

Another Month in Honduras...

Human Rights Monitor – November 2022

Indigenous peoples in Honduras faced a very difficult November. It began with a violent eviction of the Garífuna Punta Piedra community, the first Garífuna community founded 225 years ago. In the aftermath, three Garífuna defenders were arrested and criminalized. And even though the charges were later dropped, just a day later, the MP went after OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda. The Tolupán community of San Francisco Locomapa was confronted with an illegal timber extraction operation. Then, on November 29, COPINH member Marco Antonio Pineda was killed by the police. The Xiomara administration declared a "war against extortion" and a "national security emergency". This was met with mixed reactions. The Supreme Court election process is still continuing with 105 candidates remaining. Last but not least, a Honduran delegation traveled to the UN headquarters at the end of November to discuss the installation of the CICIH. Welcome to another month in Honduras.

In solidarity,

Daniel Langmeier

Honduras Forum Switzerland

Table of Contents

Abbreviations.....	3
Human Rights and Their Defenders.....	4
Assassinations.....	4
Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment.....	4
Indigenous Peoples.....	5
Punta Gorda.....	5
The Case of Berta Cáceres.....	7
LGBTIQ+.....	7
Violence against Women.....	8
Extractive Industries.....	8
ZEDEs.....	8
Mining.....	9
Guapinol.....	9
Hydroelectricity.....	9
Corruption and Its Enemies.....	9
CICIH.....	10
The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies.....	11
JOH.....	11
IHSS.....	12
State Security Forces.....	12
Militarization.....	13
International Community.....	13
US.....	14
Drug Trafficking.....	14
JOH.....	14
Varia.....	15
Supreme Court Election.....	15
Public Health.....	17
Education.....	17
Migration.....	17
Poverty.....	18
Economy.....	18
And Light at the End of a Month.....	19

Abbreviations

ASJ	Association for a More Just Society
ATIC	Technical Bureau for Criminal Investigation
BID	Inter-American Development Bank
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CDM	Center for Women's Rights
CIPRODEH	Center for Human Rights Research and Promotion
CMH	Medical Association Honduras
CNA	National Anti-Corruption Council
COFADEH	Committee of Families of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras
COIPRODEN	Coordination of Private Institutions for Children's Rights
CONADEH	National Human Rights Commission
COPINH	Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras
FEPRODDHH	Special Public Prosecutor Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators
FOSDEH	Social Forum on the External Debt of Honduras
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IACtHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
ILO	International Labor Organization
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights
MACCIH	Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras
MADJ	Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice
MP	Attorney General's Office
OACNUDH	UN Human Rights Office in Honduras
TSC	Supreme Audit Court
UFERCO	Special Prosecuting Unit against Corruption Networks
UNAH	National Autonomous University of Honduras
ZEDE	Zone for Employment and Economic Development

Human Rights and Their Defenders

Assassinations

"According to the analysis and monitoring of the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared of Honduras (COFADEH), during 2022, nine human rights defenders have been murdered in the country, of which six are environmentalists."¹

COPINH denounced on November 29 the murder of COPINH member Marco Antonio Pineda by the police in Guachipilin, La Paz.²

Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment

"Tolupan leader Reinaldo Barahona Reyes, denounced on Radio Progreso, that he is the object of criminal persecution and intimidation by sectors that oppose his struggle in defense of the indigenous communities and the predators of his community's forests."³

MADJ denounced police prosecution against human rights defender Christopher Castillo.⁴

On November 20, OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda denounced another attempt by the MP to have her criminalized.⁵

COFADEH held a press conference on November 23 highlighting the grave situation of three human rights defenders, Pedro Pinto, Ángel Yobany Mejía and Bernardino Pérez.^{6 7} "At least four environmental defenders from the departments of Santa Bárbara, Ocotepeque and Lempira, in western Honduras, denounced Tuesday that they are victims of aggressions and death threats by criminal structures associated with the former ruling National Party. (...) Cofadeh's coordinator, Bertha Oliva, indicated that the situation is "worrisome" because environmental defenders are being threatened and that criminal structures that operated during "the twelve-year dictatorship" of the National Party are involved in these actions."⁸

On November 26, Radio Progreso denounced that there is an open arrest warrant against campesinos from the Aguán Valley, among them the coordinator of the Agrarian Platform, Jaime Cabrera.⁹ Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque deplored the decision of the judge to order an eviction without taking into account the rights of the campesinos.¹⁰

1 <https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/nueve-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-han-sido-asesinados-en-2022/>

2 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1597735997139456001>

3 <https://radioprogresohn.net/aplicacion-movil/lider-indigena-ganador-del-premio-carlos-escaleras-denuncia-persecucion-penal/>

4 <https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1590005382663241729>

5 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1594502561721098240>

6 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/impunidad-estigma-e-indiferencia-tres-factores-que-colocan-en-alto-riesgo-a-los-defensores-ambientales/>

7 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/pedro-pinto-podran-quitar-todos-mis-bienes-pero-mi-voz-en-defensa-de-los-recursos-humanos-y-los-naturales-jamas/>

8 <https://proceso.hn/defensores-del-ambiente-en-el-orcidente-de-honduras-denuncian-agresiones/>

9 <https://twitter.com/RadioProgresoHN/status/1596612381886410752>

10 <https://twitter.com/RoqueNatalie/status/1597003063780208640>

Indigenous Peoples

"A little crestfallen, waiting to be evicted on November 23rd. This is how Marina Corina Díaz, a 60-year-old woman from the community of Tierras del Padre, presented herself. Corina, like 120 other families, is facing this sad story that is summarized in a territorial conflict like many others in Honduras. Precisely to avoid this eviction ordered by the Criminal Court of Francisco Morazán, the Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos filed this Thursday a writ of protection before the Criminal Court of Appeals, denouncing the violation of the right to due process, the right to defense and the right to indigenous land. For this reason, they requested the application of a precautionary measure to suspend the eviction."¹¹ But then, there were finally some good news. Deputy security minister Semma Julissa Villanueva informs that the eviction order against the Lenca Tierras del Padre has been lifted. Bufete Justicia para los Pueblos calls on the Xiomara administration to guarantee the legal security of their ancestral land.¹²

On November 23, MADJ denounced the illegal extraction of timber from the Tolupán community San Francisco Locomapa.^{13 14}

Punta Gorda

In the early mornings of November 7, OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda warned about an imminent eviction of the Punta Gorda community, the first Garífuna community founded 225 years ago.¹⁵ Shortly afterwards, the National Police started with the eviction. The police detained six Garífuna, among them the local OFRANEH coordinator Melissa Martinez.^{16 17} OACNUDH condemned the violence and the arrest of the six Garífuna.¹⁸ "In response, Ministry of Human Rights published a communique holding the courthouse in Roatan responsible for not fulfilling the human rights guarantees & minimal standards & asking that they be freed. Also calling on the police to follow human rights standards & avoid violence".¹⁹ President Xiomara tweeted: "I have requested a report of the violent eviction ordered by the court. I was not informed prior to the eviction. The Garífuna are demanding justice for their ancestral lands. This should go to trial, not to an eviction that criminalizes rights. I demand immediate freedom and respect for human rights."²⁰ Padre Melo reacted to this. "After accepting not having received information on the eviction of Garífunas in Punta Gorda, with all due respect, we suggest that the president assume the responsibility of making timely removals in order to have competent officials and effectively perform their duties."²¹

The defenders were released with precautionary measures the next day.²² OACNUDH condemned their ongoing criminalization. The precautionary measures prohibit them from going back to their ancestral lands.^{23 24} The Xiomara administration announced the creation of a commission to

11 <https://criterio.hn/presentan-recurso-de-amparo-para-evitar-desalojo-en-tierras-del-padre/>

12 <https://twitter.com/BufeteBJP/status/1594120325209657344>

13 <https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1595448256871514117>

14 <https://twitter.com/movampliohn/status/1597402404038664192>

15 <https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1589459268477952000>

16 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/07/policias-y-militares-ejecutan-violento-desalojo-en-comunidad-garifuna-de-islas-de-la-bahia/>

17 <https://criterio.hn/garifunas-son-violentamente-desalojados-y-capturados-por-policias-en-punta-gorda-roatan/>

18 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDHn/status/1589769918324838401>

19 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1589845889492738048>

20 <https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1589844109853806593>

21 <https://twitter.com/Melosjmoreno/status/1589970598075068417>

22 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/08/en-libertad-y-con-medidas-cautelares-los-seis-garifunas-detenido-tras-desalojo-en-punta-gorda/>

23 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDHn/status/1590110535470972928>

24 <https://proceso.hn/oacnudh-considera-que-medidas-sustitutivas-a-seis-garifunas-de-punta-gorda-les-prohibe-acceso-al-territorio-ancestral/>

investigate how it came to the events in Punta Gorda.²⁵ ²⁶ The next day, Congress nominated a commission to investigate the eviction.²⁷

"The conflict and violence experienced by the Garífuna people is not new and is rooted in racism and greed for the natural wealth of their ancestral territory on the Caribbean coast of Honduras. In addition to this situation, the Honduran State is unwilling to comply with the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) in the cases of the communities of Punta Piedra in Iriona, Colón, and Triunfo de la Cruz in Tela, Atlántida."²⁸ Criterio also published two important articles on the ongoing criminalization of indigenous peoples in Honduras²⁹ and the lack of policies for the defense of ancestral territories.³⁰ Criterio further covered the role of the Armed Forces during the eviction of the Garífuna community Punta Gorda. "President Xiomara Castro promised in her "Government Plan to Refound Honduras 2022-2026" that she would demilitarize citizen security and confirm their permanence in the role originally given to them by the Constitution of the Republic. (...)) Doctor in human rights, Joaquín Mejía, commented to Criterio.hn that the presence of the military in an eviction generates concern considering their criminal and violent history, while President Castro promised in her government plan the demilitarization of citizen security."³¹ Mejía later qualified as "despicable" the use of the military in evictions by the MP. For this reason, he considered it "fundamental that the executive branch of government should provide the necessary guidelines so that the military does not take into consideration these requests", even when they are made by the MP.³²

On November 16, Criterio reported: "In the midst of the violence to which the Garífunas are subjected for the defense of their ancestral territory in the Honduran Caribbean, now are added campaigns that instigate racial hatred aimed at mestizo communities in Tela, Atlántida. This was denounced on Wednesday by the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (Ofraneh) through a tweet in which it pointed out that the disinformation campaign was undertaken by "tourism entrepreneurs", through which they try to convince the mestizo population about the impact of a possible ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR Court) in favor of San Juan, Tela."³³

The initial hearing took place on August 23³⁴, amidst a strong police presence.³⁵ OACNUDH was accompanying the hearing³⁶, which did not conclude on the first day.³⁷ On Day 2³⁸, the judge executing the eviction order called the Garífuna defenders "badly behaved" during her testimony.³⁹ The MP's role was not any better. Radio Progreso denounced the use of unlawful and disproportionate evidence.⁴⁰ And there are still some unanswered question about the role of the

25 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/08/gobierno-anuncia-comision-para-investigar-desalojo-en-punta-gorda/>

26 <https://twitter.com/gobprensaHN/status/1590090187580665856>

27 <https://confidencial.hn.com/blog/2022/11/09/comision-del-cn-investigara-desalojos-en-comunidad-garifuna-punta-gorda/>

28 <https://criterio.hn/incumplimiento-de-sentencias-de-la-corte-idh-por-estado-de-honduras-permite-atropellos-contra-comunidades-garifunas/>

29 <https://criterio.hn/criminalizacion-contra-pueblos-indigenas-en-honduras-continua/>

30 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-sigue-sin-politicas-para-la-defensa-de-los-territorios-ancestrales/>

31 <https://criterio.hn/presencia-de-militares-en-desalojo-de-punta-gorda-contradice-plan-de-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

32 <https://criterio.hn/poder-ejecutivo-debe-instruir-a-fuerzas-armadas-no-participar-en-desalojos/>

33 <https://criterio.hn/alerta-sobre-campana-que-instiga-al-odio-racial-contra-garifunas-de-san-juan-tela/>

34 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1595302538164707328>

35 <https://criterio.hn/racismo-y-desconocimiento-de-derechos-de-pueblos-indigenas-evidenciado-en-audiencia-de-defensores-garifunas/>

36 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1595501788249133086>

37 <https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1595548097513496581>

38 <https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1595764639656198150>

39 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1596006850029404160>

40 <https://radioprogreso.hn/net/nn/con-pruebas-ilicidas-y-desproporcionadas-ministerio-publico-criminaliza-a-garifunas-de-punta-gorda/>

Armed Forces during the eviction.⁴¹ UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford expressed her solidarity with the Garífuna defenders and called out to the judge to respect the ancestral territorial rights of the Garífuna people and due process.⁴² Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defender, tweeted: "The court should take this chance to unequivocally recognise the legitimacy of their human rights claims and dismiss the charges."⁴³

On November 25, the charges against the Garífuna defenders from Punta Gorda were dropped.⁴⁴ OACNUDH welcomed this but also called on the State of Honduras to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the right of the Garífuna people to their ancestral lands.⁴⁶ The good news just lasted one day, as on November 26 OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda was detained and intimidated on her way back from Punta Gorda.⁴⁷

The Case of Berta Cáceres

COPINH published a press release denouncing that the Dutch development bank FMO is installing a seat in Costa Rica. "With this action, it intends to advance its investments in the region, despite not having assumed its responsibility and not having made reparations to the victims of the violence it financed. (...) In addition, the FMO bank, together with its partners CABEI (Central American Bank for Economic Integration) and FinnFund, committed serious financial crimes that allowed the diversion of a substantial part of its funds, which financed the acts of violence by David Castillo and the Atala Zablah family. Through this mechanism of diversion of funds, a payment of 1.2 million dollars was made directly to David Castillo 3 days before the assassination of Berta Cáceres."⁴⁸

COPINH denounced that the US ambassador Laura F. Dogu met with Camilo Atala⁴⁹, "one of those responsible for the murder of Berta Cáceres and the violence in the Rio Blanco community".⁵⁰

LGBTIQ+

"Through a network that has influence throughout Chamelecón, the LGBTIQ+ population carries out activities related to raising awareness about the human rights of diverse people. On Friday they held a workshop in the Suyapa neighborhood."⁵¹

"Due to the lack of protocols in penal centers nationwide there are trans women who are victims of sexual exploitation, trafficking, labor exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment, they are subjected and for survival and not by conviction they agree to do many things that are against their will," said Donny Reyes.⁵²

41 <https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1595911906283454466>

42 <https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1595961333178056708>

43 <https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1596195442168954880>

44 <https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1596301165087830016>

45 <https://criterio.hn/en-libertad-garifunas-defensores-del-territorio-de-punta-gorda/>

46 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1596303863992438784>

47 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/125-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-ddhh-reiterada-hostilidad-el-racismo-y-la-persecucion-contr-el-pueblo-garifuna>

48 <https://copinh.org/2022/11/comunicado-el-banco-holandés-fmo-avanza-en-america-latina-sin-reparar-a-sus-victimas/>

49 <https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1592887060960284675>

50 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1593335928159977474>

51 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/02/poblacion-lgbtiq-de-chamelecon-habla-sobre-sus-derechos-con-los-lideres-comunitarios-de-este-sector-de-san-pedro-sula/>

52 <https://criterio.hn/carceles-de-honduras-son-un-peligro-para-miembros-de-la-comunidad-lgbtiq/>

Violence against Women

"Honduras began the first specialized survey on violence against women and girls over 15 years of age, which seeks to record the acts of violence that affect them in the country"⁵³. Over 240 women have been murdered this year in Honduras.⁵⁴ "The Asociación Calidad de Vida (Quality of Life Association) reports that from January to August 2022, 239 women have disappeared in Honduras."⁵⁵

"As part of the commemoration of the International Day against violence against women, feminist organizations and human rights defenders demanded this morning in front of the Public Prosecutor's Office (PM), that cases of violent deaths of women be investigated, that femicides be stopped, and that the crime be prosecuted and brought to justice."⁵⁶ ⁵⁷ "Feminist organizations reject the fact that the Ministry of Security does not include the term femicide in its reports of violent deaths of women and instead uses the term homicide against women."⁵⁸

Extractive Industries

ZEDEs

Pedro Barquero, Minister of the Secretariat of Economic Development (SDE) revealed that ZEDE Próspera is preparing a lawsuit for damages in excess of \$10 billion.⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ "No company that has violated the Constitution of the Republic, stone articles, sovereignty and other aspects will be able to claim rights, warned the president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo."⁶¹ The head of the Libre party in Congress, Rafael Sarmiento, proposed that ZEDE Próspera could use one of the existing special regimes or create a new one in order to have legal security.⁶² On November 4, government officials and representatives of ZEDE Próspera announced to restart talks.⁶³ A week later, ZEDE Ciudad Morazán also talked about possible legal actions.⁶⁴

"While threats of millionaire lawsuits against the State of Honduras for the repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) resound, the defenders of sovereignty are not afraid of the ultimatums of investors. They point out that there are two points that play against investors: first, that the ZEDE are not an issue that can be addressed from the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and the second argument is that these become invalid when they are signed by officials of a state power that are accused of corruption."⁶⁵

53 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/08/honduras-inicia-la-primera-encuesta-sobre-violencia-contramujeres-y-ninas/>

54 <https://criterio.hn/imparables-los-femicidios-en-honduras/>

55 <https://criterio.hn/desaparicion-de-mujeres-un-tema-que-muchos-medios-y-politicos-usan-como-distractor/>

56 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-organizaciones-feministas-exigen-el-cese-de-los-femicidios-y-la-impunidad/>

57 <https://criterio.hn/en-el-dia-de-la-eliminacion-de-la-violencia-contrala-mujer-recuerdan-agresiones-estatales-contralideresas/>

58 <https://criterio.hn/policia-hondurena-invisibiliza-el-termino-femicidio/>

59 <https://proceso.hn/zede-prospera-prepara-millonaria-demanda-contrahonduras/>

60 <https://criterio.hn/zede-prospera-amenaza-con-demandar-a-honduras-por-usd-10-mil-700-millones/>

61 <https://proceso.hn/ninguna-empresa-que-ha-violentado-la-constitucion-podra-reclamar-derechos-advierte-redondo-sobre-zede-prospera/>

62 <https://proceso.hn/prospera-puede-acogerse-a-un-regimen-especial-o-crear-uno-nuevo-para-operar-sugiere-jefe-de-la-bancada-de-libre/>

63 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/04/gobierno-y-representantes-de-zede-prospera-acuerdan-retomar-el-dialogo/>

64 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1589980305959825408>

65 <https://criterio.hn/soberania-y-narcoactividad-jugarian-en-contrade-inversionistas-zede-en-caso-de-demanda-a-honduras/>

On November 20, president Xiomara announced that all documents relating to the approval of the ZEDEs should be declassified.⁶⁶ A day later, ARCAH filed a complaint for treason against the technical secretaries of the ZEDEs Próspera, Orquídea and Morazán.⁶⁷

Mining

"The Maya-Chortí community of Azacualpa, in the municipality of La Unión, Copán, filed, in the last hours, a Habeas Corpus action with the purpose of indicating the exact location of the corpses "illegally" exhumed from the cemetery, to favor the interests of the mining company Aura Mineral, MINOSA, which extracts minerals from the area."⁶⁸ ⁶⁹ On November 9, "[t]he Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) admitted the appeal for personal exhibition in favor of the deceased of the ancestral cemetery of San Andrés in the Maya Chortí community of Azacualpa, in the municipality of La Unión, Copán, whose bodies were illegally exhumed".⁷⁰

"In view of the indiscriminate use of force and abuse of power by police and military agents, as evidenced in recent weeks, the Honduran Network for Escazú expressed its concern about the continuation of extractivist dynamics and human rights violations in the country."⁷¹

Guapinol

One of the Supreme Court candidates is linked to the Guapinol case. "Attorney Luis Miguel Lara Hernández was hired by Inversiones Los Pinares, the company that arbitrarily kept the eight Guapinol defenders in custody for opposing the open-pit exploitation of a mining complex in a national park."⁷² ⁷³

Hydroelectricity

"The Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH), held a sit-in in front of the Sentencing Court in Tegucigalpa at the beginning of the trial against Norman Gilberto Ochoa, for having illegally granted an environmental license for the construction of the Aurora 1 Hydroelectric Project in the community of El Aguacatal, municipality of San José in the department of La Paz."⁷⁴ The trial was postponed to 2023.⁷⁵

Corruption and Its Enemies

Based on the performance of the previous JOH regime, Honduras once more remained outside the Millennium Challenge Fund.⁷⁶

66 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1594506855547514880>

67 <https://criterio.hn/denuncian-por-traicion-a-la-patria-a-secretarios-tecnicos-de-las-derogadas-zede-en-honduras/>

68 <https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/comunidad-maya-chorti-presenta-recurso-para-ubicar-a-sus-muertos-exhumados-para-favorecer-a-minera/>

69 <https://criterio.hn/presentan-habeas-corpus-contra-minosa-para-exigir-reubicacion-de-los-cuerpos-exhumados-ilegalmente-de-azacualpa/>

70 <https://criterio.hn/admiten-recurso-de-exhibicion-personal-en-caso-de-cementerio-maya-chorti-de-azacualpa/>

71 <https://criterio.hn/red-hondurena-por-escazu-preocupada-por-continuidad-de-politica-extractivista-y-violacion-de-dd-hh/>

72 <https://criterio.hn/aspirante-a-magistrado-a-la-corte-ligado-a-criminalizacion-de-defensores-de-guapinol/>

73 <https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/luis-miguel-lara-el-abogado-de-minera-los-pinares-que-busca-ser-magistrado-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

74 <https://criterio.hn/lencas-de-la-paz-exigen-justicia-por-proyecto-de-gladis-aurora-lopez/>

75 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/juicio-y-castigo-exigen-indigenas-para-los-responsables-de-los-proyectos-hidroelectricos-que-han-causado-dolor-y-muerte-en-sus-comunidades/>

76 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-vuelve-a-quedar-fuera-de-la-cuenta-del-milenio/>

The CNA published a study on corruption by the JOH regime misusing the so-called security tax.⁷⁷ At least 16 billion Lempiras were stolen, according to the CNA.⁷⁸ The Security Tax was repealed under the Xiomara administration on June 15.⁷⁹ They doubled down with a second report on corruption linked to the Security Tax denouncing that the presidential airplane had been bought by the JOH regime with money from the Security Tax. His regime spent over 1 billion Lempiras.^{80 81}

"Without traces in the database, the Honduran government through the Secretariat of the Presidency, today denounced "serious irregularities" in the Honduras 20/20 Scholarship program. The program that was created through the Executive Branch in February 2017 and was terminated in December 2021 has no traces in the database, denounced the government through a statement in which it exposes the findings on this defunct program that helped Hondurans to carry out studies abroad."⁸²

CICIH

On November 1, CESPAD outlined the minimal conditions that are needed for the CICIH. "The first is the repeal of the impunity pacts, among them Decrees 116-2019, 57-2020 and 93-2021, with which "it is practically impossible to prosecute corrupt ex-officials and officials", said Irías. The second condition has to do with institutional adjustments within the Public Prosecutor's Office, "starting from the fact that this international mission comes to support this instance in charge of criminal action", continued the interviewee. And the third condition, which for Irías could be the most relevant, is that the Supreme Court of Justice to be elected on January 25, 2023, for the next seven years, has a legitimacy of origin, this means that the National Congress selects the suitable magistrates from among the candidates presented by the Nominating Board and that this entity, at the same time, makes a selection based on what is established by international standards."⁸³

Libre congresswoman Xiomara Hortencia Zelaya presented a constitutional reform to support the installation of the CICIH.⁸⁴ UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford announced that the installation of the CICIH would not need a constitutional reform.⁸⁵

On November 15, Congress started the important discussion about the Efficient Collaboration Law, a prerequisite for the installation of the CICIH which has been in the air since the time of the MACCIH.^{86 87}

Foreign Minister Enrique Reina hopes that talks with the UN about a CICIH will conclude by the end of the year.⁸⁸ On November 24, "[t]he Secretary of the Presidency, Rodolfo Pastor de María y Campos, assured that a consensus is close to be reached between the parties to achieve the installation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)."⁸⁹ At the end

77 <https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1594733388241711104>

78 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/21/el-cna-presenta-informe-del-despilfarro-en-los-fondos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad/>

79 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/21/fondos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad-se-utilizaron-hasta-para-comprar-perros-y-boletos-de-conciertos-denuncio-rixi-moncada/>

80 <https://www.cna.hn/avion-presidencial-un-legado-de-corrupcion-y-despilfarro/>

81 <https://proceso.hn/avion-presidencial-fue-comprado-con-fondos-de-la-tasa-de-seguridad-taiwan-devolvio-pagos-al-gobierno-nelson-marquez/>

82 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/11/gobierno-denuncia-serias-irregularidades-en-programa-de-becas-20-20/>

83 <https://cespad.org/hn/la-cicih-en-honduras-las-condiciones-minimas-que-requiere-el-mecanismo-anticorrupcion-y-las-vallas-que-atrasan-su-instalacion/>

84 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/02/diputada-xiomara-hortencia-zelaya-presenta-iniciativa-de-reforma-al-articulo-232-constitucional-para-instalacion-de-la-cicih/>

85 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/04/representante-de-la-onu-descarta-que-iniciativa-de-reforma-constitucional-sea-una-condicion-para-instalacion-de-la-cicih/>

86 <https://proceso.hn/aprueban-en-primer-debate-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

87 <https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/inicia-discusion-y-aprobacion-de-la-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz/>

88 <https://proceso.hn/en-diciembre-espera-el-gobierno-culminar-el-acuerdo-para-la-instalacion-de-la-cicih-segun-canciller-reina/>

89 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/24/gobierno-y-onu-cerca-de-alcanzar-consenso-para-instalacion-de-la-cicih-asegura-secretario-de-la-presidencia/>

of the month, the Xiomara administration sent a high-level government delegation to New York to meet with UN officials on the topic of the CICIH.⁹⁰ The Minister of Transparency Edmundo Orellana affirmed that the CICIH comes without limitations to know cases of the past, of the present and of those that occur in the future.⁹¹ According to Finance Minister Rixi Moncada, the CICIH will be an adjuvant to the MP, but to have the independence to exercise public criminal prosecution.⁹²

The same day, US Senator Patrick Leahy published a statement on this topic. "Considering how easily CICIG and MACCIH were sabotaged by the previous leaders of those countries and how much is at stake for the people of Honduras and the country's future development, nothing is more important than firmly establishing a culture of respect for the rule of law and for those whose job it is to administer it. Doing so will take years, but the essential first step in that process is for the Castro administration to complete the negotiations with the United Nations and sign a Convenio for the installation of a fully independent CICIH headed by a Commissioner with the necessary experience, professionalism, and integrity, selected by the United Nations."⁹³

The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies

UFERCO's Luis Santos criticized that his office is still awaiting documents from the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) two months after an agreement with its president Roy Pineda. The documents are needed to investigate the disputed departmental funds used by the previous Congress to funnel off money.⁹⁴ In Congress, meanwhile, Libre has presented a replacement for the fund, the Community Social Fund. All the while the underlying law giving live to the departmental fund had still not been repealed.⁹⁵ At the same time, Padre Melo called on Congress not to replace the Departmental Fund with a new fund.⁹⁶

"Once again, the Supreme Court of Justice has favored impunity in Honduras. On November 14, 2022, five deputies and former deputies of the National Party, prosecuted for embezzlement of public funds in the well-known Arca Abierta Case, received letters of release "in view of the fact that the criminal case cannot be pursued"." Once more, the controversial decree 116-2019 made this possible. No surprise that its repeal is another prerequisite for the installation of a CICIH.⁹⁷ Another obstacle is decree 57-2020. It prevents the MP from seizing and confiscating documents of persons involved in corruption cases.⁹⁸

JOH

5 years after her death, UFERCO and ATIC seized properties and assets of JOH's sister and former Minister of Communication, Hilda Hernández. In the same operation, over 100 properties and assets

90 <https://criterio.hn/viaje-de-comitiva-del-gobierno-a-la-onu-reactiva-esperanzas-para-firma-de-memorando-de-la-cicig/>
91 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/29/delegacion-hondurena-viaja-a-eeuu-para-concretar-la-comision-anticorruccion/>
92 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/29/edmund-orellana-cicig-viene-sin-limitaciones-a-juzgar-casos-del-pasado-presente-y-futuro/>
93 <https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-on-the-urgent-necessity-of-independent-justice-in-honduras>
94 https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1587584567506083847
95 <https://proceso.hn/cn-desoye-requisito-para-traer-la-cicig-al-anunciar-nuevo-fondo-comunitario/>
96 <https://proceso.hn/padre-melo-pide-no-aprobar-fondo-social-para-no-distraer-a-diputados-de-su-funcion-originaria/>
97 <https://criterio.hn/csj-y-decreto-116-2019-vuelven-a-favorecer-la-impunidad-con-caso-arca-abierta/>
98 <https://proceso.hn/gobierno-quiere-una-cicig-apartada-del-mp-con-independencia-en-la-accion-penal-rix-moncada/>

of former officials were seized. The operations are linked to three corruption cases, Pandora, Hermes, and Corruption on Wheels.⁹⁹ Miriam Vanessa Cruz, wife of JOH's brother Tony Hernández, had also her properties seized.¹⁰⁰

IHSS

"The Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) is requesting maximum sentences against businesswoman Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus and the former administrator of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), José Ramón Bertetty Osorio, convicted of corruption."¹⁰¹ ¹⁰² On November 23, José Bertetty and Jenny Andrade Lemus were sentenced to 19 and 10 years in prison.¹⁰³

State Security Forces

CESPAD published a report called "Police Abuse and Human Rights Violations in the Honduran Police: Legacy of Authoritarianism or Lack of True Police Reform?".¹⁰⁴ Criterio reported on the ongoing practice of police agents extorting transiting migrants.¹⁰⁵

On November 24, President Xiomara declared a "war against extortion" and declared a "national security emergency". "Castro affirmed that, with this plan, "the government of Democratic Socialism declares war on extortion, just as from day one we declared war on corruption, impunity and drug trafficking". She pointed out that his commitment is to offer all the security demanded by the Honduran people and to return the dignity lost under the previous regime. "The National Police has my full support, it has all the support to fight crime, extortion, drug trafficking and dismantle criminal organizations to identify and capture white collar leaders. We are going to eradicate extortion in every corner of our country", she assured."¹⁰⁶ ¹⁰⁷ Some fear that this will lead to the same situation as in El Salvador. But journalist Jeff Ernst writes that "Castro, however, seems unlikely to take things to the same extreme".¹⁰⁸ Nevertheless, it lead to widespread discussions about the need to declare a state of emergency.¹⁰⁹ ¹¹⁰ A day later, in a first step, the police announced such a state of exception in 60 neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.¹¹¹ On November 27, "[m]ore than 600 elements of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP) of Honduras have been reinforcing security at the country's borders since Sunday to prevent the entry of criminals, mainly gang members, four days after the government declared "war on extortion". "¹¹²

On November 29, "[t]he National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS) issued a series of measures to strengthen security in the use of financial products and services to contribute to the Comprehensive National Plan against Extortion. (...) Among the provisions issued by the CNBS are

99 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/09/ufenco-asegura-e-incauta-mas-de-100-bienes-a-la-extinta-hilda-hernandez/>
100 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/aseguran-bienes-red-de-corrupcion-hilda-hernandez-esposa-tony-hernandez-JP10862946>
101 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/14/mp-solicita-penas-maximas-contra-empresaria-y-exadministrador-del-ihss-condenados-por-corrupcion/>
102 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-solicita-penas-maximas-contra-empresaria-y-exadministrador-del-ihss-condenados-por-corrupcion/>
103 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/23/a-19-anos-de-prision-condenan-a-ramon-bertetty-y-10-anos-para-jenny-lemus-por-desfalco-en-el-ihss/>
104 <https://cespad.org.hn/abuso-policial-y-violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-policia-de-honduras- legado-del-autoritarismo-o-falta-de-una-verdadera-reforma-policial/>
105 <https://criterio.hn/policias-siguen-extorsionando-a-migrantes-en-transito-por-honduras/>
106 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/24/presidenta-xiomara-castro-declara-guerra-contra-la-extorsion-y-anuncia-emergencia-nacional-en-seguridad/>
107 <https://proceso.hn/gobierno-declara-guerra-a-la-extorsion-dice-presidenta-castro-y-advierte-capturar-a-delincuentes-de-cuello-blanco/>
108 <https://twitter.com/jeffgenst/status/1595915728250892290>
109 <https://criterio.hn/era-necesario-decretar-emergencia-nacional-ante-la-extorsion/>
110 <https://cespad.org.hn/analisis-semanal-el-plan-antiextorsion-del-gobierno-hondureno-y-los-riesgos-para-las-libertades-democraticas/>
111 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/25/policia-aplicara-estado-de-excepcion-en-60-colonias-de-tegucigalpa-y-sps/>
112 <https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-refuerza-fronteras-policias-militares-combatir-pandilleros-2022-11-27>

the use of the electronic wallet, regarding domestic transfers, regarding basic accounts. (...).) Double biometric authentication factor (fingerprint and facial recognition, among others) will be implemented by December 30, 2022, for the opening and use of electronic wallets, as a measure to strengthen security when used through mobile applications installed in smartphones and/or tablets. (...) The second measure is that users of electronic wallets that perform transactions through text messages using basic (non-smart) phones, must present themselves no later than December 30, 2022, to an authorized service center to verify their identification and continue using the service."¹¹³ According to CONATEL, there is no national registry yet on active SIM cards in Honduras.¹¹⁴

Militarization

CESPAD highlighted the lack of priority for the Xiomara administration to demilitarize Honduras.¹¹⁵ The Armed Forces confirmed the purchase of six helicopters this month.¹¹⁶ Defender and human rights lawyer Joaquín Mejía raises concern about the rising budget for the Armed Forces, 14% in 2023 than this year. "The Armed Forces are and will be an enemy of democracy and, therefore, it seems absurd that instead of debating their future, their budget is being increased".¹¹⁷ "Looking ahead to 2023, the government plans to increase the budgets of the Health and Education Secretariats by 7% and 8%, respectively, below others such as Security (17%) and Defense (14%), a situation that has alerted academics and economists consulted by Criterio.hn."¹¹⁸

International Community

"On Tuesday night, the National Congress approved a loan of up to US\$400 million with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), destined for natural disasters and epidemics, which will serve as a special fund that will be available to lend when these eventualities arise."¹¹⁹ "Honduras has at its disposal a credit portfolio of US\$ 2.4 billion, said the president of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Dante Mossi."¹²⁰ "The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and the German bank KfW signed a US\$254.25 million loan to finance sustainable economic reactivation operations in Central America and the Dominican Republic."¹²¹ On August 24, Congress approved three loans worth \$555 million.¹²²

"Honduras submitted a formal request to join the Pacific Alliance, which includes Chile, Colombia, Peru and Mexico, and thus become a full member."¹²³

113 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/29/cnbs-emite-medidas-para-evitar-extorsion/>

114 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/29/en-honduras-aun-no-existe-un-registro-de-cuantos-chips-circulan/>

115 <https://cespad.org.hn/demilitarizar-la-sociedad-no-es-una-prioridad-en-honduras/>

116 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/16/secretaria-de-defensa-confirma-la-adquisicion-de-seis-helicopteros/>

117 <https://criterio.hn/presupuesto-del-ejercito-uno-de-los-que-mas-crecera-en-segundo-ano-de-administracion-xiomara-castro/>

118 <https://criterio.hn/salud-y-educacion-entre-los-presupuestos-que-menos-creceran-de-cara-a-2023/>

119 <https://proceso.hn/congreso-aprueba-prestamo-con-el-bid-hasta-de-400-millones-para-desastres-y-epidemias/>

120 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/07/honduras-tiene-a-disposicion-2400-millones-para-proyectos-senala-el-presidente-ejecutivo-del-bcie/>

121 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/11/bcie-y-banco-aleman-kfw-financian-programa-de-recuperacion-verde-en-centroamerica/>

122 <https://criterio.hn/congreso-aprueba-millonarios-prestamos-con-bid-y-bcie-y-acuerdo-de-financiamiento-con-banco-mundial/>

123 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-pide-incorporacion-formal-a-alianza-del-pacifico/>

US

"The government confirmed that Javier Efraín Bú Soto was approved today as ambassador of Honduras to the United States."¹²⁴

Assistant Secretary at the US Department of Defense, Melissa G. Dalton, met with president Xiomara. "Dalton and her entourage were received for an hour by Castro, and according to a brief communiqué from the headquarters of the Honduran Executive, "the Government of the United States reiterated its support to President Castro on defense and security issues".^{125 126}

"Biden announces a \$52 million loan to Banco Atlántida for a private solar project #Honduras. This is another example of blending public & private \$ to promote neoliberal dev't in the name of climate change. A failed strategy that further props up elite".¹²⁷

Drug Trafficking

According to the Security Minister Ramón Sabillón, there are some 27, 28 extradition requests pending.¹²⁸

InSight Crime reported on another legacy of the Nationalist-controlled Congress. "A year after Honduras reformed its money laundering law, dozens of individuals with alleged ties to organized crime have been freed, with speculation mounting that this is an attempt at protecting those in power. At least 45 people suspected of ties to organized crime have been freed in the last year after their cases were dropped following a controversial reform to Honduras' Special Law Against Asset Laundering, according to an investigation by El Herald published on October 25. The Honduran government published legal changes to the law in its official gazette last November after congress approved the reform."¹²⁹

JOH

"After two canceled hearings, the preliminary hearing of extradited ex-president Juan Orlando Hernandez was finally held. He arrived Tuesday at the Southern District Court of New York wearing a beige prison uniform, accompanied by defense counsel Angel Martinez. After this hearing it is known that the trial of Juan Orlando Hernandez will be on April 24, 2023, the pre-trial on April 12 and that the prosecution will have until March 21 as deadline to complete the presentation of evidence, which so far is voluminous, as admitted by the same defense attorney of Juan Orlando Hernandez."^{130 131 132}

124 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/03/conceden-beneplacito-a-javier-bu-como-embajador-de-honduras-ante-eeuu/>

125 <https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1588679244166868993>

126 <https://proceso.hn/eeuu-apoyara-a-honduras-en-materia-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

127 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1592653955653566464>

128 <https://proceso.hn/hay-27-solicitudes-de-extradicion-pendientes-actualiza-ministro-de-seguridad/>

129 <https://insightcrime.org/news/why-money-launderers-honduras-may-be-getting-away-with-it/>

130 <https://criterio.hn/inicia-la-pesadilla-de-juan-orlando-hernandez-en-nueva-york/>

131 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/15/fiscalia-estadounidense-asegura-tener-pruebas-importantes-que-demostrarian-la-culpabilidad-del-expresidente-hondureno/>

132 <https://tiempo.hn/audiencia-presentacion-pruebas-joh/>

Varia

Supreme Court Election

"The work of the Nominating Board has been transparent and effective, because for the first time in history, more than 180 legal professionals have self-nominated, said Joaquín Mejía, doctor in human rights and member of the Team of Reflection, Research and Communication, Eric-sj, in Radio Progreso."¹³³

By November 4, during the first review process of possible Supreme Court candidates, three of them dropped out.¹³⁴ Out of the over 180 candidates, 56 need to correct inconsistencies in the documentation they had presented.¹³⁵ By November 9, 174 aspiring Supreme Court candidates had made it to the next round.¹³⁶ UFERCO's Luis Santos denounced that among the candidates for the Supreme Court there is a current judge who himself has been sentenced previously and as a judge has freed 10 drug traffickers.¹³⁷ ¹³⁸ A day later, he added that there are at least 6 candidates with "obscure links".¹³⁹ "The vice minister of Security, Julissa Villanueva, questioned the postulation of the deputy prosecutor, Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso, as a magistrate to the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ). Through her Twitter account, Villanueva described Sibrián Bueso as "the prosecutor's dolphin", referring to the current head of the Public Prosecutor's Office."¹⁴⁰ ¹⁴¹ CESPAD also portrayed problematic candidates.¹⁴² ¹⁴³

CESPAD portrayed aspiring Supreme Court judge Yuri Fernando Melara and his problematic past. "Yuri Fernando Melara Berlioz is the former deputy prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's Office who decided to participate in the selection process of the new Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras. However, his decision was preceded by the fact that, in 2004, the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa notified in a communiqué that it was withdrawing his visa, "in accordance with presidential proclamation number 7750, which provides the authority to deny entry to the United States to persons involved in acts of corruption"."¹⁴⁴ CESPAD also took a closer look at the Supreme Court election from a gender equality perspective. "The Supreme Court of Justice elected for the period 2023-2030 must include at least seven women among the 15 magistrates that make up the Judicial Branch, according to the mandate of the new organic law of the Nominating Board that has come to mark an important advance towards gender equity. (...) However, the sources consulted agree that a greater presence of women in the Court does not necessarily imply that the human rights of this segment of the population, which is in the majority with 4.9 million versus men, with 4.6 million (INE), will be a priority."¹⁴⁵

133 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/de-transparente-y-eficaz-califican-trabajo-de-junta-nominadora/>

134 <https://proceso.hn/tres-abogados-autopostulados-para-magistrados-de-la-csj-quedan-eliminados-en-primera-etapa/>

135 <https://proceso.hn/unos-56-postulantes-a-la-csj-deben-subsanar-documentos-informa-junta-nominadora/>

136 <https://confidencial.hn.com/blog/2022/11/09/en-174-queda-lista-de-aspirantes-a-magistrados-a-la-corte-suprema-justicia/>

137 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/jefe-uferco-encuentra-sentenciado-10-narcos-candidatos-magistrados-A110813355>

138 https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1588919485053816834

139 <https://confidencial.hn.com/blog/2022/11/07/al-menos-seis-postulantes-a-magistrados-de-la-nueva-csj-tienen-vinculos-oscuros-senala-fiscal-luis-javier-santos/>

140 <https://proceso.hn/viceministra-de-seguridad-critica-postulacion-de-fiscal-adjunto-este-responde-con-cuestionamientos-a-su-trabajo-de-investigacion/>

141 <https://criterio.hn/personajes-ligados-a-la-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-entre-los-autopostulados-a-la-cort>

142 <https://cespad.org.hn/erika-calix-hermandez-polemicas-y-denuncias-detras-de-su-autopostulacion-a-magistrada-de-la-corte-suprema-de-honduras/>

143 <https://cespad.org.hn/edwin-ortez-cruz-de-liberar-pandoros-a-buscar-la-reeleccion-como-magistrado-de-la-csj/>

144 <https://cespad.org.hn/escandalos-y-denuncias-de-vinculacion-con-actos-de-corrupcion-antecedentes-la-autopostulacion-a-magistrado-del-exfiscal-adjunto-yuri-fernando-melara/>

145 <https://cespad.org.hn/entre-dudas-y-esperanzas-feministas-celebran-paridad-de-genero-en-la-eleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-justicia-de-honduras/>

On November 10, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) and Lawyers Without Borders Canada (ASFC), presented a first oversight report on the process.¹⁴⁶ The same day, a high-level International Observation Mission (MIOHonduras) was announced to arrive in Honduras “to carry out an independent oversight of the selection process for the selection of magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) of Honduras. The Mission is composed of four international experts on justice, constitutional and comparative law, election of high-level public officials and the fight against corruption and impunity. The Mission is composed of: Juan Jiménez Mayor (Peru), recognized spokesperson of the former Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH); Edison Lanza (Uruguay), former Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); and Claudia Martin (Argentina), co-director of the Academy of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and resident professor at the American University School of Law (Washington D.C.), expert in international human rights law. She is accompanied by Jaime Arellano (Chile), former Executive Director of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (CEJA), former Vice Minister of Justice of Chile and founding partner of Justice Latin America (JUSLAT), who is the Executive Secretary of the MIO”.¹⁴⁷

On November 14, the aspiring Supreme Court judges had to sit a knowledge test - over 50 did not pass it. 116 candidates remained.¹⁴⁸ CESPAD called for more transparency in the process of reviewing the tests.¹⁴⁹ Alice H. Shackelford, UN Permanent Resident Coordinator, commented on the process. “The process for the election of the new CSJ continues. We need to trust the Nominating Board and its work, as well as draw lessons learned from the process. It is necessary to take action to clarify and seek solutions to continue with transparency and credibility.”¹⁵⁰

A day later, the international mission (see above) arrived in Honduras.¹⁵¹ “The former spokesman of the extinct Mission of Support Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), Juan Jiménez Mayor, points out that the election of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) is vital for the constitutional State. “This process is very important, I would like this to be absolutely clear, the importance of an independent, capable, suitable Supreme Court, which avoids impunity in the country”, said Jiménez Mayor, before the Nominating Board.”¹⁵² In another press conference, the International Observation Mission proposed making public all documents of the candidates.¹⁵³ They further called on candidates with conflicts of interest to drop out of the race.¹⁵⁴ Lastly, they also called for the final election to be public.¹⁵⁵

By November 18, there remained 105 Supreme Court candidates.¹⁵⁶ ¹⁵⁷ A week later, their socio-economic background was investigated.¹⁵⁸ At the same time, María Elena Sabillon, secretary of the

146 <https://cespad.org/hn/cespad-dplf-y-asfc-presentan-el-primer-informe-de-veeduría-del-proceso-de-elección-de-la-nueva-csj-en-honduras/>

147 <https://proceso.hn/mision-de-alto-nivel-llega-al-pais-a-realizar-veeduría-a-selección-de-la-csj/>

148 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/14/174-postulantes-a-la-csj-se-someten-a-pruebas-de-conocimiento/>

149 <https://cespad.org/hn/cespad-demanda-transparencia-en-proceso-de-revisión-de-pruebas-a-postulantes-a-magistrados-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-de-honduras/>

150 <https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1593707013481136135>

151 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/15/llega-a-honduras-misión-internacional-y-se-reune-con-junta-nominadora-para-observar-elección-de-magistrados/>

152 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/juan-jimenez-mayor-elección-de-la-corte-suprema-es-vital-para-el-estado-constitucional/>

153 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/recomiendan-hacer-publicos-expedientes-de-postulantes-a-magistrados-y-magistradas/>

154 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/17/diputados-con-conflictos-de-interés-deben-hacerse-a-un-lado-el-día-de-la-elección-de-la-csj-sugiere-misión-internacional-de-observación/>

155 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/observadores-internacionales-proponen-votación-pública-en-la-elección-de-magistrados-y-magistradas/>

156 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/listado-candidatos-magistrados-corte-suprema-justicia-reduce-a-105-MB10992608>

157 <https://criterio.hn/conozca-los-69-aspirantes-a-la-corte-suprema-que-quedaron-fuera/>

158 <https://criterio.hn/105-autopostulantes-a-la-csj-en-investigación-socioeconómica-en-medio-de-senalamientos-contral-el-proceso/>

Nomination Board, denounced that her car was broken into in search of documents relating to the Supreme Court election.¹⁵⁹ Additionally, "Tomas Andino of the Supreme Court (SC) Nominating Board responsible for selecting candidates sounds the alarm that Notary assoc. is pressuring Congress to lower (not raise) selection standards to incorporate SC candidates already declared inadmissible".¹⁶⁰ The Nomination Board pushed back against this attempt.¹⁶¹

CESPAD criticized: "The process of investigation of the applicants to the high magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) has already begun. However, the personal files of those aspiring to become magistrates have not been published by the Nominating Board (JN) in its Transparency Portal. According to Article 16 of the Special Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Nominating Board for the Nomination of Candidates to Supreme Court of Justice (decree 74-2022), the Nominating Board is obliged to open a file for each of the applicants, which will contain: the curriculum vitae, the documentation provided by the relevant institutions of the State at the request of the Board; the investigations or opinions gathered, the answers to interviews; the complaints and strikes filed against them; the evaluation and merit weighting forms; the final report and any other relevant document."¹⁶²

Public Health

The health personnel of the San Lorenzo Hospital took to the streets on November 14 to demand from the authorities the payment of six months' salary arrears.¹⁶³ At the end of the month, doctors informed a national hospital health workers strike on November 29 and that they would only attend emergency areas.¹⁶⁴

On November 17, Congress approved a the budgetary allocation of more than 350 million lempiras in favor of the Ministry of Health for permanent appointments of front line workers.¹⁶⁵

Education

Authorities of the Ministry of Education estimated that they need at least \$3.6 billion to address at least 80% of the existing destruction in the school infrastructure.¹⁶⁶

Migration

Human rights organizations call for an urgent approval of the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of forcibly displaced persons.¹⁶⁷

159 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/22/denuncian-intento-de-robo-a-la-secretaria-de-junta-nominadora/>

160 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1596012189374189568>

161 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/25/nominadora-no-aceptaria-idea-de-reducir-nota-de-aprobacion-a-magistrados/>

162 <https://cespad.org/hn/aspirantes-a-magistrados-entran-a-etapa-de-investigacion-sin-que-la-poblacion-tenga-acceso-a-sus-expedientes-publicos/>

163 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/14/personal-del-hospital-de-san-lorenzo-se-toma-carretera-panamericana-y-exige-pago-de-salarios-atrasados/>

164 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/29/anuncian-paro-en-hospitales-publicos-a-nivel-nacional-solo-se-atenderan-emergencias/>

165 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/18/cn-aprueba-mocion-para-asignar-mas-de-1350-millones-para-permanencia-de-personal-medico-en-primera-linea/>

166 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/13/3600-millones-necesita-educacion-para-atender-infraestructura-escolar-en-honduras/>

167 <https://radioprogreso.hn/net/nn/urgen-aprobar-ley-de-desplazamiento-forzado/>

Over 14'000 children have been deported to Honduras so far this year.¹⁶⁸ Over 50% more than compared to 2021.¹⁶⁹ By this month, a total of 80'855 Honduran migrants had been deported.¹⁷⁰ "According to statistics from the Observatory of International Migration in Honduras (OMIH), some 700 Hondurans decide every day to take the migration route in order to reach the United States in search of better opportunities."¹⁷¹

According to Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, the US prolonged the temporary protection status for Hondurans until mid-2024.¹⁷² "It is bittersweet news because it does give peace of mind to 57,000 Hondurans but it is disappointing because there was no new TPS for new applicants. It is a call and we are going to continue in the streets because a new TPS was deserved, we hoped that President Biden would grant it," said Flores."¹⁷³

"More than 154,000 migrants, mostly from Cuba, entered Honduras irregularly during 2022, 778.1% more than in all of 2021, according to figures from the National Migration Institute (INM)."¹⁷⁴ On November 24, Congress prolonged the Migratory Amnesty until June 1, 2023. This means that Honduras won't charge passing migrants a fee.¹⁷⁵ The UN greeted this decision.¹⁷⁶

Ricardo Salgado, head of the Strategic Planning Secretariat, participated in an event on migration in which he held a speech on the right to migration and the role of global capitalism and imperialism as a driving force of migration. His speech ruffled some feathers and a day later he felt the need to clarify that this is his and not the official position of the government.¹⁷⁷

Poverty

Remittances sent to Honduras almost grew by 20% in October compared to 2021.¹⁷⁸ The vast majority of the money sent goes directly to consumption.¹⁷⁹ Due to high inflation,¹⁸⁰ FOSDEH called for a 10% increase in the minimum wage.¹⁸¹ Additionally, Consumer protection organizations denounced that the cost of a basket of basic goods was higher than the minimum wage in Honduras.¹⁸² The costs of basic goods also increased by 11.3% since the beginning of the year.¹⁸³

Economy

"The final stretch of the year 2022 continues to bring not very hopeful announcements for those who work in the maquila industry. The Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Villanueva, Cortés, Gerardo Espinoza, said in Radio Progreso that by December some two thousand workers are expected to be laid off in two plants located in that municipality."¹⁸⁴

168 <https://proceso.hn/dos-ninos-hondurenos-fueron-deportados-cada-hora-durante-2022/>

169 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/09/deportacion-de-ninos-y-adolescentes-a-honduras-se-disparo-un-43-en-10-meses/>

170 <https://hondudiario.com/nacionales/decenas-de-hondurenos-han-sido-deportados-tambien-desde-espana-suiza-y-dinamarca-este-2022/>

171 <https://proceso.hn/en-promedio-700-hondurenos-emigran-cada-dia-segun-omih/>

172 <https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1590842141437460488>

173 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/hondurenos-en-el-mundo/hondurenos-en-estados-unidos-califican-como-agriculce-la-extension-del-tps-FB10882546>

174 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/18/mas-de-154000-migrantes-han-ingresado-de-forma-irregular-a-honduras-en-2022/>

175 <https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/extienden-por-seis-meses-mas-amnistia-migratoria/>

176 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/24/naciones-unidas-alaba-la-ampliacion-de-amnistia-migratoria-en-honduras/>

177 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/24/ministro-de-planificacion-estrategica-pide-disculpas-a-eeuu-por-acalorado-discurso-sobre-la-migracion/>

178 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/14/remesas-de-enero-a-octubre-suben-199-respecto-a-2021/>

179 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/14/82-de-las-remesas-que-envian-a-honduras-son-destinadas-para-consumo/>

180 <https://proceso.hn/precios-de-alimentos-por-las-nubes-hasta-en-documentos-oficiales/>

181 <https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/16/el-incremento-al-salario-minimo-debe-ser-de-un-10-producto-de-la-inflacion-afirma-el-fosdeh/>

182 <https://tiempo.hn/precio-canasta-basica-supera-salario/>

183 <https://proceso.hn/canasta-basica-aumenta-en-un-11-3-de-enero-a-octubre-de-2022/>

184 <https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/se-anuncia-nueva-ola-de-despidos-en-maquilas-de-villanueva-cortes/>

And Light at the End of a Month

COFADEH commemorated its 40th anniversary this month.^{185 186}

185 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-organizacion-de-ddhh-que-derribo-el-muro-del-olvido/>

186 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-fraternas-y-defensores-de-ddhh-acompanaran-al-cofadeh-en-sus-40-anos/>

Another Month at the Honduras Forum Switzerland

Past Activities:

-

Upcoming Activities:

-

Subscribe to this monthly report: foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net

Subscribe to our daily press overview: daniellm@bluewin.ch

Become a member: info@honduras-forum.ch

Support our work: IBAN: CH54 0900 0000 8003 3036 3

<http://honduras-forum.ch/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Honduras-Forum-Schweiz-753337355053820/>