contr-estado-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-ley-declaratoria-para-anular-zedes-y-reeleccion-presidencial/>

"A new act of corruption that harms the interests of teachers was carried out in the Instituto de Previsión Magisterial (Inprema) hours before the transfer of office of the President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro. According to the head of the Secretariat of Economic Development, Pedro Barquero, 100 million dollars were transferred from the teachers' money to investors in Palmerola."

<https://notibomba.com/interventora-del-inprema-transfiro-110-millones-antes-del-traspaso-de-mando-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1511276-466/sectores-repudian-prestamo-inprema-palmerola-investigacion>

"Minister of Defense announces that a special security team will be sent to Aguan valley to investigate land conflicts in the region. Meanwhile, Agrarian Platform publishes communiqué outlining recent campesino land recovering efforts & long-standing impunity of conflicts".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1489455836304916483?cxt=HHwWhoCy-aGMzqspAAAA>

"In 2012, DEA agents participated in a raid in Honduras in which four indigenous Hondurans were murdered, then lied to Congress & covered it up. Nobody was held accountable. Today, Rep. Omar asked what this means for the fight against impunity & US credibility in Central America."

<https://twitter.com/Ilhan/status/1489378251558555649>

Journalist Sam Woolston reports from La Moskitia, where "[p]olitical activists and community leaders are in the firing line".

<https://latamjournal280377015.wordpress.com/2022/01/19/a-conversation-with-a-community-leader-fleeing-narcos/>

The Bufete Estudios Para la Dignidad denounces an illegal attempt of an eviction by state security forces in collaboration with private security forces in Castaños de Choloma.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1489347048558280722?cxt=HHwWpIC-if7PnKspAAAA>

Over 6000 Hondurans have been deported back to the country in January, that is more than double than in January 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-mexico-y-paises-centroamericanos-deportaron-a-6094-hondurenos-en-enero/>

The first month of 2022 has seen a 100% increase in violent deaths compared to 2021. Migdonia Ayestas, coordinator of UNAH's Violence Observatory, called on the new government to tackle the structural roots of the violence.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-la-violencia-es-estructural-nuevo-gobierno-debe-reforzar-politicas-de-seguridad/>

"Protests resurfaced during the time of the end of Hernandez's mandate and the beginning of Xiomara Castro's administration, which has called the attention of several sectors because most of them are demands for the fulfillment of promises of jobs that had been promised by the past government, which have now fallen on the new government. Teachers, first line personnel, public transportation workers, among other sectors of the country have held protests and sit-ins to demand permanent jobs or the fulfillment of some labor right. In this context, the analyst and lawyer Josué Murillo, thought of two scenarios, both totally opposite but possible, the first one he commented to Criterio.hn is that the population finds more openness in the dynamics of Xiomara Castro's government, which they consider similar to the government of former President Manuel Zelaya Rosales. (...) Regarding the other scenario, he expressed that the sectors had time to demonstrate in December, when the Hernández government had already lost strength, however, they do so until Xiomara Castro enters, which can be seen as a destabilizing strategy to tarnish the image of a government that is just beginning its functions. In spite of this, he thinks that this situation is more related to the first scenario, because there is a will of the new government to solve the problems and give the sectors true social justice, respect for labor rights and guarantee the factors for an effective and efficient work, which was not a priority during the administration of the previous government."

<https://criterio.hn/protestas-resurgen-tras-12-anos-de-represion-y-asesinatos-porque-ahora-sectores-sienten-apertura-al-dialogo/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/03/ahora-si-protestan-medicos-y-maestros-iniciando-gobierno/>

04/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial; Evictions; Congress - Amnesty, UN; Corruption - Mobile Hospital; Security; US; and You Lost, Get On With It

Honduras Now summarized the concluding remarks of the Guapinol trial including a helpful analysis of the proceedings. "The defense did a superior job at constructing legal arguments throughout the trial and a outstanding job at highlight the serious contradictions between the witness testimony, which makes up the majority of the prosecution's case. The prosecutors failed to clearly demonstrate how each of the eight accused defenders are individually involved in the crimes and what their role entailed in the incident. Too much of the prosecution's evidence is contradictory and lacked detail to adequately corroborate basic facts. In my non-lawyer opinion (I also have not read the compete legal file), the prosecution did not do a sufficient job at showing their guilt. What is clear is that a violent incident occurred that day but it could have been incited by any number of actors including the mining company and the security guards themselves. The problem with this case is that it's not a legal case, it's a political one. The decision to declare the water defenders guilty or not guilty, will be a political one, not a legal one." The verdict is expected for Wednesday.

Representatives of various European embassies observed the trial.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-seventeen-concluding-remarks/>

[https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1489613775544139783?
cxt=HHwWjoCy_cT1lawpAAAA](https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1489613775544139783?cxt=HHwWjoCy_cT1lawpAAAA)

"Members of the community of Castaños de Choloma accompanied by the law firm Estudios para la Dignidad appear before the Court of Choloma to file a Nullity Action against the eviction actions promoted by the company Inter Mac Honduras." (see yesterday)

[https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1489634408487395334?
cxt=HHwWjIC5scSmn6wpAAAA](https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1489634408487395334?cxt=HHwWjIC5scSmn6wpAAAA)

Honduras has not yet resolved the problem of the two Congresses. It may even reach the international level as Cáliz's lawyer announced to bring the case to the IACHR.

Nationally, there are some voices that call on the Redondo Congress to abstain from approving laws as long as the situation is not resolved. But given the uncertainty of how long this could take, this puts the Xiomara administration in a bind. They have a clear mandate for change from the people,

whose expectations are high as seen for example by the rise in protests of different sectors demanding employment. So they need to deliver, which is undermined by the political crisis. And of course, the powers that lost the elections will do everything to undermine the new administration.

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-jorge-calix-demandara-honduras-ante-cidh/>

<https://criterio.hn/instan-a-facciones-que-rigen-el-congreso-de-honduras-abstenerse-de-aprobar-leyes-hasta-resolver-crisis/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-se-toman-bulevar-ffaa-exigiendo-asignacion-de-plazas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/militantes-de-libre-se-toman-instalaciones-de-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

The disputed Amnesty Bill continues to occupy the airwaves.

COFADEH presented again their interpretation regarding a possible amnesty for corruption before the coup (see also yesterday). "She assured that the officials accused in acts of corruption will not be benefited with the amnesty, since a file is required to prove their political persecution. Likewise, she emphasized that before June 28, 2009, the officials of Manuel Zelaya's government did not have a trial against them, since they all arose after the uprising. "The judges were instruments of the political power for a selective justice, allowing many opponents to be criminalized", she said."

"Ramón Barrios, legal professional and congressman of the Libertad y Refundación party (Libre) for Cortés, acknowledged this Friday that the Law that condemns the 2009 Coup d'Etat, could be taken advantage of by some officials who have committed irregular acts in the country and that have nothing to do with situations of a political nature. He pointed out that "I am sure that there will be officials who will want to take advantage of this first item but will not pass the test because their actions went beyond political crimes that have to do with bad performance or acts of corruption"."

Other observers still call it an impunity pact - while the intention of some seems legitimate, it is just laughable when a Nationalist congressman states that "never before has there been so great a blanket of impunity"...

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/aumentan-cuestionamientos-a-ley-de-amnistia-aprobada-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/04/cofadeh-aclara-que-amnistia-politica-no-beneficia-a-vinculados-por-corrupcion/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/reconstruir-el-estado-de-derecho-a-cualquier-precio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reconocen-que-algunos-politicos-podrian-aprovecharse-de-la-ley-que-condena-el-golpe-de-estado-de-2009/>

<https://criterio.hn/rechazo-total-a-pacto-de-impunidad-disfrazado-de-supuesta-amnistia-aprobado-por-congreso/>

<https://fosdeh.com/pronunciamentos/pronunciamento-del-foro-social-de-deuda-externa-y-desarrollo-de-honduras-fosdeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/amnistia-era-innecesaria-ya-se-habia-aprobado-una-en-2010-nunca-se-habia-dado-un-manto-de-impunidad-tan-grande-marco-midence/>

OACNUDH expressed concerns regarding the way the new Procurator General was nominated by Congress (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1489708355597877251?cxt=HHwWhoC-pen2wKwpAAAA>

<https://proceso.hn/rechazo-a-eleccion-de-procurador-por-irrespeto-a-la-constitucion/>

On the last day of the mobile hospital corruption trial, the accused former director of Invest-H stated that the purchase would not have been possible without the support of the former Minister of Finance, Rocío Tábor. Many observers have already previously highlighted the involvement of the JOH regime in the case but the legal persecution has been very limited so far.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/04/sin-apoyo-de-rocio-tabora-no-procedia-estafa-movil-marco-bogran/>

The former head of the forensic medicine unit at the MP, Julissa Villanueva, was nominated as the deputy minister of security.

<https://proceso.hn/nombran-a-julissa-villanueva-como-viceministra-de-seguridad/>

"The United States reiterated Friday its support to the government of President Xiomara Castro, according to the Minister of Economic Development, Pedro Barquero, after meeting with the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Colleen Hoey."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1511333-466/apoyo-estados-unidos-gobierno-presidenta-xiomara-castro>

<https://proceso.hn/partido-nacional-debe-entender-que-perdio-las-elecciones-y-debe-dejarnos-gobernar-manuel-zelaya-rosales/>

05/02/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+ - Assassinations; Tolupán: Congress - Amnesty; Education - BCIE; COVID-19; Corruption – UN;

At least five members of the LGBTQ+ community have been murdered in Honduras in only 5 weeks. "Rihanna Ferrera, director of the Conzumel Trans Human Rights Association of the community, said that the five deaths in such a short time is "worrying", indicating that these are not simple deaths, but caused by hatred, discrimination, because the perpetrators rage against the victims."

<https://proceso.hn/denuncian-asesinato-de-cinco-miembros-de-comunidad-lgtbi-en-lo-que-va-del-ano/>

One year ago, a court in San Pedro Sula ordered the municipality of Yoro to protect the right to health and food of the Tolupán people.

"OACNUDH welcomed this recognition and the decision to open a medical clinic for the benefit of the community based on the ruling. However, it is of concern that the local authorities are not providing continuity in this care."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1490031264522452997?cxt=HHwWioCyoczi060pAAAA>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1490080950348308484?cxt=HHwWiICzwdu6q0pAAAA>

The amnesty bill has been published in La Gaceta, becoming law. The controversy about the bill can be read in the previous e-mails. Vice-president Doris Gutiérrez raised an additional point. The Redondo Congress should strive to be better than the Nationalist-controlled Congress that came

before them. This is true, the expectations are higher, but not only in form, but also in substance. Given the attempts to undermine the Xiomara administration, the former is difficult to deliver without compromising on the first (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/HoyMismoTSI/status/1490014913103863810?cxt=HHwWhIC52eiqzK0pAAAA>

<https://criterio.hn/publican-en-la-gaceta-controvertida-ley-de-amnistia-politica-e-instauracion-de-comision-anticorrupcion/>

<https://eliberador.hn/2022/02/05/pacto-de-impunidad-es-no-castigar-crime-nes-de-dictadura-cofadeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidenta-doris-gutierrez-lamenta-que-en-el-congreso-se-haga-lo-mismo-que-se-critico/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) approved a loan for 73 million dollars to improve schools and colleges in poor condition in the country, informed this Saturday the head of Education, Daniel Sponda."

<https://proceso.hn/sponda-anuncia-prestamo-por-73-millones-del-bcie-para-mejorar-escuelas/>

"Dr. Omar Videá commented this Saturday that Honduras registers a positivity of patients with COVID-19 of 38.8 percent, one of the highest waves registered in the country. In this sense, the doctor explained that, seven weeks ago the positivity in the cases was 5.7 %".

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-en-positividad-de-38-8-casos-covid/>

Foreign Minister Eduardo Reina confirmed that Xiomara would request a UN-led anti-corruption mission the coming week.

La Gaceta printed the law which would allow for the creation of such a body.

<https://confidencialhn.com/solicitud-de-apoyo-a-la-onu-para-instalacion-de-la-cicoh-sera-esta-semana-afirma-canciller-de-la-republica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/publicado-en-el-diario-oficial-la-gaceta-decreto-de-creacion-de-la-cicih-en-honduras/>

06/02/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Femicide - Keyla, Blanca; Xiomara; Congress; and Dear Ms. President

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

foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2201_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

It has been a year since the murder of nursing student Keyla Martínez in a police station in Intibucá. Her family and human rights organizations continue to call for justice.

<https://proceso.hn/familiares-de-keyla-martinez-anuncian-planton-para-exigir-justicia-a-un-ano-de-su-muerte/>

A bit further back, in 1995, environmental activist Blanca Jeanette Kawas Fernández was killed. She is considered the “first environmental martyr in Honduras.”

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1490453658500321284?cxt=HHwWiMC-0ZTk68pAAAA>

There are several reports of the current political crisis with the two Congresses may come to an end. "This was reported this Sunday in local media, where it was reported that tomorrow Monday the coordinator of Libre, Manuel Zelaya and the 17 dissident deputies of this political institute would be signing a document, where they will state the agreements they have reached."

<https://tiempo.hn/crisis-en-cn-se-solucionaria-acuerdo-reunion/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-crisis-esta-casi-resuelta-dice-diputada-del-psh-sobre-fraccion-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://proceso.hn/crisis-del-legislativo-alcanza-dos-semanas-se-espera-solucion/>

Xiomara was tested positive for corona. According to her medical exam, she has only light symptoms.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1490389018151985152?cxt=HHwWgIC9wcy69q4pAAAA>

<https://tiempo.hn/rude-boy-dedica-cancion-a-xiomara-castro/>

07/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial; JOH - US, Legcy; Congress - Amnesty; Mining - Azacualpa; Indigenous Peoples; Budget; MP - FBI; Migration - Children; Poverty; and Falling Statues

Today at 9am, a forum on "The Truth behind the Guapinol Case - How the State Fabricated a Case to Punish Water Defenders in Honduras" will take place in Tegucigalpa.

OACNUDH continues to observe the case and once again raised concerns. "Based on its observation of the trial, OACNUDH expresses its concern that the MP has not met the minimum standard of proof nor has it fully observed the principle of objectivity that should govern its proceedings."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1490838229272399872?cxt=HHwWgMDUJZDewrApAAAA>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/the-truth-behind-the-guapinol-case>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1490763058070839310?cxt=HHwWnICzicvGoLApAAAA>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/02/07/caso-guapinol-el-contexto-y-los-escenarios-para-los-8-defensores-enjuiciados/>

Days after he left office, JOH had his visa revoked by the US.

US Senator Jeff Merkley tweeted: "Today, a year after I introduced the Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act, the State Department finally made public its sanctions against former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández for corruption and narcotrafficking."

US Rep Jan Schakowsky followed-up: "The State Dept's actions against narcotrafficker Juan Orlando Hernández are long overdue. I am proud to lead the Honduras Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act in the House and look forward to keeping up the pressure with @SenJeffMerkley to hold JOH and others accountable."

In Honduras, the news was widely welcomed but the problematic role of the US in backing up JOH all these years, especially after the 2017 electoral fraud, was also emphasized.

JOH himself reacted with a public letter continuing with his story that he successfully fought drug trafficking.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-actions-against-former-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-for-corruption/>

<https://twitter.com/SecBlinken/status/1490795809692135438>

<https://apnews.com/article/honduras-caribbean-central-america-eliot-engel-congress-4252a2f0eebcedfe36a970651d8d999a>

<https://criterio.hn/departamento-de-estado-dice-que-joh-ha-cometido-actos-de-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

<https://mobile.twitter.com/senjeffmerkley/status/1490820420899151873>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1490827053729742848?s=20&t=P11Xk1kpgmSTVf9Jav4nEg>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1490858903583682562?cxt=HHwWhMcr5cORzLApAAAA>

CEPR put together a set of indicators highlighting the dire legacy JOH left Honduras after twelve years in power (4 as the president of Congress, 8 years as the president).

<https://cepr.net/honduras-social-and-economic-indicators-after-12-years-of-national-party-rule/>

There are also some hopeful signs from Congress. Mel Zelaya and Jorge Cálix met and announced a deal that integrates the dissident Libre members of Congress back into the party and recognizes the

pact of the opposition alliance which led Luis Redondo to be the president of Congress. A congressional session has been called for today expecting all parties to attend. It remains to be seen if there will be another election of the congressional leadership.

"Political and social actors considered that the agreement established between the dissident faction and the general coordinator of Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Manuel Zelaya, will strengthen the country's legislative work and the institutionality of the State."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/negociaciones-politicas-ponen-fin-a-conflicto-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/acuerdo-firmado-resolver-crisis-congreso-nacional-NF5531348>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/07/actores-consideran-que-acuerdo-en-libre-fortalece-la-institucionalidad-del-pais/>

Luis Redondo published a press release defending the amnesty bill (see previous days).

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1490798068853354502

<https://confidencial.hn.com/decreto-ley-de-reconstruccion-del-estado-constitucional-no-es-un-pacto-de-impunidad-asegura-luis-redondo/>

And there is further good news. "Court of Appeals of Santa Rosa de Copán ordered through a sentence to annul any authorization to exhume, transfer and bury the Maya Chortí cemetery of Azacualpa. What does this resolution imply? 1. Demanding reparation for the damage caused. 2. The criminal investigation against Judge Rivera Tábor for abuse of authority and judicial malfeasance by virtue of his proven abuse in the authorization he gave."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1490779018312003589?cxt=HHwWisC9kcznp7ApAAAA>

MADJ has more on the struggle by the indigenous Tolupán tribe San Francisco de Locomapa for access to health care (see previous e-mail). "The San Francisco de Locomapa Tribe of Yoro is once again subjected to dispossession, discrimination and condemned to not having access to quality health care. The Ministry of Health and the negligence of the outgoing authorities of the municipality of Yoro have put at risk the operation of the clinic that was won through a court ruling in 2021."

<https://madj.org/2022/02/07/indigenas-tolupanes-demandan-permanencia-de-clinica-dentro-de-la-tribu/>

"Rixi Moncada Godoy, Secretary of Finance, said Monday that the General Budget of the Republic (PGR), is false and a source of corruption, while she asked the cabinet ministers elected President Xiomara Castro, not to have illusions about the millions approved, because it only exists on paper and should be reviewed. The official initially said that they receive a bankrupt country and that in the bank account they only received 800 million Lempiras".

<https://proceso.hn/rixi-moncada-dice-que-presupuesto-aprobado-es-falso-y-pide-a-ministros-no-ilusionarse-con-millones-asignados-en-papel/>

The MP signed a memorandum of understanding with the FBI "to strengthen the work of the ATIC".

[https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1490744955232522240?
cxt=HHwWgMC4te6omLApAAAA](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1490744955232522240?cxt=HHwWgMC4te6omLApAAAA)

"According to the report cited by Coiprodén, as of February 6, 1,332 children have already returned from Mexico and the United States, with a 25% increase in the participation of Honduran girls in the migratory route."

<https://criterio.hn/ninez-migrante-de-honduras-un-problema-en-ascenso-cuya-solucion-es-compartida-con-ee-uu/>

"José Carlos Cardona, head of the Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS), announced on Monday the elimination of the Vida Mejor and Guías de Familia programs, promoted in recent years by the administration of former President Juan Orlando Hernández. The elimination of these programs would give way to the project called "Red Solidaria" to fight extreme poverty in Honduras, one of the Central American nations most affected by this problem."

<https://confidencialhn.com/sedis-eliminara-programas-vida-mejor-guias-de-familia-y-dara-paso-al-proyecto-red-solidaria/>

<https://tiempo.hn/demuelen-estatua-exsecretario-seguridad-julian-pacheco>

08/02/22

Honduras Daily: Lencas; Guapinol - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Femicides; Congress; US; Corruption - de Lobo; HR - UN; Health Sector; Minimum Wage; and the Honduran Coup at the IACHR

A court in Tegucigalpa reactivated an eviction order for today against the indigenous Lenca community Tierras del Padre. "According to the communiqué issued by the organization of Lenca Indigenous Women of the Tierras del Padre Community, 11 inhabitants of the community are currently accused of usurpation, because Mario Facussé Handal, owner of the Siglo XXI Real Estate company, presented a supplementary document from 2013 where, without the consent of the community, he claims to be the owner of the territory. The Lenca Tierras del Padre Community has held an ancestral land title since 1739 and in November 2021 had already been threatened with eviction, putting more than 120 families at risk, however, through a process of resistance and community organization, with the support of human rights organizations and social movements, the eviction was suspended. Despite this, the suspension did not mean the end of the criminalization and eviction process, so the communities have suffered a prolonged psychosocial and economic impact, due to the uncertainty about their permanence in the area."

OACNUDH expressed concerns.

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/02/alerta-urgente-honduras-juzgados-de-tegucigalpa-reactivan-orden-de-desalojo-contr-la-comunidad-indigena-lenca-tierras-del-padre/>

[https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1491236795194826753?
cxt=HHwWgoCj2dv997EpAAAA](https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1491236795194826753?cxt=HHwWgoCj2dv997EpAAAA)

The verdict in the Guapinol trial is expected for today.

<https://criterio.hn/con-pruebas-falsas-y-manipulaciones-el-mp-pretende-encarcelar-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

With the (public) addition of JOH on the Engel's List (see yesterday), the discussions about a possible extradition of JOH to the US and possible impediments flared up again.

PSH congresswoman Maribel Espinoza said that they are conducting a legal analysis to avoid the existence of any legal obstacles.

Additionally to these discussions, more news came from the US. JOH ally Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez was sentenced to life in prison. "U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez was convicted of importing tons of cocaine into the United States and protecting his illicit drug business with machineguns. In committing his narcotics crimes, Fuentes Ramirez bribed high-ranking Honduran officials and was responsible for brutal acts of violence and murder. Fuentes

Ramirez's path of destruction, both in violence and flooding the United States with cocaine, has finally come to an end, and he will now spend his life in federal prison.”"

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/honduras-expectante-ante-futuro-que-le-espera-joh/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/expresidente-hondureno-no-gozaria-de-inmunidad-en-el-parlacen/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/08/estamos-analizando-que-no-haya-impedimentos-para-que-joh-sea-extraditado/>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/honduran-national-geovanny-fuentes-ramirez-sentenced-life-prison-and-ordered-forfeit>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/geovanny-fuentes-alleged-partner-of-former-honduran-president-hernandez-sentenced-to-life-in-prison-for-drug-trafficking>

More than 30 women have been murdered in the first weeks of 2022.

The Secretariat for Economic Development signed an agreement with the UN to eradicate violence against women.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/al-menos-treinta-mujeres-han-sido-asesinadas-en-el-inicio-del-ano-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/pjbarquero/status/1491157124956958721?cxt=HHwWgsDRlabg07EpAAAA>

For the first time, the new Congress came together as one yesterday.

The Liberal Party now also recognizes the presidency of Luis Redondo.

Only the National Party does not do so.

<https://criterio.hn/sin-nueva-votacion-y-con-presencia-de-diputados-disidentes-se-reconoce-a-luis-redondo-como-presidente-del-congreso/>

<https://proceso.hn/nuevo-congreso-hondureno-sesiona-por-primera-vez-con-128-diputados-propietarios/>

<https://proceso.hn/partido-liberal-dice-que-ahora-esta-dispuesto-a-trabajar-con-luis-redondo-por-el-bien-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-soluciono-la-crisis-en-libre-pero-no-el-problema-legal-se-debe-hacer-una-nueva-votacion-senala-tomas-zambrano/>

The nominated US ambassador to Honduras, Laura Farnsworth Dogu, called for a Strategic Dialogue which will launch in April.

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-lanzara-dialogo-estrategico-con-honduras-anuncia-embajadora-nominada/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/08/virtual-embajadora-de-ee-uu-comparte-agenda-multifacetica-para-apoyar-a-honduras/>

CESPAD takes a closer look at the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. The re-trial started yesterday.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/02/08/culpable-o-inocente-la-historica-repeticion-de-un-juicio-contra-una-ex-primera-dama-en-honduras/>

The Ministry of Human Rights and OACNUDH started "an in-depth dialogue to advance the 2022 human rights agenda based on our monitoring and technical cooperation mandate".

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1491191468530495489>

"The Ministry of Health informed this Tuesday that the process of appointment agreements has been halted due to the detection of personnel who are not in the first line of care against the pandemic. The Minister of Health, José Manuel Matheu, read a communiqué from the institution detailing that among the eight thousand agreements that are being processed by the Secretariat and the Civil Service Directorate, personnel that do not belong to the first line were detected. In this sense, the Ministry of Health argued that in order to comply with the law and to be fair, it stops the delivery of all the agreements in its possession. It announced the integration of a multisectorial commission with representatives of legally constituted professional, labor and trade union organizations. He also informed that the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) will be in charge of reviewing each agreement and issuing an opinion as to which candidates meet the indispensable requirements."

<https://proceso.hn/salud-detiene-proceso-de-nombramiento-por-deteccion-de-empleados-que-no-están-en-primer-a-línea/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/08/cna-firma-convenio-con-salud-revela-irregularidades-en-gestion-de-alba-consuelo/>

Labor unions and the private sector restarted the talks about the minimum wage yesterday. According to the labor unions, basic goods, even without biosafety equipment, cost more than 12'000 Lempiras.

<https://proceso.hn/centrales-obreras-y-empresa-privada-se-reune-hoy-para-retomar-negociacion-de-salario-minimo/>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) admitted the complaint filed after the 2009 coup d'état by the victims of the systematic violation of human rights, which included deaths, torture, imprisonment, persecution, among others. The communication was sent in December to the previous government but was not disclosed."

<https://confidencialhn.com/cidh-admite-denuncia-por-violaciones-de-derechos-humanos-tras-el-golpe-de-estado-de-2009/>

09/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial; Mining - Azacualpa; Lencas; Congress - Labor Rights, Secrecy Law; US; Corruption - de Lobo; Education; COVID-19; TJE; and All Ways Lead to New York

Six of the Guapinol water defenders were found guilty in a court with heavy police presence and whose proceedings were not live-streamed as should have been the case. "All six of the defenders found guilty will remain in detention until the first of two sentencing hearings scheduled on Monday February 21, 2022 at 9 am or until the amnesty is applied". The latter is now their great hope. "Several state institutions and non-government organizations expressed their deep concern with the guilty verdict. These include the National Human Rights Commissioner (CONADEH), the Ministry of Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders, COPINH, among others."

Reporting for The Guardian, Nina Lakhani highlights the international condemnation of the verdict. "Amnesty International, which considers the Guapinol environmentalists to be prisoners of conscience, described the verdict as "outrageous". (...) Mary Lawlor, the UN special rapporteur on human rights defenders, said she was "appalled", especially given Honduras last month took its seat the UN human rights council."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-eighteen-the-verdict/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-de-seis-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-contraviene-obligaciones-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/secretaria-derechos-humanos-condena-fallo-caso-guapinol-HA5640889>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/09/honduras-environmentalists-guilty-crimes-mining-company>

Ignoring a recent court order, the mining company Aura Minerals (MINOSA) and members of the municipality of La Unión, Copán started to exploit the soils of the Maya Chortí cemetery in Azacualpa.

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1491463209626259457>

As feared, state security forces started yesterday with the eviction of indigenous Lenca Tierras del Padre community even though they have documented ancestral land rights.

They even tried to evict children from their school.

Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque tweeted: “With instructions from President Xiomara, we are sending accompaniment & lawyers to suspend eviction. The HR Ministry & other Ministries accompany residents of Tierras del Padre. The justice system continues under the control of dictatorship”.

The eviction was later temporarily suspended by a court order.

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/02/alerta-urgente-honduras-clan-facusse-y-familia-criminalizan-y-expulsan-a-defensores-y-defensoras-indigenas-de-sus-territorios/>

<https://criterio.hn/desalojo-en-tierras-del-padre-mide-fuerzas-entre-los-poderes-ejecutivo-y-judicial/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1491403237274288130>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1491512315375722497>

https://twitter.com/All_Things_HND/status/1491604975717335043

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1491473090634784773>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/ministra-derechos-humanos-desalojo-comunidad-tierras-del-padre-XA5640132>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1491602739792646145>

Congress had a busy session yesterday with various laws, bills and more introduced.

"LIBRE introduced a proposal to overturn the Law for Hourly Employment in Hond. Congress. That law was a keystone of golpista neoliberal labor policy making workers « temporary » eliminating salaries & benefits."

As expected, the business lobby immediately started a campaign of fear mongering claiming a possible derogation of the law would cost 700'000 jobs.

Libre representative Jari Dixon presented a bill to repeal the Secrecy Law.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/lluvias-de-proyecto-de-ley-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1491399655862640640>

<https://confidencialhn.com/esta-comprobado-que-una-sociedad-con-empleo-por-hora-no-crece-economicamente-gilberto-rios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-advierte-que-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-dejaria-en-la-calle-a-700-mil-trabajadores/>

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-proyecto-de-decreto-para-derogar-ley-de-clasificacion-de-documentos-publicos/>

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Emily Mendrala, traveled to Honduras and met with several Honduran ministers.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1491570452858347521>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/emily-mendrala-subsecretaria-estados-unidos-visita-honduras-JA5640218>

<https://confidencialhn.com/subsecretaria-de-estado-adjunta-en-el-buro-de-asuntos-del-hemisferio-occidental-trata-en-honduras-tematicas-en-desarrollo-economico-migracion-y-corrupcion/>

"The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) expressed its concern through a statement in which it stated its position on the need to impart justice in the country on significant cases of corruption and drug trafficking. In the document published in its official social networks, the non-governmental entity denounced that with their recent actions, some justice entities in the country have moved away from their purpose, as they have issued resolutions in favor of people linked to cases such as the embezzlement of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) and that they also plan to favor those responsible for the mobile hospital fraud."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/cna-denuncia-magistrados-buscan-favorecer-implicados-corrupcion-consejo-nacional-electoral-ihss-hospitales-moviles-DA5640371>

CESPAD published the second part (see yesterday) of its analysis of the re-trial against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/02/09/los-zapateros-sin-talleres-ni-zapatos-de-la-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras/>

"The interim teachers reached an agreement with the Education authorities and suspended the sit-ins they were holding in the departmental directorates at the national level."

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-interinos-llegan-a-un-acuerdo-provisional-con-autoridades-de-educacion-y-suspenden-protestas/>

"Covid-19 positivity currently stands at 48 percent, one of the highest peaks of the pandemic, said the head of the National Virology Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, Mitzi Castro."

So far, there have been 10'559 deaths to COVID-19 and 402'329 cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-se-encuentra-en-uno-de-los-picos-mas-altos-de-la-pandemia-asevera-la-jefa-del-laboratorio-nacional-de-virologia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-contabiliza-118-muertos-y-22-397-contagios-por-covid-19-en-lo-que-va-de-2022/>

As Eduardo Enrique Reina had left the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) to become the new foreign minister, the electoral body is currently without the necessary number of magistrates. They are expecting Congress to nominate a replacement soon in order to continue with their work.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-tje-espera-que-el-congreso-nacional-nombre-el-nuevo-magistrado-propietario-para-dictar-sentencias-pendientes/>

"The former president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, even being tried for the crime of treason could always be extradited to the United States to answer for drug trafficking charges, says political analyst and lawyer, Raúl Pineda Alvarado. Pineda explained to Criterio.hn that the Constitution of the Republic, in the case of Hernandez, could disqualify him for the crime of treason for at least 10 years, but only to prevent him from holding public office, because when the accused is an official then there is no prison, but he assured that the extradition order would not stop."

<https://criterio.hn/aun-siendo-juzgado-por-traicion-a-la-patria-joh-puede-ser-extraditado-raul-pineda-alvarado/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/todos-los-caminos-conducen-a-la-extradicion-de-joh-opinan-analistas/>

10/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Lencas; APPP; Repression; JOH - Extradition; Corruption - US; Congress - Labor Rights; Mayors; COVID-19; Drug Trafficking; and Fernando García vs. the ZEDEs

What a turnaround. On Wednesday, six Guapinol water defenders were found guilty, A decision widely denounced and which left them with the, supposedly, only hope in the new amnesty bill. Yesterday morning, their lawyers presented an appeal based on the bill.

But then all of this became redundant as the Supreme Court finally resolved the appeals in favor of them. "According to the resolution, by unanimous vote, the Constitutional Chamber ruled in favor of two appeals filed by the defense of the 8 defenders criminalized by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares, for the crimes of deprivation of liberty, aggravated damages and simple damages." This ruling annuls the trial and Wednesday's verdict.

OACNUDH welcomed the ruling and called for their immediate release.

People in Tocoa took to the streets to celebrate.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/presentan-un-escrito-para-aplicacion-de-amnistia-en-caso-guapinol/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/sala-constitucional-ordena-libertad-para-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/supreme-court-orders-freedom-for-guapinol-river-defenders-in-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/libertad-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1491969821478637569>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1491985355242942487>

"The eviction order was temporarily suspended, but the 120 families of the indigenous community "Lenca Tierras del Padre" of the municipality of Santa Ana in Francisco Morazán, live in permanent anxiety because they assure that at any moment they could be expelled by force from more than 500 manzanas of land that ancestrally belongs to them." (see yesterday)

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/suspendieron-el-desalojo-pero-no-la-zozobra-de-las-familias-de-comunidad-lenca-tierras-del-padre/>

On Wednesday, there was a culmination of bad news from the Guapinol case (which now seems much better), the situation of the Lenca Tierras del Padre community (see above) and the one in Azacualpa (see yesterday). On this occasion, the Permanent Assembly of People Power sent out a press release. "We condemn the actions of the armed forces and police, together with the Judiciary, who responding to the interests of the oligarchy and economic power groups have concentrated their capital in these communities for exploitation, displacing dozens of families, contaminating their surroundings and environment, as well as generating conditions of violence and impoverishment, instrumentalizing criminal and procedural law to criminalize individuals and peoples. (...) We demand that conditions be created for justice and reparations for the peoples who have been systematically violated in the last twelve years."

<https://madj.org/2022/02/10/pronunciamiento-publico-asamblea-permanente-del-poder-popular/>

"In violation of the human right to water and health, Inter-Mac Honduras unjustifiably rations water to Los Castaños de Choloma in retaliation for community organizing actions." (see some days ago)

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1491904929958707203>

The fate of JOH continues to occupy the airwaves. His lawyer sought out the Supreme Court yesterday asking information about a possible investigation into JOH.

According to the speaker of the Supreme Court, there is no pending extradition request for JOH at the time being.

El Heraldito reports on the luxury mansion of JOH's wife Ana García de Hernández in Miami.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/abogado-de-joh-pide-informacion-a-la-csj-por-posible-investigacion-KC5675905>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/corte-suprema-justicia-dice-no-hay-solicitud-extradicion-expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-DL5692342>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/lujosa-mansion-exprimera-dama-ana-garcia-miami-florida-estados-unidos-juan-orlando-hernandez-DG5686656>

Back in the MACCIH-era, they had proposed a Efficient Collaboration Law which would allow to collaborate with whistleblowers in corruption cases. The Nationalist-controlled Congress never approved it, now it is back on the table.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-merece-ser-aprobada-en-honduras-para-ayudar-a-desarticular-redes-de-corrupcion-abogado-mario-diaz/>

The US confirmed their support for an international anti-corruption body in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-dispuesto-a-ayudar-a-honduras-en-la-instalacion-de-la-comision-anticorrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ee-uu-reafirma-compromiso-de-apoyar-plan-de-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-de-instalar-una-cicoh-en-honduras/>

With the announcement to repeal the Hour Work Law, Congress launched a debate in Honduras. After first rejecting the idea outright, some business sectors now say they are open for revisions. The Liberal Party called on a broad debate on it.

Labor movements welcome a possible repeal as they have called for this since its inception 2014.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sector-empresarial-esta-abierto-a-que-se-revise-y-mejore-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-pero-advierten-que-derogar-la-traeria-consecuencias-negativas-ccic/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/partido-liberal-solicita-al-congreso-nacional-que-se-discuta-ampliamente-la-posible-derogacion-de-ley-de-empleo-por-hora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ley-de-empleo-por-hora-no-resuelve-el-desempleo-en-honduras-fosdeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/derogacion-de-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-pasara-por-consulta-popular-con-los-trabajadores/>

Libre took over the leadership of the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (Amhon).

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-asume-control-de-la-amhon-nelson-castellanos-presidira-los-primeros-dos-anos-y-marlon-pineda-otros-dos/>

Only 35% of Hondurans have received three shots against COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/solo-el-35-de-los-hondurenos-han-recibido-las-tres-dosis-de-vacuna-contra-la-covid-19/>

"Three former police officers, a military officer and three civilians will go on trial on February 22 for allegedly being responsible for the crime of aggravated drug trafficking."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/a-juicio-siete-presuntos-trafficantes-de-cocaina-entre-ellos-tres-expolicias-y-un-militar/>

"Fernando Emilio García Rodríguez, was appointed on January 27 as presidential commissioner against the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE)."

<https://criterio.hn/fernando-garcia-designado-por-la-presidenta-de-honduras-para-luchar-contras-las-zede/>

11/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Azacualpa; SLAPPs; Corruption - Pandora; Drinking Water; Public Health; National Police; Extradition; Elections;

The Guapinol defenders have not been released yet (see yesterday and last link below), a hearing is scheduled for Monday.

Criterio highlights another important point of the Guapinol case. "While there is jubilation over the release of the eight Guapinol defenders, it should not be forgotten that the recommendations of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, in addition to their release, included reparations for the damage caused and the "exhaustive and independent investigation" against the prosecutors and judges who promoted the trial."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1492307507590713346>

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-de-rio-guapinol-saldran-hasta-el-proximo-lunes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/atrasos-dejar-libres-defensores-guapinol/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/11/honduras-environmentalists-mining-protesters-court-ruling>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-investigacion-exhaustiva-a-jueces-y-fiscales-que-promovieron-juicio-contradefensores-de-guapinol/>

El Tiempo reports on the situation in Azacualpa, where the mining company Minosa restarted the exhumation of a cemetery against court orders (see previous days). A local inhabitant was arrested for opposing the exhumation.

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncian-exhumaciones-en-cementerio-copan/>

"Between January 2015 - December 2021, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre recorded more than 385 cases which bear the hallmarks of Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs). At least 149 of these cases took place in Latin America. Honduras, Peru, Guatemala, and Mexico are the countries where most cases were identified."

<https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/from-us/briefings/slapps-in-latin-america/>

The Supreme Court continues to protect the corrupt - it confirmed a ruling that dropped the charges against the accused in the Pandora corruption case. The MP itself did not mince words, accusing the Supreme Court of protecting the accused in "one of the most reprehensible acts of corruption in Honduran history".

Over 300 million Lempiras were stolen.

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that impunity will remain intact with the current, chosen by JOH, Attorney General and Supreme Court judges.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/sala-constitucional-notifica-fallo-que-blinda-de-impunidad-a-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1492301705396076551

<https://criterio.hn/sala-constitucional-da-sobreseimiento-a-implicados-en-caso-pandora/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/11/odir-fernandez-con-el-actual-fiscal-y-los-magistrados-continuara-la-impunidad/>

"The acute drinking water crisis affecting the population of Tegucigalpa seems to have distant solutions. Each year the problem becomes more dramatic and for the coming months the authorities have indicated that rationing will be increasingly severe throughout the capital."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/anuncian-severos-rationamientos-de-agua-en-tegucigalpa/>

The new Minister of Health, José Manuel Matheu, denounced that the JOH regime left them with expired drugs worth 215 million Lempiras.

<https://proceso.hn/ministro-de-salud-denuncia-l-215-millones-en-medicamentos-vencidos/>

"Political and social actors announced that 85 percent of the officers expelled by the purging commission will return to the National Police, due to several irregularities in the process by which they were removed. The retired police commissioner, Leandro Osorio, expressed his satisfaction after the removed officers won the lawsuit against the State."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/11/oficiales-removidos-por-junta-depuradora-se-reintegraran-a-la-policia/>

<https://criterio.hn/seran-retomadas-las-denuncias-del-comisionado-leandro-osorio-por-el-presente-gobierno/>

"General Ramón Sabillón, Minister of Security, informed this Friday that the Honduran National Police has several extradition requests to be executed."

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministro-de-seguridad-ramon-sabillon-confirma-solicitudes-de-extradicion-pendientes-de-ejecutar/>

After last November's general elections, the CNE ordered a repetition of the election in Duyure, Choluteca and Wampusirpi, Gracias a Dios. But to be executed, a ruling by the Supreme Court is needed which has not yet materialized.

<https://proceso.hn/no-se-repetira-comicios-en-duyure-y-wampusirpi-mientras-fallo-de-la-csj-no-este-firme-kelvin-aguirre/>

12/02/22

Honduras Daily: Poverty; Fuel Prices; VAT; Tegucigalpa - Trans-450; COVID-19; JOH - Extradition; and Overcoming Patriarchal Culture

The new head of the National Statistics Institute (INE), Eugenio Sosa, comments on the extremely concerning poverty levels in Honduras. Poverty has reached 73.6% in the country.

<https://tiempo.hn/ine-en-honduras-siete-de-cada-diez-viven-en-pobreza/>

A 10 Lempiras fuel subsidy will come into force tomorrow.

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1492591442765746180

<https://proceso.hn/rebaja-de-l-10-en-galon-de-gasolinas-super-regular-y-diesel-desde-el-lunes/>

Congress also plans to reduce the value added tax from 15% to 12%.

But according to vice-president Salvador Nasralla, such a measure will take time to implement.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/12/presentan-iniciativa-en-el-congreso-para-bajar-de-15-a-12-por-ciento-el-pago-por-isv/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rebaja-del-isv-si-es-posible-solo-que-de-manera-gradual-asegura-designado-salvador-nasralla/>

"The mayor's office of the capital city will appoint in the next few days the members of a commission that will be in charge of defining the future of the Trans 450 road project, which was called Bus Rapid Transit (BTR) by the last administrations. The new mayor, Jorge Aldana, said that the team will be in charge of auditing the infrastructure and the legal and financial aspects, and will then approach the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which has provided the funds."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/12/alcaldia-capitalina-comision-trans-450/>

The mobile hospital in San Pedro Sula is 100% occupied by COVID-19 cases.

Doctor Carlos Umaña fears an imminent collapse of the public health system.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-100-ocupacion-de-pacientes-con-covid-19-en-el-hospital-movil-de-sps/>

<https://proceso.hn/al-100-la-ocupacion-de-pacientes-con-covid-19-en-el-hospital-movil-de-sps/>

<https://tiempo.hn/doctor-umana-colapso-sistema-salud-honduras/>

As part of the discussion about JOH's possible extradition to the US, there is a back and forth on what charges in Honduras against him would mean. Would they overrule an extradition request or not.

<https://confidencialhn.com/subrayan-que-un-requerimiento-fiscal-contrajoh-seria-claro-impedimento-para-posible-solicitud-de-extradicion-en-su-contraloria/>

"Anarella Velez, who was recently appointed by the government of Xiomara Castro as head of Culture, Arts and Sports, has been a teacher, writer and, for years, has run Ediciones Paradiso and Café Paradiso, located a few meters from the Plazuela (El arbolito) in Tegucigalpa. This is where many of the city's artists used to meet and continue to meet, where books are presented and where a

small cultural center operates. It was also where her husband, the poet Rigoberto Paredes (honorary mention of the Casa de las Americas Award and deceased in 2015), lived with her for many years. (...) With a rough and sweet voice, she says she is excited about the time she is living: "We have made a crack in the patriarchal culture," she says while giving us an interview."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/12/le-hemos-hecho-una-fisura-a-la-cultura-patriarcal-anarella-velez-nueva-titular-de-cultura-arte-y-deportes/>

13/02/22

Honduras Daily: Xiomara; Tegucigalpa - Water; ID Cards; Basic Goods; Corruption; Education; Drug Trafficking; and Not Going Anywhere...

According to her doctor, president Xiomara Castro has overcome her COVID-19 infection well and will return to in presence work again in four days.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1493018086005518336>

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-castro-bien-de-salud-tras-positivo-de-covid-descansara-cuatro-dias-mas/>

The new mayoral authorities in Tegucigalpa announce to invest 1 billion Lempiras to improve the drinking water supply of the capital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/alcaldia-del-distrito-central-anuncia-inversion-de-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-construccion-de-dos-represas/>

According to the RNP commissioner Óscar Rivera, the new identity cards have been handed out by now.

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-habilita-cinco-oficinas-en-tegucigalpa-y-san-pedro-para-atender-a-la-poblacion/>

The prices of basic goods has increased by 600 Lempiras the last six months.

"With a debt of 80 million Lempiras, the National Supplier of Basic Goods (Banasupro) will be handed over to the new authorities of the government of President Xiomara Castro, informed the general manager of the entity, Merlin Cárcamo."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/canasta-basica-subion-600-lempiras-seis-meses-honduras-JA5750038>

<https://confidencialhn.com/con-una-deuda-millonaria-entregaran-banasupro-al-gobierno-de-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

The MP announced to investigate the case of the expired drugs worth 215 million Lempiras (see last week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-abrira-investigacion-por-denuncia-de-l-215-millones-en-medicamentos-vencidos/>

In person classes have been further postponed. Proceso Digital cites a union leader who considers April as a next possible date.

<https://proceso.hn/magisterio-extiende-hasta-abril-posible-retorno-a-clases-presenciales/>

32 Hondurans have been extradited and sentenced in the US for drug trafficking since 2013.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/32-hondurenos-pagan-condena-narcotrafico-estados-unidos-DE5745511>

...for now.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-publica-fotos-con-perros-indirecta/>

14/02/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Guapinol; HR - Inter-Mac, US; Corruption - Pandora, de Lobo; Minimum Wage; and a Ghost Budget

Since the National Party lost the elections in November, the fate of JOH has been on everybody's mind. What options would he have left to protect himself from a deportation. When he was nominated as a member of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) many observers thought this would be his way out, but others highlighted that it does not grant him protection from an extradition (see first link below). The question about his fate became even more urgent last week when it was made public that the US had revoked his visa and put him on the Engel's List. And then came yesterday and everything went really fast. Six hours ago, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

tweeted that they had received a request by the US embassy "requesting the provisional arrest of a Honduran politician for the purpose of extradition to the United States of America".

The Supreme Court announced an "urgent" meeting at 9:30am to designate a judge for the US request.

Then the police surrounded the house of JOH.

And JOH's lawyer held a press conference.

They confirm that JOH is at home.

Reporting for Univision, Jeff Ernst and David C. Adams have multiple sources familiar with the case confirming that the extradition request is for JOH.

According to AP News, Salvador Nasralla confirmed it as well. "Nicole Navas, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Justice, declined to comment. The U.S. State Department referred requests for comment to the Justice Department. CNN en Español first reported that the politician was Hernández, showing the communication from the ministry to the court naming Hernández."

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1493429405749854208

<https://twitter.com/CancilleriaHN/status/1493358120206221313>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1493447499524235269>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1493456121079775232>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/videos-fuerte-contingente-policial-militar-rodea-vivienda-expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-extradicion-CH5779444>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1493457216334143491>

<https://proceso.hn/expresidente-hernandez-se-encuentra-en-su-residencia-en-tegucigalpa-confirma-su-abogado/>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/univision-sources-confirm-the-u-s-has-requested-the-extradition-of-former-honduran-president-hernandez>

<https://apnews.com/article/media-honduras-caribbean-arrests-united-states-fc34640a42a1443c400654f1b652c5a8>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/14/ee-uu-solicita-arresto-preventivo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-con-fines-de-extradicion/>

The Guapinol case continued in court yesterday after a turbulent last week (see previous e-mails). Honduras Now has a helpful, although sobering, summary. "Today, all parties were convened to discuss the amnesty request (to comply with the three day scheduling requirement). The defense team representing the water defenders revoked their request for the amnesty and asked the court, in light of resolutions published by the Constitutional chamber, to change the pre-trial detention status of the water defenders. The prosecution argued the Tocoa court could not rule on the request because it had to wait for instructions from the La Ceiba Appeals court (that was subject to the injunctions ruling). This is because, according to the prosecution, the Appeals court would have to issue a new resolution in relation to the pre-trial detention of the defenders in light of the Constitutional chamber's recent decision. The defense team for the water defenders argued that the Constitutional chambers decisions are publicly known and that the new rulings on the injunctions argue that the defenders' fundamental rights have been violated. A continuation of their detention (as per the Constitutional chambers ruling) is illegal and arbitrary. The three judges in the Tocoa court ruled that they would wait for communication (that apparently is on its way) from the Appeals court in La Ceiba. The court will give their decision tomorrow about whether the water defenders will be released. In response to the court's decision to delay immediately releasing the defenders, the defense attorneys present a habeas corpus [which initiates a judicial process to investigate their illegal detention]. Immediately following today's hearing, Honduran police showed up at the encampment outside of the court."

Meanwhile calls for their freedom continue, e.g. from the International Forum for Human Rights in Honduras.

OACNUDH also expressed concern about their ongoing detention.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/unexpected-rulings-from-higher-court-delay-tactics-to-continue-illegal-detention/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sigue-en-el-aire-libertad-de-los-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/foro-internacional-llama-a-la-inmediata-liberacion-y-reparacion-de-los-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/HN/status/1493398193555619841>

Estudios para la Dignidad together with representatives of the Castaños de Choloma community will hold a press conference today to denounce the human rights violations by the Inter-Mac company (see last week).

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1493344853320683526>

The US embassy met with the new Minister of Human Rights, Natalie Roque.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1493298721857196032>

Last week's ruling in the Pandora case (see previous e-mails) which confirmed the definitive dismissals granted to most of the defendants continues to be met with widespread rejection.

At the same time, it strengthens the call for international support.

<https://confidencialhn.com/uferco-lamenta-que-se-haya-otorgado-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-gran-parte-de-los-involucrados-en-la-causa-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-senala-que-el-sobreseimiento-definitivo-otorgado-a-imputados-en-caso-pandora-es-un-golpe-de-ilegalidad/>

<https://proceso.hn/asistencia-internacional-propone-jefe-de-la-uferco-para-revisar-casos-de-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

The re-trial against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo has been postponed for another week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/posponen-para-el-21-de-febrero-el-juicio-contra-rosa-elena-bonilla-y-saul-escobar/>

Labor unions will demand between a 7-12% increase in the minimum wage.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/14/obreros-pedirán-aumento-de-12-a-salario-minimo-es-elevado-dicen-empresarios/>

"Practically 60% of the budget that we supposedly have to work with is actually resources that are not there, it is a mirage, it is a fraud, this budget that we have received is exorbitant", said the official."

<https://proceso.hn/el-60-del-presupuesto-general-es-un-espejismo-dice-ministro-de-la-presidencia/>

15/02/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, DEA, US, Clan; Guapinol; HRDs; and a Financial State of Emergency

After a possibly last day in his house surrounded by police, JOH was arrested yesterday.

His first hearing will take place this morning at 10am before the judge assigned to review his extradition. This will be used to present him with the extradition request. A second hearing will later take place to present the evidence.

El Libertador writes that the hearings could take place within a week, but the speaker of the Supreme Court stated that the whole process could take up to 4 months.

The nominated judge, Edwin Francisco Ortez Cruz, has links to the National Party and played a key role in dismissing the charges against 22 public officials in the Pandora corruption case.

Leaked documents list the possible charges he faces. "1) Conspiring to traffic drugs to US; 2) Use/possession of firearms to traffic narcotics; 3) Conspiring to use/possess firearms to traffic narcotics".

<https://twitter.com/diarioelheraldo/status/1493684481319919621>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/15/esposado-de-pies-y-manos-cae-el-expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-solicitado-en-extradicion-por-estados-unidos/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/15/us-honduras-arrest-extradite-ex-president-juan-orlando-hernandez>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/joh-llevaba-casi-2-decadas-trafficando-con-drogas-y-armas-a-eeuu/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1493707637246025734>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/15/extradicion-de-hernandez-podra-tardar-de-3-a-5-dias/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-periodo-de-hasta-4-meses-podria-durar-proceso-de-extradicion-del-expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1967-magistrado-acusado-de-liberar-a-pandoros-designado-para-conocer-extradicion>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1493679770068004867>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1966-joh-envio-500-000-kilos-de-cocina-segun-nota-de-extradicion-de-ee-uu>

"The narcos, the bribes, and the recordings: The DEA has spent almost a decade building the case that led them to Juan Orlando Hernández, until recently the president of Honduras."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/analysis-state-sponsored-drug-trafficking-the-case-against-former-honduran-president>

While many applaud the swift extradition request, Hondurans and those knowing its history are well aware of the dismal role played by the US under the JOH regime in propping him up. Senator Patrick Leahy finds clear words her: "Throughout the past eight years of decay, depravity, and impunity, successive U.S. administrations sullied our reputation by treating Hernandez as a friend and partner. By making excuse after excuse for a government that had no legitimacy and that functioned as a criminal enterprise, U.S. officials lost sight of what we stand for and that our real partners are the Honduran people."

Similar words from Senator Senator Jeff Merkley: "'It was completely unacceptable that the U.S. government was supporting former President Hernández despite his extensive ties to narco-trafficking, including an alleged pattern of using campaign funds and taxpayer resources to protect and facilitate drug shipments to the United States."

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-on-the-dishonorable-legacy-of-juan-orlando-hernandez>

<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/merkley-statement-on-us-extradition-request-of-former-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-22>

<https://proceso.hn/acusacion-contr-expresidente-hernandez-un-final-apropiado-para-anos-de-abuso-senador-markley/>

Criterio investigated the fortunes amassed by the Hernández-García clan these last 12 years. "The assets found by this investigation have been registered in the capital Tegucigalpa and the departments of Lempira and Olancho. As extended family they registered at least 109 real estate properties and 11 companies. From 2010, when Juan Orlando Hernández became president of the National Congress to date, the former presidential couple registered 7 companies and 60 real estate assets whose value is around 7.8 million dollars."

<https://criterio.hn/la-cuantiosa-fortuna-de-los-hernandez-garcia-un-potentado-construido-en-doce-anos/>

"The six Guapinol water defenders have STILL NOT been released".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1493721626525028359>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/se-espera-que-en-las-proximas-recobren-la-libertad-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/las-cortes/item/3342-se-le-acabaron-las-excusas-al-poder-judicial-y-al-mp-para-mantener-en-prision-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol>

The MP exhumed the body of the indigenous defender and social communicator Pablo Hernández, murdered in San Marcos de Caiquín, on January 9, 2022.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mp-realiza-exhumacion-del-defensor-indigena-pablo-hernandez/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/exhuman-cadaver-del-lider-comunitario-pablo-isabel-hernandez-en-el-departamento-de-lempira/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-aprueba-declarar-estado-de-emergencia-fiscal-y-financiera-del-sector-publico/>

16/02/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Guapinol; Inter-Mac; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Corruption; Xiomara; and Seeing Signs

After more than seven months delay, the Supreme Court scheduled the sentencing hearing of David Castillo in the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1494129520575754242>

An urgent call was launched to demand the immediate liberation of the Guapinol defenders.

Yesterday, the Sentencing Court in Trujillo denied the request for a change of precautionary measures for the defenders.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1494136282334646274>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/tribunal-de-sentencia-de-trujillo-decide-mantener-en-prision-a-los-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/juicio-guapinol/item/3343-caso-guapinol-juez-emite-voto-disidente-contradecision-de-tribunal-de-sentencia-de-trujillo-que-desconoce-resolucion-de-la-sala-de-lo-constitucional>

<https://proceso.hn/pese-a-orden-de-liberacion-defensores-de-guapinol-siguen-bajo-detencion/>

"The companies Inter-Mac Honduras and Hola Realty try to uninstall water pump in Los Castaños de Choloma. These actions by the companies are in retaliation for the community's organizational actions against the illegal evictions they intend to promote." (see last week)

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1494075075171074052>

JOH lawyered-up before his first hearing yesterday putting together a defense team of 12 lawyers.

And according to his wife Ana García de Hernández, they also have God on their side...

Nevertheless, after in the afternoon the speaker of the Supreme Court announced that JOH would be sent to pre-trial detention at the installations of the COBRAS. The second hearing will take place in a month, on March 16.

A request for house arrest by his lawyers was denied.

A close ally of JOH, his former presidential advisor, left Honduras on the day of his arrest.

He claims to be returning soon.

At the same time, JOH's arrest raises the question if not more extradition requests will land on the Supreme Court's desk.

<https://tiempo.hn/equipo-12-abogados-conforman-defensa-joh/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/dios-peleara-por-nosotros-batalla-ana-garcia-hernandez-captura-juan-orlando-hernandez-joh-honduras-XM5835761>

<https://criterio.hn/dentro-de-un-mes-sera-segunda-audiencia-de-extradicion-de-joh-seguira-en-cuartel-de-la-policia/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1494060561755041794>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/16/mientras-joh-era-capturado-ebal-ingresaba-a-las-714-de-la-manana-a-nicaragua/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/02/16/aduana-las-manos-confirma-salida-de-ebal-diaz-a-nicaragua/>

<https://proceso.hn/sali-del-pais-y-dicen-que-hui-eso-demuestra-que-les-hago-falta-pero-regresare-pronto-ebal-diaz/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/16/consideran-que-habra-mas-solicitudes-de-extradicion-por-parte-del-gobierno-de-ee-uu/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/extradicion-contr-ex-presidente-joh-refleja-debilidad-de-justicia-hondurena/>

Criterio published part two of its investigation into JOH, his past and his drug trafficking activities (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/el-ascenso-politico-de-joh-y-sus-redes-de-corrupcion/>

President Xiomara has overcome COVID-19 and has returned to work.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1494054981426716686>

<https://criterio.hn/analistas-el-semblante-y-las-senas-de-joh-un-mensaje-clandestino-hacia-la-estructura-criminal-que-instituyo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/postura-de-manos-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-no-tiene-nada-que-ver-con-mensaje-a-maras-y-pandillas-asegura-exdirector-de-la-policia/>

17/02/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Guapinol - Threats; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Hilda, US; Xiomara - US, UN, MPP; Debt - IMF; Education; and the Story of a Honduran Clown

There is more reporting on the upcoming sentencing of David Castillo (see yesterday).

<https://copinh.org/2022/02/lectura-de-sentencia-de-caso-en-contra-de-david-castillo-el-04-de-abril-de-2022/>

<https://criterio.hn/nueve-meses-despues-corte-dara-lectura-a-fallo-contra-david-castillo-por-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

"The case of the Guapinol defenders is on the agenda of national and international human rights organizations, because it meets all the systematic patterns of persecution, threats and violence, in addition, the defenders have been clear victims of the misuse of the judicial system in Honduras, explained in Radio Progreso the lawyer Camilo Sanchez, from the Human Rights Legal Clinic of the University of Virginia in the United States."

"On the initiative of Congressman Sergio Castellanos, the National Congress approved to decorate the 8 defenders of the Guapinol River and San Pedro de Tocoa, Colon, with the distinction of Grand Cross Gold Plaque, an action that is aimed at highlighting the political persecution against environmentalists in Honduras. However, the defenders of Guapinol are clear; beyond an award, what the families of Tocoa need is the immediate cancellation of the mining project of Inversiones Los Pinares owned by Lenir Pérez, who is illegally extracting iron from a national park."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/decisiones-de-jueces-en-caso-guapinol-comprometen-internacionalmente-al-estado-hondureno/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/ambientalistas-de-guapinol-piden-a-congreso-nacional-cancelar-concesion-minera-de-lenir-perez/>

"Yesterday, February 16, 2022, after 10 p.m., a group of men on motorcycles and in a private vehicle shot at the corner of the house of Juana Zúniga, leader of the Guapinol Environmental Committee, in a serious act of aggression against her, her family and her colleagues. At least 20 shots were fired at the place where a bus was leaving with members of the Committee who were on their way to an activity today in the city of Tegucigalpa."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/02/alerta-defensoras-tiroteo-junto-a-la-vivienda-de-la-defensora-juana-ramona-zuniga/>

El Heraldo published a map of the drug trafficking network of JOH.

While in custody awaiting his second extradition hearing next month, many observers explain that the structure built up by JOH over the last 12 years inside the Judicial Power is still intact and could try to protect him.

Congress, meanwhile, nominated a special commission to investigate the compliance with extradition treaties by the Honduran justice agencies.

On average, an extradition took 100 days in Honduras, Proceso Digital listed all of them.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/interactivos/juan-orlando-hernandez-red-narcos-politicos-hondurenos-DN5834261>

<https://criterio.hn/senalan-que-estructura-de-poder-que-erigio-joh-se-conserva-dentro-de-la-corte-y-el-mp/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/17/advierten-que-parcialidad-de-corte-podria-favorecer-a-hernandez-en-el-proceso-de-extradicion/>

<https://proceso.hn/comision-legislativa-investigara-a-operadores-de-justicia-en-cumplimento-de-tratados-de-extradicion/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-extradicion-de-un-hondureno-a-eeuu-tarda-100-dias-en-promedio/>

With JOH in custody, another story from his recent past resurfaced to the headlines, the death of his sister Hilda Hernández, then a minister. She died, together with five more people in what was presented as a helicopter crash. Criterio now reports: "Directly from the Presidential House, during the government of Juan Orlando Hernández, the parents of Patricia Valladares, an infantry captain of the Armed Forces, received strong threats for requesting the investigation of the alleged plane crash in which Hilda Hernández, sister of the former governor and her companions died."

<https://criterio.hn/padres-de-edecan-recibieron-amenaza-de-casa-presidencial-para-olvidarse-del-caso-de-hilda-hernandez/>

Convicted drug trafficker and JOH ally Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez was sentenced to life in prison in the US. He has appealed the decision.

<https://proceso.hn/narcotraficante-hondureno-geovanny-fuentes-apela-sentencia-de-cadena-perpetua/>

"Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley and Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-09) today led a group of 21 lawmakers in urging the Biden administration to form a strong partnership with Honduras' new leader, President Xiomara Castro. In a letter sent to Secretary Antony Blinken, the bicameral group of lawmakers emphasize the urgency of U.S. and international backing for Castro's platform of human rights, economic, and anti-corruption reform, including her pledges to strengthen human rights protections, form a new, United Nations-led anti-corruption commission, and combat poverty and inequality. They encourage the administration to seize the opportunity presented by new Honduran leadership to seek a fresh and more constructive pathway for U.S.-Honduran relations, one that prioritizes human rights, respect for the rule of law, and inclusive economic development that all Hondurans deserve."

<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/senator-merkley-and-rep-schakowsky-lead-colleagues-in-letter-encouraging-the-administration-to-cultivate-a-strong-relationship-with-new-president-xiomara-castro-of-honduras-22>

<https://twitter.com/SenJeffMerkley/status/1494420599405518851>

The Xiomara administration officially requested a international commission against corruption and impunity in Honduras at the UN.

<https://tiempo.hn/xiomara-castro-solicita-la-cicih/>

The Xiomara administration has invited social and popular movements to present proposals to the new government. "More than 300 organizations, which are grouped in 24 Technical Committees, presented more than 500 proposals including Public Policies, Programs and Projects, preliminary drafts of PCM Decrees and Bills."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-de-las-mesas-del-poder-popular-mpp-de-los-movimientos-sociales-y-populares/>

El Libertador reports on the fiscal emergency declared by Congress this week (see previous day). Economist Claudio Salgado sees it as the only option to move forward given that the new administration received a broke country after 12 years of dictatorship.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/17/honduras-quebrada-emergencia-fiscal-de-2000-millones-era-inevitable-economista/>

Criterio reports on the problematic role the IMF played during the JOH regime whitewashing the real economic situation of the country.

<https://criterio.hn/falsa-percepcion-del-representante-del-fmi-sobre-la-economia-heredada-por-joh/>

"The teachers of the Honduran Community Education Program, better known as Proheco, reached an agreement with the authorities of the Ministry of Education, which grants them five months of contract, prior to the achievement of the definitive permanence."

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-proheco-suspenden-protestas/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cristian-el-clown-resiste-por-amor-a-un-pais-con-arte/>

18/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Azacualpa; Berta - Trial; Political Prisoners; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Israel; Xiomara - US; Labor Rights; Debt;

"GREAT NEWS! The Appeals court has overturned a previous ruling to send case against the #Guapinol defenders to trial. This essentially means the case should never have proceeded to trial in first place & defenders must be released immediately!"

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1494782224826261510>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/guapinol/las-cortes/item/3344-sobreseimiento-definitivo-corte-de-apelaciones-de-francisco-morazan-dejo-sin-valor-el-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-defensores-de-guapinol>

OACNUDH organized a three-day visit to the Azacualpa community which suffered from the social and environmental impacts of a mining project and where the expansion of the mine threatens their cemetery. "We express concern about the non-compliance with international standards on the environmental and social impact of mining activities, as well as the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, in administrative and judicial proceedings."

Yesterday, the Court of Appeals of Santa Rosa de Copán declares inadmissible the appeal filed by lawyers of MINOSA and the Municipality of La Unión, which sought to reverse the decision that ordered to stop the exhumations of the cemetery.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1494747266783002625>

<https://criterio.hn/oacnudh-conoce-in-situ-impacto-ambiental-y-social-de-minera-en-azacualpa-copan/>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1494807201382285322>

COPINH informs about the Swearing-in Hearing of the expert in charge of extracting information from two computers of Daniel Atala that have key information of crimes related to the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1494803042331504642>

The Committee for the Liberation of Political Prisoners in Honduras and the Convergence Against Continuity (CCC) denounce the arrest of José Antonio Torres Meza. He had been criminalized after the coup d'état and arrested. He was later released and now, 12 years later, he has been arrested again for the same crimes he was accused of in 2009.

COFADEH has requested amnesty for 11 people facing political persecution.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/continua-el-patron-de-criminalizacion-de-oponentes-politicos-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://criterio.hn/cofadeh-solicita-a-los-juzgados-amnistia-para-once-exiliados-y-perseguidos-politicos/>

"The natural judge in charge of the extradition process of former president Juan Orlando Hernández requested the Public Prosecutor's Office to provide information on whether the accused has any pending cases."

JOH's defense has already requested this information and the results should have been presented within 24 hours. This is key as the law prohibits the extradition of someone with an open investigation. Some now fear that the MP is inventing a secret investigation against JOH to protect him.

Meanwhile, a cousin of JOH was arrested with 400'000 Lempiras leaving one of the houses belonging to JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/juez-pide-al-ministerio-publico-que-verifique-si-expresidente-joh-posee-causa-pendiente-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-ministerio-publico-podria-decir-que-hay-una-investigacion-en-secretividad-contrajoh-alerta-abogado-oliver-erazo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/detienen-prim-expresidente-hernandez-maleta-dinero-lempira-joh-DG5877151>

JOH's case was also reported on in Israel, where the Times of Israel writes: "Former Honduras president Juan Orlando Hernández reportedly claimed to have received assurances from Israel that it would act on his behalf in the event that the US would seek his arrest on drug and weapons trafficking charges."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/honduran-ex-president-reportedly-asked-israel-to-help-prevent-his-extradition-to-us/>

President Xiomara met with the US embassy.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1494848024769703937>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1494786631626371079>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-sostiene-reunion-con-encargada-de-negocios-de-eeuu-para-dialogar-sobre-combate-a-la-corrupcion/>

Javier Suazo comments on the current discussion about the derogation of the Employment by the Hour Law. "An initial problem is that the main objective of the law passed during the JOH government was not fulfilled, which was intended to promote decent employment, maintain jobs and prevent the growth of unemployment and underemployment rates in the country" (Article No. 1 of the Hourly Employment Law). Spurious and poor quality work has become widespread, and unemployment and underemployment have been on the rise, aggravated by Covid-19, the sharp drop in public and private investment and corruption. Likewise, the law is outdated, since the principles established in the Country Vision (2010-2032) and the National Plan (2010-2022) no longer exist as guiding frameworks for policies and institutional and stakeholder interventions, as these planning instruments have been outdated and abandoned. (...) A new policy and legislation for sustainable and good quality jobs and wages is not independent of the economic and social crisis facing the country, and of the economic, financial, sectoral and social policies that the new government intends to implement. An effort must be made to build a more heterodox policy approach, so as not to fall into the facile approach of external indebtedness accompanied by indiscriminate reductions in public spending, tax increases and privatization of companies recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is partly to blame for the current crisis. The problem is no longer JOH, but the neo-liberal model set up in these 12 years and characterized by over-indebtedness, corruption, dispossession, poverty, migration and social exclusion.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/214957>

ContraCorriente reports on the fiscal emergency declared by Congress last week (see previous e-mails). ""This declaration of emergency is important because we have insufficient resources to pay for everything, and the objective of declaring emergency is because this will allow us to obtain loans with the BCH, because in article 40 of its law, in order to lend us some of its funds, it is necessary to declare the fiscal and financial emergency in which we are already in and legalize it", the undersecretary continued explaining. The vice-president of the National Congress, Hugo Noé Pino, who was also president of the Central Bank and Minister of Finance in the country, agrees with this. The congressman pointed out in the legislative session that in the first quarter of this year, specifically in the month of March, the State of Honduras will have to pay sovereign bonds, which represent a large amount of internal debt resources."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/18/nuevo-gobierno-se-declara-en-quebra-y-entra-en-estado-de-emergencia-fiscal/>

19/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - EU; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Femicide - Keyla; Corruption - Stadium; Labor Rights; and a Drug Trafficker's Crane

A group of Euro parliamentarians call for the liberation of the Guapinol defenders.

<https://proceso.hn/eurodiputados-exigen-libertad-de-defensores-hondurenos-finalistas-del-sajarov/>

JOH's lawyers appealed the decision of not allowing JOH house arrest.

A list of filed complaints against JOH at the MP made the rounds. Many fear that his extradition could be stopped by "uncovering" an open investigation against him in Honduras (see previous days).

JOH's cousin Marlon Salvador Hernández Quintanilla was released again after having been arrested leaving one of JOH's houses with 400'000 Lempiras (see yesterday).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/defensa-de-joh-apela-para-que-cumpla-arresto-en-casa-LH5876814>

<https://tiempo.hn/acusaciones-hechas-contrajoh-2015-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/barrios-fiscalia-ya-no-puede-imputar-delitos-joh/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/dejan-libre-primo-juan-orlando-hernandez-sustraer-dinero-casa-lempira-joh-marlon-salvador-quintanilla-FB5883447>

Nursing student Keyla Patricia Martínez was murdered inside a police station a year ago. Now, her mother met with the new Minister of Human Rights Natalie Roque. The Human Rights Ministry later published a press release announcing the case as a priority.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/ministra-derechos-humanos-natalie-roque-acompanara-caso-keyla-patricia-martinez-celda-intibuca-YY5881717>

Congress is moving forward in derogating various laws established under the JOH regime which promote corruption and defend those entangled in it.

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-anticorrupcion-del-cn-va-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-secretos/>

A 200 million fund approved by the Nationalist-controlled Congress in 2020 "disappeared" and the new administration demands an investigation.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/19/la-fiscalia-debe-investigar-que-paso-con-los-200-millones-que-destinaron-para-el-estadio/>

According to the Secretary of Congress, Carlos Zelaya, the Employment by the Hour Law may be reformed instead of outright derogated.

<https://proceso.hn/ley-de-empleo-por-hora-derivara-en-una-reforma-y-no-en-su-derogacion-segun-secretario-del-congreso/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/19/derogar-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-el-dilema-entre-las-violaciones-laborales-y-la-perdida-de-empleos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/aseguran-grua-valorada-en-medio-millon-dolares-fredy-marmol-BX5880737>

20/02/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - UN, Sedis; Education - UNAH; Electoral Bodies; Police; Budget;

Over the weekend, the security at the special operations commando where JOH is held was further tightened.

<https://proceso.hn/refuerzan-seguridad-en-base-policial-donde-esta-recluido-el-expresidente-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/ante-temor-de-fuga-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-extreman-medidas-en-recinto-policial/>

According to UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras Alice Shackelford, a technical mission from the UN will travel to Honduras to analyze the conditions for an international anti-corruption mission.

Libre reiterates its will to prepare the ground for such a mission by getting rid of all the harmful JOH-era laws.

<https://tiempo.hn/onu-cuando-llegaria-la-cicih-a-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/edmundo-orellana-confirma-su-participacion-en-conformacion-de-la-cicih/>

"The head of the Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (Sedis), José Carlos Cardona, denounced that 262 NGOs owe more than 417 million lempiras to the organization he leads. He said that during the investigation they found phantom payrolls and "we (thought) we were going to find corruption, but this is bigger than we thought". He added that many employees received money to carry out social projects and did nothing."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/20/titular-de-sedis-denuncia-que-unas-262-oeneges-adeudan-unos-417-millones-de-lempiras/>

La Prensa reports on the abysmal conditions of rural schools in Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/escuelas-rurales-clases-semipresenciales-honduras-DA5651173>

A bill by Libre's Rasel Tomé spurred a widespread debate. The bill seeks to eliminate the admission test or Academic Attitude Test (PAA) for admission to study at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), considered by many to be exclusive and arbitrary. Criterio has a summary of the ongoing debate.

<https://criterio.hn/polemica-entre-la-unah-y-el-congreso-genera-decreto-que-pretende-eliminar-prueba-de-admision/>

Libre has to choose replacements for both their representatives at the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE).

<https://proceso.hn/libre-convoca-a-sus-abogados-a-audiencias-para-escoger-sustitutos-de-riximoncada-y-eduardo-reina-en-cne-y-tje/>

"The authorities of the Ministry of Security and the National Police of Honduras, made several changes in the National Directorates, Departmental Units, Metropolitan and Police Headquarters, of which 40% will be commanded by female officers."

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-40-de-las-jefaturas-policiales-en-honduras-seran-dirigidas-por-mujeres/>

The Xiomara administration intends to decrease public spending by 12% saving 13 billion Lempiras. They dismiss the idea of raising taxes or creating new ones. FOSDEH's Ismael Zepeda suggests: "If the administration wants to reduce public expenditure, what it should do is to reduce the bureaucratic mass, reduce secretariats and lower the salaries of public officials and parliamentarians".

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/20/gobierno-de-honduras-anuncia-una-sustancial-reduccion-de-12-por-ciento-en-gasto-publico/>

21/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - EU; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - UN; Debt; Poverty; Labor Rights; HR; US - SOUTHCOM; China;

European embassies in Honduras called on "the competent authorities to execute, without delay, the resolutions of the Court of Appeals concerning the environmental defenders in the Guapinol case" (see previous days).

CONADEH also calls for their release.

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1495807718204051463>

<https://proceso.hn/conadeh-pide-que-no-se-siga-dilatando-libertad-de-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Judge Edwin Francisco Ortiz Cruz admitted an appeal filed by the defense lawyers of JOH, in which they request a review of the provisional detention measure.

Joaquín Mejía and Ana Pineda published an analysis of the technical-legal elements of JOH's expected extradition.

<https://criterio.hn/defensa-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-busca-cambiar-medida-de-detencion-provisional/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/elementos-tecnico-juridicos-que-fundamentan-la-extradicion/>

The congressional committee tasked with repealing all the harmful laws of the last 12 years impeding corruption investigations met with the Anti-Corruption Coalition.

<https://confidencialhn.com/coalicion-anticorrupcion-apoyara-derogacion-de-leyes-que-blindan-redes-de-corrupcion/>

Some news outlets reported that a UN-led anti-corruption mission could come to Honduras within a month. The UN now clarifies that this is not true. "The Government of Honduras recently sent a note to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, requesting support with the installation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), which will be given due follow-up for next steps. For the United Nations the fight against corruption is a fundamental pillar, so we reiterate our support to the country and the new government to eradicate this scourge."

<https://honduras.un.org/es/172872-nota-aclaratoria-sobre-la-instalacion-de-una-comision-internacional-contr-la-corrupcion-e>

President Xiomara tasked the Finance Minister Rixi Moncada to present to the public a report on the dire financial situation inherited by the JOH regime.

About half the budget is used for servicing Honduras' debt.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1495633647919116290>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/21/unos-50-de-cada-100-lempiras-es-invertido-en-el-pago-de-la-deuda-externa-hondurena/>

Congressman Hugo Noé Pino clarifies that remittances sent to Honduras won't be taxed as a consequence of a bill aiming to repeal tax exemptions.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-se-aplicara-impuestos-a-remesas-familiares-asegura-diputado-hugo-noe-pino/>

The business lobby COHEP is now open to discuss a reform to the Employment by the Hour Law.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ley-de-empleo-por-hora-puede-reformarse-para-dar-mayor-seguridad-indica-directivo-del-cohep/>

Criterio portrays the new Human Rights Minister, Natalie Roque.

<https://criterio.hn/natalie-roque-de-vivir-en-carne-propia-persecucion-politica-a-asumir-la-secretaria-de-derechos-humados/>

Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina travels to the US this week.

<https://proceso.hn/canciller-hondureno-inicia-visita-en-eeuu-para-tratar-migracion-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

The head of Southcom, Laura Richardson, is expected in Honduras this week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-anuncia-llegada-de-jefa-del-comando-sur-de-eeuu-para-tratar-temas-de-seguridad-y-defensa/>

Criterio interviews economist and former president of the Economists Association of Honduras (CHE), Julio Raudales, who recommends to the new government to start diplomatic relationships with China.

<https://criterio.hn/relaciones-diplomaticas-con-china-la-propuesta-indefinida-del-gobierno-de-honduras/>

22/02/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Mining - Azacualpa; Corruption - CSJ, JOH; and Welcome Back, Padre Tamayo

The MP informed yesterday that there are no open investigations against JOH in Honduras. This is important as many feared that such investigations would suddenly appear in order to stop the extradition of JOH to the US.

The Supreme Court will meet today at 10am to decide on the appeal by JOH's lawyers demanding house arrest for him.

"While the lawyers of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez and his wife Ana Garcia, either through legal procedures or by appealing to the sympathy of the public, seek to have the former president return home through house arrest, it is important to clarify that the agreed order governing the extradition procedure in Honduras at no time speaks of any other measure than provisional detention."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/22/el-ministerio-publico-aclara-que-no-existe-requerimiento-contr-el-extraditable-hernandez/>

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1496249918641614848>

<https://criterio.hn/auto-acordado-no-permite-arresto-domiciliario-en-casos-de-extradicion-por-narcotrafico/>

"The law firm Estudios para la Dignidad denounced that the company Minerales de Occidente S.A de C.V. (Minosa) is preparing to carry out detonations in the Maya Chortí San Andrés cemetery in Azacualpa, Copán, despite multiple orders from the Judicial Power that put a stop to mining activities in the area."

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-orden-judicial-denuncian-que-empresa-minera-realizara-detonaciones-en-cementerio-maya-chorti/>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1496175818745262084>

"The Honduran Bar Association (CAH), reacted this Tuesday to the alleged abuse of authority of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) by granting the title of notary to the sister of that branch of government, Rolando Argueta."

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-abogados-reacciona-por-presunto-abuso-de-autoridad-de-la-csj-al-otorgar-titulo-de-notario-a-hermana-de-rolando-argueta/>

<https://criterio.hn/por-entrega-de-notariado-a-favor-de-hermana-de-rolando-argueta-piden-investigar-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

"They earned substantial monthly salaries for a long time. They had privileges such as representation expenses, per diems and special bonuses. And their working hours were more flexible compared to private sector employees. And as if that were not enough, they were paid exorbitant amounts of money once they finished their time in their assigned positions; some finished early, while others did so until their term expired. The previous government presided by Juan Orlando Hernández allocated large amounts of national resources to liquidate its senior officials, including secretaries, undersecretaries, presidents and directors of central administration agencies, including decentralized entities, which ended up triggering the payment of labor indemnities at the end of last year. The State disbursed 1,156 million lempiras in benefits only in December 2021, which coincides with the departure of senior officials who received high severance payments, although the amount includes severance payments to all personnel cancelled by the government."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/data/gobierno-honduras-prestaciones-diciembre-2021-YL5926100>

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-devuelve-nacionalidad-hondurena-a-padre-tamayo-expulsado-por-oponerse-al-golpe-de-estado/>

23/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Mining - Azacualpa; OFRANEH; Amnesty; Bajo Aguán; Children's Rights; Budget; Corruption - Secrecy Law, Public Health, Journalists, UN; US - SOUTHCOM, USAID; Armed Forces - HR; and Not a Human Rights Victim

"As of today (Feb 23h, the six imprisoned water defenders have STILL not been released. The courts are taking forever to send the file to Tocoa so that judges can schedule a hearing & free them".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1496656939832557578>

MADJ and the human rights law firm Estudios para la Dignidad denounce the behavior of the mining company MINOSA and call on the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment to intervene (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1496637726640197639>

"The leader of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization, Ofrañeh, Nahúm Lalín, denounces that 50% of islets of the Cayos Cochinos are in the hands of businessmen. "We are concerned as Garifuna communities in the area and as Ofrañeh because food security is being violated, as is the right to fish because foreigners are appropriating our territories and are being favored with the complicity of the Cayos Cochinos Foundation that was created to protect the region," said Lalin."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/la-mitad-de-los-isletes-de-cayos-cochinos-estan-privatizados-denuncia-la-ofrañeh/>

COFADEH requested the application of the amnesty law to five university students from Comayagua, criminalized since 2017 for defending public education, as well as for criminalized campesinos belonging to the Empresa Campesina 11.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-solicita-que-se-aplique-amnistia-para-cinco-estudiantes-criminalizados-en-comayagua/>

"An agreement was signed today to seek an end to conflict in the Aguan Valley. The initiative will be led by the Minister of Security & involve participation of several state institutions, Defense. Institutional Development & Agrarian Institute"

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1496661976679858182>

"The Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras recognizes the violations of the rights of children living in the streets. This legal action was filed in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic by 6 organizations and is another step towards the vindication of rights.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1496658483244109827>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sala-de-lo-constitucional-admite-que-derechos-humanos-de-ninos-que-viven-en-las-calles-son-violentados/>

Libre congressman Samuel Madrid presented a bill to reduce by 50% the salaries of public employees, members of Congress and magistrates when they earn more than 60'000 Lempiras per month. This spurred a lively debate, even within Libre.

<https://criterio.hn/reduccion-de-salarios-a-congresistas-y-altos-funcionarios-en-honduras-genera-desacuerdos-entre-diputados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/diputados-podriamos-aceptar-una-rebaja-de-salario-de-un-10-o-12-carlos-umana/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/23/expertos-aplauden-mocion-para-reducir-el-salario-de-los-diputados-y-altos-funcionarios/>

Congress derogated the Secrecy Law.

https://twitter.com/CN_Honduras/status/1496680884728209411

"The head of the Ministry of Health, José Manuel Matheu, presented before the National Congress the report on the financial situation faced by the Honduran health system, highlighting a deficit of more than six billion Lempiras, in addition to illegal appointments and agreements in favor of those related to the conservative National Party."

<https://criterio.hn/ministro-de-salud-revela-calamidad-del-sistema-sanitario-y-corrupcion-en-contratacion-de-personal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/una-porqueriza-encontro-en-la-sesal-dice-el-ministro-durante-presentacion-del-informe-ante-el-congreso-nacional/>

Criterio continues to cover corruption linked to the Social Security Institute for Journalists (IPP).

<https://criterio.hn/prospero-negocio-inmobiliario-de-gerente-en-instituto-de-pensiones-de-periodistas/>

OACNUDH's Isabel Albaladejo met with the Minister of Transparency and Fight against Corruption, Edmundo Orellana, signing "a technical cooperation agenda, highlighting the link between the fight against corruption and the defense of human rights".

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1496650177993707520>

SOUTHCOM's Gen. Laura Richardson visited Honduras yesterday and met with President Xiomara and Minister of Defense José Manuel Zelaya.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1496657746032312332>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1496665426318831620>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1496613093899657219>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/23/comando-sur-afianza-relacion-estrategica-entre-eeuu-y-xiomara/>

Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina is currently in the US where he met with USAID's Samantha Power.

<https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1496592086006697986>

These visits led to several articles on the US-Honduran relationship.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/23/gobiernos-de-ee-uu-y-honduras-fortaleceran-relaciones-con-visitas-de-altos-funcionarios/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-de-xiomara-prioriza-vinculos-con-estados-unidos/>

"Defense Minister Jose Manuel Zelaya announces that the Ministry of Defense & the Joint Chief of Staff of the military will have human rights offices to follow up on human rights complaints so that these institutions “never again become enemies of the Honduran people”".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1496654235504680963>

"Ex-First Lady, Ana Garcia has made several public statements & filed complaints regarding the alleged human rights violations committed against JOH, who remains in detention. A few state human rights bodies have visited JOH & have claimed that no such violations exist".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1496660659739807745>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/23/aseguran-que-no-existe-violacion-a-ddhh-del-expresidente-herandez-tras-su-detencion/>

24/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; COPINH; Berta - Atalas; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - JOH, Secrecy; Amnesty;

After over 900 days illegally held in pre-trial detention, the Guapinol defenders have finally been freed.

OACNUDH welcomes the development, but it "also recalls the State's obligation to provide full reparation and conduct a thorough investigation of the facts that gave rise to his arbitrary deprivation of liberty, as provided by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1497022418388357121>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-justicia-liberacion-defensores-guapinol-oacnudh>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHHN/status/1497029943368290304>

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1497024093962522624>

Sadly, it was not just a day to celebrate. "Elder, spiritual leader, & long-time COPINH leader Pascualita Vásquez has become an ancestor of the Lenca people. Today, COPINH reported that Doña Pascualita passed away after a long battle against Covid. She will be sorely missed by many."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1497002108423344143>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHHN/status/1496996618347986944>

COPINH sent out an alert that the BAC Credomatic bank from Jacobo Atala, held responsible by COPINH for the murder of Berta Cáceres, has an entailment (fideicomiso) granted by the JOH regime until 2045.

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1496931450129887232>

The Supreme Court denied the appeal by JOH's legal team to allow him to be placed under house arrest. The decision was made in a plenary session and only one judge voted in favor of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/corte-suprema-niega-peticion-de-arresto-domiciliario-a-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/corte-suprema-justicia-ratifica-detencion-preventiva-contrajoh-extradicion-honduras-expresidente-CY6045004>

In her first public report on the state of the Honduran finances, the new Minister of Finance Rixi Moncada revealed that the JOH regime stole 168 billion Lempiras during its time in office. Just one day before Xiomara took office, 400 million Lempiras were withdrawn from state finances.

JOH allies are leaving the country. First Ebal Díaz (see last week), now El Libertador also reports on Martha Doblado, who received just this January 4 million Lempiras in "loans", she is now in Atlanta, in the US.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-expone-saqueo-de-las-finanzas-durante-gobiernos-nacionalistas/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-u-68-mil-millones-representa-supuesta-corrupcion-del-gobierno-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/24/finanzas-revela-que-gobierno-de-joh-saqueo-168-mil-millones-de-lempiras-de-arcas-publicas/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/24/actores-politicos-y-sociales-lamentan-la-realidad-economica-expuesta-por-finanzas/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/24/lacayos-de-joh-en-fuga-confirmada-huida-de-ebal-lisandro-y-martha/>

The Secrecy Law is not yet repealed but on the way to be (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-derogara-ley-de-secretos-y-desclasificara-documentos-de-administracion-de-joh/>

<https://proceso.hn/dictamen-para-derogar-ley-de-secretos-esta-casi-listo-anuncian-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

COFADEH had a first successful case based on the new Amnesty Law, a judge ordered the liberation of political prisoner José Antonio Torres Meza.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofاده-logra-primera-liberacion-tras-aplicar-a-amnistia-politica/>

25/02/22

Honduras Daily: Farmer's Rights; LGBTQ+; Extractivism; Amnesty; Armed Forces - Prisons; Education; Public Finances;

"The Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras declared unconstitutional the Law for the Protection of Plant Varieties, also known as Monsanto Law, approved by the Congress of the Central American country in 2012. Based on this legislation, it was prohibited to save seeds, give them away and exchange them. This initiative occurred within the framework of the advance of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), an organization that, as GRAIN

explains, "works exclusively and explicitly for the privatization of seeds worldwide, through the imposition of intellectual property rights on plant varieties." The Honduran State is one of the signatories to the UPOV Convention."

<https://www.biodiversidadla.org/Agencia-de-Noticias-Biodiversidadla/Semillas-en-manos-campesinas-un-fallo-a-favor-de-la-soberania-alimentaria-en-Honduras>

"First (huge, considering the institutionalized transphobia of the post-coup dictatorships) step by the new Honduran government in recognizing the humanity of trans people: permitting the use of their chosen name on work IDs."

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1497196354942214159>

"7 out of 10 municipalities in Honduras have at least one land concession for the installation of mining, hydroelectric, tourism, monoculture or agricultural projects, among others. These are projects whose boom began in the 2000s and which were installed in Honduras with the ideal of generating development. Hence the relevance of the question: have they contributed to the progress of the communities where they are installed? (...) Poverty indexes indicate that 60% of the Honduran population has lived without the minimum basic conditions during the last decade, according to official data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE). Similarly, unemployment and underemployment have remained a major problem. But, despite this scenario, businessmen and politicians continue to claim in their discourse that extractive companies bring progress for the communities and development for the country. (...) The common factor of extractive companies is the promise of change. While that change is translated into words like "development" or "progress", these types of companies boast of bringing benefits to communities, which helps them grow economically. (...) The communities need urgent solutions to the problems arising from poverty and unemployment, but the installation of mining, hydroelectric and other types of companies in various areas of the country has shown that extractivism is not an alternative for the generation of development for the people. On the contrary, extractivism leaves as a result the constant persecution, criminalization, prosecution and murder of villagers, who become defenders of the natural resources of their communities, a precedent that demonstrates the need to reform public policies on extractivism, to ensure respect for the human rights of communities."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/02/25/mineras-e-hidroelectricas-han-generado-desarrollo-en-los-pueblos-de-honduras/>

COFADEH continues to request freedom of defenders and political prisoners based on the new Amnesty Law. Yesterday, it was the turn of Faustino Enamorado Guillén and his brother Ovidio Enamorado Guillén, member of the Indigenous Council of Las Vegas.

COFADEH also prepares the return of exiled student leader Eduardo Urbina who had to flee Honduras in 2017.

The Amnesty Law has now also been applied for the first time to a case linked to the Mel Zelaya administration, the former Minister Enrique Flores Lanza. This was met with criticism.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-solicita-amnistia-para-defensores-criminalizados-y-torturados-de-santa-barbara/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/los-exiliados-volveremos-para-abrazar-a-nuestras-familias/>

<https://criterio.hn/flores-lanza-el-primer-exfuncionario-del-derrocado-gobierno-de-manuel-zelaya-que-se-beneficia-con-amnistia/>

President Castro assumed as the first woman the command of the Honduran Armed Forces.

"The Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces (FFAA), Rear Admiral José Jorge Fortín, asked the country for "forgiveness for the mistakes made", this occurred during the ceremony where the military institution handed over the baton of command to the first woman president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro de Zelaya."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/presidenta-xiomara-castro-cargo-comandante-general-fuerzas-armadas-honduras-XY6067312>

<https://confidencialhn.com/perdon-pueblo-hondureno-por-los-errores-cometidos-jose-jorge-fortin-jefe-de-las-ffaa/>

As one of her first acts, Xiomara announced the withdrawal of the Armed Forces from Honduran prisons.

<https://proceso.hn/la-comandante-general-de-las-ffaa-anuncia-retiro-militar-de-las-carceles/>

"After announcing the start of the school year in Honduras, both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education agreed to speed up the pediatric vaccination process and thus make possible the semi-presential return to school for children between the ages of 5 and 11. However, for children living in the poorest and most marginalized neighborhoods of Honduras, the return to school is not so simple."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/25/el-retorno-semipresencial-a-clases-choca-con-las-dificultades-de-los-barrios-pobres-de-honduras/>

After the publication of the first report on the state of public finances (see yesterday), Minister of Finance Rixi Moncada "presented a palliative plan to address the crisis, including salary reductions, sale of the presidential plane, elimination of trusts and criminal actions against those responsible for acts of corruption".

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-contempla-ejecutar-plan-de-alivio-para-enfrentar-crisis-financiera-y-economica/>

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-honduras-21-medidas-crisis-economica/>

26/02/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta; Education - UNAH; Corruption; Migration - US; State Finances;

"Today, Miriam Miranda of OFRANEH publicly denounced unknown armed men showing up in Garifuna community Triunfo de La Cruz then shortly after, she received direct threats to her phone against her person & her family telling her "shes been warned.""

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1497728151065141255>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1497661831002865665>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/02/alerta-urgente-honduras-intimidacion-y-amenazas-contr-la-vida-de-miriam-miranda-coordinadora-y-defensora-garifuna-de-la-ofraneh/>

This coming week, COPINH commemorates the sixth anniversary of the Sowing of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1497620267866243086>

"According to data from the Ministry of Education, 355,000 children are currently enrolled in the national education system, with more than 2 million still to be enrolled."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-355-mil-ninos-matriculados-en-sistema-educativo-faltan-mas-de-2-millones/>

ConttaCorriente published an overview of the current debate regarding access to university.

"Academics, experts in educational quality, leaders and former student leaders of the UNAH, agree that the Academic Aptitude Test (PAA) does generate exclusion; however, some argue that the National Congress does not have the power to eliminate it and, on the other hand, the debate on the PAA reveals other aspects, such as supply and demand at the higher level, as well as the exclusion and privatization of education that starts in primary and secondary school."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/02/26/propuesta-de-eliminar-paa-de-la-unah-desnuda-exclusion-educativa-desde-la-primaria/>

"The teachers' union rejected that the board of directors of the Instituto Nacional de Previsión del Magisterio (Inprema) tried to invest funds of this entity in a company in El Salvador. The leader of the First Honduran Teachers' Professional Association (Pricphma), Onán Cáliz, expressed his annoyance with these actions because they are disrespecting the money contributed by teachers throughout the country. (...) A total of 100 million dollars would be invested by Inprema in a funeral home in El Salvador. He exposed that the third time they intend to invest in a project, with the financing of 110 million to the Palmerola airport and 242 million to the company Alutech."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/26/rechazan-intento-de-inversion-millonaria-del-inprema-en-una-empresa-de-el-salvador/>

<https://proceso.hn/denuncian-intento-de-sustraccion-de-100-millones-de-inprema-a-una-funeraria-de-el-salvador/>

The Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, in the US last week, asked for a new Temporary Protection Status for Hondurans suffering the impacts of the two hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2019 and the pandemic.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/cancilleria-solicita-nuevo-tps-catastrofe-economica-honduras-AM6086046>

In December 2021, under the JOH regime, at least 1516 public officials earned more than 60'000 Lempiras per month. Libre congressman Samuel Madrid proposed to half the salaries of such public officials.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/data/honduras-1-500-funcionarios-ganan-arriba-60-mil-lempiras-GK6084866>

27/02/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Drug Trafficking; COVID-19 – Vaccines;

"The Guapinol and Sector San Pedro Water Defenders were finally released from illegal detention on February 24, 2022, after a 30-month battle for their freedom. They were part of the legitimate "For Water and Life" Protest Camp set up in the community of Guapinol after environmental contamination from an open-pit mining project in Carlos Escleras National Park caused rivers in the area to become muddy. (...) At least 50 truckloads, dozens of motorcycles and a bus full of supporters drove the defenders back to Guapinol where they were greeted with fireworks, applause and hugs from their loved ones, religious leaders and the organizations that make up the Municipal Committee in Defense of the Commons and Public Goods of Tocoa. At least 50 truckloads, dozens of motorcycles and a bus full of supporters drove the defenders back to Guapinol where they were greeted with fireworks, applause and hugs from their loved ones, religious leaders and the organizations that make up the Municipal Committee in Defense of the Commons and Public Goods of Tocoa."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/after-914-days-of-illegal-detention-freed-defenders-renew-commitment-to-fight-for-guapinol-river>

The National Police announced to have seized 1.4 tons of cocaine in Iriona, Colón.

<https://proceso.hn/decomisan-1-4-toneladas-de-cocaina-en-iriona-colon/>

So far, some 88'000 children between 5 and 11 years have been vaccinated in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/salud-ha-aplicado-88-mil-dosis-de-la-vacuna-a-ninos-de-5-a-11-anos/>

28/02/22

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Azacualpa, Guapinol; ZEDEs; Security Forces; Corruption - Inprema, Education, Secrecy Law; Remittances; and Every Second Courts

The Xiomara administration declared the Honduran territory free of open pit mining. This means proceeding in "the revision, suspension and cancellation of environmental licenses, permissions and concessions".

Honduras Now writes: "The announcement that declares Honduras free of open-pit mining, etc. should probably be seen more as a political position. It's definitely a *move* to suspend mining but an executive decree or law approved by Congress most likely has to accompany it".

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-se-declara-territorio-libre-de-mineria-a-cielo-abierto/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-declara-pais-libre-de-mineria-a-cielo-abierto/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1498458344503218177>

"Minister of Human Rights publicly demands MINOSA to comply with court rulings and notes the violations of rights against the Maya Chortí community of Azacualpa, Copán."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1498362294572654596>

<https://criterio.hn/aura-minerals-y-tribunal-de-copan-irrespetan-csj-y-a-pobladores-de-azacualpa/>

"The communities and organizations that make up the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, Colón are determined to continue their struggle in defense of their territories, demanding the withdrawal of Inversiones Los Pinares, the cause of the multiple environmental problems in the sector and the internal conflict in several communities."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/guapinol-va-por-sacar-a-inversiones-los-pinares-de-su-territorio/>

Webinar: "The New Neoliberal Experiment in Latin America: Honduran ZEDES or Private Cities"

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1498427097819275267>

<https://drclas.harvard.edu/event/new-neoliberal-experiment-latin-america-honduran-zedes-or-private-cities>

CESPAD reports on the challenges faced by the new authorities at the Security Ministry and the National Police, "state bodies questioned for being linked to corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime, and in a deep crisis for decades".

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/02/28/nuevas-autoridades-que-haran-con-una-secretaria-de-seguridad-salpicada-por-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico/>

El Libertador interviews Edundo Orellana, consultant to the president of Transparency and the Fight against Corruption. The former Attorney General highlights the role of a future UN anti-corruption mission and the plans of the Xiomara administration.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/02/28/entrevista-edmundo-orellana-pretendemos-que-el-gobierno-sea-mas-cercano-al-hondureno/>

The teachers' union FOMH demands from the Xiomara government the nomination of an intervention commission for the teachers' pension fund Inprema which continues to make dubious investments (see previous days).

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/02/28/el-magisterio-emplaza-al-gobierno-para-nombrar-comision-de-especialistas/>

The MP is investigating the transfer of 236 million lempiras from the National Children's Trust (Pani) to the Ministry of Education.

<https://proceso.hn/investigan-traslado-de-l-236-millones-del-pani-a-la-secretaria-de-educacion/>

With the announced repeal of the secrecy law, new corruption cases will most likely come to air.

<https://criterio.hn/derogacion-de-ley-de-secretos-podria-develar-redes-de-corrupcion-que-saquearon-el-estado/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-sus-estertores-ley-de-secretos-oficiales/>

Remittances received in Honduras in January totaled \$583.4 million, a year-on-year increase of 23.5% compared to the first month of 2021,

<https://confidencialhn.com/remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-crecieron-en-un-235-interanual-en-enero/>

"Every fraction of a degree matters.

Every voice can make a difference.

And every second counts."

<https://twitter.com/UN/status/1498259211427500035>