

01/01/23

Honduras Daily: FoE; Judicial Power; China; Violence; and some Optimism for 2023

C-Libre is not hopeful about the state of freedom of expression in Honduras. "The closure of official sources, intolerance of criticism and intimidation of journalists, say journalists, is a constant feature of journalism in the country."

<http://conexihon.hn/2023/01/01/cierre-de-2022-poca-voluntad-politica-para-garantizar-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras/>

This Wednesday, the Nomination Board will start interviewing the remaining candidates for the Supreme Court.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/01/junta-nominadora-anuncia-que-el-miercoles-inician-las-entrevistas-a-candidatos-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

"Although for now there is only talk of trade relations, Honduras could be on the verge of establishing diplomatic relations with Mainland China after Vice Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina met with the Vice Foreign Minister of the Asian country, Ma Zhaoxu. (...) In an interview with Honduran media, who are accompanying Castro on his trip to Brasilia, Reina said that in his meeting with Ma Zhaoxu they discussed business investment, particularly the construction of hydroelectric dams to strengthen the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) and the generation of clean energy."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-busca-apoyo-para-proyectos-energeticos-con-china/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/01/canciller-hondureno-y-vicecanciller-de-la-republica-popular-de-china-sostuvieron-encuentro-bilateral/>

The police claims that the past December had the lowest homicide rate in the last 20 years.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/01/policia-nacional-senala-que-diciembre-2022-fue-el-mes-con-la-cifra-mas-baja-en-homicidios-en-los-ultimos-20-anos/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/como-pueblo-estamos-optimistas-frente-al-2023/>

02/01/23

Honduras Daily: Guapinol; FoE - Women; Police; Judicial Power; Brazil; Prisons; and the CICIH and the Constitution

"More than ten months after the eight Guapinol defenders regained their freedom, the wait for their definitive letters of release continues without any response from the judicial authorities. Due to the evident violation of due process against the defenders of the Montaña de Botaderos National Park, Carlos Escaleras, organizations have urged the authorities to expedite the delivery of the definitive letters of release for them."

<https://criterio.hn/urgen-cartas-de-libertad-definitiva-para-los-ocho-defensores-de-guapinol/>

"Online violence increasingly turns women, journalists and key actors, into the main focus of attacks that seek to limit the right to express opinions and exercise freedom of expression, reveals a recent research that identifies the main features that characterize this type of online gender-based violence. According to the work carried out by UN-Women and the Regional Alliance for Free Expression and Information, online gender-based violence occurs at particular junctures related to political participation, the vindication of rights and the questioning of public policies that violate the rights of women and society in general."

<https://proceso.hn/violencia-de-genero-en-linea-impacta-en-el-ejercicio-de-la-libertad-de-expresion/>

A 37-year old Honduran died in police custody after having been arrested on December 31 for public indecency.

<https://proceso.hn/investigacion-muerte-de-ciudadano-por-presunto-abuso-policial-en-yoro/>

The two representatives of the Judicial Power at the Nomination Board have abstained from reading the complaints made against the candidates seeking reelection because they are "hierarchical superiors"...

Those candidates who received complaints will have to defend themselves in hearings before the Nominating Board.

<https://proceso.hn/dos-integrantes-de-la-jn-se-abstuvieron-a-conocer-tachas-contramagistrados-de-la-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-audiencias-de-descargo-se-defenderan-las-y-los-postulantes-a-la-csj-tachados-o-denunciados/>

President Xiomara announced that Honduras will sign a bilateral cooperation agreement with Brazil at the end of the month.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/xiomara-castro-lula-da-silva-firmaran-convenio-bilateral-DM11591057>

Three inmates broke out of the Danlí prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/02/jefe-de-la-policia-nacional-confirma-la-fuga-de-tres-privados-de-libertad-del-centro-penal-de-danli-el-paraiso/>

<https://criterio.hn/reformas-constitucionales-solo-retrasarian-llegada-de-la-cicoh-en-2023-coinciden-analistas/>

03/01/22

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Armed Forces - Moskitia; Corruption - CICIH; ZEDEs; Judicial Power; Migration - Mexico; Hydroelectricity; Public Transport; and Human Trafficking in Honduras

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the December edition of its monthly human rights monitor. Those wishing to receive the report in a separate e-mail can subscribe using the following e-mail address:

foro_honduras_suiza@riseup.net

https://honduras-forum.ch/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=46177

"The U.S. Attorney's Office on Tuesday asked Judge Kevin Castel to postpone the trial against former President Juan Orlando Hernández (2014-2022). In a letter sent to the judge, the Prosecutor's Office said it agrees with the defense of the former Honduran president to postpone the start of the trial scheduled for April 24, 2023."

<https://proceso.hn/fiscalia-de-eeuu-pide-posponer-juicio-contr-expresidente-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/04/fiscalia-de-eeuu-y-defensa-de-joh-de-acuerdo-a-que-juicio-de-expresidente-se-posponga-para-junio-de-2023/>

"The veil of impunity continues fifteen months after the attack by members of the Armed Forces against the Miskito population of Ibans in Gracias a Dios, on the northeastern coast of Honduras, in which one person was killed, at least twenty were wounded and two more died from the terror caused by the aggression."

<https://criterio.hn/en-impunidad-permanece-caso-de-misquitos-abatidos-por-las-ff-aa-en-ibans-gracias-a-dios/>

According to Foreign Minister Enrique Reina, the Xiomara administration is in contact with other countries to pay its share for the installation of the CICIH. The financing of the anti-corruption body was hotly debated at the end of last year, with some fearing a lack of independence if funds come from the Honduran government.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-hondureno-comienza-a-buscar-fondos-para-financiar-a-la-cicih/>

According to Economic Development Minister Pedro Barquero, the State of Honduras is well-prepared for the legal battle with ZEDE Próspera (see previous week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/03/gobierno-esta-preparado-para-afrontar-el-arbitraje-contr-zede-prospera-asegura-ministro-barquero/>

<https://proceso.hn/el-gobierno-esta-preparado-para-afrontar-el-arbitraje-contr-zede-prospera-asegura-ministro-barquero/>

The Nomination Board accepted 136 out of all the complaints filed against the Supreme Court candidates, they rejected 48.

<https://tiempo.hn/junta-nominadora-admite-136-denuncias/>

"During the 12 months of last year, Mexico received 118,478 petitions from migrants requesting recognition of refugee status, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (Comar) reported on Tuesday. Unlike previous years when applicants from Haiti were the most numerous, in 2022 petitioners from Honduras were the first with 31,086 requests."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-lidero-las-peticiones-de-asilo-en-mexico-en-2022/>

Miguel Navarro, coordinator of the National Loss Reduction Program of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), calls for the building of two complementary dams at Patuca III. This would mean a \$43 million investment. Recent talks with Chinese representatives (see previous e-mail) can also be seen in this light.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/03/urge-construccion-de-dos-represas-adjuntas-a-patuca-iii-considera-coordinador-del-plan-nacional-de-reduccion-de-perdidas/>

Presented as a measure to fight corruption, public transport fares may soon be payed digitally.

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/03/gobierno-implementara-cobro-de-tarifa-electronica-en-el-transporte-publico/>

"The Director of the Inter-institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, Sua Martínez, said on Radio Progreso that in 2022 alone, more than 50 people were recaptured who were being trafficked for sexual exploitation, reflecting that the country has advanced to become a paradise for the realization of this crime."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/honduras-se-ha-convertido-en-un-paraiso-para-la-trata-de-personas/>

05/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, ARCAH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Extractivism; Judicial Power; US; Corruption - IHSS; Organized Crime; Violence - Youth; Education; and Missing Women

COFADEH sent out an alert: "The environmental defender, Marlon Calles, has once again been the target of threats for defending the forest and the natural commons in the department of La Paz. The attack occurred when the defender was going out to buy a refill in the street of the institution where he works, located in La Esperanza, Intibucá."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-urgente-2/>

"New year, renewed hopes and struggles that persist. The community of Guapinol in the department of Colón, on the Caribbean coast of Honduras, begins 2023 renewing its spirit of courage and resistance in defense of the Montaña de Botaderos National Park, Carlos Escaleras."

<https://criterio.hn/guapinol-mantiene-firme-su-lucha-en-2023-por-la-defensa-del-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the criminalization of ARCAH defenders by the company Pollos El Cortijo.

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/138-según-arcah-empresa-avícola-el-cortijo-estaría-reiniciando-acciones-de-criminalización-contra-personas-defensoras-del-río-choluteca>

US Judge Kevin Castel denied the request to postpone JOH's trial (see previous e-mail), it is maintained at April 24. But he called for an additional hearing on January 10.

US prosecutor further requested confidentiality for the evidence presented during the trial.

Honduran author Oscar Estrada has a Twitter feed on the fight between the DEA and the CIA and how this relates to JOH's case.

<https://criterio.hn/fecha-de-juicio-de-joh-se-mantiene-y-juez-convoca-a-audiencia-el-10-de-enero/>

<https://proceso.hn/fiscalia-de-eeuu-pide-al-juez-castel-ordenar-la-proteccion-de-evidencia-en-juicio-contra-joh/>

<https://twitter.com/oscarlestrada/status/1610756211208781824>

ConexiHon offers an overview of how extractive policies violently displace Honduran environmental defenders.

<http://conexihon.hn/2023/01/05/defensores-del-ambiente-desplazados-silenciosamente-por-la-industria-extractiva-en-honduras/>

The first Supreme Court candidates had their public interviews this week. They will continue until Saturday.

Among all the candidates are 6 current Supreme Court judges seeking reelection. In total, they received 49 complaints against them during the process so far.

David Chávez, president of the National Party, announced that he would support Salvador Nasralla in choosing the next head of the Judicial Power. This aims to further divide Libre and the PSH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/05/junta-nominadora-continua-en-fase-de-entrevistas-a-postulantes-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/independencia-e-igualdad-en-la-aplicacion-de-justicia-prometen-postulantes-a-la-corte-suprema/>

<https://criterio.hn/magistrados-de-la-csj-que-buscan-reelegirse-acumulan-49-denuncias-y-tachas/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/05/alianza-entre-psh-y-azules-proponen-que-titular-de-corte-lo-designe-nasralla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/05/nasralla-recibe-con-agrado-propuesta-de-david-chavez-para-que-un-miembro-del-psh-presida-la-csj/>

National Party representatives met with US ambassador Laura F. Dogu. Criterio reports on this: "Ironically, three of the congressmen who voted to expel MACCIH from the country now sit down with U.S. Ambassador Laura F. Dogu to talk about transparency and the fight against corruption."

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-que-expulsaron-a-la-maccih-se-reunen-con>

<https://proceso.hn/embajadora-dogu-se-reune-con-bancada-del-pn-para-tratar-transparencia-y-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion/>

The presentation of the evidence took place yesterday in one of the bigger IHSS corruption cases involving 14 accused and 158 million Lempiras stolen.

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-propondra-casi-100-medios-de-prueba-para-el-juicio-contr-14-involucrados-en-fraude-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-en-el-ihss/>

Jeff Ernst reports for the Guardian on the state of exception in Honduras. "But like any war, it isn't just a battle against an enemy, but also for control of the popular narrative – in this case, an attempt to counter allegations that the government has not done enough to combat rampant crime. This perception has grown despite a slight reduction in homicides this year, according to preliminary data, and a significant drop over the past decade since Honduras held the ignominious title of the world's most violent country. There is only anecdotal evidence of the scale of the problem because so few extortion victims report the crime, making a statistical analysis impossible. Security experts are divided on how much the perception is the result of sensationalist media coverage, a real rise, a little of both – or simply the continued expansion of a problem that has metastasized for two decades."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/04/honduras-gangs-crackdown-xiomara-castro>

<https://criterio.hn/flagelo-de-la-extorsion-continua-pese-a-estado-de-excepcion/>

According to Coiproden, 569 children and youth were murdered in 2022 in Honduras.

<https://proceso.hn/ong-denuncian-la-muerte-violenta-de-569-ninos-y-jovenes-en-honduras-en-2022/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/criminalidad-acabo-con-la-vida-de-569-jovenes-en-2022-red-coiproden/>

The Xiomara administration aims to repair 1200 schools per year. Out of the over 17'500 schools, 12'500 are in a bad state.

<https://proceso.hn/proyectan-reparacion-de-1200-centros-educativos-al-ano-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/onu-presiona-por-el-esclarecimiento-de-casos-de-desaparicion-de-mujeres/>

06/01/23

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; State of Exception; SANAA; Corruption - Insep, ENEE; Prisons - Women; US - HR; and Hopeful Signs from the Health Sector

"Today, Edwin Espinal & Raúl Álvarez, political prisoners criminalized during the 2017 electoral crisis were freed from all charges. It took 14 months after they were absolved for the court to give them their written final sentence".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1611549029313257472>

The Xiomara administration extended the state of exception for 45 days and additionally extended it to over 70 more municipalities in Comayagua, Atlántida, Colón and Copán.

Congressional vice-president Hugo Noé Pino announced that the new 2023 budget will include an additional 1 billion Lempiras to fight extortion.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/07/gobierno-extiende-estado-de-excepcion-por-45-dias-en-tegucigalpa-san-pedro-sula-y-anade-73-municipios/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1611582723830710278>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1611459461763239937

"Following the controversy generated by an embarrassing video and reports of alleged irregularities against him, Leonel Alejandro Gómez Sánchez, general manager of the National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewerage (SANAA), was suspended from his position on Friday."

The MP announced to investigate the case.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/suspenden-gerente-sanaa-leonel-gomez-agresion-verbal-empleados-OC11646923>

<https://criterio.hn/funcionarios-del-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-exponen-actitudes-violentas-y-machistas/>

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/tras-denuncia-de-afectadas-ministerio-publico-investiga-delitos-contra-gerente-del-sanaa/>

<https://proceso.hn/mp-confirma-inicio-de-investigacion-a-gerente-del-sanaa-tras-denuncia-de-agresion-verbal/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published a book on corruption in Honduras.

https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/LIBRO_Opticas-de-la-corrupcion_2022-OPCACNA_VersionWEB_compressed.pdf

"The Criminal Court of Appeals, in a plea hearing, issued substitute measures to two former ministers of the now defunct Secretariat of Infrastructure and Public Services (Insep), Roberto Ordoñez and Roberto Pineda. Both former officials are accused of abuse of authority to the detriment of the public administration and a citizen."

<https://proceso.hn/medidas-sustitutivas-para-exministros-de-insep-acusados-de-abuso-de-autoridad/>

"The Court of Letters in matters of corruption in the hearing of the accused issued substitute measures to the former manager of the Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica (ENEE), Jesús Mejía."

<https://proceso.hn/medidas-sustitutivas-a-exgerente-jesus-mejia-por-caso-de-proyecto-de-iluminacion-en-intibuca/>

"Organizations denounce a series of irregularities and human rights violations that are occurring inside the National Women's Penitentiary of Social Adaptation and demand urgent action by the Human Rights Commission of the National Congress."

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-aislamiento-prolongado-y-otras-formas-de-violencia-contra-mujeres-privadas-de-libertad/>

"The United States will send a high-level delegation to Honduras next week to discuss human rights, migration and the fight against corruption, the State Department announced Friday. The

group, which will visit Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula between January 9 and 12, will be led by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights Uzra Zeya."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/07/eeuu-enviara-una-delegacion-a-honduras-para-discutir-sobre-derechos-humanos/>

"Doctors who were in extraordinary assemblies resumed their work in Honduran public hospitals on Thursday, after reaching an agreement with the Ministry of Health."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/06/medicos-retoman-labores-en-hospitales-luego-de-llegar-a-un-acuerdo-con-la-secretaria-de-salud/>

07/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, EU; Poverty; Judicial Power - Women's Rights; and a Year for Transformative Policies

"It is with great sadness and a cry for justice that we denounce today's murders of Guapinol community human rights defenders and fathers Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla. Aly, brother of our comrade Reynaldo Dominguez, is also one of 32 people criminalized by the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares and the State of Honduras for defending the Carlos Escaleras National Park against their illegal mining project."

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/alerta-ante-asesinato-de-defensores-en-guapinol>

El Tiempo portrays indigenous Lenca defender and MILPAH founder María Felicita López who recently won the EU human rights award.

<https://tiempo.hn/maria-felicita-lopez-mujer-lenca-lucha-por-su-gente/>

The costs of basic goods in Honduras may soon reach 12'000 Lempiras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/07/precio-de-la-canasta-basica-a-punto-se-superar-los-12000-lempiras/>

Criterio reports on the lack of knowledge about important women's rights by some of the Supreme Court candidates.

<https://criterio.hn/aspirantes-a-magistrados-de-la-csj-desconocen-derechos-sexuales-y-reproductivos-de-mujeres-y-ninas-hondurenas/>

"For a year with a commitment to transformative social public policies above welfare programs. A voucher or a solidarity network help but end up as proselytism and leave intact the miserable conditions of a people who deserve in-depth answers to their problems."

<https://twitter.com/melosjmoreno/status/1611774796492046344?s=24&t=f8hRA1QdB-kvhHFmYeM4jQ>

08/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Judicial Power;

The assassination of the two Guapinol defenders Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla (see yesterday) was widely condemned in Honduras. OACNUDH called for a swift and independent investigation.

So did the US embassy.

The Human Rights Ministry published a press release.

<https://criterio.hn/asesinan-a-dos-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-y-parque-nacional-carlos-escaleras/>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-dos-activistas-ambientales-en-tocoa-colon-defensores-de-guapinol-piden-justicia/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1612159041471483910>

<https://proceso.hn/onu-pide-a-honduras-investigacion-pronta-sobre-asesinato-de-ambientalistas/>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1612265908017434624>

<https://twitter.com/RoqueNatalie/status/1612222083123003392>

News outlet link the arrest of El Chapo's son Ovidio Guzmán with the case of JOH. "The arrest of Guzman, one of the top drug lords of the 2020s, was preceded by those of two key players in the South-to-North American drug trade, already extradited to the United States for prosecution for

conspiring to ship cocaine to the U.S. market: former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez Alvarado, alias "JOH," who went down in Honduras in 2022, and Colombian Dairo Antonio Usuga David, alias "Otoniel," in 2021 in Colombia."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/juan-orlando-hernandez-pieza-clave-reciente-captura-narco-ovidio-guzman-AD11659339>

"The last day of public interviews for nine candidates to be elected as magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) concluded in Tegucigalpa, thus closing the more than 40 self-nominees who did not receive complaints and objections to reach this stage. The Nominating Board must decide on the cases of candidates who were denounced or crossed out by various persons and institutions and who must have the opportunity to be heard in order to dispel the accusations. Those who manage to dispel the accusations will be the next to have public interviews by the nominators and then define the list of at least 45 candidates that must be sent to the National Congress from which the next 15 magistrates of the CSJ for the period 2023-2030 must be selected."

<https://proceso.hn/concluye-evaluacion-a-los-primeros-47-aspirantes-a-la-corte-suprema-por-la-junta-nominadora/>

09/01/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, Aguán Valley; COPINH - Armed Forces; Drug Trafficking - JOH; US; Judicial Power; SANAA; Migration; and the Ongoing State of Exception

Joaquín Mejía explains how the Xiomara administration is also responsible for the murder of the two Guapinol defenders. "Because it has not suspended or declared null and void the concessions granted to Los Pinares, a company owned by Lenir Pérez and Ana Facussé".

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1612353530282622976>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/exigen-al-gobierno-justicia-sobre-el-asesinato-de-dos-lideres-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

"Members of the Honduran police & Dinant Corporation employees fire live rounds at campesino families of the El Chile cooperative wounding two people: Maynor Cruz & Karina. Both have been taken to the hospital."

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1612588442503741441>

<https://twitter.com/jolson321/status/1612585736032616448>

<https://twitter.com/ErickPinedaHN1/status/1612570487523102734>

This Friday, the trial against Armed Forces member Kevin Saravia will take place. He is accused of attempted murder against COPINH member Allan García.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1612495736519929856>

JOH apparently has a new lawyer.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/10/trasciende-que-joh-estrenara-nueva-abogada-previo-al-inicio-de-su-juicio-en-new-york/>

The US-delegation led by Urza Zeya, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the State Department, arrived in Honduras yesterday.

SOUTHCOM's Commander Gen. Laura Richardson is also part of the delegation.

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1612577679714258951>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1612594909328084992>

<https://proceso.hn/delegacion-de-eeuu-llega-a-honduras-para-discutir-sobre-migracion-y-ddhh/>

Criterio highlights the need of Congress to accompany the new Judicial Power with the necessary laws.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-tiene-la-obligacion-de-crear-leyes-que-transformen-el-poder-judicial-de-cara-a-los-proximos-siete-anos/>

"Five female workers were beaten and injured, in addition to one arrested by the Municipal Police of the Central District, was the result of the peaceful takeover of the National Aqueduct and Sewer

Service, this January 9, 2023, and leaders of the union of that agency hold both the agents and Mayor Jorge Aldana responsible for the repression exercised."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/140-policia-municipal-del-districto-central-ataca-a-empleados-del-sanaa-cuando-mantenia-una-protesta-pacifica>

Almost 95'000 Hondurans were deported last year, 27,5% more than in 2021.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/09/honduras-recibio-94339-deportados-en-2022-un-27-5-mas-que-en-2021/>

Radio Progreso and Criterio critically cover the prolongation of the state of exception.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ampliacion-del-estado-de-excepcion-huele-a-peligro-y-esta-asociado-a-posibles-excesos-policiales/>

<https://criterio.hn/ampliacion-del-estado-de-excepcion-no-resolvera-la-criminalidad-de-honduras/>
10/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, Aguán, Reitoca, Women; Drug Trafficking - JOH; US; Poverty - Children; 2023 Budget; and More Impunity in Honduras

Some things never change. The Honduran police claims that the two Guapinol defenders were murdered as part of a common robbery...

Joaquín Mejía explains why the police and public prosecutor from Tocoa should not be allowed to participate in the investigation of the murders due to lack of independence.

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods held a press conference yesterday. "The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods, before the criminal act occurred against the neighbors of Guapinol; Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla, murdered in the afternoon of Saturday, January 07, 2023, expresses consternation, indignation and pain, at the same time we are present to accompany and make public our solidarity with the Domínguez and Bonilla families, and the community."

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-de-guapinol-descartan-asalto-como-movil-en-crimen-contra-aly-dominguez-y-jairo-bonilla/>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1612678580781056000>

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/manifiesto-publico-del-comit%C3%A9-municipal-ante-asesinato-de-defensores-del-agua-en-guapinol>

The Agrarian Platform denounces that some 25 land defenders are on a list of possible assassination targets. "Lawyer Víctor Fernández, representative of a network of land defenders, argued that there is a campaign by economic groups linked to crime to stigmatize or discredit the struggle of environmentalists in Honduras. He said that the two murders in January in Guapinol were preceded by the crime of a peasant leader in the Tranvía cooperative. "The previous denunciation establishes that 25 leaders of the Aguán Valley are going to be assassinated in the next few days", he emphasized."

<https://proceso.hn/al-menos-25-ambientalistas-en-lista-de-eventuales-asesinatos-denuncia-plataforma-agraria/>

Radio Progreso reports on the ongoing criminalization case against the Reitoca defenders Wilmer Alonzo and José Orlando Rodas. They are currently facing trial.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sigue-el-juicio-contra-defensores-del-agua-en-reitoca-francisco-morazan/>

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders published a report on the human rights situation in Honduras.

CESPAD published a report on women environmental defenders.

<https://im-defensoras.org/2023/01/informe-de-derechos-humanos-ano-2021-primer-semester-de-2022/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/sistematizacion-de-experiencias-del-encuentro-de-mujeres-defensoras-de-los-bienes-comunes-de-la-naturaleza/>

Just days after the US federal judge Kevin Castel decided to keep JOH's trial date, he went on to postpone it to September 18.

Honduran news outlet reports that the judge further combined three Honduran-related cases, the one against JOH together with the one against his former his former police chief Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla Valladares and the one against JOH's cousin Mauricio Hernández Pineda.

JOH's defense requested to separate the cases.

Media outlets also covered JOH's new defense attorney Sabrina Shroff.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/united-states/drug-trafficking-trial-of-former-honduran-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-postponed-until-september>

<https://criterio.hn/juez-kevin-castel-consolida-en-un-mismo-juicio-casos-de-joh-su-primo-y-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://proceso.hn/expresidente-exjefe-policial-y-exoficial-frente-a-juez-castel-el-18-de-septiembre/>

<https://proceso.hn/defensa-pedira-separar-juicio-de-joh-con-el-de-exoficiales-de-la-policia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/10/sabrina-shroff-conocida-defensora-en-caso-wikileaks-es-la-nueva-abogada-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/juez-kevin-castel-consolida-en-un-mismo-juicio-casos-de-joh-su-primo-y-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/terrorista-hacker-trafficante-armas-al-qaeda-famosos-casos-defendio-abogada-joh-LP11692898>

ConfidencialHN reports on the US delegation currently in Honduras (see yesterday). "Through a joint communiqué, they pledged to unify efforts to address the issue of migration and forced displacement, promote safe, orderly, humane and regular migration, while reaffirming their commitment to regional cooperation through the implementation of the "Declaration of Los Angeles"."

As part of the visit, investments for \$33 million in education and \$10 million in agriculture were announced.

US Senator Merkley published a press release on the occasion. “As Under Secretary Zeya arrives in Honduras for the U.S.-Honduras Strategic and Human Rights Dialogues this week, I condemn the recent murders of human rights and water defenders in Honduras who are key components of civil

society in a pluralistic democracy. Even as the Castro government seeks to reject the repressive policies of her corrupt predecessor Juan Orlando Hernandez, without major reforms, the security establishment remains beholden to powerful special interests. Indeed, the targeting of land and water defenders is driven by the same elite criminal, corporate, military, and paramilitary structures that the previous government left in place. “Nothing will change in Honduras until the structures of criminality—which are deeply embedded in both the military and police—are investigated and the perpetrators of human rights abuses are held accountable. The U.S. must support President Castro’s efforts to root out corruption and protect human rights in Honduras. This includes encouraging the Castro government to strengthen judicial independence and uphold the rule of law by ensuring that the Honduran Supreme Court selection process embodies transparency and credibility. “I applaud President Castro and her administration for signing a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations to establish an anti-corruption commission and righting wrongs perpetrated by the Hernandez administration more broadly, and I urge the U.S. State Department to remain a steadfast partner in these efforts, which undoubtedly grow more challenging with ever deeper and substantive reforms.”

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/11/honduras-y-delegacion-de-eeuu-acuerdan-ampliar-colaboracion-para-combatir-el-narcotrafico-impunidad-corrupcion-y-migracion/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/eeuu-dara-43-millones-educacion-agricultura-honduras-PP11696911>

<https://twitter.com/UnderSecStateJ/status/1612886985747664930>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1612915490359222289>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1612915492855119879>

<https://twitter.com/Southcom/status/1612996833239830528>

<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/news/press-releases/ahead-of-us-honduras-strategic-human-rights-dialogue-merkley-issues-statement-denouncing-human-rights-abuses-and-urging-us-to-strengthen-anti-corruption-pro-rights-agenda>

<https://criterio.hn/senador-jeff-merkley-insta-a-ee-uu-a-fortalecer-agenda-anticorrupcion-y-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

"The general director of Consumer Protection, Mario Castejón, indicated this Tuesday that some 117 companies were sanctioned for not respecting the decree that established a price freeze on several products."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/10/unas-117-empresas-fueron-sancionadas-por-irrespetar-decreto-que-permitia-el-congelamiento-de-precios-de-varios-productos/>

"Children in street situations who seek to move the conscience of the common citizen when they ask for money to satisfy their hunger or to take to their homes to contribute to the precarious family economy. This is one of the many scenarios that are experienced, not only in the most important cities of Honduras, but in a large part of the national territory and that generates concern in society. Casa Alianza de Honduras, a non-governmental organization with a track record in the care and protection of children and young people living in serious situations, reports that an average of 20,000 children are in conditions of abandonment."

<https://criterio.hn/ninez-en-condicion-de-abandono-olvidados-por-el-estado-de-honduras/>

The Liberal Party announced that their bench will support the 2023 budget.

At the same time, PSH proposed suspending approving the budget and postponing it to the second congressional session.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/10/liberales-llegan-a-un-consenso-para-para-votar-a-favor-del-presupuesto-general/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-y-partido-liberal-rechazan-suspender-aprobacion-del-presupuesto-como-plantea-el-psh/>

"The Court of Appeals for Corruption ratified the definitive dismissal of the former Undersecretary of Health, Nery Cerrato, and the former head of the Permanent Contingencies Commission (Copeco), Gabriel Rubí."

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/10/justicia-ratifica-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-dos-exfuncionarios-de-joh/>

11/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, Mechanism; Judicial Power; Corruption - IHHS; Drug Trafficking; US - Education; 2023 Budget;

Nina Lakhani covered in The Guardian the murder of Guapinol defenders Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla.

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders Mary Lawlor condemned the murder and calls for an independent investigation.

ContraCorriente published an important investigation into the economic ties between Lenir Pérez and the State of Honduras. "Lenir Pérez, the businessman who owns the concessions in the Guapinol mine and the Palmerola airport, maintains his power intact despite the official discourse of President Xiomara Castro against these projects. Accused of benefiting from his relations with former president Juan Orlando Hernández to obtain irregular contracts and abuse the human rights of communities, Pérez could maintain privileged access to the new government through the legal work of Pamela Blanco Luque, partner and wife of Tomás Vaquero, Minister of Government, Justice and Decentralization."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/11/honduras-environmental-defenders-shot-dead-guapinol-mine>

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1613206600944066562>

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/10/bufete-del-actual-ministro-tomas-vaquero-representa-empresas-de-lenir-perez-empresario-senalado-de-vulneracion-a-ddhh/>

The Coalition against Impunity accuses CONADEH to have overstepped its boundaries regarding the controversy about the human rights defender protection mechanism.

<https://twitter.com/CoalicionContra/status/1613199605251936259>

COPINH's coordinator Bertha Zúniga clarified on Twitter that current deputy Attorney General Daniel Arturo Sibrian Bueso does not have her support for his Supreme Court candidacy. Rather, "not only does he not have my confidence for being part of the structure of impunity of the justice system that keeps the intellectual authors of the crime against my mother #BertaCáceres unpunished, but also for being an active participant in the legal persecution of defenders of the territories."

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1613028392097415170>

"This Wednesday begins the oral and public trial for the former INVEST-H authorities, Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes, accused of fraud and violation of the duties of civil servants for the purchase of masks. Both defendants are in prison, after the Court of Appeals of the Anticorruption Circuit, on September 29th, 2022, decided in favor of the National Unit of Fiscal Support (UNAF) in the sense of revoking the substitutive measures to Moraes Girón and four others involved, currently fugitives."

<https://proceso.hn/hoy-inicia-juicio-contra-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-en-caso-de-compra-de-mascarillas/>

"The Honduran ex-deputy Midence Oquelí Martínez will know next Friday whether or not he will be extradited to the United States, the country that accuses him of three crimes associated with drug trafficking and the use of weapons, the Honduran Supreme Court of Justice announced on Wednesday."

<https://proceso.hn/un-exdiputado-hondureno-conocera-el-viernes-si-sera-extraditado-o-no-a-eeuu/>

The Xiomara administration and the US published a joint statement after a recent high-level US visit (see previous days).

<https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-the-u-s-honduras-strategic-and-human-rights-dialogues/>

"The governments of the United States and Honduras formalized on Wednesday a tripartite alliance between the Ministry of Education, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Honduran private sector in support of education reform and improvements to school infrastructure that are key to ensuring quality education for Hondurans through an "Alliance for Education"."

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-y-honduras-firman-alianza-por-la-educacion/>

The Honduran education sector lives through tense days. "Almost a month before the beginning of the school year, there are conflicts over the interim appointment of departmental directors in the Ministry of Education headed by Daniel Esponda. The President of the Republic herself, Xiomara Castro, ratified that there is a conflict within the Secretariat of Education, and at the same time

requested that Esponda, Secretary of State in this office, "be an example of dialogue and respect for the law and non-violence"."

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1613262877170737156>

<https://criterio.hn/presidenta-castro-reprende-a-ministro-de-educacion-por-conflictos-internos-de-esa-secretaria/>

Congress continues to discuss the 2023 budget. The National Party rejects it, PSH has not decided yet.

Criterio reports that the necessary votes are together to approve the budget.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/congreso-nacional-discute-aprobacion-presupuesto-general-2023-FG11718580>

<https://criterio.hn/presupuesto-de-ingresos-y-egresos-finalmente-esta-listo-para-ser-aprobado/>

12/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; LGBTIQ+; Corruption - Open Chest, Invest-H; Judicial Power; US; 2023 Budget; State of Exception;

There is more bad news regarding the Guapinol case. "Karen Edith Martínez Guardado, do you remember her? She is the prosecutor who used illegal evidence to criminalize 8 Guapinol defenders who spent 2.5 years in prison. Now she is the prosecutor in charge of the case of 2 murdered defenders who says that the motive was robbery."

CESPAD published a press release voicing concern regarding the situation in Colón where in less than a month, three defenders had been murdered, there were violent evictions and there are ongoing criminalization cases.

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1613557214177894400>

<https://cespad.org.hn/pronunciamiento-preocupacion-en-honduras-por-agudizacion-de-la-crisis-socioterritorial-en-el-departamento-de-colon/>

"Given the alarming number of violent deaths of women and LGBTI+ community members in Honduras, the Cattrachas Lesbian Network asked President Xiomara Castro to be part of the evaluation process of the management of her cabinet during 2022."

<https://criterio.hn/red-cattrachas-solicita-a-presidenta-de-honduras-ser-parte-del-proceso-de-evaluacion-de-ministros/>

There was another setback in a key MACCIH-era corruption case. "Deputies and former deputies accused in the Open Chest Case, accused of embezzlement of public funds, were notified this Thursday, January 12, 2023, through Judge Reinaldo Hernández, that they are definitively free after the precautionary measures were revoked."

<https://criterio.hn/impunidad-de-arca-abierta-vuelve-urgente-llegada-de-la-cicoh-al-pais/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/12/corte-de-apelaciones-notifica-resolucion-de-absolucion-a-implicados-en-caso-arca-abierta/>

"Sixteen months after the preliminary hearing was opened and after six postponed dates, the Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Fight against Public Corruption (FETCCOP) is still waiting for the opening of the trial in the case against Marco Antonio Bográn Corrales (former director of INVEST-H) and Alex Alberto Moraes Girón (former administrator) for presuming them responsible as perpetrators of the crime of embezzlement of public funds to the detriment of the Public Administration."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-a-la-espera-de-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-contra-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-por-malversacion-de-fondos-de-invest-h/>

CESPAD highlights some important points regarding the public hearing of the Supreme Court candidates. They highlight that over half of the interviews took too much time and that male candidates were given more time than female ones.

Six candidates did not make it to the next round as they did not find adequate answers to the complaints filed against them.

<https://cespad.org.hn/algunos-aspectos-de-la-etapa-de-entrevistas-publicas-en-la-eleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/los-seis-candidatos-excluidos-por-la-jn/>

ContraCorriente interviewed Urza Zeya, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the State Department, during her visit of Honduras this week.

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/12/los-estados-de-excepcion-son-dificiles-de-sostener-uzra-zeya-subsecretaria-de-estado-de-ee-uu/>

Congress approved the 2023 budget. "The budget, which amounts to 392 thousand 519.7 million lempiras, will be 80% financed by the national treasury. The central administration will receive 234,540.9 million lempiras, an increase of 10% compared to the 2022 Budget, while the decentralized administration will receive 157,978.9 million lempiras, an increase of 7.3%."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/aprobado-presupuesto-general-2023-asciende-a-392-mil-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://criterio.hn/tras-extenso-debate-congreso-aprueba-presupuesto-de-ingresos-y-egresos-2023/>

"The state of emergency was implemented in Honduras under questioning and rejection by human rights defenders and other sectors of society, who asserted that the measure places the population in a situation of greater vulnerability. A recent report by the National Human Rights Commissioner (CONDAEH) states that approximately 60% of the police interventions reported as successful actions by the Security Secretariat took place in localities other than Tegucigalpa, Comayagüela and San Pedro Sula (...). The director of Conadeh's National Human Rights Observatory, Carlos Joaquín Méndez, in an interview with Criterio.hn stated that they have found that police interventions do not require the suspension of guarantees or a measure as restrictive as the one currently in place in Honduras. In Méndez's opinion, there is an urgent need to implement structural measures in the country, to adopt a comprehensive approach strategy that involves public policies and not a state of exception, "this is an exceptional measure for exceptional situations", he revealed."

<https://criterio.hn/alertan-que-el-60-de-las-detenciones-durante-el-estado-de-excepcion-se-presentan-fuera-de-los-sitios-intervenidos/>

13/01/23

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; HRDs - Reitoca, Garífunas; Corruption; Xiomara; Deforestation; 2023 Budget; ann an Uneasy Symphony

Yesterday, the trial started against the army member Kevin Yasser Saravia accused of attempted murder against COPINH member Allan García.

COPINH accompanied the start with a mobilization.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1614028783324913667>

<https://criterio.hn/con-movilizacion-exigiendo-justicia-inicia-juicio-contra-militar-acusado-de-tentativa-de-homicidio-contra-lider-lenca/>

"The Criminal Sentencing Court of Francisco Morazán, postponed this Tuesday, January 10, 2023, the oral and public trial against Wilmer Otoniel Alonzo Herrera and José Orlando Rodas García, of the Lenca Indigenous Council of the municipality of Reitoca, who have been persecuted by the justice system for four years for defending the Petacón River in their community."

<https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/pag/index.php/articulos/denuncia/143-tribunal-de-sentencia-pospuso-hasta-octubre-juicio-oral-y-publico-de-ambientalistas-de-reitoca-2>

Proceso Digital reports on the forced disappearance of four young Garífuna leaders three years ago. "The coordinator of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (Ofraneh), Miriam Miranda, told Proceso Digital that "there is no progress in the case of the disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz"."

<https://proceso.hn/que-se-sabe-del-caso-de-los-cuatro-lideres-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

With the recent setbacks in important corruption cases, UFERCO's Luis Santos reiterated that a derogation of Decree 116-2019 would allow to reopen these cases.

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/13/uferco-la-derogacion-del-decreto-116-2019-reactivaria-casos-de-corrupcion/>

The Xiomara administration announced that they complied with 78.2% of their goals for 2022 and that there won't be any changes in the cabinet for the time being.

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-castro-sigue-con-el-gabinete-intacto-gobierno-cumplio-con-78-2-de-metas-trazadas-segun-informe/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/14/gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-cerro-el-2022-con-62-de-calificacion-y-con-el-78-2-de-metas-trazadas-sin-ajustes-en-gabinete-actual/>

"President Xiomara Castro launched this Friday the environmental program "Andres Tamayo 2023", while assuring that the re-foundation of the country depends on stopping forest destruction. She said that forest destruction in recent years has resulted in the loss of more than 696,000 hectares, representing 10% of Honduran forests."

<https://proceso.hn/presidenta-castro-lanza-programa-ambiental-y-dice-refundacion-pasa-por-detener-destruccion-forestal/>

There was some criticism regarding a possible confidential part in the 2023 budget. Both Finance Minister Rixi Moncada and Transparency Minister Hugo Noé Pino deny this.

<https://proceso.hn/rix-moncada-y-hugo-noe-pino-defienden-que-no-hay-partida-confidencial/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/13/vicepresidente-legislativo-reitera-que-no-se-aprobo-el-fondo-departamental/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/13/cuestionada-partida-449-no-ejecuta-recursos-y-es-falso-que-sea-confidencial-asegura-rix-moncada/>

<https://proceso.hn/ministro-de-la-presidencia-destaca-que-honduras-esta-en-sintonia-con-eeuu-para-superar-los-retos-y-objetivos/>

15/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, COPINH; Garífunas - Femicide; Corruption - CICIH; Judicial Power; 2023 Budget; and Toll Booths

"Environmental leaders and communities in resistance against extractive projects in the department of Colón are demanding that the government of President Xiomara Castro appoint a high-level commission to independently and effectively investigate the murder of Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla, two environmental leaders who defend the Guapinol River and the Carlos Escaleras National Park."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/uncategorized/exigen-comision-de-alto-nivel-para-investigar-asesinato-de-dos-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

The hearing against the army member accused of attempted homicide against COPINH member Allan García will continue on January 26.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1614336614473383938>

Three Garífuna women were shot dead on a beach in Travesía, Puerto Cortés.

17 women were murdered in the first two weeks of 2023 in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/15/tres-mujeres-garifunas-fueron-asesinadas-en-una-playa-de-puerto-cortes/>

<https://proceso.hn/15-dias-15-femicidios/>

UFERCO's Luis Santos reacts to JOH-ally and outgoing Supreme Court president Rolando Argueta who questioned the work of UFERCO.

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1614371712514281473

https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1614376699919224832

"The Minister of Transparency, Edmundo Orellana said that for the moment they are waiting for some actions to be developed by the United Nations (UN) to continue with the process of the installation of the CICIH."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-a-la-espera-de-documentos-firmados-de-la-onu-para-seguir-instalacion-de-cicih-dice-orellana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/15/indican-que-permanecen-a-la-espera-de-documentos-firmados-de-la-onu-para-continuar-con-la-instalacion-de-la-cicih/>

19 Supreme Court candidates did not make it to the next phase as they could not counter the complaints filed against them.

Among them are 6 current judges which shows again the problems with the current judicial power.

<https://proceso.hn/denuncias-y-tachas-dejan-fuera-del-proceso-a-19-postulantes-a-magistrados/>

<https://proceso.hn/los-seis-actuales-magistrados-quedan-fuera-para-optar-a-la-reeleccion/>

The new budget was published in La Gaceta.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/14/publicado-en-la-gaceta-el-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-para-el-ejercicio-fiscal-2023/>

An announced increase in toll booth prices caused an uproar.

President Xiomara tweeted: "I have not authorized any increase in toll rates, since the contract has been breached by the transnational company. The state will comply with the inherited legal debts and does NOT authorize the imposed increase. You have 24 hours to withdraw it."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/16/la-sit-hace-un-llamado-a-covi-honduras-a-revertir-incremento-en-el-cobro-del-peaje/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dialogo-gobierno-y-covi-incremento-al-peaje/>

<https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1614692895059050499>

16/01/23

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Judicial Power; Corruption - CICIH; Toll Booths; Migration; CABEI; and Ruling from Prison

The murder of three Garífuna women (see yesterday) was widely condemned.

The police announced that they have already arrested someone.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1615142078958149632>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/16/presidenta-castro-y-onu-condenan-femicidio-contra-tres-ciudadanas-garifunas/>

<https://ellibertador.hn/2023/01/16/policia-presenta-avances-en-crimen-contra-garifunas/>

The Nomination Board will present the 45 final candidates (out of the remaining 82 candidates) this Friday out of which Congress will elect the 15 new Supreme Court magistrates.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/semana-crucial-en-proceso-de-eleccion-de-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://criterio.hn/solo-82-postulantes-a-las-magistraturas-de-la-csj-continuan-activas-y-activos-durante-recta-final-del-proceso/>

After Transparency Minister Edmundo Orellana stated that the Xiomara administration is awaiting a step by the UN regarding the CICIH, Foreign Minister Enrique Reina now says that the administration is preparing terms of references to send to the UN.

<https://tiempo.hn/canciller-preparando-terminos-para-cicih/>

The fight about toll booth price rises continues. The responsible company Covi on the one hand announced that they would not increase the toll, but on the other hand threatened the Xiomara administration with legal and economic consequences.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/covi-honduras-retrocede-en-el-trancazo-al-peaje/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/covi-honduras-advierde-consecuencias-revertir-tarifas-peaje-BA11774948>

"Following the demands and requirements of organizations defending human rights and the right to human mobility, the Honduran government inaugurated the Center for the Attention of Irregular Migrants in Danlí, El Paraíso."

"The entry of irregular migrants to Honduras grew by 973.7% in 2022 compared to 2021, and reached 188,858, according to data from the National Institute of Migration (INM) consulted Monday by EFE."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/gobierno-abre-centro-de-atencion-al-migrante-en-danli-el-paraiso/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/16/la-entrada-de-migrantes-a-honduras-crecio-un-9737-en-2022-hasta-188-858/>

CABEI approved \$485 million in loans for Honduras in 2022.

<https://proceso.hn/bcie-aprobo-al-pais-485-millones-en-el-2022/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/16/como-el-ex-presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-batalla-desde-su-prision-en-nueva-york-para-seguir-dominando-honduras-infobae/>

17/01/23

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - US, EU; Garífuna - Femicides; Drug Trafficking; CNA; Economy - Gender; 2023 Budget; and PROHonduras vs. the OAS Ambassador

Various US human rights organizations and networks condemned the murder of Guapinol defenders Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla (see last week). "We urge the Honduran justice system to ensure a rapid, thorough, and impartial investigation and prosecution of the murders of Domínguez and Bonilla, taking into account their work as defenders and identifying the intellectual as well as material authors of the murder. To be impartial, such an investigation should not be carried out by the same police and prosecutors who have criminalized the Guapinol environmental defenders, so the case should be transferred out of the Tocoa area. We further urge the Honduran government to take immediate steps to protect environmental and land rights defenders, including in the Bajo Aguán area. In addition, judicial authorities must issue the letters declaring unconditional liberty for the eight environmentalists whose rights were violated by arbitrary detention, denial of due process, and lengthy pretrial detention, according to United Nations human rights experts. (...) The U.S. government should help address the nexus of corrupt companies, security forces, and public officials driving attacks against environmental and land activists by levying visa and financial sanctions on private sector individuals and security and public officials engaged in major acts of corruption and gross violations of human rights."

<https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/U.S.-Civil-Society-Groups-Denounce-Assassinations-of-Two-Honduran-Activists-January-17-2023.pdf>

The embassy of the European Union together with the ones from Spain, Germany and France also condemned the murders.

<https://proceso.hn/espana-alemania-francia-y-la-ue-condenan-asesinato-de-3-mujeres-en-honduras/>

OFRANEH published a press release condemning the recent femicides of three Garífuna women. "This is not an isolated event, this is part of the strategy for all the Garífuna people to abandon the communities, it is a strategy for the emptying of the Garífuna communities and the third banishment of the Garífuna people".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1615318538935496704>

<https://criterio.hn/triple-femicidio-de-mujeres-garifunas-no-es-un-hecho-aislado-advierte-ofraneh/>

"Police Commissioner Miguel Pérez Suazo, head of the National Directorate of Special Forces (DNFE), announced that the first extradited person of the year on drug trafficking charges will be handed over to U.S. authorities on Friday, January 27. Pérez Suazo explained that at the moment there are five Hondurans with extradition processes in custody at the Marco Aurelio Soto National Penitentiary, at the First Infantry Battalion and at the DNFE. In this sense, he informed that the extradition of Michael Derringer Powery, also known as "El Caracol", 40 years old, was set for next Friday, January 27."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/17/el-27-de-enero-sera-extraditado-el-hondureno-michael-derringer-powery-wood-a-eeuu-primero-del-2023/>

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1615391292418314241

In a new report, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) accuse the Attorney General of the Republic ("procurador general") Manuel Antonio Díaz Galeas, and his deputy Tomás Emilio Andrade Rodas of the crime of anticipation of public duties. This has to do with their nomination which they claim to be unconstitutional due to the situation with the two Congresses at the beginning of Xiomara's term.

But their accusation is on shaky grounds and when pressed during the press conference why they never did go after JOH's Attorney General, they suddenly suspended the press conference.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/17/cna-denuncia-ante-el-mp-nombramiento-de-procurador-y-subprocurador-por-considerarlo-inconstitucional/>

<https://twitter.com/Canal6Honduras/status/1615495370364325888>

"Honduras faces structural problems that historically have not been on the agenda of the current rulers, nor have they worked to improve the living conditions of hundreds of Honduran men and women who, in the absence of opportunities, many decide to leave the country with the sole purpose of improving their lifestyle and generating income for their households. In addition, there is a gap in the country that has not been broken, Honduran women continue to be excluded from important jobs, despite the fact that the country is currently governed by a woman."

<https://criterio.hn/vaticinan-que-en-2023-el-desempleo-en-honduras-continuara-siendo-un-problema-sobre-todo-para-las-mujeres/>

Criterion reports that the 2023 budget still contains the problematic left-overs of the JOH-era Departmental Funds. "A budgetary allocation of L950,000,000.00, which appears consigned within the General Budget of Income and Expenditures and which will be destined to the development of minor infrastructure and social works, has aroused suspicion. Its purpose would be closely related to the activation of the Community Social Funds which, months ago, was announced by the ruling party within the National Congress."

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-gestaran-proyectos-de-infraestructura-menor-tras-aprobacion-del-presupuesto-2023/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1567-equipo-de-prohonduras-denuncia-por-calumnias-a-embajador-de-honduras-ante-la-oea>

18/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Aguán; Judicial Power; Guapinol; Tolupán; Poverty - Children, Remittances; Migration - Children, US; Organized Crime; and Illegal Toys

"Tonight at 8 pm, Omar Cruz Tomé, president of the Los Laureles campesino cooperative & his father-in-law were murdered by hitman connected to a private security company 'SEC' that works w/ World Bank-financed Dinant corporation & paramilitary groups in the Aguan Valley".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1615949846166515712>

The Convergence against Continuity (CCC) published a press release on the upcoming Supreme Court elections. "4- On the burning issue of the process that will culminate with the election by the National Congress of the new Supreme Court of Justice, we recognize the responsible and honest work done by the Nominating Board, while we demand that the same practice of transparency be the one that characterizes the National Congress at the time of electing the 15 magistrates of that branch of the State. 5- We urge the members of the National Congress to elect a Supreme Court of Justice that responds to the anxieties of Honduran society to dismantle the criminal structure that has characterized the judiciary, to be independent of other powers, factual or formal, that is based on the institutionality of the rule of law and that listens and attends to the clamors for justice of Honduran society and especially of the broad sectors that have been victims of impunity and corruption. We insist, we demand that in this election the reduced groups that have historically manipulated the Honduran justice system be left out."

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford tweeted: "With the upcoming election of magistrates for the Supreme Court of Justice, we must maintain confidence in the process of the Nominating Board, which has carried out an objective and transparent process. Let us all participate in the change today by supporting the process. We hope that the Congress continues to develop a transparent, participatory, peaceful and respectful process within the framework of human rights and representative of the diversity of Honduran society."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ccc-ante-los-ultimos-acontecimientos-y-desafios-en-el-comienzo-del-ano/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mario-membreno-seria-ideal-tener-una-csj-justa-e-independiente-que-actue-apegada-a-la-ley/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/padre-melo-esperamos-que-la-nueva-csj-rompa-con-los-procesos-vividos-y-que-han-estado-bajo-la-responsabilidad-de-esta-sucia-corte/>

<https://proceso.hn/convergencia-contr-el-continuismo-pide-estar-vigilantes-para-que-cn-mantenga-transparencia-en-la-eleccion-de-la-csj/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1615833166282989573>

In their press conference, the CCC (see above) further condemned the murder of the Guapinol defenders and demanded that the State of Honduras repealed the licenses of extractive projects.

<https://criterio.hn/tras-asesinato-de-defensores-de-guapinol-aumenta-presion-para-cancelar-proyectos-extractivistas-en-tocoa/>

A government delegation led by the Ministry of Human Rights traveled to Locomapa to meet with the indigenous Tolupán community.

<https://eliberador.hn/2023/01/18/gobierno-se-reune-con-tribu-tolupan-en-yoro/>

"The United Nations World Food Programme welcomes a US\$ 10.7 million grant from The Rockefeller Foundation to help vulnerable children get better access to nutritious food through school feeding programmes in Benin, Ghana, Honduras, and India. The two-and-a-half-year initiative focuses on including fortified foods in school meals as well as advocating for more nutritious food throughout the programmes."

<https://www.wfp.org/news/rockefeller-foundation-and-wfp-launch-initiative-strengthen-school-meals-millions-children>

Honduras received a record amount of almost \$8.7 billion in remittances, 17.8% more than in 2021.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-recibio-8686-2-millones-de-dolares-en-remesas-en-2022/>

According to COIPRODEN, 13'700 Honduran children were deported to Honduras in 2022.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-registra-altos-indices-de-migracion-de-ninos-y-ninas/>

"The Chancellor of the Republic, Eduardo Enrique Reina, informed in the last hours that President Xiomara Castro will visit the United States to learn about the situation of unaccompanied minors held in shelters for migrating without documents."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/18/la-presidenta-xiomara-castro-visitara-albergues-en-estados-unidos/>

"Entering Barrio 18, the powerful Central American street gang, can seem like a violent rebirth. Members get a new family, a community, and a sense of belonging and protection. But this comes at a cost. Through the story of Desafío, a boy who grew up on the streets of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, InSight Crime delves into the internal workings that make Barrio 18 tick, the constant state of paranoia that its members are kept under, and the brutal response to anyone who dares to dream of a different life."

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/inescapable-prison-barrio-18-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/18/mp-investiga-juguetao-por-casi-l-2-millones-en-la-empresa-nacional-portuaria/>

19/01/22

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Aguán; FoE; Judicial Power; IACtHR; Energy Sector; Poverty; and Going After Harassment

The murder of campesino leader and defender Omar Cruz Tomé (see yesterday) was widely condemned.

Bufete Estudios Para la Dignidad wrote an open letter to president Xiomara.

The Human Rights Ministry published a press release condemning the assassination and recognizes that the protection mechanisms have been insufficient. The Security Ministry is responsible for their implementation and the Human Rights Ministry called on it to fulfill its duty.

Just a day after the assassination, Alfredo Antunez Tomé, Omar's cousin, was followed by an assassin on a motorcycle.

<https://cespad.org.hn/alerta-asesinan-a-presidente-de-cooperativa-campesina-del-bajo-aguan-en-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1616155668796276753>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1616162198178381834>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1616216134600081408>

<https://twitter.com/bufetedignidad/status/1616148497115275264>

<https://twitter.com/sedhHonduras/status/1616118160540811273>

<https://criterio.hn/plan-para-asesinar-a-lider-campesino-omar-cruz-tome-en-el-aguan-era-conocido-por-el-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1616178581083668483>

"By municipal order the local channel Mundo Visión located in Tocoa, Colón, was closed. The order was executed by the personnel of the municipality who arrived at the media facilities in the early hours of the morning (6:30am) last Tuesday, January 17, 2023. According to the municipal notification, this closure responds to the delay in the payment of taxes by the owner, thus denying the normal operation of this media owned by journalist Elga Sosa. C-Libre's technical team made the necessary consultations and according to legal professionals in Honduras, the closure of this television channel constitutes a violation of Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Expression, as stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1570-por-orden-municipal-cierran-canal-mundo-vision-el-segundo-medio-en-menos-de-un-ano>

The Nomination Board is expected to present its list of the final 45 candidates out of which Congress will elect the 15 new Supreme Court judges.

<https://proceso.hn/nominadora-afina-lista-de-aspirantes-al-supremo-mientras-convergen-llamados-a-eleccion-pacifica/>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1616190403488911360>

On February 6 and 7, the Inter-American Human Rights Court will trial the case on the dismissal of four magistrates of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court on December 12, 2012. Under the JOH regime, they were dismissed because they were against the charter cities, today's ZEDEs.

<https://proceso.hn/cidh-fija-juicio-sobre-destitucion-de-magistrados-de-sala-constitucional-de-csj-para-6-y-7-de-febrero/>

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1616173903411298332>

Energy Minister Erick Tejada announced that UFERCO will investigate the contract signed under the JOH regime with the Energy Company Honduras (EEH).

The same day, EEH claimed a debt from the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) for around 500 million dollars.

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncia-irregularidades-en-contrato-de-eeh/>

<https://criterio.hn/enee-interpone-denuncia-ante-la-uferco-contra-eeh-por-corrupcion-en-adjudicacion-de-contrato/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeh-reclama-deuda-de-500-millones-a-la-enee-y-amenaza-acciones-judiciales-en-el-exterior/>

"The new United Nations (UN) report Food and Nutrition Security Overview (FNS) 2022 revealed that 49.9% of the population in Honduras is moderately food and nutrition insecure."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/19/onu-49-9-de-la-poblacion-esta-en-inseguridad-alimentaria/>

"A small light illuminates the lives of Honduran women, young women and girls, the Women's Network of the Atlantic Coast, managed to consolidate an ordinance that will punish sexual and verbal harassment of women in this municipality."

<https://criterio.hn/bajo-ordenanza-municipal-la-ceiba-sancionara-el-acoso-sexual-y-verbal-contra-las-mujeres/>

20/01/23

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; Congress; HRDs -Aguán; ZEDEs; Environment; Corruption; Education;

The Nomination Board did not send the final list of Supreme Court candidates to Congress, it is now expected for Monday. Congress will elect the 15 new magistrates on January 25.

Also on Monday, the International Observation Mission (MIO) will return to Honduras.

ContraCorriente discussed four scenarios for the day that are currently floated around. "A first scenario, according to Father "Melo", is that the Libre Party makes an alliance with the National Party, therefore, the two parties would achieve the qualified majority for the election of the magistrates. "That is a possible scenario, evidently, if that scenario occurs, the National Party and the Libre Party are somehow tied, because then they will have to continue towards the election of the Attorney General and make other types of agreements in Congress", he said. (...) The second scenario, raised by Father "Melo", is that the Libre Party, Liberal Party and the Saviour of Honduras Party (PSH) form an alliance of their own until to reach the number 86 needed, including a negotiation with some two or three deputies of the National Party. "I believe that this scenario commits more political parties than only the first scenario and opens more possibilities for future negotiations; more open and not closed", he affirmed. For Father "Melo", the Honduran people lose less with the second scenario, since there are inter-party agreements where the National Party has less capacity and fewer political positions in its favor. "I believe that this second scenario is not ideal, but it would be the desirable scenario to advance towards governability", he explained. (...) A third scenario, Father "Melo" continues, is the chaos inside the National Congress, where neither Libre nor the National Party reach agreements or where Libre does not reach agreements with the other political forces. "In this case, the sectors that seek more impunity, as is the case of the National Party, can advance in the sense that an election is not achieved and the current administration of the Supreme Court of Justice continues, is prolonged", expressed the priest. (...) The fourth scenario is proposed by Luis Daniel León, who, despite praising the work of the Nominating Board, maintains that the process will enter into another logic once the list passes to the hands of the National Congress. Politicians will be the ones in charge of seeing who are on the list to choose from a partisan and biased vision; therefore, according to León, by choosing these candidates under partisan criteria, the technical quality will be lost and "politicking" will remain."

<https://criterio.hn/junta-nominadora-enviara-al-congreso-la-lista-de-45-candidatas-y-candidatos-en-fecha-limite/>

<https://proceso.hn/hasta-el-lunes-entregara-la-jn-al-cn-la-lista-de-45-postulantes-al-supremo/>

<https://criterio.hn/mio-honduras-regresa-al-pais-y-coincidira-con-eleccion-de-la-csj/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/20/cuatro-posibles-escenarios-en-el-congreso-nacional-para-elegir-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

With this key moment for the strengthening of Honduran rule of law approaching, we see renewed efforts to undermine the legitimacy of Congress and its president Luis Redondo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/21/luis-redondo-argumenta-legalidad-de-junta-directiva-y-culpa-a-leonel-ayala-por-actuar-contr-la-ley/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/20/la-jueza-karla-romero-denuncia-al-presidente-del-legislativo-por-supuestas-amenazas-de-muerte/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/20/dos-diputados-liberales-denuncian-a-redondo-por-presunta-persecucion-politica/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/20/bancada-del-psh-denuncia-persecucion-por-parte-del-diputado-luis-rolando-redondo-guifarro-titular-del-congreso-nacional/>

US ambassador Laura F. Dogu expressed concerns about the situation in the Aguán (see previous days).

<https://proceso.hn/embajadora-de-eeuu-externa-preocupacion-por-escalada-de-violencia-en-el-aguan/>

"Florida Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart warned that Honduras faces "serious sanctions" if it illegally expropriates U.S. investments (...) Balart is referring to the statement by President Xiomara Castro's government threatening to expropriate the U.S. investment in the Prospera Employment and Development Zone (ZEDE), which recently filed a US\$10.775 billion lawsuit to get the Honduran government to respect the agreement."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/congresista-advierte-serias-sanciones-expropiacion-inversiones-estados-unidos-zedes-honduras-DK11829864>

OACNUDH welcomes the step by the MP to present charges against 9 people for environmental damage linked to the housing project Ciudad Jaraguá.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1616570731500011525>

<https://proceso.hn/oacnudh-celebra-requerimiento-fiscal-por-caso-de-ciudad-jaragua/>

Once again, bad news from the courts. "The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) admitted a writ of amparo with suspension of the challenged act against the resolution issued by the Anti-Corruption Court of Appeals in the case against Reynaldo Ekónomo, former Nationalist congressman for Cortés."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/20/sala-constitucional-admite-recurso-de-amparo-con-suspension-del-acto-reclamado-a-favor-de-reynaldo-ekonomo/>

"The Vice Minister of Education, Edwin Hernández, stated that an enrollment of 2.3 million students nationwide is expected for the 2023 school year."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/20/educacion-preve-una-matricula-de-2-3-millones-de-estudiantes-en-2023/>

21/01/23

Honduras Daily: Aguán Valley; Congress; Corruption – Journalists;

CESPAD dedicates its weekly analysis to the distressing situation in th Aguán Valley. "The last few weeks have been tragic for the social movement in Bajo Aguán due to the assassination of four social activists: Aly Domínguez and Jairo Bonilla, members of the Committee for the Defense of the Commons of Guapinol-San Pedro; Mauricio Esquivel (member of the Tranvío cooperative) and Omar Cruz Tomé (president of the Los Laureles cooperative and under protective measures), both members of the Agrarian Platform, and Sandy Martínez (father-in-law of Cruz Tomé). The common characteristic of these crimes is that they were executed by men in civilian clothes, with the classic method of paramilitary groups (firearms, hooded and in full public light) that have operated in total impunity in this area of the country for the last 13 years. In the first days of January, the Agrarian Platform and the Bufete de Estudios para la Dignidad publicly denounced the implementation of a plan that included actions of threats, harassment and selective assassinations against the leadership of the Cooperatives in possession of the disputed agrarian reform lands, holding responsible for these actions the Dinant Corporation, a Honduran company founded in 1960 by the late businessman Miguel Facussé, with the support of private banks and the National Investment Corporation."

<https://cespad.org.hn/analisis-semanal-la-reactivacion-de-la-violencia-paramilitar-en-el-bajo-aguan-urge-de-la-intervencion-estatal-para-resolver-las-causas-de-la-conflictividad-social-en-la-zona/>

Congressional president Luis Redondo held a Twitter space on the recent attacks against his Congress and its legitimacy.

He additionally published a report called "The Truth".

In a joint press conference a day later, president Xiomara announced her complete support for Redondo.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/21/luis-redondo-argumenta-legalidad-de-junta-directiva-y-culpa-a-leonel-ayala-por-actuar-contrala-ley/>

<https://tiempo.hn/reacciones-al-space-de-redondo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/21/la-verdad-informe-de-luis-redondo-que-sostiene-su-legalidad-como-jefe-legislativo/>

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1617014020048928768

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/22/presidenta-xiomara-castro-manifiesta-su-total-respaldo-a-titular-del-congreso-nacional-luis-redondo/>

"Several communicators who received bribes from the corruption scandal, known as "Hermes", were included in the slate, and the pro-government slate headed by Osman Reyes was reelected by acclamation in the College of Journalists of Honduras (CPH), in an episode in which the opposition was not allowed to propose candidates."

<https://criterio.hn/con-planilla-integrada-por-senalados-en-caso-hermes-se-reelige-junta-directiva-del-colegio-de-periodistas/>

22/01/23

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; Drug Trafficking – US;

"By January 23 at the latest, the election of the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice for the 2023-2030 seven-year term will be in the hands of the National Congress, after the Nominating Board delivers a list of at least 45 candidates. While January 25 is the date mandated by the Constitution for the deputies to elect the 15 magistrates and magistrates of the new Court, which must have no less than seven women, according to the mandate of the Special Law for the Organization and Functioning of the Nominating Board for the Nomination of Candidates for Magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, in force since July 2022. However, as the selection work carried out by the Nominating Board approaches the National Congress, concerns are growing about the final outcome of a process that is considered crucial for the reconstruction and transformation of the rule of law in Honduras. On the one hand, there is pressure on the Board, as expressed by the Coalition Against Impunity and the Somos Muchas Platform on January 18, to

influence the selection of the candidates that will make up the list of 45. On the other hand, there is the disastrous precedent of previous processes in which bribery has been involved and political partisanship has prevailed."

<https://cespad.org.hn/eleccion-de-magistrados-pasara-a-manos-del-congreso-nacional-sin-reglas-claras-y-con-un-legado-de-reparticiones-politicas/>

"Fredy Nájera Montoya, former Liberal Party deputy, filed an appeal before a U.S. court, seeking to reverse his 30-year prison sentence after being found guilty of drug trafficking."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/fredy-najera-apela-condena-30-anos-prision-estados-unidos-EN11856064>

23/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, Aguán Supreme Court; and the Need for Transparency

"Given the upsurge of violence in the community of Guapinol in the municipality of Tocoa, Colón, the Observatory for Justice of the Guapinol River Defenders expands its mandate. The national and international organizations that make up the Observatory for Justice for the Defenders of the Guapinol River through a communiqué express their deep concern about the new wave of violence and threats against the defenders of the Guapinol River. Due to this upsurge in violence against defenders of water and territory, they announce the expansion of their mandate to ensure independent investigations and effective and comprehensive protection measures for the community of Guapinol and the membership of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa (CMDBCPT)."

<https://criterio.hn/observatorio-por-la-justicia-de-los-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-amplia-su-mandato/>

"Natalie Roque, the Minister of Human Rights has been accompanying communities in the Aguan Valley suffering violence. She denounces the violations committed by the police that are accompanying her in the region (tagging the Minister of Security)".

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1617728764267618305>

The Nomination Board presented its final list of 45 candidates out of which Congress is meant to elect the 15 new Supreme Court judges this week.

For the first time ever, the proposed candidates are composed of more women (23) than men (22).

Radio Progreso praises the work of the Nomination Board.

Still, the final list also contains questionable candidates. "Among the 45 nominees, there are also the current Deputy Attorney General of the Republic, Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso, and the Inspector General of the Courts, Anny Belinda Ochoa Medrano. Four and eight complaints had been filed against both persons, respectively, however, the Nominating Board issued resolutions "without merit"."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/junta-nominadora-revela-su-lista-de-45-aspirantes-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/honduras-seleccion-aspirantes-csj-equidad-genero-primera-vez-corte-suprema-justicia-paridad-NP11874944>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/alaban-trabajo-de-la-junta-nominadora/>

<https://criterio.hn/claroscuros-candidatos-a-la-csj-nominados-ante-el-congreso-nacional/>

"Since last September, Casa Presidencial has not complied with the Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information. According to the Transparency Portal, its last publication of accountability was on September 29, despite the fact that this law was approved during the mandate of former President Zelaya, the government of President Xiomara does not comply. Presidential portal has not been updated for five months. The transparency portal shows that the Executive Branch has not complied in accountability."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/23/xiomara-castro-no-cumple-con-la-ley-de-transparencia/>

24/01/23

Honduras Daily: Judicial Power; Corruption - Mobile Hospitals; Public Health; and No Blue Light at the End of the Tunnel

OHCHR published a press release on the ongoing Supreme Court election. "The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (OHCHR) welcomes the delivery of the final list of candidates by the Nominating Board to the National Congress for the election of the 15 magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice. OHCHR calls on the deputies to evaluate the candidates under the principles of legality, equality and non-discrimination, gender equity, publicity, transparency and accountability, objectivity, ethics, responsibility and due

diligence, as provided in the Special Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Nominating Board for the Nomination of Candidates for the Supreme Court of Justice. (...) In order to comply with ethical minimums in the election, for OHCHR it is crucial that the deputies commit to 1) consider only the candidates included in the list presented by the Nominating Board and under no circumstances violate the Law to include people who have not passed the entire process followed by this ad hoc body, 2) to scrupulously respect the gender quota established by law, electing at least 7 women as judges of the new Supreme Court of Justice, and 3) to guarantee that members of the benches who have a conflict of interest in this election, particularly those deputies who have pending criminal proceedings under the special procedure for the prosecution of senior state officials, will not vote, 3) to guarantee that the members of the benches that have a conflict of interest in this election will not vote, particularly those deputies who have criminal proceedings pending under the special procedure for the prosecution of high state officials, as established by Article 50, numeral 1 of the Organizational Law of the Legislative Branch, 4) to comply with the assumption of Article 311 of the Constitution, renouncing the secret vote, doing so in a nominal, public, reasoned, express and with names, promoting the trust and credibility of the process."

CESPAD published an overview of the 45 final candidates. Out of the 45, 23 received complaints during the process.

ContraCorriente also reported on the process. "The Nominating Board revealed the list of the best candidates for magistrates to the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), among which are relatives of politicians, militants of political parties and persons accused of irregular acts. Now, the election of the new Court remains in the hands of the National Congress, while the pressures of economic and political groups to choose their anointed ones prevail."

Criterion reported that 39 candidates are close either to the National Party, Liberal Party or Libre.

PSH published a list of 11 candidates which won't receive their support.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1617996468639657984>

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-saluda-la-entrega-de-la-nomina-de-personas-candidatas-a-magistrados-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-2023-2030-y-llama-al-congreso-nacional-a-elegir-a-personas-idoneas-capaces-e-integras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/oacnudh-se-une-a-la-demanda-de-voto-publico-en-eleccion-de-magistrados-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/en-datos-asi-se-conforma-la-lista-de-candidatos-y-candidatas-a-magistrados-de-la-csj/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/24/candidatos-con-nexos-politicos-avanzan-entre-seleccionados-para-conformar-la-nueva-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-86-67-de-los-aspirantes-a-la-csj-son-afines-a-partido-nacional-partido-liberal-y-libre/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/25/psh-no-apoyara-al-menos-a-11-postulantes-a-la-csj/>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office Against Organized Crime (FESCCO) attended this Tuesday the hearing for the presentation of evidence in the case of definitive deprivation of ownership of assets of illicit origin, through which the restitution in favor of Honduras of more than 100 million lempiras (L.101,777,602), equivalent to more than four million dollars, which, as part of the International Legal Assistance promoted in the case of the Mobile Hospitals, were secured in the U.S. financial system to Axel Gamaliel López Guzmán, who has an arrest warrant with an international red alert and extradition request."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/el-14-de-febrero-a-juicio-de-privacion-mas-de-100-millones-de-lempiras-incautados-a-axel-lopez/>

Criterion reports on the health care crisis in Honduras focusing on mental health.

<https://criterio.hn/se-agudiza-crisis-en-hospitales-de-salud-mental-en-honduras/>

"Those called upon to bring order in Honduras are the state security forces: the National Police and the Armed Forces. However, police and military elements are often mentioned and questioned for committing all kinds of crimes and human rights violations against the Honduran population."

<https://criterio.hn/elementos-de-la-policia-nacional-continuan-siendo-sindicados-en-muertes-violentas-en-honduras/>

25/01/23

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Education - Garífunas; Judicial Power; Congress; Toll Booth; and the Day of the Honduran Woman

"In the midst of the mobilizations in commemoration of Honduran Women's Day and the election of the new Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), period 2023-2030, there was a warning about the detention

of the Mayan Chortí leader, María Santos González in western Honduras. According to data provided by the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders, the indigenous leader was detained by members of the National Police, arguing an old arrest warrant for a process in which Gonzales was already granted final freedom in 2018. (...) After her arrest, the Mayan Chortí leader was transferred to the regional offices of the Police Directorate of Investigation (DPI) in the city of Copán Ruinas, more than 10 kilometers from the original point of detention, and was released at noon."

<https://criterio.hn/en-dia-de-la-mujer-detienen-a-lideresa-maya-chorti-a-causa-de-sistema-judicial-obsoleto/>

"In the midst of questioning the Ministry of Education for the politicization in the appointment of positions, new allegations on the subject arise, this time from the Garífuna communities in the northern coast of Honduras. The Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (Ofraneh) warned that it has received multiple communications from teachers, parents and mothers residing in ancestral territory throughout five departments, denouncing the lack of respect for the cultural, educational and linguistic rights of the Garífuna communities."

<https://criterio.hn/garifunas-denuncian-irrespeto-a-derechos-culturales-educativos-y-linguisticos-en-nombramiento-de-maestros/>

Congress voted yesterday to have a public election of the new Supreme Court judges.

The first attempts to elect the 15 new judges failed. Libre, the Liberal Party and the National Party could not agree on a distribution of the judges among them.

"Congress still hasn't reached a consensus about how new Supreme Court will be divided b/w political parties. Apparently LIBRE wants to choose 7 magistrates, Nat'l Party 5, & Liberal party wants 4 or 5. But only 15 can be elected. Behind-the-scenes negotiations continue".

COPINH called in a press release for the refoundation of the Honduras Supreme Court.

The Follow-up Committee on Compliance with Judgments and Resolutions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights also held a press conference on the election.

The debate about the election also brought forward some disturbing statements by the presidential designate Salvador Nasralla showing how distanced he has become from Libre and president Xiomara - leaving in the air how close he ever really was.

https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1618477412379131904

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-mocion-votos-para-elegir-csj-sean-publicos/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/eleccion-15-magistrados-corte-suprema-justicia-congreso-nacional-LI11912229>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/que-propuestas-lanzan-bancadas-completar-lista-15-magistrados-corte-suprema-justicia-honduras-LI11918276>

<https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1618448013009260546>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/no-hay-consenso-para-elegir-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/25/diputados-de-honduras-negocian-el-control-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1618403937572519938>

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-de-seguimiento-a-sentencias-interamericanas-urge-una-corte-independiente-apegada-a-estandares-internacionales/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/25/salvador-nasralla-la-csj-servira-para-convertir-a-honduras-en-una-nueva-cuba-venezuela-o-nicaragua/>

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/25/nasralla-en-su-laberinto-manuel-zelaya-y-juan-orlando-son-igual-de-daninos/>

Congress installed its second legislature yesterday.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/se-instala-segunda-legislatura-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

"The Superintendent of Concessions, César Cáceres, said on Wednesday that terminating the toll contract early could cost the Honduran State around US\$200 million." (see previous e-mail)

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/25/unos-200-millones-le-podria-costar-a-honduras-rescindir-contrato-del-peaje-de-forma-anticipada/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1618301631791255557>

<https://criterio.hn/las-mujeres-en-su-dia-exigen-una-corte-independiente-y-desarticulada-del-machismo/>

<https://proceso.hn/mujeres-hondurenas-exigen-en-su-dia-justicia-y-no-mas-violencia-contra-ellas/>

27/01/23

Honduras Daily: COPINH; HRDs - CNTC; Extractivism - Mining; Femicides; Judicial Power; Xiomara; Corruption - Invest-H; Jordan; and the Ambassador Has Left the Building

Campesino leader and regional secretary of the CNTC, Abelino Sanchez, was seriously wounded in an armed attack.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1618843319332913153>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-urgente-siguen-los-ataques-en-contra-de-los-defensores-de-la-tierra-el-territorio-y-el-medio-ambiente/>

On Thursday, the hearing against Armed Forces member Kevin Saravia continued. He is accused of attempted murder against COPINH member Allan García in Río Blanco.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1618640314448871427>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1618655775056084992>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1618746118569099265>

"Located in western Honduras is the indigenous Mayan Chortí population of Azacualpa in the municipality of La Unión, Copán, who are confronting the expansion of the company Minerales de Occidente S.A. (Minosa) within their ancestral territory. Not satisfied with the destruction of the historic cemetery of San Andrés, Minosa, a subsidiary of the transnational Aura Minerals, continues to affect the lives of the population by detonating dynamite every twenty-four hours, which not only disrupts their daily activities but also causes damage to the structures of their homes, soil and water sources."

Some community members traveled 400km to the capital to call on the Honduran government to comply with its promise to ban open-pit mining.

<https://criterio.hn/cada-24-horas-minera-dinamita-cementerio-de-san-andres-denuncian-pobladores-maya-chorti-de-azacualpa/>

<https://criterio.hn/pueblos-victimas-de-la-mineria-en-la-union-copan-piden-respuestas-a-gobierno-de-castro/>

299 women were murdered in 2022 and 23 so far in January. "Suyapa Martinez, from the Center for Women's Studies Honduras, said "we ask for a general disarmament, a reform of the weapons law because there are many illegal weapons"."

<https://criterio.hn/en-el-2022-cada-29-horas-perdio-la-vida-una-mujer-de-manera-violenta-en-honduras/>

While the first day did not bring forward 15 agreed upon candidates for the Supreme Court, Libre now claims that they have 10 candidates that they, the Liberal and the National Party agree upon.

Political analyst Julio Navarro believes that by next Wednesday, Honduras will have its new Supreme Court.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/sigue-en-el-aire-eleccion-de-nueva-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/26/fracasa-primer-nomina-propuesta-por-libre-para-eleccion-de-csj/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-asegura-que-10-de-la-nomina-ya-estan-consensuados-con-liberales-y-nacionalistas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/26/aseguran-que-a-mas-tardar-el-proximo-miercoles-honduras-ya-tendra-una-nueva-csj/>

President Xiomara Castro can look back on one year in government.

On this occasion, Amnesty International wrote to her an open letter. "Since you formed your government, just a year ago, Amnesty International has seen some timely progress, such as steps towards a complete repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones Act (ZEDE), which raised concerns about potential threats to human rights; progress in discussions regarding the creation of an International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), which reverses the weakening of cooperation with regional and international bodies and mechanisms; as well as statements recognizing the importance of the work of human rights defenders, enhancing their protection and investigations into attacks against them. However, the organization regrets that no progress has been made on other human rights issues which are urgent – and which you highlighted in your human rights agenda: the protection of women’s sexual and reproductive rights, the effective protection of human rights defenders, and the creation of a strategy for the demilitarization of public security."

Criterio looked back on "the sweet and the bitter" of her first year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/27/xiomara-castro-cumple-este-27-de-enero-su-primero-ano-de-gestion-en-el-ejecutivo-hondureno/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/es/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/AMR3763822023SPANISH.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/lo-dulce-y-lo-amargo-del-primero-ano-de-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>

<https://criterio.hn/balance-de-un-ano-de-socialismo-democratico-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/a-un-ano-del-gobierno-de-la-primera-presidenta-en-honduras-el-pais-no-avanza-en-derechos-de-mujeres/>

"A Corruption Court this afternoon found former Inversiones Estratégicas de Honduras (Invest-H) officials Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes guilty in the case known as "Mascarillazo"."

<https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/unaf-logra-nueva-condena-por-fraude-contr-extitular-de-invest-h-marco-bogran/>

<https://proceso.hn/culpables-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-en-caso-mascarillazo/>

"The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) reported that after its special "Diplomacy in the Shadows", an investigation in which Contracorriente participated together with the Latin American Center for Investigative Journalism (CLIP), several governments announced the termination or revision of honorary consulates. The Government of Jordan announced the termination of the diplomatic position of Honduran businessman Shucri Kafie, who served as honorary consul of Jordan in Honduras since 1984."

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/26/shucri-kafie-ya-no-es-consul-honorario-de-jordania/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/peru-retira-definitivamente-a-su-embajador-en-honduras/>

28/01/23

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Forests; State of Exception - Police; Libre; Xiomara; Congress; and the Digitization of the Historical Heritage

"The director of the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), Luis Edgardo Soliz, announced the suspension of the forest management plan in the ancestral territory of the Tolupán people of San Francisco de Locomapa, in the municipality of Yoro. The announcement was made by the ICF director during the inauguration of Radio Dignidad Tolupán in San Francisco de Locomapa. The communities received the news expressing their desire for actions and not speeches or promises that do not materialize. "This plan is on hold until the legitimacy of the board of directors of Locomapa is demonstrated through a prior, free and informed consultation, which is the one that has to validate what you are going to do with the forest. No one else can impose on you what you are going to do with the forest, but it has to pass through popular legitimacy", said the official in his speech."

<https://criterio.hn/anuncian-suspension-de-plan-forestal-en-tribu-tolupan-de-san-francisco-de-locomapa/>

According to the police, the homicide rate dropped by 50% in January compared to last year as a result of the state of exception.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/28/en-un-50-por-ciento-se-han-reducido-los-homicidios-por-el-estado-de-excepcion-afirma-la-policia-nacional/>

At the same time, the Security Ministry announced new changes to the police hierarchy. "He also informed about the creation of four new units within the institution, which will be oriented to social welfare, health and industry and judicial defense. The names of the new units are: Directorate of Social Welfare (DBS), Directorate of Police Industry (INPOL), Directorate of Police Health (DSP), and the Directorate of Police Legal Defense (DDJP)."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/anuncian-cambios-autoridades-policia-creacion-nuevas-direcciones-honduras-secretaria-seguridad-KM11950965>

There was an attack on a Libre councilman in Esparta, Atlántida.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/28/en-un-50-por-ciento-se-han-reducido-los-homicidios-por-el-estado-de-excepcion-afirma-la-policia-nacional/>

Xiomara's first year in office brought about more reactions (see also yesterday). A public letter by MADJ and an article by ContraCorriente on the promises made during her campaign to women.

<https://madj.org/2023/01/28/carta-publica-a-xiomara-castro-a-un-ano-de-su-gobierno-hay-que-pasar-del-discurso-a-la-accion/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/28/los-tres-regalos-que-le-debe-el-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-a-las-mujeres-hondurenas/>

ContraCorriente also looked at the first year of the new Congress under the leadership of Luis Redondo.

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/28/informes-del-ejecutivo-y-legislativo-buenas-intenciones-y-pocos-resultados/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2023/01/28/hacia-la-digitalizacion-del-patrimonio-historico-de-honduras/>

29/01/23

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Extractivism - Escazú; and the Cry of the Unheard

OFRANEH condemned the murder of another Garífuna defender, Ricardo Arnául Montero, in Triunfo de la Cruz.

UN Permanent Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford called for the protection of defenders and a halt to the killings.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1619650733875564545>

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-otro-defensor-de-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1619868139742986240>

<https://proceso.hn/no-mas-muertes-dice-representante-de-onu-ante-asesinado-de-otro-defensor-garifuna/>

"The human rights and environmental defender, Pedro Landa, asked President Xiomara Castro to adhere to and ratify the Escazú Agreement to stop the violence generated by extractive companies against environmentalists in Honduras."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/ambientalistas-piden-a-xiomara-castro-que-ratifique-el-acuerdo-de-escazu/>

<https://criterio.hn/muerte-solo-al-del-patriarcado/>

30/01/23

Honduras Daily: Garífunas; Extradition; Judicial Power - Argueta; Education; Economy; Prisons; Poverty; and the Urgency of Returning to a True Environmental Ethic

OHCHR sent a solidarity message to OFRANEH after the murder of Garífuna defender Ricardo Arnaúl Montero (see yesterday). "OHCHR joins the petition of OFRANEH and urges the State to conduct a thorough and rigorous investigation to clarify the causes of the death of the Garifuna defender."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1620179030392832000>

<https://criterio.hn/tras-asesinato-de-joven-defensor-del-territorio-garifuna-ofraneh-exige-acciones-y-no-tuits-al-estado-de-honduras/>

"On Monday, January 30, a judge of first instance sent to the Ministry of Security the final certification ordering the surrender of former Mayor Arnaldo Urbina Soto to the United States government. (...) Urbina was awaiting extradition on charges related to drug trafficking, but due to the fact that he was facing legal proceedings in Honduras, he had not been extradited."

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1620264701610573825>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/remiten-secretaria-seguridad-notificacion-extraditar-exalcalde-arnaldo-urbina-estados-unidos-BO11975859>

MADJ sent a public letter to Luis Redondo and the leadership of all political parties regarding the Supreme Court election. They highlight some candidates that should not be elected.

Meanwhile, the discussions in Congress continue to find a consensus on the candidates.

<https://madj.org/2023/01/30/carta-publica-a-luis-redondo-y-jefes-de-bancadas-del-congreso-nacional-ante-la-eleccion-de-la-csj/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/sigue-en-dialogo-y-consenso-eleccion-de-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

The outgoing Supreme Court president and JOH-ally Rolando Argueta has allegedly violated the Judicial Career Law and the Constitution of the Republic, in order to place people related to him in the judgeships of the Civil Court of Appeals of Francisco Morazán, according to allegations made by judges of that circuit.

<https://criterio.hn/magistrados-de-corte-de-apelaciones-denuncian-a-rolando-argueta-por-nombramientos-irregulares/>

"The 2023 school year starts this Wednesday in a new year with many expectations and challenges for the country at a time when the pandemic continues to decline and also waiting for an effective response from the Government to improve educational quality, coverage and inclusion. The Undersecretary of Education, Jaime Rodríguez, said in Radio Progreso that for this school year 2023 they expect an enrollment of more than 2.3 million children and young people nationwide."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/matricula-de-2-3-millones-de-estudiantes-esperan-autoridades-educativas/>

Criterio looks at the economic situation of Honduras and its outlook for 2023.

<https://criterio.hn/sombrio-el-panorama-en-materia-economica-para-2023/>

"The spokeswoman of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP), Digna Aguilar, announced this Monday that around 2 thousand inmates will enjoy pre-release and parole in the country's prisons. The official said that INP authorities, together with the Judicial Power and through the execution courts, will begin in the next few days to review the files in the 25 prisons of the country."

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/30/mas-de-2-mil-presos-podrian-quedar-en-libertad-al-ser-beneficiados-con-la-figura-de-preliberacion/>

According to a UNAH study, Honduras has the second most expensive basket of basic foods in Central America, \$383 per month.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/30/la-canasta-basica-de-honduras-es-la-segunda-mas-cara-de-centroamerica/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/los-asesinatos-de-ambientalistas-en-honduras-y-la-urgencia-de-retomar-una-verdadera-etica-ambiental/>

31/01/23

Honduras Daily: Journalists; ZEDEs; Judicial Power; Corruption - Astropharma, Police; Xiomara - Taxes; and Reproductive Rights

"Television media editor Carlos Gerardo Barahona was shot several times [and killed] at midnight on January 30 as he was about to park his car near his home in the Kennedy neighborhood of the Honduran capital, an area under a state of emergency declared by the government."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1574-ultiman-a-balazos-a-editor-de-suyapa-medios>

Human rights scholar Joaquín Mejía challenges the legality of the recently announced lawsuit against the State of Honduras by ZEDE Próspera.

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1620652924979519492>

"Tomás Andino, member representing civil society in the Nominating Board, affirmed to Contracorriente that, at this moment, political parties should set an example and place the best qualified candidates in their lists to elect the new Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), after the session of January 25 was suspended at midnight after there was no consensus on the list of 15 candidates for magistrates to occupy the Court presented by the Libre party. (...) Regarding the list of the 45 best candidates delivered by the Nominating Board to the National Congress, Andino assured that, from the civil society, they were not entirely satisfied with the conformation of this list, and that there are people who were included "because they are the preference of other sectors that supported them and who see qualities in them because they are functional to their interests"."

<https://contracorriente.red/2023/01/31/miembro-de-la-junta-nominadora-revela-que-candidatos-contrachas-avanzaron-porque-eran-funcionales-a-intereses-de-sectores-que-los-apoyaron/>

Honduras ranks as the fourth most corrupt country in the Americas in the Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-cuarto-pais-mas-corrup-to-de-america/>

The need for a new Supreme Court was emphasized again by a ruling to ratify the resolution to have all the charges dropped against the former deputy president of Congress, the Nationalist Lena Gutiérrez, in the Astropharma corruption case.

<https://tiempo.hn/ratifican-fallo-de-inocencia-astropharma/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office executed seizures and confiscations of 13 real estate, movable and financial assets of the former general commissioner of the National Police, Héctor Iván Mejía Velásquez."

<https://elpulso.hn/2023/01/31/ministerio-publico-incauta-los-bienes-del-exjefe-policia-ivan-mejia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/aseguran-bienes-a-ex-comisionado-general-de-la-policia-nacional-hector-ivan-mejia/>

President Xiomara presented her successes in her first year in office.

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/31/en-cadena-nacional-presidenta-xiomara-castro-detalla-logros-del-primer-ano-de-su-gobierno/>

She also presented a reform to the tax code which should lead to a more equal system.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/se-viene-reforma-tributaria-anuncio-la-presidenta-castro-en-su-informe-de-primer-ano-de-gobierno/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/blog/2023/01/31/reforma-tributaria-propuesta-por-el-gobierno-busca-que-quienes-mas-ganan-paguen-mas-asegura-riximoncada/>

<https://www.oas.org/es/CIDH/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2023/011.asp>