

01/08/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Pajuiles, Reitoca; ZEDEs; Xiomara; Labor Rights - US; Lobo; Migration - Deportations; Human Trafficking; Organ Donation; IMF; Cuba; and the Survivors of Cayos Cochinos

"The twelve water defenders in the community of Pajuiles in Tela, Atlántida, continue to be criminalized by the National Police despite having been definitively dismissed by the courts, denounced the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ)."

<https://criterio.hn/criminalizacion-en-pajuiles-atlantida-continua-pese-a-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-defensores/>

"The leader of the Lenca Indigenous Council of Reitoca, Francisco Morazán, Magdaleno Flores García, denounced through his social networks, that the Municipal Mayor of that municipality, Marlon Neftalí Osorto, stigmatizes him and puts his physical integrity at risk."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1522-alcalde-de-reitoca-estigmatiza-y-pone-en-riesgo-a-lider-de-consejo-indigena>

In the recently investment climate report by the US (see last week), they state that the derogation of the ZEDEs lead to economic uncertainty. This position is denounced in Honduras where the decision is seen as one of national sovereignty.

<https://criterio.hn/derogacion-de-las-zede-es-un-tema-de-soberania-nacional-responden-a-informe-de-ee-uu-que-cuestiona-su-derogacion/>

Jacobin published an interview with deputy foreign minister Gerrardo Torres on the first six months of the Xiomara administration.

<https://jacobinlat.com/2022/08/01/los-primeros-seis-meses-de-xiomara-castro/>

Adrienne Pine has an update on the protests by construction workers of the US embassy (see last week).

The US embassy also published a demonstration alert but failed to mention the protest happening just outside its door.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1554125954183827458>

https://twitter.com/All Things_HND/status/1554208582933028865

Former president Pepe Lobo claims that the US embassy is also investigating the murder of his son.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/estados-unidos-investiga-el-asesinato-de-said-lobo-hijo-de-pepe-lobo-BA9367892>

More Hondurans have been deported so far this year, over 56'000, than in all 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/deportacion-de-hondurenos-en-2022-supera-cifras-de-2020-y-2021/>

According to the Inter-institutional Commission Against Sexual and Commercial Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT), human trafficking in Honduras mostly affects children.

<https://criterio.hn/ninas-y-ninos-hondurenos-son-el-foco-del-delito-de-trata-en-honduras/>

Criterio reports on the lack of regulation of organ donation in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/donacion-de-organos-en-honduras-una-practica-no-reglamentada>

"The government of Honduras revealed three reports prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which had been declared secret by the regime of Juan Orlando Hernández, in which they point out that tax exemptions are inequitable and inefficient and recommend their extinction or gradual elimination."

<https://criterio.hn/informes-develados-por-gobierno-revelan-que-fmi-demanda-eliminar-privilegios-fiscales/>

Honduras and Cuba are finalizing a cooperation agreement on health care and education.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-y-cuba-firmaran-convenio-para-cooperacion-en-salud-y-educacion/>

"The Cayos Cochinos are a microcosm of Central American inequality. The gleaming archipelago off the Honduran coast is home to Garifuna fishing communities who live in misery and in constant conflict with authorities who have prohibited catching fish. The islands are an Eden for tourists, a goldmine for big business, and a hellscape for islanders struggling to survive."

<https://elfaro.net/en/202207/centroamerica/26306>

02/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Earthquake; Protection Mechanism; Lobo; Corruption - MACCIH, Per Diem, ENEE; Xiomara - Indigenous Peoples; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Drug Policy; and Tax Exemptions no More?

Day 4 of the Gualcarque trial took place yesterday.

The court denied the evidence presented by COPINH and the Río Blanco community. "As COPINH reports, both documents outline the amount of money obtained in the fraudulent contracts & the profits that the criminal group expected to earn through the irregular approval of the Agua Zarca contract, licenses, permits, etc."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1554605169660383232>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1554606314155900928>

A 5.9 earthquake hit Honduras on the Bay Islands and COPECO warns that more may follow in the days to come.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/02/alerta-copeco-advierte-mas-temblores-durante-el-dia-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/ya-van-cuatro-replicas-del-temblor-en-honduras/>

The dispute about the protection mechanism and its leadership (see last month) took a new ugly turn with OACNUDH being misquoted attacking the human rights ministry.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH HN/status/1554600398412980226>

<https://criterio.hn/instan-a-dialogo-que-fortalezca-el-sistema-nacional-de-proteccion-en-honduras/>

Recently, the MP published a press release denying a link between a weapon theft from one of its deport and the murder of Pepe Lobo's son and three more young men. But yesterday, the Judicial Power made exactly that link in a tweet, a tweet which was then deleted again...

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1554685971366645761

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1554683042568065024>

When the MACCIH was still in Honduras, they tried for years to have Congress approve the Efficient Collaboration Law. This endeavor is now being picked up again by the new Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-retoma-analisis-para-aprobar-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-en-honduras/>

Radio Progreso reports on the problems with per diem rates for Honduran members of Congress.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/viaticos-en-el-congreso-nacional-no-pueden-ser-utilizados-en-proselitismo-politico/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) holds the former ENEE directors legally responsible for a 710 million loss at the national energy company.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/tsc-informe-responsabilidad-penal-exautoridades-enee-perdida-millones-CN9384664>

"The government of President Xiomara Castro launched the Nuestras Raíces (Our Roots) program to promote and strengthen the native peoples of the country. Through the secretariat of social development, the peoples will be assisted with a series of projects distributed in 6 ambitious components, one of them is the project of intercultural education and ancestral knowledge, in the program of Nuestras Raíces that seeks to promote learning spaces in the three levels of the educational system."

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/548781/programa-nuestras-raices>

JOH's legal team unconvincingly claims that their client is mistreated in custody.

His wife Ana García further claims that JOH's defense apparatus is being paid by "the Honduran diaspora community, rabbis and friends in the US".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/defensa-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-denuncia-malos-tratos-en-la-carcel-MA9376680>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/impiden-que-juan-orlando-hernandez-use-su-talit-judio-en-la-carcel-DJ9380317>

Salvador Nasralla calls again for legalizing cannabis production in Honduras presenting it as a great economic opportunity.

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-insiste-cultivo-cannabis-potenciar-economia/>

With the publication of previously held secret IMF recommendations to get rid of tax exemptions (see yesterday), a debate was launched in Honduras.

The estimated loss is \$1,6 billion.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-trabaja-en-un-plan-para-revisar-las-exoneraciones-fiscales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/02/el-cohep-aclara-que-no-se-opone-a-la-revision-de-exoneraciones-fiscales/>

03/08/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; LGBTQ+: Mining - Azacualpa; Women's Rights; Judicial Power; Corruption - Congress; Transport Sector; Children's Rights; Migration - Poverty, US; Diplomacy - US DLCN; and Berta, Soy Yo

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the July 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=46126

A court sentenced an MS-13 member to 15 years in prison for the murder of the 18-year old María Fernanda Martínez, a member of the LGBTQ+ community. A second gang member involved still faces trial.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/15-anos-de-prision-a-asesinato-confeso-de-joven-del-colectivo-lgbtqi/>

Nacla reports on the destruction of a 200-year old Maya Chortí cemetery by the mining company Aura Minerals. "MINOSA, a subsidiary of the U.S.-based multinational mining company Aura Minerals, enjoys free rein in the municipality of La Unión. Despite the legally binding decision taken at the 2015 cabildo abierto, the company had exhumed over a hundred bodies by 2018 as part of its strategy to exploit the gold deposits below the cemetery. The company did so in full view of municipal authorities, who on a number of occasions colluded with MINOSA to undermine community decision-making power. (...) In the weeks and months that followed, MINOSA seems to have given up any pretense of respect for Honduran law. Shortly after the initial mass exhumations, an appeals court overturned Judge Tabora's ruling. In March, the Ministry of Natural Resources issued a subsequent executive notice reiterating the company's obligation to halt all activity in the area. Video footage of mining activities taken after the communique's publication indicate that the company has continued to prepare the area for exploitation."

<https://nacla.org/honduras-mining-azacualpa>

"The Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) filed an amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) to support the appeal of unconstitutionality filed by Somos Muchas and 20 organizations against the decree that absolutely prohibits the interruption of pregnancy.

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-nuevo-amicus-curiae-contra-decreto-que-prohibe-de-forma-absoluta-el-derecho-al-aborto/>

An attack used by the National Party to undermine the Supreme Court election has been to question the legality of Congress. During the initial days of the new administration, there was a moment with two opposing Congresses which has since then been resolved. Now, the Liberal Party announces to support a ratification process of the current Congress and its leadership to fend off such attacks.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/partido-liberal-pone-disposicion-votos-congreso-nacional-legalizar-junta-directiva-honduras-luis-redondo-YF9403735>

Under the previous three Nationalist governments, Congress had a so-called departmental fund allegedly for social projects but of the 2.3 billion Lempiras spent, only 62 million were audited by the TSC. The later now handed over the collected evidence to the MP and UFERCO.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/tsc-inicia-proceso-entrega-expedientes-fondo-departamental-YF9403346>

<https://criterio.hn/uferco-comienza-a-recibir-expedientes-del-tsc-relacionados-a-corrupcion-en-uso-de-fondos-departamentales/>

"The National Congress approved the creation of a fund of 240 million lempiras in favor of the users of the Public Transportation Service in the urban bus modality, to be applied as a provisional economic compensation of the fare to the users, with the purpose of avoiding an increase in the already established fares."

<https://proceso.hn/cn-aprueba-subsidio-de-l-240-millones-al-servicio-del-transporte-urbano-nacional/>

Coiprodén denounces that children and young people continue to suffer daily violence in Honduras and demands that their protection should be a government priority. Over 14'000 Hondurans under 23-year old have been murdered since 1998.

<https://proceso.hn/ninez-y-juventud-los-mas-afectados-por-la-violencia-en-honduras-senala-ong/>

"The National Congress (CN) approved this Wednesday by unanimous vote and in third debate the amnesty for foreign migrants in transit to North America for the next six months in Honduras. This has to do with an administrative sanction paid by immigrants to the State, according to national legislation, who enter irregularly through Honduran soil."

<https://proceso.hn/legislativo-vuelve-a-aprobar-amnistia-para-migrantes-en-transito-hacia-norteamerica/>

According to the Poverty Observatory, over 90% of migrating Hondurans do this due to poverty. Sociologist Lelis Paz states that the situation in Honduras deteriorated especially after the coup and the conditions forced Hondurans to migrate.

<https://tiempo.hn/nueve-de-10-hondurenos-migran-por-pobreza/>

In These Times reports on the White House's plan to stem migration. "Last month, the White House announced more than \$1.9 billion in "private sector commitments" to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador as part of Vice President Harris' "Call to Action" to address the root causes of migration from northern Central America. The irony apparently lost on the White House is that it is promoting the same economic model that has caused so many to be forced to leave their homes and migrate in the first place. The United States has long promoted corporate interests, which generate profits for U.S. companies and local elites, at the expense of the majority of the peoples of northern Central America, and this new "Call to Action" is no different."

<https://inthesetimes.com/article/kamala-harris-joe-biden-migration-root-causes-central-america-corporate-profit>

El Tiempo reports that Javier Efraín Bú Soto has been nominated to be the new Honduran ambassador to Honduras but it seems unclear if the nomination will be confirmed.

<https://tiempo.hn/juan-flores-desaprueba-nominacion-nuevo-embajador-eeuu/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nombramiento-embajador-honduras-depende-de-eeuu/>

The Pro Honduras Network published new details on the theft of arms from the MP, i.e. the Anti-Drug Trafficking Directorate.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/08/03/surgen-nuevos-elementos-en-torno-al-extravio-de-armas-de-las-bodegas-de-la-direccion-de-lucha-contra-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/03/pronto-en-cines-la-produccion-hondurena-berta-soy-yo/>

04/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; FoE; Mining - Guapinol; Judicial Power; Corruption - CICIH, Mobile Hospitals, ENEE; Health Care; Violence; and Children to Power

Honduras Now published a short overview of Day 5 and Day 6 of the Gualcarque Fraud case. There were various testimonies and Day 6 saw even a historic event - "For the first time a member of the Atala Zablah family is asked to speak about the Agua Zarca Hydroelectric Project and its nefarious and illegal investment."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1555190519323574272>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1555384164488253440>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1555368913181065216>

Congress plans to decriminalize so-called crimes of honor: libel, defamation and slander. This would be an important step as this "crimes" are widely used to silence journalists.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-poder-del-congreso-nacional-propuesta-para-despenalizar-delitos-contra-el-honor/>

Criterio published an update on the Guapinol in which the MP recently cited the mayor of Tocoa for questioning (see last week).

<https://criterio.hn/a-cuatro-anos-de-la-instalacion-del-campamento-por-el-agua-guapinol-reafirma-compromiso-de-defensa-ambiental/>

Until the end of the month, selected organizations have time to choose their representative for the Nomination Board for the selection of the new Supreme Court. CONADEH just announced that they have chosen Blanca Izaguirre and Rolando Arturo Milla as their representatives.

The Secretariat of Transparency called for the different civil society organizations to hold an assembly to elect their representatives.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/conadeh-nombra-representantes-para-junta-nominadora-YD9423537>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/04/convocan-a-la-sociedad-civil-para-elegir-representantes-en-la-junta-nominadora/>

Criterio published an article on the lessons that should be learnt from the CICIG in Guatemala and MACCIH in Honduras for the hopeful installation of a UN-backed anti-corruption body.

<https://criterio.hn/puntos-clave-que-llevaron-a-la-maccih-y-la-cicig-ser-extinguidas-que-deben-servir-a-la-cicih/>

"The Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) admitted Thursday a cassation appeal filed by the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) to the sentence of Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes, former officials of Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Invest-H) convicted in the case of corruption in the purchase of mobile hospitals. According to the MP's spokesman, Yuri Mora, this appeal seeks to repeat the trial against both former officials, since both defendants were acquitted for the crime of violation of the duties of public officials and fraud."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/sala-penal-admite-recurso-casacion-sentencia-marco-bogran-alex-moraes-MX9426394>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) recently announced that it found the former head of ENEE, Jesús Mejía, legally responsible for a 710 million Lempiras loss. The CNA now demands that the MP charges him.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/cna-mp-proceda-jesus-mejia-informe-tsc-millonarias-perdidas-enee-HF9421584>

"The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) made a presentation this Thursday on the reality of the shortage of medicines and the mismanagement of the direct purchase made by the Ministry of Health (Sesal)."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/asj-salud-no-sabe-realizar-compras-medicamentos-DM9428476>

"Although July was the most violent month of Xiomara Castro's administration, homicides have decreased compared to previous years and the figures are lower than in January, during the administration of Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://criterio.hn/julio-cerro-como-el-mes-mas-violento-del-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1555277644165529601

05/08/22

Honduras Daily: Analysis; Mining; Campesinos; Violence against Women; Indigenous Peoples; Corruption - UN; Public Health; JOH; Transport Sector; Economy; US; and Catch Me If You Can

The newest edition of the Revista Envío has been published. It contains an insightful article by Padre Melo on the question of "How do we situate ourselves in the current political situation?"

<https://eric-sj.org/revista-envio/>

<https://eric-sj.org/envio/como-situarnos-en-la-actual-coyuntura-politica/>

"Anti-mine protesters in the Aguán Valley have made new blockade on CA-13 highway, after having set up 2nd camp in front of the entrance to mine. Effectively, paralyzing traffic in all of the northern department of Colón. Traffic going for several miles in each direction."

<https://twitter.com/jolson321/status/1555647011613016066>

"This Friday the CA-3 highway was taken with burning tires by peasants who are demanding to the National Congress of the Republic, that lands seized by OABI become administered by the National Agrarian Institute (INA)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/05/campesinos-se-toman-la-ca-3-en-namasigue-choluteca/>

ContraCorriente reports on violence against women in Honduras, the current situation and what should be done to counter it.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/08/05/mujeres-en-honduras-se-siguen-enfrentando-a-la-violencia-en-medio-del-abandono-estatal/>

A comment by former president Mel Zelaya caused irritation when he told an indigenous representative that there was no money ("no hay dinero") for a local road in their community. "Every human being deserves respect, but if there is a population that deserves even more respect for what they have had to suffer, and continue to suffer, after 500 years of colonization and dispossession, it is the Indigenous Peoples of Honduras. That is why I repudiate Mel's undignified treatment of the indigenous representative president of the La Campa Pro-Highway Committee on the day of the "Nuestras Raíces" event, who was mocked for daring to ask for economic support for his community project."

<https://criterio.hn/no-hay-dinero-para-el-pueblo-y-la-danza-de-millones-para-los-banqueros-y-politicos/>

"The Honduran Executive Branch has not yet responded to the UN memorandum, which was made public at the end of July, in which the international organization - among other requests - puts as a condition that the anti-corruption mechanism, which was requested by President Xiomara Castro, be independent and be constituted as a private prosecutor. It is also requested that justice operators have legal tools such as the Law of Effective Collaboration and that regulations that function as a corruption pact be repealed."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/08/05/honduras-analiza-memorandum-de-la-onu-en-el-que-solicita-que-la-cicih-sea-acusador-privado/>

<https://criterio.hn/otorgar-facultades-de-accion-penal-a-cicih-retrasaria-su-instalacion-al-requerir-reforma-constitucional/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-asegura-que-cicih-se-concretara-naciones-unidas-espera-respuesta-a-memorandum/>

A dispute erupted between the Minister of Health José Manuel Matheu and the Association of a More Just Society (ASJ). Matheu brings up the problematic role ASJ played under the JOH regime, after ASJ criticized the lack of planning in drugs purchasing.

<https://proceso.hn/asj-no-sera-veedor-de-la-secretaria-de-salud-informa-ministro-matheu/>

One of JOH's brothers, Marco Tulio Hernández Espinoza, died. The cause of death was not made public.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/fallece-hermano-del-expresidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-KB9434792>

"In the opinion of Ismael Zepeda, economist of the Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (Fosdeh), it is a bad approach for the government to grant subsidies to carriers when they should be given directly to the user." (see previous e-mail)

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/05/consideran-que-el-gobierno-realiza-un-mal-enfoque-al-otorgar-subsidio-a-los-transportistas/>

According to the Labor and Social Security Secretariat, out of the 2 million paid jobs in Honduras, 82% are in the private sector, 12.1% in the public sector and the remaining 5.9% are domestic workers.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/05/sector-privado-de-honduras-ocupa-82-de-los-asalariados/>

Three US members of Congress, Lou Correa, John Katko and Tony Gonzales, are on a visit in Honduras. US ambassador Laura F. Dogu tweeted: "We will meet with business leaders to advance our close business ties in San Pedro Sula. We will also meet with local government and NGO leaders to discuss migration management."

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1555549339916926976>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1555734267577114624>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-exhibe-continuas-imprecisiones-ahora-con-la-falsa-captura-de-esposo-de-exdiputada/>

06/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Militarization - Guapinol; Femicide; Culture; Colombia; US; Corruption - Congress; and the Story of ASJ

Criterio reports on the contradictions by Jacobo Atala Zablah during his testimony in the Gualcarque Fraud trial (see Friday).

<https://criterio.hn/jacobo-atala-comparece-y-entra-en-contradicciones-en-audiencia-por-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

Not following through with her promise to demilitarize Honduras has gained president Xiomara already some criticism. Now, Pasos de Animal Grande reports that the JOH-era Military Police was sent to Guapinol, not to protect the community, but rather the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6165-violatoria-presencia-policia-militar-llego-para-proteger-a-la-minera-inversiones-los-pinares-en-guapinol>

The number of femicides has risen to 180 this year with an impunity rate stuck at 95%.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-registra-180-muertes-violentas-contra-mujeres/>

As with other public institutions, the new administration found a completely mismanaged Executive Directorate of Culture, Arts and Sports. Criterio spoke with its new director Anarella Vélez about her challenges.

<https://criterio.hn/anarella-velez-y-su-reto-por-rescatar-la-cultura-el-arte-y-el-patrimonio-de-honduras/>

President Xiomara traveled to Colombia and held a meeting with president-elect Gustavo Castro before his inauguration today.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/presidenta-xiomara-castro-reune-gustavo-petro-antes-toma-posesion-colombia-honduras-DE9457072>

The three US representatives traveling to Honduras (see yesterday) met with Luis Redondo, congressional president.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1555918220414124038>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1556050405011980290>

The corruption case involving one current and four former members of Congress will continue before court on August 16.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/06/el-16-de-agosto-se-reiniciara-audiencia-de-red-de-diputados/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/06/asj-de-la-consentida-de-juan-orlando-a-ninguneada-con-el-nuevo-gobierno/>

07/08/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; Extradition; CAFTA;

The National Congress published a 92s video on their Twitter account on the Framework Law for the selection of the Nominating Board responding to the attacks by the political opposition.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1556462060132786176

<https://proceso.hn/macho-que-respinga-chimadura-tiene-responde-presidente-del-cn-a-criticos-sobre-sus-posturas-sobre-eleccion-de-la-csj/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/sectores-que-ya-no-podran-repartirse-la-corte-suprema-han-liberado-jaurias-para-atacar/>

Another Honduran wanted by the US for drug trafficking was arrested, Michael Derringer Powery Wood.

He will be held in pre-trial detention before his hearing on September 8.

<https://tiempo.hn/video-captura-michael-derringer-en-guanaja/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/08/juez-dicta-arresto-preventivo-a-extraditable-michael-derringer-powery-wood-proxima-audiencia-sera-el-8-de-septiembre/>

The Xiomara administration is revising the "free" trade agreement with the US, CAFTA-DR.

https://twitter.com/All Things_HND/status/1556455605996503048

08/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; OFRANEH; Protection Mechanism; Guapinol; Palestine/Israel; Corruption - IHSS; Gender Inequality; Mosquitia; Drug Trafficking; and Participatory Budgeting

The Gualcarque Fraud case continued yesterday.

The court excluded expert witness Angel Baide Valladares from the case. "He was proposed as a consultant in favor of David Castillo and has been excluded from the process due to the fact that he does not have updated credentials and for not appearing at the appropriate procedural time."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1556680936401637378>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1556729713468506112>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1556751837264580611>

"Garifuna communities in Honduras have stood out as islands of peace in a sea of violence. However, during the pandemic there was a spate of violence against leaders defending ancestral territory. We demand compliance with IACHR Court sentences and clarification of murders and disappearances."

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1556642859788509184>

<https://criterio.hn/continua-incumplimiento-de-medidas-cautelares-a-favor-de-garifunas-en-san-juan-tela/>

CONADEH with its JOH-era representative seems to make the situation at the protection mechanism even more confrontational calling on civil society actors not to participate in the election of new representatives.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6169-porque-violenta-la-ley-conadeh-instruye-a-sus-delegados-a-nivel-nacional-no-inscribir-organizaciones-o-recibir-candidaturas-de-sociedad-para-el-consejo-de-proteccion>

Criterio reports on recent protests by the Guapinol community calling on president Xiomara to support them in stopping the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares.

<https://criterio.hn/fuera-pinares-ecotek-exigencia-de-guapinol-a-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina met with his Palestine counterpart Read Malki in Colombia. He later announced that the Xiomara administration is planning to open up a consulate in Palestine.

This also spurred debate about the Honduran embassy in Israel, which was moved under JOH to Jerusalem.

The government sent mixed signals regarding a return of the embassy to Tel Aviv.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/gobierno-honduras-planea-instalar-consulado-palestina-relacion-bilateral-FJ9496236>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-contempla-retornar-su-embajada-a-tel-aviv/>

<https://proceso.hn/buscamos-mejorar-atencion-consular-de-hondurenos-en-palestina-enrique-reina-canciller-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/08/consideran-que-un-nuevo-cambio-de-ciudad-de-embajada-de-honduras-en-israel-podria-enviar-una-imagen-de-inestabilidad/>

The MP is currently in talks with Panama about the restitution of \$1 million, stolen as part of the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-coordina-recuperacion-a-favor-del-ihss-de-mas-de-un-millon-de-dolares-incautados-en-panama/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/08/fiscalia-coordina-recuperacion-de-mas-de-un-millon-de-dolares-a-favor-del-ihss/>

"Barely 48.7% of Honduran women of working age have a source of employment and out of ten people that make up the discouraged population without a source of employment, six are women, a situation that reflects the great labor gap faced by women in the Central American nation. A bulletin of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (Cohep), called Labor Market by Gender, reveals figures that undermine women with respect to access to a source of employment and, even worse, when they obtain one, their salaries are lower than those of men."

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-en-honduras-sufren-mas-desempleo-y-perciben-salarios-por-debajo-de-los-hombres/>

"The Secretariat of State in the Offices of Risk Management and National Contingencies (Copeco), through its head, Engineer Ramón Soto, in coordination with the United States Agency for

International Development (USAID/BHA), sent humanitarian aid to the Mosquitia, in the department of Gracias a Dios."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/08/copeco-envia-ayuda-humanitaria-a-mas-de-600-familias-afectadas-por-inundaciones-en-la-mosquitia/>

"The head of this ministerial office, José Manuel Zelaya, told Criterio.hn that after they requested reports on the current state of the [JOH-era] anti-drug system in question, they were notified that two of the three radars are damaged. However, he said that they are working on repairing them."

<https://criterio.hn/radares-antidrogas-que-instalo-joh-no-funcionan-asegura-secretaria-de-defensa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/08/honduras-debe-ampliar-participacion-publica-en-formulacion-de-presupuesto-senala-economista-del-fosdeh/>

09/08/22

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - OFRANEH; Berta - Gualcarque; LGBTQ+; Migration - US; Prisons; and Innocent

Yesterday, Honduras commemorated the International Day of Indigenous Rights.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1557076486301032448>

On that occasion, Garifuna communities were mobilizing in Tegucigalpa. OFRANEH was demanding justice for the disappeared young Garífuna men as well as for ongoing and theft.

They also presented their demands at the MP, but they were not welcomed.

"Assist. Attorney General threatens criminal investigations of Hondurans & foreigners that went into Attorney Gen.'s office today during protest gathering instead of doing his job & investigating *forced disappearances* & *murders* of dozens of Garifuna leaders & land defenders".

UN resident coordinator Alice H. Shackelford reacted on Twitter: "The rights of the indigenous peoples of Honduras are inviolable and State institutions must ensure their fulfillment. I call on the @MP_Honduras to ensure the right to be heard by attending to @ofraneh and opening dialogue based on their concerns and demands."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1557044316081737728>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1557052701661437952>

<https://twitter.com/adepza/status/1557172529604837376>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1557219600810606592>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1557145990259679232>

<https://criterio.hn/en-dia-internacional-de-los-pueblos-indigenas-exigen-al-mp-justicia-y-respeto-a-sus-derechos/>

<https://proceso.hn/garifunas-protestan-frente-al-mp-para-exigir-respeto-a-sus-derechos-ancestrales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/09/exigen-a-fiscalia-agilizar-investigacion-tras-desaparicion-de-cuatro-garifunas/>

John Perry wrote an article on the Garífuna people in Central America, their history and their present struggles.

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2022/august/in-orinoco>

In the Gualcarque Fraud case, an expert opinion concluded that there was no due diligence in the review and analysis of the documentation submitted to SERNA by DESA.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1557044427377582080>

In the IACtHR case Vicky Hernández vs. Honduras on the murder of trans activist Vicky Hernández, the court ordered 12 reparation measures. Only 2 have been complied with so far.

<https://criterio.hn/poblacion-lgbtq-a-la-espera-de-cumplimiento-de-medidas-de-reparacion-dictadas-por-caso-vicky-hernandez/>

"Data acquired by Criterio.hn, based on requests for information to the National Migration Institute (INM), detail that in the first six months of 2022, the State coffers collected L 241,503,887.97, for administrative sanctions imposed on migrants passing through the national territory, a staggering figure that doubles and triples that obtained in previous years. In total, from 2015 to June 2022, L 544,800, 580.08 were collected." Criterio further reports that the recently approved amnesty law for migrants has not had the desired effect yet.

<https://criterio.hn/migrantes-de-paso-por-honduras-se-convirtieron-en-la-caja-chica-del-gobierno/>

The US program Remain in Mexico seems to come to an end after an announcement by DHS.

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/08/08/dhs-statement-us-district-courts-decision-regarding-mpp>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/08/08/mpp-biden-asylum-mexico/>

"All penitentiaries in the country will now be under the administration of the National Police, informed the spokeswoman of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP), Digna Aguilar."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/09/policia-nacional-queda-a-cargo-de-todos-los-centros-penitenciarios/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/inocente-kevin-solorzano/>

10/08/22

Honduras Daily: Violence against Women; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Judicial Power; Corruption - UN, Banhprovi, Mayors; Congress; Medical Sector; Transport Sector; Migration - Children; and a Welcome Awakening

52 women have been disappeared in the first 7 months of 2022, among them 32 minors.

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-52-mujeres-han-desaparecido-en-honduras-en-2022-32-son-menores-de-edad/>

The Pro Honduras Network published newly declassified information from the trial against the former police chief Juan "El Tigre" Carlos Bonilla. "Since 2000 or thereabouts 2022 Juan Carlos

Bonilla alias "El Tigre" trafficked with multiple drug trafficking organizations in Honduras and elsewhere, he worked together with the support of certain prominent public and private figures, including Honduran politicians and law enforcement officials, to receive multi-ton loads of cocaine shipped into Honduras from Colombia via air and sea routes, transported the drugs westward into Honduras to the Guatemalan border and ultimately to the United States."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/08/10/nuevos-detalles-del-involucramiento-de-el-sicario-del-cartel-hernandez-juan-carlos-bonilla-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/10/el-tigre-bonilla-comparece-en-la-corte-de-nueva-york/>

This month, key sectors need to elect their representatives for the Nomination Board of the Supreme Court judges. 50 civil society organizations gave their vote of confidence to lawyer and professor Martha Dubón and lawyer and human rights defender Tomas Andino as representatives of the Coalition Against Impunity.

The Honduran Bar Association (CAH) also called on its members to elect representatives.

So did COHEP.

Criterio reports on the lack of gender parity at the Supreme Court. "Gender parity and equity continues to be a gap faced by Honduran women, access to public office or relevant positions is a constant struggle that is limited by a patriarchal system that reduces women to limited quotas of power, as in the case of the Judiciary, where in the last three Supreme Courts of Justice only 26% of the judges were women."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/2009-sociedad-civil-respalda-a-martha-dubon-y-tomas-andino-como-candidatos-a-la-junta-nominadora>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/10/colegio-de-abogados-convoca-a-sus-agremiados-a-postularse-para-integrar-junta-nominadora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/10/cohep-convoca-a-asamblea-el-23-de-agosto-para-nombrar-sus-representantes-en-la-junta-nominadora/>

<https://criterio.hn/participacion-de-mujeres-en-el-poder-judicial-sigue-siendo-minoritaria/>

"The government is reviewing the memorandum of understanding sent by the United Nations (UN) for the installation of the International Anti-Corruption Commission. This was announced by the

Minister of the Presidency, Rodolfo Pastor de María, who answered some rumors. "We are not nervous, on the contrary we are excited, it is something that we ourselves have requested", he said."

The corresponding congressional committee announced that next week the Efficient Collaboration Law will be ready to be discussed in the plenary. This law is one of the requisites for the installation of the UN-backed mission.

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-revisa-memorando-de-onu-para-dar-siguiente-paso-a-instalar-la-cicih-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/proxima-semana-estaria-listo-dictamen-de-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

Already of the best paid public employees, the president of the Banco Hondureño para la Producción y la Vivienda (Banhprovi) Edwin Araque made negative headlines for a planned renovation of his office worth 500'000 Lempiras.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/10/casi-medio-millon-costara-remodelar-lujosa-oficina-del-presidente-de-banhprovi/>

The former mayor of Cucuyagua, Copán is accused of money laundering, the sum in question is 815 million Lempiras.

<https://criterio.hn/excalcalde-de-cucuyagua-copan-javier-lopez-alvarado-acusado-de-lavar-mas-de-l-815-millones/>

One of the recurring topics, be it around the election of the new Supreme Court or the possible installation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission is the legality of the congressional leadership. Expediente Público takes a closer look at this. In the article, lawyer Joaquín Mejía offers a definitive answer to the question. The question has been resolved when the - Nationalist-controlled - Constitutional Chamber decided not to admit a constitutional challenge against the president of Congress, Luis Redondo.

<https://www.expedientepublico.org/sombras-de-ilegalidad-en-junta-directiva-del-congreso-agudizan-crisis-politica-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/junta-directiva-del-cn-es-legal-quienes-la-cuestionan-estan-equivocados-redondo/>

86 medical specialists from Cuba will come to Honduras.

This raised some criticism, to which the Secretary of Health responded that Honduras needs specialists which cannot be replaced by unemployed generalists.

El Pulso reports that anesthesiologists are lacking in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/medicos-cubanos-2-mil-dolares-matheu-desmiente/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/medicos-cubanos-jose-matheu-ministro-salud-honduras-AE9521662>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/10/externan-preocupacion-por-escasez-de-profesionales-anestesiologos-en-el-pais/>

25 transport workers have been assassinated so far this year. Additionally, public transport leader Jorge Lanza denounced that they pay some 25 million per month in extortion money.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/unos-25-trabajadores-del-transporte-publico-han-sido-asesinados-en-lo-que-va-del-ano/>

"Deportations of children in Honduras have increased by 60% compared to the previous year, 27% of these are unaccompanied minors who undertake the migratory route fleeing violence, poverty, criminality, lack of access to quality education and health in the face of the lack of public policies for the care of children."

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-60-incrementan-deportaciones-de-ninos-y-ninas-hondurenas-que-emprenden-ruta-migratoria/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/un-despertar-que-nos-hace-sonar/>

11/08/22

Honduras Daily: Corruption - UN, Pandora, Judicial Power; Drug Trafficking - US; Agriculture - Bajo Aguán; Poverty; Hydroelectricity; Forced Displacement; El Salvador; Labor Rights - US; Police; and Defending the Carlos Escaleras National Park

"The Presidential House and the Secretariat of Transparency continue working together in the process that will lead to sign the agreement for the installation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), said the Chancellor of the Republic Eduardo Enrique Reina. The official explained in an appearance at the Presidential House, that meetings are being held to finalize the counter-proposal that Honduras will make to the Memorandum, and that they are looking for an independent and more autonomous mechanism and to collaborate in such a way that the CICIH will have the special conditions to be able to work." (see also yesterday)

They also announced that such a body would be investigating all administrations, including the current one.

<https://proceso.hn/canciller-certifica-compromiso-para-la-instalacion-de-la-cicih-y-se-espera-suscripcion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/11/aseguran-que-la-cicih-tendra-la-facultad-de-investigar-a-todos-los-gobiernos/>

Honduras requested the extradition of Fernando José Suárez Ramírez, accused in the Pandora corruption case and former protected witness. He is currently in El Salvador.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/corte-suprema-justicia-ordena-extradicion-implicado-caso-pandora-fernando-suarez-el-salvador-YF9546809>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/11/csj-resuelve-darle-curso-a-solicitud-de-extradicion-a-hondureno-fernando-josue-suarez-implicado-en-caso-pandora/>

Criterio portrays the three last presidents of the Supreme Court and their role in maintaining impunity in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/los-ultimos-tres-presidentes-del-poder-judicial-muestra-de-una-justicia-ligada-a-la-corrupcion-e-impunidad/>

Criterio published an important investigation into the drug trafficking links of JOH's former Minister of Defense. "Accused by the US justice system of laundering USD 1.8 million between 2018 and 2019 for the Atlantic Cartel, Kensy Ivette García Torres, could reveal in the coming hours her criminal environment and the involvement in drug trafficking of politicians and public figures linked to power and who shared dividends from her businesses, ten of them focused on the coffee business, an activity sprinkled with drug trafficking. Garcia Torres, known in the criminal world as "the doll of the mafia," in allusion to Colombian narconovelas, for her voluptuous and contoured

figure -- the product of cosmetic surgeries -- partnered in 2016 with then-Honduran Defense Minister Samuel Reyes Rendon, one of the trusted officials of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, whom she accompanied in his first term in office (2014-2018)."

<https://criterio.hn/samuel-reyes-se-asocio-con-la-muneca-de-la-mafia-en-el-rubro-del-cafe/>

US prosecutors formalized the charges against former police chief Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla during a hearing on Wednesday. His case was included in the same case file that includes the one against JOH, his brother Juan Antonio Hernandez, and drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/fiscalia-estados-unidos-formaliza-cargos-juan-carlos-tigre-bonilla-narcotrafico-extraditado-nueva-york-FN9539878>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/incluyen-a-el-tigre-bonilla-en-el-expediente-de-tony-y-juan-orlando-hernandez-XY9540330>

There are some recurring themes in Honduran media outlets, so-called land invasions is one of them. There have been some events in the south of Honduras which led Proceso Digital to write of a looming agrarian crisis. The Xiomara administration recognizes the unjust distribution of land, but there is no easy fix for it. "According to the Minister of the Presidency, Rodolfo Pastor de María, there is inequity in the agrarian issue, but this problem will not be solved with weapons (...) The government official also highlighted the accompaniment of the Office of the High Commissioner of the United Nations with experts in agrarian issues and it is expected that they can accompany until a solution can be found in the area. (...) The different "knots" or legal obstacles do not allow progress in the fair distribution of land in Honduras, said the deputy director of the National Agrarian Institute (INA), Rafael Alegría. The former peasant leader said that since the enactment of the Agricultural Modernization Law, there have been increased legal problems that do not allow progress in the fair distribution of land."

<https://tiempo.hn/7-departamentos-con-invasion-de-tierras-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/a-las-puertas-nuevo-conflicto-agrario-por-invasion-de-tierras-en-honduras/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/11/advierten-que-invasion-a-tierras-alejan-inversion-y-ponen-en-riesgo-la-seguridad-juridica/>

C-Libre denounces that in the Bajo Aguán, armed men attacked campesino families of a peasant cooperative.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1525-grupo-armado-ataca-a-tiros-a-campesinos-de-la-cooperativa-nueve-de-agosto-en-santa-rosa-de-aguan>

"The majority of Hondurans have few possibilities of acquiring a home of their own, due to poverty, land for construction in the hands of the minority, land with unsuitable topography and, above all, the lack of affordable national social housing policies that meet the conditions of the Honduran way of life."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-carece-de-politicas-nacionales-de-vivienda-social/>

The BCIE announced a planned installation of a fifth turbine at the El Cajón hydroelectric plant.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-plantea-posibilidad-que-taiwan-financie-la-instalacion-de-quinta-turbina-en-el-cajon/>

"Sixteen percent of the total number of displaced persons in Honduras in 2021 was due to the crime of extortion, the National Commissioner for Human Rights revealed today, citing figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)."

<https://proceso.hn/un-16-de-desplazados-en-honduras-en-2021-fue-por-delito-de-extorsion/>

Luis Redondo and his El Salvadorian counterpart signed a cooperation agreement between the two congresses.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/11/congreso-nacional-de-honduras-y-asamblea-legislativa-de-el-salvador-firman-convenio-de-cooperacion/>

Adrienne Pine published an update on the labor rights violations around the construction of the new US embassy.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1557908748580044800>

Today, the initial hearing will be held against the municipal police agent Jairo Alberto Flores López, accused of attempted homicide against José Humberto Duarte on April 29, 2019 during a day of peaceful protests in the defense of health and education.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-audiencia-inicial-agente-municipal-acusado-de-disparar-contra-una-persona-durante-las-protesta-de-defensa-de-la-salud-y-educacion/>

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-de-cinco-municipios-se-unen-en-defensa-de-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/municipios-de-olancho-y-colon-exigen-al-congreso-nacional-liberar-montana-botadero-de-mineria/>

12/08/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Corruption - UN, ENTAH; Bajo Aguán; HR; Drug Trafficking; Monkey Pox; Costa Rica;

"Last August 9, on the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (Ofraneh) complained to the State of Honduras, through a protest within the Public Ministry, about the lack of investigation in the forced disappearance of four Garifuna in northern Honduras. There is no progress in the investigations despite the exhortations of the Inter-American System. In addition, racist and denigrating treatment by current officials was denounced."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/08/12/ofraneh-denuncia-racismo-institucional-e-inoperancia-del-ministerio-publico/>

Almost daily now, the Xiomara administration speaks about the desired installation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission. "Edmundo Orellana, head of the Secretariat of State in charge of Transparency and the Fight against Corruption, assured this Friday that the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) will indeed come and ruled out that there is any kind of obstacle to prevent its installation "we are moving forward", he said."

One possible obstacle could be the non-approval of the Efficient Collaboration Law and here the National Party shows its real colors again by trying to stall the law as they had successfully done under JOH.

ContraCorriente spoke with three experts - Juan Francisco Sandoval, former head of the Special Prosecutor's Office against Impunity (FECI) in Guatemala; Ana María Calderón, the former head of the MACCIH; Luis Javier Santos, head of the Specialized Prosecutor's Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO) - on what is needed for a successful installation of the UN-backed body.

<https://proceso.hn/la-cicih-si-viene-el-proceso-no-tiene-ningun-obstaculo-asegura-ministro-de-la-transparencia-de-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/12/ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-podria-generar-injusticia-y-debe-ser-revisada-senala-diputado-mario-perez/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/08/12/claves-para-una-cicih-exitosa-voluntad-politica-y-cuidarse-de-los-poderes-ocultos/>

"The Secretariat for Transparency and Fight against Corruption delivered to President Xiomara Castro, the National Strategy for Transparency and Fight against Corruption in Honduras (ENTAH) to be approved by the Council of Ministers and become the government's policy for the period 2022-2026. In an exclusive interview with Criterio.hn, the director of transparency of the Anti-Corruption Secretariat, Jorge Arturo Reina, revealed that the president of Honduras received the ambitious national strategy that includes six strategic lines, each containing several subdivisions focused on the pillars of transparency, accountability, citizen participation and technological innovation aimed at the prevention, detection, investigation and punishment of corruption."

<https://criterio.hn/entah-la-politica-de-transparencia-y-anticorrupcion-que-pretende-impulsar-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

"The Minister of the Security Secretariat, Ramon Sabillón, announced in a press conference at the Presidential House, the formation of a Tripartite Commission to seek solutions to the land conflict in Bajo Aguán."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/12/comision-tripartita-buscara-solucionar-conflicto-de-tierra-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

The challenging situation at the Human Rights Ministry continue. As with other state dependencies, they inherited a difficult situation. Yesterday, the ministry let go various staff mentioning irregularities and duplicity in work.

The fired staff denounced mistreatment.

<https://twitter.com/sedhHonduras/status/1558168884359925762>

<https://proceso.hn/empleados-denuncian-malos-tratos-previo-a-masivos-despidos-en-la-secretaria-de-ddhh/>

"On Friday, Honduras extradited Tokiro Ramírez Rodas, the first member linked to gangs and gangs, requested by the United States for the crime of drug trafficking."

<https://proceso.hn/tokiro-ramirez-primer-miembro-ligado-a-maras-extraditado-a-ee-uu/>

The Ministry of Health reported the first monkey pox case in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/primer-caso-viruela-del-mono-honduras/>

Just a day after signing a cooperation agreement with the El Salvadorian congress, a similar agreement was signed with the Costa Rica congress.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1558241326042386432

13/08/22

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; Drug Trafficking; Electricity; Illiteracy; and Feminist Radio

Lucía Vijil Saybe shares her reflection on how Honduras can overcome a predatory extractivism.

<https://cespad.org.hn/como-avanzar-del-extractivismo-depredador-a-uno-sensato-puntos-para-reflexionar-en-honduras/>

Kensy García Torres was sentenced to three years in prison in the US for money laundering (see also two days ago for her links to JOH's former defense minister).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/13/kensy-garcia-torres-la-muneca-de-la-mafia-condenada-a-tres-anos-de-carcel-por-lavado-de-activos/>

"An investment of US\$180 million to strengthen the transmission and distribution system, announced the interim manager of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), Erick Tejada."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/13/titular-de-la-enee-anuncia-inversion-de-180-millones-de-dolares-para-fortalecer-sistema-de-transmision-y-distribucion/>

"Illiteracy in Honduras is 12% in general and of this illiterate population, 60% are over 40 years of age and are unwilling to learn to read and write."

<https://criterio.hn/el-60-de-la-poblacion-adulta-en-honduras-son-personas-analfabetas/>

<https://criterio.hn/disonancias-radio-la-nueva-apuesta-de-karla-lara-que-busca-deconstruir-opresiones/>

14/08/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; HR; Armed Forces - US; Corruption - Energy, Banhprovi, Liberal Party; Poverty; and Successful Hondurans in the World

Avispa Midia reports on the recent days of protest by Garífuna communities in Honduras.

<https://avispa.org/un-paraiso-en-disputa-violencia-y-recuperacion-de-tierras-garifunas/>

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford comments on the challenges at the protection mechanism. "She pointed out that "we regret that this is taking place in a space of very little trust, of very little dialogue, so we call on the parties to stop for a moment and start to see what is the best way to move forward to respond to these major challenges while respecting the actions of all actors". The UN representative concluded by affirming that the most important thing is to seek the best response for human rights defenders who continue to be under attack."

<https://proceso.hn/el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-es-importante-y-el-pais-tiene-grandes-desafios-en-ddhh-dice-shackelford/>

Padre Melo and Joaquín Mejía comment on the role of SOUTHCOM in human rights trainings for Honduran armed forces. "Who would have thought? The worst nightmare for democracy in Honduras (the Armed Forces), as Victor Meza used to say, and those who have financed that nightmare, now sponsor human rights training."

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1558639456084697088>

Back in May, Congress announced the creation of a special commission investigating the approval of energy contracts under the JOH regime. In Namasigüe, Choluteca, inhabitants are awaiting the results of this investigation having suffered criminalization these last years due to their resistance to an energy project.

<https://criterio.hn/poblacion-de-namasigue-continua-vigilante-sobre-contratos-de-energia/>

Secretary of Congress Carlos Zelaya calls for an investigation into the situation at the Banhprovi where its director remodeled his office for 500'000 Lempiras (see previous e-mails).

<https://proceso.hn/secretario-del-cn-senala-que-se-debe-investigar-gasto-en-remodelacion-en-oficina-de-banhprovi/>

"The Superior Court of Accounts (TSC) revealed irregularities in the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party (CCEPL) in the expenditure and liquidation of funds destined for the 2021 primary elections process."

<https://proceso.hn/tsc-revela-irregularidades-en-liquidacion-de-fondos-desembolsados-en-el-ccepl/>

"The Association for the Defense of the Basic Food Basket of Honduras (Adecabah) demanded this Sunday a generalized reduction in the prices of basic food basket products, according to its president Adalid Irías."

<https://proceso.hn/adecabah-demanda-una-rebaja-general-en-los-precios-de-la-canasta-basica/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/espectaculos/historico-la-hondurena-cesia-saenz-gana-la-academia-EL9580996>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/08/14/teofimo-lopez-tras-triunfo-gracias-xiomara-castro-gracias-honduras/>

15/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Guapinol; HRDs; Journalists; Judicial Power; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; Elections - US; Remittances; Prisons; Armed Forces - US; and Held Back by the Church

The Gualcarque Fraud trial continued yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1559220943754612738>

Criterio reports on the need to repeal the expansion of Carlos Escaleras National Park buffer zone as a first step to resolve the Guapinol conflict. "Throughout the process of struggle and resistance, the members of the fourteen communities that defend their water sources and oppose mining, have demanded the repeal of decree 252-2013. The member of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of the municipality of Tocoa and current councilman, Leonel George, stated that "the communities have been fighting for the defense of the Carlos Escaleras Mejía Botaderos Mountain National Park, a protected area that supplies water and is a water producing area for the communities, as well as a source of oxygen and a livelihood for food production". The repeal of decree 252-2013, George explained to Criterio.hn, would solve part of the conflict and would give the communities a chance to recover the national park to restore the healthy environment in which they lived prior to the arrival of the mining company and in the face of climate change and the effects it generates."

<https://criterio.hn/derogar-expansion-de-zona-de-amortiguamiento-del-parque-nacional-primer-paso-para-solventar-conflicto-de-guapinol/>

There was quite some controversy about the protection mechanism for human rights defenders these last week. Yesterday, Minister of Human Rights, Nathalie Roque, stated that the rescue of the mechanism is a priority for the Xiomara administration.

<https://proceso.hn/rescatar-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-es-prioridad-para-el-gobierno-ministra-roque/>

"The owner of the Aviva TV Channel in Danlí, El Paraíso, Jaime Nery Diaz, was the victim of denial of justice, at the Special Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights, when he was about to file a complaint against the Municipal Corporation, including the mayor, Abraham Kafati, of that city."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1527-fiscalia-de-derechos-humanos-niega-acceso-a-la-justicia-a-dueno-de-medio-de-comunicacion-independiente>

The Transparency and Fight against Corruption Secretariat has published the list of the 56 civil society organization tasked in choosing a joint representative for the Supreme Court election. The organization will meet tomorrow to chose their representative.

<https://criterio.hn/definidas-las-56-organizaciones-de-sociedad-civil-que-aspiraran-a-ser-parte-de-la-junta-nominadora/>

JOH's legal team claims that he is under threat in his New York jail because as gang member supposedly wants to murder him.

Journalist Jeff Ernst reacts the right way: "It is true that there are threats against the Hernandezes. But not because JOH fought against organized crime, but so that JOH does not sing in NY."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/defensa-joh-mara-quiere-asesinar-expresidente-carcel-narcotrafico-ny-FM9592513>

<https://tiempo.hn/abogado-denuncia-ms-13-amenazado-joh/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1559393630946738176>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office (MP), presented this Monday a document related to the purchase of seven mobile hospitals called "The Truth of the Facts" where it assures that it requested the extradition of businessman Axel López and denounces interested sectors that conspire to hinder the investigations on the mega fraud of more than 47 million dollars."

<https://proceso.hn/mp-espera-extradicion-de-axel-lopez-proveedor-de-hospitales-moviles-y-denuncia-complot-a-investigaciones/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/comunicado-5/>

US ambassador Laura F. Dogu met with the National Electoral Council (CNE). "I congratulated the CNE magistrates for the 2021 elections. We talked about their plans to strengthen their institution in view of the 2025 elections. The US will continue to be an ally for electoral bodies and support democracy in Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1559294782811377664>

"Remittances sent to Honduras between January and July of this year increased by 19.6% compared to the same period of 2021, according to data provided Monday by the Central Bank (BCH)."

<https://proceso.hn/las-remesas-enviadas-honduras-se-incrementaron-19-6-entre-enero-y-julio/>

Two inmates of two different Honduran prisons died during the last days. According to prison authorities, one allegedly fell by accident 25m down and another inmate was found hung in his cell. In this case, they don't know if it was suicide or murder.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/15/sistema-penitenciario-reporta-dos-decesos-en-varias-carceles-hondurenas/>

Criterio has more on the role of SOUTHCOM in training Honduran members of the Armed Forces in human rights (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/cuestionan-que-militares-hondurenos-sean-capacitados-en-derechos-humanos-por-comando-sur/>

"The religious leadership in Honduras has stood out for intervening in issues of national interest, although its interference has been repeatedly rejected for exercising control, discriminating and interposing itself, especially in the face of the demands of feminists, women's rights organizations and LGBTIQ+ populations. (...) In conversation with Criterio.hn, Nadia Mejía, lawyer and member of the Red Lésbica Cattrachas, commented that "the church has historically supported power groups, in that sense, it will go hand in hand with private enterprise and imminently conservative political parties"."

<https://criterio.hn/cupulas-religiosas-opuestas-a-cumplimiento-de-derechos-de-las-mujeres-y-lgbtqi/>

16/08/22

Honduras Daily: Mining; HRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - UN, TSC; Judicial Power; Violence - Women; Agriculture; Hondutel; and the Plight of Migrants

""For water and for life, no to mining!" was the demand of the leaders of five municipalities in northeastern Honduras who arrived at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Mines (Serna) in Tegucigalpa to demand a halt to open-pit mining and the protection of the Carlos Escaleras National Park, Montaña de Botaderos."

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-del-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras-llegan-a-la-serna-a-exigir-su-proteccion/>

Human Rights Minister Nathalie Roque commented on the situation with the protection mechanism. ""The Protection Mechanism is not being canceled, that is not the purpose of the restructuring

process that we have carried out in recent days," Roque clarified. "It is very difficult in a context in which we are coming out of the regime of Juan Orlando Hernández where a series of officials and servants were created who fulfilled functions because they were in an institutional framework, however, they had strong commitments to the policies and practices of that regime and this is very clearly perceived by defenders, journalists and justice operators", she said (...) "We have indications of violation of confidentiality, theft of information and improper treatment of information of persons under protection measures", she explained. (...) On the other hand, she revealed that the mechanism's budget has been doubled and affirmed that the implementation of the measures is guaranteed, but she remarked that the security of the people under protection cannot be guaranteed with personnel who are not trusted. (...) Among the 14 profiles of the new personnel are lawyers, sociologists, journalists, communicators and social workers with ample experience in the promotion and protection of human rights, she said."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/16/mecanismo-de-proteccion-no-se-esta-cancelando-sino-refundando-aclara-secretaria-de-ddhh/>

"A close source claims that "El Tigre" Bonilla will collaborate with the US Attorney General's Office. The former police chief had enough information to link politicians to drug trafficking, including two deputy security ministers and a former presidential secretary."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/investigaciones/tigre-bonilla-colaborador-fiscalia-narcotrafico-juan-orlando-hernandez-CC9598073>

Transparency Minister Edmundo Orellana is hopeful that a UN-backed anti-corruption mission (CICIH) could already be installed in the first months of 2023.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/cicih-honduras-2023-xiomara-castro-FN9609564>

"The Superior Court of Accounts (TSC) has elaborated settlement reports with false documentation, denounced this Tuesday the head of the Specialized Fiscal Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), Luis Javier Santos. "We bring elements of proof to accredit that the Superior Court of Accounts is committing a crime by elaborating reports based on evidence that is false," Santos told reporters."

<https://proceso.hn/grave-denuncia-titular-de-uferco-dice-tsc-elabora-informes-con-pruebas-falsas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/16/por-elaborar-informes-basados-en-pruebas-falsas-uferco-abrira-investigacion-contr-el-tribunal-superior-de-cuentas/>

Proceso Digital published the list of the 50 NGOs selected to choose among themselves a representative for the Supreme Court election (see yesterday).

The election is accompanied by a debate on the need to be a notary to be eligible to become a Supreme Court judge. Only 3.7% of Honduran lawyers are also notaries.

<https://tiempo.hn/comunidad-lgbti-aspira-un-magistrado-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/dime-si-eres-amigo-de-quien-controla-la-corte-y-te-dire-si-puedes-ser-notario/>

According to the Online Police Statistics System (Sepol), there were 94 less homicides in the capital so far this year than in 2021.

Security Minister Ramón Sabillón claims that in total, Honduras has seen 300 homicides less so far this year.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/incidencia-de-homicidios-baja-un-29-en-la-capital-que-esta-haciendo-la-policia-YY9607634>

<https://tiempo.hn/ramon-sabillon-disminuido-hechos-violentos/>

At the same time, violence against women remains high. 200 women have been murdered in Honduras this year.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/escalada-de-femicidios-deja-ya-mas-de-200-mujeres-asesinadas-en-honduras/>

Presidential secretary Héctor Manuel Zelaya commented on the work of the recently created commission to investigate land invasions. "What we are doing is precisely looking at the causes of the invasions to be able to attack them from the root, to generate better living and working conditions for Hondurans so that these necessary practices are not seen anymore".

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/16/gobierno-analiza-las-causas-que-generan-la-invasion-de-tierras-para-atacarlas-de-raiz/>

"The manager of Honduran Telecommunications Company (Hondutel), revealed on Tuesday that they have identified a strategic partner that will invest between 300 and 350 million dollars to recover the state-owned company."

<https://proceso.hn/hondutel-tiene-identificado-socio-estrategico-que-invertira-350-millones-revela-gerente-montoya/>

"The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is ramping up its response to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and protection to 210,000 people on the move by land northwards through Central America and Mexico."

<https://reliefweb.int/report/honduras/ifrc-210000-migrants-need-urgent-life-saving-assistance-and-protection-central-america-and-mexico>

17/08/22

Honduras Daily: Mining; COPINH; Forced Displacement; Judicial Power; Labor Rights - US; Corruption - CICIH, TSC; Economy - US; Minimum Wage; Central Bank; Japan; Spain; and of Great National Interest

"Affected communities from Tocoa, Colón & Gualaco, Olancho mobilize in Teguc today to Congress & Sec. of Natural Resources to demand the cancellation of mining projects destroying local water sources. They demand a response from authorities & respective institutions".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1559775829554520065>

COPINH met with a US delegation including two State Senators to talk about issues of land restitution, respect of indigenous rights and the Berta Cáceres case and their search for justice.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1559948561118289921>

PBI accompanied observed an assembly of Quimistán communities where inhabitants spoke about the risks of the "El Tablón" dam project. The communities expressed their rejection of any action that means their displacement and the destruction of the environment.

<https://pbicanada.org/2022/08/16/pbi-honduras-observes-assembly-of-quimistan-communities-concerned-by-the-risk-of-displacement-by-the-el-tablon-dam/>

56 civil society organizations and social movements chose Martha Dubón (Association of Judges for Democracy) and Tomás Andino (C-Libre) as their representatives at the Nomination Board for the Supreme Court election.

Meanwhile, US ambassador Laura F. Dogu met with the current president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta.

<https://cespad.org.hn/asi-escogieron-las-osc-a-sus-representantes-ante-la-jn-para-elegir-candidatos-a-magistrados-del-poder-judicial-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/sociedad-civil-eligio-a-sus-representantes-ante-la-junta-nominadora/>

<https://proceso.hn/presidente-de-la-csj-y-embajadora-de-eeuu-conversan-sobre-eleccion-de-magistrados/>

Adrienne Pine published another update on the labor struggle at the US embassy construction site.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1559775259192356864>

Transparency Minister Edmundo Orellana reiterates that a CICIH will be installed in Honduras (see previous days)

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/17/ministro-de-transparencia-ratifica-que-la-cicih-llegara-al-pais/>

Criterio has more on the recent accusations by UFERCO's Luis Santos against the Supreme Court of Audits (TSC) (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/tribunal-superior-de-cuentas-comparsa-de-politicos-para-beneficiar-y-blindar-a-corruptos/>

"Marisa Lagos, the US undersecretary of Commerce, will lead a mission to Central America involving 32 US companies to promote US exports & international trade in the region".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1559765303105851392>

Congress will revise the minimum wage.

<https://proceso.hn/desde-el-legislativo-se-promueve-una-revision-al-actual-salario-minimo/>

Congress approved a \$1 billion loan from the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) to the government.

<https://proceso.hn/cn-aprueba-prestamo-de-mil-millones-de-dolares-del-bch-al-gobierno/>

"The president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo, received this Wednesday, the courtesy visit of the senator of the Parliament of Japan, Horii Iwao and the ambassador of the Republic of Japan in Honduras, Nakahara Jun, to strengthen cooperation ties that contribute to the development of the country and strengthen the legislation between both nations."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/17/congreso-nacional-y-gobierno-de-japon-inician-acercamientos-para-un-futuro-acuerdo-de-cooperacion-legislativa/>

Spanish president Pedro Sánchez will visit Honduras next week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/17/presidente-de-espana-visitara-honduras-la-proxima-semana/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/17/gobierno-declara-pelicula-berta-soy-yo-de-interes-nacional-y-cultural/>

18/08/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta - Gualcarque; Mining; Xiomara - Lencas; MP; Security; Agriculture; Judicial Power; US; Drug Trafficking; and the El Tablón Dam

Ten days ago, during the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, OFRANEH held a rally in front of the MP and filed a complaint. But instead of investigating the disappearance of the young Garífuna men or the attacks against Garífuna communities it was made public yesterday that the MP is investigating OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda together with the current government minister Luther Castillo and human rights lawyer Edy Tábor.

<https://twitter.com/CarlaZGarcia1/status/1560418747713835008>

The Gualcarque Fraud case continued yesterday and was initially planned to conclude today. But it is likely that the conclusion will be postponed by a few days.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1560371248118566913>

For a second day in a row, protests by communities affected by mining took place in the capital (see also yesterday).

Criterio reports on the need for the government to forge alliances with popular sectors to confront the extractive model predominant in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1560366310516727809>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-debe-forjar-alianza-con-sectores-populares-para-confrontar-modelo-extractivo/>

"Today was installed the Table of Integral Attention to COPINH, between our organization and the government of Xiomara Castro with the objective of providing a solution to the historical abandonment of the Lenca communities by the State of Honduras."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1560382634701864960>

There are ongoing attempts to hold the current, JOH-nominated- Attorney General and his deputy responsible for "their links to organized crime and their obstruction in emblematic cases".

<https://criterio.hn/ante-fracaso-de-juicio-politico-viceministra-demanda-al-menos-interpelar-a-fiscal-general-y-adjunto/>

Libre's attempt for a swift reform of the Special Law of the National Defense and Security Council (CNDS), a JOH-era body, failed. The opposition voted against it, but so did PSH, which demanded a wide debate on the subject.

According to the Xiomara administration, the reform would give back the independence to the corresponding State powers, powers which were all concentrated in the hands of JOH previously.

Just moments before the debate about the reform in Congress, US ambassador Laura F. Dogu also tweeted that the reform needed a thorough analysis. She deleted the post, after Foreign Minister Enrique Reina reminded her that this is an internal debate.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/nacionalistas-liberales-psh-frustran-libre-ley-cnnd-honduras-NE9633708>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/18/psh-enfatiza-que-ley-del-consejo-de-defensa-y-seguridad-requiere-amplio-debate/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/18/golpistas-y-socios-de-joh-tensos-por-castigo-a-delitos-de-traicion-patria-e-intrusion-extranjera/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/18/consideran-que-nueva-ley-de-seguridad-devolvera-independencia-de-poderes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/18/cancilleria-pide-respeto-en-discusion-de-temas-de-pais-luego-que-embajadora-de-ee-uu-opino-sobre-ley-del-consejo-nacional-de-seguridad-y-defensa/>

Congress is analyzing the possibility to give seized land to Honduran peasant farmers.

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-inicia-analisis-de-proyecto-para-adjudicar-tierras-incautadas-a-campesinos-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/18/legislativo-inicia-analisis-y-socializacion-de-proyecto-para-adjudicar-tierras-incautadas-a-grupos-campesinos-en-honduras/>

El Tiempo reports that Gabriela Castellanos, director of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), will be the representative of COHEP, the business sector, at the Nomination Board for the new Supreme Court judges.

<https://tiempo.hn/cohep-gabriela-castellanos-en-la-junta-nominadora/>

The Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Marisa Lago, arrived in Honduras yesterday.

She and the US ambassador met with the US-Honduran Chamber of Commerce.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1560315470389170176>

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/la-subsecretaria-lago-encabezara-mision-comercial-a-centroamerica/>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1560438928842391552>

"Seizures and securing of cocaine and marijuana plantations and the destruction of drug laboratories have increased, surpassing the figures since 2014, while the destruction of drug trails has been significantly reduced. Authorities claim that this was due to the co-optation of drug trafficking in the state."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-destruccion-de-plantaciones-de-droga-supera-registros-de-anos-antiores/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/entrevistas-categoria/incertidumbre-genera-posible-construccion-de-represa-el-tablon/>

19/08/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta - Gualcarque; Journalists; Drug Trafficking; Security; Labor Rights; and Who Controls 911

The criminalization of Miriam Miranda, Luther Castillo and Edy Tábor (see yesterday) was met with widespread condemnation.

OACNUDH expressed concern and called on the State to abstain from criminalizing defenders.

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford agrees and praises the work of the three defenders.

The MP, meanwhile, tries to defend its position in three Tweets...

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1560622003987648514>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/08/alerta-defensoras-honduras-persecucion-hostigamiento-y-criminalizacion-contramiriam-miranda-integrante-de-la-ofraneh-y-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-tras-la-protesta-ante-las-instalaciones-del/>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-criminaliza-a-defensores-que-exigen-justicia-y-alto-al-racismo/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1560659357938774018>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1560724911638908933>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1560753847424933889>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1560832058225790976

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1560831982745051140

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1560831863421374464

COPINH denounced that the session at the Gualcarque Fraud case was not publicly transmitted yesterday.

The hearings of the trial concluded yesterday after 14 testimonies and 5 expert witnesses had been heard as well as over 200 pieces of evidence sighted.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1560710864034041859>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1560801857169154049>

"The social communicator, Rafael Vallejo, owner of the Facebook page, La Hora de El Corpus, denounced having been threatened by the municipal mayor of El Corpus, Choluteca, Luis Andrés Rueda, after a publication in which he questioned the alleged investment of one million lempiras in works carried out in the center of the municipality, which are not visible."

Another mayor, Abraham Kafati Díaz in Danlí, is accused by C-Libre to persecute journalist Jaime Nery Díaz.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/amenazas/1531-comunicador-social-denuncia-amenazas-por-parte-del-alcalde-de-el-corpus-choluteca>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1532-sigue-la-persecucion-contr-dueno-de-canal-de-television-en-danli-el-paraiso>

Former police chief Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla declared himself not guilty in a US court.

<https://proceso.hn/exdirector-de-la-policia-nacional-juan-carlos-bonilla-se-declara-no-culpable/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1560625308650315776>

After their loss in Congress (see yesterday), presidential advisor Manuel Zelaya stated that while the Law for the Defense and Security Council (CNDS) still needs to be reformed, there was an error in Libre's proposal regarding the nomination of the director and deputy director of the National Police.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/manuel-zelaya-inclusion-derogacion-articulo-45-fue-un-error-quien-envio-proyecto-congreso-nacional-honduras-HA9651119>

<https://tiempo.hn/claves-polemica-ley-defensa-seguridad/>

"For the second consecutive day, workers of the textile maquila Gildan, in the Nance River Sector, Choloma, department of Cortés, have been on strike demanding the respect of their labor rights and other agreements, especially a salary readjustment."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/19/por-segundo-dia-consecutivo-tomadas-las-instalaciones-de-la-empresa-gildan-en-choloma/>

<https://criterio.hn/sistema-nacional-de-emergencia-911-seguira-bajo-figura-presidencial-como-lo-establecio-joh/>

20/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Corruption - TSC; Judicial Power; and Spectacular Violence

There is some more coverage on the closure of the hearings in the Gualcarque Fraud case (see also yesterday). "At the closing of the Fraude sobre el Gualcarque trial, the law firm Estudios para la Dignidad y el pointed out in a press release that the evidence in this trial demonstrated that the "subjugation of State institutions by business groups, financiers and corrupt officials not only took place in this case, but was standard practice for many other energy generation projects"."

<https://criterio.hn/fraude-sobre-gualcarque-evidencio-corrupcion-en-concesionamiento-de-proyectos-de-generacion-electrica/>

<https://criterio.hn/poder-judicial-irrespeta-principio-de-publicidad-en-conclusiones-del-juicio-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

TSC president Roy Pineda Castro reacted to the accusations by UFERCO's Luis Santos who holds his institution responsible for covering up acts of corruption (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1560882365299294210>

The Honduran Bar Association (CAH) chose Mario Urquía and Reina Nájera as their representatives at the Nomination Board for the Supreme Court election.

El Herald reports that the election was quite tumultuous.

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-de-abogados-elige-a-mario-urquia-y-reina-najera-como-representantes-en-la-junta-nominadora/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/eleccion-representantes-cah-junta-nominadora-pleito-MI9659097>

<https://criterio.hn/medios-y-redes-sociales-hacen-de-la-muerte-un-espectaculo-que-repercute-en-la-salud-mental/>

21/08/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; Youth; Corruption - de Lobo;

Over half the bodies making up the Nomination Board for the Supreme Court election have by now elected their representatives. The business sector (COHEP), labor unions and university professors still have to do so. Once this is done, their representatives will together select 45 candidates for the Supreme Court out of which Congress will chose the final 15. All of this has to be finished by January 2023.

<https://proceso.hn/con-delegados-del-cah-para-junta-nominadora-avanza-la-reconstruccion-de-estado-de-derecho-edmundo-orellana/>

More than 1.5 million Honduran youth or neither working nor studying.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-1-5-millones-jovenes-no-trabajan-ni-estudian-en-honduras/>

Former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo suffered a nervous breakdown in prison after hearing about the murder of her son (see last month). Her legal team now calls again for allowing her house arrest instead of imprisonment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/21/exprimera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla-continua-hospitalizada-en-estado-critico-de-salud-su-defensa-solicita-arresto-domiciliario/>

22/08/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Corruption - UN, Church; Labor Rights - US; CNDS; Paternity Leave; BCH; and a US Ship Visits Honduras

The Gualcarque Fraud hearings concluded yesterday. No date for the reading of the ruling was set as there are still two unresolved appeals for legal protection (amparo) pending.

<https://proceso.hn/finaliza-juicio-oral-en-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

<https://criterio.hn/red-de-corupcion-actuo-maliciosamente-en-favor-de-desas-conclusiones-en-juicio-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

An important step towards the installation of the CICIH took place yesterday. "Honduras, through Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, delivered this Monday to the representative of the UN-Honduras, Alice Alice Shackelford, the proposals and comments to the Memorandum of Understanding to establish the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)."

<https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1561790659429801992>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-entrega-a-onu-propuestas-y-comentarios-al-borrador-para-establecer-la-cicih-confirma-canciller/>

ConfidencialHN reports that the Catholic Church in Honduras and its Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez had access to funds from the controversial Security Tax (tasa de seguridad) under JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/22/iglesia-catolica-se-beneficio-con-fondos-de-tasa-de-seguridad-poblacional/>

The struggle by construction workers of the US embassy to have their rights respected continues.

US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky tweeted in solidarity: "As Chair of the International Workers Rights Caucus, I stand in #solidarity with workers building the new @usembassyhn in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and call on @BLHarbert to comply with the law and respect workers' rights."

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1561763513278025728>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1561867247504719873>

The reform of the Special Law of the National Defense and Security Council (CNDS) continues to occupy the airwaves. "Article 287 of the 1982 Constitution of Honduras establishes the creation of the National Defense and Security Council, which must be regulated by a secondary law to be approved by the National Congress for its operation. Although the figure of the National Defense and Security Council was not used for many years, in 2011, the National Congress presided by Juan Orlando Hernandez, through Legislative Decree 239-2011, created the regulations of the National Defense and Security Council that gives absolute control to the president of the nation over the head of the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, the attorney general, the minister of the Secretariat of Security and also of the Secretariat of Defense and Security, under the argument of creating security and defense policies." The government's wishes to reform are more or less widely shared, but their way of wanting to push it through in just one sitting was rejected and there is criticism towards some of its content, e.g. "article 7 which indicates that the Defense Council will be presided over by the head of the Legislative Branch assisted by an executive secretary and an assistant secretary appointed by the president, this secretary could have control over the State security institutions over the ministers. In addition, Article 9 establishes that these officials will depend only on the directives of the President, will have specialized technical equipment and a special budget assigned to them". According to the government and Libre, the proposed reform will rather allow a return to the separation of powers.

Sociologist Leticia Salomón published a helpful analysis on the former law, the proposed reform and the public debate about the process. She concludes: "The Law of the Defense and Security Council is just the beginning of the dismantling of the authoritarian structure for the protection of impunity guaranteed by the previous government with the complicit silence of those who constituted and still constitute this Council. We still need to eliminate the anti-terrorist law, review the functions of the Directorate of Investigation and Intelligence, establish limits to the confidentiality or reserve of defense and security matters so that only strictly necessary information

remains classified and not the barbarities that were approved in that Council so much defended by the clueless, cynical or accomplices. We only have to hope that by then the same old people do not jump out saying that communism has already arrived in the country...!"

In the midst of these discussion, president Xiomara convoked the CNDS for a meeting. Her own party then called on her to postpone this until its law has been reformed.

<https://criterio.hn/derogacion-de-ley-de-defensa-y-seguridad-genera-pugna-ante-proyecto-presentado-por-poder-ejecutivo/>

<https://criterio.hn/consejo-de-defensa-y-seguridad-la-figura-constitucional-que-se-convirtio-en-un-mecanismo-de-poder-absoluto/>

<https://criterio.hn/conducir-y-administrar-la-defensa-nacional-y-la-seguridad-un-asunto-del-ejecutivo-del-legislativo-o-del-judicial/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/22/piden-a-presidenta-esperar-nueva-ley-para-reunirse-con-el-consejo-de-seguridad/>

Libre congressman Rafael Barahona presented a bill implementing a two-week paternity leave for new fathers and increasing maternity leave from 7 to 18 weeks.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/data/honduras-america-latina-licencia-por-paternidad-YA9640001>

Finance Minister Rixi Moncada reacts to criticism of a government loan from the Central Bank.

"They are the hypocrites, they are the businessmen, they are the traders, they are the ones who want us to make loans in private banks at 10, 11, 12 and 13% interest rates".

<https://proceso.hn/solo-los-hipocritas-se-molestan-que-el-gobierno-utilice-las-reservas-del-bch-riximoncada/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/22/buque-hospital-de-eeuu-llegara-nuevamente-a-honduras-en-los-ultimos-meses-de-2022/>

23/08/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Corruption - UN, UFERCO, de Lobo; CNDS; Judicial Power; 2022 Budget; Police; and Food Sovereignty in Urban Areas

OFRANEH launched a petition calling on a stop to the criminalization of Garífuna defenders (see last week).

Even the Human Rights Ministry of Honduras called on the MP to stop.

<https://chng.it/y4299qwyKz>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/08/ministerio-publico-confirma-investigacion-contra-ofraneh-y-sunla-en-lugar-de-proceder-a-buscar-justicia-para-el-pueblo-garifuna/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1562183854949007361>

Civil society organizations called on the government to publish the content of their response to the UN regarding the installation of a CICIH (see previous e-mails).

Foreign Minister Enrique Reina shared it the same day.

"In the document, the Honduran State made some changes to the original letter sent by the UN, while at the same time instructing certain conditions for the CICIH to operate in the country, such as, for example, that it not be a "private prosecutor". In the original document, the UN requested to carry out investigations independently, as well as to become a private prosecutor. However, the Government limits this function and only gives it the power to "accompany in the conduct of investigations for the exercise of actions in an independent manner".

<https://criterio.hn/demandan-revelar-contrapropuesta-que-gobierno-entrego-a-naciones-unidas-para-instalar-cicih/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/que-dice-contrapropuesta-honduras-onu-cicih-FE9710337>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/24/gobierno-niega-a-la-cicih-facultad-para-acusacion-penal-que-respete-separacion-de-poderes-y-el-quehacer-de-la-fiscalia/>

Some weeks ago, the Honduran anti-corruption body at the MP, UFERCO, was strengthened. A new analysis by CESPAD shows that there is still some way to go to have a truly independent and strong UFERCO.

<https://cespad.org.hn/los-supra-poderes-de-la-uferco/>

Today, a hearing for the review of measures for the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla will take place.

<https://proceso.hn/programan-para-el-miercoles-audiencia-de-revision-de-medidas-para-rosa-elena-bonilla/>

Libre's congressional secretary Carlos Zelaya announced that the National Defense and Security Law (CNDS) will be discussed in Congress after "a thorough socialization with all sectors so that the political opposition decides to support the project". He welcomed the constructive criticism of the Liberal Party and PSH but denounced that the National Party "has only dedicated themselves to ranting and criticizing".

Changes to the reforms will be incorporated for the third debate in Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/ley-de-cnds-es-analizada-y-tendra-cambios-propuestos-por-la-oposicion-carlos-zelaya/>

<https://proceso.hn/aprobado-el-segundo-debate-de-nueva-ley-del-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

COHEP chose Olban Valladares and Helui Castillo as their representatives at the Nomination Board for the Supreme Court election.

<https://criterio.hn/representantes-del-cohep-ante-junta-nominadora-aseguran-que-no-habra-propuestas-bajo-la-mesa/>

"Eleven years later, more than twelve residents of Coyolito, Amapala, Valle, who were victims of the state security forces, could receive justice, when this Wednesday, August 24, at 10:00 a.m., a public oral trial will be held against the police officers who attacked them."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/pobladores-de-coyolito-victimas-de-agresiones-policiales-esperan-que-se-haga-justicia/>

Only 14% of the 2022 budget have been spent so far according to the data available by the Ministry of Finance (Sefin).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/23/14-de-ejecucion-presupuestaria-en-inversion-publica-segun-estadisticas-de-sefin/>

<https://criterio.hn/ante-crisis-climatica-lucha-por-soberania-alimentaria-debe-extenderse-a-barrios-y-colonias/>

<https://criterio.hn/ante-crisis-climatica-lucha-por-soberania-alimentaria-debe-extenderse-a-barrios-y-colonias-2/>

24/08/22

Honduras Daily: OFRNEH; Penal Code; Corruption - UN, de Lobo; Judicial Power; CNDS; Transport Sector; MP;

OFRNEH accompanied by other indigenous and social movements marched to the Supreme Court yesterday presenting an amparo against the Attorney General and his deputy for the lack of an investigation into the forced disappearance of four Garífuna youth in Triunfo de la Cruz over two years ago.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1562464679892357120>

<https://criterio.hn/ante-negligencia-del-mp-presentan-amparo-para-garantizar-investigacion-por-desaparicion-de-jovenes-garifunas/>

<https://twitter.com/BufeteBJP/status/1562474223548768256>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1562509163393339392>

"The Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) admitted an appeal of unconstitutionality filed by popular movements against the reforms to the Penal Code that criminalize protests and modify the Money Laundering Law, considered an impunity pact and a blow to the fight against corruption."

<https://criterio.hn/ante-negligencia-del-mp-presentan-amparo-para-garantizar-investigacion-por-desaparicion-de-jovenes-garifunas/>

El Libertador spoke with Transparency Minister Edmundo Orellano about the installation of a CICIH which took another important step with Tuesday's response given to the UN (see yesterday and second link below).

At the same time, there is ongoing criticism that the response by the government indicates a will for a weaker mechanism, not one with its own prosecution powers.

Some set their hope in the accompaniment of such a mission by a strong UFERCO.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/24/entrevista-llegada-de-cicih-a-honduras-depende-de-onu-secretario-orellana/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1562397356926140416>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1562435095578824704>

<https://criterio.hn/propuesta-de-honduras-sobre-cicih-se-mantiene-pero-descarta-que-sea-acusador-privado/>

<https://criterio.hn/de-la-primera-a-la-segunda-comision-anticorrupcion/>

A judge denied house arrest to the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, she will remain in prison.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/niegan-cambio-medidas-ex-primera-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla-LX9716814>

Labor unions have also selected their representatives for the Supreme Court selection, they chose María Elena Sabillón Paz and Mauro Joel Domínguqz Almendares.

<https://tiempo.hn/centrales-obreras-representantes-junta-nominadora/>

After an appeal from her own party, president Xiomara postponed the meeting of the National Defense and Security Council (CNDS) to September 1 (see yesterday).

Libre is hopeful that reform of the CNDS will be approved in the third debate in Congress.

<https://tiempo.hn/xiomara-reprograma-reunion-de-cnds-para-el-1-de-septiembre/>

<https://criterio.hn/por-ausencia-de-titular-del-congreso-csj-y-fiscal-fracasa-convocatoria-del-consejo-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/24/honduras-tendra-ley-del-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad-en-tercer-debate-asegura-diputado-ramon-barrios/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/ley-de-defensa-y-seguridad-nacional-pasa-en-segundo-debate/>

At least 40 transport sector workers have been murdered this year.

<https://tiempo.hn/40-transportistas-muertos-violentamente-2022/>

"The president of the association of prosecutors of the Public Prosecutor's Office, Víctor Paz, informed that around 30 colleagues resigned from their position due to an uncomfortable working environment."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/24/alrededor-de-30-fiscales-habrian-renunciado-por-incomodo-ambiente-laboral/>

25/08/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Corruption - UN, IHSS, Customs; Women's Rights; Drug Trafficking; Spain; Police; Armed Forces; and Problematic National Holidays

"Environmental defenders in Guapinol, northern Honduras, continue to fight against extractivism. In November 2021 they cast a vote of hope for Xiomara Castro, but so far, the changes they perceive are few despite the fact that on February 28 the government promised to stop mining exploitation. Now they are taking to the streets, assuring that businessmen like Lenir Pérez still have their power intact in Bajo Aguán."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/08/25/nuevo-gobierno-viejas-luchas-ambientalistas-consideran-que-poder-de-empresarios-sigue-intacto/>

The congressional Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ethics and Transparency Commission met with several UN representatives, UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford and OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo among them. "For Alice Shackelford it is imperative that the National Congress continues on the path traced by President Luis Redondo and promotes the repeal of those laws that impede and hinder the frontal attack against corruption. "The Penal

Code is an example, but we can mention much more legislation; we congratulate the commission for the work done on the repeal of the Secrecy Law, which was a very important step", Shackelford emphasized."

<https://proceso.hn/onu-cree-que-hay-leyes-que-obstruyen-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion-y-dice-cicih-es-necesaria-para-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/25/honduras-necesita-la-cicih-pero-debe-aunar-esfuerzos-para-derogar-algunas-legislaciones-senala-alice-shackelford/>

"In a preliminary hearing, the National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) formalized the accusation and requested the opening of a trial against 14 people implicated in a mega-fraud of more than 158 million lempiras in the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), in relation to works not executed or half executed in its Regional Hospital of the North and peripheral clinics of Cálpules in San Pedro Sula and Torocagua in Comayagüela."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/unaf-formaliza-acusacion-por-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-en-el-ihss/>

"Attorney Fausto Calix, executive director of the Honduran Customs Administration, went to the Public Prosecutor's Office to denounce a company for tax fraud to the detriment of the State for more than 180 million lempiras."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/25/por-defraudacion-fiscal-de-mas-de-180-millones-de-lempiras-director-de-aduanas-denuncia-ante-el-mp-a-empresa-importadora-de-bebidas-alcoholicas/>

Women's rights and feminist organization have demanded for years the approval of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW). But recently, Their hope grew with Xiomara Castro becoming the first female president of Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/por-conservadurismo-y-patriarcado-dudan-se-apruebe-protocolo-cedaw/>

"Upon his repatriation, Ramón Matta Waldurraga will become the first extradited Honduran who, after serving a two-year prison sentence in the United States for drug trafficking crimes, will have to face national justice for money laundering."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/interactivos/ramon-matta-walduuraga-narcotrafico-justicia-honduras-colombia-XF9744990>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/25/colombia-concede-la-extradicion-de-ramon-matta-walduuraga-a-honduras/>

Spanish president Pedro Sánchez arrived in Honduras yesterday, the first Spanish president to do so in 23 years.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/presidente-gobierno-espana-pedro-sanchez-llega-honduras-NY9742825>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/agenda-pedro-sanchez-visita-honduras-reunion-xiomara-castro-NL9739681>

Jared Olson reports on police violence and corruption in Honduras. "Amid allegations that an elite Honduran police force colluded with a notorious gang while carrying out death-squad activities, observers are asking whether the administration of President Xiomara Castro has the political power or will to reform the country's security forces. According to an investigation last month by Honduran journalists, the National Anti-Gang Police Force and military police conducted extrajudicial executions and torture, while planting evidence and working in collusion with MS-13, the most prominent street gang in Honduras."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/24/can-honduras-tackle-deep-seated-police-corruption>

Defense Minister José Manuel Zelaya Rosales gave an interview to Diálogo Américas on US-Honduran collaboration in human rights training for the Armed Forces (see previous week for criticism of this).

<https://dialogo-americas.com/articles/professionalization-of-honduran-armed-forces-based-on-human-rights/>

<https://criterio.hn/cultura-patriarcal-y-poscolonial-sigue-vigente-con-sexualizacion-de-ninas-y-jovenes-en-fiestas-patrias/>

26/08/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Bajo Aguán; Extractivism; Corruption - MP; CNDS; Police; Congress; Spain; Labor Rights - US; Migration; Drug Trafficking - JOH; and Remembering Lolita

LGBTQ+ defender Amelia Cerón denounces that so far this year, 15 members of the LGBTQ+ community have been murdered.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/26/al-menos-15-muertes-violentas-de-miembros-de-la-comunidad-lgtbiq-se-reportan-en-2022/>

CESPAD presented a new report on the Bajo Aguán. There have been 146 murders and forced disappearance in the area since 2008.

https://twitter.com/CESPAD_HONDURAS/status/1562082948865826816

<https://twitter.com/PBIcanada/status/1563122147152650240>

"Indigenous peoples' leaders demanded the prompt accession and implementation by the State of Honduras to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Escazú Agreement."

<https://criterio.hn/pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras-exigen-al-estado-que-se-adhiera-al-acuerdo-de-escazu/>

"The head of the Specialized Prosecutorial Unit on Corruption Networks (Uferco), Luis Javier Santos revealed that prosecutors who investigated corruption cases are now defending those implicated in the scourge, and that several cases investigated by the defunct MACCIH could go unpunished due to lack of personnel. Santos also revealed that a prosecutor of the unit that investigated complex cases resigned due to job insecurity and became a defender of those accused of corruption, he also explained that several have resigned, further weakening the entity."

Some 30 public prosecutors have recently quit their job.

<https://criterio.hn/fiscales-que-investigaban-casos-de-corrupcion-ahora-defienden-corruptos/>

<https://criterio.hn/por-arbitrariedades-de-autoridades-del-mp-renuncian-una-veintena-de-agentes-y-fiscales/>

Presidential Minister Rodolfo Pastor told Criterio yesterday that the president does not intend to get rid of the National Defense and Security Council (CNDS) anymore presenting the lack of the necessary majority in Congress as an excuse. Getting rid of the CNDS has been a campaign promise and its possible reform has been widely discussed lately (see previous e-mails). The reform is still necessary as many see it as a return to the separation of powers completely undermined under JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-no-plantea-eliminar-el-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

"The Court of Appeals for Administrative Disputes ruled in favor of some 1,300 purged police officers, as confirmed by lawyer German Licon. The legal representative of the policemen stated that finally light is being seen in all the effort that has been made since 2016 when he pointed out that "arbitrarily" a Purge Commission committed wrongdoings by unjustifiably separating many uniformed officers who today sought the reestablishment of their rights."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/26/corte-de-apelaciones-falla-a-favor-de-policias-depurados/>

Libre congressman Mauricio Rivera was suspended from Congress as he is facing various charges, Violence against Women, Coercion, Damages, Traffic of Influence and Disturbance of Public Order.

<https://criterio.hn/diputado-mauricio-rivera-es-suspendido-temporalmente-por-violencia-contra-la-mujer/>

President Xiomara met her Spanish counterpart yesterday.

They discussed the fight against corruption, healthcare and an inclusive economic system.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/26/salud-transparencia-y-restauracion-economica-ejes-de-alianza-con-espana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/26/xiomara-castro-y-pedro-sanchez-buscan-una-recuperacion-economica-que-sea-justa-e-inclusiva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-espana-memorandum-entendimiento-en-salud/>

Adrienne Pine has an update on the labor struggle at the construction site of the new US embassy.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1562980392931852290>

Almost 80'000 migrants have arrived in Honduras this year in the hope to continue their journey to the US. This is almost 8 times as much as in 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/casi-80000-migrantes-han-ingresado-a-honduras-en-2022-la-mayoria-cubanos/>

"The US Attorney's Office filed a document before the Southern District Court of New York requesting the confiscation of assets of former Nationalist congressman Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, who was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 30 years in prison for drug trafficking crimes in the United States. The document leaked by the US government mentions that all titles, rights and interests of the former congressman should be confiscated for disposition in accordance with the law."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/fiscalia-eeuu-solicita-confiscacion-bienes-tony-hernandez-narcotrafico-culpable-EJ9759327>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/08/26/lolita-indomable-descanse-ahora-amiga-dolores/>

27/08/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - UN; Health Care; Electricity; and the Importance of August 30

With the request by the US to have Tony Hernández' assets seized, the public was also reminded again that JOH's brother still owns the US \$138 million.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/tony-hernandez-aun-le-debe-mas-de-138-millones-de-dolares-a-estados-unidos-YY9760155>

The debate about the powers of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission, a CICIH, led vice-president Salvador Nasralla to criticize president Xiomara. According to him, the government is not complying with a campaign promise if the CICIH is devolved of its powers.

<https://tiempo.hn/salvador-nasralla-gobierno-cicih-sin-dientes/>

<https://criterio.hn/ciudadania-rechaza-que-cicih-no-tenga-facultad-para-enjuiciar-directamente-a-corruptos/>

During his visit to Honduras, the Spanish president announced a \$70 million credit for the construction of three hospitals.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/27/secretario-de-salud-espana-otorga-un-prestamo-de-70-millones-para-la-construccion-de-hospitales/>

"At least 12 of the 28 contracts with energy generators considered harmful agreed to reduce their prices while another 12 are close to agreeing to a reduction when the energy reform is implemented. The authorities' promise is to reduce the cost of energy and pass it on to the population. The manager of the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE), Erick Tejada announced that they have been able to reach pre-agreements with eight power generating companies representing 12 contracts, while 12 are at an advanced stage and 6 have not been able to reach agreements."

<https://criterio.hn/reforma-energetica-logra-que-productores-de-energia-con-contratos-lesivos-cedan-a-renegociacion/>

"The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance on August 30 coincides with the National Day of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras, and with the anniversary of this program Voices against Forgetting. Each of these three events of enormous significance in the life of Cofadeh, in the struggle for truth and justice, has its own origin, its particular context and its consequences over time."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tres-grandes-hechos-en-la-misma-fecha/>

28/08/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; and Justice for Margarita Murillo

This week, the Nomination Board for the selection of the Supreme Court judges will be completed. Both the university professors and the current Supreme Court judges will have to choose their representatives.

The university professors will meet today. In preparation, their different chapters have already chosen their candidates. In one case, Odir Fernández was elected to complement the ticket of Marielena Ulloa de Pineda. But he then withdrew because Ulloa supported the installation of ZEDES in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/semana-crucial-para-junta-nominadora-previo-a-convocatoria-del-cn/>

<https://tiempo.hn/claustro-profesores-escogera-representantes/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/odir-fernandez-renuncia-eleccion-claustro-profesores-unah-junta-nominadora-HX9770328>

<https://twitter.com/ConfidencialHN/status/1564000822605791239>

<https://criterio.hn/designacion-de-candidata-de-universidades-privadas-para-junta-nominadora-genera-polemica/>

<https://criterio.hn/tras-ocho-anos-asesinato-de-margarita-murillo-sigue-en-la-impunidad/>

29/08/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Forced Displacement - Women; Tax Exemptions; Judicial Power; Corruption - CNBS; Elections; Migration; and at the Beginning of One's Rope

"The Municipal Committee in Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa denounced a hate campaign against its members, after accompanying an inter-institutional tour of the State to four extractive projects of the Emco Holding Group in the Montaña de Botaderos National Park, "Carlos Escaleras". The defenders stated that the presence of the "large governmental delegation" generated a "strong hate campaign from sectors very committed to the interests of Lenir Pérez, starting with the mayor of Tocoa [Adán Fúnez]"."

<https://criterio.hn/campana-de-odio-y-desprestigio-contra-defensores-tras-gira-gubernamental-en-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

El País reports that JOH's defense team is contemplating putting JOH himself on the stand as a witness.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2022/08/29/defensa-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-analiza-usarlo-como-testigo-en-su-propio-juicio-en-eeuu/>

"Every 20 hours a woman is at risk or is a victim of forced displacement in Honduras due to the violence that prevails in the country, according to the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), during the year 2021."

<https://criterio.hn/violencia-incrementa-el-desplazamiento-forzado-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

Tax exemptions are a hot topic in Honduras as they have cost the country a lot. The new administration announced to revise these exemptions. But at the same time, Criterio reports that new tax exemptions for US companies are being considered.

<https://criterio.hn/presidenta-castro-ofrece-exoneraciones-a-empresarios-de-ee-uu-mientras-el-sar-condena-dichos-beneficios/>

The 14 representatives of the Nomination Board for the Supreme Court election have been chosen. Before the representatives of the universities were elected, Marielena Ulloa also withdrew her candidacy; she had been linked with the ZEDEs (see yesterday).

"In spite of the questionings and differences in the selection processes, the Labor Unions, Civil Society, the Bar Association and private enterprise itself elected, with transparency, their representatives in the Nominating Board. This could represent a sign of hope in the citizenship that aspires to have an independent Supreme Court of Justice, said in Radio Progreso the human rights doctor Joaquín Mejía of the Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación, Eric-sj and of the Coalition against Impunity."

<https://proceso.hn/integrada-junta-nominadora/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/interactivos/grafico-asi-queda-conformada-la-junta-nominadora-que-elegira-candidatos-a-la-csj-AB9726345>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/29/ven-conveniente-para-el-proceso-de-la-nominadora-renuncia-de-marielena-ulloa/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/transparencia-en-eleccion-de-junta-nominadora-alimenta-esperanza-ciudadana/>

The former head of the National Banks and Securities Commission (CNBS) is accused of money laundering.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/29/interponen-denuncia-ante-la-uferco-contra-exfuncionarios-de-la-cnbs-por-lavado-de-activos/>

Under the Nationalist leadership these last years, Congress failed to present a proper Electoral Process Law. Now, the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) announced that a proposal for such a law will be ready in November.

<https://proceso.hn/en-diciembre-estara-listo-el-proyecto-sobre-ley-procesal-electoral-al-congreso-segun-tje/>

"The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) inaugurated this Monday a temporary rest center for migrant families in the municipality of Trojes, department of El Paraíso, in the eastern part of the country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/30/unicef-inaugura-centro-de-descanso-temporal-para-migrantes-en-trojes-el-paraiso/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/30/secretario-privado-anuncia-inversion-de-250-millones-con-la-construccion-de-la-hilanderia-mas-grande-de-america/>

30/08/22

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - Garífuna, Pech; LGBTQ+; Journalists; IACHR; Forced Disappearance; Labor Rights - US; CNDS; Corruption - UN, IHSS; Migration - US; Drug Trafficking; Judicial Power; and How to Save Hondutel

OFRANEH sent out an alert: "Arrested Geovany Bernárdez community defender and member of OFRANEH for alleged crime of usurpation of community land in Guadalupe, Colón, which was appropriated by Canadian Patrick Forseth. Racism inserted in the court Trujillo promotes persecution of Garifunas".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1564595006911938560>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1564606508071010326>

The Federation of Pech Indigenous Tribes of Honduras (Fetriph) denounces that the destruction of the Río Plátano Biosphere continues while at the same time they lose their way of life. "Hernández expressed concern about the future of the Pech people, who depend on the reserve. "More than anything I call on the current government, the authorities, the Secretary of the Environment to use their good offices with the Environmental Prosecutor's Office, so that we can go to the reserve and stop the damage that is occurring." Hernández affirmed that the government authorities have given little importance to the reserve and that militarizing it has not yielded the positive results promoted, since the "massive destruction continues"."

<https://criterio.hn/restricciones-en-biosfera-del-rio-platano-solo-castigan-a-pueblos-indigenas/>

Evangelical priests protested the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in the September 15 march, the national holiday of Honduras. It is now unclear if they are allowed to participate. The Minister of Education, Daniel Sponda, refers to the Permanent Inter-Institutional Civic Committee (Cocip).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/30/desfilara-el-movimiento-lgbtq-el-15-de-septiembre-aqui-lo-que-expreso-el-ministro-de-educacion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/asociacion-pastores-rechaza-participacion-movimiento-lgbtq-fiestas-patrias-II9802468>

C-Libre published its yearly report on the State of Freedom of Expression in Honduras, "From Repression in the Public Space to Digital Silencing". "In 2021, three trends of aggressions to freedom of expression were marked, the first linked to political violence -in electoral coverage-, the second identified in the violent repression of social protest, especially in La Esperanza, Intibucá, where citizens joined dozens of demands for the clarification of the crime of nurse Keyla Martínez, at the hands of the police, and the last related to attacks on women journalists, communicators and community spokeswomen, whose patterns seem to change the forms of aggression to freedom of expression."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/gestion-del-conocimiento/informes/1533-informe-anual-de-libertad-de-expresion-ile>

<https://proceso.hn/visibilizan-nuevos-patrones-para-silenciar-y-censurar-periodistas/>

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-219-periodistas-y-defensores-asesinados-reflejan-una-libertad-de-expresion-sepulcral/>

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) started a four-day visit to Honduras. A group of national and international human rights organizations presented a list of demands the IACHR should ask from the Honduran government.

<https://proceso.hn/mision-de-cidh-inicia-visita-a-honduras-para-conocer-sobre-derechos-humanos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/31/mision-de-cidh-inicia-visita-a-honduras-para-conocer-sobre-derechos-humanos/>

<https://cejil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Pliego-petitorio-de-organizaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-Visita-CIDH-Honduras-2022-1.pdf>

Honduras commemorated the National Day of the Forcefully Disappeared. COFADEH documented 184 cases of forceful disappearance between the 1970s and 90s as well as dozen new cases under the JOH regime.

A prominent recent case is the one of the four young Garífuna leaders on July 18, 2020.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1564758788330209280>

<https://criterio.hn/ni-olvido-ni-perdon-piden-reactivar-busqueda-de-verdad-para-desaparecidos-en-los-80-y-90-en-honduras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/que-se-reactiven-las-investigaciones-penales-de-las-desapariciones-de-los-80-exigen-sus-familiares/>

<https://criterio.hn/castigo-a-culpables-exigen-garifunas-en-dia-de-las-victimas-de-desapariciones-forzadas/>

Adrienne Pine published an important update on the labor struggle at the construction site of the new US embassy. The protest has been going on for over 60 days now. Workers denounces that the company falsely claimed to have reached an agreement with them.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1564628063832383488>

"The benches of the Partido Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Partido Liberal and Partido Salvador de Honduras (PSH) held a meeting to reach a consensus for the approval of the Law of the National Defense and Security Council (CNDS)."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/30/libre-psh-y-liberales-logran-acuerdo-para-corregir-dictamen-de-ley-del-cnnds/>

US ambassador Laura F. Dogu met with Transparency Minister Edmundo Orellana to discuss the possible installation of a CICIH. She called for a "strong and independent CICIH".

<https://proceso.hn/una-cicih-fuerte-e-independiente-es-crucial-en-la-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion-recuerda-embajadora-dogu/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/la-cicih-que-honduras-requiere-para-el-desmontaje-de-la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad/>

A court sent 14 accused in one of the IHSS corruption sub-cases to trial.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contr-14-involucrados-en-fraude-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-en-el-ihss/>

The number of deported children from the US to the Northern Triangle countries rose by a whopping 10'400% compared to last year, 11'361 deportations compared to 108. Deportations in general have also increased by over 100% to almost 110'000.

<https://proceso.hn/deportaciones-de-ninez-centroamericana-desde-eeuu-se-disparan-un-10-400/>

"The Minister of Defense, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales said this Tuesday that in Honduras it is not possible to speak of a real fight against drug trafficking, if one takes into account the state in which the current government received the Armed Forces and specifically with the issue of the radars that make up the air shield."

<https://proceso.hn/no-podemos-hablar-de-lucha-real-al-narcotrafico-si-recibimos-unas-ffaa-con-deficiencias-ministro-de-defensa/>

With the completion of the Nomination Board, ConfidencialHN presents the next steps in the election of the Supreme Court judges. The Board needs to be accredited by Congress, then they will elaborate an internal regulation until October 14. Also in October, they will call on possible future judges to present their candidacy. They will be evaluated until December 15. Further tests will follow and by latest January 15, the Board has to present a list of at least 45 candidates to Congress out of which 15 will be selected for a six-year period.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/30/conformada-junta-nominadora-para-la-seleccion-de-candidatos-a-magistrados-de-la-csj-que-sigue/>

<https://criterio.hn/condonacion-de-multimillonaria-deuda-y-ley-especial-la-apuesta-para-evitar-extincion-de-hondutel/>

31/08/22

Honduras Daily: IACHR - ZEDEs, HR; Corruption - UN, ENEE; CNDS; Lawyers; Violence;

Social movements presented ongoing problems with the ZEDEs to the visiting IACHR delegation. "ARCAH stated that despite the repeal, the ZEDEs continue to disobey the Sovereign's mandate and cause environmental damage such as Prospera with the construction of Duna Residences in a zone classified as "restricted" by the Special Law for the Protected Areas of the Bay Islands."

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-denuncia-contra-derogadas-zede-ante-comision-interamericana-de-dd-hh/>

COFADEH organized an encounter with survivors of human rights violations the the IACHR delegation.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/delegacion-de-la-cidh-escucho-a-victimas-de-violacion-a-los-derechos-humanos/>

"On September 20 and 21, President Xiomara Castro will meet with António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) to address the issue of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)."

"The head of the National Congress of the Republic, Luis Redondo, affirmed this Wednesday that never before has there been greater political will for the installation of the International Commission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/31/mandataria-xiomara-castro-se-reunira-con-secretario-de-la-onu-el-proximo-20-y-21-de-septiembre-para-abordar-tema-de-la-cicih/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/08/31/nunca-antes-hubo-mayor-voluntad-politica-para-la-instalacion-de-la-cicih-titular-del-legislativo-luis-redondo/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office announced that there is an investigation against the Nationalist leader, Jesús Mejía, for the execution and cancellation of a contract that caused a millionaire claim to the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE) when he was the owner."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/08/31/fiscalia-investiga-a-exgerente-de-la-enee-por-cancelar-contrato-millonario/>

Recently, it has been announced that Libre, PSH and the Liberal Party found a consensus regarding a reform to the National Defense and Security Council Law. But it is not yet clear how long it will take to actually approve the reform in Congress. PSH now says that they want Libre to present the proposed changes to the reform to president Xiomara. The later has convoked, under the current law, the bodies of the CNDS for a meeting. "The government's justification is that several institutions that depend on the Defense and Security Council are not functioning and need to be put into operation imminently, which is why they wanted the new law proposed by the Executive to be approved in a single debate without being agreed with the Liberal Party, Salvador de Honduras (PSH) and the National Party."

For many, a reform won't suffice and they call for the complete derogation of the law.

<https://criterio.hn/consensos-a-medias-de-fuerzas-politicas-estanca-derogacion-de-ley-del-consejo-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

<https://proceso.hn/hay-un-pacto-tripartito-para-no-discutir-ley-del-cnds-hasta-que-haya-consenso-umana/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad-desde-la-perspectiva-normativa-e-institucional/>

Lawyer Kelvin Moncada was murdered in Danlí.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/09/01/asesinan-en-danli-a-otro-profesional-del-derecho/>

CESPAD published a report on "Violence and criminality in Honduras: promises, responses and challenges of the Xiomara Castro's government".

<https://cespad.org.hn/violencia-y-criminalidad-en-honduras-promesas-respuestas-y-desafios-del-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Monitoreo-Seguridad-1-CESPAD-VF.pdf>