

01/12/22

Honduras Daily: Berta - Gualcarque; MADJ; Corruption - CICIH, Congress; EU; IDB; Judicial Power; Poverty; and 40-Years COFADEH

"The national and international organizations that make up the Qualified Observation Mission in the Berta Cáceres Case, call on the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice to promptly decide the consultation on the amparo action that suspends the oral trial in the process for corruption in the concession of the Gualcarque River."

<https://www.observacionbertacaceres.org/post/honduras-retraso-judicial-vulnera-acceso-a-la-justicia-en-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque>

<https://criterio.hn/retraso-judicial-impide-justicia-en-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

MADJ continues to denounce the illegal extraction of timber from the Ocotal community, part of the indigenous Tolupán tribe San Francisco Locomapa.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1598423218775261185>

Alice H. Shackelford, UN Permanent Resident Coordinator, commented on the current CICIH talks. "Alice Shackelford, resident representative of the United Nations (UN) in Honduras, was consulted this Thursday on the conditions that would be placed on the negotiating table with the government and considers that talks should continue until there is an understanding between the parties (...) Shackelford, stressed that there is a commitment by the Honduran president, Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, to install an international commission, therefore we expect updates on the dialogue on the agreement that could not be carried out that both sectors maintain in New York, United States (USA)."

<https://proceso.hn/es-condicion-derogar-decreto-de-amnistia-para-venga-la-ciclh-es-importante-dialogar-responde-delegada-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

"The Specialized Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO) was notified of the resolution of the Designated Court of Appeals confirming the formal indictment against seven persons named in the "Red de Diputados" case, who allegedly illegally appropriated public funds destined for social projects that were diverted for personal use."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/confirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-los-siete-implicados-en-el-caso-red-de-diputados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/01/revocan-medida-de-arresto-domiciliario-a-imputados-en-caso-red-de-diputados/>

"Honduras and the European Union (EU) signed on Thursday two agreements for 19.4 million dollars to fight climate change, strengthen institutions and public diplomacy in the Central American country, informed a diplomatic source."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-y-ue-firman-dos-acuerdos-de-cooperacion-por-19-5-millones-de-dolares/>

"The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved on Thursday two loans for Honduras totaling US\$125.9 million that will help strengthen the social protection system and increase customs collection."

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-aprueba-dos-prestamos-para-honduras-por-1259-millones-de-dolares/>

"The secretary of the Nominating Board María Elena Sabillón informed that a commission has been appointed to investigate the alleged leak of knowledge exam questions." (see last week)

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/01/junta-nominadora-nombrara-comision-para-investigar-la-filtracion-de-examen/>

"In a press conference, the head of the Secretariat of Economic Development (SDE), Pedro Barquero, announced that the price of at least 40 products of the basic food basket will be stabilized due to the increase as of the second week of October 2022."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/02/gobierno-determina-estabilizar-el-precio-de-40-productos-de-la-canasta-basica/>

COFADEH celebrated its 40th anniversary.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/40-anos-del-cofاده/>

02/12/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power - Guapinol; Xiomara - Women's Rights; Education; Transparency; Corruption - Copeco; Labor Unions; and a Book fair for Honduras

"Although it is outside the process of selection of magistrates, the appeal filed by lawyer Luis Miguel Lara Hernandez, keeps the residents of Tocoa uneasy. This is because Lara Hernandez was the private lawyer of the Emco Holding Group, in charge of criminalizing seven of the eight defenders of Guapinol, who remained in preventive detention for more than 900 days, most of which was under isolation from the outside world due to the covid pandemic. (...) The lawyer Luis Miguel Lara Hernandez is one of the list of applicants who failed the legal knowledge exam with a score of 74%, when he should have passed with 75%. Curiously, the lawyer linked to Inversiones Los Pinares and Grupo Emco Holding obtained his exequatur two months before the beginning of the application period."

<https://criterio.hn/abogado-de-minera-los-pinares-podria-colarse-luego-de-interponer-recurso-de-amparo-tras-salir-aplazado/>

Jeff Ernst reports for the Guardian on the hopes of women's rights organizations in Honduras for the Xiomara administration and their disappointments. "'I believe that at some point [Castro] will possibly fulfil some of the things, but the reality is that 20% of her term has already passed, and at least in terms of reproductive rights we do not see any substantive change in women's lives up to now.'" The Guardian spoke with 10 activists in Honduras, nearly all of whom expressed a similar sentiment. Their main grievance was the failure to fulfil a campaign promise to legalise emergency contraceptives without restrictions."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/02/xiomara-castro-honduras-womens-rights-activists>

"Different human rights organizations have been requesting for years that the country's education sector include in its textbooks inclusive language and teaching for girls and boys, however, this request has not gained momentum."

<https://criterio.hn/secretaria-de-educacion-descarta-el-uso-de-textos-sobre-equidad-de-genero-en-centros-educativos/>

"Almost all governments in the world have used the law on official secrets in an abusive manner, restricting people's right to access information. The recent repeal of this law in Honduras is described as a positive step taken by the country. But, has all the information been completely declassified? No. There are still several traps and walls that prevent true transparency in the access to information."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/2032-la-trampas-o-muros-que-quedan-tras-la-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-secretos>

An Appeals Court sided with both the former Copeco director Gabriel Rubí and former Health deputy Minister Nery Cerrato and dropped their charges for corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/02/dictan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-extitular-de-copeco-gabriel-rubi-y-para-exsecretario-de-salud-nerly-cerrato-por-la-compra-de-sala-de-aislamiento/>

"The central labor unions have issued a communiqué in the last few hours confirming that they will mobilize nationwide next Monday due to a failure to comply with the minimum wage readjustment."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/02/centrales-obreras-anuncian-movilizaciones-para-el-proximo-lunes-a-nivel-nacional/>

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<https://criterio.hn/criterio-presente-en-la-primera-feria-internacional-del-libro-con-el-comic-prisioneros-por-el-agua/>

03/12/22

Honduras Daily: Corruption - CICIH, Health Sector, Impunity; Extortion; Journalists; Drug Trafficking;

"Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina informed this Saturday that the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations (UN) to set up the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) is ready."

While some very welcome news, this past week the discussion about the CICIH mostly concentrated on its financing, should it come from the government or international donors.

<https://proceso.hn/memorandum-de-entendimiento-de-la-ciclh-esta-listo-garantiza-canciller-reina/>

<https://criterio.hn/estira-y-encoge-entre-gobierno-y-onu-sobre-instalacion-de-la-ciclh-radica-en-dos-puntos-clave/>

PSH Congressman Carlo Umaña intends to tackle corruption at hospitals with a new bill. "Our proposal is to remove from the administrators the power to buy medicines, because they have made a mess and turned the hospitals into a piñata of corruption", he declared. (...) "The hospitals have been considered a gold mine by the administrators. That is why hospital purchases should be centralized while the public servant career is created", he assured."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/03/piden-quitar-facultad-de-compra-a-administradores-hospitalarios-para-evitar-ilicitos/>

Friday's court ruling to drop the charges against two corrupt officials of the JOH regime (see yesterday and first link below) highlighted once more that impunity is still a huge problem in Honduras.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/12/03/cuando-la-ley-desprecia-la-vida-libres-funcionarios-de-joh-juzgados-por-muertes-covid/>

<https://criterio.hn/impunidad-para-corruptos-de-la-pandemia-vuelve-a-evidenciar-un-sistema-de-injusticia/>

Radio Progreso continues to critically cover the plans by the Xiomara administration to fight extortion. "For public security analyst Mirna Flores, the "Integral Plan for the Treatment of Extortion and Related Crimes" is a reactive and hasty measure because, in addition to limiting freedoms, "it is stigmatizing poverty". Flores adds that extortion is not only a problem of gangs: "I find an infinity of actors that do not live in those neighborhoods, they live in the middle class sectors, on the other hand, those who are going to be invaded with military forces and National Police are the most vulnerable neighborhoods that should be attended with social policies"."

The Xiomara administration, meanwhile, announced a curfew (from 6pm onward) for 30 days starting on Tuesday in various parts of Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/estado-de-excepcion-discrimina-y-estigmatiza-la-pobreza-en-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/gobierno-decretara-estado-de-excepcion-parcial-a-partir-del-proximo-martes/>

C-Libre denounces that a substitute member of Congress is threatening journalists in Valle with law suits.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1559-diputado-suplente-amenaza-con-querrellar-a-periodistas-de-valle>

"This Saturday a National Police source confirmed to Proceso Digital the capture of former Honduran congressman Midence Oquelí Martínez Turcios in the department of Colón, Caribbean of Honduras. (...) In July 2018, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York announced charges against former Honduran liberal congressman Midence Oquelí Martínez Turcios, accused of conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, as well as weapons-related crimes involving the use and possession of machine guns and destructive devices."

<https://proceso.hn/detenido-exdiputado-midence-oqueli-pedido-en-extradicion-por-eeuu/>

05/12/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; HRDs; Garífunas; Extortion; Corruption - CICIH; UNAH; Poverty; Labor Rights; Electoral Reforms; and Justice for Post-Electoral Violence Victims

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the November 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](mailto:foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net)

[https://honduras-forum.ch/?smd\\_process\\_download=1&download\\_id=46168](https://honduras-forum.ch/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=46168)

"The National Front of Popular Resistance, FNRP, denounced through a public statement this December 5, 2022, that the journalist and human rights defender Alba Lopez, suffered a criminal attempt on her life on December 3, 2022, and demands that the entities in charge conduct an investigation into the facts. López is a member of this space in the Central District and in the department of Francisco Morazán of the FNRP and was run over by an unknown vehicle that fled, and according to social networks she suffered blows to her face for which she had to undergo surgery at the Hospital Escuela of the capital, where she is still in the process of recovery."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/130-fnrp-denuncia-atentado-criminal-contra-periodista-y-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-alba-lopez>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage (FEP-ETNIAS/PC) recently conducted an inspection in Cayos Cochinos to investigate alleged environmental damage. Specifically in the smaller cay, prosecutors and investigators accompanied by leaders of the indigenous peoples of Nueva Armenia and Sambo Creek, went to the cays to inspect the environmental damage that has allegedly been caused. The investigations are carried out as a result of a complaint filed by the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH) before this Special Prosecutor's Office, where they denounced that they observed smoke screens in

the vicinity of the smaller key. The archipelago called Cayos Cochinos was declared a Natural Marine Monument in 2013."

<https://proceso.hn/fiscalia-de-las-etnias-y-patrimonio-cultural-investiga-danos-ambientales-en-cayos-cochinos/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1599833520125677568>

Today, the state of exception was implemented in 162 neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.

"Security Minister Ramón Antonio Sabillón argued that the state of emergency is aimed at suspending the rights of members of criminal groups, not those of honest people who are dedicated to working and doing good (...) He asked not to compare the measures taken by Honduras with what is currently happening in El Salvador, where President Nayib Bukele has declared "war" on the maras and gangs. "The objectives are similar, but there are some differences, especially because of the legal system there," he reinforced."

The Ministry of Security further claims that the residents of the affected neighborhoods will not require a safe-conduct for free circulation.

At the same time, there is also more reporting on how the state of exception is criminalizing poverty.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/12/05/feliz-navidad-vea-si-en-su-colonia-hay-estado-de-sitio/>

<https://proceso.hn/inicia-estado-de-excepcion-parcial-con-miras-a-contener-criminalidad/>

<https://proceso.hn/policia-nacional-confirma-que-personas-residentes-en-colonias-bajo-estado-de-excepcion-no-requeriran-salvoconducto/>

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/monitoreo/129-segun-decreto-de-estado-de-excepcion-aprobado-por-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-la-policia-tendra-poderes-extraordinarios-para-determinar-a-quien-detiene>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/05/las-medidas-de-excepcion-dan-mas-poder-a-los-que-actuan-al-margen-de-la-ley-y-coloca-en-alto-riesgo-a-poblacion-indefensa-padre-ismael-moreno/>

<https://criterio.hn/suspension-de-garantias-constitucionales-afectara-a-los-barrios-mas-pobres/>

After the announcement by Foreign Minister Enrique Reina that the memorandum of understanding will be signed soon, he reiterated that the Xiomara administration will keep its electoral promise to bring the CICIH to Honduras.

At the same time, Reina also announced that president Xiomara will travel to the UN to discuss the installation of the CICIH.

CESPAD lays out the further steps needed after the signature of the memorandum of understanding until the CICIH could start its work in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/texto-sobre-la-cicih-esta-finiquitado-faltan-temas-especificos-con-secretario-de-onu-dice-canciller/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1599979206066442240>

<https://cespad.org.hn/negociaciones-en-nueva-york-entre-funcionarios-hondurenos-y-la-onu-marcen-el-primer-paso-formal-hacia-la-instalacion-de-la-cicih/>

"Six of the members of the current Board of Directors of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) are seeking reelection in a process that has been described by students and teachers as "illegal and illegitimate". At the same time, there has been an increase in reports of political violence, harassment and bullying against women within the student body. Given the lack of consensus, the possibility of a larger scale crisis for the control of the UNAH seems ever closer."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/12/05/irregularidades-marcen-los-dos-intentos-de-eleccion-de-autoridades-de-la-unah/>

The private business lobby COHEP is not amused about the decision by the Xiomara administration to freeze the prices of 40 basic goods.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/05/cohep-pide-al-gobierno-derogar-decreto-que-congela-productos-de-canasta-basica/>

"The main cities of Honduras were paralyzed on Monday due to protests by public sector workers, who are demanding a salary readjustment, improvements to their working conditions and respect for their rights."



<https://criterio.hn/demandas-salariales-de-empleados-publicos-provocan-caos-en-calles-de-honduras/>

Congress will start discussing the possibility of a two-round presidential election on December 15.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/05/a-partir-del-15-de-diciembre-se-preve-discutir-segunda-vuelta-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

"Human rights organizations, which are part of the Coalition Against Impunity, held a commemorative act in the López Arellano sector of the municipality of Choloma, Cortés, in northern Honduras, demanding justice for 33 fatalities resulting from the repression by public security forces during the post-electoral fraud protests of 2017."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/justicia-exigen-para-victimas-mortales-de-fraude-electoral-de-2017/>

06/12/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - EU; Guapinol; Extortion - Militarization; Labor Rights; Corruption - Water; and Protect Domestic Workers

The EU and France, Germany and Spain awarded the "Europe Prize for Human Rights 2022" to human rights defender María Felicita López. She is the coordinator of MILPAH.

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/06/la-union-europea-otorga-el-premio-europa-de-ddhh-en-honduras-a-la-defensora-maria-felicita-lopez/>

Criterio denounces that the Honduran Geological and Mining Institute (Inhgeomin) is going after them for an article on Inhgeomin's failure to cancel the Guapinol concession.

<https://twitter.com/criteriohn/status/1599902020055474186>

COPINH published a press release denounced the implementation of the state of exception. "A state of exception in the hands of the National Police and the Armed Forces of Honduras, fundamental axes of the coup and the JOH regime, and which have not been reformed or refounded, grants more power to institutions that have demonstrated their capture by mafia and criminal structures and that puts the protection and security of the Honduran people at risk. The fight against insecurity must involve dismantling the finances of criminal groups that pass through the national banks, as well as their links with landowners and power groups, as well as with the State security forces themselves."

Jeff Ernst published an article on the subject in The Guardian.

OACNUDH called on the Xiomara administration to adopt comprehensive responses to combat violence and crime based on a human rights approach.

<https://copinh.org/2022/12/copinh-rechaza-estado-de-excepcion-por-parte-de-ejercito-y-policia/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/06/honduras-partially-suspends-constitutional-rights-extortion>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-a-adoptar-respuestas-integrales-de-combate-a-la-violencia-y-criminalidad-organizada-a-partir-de-un-enfoque-de-derechos-humanos/>

Linked to this, CESPAD published a report on the increasing budget for security forces and the lack of a demilitarization strategy.

<https://cespad.org.hn/mayor-presupuesto-y-poder-para-los-militares-en-el-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-y-la-apuesta-a-la-desmilitarizacion-y-de-politicas-no-mano-dura/>

Protests by labor union continued yesterday.

"The Secretary of the Presidency, Rodolfo Pastor, assured that the government of the President, Xiomara Castro, maintains its disposition to dialogue with the labor unions in order to find a solution to their demands for salary increases."

<https://hondudiario.com/nacionales/centrales-obreras-y-personal-de-salud-siguen-en-paro-y-protestas-en-todo-el-pais/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/06/pastor-asegura-que-el-gobierno-esta-disposicion-de-continuar-el-dialogo-con-centrales-obreras/>

In another corruption case involving former public officials, the charges were dropped against them (see previous days).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/07/dictan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-tres-exfuncionarios-de-la-extinta-soptravi/>

"The Alternativa de Reivindicación Comunitaria y Ambientalista de Honduras (ARCAH) filed a criminal complaint with the Public Prosecutor's Office against the former mayor of the Honduran capital, Nasry Juan Asfura Zablah. The organization accuses the former mayor of the capital of allegedly committing the crimes of usurpation of functions, negotiations incompatible with the exercise of public functions, abuse of authority and violation of the duties of public officials. ARCAH's coordinator, Christopher Castillo, told Criterio.hn that these actions would have occurred in the context of the privatization of water in the Honduran capital, with the contracting of the transnational Hidalgo e Hidalgo for the construction of dams on the San José and Jacaleapa rivers in the western zone of the Central District, and the Jiniguare river in the municipality of Ojojona."

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-a-exalcalde-asfura-por-usurpacion-de-funciones-y-abuso-de-autoridad-en-licitacion-de-represas/>

"Two years after the Domestic Workers Network filed two partial appeals of unconstitutionality before the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), the organization urged the Constitutional Chamber to rule in favor of decent work and a fair salary."

<https://criterio.hn/urgen-a-corte-hondurena-reconocer-y-proteger-derechos-laborales-de-trabajadoras-domesticas/>

07/12/22

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Hydroelectricity, LGBTIQ+; Petrol; Military Police; Congress; Corruption - Congress, Impunity; Municipalities; and Influential Women

This Saturday, a new documentary on the struggles around the Jilamito River will be aired in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1600620338844409857>

"One of the most recent hate crimes that caused shock among national and international human rights organizations is that of Thalía Rodríguez, a human rights defender and transgender leader, viciously murdered on January 10, 2022 in the Honduran capital. After 10 months of the transfemicide, the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP), obtained a conviction against Aarón Jeriel Álvarez Pavón, responsible for the murder of Thalía. Also for the attempted murder to the detriment of the protected witness."

<https://criterio.hn/transfemicidio-de-thalia-rodriguez-comienza-a-hacer-justicia-uno-de-sus-asesinos-declarado-culpable/>

"For now, the progress of the Additional Exploration Period, within which - according to the oil concession contract - an exploration and exploitation well would have to be drilled in the Miskito Cays of Honduras, is unknown. Erick Tejada, Minister of Energy, argues that violating this contract could result in lawsuits with damages for the State, even though the project began to be executed without carrying out a free and informed prior consultation with the native peoples living in this area of the Moskitia."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/12/07/concesion-petrolera-en-la-mosquitia-de-honduras-avanza-sin-transparencia-ni-consulta/>

A court suspended the hearing against Military Police member Josué Noé Alvarado Girón accused of murdering Marvin Rolando Alvarado Santiago in 2020.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-justicia-no-llega-para-marvin-alvarado-asesinado-por-la-pmop/>

Criterio criticizes the current Congress for not rolling back a controversial reform from the JOH-era. "The National Party made the reforms in the twilight of the 2021 legislation, when the presidency of Congress was up in the air and there was a dispute between Luis Redondo and Jorge Cáliz. The latter was the candidate for which the Nationalists were opting. But their calculation failed them and they handed a power on a silver platter to Luis Redondo, who today is reluctant to give up the "dictatorship" he received."

<https://criterio.hn/redondo-se-resiste-a-revertir-ley-organica-del-congreso-heredada-por-el-partido-nacional-que-le-da-poderes-absoluto>

"The Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), presents the first report of the monitoring of the Anti-Corruption Agenda of the National Congress, a document that aims to analyze the progress, setbacks and challenges in the fight against corruption and impunity, and offer recommendations to contribute to the dismantling of criminal networks that have permeated the State of Honduras[1]."

<https://cespad.org.hn/el-cumplimiento-de-la-agenda-estrategica-legislativa-2022-2025-para-enfrentar-la-corrupcion-y-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

The MP challenges the ruling in the case of the two former JOH-officials Gabriel Alfredo Rubí Paredes and Nery Conrado Cerrato Ramírez who had their corruption charges dropped (see last week).

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-presenta-recurso-contracartas-de-libertad-otorgadas-a-exfuncionarios-gabriel-rubi-y-nery-cerrato/>

"Carlos Zelaya, Secretary of the National Congress (CN), confirmed this Wednesday that as of 2023, transfers to municipalities will be increased to 7% of the General Revenue Budget of the Republic."

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-aumentara-transferencias-municipales-en-2-a-partir-del-2023-en-honduras/>

On BBC's list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2022, we can find the Honduran activist Sandy Cabrera Arteaga. "Philosophy student, writer and feminist activist, Sandy Cabrera Arteaga is a defender of sexual and reproductive rights. She teaches workshops about the morning-after pill and is a spokesperson for 'Hablemos lo que es' (Let's talk about what it is) - an educational campaign and digital platform about emergency contraception. She also works for Acción Joven (Youth Action) which focuses on young people's human, sexual and reproductive rights. She is fluent in Honduran sign language and, as the only daughter of a single mother who is deaf, she is proud of her inclusive upbringing."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-75af095e-21f7-41b0-9c5f-a96a5e0615c1>

08/12/22

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; Tolupán; Corruption - CICIH; Judicial Power; Spain; 2023 Budget;

Defenders from Guapinol sent out an alert. "We alert to the monitoring and surveillance in vehicles without license plates by armed groups linked to the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares of recognized defenders of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa and the communities of Guapinol and Sector San Pedro who have been intercepted to threaten them with "eliminating one by one since they do not let them work peacefully"; at the same time expressing names with whom they were going to start."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/alerta-urgente-ante-ola-de-amenazas-de-muerte-vigilancia-y-campa%C3%B1as-de-estigmatizaci%C3%B3n-en-l%C3%A1nea>

Criterio reports on the situation of the Tolupán tribe of San Francisco de Locomapa and their resistance to mining and timber operations.

<https://criterio.hn/tribu-tolupan-asediada-por-industrias-minera-y-madereras-ante-un-estado-rehen-de-la-corrupcion/>

Foreign Minister Enrique Reina clarified that president Xiomara does not travel to New York to the UN to sign the memorandum of understanding for the installation of the CICIH (see some days ago).

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-castro-no-va-a-eeuu-a-firmar-memorandum-sobre-la-cicoh-aclara-canciller-reina/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidenta-no-va-eeuu-firmar-cicoh-aclara-canciller-reina/>

CESPAD published a report on the current state of the Supreme Court election. "In this sense, this first monitoring report focuses on the selection of the magistrates that will make up the Supreme Court of Justice that will serve between 2023 and 2030. This document is based on the main events that have taken place since the approval of the new Law of the Nominating Board, until the events of November."

<https://cespad.org.hn/la-eleccion-de-las-y-los-magistrados-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-2023-2030-avances-y-obstaculos/>

"Spain has in the process of being approved two loans for Honduras that will be destined to the areas of health and rural development, said Thursday the ambassador of the European country in Tegucigalpa, Diego Nuño García. One loan for US\$70 million is for the construction of hospitals, while the other for US\$35 million is for rural development projects to be invested in the Central American country's so-called dry corridor, the Spanish diplomat told EFE."

<https://proceso.hn/en-proceso-2-prestamos-de-espana-a-honduras-para-desarrollo-rural-y-salud/>

Congress will vote on the 2023 budget in the coming days after the Budget and Finance Commission has finished meeting with representatives of the main political parties.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-se-apresta-a-aprobar-el-presupuesto-2023/>

09/12/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Journalists; State of Exception; Labor Rights; Corruption - OABI; Gender Violence; Supreme Court; BCIE; and No Christmas Bonus

"The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, expressed via Twitter her concern about the reports received from Honduras indicating that the investigation against the coordinator of the Black Honduran Fraternal Organization (Ofraneh), Miriam Miranda, and the lawyer of the Justice for the Peoples Law Firm, Edy Tábora, is still open."

<https://criterio.hn/llaman-a-presidenta-de-honduras-a-garantizar-integridad-fisica-de-defensores-del-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1600888040896876545>

"Serious death threats against journalist Gilda Silvestrucci and her minor daughter were made on her social networks and through phone calls by unknown persons after she published satires and journalistic criticism of former President Juan Orlando Hernández."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1560-mp-debe-retomar-denuncia-por-acoso-contra-periodista-hondurena>

After days of criticism regarding the implemented state of exception (see previous days), the Ministry of Security claims that human rights will be respected.

<https://proceso.hn/secretaria-de-seguridad-asegura-que-se-respetan-ddhh-durante-estado-de-excepcion/>

"Human rights defenders on Friday described as "discriminatory" and "abusive" the attitude of some Honduran businessmen who, in violation of the law, demand medical tests for HIV/AIDS from people seeking employment in the country."

<https://proceso.hn/califican-de-discriminacion-exigir-prueba-de-vih-en-honduras-para-un-empleo/>

"The director of the Administrative Office of Seized Assets (OABI), Jorge Gonzáles, announced that he has proposed to the Government the liquidation of this institution. According to Gonzáles, this decision has been taken due to the economic damage of more than one billion lempiras caused by past administrations. In this sense, he expressed that "the corresponding authorities have to deduct the responsibilities that the case deserves". He added that the situation of OABI is unsustainable and it should be liquidated."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/09/director-de-oabi-plantea-liquidar-esa-oficina-por-perjuicio-multimillonario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/una-pinata-con-irregularidades-revento-en-la-oabi/>

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford welcomes the protocol to attend victims of s. violence signed by the Minister of Health, José Manuel Matheu Amaya. This will lead to, although only partial, reintroduction of the emergency contraceptive pill.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1601350665963380737>

"The selection process of the new Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras is "on the verge" of entering the stages of challenges and complaints, and public hearings. Society hopes that these stages and their results will become the differentiating elements of the current process and that they will allow, in the end, the selection of a new Supreme Court isolated from political influence and accusations of corruption."

<https://cespad.org.hn/tachas-denuncias-y-entrevistas-publicas-etapas-que-siguen-en-la-seleccion-de-aspirantes-a-magistrados-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

"The president of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Dante Mossi, announced that next year it will make available US\$80 million to invest in the Dry Corridor."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/09/bcie-anuncia-que-pondra-a-disposicion-80-millones-de-dolares-para-invertir-en-el-corredor-seco/>

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<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/09/jamas-vamos-a-dar-un-bono-navideno-a-los-diputados-afirma-redondo/>

11/12/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; CNTC; Corruption - CICIH; Supreme Court; and JOH's Horses OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda denounces a racial hate campaign against the San Juan Garífuna community in Tela with the purpose of dismissing an important case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1601656401373593600>

CNTC sent out an alert denouncing an eviction of a campesino community without the showing of any eviction order.



<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1601620460361617408>

As announced, president Xiomara made her way to the UN headquarters yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/12/presidenta-castro-viaja-a-la-onu-para-concretar-la-llegada-de-una-mision-anticorrupcion-a-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-busca-un-acuerdo-con-la-onu-para-no-fracasar-como-la-macch-y-la-cicig-luis-redondo/>

"The Nominating Board for Candidates to the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) unanimously approved the protocol to address the challenges and complaints of the legal professionals that will make up the next list of candidates to integrate the Judiciary of Honduras. The extensive document disclosed by the Nominating Board that analyzes the profiles of more than 100 lawyers and notaries, is responsible for establishing rights but also obligations for the candidates to integrate the new Judiciary for the next seven years 2023 - 2030."

At the same time, the International Observation Mission (MIO) urged the Nomination Board to publish the files of all the candidates.

<https://proceso.hn/junta-nominadora-aprueba-protocolo-para-atender-denuncia-y-tacha-a-postulantes-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/mision-internacional-urge-a-junta-nominadora-publicar-expedientes-de-candidaturas-a-csj/>

<https://proceso.hn/mio-urge-a-junta-nominadora-inmediata-publicacion-de-expedientes-de-candidaturas-a-csj/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/analisis-semanal-en-eleccion-de-la-nueva-csj-una-junta-nominadora-bajo-presion-de-los-grupos-tradicionales-y-deudas-con-la-ciudadania/>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/09/hermano-de-diputado-de-libre-adquirio-los-caballos-del-expresidente-hernandez-por-casi-un-millon-de-lempiras/>

12/12/22

Honduras Daily: Femicides; LGBTIQ+; Extractivism - ZEDEs, FoE; Journalists; OFRANEH; Judicial Power; Health Sector; Energy Sector;

According to OACNUDH, at least 252 women were murdered in Honduras as of October. The number rose to 273 in November according to UNAH's Violence Observatory.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/12/onu-registra-252-mujeres-muertas-de-manera-violenta-en-honduras-en-2022/>

OACNUDH further documented 41 murders of people from the LGBTIQ+ community.

"Since early hours of this Monday, different organizations of the trans community presented themselves in front of the Presidential House to demand President Xiomara Castro to receive them in her office and at the same time demand the fulfillment of campaign promises. In the public position of the trans organizations of Honduras, they demand the State to comply with international recommendations on human rights and compliance with the judgment of the case of Vicky Hernandez and others versus the State of Honduras towards the recognition of the gender identity of trans people."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/12/onu-registra-252-mujeres-muertas-de-manera-violenta-en-honduras-en-2022/>

<https://criterio.hn/frente-a-casa-presidencial-comunidad-trans-exige-cumplimiento-de-promesas-de-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

According to Economic Development Minister Pedro Banquero, the Xiomara administration has not come to an agreement with ZEDE Próspera. He further explained that the government is willing to reach an agreement with them to avoid international arbitration.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/12/zede-prospera-y-gobierno-aun-sin-acuerdo-confirma-pedro-barquero/>

"The journalists of Criterio.hn filed a complaint on Monday with the National Commissioner of Human Rights of Honduras (Conadeh) for violations by the State against freedom of the press, freedom of expression and violation of journalistic equipment. The complaint arises from two attacks carried out this year from State institutions, including the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (Inhgeomin), the Secretariat of Human Rights and the Secretariat of Press." (see last week for the incident with Inhgeomin)

<https://criterio.hn/criterio-hn-presenta-queja-ante-conadeh-por-violaciones-del-estado/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/amenazas/1562-en-cuatro-meses-se-registra-un-segundo-ataque-a-un-solo-periodico-digital-en-honduras-inhgeomin>

"The journalist and human rights defender, Dina Meza, publicly denounced on her social networks the surveillance and monitoring of her and her family by alleged members of the National Police."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1564-periodista-dina-meza-denuncia-vigilancia-de-su-vivienda>

"The "Wagueira Lee" camp of the Garífuna community is located in the Roatán area of Honduras. It is a community recovery of ancestral lands that is part of the process of cultural survival and defense of the Garífuna territories against the advance of the destruction of nature and life. Interview with Miriam Miranda, Human Rights Defender and leader of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (OFRANEH)."

<https://www.biodiversidadla.org/Agencia-de-Noticias-Biodiversidadla/Miriam-Miranda-Estamos-construyendo-autonomia-y-autogestion-comunitaria-frente-al-capitalismo-voraz-que-destruye-la-naturaleza>

According to the Nomination Board, the applications of the Supreme Court candidates are accessible at the online portal of the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) (see yesterday).

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/12/junta-nominadora-anuncia-que-expediente-de-candidatos-a-magistrados-son-publicos/>

"Helga Codina, president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), said Monday that a productive dialogue is needed to resolve the health crisis in the country. (...) "What we want are improvements to the healthcare system, there are 14 points that we demand and eight of them are to improve and provide better care to the population"".

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/12/un-dialogo-productivo-demanda-el-colegio-medico-de-honduras-para-solventar-la-crisis-sanitaria/>

CABEI approved \$760.5 million for the Honduran energy sector between 2015 and 2021. The total estimated cost is over \$5.2 billion.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/12/bcie-estima-una-inversion-de-5253-millones-en-el-sector-electrico-del-pais/>

13/12/22

Honduras Daily; COPINH; ZEDEs; Xiomara - HR; Migration - Economy; State of Exception; Transparency; and Leo and Honduras

COPINH denounced an attempted assassination of COPINH member Nery Alexander Gonzalez from Achiotal, Siguatepeque. "Last Sunday night Nery was attacked by an unknown person, receiving a bullet in the head while entering his house. Nery is one of the leaders of the Achiotal community, who are in the process of recovering land for the planting of food crops."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1602759041050091521>

"In the midst of threats of millionaire lawsuits, speculation and increased advertising by investors in private cities, known in Honduras under the repealed figure of Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), civil society organizations urged citizens and other sectors to reaffirm their rejection of these."

<https://criterio.hn/exhortan-a-ciudadania-municipalidades-y-organizaciones-a-reafirmar-rechazo-contra-las-zede/>

"[T]he Human Rights Roundtable of Honduras spoke out in front of the Presidential House and expressed its concern about the various events and other issues in Honduras concerning the exercise of human rights."

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-de-ddhh-se-pronuncia-por-derechos-de-grupos-ancestrales-y-defensores-del-territorio/>

Jeff Ernst reports for The Guardian on the economic impact of transit migration in Central America.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/dec/13/central-america-migration-transformation-honduras-guatemala-nicaragua>

"The Minister of Security, Ramón Sabillón, indicated that extortion in the country has decreased by 40 percent since the implementation of the state of exception on December 6."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/13/secretaria-de-seguridad-extorsion-disminuyo-un-40-desde-inicio-de-estado-de-excepcion/>

"For reasons of national security, the contracting of air and land transportation, surveys, studies and communication of the Presidential House will be done through direct purchase, according to an executive decree approved by the Council of Ministers last March and published in the official newspaper La Gaceta on November 17 of this year."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/13/en-secretividad-alimentacion-transporte-y-comunicaciones-de-la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-por-seguridad-nacional/>

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<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/12/13/leonardo-dicaprio-felicita-proteccion-ambiental-del-gobierno-castro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/14/leonardo-dicaprio-felicita-al-gobierno-de-honduras-por-proteccion-de-reservas/>

14/12/22

Honduras Daily: Garífunas - US; WHRDs; Corruption - CICIH; Xiomara - Transparency; Agriculture - Women; CABEI; and a Fire Arms Reform

"Representatives Cori Bush (MO-01), Ilhan Omar (MN-05), Jesus "Chuy" García (IL-04), Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), and Jamaal Bowman Ed.D. (NY-16) introduced a resolution that affirms the rights of the Afro-Indigenous Garífuna people in Honduras. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have determined that the Garífuna community's rights have repeatedly been violated by the Honduran government, yet little has changed regarding their treatment. This resolution condemns the violence toward the Garífuna people while calling for accountability from the Honduran government and other international institutions for their role in these abuses. The lawmakers worked closely with partner organizations and the Garífuna community to author this resolution following a March 2021 congressional delegation trip to Honduras."

<https://bush.house.gov/media/press-releases/representatives-bush-omar-garcia-schakowsky-and-bowman-introduce-resolution-to-affirm-rights-of-honduras-garifuna-people>

The National Women Human Rights Defender Network documented 1466 attacks against women human rights defender in 2021 and the first six months of 2022.

<https://ellibertador.hn/2022/12/14/casi-1500-agresiones-a-defensoras-sociales-entre-2021-y-2022/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11-n2AyGtzrLqzf2S5DlnxR4Rbiuj5Twy/view>

There are good news from New York. "The Honduran Government and the United Nations (UN) have finally reached an agreement and have agreed to sign this Thursday the Memorandum of Understanding that will initiate the procedures prior to the installation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)."

Meanwhile in Honduras, congresswoman Fátima Mena presented an initiative to reform the Code of Criminal Procedure to grant the CICIH the status of private prosecutor.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-y-la-onu-logran-acuerdo-y-este-jueves-firmaran-memorando-de-entendimiento-de-la-cicih/>

[https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1603184420353347584](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1603184420353347584)

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/14/presentan-proyecto-de-ley-para-otorgar-figura-de-acusador-privado-a-la-cicih/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/presentan-reforma-para-que-la-cicih-sea-acusador-privado/>

The discussion about direct purchases from the Xiomara administration has taken up steam (see previous days and first link below). The Secretariat for Transparency and Fight against Corruption demanded the elimination of three articles in the 2023 budget which would allow for direct purchases.

<https://criterio.hn/casa-presidencial-legaliza-opacidad-de-informacion-relacionada-con-sus-adquisiciones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/14/secretaria-de-transparencia-solicita-eliminar-articulos-que-permiten-compras-directas-en-el-presupuesto-general/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/14/siempre-nos-opusimos-a-que-funcionarios-realicen-compras-directas-eso-no-es-correcto-senala-titular-de-transparencia/>

"With a salary of less than 2,000 lempiras, more than 135,000 women in Honduras work in agriculture, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE). For Wendy Cruz, coordinator of Via Campesina, these thousands of women remain in disadvantaged conditions, reaching the point of exclusion and inequality."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/14/miles-de-mujeres-campesinas-en-honduras-viven-en-situacion-precaria-por-la-falta-de-atencion-gubernamental/>

"The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) disbursed US\$250 million to the government of Honduras as part of the Development Policy Operations Program (OPD) in Support of Strengthening the Energy Sector and Climate Action."

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-desembolsa-250-millones-al-gobierno-para-impulsar-al-sector-energetico-y-la-accion-climatica/>

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<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/15/congreso-nacional-aprueba-reformas-a-la-nueva-ley-de-control-armas-de-fuego/>

15/12/22

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Gualcarque; Tolupán; Political Prisoners; ZEDEs; Corruption - CICIH; Supreme Court; Drug Trafficking - Extradition; Electoral Reforms; Poverty; and the Direct Purchase Controversy

The Constitutional Chamber confirmed an appeal in favor of COPINH and the Río Blanco community in the Gualcarque Fraud case. The Corruption Sentencing Court must reconvene hearings and finalize the trial in the case to guarantee the rights of the indigenous community of Río Blanco.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1603517924412629007>

"The Prosecutor's Office of Ethnic Groups has filed two prosecutorial requests for the crime of illegal exploitation of forest products to the detriment of the environment and the Ojo de Agua and Lagunitas Tolupana tribe in Yoro."

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1603441475207204864>

Political prisoners Edwin Espinal and Raúl Álvarez were meant to hear the full, written judicial decision yesterday absolving them of all charges related to 2017 electoral crisis. But for the second time, the Attorney General successfully canceled the hearing. Honduras Now denounces: "How long do Edwin & Raul have to wait for their case to be closed? Meanwhile, they can't leave the country & have to sign at courthouse every 2 weeks despite being absolved over a year ago".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1603618132920340483>

ZEDE Próspera continues to threaten the State of Honduras with an international lawsuit.

<https://criterio.hn/zede-prospera-declina-demanda-y-anuncia-arbitraje-contr-el-estado-de-honduras/>

<https://proceso.hn/zede-prospera-anuncia-que-procedera-a-buscar-arbitraje-internacional/>

The Xiomara administration and the UN signed the memorandum of understanding for the installation of the CICIH.

Later during the day, the administration published the contents of the document. The installation will take place in two phases. During the first phase, various legal reforms will be needed. The finance of the CICIH will be discussed in the second phase.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1603509195126497280>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-hondureno-y-onu-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-de-mision-anticorrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/16/memorandum-de-entendimiento-para-el-establecimiento-de-una-cicih-imparcial-e-independiente-en-honduras-documento/>

<https://criterio.hn/memorando-cicih-primera-fase-pide-reformas-legales-financiamiento-se-establecera-en-segunda-fase/>



The International Observation Mission of the Supreme Court election held a press conference yesterday presenting their report "Process for the Election of Judges of the Supreme Court of Honduras: Initial Stage of Selection by the Nominating Board".

"According to the report, "a special request for information should be made to the Specialized Prosecutorial Unit against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), in order to ensure that, with the information obtained, a proper evaluation of the requirements of integrity, professional ethics and suitability for the position of all applicants can be developed"."

CESPAD, meanwhile, sent out an alert warning that the Nomination Board had decided to discuss in a behind closed doors the information on the applicants provided by the Revenue Administration Service (SAR) and the National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS).

<https://criterio.hn/mio-honduras-llama-a-diputados-que-tienen-cuentas-pendientes-con-la-justicia-a-no-votar-por-la-nueva-csj/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/mio-honduras-reconoce-trabajo-de-jn-y-demanda-evaluar-con-rigor-tachas-y-denuncias-contra-autopostulantes/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/alerta-junta-nominadora-decide-analizar-informacion-de-postulantes-a-puertas-cerradas/>

Honduran security forces seized 7 tons of cocaine this year, 10 less than in 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-incauta-siete-toneladas-de-cocaina-este-ano-10-menos-que-en-2021/>

The Supreme Court of Justice confirmed that the extradition process for the ex-mayor of Yoro, Arnaldo Urbina Soto, has begun, a former JOH-ally.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/15/dictan-sobreseimiento-para-exalcalde-de-yoro-arnaldo-urbina-en-caso-de-lavado-de-activos-e-inician-proceso-de-extradicion/>

"The plenary of magistrates of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) delivered this Thursday to the National Congress the draft of the Electoral Procedural Law."

<https://proceso.hn/tje-remite-al-cn-borrador-de-ley-procesal-electoral/>

"After the Honduran government fixed since the beginning of the month the price of 40 products of the basic food basket, the population still does not receive the benefit, denounced today the president of the Association for the Defense of the Basic Food Basket of Honduras (Adecabah), Adalid Irías. The defender of consumer rights said that the price freeze is not being respected, which should be at the value quoted in fairs, markets, supermarkets and grocery stores on October 7."

<https://proceso.hn/poblacion-aun-sin-recibir-beneficios-de-congelamiento-de-precios-de-canasta-basica/>

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<https://contracorriente.red/2022/12/15/polemica-por-pcm-sobre-contrataciones-sin-licitacion-se-extiende-al-congreso-nacional/>

16/12/22

Honduras Daily: Tolupán; COPINH - Gualcarque; ZEDEs; Judicial Power; and the State of Exception

CEJIL published a press release denouncing the violence and threats against the Tolupán in Honduras.

<https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/amenazas-y-violencia-en-contra-de-la-tribu-tolupan-de-san-francisco-de-locomapa-se-recrudescen-ante-la-instalacion-de-empresa-minera/>

The Qualified Observation Mission on the Berta Cáceres Case welcomes the resolution by the Constitutional Chamber on the Gualcarque Fraud case (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/MisionCaso/status/1603746768029507585>

"Pedro Barquero, head of the Secretariat of Economic Development (SDE), said Friday that they have no fear that the Employment and Economic Development Zone (ZEDE), Prospera de Roatán, will opt to go to international arbitration to sue the State of Honduras." (see yesterday)

<https://proceso.hn/no-tememos-ir-a-un-arbitraje-internacional-por-las-zede-dice-ministro-hondureno-de-economia/>

101 out of the 105 Supreme Court candidates made it to the next round. This round will start on Monday and conclude on December 27.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/16/junta-nominadora-excluye-del-proceso-a-cuatro-aspirantes-a-magistrados-101-continuan-a-la-fase-de-tachas-y-denuncias/>

<https://criterio.hn/tras-fase-de-investigacion-solo-101-postulantes-siguen-activos-en-carrera-para-la-csj/>

"Human rights organizations and members of civil society have expressed their constant concern and rejection of the recent state of emergency imposed in the territory in recent days, however, government authorities plan to extend it."

<https://criterio.hn/pese-al-rechazo-del-estado-de-excepcion-gobierno-pretende-extenderlo/>

17/12/22

Honduras Daily: Tolupeán - Mining; Health Sector; Agriculture; and Happy Birthday Radio Progreso

Criterio reports on the recent case presented to the IACHR on the situation of the Tolupeán tribe San Francisco de Locomapa (see previous days).

<https://criterio.hn/instalacion-de-minera-recrudece-violencia-contr-tribu-tolupan-denuncian-ante-la-cidh/>

"The representatives of the different health professional unions held a meeting this Saturday with the president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo. The aforementioned would be looking for the head of the Legislative to be an intermediary before President Xiomara Castro in order to solve the problems in the health sector, given the breakdown of negotiations with the Minister of Health, José Manuel Matheu."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/18/titular-del-legislativo-sostuvo-reunion-con-gremio-medico-para-buscar-soluciones-en-mejora-del-sistema-sanitario-del-pais/>

"The National Agrarian Institute (INA) promotes a permanent dialogue with the sectors involved to solve the problem of land occupations, said today the deputy director Rafael Alegria."

<https://proceso.hn/ina-ahora-promueve-dialogo-permanente-para-resolver-ocupaciones-de-tierras-segun-subdirector-alegria/>

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<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1604272888391127041>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1604181117065650176>

19/12/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Agriculture; Corruption - CICIH; Health Sector; 2023 Budget; Violence; Drug Trafficking; Supreme Court; and the Christmas Bonus Controversy - Part 2

"Created as a regulatory body for the repealed Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE), the Committee for the Adoption of Best Practices (CAMP) remains shrouded in mystery, especially as to who is or was a member of it."

<https://criterio.hn/velo-de-misterio-continua-envolviendo-a-miembros-del-camp-ente-regulador-de-las-derogadas-zede/>

"On November 17, 2021, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) declared unconstitutional the Law for the Protection of Plant Varieties, better known as the "Monsanto Law". Peasant organizations fought for ten years against this legislation that not only threatened the free cultivation of native and creole species in Honduras and obeyed a billionaire food industry, but also threatened the ancestral knowledge of native peoples who are increasingly facing droughts, floods and other effects derived from the climate crisis."

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/12/19/la-resiliencia-de-un-pueblo-que-estuvo-a-punto-de-perder-sus-semillas/>

CESPAD dedicates its weekly analysis to the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the UN to install the CICIH.

"The phased approach to the implementation of this process obliges Honduran institutions to commit to a reform agenda. In the final Memorandum, the commitments are the following:

Reforms to the regulatory framework governing the crime of illicit enrichment and money laundering.

Abrogation of Decree 116-2019 that limits the functions of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Amendments to the normative regulations of the National Banking and Insurance Commission, and others that allow the lifting of secrecy concerning the situation of money laundering and trusts.

The approval of the necessary instruments for the establishment of the figure of effective collaboration and those instruments that are necessary for the independent exercise of the public criminal action.

These reforms are key in the efforts to dismantle the model of macro corruption inherited from the previous regime, and the National Congress is the political center of gravity to ensure these actions, to the extent that these reforms are a responsibility of the legislative branch. This situation poses the enormous challenge for the governing party to deploy the maximum political talent to build the necessary correlations of forces to make this agenda of changes in the national legislation effective. (...) In the various instruments exchanged between the UN and the Castro administration, civil society organizations and social movements have been largely absent, as there has been no mention of their role in this process."

Regarding money laundering, there could be some progress soon. "The president commissioner of the National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS), Marcio Sierra, said Monday that money laundering occurs in all countries of the world, but that they are trying to combat it, that is why they are reviewing the reforms to the Money Laundering Law that "protects former officials who have fled the country"."

<https://cespad.org.hn/analisis-semanal-honduras-ya-se-firmo-el-memorandum-de-entendimiento-hacia-la-instalacion-de-la-cicih-y-ahora-que-sigue/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/20/cnbs-revisa-las-reformas-a-la-ley-de-lavado-de-activos-que-protege-a-exfuncionarios/>

Health workers plan to continue with their strike actions. "They pointed out that the authorities have not complied with the requirements of the medical profession, such as increasing the budget of the Ministry of Health to 6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or 12% of the General Budget."

<https://proceso.hn/colegio-medico-pide-a-galenos-continuar-en-asambleas-informativas-al-no-tener-respuestas-a-sus-exigencias/>

FOSDEH published a critical analysis of the 2023 budget.

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/reflexiones-de-la-politica-fiscal-en-honduras-desde-el-presupuesto-general-2023/>

The homicide rate in Honduras has decreased either to 29.32% (according to police statistics) or to 37.4% (according to UNAH's Violence Observatory).

<https://proceso.hn/bajan-homicidios-con-diferencia-de-8-puntos-entre-policia-y-ov-unah/>

"The Technical Secretariat of the Nominating Board has so far received five complaints against candidates to the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ)."

<https://proceso.hn/junta-nominadora-recibe-cinco-denuncias-contras-aspirantes-a-la-csj/>

"Recent statements by Colombian President Gustavo Petro, which highlight the drug trafficking and organized crime situation in Honduras, have sparked discontent in some sectors of society. Gustavo Petro, who is close to President Xiomara Castro, stated during the Assembly of Cocalero Organizations of Catatumbo, in the Colombian department of Norte de Santander, that cocaine money stays in other countries, including Honduras, and that this has caused a fall in the Colombian peso (Colombia's national currency)."

<https://criterio.hn/que-postura-debe-asumir-el-gobierno-hondureno-ante-recientes-declaraciones-de-gustavo-petro/>

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[https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1605003768193581057](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1605003768193581057)

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1605001509019664385>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-de-luis-redondo-replica-practicas-que-fomentan-el-clientelismo-politico/>

<https://proceso.hn/diputados-del-psh-nacionalistas-y-liberales-rechazan-bono-navideno-libre-unico-en-recibirlo/>

20/12/22

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; Corruption - CICIH; Militarization; Christmas Bonus; Debt; 2023 Budget; and PEN visits Honduras

ZEDE Próspera filed claims with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). According to them, the repeal of the ZEDEs law would lose them up to \$10.7 billion...

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/20/zede-prospera-insiste-en-demandar-al-estado-hondureno-por-mas-de-10-mil-millones-de-dolares/>

<https://proceso.hn/prospera-presenta-demanda-por-10775-millones-de-dolares-contr-a-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

"There is political will in the party forces represented in the legislative hemicycle to approve constitutional reforms that will allow the installation of the International Commission Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras, CICIH, said in Radio Progreso the deputy Ramón Barrios, President of the Legislation and Constitutional Affairs Committee."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/demandan-aprobar-reformas-para-instalar-la-cicih/>

"In May 2022, Honduran President Xiomara Castro announced the creation of three green battalions "to protect protected areas and forest reserves, combat drug trafficking, stop illegal logging, fishing and mining. Also to provide security to the inhabitants". While it is necessary to urgently address the socio-environmental conflicts whose origin lies in the indiscriminate concession of extractive projects - by state institutions - in areas of biological wealth, it is also true that the military has been the armed wing of extractive interests (...) After the announcement last week of the installation of the Third Green Environmental Protection Battalion in Pinalejo, Santa Barbara, defenders of the commons from the Twitter account Libertad para el río Guapinol responded: "Enough of militarizing our communities! Protect and support communities defending their territories and water for the common good. For the recovery and protection of natural resources, cancel mining projects in Carlos Escaleras National Park"."

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-del-territorio-rechazan-militarizacion-de-proteccion-del-medio-ambiente/>

The Christmas Bonus saga (see previous e-mails) took another turn with Xiomara joining in prohibiting the use of public funds for bonuses.

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1605321095074168832>

<https://proceso.hn/prohibo-se-utilicen-fondos-del-estado-en-celebraciones-regalos-o-bonos-presidenta-xiomara-castro/>

"Honduras' public debt as of October stood at 8,939.7 million dollars, 2.7% less than in the same period of the previous year, according to data published Tuesday by the Central Bank (BCH)."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/21/deuda-publica-hondurena-baja-27-a-octubre-hasta-8939-millones-de-dolares/>

The 2023 budget has still not been approved by Congress.

<https://proceso.hn/presupuesto-sigue-sin-aprobarse-no-alcanzan-consenso/>

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<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/monitoreo/133-pen-international-llego-a-honduras-a-documentar-agresiones-contra-periodistas-2>

21/12/22

Honduras Daily: CICIH - US; ZEDEs; Judicial Power; Migration - HR, Int. Displacement, US; Organized Crime; Remittances; Armed Forces -HR; Migration; and Violent Night in Congress

US Senator Patrick Leahy published a press release on the CICIH. "President Xiomara Castro traveled to New York to personally oversee the negotiation and signing, which was a strong signal to the Honduran people and the international community of the importance she places on her campaign promise to establish a CICIH. I commend her for doing so. As encouraging as the new MOU is, however, it is not a binding legal document and therefore cannot be used to install a CICIH in Honduras. Only a Convenio signed by President Castro and the UN Secretary General can accomplish that. So the focus should now turn promptly to negotiations for a Convenio to prevent any further delays in making the CICIH a reality."

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-by-us-senator-patrick-leahy-d-vt-and-senate-president-pro-tempore-on-corruption-and-impunity-in-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/senador-patrick-leahy-sera-necesario-un-convenio-firmado-para-hacer-realidad-la-cicih/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/senado-insta-xiomara-castro-firmar-convenio-vida-cicih-FM11485990>



Officials and Libre representatives reacted to the legal complaint filed by ZEDE Próspera (see previous e-mails).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/21/honduras-prospera-no-tuvo-ninguna-intencion-de-negociar-nos-defenderemos-ministro-pedro-barquero/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/21/tome-desestima-cualquier-temor-por-multimillonaria-demanda-que-busca-interponer-prospera/>

This week, the Nomination Board started to receive complaints against the remaining Supreme Court candidates.

By yesterday, they received 28 complaints.

"Today, the Municipal Committee filed public complaints against 3 candidates seeking a position on the new Supreme Court (SC) before the SC Nominating Board. All 3 are current judges that ruled to prolong the illegal detention of the 8 Guapinol water defenders".

<https://contracorriente.red/2022/12/21/honduras-inicia-etapa-de-tachas-y-denuncias-contra-aspirantes-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/21/mayoria-de-tachas-y-denuncias-recibidas-no-tienen-fundamento-y-se-basan-en-chismes-revela-junta-nominadora/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1605763590341828608>

OACNUDH published a info bulletin on the human rights of Mexican and Central American migrants.

<https://oacnudh.hn/boletin-trimestral-no-4-los-derechos-humanos-de-las-personas-migrantes-en-mexico-y-america-central-sept-dic-2022/>

Congress approved the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons.

[https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1605755747454705664](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1605755747454705664)

"The US supreme court on Monday said Covid-era restrictions at the US-Mexico border that were set to end on Wednesday should stay in place, at least temporarily, as a Republican legal challenge moves forward. The development came just as the White House had been attempting to prepare for an increase in the number of migrant crossings, even as some border cities were struggling to cope with undocumented people arriving and being obliged to sleep on the streets in freezing weather, especially El Paso in west Texas in recent months."

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/dec/19/us-supreme-court-blocks-title-42-migration-border-policy>

Security Minister Ramón Sabillón spoke to Proceso Digital and "revealed that there are negotiations - not concrete - with criminals and drug traffickers who are analyzing turning themselves in to justice".

<https://proceso.hn/criminales-analizan-entregarse-hay-intermediarios-confiesa-titular-de-seguridad/>

"Honduras received 7,933.2 million dollars from its nationals abroad between January and November 2022, an increase of 18.9% over the same period in 2021, the Central Bank (BCH)".

<https://proceso.hn/las-remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-acumulan-alza-de-189-de-enero-a-noviembre/>

The Armed Forces claim that they have not received one human rights complaints this year...

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/21/fuerzas-armadas-cierran-el-ano-sin-denuncias-de-violacion-a-los-dd-hh/>

Almost 92'000 Hondurans have been deported this year, 29.2% more than in 2021.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/21/deportacion-de-migrantes-hondurenos-se-eleva-un-292-en-2022-hasta-91951/>

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<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/diputados-nacionalistas-libre-golpes-congreso-honduras-EM11486714>

22/12/22

Honduras Daily: Aguán Valley; Internal Displacement; State of Exception; Supreme Court; 2023 Budget;

Journalist Jared Olson sent out an alert. "Mauricio Esquivel, a member of the Tranvío farm cooperative, challenging land with the Dinant Corporation in Honduras' Aguán Valley, was murdered last night. He left for the town of Quebrada de Arena, and his body was dumped, death squad style, on the road this morning."

<https://twitter.com/jolson321/status/1605964170779844610>

The approval of the Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (see previous e-mail) has been widely welcomed.

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/12/63a487e44/unhcr-welcomes-new-legislation-address-internal-displacement-honduras.html>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1605853139130667008>

<https://www.icrc.org/es/document/honduras-ley-de-desplazamiento-es-un-hito-en-la-proteccion-de-las-personas-desplazadas>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-ya-cuenta-con-ley-de-proteccion-a-personas-desplazadas/>

Congress ratified yesterday the state of exception established through the executive decree 029-2022.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/22/congreso-nacional-ratifica-decreto-sobre-estado-de-excepcion-en-san-pedro-sula-y-distrito-central/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/22/el-legislativo-ratifica-decreto-de-estado-de-excepcion-para-combatir-maras-y-pandillas/>

The number of complaints against Supreme Court candidates rose to 34.

Congress' president Luis Redondo recently made some controversial comments on the election process. "The recent ambiguous statements issued by the president of the National Congress, Luis

Redondo, regarding the election of the new Supreme Court of Justice have raised doubts. At the beginning of the week, the head of the Legislative assured that he has profiled all the notaries of the country and that, as a result of this, he has designed a system of objections parallel to the one approved by the Nominating Board. (...) "I will wait for the Nominating Board to send the best ones and then, in the National Congress, I will make my own objections, in order to avoid the arrival of people who are linked to acts that should not have representatives in the highest magistracies of justice", he declared, days ago, in a television forum."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/22/mas-de-34-denuncias-contras-aspirantes-a-magistrados-ha-recibido-la-nominadora/>

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-tachas-contra-postulantes-a-la-csj-que-habrian-violentado-dd-hh-de-defensores-del-ambiente/>

<https://criterio.hn/que-tanto-poder-tendra-luis-redondo-sobre-la-nomina-de-45-candidatos-a-la-csj/>

Congress has still not yet come to an agreement regarding the 2023 budget. They will try again on January 3.

This could mean that for some time, the administration would continue working with the 2022 budget.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/hasta-el-3-de-enero-se-aprobara-el-presupuesto-general-2023/>

<https://criterio.hn/oficialismo-en-el-congreso-no-descarta-trabajar-en-2023-con-actual-presupuesto-de-ingresos-y-egresos/>

23/12/22

Honduras Daily: LGBTIQ+; Judicial Power; Organized Crime; Drug Trafficking; CABEI; LGBTIQ+ organization SOMOS-CDC denounced cyber attacks against them.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/136-ataques-ciberneticos-contra-somos-cdc-dejo-fuera-del-aire-por-varios-dias-la-cuenta-de-facebook-de-esta-organizacion>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published a report profiling the Supreme Court candidates. They found that 47 of them have been involved in irregular acts or were linked to corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/cna-perfila-a-49-aspirantes-a-la-csj-con-hallazgos-importantes/>

"The Citizens' Roundtable, in a communiqué entitled Insecurity, Extortion and Government Action, points out that state action should not be limited to the capture of alleged extortionists because the initiative would be incomplete. In the control of extortion it is necessary to confront gangs and organized crime, but it is also necessary to dismantle the network of complicity that exists in police, military, banking and community institutions, says the communiqué."

<https://criterio.hn/para-atacar-la-extorsion-tambien-debe-desarticularse-red-de-complicidad-de-militares-policias-y-bancos-mesa-ciudadana/>

"The Honduran national, Herlinda Ramos Bobadilla, extradited to the United States in July of this year, pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges in a Virginia court."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/hondurena-herlinda-bobadilla-declara-culpable-narcotrafico-virginia-estados-unidos-clan-drogas-GF11500699>

"The executive president of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Dante Mossi, expressed that this financial institution has a very active portfolio for Honduras in the coming year, in addition to closing 2022 with a budgetary support for the Government of US\$350 million and the financing of projects to the private sector."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/23/titular-del-bcie-anuncia-cartera-muy-activa-para-honduras-durante-el-2023/>

26/12/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; ZEDEs: Aguán Valley;

The Nomination Board has received 48 complaints in total about the remaining Supreme Court candidates.

<https://proceso.hn/un-total-de-38-denuncias-ha-recibido-la-jn-contra-aspirantes-a-la-csj/>

With ZEDE Próspera trying to bring the State of Honduras to court (see last week), ZEDE Ciudad Morazán also reappeared in the headlines claiming that they petitioned the Xiomara administration to have their legal state changed from a ZEDE to a "Residential Free Zone (ZOLI)".

<https://proceso.hn/ciudad-morazan-se-queja-de-no-tener-respuesta-de-gobierno-a-propuesta-para-implementacion-de-una-zoli/>

Radio Progreso published an article on the situation in the Aguán. "The agreement that the peasants, businessmen and government signed last April 22, to seek a peaceful solution to the situation of violence, threats and harassment caused by the agrarian crisis in the department of Colón, has reached an impasse. For the social organizations of Aguán, the current administration does not want to move forward with the agreement to investigate the murders and human rights violations that have been committed in the unjust distribution of land, because it has been the businessmen in collusion with the military and police who have been responsible for such acts."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/familias-facusse-morales-y-canales-siguen-generando-conflictividad-agraria-en-el-aguan/>

27/12/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power - Asfury; Femicides; Economy; Poverty; Extortion;

There is still time to present complaints against the the Supreme Court candidates. "Three candidates for the Supreme Court are relatives of Mario Cálix's (MC), an accused drug trafficker by US justice department. Erika Yolanda Cálix Hernández is MC's sister, Carlos Roberto Cálix Hernández is MC's cousin & Aida Estela Romero Reyes is MC's sister-in-law."

The Coalition against Impunity also presented 16 complaints against 13 candidates. "Kenia Oliva, lawyer of Bufete de Justicia para los Pueblos and member of the Coalición contra la Impunidad, explained that the complaints and accusations respond to lack of suitability, competence and diligence, and lack of judicial independence in the resolutions in cases involving magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, sentencing judges or magistrates of courts of appeals throughout the country."

CESPAD portrayed one of the problematic candidates, Marco Tulio Barahona Valle.

The total number of complaints received by the Nomination Board reached 84.

The board will present their final list of 45 candidates on January 17.

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1607777777352167424>

<https://criterio.hn/magistrados-de-la-csj-y-funcionarios-judiciales-predominan-entre-aspirantes-tachados-por-la-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/marco-tulio-barahona-valle-exmagistrado-ligado-a-los-grupos-de-poder-que-busca-reelegirse-en-la-corte-suprema/>

<https://proceso.hn/con-cerca-de-un-centenar-de-denuncias-cierra-penultima-etapa-de-aspirantes-a-magistrados/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/27/el-17-de-enero-la-junta-nominadora-entregara-al-cn-el-listado-final-de-postulantes-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

The need for new judges was again made apparent by a recent ruling. "The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) granted by unanimous vote on Monday an injunction in favor of the former mayor of the Central District, Nasry 'Tito' Asfura, for investigation of the Specialized Prosecutor Unit Against Corruption Networks (Uferco) against him for alleged corruption. (... ) With the result of the ruling, the Uferco is prevented from promoting the criminal action it intended".

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/27/sala-constitucional-de-la-csj-otorga-amparo-a-excalde-de-tegucigalpa-nasry-asfura-y-frena-antejuicio-en-su-contra/>

300 femicides have been documented so far this year with a shocking impunity rate of 95%.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/27/onu-registra-cerca-de-300-mujeres-muertas-de-manera-violenta-en-honduras-en-2022/>

Foreign Direct Investment grew over 65% in the third trimester of 2022.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/28/inversion-extranjera-en-honduras-crecio-65-6-al-tercer-trimestre-de-2022/>

Remittances sent to Honduras reached a new record high with over \$8.3 billion.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/27/honduras-cerrara-2022-con-un-nuevo-record-en-envio-de-remesas/>

According to the police, they received 40% less complaints about extortion since the implementation of the state of exception.

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncias-de-extorsion-habrian-reducido/>

28/12/22

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; ZEDEs; Poverty; Education;

The number of complaints against Supreme Court candidates rose to 140.

Out of the 101 candidates, 69 had complaints filed against them.

The head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, also presented complaints against three candidates.

The CNA communicated a second time about its previous report on 50 candidates with links to acts of corruption.

The time to present more complaints has concluded and the Nomination Board will now study the documents they have received.

Congress president Luis Redondo announced that Congress won't elect any Supreme Court judge with links to corruption.

<https://tiempo.hn/140-tachas-y-denuncias-contr-postulantes/>

<https://proceso.hn/junta-nominadora-registra-128-denuncias-y-tachas-contr-postulantes-a-magistrados/>

<https://proceso.hn/fiscal-santos-presento-tachas-contr-tres-postulantes-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

[https://twitter.com/Luis\\_Santos\\_C/status/1608195236362326016](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1608195236362326016)

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/cna-identifico-corrupcion-50-aspirantes-magistrados-csj-junta-nominadora-NB11547039>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1608180493928759301>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/29/junta-nominadora-concluye-recepcion-de-denuncias-y-tachas-manana-comienza-con-el-proceso-de-evaluacion/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/28/redondo-garantiza-que-personas-vinculadas-corrupcion-no-llegaran-a-la-corte/>

"Javier Sandoval, a law professional, stated this Wednesday that the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) should file a tax injunction against the persons who approved the Employment and Economic



Development Zones (ZEDE), because the crime of treason is not subject to the statute of limitations."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/28/subrayan-que-el-mp-deberia-presentar-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-las-personas-que-aprobaron-las-zedes/>

At the end of the year, Honduras will count with 3.5 million unemployed people.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/28/honduras-cerrara-el-2022-con-3-5-millones-de-desempleados/>

"The Secretary of Education, Daniel Sponda, assured that under his administration, three educational centers have been repaired every day. In addition, the official described 2022 as a successful year for the Honduran educational system, since the free enrollment and school feeding programs have been reactivated."

<https://elpulso.hn/2022/12/28/hemos-reparado-a-una-velocidad-de-casi-tres-centros-educativos-por-dia/>

30/12/22

Honduras Daily: US; LGBTIQ+; Journalists; Extractivism; Violence - Homicide Rate, Int. Displacement; Poverty; Judicial Power; and the Environmental Problem

Honduras Now published a new Podcast episode on "U.S. Opposition to Reforms in Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1608875834194145286>

"The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) community is "unprotected" against violence in Honduras, where at least 46 members of that community were murdered this year and its main aggressor is the State, activists denounced Thursday."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/29/colectivo-lgbti-desprotegido-ante-violencia-en-honduras-denuncian-activistas>

Honduras remains among the 15 deadliest countries for journalists.

<https://proceso.hn/rsf-denuncia-que-han-muerto-de-media-80-reporteros-al-ano-desde-2003/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-en-lista-de-paises-con-mas-periodistas-asesinados/>

Criterio reports that excavation activities at the Humuya River are being conducted despite a ban while the authorities watch the other way.

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-veda-excavacion-continua-en-rios-en-comayagua-sin-que-autoridades-actuen/>

"A total of 3,397 people were murdered in Honduras in 2022, 12.9% below the figures for 2021 (3,900), the National Police reported Thursday."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2022/12/30/honduras-acumula-3-397-homicidios-en-2022-un-129-menos-que-en-2021/>

According to the UNHCR, there are more than 247'000 Hondurans internally displaced by violence.

<https://criterio.hn/desplazamiento-forzado-la-amenaza-que-mantiene-en-vilo-a-los-hondurenos-y-hondurenas/>

A basket of basic goods had his price risen this year by 1900 Lempiras, from 9500 to 11'400 Lempiras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/canasta-basica-cierra-2022-alza-economia-honduras-CC11570112>

The Nomination Board made public a list of all Supreme Court candidates and the amounts of complaints they received (see previous days).

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/junta-nominadora-publica-listado-de-postulantes-tachados-y-denunciados/>

<https://criterio.hn/cuarenta-aspirantes-a-la-corte-suprema-no-recibieron-ninguna-denuncia-o-tacha/>

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<https://cespad.org.hn/la-agenda-ambiental-y-su-abordaje-algunos-puntos-que-debe-retomar-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

31/12/22

Honduras Daily: Organized Crime; Debt; and a Year More Without Justice

According to state authorities, more than 570 alleged gang members were detained since the implementation of the state of exception on December 6.

<https://proceso.hn/mas-de-570-miembros-de-maras-y-pandillas-detenidos-durante-estado-de-excepcion-en-honduras/>

The State of Honduras payed over 53 billion Lempiras in public debt in 2022.

<https://proceso.hn/finanzas-pago-l-53-mil-666-6-millones-en-2022-por-deuda-publica/>

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<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/un-ano-mas-en-el-que-no-hay-una-tumba-no-hay-una-verdad-y-tampoco-hay-justicia-para-teresa-de-jesus-sierra/>