

01/07/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; LGBTIQ+; Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - Journalists, Health Sector, Corruption, Economy; Corruption; OAS; and Questions Around the Third Safe Country Agreement

Journalist German Gerardo Vallecillo and cameraman Jorge Posas were both shot dead yesterday in La Ceiba, Atlántida.

86 journalists have been murdered in Honduras since 2003, some 95% of these crimes remain in impunity.

In the afternoon, the police arrested four men and one woman allegedly responsible for the murder. If confirmed, they are the material authors while those planning and paying for such assassinations remain at large.

El Tiempo spoke with the father of German Gerardo Vallecillo, the journalist German Vallecillo.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1198-asesinan-a-periodista-y-camarografo-en-la-ceiba>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2896-ya-suman-mas-de-80-sicarios-matan-a-comunicadores-sociales-en-la-ceiba-atlantida>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-captura-a-sospechosos-de-asesinar-periodistas-en-la-ceiba/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1390996-466/german-vallecillo-camarografo-captura-sicarios-asesinos-ceiba>

<https://tiempo.hn/german-vallecillo-crimen-de-hijo-culpables-van-pagar/>

10 months have passed since the criminalized human rights and environmental defenders from Guapinol have been illegally detained. There are ongoing calls for their liberation.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1278390623108816902>

"OACNUDH deplores the violent death of the trans woman #AlejandraOrtiz and calls on the authorities to conduct an effective investigation that considers as a hypothesis the motivation based on prejudice about the victim's gender identity or expression." I have not found any other information on the assassination so far.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1278469173191094273>

1443 tests resulted in another 704 new COVID-19 cases, the positive test rate remains at around 50%. There are now 20'262 cases in Honduras and 542 people died, 45 deaths were confirmed yesterday.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1390992-466/honduras-sinager-casos-coronavirus-1-julio-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/01/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-1-de-julio-del-2020/>

C-Libre documented 21 cases of journalists tested positive for COVID-19 in June. In total, there have been 33 cases, three people died.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1626-junio-el-mes-con-mayor-contagio-por-covid-19-en-periodistas-de-honduras>

The president of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in the north of Honduras, Carlos Umaña, said that more than 1,000 people lined up to be treated at this assistance center yesterday.

Odir Fernández, head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), denounced that the mechanical ventilators distributed by the JOH regime (see previous days) are incomplete.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/umana-hoy-mas-de-1000-personas-esperan-atencion-medica-en-ihss-de-la-zona-norte/>

<https://twitter.com/odirfernandez/status/1278486894679031809>

Cirterio and Expediente Público published an investigation into the dubious work of Invest-H.

<https://criterio.hn/inversion-estrategica-de-honduras-una-nueva-mafia-institucional-al-desnudo/>

To pay the June, July and August salaries of public employees, the JOH regime depends on taking up more debt.

At the same time, the Property Institute calls for the payment of the vehicle tax of a public who has been out of work for months.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2078-honduras-con-mas-deuda-pagaran-sueldo-a-servidores-publicos>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2076-insolito-en-plena-crisis-hondurenos-deberan-pagar-tasa-vehicular>

"The Specialized Fiscal Unit against Corruption Networks (UFERCO) has advanced during this pandemic period in building solid criminal cases against high officials, ex-officials, businessmen, partners, front men and third parties involved in million-dollar diversions of public funds. The work of the UFERCO teams at this time is focused on finalizing the individualization of the authorship of those investigated and those aspects related to the modus operandi, criminal associations and collusion between the public and private sectors; in order to present the corresponding Fiscal Requirements and to request the issuance of arrest warrants."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/5973-uferco-prepara-casos-de-alto-impacto-contra-redes-de-corrupcion>

<https://confidencialhn.com/uferco-asegura-que-esta-avanzando-en-investigaciones-por-corrupcion-publica-y-privada/>

Honduras has a new OAS representative, Luis Cordero.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/juramentan-a-luis-cordero-montoya-como-nuevo-representante-permanente-de-honduras-ante-oea.html>

"A federal judge ordered the Trump administration on Tuesday to stop enforcing an immigration rule that disqualifies most non-Mexican migrants from asylum at the U.S. southern border, saying the broad restriction was enacted unlawfully in the summer of 2019. (...) Enacted as a final rule in July 2019, the regulation struck down on Tuesday deemed migrants who did not seek some form of humanitarian protection in a third country on their journey to the southern border ineligible for U.S. asylum. Because it includes limited exceptions to this disqualification and affects even unaccompanied minors, the regulation shut off the asylum system for most Central American and non-Mexican migrants, who travel through at least one third country to reach the U.S. border."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/judge-blocks-trump-border-asylum-restriction-enacted-illegally/>

02/07/20

Honduras Daily: Berta; Journalists - UN; Migration - US; COVID-19 - Journalists, Corruption, Poverty, Prisons, Education, JOH; and Another Multi-Million World Bank Loan

It has been 52 months since the murder of Berta Cáceres.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1278859737304633344>

OACNUDH "condemns" the murder of journalist Germán Vallecillo Jr. and cameraman Jorge Posas (see also yesterday). "OHCHR has received information from the State authorities that five persons have been arrested for the alleged commission of the acts. As part of its mandate, OHCHR calls on the authorities to conduct an independent, prompt and impartial investigation to shed light on the facts and to effectively prosecute and punish the perpetrators and masterminds. Such investigations should exhaust all lines of inquiry, including journalistic activity, and take into account previous threats and attacks that had occurred, or even been reported."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-del-periodista-german-vallecillo-jr-y-del-camarografo-jorge-posas-e-insta-a-investigacion-pronta-y-exhaustiva-de-los-hechos/>

The US celebrates the detention of the newest migrant caravan by the Honduras police. Journalist Jonathan Blitzer rightly asks: "What's being celebrated here? People are fleeing a country that's refusing to let them leave. On top of everything else, it happens to be a country with a corrupt, criminal, and illegitimately "elected" president. Aka: a US ally, because he claims to be tough on immigration."

Even worse, one of the Haitian man leading the migrant caravan, Jamesley Bienvenue, disappeared after having been arrested by the police.

<https://twitter.com/JonathanBlitzer/status/1278687821281341446>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/migrantes/1630-desaparece-haitiano-que-lideraba-migrantes-de-paso-por-honduras>

1713 tests resulted in another 858 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 21'120. 49 more people died for a new death toll of 591.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391280-466/coronavirus-honduras-covid-19-sinager-muertos-pandemia-julio>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/02/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-2-de-julio-del-2020/>

The well-known journalist and head of news at HCH Television, Pablo Matamoros, died of COVID-19.

Another journalist, Francis Jaqueline Bojórquez from Choluteca, also died from COVID-19.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/consternacion-por-muerte-de-periodista-pablo-gerardo-matamoros/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2079-periodismo-hondureno-otra-victima-del-covid-y-del-crimen>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/07/02/muere-periodista-con-sintomas-de-covid-19-en-choluteca/>

The MP intervened the offices of Invest-H, the Health Secretariat and the Finance Secretariat as well as the house of former Invest-H director Marco Bográn. They are investigating 11 cases of corruption.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/5980-mp-secuestra-documentos-en-invest-h-y-otras-instituciones-como-parte-de-11-lineas-de-investigacion-por-supuesta-corrupcion-durante-pandemia>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/5985-mp-allana-vivienda-de-marco-bogran-para-decomisar-indicios-relacionados-a-caso-invest-h>

<https://tiempo.hn/elementos-atic-intervienen-oficinas-invest-h-salud-finanzas/>

An analysis on food security in Honduras by the IPC shows "an increase in the population in Crisis (Phase 3) from 19% to 32% in all areas analysed with respect to the situation in November 2019. The 13 departments of Honduras have been classified in Crisis (Phase 3), which implies that households are not able to meet their food needs without depleting essential livelihood assets and without resorting to Crisis or Emergency coping strategies".

<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152716/>

At least 34 inmates at the prison in Gracias tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, 38 guards also tested positive.

The administrative manager of the National Penitentiary Institute, Col. José Miguel Mejía, said that, according to their estimates, some 5,300 prisoners may get infected.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-34-reos-dan-positivo-prueba-rapida-carcel-gracias/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/mas-de-5-mil-privados-de-libertad-podrian-contagiarse-de-covid-19/>

"University authorities decided to dismiss teachers during the pandemic, causing an overload on the remaining teachers by serving up to 200 students per day in the second intensive academic period and completely online."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2898-sitraunah-a-la-lucha-contra-mil-100-despidos-de-profesores-durante-la-pandemia>

JOH was released from the hospital.

He tweeted a picture of himself leaving the hospital, one fist in the air and writing "¿Quién dijo miedo?" - the title of a documentary on the Honduran coup d'état...

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/dan-el-alta-medica-al-presidente-herandez-tras-su-recuperacion-del-covid-19.html>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1278695932478001154>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/herandez-se-recupera-en-tiempo-record-y-sale-de-su-lecho-de-enfermo-por-sars-cov2/>

The World Bank granted Honduras a \$75 million loan to reactivate the agricultural sector - it is the third loan in more or less a month for the JOH regime.

<https://tiempo.hn/reactivar-sector-agricola-bm-otorga-credito-75-millones-honduras/>

03/07/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTIQ+; UFERCO; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector, HR, Prisons; Penal Code; Prisons; and Gender Inequality During a Pandemic

Lawyer and human rights defender at the Red Lésbica Cattrachas, Astrid Campos, was arrested in Comayagua yesterday. "According to the complaint issued by Cattrachas, the lawyer is being held in a cell at UDEP number 3 in Comayagua and was the victim of abuse of authority, illegal and arbitrary detention by the National Police, exposing her health, integrity and security in this difficult context of the Covid-19 pandemic."

<https://criterio.hn/abogada-de-la-red-lesbica-cattrachas-es-detenido-en-comayagua/>

Quemando Microfonos held a 1.5h interview with the director of the anti-corruption body UFERCO, Luis Santos.

<https://twitter.com/QuemandoMicsHN/status/1279217701651492864>

Honduras has fewer, detected, dengue cases than last year, but there are still 15'117 cases (compared to some 20'000 in 2019) and children are the main affected.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45345>

There were another almost 1000 new cases yesterday, 996, for a new total of 22'116. 14 more people died with a current death toll at 605.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1391445-528/cifra-de-casos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras-suba-a-22116-y-605>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/03/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-3-de-julio-del-2020/>

"Just under 40% of the Honduran population considers the government's handling of the COVID-19 emergency as "very bad," making Honduras one of the two worst-rated countries in Central America, according to a recent survey."

The JOH regime nominated Evelyn Lizeth Bautista Guevara to replace Marco Bográn at the head of Invest-H.

She is the daughter of the former president of the Central Bank of Honduras, Manuel Bautista.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45323>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391485-466/joh-aprueba-nombramiento-de-evelyn-bautista-nueva-directora-de-invest-h>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hija-de-expresidente-del-banco-central-es-la-nueva-directora-de-investh-tras-renuncia-de-bogran/>

El Heraldito continues to cover the corruption case involving Invest-H and the mobile hospitals. "A load of e-mails between the authorities of Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Invest-H) and the representative of HospitalesMoviles.com, Axel López, shows that the contracting and payment of the mobile hospitals was done almost blindly."

They also spoke to the company in Turkey hired to build the container for the hospitals.

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC), meanwhile, speaks of "significant advances" in their special audits of the purchases by Invest-H.

The MP continued to seize documents yesterday, this time at COPECO.

"The executive director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés, CCIC, Pedro Barquero, believes that the government of Juan Orlando Hernández is not interested in fighting corruption and improving the health system. On the contrary, in the years he has governed, first as

president of Congress and then of the Republic, he has dedicated himself to imposing laws and actions aimed at preventing the corrupt from going to prison."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391322-466/cruce-de-correos-muestra-pago-a-ciegas-en-compra-de-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391343-466/empresa-no-pudimos-negociar-otros-contenedores>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391391-466/tsc-auditor%C3%A1Da-por-compra-de-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles-presenta-un-mayor-avance>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-espera-llegada-de-hospitales-moviles-de-turquia-para-emitir-informes-sobre-corrupcion-en-investh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/atic-llega-a-copeco-a-secuestrar-informacion-sobre-presuntos-actos-de-corrupcion-por-hospital-de-villanueva/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/gobierno-esta-comprometido-con-los-corruptos-dice-presidente-de-empresarios-en-el-norte-de-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/paraiso-del-crimen-protege-a-bogran-y-al-resto-de-corruptos/>

According to public health expert, Henry Andino, the Honduran hospitals are occupied by more than 90% nationwide and he fears that they will be completely overrun in the coming days as some hospitals already are.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/07/03/la-red-hospitalaria-esta-ocupada-en-mas-de-un-90/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/seguro-socia-al-borde-del-colapso/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their joint 16th press release during the pandemic. "We arrive in July, and we continue to walk on the shifting sands that move to the sound of news of new acts of corruption, with new figures of the elite appearing muddy in embezzlement from public institutions, with links to drug trafficking, key pieces in the support of the dictatorship. As always, in this first week of July, we raise our voice before the Honduran society, to unite it with the clamor for health, food and justice of many people who wallow in indignation and repudiation of the rottenness that is enmeshed in the structures of official power. We unite all these voices in this sixteenth public manifesto."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/decimo-sexto-manifiesto-publico/>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) claims that some 230 inmates tested positive for COVID-19, the real number is likely much higher as some estimates go up to 600 cases in the Támara prison alone.

<https://tiempo.hn/inp-230-privados-libertad-positivos-covid-19/>

The executive and the legislative power of the JOH regime seem to have become one again when it comes to the Penal Code. Both oppose the attempt by the political opposition to derogate the new Penal Code (see also previous e-mails).

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-la-presidencia-desestima-solicitud-de-la-directiva-opositora-del-congreso-que-pidio-eliminar-codigo-penal/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1279261864199938049>

<https://criterio.hn/en-que-punto-se-encuentra-proceso-de-abrogacion-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

An inmate was murdered in a fight at the minimum-security prison El Porvenir.

<https://confidencialhn.com/matan-a-reo-durante-rina-en-el-presidio-de-minima-seguridad-de-el-porvenir/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45337>

"Pandemic reflects gender inequality on the streets of Honduras"

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-refleja-desigualdad-de-genero-en-calles-de-honduras/>

04/07/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Health Sector, State Reaction, Church, Work, Taiwan; Corruption; Drug Trafficking; US; UNAH; and the Worst Expression of Honduran Democracy

1793 tests, 805 new cases, a new total of 22'921 cases. The same day, 24 more people died to COVID-19, the death toll now being at 629. There are still 1357 people hospitalized, 54 in intensive care units.

Corona testing was suspended for lack of swabs to take samples from patients suspected of the disease in San Pedro Sula.

CESPAD published their daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391665-466/honduras-coronavirus-covid-19-casos-positivos-muertos-sinager>

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-sanitarias-de-sps-suspenden-toma-de-muestras-del-sars-cov2-por-falta-de-hisopos/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/04/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-4-de-julio-del-2020/>

El Tiempo reports that the medical system in Choluteca should be considered collapsed. "Exposed to the elements, medical personnel attend to patients with COVID-19 and those suspected of having contracted the disease at the Hospital del Sur, located in Choluteca. Under makeshift tents, on some

mattresses and around mud, some patients receive oxygen in search of survival and others are examined while waiting for the results of their diagnostic test."

In response, the head of the anti-corruption body UFERCO tweeted: "That is the consequence of the billions looted from the Health Ministry over decades. During all that time, what did we do? I hope that all this situation will serve so that every day, there will be more INTOLERANT citizens towards the corrupt..."

Radio HRN reports on a similar situation at the hospital in Danlí, El Paraíso.

ContraCorriente portrays the situation at the Leonardo Martínez Valenzuela Hospital in San Pedro Sula.

Another doctor, Luis Reyes Jerezano, died to COVID-19 in Honduras.

The Honduran Medical Association (CMH) once more requested that a high level technical-scientific management committee be set up to deal with the corona pandemic.

Libre, meanwhile, plans to present a bill to temporarily nationalize the private health system in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/colapsa-hospital-del-sur-triaje-hace-bajo-carpas-improvisadas-lodo/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1279562041880182784>

<https://radiohrn.hn/colapsados-hospitales-de-choluteca-y-el-paraiso-sin-camas-oxigeno-ni-personal-de-salud/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/04/esperando-la-vida-y-la-muerte-en-un-hospital-de-san-pedro-sula-%ef%bb%bf/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1391657-410/muere-doctor-luis-reyes-jerezano-coronavirus-ihss>

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-medico-exige-instalacion-de-mesa-de-alta-gerencia-para-hacerle-frente-a-la-pandemia/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-tiene-listo-proyecto-para-nacionalizar-hospitales-durante-pandemia/>

"The mayor of Siguatepeque and current vice president of the Association of Honduran Municipalities, Amhon, Juan Carlos Morales, told Radio Progreso that the central government owes the municipalities five months' worth of transfers."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/van-cinco-meses-sin-transferencias-municipales/>

"The highest Catholic Church official, Ángel Garachana, urged President Juan Hernández to act ethically and responsibly in the government's management of the crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, which he has so far described as "incompetent". The president of the Honduran Episcopal Conference, an organization at the top of the Catholic hierarchy, made the call to the president amid complaints of overvalued purchases of seven hospitals and masks, while hundreds of people are being treated with enormous shortages of tents because of the overflowing public hospital system."

<https://criterio.hn/garachana-pide-a-joh-actuar-con-etica-y-responsabilidad-ante-pandemia/>

Some 250'000 to 300'000 additional people could become unemployed by the end of the year in Honduras.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/pandemia-provocara-una-tasa-del-13-de-desempleo-en-honduras/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/entre-250-mil-y-300-mil-nuevos-desempleados-podria-registrar-honduras-al-termino-del-2020/>

The JOH regime received \$1 million from Taiwan through the System for Central American Integration (SICA). "Each SICA member country will have access to \$1 million under the Regional Contingency Plan for the Coronavirus, to strengthen national efforts."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1391584-410/honduras-un-millon-dolares-lucha-coronavirus-salud-taiwan-sica>

Instead of investigating corruption, Honduras' state bodies continue to blame each other for doing nothing. For weeks now, there has been a public dispute between the MP and the TSC.

<https://confidencialhn.com/98517-2/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscal-adjunto-reitera-que-decreto-116-2019-impide-acciones-contr-funcionarios.html>

A drug lab was destroyed by ATIC in Colón.

Journalist Jeff Ernst reacted: "Another bust of a cocaine lab & estimated 20k plants in northern Honduras is further proof of ongoing shift from bridge state to producer."

<https://confidencialhn.com/encuentran-narcolaboratorio-y-plantaciones-de-hoja-de-coca-en-poblado-de-colon/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1279470269967597575>

On yesterday's July 4th celebration, the US chargé d'affaires lauded the relationship between the US and Honduras. "Inalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, are principles that the United States shares with the Honduran people and government, says the diplomat". Difficult to find a moment in the recent past when these words have rung more hollow, in both the US and Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/encargada-de-negocios-de-estados-unidos-destaca-relacion-fuerte-y-perdurable-con-honduras.html>

Three years ago, there were important student protests taking place in Honduras. They were met by state repression and criminalization. One such criminalizing trial against over 20 students is still

ongoing.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2899-la-criminalizacion-de-la-protesta-en-la-unah-no-es-un-caso-cerrado-aun>

...Congress

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/congreso-es-la-peor-expresion-de-la-democracia-segun-diputado-liberal.html>

05/07/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Medical Sector, Corruption; Journalists; National Party; and Where is Our Money?

Normally, there are fewer new cases reported over the weekend, but yesterday, there were another 1022 new cases out of 1796 tests for a new total of 23'943. Ten more Hondurans died, the current death toll is now at 639.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391807-466/honduras-registra-nuevos-casos-fallecimientos-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/05/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-5-de-julio-del-2020/>

The situation in Honduras has reached very worrisome levels. So much so that representative of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) in the north of Honduras felt urged to call for the complete closure of five municipalities (San Pedro Sula, Villanueva, Choloma, La Lima and Quimistán) to try to stop the spread of the virus. They emphasized that this includes the closure of the Maquila sector. ""Only the maquila generates between 27% and 35% of the IHSS patients in this part of the country, the rest are informal commerce, hardware stores and the general population. Citizens have not respected the exit digit and controls have not been effective".

The press conference was also accompanied by the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC), Pedro Barquero, who agreed with their demands.

A CMH leader, doctor Ligia Ramos, later tweeted: "What do they not understand for the love of God?! Close EVERYTHING! We are overcrowded, overflown, we can't take it anymore, they're going to run out of health personnel. Close the fucking sweatshops for God's sake!"

The Honduras Maquilas Association does not want to hear of it.

At the Leonardo Martínez Valenzuela Hospital in Cortés, medical staff may go on strike today as they have not been paid the last two months.

ContraCorriente reports on how local solidarity keeps the hospital in El Progreso running.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1391772-410/medicos-honduras-colegio-medico-zona-norte-cierre-pandemia-crisis-cuarentena>

<https://criterio.hn/cmh-y-ccic-piden-cierre-por-tres-semanas-de-municipios-con-mayor-incidencia->

[de-covid-19/](#)

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cierren-todo-cierren-las-p-maquilas-por-el-amor-de-dios-clama-doctora-ante-estragos-de-pandemia.html>

<https://criterio.hn/cierren-esas-putas-maquilas-por-el-amor-de-dios-doctora-ligia-ramos-ante-el-avance-del-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asociacion-de-maquiladores-defiende-que-solo-1-5-de-colaboradores-han-requerido-asistencia-hospitalaria.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/dos-meses-sin-salario-personal-medico-del-leonardo-martinez-se-iria-a-paro-manana/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/05/hospital-de-el-progreso-sobrevive-gracias-a-la-solidaridad/>

CESPAD wonders what last week's announcement to investigate Invest-H and its director Marco Bográn can really bring forward. "In such circumstances, the fiscal investigation against Marco Bográn and the blockages he faces may represent the most important argument to end the elite's Impunity Pact, articulating a broad alliance of forces for decency and justice. The emerging Anti-Corruption Coalition (CAC) could be a bridge to bring together such diverse forces. It is essential to put pressure on the National Congress to repeal the set of decrees that shield the actions of corrupt public officials, decrees that are incompatible with the essence of the rule of law and the administration of an effective justice system."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/05/analisis-semanal-la-investigacion-del-ministerio-publico-contra-bogran-y-las-oportunidades-para-la-sociedad-civil-hondurena/>

Last week was a very dark one for Honduran journalists. Four of them died in less than 48 hours, two assassinated, two died to COVID-19 (see previous e-mails). Additionally, the social communicator and director of the independent program "El Perro Amarillo", Milton Benitez, denounced that his workplace was attacked.

Yesterday, the criminalized journalist and director of Radio Globo, David Ellner Romero, was transferred from his prison cell to a hospital suspected of COVID-19.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2084-honduras-semana-obscura-para-el-periodismo-saquean-oficinas-del-perro-amarillo>

<https://confidencialhn.com/trasladan-a-centro-asistencial-a-david-romero-por-sospecha-de-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/trasladan-a-david-romero-a-hospital-capitalino-para-confirmar-covid-19/>

A local National Party leader, Ramón Alvarenga Valladares, was murdered yesterday.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/asesinan-a-disparos-a-dirigente-del->

<partido-nacional-en-sps.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1391864-410/matan-exdiputado-ramonvalladares-san-pedro-sula->

CESPAD published a video on the corruption during the pandemic and the call for justice.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/05/donde-esta-mi-dinero-tu-dinero-nuestro-dinero/>

06/07/20

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples; HR; Journalists; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, Education, Prisons, Inequality; and Collective Action as an Alternative

IM-Defensoras and others launched the "Their Lives are Our Lives" campaign in support of COPINH and OFRANEH . "Today we raise our voices to denounce the growing violence against the Garifuna and Lenca peoples of Honduras, organized in COPINH and OFRANEH".

https://twitter.com/IM_Defensoras/status/1280158788398600193

Pasos de Animal Grande published their weekly human rights update.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2900-virus-se-fortalece-contra-la-libertad-de-expresion>

A habeas corpus was presented for the criminalized journalist David Romero who was transferred from prison to a hospital suspected of COVID-19 (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/presentan-recurso-de-habeas-corpus-para-solicitar-liberacion-del-director-de-radio-globo-y-confidencialhn/>

1330 tests, 722 new COVID-19 cases, 24'665 in total. 17 people died to COVID-19 yesterday, 656 in total.

CESPAD published their daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392071-466/honduras-coronavirus-covid-19-sinager-muertos-pandemia-julio-722-casos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/06/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-6-de-julio-del-2020/>

The CNA published its seventh report on corruption during the pandemic titled "The state biosecurity death trap". They found that COPECO and Invest-H bought 335'000 and 469'000 non-certified face masks respectively for Honduras' medical staff. Some of the vendors even explicitly wrote on their packaging that they were not meant for medical use.

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) now asks for international support to investigate the purchase of the mobile hospitals by Invest-H.

https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/La-corrupcio%CC%81n-en-tiempos-del-COVID_Parte-7.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtzFiB2lwUg>

<https://criterio.hn/mascarillas-que-compro-el-gobierno-serian-causantes-del-contagio-de-medicos-y-enfermeras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1391950-466/honduras-cna-mascarillas-pandemia-copeco-investh>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tribunal-superior-de-cuentas-pide-apoyo-internacional-para-verificar-hospitales-moviles/>

El País reports on how the medical system in the capital is overrun. "The capital's three triage centers that have been set up in the Central District, as well as the hospitals and the various clinics of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), have been saturated; the lines have been endless since the early hours of the morning."

Linked to the overcrowded hospitals, 31 kidney patients lost their lives in the last five weeks due to a lack of access to dialysis.

The Honduran Medical Association (CMH) reiterated their call to temporarily close down the sweatshop industry (see also yesterday).

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/07/06/abarrota-dos-los-centros-de-triaje-por-pacientes-con-sospecha-de-covid-19-en-la-capital/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-31-pacientes-renales-han-fallecido-por-falta-de-aplicacion-oportuna-de-hemodialisis/>

<https://criterio.hn/empresas-no-quieren-dar-ni-15-dias-de-respiro-para-reorganizar-el-sistema-de-salud-cmh/>

Some two million Honduran children are without access to education during the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/dos-millones-de-ninos-y-ninas-sin-acceso-a-educacion-en-crisis-pandemica/>

According to the human rights organization CODEH, there are at least 2500 inmates infected with COVID-19 and 16 have died so far.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-menos-2-500-contagiados-y-16-reclusos-han-muerto-por-covid-segun-codeh.html>

Honduras congresswo/men are among the best paid in the region, Andrés Morales demands a salary cut form them and high public officials to use the money to support the great majority.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1635-reducir-salarios-a-diputados-y-altos-funcionarios-para-aumentarlo-a-los-trabajadores>

Peace Watch Switzerland reports on how their accompanied communities use collective action as one tool to respond to the corona pandemic. "The practices undertaken by several of our companions are gaining strength in the face of the adversities presented by the pandemic and the crisis. Through their actions they show us the need to return to or create new forms of life, new forms of social ties, to think of more supportive projects, economic models that respect the land and sovereignty, in short, to think of responses that provide conditions that make life together possible. It will be in the collective strength and in the community that these conditions will be created."

<https://peacewatch.blog/2020/07/06/honduras-la-fuerza-colectiva-como-alternativa-ante-el-covid-19/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/1636-desaparece-haitiano-que-lideraba-migrantes-de-paso-por-honduras-2>

07/07/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, LGBTIQ+, Prisons, Journalists; Penal Code; and Corruption and Gender

The owners of INCOBE, a Honduran partner company of the mining company Aura Minerales, must remain in pre-trial detention. They are accused of links with organized crime.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1280537098651500544>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/seguiran-en-prision-preventiva-capturados-en-operacion-arcano-ligados-al-crimen-organizado.html>

Honduras continues with a very worrisome trend, some 50% of the tests applied result positive. Yesterday, 1537 tests resulted in 763 new COVID-19 cases, 25'428 in total. 21 more people died, the official death toll now being at 677.

But last statistic is widely questioned. The Association of Funeral Homes of Honduras registered 1831 burials with a COVID-19 protocol until July 4, almost three times as high as the official death count at that time. There is also a backlog of testing of about a month, i.e. 13'000 tests still need to be analyzed.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392316-466/honduras-casos-covid-19-muertos-coronavirus-pandemia-hospitales-cifras-gobierno>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1392252-528/funerarias-registran-casi-el-triple-de-muertos-por-coronavirus-que-cifra-del>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/07/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-7-de-julio-del-2020/>

Javier Suazo analyzes the failed reaction to the pandemic by the JOH regime and looks at possible

alternatives.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/207715>

There are at least 1600 health workers infected with COVID-19 in Honduras.

Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), speaks of 40% of all medical staff who is infected.

Another nurse died in San Pedro Sula to COVID-19.

In Tegucigalpa, health workers at the El Tórax Hospital protested against inadequate biosafety equipment.

And then, there was also the following Twitter feud. "The president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, wrote on his Twitter account: "There is an urgent need for more medical personnel in hospitals and triage centers. Today at the National Congress it was approved that medical graduates can be hired by the health sector even if, for reasons of the pandemic, they have not received their university degree card". To which the president of the Honduran Medical Association, Suyapa Figueroa, also responded on her Twitter account: "I have a list of 8,000 doctors with degrees in hand. I'll send it to you or you can pick it up at the CMH. The Medical Association has been denouncing that the current government has not wanted to hire the doctors who are out of work".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1392261-528/honduras-1648-m%C3%A9dicos-enfermeras-y-dem%C3%A1s-personal-de-salud-infectados-por-covid-19>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-senala-que-40-por-ciento-de-galeños-son-positivos-de-coronavirus/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1392310-410/enfermera-muere-coronavirus-covid-seguro-social-san-pedro-sula->

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/personal-de-enfermeria-realiza-planton-en-el-instituto-cardiopulmonar-del-torax.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-unidad-de-cuidados-intensivos-del-instituto-cardiopulmonar-reclama-abastecimiento-de-insumos-de-bioseguridad/>

<https://criterio.hn/cruce-de-tuits-entre-mauricio-oliva-y-suyapa-figueroa-por-contratacion-de-medicos/>

The mobile hospitals continue to be in the headlines. Apart from the corruption surrounding its purchase, an investigation by the MP now also found that the places where they should be installed lack access to basic services needed for their functioning.

The man responsible for their purchase, former Invest-H director Marco Bográn, declared himself innocent yesterday in front of the MP.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/5999-mp-constata-en-inspecciones-que-los-predios-donde-instalaran-hospitales-moviles-no-cuentan-con-servicios-basicos-vitales-para-su-funcionamiento>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392340-466/honduras-predios-no-tienen-servicios-b%C3%A1sicos-para-instalar-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles>

<https://criterio.hn/marco-bogran-se-declara-inocente-de-las-acusaciones-en-su-contrapunto-por-irregularidades-en-invest-h/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2085-honduras-bogran-explica-a-atic-la-ruta-de-hospitales-fantasmas>

ContraCorriente reports on the lives of some Honduran trans women during the pandemic.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/07/encerradas-y-sin-derechos-asi-viven-la-pandemia-las-mujeres-trans-en-honduras/>

CONADEH confirmed that there are at least 10 COVID-19 cases at the Santa Rosa de Copán prison. There are more than 70 suspected cases there as well.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/07/07/confirman-10-reos-contagiados-de-covid-19-en-centro-penal-de-santa-rosa/>

ConexiHon reports on several journalists who successfully overcame COVID-19.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1637-buenas-noticias-periodistas-hondurenos-logran-vencer-el-covid-19>

Radio Progreso succinctly explains the state of Honduras and the Penal Code. "Once again the regime of Juan Orlando Hernández shows its contempt for constitutional values and the principle of separation of powers, and confirms its authoritarian nature. Let us remember that the National Congress, meeting in an extraordinary session on June 24, decided to abrogate the Criminal Code. Article 216 of the Constitution of the Republic establishes the path that a decree must follow after being approved by the legislature. In this sense, Congress must transfer it to the Executive, and the Executive has two paths: sanction it or veto it. In the case of vetoing it, it has 10 days to return it to Congress, stating the reasons on which its disagreement is based. If in these 10 days it does not veto it or sanction it expressly, Article 216 is clear in establishing that it will be considered sanctioned and will be promulgated as law. What the Hernandez regime has done is disrespect the Constitution again and instead of sanctioning or vetoing the decree, it sent a letter to Representative Jorge Cáliz stating that the session of Congress is not legal, as if it had the constitutional power to decide what is legal or not in another power of the State. (...) The 10 days established by article 216 of the Constitution have passed without the Executive having sanctioned or vetoed the abrogation decree, so if we lived in a democracy the new Criminal Code would no longer be in force. We are aware that the power of arms and the control of the justice system allow the regime to apply by force a code that has been delegitimized and is already constitutionally abrogated. However, the citizenry will continue to reject this new anti-democratic act and work to rescue Honduras from this dictatorship."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/el-codigo-penal-esta-abrogado/>

A webinar today looks at corruption and gender in Central America with the participation of the former ad-interim head of MACCIH, Ana María Calderón Boy, and the co-founder of ContraCorriente, Jennifer Ávila.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/genero-y-corrupcion-en-centroamerica-tickets-111876407346>

08/07/20

Honduras Daily: State of Honduras; MADJ; Journalists; FMO; Drug Trafficking - US; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Indigenous Peoples, Labor Rights, Transport Sector; Migration - Deportations; Elections; and a Lot of Questions about Maíz

ERIC published its tenth edition of its Public Opinion Poll. They found that over 80% do not trust the government and 8 out of 10 respondents believe that corruption is widespread in the government. They give JOH 3.69 points out of 10.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/gobierno-lleva-mas-de-una-decada-ignorando-al-pueblo-segun-sondeo-de-opinion-publica/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45495>

<https://criterio.hn/85-7-de-los-hondurenos-no-tienen-confianza-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

Report: <https://eric-sj.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Bolet%C3%ADn-SOP-2020-Final.pdf>

"As part of the 12 year anniversary of the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ), which took place last May, we want to remember those men and women who have been murdered for defending their territory, for demanding respect and Dignity for their communities. In 12 years of struggle, we want to rescue the legacy of 9 social fighters who were murdered and to whom the Honduran State has not brought justice despite the fact that the crimes were committed several years ago."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/07/08/9-crimenes-sin-respuesta-para-el-movimiento-amplio-por-la-dignidad-y-la-justicia/>

ConexiHon reports on cyber-attacks as a way to silence critical voices in Honduras.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/1639-ciberataques-y-violencia-estatal-contra-informacion-que-evidencia-la-corrupcion>

In an open letter, Honduran social movements and human rights organizations together with international human rights organizations urge the Dutch development bank FMO not to approve a loan to FICOHSA. "Far from contributing to the development that the people of Honduras need, by providing a loan to FICOHSA the FMO would instead be providing support to the network of

politically influential businesses involved in corruption scandals and violence that form part of FICOHSA's investment portfolio. There are ways of spurring development that is very much needed in Honduras, such as support for indigenous community development models that exist abundantly throughout the country."

<https://copinh.org/2020/07/organizaciones-istan-fmo-no-financiar-a-ficohsa/>

A US judge denied a release on health reasons to the convicted drug trafficker and former Honduran police agent Carlos José Zavala.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392664-466/juez-le-niega-libertad-a-carlos-jos%C3%A9-zavala-narcopolic%C3%ADa-da-hondure%C3%B1o-en-estados>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fiscalia-de-ny-niega-reduccion-de-sentencia-a-tiempo-cumplido-para-exoficial-de-policia-hondureno.html>

550 new cases, 25'978 in total; 17 more deaths, 694 in total. 1314 people are hospitalized, 70 in intensive care units.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392627-466/honduras-covid-19-suma-nuevos-muertes-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/08/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-8-de-julio-del-2020/>

Another doctor died to COVID-19 in Honduras. Yamilette Jackeline Morales Duarte had worked for more than 20 years as a doctor and now, after 20 days, lost the battle against COVID-19.

La Prensa reports that 16 doctors and 10 nurses have died so far in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2086-urgente-honduras-pierde-otro-angel-de-la-salud-ya-van-diez>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392621-466/muere-doctora-yamilette-jackeline-morales-coronavirus-hospital-torax-tegucigalpa-honduras>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/fotogalerias/1392569-411/muere-doctor-enfermera-coronavirus-honduras-pandemia->

On Tuesday, we found out that the places where the two mobile hospitals should be installed lack access to basic services (see yesterday). Now, El Herald reports that for the installation itself, 10 experts from the company are needed and it is unknown when they will come to Honduras...

The MP continues to question employees of Invest-H in this case.

Its former director Marco Bográn even conceded that he does not even know when the remaining five mobile hospitals will arrive in Honduras (seven were bought, two are supposedly on the way to Honduras).

Some opposition politicians now want to involve the FBI for a lack of trust in the Honduran judicial system and the fact that the company Invest-H bought the mobile hospitals from is domiciled in

Orlando, Florida.

In another case, the Ministry of Health announced to investigate the possible hoarding of oxygen tanks owned by the public system by influential figures in southern Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392408-466/para-instalar-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles-deben-venir-10-t%C3%A9cnicos-de-turqu%C3%ADa>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6002-administrador-e-ingeniero-en-sistemas-de-invest-h-rinden-declaracion-ante-el-ministerio-publico-por-caso-hospitales-moviles>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bogran-dijo-al-mp-que-desconocia-fecha-de-llegada-de-los-otros-cinco-hospitales-moviles.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/opositores-presentan-denuncia-ante-el-fbi-por-sobrevaloracion-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/oposicion-politica-pide-al-fbi-investigar-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-en-honduras.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-investiga-acaparamiento-tanques-oxigeno-zona-sur/>

Radio Progreso reports on the community response to the corona crisis by the Lenca people in Reitoca, Francisco Morazán.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/en-ausencia-del-estado-comunidades-lencas-se-organizan-frente-al-covid-19/>

"The Union of Workers of the National Institute of Professional Training (SITRAIN FOP) denounced that in the midst of the crisis generated by covid19 in Honduras, the Directive Council of the institution [INFOP], in collusion with the Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare, intends to suspend several clauses of the XVI Collective Contract of Working Conditions, which contains the policies of hospital medical insurance, life insurance and personal accidents."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-plena-pandemia-el-regimen-pretende-suspender-cobertura-medica-a-trabajadores-del-infop/>

The Honduran transport sector is hit hard by the corona crisis and they held another protest yesterday denouncing that the JOH regime did not comply with an agreement which had resulted from previous protests.

<https://confidencialhn.com/conductores-de-taxis-salen-a-las-calles-para-exigir-bono-en-efectivo/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45487>

Over 40% of Hondurans wish to leave Honduras due to the situation of the country according to the survey by ERIC (see above). The survey was held in the beginning of February and the real number

may be even higher now.

<https://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/un-40-2-de-hondurenos-piensa-emigrar-a-raiz-de-actual-situacion-de-pais.html>

Deportations to Honduras dropped by 59.6% in the first half of 2020, but it still means that in the midst of a pandemic, 23'811 Hondurans were deported from the US and Mexico.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1392605-410/disminuyen-hondure%C3%B1os-deportados-honduras-estados-unidos-pandemia>

Mauricio Oliva, Congress' president, nominated a special commission in charge of carrying out an analysis of the progress of the electoral census.

And related to the elections, the political parties have until August 14 to present their annual report of assets and income and expenditure accounts to the Unit of Financing, Transparency and Control of Political Parties and Candidates (UFTF).

<https://criterio.hn/comision-legislativa-analizara-proceso-de-nuevo-padron-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-nombra-comision-especial-avances-padron-electoral/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45480>

"MAIZ, the controversial treatment that has become unattainable for the poor with Covid19 in Honduras"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/08/maiz-el-controvertido-tratamiento-que-se-ha-vuelto-inalcanzable-para-los-pobres-con-covid19-en-honduras/>

09/07/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector, Prisons; Education; Libre; US; and the Penal Code

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' (IACHR) Special Rapporteurship on Freedom of Expression condemns the murders of Honduran journalist Germán Vallecillo and cameraman Jorge Posas of Channel 45 in La Ceiba, Honduras. In the context of a crisis of violence against the press, it urges the State to investigate fully, effectively and impartially the material and intellectual authorship of these crimes and their link to journalistic activity." (see last week)

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/relatoria-especial-condena-doble-asesinato-de-comunicadores-en-honduras/>

The UN published a report on the impact of COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

<https://honduras.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/SG%20Policy%20brief%20COVID%20LAC>

[%20%28Spanish%29 0.pdf](#)

There were 406 new COVID-19 cases yesterday for a total of 26'384. 10 more Hondurans died, 704 in total.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1392874-528/casos-de-covid-19-en-honduras-suben-a-26384-y-704-muertos-seg%C3%BAn>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/09/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-9-de-julio-del-2020/>

According to the Secretary of Finance, the JOH regime has spent almost 4.6 billion Lempiras on the response to the corona crisis until June 26. One quarter of this was spent on the controversial mobile hospitals (see also)previous days. At the same time, the JOH regime has received millions of dollars more than the 4.6 billion Lempiras and their whereabouts are unknown. "Where is the money?" has been making its rounds on social media.

The same day, the Inter-American Bank for Development (BID) announced another \$76.2 million loan for the JOH regime to address the crisis.

Departmental authorities in Olancho and the city of Juticalpa are asking the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) to close down the region completely for 15 days in an attempt to curb the high rate of corona infections.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392682-466/4589-millones-de-lempiras-ejecutados-en-la-emergencia>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/07/09/el-bid-apoya-a-honduras-a-enfrentar-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/anuncian-cierre-de-olancho-por-15-dias/>

Copeco bought antibacterial gel for 4.2 million Lempiras from a company belonging to a husband of the president of the Honduran Institute of Land Transportation (IHTT).

The Bureau of Police Investigation (DPI) intervened at the hospital in Choluteca to investigate the missing oxygen tanks (see also yesterday).

Apparently, some 1900 oxygen tanks disappeared and according to El Pulso, not just in the south of Honduras.

Two of the mobile hospitals were supposed to arrive in Honduras last night. But El Libertador reported that the press was prohibited to report on their arrival at the port in Puerto Cortés. There are fears that the hospitals are not functional.

The National Port Company (ENP) later announced that they are opening up a webcam where one can observe the unloading of the mobile hospitals.

The estimated time of arrival has changed to 6am today and the unloading will take all day.

Even if the mobile hospitals would be fully functional, the price tag on just one hospital bed is more than \$100'000. The Association of Architects of Honduras (CAH) and the Association of Civil Engineers (CICH) denounced that they had offered alternatives costing less than half that.

The JOH regime seems a bit nervous regarding this last case. Libre lawyer and congressman Jorge Cáliz denounced that they are coming after him through the head of the Central Bank of Honduras

(BCH), Wilfredo Cerrato, because he dared to ask why the BCH gave \$48 million to Invest-H to pay hospitals in advance without a guarantee of compliance and without the consent of the board of directors.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392673-466/esposo-de-funcionaria-vendio-gel-a-copeco-por-l-42-millones>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45522>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-de-investigacion-interviene-hospital-del-sur-por-uso-irregular-de-tanques-de-oxigeno/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6004-tres-oficinas-fiscales-del-mp-investigan-supuestas-irregularidades-en-el-suministro-de-oxigeno-en-el-hospital-regional-del-sur>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45523>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2087-honduras-prohiben-a-periodistas-cubrir-arribo-de-hospitales-fantasmas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/portuaria-habilita-sistema-en-linea-para-observar-llegada-de-hospitales-moviles-no-ingresaran-medios/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1392838-410/honduras-hospitales-moviles-barco-coronavirus-marco-bogran-investh-atic-corrupcion>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45528>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2089-caso-invest-h-bch-amenaza-al-analista-claudio-salgado-y-al-politico-jorge-calix>

The protest by the medical staff at the El Toráx hospital continued yesterday. Ana Suazo, president of the Professional Nurses of the Thorax, said that in the last hours 50 workers of the hospitals tested positive of COVID-19.

"The situation in the department of Gracias a Dios is more difficult in these times of pandemic because of the remoteness and difficulty of access to the area and also because of the lack of government interest in serving the inhabitants of that department. "In our only area hospital, which is the Puerto Lempira hospital, we are unfortunately lacking in materials and the vital thing at the moment is oxygen, there is no biosecurity material and that is why most of the health personnel are infected," said Sinager's community spokesperson in Gracias a Dios, Radio Progreso Yuan Pravia, in an interview."

Roxana Araujo, director of the San Felipe Hospital Nursing Home and former Health Minister, asked the current Health Minister Alba Consuelo Flores to resign her post at least for dignity.

<https://confidencialhn.com/continuan-las-protestas-del-personal-de-cuidados-intensivos-del-hospital-cardiopulmonar-por-falta-de-insumos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/al-menos-50-enfermeras-contagiadas-con-covid-19-en-instituto-cardiopulmonar.html>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/crisis-covid-19/no-equipo-de-bioseguridad-para-el-personal-y-sin-oxigeno-para-pacientes-en-gracias-a-dios/>

<https://tiempo.hn/roxana-araujo-salud-renuncia-alba-flores-covid-19/>

In an interview with Radio Progreso, Digna Aguilar, spokeswoman for the National Penitentiary Institute (IN), said that there were currently some 886 COVID-19 cases among prisoners, operational and administrative staff, although official Sinager figures show fewer cases.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/unos-mil-privados-de-libertad-estarian-contagiados-instituto-penitenciario/>

Congress approved \$30 million to improve pre-school education.

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueban-acuerdo-financiamiento-fortalecer-educacion-prebasica/>

Libre coordinator Manuel Zelaya announced an internal investigation into sexual violence accusations against members of Libre.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/zelaya-rosales-anuncia-investigacion-por-violencia-contra-la-mujer-al-interior-de-libre.html>

US chargé d'affaires tweeted that she spoke with the Human Rights Secretariat about the human rights situation in the country.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1281360930585096193>

"Some two weeks have passed since an appeal of unconstitutionality against the new Criminal Code was presented to the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), but the judiciary went on holiday from 1 to 20 July, which could be a good excuse for not ruling on legislation that violates international human rights standards."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2903-sin-resolver-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-nuevo-codigo-penal>

10/07/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Journalists; COVID-19 - HR, Indigenous Peoples, Taiwán, Corruption, Health Sector, Poverty, Economy, Prisons; Elections; and Family Agriculture

"Today, the regional office of the Honduran human rights organization ACI Participa in the southern city of Choluteca was broken into and ransacked."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1281769631011631104>

The investigation by the Bureau of Police Investigation (DPI) found that the two recently murdered journalist and cameraman, German Vallecillo Jr. and Jorge Posas, were assassinated for the journalistic work. The work in point was a drug trafficking case

The well-known journalist and Parlacen congressman Julio Ernesto Alvarado died yesterday to cancer.

C-Libre denounces that La Tribuna violates labor rights using the corona crisis as an excuse.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1392927-466/honduras-crimen-vallecillo-jorge-posas-periodismo-ceiba-investigacion>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-el-reconocido-periodista-julio-ernesto-alvarado/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393060-466/muere-periodista-y-diputado-al-parlacen-julio-ernesto-alvarado>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1206-diario-la-tribuna-incumple-obligaciones-patronales>

1333 tests resulted in 699 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 27'053. 46 more people died, the current death toll being at 750.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

ContraCorriente has a follow-up article on the subregistration of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Honduras.

<https://radiohrn.hn/se-eleva-la-cifra-de-contagiados-por-covid-19-a-27053-y-los-fallecidos-a-750-en-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/10/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-10-de-julio-del-2020/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/10/el-subregistro-durante-la-pandemia-por-covid-19-en-honduras-%ef%bb%bf/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 17th joint press release during the corona pandemic. "Our cry is not silent in the face of the corruption that is consolidating in front of a population that is torn between the threat of the virus, hunger and that of a dictatorship that pushes collective rage at the point of fear and threats. In a few months, the Coronavirus exposed a whole history of looting of the health system, and the criminality of those who drive it. We are fighting, and the actions are making their way between confinement and imposed fears, and we make it felt with the unity of these voices that we express in this Seventeenth public statement".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/decimo-septimo-manifiesto-publico/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/07/manifiesto-publico-17-julio-2020/>

The UN published a guide on COVID-19 and indigenous rights.

Pikara published an article by OFRANEH on the construction of an alternative health system as a response to the crisis.

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/OHCHRGuidance_COVID19_IndigenouspeoplesRights_ES.pdf

<https://www.pikaramagazine.com/2020/07/desde-el-pueblo-garifuna-construimos-una-alternativa-de-salud-y-vida-digna-que-desafia-al-sistema-actual/>

Taiwán has supported the JOH regime during the corona crisis with \$2.5 million so far.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/taiwan-desglosa-millonaria-ayuda-a-honduras-durante-la-pandemia.html>

Two of the seven mobile hospitals arrived yesterday at Puerto Cortés (see previous days for the back story and corruption around the purchase).

The armed forces will play a key role in setting up the hospitals. Its press speaker said that taking inventory will already take 2-3 days.

But there remain many doubts about the functionality of the mobile hospitals and if they even arrived in a complete manner. ATIC agents and the Special Prosecutor's Office for Transparency and Combating Public Corruption (Fetccop) inspected the containers yesterday.

CEDOH published an important piece of analysis on the case led by the question if there is only one responsible for this case of corruption. "What has happened with INVEST-Honduras is just the tip of an institutional tangle of corruption that shows the shameless and cynical enrichment of a pyramid of accomplices who are there, receiving the percentage they demand or contracts from their own companies and undercover, from friends, family and co-religionists. It is up to all of us, and in particular the independent research bodies, whether state or civil society, to pull the strings, to move forward in the web of identity protection and to reach the real perpetrators of and accomplices to this boundless corruption that has the country in a state of indignation, frustration and shame."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1392935-466/honduras-vivo-buque-hospitales-moviles-barco-puerto-cortes>

<https://criterio.hn/profundizando-la-militarizacion-funcionamiento-de-hospitales-moviles-estara-en-manos-de-militares/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-tres-dias-tardara-inventario-de-hospitales-moviles-preve-las-ffaa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sdi-global-preve-estafa-confirmara-cuando-abran-contenedores/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-bloquea-temporalmente-salida-de-hospitales-moviles-de-puerto-cortes-para-verificar-su-contenido/>

<http://www.cedoh.org/resources/Alertas/ALERTA-CORONAVIRUS-4.pdf>

The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, highlighted the urgent need of human resources in hospitals to develop actions against the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

"Miguel Mejía, president of the Union of Medical, Hospital and Similar Workers (SITRAMEDHYS), in the Cuarto Poder program, criticized the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and said that an international lawsuit will be filed to publicize the situation in the country. Mejía questioned that the government has taken advantage of the pandemic to commit misdeeds in benefit of them without caring about the pain and suffering that the people are going through at the moment of seeking medical attention."

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aneeah-expresa-preocupacion-por-falta-de-recurso-humano-para-tender-pandemia-en-hospitales.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45579>

Both CESPAD and ContraCorriente report on the increase in poverty as a result of the corona crisis and a lack of an adequate government response.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/10/de-pobres-a-mendigos-lo-que-les-espera-a-miles-en-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/10/el-hambre-expulsa-a-las-calles-por-la-pandemia/>

Tax revenues in the first half of 2020 were 27.8% lower than expected before the crisis, i.e. about 15 billion Lempiras less.

<https://tiempo.hn/sefin-impuestos-ingresos-recaudacion-tributaria-honduras/>

According to the JOH regime, half of the 416 inmates who suffered from COVID-19 at the Támara prison have recovered already.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-la-mitad-de-reclusos-contagiados-han-superado-el-covid-asegura-harry-bock.html>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) will present the electoral time table to the political parties next week.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45590>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1642-sin-agricultura-familiar-no-sobreviviremos-a-ninguna-pandemia>

11/07/20

Honduras Daily: LGBT+; HRDs - UN; Journalists; Dengue; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, Gender Violence; Militarization; and Teen Pregnancies

LGBT+ defender Scarleth Cáceres, active at Arcoíris, was murdered yesterday evening in Tegucigalpa.

Both La Prensa and Proceso Digital reported on it. Corporate media outlets tend to present these cases through the lens of sex work, as they did now, but at least La Prensa cited Rihanna Ferrera, another LGBT+ defender.

OACNUDH condemned her murder.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1282035496139595782>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1393344-410/lgtbi-honduras-asesinada-san-pedro-sula>

<https://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/asesinan-a-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-en-la-capital.html>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1282004853926047744>

Mary Lawlor, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders sent a message of support for Hondurans HRDs focusing on COPINH and OFRANEH.

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1281999673734176769>

The state of journalist David Romero, suffering from COVID-19, has worsened as he had a second respiratory arrest.

<https://confidencialhn.com/se-complica-salud-de-david-romero-es-llevado-a-cuidados-intensivos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/david-romero-sufre-segundo-paro-respiratorio-en-la-uci/>

The head of health for Tegucigalpa, Harry Book, warns of a possible dengue epidemic starting in the coming days. There are over 4000 dengue cases in this region and twelve people have died to it. In all Honduras, there are almost 16'000 cases.

<https://tiempo.hn/alerta-dengue-convertirse-epidemia-harry-book/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-incremento-de-casos-de-dengue-en-plena-pandemia-del-coronavirus/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45537>

Four months have passed since the first two COVID-19 cases were officially reported in Honduras. Yesterday, 1289 tests resulted in an additional 530 cases for a new total of 27'583. 21 more people died, the current death toll reaching 771.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393299-466/covid-19-en-honduras-con-530-nuevos-casos-cifra-llega-a-27583-y>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-julio-del-2020/>

After over 100 days, only two out of the seven purchased mobile hospitals arrived in Honduras on Friday (see previous days). The MP had announced to inspect the containers given the controversies around the purchase. But now we read that the inspection has been prohibited by customs arguing that Invest-H has first to present the paperwork, which they have not done so far.

The MP now started legal actions against officials of the Honduran Customs Administration and the National Port Company.

<https://criterio.hn/no-permiten-a-la-atic-y-al-mp-inspeccionar-los-hospitales/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/ministerio-publico-denuncia-que-le-impiden-inspeccionar-contenedores-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/fiscalia-emprendaria-acciones-legales-contr-empresa-portuaria-por-no-dejar-inspeccion-de-contenedores/>

Another nurse and another doctor died to COVID-19 yesterday.

Apparently Russia excluded the JOH regime from a donation of 30'000 corona tests to Central American countries.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-menos-de-24-horas-medico-y-enfermera-fallecen-por-sospecha-de-covid-19-en-choluteca.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393283-466/rusia-excluye-a-honduras-de-donaci%C3%B3n-de-pruebas-de-covid-19-para-centroam%C3%A9rica>

<https://criterio.hn/rusia-dona-pruebas-para-covid-19-y-excluye-a-honduras/>

Some 50'000 calls to 911 denouncing "domestic" violence were made in the first six months of 2020. The daily average increased during these last months of lockdown.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1393050-528/llamadas-por-violencia-dom%C3%A9stica-aumentaron-durante-la-cuarentena-por-covid-19>

"Honduran President Juan Hernandez faces the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic by reassigning a leading role to the leadership of the armed forces that hold him in power, despite corruption scandals and direct accusations of involvement with drug trafficking by U.S. Justice Department prosecutors. (...) "This military protagonism shows the profound loneliness in which the ruler finds himself: resorting to the military is a way of feeling safe and secure," military expert Leticia Solomon told Criterio.hn."

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-honduras-se-refugia-entre-las-estrellas-de-generales/>

24% of women in Honduras give birth before they are 19 years old.

<https://tiempo.hn/matrimonio-infantil-24-mujeres-madre-antes-19/>

12/07/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; OFRANEH; ZEDE; Journalists; Police; COVID-19 - HR, State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption;

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the June 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/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=3657

OFRANEH denounces the destruction of the beach at the Garífuna community Santa Fe to extend a luxury beach resort.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1282319557361831936>

José Luis Palma Herrera wrote a scientific article on the charter cities (ZEDEs) in Honduras. "Abstract: In its genesis, the objectives of the ZEDE, based on the theory of the Charter Cities of Paul Romer, were to generate job opportunities, economic development and offer security to the population of Honduras to reduce illegal immigration to the United States of America. However, with the emergence of the Migrant Caravans and after a decade of political uncertainty, this development proposal has proven to be one of the vernacular political fallacies of Honduras, characterized by its lack of transparency, lack of indicators of economic development, displacement of municipal autonomy and indifference to the reduction of national poverty. The present study shows how the ZEDE are already part of the historical list of failed Honduran enclaves."

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339386729_El_regreso_de_los_enclaves_a_Honduras_en_el_siglo_XXI_Las_zonas_de_empleo_y_desarrollo_economico_ZEDE_la_version_de_las_ciudades_charter_rechazada_por_su_creador_Paul_Romer_2010-2019

The state of journalist David Romero is still critical (see also yesterday's e-mail). He now additionally suffered from a renal failure and needs hemodialysis.

<https://tiempo.hn/david-romero-sigue-cuidados-intensivos-ahora-falla-renal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2093-honduras-periodista-david-romero-empieza-a-ganar-batalla-contra-la-muerte>

"In the community of La Playa, municipality of La Iguala, in the department of Lempira, an unfortunate event was recorded in which an element of the National Police arrived to arrest two people, who were apparently drinking alcoholic beverages. It was reported that the officer arrived assaulting relatives of the people who were in the house, even shooting with their weapon, injuring one of the inhabitants."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-dispara-y-deja-herido-a-joven-en-lempira/>

There were 507 new COVID-19 cases reported yesterday, 28'090 in total. According to official figures, 3 more people died and 774 had died in total.

But at the same time, four hospitals separately reported 21 deaths <t their facilities yesterday. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393464-466/covid-19-honduras-confirma-507-nuevos-casos-total-28090-muertes-774>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/siete-decesos-por-sospecha-de-covid-19-registra-el-ihss-en-tegucigalpa.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-julio-del-2020/>

The community of Santa Elena, La Paz, wanted to protect its members from COVID-19 through the installment of a checkpoint. They stopped two police agents who denied showing them documents indicating that they were not carriers of the coronavirus. As a consequence, 16 community members were criminalized and now a judge decided that they have to pay 15'000 Lempiras to the agents as part of a conciliation process...

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/obligan-a-conciliar-a-16-pobladores-de-santa-elena-que-protegian-su-comunidad-del-covid-19/>

The state of exception was prolonged for another week instead of two weeks as the last two times. At the same time and while case numbers are still growing steeply, the JOH regime wants to continue with its "intelligent" reopening only sparring the most affected areas (Central District, San Pedro Sula, Olancho Choluteca, Atlántida, Comayagua, Santa Bárbara, Lempira and Colón).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1393484-410/reapertura-economica-toque-queda-covid-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/sinager-anuncia-reapertura-menos-para-tegucigalpa-san-pedro-sula-y-7-departamentos/>

Another nurse and another doctor died to COVID-19.

Medical staff at the Leonardo Martínez Valenzuela Hospital in San Pedro Sula still await their salaries from May and June.

<https://tiempo.hn/enfermera-pierde-batalla-hospital-torax-maria-emeteria-carrasco/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1393407-410/muere-doctor-saul-mayorquin-covid-coronavirus-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-sin-dejar-de-trabajar-medicos-de-salas-covid-exigen-salario/>

As Invest-H and its former director Marco Bográn still had not shared the paperwork of the mobile hospitals (see previous days), the MP also raided the house of his mother. There, in a shed, they found official Invest-H documents which will now be inspected.

The CNA demands that the MP emits arrest warrants for all those involved and voices the fear that pieces of evidence will be tempered with to avoid prison time for those involved.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1282324952889384972

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393372-466/allanan-vivienda-madre-marco-bogran-invest-h-hospitales-moviles>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1282474741304098817>

<https://criterio.hn/cna-denuncia-que-lo-aceptaron-como-veedor-pero-a-un-kilometro-de-distancia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393486-466/cna-pide-requerimientos-fiscales-contra-involucrados-en-compra-de-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles>

13/07/20

Honduras Daily: MASSVIDA; CURLA; COVID-19 - Corruption, Protests, Health Sector, Poverty, Economy; Penal Code; Elections; Organized Crime; UN; and JOH's Costly PR Stunts

Human rights defender and social leader at MASSVIDA, Marvin Damián Castro, was found dead one day after having been kidnapped from his home.

COFADEH reports that he had expressed fear about his life at the National Protection System just days before his murder.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1282780329934127104>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/un-ambientalista-y-dos-motociclistas-asesinados-en-distintas-ciudades-de-honduras.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensor-del-ambiente-y-juventud-del-sur-temia-por-su-vida/>

A security guard at the CURLA university took part yesterday morning in a protest to demand outstanding salaries. He was murdered in the afternoon.

<https://criterio.hn/asesinan-guardia-del-curla-luego-de-participar-en-planton/>

489 new cases, 15 more deaths for a total of 28'579 and 789 respectively.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393712-466/honduras-registra-nuevos-casos-covid-total-muertes-ascienden>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/13/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-13-de-julio-del-2020/>

The MP continues to cite public officials to interview them on the mobile hospital cases.

El Libertador reports that they payment for the mobile hospitals was approved in record speed, it took less than 30 minutes.

Continuing in the mode of "everybody for themselves", the Ministry of Finance published another press release claiming that they had not authorized payments made by Invest-H.

The new director of Invest-H, Evelyn Bautista, claims that the remaining five hospitals will arrive by the end of August.

UFERCO coordinator Luis Santos denounces that the JOH regime paid 526 Lempiras for one dose of a drug which costs only 88 Lempiras at the pharmacies.

ContraCorriente writes about "the pandemic of corruption in Honduras".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393759-466/ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-cita-a-martha-doblado-y-a-evelyn-bautista-por-caso>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2096-exclusiva-en-26-minutos-gobierno-hondureno-pago-hospitales-fantasmas>

<https://tiempo.hn/finanzas-reitera-no-autorizo-monto-compras-irregulares-invest-h/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-que-hasta-agosto-llegaran-los-demas-hospitales-moviles-a-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1282748485293486080>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/13/elementor-104399/>

Under the hashtag #whereisourmoney (#dondeestaeldinero), Hondurans demand to know what the JOH regime made with the millions of dollars approved to address the corona pandemic.

Meanwhile, the JOH regime continues to ask for international support; this time at the UN.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1282817301612343296>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/07/13/soberana-desobediencia-contrala-narcodictadura-y-el-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lizzy-flores-apela-a-la-onu-para-que-provea-a-honduras-de-insumos-medicos-contrael-covid-19.html>

Almost 2000 health workers have been infected with COVID-19.

"The president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras, Aneeah, Josué Orellana, lashed out at hospital directors who are in office for political favors, and who, in times of the pandemic, have done very little to guarantee the lives of all the personnel on the front line."

The president of the association of cancer patients of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), Sandra Pino, denounced the lack of medicines for the patients at her medical center.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45665>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/por-irresponsabilidad-de-directores-chamberos-esta-muriendo-personal-de-enfermeria-aneeah/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/denuncian-la-falta-de-medicamentos-para-pacientes-del-ihss/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1648-a-mas-de-114-dias-de-la-pandemia-se-agudiza-la-crisis-de-salud-por-la-negligencia-politica-en-honduras>

"In a country where 2 million people, or 40 percent of the total workforce, were already unemployed at the start of the year, restrictions adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19 are expected to take a heavy toll on employment — and on people's ability to meet their basic food needs. (...) In Honduras, small traders, daily labourers, subsistence farmers and families who rely on money-transfers from relatives working abroad are among the most affected; as are single mothers, elderly people, people with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses. Honduran authorities and WFP estimate that the loss of jobs and livelihoods caused by the pandemic has thrown 250,000 families across the country into food insecurity, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from."

<https://insight.wfp.org/coronavirus-in-honduras-this-pandemic-is-going-to-starve-us-fdec39be7cda?gi=ac82c5c7e96f>

Some weeks ago, the news spread that Chiquita will leave Honduras. Now, the Minister of Economic Development, María Antonia Rivera, claims that she spoke with the transnational company and they would stay.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/chiquita-brands-seguira-operando-en-el-pais-segun-ministra-maria-antonio-rivera.html>

El Herald reports on legal gaps and conflicts with the new Penal Code. "Some legal analysts consider that the new legislation even clashes with precepts established in the Constitution of the Republic and instead of solving the problems it creates new legal entanglements, so it must be reformed as soon as possible."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393566-466/surgen-lagunas-y-conflictos-legales-en-el-nuevo-c%C3%B3digo-penal>

Criterio reports that the National Electoral Council (CNE) presented an electoral timetable without a clear plan for a new and much needed electoral census.

Libre immediately rejected the timetable.

<https://criterio.hn/sin-certeza-de-nuevo-censo-anuncian-nuevo-cronograma-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-rechaza-nuevo-cronograma-electoral-por-no-contar-con-nuevo-censo-electoral/>

"An MS13 cell wired several Honduran neighborhoods on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula with surveillance cameras — an inventive use of technology to perform an age-old gang function. The monitoring system, consisting of nine cameras placed on store rooftops and electrical poles, was discovered in the city's northern sector, police said in a news release. The cameras were connected to a router, allowing gang members to view the video streams on their tablets, phones and computers."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/ms13-video-surveillance-honduras/>

Alice Shackelford started her work as the new United Nations Resident Coordinator in Honduras.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/53027-alice-shackelford-asume-el-cargo-de-coordinadora-residente-de-las-naciones-unidas-en-honduras>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/1649-gobierno-de-honduras-utilizo-fondos-publicos-para-desinformar-con-publicidad>

14/07/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - MASSVIDA; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Agriculture; COVID-19 - State Reaction, BCIE, Corruption, Health Sector, Economy; BCIE; Elections; and Animal Planet

The murder of MASSVIDA youth coordinator and human rights defender Marvin Damián Castro Molina caused widespread condemnation. "In recent months, OACNUDH has followed up on several cases of intimidation, attacks and threats against human rights defenders in the south of the country, as well as the violent death of one of them in April. In view of the above, this violent death raises concern about the serious risk faced by defenders in that region of the country."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-el-asesinato-de-marvin-damian-castro-molina-miembro-de-la-coordinacion-del-movimiento-ambientalista-social-del-sur-por-la-vida-massvida/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2905-extensiva-represion-sufren-las-personas-defensoras-de-ddhh-del-sur-del-pais-en-el-contexto-de-la-cuarentena-por-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/14/alerta-asesinan-a-lider-ambientalista-de-mas-vida-en-el-sur-de-honduras/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1207-asesina-lider-juvenil-y-defensor-ambientalista>

Business and Human Rights presented a case study on Honduras on the role of businesses and human rights violations. In 2019, they documented 98 attacks against HRDs linked to business activities, making Honduras the most dangerous country to raise concerns about business operations.

<https://twitter.com/BHRRC/status/1283033214198718472>

<https://dispatches.business-humanrights.org/hrd-january-2020/index.html>

Business Insider reports on JOH's "alleged" drug trafficking connections and the role of the US contrasting it to the case of Venezuela and Maduro. "But while the US has gone on the offensive in an effort to remove Maduro from office, indicting him and a number of his key associates on "narco-terrorism" charges in March 2020, US officials have cozied up to Hernández, brokering controversial asylum agreements with him, posing for photographs alongside him during military parades, and claiming his administration is a "reliable partner" in the fight against organized crime. The evidence suggests otherwise. Hernández's apparent ties to the criminal world were put on stark display during the 2019 trial of his brother, former congressman Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández. Tony was convicted of leveraging Juan Orlando's ascent through Honduran politics to run a sophisticated international drug-trafficking ring for more than a decade.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-praises-honduras-hernandez-despite-drug-trafficking-allegations-2020-7?r=US&IR=T>

CESPAD published another piece of analysis on the role of the JOH regime in the Honduran agricultural sector and the millions of dollars dedicated to it.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/14/en-manos-de-quien-estan-los-8-mil-millones-de-lempiras-emitidos-para-el-agro-en-honduras/>

Out of 1764 tests, 527 resulted positive for a new total of 29'106 cases. Sinager also reported 18 more deaths, which once again does not square with the deaths reported at individual hospitals. The official death toll lies now at 807.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393972-466/covid-19-suma-muertes-mas-en-honduras-contagios-suben>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-julio-del-2020/>

Months into the pandemic, the JOH regime finally announced to send some public funds to the

municipalities. "The country's 298 mayors' offices, which concentrate the nine million Honduran population, are supposed to receive 750 million lempiras, to be invested in creating patient selection centers (triage) and activating medical brigades, in order to advance in the fight against Covid-19."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2098-honduras-gobierno-aprueba-centavos-para-tratar-covid-en-298-municipios>

Too little, too late? The executive president of the BCIE, Dante Mossi, expressed concerns about the use of the funds given to the JOH regime to attend the corona crisis. The BCIE has given the JOH regime more than \$1 billion in the last weeks to confront the crisis...

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1283009831360700417>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/preocupa-al-bcie-manejo-de-recursos-para-atender-la-pandemia.html>

The two mobile hospitals have not yet been released by customs as the bills presented by Invest-H were filled with irregularities or in the official language, "substantial differences".

Invest-H promises that the original and corrected bills will be presented on Friday.

The MP, meanwhile, continues to search public institutions linked to the mobile hospitals, yesterday it was the Health Regulation Agency (Arsa).

<https://radiohrn.hn/administracion-aduanera-encuentra-irregularidades-en-los-montos-de-las-facturas-presentadas-por-invest-h/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/aduanas-denuncia-diferencia-significativa-entre-hospitales-y-documentacion-remitida-por-invest-h.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1393973-466/autoridades-esperan-facturas-corregidas-para-el-desaduanaje-de-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles>

<https://confidencialhn.com/atic-busca-en-la-agencia-de-regulacion-sanitaria-documentos-sobre-adquisicion-de-hospitales-moviles-a-turquia/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2097-honduras-intervienen-agencia-que-no-permitio-presencia-fiscal-en-desembarco-de-hospitales>

Two more doctors died to COVID-19.

"Some 120 employees of the National Cardiopulmonary Institute, known as the Toráx Hospital, in the capital expressed concern as more than 120 employees have not received their renewed contracts and fear that they will be left in the air, despite the fact that the National Congress approved a decree granting contract health workers a permanency agreement."

But at the same time, the JOH regime claims to have employed 600 health workers in the last days.

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/mueren-dos-medicos-por-covid-19-en-tegucigalpa-y-sps.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/a-120-empleados-del-hospital-del-torax-no-les-han-renovado-el-contrato-de-trabajo.html>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mas-de-600-enfermeras-han-sido-contratadas-para-atender-emergencia-por-covid-19.html>

Labor Minister Carlos Madero wants to extend for 60 more days the work suspension of more than 200 thousand workers from 80 companies that, taking advantage of the crisis caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, closed their workplaces and left their employees without wages for a period of 120 days.

Madero also said that those employees suspended may be laid off after the 120 days have passed on tomorrow.

<https://criterio.hn/anuncian-60-dias-mas-de-suspension-laboral-para-mas-de-200-mil-trabajadores/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45721>

The BCIE approved \$250 million "to develop the electrical system" in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/banco-centroamericano-aprueba-250-millones-de-dolares-para-desarrollar-area-energetica/>

The newly presented electoral timetable continues to cause controversy (see also previous days). El Tiempo reports that even the president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), the body responsible for the timetable, voted against it. Rixi Moncada fears that it represents a fraud in the making.

Libre continues to reject the timetable.

<https://tiempo.hn/rixi-moncada-vota-contra-cronograma-electoral-valida-censo-2017-dice/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45710>

<https://tiempo.hn/carlos-zelaya-no-aceptamos-ni-reconocemos-protocolos-aprobados-cne/>

<https://tiempo.hn/animal-planet-mostrara-mundo-lado-salvaje-honduras/>

15/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Femicides; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector, Poverty, Economy, Militarization; Elections;

"NJOI, a Canadian tourism company is destroying the continuity and public access of the beaches in Trujillo bay #Honduras & building a gated community for North Americans on stolen ancestral

Garifuna land."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1283576587619893249>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1283578202191994880>

"El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have had more than 13,000 violent deaths of women in the last eight years. Although many of these meet the characteristics of the laws to be considered as femicides, they are not counted as such. Nor do they all receive justice. In this first episode of Station of Silence, a special on violence against women in Mesoamerica, we talk about femicide and impunity in northern Central America."

"Only 15 cases of femicide in Honduras have resulted in convictions since the crime was criminalized in 2013. The cases take place in a justice system with little training in gender issues and now, with legislation that reduces penalties. Women who dare to report domestic violence are not attended to in time, they are not safe, which can end up in femicide."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/15/las-muertes-que-no-cuentan-en-el-norte-centroamerica-%ef%bb%bf/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/15/femicidios-en-honduras-las-mujeres-que-el-estado-no-escucho/>

With 930 new cases confirmed yesterday, Honduras passed the 30'000 mark, there are now 30'036 confirmed COVID-19 cases. 18 more Hondurans died with the current death toll being at 825. El Herald also reports that Honduras has the lowest rate of recovering COVID-19 patients. Medical expert "Tito Alvarado said that few people in Honduras have recovered from the coronavirus because of the precariousness of the health system. "The hospitals are full of sick people, there are many infected patients, few doctors and the medicine is not reaching a large number of sick people who are not being treated," he said." CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394266-466/honduras-coronavirus-sinager-15-julio-muertos-casos-positivos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1394162-528/honduras-tiene-el-porcentaje-m%C3%A1s-bajo-de-recuperados-de-covid-19-en-centroam%C3%A9rica>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-15-de-julio-del-2020/>

The department of Olancho will close down, as did previous departments, on July 20 due to the rising corona cases.

<https://criterio.hn/a-partir-del-lunes-20-cerraran-todo-el-departamento-de-olancho/>

The main story about the mobile hospitals on Tuesday were the irregular paperwork. Now, more information came to light and it seems that the mobile hospitals were heavily mispriced on the bills,

by over \$5 million.

El Heraldó got access to the annual operational plan for Invest-H elaborated under its ousted director Marco Bógrán. It includes additional acquisitions and the payment of debt worth 211.8 million Lempiras.

So far, everyone has tried to shift blame for the irregular purchases of Invest-H, especially the mobile hospitals, solely to Bógrán. But now new evidence came to light showing that the Health Secretary asked Invest-H to buy the hospitals and that JOH gave the orders.

Is it a coincidence that just yesterday JOH appeared on screen denouncing those who profit from the crisis?

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana also emphasized that more people are responsible for the reported irregularities than just Bógrán.

ConfidencialHN reports on the nepotism involved in the purchase of the mobile hospitals.

The MP, meanwhile, announced that they will integrate tax experts in its team investigating the mobile hospital case.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45738>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394026-466/marco-bogran-deuda-invest-honduras-hospitales-moviles>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2099-honduras-nuevo-invest-h-quiso-legalizar-compras-de-marco-bogran>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-y-joh-solicitaron-compra-hospitales-moviles-revela-documento/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394173-466/malnacidos-presidente-honduras-joh-juan-orlando-herandez>

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-marco-bogran-no-es-unico-responsable-de-los-actos-irregulares-en-investh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/negocios-en-familia-guatemalteco-axel-lopez-confia-a-dos-activistas-nacionalistas-instalacion-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/mp-integra-expertos-en-delitos-tributarios-en-investigacion-de-hospitales-moviles/>

Yet another doctor died to COVID-19 in Honduras. At least 24 doctors have died so far during the pandemic.

Health staff at the San Felipe Hospital announced strike actions for today due to outstanding pay checks.

Doctor and Liberal congresswoman Norma Edinora Brooks and doctor Carlos Umaña from the IHSS discuss the situation in Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/muere-otro-medico-por-covid-en-seguro-social-de-sps.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-y-enfermeras-del-hospital-san-felipe-advierten-paro-de-labores-para-el-proximo-jueves/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/personal-de-salud-del-hospital-san-felipe-exigen-pago-de-mayo-junio-y-julio/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45750>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/15/hospitales-de-honduras-encuentran-en-donaciones-el-balsamo-a-la-precariedad/>

A bit of good news for a change, remittances fell less so far than feared.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45772>

The lawyer Fredín Fúnez questions recent statements made by the Labor Minister Carlos Madero regarding the fate of suspended workers (see yesterday). "However, Mr. Funez, an expert in labor law, assures that suspension due to fortuitous event or force majeure cannot be a cause for dismissal and termination of the employment relationship because article 111 of the Labor Code already determines the causes of dismissal, which is when the worker commits some fault and the employer follows a procedure through a discharge hearing. "If the worker does not manage to dispel the charges, the employer may dismiss him," he explained."

<https://criterio.hn/ministro-del-trabajo-confunde-las-causales-de-despido-asegura-experto-en-derecho-laboral/>

Jorge Varela Márquez writes about the relationship between JOH and the armed forces and the role of the later during the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/las-fuerzas-armadas-grupo-sabelotodo-complice-del-regimen-de-joh/>

The president of the National Electoral Council (CNE) highlights the difficulty of wanting to take about elections during a pandemic. But, "she recognized that the nation needs electoral processes to "rebuild" the state through institutions. "Everything begins with democratic processes, there is no other way to elect authorities except through elections," she reinforced. (...) The head of the CNE urged that a budget of 1.1 billion lempiras be allocated for the primary process in March next year. However, a strengthened Electoral Law, an updated electoral census and a new identity card are also essential."

There is also ongoing criticism of the presented electoral timetable (see last two days).

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/es-ingrato-tener-que-hablar-de-procesos-electorales-en-una-situacion-de-pandemia-por-covid-dice-jefa-del-cne.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/elecciones-doris-gutierrez-cne-partidos-tradicionales/>

16/07/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; Violence against Women; COVID-19 - Indigenous Peoples, HR, State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, Prison, Economy; Migration - US; and A Fierce Yellow Dog

The International Forum on Human Rights in Honduras denounces the recent assassinations of three human rights defenders, Scarleth Cáceres, Marvin

Damián Castro and Yonis David Castillo (see previous e-mails).

See attachment

In a press release, the MP writes: "[I]n the city of Tegucigalpa in the first half of this year, the Court against Domestic Violence attended to 4,434 women who were referred for legal advice, receipt of complaints or follow-up of cases."

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for the Protection of Women (FEP-Mujer) in Tegucigalpa obtained 16 judgements in place against an equal number of people for exercising domestic violence to the detriment of their female companions, which took place in the month of June that just ended."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6014-mas-de-cuatro-mil-atenciones-brinda-la-fiscalia-de-la-mujer-en-el-primer-semester-de-este-ano>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6013-fiscales-de-proteccion-a-la-mujer-logran-16-sentencias-a-lugar-por-violencia-domestica-en-la-capital>

Social movements and human rights organizations of Honduras published their 18th joint press release during the pandemic.

<https://copinh.org/2020/07/manifiesto-publico-18-julio-2020/>

831 new cases were registered yesterday for a total of 30'867. The JOH regime reported 10 new deaths, but individual hospitals once again reported a higher number. The official death toll reached 835.

The president of the College of Microbiologists of Honduras, Dr. Marco Moncada, lamented that the application of PCR tests to detect COVID-19 has decreased due to the lack of medical supplies. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394557-466/honduras-sinager-coronavirus-cifras-casos-positivos-infectados>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/seguro-social-de-tegucigalpa-reporta-seis-decesos-por-sospecha-de-covid-19.html>

<https://proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/por-falta-de-insumos-ha-bajado-aplicacion-de-pruebas-pcr-para-detectar-covid-lamentan-microbiologos.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/16/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-16-de-julio-del-2020/>

The Miskitu indigenous peoples sent out an alert due to the total lack of medical assistance while confronting the pandemic.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1283754470896279552>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1283852741895491585>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1393979-410/insumos-medicos-hospital-centro-salud-la-mosquitia-coronavirus>

"The Inter-Party Dialogue Roundtable presented a statement against the government's mismanagement of the health crisis which, in the hands of the head of state, Juan Hernández, is keeping the Honduran population in a state of hospital collapse and chilling acts of corruption." Congress, meanwhile, approved a decree allowing municipalities to use 45 percent of the transfers from the central government to combat the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/manejo-de-crisis-sanitaria-en-honduras-constituye-delito-de-lesa-humanidad-mesa-de-dialogo-interpartidario/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-que-municipalidades-enfrenten-crisis-sanitaria-con-presupuesto-propio/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/congreso-aprueba-que-alcaldias-utilicen-el-45-de-sus-fondos-para-combatir-el-covid-19.html>

Another nurse died to COVID-19 yesterday.

El Herald reports that almost 40 health workers died to COVID-19 in Honduras, while the JOH regime has only registered 12.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1394590-410/fallece-coronavirus-enfermero-hospital-atlantida-la-ceiba->

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1394135-528/medicos-enfermeras-salud-muertos-covid-honduras>

El Herald reports on additional errors in the bills for the mobile hospitals presented by Invest-H. Proceso Digital reproduced an audio showing how the Finance Minister Rocío Tábor told the former Invest-H director Marco Bográn that all the purchases related to the pandemic will be made through Invest-H. JOH gave the orders for this.

El Libertador shows how Bográn has mostly been a pawn and that the involvement of JOH is even greater than previously thought. "Marco Bográn has been a pawn in the looting of Invest-H funds in the covid-19 era, and EL LIBERTADOR reveals how the links between alleged businessman Axel López and President Juan Hernández are becoming closer. Currently, for the installation of the mobile hospitals, Lopez hired his friends, the couple composed of Luis Eveline and Jance Funes (in the graphic next to Lopez). In 2013, Luis Eveline manipulated the rules to make Óscar Chinchilla the Attorney General, even though he had not passed the psychometric test, while two years later,

Jance Funes imposed the candidates for judges from civil society on the list sent by Juan Hernández to Congress, among others, to his fellow countryman Rolando Argueta on the Supreme Court of Justice."

Bográn's successor at Invest-H, meanwhile, stepped down after less than a week.

While the fate of the two mobile hospitals recently sent to Honduras, as well as the five more having been purchased at the same time, remains unknown, there is already one mobile hospital installed in Villanueva, Cortés. Its installation was also accompanied by irregularities and the MP now just opened a new investigation into this.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1394401-528/facturas-hospitales-moviles-registros-falsos-invest>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/audio-la-reveladora-comunicacion-de-ministra-de-finanzas-a-marco-bogran.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2105-exclusiva-peones-de-joh-que-impusieron-la-corte-socios-de-axel-lopez-en-hospitales>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2103-honduras-evelyn-bautista-renuncia-tras-fallido-intento-de-legalizar-corrupcion-en-invest-h>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6021-fetccop-y-atic-realizan-inspeccion-por-inundacion-del-hospital-movil-de-villanueva-cortes>

More than 50 inmates at the prison in Ocotepeque tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-50-reos-del-penal-de-ocotepeque-dan-positivo-al-nuevo-coronavirus/>

According to COHEP, some 500'000 jobs have been lost in Honduras.

The economist Rafael Delgado estimates a drop of 10% in Honduras' GDP due to the pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/medio-millon-de-empleos-se-han-perdido-en-honduras-consecuencia-del-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pib-economia-economista-rafael-delgado-honduras-desplome/>

Pinu congressman David Reyes denounced that he had been arrested by members of the national police, for having carried out a humanitarian act in favor of the caravan of mostly Haitian, Cuban and African migrants while they were moving from Choluteca to the Tegucigalpa.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/migrantes/1652-policia-nacional-retiene-a-diputado-hondureno-por-prestarle-ayuda-humanitaria-a-migrantes-africanos-y-cubanos>

A Honduran woman was deported from the US to Mexico some 36 hours after having given birth.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportan-de-eeuu-a-madre-hondurena-despues-de-36-horas-de-haber-dado-a-luz.html>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/07/16/el-perro-amarillo-el-archienemigo-de-los-narcopoliticos-y-corruptos-en-honduras/>

17/07/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, Economy; National Party; Elections; and Bananas and Hospitals

878 new cases, 31'745 in total, 22 more deaths, 857 in total.

According to the Secretary of Health, there are still 7000 corona-tests not analyzed at the national level.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394774-466/story.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hay-siete-mil-pruebas-de-covid-en-mora-revela-jefa-de-vigilancia-y-virologia-de-salud.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/17/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-17-de-julio-del-2020/>

As customs received the original bill from Invest-H for the mobile hospitals, customs clearance can now begin. At the same time, they gave Invest-H 10 days to explain the inconsistencies between the different bills.

While the link between the mobile hospital case and JOH himself becomes clearer by the day, JOH tries to divert attention from this presenting himself as the one pushing for the release of the hospitals so that they can be "put to the service of the people"...

At the same time, the Secretary of Finance threatens Radio América for publishing the audio file highlighting the role of JOH (see yesterday).

The case has reached the international level with InSight Crime reporting on it. "An audit of a Honduran agency charged with procuring emergency medical supplies to fight the coronavirus has found tens of millions of dollars wasted — an egregious case of profiteering in a country that has already seen massive graft in its government health sector. The most brazen example was the purchase of seven mobile hospitals for \$47 million, at an excess cost of \$12.3 million".

Reporteros de Investigación published an overview of the most recent corruption cases and highlights the overlap of personalities already involved in the IHSS corruption case.

Given all of this, it is cynical that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) uses an example from Honduras to highlight the need for transparency in emergency purchases as a response to the corona pandemic...

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394781-466/aduanas-honduras-proceder%C3%A1-con-desaduanaje-tras-recibir-facturas-originales-de-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles>

<https://tiempo.hn/aduanas-facturas-hospitales-moviles-llegaron-puerto-cortes/>

<https://twitter.com/darocohn/status/128432223432622080>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1284097659624722433>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394620-466/joh-saquen-los-hospitales-y-p%C3%B3nganlos-al-servicio-del-pueblo>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-corruption-pandemic-contracts/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/07/17/redes-de-corrupcion-del-ihss-involucradas-en-compras-del-covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1284207575773388801>

Another nurse died to COVID-19. These last days, we have seen daily deaths of health workers. As a response to the collapsing health system, the JOH regime had recently announced to contract more health workers but circumventing the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) in the process. The Latin American and Caribbean Medical Conference (CONFEMEL) now expressed concern about this.

<https://tiempo.hn/en-ihss-sps-fallece-enfermero-auxiliar-hospital-atlantida/>

<https://criterio.hn/preocupa-contratacion-de-personal-sin-veeduria-de-colegio-medico-confemel/>

There is an ongoing debate about the fate of workers in Honduras started by recent comment of Labor Minister Carlos Madero that suspended workers could be fired (see previous e-mail this week).

<https://criterio.hn/trabajadores-de-honduras-estan-en-grave-calamidad-por-suspensiones-laborales/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/con-suspensiones-laborales-se-violentan-los-derechos-de-los-trabajadores/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45835>

Nationalist congressman and son of former president Pepe Lobo, Jorge Lobo, left the National Party in protest against JOH. He joined the Christian Democratic Party of Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2107-honduras-diputado-nacionalista-jorge-lobo-se-suma-a-la-democracia-cristiana>

The National Persons Registry (RNP) promises new identity cards for February, one month before the primary elections.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45851>

<https://criterio.hn/de-bananos-y-hospitales/>

18/07/20

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; Journalists - Impunity; Political Prisoners; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; and Community Responses

Yesterday morning, OFRANEH sent out an alert that Snider Centeno, the President of the elected community council in Triunfo De la Cruz, had been kidnapped by a group of men wearing bullet proof vests at 6am from his home.

Later, OFRANEH informed that in total four men had been kidnapped demanding swift action by the responsible state bodies to get them back.

Additionally, an urgent action was launched.

Hours later, the Human Rights Secretariat (SEDH) published a press release. They said that the armed men wore bullet proof vests looking like those of the Police Investigation Bureau (DPI). The SEDH also called for an investigation.

Various organizations sent out alerts and media outlets reported on this.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1284478825691324419>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1284553357303205889>

<https://afgj.salsalabs.org/snidercenteno/index.html>

<https://twitter.com/sedhHonduras/status/1284591943440388096>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2909-a-casi-18-horas-de-que-fueron-secuestrados-cuatro-lideres-garifunas-no-hay-resultados-por-parte-del-estado-para-salvaguardar-su-vida>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/18/alerta-grupo-armado-secuestra-lider-y-habitantes-de-comunidad-garifuna-de-el-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/secuestran-a-cuatro-lideres-garifunas-de-el-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

David Romero, journalist and director of Radio Globo, died yesterday to COVID-19. Or in the words of COPINH: "David Romero uncovered countless political and corruption scandals of the JOH regime. After a questioned judicial process he was imprisoned with maximum penalties. He was sentenced to death for COVID by the regime. Today he died in the health system that he denounced as suffering from corruption."

Many more voices hold the JOH regime responsible for his death, from his son to the political

opposition.

And it seems that the regime wants to exercise ongoing control. "David Romero Ellner's wife, Lidieth Díaz, denounced that the Public Prosecutor's Office intends to bury the journalist who died this morning in a common grave."

The former head of forensic medicine, Julissa Villanueva, explained that due to the nature of his death, in custody, a "forensic autopsy must be performed under the Minnesota protocol including histological and laboratory studies must verify the cause and manner of death".

There were also various calls of solidarity with his family.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1284537023093772288>

<https://criterio.hn/muere-por-covid-19-el-periodista-david-romero-director-de-radio-globo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394885-466/espero-que-declaren-que-lo-mataron-hijo-de-david-romero>

<http://www.hondurastierralibre.com/2020/07/honduras-acuerdo-de-duelo-partidolibre.html>

<https://criterio.hn/lidieth-diaz-denuncia-que-el-mp-pretende-enterrar-en-fosa-comun-a-david-romero/>

<https://criterio.hn/debe-realizarse-autopsia-medico-legal-a-cuerpo-de-david-romero-julissa-villanueva/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2108-honduras-dile-a-los-buenos-hondurenos-que-luchen-hasta-la-victoria-david-romero-ellner>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-se-solidariza-con-la-familia-de-radio-globo-y-considera-que-muerte-de-david-romero-es-un-asesinato-politico/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1284588371986309121>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with the president of the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) about the impunity reigning in the cases of murdered journalists.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2908-presidente-del-cph-al-estado-de-honduras-no-le-interesa-resolver-los-crmenes-contra-periodistas>

David Romero's death tragically reminds us again about the situation off the political prisoners in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/desde-el-encierro-hoy-se-exige-libertad-para-los-presos-politicos/>

2561 tests resulted in 1048 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 32'793. 34 more Hondurans died, 891 in total.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394968-466/honduras-suma-1048-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-hay-891-muertos-y-32793>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/18/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-18-de-julio-del-2020/>

Some 35 microbiologist are infected with COVID-19 in Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/unos-35-microbiologos-se-encuentran-infectados-de-covid.html>

The MP began the inspection yesterday of the 78 containers in which the two mobile hospitals were shipped to Honduras.

El Heraldó, meanwhile, found even more irregularities.

The hospitals will be set up in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. Just for the first two hospitals, this will cost an additional 3.2 million Lempiras.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1284620230153703425

<https://tiempo.hn/hospitales-moviles-revisar-documentos-mp-inspeccion-contenedores/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1394832-466/invest-h-recibi%C3%B3-dise%C3%B1os-plagiados-de-los-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles-comprados>

<https://tiempo.hn/primer-hospital-movil-instalarse-sps-invest-h/>

CESPAD documented some of the community responses to the corona pandemic. "In the first section this analysis problematizes the situation of rural communities, in a context of suspension of constitutional guarantees and human rights crisis. The second section presents the main alternatives that the territories are undertaking to face the current crisis."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/18/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-honduras-alternativas-comunitarias-que-le-hacen-frente-a-la-pandemia-del-covid-19/>

19/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Fish; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption; Violence;

More than 36 hours have passed since the kidnapping of four Garífuna (see yesterday), but there is no news about their fate. OACNUDH published a press release condemning their "forced disappearance".

The new UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, ALice H. Shackelford, also raised concerns about the situation.

There has even been reporting on it in international media outlets.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-alberth-sneider-centeno->

[presidente-del-patronato-de-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-el-triunfo-de-la-cruz-y-de-tres-personas-mas-pertenecientes-a-la-comunidad/](#)

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1285038261988216832>

<https://www.jornada.com.mx/ultimas/mundo/2020/07/18/secuestran-a-4-dirigentes-de-la-etnia-garifuna-en-honduras-2966.html>

<https://www.dw.com/es/secuestran-a-cuatro-l%C3%ADderes-de-etnia-gar%C3%ADfuna-en-honduras/a-54230528>

OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda denounced: "They want to disappear us as Garifuna people, at the same time they kidnap three [four] members of the community in Triunfo de la Cruz, including the president of the Patronato, other criminals come to poison Santa Rosa de Aguán Lagoon, thousands of dead fish! KILLERS".

"We demand a prompt investigation into this ecocide, and the inhabitants say that this may be the result of the agrochemicals used by the palm growers. We do not forget the diversion of the Aguan river, to dry out wetlands and thus produce large areas of oil palm. Killers!"

The Secretariat for Natural Resources and the Environment announced an investigation and they took water samples.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock will also investigate it.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1284569871406309377>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1284852145901260801>

<https://tiempo.hn/pobladores-santa-rosa-aguan-denuncian-mortandad-peces/>

<https://www.dw.com/es/honduras-investigacion-la-muerte-de-miles-de-peces-en-el-caribe/a-54237380>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395105-466/sag-peces-rio-aguan-honduras-muertos>

ConexiHon published an important article on the death of journalist David Romero and how it came about (see yesterday).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1654-por-covid-19-muere-primer-periodista-encarcelado-por-delitos-contr-el-honor>

2296 tests, 1042 new COVID-19 cases, 33'835 in total. The official death count reached 900 yesterday.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395119-466/honduras-suma-mas-muertes-covid-19-casos-ascienden>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/19/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-19-de-julio-del-2020/>

The state of exception was prolonged for another week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395134-466/honduras-amplian-toque-queda-julio-pandemia-coronavirus-covid>

El Tiempo reports on the ongoing protests against corruption in Honduras under the hashtag #WhereIsTheMoney. The protests take the forms of car caravans.

"The first prosecutor of the Republic, Edmundo Orellana Mercado said Sunday that there is fear that the National Congress will come out with one of "its moves" to defend the high spheres of power in the case of the irregular purchase of seven mobile hospitals from Turkey. (...) He said that "the National Congress has been the biggest source of corruption in this country historically, thanks to them a lot of people who destroyed lives and families are free". (...) The former state prosecutor said that this is a golden opportunity for the Public Ministry to follow the path that UFEIC pointed out to him. (...) He said he was concerned because many judges are experts in criminal law, but are unaware of the precepts of administrative and constitutional law, given that these are crimes committed in the public administration."

<https://tiempo.hn/anuncian-mas-caravanas-de-autos-contra-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ojala-el-cn-no-salga-con-leyes-para-blindar-a-sinverguenzas-y-corruptos-en-caso-de-hospitales-moviles-exfiscal-orellana.html>

In an horrific mass-killing, nine people were murdered in Laguna de Agua, Yoro.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1395181-466/dantesca-masacre-en-emboscada-matan-a-nueve-personas-en-yoro>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mientras-prosigue-militarizacion-se-registra-brutal-masacre-con-nueve-muertos/>

20/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Fish; TIGRES; LGBT+; Drug Trafficking; COVID-19 - Corruption, Protest, Health Sector, Miskito, Militarization; HR; Prisons; Migration; and No Judicial Independence

Day three since the disappearance of the Garífuna leaders and still we don't know about their fate. In the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz people took to the streets demanding the return of the young men.

State security forces arrived immediately threatening repression.

In the evening, Miriam Miranda sent out an alert. "Alert, we are informed that vehicles with heavily armed people are entering the community of Triunfo de la Cruz at night, generating terror. The Court's sentence establishes that the state must guarantee the peace and security of the community. Compliance NOW!"

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor, expressed concern about the situation.

And an social media campaign was launched, #GarífunaLivesMatter

Pasos de Animal Grande wonders if the state bodies are incapable or just pretending to look for them.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1285237733087117318>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1285281680580702208>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/07/alerta-urgente-honduras-policia-amenaza-con-reprimir-a-manifestantes-del-triunfo-de-la-cruz-que-demandan-la-liberacion-de-sus-cinco-companeros-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1285356766079979522>

<https://criterio.hn/siembran-terror-en-comunidad-garifuna-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

<https://twitter.com/MaryLawlorhrds/status/1285128442548228098>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1285378961959194628>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2911-en-busqueda-de-garifunas-secuestrados-cuerpos-de-investigacion-hondurenos-incapaces-o-solo-simulan-investigar>

The MP informs about the inspection of the dead fish in Santa Rosa de Aguán (see yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6029-fiscalia-del-medio-ambiente-recolecta-muestras-que-serviran-para-investigar-causa-de-muerte-de-peces-en-santa-rosa-de-aguan>

COFADEH demands special protective measures from the IACHR for the family of Riner Argueta Oliva, a young men murdered by TIGRES special agents on June 21 in San Esteban, Olancho.

"COFADEH considers that the family of the young Riner, especially his brother Adrián Argueta, are at risk when they denounce the human rights violation committed by the state repressive forces in the municipality of San Esteban, because of the reprisals that may be taken by the officers who participated in the event and who have not been fully tried."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-solicita-medidas-de-proteccion-a-la-cidh-para-familia-de-joven-asesinado-por-escuadron-tigres-y-policia-nacional/>

Various LGBT+ organizations published a joint report on the situation of their community during the pandemic.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45916>

http://online.anyflip.com/fltd/zumw/mobile/index.html?fbclid=IwAR204BI399_2t6xW_U7p0mkAuHTo9HYLp6Sbv0ezrfcLi_o41fMWk7FVvk18

"Overnight armed forces intercepted a suspected drug plane in the coastal Mosquitia region of Honduras that appears to be the first under a new intelligence sharing agreement between the US & Honduras. The agreement came after Honduras modify a law to ban the downing of suspected drug planes, which posed a problem for US authorities if it resulted in deaths or mistakes similar to ones made in the past. But the timing of the ban raises many questions. The law allowing the banning of the planes had been in effect since 2014. If Honduras had genuinely wanted to intercept the planes in the past, then it would have done away with the law long ago. So why now? For President Hernandez, he might no longer have anything to lose. In the past, his brother Tony & other co-conspirators were regularly bringing planes full of cocaine from South America. Furthermore, narcos have shifted to local production of cocaine & more use of boats."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1285249829908688896>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1285292255457181696>

1641 tests, 776 new COVID-19 cases, 34'611 in total. 35 more people died, the official death toll being at 935.

The JOH regime is not close yet to the 4000 tests needed daily to get a real grasp of the situation in the country. Therefore, microbiologists reiterate their demand for an increase in testing capabilities. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395417-466/honduras-sinager-julio-muertos-coronavirus>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/microbiologos-propone-abrir-mas-laboratorios-para-pruebas-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/20/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-20-de-julio-del-2020/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published its 8th report on corruption during the pandemic with a focus on the mobile hospitals, i.e. that the seven mobile hospitals are worth some \$14 million while the JOH paid \$47 million for it.

For the third day in a row, the MP continues with the inspection of the first two mobile hospitals.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1285207868728381440>

<https://www.cna.hn/2020/07/20/la-corrupcion-en-tiempos-del-covid-19-parte-viii/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2111-honduras-cna-confirma-sobrevaloracion-de-270-millones-en-hospitales-moviles>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1285359384453877763

<https://confidencialhn.com/atic-inspecciona-predios-donde-se-instalaran-hospitales-moviles-en-san-pedro-sula/>

Social leaders discussed yesterday the need to organize and reactivate the protests given the

unbearable situation they face.

<https://criterio.hn/urge-sumarse-a-reactivacion-de-protestas-organizaciones-sociales-y-populares/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/donde-esta-el-dinero-campana-que-demanda-carcel-para-funcionarios-que-matan-al-pueblo-con-la-corrupcion/>

Another nurse as well as two more doctors died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/dos-medicos-y-una-enfermera-fallecen-por-el-nuevo-coronavirus-el-regimen-no-les-da-insumos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dos-medicos-y-una-enfermera-pierden-batalla-contra-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2112-hondurenos-de-blanco-siguen-cayendo-por-falta-de-bioseguridad-hoy-tres>

Criterio reports on the situation of the indigenous Miskito. "The situation is terrible, and while in the capital the authorities spend their time defending themselves against accusations of corruption generated by the management of public resources destined to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, the Miskito community of Brus Laguna is dying because of government neglect."

<https://criterio.hn/pueblo-misquito-se-muere-por-el-abandono-del-gobierno-y-falta-de-medicinas/>

CESPAD published a piece of analysis on the use of the pandemic as an excuse for further militarization.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/20/analisis-covid-19-la-excusa-perfecta-para-profundizar-el-proceso-de-remilitarizacion-de-la-seguridad-en-honduras/>

COFADEH denounces that the body of a murdered 33-year old mother of two has not yet been handed over to her family, over 3 months after having been transferred to the morgue in San Pedro Sula.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/morgue-judicial-de-sps-aun-no-entrega-cuerpo-de-joven-asesinada-desde-hace-cuatro-meses/>

Shots were heard yesterday morning at the Támara prison and there were reports of various injured people.

Radio Globo later reported that there was an outright gun fight between inmates and the soldiers responsible for the prison. They report of about 10 deaths and various injured.

El Heraldó later reported that a sergeant was injured, but there were no deaths.

CODEH denounces that somehow family members were not allowed to visit their relatives in prison for four months, but weapons still found their way into the prison.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/07/20/se-escuchan-detonaciones-en-la-penitenciaria-nacional-y->

[reportan-heridos/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-unos-10-muertos-y-varios-heridos-en-brutal-reyerta-en-la-penitenciaria-de-tamara/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1395302-466/tamara-herido-sargento-inp-honduras-carceles-violencia>

<https://tiempo.hn/codeh-en-carceles-honduras-no-hay-visitan-pero-siguen-ingresando-armas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/familiares-de-privados-de-libertad-cuestionan-ingreso-de-armas-a-los-centros-carcelarios/>

The Red Cross reports about the situation of the some 500 migrants stranded in Choluteca.

<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/2020/07/20/honduras-500-migrants-blocked-choluteca-due-movement-restrictions/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2910-el-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad-afecta-la-independencia-de-jueces-y-abogados-en-honduras>

21/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta - Criminalization; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; Elections; Militarization; Migration; US; and JOH Debunked by NYT

Day four since the forceful disappearance of the four young Garífuna men, among the local OFRANEH leaders.

A habeas corpus was presented in their favor at the court in Tela, Atlántida.

There are ongoing protests demanding their safe return.

OFRANEH denounces the violent repression using tear gas of their protests.

The campaign in support of the Garífuna continues nationally and internationally.

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders launched a new urgent action.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/al-no-cumplir-sentencia-estado-es-complice-de-la-violencia-contra-comunidades-garifunas/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2912-ante-juzgado-de-tela-presentan-habeas-corpus-a-favor-de-garifunas-secuestrados>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1285582167226163200>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1285627162893131779>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/07/alerta-urgente-honduras-policia-nacional-reprime-con-bombas-lacrimogenas-a-integrantes-de-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-sambo-creek-que-se-manifiestan-por-desaparecidos-del-18-de-julio/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/21/alerta-policia-hondurena-reprime-protesta-de-comunidad-garifunas-y-afecta-gravemente-a-una-nina/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1658-las-vidas-garifunas-importan-su-lucha-es-nuestra-lucha>

<https://www.omct.org/es/human-rights-defenders/urgent-interventions/honduras/2020/07/d25981/>

"Honduras' Supreme Court has denied an appeal by a lawmaker convicted last year of slandering a prominent local banker. María Luisa Borjas was convicted of defamation and sentenced to nearly three years in prison for naming Camilo Atala, president of Ficohsa bank, as a suspected mastermind in the 2016 killing of environmental activist Berta Caceres. She made the statement in 2017 while she was running for a seat in Honduras' Congress."

This decision was widely denounced by human rights organizations and social movements in Honduras.

"We express that the Supreme Court once again demonstrates that it was elected to favor private interests and not the general interest, it has once again dictated a sentence far from the jurisprudential and doctrinal parameters of the Inter-American Human Rights System, various national courts of the region and even from the resolution issued by the also magistrate Avilio Serrano in the case against congressman Jorge Calix, for a complaint initiated for the crime of slander."

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/honduran-lawmaker-loses-appeal-defamation-case-71908451>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2913-sala-de-lo-penal-espero-seis-meses-para-notificar-denegacion-de-recurso-de-casacion-a-favor-de-diputada-maria-luisa-borjas>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/pronunciamientos/1210-csj-se-ensana-contradiputada-maria-luisa-borjas>

<https://criterio.hn/fallo-contramaria-luisa-borjas-es-mas-politico-que-juridico-joaquin-meja/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/07/corte-suprema-de-justicia-se-ensana-contrala-defensora-y-diputada-maria-luisa-borjas/>

1951 tests, 734 new cases, 35'345 in total. 53 additional Hondurans died to COVID-19, the current death toll is at 988.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395654-466/honduras-coronavirus-covid-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/21/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-21-de-julio-del-2020/>

Another nurse died to COVID-19.

Over 1000 nurses have been infected so far.

Estimates go up to more than 1300 health workers with COVID-19.

Health workers at the Mario Catarino Rivas in San Pedro Sula once again felt force to protest demanding biosafety equipment.

The president of the Medical Association of Honduras, Suyapa Figueroa, speaks of a medical system in total abandonment.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1395643-410/muere-enfermera-coronavirus-honduras->

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/mas-de-mil-enfermeras-auxiliares-estan-contagiadas-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://ltv.hn/2020/07/21/1300-empleados-de-salud-han-dado-positivo-a-covid-19/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/enfermeras-del-mario-catarino-rivas-exigen-se-les-provea-de-equipo-de-proteccion/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/presidenta-del-cmh-abandono-del-sistema-de-salud-ha-sido-extremo-en-estos-momentos-existe-un-caos/>

There will be a protest march, following biosafety guidelines, against the JOH regime and corruption today in the north of Honduras.

FOSDEH calls for an international audit of the millions and millions of dollars having gone to the JOH regime to address the corona pandemic.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1285750759737491456>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fosdeh-pide-auditoria-internacional-en-manejo-de-fondos-destinados-a-emergencia-en-honduras.html>

Both La Prensa and Proceso Digital report that Libre presidential hopeful Xiomara Castro won't participate in the primary elections denouncing that the old identity cards and the old census will result in electoral fraud.

The congressional committee for the elaboration of the new Electoral Law, once again, claims that the law is ready to be discussed and approved in the plenary. They already said this weeks ago, but nothing happened.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1395715-410/xiomara-castro-elecciones-internas-libre->

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/xiomara-castro-anuncia-que-no-participara-en-elecciones-primarias-de-libre.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nimd-honduras-y-ue-fortalece-la-democracia-hondurena-a-traves-del-proyecto-prodemos.html>

Some months ago, a 4 billion Lempiras agriculture investment fund made headlines because it was to be managed by the Armed Forces. Yesterday, the Armed Forces claimed that so far, they had only received 22 million Lempiras for the Agriculture Development Program (PDAH).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ffaa-dice- apenas-han-recibido-22-millones-de-4-mil-millones-para-programa-agricola.html>

According to official data, 24'645 Hondurans have been deported so far this year, over 10'000 during the pandemic.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=45949>

"U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Chief Executive Officer Adam Boehler today joined Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, U.S. Embassy Honduras Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Colleen A. Hoey, and Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council Mauricio Claver-Carone to announce DFC's intent to finance \$1 billion of private sector investment over three years in Honduras. This effort will complement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed today between the Governments of the United States and Honduras to establish a framework for bilateral cooperation in support of the Administration's América Crece initiative."

<https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-aims-finance-1-billion-private-sector-investment-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2115-new-york-times-acusa-a-joh-por-tergiversar-informacion-en-manejo-de-pandemia>

22/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta - Criminalization; UN - HRDs; Journalists: Dengue; COVID-19 - EU, Health Sector, Corruption; Prisons; BCIE; Corruption - de Lobo; Elections;

Day four since the forceful disappearance of the Garífuna men and still no answer about there whereabouts.

The German government wrote to the JOH regime asking for an ongoing search of the Garífunas. In the same letter, they expressed consternation about the recent deaths of various HRDs.

The Police Investigation Bureau (DPI) informed about the arrest of a man possibly linked to the kidnapping. Apparently, he possess clothing similar to those used by the security forces.

The Honduras Solidarity Network tweeted in response: "Authorities have arrested U.S. citizen, Rennie Michael Ugalde in Tela for his alleged involvement in disappearance of the four Garífuna men. Authorities haven't explained man's connection to crime & there are a lot of doubts".

The MP also conducted raids in Tela in search of them.

Meanwhile, protests demanding the safe return of the Garífuna men continue.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2914-delegada-de-alemania-para-los-derechos-humanos-se-pronuncio-sobre-crimenes-contralgtbi-periodistas-y-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/gobierno-aleman-pide-a-honduras-investigar-secuestro-de-activistas-garifunas.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/capturan-a-un-hombre-sospechoso-de-participar-en-el-rapto-de-cuatro-jovenes-garifunas/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1286092084659855362>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6034-mp-ejecuta-allanamientos-por-la-desaparicion-de-cinco-miembros-de-la-comunidad-garifuna-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1286087646524116992>

US Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky reacted to the confirmation about the criminalizing conviction of Maria Luisa Borjas (see yesterday). "No one should lose their job for seeking the truth and speaking out against police corruption. I stand with Congresswoman Maria Luisa Borjas and her quest for justice for Berta Cáceres".

The court's decision has lead further widespread condemnation at the international level, e.g. by Nina Lakhani, author of the book "Who Killed Berta Cáceres?" "Maria Luisa Borjas was sacked from the police after uncovering death squads. She's now been sentenced to jail and stands to lose everything for having demanded the authorities investigate every lead in the Berta Cáceres murder investigation. This decision is a travesty of justice".

Journalist Jonathan Blitzer tweeted: "The bank head Borjas is accused of "defaming" is the President of Fichosa Bank. That is: a bank that the US government (which tolerates a whole lot from Honduras) isn't even comfortable getting involved with because of its incredibly shady history and reputation."

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1285985411299454976>

<https://twitter.com/ninalakhani/status/1285777623025623041>

<https://twitter.com/JonathanBlitzer/status/1285745892386058240>

The new UN Resident Coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford, held a virtual meeting with Radio Progreso and ERIC about the important role of civil society and human rights organizations in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1286095124548681729>

Journalist Mauricio Ortega was arrested yesterday in the municipality of Puerto Cortés; it is the third times this year that the police restricts his journalistic work.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1213-detienen-a-periodista-mauricio-ortega-sumando-ataques-policiales-en-su-contra>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/detienen-por-varias-horas-a-periodista-en-puerto-cortes/>

"Harry Book, head of the Central District's Metropolitan Health Region, warned that due to the increase in dengue cases in the capital they could enter into a new phase of the epidemic."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46025>

1999 tests, 757 additional cases, 36'102 in total. The number of deaths surpassed 1000 yesterday, 1006 people died so far in Honduras.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395919-466/honduras-coronavirus-sinager-pandemia-covid-muertos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/22/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-22-de-julio-del-2020/>

Even though millions of dollars have gone to the JOH regime so far to address the corona pandemic without any discernible effect for the Honduran people, almost \$69 millions more are coming his way from the European Union.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ue-y-sus-paises-miembros-daran-80-millones-de-euros-para-lucha-contra-el-covid-en-honduras.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1395970-410/union-europea-don-millones-honduras-coronavirus->

El País reports that Canada has delivered tons of biosafety material to Honduras and Guatemala from the UN.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/07/22/canada-llevara-a-honduras-y-a-guatemala-toneladas-de-mascarillas-de-la-onu/>

Maybe to be understood only as a show for the masses, but there seems to be a rift between the JOH regime and the MP regarding the mobile hospitals. JOH, after his role in their purchase has been highlighted, tried to divert attention from this by calling for a swift installation of the mobile hospitals, while the MP wants continue investigating the containers in which the two mobile hospitals were transported to Honduras.

There was talk about a possible intervention of Invest-H, but civil society representatives fear that such a body would only try to hide the magnitude of the corruption.

More protests took place against the corruption by the JOH regime during the pandemic.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1286115684448178176

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1286136054454648834>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-la-presidencia-justifica-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-a-pesar-de-multimillonaria-estafas/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2118-honduras-otra-vez-en-las-calles-ni-el-covid-frena-protesta-ciudadana>

<https://copinh.org/2020/07/donde-esta-el-dinero-campana/>

<https://criterio.hn/analistas-temen-que-una-interventora-en-invest-h-oculte-magnitud-de-irregularidades/>

Inmates at the prison in El Progreso denounce mistreatment and abuse.

FUSINA reports of a discovery of a sophisticated underground tunnel away from the Támara prison.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/privadas-de-libertad-denuncian-malos-tratos-y-abusos-en-centro-penal-de-el-progreso-yoro/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1395900-466/tunel-carcel-honduras-tamara>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) approved \$250 million to encourage "electrical sustainability" in the country.

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-monto-financiero-honduras-programa-energetico-ambiental-sostenibilidad/>

A Honduran court is currently revising the measures imposed on the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo after she was found guilty of corruption last year.

A decision is expected for today.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1395871-466/rosa-elena-lobo-saul-escobar-audiencia-virtual-revision-medidas>

<https://tiempo.hn/rosa-elena-bonilla-conoce-jueves-resolucion-csj/>

"After the call by the presidential pre-candidate of the Libertad y Refundación party, Xiomara Castro, to boycott the primary elections [see yesterday], the National Registry of Persons [RNP] assured that the new census and the national identification document would be ready in February 2021."

At the same time, Libre representative at the RNP, Oscar Rivera supported the position of Castro.

"We believe that it is necessary to maintain the pressure that we have had in order to be able to have a new census and a new identity card."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46036>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-frijoles-ayer-estaban-podridos-no-van-a-amanecer-limpios-hoy-dice-miembro-de-libre-en-el-rnp.html>

23/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; MASSVIDA - UN; Corruption - de Lobo; Journalists; COVID-19 - Economy, Health Sector, Transport Sector, Violence; Elections; and Blows and Tears

Miriam Miranda sent out another alert yesterday. "Alert! reported from the community of San Juan, half an hour ago alleged members of the Military Police arrived in two vehicles to ask for the president of the Patronato and there is a young Garífuna in hospital. WHAT ARE THEY UP TO? With this harassment against community leaders".

There is also ongoing international coverage. Nina Lakhani reported for The Guardian. "Fears are growing for the safety of five black indigenous men in Honduras who were abducted from their homes last weekend by heavily armed gunmen in police uniforms. The victims are Garifuna fishermen from the town Triunfo de la Cruz on the north coast – a region where communities are embroiled in a longstanding struggle to save their ancestral land from drug traffickers, palm oil magnates and tourism developers aided by corrupt officials and institutions."

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1286449264579813378>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1286456974297759745>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/jul/23/garifuna-honduras-abducted-men-land-rights>

OACNUDH met with MASSVIDA to talk about the difficult situation they are facing culminating recently in the murder of HRD Marvin Damián Castro Molina.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1286352794287570944>

The legacy of the MACCIH faded a bit further in Honduras yesterday. The former first lady, Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo was allowed to leave prison and await a possible re-trial from home. Lobo was convicted on corruption charges and sentenced to 58 years, but this March, she won an appeal for a re-trial.

Radio Progreso spoke with constitutional lawyer Ramón Enrique Barrios agrees with the ruling, but also highlights the possible impunity coming from it. "The Honduran Code of Criminal Procedure establishes that no person can be held in preventive detention for more than two years without having a definitive sentence," Barrios said. The case must be repeated in the anti-corruption court. "I think that the ruling that the court is giving is correct, it is in accordance with what the criminal procedure law says, but it must be said that it is not that she will not face the new trial, of course she will face the new trial but she will do so in freedom," Barrios said in an interview with Radio Progreso. (...) "But I anticipate what the lawyers for the defense of Rosa Elena Lobo will have as their argument some articles, some interpretations that are in the new penal code," Barrios said."

MADJ, meanwhile, denounced the decision: "Rosa Elena Bonilla will be released in the next few hours, confirming that the corrupt's script is still intact. 1. You are a civil servant, 2. I denounce you, 3. I prosecute you, 4. I sentence you, you go free, you demand and win, free and millionaire, we appeal but they will not admit it."

<https://tiempo.hn/primer-dama-rosa-elena-lobo-carcel-tamara-honduras-pepe-tamara/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1286364919005356032>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/sale-libre-ex-primer-dama-rosa-elena-bonilla/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1286409362676875267>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2120-honduras-tras-liberacion-de-esposa-pepe-reclama-por-negligencia-que-mato-a-david>

El Libertador continues to cover the death of journalist David Romero, which for many is considered a state execution through negligence.

Pasos de Animal Grande talked to journalist Mauricio Ortega who had been arrested two days ago and kept for various hours by the police two days ago (see yesterday).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2123-honduras-david-romero-una-muerte-lenta-en-manos-del-gobierno>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2916-periodista-capturado-me-detienen-porque-ando-cubriendo-las-noticias-de-las-cosas-malas-que-la-policia-hace>

800 new cases, 5 more deaths, for a total of 36,902 and 1011 respectively.

Once again, there is reporting that the real number of deaths is at least twice as high.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396174-466/ya-son-1011-los-hondure%C3%B1os-muertos-por-coronavirus-y-36902-contagios>

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/472253/muertos-coronavirus-hernandez>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/23/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-23-de-julio-del-2020/>

While the number of COVID-19 cases continues to grow at a high-percentage of conducted tests (up to 50% of tests result in a confirmation) and there are not yet the 4000 tests per day conducted that would be recommended for a country the size of Honduras, the JOH regime thinks again about opening up the economy.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1396035-410/gobierno-honduras-analiza-reapertura-econom%C3%ADa-lunes>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-se-vuelve-a-la-fase-1-de-la-reapertura-inteligente-debe-ser-con-mucha-responsabilidad-ebal-diaz.html>

Yesterday, I wrote that Canada delivered tons of biosafety material to Honduras. To be more specific: "The purchase was made by the Honduran government through the Ministry of Health with the support of PAHO and WHO, the World Food Program provided the logistics and made arrangements with Canadian aeronautics, which used its aircraft to transport its goods". The president of the Association of Renal Patients, Daniel Mairena, began a hunger strike yesterday demanding that three dialyses per patient be reinstated, in view of the fact that many are dying due to the indifference of the authorities.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ops-aclara-que-compra-de-equipo-medico-personal-la-ejecuto-secretaria-de-salud/>

<https://criterio.hn/un-paciente-renal-muere-a-diario-en-el-seguro-social/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-de-pacientes-renales-se-declara-en-huelga-para-exigir-el-restablecimiento-de-tres-dialisis/>

Honduran truck drivers started to occupy the Corinto customs office to Guatemala in protest against a decision by Guatemalan authorities not to let in Honduran truck drivers wanting to return home from Mexico over Guatemala to Honduras. They are stuck at the Mexican-Guatemalan border.

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-hondurenos-se-toman-aduana-de-corinto-porque-no-les-permiten-regresar-al-pais/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46041>

Almost 100 people died in mass-killings in Honduras during the lockdown.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46072>

The political opposition party Libre now says that Xiomara Castro did not propose a boycott of the coming electoral process (see previous days), but that it should be without irregular acts as in the past.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46040>

<https://confidencialhn.com/calix-asegura-que-xiomara-castro-no-propuso-boicot-sino-proceso-electoral-sin-vicios-del-pasado/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/libre-ante-el-debate-de-participar-o-no-en-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/de-golpe-y-lagrima/>

24/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; HRDs - Guapinol; OACNUDH - HRDs; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption - Invest-H, Indigenous Peoples; US; and Another Failed Reopening?

Five days have passed since the forceful disappearance of the Garifuna men and even Proceso Digital now reports on the lack of advances in the state's investigation.

The IACHR now also commented on the case condemning the forceful disappearance.

Amnesty International wrote an open letter to JOH.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/sin-avances-en-investigacion-del-caso-de-cuatro-dirigentes-garifunas-raptados.html>

<https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1286652598397874177>

<https://twitter.com/totonia68/status/1286724255061807106>

<https://criterio.hn/amnistia-internacional-exige-a-joh-respuesta-sobre-secuestros-de-garifunas/>

"The defense of the eight environmentalists from the municipality of Tocoa, Colon presented a document to the local Public Ministry so that this institution would desist from its position of keeping the defenders of the San Pedro and Guapinol rivers under preventive detention."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/exigen-al-ministerio-publico-desistir-su-postura-de-mantener-en-prision-a-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

OACNUDH met with Padre Melo and members of Radio Progreso and ERIC. "OACNUDH expresses its deep appreciation for the work of Radio Progreso and ERIC in the defense and promotion of human rights in Honduras and reiterates its commitment to continue and strengthen its accompaniment."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1286668690314977280>

1698 tests resulted in 657 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 37'559 cases. 50 more people died, the current death toll now lies at 1061.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396412-466/honduras-coronavirus-muertos-24-de-julio-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/24/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-24-de-julio-del-2020/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 19th joint press release during the pandemic. "While we are indignant and hold actions of repudiation and protest against the narco-dictatorship, which from its corrupt elite sustains a mortally wounded economic system, and

attacks us with more criminal violence, we press on with organized actions and protests to hasten its imminent fall. Within this framework of joint actions of rebellion and resistance, and as an expression of our constant analysis and testimony of struggle, we raise our collective voice in this Nineteenth Public Manifesto".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/decimo-noveno-manifiesto-publico/>

This week, the EU announced 80 million Euros in support of the JOH regime in addressing the corona pandemic. Given the high level of corruption, once more clearly seen in the response to the pandemic, the EU felt the need to stress that support will be spent under "a very strict system". But why not ask for proof that the millions and millions of dollars already given to the JOH regime have been spent according to its intended purpose? Even if the money from the EU is spent well, it just means that the JOH regime can enrich itself from the funds already in control by the JOH regime. The same question goes to Spain which just announced a \$35 million credit for the JOH regime. At the same time, the MP continues to investigate the mobile hospitals case. In the newest chapter of this saga, they found that they were delivered to Honduras accompanied by faulty equipment which had to be decommissioned.

The MP also questioned the Minister of Finance, Rocío Tábora.

Hondurans, meanwhile, continue to ask: Where is the money? "The Catholic Church is not far behind in the claim either. "As part of this society we join in that question, that cry: where is the money, how is it being managed, how is it being administered, how is it being invested, is it really reaching the victims of this pandemic and other viruses, we join in that cry," said Jesuit priest Gregorio Vasquez, pastor of San Isidro Labrador Parish in Tocoa, Colon, in an interview with Radio Progreso."

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/07/24/donacion-de-la-union-europea-sera-bajo-estricta-supervision-para-evitar-corrupcion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/espana-aprueba-credito-por-35-millones-de-dolares-para-pobres-de-honduras.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2125-honduras-equipo-usado-y-vencido-de-hospitales-confirma-estafa>

<https://criterio.hn/equipo-en-mal-estado-y-que-vencio-desde-2016-es-parte-de-hospitales-moviles-de-invest-h/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396415-466/hospitales-moviles-equipo-vencido-investh>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6042-ministerio-publico-toma-declaracion-a-secretaria-de-finanzas-rocio-tabora-por-caso-hospitales-moviles>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/iglesia-se-suma-al-reclamo-donde-esta-el-dinero-gregorio-vasquez-sj/>

It is the same old story of the hammer only seeing nails everywhere. There is a problem in

Honduras, JOH's throws the military at it. The body directly responsible for many of the corruption cases during the pandemic - leaving out possible criminal masterminds behind it - is Invests-H. Its director is already gone and under investigation, his replacement resigned just after a few days. Now, JOH announced an intervention body which will be lead by the general José Ernesto Leva Bulnes. "The last three governments led by the National Party have resorted to appointing intervention bodies in at least 20 centralized and decentralized public institutions where shocking acts of corruption have occurred. These bodies have become the control strategy implemented in the last 11 years of the state administration in charge of the National Party of Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/militar-a-la-cabeza-de-interventora-de-invest-h-nombrada-por-joh/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396421-466/juramentan-a-miembros-de-comisi%C3%B3n-interventora-de-invest-h>

CESPAD continue to report on the situation of the Miskitu people during the pandemic.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/24/analisis-la-pandemia-del-abandono-en-la-muskitia-hondurena/>

"Yesterday, the United States Department of Homeland Security convened the virtual version of the 13th Meeting of Ministers and Secretaries of Security of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and the United States Department of Homeland Security [Regional Security Conference (RSC)]. This meeting was originally scheduled to take place this past May in Costa Rica but was postponed and ended up being held as a virtual meeting given the continuation of the pandemic caused by COVID-19. This virtual edition focused on the challenges that the pandemic presents to the countries of the region and how it has impacted the traditional roles and missions of the Ministries or Secretariats of Security."

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/administracion-trump-reune-lideres-centroamericanos-temas-salud-seguridad-control-fronteras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2126-honduras-este-lunes-reinicia-apertura-inteligente-de-la-economia>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-amaga-con-segundo-intento-de-reapertura-economica/>

25/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; COPINH; MADJ; HRDs - Guapinol; COVID-19 - Corruption, Militarization, Economy, Journalists; Corruption - de Lobo; and Allowed to Return Home

It has been a week since the forced disappearance of the Garífuna men. El Tiempo reported yesterday morning that documents were found belonging to two of the men together with electronic devices and firearms.

Proceso Digital later wrote that the Minister of Security Julián Pacheco Tinoco confirmed them the

finding.

It is not clear what this means and best to wait an official response by OFRANEH. In the Garífuna communities, the protests demanding the safe return of the men continue.

The Human Rights Secretariat published a second press release on this case explaining how they are "closely following" the investigations.

COFADEH explains the importance of calling what happened to the Garífuna men a "forced disappearance" and not just a "kidnapping" or an "abduction".

<https://tiempo.hn/sps-encuentran-documentos-garifunas-secuestrados-tela/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/confirman-que-documentos-hallados-en-hacienda-son-de-garifunas-raptados.html>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1287007243578355712?cxt=HHwWgMC9jZ2Rr9wjAAAA>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/secretaria-de-ddhh-pide-respeto-a-la-vida-de-lideres-garifunas-secuestrados.html>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/no-es-un-rapto-no-es-un-secuestro-es-una-desaparicion-forzada/>

Various social movements, indigenous and human rights organizations together with well-respected individuals signed a joint letter in support of COPINH and its leadership denouncing the threats and harassment against them.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/07/carta-de-solidaridad-repudiamos-las-amenazas-y-hostigamiento-contr-el-copinh-y-su-dirigencia/>

MADJ launched a petition against the hydroelectric project on the Jilamito River threatening the communities in Arizona, Atlántida.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/07/25/firma-carta-comunidades-de-arizona-contr-del-financiamiento-al-proyecto-sobre-rio-jilamito/>

MADJ published the press release in favor of the criminalized environmental defenders from Guapinol demanding their release from prison (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1287070334995374081>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1660-continua-la-criminalizacion-a-defensores-por-influencias-de-empresa-minera>

2048 tests resulted in 879 new COVID-19 cases, 38'438 in total. 38 more Hondurans died to COVID-19 yesterday, the current death toll is at 1098.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396611-466/cifra-de-hondure%C3%B1os-muertos-por-coronavirus->

[sube-a-1098-y-38438-infectados](#)

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/25/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-25-de-julio-del-2020/>

The inspection of the 78 containers bringing the two mobile hospitals to Honduras concluded yesterday. "The investigations into the "Mobile Hospitals" case are still under way, and in addition to this work, statements have been taken from 10 public officials, six of them high-profile, some as being investigated and others as witnesses."

Both ContraCorriente and El Libertador published additional articles on the most recent problems detected with the mobile hospitals (see also yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6048-se-concluye-inspeccion-a-78-contenedores-con-hallazgos-preliminares-pero-mp-continuar-tomando-declaraciones-y-requiriendo-informacion>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/25/equipo-en-mal-estado-llego-en-los-esperados-hospitales-moviles-%ef%bb%bf/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2127-honduras-son-basura-y-han-traido-basura-reaccionan-medicos-por-estafa-invest-h>

The president of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, denounces the militarization of the intervention body for Invest-H (see yesterday).

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/no-les-basto-militarizar-el-agro-cuestiono-luis-zelaya-sobre-la-intervencion-a-invest-h.html>

Another journalist, Edilberto Zelaya, died to COVID-19. Six journalists have died so far during the pandemic.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2128-honduras-covid-quita-vida-a-otro-companero-al-periodista-edilberto-zelayahonduras-covid-quita-vida-a-otro-companero-al-periodista-edilberto-zelaya>

SINAGER and the multi-sectorial board (who has seen very important members leave in the recent past criticizing that the JOH regime does not listen to their concerns and is now even more of an empty shell) have approved a proposal for a second try at reopening the Honduran economy. They claim that the recent increase in triage centers will make an important difference to the first try.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1396459-466/en-agosto-las-empresas-iran-incrementando-el-personal>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1396476-410/baja-en-ocupaci%C3%B3n-hospitalaria-alienta-reapertura-econ%C3%B3mica-en-honduras>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/inminente-reapertura-economica-en-fase-i/>

UFERCO is contemplating to present a challenge to the recent Supreme Court decision in revoking the pre-trial detention of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo (see previous mail).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396460-466/la-uferco-analiza-amparo-contralibertad-de-rosa-elena-de-lobo>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/guatemala-le-permite-transitar-a-68-transportistas-de-carga-hondurenos-varados-en-mexico/>

26/07/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; HR; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption; Corruption - de Lobo; Traffic Accidents; and Networks of Power

A week has passed since the forced disappearance of the Garífuna men. OFRANEH denounces violent repression by state security forces of young men at the Garífuna community Santa Fe. They shot at them and at least one young man got hurt.

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda spoke with TeleSur about the forced disappearance. She does not rule out that behind the forced disappearance lie economic powers interested in exploiting their land.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1287362470236037122>

<https://www.telesurtv.net/news/honduras-lideres-garifunas-secuestrados-gobierno-explicaciones-20200726-0012.html>

Pasos de Animal Grande published its weekly human rights video summary of the situation in Honduras.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2918-justicia-fallida-afecta-a-miles-de-personas-en-honduras>

1999 tests, 838 new COVID-19 cases, 39'276 in total. 18 people died yesterday, the current death toll being at 1116.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396757-466/covid-19-honduras-coronavirus-muertos-sinager-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/26/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-26-de-julio-del-2020/>

The state of exception has been prolonged to August 2.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396764-466/extienden-toque-de-queda-hasta-domingo-2-de-agosto>

Another nurse as well as a doctor died to COVID-19.

One of the controversial mobile hospitals is planned to be setup and functional in San Pedro Sula by August 15.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1396703-410/-doctor-enfermera-polic%C3%ADa-muere-coronavirus->

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-hospital-movil-sps-iniciara-operaciones-15-de-agosto/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) demands arrest warrants for those responsible for the irregular purchases during the pandemic.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-exige-requerimientos-fiscales-contra-responsables-de-compras-irregulares/>

According to the National Direction of Road and Transport, traffic accidents have become the second most common cause of death for Hondurans in the country.

<https://tiempo.hn/accidentes-de-transito-son-la-segunda-causa-de-muerte-en-honduras/>

CESPAD published a short analysis on the newest events unfolding last week in the corruption case involving the former first lady (see previous e-mails).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/26/analisis-semanal-lecciones-para-la-lucha-anti-corrupcion-la-excarcelacion-de-la-ex-primera-dama-de-honduras/>

"On Wednesday 22 July, the book *Redes de Poder político-económico en Honduras: un análisis post-coup*, by Harald Waxenecker, was presented at a conference organized by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung and the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales (Icefi). The book describes the configuration of political and economic power that prevailed in Honduras in 2009 and after the coup d'état. With the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society groups question whether there will be a reconfiguration of power with the political and economic impact that this new crisis has."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/25/golpe-de-estado-foro/>

27/07/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; HRDs; OFRANEH - EU; Journalists; COVID-19 - Economy, Corruption, Health Sector, Poverty; Prisons; Corruption - de Lobo, Pandora; US; EU; and Another UPR for Honduras

OACNUDH and the new UN representative in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford, denounce the murder of the trans woman Monic Martinez which took place on July 25 in Comayagüela.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1287898052011982848>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1287900834718789632>

IM-Defensoras sent out an alert denouncing that the defender of territory and the rights of women and girls, Maria Felicita Lopez, was threatened over the phone by unidentified individuals who, through calls and messages from WhatsApp threatened to take her life. "It should be noted that this is not the first time that her life is at risk in the context of her work as a defender, so, since November 24, 2015, she has been granted precautionary measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). María Felícita denounces that, in spite of the court's ruling, the State of Honduras has limited itself to the installation of a solar energy plant in her house as an alleged measure of protection."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/07/alerta-defensoras-amenazan-de-muerte-y-hostigan-a-la-defensora-maria-felicita-lopez/>

OFRANEH published an article on the forced disappearance of the five Garífuna men. "With the disappearance of five young people from the community of Triunfo de la Cruz, who were abducted from their homes in the early hours of Saturday, July 19, by alleged agents of the Police Department of Investigation (DPI), the acts of aggression against leaders and members of the Garifuna communities are repeated once again and have even intensified since 2018."

The Coalition against Impunity will hold a press conference on this today at 10am.

The US embassy tweeted that they spoke with the Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva about the case.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/07/27/honduras-cinco-desaparecidos-en-triunfo-y-la-expulsion-del-pueblo-garifuna/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1287894349657899014>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1287899207140089856>

EU parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo highlights the important work of COPINH and OFRANEH and urges the EU "to take decisive action in its relationship with the Government of Honduras".

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1287804696053284864>

Journalist Leonel García denounced being persecuted by orders of the mayor of Nacaome, Víctor Flores.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1222-periodista-denuncia-persecucion-vehicular-ordenada-por-alcalde-de-nacaome>

1213 tests, 465 new cases, 39'741 in total, and an additional 50 deaths increasing the death toll to 1166.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397039-466/honduras-covid-muertos-pandemia-toque-queda-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/27/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-27-de-julio-del-2020/>

As expected, the Multi-Sectorial Board published a press release yesterday proposing to restart the reopening of the economy.

Medical experts criticize the plan. ""We cannot say, as a Medical College, that technically and scientifically it is the right time to return to normal activity in the country. Right now we have an increase in cases of Covid-19, in hospitalizations, hospitals are working at full capacity, there is an increase in the number of doctors, nurses and microbiologists who are dying," said the Vice President of the Medical Association of Honduras, Samuel Santos."

At the same time, public debt has reached historic levels in Honduras exceeding \$12 billion.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1396953-466/mesa-multisectorial-llama-al-gobierno-a-avanzar-en-la-fase-1-de>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/aumenta-presion-empresarial-para-apertura-de-la-economia/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/medicos-en-desacuerdo-con-reapertura-economica/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/honduras-alcanza-niveles-historicos-de-endeudamiento/>

The CNA published a new report on corruption during the pandemic focusing on so-called turnkey contracts (according to Wikipedia: "a contract where the essential design emanates from, or is supplied by, the Contractor and not the owner, so that the legal responsibility for the design, suitability and performance of the work after completion will be made to rest ... with the contractor"). The CNA denounced that this form of purchase is used by corrupt officials to free themselves from criminal responsibilities.

El Herald reports that the former Invest-H director Marco Bográn had signed a 250 million Lempiras contract for biosafety equipment two days before he was forced to resign.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1287757216968212480>

<https://criterio.hn/contratacion-de-llave-en-mano-un-blindaje-para-no-castigar-a-los-corruptos-senalan-expertos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/contrato-llave-en-mano-es-para-librar-de-responsabilidad-penal-dice-gabriela-castellanos.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1396842-466/marco-bogr%C3%A1n-firm%C3%B3-millonario-contrato-con-empresa-china-previo-a-renunciar>

"The president of the Social Security doctors in San Pedro Sula, Dr. Carlos Umaña, declared that he sees it as impossible for the mobile hospitals to begin operating on August 15 as the government

intends because the health personnel assigned to them will be faced with something unknown because no one knows the equipment these hospitals bring."

According to its labor union, health workers at the Santa Rosita Hospital have not been paid since last year.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/hospitales-moviles-no-estaran-listos-el-15-de-agosto-doctor-umana/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-empleados-del-hospital-santa-rosita-no-reciben-salario-desde-el-ano-pasado/>

Economist Julio Raudales predicts that another 1 million Hondurans will fall into poverty due to the pandemic (and the failures of the JOH regime).

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46133>

A riot at the Puerto Cortés prison left two inmates dead and several injured.

Fusina announced that they dismantled an illegal satellite dish at the women's prison in Támara.

ConfidencialHN denounced it as a PR-stunt. "Another charade is exposed. The antenna dismantled on Monday by prison authorities was operated by a group of nuns, who were dedicated to educating the women prisoners who remain in the women's prison of Tamara, located on the northern outskirts of the capital. Knowledgeable persons who are familiar with the event told Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN that the device did not serve as an antenna for Internet connection, as officials of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) had pointed out at the time, but that it operated as a sort of repeater, so that its sole function was solely and exclusively to educate the ladies who were being prosecuted or serving sentences for crimes they had committed."

<https://confidencialhn.com/dos-muertos-y-varios-heridos-deja-rina-en-la-carcel-de-puerto-cortes/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/desmantelan-red-de-conexion-inalambrica-ilegal-en-carcel-femenina-de-tamara.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-descubierto-otra-farsa-antena-desmontada-en-carcel-de-mujeres-era-utilizada-para-educar-a-las-privadas-de-libertad1/>

"The Anti-Corruption Coalition, made up of more than 20 civil society organizations, issued a wide-ranging statement on the release of former First Lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo, which it considers to be selective justice and thus generated a new pact of impunity in Honduras."

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/libertad-de-exprimera-dama-consolida-un-pacto-de-impunidad-cuestiona-coalicion-anticorrupcion.html>

<https://criterio.hn/libertad-de-la-ex-primera-dama-consolida-el-pacto-de-impunidad/>

In a second key corruption case, Pandora, UFERCO is waiting for the Court of Natural Appeals to issue a resolution to the request of extension of the precautionary measure of Preventive Prison

imposed on the former minister of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), Jacobo Regalado and his business partner Luis Fernando Urrutia.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6054-uferco-a-la-espera-de-resolucion-de-solicitud-de-ampliacion-de-prision-preventiva-contr-exministro-de-la-sag-y-otro-implicado-en-el-caso-pandora>

<https://criterio.hn/solicitan-ampliacion-de-prision-preventiva-para-jacobo-regalado-y-luis-fernando-urrutia-implicados-en-el-caso-pandora/>

El Tiempo reports on the new US initiative intended to spur the Honduran economy (see last week). Mike Pompeo promised \$1 billion in investment in three years.

<https://tiempo.hn/mike-pompeo-america-crece-generaria-1-billon-honduras/>

The Network of Domestic Workers denounced the Ambassador of the European Union in Honduras, Alessandro Palmero, for violating the labor rights of a domestic worker in his home.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1667-embajador-europeo-en-honduras-violenta-derechos-laborales-a-trabajadora-domestica>

This November, Honduras' human rights track record will be examined again through the Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Council. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the failure to comply with past recommendations by the JOH regime.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2919-compromisos-incumplidos-el-06-de-noviembre-el-estado-de-honduras-sera-examinado-en-el-consejo-de-derechos-humanos>

28/07/20

Honduras Daily: US; OFRANEH; Berta - Podcast; COVID-19 - Corruption, Economy; Migration; and No More Death Squads

US Senator Jeff Markley commented on the situation in Honduras. "Honduran authorities have repeatedly targeted environmental defenders like Berta Cáceres, giving the country the highest per capita killings of environmental activists in the world. I stand with Congresswoman María Luisa Borjas, the Garifuna land defenders, and all who demand justice and an end to corruption."

<https://www.facebook.com/jeffmerkley/posts/10157399926731546>

10 days have passed since the forceful disappearance of the five men - 4 are Garifuna and the other is from Belize and not Garifuna. 3 are members of OFRANEH (hat-tip to Karen for the clarification).

OFRANEH published another update. "According to the information we have acquired from very reliable sources, the State, in an act of complicity, would be releasing in the next few hours the only

suspect arrested, arguing lack of evidence. This action not only evidences the participation of criminal structures of the State but also puts the lives of the rest of the population of Triunfo de la Cruz at risk."

The Coalition against Impunity held a press conference on the case yesterday and there they demanded that the Police Bureau of Investigation (DPI) does not participate in this particular investigation as some of their members may be involved in the forceful disappearance (the men responsible wore DPI uniforms).

The same day, DPI informed that the investigation will be taken over by the MP and ATIC.

"On the tenth day of the struggle for the liberation of the Garifuna leaders who were forcibly disappeared in the community of El Triunfo de la Cruz, in the Port of Tela in Atlántida, the coordinator of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH), urged the need to pull out the root of the rot that governs Honduras and that keeps the population in extreme poverty, without health, education and security. "We need peace and we have to build a new pact for coexistence," she said."

<https://criterio.hn/diez-dias-del-secuestro-de-garifunas-y-autoridades-estatales-no-dan-respuestas/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/07/28/estructura-criminal-al-servicio-del-estado-y-la-desaparicion-forzosa-de-los-garifunas-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-pide-que-dpi-no-investigue-caso-de-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/dpi-mp-y-atic-tomaran-investigacion-caso-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

<https://criterio.hn/hay-que-arrancar-esa-raiz-la-podredumbre-que-gobierna-honduras-miriam-miranda/>

A podcast produced by Monte Reel and published by Bloomberg takes a closer look at the life of Berta Cáceres, her assassination and its aftermath.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/blood-river/id1523301867>

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rose to 40'460 and the number of deaths to 1214. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397294-466/honduras-coronavirus-sinager-pandemia-covid>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/28/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-28-de-julio-del-2020/>

While two mobile hospitals have reached Honduras so far, accompanied by various problems, it is still unclear where the five additional ones are or if they were even produced. "La Prensa confirmed that in Turkey no company dedicated to this business is building the remaining five hospital modules ordered by Invest-H, and according to sources consulted, at this time no one wants to take over their assembly because of the legal implications and the media scandal it has caused."

Both C-Libre and the Journalist Association of Honduras (CPH) denounce the lack of access for the

press to the mobile hospitals.

"About \$22.8 million (L 570 million) has been spent by the Government of Honduras, through the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO) and Strategic Investment of Honduras (INVEST-H), to acquire 870 pulmonary ventilators, of which 130 are not even optimal for patient care."

All of this and more took place in Honduras without much concrete results by the responsible bodies investigating corruption. The newest chapter in this saga taking place yesterday does not raise much hope either. "After reading the "Responsibility Report" issued by the High Court of Auditors (TSC) in the case of mobile hospitals, the National Anti-Corruption Council described it as a pasquil without legal support to legally pursue those responsible for the purchase of medical equipment and hospitals."

The manner of the publication of the TSC report also led to criticism from within the TSC..the son of a TSC magistrate is married to the sister of Marco Bográn, the former director of Invest-H. CEDOH describes the situation as follows: "Honduras and the pandemic: no helmsman, no captain and adrift in a sea of corruption and cynicism".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1397080-410/ninguna-empresa-turqu%C3%ADa-da-construye-otros-5-hospitales>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1224-interventores-de-invest-h-obstaculiza-labor-de-periodistas-en-llegada-de-hospitales>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-periodistas-reprocha-prohibicion-de-investh-para-que-medios-no-ingresen-a-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://tiempo.hn/gobierno-gasto-1570-millones-ventiladores-130-no-funcionan-otros-no-llegan/>

<https://criterio.hn/informe-de-tsc-es-un-pasquin-cna/>

<https://twitter.com/RoyPinedaCastr1/status/1288286602830241794>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2132-honduras-fiscalia-lista-para-proceso-contra-marco-bogran>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pineda-manda-al-ministerio-publico-supuestas-irregularidades-en-investh-sostiene-que-es-imparcial/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-y-la-pandemia-sin-timonel-sin-capitan-y-a-la-deriva-en-un-mar-de-corrupcion-y-cinismo/>

Today, the second reopening of the Honduran economy officially launches. Companies will be able to incorporate 20 percent of their workers if they are located in region 3, 40 percent in region 2 and 60 percent in region 1.

Javier Suazo highlights the problems with the current plan of the JOH regime and offers alternatives.

El Pulso reports that the Ministry of Finance will send a draft cut to the General Budget of the

Republic Congress which aims to reduce public spending for financial institutions, state powers and other government bodies including labor suspensions, salary cuts to high officials and cancellations of current expenditure items.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1397211-466/reapertura-economia-hondurena-coronavirus-san-pedro-tegucigalpa>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-ejecutivo-autoriza-al-distrito-central-y-valle-de-sula-migrar-a-la-fase-uno-de-la-reapertura-economica/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/208125>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46189>

"On Tuesday afternoon, the study "The experience of returning to the place of origin: migrant women returning from the López Arellano colony" was presented in Tegucigalpa. The study concludes that violence, fraud and sexual abuse are the most repeated experiences among Honduran women who have been deported."

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/violencia-estafa-y-abuso-sexual-las-experiencias-que-mas-se-repiten-entre-hondurenas-deportadas.html>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/07/28/madj-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-nunca-mas/>

29/07/20

Honduras Daily; Berta; HRDs; LGBTQ+; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, Prisons, Journalists; US - HR; Penal Code; National Police; Palmerola;

A previously unpublished interview with Berta Cáceres from 2015 focused on the concepts of democracy and power was made accessible to the public by Asís Castellanos and Adrienne Pine.

<https://towardfreedom.org/story/berta-caceres-in-her-own-words/>

Global Witness published its annual report into the killings of land and environmental defenders. 2019 was the worst year yet with 212 land and environmental defenders killed. They documented 14 assassinations in Honduras, the fifth highest rate in the world and the highest per capita.

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/defending-tomorrow/>

Proceso Digital reports that another member of the LGBTQ+ community, Cristal López, was murdered, the third murder month and the 14th this year. The crime took place in La Ceiba. According to Proceso Digital, the heavily armed men wearing military gear murdered Cristal López and then kidnapped her sister who was with her.

In a press release, the MP claims to have arrested the man responsible for the recent murder of the trans woman Monic Martínez (see e-mail two days ago).

<https://www.proceso.hn/caliente/12-caliente/asesinan-a-un-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-y-raptan-a-su-hermana-en-la-ceiba.html>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6058-fedcv-reporta-acusacion-allanamiento-y-captura-contrasupuesto-homicida-de-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgbti>

As the protests continue by the Garífuna community in Triunfo de la Cruz, there is still no official news about the five forcefully disappeared men, four of which Garífuna, 11 days after the fact.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1288521164969709569>

484 new COVID-19 cases, 40'944 in total, 45 more deaths, 1259 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397516-466/pandemia-honduras-coronavirus-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/29/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-29-de-julio-del-2020/>

El Pulso has more on the controversial TSC report on acts of corruption by Invest-H (see yesterday). Either way, the MP announce to continue with its investigation and according to el Pulso, the report allows the MP to proceed against Invest-H officials.

The Institute for Access to Public Information criticizes the lack of access for journalists to the sites where the two mobile hospitals are being set up (see also yesterday).

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46245>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/fuertes-criticas-recibe-informe-del-tsc-sobre-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://criterio.hn/iaip-recomienda-a-junta-interventora-de-invest-h-total-acceso-a-la-prensa/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/iaip-condena-restriccion-a-periodistas-en-instalacion-de-hospital-movil-en-sps.html>

The head of the National Health Surveillance Laboratory, Keydi Juárez, resigned yesterday. This is another public official resigning in the midst of the pandemic giving family problems as a reason.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397571-466/renuncia-jefa-del-laboratorio-de-vigilancia-de-salud-tras-28-d%C3%ADas-en>

More than 900 inmates have tested positive for COVID-19 in Honduras according to official sources.

After a prison riot in Puerto Cortés at the beginning of the week, there was another one, or rather an

attempt to one, at the prison in Intibucá.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1397514-410/-privados-libertad-coronavirus-honduras-carcel->

<https://tiempo.hn/menos-de-24-horas-y-segundo-intento-de-motin-en-carcel-esta-vez-en-intibuca/>

"The obstacles to access to information, the dismissals, suspensions and salary reductions due to the emergency caused by Covid19 , as well as the crimes and threats, are evidence that Honduras continues to be the country where practicing journalism is a great danger, without impunity dropping an inch. State institutions are inert while the climate of violence continues to rise by leaps and bounds."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2923-honduras-el-covid19-evidencio-la-calamidad-economica-en-que-se-desempenan-las-personas-que-ejercen-el-periodismo>

The US chargé d'affaires met with OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo about the human rights situation in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1288580598274166787>

The CNA once again highlights why the new Penal Code should be considered unconstitutional and they call on the Constitutional Chamber to treat the constitutional challenge they had presented on this matter.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1288529067214594049>

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Los-motivos-de-inconstitucionalidad.pdf>

CESPAD published an analysis on the public perception of the success or lack thereof of the police purge. "The results of the ERIC-SJ Opinion Poll aim to show the enormous inconsistencies between the president's discourse and the perception/reality of citizens, particularly on the issue of citizen insecurity and the role of the police institution. The levels of common and organized violence remain extremely high in the country, despite the enormous resources invested in the security and defense sector. Similarly, the lack of trust in the police and the levels of perceived corruption of the police institution remain of great concern. The Purge and Transformation of the National Police is hardly perceived as an achievement by the citizens."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/29/analisis-en-la-percepcion-ciudadana-que-tan-exitosa-ha-sido-la-depuracion-policial/>

"Palmerola International Airport (PIA) requested an additional \$51.3 million to complete the engineering work, claiming that the project will be affected by the "drastic drop in passenger traffic" due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with it a loss of more than one million passengers." This demand was never meant to become public so when it did, the company tried to confuse the public claiming that they just made the loss calculations but they did not expect the JOH regime to

pay them that amount...

The former head of the Central Bank of Honduras, Hugo Noé Pino, criticizes the contract between the company and the Honduran State. "[H]e explained that the contract was poorly drafted by the Superintendence of Public and Private Partnerships (SAPP), so the big loser is society."

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/empresa-que-construye-palmerola-solicita-otros-51-millones-de-dolares.html>

<https://criterio.hn/filtracion-de-carta-mete-en-apuros-a-concesionaria-de-aeropuerto-palmerola-que-ahora-niega-reclamo-de-51-3-millones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/superintendencia-de-concesiones-aclara-que-operador-de-palmerola-no-esta-solicitando-mas-dinero-al-estado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-del-banco-central-sostiene-que-contrato-de-concesion-de-palmerola-fue-mal-elaborado/>

30/07/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH - US; LGBTQ+; Political Prisoners; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Militarization, Corruption, Health Sector, HR; RNP;

The Court of Appeals denied the appeal by the defense of David Castillo and ordered to resume the hearing against him. The preliminary hearing should have taken place in April 2019, but was postponed again and again through delaying tactics by Castillo's defense team.

The hearing will now continue on October 10. COPINH published an interview with the lawyer Víctor Fernández.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1289003922322006017>

<https://copinh.org/2019/09/video-suspenden-audiencia-contradavid-castillo/>

14 US congresswo/men wrote an open letter to Secretary Pompeo "urging him to prioritize human rights in Honduras. He should engage the Honduran government immediately about the abduction of 4 Garifuna leaders by Honduran police officials & growing impunity under Juan Orlando Hernández".

In his Twitter announcement of the letter, Congressman Sires further wrote: "Instead of speaking up, Trump political appointees have been holding public photo-ops w/ @JuanOrlandoH and lauding his assistance in implementing illegal asylum restrictions. This does not advance U.S. interests in working toward making #Honduras a place where Hondurans can imagine a future." Congresswoman Torres followed-up: "President Juan Orlando Hernández is engaged in the systematic deterioration of human rights in Honduras. He will continue to do so unless the US condemns his actions & demands a just & democratic Honduran society."

<https://sires.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/reds-sires-meeks-and-12-colleagues-denounce-rights-violations-against>

<https://twitter.com/RepSires/status/1288885751069978624>

<https://twitter.com/NormaJTorres/status/1288990969786900481>

<https://criterio.hn/congresistas-de-ee-uu-denuncian-ataques-contralos-garifunas-en-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1397842-410/congresistas-estados-unidos-gar%C3%ADfunas-honduras->

OACNUDH condemned the murder of trans woman and activist Cristhal López and her partner (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1288943801151762450>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1289007075478175744>

The National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners held a press conference yesterday calling for the release of a dozen Hondurans, who for defending their territories, water, education and health have been imprisoned since last year and whose lives are now at risk from the Covid 19 pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/las-carceles-son-infiernos-de-injusticia-asegura-el-doctor-juan-almendarez/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/comunicado-comite-nacional-para-la-liberacion-de-los-presos-politico-en-honduras/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/organizaciones-de-ddhh-y-familiares-siguen-exigiendo-la-liberacion-de-los-presos-politicos/>

Nationalist congressman Oscar Nájera verbally attacked and threatened journalist Rony Martínez. "The congressman's statements come after Rony Martínez, in his twitter account, published information transferred by a source close to the president of the National Congress, where he affirms "that he asked Oscar Nájera..." about the distribution of 40 million lempiras to "some members of the Energy Commission of the National Congress to approve ONEROUS CONTRACTS to thermal energy generating companies".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1226-diputado-amenaza-y-emite-comentarios-homofobicos-contraperiodista>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46312>

482 new cases, 41'426 in total, 53 additional deaths, 1312 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397806-466/honduras-suma-41426-afectados-y-1312-fallecidos->

[por-covid-19](#)

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/30/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-30-de-julio-del-2020/>

Congress approved further \$109.2 million loans to address the corona pandemic. The loans are from the BID and BCIE.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397805-466/congreso-nacional-aprob%C3%B3-endeudamiento-de-m%C3%A1s-de-2709-millones-de-lempiras>

ContraCorriente investigates the role of the Armed Forces during the pandemic. "President Juan Orlando Hernandez has put the Armed Forces (FFAA) at the forefront of strategic actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Honduras. This is not free. The resources of the Armed Forces increase every year, as do their prerogatives in a country without the threat of war. During the pandemic emergency, we see this institution in programs ranging from welfare to hospital administration. However, the Ministry of Finance has omitted to account for the budget executed by this institution, and purchases of supplies and medicines with irregularities have gone unnoticed, as have complaints of human rights violations."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/29/mas-responsabilidades-a-cambio-de-mas-impunidad-ff-aa-y-su-rol-en-la-pandemia/>

Recently, it came to light that the former director of Invest-H, Marco Bográn, signed a 74 million Lempiras contract on his way out with the company Cinsa. This company is linked to his uncle Napoleón Bográn Idiáquez, he is its president.

"The lawyer and former prosecutor at the MP, Omar Menjivar, warned on Radio Progreso that the report of the Superior Audit Court, TSC, which he describes as mediocre, is not binding in the investigations carried out by the MP on the management of Strategic Investment of Honduras, Invest-H, in the acquisition of the mobile hospitals. Regarding the criminal responsibility of the former director of INVEST-H, Marco Bográn, which the Superior Audit Court has hinted at, Menjívar pointed out that the crime of abuse of authority no longer exists in the Penal Code."

In a second corruption case related to the pandemic, summoned Congresswoman Waleska Zelaya and her husband Juan José Lagos. They have sold the State face masks worth 50 million Lempiras through their company Grupo de Gestión y Tecnología.

She denies it.

A group of lawyers published a petition calling on the Bar Association of Honduras (CPH) to call out the irregularities in the management of the pandemic and to get involved in the social auditing of the purchases made by the JOH regime.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2136-honduras-ex-director-de-invest-h-concedio-mas-de-70-millones-a-su-tio>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397597-466/contratos-empresa-tio-marco-bogran>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/informe-del-tsc-no-es-vinculante-en-investigacion-de-caso-invest-h/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/158-julio2020/6065-diputada-y-su-espososon-citados-por-el-ministerio-publico-por-millonaria-venta-de-mascarillas>

<https://criterio.hn/diputada-waleska-zelaya-y-su-esposocitados-por-el-ministerio-publico-por-millonaria-venta-de-mascarillas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/diputada-waleska-zelaya-nunca-vendido-ni-alfiler-estado/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1289032117767360513>

Three more doctors and a nurse died to COVID-19.

After the resignation of the head of the National Virology Laboratory (see yesterday), the Association of Microbiologists and Clinical Chemists denounces the situation at the laboratory and the intervention of other state bodies in their work.

"According to a survey conducted by the organization Transformemos Honduras, being a member of the National Party is one of the most important requirements for doctors and nurses aspiring to a position in the national health system, in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1397736-410/muere-doctores-enfermera-coronavirus-honduras->

<https://tiempo.hn/microbiologos-no-permitiran-injerencia-ajena-conduccion-lnv/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/colegio-de-microbiologos-responsabiliza-a-funcionaria-por-renuncia-de-tres-jefes-del-laboratorio-de-virologia.html>

<https://criterio.hn/afiliacion-politica-es-requisito-basico-del-gobierno-para-emplear-a-medicos-y-enfermeras/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 20th joint press release during the pandemic. "As an imposed and aggressive dictatorship, it is up to us to reaffirm our full right to place ourselves before it in a state of civil and popular disobedience. The historical path for the liberation of the peoples has always been popular organization, an infallible formula, which when it is well executed, there is no regime to support it. We need to break with the deadly logic of dictatorship and neoliberalism, from our collective project of becoming a people in freedom."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/vigesimo-manifiesto-publico/>

"The National Registry of Persons (RNP) issued a statement on Thursday to clarify that no political party or related entities or associations of any kind are authorized to request any type of information regarding citizen identification."

But not all is good at the RNP, as Criterio highlights in a new article.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/ni-partidos-politicos-o-entes-afines-estan-autorizados-para-pedir-datos-de-identificacion-ciudadana-aclara-el-rnp.html>

<https://criterio.hn/rnp-aun-no-logra-encausar-la-inexistente-democracia-en-honduras/>

31/07/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; OFRANEH - US; JOH - US; Berta - Trial; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector, Prisons; Elections;

This week marks the second anniversary of the installation of the Camp for Water and Life in the community of Guapinol in Tocoa, Honduras. The Camp for Water and Life was a peaceful community expression to protect the water on which tens of thousands of people depend. From the beginning, the Public Ministry and Los Pinares have used false crimes to punish defenders who legitimately oppose mining in their communities that threatens their water and life sources. 8 defenders are illegally held in preventative detention. Today, marks 11 months since a judge of national jurisdiction arbitrarily sent them to prison. To commemorate the 2 years since the installation of the camp and the 11 months since the defenders were illegally imprisoned, today at 10:30 am Honduras time, family members of the defenders, the Guapinol Water Committee, the Municipal Committee of Tocoa in Defense of Public and Common Goods and the Justice for the Peoples office are calling for a public forum.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1289320883182399489>

OFRANEH published a new statement on the forceful disappearance of the Garífuna men. "There is one proven fact: the forced disappearance of the young Garifunas in Triunfo de la Cruz, in the early hours of July 18, was carried out by individuals wearing bulletproof vests with the initials of the Police Department of Investigation (DPI) and uniforms of the Military Police, who, acting violently, removed the young people from their homes, threatening their families and witnesses. We emphasize that the community of Triunfo de la Cruz, has been the object of usurpations for decades, in addition to crimes committed in the 1990s, against defenders of Garifuna territory, who to date have remained in impunity, despite the existence of a mandate from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as part of the sentence issued in October 2015. We are emphatic in indicating that precisely on Saturday July 18th, there was a curfew in the country, which theoretically prevented the mobilization of vehicles without the permission of the authorities. In this sense, we find it impossible to believe that the mobilization of three vehicles, in which heavily armed individuals were transported, went totally "unnoticed". We state that the inclusion of the Criminal Investigation Department (DPI), in the search for the young people and in the alleged investigations being carried out, implies a conflict of interest; it cannot be that the same agency apparently involved in the facts, is in charge of the investigations. The State of Honduras claims to be a "guarantor" of human rights, but unfortunately the statistics indicate the opposite. In recent years, more than a dozen Garifunas have been killed in the defence of their ancestral territory, and to date the State has not presented concrete results, but rather in certain cases has limited itself to discrediting the arguments that relate the crimes to the defence of the territory. We condemn the handling of information about the investigations that has led to false alarms about the discovery of supposed bodies of the Triumphant Brothers, feeding disinformation and giving rise to false news that greatly affects the families of those affected and the Garifuna people in general. OFRANEH demands a totally impartial investigation that does not include the security agencies apparently involved in the events." JOH felt the pressure from the US (see yesterday) and tweeted, in English, about their "efforts" to

find them.

La Prensa reported that a "strong operation" of state security forces was deployed in Tela.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/07/31/respuesta-al-comunicado-emitido-por-la-cancilleria-de-honduras-julio-30-de-2020/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1289279621507227649>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1397972-466/joh-responde-a-carta-enviada-por-congresistas-de-eeuu-sobre-caso-de>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1397921-410/operativos-tela-honduras-policia-nacional-fuerza-nacional-antimaras-pandillas>

The JOH regime came under further pressure during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing. US Senator Jeff Merkley did not mince words. "Extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrest, violence against indigenous & LGBTQ communities, corruption, human rights abuses—this is what Honduras looks like under its current president, so I asked Sec. Pompeo why this Admin continues to cozy up to Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://twitter.com/SenJeffMerkley/status/1289320870360621057>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ee-uu-podria-quitar-respaldo-a-juan-orlando-hernandez-por-politicas-represivas-y-vinculos-con-delincuencia-organizada/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2138-congresistas-de-ee-uu-piden-a-pompeo-explicar-cultura-de-impunidad-de-joh>

I falsely wrote yesterday that a date has been set for the hearing in the case of David Castillo, but the article I referred to was from last year. The previous court responsible for the case against David Castillo now, after the failed appeal, must reconvene and conclude the hearing.

<https://copinh.org/2020/07/corte-niega-apelacion-defensa-castillo/>

July ended with 42'014 COVID-19 cases and a death toll of 1337. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398010-466/finaliza-julio-y-1337-hondure%C3%B1os-han-muerto-por-covid-19-cifra-de-contagios>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/07/31/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-31-de-julio-del-2020/>

Some \$4.5 billion have been approved to address the corona pandemic in Honduras; to what end? Rightly, people continue to ask: Where is the money?

<https://hch.tv/2020/07/31/enjaranados-l-112-mil-500-millones-se-han-aprobado-para-covid19-en>

[honduras/](#)

Radio Progreso published an investigation by Expediente Público into the corruption linked to the purchase of the mobile hospitals.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/especiales/coronavirus-en-honduras-una-historia-de-influencias-conflictos-de-interes-sobrevaloracion-y-muerte/>

At least 40 health workers have died so far to COVID-19.

"Marco Moncada, president of the Honduran Association of Microbiologists, explained that there are around 200 types of tests circulating in the country to detect Covid-19, and that its origin is not known with certainty. (...) He said that it is necessary for the population to understand that the rapid tests can only be applied in a laboratory affiliated with the Honduran College of Microbiologists and not in homes or pharmacies because they are not trained to make true readings of the results and thus avoid false positives."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2137-honduras-al-menos-40-angeles-de-la-salud-han-muerto-por-covid>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/microbiologos-alertan-sobre-propagacion-de-pruebas-rapidas-de-covid-19/>

At least 41 inmates at the prison in Santa Rosa, Copán tested positive.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-llega-centro-penal-santa-rosa-registran-41-casos/>

El Pulso published the results of a survey on the favorite presidential candidates in the three main parties. There is a clear candidate within the National Party (Nasry Asfura) and Libre (Xiomara Castro), but not as much in the Liberal Party (Luis Zelaya, Suyapa Figueroa and Roberto Contreras are within an 11% difference).

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46341>