

01/11/22

Honduras Daily: Rains; Indigenous Peoples - Hydroelectricity; Corruption - Congress, CICIH; Judicial Power; Xiomara - US; Drug Trafficking; Energy; BID; EU; and Fighting Disinformation

"Families and communities affected by the rains and tropical storms are still trying to recover after losing their belongings, trying to cope with the destruction of their homes, but the danger of heavy flooding remains with the imminent arrival of tropical storm Lisa."

<https://criterio.hn/tormenta-tropical-lisa-se-acerca-y-peligro-sigue-latente-sin-obras-de-mitigacion-en-inundaciones/>

Evangelical priest Roy Santos had the charges for discrimination dropped against him. He had called indigenous and afro-honduran peoples "satanic shamans".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/absuelven-roy-santos-cargos-incipitacion-discriminacion-BD10756502>

"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."

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

UFERCO's Luis Santos criticizes 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.

In Congress, meanwhile, Libre has presented a replacement for the fund, the Community Social Fund. All the while the underlying law giving life to the departmental fund has still not been repealed.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1587584567506083847

<https://proceso.hn/cn-desoye-requisito-para-traer-la-cicoh-al-anunciar-nuevo-fondo-comunitario/>

Libre congresswoman Xiomara Hortencia Zelaya presented a constitutional reform to support the installation of the CICIH.

CESPAD outlines 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."

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

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

The final number of candidates for the Supreme Court election is 185 (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/01/185-abogados-se-postularon-ante-junta-nominadora-para-una-magistratura-en-la-csj/>

The Honduras Solidarity Network published a statement on the recent statements by US ambassador Laura F. Dogu (see last few days). "In November 2021, Hondurans and international observers like ourselves, were relieved that the U.S. government publicly accepted the Honduran election results, and the will of the Honduran people. The victory of Honduras' first ever woman President, Xiomara Castro began the restoration of democracy in the country following nearly 13 years of a violent and corrupt dictatorship supported by multiple U.S. administrations. Less than a year since President Castro took office, we are now alarmed by public statements, actions, and tweets from the U.S. Ambassador Laura Dogu, State Department officials, and some members of the U.S. Senate that are actively interfering in Honduras' internal affairs. These efforts appear to be aimed at undermining the new government and its policy agenda."

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTCFvxmQYUQ2y3LZjqhauT67v8TQW36D_sGZ20UpbpMItaHjwa2nANdwI-OsOHj79QfHCQt5cUCxStJ/pub

InSight Crime reports 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 Heraldo published on October 25. The Honduran government published legal changes to the law in its official gazette last November after congress approved the reform."

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

"Honduras received a notice of intent to arbitrate under DR-CAFTA. The notice was submitted by two foreign energy generation companies that aren't happy about the renegotiation of the contracts under the new energy law."

Six energy contracts are still being renegotiated.

<https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1587488518644826112>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/01/titular-de-energia-confirma-que-hay-seis-contratos-en-proceso-de-renegociacion/>

"On Tuesday night, the National Congress approved a loan of up to US\$400 million with the Inter-American Development Bank (BID), destined for natural disasters and epidemics, which will serve as a special fund that will be available to lend when these eventualities arise."

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

Congress' leadership met with the EU-Parliamentarians (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/02/directiva-del-cn-recibe-a-delegacion-del-parlamento-europeo-para-trazar-acuerdos-de-cooperacion-y-diplomacia-parlamentaria/>

<https://criterio.hn/pnud-ue-y-unitec-consolidan-plataforma-para-el-combate-de-la-desinformacion/>

03/11/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Corruption - US, CICIH; Judicial Power; Migration - Children; US; and Death Squads

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.

Próspera published a press release presenting itself as interested in a dialogue with the government...

<https://proceso.hn/zede-prospera-prepara-millonaria-demanda-contr-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/03/zede-prospera-estaria-preparando-una-demanda-por-10700-millones-contr-estado-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-gobierno-tiene-la-opcion-de-pagar-en-reclamos-internacionales-o-posicionar-al-pais-hacia-la-prosperidad-responde-zede-prospera/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/03/comunicado-honduras-prospera-sigue-intentando-entablar-un-dialogo-de-buena-fe-con-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

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

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

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/03/nuevamente-honduras-queda-fuera-de-la-cuenta-del-milenio/>

"The Minister of Transparency, Edmundo Orellana, said Thursday that the formation of the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) will be carried out through an international competition." This was a response previous statements by Salvador Nasralla.

Another debate about the CICIH concerns the constitution. Des the CICIH call for a constitutional reform. Libre congresswoman Xiomara Hortensia Zelaya Castro recently presented one. But others believe that this just opens up new challenges and is not necessary.

Zelaya Castro reacted to this on Twitter. "Being an adhesive complainant is a possibility not excluded with my proposal, but it does not give any independence to the CICIH, rather it subjects it

to the State Prosecutor's Office; on the other hand my proposal for Constitutional reform, does give total and absolute independence to the CICIH."

<https://proceso.hn/ministro-de-transparencia-refuta-senalamiento-de-designado-presidencial-sobre-conformacion-de-la-cicih/>

<https://criterio.hn/no-se-requieren-reformas-constitucionales-para-instalar-la-cicih/>

<https://twitter.com/pichuzelaya/status/1588137510869389317>

"The Pro Honduras Network denounces that Carlos Calix, one of the 185 candidates for the new Supreme Court, is the cousin of Mario Jose Calix, a drug trafficker indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice & the right-hand man of Tony Hernandez".

There is hope that the Nomination Board will not allow his candidacy to go forward. "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."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1588324644020535299>

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

Over 14'000 children have been deported to Honduras so far this year.

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

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

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

"Honduras continues to experience unprecedented widespread violence, to such a degree that there is no police or military authority to control it, death squads continue to be active and operate freely

without being prosecuted by the Honduran justice system. At the beginning of 2022, government authorities also recognized that death squads were established in the country and continued to operate, a situation that reflects high rates of violence. The Security Secretariat also associated organized crime with drug trafficking in Honduras and that these were the main cause of homicides and multiple deaths in the country."

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-un-cambio-de-gobierno-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-siguen-vivos-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/03/la-extorsion-se-ha-disparado-no-lo-vamos-a-negar-julissa-villanueva-subsecretaria-de-seguridad/>

04/11/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Mining; ZEDEs; Corruption - CICIH, Congress; Police; Armed Forces - US; Judicial Security; and the Situation of Honduran Women

"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."

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

"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."

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

The news that ZEDE Próspera threatens to sue Honduras for almost \$11 billion (see yesterday) caused headlines.

"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."

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.

Government officials and representatives of ZEDE Próspera announced to restart talks.

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

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

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

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

"The Libertad y Refundación (Libre) party, through a press release, informed this Friday that it presented a bill to give independence, administrative, technical and investigative autonomy to the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), to investigate financial crimes against the State, both public and private."

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford announced that the installation of the CICIH does not need a constitutional reform. This is a comment to a recent bill presented by Libre congresswoman Xiomara Hortensia Zelaya Castro (see previous two days).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/bancada-libre-presentara-iniciativa-independencia-autonomia-cicih-honduras-PI10810096>

<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/>

Padre Melo called on Congress not to replace the controversial JOH-era Departmental Fund which gave members of Congress their own funds to spend on "social" projects (see previous days).

<https://proceso.hn/padre-melo-pide-no-aprobar-fondo-social-para-no-distraer-a-diputados-de-su-funcion-originaria/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/04/padre-melo-insta-a-no-aprobar-fondo-social-para-no-distraer-a-diputados-de-su-funcion-originaria-de-legislar/>

CESPAD published a report called "Police Abuse and Human Rights Violations in the Honduran Police: Legacy of Authoritarianism or Lack of True Police Reform?".

<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/>

In a similar vein, CESPAD also highlights the lack of priority for the Xiomara administration to demilitarize Honduras.

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

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"."

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

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

In the first review process of possible Supreme Court candidates, three of them dropped out.

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

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/04/el-instituto-nacional-de-estadisticas-iniciara-la-primera-encuesta-nacional-sobre-la-situacion-de-la-mujer-hondurena/>

05/11/22

Honduras Daily: Mining; Supreme Court; Xiomara;

Criterio reports on the recent announcement by MADJ to present a Habeas Corpus of the Community of Azacualpa demanding the Ministry of Health and the company Minosa, to indicate the location of the bodies illegally exhumed from the Azacualpa Cemetery (see yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-habeas-corpor-contraminosa-para-exigir-reubicacion-de-los-cuerpos-exhumados-ilegalmente-de-azacualpa/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos denounces 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.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/jefe-uferco-encuentra-sentenciado-10-narcos-candidatos-magistrados-AI10813355>

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

"In June, Casa Presidencial assured this newspaper, through its access to information office, that it had no presidential advisors hired; however, the work reports and salary schedules submitted by the same institution four months later, indicate that three people - all men - have been working as advisors since months before the request for information was submitted."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/05/casa-presidencial-mintio-sobre-la-contratacion-de-asesores/>

07/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Ahuas Massacre; Judicial Power; Drug Trafficking; CABEI; and Fighting with Giants

In the early mornings of Monday, OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda warned about an imminent eviction of the Punta Gorda community, the first Garífuna community founded 225 years ago.

Shortly afterwards, the National Police started with the eviction.

The police detained six Garífuna, among them the local OFRANEH coordinator Melissa Martinez.

"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".

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."

OACNUDH condemned the violence and the arrest of the six Garífuna.

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

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

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

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1589667126310100992>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1589720728337022978>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1589808246323556353>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1589797738149183490>

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

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

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1589769918324838401>

<https://im-defensoras.org/2022/11/alerta-urgente-honduras-amenaza-de-desalojo-a-recuperacion-en-punta-gorda-primer-comunidad-garifuna-de-honduras/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/alerta-policia-nacional-desaloja-y-captura-habitantes-de-comunidad-garifuna-de-punta-gorda-en-honduras/>

Honduras Now published the third and final episode on the Ahuas massacre.

<https://www.hondurasnow.org/episode-37-part-three-the-drug-war-cover-up-the-push-for-accountability/>

"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. This came after the vice minister responded to a publication by prosecutor Luis Javier Santos, who criticized the fact that among the postulated CSJ magistrates was a judge implicated in the release of 10 drug traffickers."

Luis Santos later added that there are at least 6 candidates with "obscure links".

Libre leader Gilberto Ríos said that they will this time around prevent a new corrupt and criminal Supreme Court.

Out of the over 180 candidates, 56 need to correct inconsistencies in the documentation they had presented.

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

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/06/un-enfrentamiento-en-redes-sociales-protagonizan-julissa-villanueva-y-el-fiscal-adjunto-del-mp-daniel-arturo-sibrian-bueso/>

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

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/gilberto-rios-vamos-a-evitar-que-se-imponga-una-nueva-corte-a-la-talla-de-la-delincuencia/>

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

"The Public Prosecutor's Office carried out Operation Maremoto II through which it secured more assets from the criminal structure of the extradited to the US, Fredy Mármol and associates."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/07/la-fiscalia-le-cae-a-los-bienes-del-exjefe-narco-extraditado-fredy-marmol/>

"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."

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

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-recibira-varias-demandas-porque-el-gobierno-esta-peleando-con-gigantes-segun-nasralla/>

08/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Lencas; HRDs; Violence against Women; LGBTIQ+ - Prisons; ZEDEs; and the Right Moment

The six Garífuna defenders from Punta Gorda, Roatán, were released with precautionary measures (see yesterday).

OACNUDH condemned their ongoing criminalization. The precautionary measures prohibit them from going back to their ancestral lands.

The Xiomara administration announced the creation of a commission to investigate how it came to the events in Punta Gorda.

On Monday, President Xiomara said she had not been informed about the planned eviction. Padre Melo reacts to this. "After accepting not having received information on the eviction of Garifunas 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."

Criterio published two important articles on the ongoing criminalization of indigenous peoples in Honduras and the lack of policies for the defense of ancestral territories.

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

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1590110535470972928>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Human rights defender Víctor Fernández also reacted to the president's statement (see above).
"ALERT FOR THE PRESIDENT:

In case again she is not notified or informed. The next eviction ordered is that of the Lenca indigenous community of Tierras del Padre, near Tegucigalpa. Although the order is from the Judiciary, it is being carried out by police and military under her command. For the record!"

<https://twitter.com/VictorFerG/status/1590043677296013312>

MADJ denounced police prosecution against human rights defender Christopher Castillo.

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

"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, where more than 160 have been killed so far in 2022, official sources reported."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/08/honduras-inicia-la-primer-encuesta-sobre-violencia-contra-mujeres-y-ninas/>

""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."

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

After ZEDE Próspera, ZEDE Ciudad Morazán also talks about possible legal actions (see previous week).

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

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-esta-en-el-momento-idoneo-para-fortalecer-la-democracia-y-definir-que-sociedad-quiere-icefi/>

09/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Lencas; Mining; Corruption- JOH; Judicial Power; Migration – Children;

Congress nominated a commission to investigate the eviction in the Garífuna community Punta Gorda (see last two days).

"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."

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

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

And there still looms the possible eviction of Tierras del Padre Lenca community. Community members held a protest rally outside the Supreme Court yesterday denouncing the courts complicity with big land owners.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1590405928700215296>

"The 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." (see previous days)

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

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 of former officials were seized. The operations are linked to three corruption cases, Pandora, Hermes, and Corruption on Wheels.

Miriam Vanessa Cruz, wife of JOH's brother Tony Hernández, had also her properties seized.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/09/uferco-asegura-e-incauta-mas-de-100-bienes-a-la-extinta-hilda-hernandez/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/aseguran-bienes-red-de-corrupcion-hilda-hernandez-esposa-tony-hernandez-JP10862946>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/rostros-personas-ligadas-red-corrupcion-vinculada-hilda-hernandez-honduras-incautacion-bienes-FP10867938>

174 aspiring Supreme Court candidates made it to the next round.

Criterio reports on the critical task to sort out candidates with links to corruption and drug trafficking.

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

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

Over 50% more Honduran children have been deported so far this year compared to 2021.

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

10/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Migration - TPS; Judicial Powers; Tegucigalpa; Debt; Education;

Criterio covers 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."

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

According to Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, the US prolonged the temporary protection status for Hondurans until mid-2024.

"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."

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

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/estados-unidos-extiende-tps-estatus-proteccion-temporal-hondurenos-hasta-2024-migrantes-CB10881443>

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

"A high-level International Observation Mission (MIO Honduras) will arrive in the country next week 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 Martín (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."

In Honduras, 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.

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

<https://criterio.hn/el-15-de-noviembre-viene-a-honduras-mision-de-alto-nivel-a-realizar-veeduria-a-seleccion-de-la-csj/>

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

<https://criterio.hn/nuevas-recomendaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil-son-presentadas-a-la-junta-nominadora/>

"The plenary session of the National Congress approved five contracts for the development of projects in the Municipality of the Central District, amounting to more than 198 million Lempiras."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/10/el-poder-legislativo-aprueba-unos-cinco-contratos-para-el-desarrollo-del-distrito-central/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/congreso-nacional-aprueba-contratos-para-finalizar-obras-del-trans-450-en-la-capital/>

"Honduras' public external debt between January and September of this year totaled 8,945.2 million dollars, which represents a 2.5% decrease compared to the first nine months of 2021, the country's Central Bank (BCH) reported".

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/10/deuda-publica-de-honduras-suma-8945-millones-en-9-meses-2-5-menos-que-2021/>

"The teaching competition was concluded in Honduras, the complaints from educators are many, but the merits for those who do not deserve them are even more, in short, not even with a change of government and teaching authorities can the vices of the past be corrected."

<https://criterio.hn/concurso-docente-uno-de-los-muchos-procesos-sin-transparencia-y-manoseado-por-politicos/>

11/11/22

Honduras Daily: Forced Disappearance; Corruption - JOH; Femicides; Judicial Power; UNAH; CABEI - Germany; Religion; y La Larga Noche Hondureña

"The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), this November 30 reaches its 40th anniversary, four decades of demanding truth, justice and wondering

where are the detainees disappeared by the State of Honduras in the eighties, during the installation of the National Security Doctrine."

Also this week, the first meeting of relatives of the disappeared is being held in Mexico.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/40-anos-exigiendo-verdad-y-justicia-en-la-plaza-de-los-desaparecidos/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-busqueda-de-justicia-no-debe-ser-una-sentencia-de-muerte/>

"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."

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

Over 240 women have been murdered this year in Honduras.

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

Criterio reports on the problem of nepotism in the Supreme Court election process.

<https://criterio.hn/hermanos-y-cunadas-buscan-llegar-a-la-nueva-corte-deben-ser-depurados/>

The University Council was summoned for today for a virtual meeting to elect the members of the University Board of Directors.

<https://proceso.hn/consejo-universitario-a-reunion-virtual-el-sabado-para-elegir-junta-de-direccion/>

"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."

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

US historian Dana Frank presented the Spanish version of her book, *The Long Honduran Night*, in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/historiadora-dana-frank-lanza-libro-la-larga-noche-hondurena/>

According to a new CID Gallup survey, 44% of Hondurans identify themselves as evangelical, the highest percentage in Latin America

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/11/11/cid-gallup-ho>

12/11/22

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; Agriculture; Public Health; Judicial Power; and Worthless Pennies

"At the open meeting "Health and Environment, Year 2022" held in Marcala, La Paz, leader Adalinda Gutiérrez demanded a stop to management plans that displace the inhabitants of communities to establish lumber mills. Gutiérrez, member of the Union of Companies and Organizations of Rural Workers (UTC) of La Paz, affirmed that it is not possible to talk about development when people are threatened and killed for defending their property and territories, when those who call themselves great environmentalists are the ones who murder indigenous communities."

<https://criterio.hn/exigen-un-alto-a-planes-de-manejo-forestal-que-desplazan-a-comunidades-en-marcala-la-paz/>

"The National Agrarian Institute (INA) through its head, Francisco Funes, delivered to the executive secretary of the Property Institute (IP), Dario Garcia, 1,100 property titles, which are ready for registration and benefit the peasant sector. In the framework of the agreement between INA-IP, according to García, these titles will be destined to the departments of Colón, Olancho, El Paraíso, Choluteca, Atlántida and Francisco Morazán, where development will reach communities that for more than 20 and 30 years were forgotten."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/12/ina-entrega-mas-de-mil-titulos-de-propiedad-al-ip-para-beneficiar-al-sector-campesino/>

"The Ministry of Finance transferred 200 million Lempiras to the University Hospital to buy drugs."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/12/transfieren-l-200-millones-al-hospital-escuela-para-compra-de-medicamentos/>

"The member of the Nominating Board, Tomás Andino, declared that next Monday, November 14, the knowledge tests will be given to the candidates for judges of the Judiciary."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/12/el-proximo-lunes-aplicaran-prueba-de-conocimientos-a-postulantes-a-magistrados/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-pais-donde-las-monedas-metalicas-ya-no-tienen-valor/>

13/11/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Judicial Power; Electoral Reforms; Education; Energy Sector; Extortion; and Against Friends and Foes

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the October 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/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2210_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

CESPAD portrays 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"."

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

"Rasel Tomé, vice-president of the National Congress (NC), considers that the electoral reforms, including the second round of elections, could be approved before the end of the first of the four legislatures of the new parliament."

<https://proceso.hn/reformas-electorales-podrian-aprobarse-en-primera-legislatura-segun-vicepresidente-del-cn/>

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.

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

"The head of the Secretariat of Energy (SEN), Erick Tejada, announced the establishment of two new agreements with power generators, which would add 18 renegotiated contracts so far. Consequently, the savings for the State will be of 25 million Lempiras per year, adding the savings of the other 16 generators, the total saved is more than one billion Lempiras per year."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/13/la-secretaria-de-energia-alcanza-18-contratos-con-generadores-de-energia/>

"Extortion is one of the many scourges that the current governments have not been able to reduce. This crime has forced hundreds of Hondurans to leave their homes and others have had to leave the country to protect their lives. Analysts have stated that the factors that influence this scourge to worsen every day in the country are poverty, the low credibility and distrust of the population in their authorities and the lack of opportunities, mainly for the Honduran youth."

<https://criterio.hn/combate-a-la-extorsion-la-eterna-deuda-de-las-fuerzas-de-seguridad-del-estado/>

<https://criterio.hn/contra-adolfo-amigo-y-contra-la-zede-enemiga/>

14/11/12

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Judicial Power - Guapinol; Corruption - IHSS; Xiomara - US; Remittances; Public Health; and the Economic Problem

Criterio reports on a recent town hall meeting in Marcala, La Paz, where inhabitants rejected the imposition of extractive projects.

<https://criterio.hn/rechazan-instalacion-de-proyectos-inconsultos-en-marcala-la-paz/>

JOH faces court again this morning in New York.

<https://proceso.hn/expresidente-hernandez-a-audiencia-este-martes-previo-al-juicio-del-proximo-ano/>

Yesterday, the aspiring Supreme Court judges had to sit a knowledge test - over 50 did not pass it. 116 candidates now remain.

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

<https://proceso.hn/al-menos-12-querarian-al-margen-del-proceso-de-seleccion-de-aspirantes-a-magistrados/>

One of the candidates (I don't know if he passed the knowledge exam), 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."

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

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

"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."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/14/mp-solicita-penas-maximas-contras-empresaria-y-exadministrador-del-ihss-condenados-por-corrupcion/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-solicita-penas-maximas-contra-empresaria-y-exadministrador-del-ihss-condenados-por-corrupcion/>

There was another meeting between Foreign Minister Enrique Reina and US ambassador Laura F. Dogu (see also last week).

Ambassador Dogu also commented on the CICIH presenting it as something between the UN and Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/embajadora-laura-dogu-reune-canciller-reina-narcotrafico-seguridad-honduras-HK10922533>

<https://proceso.hn/la-cicih-es-un-acuerdo-entre-honduras-y-onu-no-de-eeuu-dice-embajadora-dogu/>

Remittances sent to Honduras almost grew by 20% in October compared to 2021.

The vast majority of the money sent goes directly to consumption.

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

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

"The health personnel of the San Lorenzo Hospital took to the streets this Monday morning - November 14 - to demand from the authorities the payment of six months' salary arrears."

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

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/14/incertidumbre-en-toma-de-decisiones-marcan-acciones-del-gobierno-para-enfrentar-recesion-economica/>

15/11/22

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDEs - US; Corruption - Congress, Impunity; UNAH; US; Judicial Power - Women; Maquilas; and Climate Crisis and Indigenous Peoples

"After two cancelled 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."

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

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

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

The Honduran environmental movement ARCAH sent an open letter in response to the support of two US Senators for the ZEDEs (see previous e-mails).

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1592541358820294658>

<https://avispa.org/derogacion-de-ciudades-modelo-en-honduras-provoca-amenaza-de-eeuu/>

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.

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

<https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1592717286846054400>

But it is not all good news on the anti-corruption front. "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.

<https://criterio.hn/csj-y-decreto-116-2019-vuelven-a-favorecer-la-impunidad-con-caso-arca-abierta/>

Student leaders denounce an undemocratic process at the UNAH to elect the University Board of Directors.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/123-liderazgos-estudiantiles-de-la-unah-denuncian-trampas-para-que-no-haya-proceso-democratico-en-eleccion-de-la-junta-de-direccion-universitaria-jdu>

"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".

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

An International Observation Mission (MIO) arrived in Honduras to carry out an independent oversight of the Supreme Court election process (see last week).

"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."

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

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

CESPAD takes 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."

<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/>

"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."

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

"Climate change mitigation requires full compliance with the rights of indigenous peoples and peasants, said the coordinator of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (Copinh), Bertha Zúniga Cáceres."

<https://criterio.hn/no-hay-mitigacion-del-cambio-climatico-sin-cumplimiento-de-los-derechos-de-pueblos-indigenas-y-campesinos-copinh/>

16/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Corruption - CICIH; Xiomara Poverty; Judicial Power; Armed Forces; Migration; and Going After the Big Fish?

"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."

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

Foreign Minister Enrique Reina hopes that talks with the UN about a CICIH will conclude by the end of the year.

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

"President Xiomara Castro informed that next Saturday -November 19- from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. her entire cabinet will be at the Executive Power headquarters to analyze their results."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/xiomara-castro-cita-gabinete-gobierno-hacer-evaluacion-gestion-BN10953299>

President Xiomara was in Copán yesterday to inaugurate the Solidarity Network program, a program to fight poverty.

The situation of many Hondurans has recently worsened again due to high inflation.

FOSDEH calls for a 10% increase in the minimum wage.

<https://proceso.hn/la-prioridad-de-cada-gobierno-debe-ser-luchar-por-erradicar-la-pobreza-extrema-reconoce-presidenta-castro/>

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

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

"The Peruvian Juan Jiménez Mayor, who heads the International Observation Mission (MIO), gave a press conference this Wednesday in which he recommended to the Nominating Board to expedite the request for information from the competent entities about the candidates for the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ)."

CESPAD calls for more transparency in the process of reviewing the knowledge tests for candidates (see yesterday).

<https://proceso.hn/mio-recomienda-a-la-junta-nominadora-agilizar-informacion-de-postulantes-ante-cnbs-y-uferco/>

<https://criterio.hn/mision-de-observacion-presenta-observaciones-y-sugerencias-al-proceso-de-nominacion-y-eleccion-de-la-csj-en-honduras/>

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

The Armed Forces confirmed the purchase of six helicopters.

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

Criterio reports on the ongoing practice of police agents extorting transiting migrants.

<https://criterio.hn/policias-siguen-extorsionando-a-migrantes-en-transito-por-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/16/ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-es-importante-para-desmontar-a-peces-gordos-de-las-estructuras-criminales-asegura-fatima-mena/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/16/con-ley-de-colaboracion-eficaz-se-desarticularan-redes-de-corrupcion-en-honduras-asegura-luis-redondo/>

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

17/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; COPINH - US; Extractivism - Escazú, Lencas; Aguán Valley; Judicial Power; Xiomara; Extortion; Public Health; and Gender Inequality at Work

"Honduras Now & @hondurassol are collecting funds for OFRANEH after Garifuna community of Punta Gorda was violently evicted. 6 community leaders go before a judge next week on Nov 23 to face charges of illegal possession of land."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1593424932783923200>

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

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1593335928159977474>

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

"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."

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

"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."

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

Radio Progreso reports that lack of political will is delaying the installation of a commission to investigate land dispossession in the Bajo Aguán.

<https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/falta-de-voluntad-politica-retrasa-instalacion-de-comision-que-investigara-despojo-de-tierras-en-el-aguan/>

Tomás Adino, member of the Nomination Board, announced that they are awaiting important background information on the candidates for the Supreme Court by the anti-corruption body UFERCO.

At the same time, some candidates denounce that some questions from the knowledge test had previously been made public to some candidates.

The International Observation Mission in another press conference proposed making public all documents of the candidates.

They further called on candidates with conflicts of interest to drop out of the race.

Lastly, they also called for the final election to be public.

Radio Progreso published an OpEd by lawyer and human rights defender Marcia Aguiluz Soto in support of the candidacy of Tirza Flores Lanza for the Supreme Court.

CESPAD, meanwhile, portrays another problematic candidate with drug trafficking ties.

<https://proceso.hn/jn-a-la-espera-de-informacion-de-uferco-pide-a-poblacion-contar-las-costillas-de-postulantes-a-csj/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/17/aspirante-a-la-csj-denuncia-que-se-filtraron-preguntas-del-examen-para-beneficiar-a-unos-pocos/>

<https://proceso.hn/presunta-filtracion-de-prueba-a-postulantes-a-magistrados-ensucia-el-proceso/>

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

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/17/diputados-con-conflictos-de-interes-deben-hacerse-a-un-lado-el-dia-de-la-eleccion-de-la-csj-sugiere-mision-internacional-de-observacion/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/observadores-internacionales-proponen-votacion-publica-en-la-eleccion-de-magistrados-y-magistradas/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/semblanza-de-una-jueza-independiente-tirza-flores-lanza/>

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

There are calls on president Xiomara to replace some of her ministers.

<https://hondudiario.com/nacionales/presidenta-xiomara-castro-convoca-a-su-gabinete-y-auguran-cambios-de-ministros/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/17/importante-que-la-presidenta-castro-pida-cuentas-a-sus-funcionarios-para-evaluar-lo-hecho-y-lo-que-no-julio-navarro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/17/son-inminentes-algunos-cambios-en-el-gabinete-de-gobierno-augura-diputado-de-libre/>

Police chief Gustavo Sánchez announced a new national plan to combat extortion.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/17/proxima-semana-policia-nacional-lanzaran-un-plan-integral-contra-la-extorsion-anuncian-autoridades/>

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.

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

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-en-honduras-siguen-siendo-excluidas-en-puestos-de-trabajo/>

18/11/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Criminalization, Amnesty; Forced Disappearance - Women; Aguán Valley; Judicial Power; Migration; Poverty; and Women as Political Mass

Human rights defender and lawyer Edy Tábora calls on Congress to repeal decree 93-2021, which is responsible for criminalizing human rights defender.

https://twitter.com/Edy_Tabora/status/1593645088193871874

COFADEH published an update on the application of the amnesty law. "More than 200 people, including human rights defenders, political exiles, peasants, students and political opponents, have benefited from the amnesty decree, including (A) government officials, (B) political opponents and students, (C) peasants and indigenous people, and (D) trade unionists."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/gracias-al-decreto-de-amnistia-mas-perseguidos-politicos-pueden-regresar-a-su-patria/>

"The Asociación Calidad de Vida (Quality of Life Association) reports that from January to August 2022, 239 women have disappeared in Honduras."

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

"Carlos Leonel George, human rights defender, in an interview with Criterio.hn, shared that the process of land recovery in the Aguán Valley is still in conflict and in the hands of landowners who illegally took possession of the land."

<https://criterio.hn/tierras-de-valle-del-aguan-siguen-en-conflictividad-en-manos-de-terratenientes-y-con-la-violencia-a-su-favor/>

Going into the weekend, there remain 105 Supreme Court candidates.

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."

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

<https://twitter.com/JNominadoraHN/status/1593765310062026757>

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

"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)."

"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."

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

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

The costs of basic goods increased by 11.3% since the beginning of the year.

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

<https://criterio.hn/derechos-de-las-mujeres-son-utilizados-como-campanas-pero-se-evita-abordarlos-y-cumplirlos/>

19/11/22

Honduras Daily: Lencas; ZEDEs; Judicial Power;

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.

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

"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."

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

Criterio takes a closer look at the Supreme Court candidates who dropped out of the election.

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

<https://criterio.hn/recuento-estadistico-de-resultados-en-la-primera-etapa-del-proceso-de-seleccion-de-magistrados-de-la-junta-nominadora/>

20/11/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Xiomara - ZEDEs; Judicial Power;

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda denounces another attempt by the MP to have her criminalized.

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

Against some expectations, the meeting between president Xiomara and her ministers was not followed up by some replacements. "In summary, Rodolfo Pastor, Minister of the Presidency, said that, "the evaluation is satisfactory, more than 66 percent. There will be no changes in the Government Cabinet"."

<https://hondudiario.com/nacionales/evaluacion-del-gobierno-fue-satisfactoria-y-no-habra-cambios-en-el-gabinete/>

One important news coming out of the meeting was the announcement of Xiomara that all documents related to the approval of the ZEDEs should be declassified.

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

In his weekly analysis, CESPAD's Gustavo Irías looks back at the newest developments with the Supreme Court election. He highlights two challenges for the Nomination Board: i) "To recover the legitimacy damaged by the situation of the revision of the exams, through the determination to undertake an independent investigation to audit the computer system used to carry out the tests, to identify the guilty parties (if any) and to ensure the necessary sanctions"; ii) "Select from a universe of candidates and candidates (which summarizes the diversity of typologies in the practice of law) the most suitable, upright and capable to found a decent, independent and fair justice system."

<https://cespad.org.hn/analisis-semanal-los-retos-de-la-junta-nominadora-que-entre-presiones-y-dudas-avanza-en-la-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-honduras/>

21/11/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Corruption - Security Tax; Judicial Power; and Governance Problems in San Pedro Sula

ARCAH filed a complaint for treason against the technical secretaries of the ZEDEs Próspera, Orquídea and Morazán.

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

The CNA published a study on corruption by the JOH regime misusing the so-called security tax. At least 16 billion Lempiras were stolen, according to the CNA.

The Security Tax was repealed under the Xiomara administration on June 15.

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

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

<https://proceso.hn/tasa-de-seguridad-fue-utilizada-para-fortalecer-finanzas-del-estado-y-gastos-lujosos-denuncia-el-cna/>

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

Tomás Andino Mencía published an OpEd in Criterio on "the first attack" against the Nomination Board. The attack in question is the alleged leak of questions to some of the candidates.

<https://criterio.hn/la-junta-nominadora-frente-al-primer-ataque-a-su-credibilidad/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/al-rojo-vivo-conflicto-entre-maximas-autoridades-de-san-pedro-sula/>

22/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; HRDs; LGBTIQ+; Judicial Power; Poverty; Extortion; and Leave Your Car at Home

Today, the initial hearing of the six criminalized Garífuna defenders from Punta Gorda.

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

COFADEH held a press conference yesterday highlighting the grave situation of three human rights defenders, Pedro Pinto, Ángel Yobany Mejía and Bernardino Pérez.

"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."

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

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

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

Reporteros de Investigación published the first installment of a report on the situation of trans people in Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/11/22/indocumentadas-en-honduras-la-realidad-de-las-personas-trans/>

María Elena Sabillon, secretary of the Nomination Board, denounces that her car was broken into in search of documents relating to the Supreme Court election.

At the same time, the 105 candidates who are still active in the process have started the socio-economic research phase.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1595103591261667328

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

<https://criterio.hn/105-autopostulantes-a-la-csj-en-investigacion-socioeconomica-en-medio-de-senalamientos-contras-el-proceso/>

Consumer protection organizations denounce that the cost of a basket of basic goods is higher than the minimum wage in Honduras.

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

According to a new study by ASJ, Honduras pay 18 billion Lempiras per year due to extortion.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/23/hondurenos-pagan-mas-de-18-mil-millones-de-lempiras-al-ano-en-extorsion-segun-estudio-de-asj/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/22/el-hoy-no-circula-entrara-en-vigencia-a-partir-del-1-de-diciembre-y-es-exclusivamente-para-empleados-publicos-senala-alcaldede-jorge-aldana/>

23/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Extractivism - Tolupán; HRDs; Corruption - JOH, IHSS; Judicial Power; Public Health; Migration - US; ENEE; Infrastructure;

"The initial hearing against six Garífuna took place in the Roatán Court, Bay Islands, in the Caribbean of Honduras, amidst a strong police presence, denounced organizations that accompanied the process."

There was no result yet on the first day and the hearing continues today.

OACNUDH is accompanying the hearing.

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

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

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1595617883454947329>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1595501788249133086>

Communities in Baracoa, Cortés, demand from the municipal administration to stop the installation of a thermic energy plant by Puente Alto Energy.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/comunidades-de-baracoa-cortes-rechazan-instalacion-de-termica-puente-alto-energy/>

MADJ denounces the illegal extraction of timber from the Tolupán community San Francisco Locomapa.

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

Defensores en Línea published two additional articles on the situation of environmental defenders (see yesterday).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-cofadeh-le-preocupa-situacion-de-los-defensores-ambientales-y-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-ataque-contra-los-defensores-del-ambiente-tienen-el-mismo-patron/>

The CNA doubled down with a second report on corruption linked to the Security Tax (see also yesterday). They denounce that the presidential airplane had been bought by the JOH regime with money from the Security Tax. His regime spent over 1 billion Lempiras.

El Libertador had already reported back in 2015 that the presidential jet had been bought with funds from the Security Tax.

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

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

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/23/mas-de-l-1077-millones-se-desembolsaron-en-el-avion-presidencial-revela-informe-del-cna/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/11/23/desde-2015-demostramos-el-libertador-jet-presidencial-se-pago-con-tason/>

"The Corruption Sentencing Court sentenced José Bertetty and Jenny Andrade Lemus to 19 and 10 years in prison, respectively, in another line of investigation for the embezzlement of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS)."

<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/>

CESPAD talked with the members of the International Observation Mission of the Supreme Court election.

They further portrayed another problematic candidate, Edwin Ortez Cruz, a Supreme Court judge wishing to be reelected, who liberated 22 accused in the Pandora corruption case.

<https://cespad.org.hn/conversamos-con-los-cuatro-expertos-de-la-mio-que-reflexiones-hacen-del-proceso-de-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-honduras/>

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

"For the eighth consecutive day, employees of the San Lorenzo Hospital held protests and again blocked the Pan-American Highway to demand payment of delayed wages."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/23/nuevamente-empleados-del-hospital-de-san-lorenzo-realizaron-protestas-y-bloquearon-la-carretera-panamericana/>

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.

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

"The dismissal of 250 employees was denounced this Wednesday by the Union of Workers of the National Electric Energy Company (STENEE), for which they will stage a sit-in at the central offices in Tegucigalpa."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/23/stenee-anuncia-el-despedido-de-250-empleados-y-un-planton-en-las-oficinas-centrales-de-tegucigalpa/>

"Through the National Program of Intervention to Productive Roads, attached to the Secretariat of Infrastructure and Transportation, SIT, two million Lempiras will be delivered to each of the 298 municipalities for the reconstruction of road sections and bridge boxes damaged by the passage of storms during 2022".

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/entre-cuestionamientos-congreso-nacional-aprueba-programa-nacional-de-intervencion-a-caminos-productivos/>

24/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; HRDs - EU; Extortion; Armed Forces; Corruption - CICIH; Judicial Power; Congress - ENEE; Migration; Forced Displacement; and Pacific Friends

The second day of the hearing against the criminalized Garífuna defenders took place yesterday.

The judge executing the eviction order called the Garífuna defenders "badly behaved" during her testimony...

The MP's role is not any better. Radio Progreso denounced the use of unlawful and disproportionate evidence.

And there are still some unanswered questions about the role of the Armed Forces during the eviction.

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.

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."

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

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1595942403357147138>

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

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

<https://criterio.hn/criminalizacion-del-pueblo-garifuna-es-parte-de-una-estrategia-de-desplazamiento/>

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

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

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

PWS published an interview with Abel Pérez, defender and president of ADEPZA. "ADEPZA is an organization that fights for the defense of the territory and the commons in the Zacate Grande Peninsula in southern Honduras. They also have a community radio station "La Voz de Zacate Grande" that has become one of the main tools of struggle for the defense of the territory."

<https://peacewatch.blog/2022/11/24/nuestra-lucha-es-justa/>

The EU, Spanish and French ambassadors met with defenders in the Aguán Valley.

<https://twitter.com/UEenHonduras/status/1595890802227658753>

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."

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".

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/24/presidenta-xiomara-castro-declara-guerra-contra-la-extorsion-y-anuncia-emergencia-nacional-en-seguridad/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-declara-guerra-a-la-extorsion-dice-presidenta-castro-y-advierde-capturar-a-delincuentes-de-cuello-blanco/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/unos-20-mil-policias-contra-la-extorsion-en-honduras-OJ11098336>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1595915728250892290>

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".

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

"The 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)."

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

"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".

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

"The plenary of the National Congress approved 23 contracts of the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE) for individual and technical consulting services, supply of goods, audits and construction of projects, with financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). As explained by the Legislative, the amount of loans for various services of the state-owned electric company is US\$360 million, which have already been acquired with the IDB."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/24/el-legislativo-aprueba-alrededor-de-23-contratos-para-modernizar-la-enee/>

In total, Congress approved loans worth \$555 million.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/24/otro-mas-a-altas-horas-de-la-noche-congreso-nacional-aprueba-555-millones-de-dolares-en-endeudamiento/>

Congress prolonged the Migratory Amnesty until June 1, 2023. This means that Honduras won't charge passing migrants a fee.

The UN greeted this decision.

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

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

<https://criterio.hn/amplian-amnistia-migratoria-hasta-junio-de-2023-pero-tomara-vigencia-hasta-ser-publicada-en-la-gaceta/>

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

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

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

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

25/11/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Violence against Women; Judicial Power - Transparency; Xiomara - State of Exception; Violence - Children; Aguán Valley; 2023 Budget; and Money, Money, Money

Good news! The charges against the Garífuna defenders from Punta Gorda were dropped.

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.

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

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

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1596303863992438784>

"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."

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

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

The Nomination Board pushed back against the attempt by the Notary Union to have the requisites for the Supreme Court candidates lowered (see yesterday).

At the same time, CESPAD criticizes the following: "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."

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

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

There are more comparisons with president Xiomara's announcement of a state of exception to fight extortion and the situation in El Salvador.

In a first step, the police announced such a state of exception in 60 neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/25/xiomara-castro-emula-a-nayib-bukele-al-anunciar-estados-de-excepcion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/25/policia-aplicara-estado-de-excepcion-en-60-colonias-de-tegucigalpa-y-sps/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/11/25/urgente-desde-manana-120-colonias-tendran-toque-de-queda/>

"According to data from Casa Alianza, 189 violent deaths and arbitrary executions of children and young people under 23 years of age have been registered so far in the term of President Xiomara Castro. The situation of violence, forced displacement and migration faced by minors is, according to experts, a call to urgently implement public policies that guarantee the rights of children."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/25/asesinato-de-jeremy-zuniga-retrata-el-abandono-estatal-a-lainez-hondurena/>

"The Agrarian Platform of Aguan and COPA pronounce themselves on the recovery carried out by the Cooperativa Campesina El Chile of the agrarian reform lands, which were seized and usurped by the DINANT corporation."

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1596146124980506624>

Some things never change: "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."

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

Criterio has more on the three loans recently approved by Congress (see yesterday).

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

26/11/22

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Extortion - Congress; Costa Rica;

Just a day after the positive outcome of the criminalization case of the Punta Gorda Garífuna defenders (see yesterday), OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda was detained and intimidated on her way back from Punta Gorda.

<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>

"After the announcement of the strategy from the Presidential House [see previous two days], Redondo reacted to say that, from the National Congress, they are ready to support whatever the Executive Power and the National Police require to legislate in favor of this fight to dismantle the networks dedicated to crime."

There is also an ongoing debate about the necessity to declare a state of emergency to fight extortion.

<https://proceso.hn/lucha-contra-la-extorsion-necesita-el-acompanamiento-de-este-congreso-luis-redondo/>

<https://criterio.hn/era-necesario-decretar-emergencia-nacional-ante-la-extorsion/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/analisis-semanal-el-plan-antiextorsion-del-gobierno-hondureno-y-los-riesgos-para-las-libertades-democraticas/>

The Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica and Honduras met to discuss migration and the protection of the environment.

<https://proceso.hn/cancilleres-de-honduras-y-costa-rica-se-reunen-para-hablar-de-migracion-y-medio-ambiente/>

27/11/22

Honduras Daily: Aguán Valley; Xiomara - HR, Militarization; Migration;

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.

Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque deplored the decision of the judge to order an eviction without taking into account the rights of the campesinos.

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

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

"There is a growing global and regional experience of misuse of states of exception, which are used for the concentration of power, the normalization of human rights or the relaxation of administrative controls against corruption, said this Sunday, November 27, 2022, the Human Rights Roundtable in relation to the announcement of President Xiomara Castro to declare a state of exception in

Honduras to address the situation of insecurity, and especially the increase in extortion. (...) The Human Rights Roundtable demonstrated that in the face of the situation of insecurity experienced by the Honduran population, comprehensive security policies were generated with the participation of all sectors and the decision to adopt a state of exception was reviewed under the parameters indicated above."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/contexto-honduras/126-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-en-contra-de-los-estados-de-excepcion-y-recomienda-politicas-de-seguridad-integrales-con-la-participacion-de-todos-los-sectores>

"More 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"."

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/honduras-refuerza-fronteras-policias-militares-combatir-pandilleros-2022-11-27>

"Data from the Consular and Migratory Observatory of Honduras (Connigho), show that a total of 80,855 Honduran migrants have been deported from Mexico, the United States, Europe and Central America so far this year."

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

28/11/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Assassinations; Forced Disappearance; Xiomara - Electoral Reforms, CICIH; Femicides; Organized Crime; Armed Forces; and the Ever Important Work of COFADEH

"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."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/nueve-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-han-sido-asesinados-en-2022/>

COFADEH invites to a forum on Forced Disappearance for tomorrow. "In this context, the event will include the participation of international experts from several Latin American countries who will address issues such as transitional justice, national memory archives and their importance for transitional justice, challenges regarding forced disappearances in the region and new alliances for the human rights movement, among others."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-40-anos-de-lucha-cofadeh-desarrollara-foro-internacional-sobre-la-desaparicion-forzada/>

One year ago, president Xiomara was elected.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/28/xiomara-castro-cumple-un-ano-de-ser-electa-como-presidenta-de-honduras/>

On the occasion of the one-year anniversary of the elections, UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford reminded Honduras that electoral reforms are urgent to strengthen sustainable development, human rights and peace.

"The director of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) Luis Leon said that there is a consensus in all the benches that electoral reforms must be made."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/28/reformas-electorales-son-urgentes-para-fortalecer-desarrollo-sostenible-ddhh-y-paz-senala-representante-de-onu/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/28/destacan-consenso-entre-bancadas-para-reformas-electorales/>

"The trip of a high-level government delegation to New York, which will meet with representatives of the United Nations (UN), once again raises expectations regarding the eventual installation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity (CICI) in Honduras."

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."

<https://criterio.hn/viaje-de-comitiva-del-gobierno-a-la-onu-reactiva-esperanzas-para-firma-de-memorando-de-la-cicih/>

<https://proceso.hn/mision-hondurena-viaja-a-eeuu-para-concretar-llegada-de-mision-anticorrupcion/>

<https://twitter.com/SenatorLeahy/status/1597324277035909120>

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-on-the-urgent-necessity-of-independent-justice-in-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/senador-patrick-leahy-urge-firma-del-convenio-que-de-vida-a-la-cici-en-honduras/>

"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."

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

The MP detained the mayor of San Marcos, Santa Bárbara, Pedro Armando Aguilar Orellana. He is accused of links to organized crimes and drug trafficking. He is further linked to the murder of 4 people.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/detencion-judicial-para-alcalde-de-san-marcos-santa-barbara/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/11/28/capturan-al-alcalde-de-san-marcos-acusado-de-asesinato-y-asociacion-para-delinquir/>

"The expert in human rights and constitutional law, Joaquín Mejía, qualified as "despicable" the use of the military in evictions by the Public Prosecutor's Office. For this reason, he considers 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 Public Prosecutor's Office."

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

COFADEH will commemorate its 40th anniversary tomorrow.

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

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

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-inicia-actividades-en-el-marco-de-su-40-aniversario/>

29/11/22

Honduras Daily: COPINH; MADJ; Corruption - CICIH, Congress; Forced Disappearance; Extortion; Labor Rights; and a Hospital Workers Strike

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

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1597735997139456001>

MADJ sent out an alert that Wilmer Domínguez started illegal timber extraction from the Ocotal community from the indigenous Tolupán tribe San Francisco Locomapa.

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

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1597709684911517696>

A Honduran delegation traveled to the UN headquarters yesterday to discuss the CICIH (see yesterday). Its members spoke to the press before their departure.

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.

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.

The installation of the CICIH still faces some challenges, especially laws still in place from the JOH-era. CESPAD presents one of them, the decree 57-2020. It prevents the MP from seizing and confiscating documents of persons involved in corruption cases

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/29/delegacion-hondurena-viaja-a-eeuu-para-concretar-la-comision-anticorrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/11/29/edmundoo-orellana-cicoh-viene-sin-limitaciones-a-juzgar-casos-del-pasado-presente-y-futuro/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-quiere-una-cicoh-apartada-del-mp-con-independencia-en-la-accion-penal-rix-moncada/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/57-2020-el-decreto-que-impide-al-ministerio-publico-el-comiso-y-secuestro-de-documentos-de-personas-involucradas-en-casos-de-corrupcion/>

"The designated Court of Appeals rescheduled until December 1 the resolution of the notification hearing in the Congressional Network case (...). This case involves several former congressmen such as Augusto Cruz Asensio, Héctor Enrique Padilla Hernández, Audelia Rodríguez Rodríguez, Eleazar Alexander Juárez Saravia and Dennis Antonio Sánchez Fernández."

<https://proceso.hn/reprograman-resolucion-de-audiencia-de-notificacion-del-caso-red-de-diputados/>

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford welcomes the law on Forced Displacement Congress started to discuss yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1597698681213693952>

"The 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 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."

According to CONAETL, there is no national registry yet on active SIM cards in Honduras.

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

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/11/29/gobierno-comparte-nuevo-mecanismo-para-venta-de-chips-y-billetera-en-linea/>

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

The Honduran Women Collective (Codemuh) demands the respect of their human and labor rights in respect to their situation in the Maquila sector.

<https://criterio.hn/Cuentas/exigen-a-secretaria-del-trabajo-cumplir-codigo-laboral-y-la-constitucion-ante-atropellos-de-maquiladoras/>

"Doctors informed that the national healthcare system will be paralyzed this Tuesday -November 29- and will only attend emergency areas. This is due to the fact that they did not receive a favorable response from the government authorities to their requests, after the Medical College of Honduras (CMH) held a protest on Monday -November 28- outside the government house."

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

30/11/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; Indigenous Peoples - Evictions; Corruption - Pandora, COPECO; Fuel Prices; CABEI; Elections; 2023 Budget; and Not a Country for Migrating Women

The Expert Mission accompanying the Berta Cáceres case will hold a press conference today in front of the Supreme Court to discuss the delay in the Gualcarque Fraud Case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1597996396288028673>

"On Friday, November 25, Judge Allan Urbina, of the Court of Letters of Roatán, issued a final dismissal for the six defenders of the Garífuna ancestral land of Punta Gorda accused of the crime of usurpation. At the national level, this resolution marks a milestone in the legal interpretation of land conflicts involving indigenous populations. But there is still a long way to go for the Honduran State to guarantee the rights of the Garífuna people. The hearing shed light on irregularities and racism on the part of the authorities."

"Lawyer Edy Tábora pointed out as important the decision to suspend the eviction of the "Tierras del Padre", in the south of the capital of Honduras. However, he clarified that this decision does not solve the judicial harassment nor the possibility of a new eviction being ordered in the future."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/30/fallo-en-caso-de-punta-gorda-genera-jurisprudencia-sobre-tierras-ancestrales/>

<https://criterio.hn/Cuentas/desalojos-de-tierras-indigenas-en-honduras-desnudan-ausencia-de-protocolos-e-investigacion-interinstitucional/>

A judge ordered the seizure of financial products and assets of illicit origin in the Pandora corruption case.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/01/juzgado-ordena-el-aseguramiento-de-los-productos-financieros-y-bienes-de-origen-ilicito-en-caso-pandora/>

Three former COPECO officials, among them its former director, and a businessman will go to trial for corruption during the pandemic.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contra-de-exministro-de-copeco-otros-funcionarios-y-empresario/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/01/auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contra-de-exministro-de-copeco-otros-funcionarios-y-empresario/>

Hondurans paid over 70% more for fuel this year than in 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-pago-mas-de-2-077-millones-de-dolares-por-combustibles-en-9-meses/>

In the first year of the Xiomara administration, Honduras received almost \$2.6 billion from CABEL.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-aprobo-2590-millones-de-dolares-a-desembolsar-durante-gobierno-de-xiomara/>

"Some 1,748 candidates from the last elections will be sanctioned because they have not presented their campaign expense reports, among them two congressmen and 15 elected mayors, informed on Wednesday the commissioner of the Financing, Transparency and Fiscalization Unit (Clean Politics), German Espinal."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/01/unidad-de-politica-limpia-anuncia-sancion-para-1748-candidatos-por-no-presentar-informe-de-gastos-de-campana/>

ContraCorriente takes a critical look at the 2023 budget.

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/11/30/el-pais-quebrado-que-acudira-a-mas-deuda-para-financiar-su-presupuesto/>

<https://radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/suplicio-en-el-paraiso-relatos-de-una-violenta-pesadilla-para-las-mujeres-migrantes-que-llegan-a-honduras/>