

01/05/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; May Day; Spain; Israel - JOH; and Congratulations Criterio

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the April 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=46089

Hondurans took to the streets on May Day. President Xiomara and Congress' president Luis Redondo accompanied the march in San Pedro Sula.

<https://confidencialhn.com/imagenes-clase-trabajadora-se-hace-sentir-este-dia-del-trabajador/>

<https://criterio.hn/trabajadores-de-honduras-marchan-en-compania-de-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/xiomara-castro-discurso-dia-trabajador-honduras-2022-mel-zelaya-MN7935916>

<https://proceso.hn/xiomara-en-sps-y-mel-en-tegucigalpa-protagonizan-celebracion-del-dia-del-trabajador/>

"The Minister of Health of Spain, Carolina Darias, said this Sunday in Tegucigalpa that the Government of her country has offered the authorities of Honduras the availability to move forward in terms of health cooperation."

<https://proceso.hn/darias-espana-dispuesta-a-avanzar-en-cooperacion-sanitaria-con-honduras/>

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz published an opinion piece by Eitay Mack on the Netanyahu-JOH connection. "If there was any justice in the world, the DEA plane should have made a stop at Ben Gurion Airport to pick up former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his government ministers and officials from the foreign and defense ministries who helped Hernández survive in power as long as he did. If not for Hernández's close ties with Netanyahu, and the bargaining that Israel engaged in surrounding the moving of the Honduran Embassy to Jerusalem, Hernández's political career would probably have ended some years ago."

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-honduras-and-the-jerusalem-embassy-how-netanyahu-backed-arms-and-cocaine-deals-1.10773452>

Seven years ago, social communicators Emy Padilla and Jorge Burgos founded the online news outlet Criterio in resistance to the JOH regime and the news landscape dominated by his allies.

<https://criterio.hn/criterio-hn-un-medio-que-ejerce-el-derecho-a-incomodar-al-poder/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-el-septimo-aniversario-de-criterio/>

<https://criterio.hn/criterio-hn-siete-anos-conspirando-contra-las-tinieblas-informativas/>

<https://criterio.hn/mayo-primaveral-en-lucha-y-en-libertad-de-pensamiento/>

<https://criterio.hn/salud-criterio-hn/>

02/05/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Garífunas; Berta; Electricity; Health Sector; Drug Trafficking; May Day; Environmental defender Justo Benítez was murdered on Saturday night in the patio of his house in the community of San Isidro.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-su-casa-asesinan-a-defensor-del-ambiente-en-san-francisco-de-ojuera/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1521250833836519425>

The Garífuna community Rio Tinto was under siege yesterday by criminal groups and community leader Alonso Salgado was murdered and the secretary of the elected community council, Zuri Quintanilla was injured.

Just a few days earlier, another Garífuna community, Guadalupe Carney, was harassed by state security forces.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1521160838874378240>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/04/alerta-urgente-honduras/>

It has been 74 months since the murder of Berta Cáceres. "74 months of resistance to this system that seeks to deny us truth and justice. We will continue without stopping, fighting tirelessly so that there will be a real justice for Berta.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1521263220497039360>

"The government and private generators began a dialogue to review the contracts for electricity produced by the private sector, after it was announced that a draft Energy Law is before the National Congress which states that the government will be able to acquire the plants if their owners do not accept a reduction in the rates at which they sell electricity."

Additionally, the Minister of Energy revealed that a complaint was filed before the civil court against the Honduras Energy Company (EEH) for considering the contract with the concessionaire as harmful and announced that a lawsuit for damages will be filed.

The Xiomara administration sent a bill to Congress with the aim of declaring access to electricity as a human right.

Finance Minister Rixi Moncada met with the US ambassador Laura Dogu to discuss the reforms to the energy sector.

FOSDEH, meanwhile, called the debt of the National Electric Energy Company "unmanageable" and demands substantial changes.

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-y-generadores-comienzan-dialogo-sobre-precios-de-la-energia/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-demanda-a-la-eeh-por-contrato-lesivo-contras-el-estado/>

<https://criterio.hn/presidencia-envia-proyecto-al-congreso-para-declarar-un-bien-y-derecho-humano-la-energia-electrica/>

https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1521243019894214656?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

<https://proceso.hn/la-enee-no-es-sostenible-y-deuda-es-inmanejable-fosdeh/>

The Xiomara administration declared a health emergency allowing itself the direct purchase of medicines. Minister of Health José Manuel Matheu gave more details on what this entails. "He acknowledged that the word "direct purchases" sounds like corruption, but "no, it will not be such a direct purchase, we are simply going to shorten the times". Matheu guaranteed that they will ask

private companies to help them with the list of drug suppliers and all of them will be summoned to a meeting to establish the rules that will govern the process. In addition, the National Anti-Corruption Council, the Superior Court of Accounts, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Health Commission of the Medical Association of Honduras, the Ministry of Transparency and even a representative of the journalists who cover the source will be called in to oversee the process."

<https://proceso.hn/no-sera-una-compra-asi-directa-simplemente-vamos-a-acortar-los-tiempos-justifica-ministro-matheu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-compras-directas-en-salud-para-acortar-tiempos-rondaran-los-500-millones-de-lempiras/>

"The United States announced Monday rewards of up to \$5 million for information leading to the capture of Herlinda Bobadilla and her sons Tito Montes Bobadilla and Juan Carlos Montes Bobadilla, Honduran drug traffickers of a cartel that bears her last name."

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-ofrece-recompensas-para-capturar-miembros-de-la-familia-montes-bobadilla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/departamento-de-estado-ofrece-recompensa-de-hasta-5-millones-por-informacion-para-llevar-ante-la-justicia-a-narcotraficantes-hondurenos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published some more impressions from May Day.

"Criterio.hn interviewed sociologists Lelys Paz and Pablo Carías to obtain an x-ray of trade union movements and how they have changed over time."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3368-en-el-dia-del-trabajo-trabajo-estable-rescate-de-instituciones-publicas-privatizadas-combate-a-la-impunidad-y-desmilitarizacion-de-la-seguridad-publica>

<https://criterio.hn/sindicatos-perdieron-beligerancia-abandonaron-su-lucha-e-incursionaron-en-la-politica/>

03/05/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Assassinations; Journalists; Extractivism; US - Energy, MP; Violence against Women; Corruption – UN;

This Sunday, a roundtable on "The Cause Berta Cáceres: Lessons and Notes for the Fight against Extractivism" will take place.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1521577497694982148>

OACNUDH condemned the murder of indigenous environmental defender Justo Benítez Sánchez (see yesterday).

IM-Defensoras denounces the murder of Garífuna leader Alonso Salgado and the attack on Garífuna leader Zury Quintanilla (see yesterday).

https://oacnudh.hn/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/220502-comunicado-asesinato-Justo-Benitez-Sanchez-rev-IAE_final_MCG.pdf

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/05/alerta-urgente-honduras-asesinan-al-lider-garifuna-alonso-salgado-y-atentan-contr-la-vida-de-la-lideresa-zury-quintanilla/>

<https://criterio.hn/asesinan-lider-garifuna-en-rio-tinto-municipio-de-tela/>

Reporters without Borders published its yearly ranking on press freedom. "Honduras is ranked 165th for press freedom in 2022, out of 180 countries evaluated, being one of the four countries in a very serious situation, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF). It remains one of the deadliest places for journalism in the Americas. "The purchase of large media by international investors, and of small media by the local political class, hinders pluralism", highlights the report of the international organization, released on World Press Freedom Day, which is commemorated this May 3."

Honduran journalists denounce the assassination of 90 journalists and two decades of impunity.

"Several Central and South American countries are experiencing a difficult context for the exercise of the right to Freedom of Expression, said on Radio Progreso the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR, Pedro Vaca."

<https://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3369-clasificacion-de-libertad-de-prensa-2022-muy-grave-la-situacion-de-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/gremio-periodistico-de-honduras-reprocha-dos-decadas-de-impunidad-y-90-periodistas-asesinados/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/cidh-preocupada-por-violaciones-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-por-quienes-se-supone-tienen-que-protegerla/>

Radio Progreso reports on the newest attempt by the mining company Los Pinares to white-wash their operations. "In a town hall meeting held in the La Laguna sector, the Mayor's Office of Tocoa, Colón, approved a "Community Social Compensation Agreement", so that the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares of Lenir Pérez, will be in charge of building the school, the hammock bridge and the opening of the street demanded by the citizens. (...) For his part, the councilman of Tocoa, Juan López, said in Radio Progreso that the agreement is an act of corruption between the mayor Adán Fúnez and the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares, which will serve to deepen even more the levels of violence faced by the citizens in Colón, placing at greater risk those who are defending the rivers and the mountains. (...) Pedro Landa, an environmentalist, said on Radio Progreso that the agreement approved in an open town hall, where the municipality gives powers to Inversiones Los Pinares to develop community projects, is a perverse act of corruption that seeks to legitimize the mining company and turn it into a necessity for the communities."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/con-proyectos-comunitarios-municipalidad-de-tocoa-colon-busca-lavar-cara-de-minera/>

The US ambassador Laura Dogu recently met with the Xiomara administration to discuss energy policies (see yesterday). Later on, the ambassador tweeted: "energy reform is critical to economic development. We are analyzing the energy proposal and as a writer we are concerned about the effect it will have on foreign investment and the independence of the regulatory agency." To this, Foreign Minister Enrique Reina replied: "Madam Ambassador, you have been welcomed with open arms. Energy reform is urgent for us as a State, it combats an inherited situation of corruption and poverty. We are concerned about your ill-advised opinion on domestic policy, which does not contribute to good relations with the United States."

<https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1521621597324558339>

<https://criterio.hn/reforma-energetica-enfrenta-a-embajadora-de-ee-uu-y-al-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-considera-desacertada-opinion-de-eeuu-sobre-reforma-energetica/>

And if the above was not enough, there was a second incidence with ambassador Dogu. She met with Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chinchilla, a disputed figure in Honduras for protecting JOH for years against drug trafficking investigations. Additionally, some politicians are seeking to have him impeached. Ambassador Dogu, meanwhile, highlights the importance of an independent MP, something they did not care about under JOH.

<https://proceso.hn/embajadora-dogu-aboga-por-proteger-independencia-del-ministerio-publico%ef%bf%bc/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/consideran-que-es-dificil-que-se-pueda-realizar-un-juicio-politico-al-fiscal-general-y-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1521639745327149057

<https://twitter.com/baleadaconchile/status/1521666672544796672>

"50.7% of women and girls living in Honduras, where they represent 51% of the population (9.5 million inhabitants), have suffered physical violence at some point in their lives, 48.9% have been victims of sexual harassment and 36.9% have received physical attacks that have put their lives at risk. These are some of the main data of the study "Social and institutional tolerance to violence against women, adolescents and girls", released on Tuesday by Spotlight, an initiative of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN), based on 220 interviews to women over 15 years old to know the incidence of male violence in Honduras."

"The Minister of the Secretariat of Human Rights, Natalie Roque, affirmed that the government of Honduras is facing a national emergency due to the increase in murders and violence against women this year, which exceeds one hundred femicides."

<https://proceso.hn/la-mitad-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras-ha-sufrido-violencia-segun-un-estudio/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-en-emergencia-nacional-ante-aumento-de-asesinatos-contra-las-mujeres/>

The Anti-Corruption Coalition held a press conference on the need for an autonomous, independent UN-backed anti-corruption mission with a clear legal framework.

<https://proceso.hn/coalicion-anticorrupcion-urge-una-cicih-autonoma-independiente-y-con-claridad-en-su-marco-juridico/>

04/05/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Campesinos; Corruption - UFERCO; Energy Sector - Corruption, US, EEH; Infrastructure; Police; Migration; Security; and A Disgraceful Stone Thrower

Journalist Carlos Eduardo Ávila Aguilera reported on alleged sexual harassment by a high school teacher. Now, he is on the verge of being captured and sent to prison for allegedly committing slander.

Similar legal cases abound in Honduras to silence journalist. Congressman Darío Morán presented a bill to decriminalize crimes of honor.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1478-condena-penal-provoca-huida-de-periodista-sentenciado-a-la-carcel>

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-proyecto-de-ley-para-despenalizar-los-delitos-contra-el-honor-en-honduras/>

C-Libre denounces the intimidation of the peasant group Nueve de Noviembre in Santa Ana de Yusguare, Choluteca, by the businessman Argentina Diaz. "Since 2012 the farmers have been doing the corresponding procedures for the recovery and legalization of the land at the National Agrarian Institute, but in 2014 they were evicted at the request of Argentina Diaz, who claims to be the owner of the property. Heber Baca assures that this is not true and that the owner of Antar, used false documents. Last March 25, after having verified that Diaz is not the owner of the land, the farmers returned and are convinced that INA will grant them the property title, because this institution is only waiting for the sentence in favor of the State. The peasant says that the situation is not easy and that Argentina Díaz uses the repressive organs of the State and some 80 employees of the company, who armed with machetes come to the land to demand that they leave. He indicated that among them there are five security guards who carry firearms at all times."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/intimidacion/1476-con-volarles-las-cabezas-intimidan-a-campesinos-del-grupo-19-de-noviembre>

"The President of the National Congress, Luis Redondo, presented tonight a draft decree that seeks to strengthen the Specialized Prosecutor Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO). The draft decree authorizes UFERCO, a dependency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, to exercise criminal action ex officio in cases of high impact corruption, without the prior approval of the Attorney General of the Republic."

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-decreto-para-que-la-uferco-tenga-accion-penal-sin-autorizacion-de-cabezas-del-mp/>

Radio Progreso published an overview of the planned reforms to Honduras' energy sector.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/reforma-energetica-es-urgente-pero-debe-ser-equilibrada-recomienda-el-fosdeh/>

Congress' president Luis Redondo denounces that under the JOH regime, contracts with energy companies were illegally approved. In one day, Congress had approved 99 contracts and this even after Congress officially had stopped its session.

Redondo nominated a special congressional commission to investigate the contracts.

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-del-cn-denuncia-fraude-en-votaciones-de-antecesoros-para-aprobar-contratos-de-energia/>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-del-congreso-nombra-comision-para-investigar-contratos-de-energia-aprobados-de-manera-ilicita/>

The US continues to comment on the planned energy reforms in Honduras (see yesterday). Under Secretary Jose W. Fernandez tweeted: "The U.S. stands ready to work closely with Honduras to make the necessary reforms to keep the lights on and advance energy security for the people of Honduras. Taking time to sort out this complicated sector will pay huge economic dividends in the near term."

US ambassador Laura Dogu met with Energy Minister Erick Tejada to continue the discussions about the energy reforms.

Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina commented on the heated exchange between him and the US ambassador the day before. "The diplomat assured that "we must put away any fear that the relationship will become complicated, on the contrary, I believe that we maintain a very frank and direct language with the United States with a lot of dignity in our relationship".

https://twitter.com/State_E/status/1521902071376658433

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-energia-y-embajadora-de-eua-dialogan-sobre-nueva-ley-de-energia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-hay-temor-de-que-la-relacion-con-estados-unidos-se-complique-al-contrario-estamos-fortaleciendo-los-vinculos-canciller-reina/>

Some days ago, the Xiomara administration had announced to present legal actions against the Honduras Energy Company (EEH). The latter now says that they have so far not received such a complaint.

EEH threatens legal actions against Honduras if they go on with plans to expropriate them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeh-aclara-que-no-existe-demanda-del-estado-de-honduras-en-su-contra-denuncia-pretension-de-proceso-de-expropiacion/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/05/04/energia-honduras-anuncia-accion-legal-contr-a-plan-energetico-del-gobierno/>

San Pedro Sula reactivated the toll system announcing that the funds will be used to built more road infrastructure to combat congestion.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/volveran-los-peajes-a-san-pedro-sula/>

The National Police started the reintegration process of some of its members purged under the JOH regime. "Through a press release, the police institution indicated that the reinstatement will be framed within a certification of suitability, integrity and institutional roots."

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/policia-nacional-inicia-protocolo-reintegro-policias-depurados-honduras>

Five members of the police force were murdered these last days and the director of the National Police Force stated that it is a consequence of their "frontal attack" on organized crime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-muerte-de-cinco-elementos-policiales-es-consecuencia-de-la-lucha-contr-a-el-crimen-organizado/>

Over 80% more Hondurans were deported in the first months of 2022 compared to last year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/deportacion-de-migrantes-a-honduras-se-dispara-un-825-entre-enero-y-abril/>

"The National Congress approved a bill to grant migratory amnesty for three months and exempt migrants passing through Honduras from the abusive payment of fines or surcharges by the migratory authorities."

<https://criterio.hn/cn-aprueba-amnistia-migratoria-migrantes-ya-no-pagaran-multa-impuesta-por-migracion/>

"The Legislation and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the National Congress, chaired by Ramón Barrios, received from the Undersecretary of Security, Julissa Villanueva, the proposal for the creation of the National Security Plan."

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-del-cn-recibe-propuesta-para-la-creacion-del-plan-de-seguridad-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/espero-me-resuelva-esta-semana-ese-nombramiento-o-tendre-que-tomar-acciones-amenaza-diputado-mauricio-rivera/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/por-trafico-de-influencias-denuncian-diputado-mauricio-rivera-fiscalia-BH7988311>

05/05/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Xiomara - ZEDEs, IHSS; LGBTQ+; CONADEH; Corruption - UN, UFERCO, CNA; National Police; US; and Not Criminalizing Journalists

COPINH denounces the arrest of Secretary General of the CNTC in La Paz, Sebastian Reyes.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1522399436596412416>

El Heraldo listed 21 promises made by president Xiomara during her inauguration. According to the corporate news outlet, the new administration complied in its first 100 days with 8 promises, 7 are on its way, 5 have shown a ambiguous tendency and only 1 promises has not been fulfilled at all.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/interactivos/xiomara-castro-100-dias-promesas-KX7990783>

The promise regarding the ousting of the ZEDEs seems less straightforward than some hoped. "The promise of Xiomara Castro's government to expel the repudiated and unconstitutional Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), installed during the governments imposed after the coup d'état and promoted by the extradited Juan Orlando Hernández seems to have become demagoguery. After the investor of the ZEDE Prospera and Morazán, Massimo Mazzone, called Hondurans parasites, now the self-styled investors of these regimes, socialize with government officials stating that they are willing to stay under the conditions of Honduran laws."

<https://criterio.hn/las-zede-seguiran-operando-justificadas-en-que-se-someteran-a-las-leyes-de-honduras/>

"The dismissal of the director of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), Dr. Ivins Adriana Zúniga, a position she assumed on February 24 of this year, was confirmed on Thursday night."

Civil society actors denounce her dismissal linking it to a nefarious campaign by the business lobby COHEP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-xiomara-castro-acepta-peticion-de-junta-directiva-del-ihss-de-destituir-a-la-doctora-adriana-zuniga-de-esa-institucion/>

<https://twitter.com/DraAdrianaZniga/status/1522430824284569605>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1522450757835972609>

Libre Congressman Victor Grajeda outed himself as the first openly gay member of Congress in Honduras.

He also presented a bill do have May 17 as the National Day against Homophobia.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1522218048236572675>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-iniciativa-para-declarar-el-17-de-mayo-como-dia-nacional-contr-la-homofobia/>

"The president of the National Congress, Luis Rolando Redondo, appointed a special commission to investigate Blanca Izaguirre, head of the National Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (CONADEH), for irregularities in the election of her position and several complaints against her."

<https://criterio.hn/por-irregularidades-en-su-nombramiento-y-denuncias-en-contr-congreso-investiga-a-la-ombudsman-de-honduras/>

The UN exploratory mission for the creation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission will arrive in Honduras on May 8.

<https://proceso.hn/onu-enviara-mision-a-honduras-para-evaluar-peticion-para-combatir-corrupcion/>

<https://proceso.hn/cancilleria-esta-lista-para-recibir-mision-de-evaluacion-para-establecer-cicih/>

Congress' president Luis Redondo presented a bill giving more autonomy to UFERCO (see yesterday), a decision widely welcomed by anti-corruption specialists in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/reacciones-decreto-independencia-uferco/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-que-es-importante-concederle-independencia-a-la-uferco-para-impulsar-la-investigacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-del-congreso-propone-facultar-a-la-uferco-para-investigar-sin-permiso-del-fiscal-general/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that Congress denied them to carry out a constant oversight of Congress' work.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/congreso-nacional-le-cierra-las-puertas-al-cna-EH7999363>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1522255335595163648>

"The reintegration of former officers of the National Police and members of the Armed Forces of Honduras (FF.AA.) seeks to expand the community policing system for the benefit of the population, according to a statement issued by the Secretariat of State in the Office of Security."

Additionally, "[t]he National Anti Maras and Gangs Force (FNAMP), will be under the direction and command of the National Police of Honduras as of today."

<https://confidencialhn.com/reingreso-de-exfuncionarios-policiales-y-miembros-de-las-ff-aa-buscaria-ampliar-sistema-de-policia-comunitaria/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-mando-de-la-policia-nacional-pasa-fuerza-nacional-anti-maras-y-pandillas/>

US ambassador Laura Dogu met with Luis Redondo and other members of Congress.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1522347527391125506

Pasos de Animal Grande has more on the bill aiming at decriminalizing crimes against honor (see yesterday).

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3371-diputado-dario-moran-delitos-contra-el-honor-deben-ser-resueltos-en-la-instancia-civil>

06/05/22

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; ZEDEs; Corruption - UN, UFERCO, Congress; IHSS; ENEE; Mexico; US - Energy; and the National Police Force

"Organizations that are part of the Honduran Network for Escazú, met this May 6, 2022, with the Environmental Commission of the National Congress, where they demanded the ratification of the Escazú Agreement. This is a regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, which came into force in Latin America on April 22, 2021."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3373-organizaciones-demandan-que-se-inicie-la-discusion-de-la-ratificacion-del-acuerdo-de-escazu>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/05/04/que-relacion-tiene-el-acuerdo-de-escazu-y-los-asesinatos-de-defensores-y-defensoras-de-los-rios-y-bosques-en-honduras/>

"Last April 20, the National Congress repealed the Organic Law of Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) and other related decrees. Now, after President Xiomara Castro sanctioned these decrees, the companies located in the ZEDE must register in one of the special regimes in force in Honduras with instructions from the Secretariat of Development, and, in addition, the different Secretariats of State must declassify all the information about them after the repeal of the Law of Secrecy."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/05/las-zede-en-honduras-deberan-someterse-a-regimenes-especiales-ya-existentes-en-el-pais/>

The UN informed about the arrival of its exploratory mission for a UN-backed anti-corruption mission. "To this end, the technical mission will hold meetings with government actors, institutions and various sectors of society. Subsequently, the mission will prepare a report with conclusions and recommendations for the Secretary General of the United Nations regarding the next steps to support Honduras in the important area of the fight against impunity and corruption."

US ambassador Laura Dogu announced that they support such a mission which should be "solid and lasting".

<https://honduras.un.org/es/180524-comunicado-sobre-mision-de-evaluacion-tecnica>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-sin-fecha-exacta-para-instalacion-de-cicih-depnde-del-compromiso-de-las-partes-dice-shackelford/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-apoya-una-comision-anticorrupcion-solida-y-duradera-para-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1522606977326583808>

The defenders of the old system appeared yesterday criticizing the attempt to give more autonomy to UFERCO in anti-corruption investigations (see last two days) and therefore taking a bit of control away from the MP which is still headed by the JOH-ally Óscar Chinchilla.

<https://proceso.hn/otorgar-supra-poderes-a-la-uferco-es-ilegal-y-pone-paralela-al-mp/>

The CNA denounced two days ago that Congress had not allowed them to oversee their work (see yesterday). Minister of Transparency Edmundo Orellana now calls on the congressional board to rectify this.

<https://proceso.hn/cn-debe-rectificar-decision-de-permitir-veeduria-del-cna/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-debe-rectificar-y-permitir-veeduria-del-cna-considera-ministro-de-transparencia/>

The ousted IHSS director Adriana Zúniga held a press conference yesterday giving details about what prevailed (see yesterday).

"It is worth mentioning that a few weeks ago, the doctor released a report on the situation of the country's social security system, stating that it is totally privatized, and that it is in the hands of corrupt groups (...) The reality, she reiterated that "the problem is that we were not willing to comply with this type of decisions, the board wants a puppet, if it plants a person with an ideological position that does not allow them to loot the institute, then it is not convenient for them"."

Zúniga's dismissal reignited talks about the role of women in and the situation of women under the Xiomara administration.

<https://tiempo.hn/doctora-zuniga-que-le-dijo-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

<https://criterio.hn/exdirectora-del-ihss-denuncia-que-detras-de-su-destitucion-estan-poderosos-intereses-economicos-corruptos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yo-era-la-unica-perra-guardiana-del-ihss-adriana-zuniga-denuncia-amenazas-y-arbitrariedades-de-la-junta-directiva/>

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-acorraladas-en-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

"The Secretary of State in the Energy Office and acting manager of ENEE, Erick Tejada, informed that between 600 and 800 million lempiras were collected by the state-owned electricity company in the last two weeks."

<https://confidencialhn.com/entre-600-y-800-millones-habrian-aumentado-las-recaudaciones-de-la-enee-en-las-ultimas-semanas/>

Mexican president AMLO visited Honduras yesterday and met with president Xiomara.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-de-mexico-llega-a-honduras-para-reunirse-con-presidente-xiomara-castro/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1522741520713060355>

The US donated 250'380 more vaccine doses to Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibe-250380-dosis-de-vacunas-pfizer-donadas-por-el-gobierno-de-estados-unidos-por-medio-del-mecanismo-covax/>

US authorities continue to be involved in the energy reforms talks (see also last few days). Yesterday, Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, talked to president Xiomara.

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1522662364440629248>

"Five police officers were killed between April 23 and May 2, bringing to 15 the number of police officers killed in confrontations so far in 2022, according to data provided to Contracorriente by the National Police's Strategic Communications Office. On the other hand, this armed institution announced on May 4 the beginning of the process to reintegrate purged police officers in order to "increase the number of police officers", but not only that, they will also incorporate military personnel who were discharged."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/05/asesinato-de-policias-y-reintegro-de-agentes-depurados-sacude-a-la-policia-nacional/>

07/05/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Garífunas; Xiomara - 100 Days; Migration - US, Mexico; Energy Sector - Mexico; Transport Sector; Drug Trafficking;

Kerry Kennedy, president of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, arrived in Honduras to attend a ceremony where the authorities of the State of Honduras will make a public recognition and apologize to the family of trans woman and LGBTQ+ defender Vicky Hernández, who was murdered in the aftermath of the coup d'état.

<https://criterio.hn/kerry-kennedy-esta-en-honduras-para-ser-testigo-de-la-peticion-de-perdon-a-la-familia-de-vicky-hernandez-por-el-estado-de-honduras/>

OFRANEH's coordinator Miriam Miranda denounces that since a hearing at the IACtHR took place about the Garífuna community San Juan on April 4 and 5, the harassment of the community has increased.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1522998728763879426>

Radio Progreso organized a discussion on the first 100 days of the Xiomara administration.

ContraCorriente also covered the topic. "The first 100 days of Xiomara Castro's government have exposed a complex panorama for Honduras. Internal conflicts within the party and the political alliance that came to power complicate every scenario and, although Castro has fulfilled some of her promises, the structural problems of the country seem to exceed any effort. There are also important debts that are still pending, the first female president of Honduras has not fulfilled her promises to women."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yfr73TnAnMM>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/a-100-dias-se-reconocen-logros-y-se-plantean-desafios-al-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/07/cien-dias-de-deudas-para-las-mujeres-el-medioambiente-y-a-la-produccion-agricola/>

According to FOSDEH, 600'000 Hondurans have been deported by the US in the last ten years.

"The president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, attributed on Friday night to the "difficult conditions" experienced by the countries of Central America and Mexico the massive migration to the US, after meeting in Tegucigalpa with the Mexican president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador. (...) "Migration is a human right, it is not a crime", emphasized President Castro. "Migration is a human right, it is not a crime", emphasized President Castro, who commented that Honduras will host, on an unspecified date, an international conference to promote an action plan to address the structural causes of migration and include "concrete actions" of investment for development."

"As proof that the United States is indeed an ally of Honduras, it should provide work visas, said Rodulio Perdomo, Research Coordinator of the Social Forum for the Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-600-mil-hondurenos-han-sido-deportados-de-ee-uu-en-los-ultimos-10-anos-fosdeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeuu-debe-involucrarse-de-manera-clara-para-solucionar-migracion-amlo-desde-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/fosdeh-pide-visas-de-trabajo-como-prueba-que-eeuu-es-un-aliado-de-honduras/>

But due to the Remain in Mexico program, more and more Hondurans are being deported from Mexico. "The coordinator of the Observatory of International Migration in Honduras (OMIH), Sally Valladares, said that the problems faced by Hondurans in Mexico are increasing. (...) She indicated that it is necessary to work on a real prevention of migration so that Hondurans are not forced to leave the country. She considered that both States should establish policies regarding Hondurans deported from Mexico."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/07/consideran-implementar-medidas-ante-el-aumento-de-deportaciones-de-hondurenos-desde-mexico/>

During his visit to Honduras, Mexican president AMLO committed himself to support Honduras in oil exploration and exploitation in the Mosquitia and the Caribbean Sea.

<https://criterio.hn/amlo-promete-apoyar-a-honduras-en-exploracion-y-explotacion-petrolera-en-la-mosquitia-y-mar-caribe/>

The cargo transport sector announced protest measures for tomorrow.

<https://tiempo.hn/suspension-transporte-carga-lunes-honduras/>

InSight Crime reports on the recent announcement by the US to offer a \$5 million reward for information leading to the arrest of leaders of the Montes Bobadilla drug clan. "The State Department alleges that Herlinda Bobadilla, 61, and her sons Tito and Juan Carlos Montes Bobadilla are the current leaders of the group, which moves drugs and launders illicit proceeds throughout Central America, Mexico and the United States. Since the arrest of Herlinda Bobadilla's third son, Noe Montes Bobadilla, in 2017, their roles in the organization "have grown significantly," according to a May 2 State Department news release."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/us-bounties-hit-honduran-transportista-family/>

08/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; JOH - US; Corruption - UN; Xiomara;

"Nina Lakhani, author of "Who Killed Berta Cáceres?" (Ed. Icaria), said in an interview with Efe that the change of government in Honduras "could represent an opportunity" to reopen the case and look for more people responsible for her death, among whom she does not rule out some "high officials" of the previous executive."

<https://proceso.hn/nina-lakhani-en-el-caso-de-berta-caceres-quedan-responsables-por-investigar/>

Tomorrow, JOH will face his second hearing in New Yorl.

<https://tiempo.hn/segunda-audiencia-joh-martes-10-de-mayo-2022/>

JOH ally and still president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta Pérez spoke out against a UN-backed anti-corruption mission.

Argueta is currently on the defensive due to his closeness with JOH and among other things the role he played at JOH's National Security and Defense Council.

<https://proceso.hn/la-ciclih-con-otro-escenario-y-mas-facultades-podra-zanjar-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/argueta-senala-que-las-reformas-al-ministerio-publico-no-deben-ir-en-detrimiento-de-los-principios-internacionales/>

President Xiomara presented the results of her 100 first days in office.

She also commented on the insecurity-generating machine still active in Honduras. "She stressed that "without State violence and respecting due process, we must find ways to repair the damage caused by the partners of this system that protects corrupt and drug traffickers". She warned that she will confront those who continue to exercise power through violence, whether economic or otherwise, "it is public knowledge that there is an organic response to promote insecurity in Honduras. We have knowledge of how this criminal structure that permeated the State of Honduras until it became a failed state and continues to be active and conspiring, is sustained and operates".

There is also some criticism of this ritualized ceremony to look back on the first 100 days of a new government, especially when followed after 12 years of a narco-dictatorship with all the challenges this includes.

<https://tiempo.hn/xiomara-castro-habla-en-cadena-nacional/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/informe-presidenta-xiomara-castro-100-dias-de-gobierno>

<https://proceso.hn/existe-una-respuesta-organica-para-promover-la-inseguridad-en-honduras-dice-presidenta-castro%ef%bf%bc/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/es-injusto-y-ridiculo-valorar-100-dias-del-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

09/05/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, Police; LGBTQ+; Xiomara - Women's Rights; Corruption - UN; Public Health - Hospitals; Migration; Energy Sector;

JOH's trial in New York will continue this morning at 11am.

David C. Adams and Jeff Ernst report on his defense team. "They call themselves a legal 'Dream Team' and plan to call Donald Trump, Joe Biden and Barack Obama to testify in favor of their client. That's the opening salvo from the defense team of former Honduran president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, two weeks after he was extradited to stand trial in New York accused of operating the

country as a “narco state.” (...) Facing life in prison if convicted, Hernandez’s legal team have gone on the offensive from day one, defending their client in the media as a hero in the war on drugs and bragging that they will achieve an historic victory in court.”

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/juan-orlando-hernandez-audiencia-narcotrafico-nueva-york-datos-EC8051754>

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/united-states/former-honduran-president-hernandez-legal-dream-team-new-york>

The former police commissioner Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla will be extradited to the US today. His defense team told El Heraldó that he may testify in JOH's trial.

<https://confidencialhn.com/todo-listo-para-extraditar-a-eeuu-a-exdirector-de-la-policia-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/defensa-juan-orlando-hernandez-no-descarta-tigre-bonilla-testifique-expresidente-juicio-narcotrafico-LL8049519>

"Today, the government of Honduras officially took responsibility for the murder of trans woman and activist Vicky Hernandez. For a country with one of the world’s worst records of anti-trans violence, this 'Public Act of Recognition' is a significant and welcome development." (see also yesterday)

<https://twitter.com/RFKHumanRights/status/1523775250768433152>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-reconoce-responsabilidad-en-el-asesinato-de-lider-trans-y-pide-perdon-a-su-familia/>

Feminist and women's rights organizations highlighted the ups and downs of the Xiomara administration in its first 100 days. Among other things, they welcomed that Honduras started the ratification process of the optional protocol to CEDAW, but they also criticize the nomination of public officials linked to violations of the rights of women. They further presented a list of 9 demands.

<https://tiempo.hn/tribuna-mujeres-peticiones-presidenta-xiomara/>

The UN exploratory mission met with the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta.

<https://confidencialhn.com/rolando-argueta-confirma-visita-de-naciones-unidas-para-instalacion-de-la-cicih/>

<https://proceso.hn/mision-de-onu-inicia-visita-a-honduras-para-evaluar-peticion-anticorrupcion/>

<https://proceso.hn/la-corrupcion-es-demasiado-poderosa-por-eso-urge-a-cicih-dice-ministro-de-la-presidencia/>

"Honduras, with only 19% supply of vital medicines, starts a direct purchase process for 610 million lempiras, informed today the Minister of Health, José Manuel Matheu."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-con-19-de-abastecimiento-en-medicamentos-vitales-inicia-proceso-de-compra-por-l-610-millones/>

President Xiomara promised the construction of five, "real" hospitals, in comparison to the failed mobile hospitals purchased in a deal investigated for corruption by the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vamos-a-construir-hospitales-de-verdad-promete-xiomara-castro/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the need of a holistic approach to support deported Hondurans.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3374-honduras-no-tiene-una-politica-efectiva-para-apoyar-a-las-personas-migrantes-retornadas>

Minister of Economic Development Pedro Barquero announced that they will revise some 20 contracts with energy companies.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-20-contratos-de-generacion-de-energia-termica-y-solar-seran-renegociados-asegura-el-ministro-de-desarrollo-economico/>

10/05/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Police; IACtHR; Bajo Aguán; Energy Sector-Social Movements; Corruption - UN; Transport Sector; Xiomara; and Cancel the National Party

ConexiHon and Criterio have more on the historic recognition of its guilty in the murder of Vicky Hernández by the State of Honduras (see last two days).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/37-lgtbi/1982-vicky-perdonanos>

<https://criterio.hn/en-acto-publico-reconocen-culpabilidad-del-estado-por-asesinato-de-vicky-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/legislacion-y-una-empresa-privada-inclusiva-con-comunidad-lgbtq-demanda-kerry-kennedy/>

JOH declared "not guilty" during yesterday's hearing. His next appearance before court will be late September for the evidentiary hearing and the trial was tentatively set for January 17, 2023.

JOH's allies in Honduras are also feeling more heat. "The special commission of the National Congress in charge of investigating the actions of the justice operators in extradition matters, recommended on Tuesday to impeach the president of the Judiciary, Rolando Argueta, and the Attorney General, Oscar Chinchilla."

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/narcotrafico/juan-orlando-hernandez-declara-no-culpable-cargos-drogas-armas-de-fuego-nueva-york?kdjhgd>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/juan-orlando-hernandez-que-sigue-caso-juicio-audiencia-nueva-york-narcotrafico-NY8076690>

<https://criterio.hn/abogado-de-joh-dice-que-su-pago-viene-de-dinero-limpio/>

<https://proceso.hn/comision-del-cn-recomienda-aplicar-juicio-politico-al-titular-de-la-csj-y-al-fiscal-general/>

The former police commissioner Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla was extradited to the US.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/extraditado-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-tigre-dispuesto-a-quemar-13-bandas-criminales-de-honduras-segun-su-abogado/>

"Herminio Deras García was a teacher, union leader and the second secretary of the Communist Party of Honduras in the 1980s. On the morning of January 29, 1983, he was assassinated in San Pedro Sula by state security forces. Today, 39 years after his assassination, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is hearing his case, and will hear testimony from his family at the public hearing taking place in San José, Costa Rica."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/estado-de-honduras-en-audiencia-por-asesinato-de-herminio-deras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/buscando-verdad-y-justicia-sanando-heridas/>

<https://proceso.hn/familia-pide-a-corteidh-condenar-a-honduras-por-ejecucion-de-lider-comunista/>

CESPAD presented an analysis on the agrarian conflict in the Aguán Valley and why the land-owning elites are attacking the negotiation process set up by the new administration.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/05/10/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-por-que-las-elites-regionales-atacan-el-proceso-de-negociacion-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

"Representatives of several communities, gathered in the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice, MADJ, are in the basement of the National Congress participating in a 72 hour fast to demand to be heard by the congressmen so that their opinions and assessments are taken into account in the discussion of the Energy Law."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/comunidades-demandan-ser-escuchadas-en-discusion-de-la-ley-de-energia/>

"Representatives of the Technical Evaluation Mission of the United Nations Agency (UN) who are in the country to know the scenario prior to the installation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), have described the meetings in the Central American country as "very productive"."

<https://proceso.hn/enviado-de-la-onu-dice-que-ha-tenido-reuniones-muy-productivas-en-escaneo-previo-a-instalar-la-cicih/>

The cargo transport sector started with strike actions yesterday blocking highways. The Xiomara administration as well as business lobby COHEP call on them to stop and sit down for talks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ihtt-pide-a-transportistas-de-carga-suspender-bloqueo-e-iniciar-dialogo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-pide-buscar-solucion-a-paro-de-transporte-de-carga-que-genera-perdidas-millonarias/>

The Xiomara administration will inform about its work in a new weekly called People Power.

<https://tiempo.hn/poder-popular-xiomara-castro/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1524156847082594307>

11/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Ahuas; Drug Trafficking - JOH; IACtHR - LGBTQ+; Corruption - UN, Lobo; Energy Sector; and Free Highways

11 months after finding him guilty, David Castillo will know his sentence for his role in the murder of Berta Cáceres this coming May 18.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1524459382766985219>

CEPR denounced that on the tenth anniversary of the Ahuas massacre in Honduras, survivors and family members of victims still languish while there is no accountability. "“The Ahuas massacre will forever be a black mark in the already disastrous US-led ‘War on Drugs’ in the region, and should have led to an overhaul of how the US engages in counternarcotics operations abroad,” Alex Main said. “Instead, there has been little change, and the incident, and the still-languishing victims and their terrorized community, seem to have largely been forgotten.””

Senator Patrick Leahy published a statement on the massacre. "Instead of taking responsibility, assessing their mistakes, and examining their methods and partnerships with Honduran security forces, DEA and State Department officials obstructed U.S. and Honduran investigations of the incident and falsely reported to Members of Congress, including my staff, that the boat’s passengers

had fired on security forces. They also insisted that the DEA bore no responsibility for the discharging of weapons and had only played a supportive and advisory role during the mission. After the horrifying events of May 11, 2012, the DEA continued joint operations using battlefield tactics in the area that resulted in two more fatal shootings. Following one of these incidents, the Honduran police team leader was reported to have been instructed by his superiors to plant a weapon into evidence. (...) I wish I could say that the DEA and the State Department have learned the lessons of Ahuas. But that will not be possible until those who fired on those innocent people and lied about it are brought to justice, and until the victims are properly compensated and cared for. That is the shared responsibility of the U.S. and Honduran governments."

<https://cepr.net/press-release/ten-years-after-honduran-villagers-were-killed-in-a-dea-led-operation-survivors-and-families-languish-and-theres-been-no-accountability/>

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-on-the-tenth-anniversary-of-the-massacre-at-ahuas-honduras>

The US Department of Justice published a press release on the extradition of Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla. "DEA Administrator Anne Milgram said: "Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez would not have risen to power and successfully benefited from massive drug proceeds had it not been for his expansive network of corrupt associates. These associates, including Bonilla Valladares, likewise exploited their positions to traffic cocaine to the United States and violently protect other politically connected drug traffickers, all for their own personal gains. Bonilla Valladares further betrayed the Honduran people by using his law enforcement badge to cover for his crimes. Bonilla Valladares's extradition shows the world once again that corrupt officials cannot hide behind their positions."

Bonilla's hearing was set for June 10. He will be defended by a pro bono lawyer as he claimed not to have sufficient funds to pay for his defense.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-chief-honduran-national-police-extradited-united-states-drug-trafficking-and>

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1524422102882861056

<https://criterio.hn/con-abogado-pagado-con-dinero-de-estadounidenses-tigre-bonilla-se-presenta-a-primera-audiencia/>

There are more articles on the call to have JOH's allies in Honduras impeached, i.e. the Attorney General and the President of the Supreme Court (see yesterday).

Criterio published an additional article focusing on the MP and its Attorney General and their role in supporting JOH.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/piden-al-congreso-nacional-juicio-politico-contr-presidente-de-la-corte-y-fiscal-general/>

<https://criterio.hn/comision-del-congreso-demanda-juicio-politico-contr-presidente-de-la-corte-y-fiscal-general/>

<https://criterio.hn/un-ministerio-publico-infructuoso-se-declara-listo-para-apoyar-una-mision-anticorrupcion/>

The State of Honduras recognized its role for the murder of labor leader Herminio Deras García in 1983 (see yesterday).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/estado-de-honduras-reconoce-responsabilidad-por-la-ejecucion-extrajudicial-de-herminio-deras-en-1983/>

"In accordance with the reparations measures dictated by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR Court), President Xiomara Castro committed to comply with the change of name according to gender identity before June 28th of this year, informed the Catrachas Lesbian Network."

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-promete-cambio-de-nombre-conforme-a-la-identidad-de-genero-a-traves-del-rnp/>

"The spokesman for the Technical Evaluation Mission of the United Nations (UN), Andres Salazar, said Wednesday, according to initial surveys he has conducted with various sectors, have told him that an international commission is required to fight corruption in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/vocero-de-la-onu-dice-que-segun-primeros-sondeos-en-honduras-se-quiere-una-cicoh-independiente-e-imparcial/>

The hearings in the corruption case involving former president Pepe Lobo's brother started yesterday-

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-en-busca-de-sentencia-definitiva-contrabienes-del-hermano-del-expresidente-porfirio-lobo-sosa/>

Radio Progreso reports on the discussions about a energy sector reform. "The energy expert, engineer Mario Zelaya, points out that it must be recognized that in 28 years of market opening in the electricity sector, and of supposed competition in order to achieve objectives of having the lowest possible cost per kilowatt hour for end users, this was not achieved, not even close."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/verdadera-reforma-energetica-piden-diversos-sectores-en-honduras/>

After three days of protest, the cargo transport sector came to an agreement with COHEP and the Xiomara administration.

<https://confidencialhn.com/firma-de-acuerdo-pone-fin-al-paro-del-transporte-de-carga-a-nivel-nacional-de-forma-inmediata/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/acuerdo-gobierno-transportistas-carga-cohep-conflicto-carreteras-NI8093593>

12/05/22

Honduras Daily: COPINH; Energy - BCIE; MiAmbiente; JOH - Allies; Elections; Security Tax; Health Sector; and Homecoming

COPINH demands an investigation into the murder of Wilmer Alexis Domínguez Madrid, resident of the community of Río Blanco, Intibucá. Wilmer Domínguez is the brother of the defender of land, territory and natural resources, Rosalina Domínguez, who in 2019 received threats for cultivating land near the Agua Zarca project.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1524146286701731842>

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-investigar-asesinato-de-miembro-del-copinh-en-rio-blanco-intibuca/>

Congress approved the new energy law making access to energy a human right.

"In the opinion of Víctor Fernández, of the Bufete Estudios para la Dignidad and coordinator of the Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia (MADJ), the energy reform approved by the National Congress "is an important step towards interrupting the privatizing route of the sector and recovering what has been plundered"."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/congreso-nacional-aprueba-nueva-ley-de-energia/>

<https://criterio.hn/energia-se-convierte-en-derecho-humano-con-aprobacion-de-ambiciosa-ley-en-honduras/>

Criterio reports on the so-called drug corridor through the Moskitia and failed government promises. "On March 21, during International Environment Day, Medina announced that the Honduran government would begin destroying the so-called "narco-corridor", which has devastated the biosphere of the Río Plátano, a 110-kilometer stretch of land linking the municipalities of Dulce Nombre de Culmí, in the vast department of Olancho, with the community of Krausirpi, municipality of Wampusirpi, department of Gracias a Dios, in the Honduran Mosquitia. (...) However, a month later, last Sunday, April 25, the presidential advisor, former president of Honduras from 2006-2009, coordinator of the ruling Liberty and Refoundation Party (Libre) and husband of the president of Honduras, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, in a meeting with Olancho cattle ranchers, agreed not to destroy the road, on the contrary, he pledged to support the work."

In a similar vein, OFRANEH denounces that the same ministry, MiAmbiente, approved a new protected area at the Garífuna coast in Iriona while at the same time starting an alliance with Mexico to explore fossil fuels there.

<https://criterio.hn/ministro-de-miambiente-queda-como-mentiroso-al-no-destruir-carretera-que-devasta-la-mosquitia/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1524865967905447936>

The congressional Extradition Commission requested to have JOH's allies Rolando Argueta, president of the Supreme Court, and Óscar Chinchilla, Attorney General, impeached (see previous days). Now, the head of the commission, congressman Ramón Barrios, denounces receiving death threats.

<https://criterio.hn/comision-del-congreso-que-pide-juicio-politico-contra-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte/>

Proceso Digital reports that the Xiomara administration requested some \$220 millions from the BCIE for fuel subsidies. The BCIE will hold a meeting on this on June 3. A request by the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) for \$250 million was denied by the BCIE.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ha-solicitado-220-millones-al-bcie-como-apoyo-del-pago-de-subsidio-de-los-combustibles/>

The JOH regime and its Congress had failed to approve a Electoral Procedural Law which should have made the electoral process more transparent. The new administration started talks yesterday to approve such a law.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-y-tje-inician-consensos-para-aprobar-la-ley-procesal-electoral/>

The new director of the Security Tax, Pastora Bonilla, denounces its administration by the JOH regime as "a disaster". Kept in secrecy under JOH, Bonilla now revealed that the program has almost 4 billion Lempiras in debt.

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-deuda-que-tenemos-documentada-es-de-3-mil-millones-814-mil-712-lempiras-directora-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad/>

"The Presidential Commission that analyzes and authorizes the agreements for the hiring of health personnel who were promised their appointment, many of whom were hired in the framework of the pandemic, holds weekly meetings to update how the process is going and the difficulties they are facing. There are 8234 people to be hired, including doctors, nurses, auxiliaries and personnel who have remained on the front line of the fight against Covid-19, of whom some five thousand appointment agreements have already been delivered, said Alan Pineda, Secretary General of the Health Secretariat, on Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/solo-faltan-tres-mil-acuerdos-de-permanencia-en-salud/>

"Guillermo Antonio Amador "el Gemelo" had to spend 11 years in exile to return to the country, without fear of the persecution that the narco-dictatorship of the coup took against him (...) Guillermo was coordinator of the Student Front for University Action of the National Pedagogical University "Francisco Morazán", and member of the security team of the National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP), after the coup d'état, generating much insecurity against his life."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/guillermo-amador-vuelve-a-honduras-tras-11-anos-de-exilio/>

13/05/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Corruption - UN, MADJ, US; Femicides; Political Prisoners; Economy; Health Sector; and a Special Energy Thief

C-Libre denounces the murder of social communicator Carlos Peralta in La Ceiba.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1481-acribillado-a-tiros-muere-comunicador-social-de-la-ceiba-atlantida>

The UN exploratory mission concluded its visit in Honduras with a meeting with president Xiomara Castro. "According to the Minister of Transparency, if what the United Nations proposes after the report presented by the exploratory mission that came to the country is positive, a memorandum of understanding will be signed and steps will be taken to negotiate an agreement that will allow the installation of Ciccih in Honduras."

<https://proceso.hn/mision-de-onu-concluye-visita-exploratoria-a-honduras-tras-reunion-con-castro/>

"More than 15 communities gathered in the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ) camped in the basement of the National Congress for 72 hours, in order to carry out several actions against the regime installed by former President Juan Orlando Hernandez and demand a frontal fight against corruption."

<https://criterio.hn/comunidades-concluyen-campamento-con-acciones-contra-el-fiscal-y-exfuncionarios-del-regimen-de-joh/>

"The former Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Honduras, Heide Fulton, went from being a key figure in support of the illegal and arbitrary actions of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who became her ally, to participating in forums where it is recognized that Honduras was captured by a criminal structure. The participation of the diplomat in the forum called "Criminal Structures Behind State Capture" held by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) in Washington D.C., United States, generated discomfort in part of the citizenry due to her direct participation in the fraudulent elections of 2017 that allowed "JOH", as Hernández is popularly known, to arbitrarily establish himself in power by consummating his illegal reelection."

<https://criterio.hn/de-respaldar-ilegal-reeleccion-y-ser-aliada-de-joh-heide-fulton-salto-a-reconocer-estructura-criminal-corrupta/>

At least 110 women have violently lost their lives in Honduras this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/110-muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-en-2022-confirma-la-secretaria-de-asuntos-de-la-mujer/>

After four years of persecution, two of them inside a maximum-security prison, political prisoner Raúl Álvarez finally obtained his definitive letter of release.

<https://criterio.hn/otorgan-carta-de-libertad-definitiva-a-raul-alvarez-perseguido-politico-de-la-crisis-postelectoral-en-2017/>

"On Thursday night, the National Congress of the Republic unanimously approved the Law for the Recovery and Economic Reactivation of Micro and Small Companies."

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-ley-para-la-recuperacion-y-reactivacion-economica-de-mipymes/>

<https://criterio.hn/aprueban-ley-que-buscaria-reactivar-economia-de-la-micro-y-pequena-empresa-en-honduras/>

Radio Progreso portrays the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) - "an institution plundered and with little chance of success due to corruption".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ihss-una-institucion-saqueada-y-con-pocas-probabilidades-de-salir-adelante-por-la-corrupcion/>

Nationalist congressman and former assessor to the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), Pedro Chávez, was found to be stealing electricity...

<https://tiempo.hn/multa-pedro-chavez-robo-de-energia-tegucigalpa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-los-pobres-pagan-al-dia-recibo-de-luz-diputado-pedro-chavez-hurta-energia/>

14/05/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Judicial System - JOH; Security Tax; Energy;

« Arnold Aleman one of the criminalized Guapinol defenders was detained today by the National Police as he and his family were en route to Trujillo; he was taken to Tocoa. « ...« We condemn the actions of the police and State entities «

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1525652219995074560>

Pasos de Animal Grande got access to the report by the congressional committee investigating judicial workers involved in extradition processes. Based on the report, the commission asked for the impeachment of the Attorney General and the president of the Supreme Court (see last few days).

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3377-institucionalidad-en-honduras-bajo-cero-graves-actuaciones-de-operadores-de-justicia-involucrados-en-el-proceso-de-extradiciones>

Criterio has more on the problems accumulated under the JOH regime at the institution governing the Security Tax (see also last week).

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-destruccion-de-documentos-en-tasa-de-seguridad-en-administracion-de-joh-deuda-andaria-en-l-4000-millones/>

"Government officials criticized the head of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), Dante Mossi, for questioning the energy reform promoted by President Xiomara Castro. Mossi, through social networks, considered that to rescue the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) there is no need for new norms."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/14/funcionarios-critican-cuestionamientos-de-mossi-sobre-reforma-energetica/>

15/05/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking; Elections; Poverty; and Farewell, Victor Meza

At the beginning of the month, the US offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to the arrest of leaders of the Montes Bobadilla drug clan. Yesterday, Honduran security forces captured the head of the clan, Herlinda Bobadilla. In the confrontation that accompanied the capture, her son, Tito Montes Bobadilla, also wanted for drug trafficking, was killed.

An autopsy showed that he had bled out after being shot.

The same day, a court ordered pre-trial detention for Herlinda Bobadilla.

<https://proceso.hn/desarticulan-clan-montes-bobadilla-tras-captura-de-su-jefa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-logra-captura-de-la-extraditable-herlinda-bobadilla-y-tres-personas-mas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/autopsia-tito-montes-murio-desangrado-balazo-tibia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/arresto-provisional-a-herlinda-bobadilla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/llega-a-la-capital-extraditable-herlinda-bobadilla/>

After months of delay, the local elections in Duyure, Choluteca, San Lucas, El Paraíso and Wampusipri, Gracias a Dios, were repeated.

The National Party lost its mayoral seat in Duyure, but won again in Wampusipri.

<https://confidencialhn.com/dan-inicio-a-la-repeticion-de-las-elecciones-en-nivel-municipal-en-duyure-san-lucas-y-wampusirpi/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/partido-nacional-pierde-alcaldia-duyure-gana-wampusirpi-elecciones-CY8155895>

FOSDEH warns that the prices of basic goods could dramatically increase due to higher fuel prices.

<https://confidencialhn.com/canasta-basica-podria-alcanzar-los-l-14-mil-ante-incremento-del-combustible-fosdeh/>

<https://proceso.hn/fallece-el-analista-victor-meza/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/muere-victor-meza-analista-sociologo-honduras-luto-FY8155135>

16/05/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Assassinations, Guapinol; Berta - Trial; Garífunas; Journalists; Hydroelectricity; Corruption - UN, Mobile Hospitals, Police; Health Sector - Dengue; Fuel Prices; Elections; Extradition; Police; Labor Laws; and Raising a Flag for the LGBTQ+ Community

"The Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC) denounced the murder by hired killers of the defender of the commons, Donaldo Rosales, and the vulnerability of his family. Rosales, according to CEHPRODEC's report, was murdered last Sunday, May 15, while on his way to church in the community of Huertas, Minas de Oro in Comayagua."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1985-cehprodec-exige-proteccion-para-familia-de-ambientalista-asesinado>

"Almost three months after they regained their freedom, the eight defenders of the Guapinol River continue to live in uncertainty and to be arbitrarily detained by the National Police. This is a consequence of the negligence of the judges of the Trujillo Sentencing Court and the National Police. This weekend Arnol Alemán, one of the Guapinol River defenders, was illegally detained. Despite showing his letter of provisional freedom, he was arbitrarily arrested and transferred to Tocoa when he was requested by the public forces while traveling with his family."

<https://criterio.hn/tribunal-de-trujillo-y-policia-nacional-continuan-afectando-a-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Amnesty International demands justice and reparations for Berta's family as soon as possible. "On Wednesday, 18 May, the National Criminal Sentencing Court in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, is scheduled to announce the sentence imposed on David Castillo, former manager of the company Desarrollos Energéticos and in charge of the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project, who was convicted nine months ago as a co-author of the killing of human rights defender Berta Cáceres in 2016."

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/05/honduras-caceres-family-justice-soon-as-possible/>

Several Garífuna communities sent out a joint statement rejecting mining on their land.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1526312149307510784>

"Journalist Gilda Silvestrucci, correspondent in Honduras for the Venezuelan television network Telesur and director of the program En La Plaza, continues to be the victim of threats and stigmatization through her social networks. In the last few hours Silvestrucci received messages that not only put her as a journalist at risk, but also her family. In her journalistic work, Silvestrucci

gives coverage to facts related to the fight against corruption, human rights, environment and drug trafficking, among other issues that affect the population and that, because of her approach, she has been the object of political persecution."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1483-siguen-las-amenazas-y-las-acciones-de-intimidacion-contra-la-corresponsal-de-telesur-en-honduras>

MADJ commemorated five years of defending the Jilamito River.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1526187935741186048>

Transparency Minister Edmundo Orellano stated that a possible UN anti-corruption mission would be entitled to investigate the government itself without restrictions.

<https://tiempo.hn/edmundo-orellana-cicih-investigara-sin-restriccion/>

<https://criterio.hn/cicih-tendra-inmunidad-y-podra-investigar-a-cualquier-gobierno/>

"This Tuesday, the Sentencing Court on corruption matters will issue the resolution of the oral and public trial against the former director of Inversiones Estratégicas de Honduras (Invest-H), Marco Bográn and the former administrator Alex Moraes for the case of the purchase of mobile hospitals."

<https://proceso.hn/este-martes-dictaran-fallo-en-juicio-en-caso-de-hospitales-moviles/>

A judge confirmed the "definitive confiscation of 21 goods and financial products seized from former police commissioner Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez, who last January was granted a definitive dismissal prior to the opening of his trial. This was due to the questioned reforms approved last year to the Special Anti-Money Laundering Law by the National Congress". After the initial deception, yesterday's ruling is seen as a success in the fight against corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/confiscacion-definitiva-de-21-bienes-de-ambrosio-maradiaga-ordonez-representa-un-sustancial-avance-contra-la-corrupcion-policia/>

After protest actions last month, health workers and the Xiomara administration came to an agreement to right some wrongs from the JOH-era, i.e. paying outstanding salaries of health

workers. The process started, but it takes time and by now, some doctors have not received a salary for five months.

<https://proceso.hn/cinco-meses-sin-salario-la-tortuosa-espera-de-medicos-hondurenos/>

The Ministry of Health reports an increase in dengue cases in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/siguen-en-aumento-los-casos-de-dengue-en-honduras-2/>

Due to rising fuel prices, vice-president Doris Gutiérrez proposes to revise the profits of fuel suppliers and distributors.

<https://proceso.hn/ante-tendencia-alcista-vicepresidenta-propone-revisar-ganancias-de-proveedores-y-transportistas-de-gasolinas/>

At midnight, the time ran out for candidates in the 2021 general elections to present their financial reports.

<https://confidencialhn.com/politica-limpia-senala-que-hoy-vence-el-plazo-para-presentar-informes-de-gastos-de-campana/>

Nine years ago, Honduras extradited for the first time a drug trafficker, Carlos Arnoldo “El Negro” Lobo, to the US. His prison sentence is about to conclude.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-las-puertas-de-recobrar-su-libertad-el-negro-lobo-primer-narcotraficante-hondureno-extraditado-a-ee-uu/>

"Commissioner Willy Núñez is the new commander of the National Anti Maras and Gangs Force (FNAMP), the senior official said that the main and fundamental objective of his administration is the frontal fight against extortion and related crimes together with other government agencies."

<https://confidencialhn.com/comisionado-willy-nunez-asume-como-nuevo-comandante-de-la-fuerza-nacional-anti-maras-y-pandillas/>

"Labor leaders have celebrated the repeal of the Hourly Employment Law last April 28 in the National Congress; which had been one of the campaign promises of the current Government. The employers, on the other hand, believe that this abolition will generate more unemployment. While the decree is not yet in force, negotiations and disagreements continue."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/16/los-claroscuros-de-la-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/gobierno-xiomara-castro-izada-bandera-lgbti-centro-civico-gubernamental>
17/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; Drug Trafficking - Extraditions, Armed Forces; Migration; LGBTQ+; and Rainbow Flags over Honduras

Once again, a court date related to the case of David Castillo has been postponed. His sentencing hearing does not take place today, but has been rescheduled to June 17.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1526721128173010946>

Rest of the World reports in English on the recent developments on the ZEDEs in Honduras.

<https://restofworld.org/2022/crypto-libertarian-prospera-lost-legal-battle-honduras/?utm-source=sharing>

Both Marcos Bográn and Alex Moraes were found guilty in the mobile hospitals corruption case.

The MP is not satisfied with the ruling. "The Public Prosecutor's Office, after arduous investigative work and with 74 pieces of evidence presented at trial, demonstrated the criminal responsibility of the first two involved in the Mobile Hospitals case; however, the ruling will be subject to a cassation appeal due to the fact that the sentencing body has been more than lenient in terms of the legal qualification of the conducts attributed to the accused ex-officials."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/caso-hospitales-moviles-un-llamado-a-transparentar-gestion-en-salud-publica/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/culpables-declaran-marcos-bogran-alex-moraes-caso-hospitales-moviles-fraude-violacion-deberes-funcionarios-honduras-MF8171871>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-disconforme-con-primera-condena-en-el-caso-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://criterio.hn/mp-disconforme-con-sentencia-contra-exfuncionarios-de-invest-h-favorecidos-por-codigo-penal-de-la-impunidad>

According to Security Minister Ramón Sabillón, there are still 37 extradition requests pending.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/entrevista-ramon-sabillon-estructuras-criminales-partidos-politicos-honduras-NM8169078>

A member of the Armed Forces was sent to prison. He had trafficked drugs into prisons when the Armed Forces were still responsible for the prisons under the JOH regime.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/condenan-a-militar-que-permitia-ingreso-de-droga-de-la-ms-13-a-carcel-IC8172864>

More than 24'000 migrants have reached Honduras in the first four months of 2022 wishing to transit the country.

Radio Progreso reports on their difficult situation in Danlí.

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-24-mil-migrantes-en-transito-han-ingresado-a-honduras-entre-enero-y-abril-de-2022/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/en-busca-de-una-vida-digna-migrantes-desafian-a-la-muerte-en-el-darien/>

Honduras commemorated the day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia.

The National Person Registry now allows the change of one's name in compliance with the IACtHR sentence in the case of murdered trans woman Vicky Hernández (see also previous days).

<https://criterio.hn/comunidad-lgbti-conmemora-en-honduras-el-dia-contra-la-homofobia-transfobia-y-bifobia/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3379-comunidad-lgbtbi-dice-que-defendera-con-unas-y-dientes-los-espacios-abiertos-por-presidenta-xiomara-castro>

<https://oacnudh.hn/las-personas-desplazadas-lgbt-enfrentan-desafios-exacerbados-cuando-buscan-refugio/>

<https://tiempo.hn/comunidad-lgbtqi-de-honduras-marcha-2022/>

<https://proceso.hn/embajadas-de-alemania-espana-francia-y-ue-izan-bandera-de-la-comunidad-lgtbiq-en-sus-sedes/>

18/05/22

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity - US; LGBTQ+; Reproductive Rights; CONADEH; Corruption - Penal Code; Drug Trafficking - MP, JOH, Cattle; Energy; Migration; Poverty; and Back to University

MADJ and over 60 more organizations and social movements called on the US treasury to oppose the financing of a hydroelectric project on the Jilamito River.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1527025620785430528>

Libre congressman Manuel Rodríguez will present a bill to legalize same-sex marriage.

But at the same time, Libre's speaker in Congress, Rafael Sarmiento, said that Libre does not support same-sex marriage.

Evangelical churches called for a protest on June 10 "in defense of the family and moral values"...

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/18/presentaran-proyecto-para-pretender-legalizar-el-matrimonio-igualitario/>

<https://proceso.hn/libre-no-apoya-el-matrimonio-entre-personas-del-mismo-sexo-aclara-diputado-sarmiento/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/pastores-evangelicos-convocan-a-movilizacion-contra-el-matrimonio-homosexual-XB8201077>

Honduras has one of the harshest restrictions on abortion, even in the case of rape it is prohibited. The National Party wants to set in stone this restrictions by allowing a possible change only to a constitutional assembly. Women's rights organizations have presented a constitutional challenge against this.

<https://criterio.hn/organismo-internacional-presenta-amicus-para-defender-derechos-de-mujeres-a-interrumpir-embarazo-por-3-causales/>

"The United Nations System in Honduras expresses its concern about actions that could affect the independence and stability of the mandate of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) and calls for its full respect."

This was preceded by Congress appointing a Special Commission to investigate the accusations against commissioner Blanca Izaguirre, in addition to her irregular appointment to the position by the JOH regime.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/182469-naciones-unidas-insta-respeto-de-la-institucionalidad-del-comisionado-nacional-de-los>

<https://criterio.hn/oacnudh-insta-se-respete-principios-de-paris-ante-posible-destitucion-de-comisionada-de-conadeh/>

With the ruling the the mobile hospital case (see yesterday), talks about the nefarious consequences of the Penal Code reform under JOH resurfaced.

<https://criterio.hn/codigo-penal-que-aprobo-partido-nacional-favorecera-a-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-en-estafa-de-hospitales-moviles/>

Expediente Público has a helpful overview of the investigation by the special congressional commission on extradition issues. The congressional report published on May 10 exposes a judicial system at the service of drug trafficking.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-informe-del-congreso-nacional-expone-sistema-de-justicia-al-servicio-del-narcotrafico/>

JOH was transferred to another cell in New York and he is now allowed to receive visitors.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trasladan-de-celda-a-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-carcel-de-nueva-york/>

"For many years, the jungle region known as La Mosquitia in northeast Honduras has been an ideal corridor for international drug trafficking. However, another criminal economy has emerged at the same time: illegal cattle ranching. As a result, the region has been plunged into a state of terror, where criminals threaten the land and the Indigenous communities that inhabit it."

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/narco-cattle-ranching-honduras/>

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/cash-cows-cattle-trafficking-from-central-america-mexico>

Due to high fuel prices, the Xiomara administration implemented home office again for public employees.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/18/gobierno-de-honduras-retomara-teletrabajo-para-ahorrar-combustible/>

According to a report by FOSDEH, 69% of deported Hondurans are considering leaving the country again.

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-69-de-los-deportados-a-honduras-piensa-en-volver-a-emigrar-segun-estudio/>

According to the World Bank, Honduras remains the second poorest country (after Haiti) in the western hemisphere.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-es-el-segundo-pais-mas-pobre-del-hemisferio-occidental-segun-el-banco-mundial/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-2-anos-de-ausencia-por-la-pandemia-unah-inicia-clases-presenciales/>

19/05/22

Honduras Daily: Lencas; OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; Journalists; Police; Migration; Debt; Health Sector; Transport Sector; and a Nationalist Traitor?

Two indigenous Lenca campesinos were illegally detained for hours when opposing an eviction even though their community is in possession of land titles.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1486-dos-dirigentes-campesinos-lencas-detenidos-arbitrariamente-en-desalojo-en-la-paz>

Yesterday, a three day feminist caravan took off yesterday in support of OFRANEH. The caravan will conclude on Sunday in Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://criterio.hn/arranca-caravana-feminista-de-ofraneh-para-apoyar-comunidad-garifuna-en-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/05/pronunciamiento-de-la-caravana-feminista-viva-ofraneh/>

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1527281528765444096>

COPINH published a statement on the rescheduling of the sentencing hearing of David Castillo.

<https://copinh.org/2022/05/comunicado-justicia-hondurena-retrasa-injustificadamente-sentencia-a-condenado-david-castillo/>

"In the framework of the Honduran Journalists' Day, the Association of Journalists of Honduras (CPH), the Honduran Press Association (APH), the Association of Media of Honduras (AMCH) and the Committee for Free Expression (C-Libre), jointly request the National Congress (CN) to repeal the decree of crimes against honor of the new Penal Code."

<https://proceso.hn/cph-aph-y-c-libre-piden-derogacion-del-decreto-de-delitos-contra-el-honor/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3380-organizaciones-piden-que-congreso-agilice-despenalizacion-de-los-delitos-contra-el-honor>

"Former members of the National Police, who were purged, demonstrated in different highways of the country, in compliance with the threats made to the Government to obtain the reinstatement of their jobs. German Licona, the lawyer of the former policemen, stated that this is due to the lack of commitment of the Government to reach an agreement and subsequent reinstatement of the agents."

Later in the afternoon, the Xiomara administration announced that an agreement was found.

<https://confidencialhn.com/policias-depurados-cumplen-amenaza-y-se-toman-las-carreteras-del-pais/>

<https://tiempo.hn/protestas-policias-depurados-acuerdo-con-gobierno/>

Four Honduran migrants were found dead in a train wagon in Mexico transporting corn to the US.

<https://proceso.hn/nueva-tragedia-migrante-enluta-a-familias-hondurenas/>

Congress approved a \$335 million credit to pay of debt.

<https://proceso.hn/cn-aprueba-credito-del-bch-al-gobierno-por-un-monto-de-335-millones/>

ContraCorriente reports on the recent worrisome development at the IHSS. "On Thursday, May 12, the board of directors of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) appointed its new executive director, Dr. Gaspar Rodríguez. This followed the dismissal of Dr. Adriana Zúniga, who had promised a structural change in an institution that has been plundered by one of the largest acts of corruption in the last decade. Prior to her dismissal, Zúniga denounced threats from private security companies seeking to win bidding processes."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/19/la-opacidad-que-persiste-en-el-ihss/>

"The National Urban Transport Security Force, FNSTU, is already operating in San Pedro Sula to strengthen security in the transport units that have been victims of attacks in recent months as a result of extortion by criminal groups operating in the country."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ya-esta-operando-fuerza-de-seguridad-para-cuidar-el-transporte-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://criterio.hn/diputado-rolando-barahona-la-piedra-en-el-zapato-del-conservador-partido-nacional/>

20/05/22

Honduras Daily: Rains; Judicial Power; ZEDEs; LGBTQ+; Agriculture; Debt; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; Elections;

Torrential rains in Honduras have affected various departments, but especially Tegucigalpa.

At least one person died.

The rains are forecast to continue for another 72 hours.

COPECO declared yellow alert in four departments.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/caos-dejan-lluvias-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://criterio.hn/lluvias-en-la-capital-de-honduras-provocan-danos-severos-y-expone-malas-administraciones-municipales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-reporta-la-primera-victima-mortal-por-las-lluvias-del-jueves-en-la-capital/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lluvias-continuaran-por-las-proximas-72-horas-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/copeco-eleva-a-alerta-amarilla-cuatro-departamentos-e-incluye-olancho-en-alerta-verde/>

This June, the electoral process of the new Supreme Court judges will start, a key body will be the nominating body set up of representatives of seven sectors and which will have to present to Congress at least 45 candidates.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/inicia-el-debate-para-que-la-corte-suprema-en-honduras-no-siga-en-manos-de-politicos/>

"The recently appointed technical secretary of the Employment and Economic Development Zone (ZEDE) Próspera in Roatán, Jorge Colindres, assured that "the ZEDEs will continue to operate for many decades even after their repeal". Colindres argues the continuity of the controversial project to

the guarantee of legal security that the State of Honduras must ensure them despite any social and political conflict, based on international treaties and stability contracts."

<https://criterio.hn/secretario-zede-prospera-asegura-que-esta-continuara-pese-a-su-derogatoria/>

OACNUDH laments the discrimination suffered by Libre congressman Víctor Grajeda after coming out.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1527799081065713667>

Presidential advisor and husband Mel Zelaya highlights the need to increase agriculture production capacity in Honduras to fight food insecurity.

<https://proceso.hn/si-no-podemos-aumentar-la-capacidad-de-produccion-sufiremos-por-la-escasez-alimentaria-mel-zelaya/>

The use of international reserves to pay off debt (see yesterday), let to some debates in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/de-continuar-utilizando-las-reservas-internacionales-del-bch-se-corre-el-riesgo-de-no-recuperarlas-advierte-economista/>

<https://proceso.hn/reservas-internacionales-estaban-demasiado-altas-justifica-nasralla-sobre-prestamo-del-bch-al-gobierno/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/05/20/economista-aboga-por-no-tocar-reservas-del-banco-central/>

"Although it has emerged that the former director of Inversiones Estratégicas de Honduras (Invest-H), Marco Bográn, and the former administrator, Alex Moraes, have been found guilty of the overpriced purchase of seven mobile hospitals, the "big fish" who ran the colossal swindle remain unindicted in total impunity. Names such as the former president facing trial for drug trafficking in the United States, Juan Orlando Hernández, and the former president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, came to light in the overpriced purchase of the hospital modules, popularly known as "mobile cans"."

<https://criterio.hn/los-peces-gordos-de-la-estafa-de-los-hospitales-moviles-permanecen-en-impunidad/>

The National Party lost the repeated mayoral election in Duyure, Choluteca. And out of the "blue", they mayor's office went up in flames burning all documents of the previous, Nationalist, administration.

<https://criterio.hn/destruccion-de-documentos-practica-del-partido-nacional-que-resalta-tras-incendio-en-alcaldia-de-duyure/>

21/05/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Tolupán; Garífunas; Rains; Drug Trafficking; EU; COVID-19; and Commemorating Berta

The documentary about trans-activist Vicky Hernández, her murder in the aftermath of the coup, and the long fight for justice was screened in Honduras.

The full documentary can now also be watched online.

<https://criterio.hn/estrenan-documental-sobre-la-vida-muerte-y-justicia-por-el-transfemicidio-de-vicky-hernandez/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BU5F6s2M2us>

"Reynaldo Baharona, President of the Trubal Council of the Tolupán of Las Vegas de Tepemachin is a victim of harassment & intimidation by the owner of an illegal mining company La Ceibita in Victoria, Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1528202251558322176>

Women human rights defenders from the region send greetings to Honduras (see also yesterday). "Receive an embrace from all of us in the Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative. It is with joy that we receive the news that diverse struggles and territories of Honduras are traveling these days to the Garífuna territory. Joy because togetherness and solidarity embrace us and give us life, because this is how resistance and the collective strength with which we build other worlds are nourished."

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/05/cartahermanas-y-hermanos-del-pueblo-garifuna-hermanas-y-hermanos-de-la-ofraneh-companeras-de-lucha-que-acompanan-la-caravana-feminista-viva-ofraneh/>

"As part of the actions of prevention and response to the threats caused by the rains, which are carried out by the Mayor's Office of the Central District, the municipal authorities unanimously approved the declaration of a municipal emergency due to the risk caused by the rains." (see yesterday)

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/producto-de-las-lluvias-declaran-a-en-emergencia-a-tegucigalpa-para-el-resto-del-ano/>

Honduran security forces captured another Honduran, Rafael Eduardo Cáceres Soto, requested by the US for extradition for drug trafficking.

A judge ordered his pre-trial detention.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/capturan-a-otro-extraditable/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/juez-de-extradicion-dicta-detencion-judicial-para-el-ciudadano-rafael-eduardo-caceres-soto/>

The EU ambassador Jaume Segura announced that they will donate 128 million Euros to fight poverty in Honduras.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/05/21/ue-donara-e128-millones-para-contrarrestar-pobreza-en-honduras/>

COVID-19 hospitalization rates in Honduras are at its lowest since two years, at 4%.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-con-4-de-hospitalizacion-por-covid-el-registro-mas-bajo-en-dos-anos/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1528102871690104833>

22/05/22

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Poverty; Rains - Palmerola; Transparency; Corruption - UN; and the Region's Historic Memory

El Herald reports that JOH's brother Tony Hernández, will testify during his trial.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/defensa-tony-hernandez-testificaria-favor-juan-orlando-hernandez-YX8246427>

120 municipalities of the Dry Corridor are facing food insecurity.

<https://tiempo.hn/120-municipios-honduras-mas-escasez-alimentos/>

According to the mayor of Tegucigalpa, Jorge Aldana, 85% of inundations is due to garbage in the drains.

<https://proceso.hn/el-85-de-las-inundaciones-ocurren-porque-los-tragantes-estan-llenos-de-basura-alcalde-aldana/>

The rain also took to the controversial new airport Palmerola. "More evidence of the unbelievable amount of corruption involved in the construction of the Palmerola International airport that cost \$250 million, the majority paid by the Honduran gov't. It's a good time to review Lenir Pérez's concession".

<https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1528437709336985607>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1528430794770989069>

"The Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) denounced that, in several municipalities in the country, the former authorities stole public documents related to the execution of the economic resources they managed during their administration."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/obstruccion-informativa/1488-iaip-denuncia-el-desaparecimiento-de-archivos-en-varias-alcaldias-del-pais>

"Before a possible installation of the CICIH, there are intense movements in the National Congress to adjust the processes for the election of the Attorney General and the 15 new CSJ magistrates in 2023. To analyze this situation, the experiences of CICIG in Guatemala and CICIES in El Salvador are useful, as they are similar commissions despite being different contexts."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/22/cabildeos-para-instalacion-de-cicih-agudizan-la-lucha-por-controlar-csj-y-mp/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mas-de-30-organizaciones-de-ca-participaran-en-segundo-encuentro-regional-de-memoria/>

23/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Poverty; Judicial Power; Transparency; Migration; Debt; Corruption - OABI; Rains - Education; Energy Sector; and Overstaying his Welcome?

Yesterday, the evidentiary hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case started, but was then more or less immediately postponed to June 3.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1528780126183374848>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1528807971978985472>

According to FOSDEH, 73% of Hondurans live in poverty.

<https://proceso.hn/un-73-de-poblacion-hondurena-esta-en-situacion-de-pobreza-fosdeh/>

Libre congressman Ramón Barrios assures that Congress will have the opinion ready for the selection of candidates for the new Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) before its summer break in June.

The CNA highlights the importance to have an independent nomination committee for the candidates.

<https://proceso.hn/para-antes-de-junio-tendremos-dictámenes-para-elegir-autoridades-de-csj-diputado-barrios/>

<https://proceso.hn/independencia-de-la-junta-nominadora-sera-fundamental-en-la-eleccion-de-magistrados-de-la-csj-segun-cna/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/23/proponen-reformar-la-evaluacion-de-postulantes-y-despolitizar-la-eleccion-de-la-corte/>

Criterio criticizes a lack of transparency by the Xiomara administration. According to Criterio, they have not updated the transparency portal nor complied with the Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information (LTAIP).

<https://criterio.hn/presidencia-de-honduras-sigue-bajo-la-opacidad-y-el-secreto/>

"Two Honduran migrants died and five more disappeared after a boat in which they were traveling capsized in the southeastern Mexican state of Veracruz, official sources reported Monday."

<https://proceso.hn/dos-migrantes-hondurenos-mueren-tras-naufragio-de-embarcacion-en-suroriente-de-mexico/>

Last week, the Xiomara administration announced to use some international reserves to pay off debt and finance some government spending. There was some criticism, but now even the business lobby COHEP agreed with the measure.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-apoya-medida-gubernamental-de-utilizar-reservas-internacionales-para-pagar-deuda-y-evitar-default/>

The former head of the Administrative Office for Seized Goods (OABI), Francisco Ernesto Ruiz Nieto, will face trial for corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-obtiene-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contr-exdirector-de-la-oabi/>

In response to the latest damages to flooding (see last two days), the mayor of Tegucigalpa Jorge Aldana announced that his administration will invest 300 million Lempiras this year for mitigation work in the capital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/una-inversion-de-mas-de-300-millones-de-lempiras-en-obras-de-mitigacion-de-desastres-en-zonas-vulnerables-de-la-capital-anuncia-jorge-aldana/>

Due to the ongoing rain falls and the yellow alert, classes were suspended in four departments.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/suspendidas-las-clases-en-4-departamentos/>

Some energy contracts signed under the former JOH regime have already been revised, now Libre congresswoman Silvia Ayala announced that more than 240 contracts signed since the 2000s will be revised.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-mas-de-240-contratos-de-energias-firmados-desde-el-ano-2000-seran-revisados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/si-me-expulsan-por-tener-criterio-propio-y-buscar-el-beneficio-de-los-hondurenos-me-voy-a-sentir-feliz-diputado-rolando-barahona/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/23/audiencia-deberia-ser-para-los-que-cometieron-crmenes-en-el-partido-nacional/>

24/05/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Journalists; Extractivism - Garífunas; Amnesty - Prisons; Corruption; Poverty; Migration - Mexico; Security Tax; Debt; EU; Prisons; Drug Trafficking; and Thanks but no Thanks

"The Colectiva Muñecas de Arco Iris, denounced that last Friday, May 20, the human rights defender, Rixi García (34), was beaten in a street of Comayagüela in the Central District. The director of the Asociación Arco Iris, Donis Reyes, reported that Rixi García is a defender of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGTB) people and that, when she was attacked, she was walking down a street in Comayagüela, accompanied by Rixi Madrid (29), who also suffered blows and was injured with a screwdriver."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1491-atacan-a-golpes-y-hieren-de-gravedad-a-rix-garcia-defensora-de-los-derechos-lgtb>

"A photographer of the newspaper La Tribuna, of Tegucigalpa, was the victim of a criminal attack this Saturday morning, May 21, while he was carrying out his journalistic work on Kuwait Boulevard in the Honduran capital. The photojournalist, whose name is being withheld for his protection, was riding his motorcycle in that area of Comayagüela, collecting images of the disasters caused by the rains that hours before flooded several areas of the capital. Suddenly, a couple also riding a motorcycle intercepted him and after shooting him several times with a firearm, stole his vehicle."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/atentado/1490-atentan-contra-reportero-grafico-de-importante-diario-de-la-capital>

"The recent declaration of Iriona-Limón as a site of wildlife importance by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Mi Ambiente) contrasts with extractive projects in the area, including trawling in the coastal zone and illegal mining in the Sico and Paulaya valley. The coordinator of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH), Miriam Miranda, told Criterio.hn that along with these declarations for the protection of marine resources, extractive projects are intensifying."

<https://criterio.hn/mineria-y-pesca-contrarian-declaratoria-de-iriona-limon-como-sitio-de-importancia-para-la-vida-silvestre/>

Avispa Midia reports on the recent feminist caravan to Garífuna communities in the north of Honduras (see last week).

<https://avispa.org/honduras-caravana-feminista-ocupa-territorio-garifuna-con-arte-y-memoria/>

PSH congresswoman Maribel Espinoza announced that reforms to the Amnesty Law will be presented shortly.

Some criticizes that the reforms come to late as the law has already been applied to dubious cases. At the same time, it is worth highlighting that it has helped dozens of political prisoners, campesinos and more.

<https://proceso.hn/reforma-al-decreto-de-amnistia-sera-presentado-a-la-brevedad-asegura-diputada-espinoza/>

<https://proceso.hn/bancada-del-psh-justifica-aplicacion-de-amnistia-politica-por-fabricacion-de-juicios-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/es-inutil-reformar-amnistia-coinciden-expertos/>

"Joaquín Amador, who is in charge of political prisoners, stated that around seven thousand inmates could be released by means of a pardon. "The pardon is only given by the Presidency of the Republic, but it must pass through a filter depending on the person's crime. One of the requirements is that they have served a certain part of their sentence, the elderly or terminally ill because they are no longer a threat to society," he said."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/24/preven-que-unos-siete-mil-reos-sean-indultados-por-la-presidenta/>

"The special procedure for the prosecution of high-level public officials marks the application of selective justice in Honduras. Although they are involved in acts of corruption of high impact for the country, high-level officials are judged differently than any other citizen. This explains why many cases remain unpunished."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/05/24/altos-funcionarios-en-honduras-vinculados-a-corrupcion-deben-juzgarse-como-cualquier-ciudadano/>

The National Statistics Institute (INE) coincides with FOSDEH that over 73% of Hondurans live in poverty (see yesterday).

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/24/ine-segura-que-siete-de-cada-10-hondurenos-viven-en-pobreza/>

"Migrants of various nationalities passing through Honduras continue to live their nightmare through the national territory. Last May 3, the National Congress approved an amnesty to free them from the fine, but it is not being applied because it is not yet a law, it has not been sanctioned by the President and much less published in the Official Gazette."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/todavia-no-es-ley-la-amnistia-que-beneficia-a-migrantes-que-transitan-por-honduras/>

The number of drowned Honduran migrants in Mexico rose to six (see yesterday).

<https://tiempo.hn/seis-hondurenos-muertos-naufragio-mexico/>

According to PSH congressman Carlos Umaña, the so-called security tax may be repealed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-deuda-de-l-4-mil-millones-cn-gestiona-derogacion-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad-afirma-diputado-carlos-umana/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-y-presidencia-de-honduras-buscan-finiquitar-dilapidada-tasa-de-seguridad/>

COHEP presented a report on the use of international reserves to pay off debt and to pay for the government's current spending (see last two days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-presenta-posibles-efectos-sobre-uso-de-las-reservas-internacionales-del-bch/>

The EU and Honduras celebrated the ten years anniversary of the Association Agreement between the EU and Central America. Critical voices were not present.

<https://confidencialhn.com/exportaciones-de-honduras-a-europa-han-crecido-desde-la-entrada-en-vigencia-del-acuerdo-de-asociacion-con-la-union-europea/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office obtained convictions for Wilmer Obdulio López Irías, José Víctor Mejía, Santos Soriano López and Rito Yáñez Licona, after the repetition of the oral and public trial for the death of 360 inmates who died in the fire at the prison in Comayagua."

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-logra-sentencia-por-la-muerte-de-360-privados-de-libertad-en-el-centro-penal-de-comayagua/>

<https://criterio.hn/exdirector-y-exencargado-de-llaves-de-penal-de-comayagua-son-declarados-culpables-por-muerte-de-360-reos-calcinados-en-2012/>

Jeff Ernst reports for The Guardian on Honduras' development from a cocaine way station to a producer.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/24/honduras-cocaine-production-narcotics-central-america>

<https://tiempo.hn/periodista-rechaza-premios-casa-presidencial-congreso/>

<https://proceso.hn/periodista-sanchez-declina-recibir-galardones-del-ejecutivo-y-legislativo/>

26/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta; Journalists - Corruption; HRDs; Extractivism - Agriculture; Corruption - UFERCO; Judicial Power; Security - Extraditions; Xiomara - HR; a Colombian Visitor

Congress declared Berta Cáceres a national heroine. The 200 Lempira bill will be decorated with her portrait.

COPINH reacted: "While the date for the sentencing of the co-perpetrator of the crime of our sister Berta Cáceres is postponed @Congreso_HND declares her a national heroine. We victims are still waiting for the criminal prosecution of the intellectual authors as the best way to honor her memory. While we appreciate the gesture, this should not overshadow the State's debt to bring justice to those who paid for the crime. As long as her intellectual murderers are not incarcerated and the Gualcarque River is free of concessions, there is no justice or honor to Berta's memory."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1529648974310912001>

<https://twitter.com/OliviaMarcelaZ1/status/1529629800503066624>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1529643791954632704>

Honduras commemorates the Day of the Honduran Journalist. President Xiomara reiterated her administration's commitment with the respect of press freedom.

In the new century, at least 96 journalists have been murdered, over 90% of these cases remain unpunished.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3381-periodistas-mandan-un-mensaje-a-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-actue-rapidamente-para-proteger-la-libertad-de-prensa-hemos-vivido-bajo-el-miedo-en-la-narcodictadura>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-el-dia-del-periodista-presidente-xiomara-castro-reitera-su-compromiso-de-respeto-a-la-libertad-de-prensa/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/pronunciamentos/1492-periodistas-bajo-acecho-y-criminalizacion-en-honduras>

And as a bad omen, on the Day of the Honduran Journalist, the MP started criminalizing procedures against indigenous social communicator Sonia Pérez López.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ministerio-publico-criminaliza-a-corresponsal-de-radio-progreso/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-marco-del-dia-del-periodista-ministerio-publico-criminaliza-a-corresponsal-defensora-del-ambiente/>

The press and journalists in Honduras are not monolithic actors and some of them had it well even under the JOH regime. "The leadership of the journalists' association, benefiting from a shield of impunity granted by former President Juan Orlando Hernández, which prevents the investigation of allegations of corruption in the operation of hundreds of millions of the union's pension fund, reached out to President Xiomara Castro. The leadership of the Association of Journalists of Honduras (CPH), from which several of them received funds from the "Hermes" corruption case, in which the government of Hernandez paid almost 100 million Lempiras to 77 communicators, delivered on Wednesday in Tegucigalpa the "Alvaro Contreras" award to the journalist, Enma Calderon."

<https://criterio.hn/cupula-de-periodistas-beneficiada-de-impunidad-otorgada-por-joh-tiende-la-mano-a-xiomara-castro/>

In less than a month, CEHPRODEC documented and denounced the murder of two environmental defenders and the persecution of two indigenous leaders (see also previous e-mails).

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1493-dos-ambientalistas-asesinados-y-dos-lideres-indigenas-amenazados-reporta-cehprodec-en-el-ultimo-mes>

"The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in recent months has made a series of pronouncements - such as the announcement of Honduras Free of Open Pit Mining - which to date have been only good intentions on paper, but without any concrete action. Criterio.hn consulted with three land and environmental advocates about their assessments regarding the performance of this secretariat, under the direction of Lucky Medina, in the protection of the country's environment. From the Centro Hondureño de Promoción Para el Desarrollo Comunitario (Cehprodec), lawyer Donald Hernández said that they see the political will of Mi Ambiente, as it is also known, in a positive light. However, this has not yet translated into progress and actions through which firm steps are taken to safeguard nature."

<https://criterio.hn/voluntad-politica-de-secretaria-de-mi-ambiente-aun-no-se-plasma-en-acciones/>

ARCAH denounced the poultry company El Cortijo, for the systematic acts of aggression against defender that seek to stop the contamination and destruction of the Choluteca River.

<https://criterio.hn/arcah-denuncia-a-empresa-avicola-el-cortijo-por-intenciones-de-manipulacion-y-agresiones-sistematicas/>

"The National Congress of the Republic approved in first debate this Wednesday a bill that aims to give the independence to exercise public criminal action to the Specialized Prosecutorial Unit against Corruption Networks (Uferco)." This would be an important step for independent anti-corruption investigations not under the control of JOH ally and Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla.

<https://confidencialhn.com/enmedio-de-la-controversia-cn-aprueba-en-primer-debate-otorgar-independencia-a-la-uferco/>

"The president of the National Congress (CN), Luis Redondo, assured this Wednesday that a law will be created to avoid that candidates for magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), are not elected under corrupt interests that favor power groups."

<https://proceso.hn/crearan-una-ley-para-que-no-se-elijan-magistrados-que-obedezcan-intereses-politicos-dice-presidente-del-cn/>

<https://tiempo.hn/iniciativa-para-disolver-junta-nominadora-magistrados/>

Proceso Digital spoke with the Security Minister Ramón Sabillón, his work and his priorities, among the topics covered are extradition, the reintegration of purged members of the police force, and gangs.

<https://proceso.hn/no-soy-el-ministro-de-las-extradiciones-apenas-dedico-1-de-mi-agenda-a-ese-tema-secretario-de-seguridad/>

"Maribel Espinoza, congresswoman of the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH), denounced that the previous government disappeared documentation related to extradition requests. In addition, there is inconsistency between the information in the hands of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Security Secretariat."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/05/25/comision-de-diputados-detecta-extravio-de-informacion-en-solicitudes-de-extradicion/>

CESPAD analyzes the new government's first 100 days in office from a human rights perspective.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2022/05/25/100-dias-del-gobierno-de-castro-hacia-donde-avanzan-las-acciones-en-materia-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/requieren-palmerola-colombiana-piedad-cordoba-68-mil-dolares-honduras-XA8323198>

<https://proceso.hn/no-estoy-retenida-es-dinero-de-una-asesoria-piedad-cordoba-tras-intentar-salir-de-honduras/>

26/05/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; CNTC; Berta - Gualcarque; Garífunas; Mining - Azacualpa; Drug Trafficking - Police; Violence against Women; US; Migration - Mexico; and the 2nd Regional Encounter of Historic Memory

"The social communicator, Ricardo Avila, was the victim of a criminal attack, registered this Thursday, May 26, in the community of Santa Cruz, jurisdiction of the municipality of Marcovia in the department of Choluteca. The social communicator was shot in the head. (...) Seriously wounded, the social communicator was taken to a medical center in Tegucigalpa, where doctors have informed that his health condition is reserved."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1494-en-atentado-criminal-le-disparan-en-la-cabeza-a-comunicador-social-de-choluteca>

CNTC sent out an alert that sixty families of the CNTC campesino group "Las Galileas" in Jutiapa, Atlántida have been under intimidation and threats by heavily armed men since Sunday.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1529952245118341122>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/05/alerta-urgente-honduras-hombres-con-armas-de-alto-calibre-mantienen-bajo-zozobra-a-mas-de-60-defensoras/>

Berta's daughter Laura Zúniga Cáceres reacted to the announcement that the 200 Lempiras bill will carry her mother's portrait. "It would pain me to see my mother's face being kept in the banks of her murderers, that this rebellious face is the representation of her enrichment".

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda equally criticizes this.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1529924492151209985>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1529821311551164418>

This July, it will have been two years since the forced disappearance of four members of the Garífuna community El Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/donde-estas-los-garifunas-desaparecidos-reclamo-de-las-comunidades/>

The evidentiary hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case re-started yesterday. UFERCO presented 221 pieces of evidence.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1529851695198523394>

"The Maya Chortí people of the community of Azacualpa in La Unión, Copán, presented a letter to the Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment (MiAmbiente), demanding a clarification and rectification in relation to the publication of what they qualify as false information regarding the suspension of mining activity in the area. The document addressed to the head of MiAmbiente, Lucky Medina, states that the publication made on May 12, which states that the suspension of the mining plant owned by Minerales de Occidente S.A. (Minosa) is false. Therefore, they demand that in addition to the clarification and rectification, Medina as head of MiAmbiente "abandon his elusive behavior" and "assume his decisive role in repairing damages and sanctioning Aura Minerals/Minosa for the violations to the fundamental rights of the Maya Chortí indigenous community"."

<https://criterio.hn/poblacion-maya-chorti-de-azacualpa-presenta-escrito-ante-falsa-accion-de-miambiente/>

The MP requested the seizure of properties from the extradited former police chief Jan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla.

They found some 10 million Lempiras which could not be accounted for.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1529797297281896449

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-10-millones-sin-justificar-encuentran-al-extraditado-tigre-bonilla/>

Former JOH advisor Marvin Ponce and Libre congressman Mauricio Rivera have both been accused of violence against women.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/26/exasesor-presidencial-y-diputado-son-acusados-por-la-fiscalia-por-violencia-contra-la-mujer/>

<https://criterio.hn/politicos-perpetradores-de-violencia-contra-la-mujer-enfrentaran-la-justicia/>

US ambassador Laura F. Dogu met with the President of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-se-reune-con-embajadora-de-estados-unidos/>

Proceso Digital interviewed the Mexican foreign minister Marcelo Ebrard focusing on migration.

<https://proceso.hn/30-millones-invierte-mexico-en-honduras-para-frenar-la-migracion/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-presento-documental-que-aporta-a-la-memoria-historica/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/embajador-suiza-esta-contribuyendo-al-rescate-de-la-memoria-historica/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/representante-de-oacnudh-cofadeh-ha-enarbolado-la-bandera-de-lucha-contra-las-desapariciones-forzadas/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHN/status/1529938992971628587>

27/05/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Journalists; Corruption - UFERCO, Transparency, Palmerola; Indigenous Peoples; Violence against Women; US – Xiomara;

Family members of LGBTQ+ defender Deninson Escalante were beaten and intimidated by members of the National Police at their home in the village of El Palenque, Choluteca.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1495-en-allanamiento-ilegal-golpean-y-amenazan-de-muerte-a-familia-de-defensor-de-los-ddhh-de-choluteca>

"Taking 177 journalists as a sample, an academic study showed that aggressors use social networks as the main platform to discredit and intimidate journalists. The study was carried out in 16 departments of the country and seeks to visualize the problem of cyberbullying as an issue of social interest that has been little studied, but with strong repercussions. Among the most relevant data highlights that in Honduras, six out of ten journalists or social communicators received digital aggressions in 2021, the media used, social networks and WhatsApp. The aggressors hide in anonymity in 62% followed by 13% who are recognized by the victims as co-workers, bosses or even official institutions."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1993-estudio-revela-seis-de-cada-diez-periodistas-son-ciberagredidos>

Congress has approved an important bill giving UFERCO more independence and power.

The defenders of the old system have been rallying against this bill for days (see also last days). Once approved, Nationalists members of Congress left Congress in protest.

UFERCO's Luis Santos finds clear words for them. "People afraid of the strengthening of UFERCO are those involved in corrupt acts."

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1530091306092986369

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/congreso-nacional-aprueba-decreto-que-permite-a-uferco-actuar-de-oficio-en-casos-de-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/uferco-tiene-via-libre-para-enjuiciar-a-corruptos-fiscal-general-asegura-que-es-inconstitucional/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/05/27/autonomia-de-uferco-es-garantia-constitucional-penalistas/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/27/jueza-de-sentencias-califica-como-inconstitucional-otorgar-independencia-a-la-uferco/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1530334371227607041

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/27/bancada-opositora-asegura-que-otorgarle-independencia-a-la-uferco-es-un-duro-golpe-a-la-institucionalidad-del-ministerio-publico/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1530276898625966080

Additionally, Congress got rid of shady trusts led by private banks. These funds will now be administered by the Ministry of Finance as part of the Treasury's funds.

<https://criterio.hn/unos-19-fideicomisos-fueron-eliminados-a-solicitud-de-xiomara-castro-fondos-no-seguiran-en-banca-privada/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/positivo-considera-economista-que-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-recupere-los-fondos-publicos-ejecutados-mediante-fideicomisos/>

"The president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo, appointed a Special Multiparty Commission to investigate the contract for the construction of the Palmerola International Airport, where flooding due to rains occurred recently."

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-nombra-comision-legislativa-para-investigar-contrato-de-palmerola/>

UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay, was in Honduras for a regional forum on indigenous peoples and conservation. He highlighted the need to rethink the concept of protected areas from the millenary cosmovision, philosophy and practice of the indigenous peoples.

<https://criterio.hn/areas-protegidas-deben-partir-de-la-cosmovision-milenaria-de-pueblos-indigenas-dice-relator-de-la-onu-en-visita-a-honduras/>

"Cyber-stalking is one of the crimes included in the proposal of the Integral Law Against Violence against Women that was presented to President Xiomara Castro and, as announced several weeks ago, was in the process of socialization."

<https://criterio.hn/proyecto-de-ley-integral-contr-la-violencia-hacia-las-mujeres-busca-combatir-la-ciber-violencia/>

The US has invested more than \$327 million in building a new embassy in Honduras. Yesterday, they presented the result so far.

<https://proceso.hn/estados-unidos-finaliza-obra-gris-en-construccion-de-su-embajada-en-honduras/>

President Xiomara spoke with US vice-president Kamala Harris on the phone.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/kamala-harris-xiomara-castro-hablan-democracia-economia-migracion-CN8359400>

28/05/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Prosecutors; Transparency; US;

Honduras Now published a grim overview of attacks against and murders of land and environmental defenders in April and May in 2022.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/attacks-continue-against-land-and-environmental-defenders-in-honduras/>

Prosecutor Karen Almendares was murdered on Friday in Nacaome, Valle. "The 39-year-old woman, who worked as an environmental prosecutor in southern Honduras, was returning from exercising at a gym near her home when she was attacked."

UFERCO's Luis Santos condemned her murder and called her "a true heroine, a dreamer, an idealist".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/karen-almendares-fiscal-honduras-crimen-latinoamerica-ola-violencia-luz-marina-marcelo-pecci-IE8363956>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1530629561502748673

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/luis-javier-santos-se-pronuncia-ante-el-asesinato-de-la-fiscal-karen-almendares-GB8366686>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/05/28/colegio-de-abogados-condena-crimen-contr-fiscal-en-valle/>

Human rights lawyer and defender Joaquín Mejía welcomes the recent reforms to the Transparency Law but demands its application to state security forces in matters of human rights.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/05/28/abogado-pide-que-funcionarios-rindan-cuentas-de-gestion-en-dd-hh/>

US ambassador Laura F. Dogu met with the Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque.

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1530564616933330945>

29/05/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists - Assassinations; Judicial Power; Security Tax;

Journalist Ricardo Ávila died in the hospital after having been shot at on Thursday (see last week).

Four media workers have been murdered this year in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1995-fallece-en-el-hospital-escuela-el-comunicador-social-ricardo-avila-despues-de-sufrir-atentado-criminal>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-periodista-y-camarografo-ricardo-avila-luego-de-recibir-un-disparo-en-la-cabeza/>

<https://proceso.hn/cuatro-personas-ligadas-la-prensa-fueron-asesinadas-este-ano-en-honduras/>

The Journalists' Association of Honduras (CPH) denounces death threats against journalist Manuel Santiago Cerna.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cph-denuncia-amenazas-contr-el-periodista-manuel-santiago-erna/>

Proceso Digital reports on the selection process of the new Supreme Court judges.

<https://proceso.hn/la-eleccion-de-la-proxima-csj-acelera-los-pasos-del-ejecutivo-y-legislativo/>

Congress repealed 19 controversial trusts set up by the JOH-regime, among them the Security Tax (see last week). Nevertheless, the Security Tax continues to collect money as the JOH regime left it with a 3 billion debt.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cobros-por-tasa-de-seguridad-seguiran-efectuandose-por-deuda-de-13-mil-millones-aclara-diputado/>

30/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta; HRDs; Journalists; Femicides; Women's Rights; Corruption - UFERCO; Armed Forces; Children; and a Paradise for Organized Crime?

COPINH and Laura Zúniga denounce that the new Libre mayor of Tegucigalpa, Jorge Aldana, met with the Atalas. "A few days after declaring Berta Cáceres a National Heroine, the mayor of the Capital takes pictures with one of her murderers. Symbols without justice can become empty."

<https://twitter.com/laurizunigac/status/1531350693654798337>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is concerned about violence, intimidation, and criminalization targeting human rights defenders in the Americas during the first four months of 2022. The Commission asks States to foster an atmosphere where it is safe to advocate for human rights. (...) In Honduras, six murders of defenders were documented over the period January–March 2022. The Commission condemned the murder of Garifuna leader Alonso Salgado on May 1, before the home of fellow leader Zury Quintanilla, who was also injured in this attack in the Tela municipality in Atlántida, as well as the murder of environmental defender Justo Benítez Sánchez on April 30 in the municipality of San Francisco de Ojuera, in the department of Santa Bárbara. The OHCHR recorded four additional murders. In March, land rights defender Francisco Ruiz died in an attack in the La Brea hamlet in the municipality of Trujillo, in the department of Colón. In January, Tolupan indigenous activist and land rights defender Melvin Geovanny Mejía was found dead in the municipality of Morazán, in the Yoro department. The Commission also condemned the murders of indigenous leader and community journalist Pablo Isabel Hernández Rivera and Thalía Rodríguez, a trans woman who was a human rights defender."

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/preleases/2022/114.asp

The Honduran Journalists' Association created a special commission to investigate the murders of their colleagues.

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-abogados-nombra-una-comision-que-investigara-los-asesinatos-de-profesionales-del-derecho/>

Criterio reports on the gruesome recent femicide of the 22-year old student Nerly Zohemy Mendoza.

<https://criterio.hn/irregularidades-de-entes-de-justicia-enmaranan-caso-de-femicidio-contra-universitaria-nerly-mendoza/>

"Dozens of women raised their voices on Monday in Honduras to demand comprehensive sexual health and education, legalization of the Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP) to prevent unwanted pregnancies in women and girls who are victims of rape, and an end to femicides. On the occasion of the International Day of Action for Women's Health, women, including feminists and human rights defenders, highlighted the importance of comprehensive health for women and affirmed that it is a "non-negotiable" human right."

<https://proceso.hn/mujeres-hondurenas-alzan-su-voz-para-exigir-salud-y-educacion-sexual-integral/>

The National Party continues to rally against a strengthened UFERCO (see also last week).

The issue also brought to light that the age-old Liberal-National-Party-Alliance is to some extent still intact. Liberal Party members also walked out of Congress after the majority voted in favor of a strengthened UFERCO.

Out of the US, meanwhile, there comes support for UFERCO. WOLA welcomed the decision to give more autonomy to the anti-corruption office.

"The head of the Specialized Prosecutor Unit Against Corruption Networks in Honduras (UFERCO), Luis Javier Santos, denied that with the special status conferred by the National Congress to the unit, it becomes a parallel to the Public Ministry, on the contrary, he assured that the fight against corruption is strengthened."

<https://confidencialhn.com/nacionalistas-acusan-al-gobierno-y-cn-de-crear-una-persecucion-politica-a-traves-de-la-uferco/>

<https://criterio.hn/conservador-partido-liberal-conserva-alianza-con-el-partido-nacional-que-lo-condujo-a-su-desplome/>

<https://criterio.hn/brota-campana-contra-uferco-luego-que-el-congreso-confirio-estatus-especial-para-perseguir-corruptos/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/05/30/washington-aplaude-autonomia-judicial-de-uferco/>

<https://criterio.hn/titular-de-la-uferco-desmiente-que-se-convertiran-en-paralela/>

The Honduran Armed Forces created the first Green Battalion of Environmental Protection. "The Green Battalions will have as specific missions the protection of protected areas and forest reserves. In addition, they will actively participate in the fight against drug trafficking, illegal logging, fishing and mining." In the past, the Armed Forces played quite the opposite role - the JOH-era mining law even states that their budget is linked to increase income from the extractive industries. Some skepticism is, therefore, warranted.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-contara-con-el-primer-batallon-verde-de-proteccion-ambiental/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-xiomara-castro-realiza-el-lanzamiento-de-los-batallones-verdes-de-proteccion-ambiental/>

"Health authorities in Honduras launched a campaign on Monday to eliminate intestinal parasites in more than 1.6 million children in more than 22,000 educational institutions throughout the country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-inicia-la-campana-para-desparasitar-a-mas-de-1-6-millones-de-ninos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-en-primeros-lugares-del-indice-global-del-crimen-organizado-donde-resalta-el-narcotrafico/>

31/05/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Amnesty; Journalists; Femicides; Judicial Power; Water; Police; Armed Forces; Transparency; Corruption - UN, Mobile Hospitals; Health Sector; World Bank; and the Story of COFADEH

The evidentiary hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case continued yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1531685614709620736>

"After seven years of facing criminal proceedings accused of the crimes of usurpation and illegal exploitation of forest products and by-products, 19 members of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz Honduras (MILPAH) and Los Laureles, were finally dismissed after the defense led by C-Libre in coordination with the Committee of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared of Honduras (COFADEH), filed a request for political amnesty in favor of those involved."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1996-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-19-campesinos-de-milpah-y-los-laureles-en-la-paz-perseguidos-por-defender-sus-tierras-ancestrales>

OACNUDH called on a swift, exhaustive and independent investigation into the murder of journalist Ricardo Ávila (see last days).

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1531810682395672579>

UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras Alice H. Shackelford met with the Deputy Security Minister Julissa Villanueva to discuss femicides and the culture of impunity.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1531811676584034304>

The US embassy commented on the Supreme Court judges election. "The shared objective of the U.S. and Honduras is to see an inclusive, transparent and apolitical selection and election of the next Supreme Court Justices of Honduras."

A bill currently in discussion would stipulate that half the candidates for the Supreme Court must be women.

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-dice-que-apoya-eleccion-inclusiva-transparente-y-apolitica-de-nuevos-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/31/secretario-de-transparencia-propone-eleccion-de-corte-sin-sesgos-y-cambios-en-junta-nominadora/>

<https://criterio.hn/socializan-proyecto-de-ley-que-pondera-equidad-de-genero-en-la-eleccion-de-nueva-corte/>

Starting this month, drinking water will be handed out every five days in the capital instead of once per week.

<https://tiempo.hn/cada-cinco-dias-recibiran-agua-potable-capitalinos/>

During a football game, a police agent was hit by a fan. A day later, the fan was found dead, shot various times.

<https://tiempo.hn/hallan-sin-vida-al-presunto-responsable-de-lanzar-a-policia/>

<https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1531856027855073281>

"President Xiomara Castro declared that six helicopters and two aircraft will be acquired to strengthen the Air Force, the announcement was criticized by the opposition."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/05/31/cuestionan-al-ejecutivo-tras-anuncio-de-adquisicion-de-seis-helicopteros-y-dos-aeronaves-para-las-ffaa/>

The government organized a Forum Towards a Just and Transparent Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1531780399436660736>

The opponents of a strengthened UFERCO now claim that somehow a more autonomous UFERCO could hinder the installation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission. But it was the UN itself which said that the right environment to fight corruption in Honduras is needed which includes getting rid of JOH-era laws impeding anti-corruption efforts, but also strengthened anti-corruption bodies.

<https://criterio.hn/fortalecimiento-de-la-uferco-una-medida-que-aprobo-el-congreso-en-caso-que-no-se-instale-la-cicih/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office and the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Honduras (PGR) requested the Corruption Sentencing Court to sentence Marco Bográn, former director of Inversiones Estratégicas de Honduras (Invest-H), accused of the fraudulent purchase of seven mobile hospitals, to a maximum sentence of 11 years plus 8 months in prison and a monetary penalty of over 2,200 million Lempiras."

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-y-procuraduria-piden-pena-11-anos-de-prision-y-sancion-de-2200-millones-contramarco-bogran/>

"Due to lack of payment, medical interns announced today a nationwide work stoppage starting this Wednesday. According to the doctors, they are already six months in arrears, so they cannot stand the situation they are living with their families."

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-falta-de-pago-medicos-internos-anuncian-paro-de-labores-a-nivel-nacional/>

World Bank vice-president for Latin American and the Caribbean Carlos Felipe Jaramillo will visit Honduras for three days.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidente-del-banco-mundial-para-america-latina-y-el-caribe-visita-honduras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/documental-una-historia-en-6-partes/>