

01/04/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; JOH - Seizure; Minimum Wage; Budget; Health Sector; US; Prisons; Electoral Reforms; and Forced Displacement in Honduras

On the ninth anniversary of the road blockage in Río Blanco, a court denied the application of the Amnesty Law to David Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1510027764828626946>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1509945034954743813>

<https://tiempo.hn/no-ha-lugar-amnistia-para-david-castillo/>

JOH's possessions were finally seized yesterday, 30 real estate assets, eight companies, 16 vehicles and 80 financial products.

Among the properties is a hotel, the most prestigious one in Gracias, Lempira, where JOH comes from.

ContraCorriente covers the suspicious financial transactions around JOH these last days which now also include transfers properties.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/aseguramientos-e-incautaciones-contr-bienes-de-expresidente-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/joh-hizo-transacciones-financieras-y-constituyo-empresas-con-narcos-revela-el-ministerio-publico-al-incautar-y-asegurar-bienes/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/incautaciones-oabi-honduras-juan-orlando-hernandez-propiedad-narcotrafico-extradicion-GB7056976>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/01/conozca-hotel-incautado-a-exgobernante-hernandez/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/01/aseguran-mas-de-30-bienes-a-juan-orlando-hernandez-mientras-investig-an-una-transaccion-sospechosa-en-el-sistema-financiero/>

In trilateral discussions, an increase of 5%-8% of the minimum wage was agreed.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/salario-minimo-2022-2023-honduras-tabla-aumento-trabajadores-NX7055834>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fijan-el-nuevo-aumento-al-salario-minimo-en-honduras/>

The Xiomara administration is currently preparing a reform to the JOH-era budget for this year. The new government faces a dire financial situation with 50% of the budget going to service debt.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-gobierno-prepara-fuertes-medidas-ante-crisis-financiera/>

The National Party continues to try to undermine the new administration. In the last days of the JOH regime, they employed thousands of Nationalist activists at public institutions. The new government cleaned shop and now the National Party announced that they will offer lawyers to those fired.

Nationalist congressman Tomás Zambrano further claims that front line health workers are being fired as well.

Health Minister Manuel Matheu reiterated that no front line workers will be fired.

<https://confidencialhn.com/david-chavez-anuncia-que-se-pondra-a-disposicion-un-cuerpo-de-abogados-para-empleados-publicos-despedidos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-y-sus-aliados-volvieron-a-enganar-al-pueblo-diputado-tomas-zambrano-sobre-despidos-del-personal-de-salud/>

<https://proceso.hn/ministro-de-salud-descarta-que-se-este-despidiendo-personal-de-primera-linea/>

US members of Congress Ihan Omar, Chuy García and Cori Bush met with president Xiomara Castro.

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-castro-se-reune-con-congresistas-estadounidenses-para-tratar-ddhh-migracion-y-corrupcion/>

The National Police officially took control from the Armed Forces of the Támara prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-nacional-asume-control-de-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara/>

Congress is discussing a two-round presidential election.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/01/realizaran-consultas-con-parlamentarios-sobre-instauracion-de-segunda-vuelta/>

Expediente Público reports on forced displacement in Honduras.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/el-desplazamiento-forzado-un-problema-invisibilizado-en-honduras/>

02/04/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; JOH - Properties; COVID-19; Forest Fires;

La Prensa reports on an attack against journalist Leonardo Pineda from Choluteca. Driving, he was followed by another car and shot at.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/atentan-contra-periodista-leonardo-pineda-en-choluteca-XF7061462>

JOH's defense team questions the legality of the seizure of JOH's properties. But other legal experts explain its correct legal basis

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/02/juristas-apoyan-aseguramiento-de-bienes-del-extraditible-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

Honduras approved a fourth vaccine shot for front line workers.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-aplicara-cuarta-dosis-de-vacuna-anticovid-a-personal-sanitario/>

South of the capital, a forest fire has been raging for four days. It is one of over 250 forest fires this year.

<https://proceso.hn/imparable-incendio-en-el-cerro-el-cimarron/>

03/04/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Garífuna - IACtHR; JOH - Extradition, Possessions; Corruption - IHSS, Laws; and CEPAL

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the March 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/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=46077

Today and tomorrow, a hearing will take place at the Inter-American Court on Human Rights of the Garífuna community San Juan versus the State of Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/CorteIDH/status/1510740408992739328>

Proceso Digital writes about a decisive week for JOH as his final appeal, whose legality some question, will be decided this week.

<https://proceso.hn/semana-decisiva-en-extradicion-de-joh/>

"Honduran authorities executed the seizure of several properties held by Ficohsa bank after that financial institution carried out atypical operations, which were requested by the extraditable and alleged drug trafficker Juan Orlando Hernández, from the very battalion where he is being detained."

<https://lph.news/nacionales/autoridades-aseguran-propiedades-a-banco-ficohsa-tras-movimiento-de-bienes-de-extraditable-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

El Pulso reports how JOH illegally ordered the sale of 21 goods seized as part of the investigation into the IHSS corruption case.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/03/joh-ordeno-vender-ilegalmente-21-bienes-asegurados-por-megafraude-al-ihss/>

CESPAD lists some of the laws that are in place and undermine anti-corruption efforts.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/03/el-reto-en-honduras-la-derogacion-de-leyes-que-blindan-a-los-corruptos-y-la-creacion-de-un-sistema-normativo-contra-la-corrupcion/>

"The executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Alicia Bárcena, told Efe that "Latin America is facing an epochal change" and insisted that it is ready and must move towards a welfare model."

<https://confidencialhn.com/directora-de-la-cepal-ve-en-xiomara-castro-el-surgimiento-de-un-liderazgo-con-mucha-fuerza/>

04/04/22

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity; Libre; LGBTQI+; JOH - Extradition, MP; Surveillance; Violence; Poverty; Central Bank; Corruption - UN, IHSS, OABI; Migration; and Leaving, No Matter the Consequences

The German embassy visited a protest camp organized by MADJ in Pajuiles and Jilamito where inhabitants protest the imposition of hydroelectric projects.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1511010896281280514>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1511010902065172482>

Libre councilman Juan Carlos Vega was shot dead in Danlí.

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-varios-impactos-de-bala-acribillan-a-regidor-municipal-de-danli-el-paraiso/>

"Honduras ratified this Monday its request to join the United Nations group for the protection of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) people. This was informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through a statement reiterating the position of Honduras on this issue."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ratifica-solicitud-de-ingreso-al-grupo-de-naciones-unidas-para-proteccion-de-las-personas-lgbti/>

"The Ad-Hoc Constitutional Chamber that will hear the appeal filed by the defense of the former president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez, was formed on Monday by the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ)."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/sala-constitucional-recurso-amparo-juan-orlando-hernandez-extradicion-joh-KC7105581>

"The congressman of the Libertad y Refundación Party (Libre), Jari Dixon Herrera stressed this Monday that Honduras can no longer continue with the Attorney General of the Republic, Óscar Chinchilla, for having links with the dictatorship of the soon to be extraditable Juan Orlando Hernández. According to the parliamentarian, there is information linking the Attorney General of the Republic, with illegal transactions linked to the dictatorship of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez."

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-ya-no-puede-tener-un-fiscal-general-vinculado-a-la-dictadura-de-joh-recalca-jari-dixon-herrera/>

Libre congressman Yahvé Sabillón is contemplating presenting a motion demanding to investigate the use of the wiretapping law by the JOH regime.

UFERCO's Luis Santos calls for a reform of the law. "While it is true that it has produced results in some cases, in cases of high-impact corruption and in the investigation of high-ranking police officers, it had no effect, why is that?"

<https://confidencialhn.com/exhortan-al-cn-para-que-se-investigue-de-que-forma-se-utilizo-la-ley-de-escuchas-en-el-gobierno-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-problema-no-es-la-ley-es-desde-donde-se-manujan-las-intervenciones-fiscal-luis-javier-santos-sobre-la-ley-de-escuchas/>

The homicide rate so far this year is 5.3% higher than last year according to UNAH's Violence Observatory.

<https://confidencialhn.com/un-total-1144-muertes-violentas-en-el-pais-registra-ov-unah/>

Criterio reports on the dire consequences of rising prices in Honduras due to the current international state of affairs, especially the war in Ukraine.

<https://criterio.hn/conflictos-internacionales-y-subsidios-a-la-energia-agudizan-alto-coste-de-vida-de-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-conflictos-internacionales-y-medidas-populistas-de-gobiernos-agudizan-alto-coste-de-vida/>

The Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) has approved its monetary policy for the next two years.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-banco-central-de-honduras-aprueba-el-programa-monetario-2022-2023/>

"The resident coordinator of the United Nations (UN), Alice Shackelford, considered that the State of Honduras has shown a great commitment to fight corruption and impunity in the country. She indicated that the letter sent by President Xiomara Castro to the UN requesting the installation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) is an example to combat this scourge."

Shackelford met with Honduran civil society organizations on the topic.

This month, an exploratory mission of the UN will visit Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/04/existe-un-compromiso-del-gobierno-para-luchar-contrala-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-demandan-instalar-comision-anticorrupcion-que-no-responda-a-estructuras-criminales/>

<https://criterio.hn/mision-exploratoria-para-instalacion-de-comision-contrala-impunidad-visitara-honduras-en-abril/>

A new trial in the IHSS corruption case started yesterday. The accused are businesswoman and lawyer Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus and the former Deputy Administrative and Financial Manager of the IHSS, José Ramón Bertetty Osorio.

The same day, a court confirmed the trial against another 14 accused in the IHSS case.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/inicia-nuevo-juicio-por-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/confirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-14-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss-seis-guardan-prision-preventiva/>

The former head of the Administrative Office of Seized Goods (OABI) has been involved in suspicious transfers of goods (see last week). Legal experts call on the authorities to investigate.

Congress may nominate a commission to investigate the case.

According to the new leadership at OABI, they face three petitions of returning seized goods but the goods have disappeared.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/04/ven-responsabilidad-penal-contr-exfuncionarios-de-oabi-por-desaparecer-bienes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-analiza-nombrar-comision-que-investigue-pinata-denunciada-en-oabi/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/04/director-de-la-oabi-asegura-que-hay-tres-demandas-contr-esa-institucion/>

Radio Progreso reports that members of the police force are extorting migrants trying to cross Honduras on their way to the US.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/denuncian-que-policia-nacional-extorsiona-a-migrantes-en-el-oriente-de-honduras/>

"In Lucerna, a small border town in western Honduras, a worker can earn US\$36 a week, but in the United States they can earn 22 times that during the same period. The story of being kidnapped, beaten, and abandoned in the desert to achieve the dream of leaving Honduras and living with dignity in a foreign country is a story which is repeated around the country. No fear is worthy of calculated survival."

<https://contracorriente.red/en/2022/03/24/people-fleeing-a-tormented-country-arent-stopped-by-a-fear-of-being-kidnapped/>

05/04/22

Honduras Daily: Berta; LGBTQI+; JOH - Extradition; Reproductive Rights; Public Health; Corruption - OABI, Mobile Hospitals, Laws, Police, US; Budget; and New Government, Old Foreign Service

"Yesterday marked the 1st anniversary of the Feminist 'Viva Berta' Camp that was first set up outside the Supreme Court in Tegucigalpa. Recently it was vandalized by JOH supporters but was repaired and further improved."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1511485244884533252>

The Catrachas Lesbian Network produced a documentary called "28 de junio: Vicky vs Honduras" on the murder of trans woman Vicky Hernández during the coup and the fight of her family to bring her case to the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

<https://criterio.hn/historia-de-vicky-hernandez-sera-contada-en-el-cine/>

The Supreme Court seems in no hurry to resolve the last appeal presented by JOH's defense against his extradition. They just announced that they will rule after the Easter Break. It is worth repeating that the appeal presented is illegal as the extradition order does not contemplate the filing of appeals for legal protection.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/recurso-amparo-defensa-joh-sera-resuelto-despues-semana-santa-XX7132880>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/magistrados-siguen-sin-firmar-ratificacion-de-extradicion-de-joh/>

"The news about the socialization that the Ministry of Health (SESAL) will carry out with the church regarding the petition of feminist groups to eliminate the prohibition of the use of the Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP), has caused the repudiation of various sectors. Many women's rights groups and feminist organizations, as well as the general population (...) On Monday, the Honduran newspaper El Heraldo published an interview in which the Minister of Health, Manuel Matheu, affirms that the government will hold a dialogue with the Episcopal Conference and the sectors that are against and in favor of eliminating the prohibition of the PAE."

<https://criterio.hn/eliminar-la-prohibicion-de-la-pae-en-honduras-se-empantana-por-asuntos-religiosos/>

A great victory was one in the Supreme Court yesterday. "Law for Social Protection was declared unconstitutional 7 years after it was challenged in courts. The law was the framework to privatization the public healthcare system including implementing co-payments & sending patients to private (instead of public) services".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1511542280166932482>

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-declara-inconstitucional-la-ley-marco-de-proteccion-social/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/csj-declara-inconstitucional-el-articulo-56-2015-contenida-de-la-ley-marco-del-sistema-de-proteccion-social/>

Every day, we find out more about the corruption at OABI under the JOH regime (see previous e-mails). The previous director had illegally sold seized goods and in one instance, JOH had ordered him the sale of 21 goods linked to the IHSS corruption case.

"OABI has been managed as a private estate by former government officials," said CNA director Gabriela Castellanos.

Congress called on reforming the Law of the Administrative Office of Seized Goods.

OABI may even be intervened.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-bienes-ihss-oabi/>

<https://proceso.hn/exfuncionarios-compraron-a-la-oabi-el-ganado-incautado-a-los-amador-en-olanchito/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/por-irregularidades-bienes-incautados-congresistas-reformar-ley-de-oabi-CB7131127>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/05/diputados-no-descartan-intervencion-en-la-oabi-por-actos-irregulares/>

In the mobile hospitals corruption case, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Marco Bográn.

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-sin-lugar-recurso-de-reposicion-interpuesto-a-favor-de-marco-bogran/>

In a meeting with the Liberal Party, the CNA proposed reforming several laws, among them the Penal Code, to effectively fight corruption in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-propone-reformar-codigo-penal-codigo-procesal-penal-y-revisar-otras-leyes/>

Another law in need of reform is the money laundering law. Its reform allowed among others the former police commissioner Leonel Luciano Saucedo Guifarro to have charges dropped against him. He allegedly stole 3.3 million Lempiras. The MP now challenged the acquittal.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-impugna-fallo-absolutorio-a-favor-de-comisionado-general-de-policia-erradamente-justificado-en-reformas-en-materia-de-lavado-de-activos/>

Foreign Minister Enrique Reina thanked the US chargé d'affaires Anne Colleen Anne Hoyer for her support in fighting corruption in Honduras with the Decoration of the Civil Order "José Cecilio del Valle" in the Grade of "Commander".

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1511483405854195716>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-condecora-a-colleen-hoyer-de-eeuu/>

Congress will hold a special session tomorrow and Friday to reformulate the general budget for this year.

FOSDEH's Mauricio Díaz Burdett called on the administration to additionally reallocate resources as part of the reformulation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/para-aprobar-la-reformulacion-del-presupuesto-general-2022-cn-sesionara-jueves-y-viernes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-gobierno-de-castro-debe-reasignar-el-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-fosdeh/>

"Two months into her administration, President Xiomara Castro has only appointed three representatives in the foreign service, according to the Foreign Ministry, because the administration of the extraditable Juan Orlando Hernández left the posts "tied up" by the whimsical issuance of laws."

<https://criterio.hn/a-dos-meses-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-solo-ha-nombrado-tres-funcionarios-en-servicio-exterior/>

06/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - Extradition, Drug Trafficking, CSJ; Berta - Trial; Extractivism; Amnesty; US; Corruption - UFERCO, JOH; Migration - Extradition; Health Sector; Transport Sector; Electricity; Electoral Reforms; and Waiting for a Mayor

Just a day after announcing that JOH's amparo will be dealt with after Easter, the Supreme Court emitted a ruling yesterday after all. The amparo was rejected and JOH should be extradited.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/sala-ad-hoc-rechaza-recurso-de-amparo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-BD7151416>

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-declara-inadmisible-amparo-para-evitar-extradicion-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://proceso.hn/inadmisible-amparo-que-pretendia-evitar-extradicion-del-expresidente-hernandez/>

In an interview with Telemundo, A former DEA agent showed photos of JOH with members of the Valle Valle clan.

He also claims that JOH had been investigated for seven years.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/06/exagente-de-la-dea-confirma-vinculos-de-joh-con-narcotraficantes/>

<https://criterio.hn/exagente-de-la-dea-revela-que-joh-era-investigado-por-narcotrafico-desde-hace-siete-anos/>

"The Attorney General's Office, PGR, requested the National Congress for its opinion on the dismissal of the four magistrates of the Constitutional Chamber that occurred in 2012, during the term of Juan Orlando Hernández as head of the Legislative Branch."

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/pgr-pide-al-congreso-nacional-opinion-sobre-destitucion-de-magistrados-en-2012/>

COPINH announced that a court denied David Castillo's defense a request to prevent the swearing in of the expert who will extract information from Daniel Atala's computers. "The court expressed the ineptitude and inaccuracy of David Castillo's defense due to the lack of legal standing in basic

legal concepts, by filing an appeal to protect Daniel Atala's rights, even though they are not even his legal representatives."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1511759011716247559>

At the end of 2021, there were 545 mining concessions in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1511714891849256968>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-libre-de-mineria-solo-quedo-en-un-comunicado/>

Five criminalized students protesting the murder of Keyla Martínez in a police station in 2021 now benefited from the Amnesty Law and had the charges dropped against time. COFADEH had accompanied their case.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/amnistia-a-manifestantes-que-exijian-justicia-para-keyla-martinez/>

After a five-year break, the US has an ambassador again in Honduras. Today, Laura Farnsworth Dogu will arrive in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1511862366526447622>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/06/confirmado-manana-llega-nueva-embajadora-de-ee-uu-a-honduras/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos denounces that nothing have been done to fight corruption in Honduras since the MACCIH had left and he calls for a strengthened UFERCO. "With the people we have, it would take us 30 years to investigate a case like the Mission to Support Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) did."

<https://proceso.hn/lucha-contra-la-impunidad-y-corrupcion-solo-ha-sido-un-discurso-desde-que-salio-la-maccih-dice-fiscal-santos/>

The JOH regime has illegally employed more than 10'000 people between December 2021 and January 2022.

Criterio reports that at least 80% state institutions had important documents destroyed by their former authorities to hide corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-10-mil-nombramientos-irregulares-deja-el-gobierno-pasado/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-el-80-de-las-instituciones-del-estado-se-habria-destruido-informacion-para-esconder-corrupcion/>

"The United Nations System demanded on Wednesday that the Honduran Parliament act "urgently" to ensure respect for human rights and humane treatment of hundreds of migrants in a situation of human mobility in the east of the country."

There are talks about a new migrant caravan for mid-April.

<https://proceso.hn/la-onu-pide-a-honduras-urgente-accion-para-protger-ddhh-de-los-migrantes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/despues-del-proximo-15-de-abril-saldra-del-pais-hacia-ee-uu-una-nueva-caravana-migrante-itsmania-platero/>

Over 4300 Honduran children have been deported back to Honduras so far in 2022, almost 1200 of them were unaccompanied.

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-4300-ninos-hondurenos-han-sido-retornados-en-lo-que-va-de-2022/>

Libre activists held a protest outside the University Hospital demanding the replacement of its director. According to the Health Minister, the protesters are just calling themselves member of Libre and are protesting for their own benefit hoping they would get employed under a new Libre director.

The nominations for work in the public health sector have been highly politicized for years. Helga Codina, the president of the Medical Association of Honduras, denounced: "We are under a completely corrupt health system, but changes are being made in order to achieve governance, which today is a mess and we must pay attention to it."

<https://confidencialhn.com/colectivos-de-libre-abren-portones-del-hospital-escuela-y-exigen-el-cambio-de-autoridades/>

<https://proceso.hn/persisten-tomas-en-sector-salud-ministro-anuncia-audiencias-de-descargo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-nombramientos-en-la-secretaria-de-salud-no-deben-ser-por-politica-sino-por-capacidad-presidenta-del-cmh/>

Members of the public transport sector announced strike actions for today protesting against how the economic crises has touched their sector and the lack of official support.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/transportistas-anuncian-paro-nacional-jueves-7-abril-XA7147312>

El Herald reports that blackout could be common up to September among other things due to lack of rain and therefore hydroelectric energy.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/comienzan-apagones-honduras-falta-licitacion-JB7164496>

Congress will hold hearings on an electoral reform to implement a two-round presidential election.

<https://tiempo.hn/socializacion-segunda-vuelta-electoral-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-15-de-mayo-se-repetiran-elecciones-en-el-municipio-de-duyure-y-wampusirpi/>

07/04/22

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - OFRANEH, MADJ; Budget; Transport Sector; Journalists; Education; Drug Trafficking -JOH; and ZEDEs, Coming to a Town Near You

"The coordinator of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (Ofraneh), Miriam Miranda, denounced that agents of the Police Directorate of Investigation (DPI) went to the Garífuna community of San Juan this Thursday, arguing a complaint for alleged land usurpation."

<https://criterio.hn/alertan-sobre-persecucion-judicial-contra-garifunas-de-tela-atlantida-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1512117696049131520>

Indigenous rights and human rights organizations held a protest in front of the MP calling for a stop to the criminalization and eviction of indigenous peoples in Honduras.

<https://madj.org/2022/04/07/comunicado-no-mas-criminalizacion-y-despojo-contralos-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras/>

Yesterday morning, president Castro signed her first executive decrees (PCMs), one of them on the reformulation of the current budget. This will now be discussed in Congress. The budget was increased by 51 billion Lempiras and will strengthen key ministries such as health and education.

Several state bodies, 17 in total, will be abolished.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1512276166190657539>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-enviara-al-congreso-nacional-la-reformulacion-del-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-para-su-aprobacion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/gobierno-xiomara-crea-nueva-estructura-poder-ejecutivo-HL7184832>

As announced, the transport sector started a nationwide strike yesterday. But they did not only lie down work but blocked key highways throughout Honduras.

Xiomara reacted: "The transportation strike is totally unjustified. I reduced Diesel prices by L10 and L13; more than 4 billion. Protesting is a right, stopping traffic is an illegal act punishable by law and represents a boycott of my government. There is NO dialogue until the strike is suspended."

Transport workers later stopped their protest to start a dialogue with the government.

Xiomara invited them to the Casa Presidencial in the evening to discuss how to face the fuel and transportation crisis and present solutions by already next Tuesday.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/07/los-dirigentes-de-transporte-realizan-tomas-ihtt-las-tacha-de-injustas/>

<https://criterio.hn/transportistas-enfrentan-a-xiomara-castro-en-busca-de-aumentos/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1512132658981179396>

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-suspenden-paralizacion-para-iniciar-dialogo-con-el-gobierno/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1512166449493721092>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/paro-transporte-honduras-xiomara-castro-nombra-comision-DN7179173>

"Manuel Serén, a journalist, was threatened on Saturday, April 2, with legal action against him for the exercise of his profession by an official of the Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS). Serén, who works for the digital newspaper Reporteros de Investigación, reported that an official, whose name he requested to be withheld for security reasons, threatened to sue him if he did not delete a publication following an interview with the head of SEDIS, José Carlos Cardona."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1466-funcionario-de-sedis-amenaza-con-querellar-a-periodista>

Minister of Education Daniel Sponda called for a return to in-person classes by April 18.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/secretaria-de-educacion-ordena-volver-a-clases-presenciales-a-partir-del-lunes-18-de-abril/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-anuncia-retorno-a-clases-presenciales-en-todos-los-niveles-a-partir-del-18-de-abril/>

The former head of the police, Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla”, had his first extradition hearing yesterday.

<https://proceso.hn/el-tigre-comparece-ante-el-juez-a-merced-de-ser-extraditado/>

"In recent days there has been criticism against the presidency of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), because the signatures of the magistrates have not been collected for the ruling of extradition of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, in response to these comments the Judiciary reported that a total of 11 magistrates have already signed the ruling."

<https://proceso.hn/11-magistrados-han-firmado-fallo-de-extradicion-de-hernandez-confirma-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-continuan-honduras-y-el-salvador-a-la-venta-en-praga/>

09/04/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Corruption - US; Drug Trafficking; Judicial Power; Budget; Elections; Migration - US; Xiomara; and Weekend Shopping

"The Honduran justice system, which during the government of the extraditable Juan Orlando Hernández persecuted its opponents, among them journalists, continues in its evident function of persecution and harassment. This midday, the arbitrary arrest of César Omar Silva, journalist of Une TV, was reported. After several hours he was released due to the diverse reactions of human rights organizations and other sectors that condemned his detention for almost five hours."

He is accused of libel and slander, which were commonly used under the JOH regime to silence critics. Silva's arrest now strengthens calls again to decriminalize such crimes against honor.

<https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-arrecia-contr-periodistas-opositores-al-regimen-de-joh/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3355-arresto-del-periodista-cesar-silva-reabre-el-debate-sobre-la-despenalizacion-de-los-delitos-contr-el-honor>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1512507519540809731>

"US Senators Tim Kaine and Patrick Leahy asked US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to support the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) to outlast the Xiomara Castro administration. In a letter, the U.S. senators ask that the commission receive the necessary funding to accomplish its mission, and that it consult sufficiently with Honduran civil society organizations, which are key stakeholders in the fight against corruption."

<https://criterio.hn/una-cicih-sin-sesgos-y-sin-injerencias-de-poderes-visualizan-senadores-de-ee-uu/>

<https://proceso.hn/senadores-piden-al-departamento-de-estado-de-eeuu-que-cicih-perdure-mas-alla-de-la-administracion-de-xiomara-castro/>

https://twitter.com/thelma_mejia/status/1512608818282254336

The extradition of former police chief Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla Valladares was granted by a Honduran court.

In JOH's case, there are still two signatures of Supreme Court judges missing.

Once the 15 signatures are together, the designated judge must order JOH's extradition to the US.

Next week, former Honduran congressman Fredy Nájera will face the next hearing in the US. US prosecutors will present their evidence for his involvement in drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/corte-suprema-de-honduras-da-luz-verde-para-extradicion-de-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://proceso.hn/autorizan-extradicion-de-exjefe-policial-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://proceso.hn/dos-firmas-y-dos-votos-particulares-dilatan-proceso-de-extradicion-de-joh/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/extradicion-expresidente-hernandez-narcotrafico-csj-juez-natural>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/fiscalia-eeuu-fredy-najera-controla-narcopistas-catacamas-olancho-BL7195517>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1512578005113126912>

"We welcome the proposed law presented by Minister Orellana (...) We welcome the bill presented by Minister Orellana, elaborated with the technical support of OACNUDH to strengthen the mechanism for the election of Supreme Court Justices."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1512449583028350983>

Congress approved the reformulated budget (see Friday).

The new budget includes a 400 million Lempiras increase for the National Electoral Council (CNE) which was criticized by the opposition.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1512383265537200128

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-aumenta-400-millones-de-lempiras-en-presupuesto-del-cne-para-organizar-consultas-populares/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/aprobada-reformulacion-del-presupuesto-general/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/08/las-bancadas-opositoras-cuestionan-aumento-del-presupuesto-al-cne/>

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) reversed a decision by the CNE to disqualify Erasmo Portillo as a Nationalist deputy to Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/tje-anula-resolucion-del-cne-que-inhabilitaba-al-diputado-erasmo-portillo/>

"The deportation of Hondurans, mainly from the United States and Mexico, increased by 84.2% in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the same period of 2021, the Consular and Migration Observatory of Honduras reported this Friday."

<https://confidencial.hn.com/en-un-842-aumento-la-deportacion-de-migrantes-hondurenos-en-primer-trimestre/>

US president Biden proposed the creation of a regional migration pact of the Americas.

<https://proceso.hn/biden-plantea-un-pacto-migratorio-como-objetivo-de-la-cumbre-de-las-americas/>

Héctor Manuel Zelaya requested to have himself down-ranked to the position of an advisor in his mother's cabinet.

<https://tiempo.hn/hector-zelaya-sera-asesor/>

<https://proceso.hn/embajadora-de-eeuu-visita-a-emprendedores-del-bazar-del-sabado/>

10/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - Extradition; Mining - Azacualpa; Poverty; Cannabis; Elections; Amnesty; and Geopolitical Woes

There are still two missing signatures in the way of JOH's extradition (see yesterday). The one by magistrate Wilfredo Méndez apparently will follow tomorrow. The second one, Reynaldo Hernández, is not in Honduras and it is unclear when he will return.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/extradicion-joh-firma-fallo-juan-orlando-hernandez-eeuu-narcotrafico-AJ7209075>

CESPAD published an analysis of the mining conflict in Azacualpa. "We understand socio-environmental conflicts to be those related to access to and control of the common goods of nature and territory, involving diverse actors, with divergent interests and values, in a context of great asymmetry of power. An emblematic case with these characteristics, among many others, is that of the Azacualpa community in the municipality of La Unión, department of Copán, Honduras. This is the scenario of an ongoing and long-standing territorial conflict, which has its origins in 1998, when the mining company Greenstone Minerals, of Canadian capital, began operations in the area (Orellana Peña, 2016), which gradually changed its corporate name, until it currently operates under the name Minerales de Occidente S.A. (MINOSA)."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/10/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-azacualpa-que-hacer-alrededor-del-conflicto-socioambiental/>

The price of basic goods has increased by 68 Lempiras in the first three months of 2022.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/10/cohep-asegura-que-el-precio-de-la-canasta-basica-aumento-68-lempiras/>

Vice-president Salvador Nasralla proposed the legalization of the cultivation of medicinal cannabis.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/10/nasralla-propone-cultivar-cannabis-en-honduras-diputados-apoyan-propuesta/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/salvador-nasralla-legalizar-cultivo-cannabis-honduras-CX7202567>

"The commissioner of the Financing, Transparency and Oversight Unit or Clean Politics, German Espinal, warned again that the candidates who participated in the primary and general elections and did not present their financial reports will be sanctioned. (...) He pointed out that "if they do not present their reports, then they will be sanctioned morally and politically with the publication of

their names to those who did not comply with the law", in addition those people will be sanctioned with 15 or 20 minimum salaries."

<https://confidencialhn.com/unidad-de-politica-limpia-advierte-que-publicara-los-nombres-de-los-candidatos-que-no-presentaron-sus-informes-financieros/>

The Amnesty Law was applied again in a dubious case. The former mayor of San Pedro Sula, Rodolfo Padilla Sunseri, was accused among other things of embezzlement. A previous court denied his case the application of the Amnesty Law, but in a second try, he was now successful.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/10/justicia-beneficia-con-amnistia-al-exalcalde-sampedrano-padilla-sunseri/>

The Xiomara administration faced some criticism for being too close to the US and as a consequence Israel, which has been one of the strongest allies of JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-condena-los-actos-terroristas-que-violentan-los-derechos-humanos-del-pueblo-de-israel/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1513226447506321409>

11/04/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; ZEDES; Violence against Women; Maquilas; Corruption - US; Congress; Police; Poverty; Water; Public Health; Education; and Geopolitical Woes

The Women Human Rights Lawyers Network published a video of the case of criminalized defender Yenni Aguilar. She is part of the Los Prados community resisting the imposition of the "mega solar energy project Los Prados".

The Women Human Rights Defenders Network denounced that police agents intimidated OFRANEH defender Melissa Martínez.

<https://twitter.com/reddeabogadas/status/1513614742014865419>

<https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1513327446782881796>

"The Observatory for Justice for the Guapinol River Defenders urged the Honduran State to compensate the damages caused, investigate and punish those responsible for the events and offer immediate physical and psychological protection measures to the defenders and their environment."

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-resarcir-danos-investigar-y-sancionar-a-responsables-de-la-detencion-ilegal-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Congress' president Luis Redondo spoke out in favor of a popular consultation on the ZEDEs and mining in Honduras.

<https://www.radioamerica.hn/presidente-del-congreso-favor-de-consultar-al-pueblo-sobre-las-zedes-y-explotacion-de-minas/>

"In Honduras, violence against women has grown alarmingly to reach the highest point of its manifestation, femicide. This is confirmed by the Center for Women's Rights (CDM), updating that up to March 31 there have been 82 violent deaths of women."

<https://criterio.hn/marzo-cerro-con-82-feminicidios-y-mujeres-piden-aprobar-ley-integral-contra-la-violencia/>

Criterio published an investigation into the maquila sector in Honduras, "The maquila in Honduras, A body-destroying machine".

<https://criterio.hn/la-maquila-en-honduras-una-maquina-destructora-de-cuerpos/>

UFERCO supports the call by US Senators (see previous e-mail) that the installation of an international anti-corruption mission in Honduras needs to be long-term.

<https://twitter.com/UFERCO1/status/1513694351171457026>

https://www.kaine.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/kaine-leahy_state_dept.letteronhondurascicih.pdf

Vice-president Doris Gutiérrez denounced that many cabinet members have not lowered their salaries as initially promised.

Another development in Congress caused concern. Members of Congress reactivated a disputed law from the JOH-era time which allows them to spend money on projects in their departments. Every member of Congress has 1 million Lempiras at their disposal and their deputies have another 500'000 Lempiras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/11/se-hacen-los-papos-gutierrez-regana-a-funcionarios-que-no-se-bajan-el-sueldo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/diputado-confirma-regreso-fondo-departamental-honduras/>

ATIC seized 83 properties belonging to two former police commissioners, Marcelino Flores and José Zavala, accused of money laundering.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/11/aseguran-unos-83-bienes-a-dos-exoficiales-de-policia-habrian-lavado-dinero/>

According to Honduran authorities, poverty has reached some 7 million Hondurans.

Remittances sent to Honduras were 22% higher in the first three months of 2022 compared to 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/sag-asegura-que-7-millones-de-hondurenos-estan-en-linea-de-pobreza/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-suben-el-22-entre-enero-y-marzo-de-2022/>

Due to lack of rain and wild fires, water rationing could continue in the capital.

<https://proceso.hn/racionamientos-de-agua-podrian-prolongarse-cada-15-dias-a-causa-de-incendios-y-falta-de-lluvias/>

El Heraldo spoke with Health Minister José Manuel Matheu about the priorities of his ministry.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/honduras-exportacion-medicos-espana-trabajo-legal-MY7212394>

After the Easter Week, Honduran children will return to classes.

UNICEF and UNESCO welcome this.

<https://confidencialhn.com/que-semana-santa-sirva-para-preparar-nuestros-ninos-su-regreso-a-clases-pide-ministro-de-educacion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unicef-y-unesco-aplauden-el-retorno-de-las-clases-presenciales-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-muestra-una-confusa-politica-internacional-entre-su-discurso-y-sus-posturas/>

12/04/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; ZEDEs - US; Corruption - Congress; Transparency; Migration; Prisons; Public Health; and 225 Years in Honduras

Social communicator Elder Martínez was threatened and then run over by a motorbike leaving him unconscious on the ground on April 10.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1467-imparables-las-violaciones-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras>

The 15 signatures of Supreme Court magistrates needed to confirm JOH's extradition have finally been recollecting.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/completas-las-firmas-en-expediente-de-extradicion-de-joh/>

Former head of police Juan Carlos «El Tigre» Bonilla Valladares appealed his extradition to the US.

In the US, the first day of the hearing against Fredy Nájera Montoya took place. "During the hearing, the name of former Liberal presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal came up, to whom the Sinaloa cartel allegedly gave \$1 million for his campaign, and funds were also given to former President Juan Orlando Hernandez for the same purpose."

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensa-de-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-apela-decision-de-juez-que-resolvio-la-extradicion-a-eeuu/>

<https://proceso.hn/primer-dia-de-audiencia-a-fredy-najera-revela-tentaculos-del-narcopoder/>

Colón declared its territory free of ZEDEs.

"The advisor to presidential designee Doris Gutiérrez, Andres Benedith, announced that the government of President Xiomara Castro is taking action in the matter of the repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (Zedes). He added that part of these actions is that "a special commissioner has already been appointed and he will have the task of analyzing and visualizing the issue in the best possible way"."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/colon-se-declara-libre-de-zedes-y-exige-derogar-ley/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/12/aseguran-que-gobierno-de-castro-esta-trabajando-en-derogacion-de-las-zedes/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-zedes-no-deberian-de-existir-en-honduras-mel-zelaya/>

Criterio reports that the president of the ZEDE Próspera is a US state senator from Mississippi, Joel Bomgar.

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-zede-prospera-es-congresista-estatal-de-misisipi-estados-unidos/>

The controversy about the departmental funds for members of Congress continues (see yesterday). Under the JOH regime, congresswo/men had access to millions to spend on "social projects" in their department. Yesterday, Libre congressman Octavio Morales confirmed that the Special Law of the Social Departmental Fund was reactivated.

Vice president of Congress Hugo Noe Pino and many others then said that this was not the case.

Luis Redondo himself called it an outright lie.

But the situation is not as clear cut. Several news outlets report that a possible replacement of the fund was meant to be created (some say it has already been created, others say it is on its way).

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1513950033640628225

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-reactivara-fondo-departamental-sin-que-diputados-toquen-recursos/>

<https://twitter.com/hnoepino/status/1513934403310919688>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1513964404185964547

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/12/eufemismo-de-redondo-congreso-reactiva-con-otro-nombre-fondo-departamental/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-anuncia-ley-especial-para-que-diputados-gestionen-proyectos-con-fines-proselitistas/>

<https://criterio.hn/fondo-departamental-esta-vigente-mientras-congreso-no-derogue-ley-especial-aprobada-en-2019/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3357-contradicciones-sobre-aprobacion-en-cn-de-fondo-social-con-las-mismas-caracteristicas-del-cuestionado-fondo-departamental>

<https://proceso.hn/fondo-departamental-cambia-de-nombre-confirma-el-titular-del-legislativo/>

"More than two months after the installation of the new National Congress under the leadership of the deputy of the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH), Luis Redondo, laws continue to be sanctioned, repealed and approved without recording the votes of the 128 congressmen due to the lack of a verification system. With a show of hands, Honduran congressmen conduct legislative sessions in the absence of an electronic voting system, so it is not possible to determine with veracity and transparency if the requirements to approve, sanction or repeal laws have been met."

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-continua-aprobando-leyes-sin-sistema-para-consignar-votos-de-diputados/>

"The National Institute of Migration of Honduras (INM), resolved this Tuesday to declare an exception to the payment of the administrative sanction contemplated in article 104 numeral one of the Migration Law to irregular migrants who entered from April 13 to 17, 2022, resuming such collection on April 18, 2022. It is important to mention that the exception only benefits migrants who entered irregularly on the aforementioned date."

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-declara-excepcion-de-pago-de-sancion-administrativa-para-migrantes-irregulares/>

"After President Xiomara Castro ordered the demilitarization of prisons throughout Honduras, the National Police took command of the penitentiary system and will have 10 months to reorganize the authorities of the various prisons in order to curb violence and improve the conditions of those

deprived of liberty. Different human rights organizations assure that this cannot be guaranteed unless civilians are in charge of the penitentiary system."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/12/desmilitarizacion-en-carceles-comienza-a-paso-lento-y-sin-garantias-de-detener-violencia/>

"The government of Honduras announced through the Minister for the Promotion of Development and Science, Mary Lorena Vallecillo, that progress has been made in the design and development of the first National Laboratory of Biological Molecules and Health Prototypes for the development of drugs for the national healthcare system. This project is being developed jointly with the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and other strategic allies."

IHSS director Adriana Zúniga denounces receiving death threats by a private security company.

<https://criterio.hn/proponen-creacion-de-laboratorio-para-elaborar-medicinas-para-abastecer-sistema-sanitario-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/directora-del-ihss-denuncia-que-recibe-amenazas-de-una-empresa-de-seguridad/>

President Castro met with the new US ambassador Laura Fansworth Dogu.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/embajadora-laura-fansworth-xiomara-castro-estados-unidos-honduras-reunion-BI7390470>

<https://criterio.hn/225-anos-de-presencia-garifuna-en-honduras-y-su-territorio-continua-en-disputa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/garifunas-conmemoran-225-anos-de-la-llegada-de-sus-ancestros-a-honduras/>

13/04/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; ZEDEs; Budget - Congress; Health Sector; Transport Sector; and Drunk Easter

The resolution for the extradition of JOH was sent from the Supreme Court to the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Enrique Reina said that he will sign it immediately and send it to the US embassy. According to the Minister of Security, Ramón Sabillón, JOH will be extradited next week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/resolucion-extradicion-joh-cancilleria-narcotrafico-KY7515639>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/13/cancilleria-firma-hoy-extradicion-de-juan-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/extradicion-joh-narcotrafico-estados-unidos-proxima-semana-ramon-sabillon-EK7518565>

The Pro Honduras Network reports from the hearing against Fredy Nájera in New York (see also yesterday).

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/04/13/juan-orlando-hernandez-vinculado-con-el-cartel-de-sinaloa-en-audiencias-de-fredy-najera/>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/04/13/yani-roenthal-recibio-un-millon-de-dolares-del-cartel-de-sinaloa-a-cambio-de-proteccion-a-cargamentos-de-cocaina/>

After announcing that he is in favor of a popular consultation regarding the ZEDEs, Congress' president Luis Redondo doubles down and states that the ZEDEs will disappear from Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/seran-derogadas-digan-lo-que-digan-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-sobre-las-zedes/>

There are still a lot of questions regarding the possibility of members of Congress to support projects in their departments (see yesterday), which in the past has been a source of corruption. ContraCorriente links this with last week's decision to reformulate the 2022 budget and highlights some problem in the new budget, especially the fact that military spending remains as high as ever.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/13/diputados-gestionaran-proyectos-sociales-tras-aumento-desmesurado-del-16-al-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/13/nuevo-congreso-viejas-manas-192-millones-se-repartiran-diputados-en-2022/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/13/fondo-social-del-congreso-es-nulo-por-usurpacion-constitucionalista/>

The fate of front line health workers remains unresolved. Back in March 2020, an executive decree allowed the employment of frontline health workers in response to the pandemic. But in December 2021, their contracts run out. Congress has taken measures to safeguard the health workers, but the problems remain. "Suyapa Figueroa, congresswoman for the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH) and former president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), assures that she has received many letters from health personnel in which they express that their contracts for professional services have been terminated since the end of December. In view of this, the congresswoman indicates that, although it was irresponsible of the Hernández government to appoint health personnel by means of decrees without having the budgetary support, the current government should review these appointments of health personnel before they are cancelled. (...) Ligia Ramos, congresswoman for the same party, agrees with this. Ramos states that in the repeal of the PCM issued at the end of 2021, the deputies of the Libre Party and the PSH applied a safeguard so that this repeal would not affect frontline staff. "I know that the position of the Secretary of Health is to give them appointment and agreement to the health personnel, then we do not know what is happening with the dismissals to the health personnel. It could be that there are people in middle management who are making these decisions to make the government look bad," Ramos said."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/13/sin-pago-y-en-medio-de-despidos-personal-de-primera-linea-contra-el-covid-19-en-honduras-continua-sin-nombramientos/>

After three days of talks, the Xiomara administration and the transport sector came to an agreement. "According to the agreement signed, the cab service will continue to charge 20 lempiras, but a fourth passenger is authorized. In the case of urban transportation, a subsidy of three lempiras was approved directly to the user. While in the interurban service, the increase of seven cents does not apply to concessionaires who had authorized fares above this amount. For the Mototaxi sector, the government committed to lower the registration fee for a Mototaxi from 5,500 to 2,000 lempiras."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/gobierno-y-transportistas-firman-acuerdo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/13/gobierno-y-transportistas-firman-acuerdos-tras-varios-dias-de-paro-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/eliminan-ley-seca-honduras-semana-santa/>

15/04/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Migration; Church; FoE; Budget - HR; Education;

Avispa Midia reports on the recent hearing at the Inter-American Court for Human Rights (IACtHR) regarding the case of the two Garífuna communities San Juan and Tornabé.

<https://avispa.org/garifunas-piden-ante-la-corte-idh-reconocimiento-de-su-territorio/>

Yesterday, a small migrant caravan made its way to the Guatemalan border.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-una-nueva-caravana-migratoria-salen-hondurenos/>

Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez, a close ally of JOH and in favor of the coup, will retire in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cardenal-rodriguez-pide-a-los-hondurenos-no-cansarse-de-hacer-el-bien-en-misa-crismal/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/14/el-cardenal-de-la-opcion-por-los-pobres-al-desprecio-del-projimo-y-traicion-de-cristo/>

<https://proceso.hn/iglesia-debera-sustituir-a-cuatro-obispos-y-normar-un-nuevo-arzobispo-en-honduras/>

The former head of the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) and long-time backer of JOH, Dagoberto Rodríguez, is now attacking the Xiomara administration for an announced plan to fight fake news.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/expresidente-cph-alerta-maniobra-gubernamental-contrala-libertad-de-expresion-y-prensa-en-honduras-JD7533391>

Pasos de Animal Grande criticizes the reformulated budget from a human rights perspective. "In the general budget of the Republic only 0.069 percent is destined for institutions that must attend to victims of human rights violations, a meager amount of 247 million 674 thousand 512 lempiras compared to the expenditure assigned to the Secretariat of Security which totals 7 billion 850 million 251 thousand 535 lempiras, which leaves doubts about the strengthening of the protection of

fundamental rights, which President Xiomara Castro announced in her campaign promises before becoming president."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3358-menos-del-uno-por-ciento-en-el-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-para-instituciones-que-atienden-victimas-de-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

Minister of Education, Daniel Esponda, confirms again that starting Monday, children will return to class.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/15/a-clases-presenciales-el-lunes-18-de-abril-afirma-el-titular-de-educacion/>

17/04/22

Honduras Daily: Migration - US; Poverty; Police; Israel; Church; and Olivia vs. Goliath

A young Honduran teacher, Daniela Milagros Domínguez Flores, died on her way to the US. "The young woman died, according to reports from her family, when she had already managed to climb the border fence and unfortunately suffered a fatal fall."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/hondurenosenelmundo/maestra-hondurena-muere-al-caer-del-muro-fronterizo-en-el-paso-FB7542968>

The basket of basic goods costs more in Honduras than a minimum wage.

<https://proceso.hn/adquirir-la-canasta-basica-en-honduras-requiere-mas-del-salario-minimo-asevera-asociacion-del-consumidor/>

"Silvia Marcela Amaya, interim director of the Directorate of Police Disciplinary Affairs (Didadpol), reported that an investigation has been opened into the events that occurred in Nueva Arcadia, Copán to determine disciplinary responsibilities. This Saturday a video surfaced of an altercation in a local community of Chalmeca in Nueva Arcadia, Copán where police officers are involved. The video shows the excessive use of force by the uniformed officers."

<https://confidencialhn.com/didadpol-abre-investigacion-de-oficio-por-supuesto-abuso-de-la-fuerza-de-policias-en-nueva-arcadia-copan/>

A statement of solidarity with Israel, whose government backed the JOH-regime, caused some criticism a few days ago (see previous e-mail). Now, the Xiomara administration published another statement, this time denouncing the deadly attacks by Israeli state security forces on Palestinian protesters.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/honduras-condena-ataque-de-israel-en-contra-de-palestinos-durante-celebracion-del-ramadan-HG7549867>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-lamenta-los-ataques-de-israel-contra-la-poblacion-civil-palestina-en-el-marco-del-ramadan/>

Proceso Digital reports on the imminent changes at the Catholic church in Honduras (see previous e-mail).

<https://proceso.hn/tras-un-legado-por-honduras-iglesia-renueva-su-cupula/>

"Olivia Aurora was fired in September 2016 and since then she initiated a legal battle against Grupo Karims, the conglomerate owned by Yusuf Amdani, a Pakistani with Honduran nationality who owns the Altara shopping center, Altia Business Park, Merendón Hills and the giant Green Valley maquiladora park."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/03/30/la-obrera-que-vencio-en-juicio-al-hombre-mas-rico-de-honduras/>

18/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - Extradition, MP; ZEDEs; Xiomara; Education; Budget - Xiomara, Armed Forces; Drinking Water; Forest Fires; Debt; Transport Sector; and An Student Elections

The DEA inspected yesterday the Cobras facilities where JOH is held to prepare his extradition.

Everything seems to be ready.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/dea-realiza-inspeccion-los-cobras-extradicion-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-KI7659783>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-nacional-lista-para-entregar-al-extraditable-juan-orlando-hernandez-a-la-dea/>

"The president of the Extradition Commission, Ramón Barrios, advanced that one of his recommendations for the final report of the committee is to develop the political trial against the Attorney General, Óscar Fernando Chinchilla (2016-2023), for his actions far from the role conferred to him by the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/comision-de-extradicion-solicitar-juicio-politico-contr-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla/>

Criterio continues to cover the people behind the ZEDE Próspera (see also last week).

<https://criterio.hn/exfuncionarios-de-ee-uu-entre-directivos-del-centro-financiero-de-zede-prospera/>

Tomás Vaquero is the head of the newly created Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) which replaces the Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS).

<https://confidencialhn.com/sedesol-sustituira-a-sedis-y-sera-el-brazo-ejecutor-social-del-gobierno-de-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

Schools were meant to reopen yesterday, some 3000 actually did so, but many remained closed.

"After more than two years of paralyzed educational system, there is still a notable resistance to the return to classes in Honduras, being the main arguments the lack of structure, lack of conditioning of the institutes, added to the obstacle of the covid pandemic and the negligence of parents and teachers."

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-medias-inician-las-clases-presenciales-en-la-educacion-publica-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/tibio-regreso-a-clases-presenciales-este-lunes-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-estructura-pandemia-y-negligencia-de-padres-y-docentes-empanan-retorno-a-clases/>

Criterio reports that the reformulated budget included 15 million Lempiras as part of the Financial Services of the Central Administration (SFAC) which are controlled by president Xiomara Castro herself.

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-l-15-mil-millones-seran-administrados-por-xiomara-castro-para-refundar-honduras/>

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to cover the reformulated budget and military spending (see last week). "In 2021, the Ministry of Defense exceeded its budget expenditure by almost 872 million lempiras because it did not execute the 8,464 million 949,206 lempiras approved by the National Congress but L.9,336,149,156. And in the first days of this month and for 2022, the deputies validated and approved the L.9,336,149,156,156 that it executed the previous year."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3359-segun-datos-oficiales-en-la-misma-ruta-presupuestaria-para-militares-y-policias-que-en-2021>

Some feared that water rationing in the capital would become even tighter but SANAA assured that they stay with the current schedule of once per week.

<https://proceso.hn/sanaa-reitera-que-no-incrementaran-rationamientos-de-agua/>

Forest fires have already affected more than 25'000 hectares this year in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/incendios-forestales-han-afectado-25526-hectareas-en-honduras-este-ano/>

Public debt is at about \$9.2 billion, slightly less than one year ago.

<https://confidencialhn.com/deuda-publica-de-honduras-suma-9-2022-millones-de-dolares-en-primer-bimestre/>

Last week's deal with the transport sector (see previous e-mails) is being criticized. The Xiomara administration argued that it won't affect Hondurans, but consumer protection organizations dispute this.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-disfraza-aumento-a-la-tarifa-del-transporte-mientras-sectores-lo-califican-como-trancazo/>

"The students of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) held elections for the first time since 2004 to choose their representatives to the different bodies that govern the university. However, although there is a climate of optimism among both the student community

and the authorities, the conflicts that led the alma mater into a governance crisis are still far from being resolved."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/18/unah-realiza-elecciones-estudiantiles-por-primera-vez-en-18-anos-pero-la-crisis-de-gobernabilidad-continua/>

19/04/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Surveillance; Corruption - UN, Budget, Congress, MACCIH, IHSS, SEDIS; Public Health; Transport Sector; Prisons; Education; Poverty; US; Electoral Reforms; and a New Community Radio

Congress' president Luis Redondo presented a bill to have the ZEDEs derogated. "The President of the National Congress points out that the elimination of the Zedes will not generate indemnification to individuals and companies, since they were not entitled to the benefits. For this reason, article one establishes the repeal of the referred decree and all derived legal norms should have no legal validity. Since it is a constitutional reform, the decree that eliminates the Zedes must be ratified in the subsequent legislature and published in La Gaceta for it to become effective. Likewise, Representative Redondo presented a draft decree law to repeal the creation of the Law and the regulations of the Zedes."

The same day, social movements demanded that their citizen request to derogate the ZEDEs law presented last July with 22'000 signatures will be taken up by Congress.

Ignoring this completely, ZEDE Próspera just announced that they have raised over \$60 million to invest in their project.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1516621904949518337

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-proyectos-de-decretos-para-derogar-las-zedes/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3360-unas-21-organizaciones-demandan-cumplimiento-de-iniciativa-de-ley-ciudadana-para-derogar-las-zede>

<https://twitter.com/Prosperahn/status/1516182245400367109>

It was an open secret that the JOH regime illegally spied on different sectors, among the journalists and human rights defenders. ConexiHon investigates if such practices continue under the new administration.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1971-gobierno-hondureno-dejara-de-utilizar-sistemas-de-espionaje-contra-periodistas-y-defensores>

At the end of this month, an exploratory mission of the UN will arrive in Honduras to evaluate the conditions for opening an international anti-corruption mission.

In preparation of such a mission, UFERCO's Luis Santos demands that more JOH-era laws which undermine anti-corruption investigation will be repealed.

<https://proceso.hn/la-cicih-una-esperanza-depositada-en-la-mision-de-la-onu/>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscal-anticorrupcion-reitera-exigencia-al-congreso-para-derogar-leyes-que-blindan-la-corrupcion/>

Various news outlet reported on Monday that the new budget includes a part overseen by the president herself (see yesterday). Finance Minister Rixi Moncada disputes this. "It is FALSE that there is a Confidential Item in the 2022 Budget. All expenditures are subject to accountability. There are no secrets."

<https://twitter.com/riximga/status/1516631063686258690>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-finanzas-senala-que-es-falso-que-en-el-presupuesto-modificado-2022-se-haya-aprobado-una-partida-confidencial/>

Both Luis Redondo and PSH congresswoman Fátima Mena disputes that a replacement for the controversial congressional fund for departmental projects exist (see also last week). Mena further said that to derogate the old law, 86 votes are needed, i.e. National and Liberal members need to vote in favor of derogating it.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1516570003440553987

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-los-partidos-liberal-y-nacional-depnde-derogacion-del-fondo-departamental-dice-fatima-mena/>

Over 2.5 years after presenting a challenge in a MACCIH-era corruption case, the challenge was finally admitted. UFERCO's Luis Santos demands that the Constitutional Chamber swiftly presents its verdict.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1516556736789991426

"The National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) finalized this Tuesday the oral and public trial in the case promoted to the businesswoman and lawyer Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus and the former administrative and financial assistant manager of the IHSS, José Ramón Bertetty Osorio, against whom a conviction for money laundering and other crimes in the notorious case of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) is requested. The ruling will be announced once an appeal filed by Bertetty Osorio's defense is resolved by the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), for which no specific date has been set."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/concluye-juicio-contras-empresaria-y-exadministrador-del-ihss/>

"The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounced that the outgoing authorities of the former Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (Sedis) signed 581 permanent appointments before the end of the government of Juan Orlando Hernández. The report called "Sedis senior officials who closed with a flourish their concert of corruption", in which it states that the signing of the 581 appointments caused economic damage to the State, exceeding 178 million lempiras."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/19/cna-denuncia-pinata-de-contratos-en-sedis-antes-de-concluir-gobierno-de-joh/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1516461703218839557>

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) are threatening with a general strike. They gave the Xiomara administration 48 hours to confirm the payment of outstanding salaries, going back to the JOH regime, as well as to hand out permanent contract to front line medical workers. The Secretary of Health reiterated their previous commitment to have a delegate from the CMH join their working group on the issue of permanent contracts.

Doctor and PSH congressman Carlos Umaña denounces that the JOH regime disappeared a list of names of those doctors who were employed with external funding. Additionally, he clarified: "The funds are available in Finance. The problem is that a thorough investigation of each case has to be done. Especially in rural areas many were hired as doctors without having graduated as such, without having their degree."

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-convoca-a-asambleas-informativas-por-incumplimiento-en-nombramientos-y-falta-de-pago/>

<https://proceso.hn/gremio-medico-dice-gobierno-puede-resolver-problematika-en-24-horas-sesal-pide-se-nombre-representante/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/carlos-umana-denuncia-irregularidad-sector-salud-administracion-joh>

The transport sector continues to demand government attention. On the one side, inhabitants protest against an increase in ticket prices.

On the other hand, members of the transport sector blocked a road in the south demanding even higher ticket prices.

This all takes place just days after the transport sector and the Xiomara administration came to an agreement.

President Xiomara Castro announced that the corresponding ministry will revise the inter-urban transport ticket prices and she criticized the blockage.

<https://proceso.hn/pobladores-se-toman-carretera-en-santa-barbara-en-protesta-por-aumento-al-transporte/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tomada-por-transportistas-la-carretera-al-sur-del-pais/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1514324154639650818>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1516430289836331013>

Last year, the violent escape of gang leader Alexander Mendoza, "El Porky", made headlines. Now, El Heraldó uncovered that the escape, which led to the death of four members of the Armed Forces, was supported by an army colonel who was at the time the director of the Támara prison.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/director-de-carcel-de-tamara-facilito-armas-vestimenta-sicarios-que-liberaron-el-porky-YL7728427>

According to the Secretary of Education, over 70% of schools reopened on Monday (see also yesterday).

The new budget includes 150 million Lempiras to improve school infrastructure. It is estimated that of the 17'500 schools, 12'000 have problems with drinking water and electricity.

In May, a new school food program starts with the aim of serving 1.5 million children.

University students at UNAH will return to class on May 18.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/19/mas-del-70-por-ciento-de-centros-educativos-retornaron-a-clases-presenciales/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/destinan-150-millones-para-reparar-centros-educativos/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-mayo-entregaran-merienda-escolar/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/unah-informa-que-regreso-a-clases-presenciales-seran-el-proximo-18-de-mayo/>

"The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) warned Tuesday of "worsening" food insecurity in Honduras, a situation that affects 2.6 million people in the country."

<https://confidencial.hn.com/la-onu-alerta-del-empeoramiento-de-la-crisis-alimentaria-en-honduras/>

"Today, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Enrique Reina & Minister of Defense Jose Manuel Zelaya met with the US Secretary of State Blinken in Panama to discuss migration & anti-corruption efforts together with other regional leaders".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1516627932416032774>

A two-round presidential election becomes ever more likely for Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/19/diputados-impulsan-proyecto-de-ley-para-aprobar-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1516466160954449926>

<https://criterio.hn/copinh-lanza-radio-comunitaria-lenca-en-guachipilin-la-paz/>

20/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - Extradition; Drug Trafficking - Police; Congress - ZEDEs, Surveillance; HRDs; Budget - Transparency; Agriculture - Women; Health Sector; US - Migration, Economy; and a Hope-Inspiring Treaty

Today at 7am, JOH will be extradited to the US.

JOH's family announced that they hired the law firm of Raymon Colón and Daniel Pérez to defend JOH in the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-sera-extraditado-jueves-XX7761303>

<https://confidencialhn.com/familia-hernandez-toma-decision-de-contratar-firma-de-abogados-raymond-colon-para-la-defensa-de-joh/>

<https://insightcrime.org/honduras-organized-crime-news/juan-orlando-hernandez/>

The Supreme Court ratified the extradition of former police chief Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla Valladares.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/pleno-magistrados-ratifica-extradicion-juan-carlos-tigre-bonilla-eeuu-XD7757404>

InSight Crime has a new article on drug production inside Honduras. "Coca farms and cocaine production camps are proliferating in Honduras, showing that the illicit crop has taken root in the country after years of low-level experimentation. Between January and March this year, authorities have destroyed some 543,000 coca plants, about 11,000 more during all of 2021, when authorities destroyed a record high of 532,000 plants, Proceso Digital reported."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/coca-growing-cocaine-production-reach-new-heights-in-honduras/>

Congress approved two decrees yesterday evening repealing the legal framework for the ZEDEs. This move was supported by members of all parties.

<https://proceso.hn/derogadas-las-zedes/>

One important pillar of JOH's power was the National Defense and Security Council. Congress now aims to repeal it.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/pleno-de-magistrados-deja-en-firme-extradicion-de-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla/>

Seven human rights defenders belonging to ARCAH had the criminalizing charges against them dropped.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3362-notifican-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-favor-de-defensores-y-defensoras-de-arcah>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1516880257927852032>

A budget item continues to spur a debate in Honduras. The reformulated budget contains 15 million Lempiras which are controlled by the presidency. Some media outlet presented this as a confidential item with no accountability. This has been disputed by the Xiomara administration. Criterio presents the different opinions on the issue.

<https://criterio.hn/partida-especial-deja-a-discrecionalidad-millonarios-fondos-al-no-ser-consignados-en-sectores-concretos/>

"Seventy percent of rural women in Honduras live in poverty and only 14% of these (280,000) are owners of the land, peasant organizations said Wednesday, who demanded the Government equal access to resources. The spokeswoman for the Articulation of Women of the Via Campesina Honduras and the Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women, Wendy Cruz, told Efe that of the two million women living in rural areas, only 14% (280,000) have land titles."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/04/20/solo-el-14-de-las-mujeres-rurales-tienen-tierras-en-honduras-y-70-son-pobres/>

The protest by the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) continues (see yesterday).

<https://confidencial.hn.com/asambleas-continuaran-hasta-tener-respuestas-confirma-presidenta-del-cmh/>

<https://proceso.hn/medicos-seguiran-con-asambleas-informativas-este-jueves/>

Radio Progreso comments on the renewed US interest in Honduras. "It is true, then, that there is a need to support us. But it can never be at the cost of being trapped in the current stormy international geopolitics in which we will be left like a little paper boat, adrift and without direction. The leaders of international politics have the enormous task of taking advantage of our territory and the recognition that the government has in the international community, but it is a formidable opportunity to exercise our sovereign decisions and defend the principle of self-determination of the peoples."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/en-las-turbulentas-aguas-de-la-geopolitica/>

"At the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Migration held in Panama, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic, Enrique Reina, formally requested the U.S. authorities to renew the Temporary Protected Status (TPS), to benefit the migrant community residing in the United States."

THE US published a fact sheet on its Strategy for Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Central America.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cancilleria-hondurena-solicita-renovacion-del-tps-para-beneficiar-a-la-comunidad-migrante-en-ee-uu/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1516789164884299780>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/19/fact-sheet-update-on-the-u-s-strategy-for-addressing-the-root-causes-of-migration-in-central-america/>

"Laura F. Dogu, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras, met on Wednesday with President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya to discuss economic issues, including the Central American country's energy crisis."

<https://proceso.hn/embajadora-de-eeuu-se-reune-con-presidenta-castro-para-abordar-temas-de-economia-y-crisis-energetica/>

<https://criterio.hn/impulsan-primer-tratado-ambiental-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

21/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - Extradition; ZEDEs;

What a historic day; JOH was extradited to Honduras and Congress repealed the derogated the legal framework giving birth to the ZEDEs.

Yesterday, a plane with 6 DEA agents landed at the Toncontín airport. An hour later, they left with JOH on board on their way to New York where he will face trial. JOH has become the 33rd Honduran extradited to the US.

Hondurans celebrated his departure.

US Attorney General Merrick B. Garland commented on the extradition. "Hernández is charged with participating in a corrupt and violent drug-trafficking conspiracy to facilitate the importation of tons of cocaine into the United States from 2004 to 2022. As is charged in the indictment, Hernández abused his position as President of Honduras from 2014 through 2022 to operate the country as a narco-state."

Even though JOH is gone, the criminal structure he built still needs to be dismantled.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1517244360655622144>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/dia-historico-extraditado-joh/>

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2022/april/joh-s-luck-runs-out>

<https://criterio.hn/adios-joh-el-grito-de-honduras-para-celebrar-la-extradicion-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-merrick-b-garland-delivers-remarks-announcing-charges-against-juan>

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/juan-orlando-hernandez-former-president-of-honduras-indicted-on-drug-trafficking-and-firearms-charges-extradited-to-the-united-states-from-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/joh-fue-extraditado-pero-dejo-montada-una-estructura-criminal-en-las-instituciones-del-estado/>

Congress, unanimously, repealed the legal basis of the ZEDEs in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/Lredondo/status/1517188694477877248>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/derogadas-las-zedes/>

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-son-sepultadas-por-el-congreso-de-honduras-nueve-anos-despues-de-su-vigencia/>

22/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - US, Legacy; Earth Day; ZEDES; Amnesty; Students - UNAH; Organized Crime; Protests;

JOH virtually appeared before court yesterday in the US for the first time. The court set the initial hearing for May 10 and determined that JOH has to await trial in prison.

Outside the court room, protesters demanded the conviction of JOH.

JOH and his defense team continue to claim his innocence.

Ángel Martínez, a member of the defense team, claims that they count with the support of former CIA, DEA and FBI members.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/hoy-sera-presentado-joh-ante-la-justicia-de-nueva-york/>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/estados-unidos/expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-comparece-tribunal-de-nueva-york?1238>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/juan-orlando-hernandez-comparecio-ante-juez-en-eeuu-y-programan-lectura-de-cargos-para-el-10-de-mayo/>

<https://proceso.hn/expresidente-hernandez-comparecio-ante-juez-en-eeuu-y-programan-lectura-de-cargos-para-el-10-de-mayo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/hondurenos-protesta-corte-joh-exigen-justicia-nueva-york-FG7796546>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/22/defensa-asegura-que-demostrara-la-inocencia-de-joh-ante-justicia-de-ee-uu/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/detective-defensa-evidencias-expresidente-joh-juicio-exagantes-dea-cia-fbi>

Criterio continues to cover the need of breaking with criminal structure left behind by JOH in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/corte-fiscalia-partidos-politicos-y-ffaa-principales-instituciones-que-deben-reestructurarse-por-complicidad-criminal/>

Honduras commemorated Earth Day.

OACNUDH and the IACHR called on the regional States to protect environmental defenders.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1517660508379353088>

<https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2022/084.asp>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1517566304043114497>

<https://criterio.hn/dia-de-la-tierra-gris-en-honduras-con-incendios-forestales-mineria-a-cielo-abierto-y-otros-danos-ambientales/>

"The president of the Legislative Power, Luis Redondo, categorized as "criminals" the businessmen who set up the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) in Honduras, while waiting for the prosecution to prosecute and recommends them to adhere to the current regimes. Through a press conference, the president of the National Congress of Honduras celebrated the publication in the official newspaper La Gaceta of the repeal of the Model Cities disguised as ZEDE, which was put in place by former President Juan Orlando Hernández, which is nothing more than the sale of territory and national sovereignty to foreign capital. With the publication, the repeal of the regimes becomes law and the constitutional framework that was arbitrarily and illegally reformed by the conservative National Party in 2012 is reinstated."

<https://criterio.hn/no-son-empresarios-son-delincuentes-afirma-presidente-del-congreso-de-honduras-a-duenos-de-las-zede/>

<https://criterio.hn/entre-alegria-y-cautela-reciben-derogacion-de-las-zede-en-honduras/>

"This day, four human rights defenders and 23 political opponents, criminalized in the municipality of Las Vegas, Santa Barbara, by the regime of Juan Orlando Hernandez since 2018, will appear at a hearing to request the application of political amnesty."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/27-opositores-politicos-criminalizados-comparecen-a-audiencia-para-solicitud-de-aplicacion-de-amnistia/>

"Although publicly Francisco Herrera, current rector of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNAH, says he is interested in ending the criminalization processes against students of this educational institution, in practice it seems mere delays that aim to sustain a dark period of the previous rector Julieta Castellanos, as evidenced by leaving in limbo a request for a meeting to address the case through a note sent to him by ASOPODEHU and the Justice for the Peoples Law Firm, which has been stamped as received for more than a month. At other times he argues that he does not have the power in his hands."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/defensa-de-la-protesta-social-en-la-unah/item/3363-rector-de-la-unah-demuestra-no-tener-voluntad-para-terminar-procesos-de-criminalizacion-contra-estudiantes>

"The Prosecutorial Unit of Support to the Police Purification Process (UF-ADPOL) initiated the trial of deprivation of ownership in which it seeks the definitive confiscation of 21 goods and financial products seized from former commissioner Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez."

<https://proceso.hn/mp-inicia-juicio-de-privacion-de-dominio-a-21-bienes-de-excomisionado-ambrosio-maradiaga/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/inicia-juicio-de-privacion-de-dominio-sobre-21-bienes-de-excomisionado-ambrosio-maradiaga-ordonez/>

Hondutel and Insep employees protested yesterday demanding outstanding salaries.

The same day, teachers of the Honduran Community Education Program (Proheco) demanded four months of outstanding salaries.

<https://proceso.hn/empleados-de-hondutel-y-de-insep-protestan-en-la-capital-por-demandas-laborales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-proheco-de-la-zona-norte-realizan-protesta-en-exigencia-del-pago-de-cuatro-meses-adeudados/>

23/04/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Forest Fires; Education; and JOH vs. the US

MIT Technology Review published an article on ZEDEs and similar projects in Central America. "A new class of crypto investors have bold plans to rebuild society from scratch. But their pet projects risk repeating the region's long history of corporate colonialism."

This week, Congress repealed the legal framework of the ZEDEs. Now, Proceso Digital reports: "The government will set up a negotiation table with the businessmen who invested in the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs) to protect their investment, said the private secretary, Rodolfo Pastor. "With those that are already installed (companies) we are going to set up a negotiation process to see how we can help them so that the investment they have already made is protected and maintained within the framework of national sovereignty", said the private secretary."

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/04/20/1049384/crypto-cities-central-america/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-buscara-consenso-con-los-empresarios-que-ya-invirtieron-en-las-zedes-segun-secretario-privado/>

Forest fires continue to ravage Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/icf-consumidas-9-mil-hectareas-honduras/>

There is still a lot of uncertainty about how many schools reopened. The Secretary of Education claimed that 70% offered in-person classes again, while the teachers' union COPEMH says that it is only 42% in urban areas and 63% in rural areas.

<https://proceso.hn/solo-42-de-poblacion-educativa-urbana-regreso-a-clases-presenciales-segun-dirigencia-magisterial/>

"Following the extradition of Juan Orlando Hernández to the United States in a DEA plane, the Southern District Court of New York published the indictment "United States of America vs. Juan Orlando Hernández a.k.a. "JOH", which details that, in addition to participating in drug trafficking activities and possessing firearms, the former president also received bribes from Mexican drug trafficker Joaquín "El Chapo" Gúzman, committed fraud in the 2013 and 2017 elections, and obtained the support of other former presidents to carry out drug trafficking activities in Honduras.

A U.S. Justice Department judge remanded the former president in custody pending his hearing on May 10."

JOH's wife Ana García denounced that she cannot travel to the US to accompany JOH because her visa has not been renewed.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/23/united-states-of-america-vs-joh-el-expresidente-hondureno-ahora-en-manos-de-la-justicia-estadounidense/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/ana-garcia-confirma-que-eeuu-no-le-renovo-su-visa-y-suspendio-la-de-su-familia-FX7808799>

24/04/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; JOH - US; Bajo Aguán; National Police; Corruption; Supreme Court; Health Sector; and Dismantling Impunity

According to Pasos de Animal Grande, "[t]he Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) are still in force and will disappear in 2023 only when the Second Legislature ratifies the decree repealing them and it is published in the Official Gazette La Gaceta".

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3364-hasta-el-2023-con-la-ratificacion-de-la-derogatoria-desapareceran-las-zede>

"The former first lady, Ana García, indicated that the body of lawyers representing former President Juan Orlando Hernández in the United States is preparing "a bail package" so that he can defend himself in freedom during his trial."

<https://confidencialhn.com/defensa-legal-de-hernandez-prepara-un-paquete-de-fianza-para-que-pueda-defenderse-en-libertad-indica-ana-garcia/>

The new government faces one of many challenges in the Aguán Valley. The start of the Xiomara presidency was accompanied by a hope of a reduction in "socio-environmental and agrarian conflicts" as stated by CESPAD. Various members of the new administration have already visited the region and a conflict resolution board was installed. "The attacks on the negotiation process have not been long in coming, as recently expressed by the Agrarian Platform and the Popular Coordination of Organizations of Bajo Aguan (COPA), in a public statement: "landowners and agribusinesses in Aguan are planning to boycott the government of the constitutional president Xiomara Castro"[5]. The facts in the area lead to infer that the attack is of an economic nature, since the extraction plants to which the peasant companies sell the African palm fruit are being closed. This is happening with the clear intention of economically asphyxiating the peasant families, in view of the negotiation process that will be developed and that affects the interests of

these sectors that have historically controlled the agricultural territory, to increase their wealth and ensure their class interests."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/24/en-riesgo-el-proceso-de-salida-al-conflicto-agrario-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

Three members of the police force were shot dead in the Agua Amarilla community in Trujillo, Colón. They were ambushed trying to enter a finca.

President Xiomara declared a state of exception in Colón.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tres-policias-fueron-acribillados-en-una-finca-de-la-comunidad-de-agua-amarilla-en-trujillo-colon/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-nacional-ejecuta-intensas-operaciones-para-identificar-ubicar-y-capturar-a-sujetos-que-asesinaron-a-tres-funcionarios-policiales/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1518401950034837505>

CESPAD published an analysis on one of the at least ten legal norms, laws, etc. that undermine corruption investigations, the Special Law for the Management, Allocation, Execution, Liquidation and Redaction of Accounts of Public Funds for Social and Community Projects, Infrastructure and Social Programs. "Chapter IV of the Law, regarding Control and Auditing, establishes in Article 13 that the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC) is the entity in charge of the control and auditing of the resources assigned to the public institutions of the Central and/or decentralized Government, municipal corporations and the National Congress". But, it is at this point that the Law complicates the panorama because it empowers the TSC to carry out audits and special investigations of the management of the funds of deputies within a period of three years and, worryingly, it adds that "during the time the audit and special investigation is in force and until the Court does not issue a final resolution, any other type of administrative, civil or criminal action is suspended, regardless of the phase in which it is found, in relation to the deduction of any type of responsibility on the funds that are being audited". In other words, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the entity that promotes the criminal prosecution and the accusatory function before the courts of justice in investigations of crimes of public action in Honduras, will not be able to carry out any action that leads to the deduction of responsibility of the deputies who misuse the public funds assigned to them, during the three years that the TSC audit lasts."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/23/los-diputados-hondurenos-y-la-ley-que-les-exime-de-recibir-castigo-si-roban/>

Congress' president Luis Redondo announces that the election of the new Supreme Court magistrates will start in May.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/24/titular-del-legislativo-anuncia-que-elecciones-de-los-magistrados-inicia-en-mayo/>

<https://proceso.hn/esta-vez-no-habra-danza-de-millones-en-eleccion-de-magistrados-dice-diputado-jari-dixon/https://proceso.hn/nasralla-propone-que-eleccion-de-magistrados-de-la-csj-la-haga-la-sociedad-civil/>

The assemblies organized by the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) last week will continue into this new week. They announced that protest actions will continue until outstanding salaries have been paid (see last week).

<https://proceso.hn/colegio-medico-anuncia-que-asambleas-informativas-continuaran-esta-semana/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/xiomara-castro-debe-desmantelar-toda-la-estructura-de-impunidad-en-honduras/>

25/04/22

Honduras Daily: Aguán Valley; ZEDEs; Police; Corruption - UN, IHSS; Poverty; Elections; Migration - Mexico; US; and 91441-054

Karen Springs shares her insight on the situation in the Bajo Aguán where three police were murdered (see yesterday). "According to campesino groups in the Aguan, the same police patrol used by the three police responded to attacks against a campesino group during an attack on April 21st. The same campesino group signed an agreement with a Presidential Commission created on Feb 22 to investigate land conflicts in the Aguan. The attacks against the campesino group were perpetuated by hitmen working with a powerful former National party Congressman Oscar Nájera. It seems like large land owners are not interested in any sort of change in the status quo in the Aguán even though the Government Commission is just beginning to be formed. (...) As campesino groups recover land, criminal groups working with powerful individuals continue to generate violence. Attack against police patrol was likely a retaliation against police for going to assist campesino group recovering land."

"According to criminal lawyer German Licon, the murder of three policemen in an ambush in Colon, is a provocation for the Executive Branch led by Xiomara Castro. "This is a provocation to the Executive since after January 27 (inauguration) we have seen how they have been efficient in the capture of drug traffickers, the seizure of drugs and the dismantling of drug laboratories, and that has generated uneasiness because these areas were not being well attended", Licon stated."

The state of exception continues in the region and state security forces are searching for the killers.

<https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1518641455664971779>

<https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1518679678118203393>

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/communique-in-response-to-land-evictions-murder-of-three-police-and-state-of-exception-in-colon/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinato-de-policias-en-colon-es-una-provocacion-al-ejecutivo-por-acciones-contr-la-narcoactividad-asegura-experto-en-seguridad/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/fuertes-operaticos-en-colon-en-busca-de-asesinos-de-policias/>

President Xiomara signed the repeal of the legal framework of the ZEDEs. "Today is the most important day of the 88 days of my administration, returning sovereignty to the country was an unavoidable commitment we had with history. I can tell the Honduran people that mission accomplished, I sanctioned the decree that repeals the ZEDE law."

OACNUDH welcomed the repeal.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1518743913766563840>

<https://criterio.hn/presidenta-de-honduras-sanciona-derogacion-de-ley-de-las-zede/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1518776261602168837>

In 2019, Junior Alfredo Godoy Velásquez was attacked by the police and instead of the police being prosecuted he himself was charged with violence against two police agents. He was sentenced, but COFADEH now obtained conditional suspension of his sentence.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-logra-suspension-condicional-de-la-pena-para-victima-de-policias/>

Apparently, the exploratory mission of the UN to investigate the conditions for a anti-corruption mission will only arrive in May in Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-mayo-podria-llegar-mision-exploratoria-para-instalacion-de-cicih/>

Two businessmen and a former official involved in the IHSS corruption case have to remain in pre-trial detention as determined by a court yesterday.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/se-mantiene-prision-preventiva-contr-dos-empresarios-y-un-exfuncionario-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss/>

2021, poverty reached 74% and extreme poverty 53.4%.

<https://confidencialhn.com/persiste-la-extrema-pobreza-en-honduras-con-un-cierre-de-53-4-en-2021/>

What has been an open secret in Honduras for a long time, has now been confirmed by US prosecutors, JOH committed electoral fraud in 2013 and 2017.

This now leads to calls to investigate the former magistrates at the now defunct Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).

<https://criterio.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-cometio-fraude-electoral-en-2013-y-2017-fiscalia-de-nueva-york/>

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-investigar-y-enjuiciar-a-quienes-perpetraron-los-fraudes-electorales-de-2013-y-2017/>

"A total of 5,688 migrants from some 40 countries were located between April 21 and 14 in various actions, Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) reported Monday." Among there were over 1000 Hondurans, the highest share of any country.

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-mexicanas-localizan-a-mas-de-mil-migrantes-hondurenos-en-un-termino-de-cuatro-dias/>

Under the JOH regime, Hondurans living in the US were seldomly enrolled, probably because the regime was well aware that those fleeing Honduras would politically now favor them. The new administration does not share these concerns and started an enrollment process in the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-de-cancilleria-lanzan-proceso-de-enrolamiento-de-hondurenos-residentes-en-ee-uu/>

<https://criterio.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-el-91441-054-en-el-centro-metropolitano-de-brooklyn/>
26//04/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+ - Xiomara; Criminalization; JOH - Land; ZEDEs; Corruption - Congress; Infrastructure; Migration - Forced Displacement, US; Police; Health Sector; and Labor Rights;

CATTRACHAS invites to a regional exchange on the human rights situation of Lesbians in Latin America tomorrow at 3pm.

<https://twitter.com/CATTRACHAS/status/1518999775827439617>

"Sexual diversity movements turned out en masse to the polls to elect President Xiomara Castro. Will her government respond to the demands and expectations of these groups?"

<https://criterio.hn/cumplira-xiomara-castro-con-las-demandas-de-la-comunidad-lgtbiq/>

A criminalizing trial of 20 indigenous Lencas from Comayagua was postponed to May 26.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1974-tribunal-de-sentencias-reprograma-juicio-contraindigenas-lencas-de-comayagua>

"The Peasant Movement for Justice and Dignity, made up of 400 families from the municipality of Gracias, department of Lempira, in the western region of the country, took over this week the uncultivated lands that were allegedly seized from former president Juan Orlando Hernandez."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1975-campesinos-se-toman-tierras-propiedad-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-lempira>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1472-empresa-mercantil-estigmatiza-a-grupo-campesino-llamandolos-estafadores-de-oficio>

"Organizations from different territories of Honduras and citizen movements demanded the Public Prosecutor's Office to act ex officio against the investor of the repealed Employment and Economic Development Zone (ZEDE) Morazán, Massimo Mazzone, who reacted angrily against those who oppose the ZEDE. The Italian businessman, in a message published on Wednesday, April 20, addressed what he called "merchants of despair", and continued: "Parasites who need their poor to justify their existence and continue living off the crumbs sent to them by other parasites, the politicians and NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) of Europe."

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-al-mp-proceder-contrainversionista-que-llamo-parasitos-a-quienes-se-opusieron-a-las-zede/>

In a MACCIH-era case, the Congressional Network, a judge issued a formal indictment yesterday. Five former members of Congress (Audelia Rodríguez, Augusto Cruz Asensio, Dennys Sánchez, Eleazar Juárez and Héctor Padilla) accused of embezzlement of public funds will go to trial and have house arrest until then. In the case of Geovanny Deras, the charges were provisionally dropped, and in the case of José Panchamé, the charges were definitively dropped as he had died in the meantime.

The Congressional Network case is linked to the controversial departmental fund which came to prominence again these last days when Congress discuss its repeal but also a possible replacement.

The CNA denounces that the charges were dropped against Deras, who was named in another MACCIH-era corruption case, Open Chest.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-los-siete-implicados-en-el-casored-de-diputados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dictan-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-con-arresto-domiciliario-a-exparlamentarios-en-caso-denominado-red-de-diputados/>

<https://criterio.hn/entre-2007-y-2018-se-desvariaron-mas-de-l-62-millones-del-fondo-departamental-a-bolsillos-personales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ante-decision-de-la-csj-en-el-caso-de-red-de-diputados-el-cna-senala-que-la-corrupcion-continua-operando/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1519045906254991361>

A congressional committee tasked by Luis Redondo to investigate the possibility of impeachments for judicial workers came to a favorable conclusion. "Among the main recommendations of the report prepared by several legislators, it states that it would be appropriate for the deputies to consider the application of the figure of impeachment to judicial operators, including the president of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) and investigative bodies in Honduras."

The National Party opposes this.

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-del-cn-concluye-que-procede-juicio-politico-a-operadores-de-justicia-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/partido-nacional-no-apoyaria-la-iniciativa-para-realizar-un-juicio-politico-a-los-operadores-de-justicia/>

Libre congressman Bartolo Fuente will present a bill aiming to repeal the toll booths on Honduran highways.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentaran-proyecto-de-ley-para-quitar-los-peajes-de-las-carreteras-de-honduras/>

"Honduras must legislate to prevent internal displacement, a phenomenon that has "multiple causes" and has forced 250,000 people to leave their homes in recent years, who must be protected, said Tuesday the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/acnur-insta-a-honduras-a-legislar-para-proteger-a-desplazados-por-violencia/>

Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina is currently in the US. There, he reiterated the request to have Hondurans having fled from Eta and Iota granted a temporary protection status.

Reina is in the US for a so-called Strategic Dialogue between the two countries. "Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya and Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina launched the United States-Honduras Strategic Dialogue. Vice President Kamala Harris proposed this Strategic Dialogue during her meeting with President Xiomara Castro on January 27, following the President's inauguration. Yesterday's Strategic Dialogue, the first in a planned series of meetings between our governments, advances joint priorities on economic recovery; fostering anti-corruption and good governance; improving human rights protections and

reducing gender-based violence; and ensuring humane management of irregular migration while addressing its root causes."

<https://criterio.hn/solicitan-tps-para-hondurenos-desplazados-por-huracanes-que-migraron-a-ee-uu/>

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-honduras-strategic-dialogue/>

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1519057393388331012>

<https://twitter.com/PowerUSAID/status/1519037421735792643>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1519056564853915649>

"The director of the National Police, Gustavo Sánchez, announced that in the next few days he will be announcing the rehiring of two thousand police officers, among them, several uniformed officers who were purged during the administration of former President Juan Orlando Hernández."

Sánchez wants to break with the legacy of the Honduran police known for extrajudicial killings, torture, and more. Part of this new approach is to create a community police force.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/26/policia-evalua-reintegrar-a-agentes-y-oficiales-depurados-en-el-pasado/>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-nacional-recurrira-a-reintegrar-policias-depurados-para-enfrentar-criminalidad-y-violencia-en-honduras/>

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-empanan-labor-de-entes-de-seguridad-en-honduras/>

The tense situation in the health sector (see previous days) may be resolved soon. "[t]he doctor and deputy of the National Congress, Carlos Umaña, said in Radio Progreso that between Wednesday and Thursday the payment of the outstanding wages will be made and the respective appointments will be delivered to the first line workers."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/en-las-proximas-horas-pagaran-a-medicos/>

Congress approved, in a first discussion, the repeal of the Work per Hour Law.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/congreso-aprueba-en-primer-debate-derogar-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-HM7860944>

27/04/22

Honduras Daily: Amnesty; Poverty; Bajo Aguán; Labor Rights; Drug Trafficking; Corruption - UN, Congress, IHSS; COVID-19 - Vaccines; IMF; US; Social Justice; Militarization; Banking System; Health Sector; and Delayed Holidays

"Five letters of release were obtained by the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), in favor of a group of university students criminalized for the alleged crime of usurpation."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-estudiantes-del-curc-suman-81-beneficiarios-de-amnistia-politica/>

CESPAD presents some pointers on how to tackle the food crisis in Honduras.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/27/puntos-para-gestionar-la-actual-crisis-alimentaria-en-honduras/>

Avispa Midia reports on the situation in the Aguán Valley and the recently declared state of exception.

Security Minister Ramón Sabillón traveled to the Aguán Valley and held a meeting with representatives of the police, other state institutions, members of the Agrarian Platform and OACNUDH.

<https://avispa.org/estado-de-excepcion-en-el-aguan-campesinos-responsabilizan-agroindustria/>

<https://proceso.hn/ministro-de-seguridad-llega-al-bajo-aguan-para-atender-problema-de-invasion-de-fincas/>

Congress granted the Commander's Grand Cross decoration to labor leader Carlos H. Reyes who also played an important role in the resistance to the coup of 2009.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1519492045420867587

The plenary of the Supreme Court signed the extradition of the former police chief Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla to the US.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/magistrados-csj-firman-extradicion-eeuu-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-DL7872849>

<https://criterio.hn/con-firma-de-magistrados-lista-la-extradicion-del-tigre-bonilla/>

"A Honduran delegation headed by the Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Enrique Reina, exchanged views with representatives of the United Nations (UN), regarding the installation of the International Mission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH). Chancellor Reina informed of his meeting in the United States with representatives of the United Nations System, as part of the agenda for the arrival of an external mechanism for the fight against this scourge in the Central American country."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-da-pasos-ante-la-onu-para-creacion-de-la-cicih/>

"The Executive Director of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), Adriana Zúniga, affirmed this Wednesday that the past administration left as an inheritance a privatized social security system that was in the hands of corruption mafias. Through a report on the current situation of the IHSS, the director revealed that the "reprehensible" acts of corruption perpetrated in the past still remain unpunished."

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-ihss-se-encontraba-en-manos-de-mafias-de-corrupcion-por-decadas-revela-informe/>

Congress repealed in a first discussion another JOH-era law undermining corruption investigation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-en-primer-debate-derogacion-de-decretos-que-limitan-las-investigaciones-del-mp/>

Over 200'000 AstraZenca vaccine doses are about to expire in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/dosis-astrazeneca-ihss-caducaran-30-abril-2022-DH7876005>

An IMF delegation arrived in Honduras yesterday. They met with the economic team of the Xiomara administration and discussed among other things, "sustainable growth, the external debt, inflation and the crisis of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE)".

<https://proceso.hn/analizan-inflacion-deuda-externa-y-crisis-energetica-en-primer-dia-del-fmi-en-honduras/>

"The Secretary of National Defense, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, met this Wednesday with the Ambassador of the United States (USA), Laura F. Dogu to reaffirm ties of military cooperation and friendship, with whom he also discussed progress in the fight against drug trafficking."

<https://proceso.hn/autoridades-de-honduras-y-eeuu-sostienen-reunion-en-el-despacho-de-defensa-nacional/>

The Independent Front of People with Disabilities denounced the violations of their rights.

<https://tiempo.hn/despido-personas-con-discapacidad-honduras/>

"The Constitutional Chamber has declared the unconstitutionality by way of action of decree PCM 052-2019 where the Armed Forces are assigned powers to manage an agricultural development program in Honduras. The resolution of the Court of Justice (CSJ) is related to the controversial fund of 4,000 million lempiras that the previous government had assigned to the Armed Forces for agricultural issues."

<https://confidencialhn.com/cs-j-declara-inconstitucional-pcm-que-facultaba-a-ffaa-manejar-4-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-el-manejo-del-programa-de-desarrollo-agricola-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/sala-constitucional-deroga-potestad-de-fuerzas-armadas-para-administrar-sector-agricola-en-honduras/>

The National Banking and Securities Commission (CNBS) made some reforms improving the situation of bank customers by reducing fees.

<https://criterio.hn/cnbs-elimina-pesada-carga-impuesta-por-los-bancos-a-sus-usuarios/>

To meet the demands of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) (see previous days), Secretary of Health José Manuel Matheu announced that the outstanding wages of 3400 health workers will be paid and 9000 jobs will be created.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/unas-9-mil-plazas-se-entregaran-esta-semana-afirma-secretario-de-salud/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-suspende-vacaciones-del-mes-de-mayo-y-las-traslada-para-junio/>

28/04/22

Honduras Daily: Labor Rights; HRDs; Indigenous Peoples; Corruption - UN, IHSS, Banasupro; Children's Rights; US; Spain; ENEE; CAF;

With 83 votes, Congress repealed the Hourly Employment Law, a great victory for Honduran workers.

"Libertad y Refundación (Libre) deputy, Juan Barahona, warned employers today, Thursday, that they would be committing an illegality by firing workers who worked under the recently repealed Hourly Employment Law."

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1519787629067350016>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/28/con-unos-83-votos-el-congreso-nacional-deroga-ley-de-empleo-por-hora/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-extingue-ley-que-menoscabo-derechos-de-los-trabajadores-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/es-ilegal-despedir-a-trabajadores-tras-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-juan-barahona/>

"The human rights defender, Santos Roberto Lagos Majano, denounced death threats and a smear campaign against him by Wilfredo Aguilera, a former justice of the peace of Orocuina, Choluteca, interested in titling ancestral lands in favor of private individuals. Lagos Majano is the president of the patronage, Work and Development, of the indigenous village of Santa Lucía de Yuculimay, in the jurisdiction of Orocuina and is also the coordinator of the Human Rights Secretariat of the

Social Environmental Movement for Life (Massvida) and Land Judge in 14 communities in the region."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1473-vos-lo-que-quieres-es-una-tiroteada-le-dicen-a-defensor-de-una-comunidad-indigena-de-choluteca>

Miskito members traveled to the capital to protest against the construction of a highway, the so-called "drug highway".

<https://proceso.hn/narcocarretera-misquitos-piden-evitar-mas-martires-de-la-tierra/>

"The head of the Secretariat for Transparency and Anti-Corruption, Ángel Edmundo Orellana, confirmed that an [UN] exploratory mission will arrive on May 9 to assess the conditions for the creation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)."

<https://criterio.hn/el-9-de-mayo-llegara-mision-exploratoria-para-establecer-cicih-en-honduras/>

A court found two former IHSS board members guilty of the crime of violation of the duties of public officials.

Linked to the IHSS corruption case, the MP is coordinating with the US Justice Department to return to Honduras \$1 million stolen as part of the fraud.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-impugnara-fallo-en-caso-licitacion-fraudulenta-dimesa-ihss/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-y-departamento-de-justicia-de-eeuu-coordinan-retorno-al-pais-de-mas-de-un-millon-de-dolares-por-el-mega fraude-del-ihss/>

"The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) presented a report in which they revealed the names of the politicians who used the funds of the National Commodities Supply Company (Banasupro) as the goose that lays the golden eggs to make demagoguery. (...) Catellanos revealed that more than 476 million lempiras in accounts receivable is the debt owed by public institutions to Banasupro with no guarantee of recovering this millionaire sum."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/28/cna-revela-escandalo-de-corrupcion-en-banasupro-involucran-a-excandidato/>

<https://criterio.hn/millonaria-deuda-perdidas-y-cierre-de-banasupros-dejo-asistencialismo-del-partido-nacional/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1519718974476492801>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1519714951430131712>

A new report highlights a 25% increase in the sexual abuse of minors in Honduras between 2016 and 2020.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cada-seis-horas-un-menor-es-abusado-sexualmente-en-honduras/>

US ambassador Laura Dogu met with representatives of the Honduran business sector organized in COHEP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/embajadora-laura-dogu-se-reune-con-sector-privado/>

The Spanish Minister of Health, Carolina Darias, arrived for a visit in Honduras yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministra-de-sanidad-espanola-comienza-una-visita-por-honduras/>

ContraCorriente reports on the situation of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE). "The debt of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) reaches about 75,000 million lempiras. Since 2016, with the arrival of Energy Company Honduras (EEH), a division emerged in the company's union. Despite this, the two factions agree that the state-owned company can be rescued."

The debt became a hot topic again yesterday, when the head of the Energy Secretariat, Erick Tejada, denounced that the thermal company Luz y Fuerza de San Lorenzo S.A. de C.V. (Lufussa) threatened the government to suspend energy supply due to the debt.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/28/dos-sindicatos-el-negocio-de-la-eeh-y-una-empresa-estatal-quebrada/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-acusa-que-generador-de-energia-lufussa-amenaza-con-suspender-suministro-ante-millonaria-deuda/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/28/lufussa-no-ha-amenazado-a-enee-responde-a-gobierno/>

"Honduras, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Finance, submitted a formal request to join CAF-Development Bank of Latin America."

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-presenta-solicitud-para-ingresar-al-caf-banco-de-desarrollo-de-america-latina/>

29/04/22

Honduras Daily: Femicide; JOH - Legacy, US; Drug Trafficking; Corruption - UN, Banadesa; Economy - IMF; Forests; Migration; Police; Medical Sector;

Women's rights organizations documented 108 femicides so far this year.

"The United Nations in Honduras expresses its concern about the figures of violence against women, in its various expressions, in the country and urges the State and various sectors of society to take decisive action to contribute to the elimination of all types of gender-based violence against women."

<https://confidencialhn.com/108-femicidios-en-lo-que-va-de-2022-registran-mujeres-organizadas/>

<https://honduras.un.org/es/179435-naciones-unidas-llama-la-accion-contra-la-violencia-hacia-mujeres-y-ninas>

Historic union leader and recent recipient by Congress of the Commander's Grand Cross decoration, Carlos H. Reyes, analyzed the repercussions of the extradition of Juan Orlando Hernández to the United States, for Honduras. "And, the union leader said that the United States is responsible for the harm "that he inflicted on us. The United States is responsible for the damages that occurred because the United States ordered that he remain in power, saying that he resolved criminality and that Honduras was no longer a narco-state: this is all having an enormous impact." For Reyes, all of the social, economic and political damages place President Xiomara Castro in a dangerous position because Hernández left the country bankrupt and with a heap of problems. (...) "Honduras needs courts with honorable people so that these crimes are punished here instead of saying who should be taken away. What has to be confronted in Honduras is a dictatorial structure. It has to be dismantled and that means removing those people and dismantling the system of impunity."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/xiomara-castro-debe-desmantelar-toda-la-estructura-de-impunidad-en-honduras/>

A container from Honduras was seized in Panama as it contained "illicit substances".

<https://proceso.hn/panama-decomisa-droga-en-contenedor-que-salio-de-honduras-con-destino-a-europa/>

With the scheduled arrival of the UN exploratory mission on May 9, Congress' president Luis Redondo promised to prepare the ground for the installation of an anti-corruption mission.

<https://proceso.hn/estamos-preparando-el-camino-para-llegada-de-la-cicih-luis-redondo-presidente-del-congreso/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-a-las-puertas-de-una-nueva-mision-internacional-para-enfrentar-la-corrupcion/>

The MP investigated "the use and management of millionaire trust contracts that between 2016 and 2019 were executed by the National Bank for Agricultural Development (Banadesa)" (see also yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/manejo-de-millonarios-contratos-de-banadesa-bajo-la-lupa-de-nemesis-iv/>

For a moment, there was talk about Tony Hernández maybe speaking during JOH's trial. The latter's defense team now discarded this.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/descartan-tony-hernandez-para-declarar-juicio-contrajoh-LY7919508>

After the defeat in Honduras with the repeal of the Employment by the Hour Law (see yesterday), the business lobby fear mongers about its consequence on employment.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/3-millones-de-hondurenos-desempleo-templeo-por-hora-advierten-congreso-JH7922391>

The IMF delegation concluded its visit to Honduras expressing that they "will remain open and available to accompany the government of Xiomara Castro in the implementation of its social and economic program".

<https://proceso.hn/fmi-dispuesto-a-apoyar-a-presidenta-hondurena-en-programa-social-y-economico/>

Honduras lost over 46'000 hectares in forest areas due to fires in the first four months of 2022.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/abril-el-mas-funesto-para-bosques-hondurenos-XM7925880>

"The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) made a call today to recognize and respect the rights and specific needs of migrants concentrated in Danlí and Trojes, eastern Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/cruz-roja-pide-reconocer-necesidades-y-derechos-de-migrantes-varados-en-orient-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cruz-roja-pide-reconocer-necesidades-y-derechos-de-migrantes-varados-en-orient-de-honduras/>

The current head of police made headlines recently announcing that he plans to reintegrate members of the police force purged under the JOH regime. Criminal lawyer Abel Orellana advises to review the files of the purged police officers before they are reintegrated into the institution.

The discussion about the reintegration also spurred talks about the role of the purging unit. "Between 2016 and 2019, the Intervention Board purged six thousand police officers, after evaluating 13,500 of them. However, the purge always generated suspicion and, entities such as the Armed Forces, were never subjected to purge. (...) The former director of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, also shared with local media that the Commission did not act in accordance with the law and left doubts in the population. For which he advised, they should undergo a thorough investigation".

<https://confidencialhn.com/recomiendan-revisar-expedientes-de-policias-depurados-antes-de-reintegrarlos-a-la-institucion/>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-investigar-junta-interventora-que-depuro-policias-entre-2016-y-2019/>

After two weeks of a back and forth, it seems at the Medical Association of Honduras and the Xiomara administration came to an agreement.

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-y-colegio-medico-logran-acuerdos-de-nombramientos-y-pago-de-salarios-atrasados-y-suspenden-asambleas-informativas/>

30/04/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - Journalists; Violence against Women - Keyla; Health Sector; Migration; Diplomacy; and a Solidarity Network

"The journalist, Milton Benítez, director of the digital media, El Perro Amarillo, confirmed to C-Libre that he was sued in the United States for the exercise of his profession. However, he considers that "the truth cannot be sued". Benítez, better known as El Perro Amarillo, was sued in a Manhattan court for the alleged crime of defamation against private detective Ángel Martínez, defender of former President Juan Orlando Hernández and who, according to an AFP publication, is claiming a compensation of US\$20 million. The complaint also covers the president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1475-director-de-el-perro-amarillo-confirma-que-ha-sido-demandado-por-decir-la-verdad>

"Meetings to socialize and analyze the draft Comprehensive Law against Violence against Women, which has been promoted by feminist organizations in Honduras, are still in full swing. The recent talks were attended by representatives of civil society organizations, the Secretariat of State of the Presidency (SEP), related institutions, women and members of the Gender Commission of the National Congress."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-ley-de-violencia-contra-la-mujer-avanza-hacia-su-aprobacion/>

In an emblematic case of violence against women in Honduras, the femicide of nursing student Keyla Patricia Martínez Rodríguez in a police station, a court composed only of men rejected the participation of two experts in women's rights.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tribunal-desestimo-comparecencia-de-expertas-en-juicio-contra-femicida-de-keyla/>

"Early Saturday morning, the government, through the Council of Ministers, decided to declare a sanitary emergency in the health sector, in order to proceed with the direct purchase of medicines and provide medicines to the hospital network in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/para-realizar-compras-directas-de-medicamentos-gobierno-declara-emergencia-en-sector-salud/>

Hondudiaro spoke with the 16-year old Roxana Salvarado Sabillón. Together with her 14-year old brother Cristopher, she tried to reach the US by foot where their mother lives. Trying to cross the Rio Grande, her brother drowned and she struggled for her life for hours in the water.

<https://hondudiaro.com/internacionales/estuve-horas-luchando-por-mi-vida-en-el-rio-migrante-hondurena-tras-muerte-de-su-hermano/>

Congress recently awarded the controversial El Salvadorian president Nayib Bukele with the Extraordinary Grand Cross with Gold Plaque. Criterio reports on the criticism that raised in El Salvador.

<https://criterio.hn/sectores-salvadorenos-desconcertados-por-condecoracion-de-congreso-hondureno-a-nayib-bukele/>

"One of the actions of the government headed by President Xiomara Castro was the elimination of social programs maintained by the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez, specifically the Better Life program, to give life again to the Solidarity Network. Castro, through a PCM decree, approved the Solidarity Network program, which will be channeled through the Secretariat of Social Development (Sedesol) and aims to combat extreme poverty in about two thousand villages in the country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-retoma-programa-red-solidaria-para-combatir-la-extrema-pobreza/>