

01/07/22

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression; Mining; Corruption - Hermes, JOH, Congress, Police, NGOs; Migration - US; Energy; Extradition; Forests; and Upholding LGBTQ+ Memory

The Woman Human Rights Lawyers Network presented an Amicus Curiae in the case of Kevin Pérez, a young man tortured by state security forces as part of the 2017 post-electoral repression. His case, as many more, remain unpunished.

<https://twitter.com/reddeabogadas/status/1542985806490599424?s=21&t=PK8rPcgY9wdgACZYaNRn8A>

Criterio reports on the environmental damage, poverty and conflict caused by the mining operation of Minosa in Azacualpa.

<https://criterio.hn/pobreza-violencia-y-contaminacion-del-ambiente-deja-a-su-paso-minera-en-la-union-copan/>

Criterio reports on the reopened Hermes corruption case (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/sala-de-apelaciones-reactiva-caso-hermes-que-sacude-gremio-de-periodistas-sobornados-por-joh/>

"The administrator of the Presidential House of Honduras, Karen Suyapa Recinos García, confirmed that the previous authorities destroyed all the public information that had been generated in that state agency in the last governmental periods."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1509-confirman-que-el-gobierno-anterior-destruyo-toda-la-informacion-publica-de-la-casa-presidencial>

UFERCO is now allowed to directly investigate corruption at Congress and it started an investigation yesterday.

<https://proceso.hn/uferco-realiza-investigaciones-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

The Security Ministry suspended a commission general for irregular purchases worth 20 million Lempiras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/secretaria-seguridad-suspension-comisionado-felix-maldonado-jimenez-compra-irregular-licencias-DF8896731>

The Xiomara administration will investigate NGOs created under the JOH regime as some of them have been used to steal government money.

<https://tiempo.hn/intervencion-ong-verificar-cumplen-rol/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-oeneges-registradas-en-el-gobierno-anterior-seran-intervenidas-por-operar-ilegalmente-en-honduras/>

"The supreme court has issued a ruling that will allow the Biden administration to end a Trump-era immigration program forcing asylum seekers attempting to enter the US at the southern border to return to Mexico while their claims are considered."

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/jun/30/supreme-court-immigration-biden-trump-remain-in-mexico-decision>

The Xiomara administration announced to completely cover the 11.2% increase in energy prices.

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-oficializa-que-no-habra-incremento-a-tarifa-de-energia-en-trimestre-de-julio-a-septiembre-de-2022/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/01/cree-oficializa-el-aumento-en-la-tarifa-electrica-gobierno-reafirma-subsidio/>

Honduras courts admitted the extradition of José Luis Oliva to the US, but rejected the extradition of Rafael Cáceres Soto to Panama.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/01/conceden-la-peticion-de-extradicion-del-senor-de-los-cielos-hacia-eeuu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/csj-deniega-solicitud-de-extradicion-del-ciudadano-hondureno-rafael-caceres-soto-pedido-por-el-gobierno-de-panama/>

The MP is investigating illegal activities inside the La Tigra national park.

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-investiga-descombros-en-la-tigra-comando-de-fuerzas-armadas-intervendra-areas-afectadas/>

<https://criterio.hn/archivo-honduras-cuir-un-espacio-para-rescatar-memorias-de-la-comunidad-lgbti/>

03/07/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Teachers; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Violence - Xiomara, MP; Indigenous Peoples; and the Fatal Desperation to Seek Opportunities

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the June 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=46114

Teacher and labor leader Edward Iván Cáceres Salgado was murdered in his house in El Bálsamo, Yoro.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/duelo-el-cofadeh-lamenta-la-perdida-de-manera-violenta-del-maestro-y-miembro-del-copemh-edward-caceres/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-dirigente-magisterial-en-yoro/>

According to JOH's defense team, the US authorities shared the first batch of evidence with them, 1000 GB of data.

At the same time, they say that won't be sufficient...

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/entregan-mil-gb-evidencia-juan-orlando-hernandez-testimonios-JX8909391>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/abogado-joh-juan-orlando-evidencia-no-son-prueba-suficiente-juicio-narcotrafico-XM8916202>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/pruebas-contrajuan-orlando-son-conversaciones-entre-criminales-dice-defensa-LH8911872>

Based on 2021 statistics, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa/Comaygüela are among the 50 most violent cities in the world.

<https://confidencialhn.com/san-pedro-sula-y-el-distrito-central-vuelven-a-figurar-entre-las-50-ciudades-mas-violentas-del-mundo/>

President Xiomara reacted to various acts of violence these recent days. "We are firmly fighting inherited insecurity. This Wednesday, together with the National Police and the Security Secretariat, we will launch in Santa Barbara the Community Police program that will reach thousands of communities in the country. I condemn murders and massacres."

Her administration also announced some changes to the police leadership.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1543729239471673346>

<https://tiempo.hn/anuncian-cambios-en-la-estructura-de-la-policia-nacional/>

CESPAD reports on various problems with the investigation into the murder of public prosecutor Karen Almendarez last May.

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/07/03/policia-y-fiscalia-se-tiran-la-pelota-en-investigacion-del-crimen-de-la-fiscal-hondurena-karen-almendarez/>

"Lideni is a Lenca person; one of the main Indigenous peoples of Honduras. A young girl, Lideni and her family were not allowed to return to their home in Tierras del Padre after her mother was issued a restraining order. Lideni eventually returned, but three attempts at eviction have made her fearful of losing her land, gardens, crops, and friends all over again."

<https://contracorriente.red/en/2022/06/22/how-an-indigenous-lenca-child-was-kicked-off-her-land-by-a-real-estate-company/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/tragedia-de-migrantes-en-texas-la-desesperacion-de-las-personas-por-buscar-oportunidades/>

04/07/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Environment - UN; Corruption - UN, Armed Forces; Housing; Prisons; Taiwan; Japan; and the Staying Power of Nepotism

JOH's cousin Mauricio Hernández Pineda, also held for drug trafficking in New York, had his defense team call for a rescheduling of his trial. They wanted to use the time for plea deal discussions.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/01/primo-de-juan-orlando-pide-posponer-audiencia-para-seguir-negociaciones-con-la-justicia-de-estados-unidos/>

"Businesses operating in the global economy routinely abuse the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and other human rights," said David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, as he introduced a bill to curb these abuses.

<https://oacnudh.hn/las-leyes-de-derechos-humanos-y-de-debida-diligencia-en-materia-de-medio-ambienteson-cruciales-para-combatir-las-actividades-empresariales-irresponsables-segun-un-experto-de-la-onu/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6148-senala-relator-de-la-onu-actividades-extractivas-a-gran-escala-realizadas-por-empresas-estan-perjudicando-a-las-personas-y-a-la-tierra>

The question of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission has lately been closely linked to the approval of a new law regulating the election of Supreme Court judges. The Minister of Transparency, Edmundo Orellana, finds clear words. "If we give up on a new law, it is an unequivocal sign that we have given up on rebuilding a State of Rights and Guarantees for the citizens, which provides legal security to the population, and that there is no real interest in the UN helping us in the establishment of the CICIH."

<https://twitter.com/mundoorellana/status/1544001270956032000>

<https://proceso.hn/si-se-renuncia-a-nueva-ley-para-eleccion-de-magistrados-de-csj-se-desiste-a-reconstruir-estado-de-derecho-edmundo-orellana/>

"The president of the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC), Roy Pineda Castro, expressed concern, but with the willingness to investigate officials of this entity that are involved in the irregular audit that was executed in the construction of airfields in Rio Amarillo in which an investigation of EL HERALDO Plus and LA PRENSA Premium revealed military corruption. Among the irregularities that this journalistic team found, it was evidenced that for the construction of the airfield of Río Amarillo, in Copán, valued at 335,715,925.86 lempiras, 43,789,033.81 corresponded to the Sales Tax (ISV), from which the military were exempt."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/tsc-insta-a-investigar-corrupcion-militar-en-construccion-de-aerodromos-FK8927241>

According to the Xiomara administration, the Honduran Fund for Social Investment (FHIS) aims to build 55'000 social housing units in the next four years.

<https://proceso.hn/fhis-preve-la-construccion-de-55-mil-viviendas-sociales-para-los-proximos-cuatro-anos/>

"Today, six prisoners were killed inside the maximum-security prison "El Pozo" in Santa Barbara. They were detained inside the cell block controlled by the 18th Street gang. The prisons have been under the control of the Honduran police since March".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1544157010496819200>

<https://proceso.hn/seis-privados-de-libertad-muertos-en-la-carcel-el-pozo/>

The Honduran government received a delegation from Taiwan.

Honduras' Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, meanwhile, visited Japan.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibe-delegacion-de-inversionistas-de-la-republica-de-china-taiwan/>

<https://proceso.hn/una-delegacion-de-taiwan-visita-honduras-para-conocer-sobre-inversiones-2/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/japon-ayudara-a-honduras-con-material-de-emergencia-y-subsuencion-para-puentes/>

<https://criterio.hn/hasta-sus-correligionarios-rechazan-nombramiento-de-virgilio-padilla-al-frente-de-la-cree/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/virgilio-padilla-defiende-su-nombramiento-en-la-cree-y-culpa-a-ingenieros-de-la-crisis-energetica-del-pais/>

05/07/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Prisons; Amnesty; Judicial Power; Corruption; Diplomacy; BID; COVID-19; ENEE; and Public Opinion in Honduras

Jeff Ernst writes for The Guardian about the resistance to ZEDE Próspera on Roatán. "Legal analysts consulted by the Guardian suggested that in order to avoid a lawsuit, the government could either strike an agreement with investors, or challenge whether the Zedes were created in strict accordance with the now repealed law. "I emphatically believe that the repeal is good, but it does not end here," said Gustavo Solórzano, legal adviser for Cohep, the country's largest chamber of commerce. "Now the state has to review these concessions and it would be best for the state to verify if all the legal requirements were met and if not, proceed to cancel the concessions delivered." Meanwhile, the residents of Crawfish Rock remain vigilant. "We have our eyes open," said Connor. "We don't trust no one."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/05/honduras-land-rights-fight-crypto-colonialists>

OACNUDH expressed concerns about the murder of six inmates on Monday (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1544324608509313026>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oacnudh-preocupa-masacre-en-el-pozo-y-confirma-que-entre-las-victimas-uno-era-gay/>

The, JOH-era, Supreme Court declared the Amnesty Law unconstitutional. According to its ruling, it generates impunity. While some scrutiny of the law is welcome, that this ruling comes from a court which protected for years any Nationalist figure from corruption or drug trafficking investigation is cynical to say the least.

The question of the Amnesty Law also divides Libre and its governing partner PSH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/amnistia-politica-es-inconstitucional-concluye-sala-de-lo-penal-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-salvador-de-honduras-apuesta-por-reformar-amnistia-politica-libre-abandera-su-continuidad/>

According to congressional vice-president Rasel Tomé, Congress is ready to discuss the crucial reform to the selection process of Supreme Court judges.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/05/hemos-propuesto-que-la-junta-nominadora-solo-reciban-las-autopropuestas/>

Criterio reports that various important countries still lack diplomatic representatives. According to the Xiomara administration, the JOH regime put in place many obstacles to nominate new representatives and replace the ones imposed by him.

<https://criterio.hn/representaciones-diplomaticas-de-honduras-siguen-acefalas-entre-ellas-washington/>

Transparency International finds in a new report that Honduras loses 12.5% of its GDP to corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-pierde-mas-de-dos-mil-lempiras-cada-segundo-por-causa-de-la-corrupcion-transparencia-internacional/>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will invest \$40 million in the Honduran textile, i.e. maquila, sector.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bid-invest-financia-con-40-millones-de-dolares-al-sector-textil-de-honduras/>

Honduras has seen an increase in biosafety measures to fend of the newest COVID-19 wave.

The IHSS runs low on antigen and PCR-tests.

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-medidas-de-bioseguridad-en-este-congreso-nacional-han-sido-permanentes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ihss-sin-pruebas-antigeno-y-pcr-suspenden-temporalmente-cirugias-selectivas-por-la-alta-positividad-de-covid-19/>

"With a National Program for the Reduction of Technical and Non-Technical Losses, the government has set itself the goal of rescuing the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), announced this Tuesday the Minister of the Ministry of Energy, Erick Tejada."

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-anuncia-programa-para-rescatar-la-enee-con-una-inversion-de-1-15-mil-millones-este-ano/>

ERIC-SJ published its yearly opinion pool. The economic crisis (33%) and unemployment (26.2%) are the most cited main problems Honduras faces.

<https://radioprogressohn.net/pt/sondeo-de-opinion-crisis-economica-desempleo-e-inseguridad-los-problemas-sentidos-por-la-gente/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/uncategorized/sondeo-de-opinion-poblacion-califico-con-nota-de-6-a-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

06/07/22

Honduras Daily: FoE; Femicides; LGBTQ+ - Prisons; Community Policing; ZEDEs; Labor Rights - US; Energy - US; Penal Code; Corruption - Hermes; Nasralla; DFC; and More Polling

"In its latest country report, the OAS Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression highlights its concern about the climate of hostility towards journalism in Honduras, which is heightened by attacks on social networks, obstacles to journalistic work, legal reforms, threats, aggressions and stigmatization, among other aspects."

<https://proceso.hn/relatoria-destaca-clima-hostil-para-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras/>

Security Vice-Minister Julissa Villanueva denounces the failures to properly investigate femicides in Honduras, especially the lack of autopsies.

The recent poll by ERIC-SJ brought also to light that a disturbing 30% of respondents believe that women are mainly to blame for femicides...

<https://confidencialhn.com/ante-ausencia-de-autopsias-no-esperen-calidad-y-celeridad-en-investigacion-de-femicidios-senala-julissa-villanueva/>

<https://criterio.hn/sistema-patriarcal-y-machista-incide-en-culpabilizar-a-las-mujeres-por-femicidios/>

One of the inmates murdered at the beginning of the week was gay (see previous e-mails). LGBTQ+ organizations denounce that his murder was linked to his sexuality.

<https://criterio.hn/crimenes-de-odio-contra-comunidad-lgbti-se-trasladan-a-las-carceles-de-honduras/>

President Xiomara officially launched the Community Police program yesterday. It builds on Citizen Security Boards in all 198 municipalities.

While the idea behind community policing is welcomed, there is some criticism regarding its implementation. "In an interview with Criterio.hn, Mejia said that the current curriculum to be implemented in the Technical Police Institute (ITP) already speaks of community policing with a human rights approach. Mejia believes that there is no point in training police with a community vision and a human rights approach if these same police officers then go to work in the national police, a hierarchical, militarized institution that is still linked to organized crime."

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-y-autoridades-policiales-realizan-lanzamiento-de-las-mesas-de-seguridad-ciudadana/>

<https://criterio.hn/analistas-creen-que-policia-comunitaria-a-largo-plazo-no-tendra-el-efecto-que-se-busca/>

The people behind the ZEDEs and similar project have changed strategy calling their project "free cities" instead of "private cities" now. The Private City Foundation changed its name to Free Cities Foundation.

<https://twitter.com/AndreasKemper/status/1544604157751005184?cxt=HHwWgMC41YfTxO8qAAAA>

"Over 900 workers from the company building the new US Embassy in Tegucigalpa have occupied the construction site to denounce the illegal labor contract they were forced to sign that waives their rights".

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1544702036998078464>

"Minister of Energy @carbajal_tejada announces that HN government will conduct an audit of energy prices in Roatán & other Bay Islands, #Honduras. Roatán Energy Company (RECO) is owned by US pipeline billionaire Kelcy Lee Warren, CEO of @EnergyTransfer".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1544864843433385986>

Luis Redondo nominated a special commission to prepare and submit a detailed report on all documentation related to the discussion, voting and approval of the current Penal Code.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1544863686858244098

Criterio continues its reporting on the reopened Hermes corruption case, this time focusing on the journalists who received bribes from the JOH regime for positive coverage. According to the Appeals Court which reopened the case, only the involved authorities should be persecuted, but not the journalists, Criterio sees this differently.

<https://criterio.hn/opinion-de-corte-de-apelaciones-sobre-caso-hermes-no-libra-de-potencial-enjuiciamiento-a-periodistas/>

Vice-president Salvador Nasralla receives 1 million Lempiras per month for "social projects".

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/06/un-millon-mensual-dispone-designado-nasralla-para-obra-social/>

The director of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is currently visiting Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/director-del-dfc-llega-a-honduras-para-promover-el-desarrollo-del-sector-privado/>

While a majority in Honduras views favorable the new administration (see yesterday), there are still over 70% who have little or no faith in Congress.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/mas-del-70-de-la-poblacion-hondurena-desconfia-del-congreso-nacional/>

07/07/22

Honduras Daily: Violence against Women; Judicial Power; Labor Rights; Poverty; Agriculture; Organized Crime - La Moskitia;

Women's rights organization have called for a long time for the approval of the Shelter Home Law, but it is stuck in Congress.

<https://criterio.hn/ante-alza-de-femicidios-y-violencia-contra-la-mujer-exigen-refugios-para-las-sobrevivientes-y-sus-hijos/>

"The commission that will elaborate the new law for the selection of the new magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice received on Wednesday the proposal developed by the Executive Branch. The initiative was received after a meeting that the commission held with the president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo, to analyze the -until then- only two proposals received to reform the selection method."

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-recibe-iniciativa-del-poder-ejecutivo-para-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

Construction workers at the site of the new US embassy continue their strike (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1545030558580973568>

According to the World Food Program representative, 2.6 million Hondurans suffer from hunger.

<https://confidencialhn.com/alertan-que-un-total-de-2-6-millones-de-hondurenos-estarian-en-situacion-de-crisis-de-hambre/>

Honduran authorities and the corresponding congressional commission met with campesino representatives on the issue of redistributing seized land by OABI to campesinos.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/comision-del-ina-y-sag-se-reunen-con-campesinos-que-solicitan-tierras-incautadas-por-oabi-IA8983947>

Honduras ranks 10th in the Global Organized Crime Index.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-aparece-entre-los-10-paises-mas-criminales-del-mundo/>

<https://ocindex.net/>

InSight Crime reports on "Cocaine and Narco-Politics in the Mosquitia Region of Honduras".

<https://insightcrime.org/news/cocaine-narco-politics-honduras-mosquitia/>

08/07/22

Honduras Daily: Mining - HRDs; Berta - FMO; Judicial Power - UN; Xiomara - JOH; DFC; Labor Laws; and Good News from...Florida

"The law firm Estudios para la Dignidad warned of threats made against human right defender Fredy García by employees of the company Minerales de Occidente S.A., a subsidiary in Honduras of the transnational Aura Minerals."

<https://criterio.hn/amenazan-a-defensor-por-proteger-fuente-de-agua-en-riesgo-por-minera-en-copan/>

COPINH's Berta Zúniga spoke with EFE:Verde about their legal battle against the Dutch development bank FMO. "The responsibility of all the people or entities that facilitated the commission of this crime must be determined, These banks make an exercise of colonialism, publicly (the FMO) always defended the DESA company, criminalized COPINH and took part in the conflict unleashed by the Agua Zarca project".

<https://efeverde.com/familia-berta-caceres-busca-sentar-precedente-demanda-fmo/>

OACNUDH published a press release reiterating the importance of a new legal framework to elect the Supreme Court judges.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-a-la-adopcion-de-un-nuevo-marco-legal-para-la-junta-nominadora-que-garantice-una-eleccion-de-magistrados-y-magistradas-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-transparente-y-basada-en-meritos/>

"Despite the fact that Xiomara Castro's government has been in power for six months, the Minister of the Secretariat for Transparency and Fight against Corruption (STLCC), Edmundo Orellana, denounced this Friday that there are still "fourth class" employees of the previous administration who boycott the work."

<https://confidencialhn.com/edmundoo-orellana-denuncia-boicot-al-gobierno-por-parte-de-empleados-de-la-administracion-nacionalista/>

ConfidencialHN reports on the two-day visit of DFC director Scott Nathan.

His visit was also accompanied by great concern from defenders. "However, their visit is causing concern among land defenders in Honduras due to the ties that the DFC has maintained with extractivist companies in the region. Such was the case with Inversiones de Generación Eléctricas Sociedad Anónima (INGELSA), which intends to impose the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Jilamito River in Arizona, in the department of Atlántida, Honduras. Although the DFC ended up withdrawing the loan it had promised for USD 35.750 million, corresponding to 47.3% of the total capital required -whose total cost was USD 75.561 million- the threat of losing one of the last sources of water for human consumption in the municipality of Arizona remains."

<https://confidencialhn.com/dfc-de-eeuu-comprometida-con-promover-inversiones-sostenibles-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/visita-de-director-de-corporacion-financiera-de-ee-uu-a-honduras-preocupa-a-defensores-del-territorio/>

The Liberal Party presented a reform to the Labor Law which labor leaders call worse than the recently repealed Employment by the Hour Law.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/08/plantean-reformas-al-codigo-del-trabajo-empresa-privada-da-visto-bueno/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1545278739356983296>

<https://criterio.hn/advierten-que-reforma-al-codigo-del-trabajo-es-mas-lesiva-que-ley-de-empleo-por-hora/>

"At least 100 investors who had filed a claim for alleged expropriations in which they claim to have lost millions of dollars, were defeated when they filed a lawsuit against the State of Honduras,

because a Court in the State of Florida, United States, recognized that the country enjoys sovereign immunity."

<https://criterio.hn/supuestos-inversionistas-pierden-millonaria-demanda-contr-estado-de-honduras-ante-corte-de-la-florida/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/08/historico-procuraduria-hondurena-gana-en-ee-uu-juicio-millonario-a-100-inversionistas-gringos/>

09/07/22

Honduras Daily: Campesinas; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Judicial Power; Migration; Poverty; and Setting a Bad Example

"The CNTC campesino organization denounces another incursion by armed men intimidating and threatening organized women farmers in Las Galelias, Jutiapa, Atlantida."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1545784533529788417>

According to the Pro Honduras Network, the prosecutors in New York requested the use of classified information in the trial against JOH.

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1545919363139649536

Defensores en Línea dedicates its weekly editorial to the Supreme Court election in Honduras including important historical background on its setup, the previous control over it by the National and Liberal Party and the complete dominance by the National Party, i.e. JOH since 2012. "The rules of the game must change. It is an ethical obligation to at least reduce the margin of discretion of the nominating board and reform the election mechanism within Congress. Merit, suitability, transparency, independence and humanity must be at the forefront. There is no loss in that. The U.S. Embassy, the European Union and the United Nations must know how to interpret these wishes and aspirations of the Honduran people, who have suffered a level of impunity of over 95% in the last 15 years. They should never again vulgarly take the side of the criminal coup perpetrators. The ungovernability of Honduras is not caused by the impoverished sectors nor by the forces of resistance to the narco neoliberal model nor by Mel Zelaya or Salvador, this inability to manage conflicts in democracy is the sole responsibility of the elite that took over the judiciary, the media and the churches that decimate the power of the people."

Former COHEP president Juliette Handal, meanwhile, criticizes that 95% of all Honduran lawyers are excluded for presenting themselves as candidates for the Supreme Court because they are not also notaries.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-eleccion-de-la-corte/>

<https://proceso.hn/lamentable-que-el-95-de-abogados-no-postularse-para-magistrados-de-la-corte-suprema-senala-expresidenta-del-cohep/>

221'000 Hondurans have fled Honduras in 2021, 15% more than in 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-sexto-pais-mas-solicitantes-de-refugio/>

According to Bloomberg, a basket of basic food stuff in Honduras is one of the most expensive in all Latin America. It costs over 60% of a minimum wage.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-tiene-la-canasta-basica-mas-cara-de-latinoamerica-segun-empresa-financiera-de-ee-uu/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/09/ricky-pide-a-nasralla-que-siga-su-ejemplo-de-designado-como-era-adorno-viajo-por-el-mundo/>

10/07/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Judicial Power; Violence; National Party; and No Constituent Assembly

A member of JOH's legal team is currently visiting Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/abogado-del-expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-de-visita-en-honduras/>

Emily Green reports for Vice on drug trafficking in Honduras.

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7geaa/honduras-joya-grande-zoo-drug-lord-mansions>

The Honduran Bar Association (CAH) denounces that members of Congress are pressuring possible future members of the selection committee for the new Supreme Court judges.

UFERCO's Luis Santos comments on the election: "If all the actors involved put aside their personal or partisan interests and jointly show a hint of patriotism, will and genuine interest in getting Honduras out of the current quagmire, we will have the best men and women in the CSJ."

<https://tiempo.hn/cah-denuncia-presion-diputados-eleccion-junta-nominadora/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1546211913843068929

Migdonia Ayestas, director of UNAH's Violence Observatory, denounces that Honduras loses every year 800 minors to violence.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-800-menores-pierden-la-vida-violentamente-al-ano-en-honduras/>

Sociologist Leticia Salomón discusses the lack of a democratic political culture by the National Party and how they fail to play their role as a political opposition.

<https://criterio.hn/oposicion-politica-sin-cultura-politica-democratica/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-zelaya-golpistas-promueve-la-constituyente/>

11/07/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Extractivism; Journalists; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Police; Judicial Power; Corruption - IFC; Health Sector; Xiomara; and the Requisites for a New Police

"Despite the recent sentencing of a company executive for his responsibility in the murder of Lenca defender, Berta Cáceres, documents show alleged omissions and involvement of financial and corporate entities in her murder. Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) urges the Honduran and Dutch States to ensure justice in the murder of Berta Cáceres. No one should remain in impunity."

<https://www.iprights.org/news-and-events/press-releases/honduras-we-stand-in-solidarity-with-the-case-of-berta-caceres-and-make-a-strong-call-for-corporate-accountability-to-end-impunity>

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Public Goods and the Commons published a press release on the ongoing extractivist mindset in Honduras. "We are five months into the administration of a different government and there is still no clear decision to protect the common and public goods in our territories. There is a battle between the social movements and the business block disputing the government's action, but the government cannot hide the Constitutional principles that should prevail. There are several de facto groups that seek to place the government on their side, one of them is the EMCO group, to which Inversiones los Pinares/Ecotek belongs, with concessions of territories for mining, water and energy exploitation, in addition to labor exploitation."

<https://cespad.org.hn/2022/07/11/comunicado-publico/>

Four journalists have been murdered in the first half of 2022. Honduras has the second-worst rating in press freedom in the Americas. Criterio gives an overview of all the challenges faced by journalists in Honduras.

To improve the situation of journalists, Local Freedom of Expression Boards are being created, one recently in Comayagua.

<https://criterio.hn/en-honduras-no-se-sabe-por-que-matan-a-los-periodistas/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6150-autoridades-periodistas-instituciones-internacionales-y-otros-sectores-llegan-al-lanzamiento-de-la-mesa-por-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-comayagua>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/6152-periodista-alexandra-flores-este-trabajo-no-es-para-tres-o-cuatro-personas-es-para-las-generaciones-futuras>

Raymond Colón, a member of JOH's defense team, claims that within ten days they will apply for bail.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/solicitud-fianza-juan-orlando-hernandez-narcotrafico-estados-unidos-JA9031586>

The second hearing in New York of former police commander Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla was postponed to August 10.

They will use the time to negotiate with him, maybe to have him testify against JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/suspenden-nuevamente-audiencia-contrajuan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-en-eeuu/>

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1546642525901000704

<https://proceso.hn/nuevamente-suspenden-audiencia-contrajuan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-en-eeuu/>

Libre congressional vice-president Rasel Tomé claims to have the votes together for the election of the new Supreme Court judges.

Congressional President Luis Redondo, meanwhile, proposes that Hondurans with an internationally renowned profile will make up the nomination committee.

He also presented a new voting system which publicly registers the vote of all members of Congress.

ContraCorriente gives an update on the framework governing the election. "The predominant law proposal to regulate the functioning of the Nominating Board that will select the 45 candidates for CSJ magistrates is the one presented by the Executive Branch, assures Deputy Ramón Barrios, president of the Legislation and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the National Congress. However, this Commission is still merging elements of three proposals: the Executive's and those presented by Congressmen Fátima Mena and Rasel Tomé."

<https://confidencialhn.com/rasel-tome-asegura-que-tienen-votos-nacionalistas-para-elegir-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/titular-del-del-cn-propone-que-personas-con-perfil-internacional-integren-la-junta-nominadora/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1546684624352546816

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1546677858567090176

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/11/ramon-barrios-sobre-eleccion-de-csj-un-cambio-sustancial-es-que-hoy-todos-los-abogados-que-tengan-los-requisitos-se-van-a-autoproponer/>

The Forest Conservation Institute (IFC) denounces that 43 million Lempiras were stolen under its former leadership.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/11/icf-denuncia-desvio-de-43-millones-de-lempiras-en-la-administracion-pasada/>

There are still questions regarding unpaid salaries in the health sector. PSH congressman and doctor Carlos Umaña called for an investigation.

Health Minister José Manuel Matheu stated that they have paid the salaries of 8200 health workers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-a-las-autoridades-de-salud-investigar-retraso-de-salarios-al-personal-medico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-salud-afirma-que-se-ha-pagado-salario-a-8-mil-200-personas-recien-nombradas/>

The start of the Xiomara presidency was accompanied by a promise that no public official will earn more than her. Five months in, only 10 ministers have reduced their salaries compared to the ones paid under JOH. 11 did not change it and 5 even increased it.

<https://criterio.hn/cinco-funcionarios-del-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-se-han-incrementado-el-salario/>

Radio Progreso reports on the announced community police reform highlighting that for it to work a real clean-up inside the institution is needed.

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/policia-comunitaria-sera-efectiva-solo-si-existe-una-verdadera-depuracion-policial/>

12/07/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Agua Zarca; Judicial Power; Corruption - Pandora; Drug Trafficking; Human Development; Women's Rights; and the Problems with the FNAMP

The MP will appeal a ruling favoring a former Property Institute official who handed over Garífuna land to a third party.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/se-apela-resolucion-que-favorece-a-exfuncionario-del-ip-acusado-de-titular-irregularmente-tierras-ancestrales-del-pueblo-garifuna/>

A second, more famous case, of land theft is the one in Río Blanco. COPINH denounces that DESA was able to present land belonging to the indigenous Lenca community as collateral for its loan from the Dutch development bank FMO.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1546919883467853826>

Congressional president Luis Redondo presented a list of possible members for the nominating committee of the new Supreme Court judges.

His proposal was not only welcomed.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/12/redondo-propone-lista-de-notables-que-acompanen-eleccion-de-magistrados/>

<https://tiempo.hn/rechazo-propuesta-notables-en-junta-nominadora/>

<https://proceso.hn/hay-un-gran-vacio-en-propuesta-de-redondo-y-provoca-incertidumbre-segun-miembro-de-asj/>

The Pandora corruption case involving high-level politicians writes another interesting chapter. An accused and former protected witness, Fernando José Suárez, was caught in El Salvador, but moments before he was brought to Honduras, it was made public that Spain gave him political asylum stopping the extradition to Honduras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/12/capturan-en-el-salvador-a-implicado-en-caso-pandora-espana-le-da-asilo/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/12/espana-impidio-extradicion-a-honduras-del-cerebro-en-corrupcion-pandora/>

The US prosecutors demand a life sentence for convicted drug trafficker and former Honduran congressman Fredy Najera.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-de-eeuu-pide-cadena-perpetua-para-el-exdiputado-hondureno-fredy-najera/>

The UNDP published its yearly human development report. Honduras ranks second to last in Latin America in its accompanying human development index.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-en-penultimo-puesto-en-los-indices-de-desarrollo-humano-de-latinoamerica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-presenta-un-idh-de-21-7-el-mas-bajo-de-centroamerica-gobierno-asegura-que-esta-consciente-de-la-gravedad/>

<https://twitter.com/PNUDHonduras/status/1546956747943956480>

Criterio reports on gender inequality focusing on the situation of rural women.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-mas-del-90-de-las-mujeres-del-area-rural-trabajan-y-sostienen-a-la-familia-sin-remuneracion/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an investigation into the National Anti-Gang Force (FNAMP). They accuse them of operating with false testimonies, fabricated cases and arbitrary executions.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/12/escuadron-militar-de-ejecuciones-arbitrarias-en-la-fnamp-y-sicariato-desde-la-pmop/>

13/07/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDEs; Judicial Power; Tolupán; Berta - Gualcarque; Labor Rights; Health Sector; FNAMP; and Remittances on the Rise

"The U.S. Attorney's Office managed that the judge of the Southern District Court of New York, Kevin Castel, granted to keep the information against former President Juan Orlando Hernandez classified until November 14, a situation that makes his defense a difficult task. Castel granted to keep the evidence classified so that neither he nor the legal representatives will know the evidence that the US prosecution has to sink the former Honduran president".

<https://criterio.hn/clasificacion-de-informacion-en-contra-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-pone-cuesta-arriba-su-defensa/>

The derogated ZEDEs in Honduras come with a so-called Committee for the Adoption of Best Practices (CAMP). Recent revelations brought to light that JOH allies are part of the CAMP, such as

his former presidential advisor and fugitive to Nicaragua, Ebal Díaz. Another interesting figure is Arnaldo Castillo Figueroa, former Minister of Economic Development. He invested in Ever Green S.A. which belonged to sentenced drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez.

<https://criterio.hn/nucleo-intimo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-estaria-en-el-camp-de-las-derogadas-zede/>

Congress will discuss and approve today and tomorrow the reform to the framework to select the Supreme Court judges.

Criterio published an article on the challenges that remain.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1547402353455816704

<https://confidencialhn.com/este-jueves-cn-discutira-nueva-ley-de-la-junta-nominadora-para-seleccion-de-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/propuesta-de-notables-para-integrar-junta-nominadora-empantana-camino-para-eleccion-de-nueva-corte/>

The indigenous Tolután tribe San Francisco de Locomapa had an important victory before court. "The Tolután indigenous community of San Francisco de Locomapa (SFL), Yoro, succeeded in having the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice confirm the decision issued in February 2021 by the Administrative Court of SPS recognizing the violation of their rights by the municipal authorities of Yoro when they denied them access to food and health resources on the grounds of discrimination and political sectarianism."

<https://madj.org/2022/07/13/sentencia-de-la-corte-una-victoria-del-pueblo-tolupan-de-beneficio-para-todos-los-pueblos-originarios-de-honduras/>

COPINH demands that the State of Honduras cancels the concession for the Gualcarque River in commemoration of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1547332668852953088>

Labor unions reject the proposed changes to the Labor Code proposed last week by the Liberal Party.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/13/centrales-obreras-piden-no-aprobar-reforma-al-codigo-del-trabajo/>

Honduras' health system currently suffers from a new COVID-19 wave together with the yearly dengue outbreak.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/rebote-de-covid-19-y-dengue-agobia-la-salud-del-pueblo-hondureno/>

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-moviles-protagonistas-ausentes-ante-nueva-ola-de-covid/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the second part of its investigation into the FNAMP (see yesterday).

Interestingly, just as this investigation was published, the Xiomara administration announced to replace the FNAMP with the Anti-Maras, Pandillas and Organized Crime Police Directorate (Dipamco).

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/13/fnamp-horror-torturas-testigos-falsos-siembra-de-evidencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-crea-dipamco-para-contrarrestar-de-forma-integral-al-crimen-comun-y-organizado/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-lanza-dipamco-para-ir-detras-de-pandilleros-sus-cuentas-y-bienes/>

Almost 20% more remittances were sent to Honduras in the first half of 2022 compared to the same period last year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibio-4-1756-millones-de-dolares-por-remesas-en-primer-semestre/>

14/07/22

Honduras Daily: Organized Crime; Police; FNAMP; FPIC; Femicides; Judicial Power; ZEDEs; and Honduran Call Centers

Heavily armed men in state uniforms murdered four young men in the early morning. Among the victims are the 19-year old son of former president Pepe Lobo, the 23-year old nephew of former general Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, and the nephew of Nationalist congressman Walter Chávez.

The Xiomara administration condemned the assassinations and holds death squads responsible.

They also speak of a general attempt by organized crime to destabilize Honduras and the new administration.

<https://criterio.hn/asesinan-a-hijo-de-expresidente-porfirio-lobo-y-sobrinos-de-diputado-y-exjefe-militar/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/escalofriante-video-masacre-hijo-pepe-lobo-bulevar-morazan-honduras-sobrino-romeo-vasquez-XB9074110>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1547569169343791109>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1547608980704206848>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/14/ejecutivo-atribuye-a-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-la-violencia-registrada-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/14/seguridad-denuncia-que-grupos-criminales-quieren-desestabilizar-el-gobierno/>

Criterio interviewed sociologist and security expert Leticia Salomón on police reform, insecurity in Honduras and more.

<https://criterio.hn/la-policia-esta-para-ayudar-a-la-ciudadania-no-para-mortificarla-leticia-salomon/>

Reporteros de Investigación published the third and final part of its investigation into the FNAMP.

Wendy Funes also comments on the possible link between yesterday's massacre and the FNAMP.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/14/de-los-falsos-positivos-al-sabotaje/>

<https://tiempo.hn/criminologa-denuncia-escuadrones-criminales/>

COPINH met with government officials and US legal experts to discuss the importance of indigenous rights, especially the right to be consulted according to international standards.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1547746143655776256>

The Center for Women's Rights (CDM) denounced the murder of at least 149 women in the first half of 2022.

<https://proceso.hn/ong-denuncia-el-asesinato-de-149-mujeres-en-honduras-en-lo-que-va-de-2022/>

Congress approved the framework for the selection committee for the new Supreme Court judges in a first reading.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1547785986985246720

Ministers and congressional president Luis Redondo met yesterday to discuss the ZEDES. ZEDE Próspera, meanwhile, continues on the offensive stating that it won't accept its derogation.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1547755924290293766

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-y-cn-buscan-estrategias-por-eventuales-demandas-por-derogacion-de-las-zedes/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/14/zede-honduras-prospera-reta-a-gobierno-castro-y-lanza-campana-por-television/>

<https://criterio.hn/call-centers-la-esclavitud-de-la-nueva-era-en-honduras/>

15/07/22

Honduras Daily: US; Berta - Gualcarque; Judicial Power; Femicides; Organized Crime;

A leaked Engel's List made the rounds yesterday containing former officials of the Zelaya administration as well as current members of Congress, among them two vice-presidents.

According to UFERCO's Luis Santos, ten out of the 15 people listed have faced corruption charges by MACCIH.

Libre congressional vice-president Rasel Tomé, who is on the list, claims that in communication with the US State Department he was told that the list was neither complete nor precise.

The timing of the leak, just when Congress was about to approve a crucial piece of legislature (see below) also raised suspicion.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1548114043654660096>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1547984325517328386>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1548158605706203138

<https://criterio.hn/dos-vicepresidentes-del-congreso-de-honduras-y-un-asesor-presidencial-en-filtrada-lista-engel-de-ee-uu/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/15/lista-engel-filtrada-no-es-completa-ni-precisa-dice-ee-uu/>

Among the 15 people on the leaked Engel's List is also David Castillo, recently sentenced for the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1548014621746794496>

Congress will hold an extra session today to finish the discussion and approval of the framework law for the Supreme Court judges selection committee.

The UN, OACNUDH and the US embassy applaud these efforts by Congress.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1548148035657404416

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1548044361421639681>

Out of the at least 160 femicides that took place so far in Honduras this year, in only 20 cases that are in the process of prosecution.

<https://criterio.hn/autoridades-en-honduras-no-ponen-freno-a-muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-en-2022-catrachas/>

Honduran authorities arrested three suspects for the multiple homicide on Thursday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/dos-hombres-mujer-primeros-capturados-asesinato-multiple-bulevar-morazan-honduras-expresidente-pepe-lobo-porfirio-miraflores-sur-DA9103234>

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-filtra-video-del-momento-justo-cuando-ejecutan-al-hijo-de-pepe-lobo-y-tres-jovenes-mas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/circula-un-video-de-sujetos-bolseando-a-las-victimas-de-la-masacre-de-torre-morazan/>

17/07/22

Honduras Daily: Tolupán; ZEDEs; Judicial Power; Organized Crime; Poverty; Economy; Migration;

"Members of the Preventive Council of the Tolupán Tribe of San Francisco de Locomapa call on the Honduran population to support their struggle to defend their forests. María Ángela Murillo, a member of the tribe of San Francisco de Locomapa, in the municipality of Yoro, denounced that the previous administration of the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) granted a forest management plan that is still in force in favor of the timber businessman Wilder Domínguez and he will execute it at any moment."

<https://criterio.hn/planes-de-manejo-forestal-en-detrimento-del-pueblo-tolupan-siguen-vigentes/>

"The State of Honduras is preparing to face imminent international lawsuits after the repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) that lacerate the sovereignty and national territory and that intend to continue under ruses that were put in place during its illegal creation. The head of the Secretariat of Transparency and Fight against Corruption, Edmundo Orellana, confirmed that the State is proposing a series of strategies through the competent institutions to face future demands from the regimes."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-plantea-estrategias-ante-inminentes-demandas-por-parte-de-regimenes-zede>

Congress continued the discussion on Saturday of the new framework for the selection of the Supreme Court judges. The debate will continue today at 2pm.

14 out of the 28 articles have already been approved.

Civil society representatives will be elected in collaboration with the Transparency Ministry.

Focusing on the debate culture, not the results per se, even critical observers of the new administration welcome the changes. "We must recognize that @Congreso_HND is showing a parliamentary and democratic height that has not been seen for a long time with respect to a debate and deliberation of a law."

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1548476625074810881

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-suspende-debate-sobre-ley-de-junta-nominadora-y-convoca-para-el-lunes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprobo-14-de-los-28-articulos-para-ley-organica-de-la-junta-nominadora-el-lunes-continuan/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/16/congreso-nacional-suspende-sesion-tras-lograr-consenso-para-que-la-corte-suprema-siga-en-manos-de-los-partidos-politicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-suspende-sesion-en-plena-discusion-de-decisivos-articulos-de-nueva-ley-de-eleccion-de-la-corte/>

<https://proceso.hn/representante-de-sociedad-civil-en-nominadora-para-elegir-candidatos-a-magistrados-los-definira-la-secretaria-de-la-transparencia/>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1548446453885849605>

The police held a press conference yesterday informing about the investigation into Thursday's multiple assassination. They arrested 6 out of the claimed 11 people involved.

According to the police, MS-13 was behind the attack and the main objective was to assassinate Pepe Lobo's son.

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-policiales-aseguran-que-fue-la-ms-13-la-que-ejecuto-la-masacre-y-el-blanco-era-el-hijo-del-expresidente-porfirio-lobo-sosa/>

<https://proceso.hn/masacre-fue-ejecutada-por-la-ms-13-el-blanco-era-hijo-de-expresidente-lobo-y-hay-seis-detenedos/>

Almost 2.6 million Hondurans face hunger and 500'000 more are on the brink of it.

<https://tiempo.hn/mas-2-millones-hondurenos-en-crisis-alimentaria/>

Honduras commercial deficit has reached \$3.3 billion in the first five months of 2022.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-registra-deficit-comercial-de-3303-3-millones-de-dolares-hasta-mayo/>

"The United Nations (UN), through its representative in Tegucigalpa, once again asked the Honduran government for an amnesty for migrants in transit through the national territory."

<https://proceso.hn/onu-vuelve-a-pedir-amnistia-para-migrantes-en-transito-en-honduras/>

18/07/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; ZEDEs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - UFERCO, Parlacen; Organized Crime; Militarization; Judicial Power; Campesinos; Hydroelectricity; and Internal Divisions

"It's been two years since the forced disappearance of the four Garifuna men and leaders from the Garifuna community of Triunfo de la Cruz."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1549106737751494656>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/se-cumplen-dos-anos-de-la-desaparicion-de-garifunas-de-el-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-tres-hipotesis-maneja-la-policia-nacional-sobre-masacre-suscitada-en-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-travesia/>

Honduras Now published an update on the ZEDEs and how the struggle to get them out of Honduras continues. "Zones of Economic Development and Employment (ZEDEs) in Honduras are an extreme form of neoliberalism. Recently ZEDE Próspera announced it will seek consultations under CAFTA for lost investments after the Honduran Congress overturned the ZEDE law earlier

this year. This interview with Fernando García, the Honduran Presidential Commissioner Against ZEDEs gives some context and refers to ZEDE Próspera's recent announcements."

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/honduran-commissioner-against-zedes-discusses-zede-prosperas-request-for-cafta-consultations%ef%bf%bc/>

The Pro Honduras Network reports that a judge in the US upheld the testimony of Alexander Monroy that former Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera, who declared guilty for drug trafficking, facilitated \$1 million to the political campaign of Yani Rosenthal, who himself was in prison in the US, but still ran as the Liberal candidate for the presidency last year.

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1549156992597499910

"A decree approved by the National Congress on May 27 granted a special status within the Public Prosecutor's Office to the Special Prosecutor's Unit Against Corruption Networks (Uferco) which, according to pro-government deputies, gave it independence and greater investigative capacities. However, the obstacles for this prosecutor's office to present fiscal requirements have had nothing to do with submitting to the authorization of the Attorney General, but rather with the lack of structural reforms and technical support and the approval of impunity pacts."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/18/uferco-sigue-limitada-a-pesar-de-estatus-especial-otorgado-por-el-congreso-nacional/>

Expediente Público reports on the attempt by the Honduran government to abolish the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) as a safe harbor for corrupt politicians.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-presiona-porque-el-parlacen-deje-de-ser-refugio-de-politicos-desprestigiados/>

The MP presented the first charges for the murder of the four young men last week, including Pepe Lobo's son Said Omar Lobo Bonilla.

Five more people who were initially detained were let go again.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contrala-primera-implicada-en-el-crimen-del-hijo-del-expresidente-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/investigaciones-y-avances-tras-asesinato-del-hijo-de-expresidente-reflejan-una-justicia-selectiva-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/dejan-libertad-cinco-seis-detenido-masacre-contr-hijo-expresidente-pepe-lobo-otros-tres-jovenes-honduras-hugo-maldonado-NE9143197>

Last week's high-profile case seems to be used as an excuse to reinforce the position of the Military Police.

At the same time, the Xiomara administration promises to repeal the JOH-era National Defense and Security Council (CNDS) which gives control over justice and security actors to the presidency.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/18/la-policia-militar-retornara-a-las-calles-en-apoyo-a-la-seguridad-nacional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ministro-policia-militar-no-ha-sido-sacada-calles/>

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-ordena-mantener-policia-militar-y-promete-derogacion-de-consejo-de-seguridad/>

Congress continued to discuss the framework for the selection of the new Supreme Court judges. A critical point was the question if party leaders are allowed to be part of the nominating committee.

Around midnight, the new framework was approved.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/18/aprobar-o-eliminar-inciso-b-del-articulo-15-expondra-la-vinculacion-politica/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/polemica-por-requisitos-para-postularse-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1549272407386488832

"The peasant families grouped in the Camarones cooperative, located in the community of Quebrada de Arena, in Tocoa Colón, were victims of threats, intimidation and attempted displacement from their land by seven cattle ranchers, who intend to evict them."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1512-ganaderos-de-tocoa-colon-amenazan-con-desplazar-a-familias-campesinas-de-la-cooperativa-camarones>

The Patuca III hydroelectric dam was promised to bring sustainable energy to Honduras. But it mostly brought environmental damage, a huge debt and it only produces half as much energy as promised.

<https://confidencialhn.com/patuca-iii-solo-esta-generando-57-megavatios/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-afrenta-division-interna-que-retarda-respuestas-a-multicrisis-heredada/>

19/07/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; Extractivism; HRDs; LGBTQ+; Organized Crime; Electricity; Poverty;

Just when I was about to send out yesterday's Honduras Daily, Congress approved the framework for the selection committee for the new Supreme Court judges. Now, it is also clear which version of the framework was approved, by 73 votes against 44. Congressional president Luis Redondo promised "the most transparent selection of magistrates in the country's history". Given previous elections this may be true while at the same time there are still problems with the election.

UFERCO's Luis Santos did not mince words: "Today more than ever a CICIH is needed in Honduras. Our political class is incapable, by itself, of generating substantial changes that will help dismantle the CORRUPTION NETWORKS that operate from and for the State. This has been evidenced by the approval of the JN [Selection Committee] law."

One key point is that Congress maintained the politicization of the election, political leaders are still able to be members of the committee.

At the same time, human rights lawyer Joaquín Mejía highlighted: "I believe that it is also not possible to demonize the permanence to a political party because the problem is not to belong or not to a political party, the problem is that when they reach the Supreme Court of Justice they make decisions, adopt sentences and resolutions to defend the interests of those parties and not to defend rights and guarantee the supremacy of the Constitution."

The new law also has some important improvements. "These power groups will send their best candidates to try to influence the Court, they have always penetrated the courts of justice and this will be reflected at the time of the final election if these people manage to pass through the filter of the Nominating Board. The process has the hope that the best people integrate the Nominating Board and that it can fulfill its role by sending the best candidates in such a way that, although the election is political, it will be among the people who have the best suitability and competencies and less ties to power groups".

UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford called the reform an important step even if it did not fulfill 100% of what was expected.

What is also true from a political perspective, many of those criticizing the process, such as the business lobby, have stayed quiet in the past under the JOH regime. But the Xiomara administration came to power with the promise of transformative change.

<https://confidencialhn.com/le-garantizamos-al-pueblo-la-seleccion-de-magistrados-mas-transparente-en-la-historia-del-pais-luis-redondo/>

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1549585089369194497

<https://proceso.hn/mas-que-nunca-urge-una-cicoh-en-honduras-dice-fiscal-santos-tras-aprobacion-de-ley-de-jn/>

<https://eliberador.hn/2022/07/19/inconformidad-y-opinion-dividida-deja-nueva-ley-de-seleccion-judicial/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/19/nueva-ley-de-junta-nominadora-deja-abierto-el-camino-para-que-partidos-politicos-controlen-la-corte-suprema/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/19/no-me-hice-ilusiones-que-los-politicos-iban-a-renunciar-a-repartirse-la-corte/>

<https://criterio.hn/intereses-de-los-grupos-de-poder-prevalen-en-proceso-de-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema/>

<https://proceso.hn/aprobacion-de-la-ley-de-junta-nominadora-no-es-un-100-lo-que-se-esperaba-pero-es-un-paso-alice-shackelford/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cn-defraudo-al-pueblo-hondureno-al-anteponer-sus-propios-intereses-condena-el-cohep-proponen-que-integrantes-de-jn-suscriban-un-acuerdo-de-integridad-y-transparencia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/segun-silvia-ayala-nueva-ley-de-junta-nominadora-no-favorece-a-las-elites-de-poder/>

"Five months and 22 days into government, open-pit mining remains an unaddressed promise by President Xiomara Castro's administration. In her government plan, Castro promised: "to eliminate

open-pit mining concessions that threaten the nation's natural heritage and displace communities". While in her inaugural speech she ordered: "No more open pit mining permits or exploitation of our minerals, no more concessions in the exploitation of our rivers, watersheds, our national parks and cloud forests". The leader of the Municipal Committee in Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, Reynaldo Domínguez, made a call to retake President Castro's speech regarding the suspension of projects that involve open pit mining and that hurt the life of the communities. (...) The Guapinol defender called on the authorities of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MiAmbiente), the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) and the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (Inhgeomin) to solve the environmental problems in the area."

<https://criterio.hn/en-guapinol-piden-a-presidenta-castro-cumplir-promesa-y-prohibir-mineria-a-cielo-abierto/>

"The National Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (Conadeh), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Women and the Irish NGO Trocaire signed an agreement on Tuesday to protect the work of women human rights defenders in the Central American country."

<https://proceso.hn/acnur-onu-mujeres-y-trocaire-protegeran-a-defensoras-de-ddhh-en-honduras/>

The Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID) and the EU held a forum on the situation of the LGBTQ+ community in Honduras. "Honduras should promote regulations aimed at guaranteeing the LGBTI community "their fundamental rights, such as the recognition of their own identity and to prevent discrimination," said the Spanish activist."

<https://proceso.hn/expertos-piden-a-honduras-respetar-derechos-de-la-comunidad-lgbti/>

A judge ruled to have two accused for the high-profile multiple murder remain in detention. Their initial hearing will take place on July 25. Three out of the six initially detained have so far been presented to judges. It is unclear what happened to the three other ones.

The police denies that they have been freed (as I wrote yesterday based on news reports)

<https://proceso.hn/detencion-judicial-para-dos-imputados-en-asesinato-de-hijo-del-expresidente-lobo-y-tres-jovenes-mas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputados-llegan-dos-detenedos-por-el-crimen-contra-hijo-del-expresidente-pepe-lobo-y-tres-jovenes-mas/>

Criterio reports that the state electricity provider ENEE so far has failed to renegotiate the onerous contract from the JOH-era with private energy producers. The latter so far rejected any proposal by ENEE. "When no consensus was reached, the energy regulations ordered the creation of the National Auditing Commission, stipulated in Article 17, which will be in charge, within 60 days, of auditing the financial statements of the energy generating companies and, based on the results, ENEE will be able to integrate a new proposal."

<https://criterio.hn/no-hay-renegociacion-de-contratos-de-energia-con-generadores-por-propuestas-desfavorables/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/generadores-de-energia-siguen-a-la-espera-de-respuesta-del-gobierno-sobre-propuestas-de-renegociacion-de-contratos/>

"The Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh), points out that there is inefficiency in the execution of the General Budget of the Republic for 2022 by the government of Xiomara Castro, a situation that has repercussions in addressing the problems of the nation that burden the citizens submerged in poverty, lack of jobs, violence and insecurity, among others."

<https://criterio.hn/ejecucion-del-presupuesto-del-gobierno-expone-falta-de-claridad-en-respuesta-a-demandas-sociales/>

20/07/22

Honduras Daily: Corruption - US, Hermes, de Lobo, ENEE; Campesinos; Protection Mechanism; Judicial Power; Police; IACtHR; FoE; and the Return of the COBRAS

Some days ago, a leaked new version of the Engel's List made the rounds. Yesterday, the State Department officially presented it and it contains the same 15 names from Honduras as the leaked one.

The Honduran government "categorically rejected" the list denouncing it as interfering and politically motivated.

El Libertador denounced that no "big fish" from the JOH dictatorship made the list.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/section-353-corrupt-and-undemocratic-actors-report-2022/>

<https://twitter.com/CancilleriaHN/status/1549923825655189504>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-rechaza-lista-engel-y-la-cataloga-como-una-politica-injerencista-de-ee-uu/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/ee-uu-libera-engel-otra-vez-sin-peces-gordos-de-la-dictadura/>

UFERCO filed a motion for reconsideration in the Hermes corruption case.

<https://twitter.com/UFERCO1/status/1549975536004464641>

Former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo had her legal team demand to change her pre-sentencing imprisonment with house arrest. This was in response to the murder of her son last week.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/20/defensa-de-rosa-bonilla-solicita-cambio-de-medidas-a-arresto-domiciliario/>

The CNA published a new report on corruption at the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) under the former director Jesús Arturo Mejía Arita.

<https://www.cna.hn/el-exceso-de-poder-del-exgerente-general-que-provoco-un-millonario-perjuicio-a-la-enee/>

<https://criterio.hn/negligencias-y-arbitrariedades-de-jesus-mejia-en-la-enee-constaran-a-honduras-710-millones-de-lempiras-cna/>

Campesino groups marched to the Presidential palace yesterday presenting a proposal to the Xiomara administration aiming to resolve the conflict in the Bajo Aguán.

Government and campesino representatives agreed to start a dialogue.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1549744936886624256>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/campesinos-del-aguan-piden-incidencia-de-presidenta-para-recuperar-el-valle/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-y-campesinos-acuerdan-instalar-mesas-de-dialogo-para-solucionar-conflicto-agrario-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

A simmering conflict with the human rights defender protection mechanism erupted yesterday with two simultaneous press conference, one by civil society organizations, journalists and prosecutors,

the other by the Minister of Human Rights Natalie Roque. The former denounce a lack of political will by the later to implement important reforms. Roque rejects the attacks as misinformed and highlights how audits have brought to light various irregularities under the previous administration which need to be dealt with. She also promised a report on the Protection Mechanism for next Tuesday.

During the press conference, Roque also presented Carmen Escobar as the new director of the Protection Mechanism fulfilling one of the ten recommendations by civil society organizations to have one of their representatives lead the mechanism.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-desmiente-crisis-en-mecanismo-de-proteccion/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/gobierno-cede-direccion-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion-a-sociedad-civil/>

Congress has now 11 days to call upon the seven organizations which will make up the Nomination Committee.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-partir-de-la-fecha-el-cn-tiene-11-dias-para-convocar-a-las-organizaciones-que-conforman-junta-nominadora/>

A former DPI agent was sent to pre-trial detention accused of murdering the lawyer José García Herrera on July 17.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/ex-agente-de-la-dpi-es-enviado-a-prision-por-suponerlo-responsable-de-muerte-de-profesional-del-derecho-en-sps/>

"This week the national and international organizations that make up the Follow-up Committee for Compliance with the Judgments and Resolutions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Honduras will hold a series of meetings with various government agencies and the United Nations, with the aim of encouraging the Honduran State to move forward in complying with the structural reparation measures that have been ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) in the judgments issued against it."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mesa-de-seguimiento-presenta-petitorio-a-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-para-avanzar-en-cumplimiento-de-sentencias-dictadas-por-la-corte-idh/>

<https://proceso.hn/mesa-de-seguimiento-pide-al-gobierno-dar-cumplimiento-a-sentencias-de-la-corte-idh/>

"Using irregular mechanisms of persecution against journalists and media outlets that denounce anomalies committed in the Municipality of Danlí, El Paraíso, the municipal mayor of that city, Abraham Kafatti, ordered the cable company, ISG, to take the television channel, Aviva TV, off the air."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1514-alcalde-de-danli-ordena-sacar-del-aire-canal-de-television-atv>

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-anuncian-el-relanzamiento-de-la-unidad-comando-cobras-para-el-mes-de-septiembre/>

21/07/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Corruption - US, IHSS; Judicial Power; Militarization; Protection Mechanism; and Between Coherence and Interference

"The coordinator of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (Ofraneh), Miriam Miranda, denounced the intensification of ecocide in Tela Bay through the filling of the Los Micos lagoon for the construction of housing complexes."

<https://criterio.hn/garifunas-denuncian-ecocidio-en-laguna-de-los-micos-en-la-bahia-de-tela/>

The Engel's List continues to occupy the airwaves. Patrick Ventrell, head of the Central American office at the State Department, stated that the list is just one of the tools at its hand to fight corruption.

US ambassador to Honduras Laura F. Dogu also spoke about the list.

Former president Manuel Zelaya called the publication of the list counterproductive to the bilateral relationship between the US and Honduras.

According to Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque, at least three out of the 15 Honduran names on the list should not be there. The IACHR had stated that the right of due process was violated in the case of Enrique Flores Lanza; COFADEH found the case against congressman Edgardo Casaña to be politically motivated; and congressman Rasel Tomé was never found guilty for the alleged acts of corruption stated by the US.

<https://confidencialhn.com/estados-unidos-podria-efectuar-sanciones-financieras-contrasenalados-de-corrupcion-lista-engel-es-seria-patrick-ventrell/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-queremos-corruptos-ni-su-dinero-en-eeuu-embajadora-laura-dogu-sobre-mencionados-en-la-lista-engel/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/contraproducente-a-relaciones-bilaterales-considera-manuel-zelaya-la-publicacion-de-lista-engel-por-eeuu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-justifica-3-de-15-casos-mencionados-en-la-lista-engel/>

A preliminary hearing against 14 accused in the IHSS corruption case will take place today.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mp-solicitará-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-para-14-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-solicitará-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-para-14-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss/>

UN Permanent Resident coordinator Alice H. Shackelford continues to comment on the Supreme Court election process. She welcomes the new transparency that comes with the recently approved reform. But she also highlighted the need for citizen oversight for the next steps.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle shares his reading of the reform, calling it "a balance of practical reason".

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1550106293007831040>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-separacion-de-poderes-en-eleccion-de-la-corte-suprema-es-fundamental-para-confiar-en-instituciones-alice-shackelford-representante-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/corte-y-politica-un-balance-de-razon-practica/>

Joint operations by the Military Police and the National Police start today "to prevent criminal acts and restore tranquility to the Honduran population".

<https://confidencialhn.com/manana-viernes-la-policia-nacional-y-pmop-inician-operaciones-combinadas/>

Reporteros de Investigación portrays the new head of the Protection Mechanism, Carmen Escobar (see also yesterday).

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/21/primera-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-en-asumir-la-direccion-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion/>

<https://criterio.hn/lista-engel-enfrenta-sectores-entre-los-que-demandan-coherencia-y-los-que-senalan-injerencia/>

22/07/22

Honduras Daily: Zacate Grande; Judicial Power; Corruption - US, de Lobo, IHSS; Police - DIPAMPCO; Organized Crime; and Calls for a CICIH

"Since October 2011, a judicial process has been underway against six police officers accused of the crimes of harassment and abuse of authority against more than twelve citizens of the community of Coyolito, Zacate Grande Peninsula in the municipality of Amapala, Valle, after an illegal and violent eviction. Eleven years later, the Sentencing Court of Nacaome established to carry out the oral and public trial, which will take place on Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-agosto-se-realizara-juicio-oral-y-publico-contraseis-policias-acusados-de-vejamenes-y-abuso-de-autoridad/>

OACNUDH published a press release on the selection process of the new Supreme Court judges. "On the occasion of the approval of the law of the Nominating Board for the nomination of candidates to the Supreme Court of Justice, OACNUDH recalls the importance of this selection process for the strengthening of judicial independence and the rule of law in Honduras. The Office considers that the approved text incorporates important advances in terms of transparency and accountability, gender equity, measurable selection criteria and addressing conflicts of interest, from the perspective of judicial independence as a basis for guaranteeing human rights. The Office notes, however, that the elimination in the debate of the proposed new disqualifications in Article 15, as well as the requirement to justify the exercise of certain legal representations in Article 19, may enable undue interference in the process. Therefore, OACNUDH urges the organizations and institutions that make up the Nominating Board and the National Congress to effectively apply the new safeguards that the law incorporates, through an exhaustive evaluation of the candidacies

according to the criteria of merit, suitability, capacity and integrity, and by guaranteeing active scrutiny and oversight by civil society and the citizenry."

<https://oacnudh.hn/nueva-ley-de-la-junta-nominadora-oacnudh-insta-a-una-aplicacion-efectiva-de-las-salvaguardas-que-la-nueva-ley-incorpora-para-fortalecer-el-proceso-seleccion-de-la-csj/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oacnudh-insta-a-una-aplicacion-efectiva-de-las-salvaguardas-que-la-nueva-ley-incorpora-para-fortalecer-el-proceso-seleccion-de-la-csj/>

The publication of the Engel's List (see previous days) put some strain on US-Honduran relations. But both the Honduran Foreign Minister and the US ambassador to Honduras want to deny that. It was further announced yesterday that US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas will travel to Honduras to meet with President Xiomara.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/22/lista-engel-tensa-las-relaciones-entre-estados-unidos-y-gobierno-hondureno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lista-engel-agrieta-las-relaciones-entre-honduras-y-eeuu/>

<https://proceso.hn/canciller-reina-descarta-que-lista-engel-agriete-la-relacion-entre-honduras-eeuu/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-y-honduras-tienen-una-relacion-cercana-senala-embajadora-dogu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-recibira-en-honduras-al-secretario-de-seguridad-nacional-de-eeuu/>

The petition to let former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo change her pre-trial detention to house arrest was denied.

<https://confidencialhn.com/niegan-cambio-de-medidas-de-prision-a-exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla-de-lobo/>

The preliminary hearing in one of the IHSS corruption sub-cases was postponed to August 1.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/tribunal-reprograma-para-el-1-de-agosto-audiencia-preliminar-la-audiencia-preliminar-por-desfalco-multimillonario-en-el-ihss/>

Police agents demand from the Xiomara administration to comply with a promised raise.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/policias-escala-basica-piden-gobierno-cumplir-promesa-aumento-salarial-AB9223882>

"The Government of Honduras made official the dismantling of the National Anti Maras and Gangs Force (FNAMP), giving way to the Anti Maras and Gangs Police Directorate Against Organized Crime (DIPAMPCO), an agreement already published in the official newspaper La Gaceta number 356,980."

<https://confidencialhn.com/oficializan-la-direccion-policial-anti-maras-y-pandillas-contra-el-crimen-organizado-dipampco/>

"Pro-Honduras Network denounces that 9 weapons went missing from the storage facilities of Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking (DLCN) just days before the massacre of 4 ppl in Tegucigalpa including ex-Prez Pepe Lobo's son, Said Lobo".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1550574715198119938>

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/07/22/nueve-fusiles-fueron-extraviados-de-las-bodegas-de-la-direccion-de-lucha-contra-el-narcotrafico-dias-antes-del-asesinato-de-said-lobo/>

<https://criterio.hn/instalacion-de-la-cicih-un-clamor-ciudadano-que-exige-su-cumplimiento-sin-mas-demora/>

23/07/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Drug Trafficking; Prisons; Migration;

The initial hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case is scheduled for tomorrow.

<https://criterio.hn/tras-la-sentencia-de-david-castillo-que-sigue-en-la-causa-berta-caceres/>

Honduran authorities reportedly have destroyed 13 drug labs so far this year. "According to data provided in 2014, six drug laboratories were dismantled; in 2015 and 2018, one in each year; in 2016 and 2017, three were dismantled in each year; in 2019, four; in 2020, a total of 12; in 2021, 20; and this year, 13."

<https://confidencialhn.com/13-narcolaboratorios-han-sido-destruidos-este-ano-en-honduras/>

"Honduras' prisons are overcrowded with an overpopulation of at least six thousand people. The capacity of the country's prisons is 15,000; however, there are currently around 21,000 inmates, according to data from the Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture (CPTRT)."

<https://criterio.hn/hacinamiento-en-carceles-de-honduras-alcanza-el-70-a-nivel-nacional/>

24'500 Hondurans have left their country in the first five months of 2022 in search of a better future elsewhere according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

UNHCR, meanwhile, calls for the adoption of the Forced Displacement Law.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-pais-de-centroamerica-que-mas-ciudadanos-expulsa-bajo-la-migracion/>

<https://twitter.com/ACNURhonduras/status/1551003534203699200>

25/07/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Drug Trafficking; Penal Code; CNDS; Corruption - Congress, NGOs, Energy, Transparency; US - Labor Rights; Puerto Rico; FAO - US; Poverty; and the Honduran Diaspora

The Gualcarque Fraud trial began yesterday.

Honduras Now offers again a daily coverage of the proceedings.

" The trial began at approximately 10 am. During the first few hours, human rights observers were not permitted inside the small courtroom that is inadequate for a trial with six accused, each represented by at least one defense attorney. The first few hours were also not made available online to the public

Without public observation, the judge sanctioned attorneys Ritza Antúnez and Juan Carlos Sánchez, the defense team representing David Castillo, for violating the court's code of conduct. The attorneys requested to change the date of a previous hearing and misrepresented their reasons for doing so. The sanction is valued at two monthly minimum wages.

David Castillo's defense attorney Sánchez requested that the judge not allow human rights organizations into the trial claiming that they misinform about the legal process.

The trial was rescheduled for Wednesday, July 27 at 2:00 pm because attorney Héctor Durán representing two of the accused, Luis Eduardo Espinoza Mejía and José Mario Carbajal Flores, did not attend the trial because of a medical issue."

The national and international organisations that make up the Qualified Observation Mission in the Berta Cáceres Case will follow hearings.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/sentencia-condenatoria-se-solicitará-contrá-seis-involucrados-en-el-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-one-the-fraud-on-the-gualcarque-trial-begins/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1551663611851972608>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1551639495686197249>

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/americas/honduras/international-mission-will-observe-fraud-in-the-gualcarque-case>

The Pro Honduras Network reports that Pepe Lobo and Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo received \$400'000 from a security firm of an alleged partner of JOH.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/07/25/entre-120-mil-y-150-mil-dolares-recibieron-porfirio-lobo-y-rosa-elena-de-lobo-de-la-empresa-de-seguridad-de-uno-de-los-presuntos-socios-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

"Silvia Ayala, deputy president of the special legislative commission said Monday that they have begun the process to investigate the approval process of the recently approved Penal Code in Honduras."

Vice-president Doris Gutiérrez calls for a profound reform of the Penal Code.

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-especial-del-congreso-nacional-da-inicio-a-investigacion-para-el-proceso-de-aprobacion-al-codigo-penal-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/urge-una-revision-profunda-al-codigo-penal-en-honduras-senala-designada-presidencial/>

The Council of Ministers seems prone to ratify the derogation of the JOH-era National Defense and Security Council (CNDS) (see last week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-consejo-de-ministros-se-preve-ratificar-la-derogacion-del-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

Tomorrow a hearing will take place in the MACCIH-era Corruption Network case involving five current and former members of Congress.

<https://confidencialhn.com/programan-audiencia-contradiputado-y-cuatro-exdiputados-por-saqueo-de-fondos-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) investigates another case of corruption from the JOH-era involving the misappropriation of funds meant for social programs.

More than 48 million Lempiras were stolen.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-descubre-indicios-de-estafa-en-millonario-proyecto-a-cargo-de-ongs/>

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-l-48-millones-malversados-en-estafa-de-ongs-fantasmas-con-contratos-de-construccion-de-letrinas/>

Reporteros de Investigación published an in-depth investigative article on the challenges to reform the Honduran energy sector crippled by corruption.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/25/una-reforma-energetica-que-enfrenta-la-corrupcion-y-rescatara-la-economia/>

"After the repeal of the Law of Classification and Public Documents, known as the Secrecy Law, the requests for access to information increased, however, the responses are mostly null and void, since almost all the information of the previous administration governed by the conservative National Party has been destroyed."

<https://criterio.hn/solicitudes-de-informacion-aumentaron-tras-derogarse-la-ley-de-secretos/>

COFADEH spoke in its weekly radio program with the leader of the Political Organization Los Necios (OPLN), political analyst Gilberto Ríos. The focus of the program was the US-Honduran relationship and the long tradition of US interference. "It should be understood that we are not anti-American because of the long history of relations between our peoples, but what we do not agree with is the interference, in its imperial facet as a government, which has done us so much harm and has not allowed us to develop, because how can we explain 120 years as allies of the United States and we are the poorest country in the continent, questioned the analyst."

Honduras has yet to nominate someone for the role of ambassador to the US.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-injerencia-de-estados-unidos-en-los-asuntos-internos-de-honduras-es-historica/>

<https://criterio.hn/por-que-el-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-aun-no-nomina-al-embajador-de-honduras-en-washington/>

Construction workers at the new Honduran embassy continue to denounce violations to labor laws.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/155158369777876992>

The Honduran congressional president Luis Redondo and his Puerto Rican counterpart Rafael Hernández signed an institutional cooperation agreement.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-cn-y-camara-de-representantes-de-puerto-rico-firman-acuerdo-para-fortalecer-institucionalidad-legislativa/>

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-de-honduras-y-camara-de-representantes-de-puerto-rico-firman-acuerdo-para-fortalecer-institucionalidad-legislativa/>

The US representative to the FAO will visit Honduras in the coming three days.

<https://confidencialhn.com/embajadora-de-eeuu-ante-agencias-de-la-onu-visitara-honduras-durante-esta-semana/>

"Under the argument that fuel prices increased historically, the economic sectors increased the prices of goods and services making the cost of living even more expensive for Hondurans, more than 74% of the population lives in poverty, however, it does not happen in the same way when

there are significant reductions in fuel prices. (...) According to the Association for the Defense of the Basic Food Basket in Honduras (Adecabah), during the first six months of 2022, more than 80 products of the basic food basket increased in price, as did transportation services."

<https://criterio.hn/piden-transparencia-en-eleccion-de-la-corte-para-garantizar-proteccion-de-dd-hh/>

<https://proceso.hn/creciente-diaspora-de-talentos-hondurenos/>

26/07/22

Honduras Daily: Women's Rights; US - Labor Rights, Migration, SOUTHCOM, FAO; Corruption - Congress; Church; Extradition; China; Security; and What to Do About the CNDS

"The Ministry of Health (Sesal) launched this Tuesday the creation of the National Committee for the Surveillance of Maternal Mortality, a phenomenon that has shown great concern, since the figures registered so far reveal an increase of more than 100%."

<https://confidencialhn.com/mortalidad-materna-aumento-mas-100-en-2021-respecto-al-ano-anterior-sesal/>

Adrienne Pine continues to cover the protests by the workers building the new US embassy. "Workers tell me ~6 workers have been summarily fired after their fingers were amputated. No severance pay, no healthcare."

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1551930552659443712>

US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas landed in Honduras yesterday and met with president Xiomara.

The topics covered were migration and human trafficking.

<https://twitter.com/DHSgov/status/1552051216888340480>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1552080052682113024>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-y-secretario-de-seguridad-de-eeuu-abordan-tps-tema-migratorio-y-el-fortalecimiento-de-relaciones-de-cooperacion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/xiomara-castro-alejandra-mayorkas-pactan-ayuda-ninos-hondurenos-migrantes-frontera-mexico-ee-uu-XC9271606>

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeuu-reconoce-esfuerzos-hondurenos-en-la-lucha-contra-la-trata-de-personas-indico-el-mp/>

The head of the Armed Forces José Jorge Fortín Aguilar met with the head of SOUTHCOM Laura Richardson in Brazil.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-del-estado-mayor-conjunto-y-ministro-de-defensa-sostienen-importante-reunion-con-el-secretario-de-defensa-de-eeuu/>

Cindy H. McCain, US ambassador to the FAO, will arrive in Honduras today.

<https://confidencialhn.com/embajadora-de-eeuu-ante-agencias-de-la-onu-conocera-proyectos-en-honduras/>

Today, a hearing in the Corruption at Congress case will take place. Almost 20 million Lempiras meant for social projects were stolen.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1552075738966364160

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/manana-miercoles-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputado-por-presuntas-operaciones-fraudulentas-de-ongs-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

Pastor Roy Santos, who faces charges for discrimination, continues to attack the Xiomara administration and Honduras' indigenous peoples.

<https://tiempo.hn/roy-santos-brujeria-en-casa-presidencial-baculo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/26/mel-dice-que-hicieron-limpia-en-presidencial-pastor-pro-joh-lo-cuestiona/>

Herlinda Bobadilla has been extradited to the US, the second woman extradited for drug trafficking and the 31st Honduran.

Apparently, there are still more than 30 extradition requests waiting to be executed.

Criterio reports that even with Herlinda Bobadilla's extradition, their clan is not completely dismantled.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-extradita-a-herlinda-lider-del-clan-montes-bobadilla-a-eeuu/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-tiene-pendiente-de-ejecutar-mas-de-30-ordenes-de-captura-de-extraditables/>

<https://criterio.hn/extradicion-de-herlinda-bobadilla-no-desarticula-el-clan-montes-bobadilla-en-su-totalidad/>

Criterio investigates the question why the Xiomara administration has not yet taken up diplomatic and commercial ties with China.

<https://criterio.hn/por-que-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-no-ha-cumplido-con-iniciar-relaciones-diplomaticas-y-comerciales-con-china/>

Criterio interviewed Security Minister Ramón Sabillón.

<https://criterio.hn/ramon-sabillon-promete-reestructurar-las-fuerzas-de-seguridad-heredadas-por-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/ley-del-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad-debe-ser-extinguido-por-congreso-no-mediante-decreto-ejecutivo/>

27/07/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Corruption - NGOs, UFERCO, Mobile Hospitals; Drug Trafficking - JOH; CONADEH; Police; Military Police; Energy; FAO - US; Economy; US; ZEDEs; Public Health; and the Biggest Scandal Yet

The next hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case was rescheduled to August 1.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1552398304041996299>

The corruption case about the theft of almost 20 million Lempiras meant for social programs will go to a hearing on August 5.

The case involves a current and four former members of Congress.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1552452544387072002

<https://proceso.hn/medidas-distintas-al-diputado-chedrani-y-4-excongresistas-por-manejo-de-recursos-del-legislativo/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos calls for the repeal of three more JOH-era decrees which undermine the fight against corruption.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1552509844984315905

The MP requested the return of over 100 million Lempiras from Axel Gamaliel López Guzmán, the man behind the mobile hospitals corruption case who resides in the US.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-solicita-privacion-definitiva-de-dominio-y-retorno-al-pais-de-mas-de-100-millones-de-lempiras-asegurados-a-axel-lopez-en-estados-unidos/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/27/fiscalia-pide-a-ee-uu-confiscar-cuatro-millones-de-dolares-a-axel-lopez/>

JOH's cousin and former police Mauricio Hernández Pineda declared himself not guilty. His case will go to trial in the US on January 23, 2023.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/07/27/mauricio-hernandez-pineda-ex-policia-y-primo-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-se-declara-inocente-y-decide-irse-a-juicio/>

<https://proceso.hn/expolicia-hondureno-mauricio-hernandez-pineda-a-juicio-rapido-en-enero-de-2023-en-eeuu/>

"The Justice and Human Rights Commission of the National Congress recommends a new, transparent, democratic and inclusive election of the head of CONADEH to strengthen the rule of law in Honduras." Back in 2020, the election was denounced as irregular.

La Prensa reports that National and Liberal members of Congress blocked this.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1552482670004912128

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1341429639164686340>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1552509844573327360>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/libre-fracasa-en-intento-de-destituir-del-conadeh-a-blanca-izaguirre-GB9311383>

Police commissioner Gustavo Pacheco informed that at least 300 purged members of the National Police will be reintegrated into the force.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-300-policias-depurados-seran-reintegrados-a-sus-labores-este-fin-de-semana/>

Criterio reports that, against their promises, the Xiomara administration increased the budget of the Military Police. "The promise to demilitarize security in Honduras remains a chimera, or at least this is evidenced by the actions of the government of President Xiomara Castro, who despite having promised to take the military off the streets, is doing the opposite by allocating them more resources compared to last year."

<https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-aumento-el-presupuesto-de-la-policia-militar-brazo-armado-de-joh/>

To address the manifold problems in the Honduran energy sector, the corresponding congressional committee proposes "to create an Advisory Council for the rational and efficient use of energy, which would be made up of one representative from each energy-related institution".

<https://confidencialhn.com/proponen-la-creacion-de-un-consejo-consultivo-para-atender-crisis-en-el-sector-energetico-de-honduras/>

US ambassador to the FAO, Cindy H. McCain, is currently in Honduras. "The United States plans to provide the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with \$20 million for its soil mapping work in Guatemala and Honduras". She also announced help with high fertilizer prices.

<https://confidencialhn.com/estados-unidos-anuncia-ayuda-a-honduras-ante-elevado-precio-de-los-fertilizantes-que-impacta-en-alimentos/>

<https://criterio.hn/estados-unidos-ofrece-ayuda-para-aliviar-el-creciente-costo-mundial-de-los-fertilizantes/>

The head of the Commercial Chamber of Cortés, Eduardo Facussé, reaffirmed his support of the Xiomara administration. He also commented on the Honduran-US relationship. "The United States is Honduras' most important trading partner and is where most Hondurans live outside of our country. We need to send positive messages and we believe that it is time to have an ambassador appointed and for Honduras to have representation in that friendly country. These are recommendations that we make with great respect."

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-de-la-ccic-reafirma-apoyo-a-mandataria-xiomara-castro-y-recomienda-acelerar-paso-para-democratizar-creditos-e-inversiones/>

The relationship with the US was further in the new as Manuel Zelaya announced that the former US ambassador to Honduras, Hugo Llorens, will be an advisor to the Xiomara administration. This is especially noteworthy as he was the US ambassador during the coup d'état against Zelaya himself.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/27/embajador-del-golpe-hugo-llorens-sera-lobista-de-honduras-en-ee-uu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-esta-en-buenas-manos-con-el-gobierno-de-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-hugo-llorens/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/hugo-llorens-exembajador-lobista-honduras-gobierno-xiomara-castro-FX9303979>

"It is the inherited conflict that despite the repeal of its organic law continues to be a point of conflict that does not end, it is about the Employment and Economic Development Zones, specifically ZEDE Prospera in Roatan, Bay Islands. This time the head of the Secretary of State in

the Office of Social Development (Sedesol), José Carlos Cardona Erazo, denounced in his social networks the inauguration of a medical trial clinic in Próspera, prior to its replication in the United States."

<https://criterio.hn/abren-centro-para-ensayos-clinicos-de-terapia-genica-en-zede-prospera/>

The former head of the IHSS, doctor Adriana Zúniga, denounced that "[t]he IHSS has been a gold mine for those who defend privatization, I was dismissed because I was a threat to those businesses".

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/ihss-ha-sido-una-mina-de-oro-para-quienes-defienden-la-privatizacion-doctora-adriana-zuniga/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1552476635428962305

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1552502161631764485

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/luis-redondo-muestra-video-de-lo-que-en-realidad-paso-con-el-carro-de-diputada-del-pac-karen-martinez-retrovisor-quebrado-mal-estacionada-juicio-polit-YA9310414>

28/07/22

Honduras Daily: Journalists; HRDs; Indigenous Peoples - Tourism, Extractivism; Corruption - UN, US; CONADEH; Economy; Security; and Turf War

"In a violent eviction carried out by the National Police at the facilities of the Health Region of Choluteca, police officers assaulted the social communicator, Joel Gómez, an employee of the Televida television channel, to prevent him from broadcasting live, when several demonstrators were arrested."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/1516-en-desalojo-violento-policia-nacional-agrede-a-comunicador-social-de-televida>

Human rights defender and director of MASSVIDA, German Chirinos, denounced persecution by unknown men on a motorcycle.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1518-en-motocicleta-le-dan-persecucion-a-defensor-de-los-derechos-humanos-de-choluteca>

"The leaders of the Lenca indigenous community of El Volcán, in Santa Elena, La Paz, would be at serious risk because the mayor and activists of the National Party are promoting violence to forcibly establish a mountain hotel, as denounced in social networks by Rosalío Vásquez García, president of the Indigenous Council, this July 28, 2022."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6161-indigenas-denuncian-que-alcalde-y-activistas-del-partido-nacional-alientan-la-violencia-contra-las-comunidades-para-imponer-un-hotel-de-montana>

"The lawyer of the law firm Estudios para la Dignidad, Víctor Fernández, demanded coherence in the extractivist policy to the administration of President Xiomara Castro, after the announcement Honduras "free of mining" only remained in a press release. The demand was made in the framework of the presentation of the nullity action against the environmental licenses granted to the company Minerales de Occidente (Minosa), without Free and Informed Prior Consultation (FPIC) to the Maya Chortí indigenous community of Azacualpa in La Unión, Copán."

<https://criterio.hn/coherencia-en-politica-extractivista-exigen-al-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

Proceso Digital reports that a draft document from the UN came to light which contains the condition for the installation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission in Honduras. "The Participants recognize that it would be necessary to adopt all reforms that would allow the future international mechanism to fight impunity and corruption to conduct independent investigations as well as to become a private prosecutor. Likewise, it would be necessary, inter alia, the reform of the normative framework that regulates the crime of illicit enrichment, including the abrogation of Decree 116-19; the lifting of the secrecy concerning the status of trusts; and regulatory reforms that improve the investigation and prosecution instruments of the Public Ministry, including the approval of the necessary instruments for the establishment of the figure of effective collaboration."

<https://proceso.hn/onu-pide-en-borrador-para-instalacion-de-la-cicoh-tener-independencia-en-las-investigaciones/>

Two Libre members of Congress, Rasel Tomé and Edgardo Casaña, were mentioned on the Engel's List (see last week). The opposition presented a request for impeachment, but it was not supported by the necessary 86 votes in Congress.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/congreso-nacional-no-admite-solicitud-de-juicio-politico-contra-rasel-tome-y-edgardo-casana-NI9318834>

<https://criterio.hn/juicio-politico-contra-rasel-tome-y-casana-no-es-admitido-ante-pumpuneo-de-pn-pl-y-pac/>

The US State Department published their yearly Investment Climate Statements.

"In the case of Honduras, the report highlights that it contains all the ingredients for a thriving economy as a strategic location next to U.S. markets, with a deep-water port, rich natural resource endowment, impressive tourist destinations and hard-working people, including a significant cadre of skilled labor. However, Honduras' per capita income is the third lowest in Latin America. The report notes that investors cited corruption, crime, poor infrastructure and weak or non-existent rule of law as the main reasons why the country is not attracting more of the private investment it needs to stimulate inclusive economic growth."

Economic policy was also the cause of a confrontation between the US embassy in Honduras and the Honduran Finance Minister Rixi Moncada.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/honduras/#:~:text=Honduras-,Declaraciones,-de%20Clima%20de>

<https://confidencialhn.com/frustrados-se-podrian-ver-esfuerzos-entre-eeuu-y-honduras-por-derogacion-de-leyes-en-temas-economicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/intromision-de-ee-uu-en-asuntos-de-gobierno-se-preserva-frente-al-contraste-de-un-fortalecimiento-de-relaciones-bilaterales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/28/critican-al-consejero-de-ee-uu-por-cuestionar-labor-de-la-secretaria-de-finanzas/>

The debate about the future of the current CONADEH commissioner Blanca Izaguirre continues (see also yesterday). "After an investigation that lasted nearly three months, the Justice and Human Rights Commission of the National Congress concluded that the election and swearing in of the current head of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (Conadeh), Blanca Izaguirre, was carried out amid irregularities and, although it did not explicitly request her dismissal, it suggested the repetition of the entire process."

Izaguirre presents herself as the victim of political prosecution.

<https://criterio.hn/abierta-posibilidad-de-destituir-a-blanca-izaguirre-como-titular-del-conadeh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/comisionada-del-conadeh-se-eligio-con-un-proceso-de-eleccion-irregular-hugo-noe-pino/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6162-comision-del-cn-recomienda-repetir-la-eleccion-de-conadeh-pero-la-titular-denuncia-un-ataque-por-papel-en-junta-nominadora>

US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas stayed another day in Honduras and met with Security Minister Ramón Sabillón. "We had an excellent meeting today with Honduran Security Minister Sabillon. The U.S. will continue to provide resources to further strengthen our security partnership, as we escalate our law enforcement operations against the smugglers and traffickers who prey on the vulnerable."

<https://twitter.com/SecMayorkas/status/1552461513105068033>

<https://confidencialhn.com/eeu-seguira-brindando-recursos-para-fortalecer-asociacion-de-seguridad-senala-alejandra-mayorkas-tras-reunion-con-su-homologo-ramon-sabillon/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/alejandra-mayorkas-perseguiremos-finanzas-propiedades-contrabandistas-emigrantes-BX9312663>

"In July of this year, a series of murders and threats caused a dozen families to abandon their homes in the Chamelecon sector of San Pedro Sula. However, there have also been violent events outside of Chamelecón that the police attribute to MS-13, which has led to increased patrols by preventive police and military police."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/28/violencia-en-chamelecon-evidencia-la-guerra-en-las-fronteras-de-la-ms-13-y-la-pandilla-18/>

29/07/22

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - Criminalization, Tourism; Guapinol; FNRP; Drug Trafficking; Police; Judicial Power; Migration; Labor Rights; and Remembering Dionisia Díaz

A judge dropped the charges against members of indigenous defenders from Marcala and the Radio Progreso correspondent Sonia Pérez. They were accused of usurpation. OACNUDH welcomes the ruling.

Outside the court, the vice-president of the Indigenous Lenca Council, Martín Gómez Vásquez, was threatened with death.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1553234978175172608>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1521-amenazan-de-muerte-a-martin-gomez-vicepresidente-del-consejo-indigena-nueva-palestina>

Criterio has more on the feared imposition of a hotel project which would affect the ancestral Cueva Pintada, a sacred meeting place for the indigenous people who live in the area (see also previous e-mail).

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-imposicion-de-hotel-de-montana-que-afectaria-cueva-pintada-en-santa-elena-la-paz/>

The MP has requested the mayor of Tocoa, Adán Fúnez, to give testimony linked to the mining permit to Ecotek.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1553213493075140609>

COFADEH denounces the murder of lawyer and founder of the National Resistance Front (FNRP) after the 2009 coup, Ubodoro Arriaga Izaguirre. He was shot dead in a restaurant in Marcala.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/exigen-justicia-por-el-vil-asesinato-de-ubodoro-arriaga-uno-de-los-fundadores-del-fnrp/>

<https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1553197785364717568>

After her extradition this week, Herlinda Bobadilla faced a first US judged yesterday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/herlinda-bobadilla-comparece-por-primera-vez-ante-la-justicia-de-ee-uu-DF9340500>

Luis Redondo, congressional president, officially summoned the seven organizations to appoint their representatives to the Nominating Board for the selection of candidates for magistrates of the Supreme Court.

US ambassador Laura F. Dogu also commented on the election. ""The Government is working in that area (corruption), but the Supreme Court, is part of this, it is important for the Honduran people to have a transparent and reliable process and it is also important for foreign investors," the diplomat emphasized."

Dogu also linked the topics to the Millennium Challenge funds to which Honduras has not had access to previously due to corruption.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1553115218762502151

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-convoca-a-organizaciones-de-la-junta-nominadora-a-acreditar-a-sus-representantes/>

<https://proceso.hn/es-importante-un-proceso-transparente-y-confiable-para-eleccion-de-nueva-csj-remarca-embajadora-de-eeuu/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/lucha-contra-la-corrupcion-y-nueva-csj-seran-trascendentales-para-recuperar-la-cuenta-del-milenio-senala-embajadora-laura-dogu/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office executed this day the definitive deprivation of ownership of 40 assets that belonged to the former general director of the National Police, José Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, who is accused of money laundering."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/29/ejecutan-privacion-de-bienes-contra-exjerarca-policial-ramirez-del-cid/>

"At least 54,275 immigrants, mostly from Cuba, have been detained in Honduras in the first half of 2022 for illegally entering the country with the idea of reaching the United States, according to figures from the National Institute of Migration (INM)".

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-ha-retenido-a-54275-extranjeros-por-movilizarse-de-manera-irregular/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-ha-retenido-a-54275-extranjeros-por-movilizarse-de-manera-irregular/>

Construction workers for the new embassy called on president Xiomara to intervene to ensure that the Honduran labor law is being followed (see also previous days).

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1553060462723465216>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1552879717505814528>

30/07/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Protection; Corruption - Penal Code; Cryptocurrency; Judicial Power; Economy; Drug Trafficking - JOH, US; and Setting the Picture Straight?

OACNUDH called for the strengthening of the Protection Mechanism for human rights defenders. "OHCHR underscores the importance of achieving a constructive and permanent exchange that contributes to the strengthening of a public policy for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, with the effective participation of civil society. The Office reiterates the need to provide the National Protection System with all the financial, human and technical resources necessary to fulfill its mandate and its willingness to continue providing technical assistance to the Honduran State in the fulfillment of its international human rights obligations and responsibilities."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-al-fortalecimiento-del-sistema-nacional-de-proteccion-para-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oacnudh-llama-al-fortalecimiento-del-sistema-nacional-de-proteccion-para-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

A congressional committee is currently investigating how the previous Penal Code came about and it considers reforms to it. According to Congressman Netzer Mejía, it is already clear that they will reform the chapter on corruption. "He argued that the previous National Congress reduced the crimes for corruption with the intention that politicians who had committed irregular acts could receive lesser sentences to the point that they could be commuted. He questioned that the penalties for embezzlement of public funds and illicit enrichment have been lowered to the point of being commutable offenses."

<https://proceso.hn/diputado-de-libre-adelanta-que-delitos-de-corrupcion-seran-reformados-en-el-codigo-penal/>

"People can pay for a slushie with crypto in the streets of "Bitcoin Valley," a project in the Honduran tourist enclave of Santa Lucia through which the country has entered the digital currency trend. The small town in the mountains, 20 minutes from the capital Tegucigalpa, has become a bitcoin city."

The Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) reiterated that they do not support the use of cryptocurrency in Honduras.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/honduras-launches-bitcoin-valley-tourist-town-santa-lucia-2022-07-29/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/santa-lucia-primera-ciudad-hondurena-usara-bitcoin-moneda-digital-KI9291804>

<https://proceso.hn/juan-mayen-el-innovador-que-trae-a-honduras-el-mercado-de-criptodivisas/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-bch-recuerda-que-no-respalda-el-uso-de-criptoactivos-en-honduras/>

Congress has called for the conformation of the Nomination Board for the Supreme Court election (see yesterday).

The board has to be setup by latest August 31.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/congreso-nacional-convoca-integracion-de-la-junta-nominadora/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1553404969386229760>

<https://tiempo.hn/junta-nominadora-conformada-antes-31-agosto-2022/>

Only 29% of Hondurans have a job with a fixed contract, before the pandemic the number was 42%.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/data/alarmante-cifra-solo-30-de-cada-100-hondurenos-tienen-un-trabajo-formal-en-honduras-IY9346208>

El Tiempo reports that the Honduran lawyer José Tercero Midence may join JOH's legal team.

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-jose-tercero-defensa-joh/>

InSight Crime reports on the role of brokers and US banks in Honduran drug trafficking. "García Torres' case offers a glimpse into how criminal groups like the Atlantic Cartel repatriate profits from the drug trade using brokers and bank accounts in the US. Drug groups receive millions of dollars in illicit cash, and brokers like García Torres are key to separating the funds into smaller chunks that can be wired through US banks accounts or carried home in cash without raising eyebrows. The US banking system is central to this. Drug traffickers often receive cash payments in the United States – the primary destination for Latin America cocaine. Depositing the funds into US accounts provides a legitimate front for transferring and hiding the money. Prosecutors estimate the FBI informant laundered approximately \$2.8 million for the Atlantic Cartel with García Torres' assistance over the course of the US investigation, highlighting the potential for quick financial gains."

<https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-atlantic-cartel-us-money/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-pagara-a-partir-de-agosto-pautas-publicitarias-a-medios-de-comunicacion/>

31/07/22

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - Biodiversity; Prisons; Drug Trafficking; Electricity; Organized Crime;

OFRANEH warns about the consequences for indigenous peoples of setting apart 30% of the planet as conservation zones under the current global regime.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2022/07/29/el-30-x-30-la-consulta-previa-y-la-eliminacion-de-los-pueblos-indigenas/>

"At least 24 prisoners have died violently and more than fifty have been injured in a dozen violent incidents that have taken place in the maximum security prison known as "La Tolva" since it was opened in May 2017, according to records of the Departmental Delegation of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (Conadeh) in the eastern department of El Paraíso."

<https://proceso.hn/al-menos-24-privados-de-libertad-han-muerto-violentamente-en-la-tolva/>

According to the Armed Forces, they destroyed in a three-day operation over 1.3 million coca bushes, four drug laboratories, nurseries and chemical precursors in the department of Colón.

<https://proceso.hn/ffaa-totaliza-operacion-en-colon-con-casi-un-millon-de-arbustos-de-coca-narcolaboratorios-y-viveros/>

"Reports from the System Operator (ODS), the entity in charge of supervising the National Interconnected System (SIN), show that in the first seven months of the year (January 1 to July 20) no less than 5,966 failures were recorded in the Honduran electricity system, with an average of 30 interruptions per day, according to an analysis by LA PRENSA Premium's Data Unit."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/red-electrica-de-honduras-registro-casi-6000-fallos-en-primeros-7-meses-de-2022-HE9363922>

The MP published a press release denying a link between weapons stolen from their warehouse and the murder of Pepe Lobo's son and three other young men.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/comunicado-3/>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-confirma-proceso-a-detective-de-dlc-n-por-robo-de-armas-pero-niega-vinculacion-a-masacre-de-jovenes/>

Luis Redondo, congressional president, met with US ambassador Laura F. Dogu on the Supreme Court selection process.

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1553922010501242880>