

01/08/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; OFRANEH; LGBTQ+; HRDs- Guapinol; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy;

Both US Senator Patrick Leahy and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky build on the criticism of Senator Jeff Merkley on the human rights situation in Honduras (see yesterday).

Leahy: "The State Department, which brags of its devotion to the rights of life and liberty enshrined in the Declaration, ignores all of that when those rights are trampled in Honduras by a government that the Department continues to call a friend and partner."

Schakowsky: "The U.S. must stop backing the Juan Orlando Hernández dictatorship and its grave human rights abuses including state sanctioned murder, arbitrary arrest and detention, and torture of its own citizens."

<https://twitter.com/SenatorLeahy/status/1289649913874092032>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1289728632005353474?s=20>

14 days have passed since the forced disappearance of the young Garífuna men. OFRANEH denounces a smear campaign against them on social media.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1289666849940967424>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/08/01/campana-de-desprestigio-contrala-demanda-de-la-aparicion-con-vida-de-4-jovenes-desaparecidos-forzosamente-en-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

Last month, three trans women were murdered in Honduras (see previous e-mails). According to Cattrachas, this year the LGBTQ+ community has already suffered 16 violent deaths.

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-16-personas-lgbti-han-muerto-de-forma-violenta-durante-el-2020/>

Criterio reports on the commemoration of the struggle by the Guapinol community against a mining project and the criminalized and imprisoned defenders (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/en-conmemoracion-de-campamento-de-guapinol-defensores-exigen-liberacion-de-ambientalistas/>

671 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 42'685 and 31 additional deaths for a total of 1368. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398217-466/honduras-muertos-covid-19-casos-sinager-agosto>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/01/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-1-de-agosto-del-2020/>

"Protest measures against the salary arrears and lack of biosecurity inputs continue by the nursing and medical staff of the Leonardo Martínez Valenzuela Hospital in the country's industrial capital."

<https://tiempo.hn/ni-un-paciente-mas-advierten-medicos-leonardo-martinez-salarios-atrasados/>

The corona pandemic and its abysmal management by the JOH regime will lead to a historic drop in the Honduran economy. The Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) estimates minus 7-8% in GDP.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2143-covid-y-corrupcion-dejaran-la-peor-ruina-historica-de-honduras>

02/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Economy, Health Sector; Drug Trafficking - US; and Up The Mayor's Nose

"53 months of your sowing, Berta, and here we continue to demand justice.

We will not be silenced, we will continue with the strength of your legacy fighting this system.

Because they have believed that impunity is eternal, but they are wrong. We, the people, know how to do justice!"

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1289969927982649352>

512 new cases, 43'197 in total, 9 more deaths, 1377 in total.

Carlos Umaña, president of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS) in the north of the country, explains that the real number of deaths is twice as high based on funeral home statistics and the number coming from COVID-wings at hospitals. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398415-466/cifra-de-muertos-por-covid-en-honduras-suba-a-1377-y-43197>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cierre-de-la-economia-ya-no-es-opcion-dice-umana-que-pide-mas-triajes-y-aplicacion-de-pcr.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/02/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-2-de-agosto-del-2020/>

The state of exception has been prolonged for another week.

El Herald reports that the JOH regime has taken up debt worth almost \$3.4 billion since the start of the corona pandemic.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/extienden-toque-de-queda-hasta-el-9-de-agosto.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398258-466/en-33708-millones-han-endeudado-a-honduras-durante-pandemia>

Today starts the second try to reopen Honduras' economy.

This includes a pilot phase to restart public transport.

ConfidencialHN published a list by the JOH regime on which public offices will open again today.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398445-466/fase-1-de-la-reapertura-econ%C3%B3mica-sigue-en-marcha-en-honduras>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1398368-466/este-lunes-inicia-la-prueba-de-pilotaje-del-transporte-p%C3%BAblico>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-anuncia-que-oficinas-publicas-reiniciaran-manana-sus-operaciones/>

A nurse was fired after he had reported that they were working without biomedical gear to care for patients.

"According to data provided by the Ministry of Health to Contracorriente, from March to June 12, five Honduran health workers died as a result of COVID-19, including three nurses, a specialist doctor and a microbiologist. However, data from the Honduran Medical Association (CMH) states that, to date, of the 12,000 doctors nationwide, approximately 4,000 have already been infected (more than 40%) and 30 have already died from the pandemic. This is reducing the capacity of care in hospitals and affecting psychologically the remaining staff."

<https://confidencialhn.com/despiden-del-leonardo-martinez-a-enfermero-que-denuncio-malos-tratos-y-falta-de-pago/>

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-pagos-podria-agravar-situacion-en-el-hospital-leonado-martinez/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/07/28/las-muertes-en-el-personal-sanitario-aumentan-mientras-sus-demandas-persisten/>

An active member of the National Police Force and his brother-in-law were sent to pre-trial detention accused of drug trafficking.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/prision-preventiva-a-policia-activo-y-su-cunado-por-trafico-de-drogas.html>

The trial against the former Liberal congressman Fredy Nájera in New York for drug trafficking was postponed to October 15.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reprograman-hasta-el-15-de-octubre-la-lectura-de-sentencia-contr-el-excongresista-najera/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/luis-zelaya-exige-renuncia-de>

alcalde-liberal-de-guaimaca-tras-polemico-video.html

03/08/20

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Peoples - EU; Journalists; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector; and the Penal Code Remains Controversial

Five EU-Parliamentarians wrote an open letter to the ambassador of the EU in Honduras, to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as to Coordinator of the Technical Cooperation Office of the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID) in Honduras. "On various occasions we have conveyed our concern about the situation of human rights defenders and the criminalization and persecution by the State against grassroots organizations such as the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (OFRANEH) and the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations (COPINH). More recently, we have spoken out with concern about the political prisoners in Guapinol and the situation of vulnerability in the face of Covid-19. (...) Our concern is transformed into indignation when we receive news of the murders, attacks and arbitrary arrests that have been committed in Garifuna and Lenca territories in the midst of the health crisis and where state security forces and organized crime have been involved. During these months, members of COPINH have been detained while carrying out assistance work, and OFRANEH biosecurity points have been attacked and members have also been killed for carrying out community biosecurity work as a measure against the pandemic. (...) In view of the facts, we can infer that EU funding is not investing in security, justice, respect for the human rights of the Honduran people or guarantees for their defense, in addition to failing to comply with the commitments made in terms of foreign policy and gender equality. On the contrary, the evidence shows us that a repressive system is being strengthened against Lenca and Garifuna communities that are self-organising in defense of the environment, their territories and fundamental rights. In this regard, we would like to express our concern at the lack of attention and involvement of the European Union in the face of the violations of rights in Honduras and in particular of the communities, women and men who defend them."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/08/sobre-el-aumento-de-la-represion-en-las-comunidades-lencas-y-garifunas-y-el-papel-de-la-ue-y-espana/>

The journalist Rigoberto Torres denounced to be a victim of police reprisals, after he informed about the seizure of a vehicle without presenting a report in Roatan.

Radio Globo journalist Marvin Ortiz denounced that someone loosened the nuts on the front left tire of his car almost causing him an accident.

Last week, members of the National Police Force prevented the press from covering an attempted escape of prisoners that took place at the prison in La Esperanza. "In the video, transmitted by the TN5 Morning News, one can see the moment when a policeman leaving the perimeter where the prison is located, goes towards the cameraman and with a slap and a blow with his right arm, prevents him from recording the events."

Last but not least, members of the Military Police fired shots in the air, while journalist Tony Mungia and his cameraman interviewed an inhabitant of Comayagüela.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1229-represalias-policiales-denuncia->

[periodista-tras-informar-inconsistencias-en-decomiso-vehicular](#)

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1230-sabotaje-a-su-vehiculo-a-punto-de-ocasionar-dano-a-periodista>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1227-policias-agreden-a-periodistas-durante-cobertura-noticiosa-de-fuga-de-reos>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1228-periodista-denuncia-disparos-de-policia-militar-durante-cobertura-de-suceso>

597 new COVID-19 cases were reported yesterday as well as seven additional deaths. The total number rose to 43'794 and 1384 respectively.

The Association of Funeral Homes of Honduras, meanwhile, registered 3,500 burials of Hondurans under the Covid-19 protocol up until July 23.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398621-466/honduras-covid-muertos-coronavirus-pandemia-infectados>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2147-honduras-58-muertes-por-covid-dejo-fin-de-semana-y-renuncia-de-58-enfermeras>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/03/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-3-de-agosto-del-2020/>

El Heraldos fact-checker came to the conclusion that a recent statement by the president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, is true. The statement was that the emergency resources meant for the corona pandemic were used as a "piñata". "The questioned acquisition of seven mobile hospitals, five of which are not known when they will arrive, the purchase of lung ventilators that are still not working, as well as the purchase of 250,000 PCR tests without the extraction kits, and the purchase of biosafety equipment that does not reach medical personnel, is proof that taxpayers' money has been wasted."

The head of the questionable intervention body at Invest-H, José Boquín, now promises that in September the remaining five mobile hospitals will arrive in Honduras.

This was immediately put to question by ASJ. According to their sources in Turkey, there is no evidence that the hospitals are even built.

The intervention body also faced criticism as ConfidencialHN found out that Nora Waleska Escoto Álvarez, the wife of one its members, army colonel José Ernesto Leva Bulnes, is a supplier to the State through the trading company Productos Médicos Especializados SA (Promesa).

And then, there is also a new investigation by the CNA into the purchase of the mobile hospitals identifying crimes of abuse of authority and fraud. According to the CNA, the two delivered mobile hospitals are not even hospitals but rather "triage rooms".

Radio Progreso demands that the board of Invest-H also needs to be investigated.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/factchecking/1396975-504/presidenta-cmh-covid-emergencia>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398565-466/invest-h-cinco-hospitales-moviles-restantes>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asj-desmiente-que-otros-cinco-hospitales-se-construyan-en-turquia-ya-que-se-habria-cancelado-contrato/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1398447-410/axel-lopez-excusas-turqu%C3%ADa-hospitales-moviles-honduras-investh>

<https://confidencialhn.com/familion-y-oligopolios-al-descubierto-intereses-de-interventor-de-investh-y-amarre-de-contratos-a-empresas-para-instalar-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1290281377821102081>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/cna-presenta-denuncia-contra-marco-bogran-y-advierte-que-hospitales-moviles-restantes-no-llegaran-al-pais/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-presenta-nuevas-lineas-de-investigacion-sobre-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398547-466/cna-denuncia-investigacion-ministerio-publico-hospitales-moviles>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/fiscalia-debe-ampliar-investigacion-a-consejo-directivo-de-invest-h/>

After days of warning, health workers at the Leonardo Martínez Valenuela hospital left work in protests as they are owed months in salaries.

The previous day, a nurse was fired for daring to denounce the situation at the hospital (see also yesterday).

The Secretary of Health announced that they would assign 70 million Lempiras to the hospital.

<https://tiempo.hn/por-falta-de-pago-de-brazos-caidos-personal-medico-del-hospital-lmv/>

<https://criterio.hn/conoce-la-historia-del-enfermero-que-denuncio-la-falta-de-insumos-en-leonardo-martinez-y-termino-despedido/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tras-advertencia-salud-asignara-l-70-millones-leonardo-martinez/>

After some days of pause, the discussion about the new Penal Code has resurfaced. At a press conference, opposition congresswo/men announced that in view of the refusal of the JOH regime and the Official Gazette to publish the decree that makes the abrogation of the new Penal Code come into force, they had to do so alternatively through the publication of the decree JDP-01-2020. Nationalist congresswo/men do not agree with the interpretation that the Penal Code is now abrogated.

Criterio spoke with Ramón Enrique Barrios, University Professor of Law at the National Autonomous University of Honduras in the Sula Valley, about this. He sees it as a political success,

especially that the complete political opposition came together for this. At the same time, the legal aspect is uncertain and the Constitutional Chamber will have to decide and their track record leans heavy on the side of the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/ante-negativa-de-la-gaceta-oposicion-publica-abrogacion-de-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2146-historico-decreto-no-jdp-01-2020-anulo-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://tiempo.hn/opositores-publican-abrogacion-nuevo-codigo-sin-validez-juridica-dice-cn/>

<https://criterio.hn/esta-abrogado-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-de-honduras-el-abogado-penalista-ramon-barrios-responde/>

04/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta; Journalists; Dengue; COVID-19 - LIBRE, State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector, Labor Rights; Corruption - Pandora, de Lobo; and Free the Political Prisoners

16 days have passed since the forceful disappearance of the five men, four of them Garífuna. Pasos de Animal Grande takes a closer look at the reaction of the JOH regime. "The time for excuses is running out for the government of President Juan Orlando Hernández to account for the whereabouts of five [four] Garifunas, including the president of the Triunfo de la Cruz board of trustees, Sneider Centeno. Faced with the pressure that has exploded like a bomb, the Hernandez administration is responding with different confusing scenarios."

<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2020/08/04/garifuna-leaders-in-honduras-still-missing-after-16-days/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2925-por-que-el-presidente-hablo-de-un-crimen-gobierno-hondureno-en-una-encrucijada-ante-desaparicion-de-garifunas>

COPINH has published an update on the Berta Cáceres case. They warn: "With less than a month to go before the end of the pretrial detention period, and with a panorama of corruption and structural impunity exacerbated by the COVID health crisis, it is worrisome that through these delaying tactics Castillo's freedom will be allowed without him paying for his crimes."

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/newsletter-david-castillo-expiration-of-the-pretrial-detention/>

El Libertador highlights the situation of Radio Globo journalist Marvin Ortiz, who has suffered various attacks (see also yesterday).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2151-honduras-otra-vez-ya-dias-atentan-contra-el-periodista-marvin-ortiz>

There are currently 17'110 dengue cases in Honduras.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-reporta-mas-de-17-mil-casos-de-dengue-clasico-en-lo-que-va-de-2020/>

505 new cases, 44'299 in total, 16 additional deaths, 1400 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398868-466/honduras-muertos-coronavirus-agosto-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/04/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-4-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Libre congressman Francisco Paz died to COVID-19.

<https://criterio.hn/muere-por-covid-19-diputado-hondureno-francisco-paz/>

The JOH regime announced that national flights will be possible again on August 10 and international ones on August 17.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398803-466/honduras-aeropuertos-nacionales-internacionales>

The CNA send the results of their investigations into the mobile hospital corruption case to US authorities.

The MP continues to investigate Invest-H, yesterday with a focus on the purchase of face masks.

<https://criterio.hn/departamento-de-justicia-de-ee-uu-ya-tiene-documentacion-de-la-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-en-honduras/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6087-empresario-rinde-declaracion-ante-el-ministerio-publico-tras-investigaciones-por-millonaria-ventas-de-mascarillas-a-inves-h>

According to the speaker of the National Nurses Association (ANEEAH), 63 of their members resigned at the Leonardo Martínez Valenuela hospital (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/mas-de-60-empleados-del-hospital-leonardo-martinez-renuncian-por-falta-de-pago-y-equipo-de-bioseguridad/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46464>

Unions of both public institutions and private companies protested against labor violations during the pandemic.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1677-sindicalistas-hondurenos-denuncian-violaciones-a-derechos-laborales-a-consecuencias-del-covid>

The MACCIH, with all its flaws, had at least two important cases with some success, the one against the former first lady and the Pandora case. The first received a heavy blow last week (see previous e-mails and below), the second one was undermined yesterday. A court dismissed the charges against 22 of the 36 accused.

The MP immediately announced to challenge the decision.

Attorney General Óscar Fernando Chinchilla called it "unacceptable" - but given his general role in Honduras, this is too little, too late.

Former General Attorney Edmundo Orellano explains why the the courts making such decisions have no credibility - they are composed of judges who were elected by politicians in the National Congress.

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2149-honduras-silbando-y-libres-salieron-implicados-en-caso-pandora>

<https://confidencialhn.com/corte-de-apelaciones-dicta-sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-la-mayoria-de-sindicados-en-pandora/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6086-mp-presentara-accion-de-amparo-contra-sobreseimiento-definitivo-emitido-por-la-csj-a-favor-de-22-imputados-en-el-caso-pandora>

<https://confidencialhn.com/chinchilla-saca-cabeza-del-hoyo-por-pandora-y-anuncia-impugnacion/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/tribunales-de-excepcion-no-tienen-credibilidad-porque-son-politicos-dice-xfiscal-orellana.html>

The appeals court nominated the judges for the re-trial against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo and Saúl Escobar.

<https://criterio.hn/csj-nombra-jueces-para-nuevo-juicio-a-exprimera-dama-de-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1398855-466/rosa-elena-lobo-nombran-nuevos-jueces-honduras-rosita>

"Free them now from this hell of injustice!"

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/208256>

05/08/20

Honduras Daily; MACCIH; Journalists; Libre; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Education, Tourism; Corruption - Pandora, de Lobo; Electoral Reforms; Poverty - Japan; and Guapinol Resists

The Center for Latin American Studies & Latino Studies together with FLASCO and UNAH will hold an online event today about the legacy of the MACCIH. Given the most recent rulings in important MACCIH cases (see below and previous day), this seems a very pertinent discussion.

https://www.facebook.com/CenterForLatinAmericanAndLatinoStudies/photos/pb.240569876046808.-2207520000../2571466806290425/?type=3&eid=ARADuAII_n7lU1Sz6ISMWYwabuYk2OYdJPTvtmyIdAqb4wp0wZJ43xhe8Y8326QchOUdZBX5O4mbb9wot

"The journalists Rony Martinez and Marvin Ortiz, have in common that they were threatened for practicing journalism and freedom of expression, there are some differences in their cases, but the purpose is to deactivate them from practicing their profession, their criticism about irregularities in the exercise of public service has placed them in the sights of the intolerant."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2926-atacados-pero-ignorados-periodistas-denuncian-que-el-estado-les-cierra-las-puertas-cuando-tienen-amenazas>

Honduras said goodbye to Libre congressman Francisco «Chico» Paz who died to COVID-19 at the age of 48 (see also yesterday).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/duelo-exigimos-justicia-para-chico-paz-y-demas-victimas-de-la-pandemia-estatal/>

<https://criterio.hn/requiem-por-chico-paz-con-numeros-y-actualizacion-personal/>

<https://tiempo.hn/entre-globos-rojos-recuerdos-multitud-despide-francisco-chico-paz/>

799 new COVID-19 cases and 23 additional deaths for a total of 45'098 and 1423 respectively. Honduras is still not at the level of testing as it should be and in a new press release, the Association of Microbiologists and Clinical Chemists of Honduras requested guarantees for an ample, quality and timely supply of inputs, as well as reagents, equipment and the hiring of suitable personnel to attend to everything related to cases of COVID-19. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399150-466/contagios-covid-19-honduras-muertos-pandemia-sinager>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1399189-410/colegio-microbiologos-honduras-poco-apoyo-insumos-equipo-pandemia-covid>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/05/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-5-de-agosto-del-2020/>

According to JOH, 109 million Lempiras have so far been sent to the municipalities to respond to the corona pandemic.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399184-466/p%C3%B3nganse-pilas-saquen-la-fibra-si-no-reaccionan-no-recibir%C3%A1n-fondos-joh>

Two more doctors died to COVID-19. Obdulio García as well as the head of Peripheral Emergency Clinics, Pablo Enrique Ulloa.

Criterio reports on the tense situation at the Leonardo Martínez hospital after the resignation of health workers denouncing lack of payment for months as well as lack of proper biosafety gear (see also last two days).

The Minister of Health, meanwhile, claims that there was no reason to resign for them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-reconocido-medico-de-san-pedro-sula-por-el-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-por-el-nuevo-coronavirus-el-director-de-las-clinicas-capitalinas-de-emergencia/>

<https://criterio.hn/crisis-del-hospital-leonardo-martinez-tras-la-masiva-renuncia-de-50-enfermeras-y-6-medicos-intensivistas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ministra-salud-no-hay-motivos-renuncias-personal-leonardo-martinez/>

"In the current situation, exclusion in education has increased and strongly demonstrates the way in which four decades of failed neoliberal education policies are expressed. This situation has alarmed the country's main specialized education centers and civil society organizations, since the current figures for dropout and educational exclusion have reached the most critical level that the public education system has experienced in recent years."

"150 days ago, school activities were suspended in Honduras and since March 25 the Ministry of Education ordered to continue classes remotely, thus starting a new modality through electronic means that require internet access. This new system affects children and young people who do not have access to a smart phone or a computer at home, much less a residential internet service."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/05/reporte-semanal-13-ninez-hondurena-en-riesgo-de-perder-el-ano-educativo-por-altos-niveles-de-exclusion/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/05/la-pandemia-suma-a-la-desigualdad-y-mas-ninos-quedan-sin-educacion/>

The Honduran tourism sector reports losses of more than \$1 billion.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46509>

The most recent ruling in the Pandora corruption case, to drop charges against 22 of the accused (see yesterday), continues to be met with criticism.

<https://criterio.hn/sobreseimiento-en-caso-pandora-aumento-de-espiral-de-la-impunidad-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/fuertes-criticas-recibe-la-justicia-hondurena-por-caso-pandora/>

<https://criterio.hn/sobreseimiento-a-involucrados-en-caso-pandora-es-una-verguenza-para-la-justicia-hondurena/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2153-honduras-conozca-a-magistrados-que-dejaron-libres-a-pandoros>

The judges who should retry the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo all rejected their nomination saying that this does not correspond to the Court of Appeals in Matters of Corruption but rather to the Supreme Court.

<https://confidencialhn.com/declinan-los-cuatro-jueces-para-conocer-el-nuevo-juicio-a-ex-primera-dama-piden-reconsideracion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399141-466/reci%C3%A9n-nombrados-jueces-rechazan-conocer-el-caso-de-rosa-elena-de-lobo>

Even though being the party which has blocked important electoral reforms, the Nationalist vice-president of Congress, Antonio Rivera Callejas, now claims that there is a hurry to approve a new electoral law until September 12.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/hay-acuerdos-importantes-en-el-tema-de-reformas-electorales-dice-vicepresidente-del-cn.html>

Japan will assist Honduras through the World Food Program with \$4 million to improve food security in the dry corridor.

<https://honduras.un.org/es/86423-japon-suscribe-asistencia-con-el-pma-para-fortalecer-la-resiliencia-y-garantizar-la-seguridad>

"Guapinol resists in the midst of criminalization"

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/guapinol-resiste-en-medio-de-la-criminalizacion/>

06/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - IACtHR; Police; COVID-19 - HR, Health Sector, Education; Prisons; Corruption - de Lobo, Pandora; Penal Code; Airports; Elections; Energy - Solar; and a Pandemic's Garbage

20 days have passed since the forced disappearance of the five men, four of them Garífuna. Now, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) urged the Honduran State to take up all necessary measures to find them as well as to take up all necessary measures to protect the Garífuna communities Triunfo de la Cruz and Punta Piedra. They give the JOH regime to present a complete report on the measures taken.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1291507802243051520>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2929-corte-interamericana-de-ddhh-requiere-al-estado-de-honduras-para-que-informe-sobre-el-paradero-de-garifunas>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399420-466/cidh-urge-a-honduras-dar-con-el-paradero-de-los-l%C3%ADderes-gar%C3%ADfunas>

COFADEH denounces that state security forces detained an elder man and tortured and murdered him. "On Monday, August 3, elements of the National Police captured Mr. Rufino Portillo López, 74 years old, when he was on the sidewalk of his house in the community Entre-cerros, municipality of Nueva Frontera, department of Santa Bárbara, returning his body to his family without life and with signs of torture."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/policia-detiene-tortura-y-asesina-a-adulto-mayor-en-nueva-frontera-santa-barbara/>

657 new cases, 23 more deaths, 45'755 and 1446 in total respectively.

About 32.6 percent of the total cases of Covid-19 in Honduras correspond to minors, according to Coiproden.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399428-466/honduras-suma-ya-1446-muertos-y-45755-contagios-hasta-este-6-de>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46544>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/06/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-6-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 21st joint press release during the pandemic.

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/manifiesto-publico-21-agosto-2020/>

Another nurse, Evy Enrique Acosta, died to COVID-19.

The representative of the Workers Union of the Mario Mendoza Psychiatric Hospital, Oscar Suazo, denounced that employees of the Santa Rosita Hospital received biosafety equipment and medical supplies in poor condition.

Marco Eliud Girón, doctor and outspoken critic of the JOH regime, denounced an attempt on his life which he only avoided thanks to a warning.

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-en-el-hospital-del-ihss-enfermero-auxiliar-por-sospechas-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-que-hospitales-psiquiatricos-recibieron-equipo-danado-y-yencido/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2156-honduras-dr-marco-eliud-denuncia-atentado-contrasu-vida>

The president of the College of Pedagogues of Honduras (Colpedagogosh), Edwin Hernandez, said that the teachers affiliated with the union suspended the teaching of virtual classes due to the lack of salary in July.

<https://confidencialhn.com/docentes-afiliados-al-colpedagogosh-suspenden-imparticion-de-clases-virtuales/>

Three inmates at the "maximum-security" prison La Tolva were murdered.

<https://criterio.hn/tres-privados-de-libertad-fueron-ahorcados-en-sus-celdas-en-la-tolva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/masacre-la-tolva-estrangulan-tres-miembros-pandilla-18/>

An appeals court rejected the challenge against the liberation of former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo. She can continue to await her re-trial outside prison.

<https://tiempo.hn/niegan-apelacion-mp-contras-excarcelacion-rosa-elena-de-lobo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399357-466/rosa-elena-de-lobo-seguir%C3%A1-defendi%C3%A9ndose-en-libertad>

InSight Crime reports on the newest developments in the Pandora corruption case (see previous days). "A Honduras court has ended the prosecution of nearly two dozen people — including government officials — accused in the Pandora case, a vast corruption scheme that saw \$12 million in public money embezzled for political ends. The court's decision deals a final blow to Honduras' already embattled anti-corruption efforts."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-buries-pandora-case-remnants-anti-corruption-fight/>

The Association of Judges for Democracy (ADJ) presented a constitutional challenge against the new Penal Code.

<https://criterio.hn/piden-declarar-la-inconstitucionalidad-y-derogacion-parcial-del-abrogado-codigo-penal/>

The main Honduran airports are operated by Interairports controlled by Freddy Nasser and the new one in Palmerola by Emco controlled by Lenir Pérez. Four concessions will run out in September and there is a proposal to have a temporary intervention body run the airports to improve them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sugieren-al-legislativo-contratar-un-concesionario-temporal-que-administre-los-cuatro-aeropuertos-internacionales-de-honduras/>

Libre once again denounced that the old two party-system wants to hold elections with the corrupt census of 2017.

<https://criterio.hn/bipartidismo-quiere-elecciones-con-censo-de-la-corrupcion-de-2017-mel-zelaya/>

Radio Progreso reports on new gifts for the energy sector in form of tax breaks.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/congreso-otorga-mas-exoneraciones-a-productores-energeticos/>

The solar energy sector is also trying to profit from this and has increased a lot in recent years, but in the Honduran context this green energy is accompanied with human rights violations. Peace Watch Switzerland reports on the situation in the south of Honduras, in Namasigüe, where local communities resist the Los Prados solar park by the Norwegian company Scatec Solar.

<https://peacewatch.blog/2020/08/06/honduras-despojo-de-la-tierra-y-defensa-de-los-bienes-comunes-en-el-sur-de-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/05/la-basura-de-la-pandemia/>

07/08/20

Honduras Daily: UN; Journalists - Coup d'état; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Women, Prisons; Military Police; Rosenthal; Elections; and No More Coffee in the Morning

"The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, transmitted to the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the UN, an urgent action on the forced disappearance of the adolescent José Miguel Hernández Tejada (16 years old). The communication states that in accordance with article 30 of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Committee requires "urgent action by the State of Honduras to take all necessary measures to search for and locate José Miguel Hernández Tejada and to protect his life and personal integrity, in accordance with its treaty obligations."

He has disappeared five days ago in Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/onu-pide-al-estado-de-honduras-investigar-de-manera-urgente-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-un-adolescente-hondureno/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cinco-incansables-dias-en-la-busqueda-de-menor-desparecido-en-santa-barbara/>

"The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) reported that it accepted to hear the case of the journalist Nahum Elit Palacios Artiaga, whose arbitrary detention, subjection to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; as well as his murder and that of his wife Yorleni Sánchez, in March 2010, took place in the context of the 2009 coup d'état."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/comision-interamericana-de-derechos-humanos-conoce-caso-sobre-golpe-de-estado-en-honduras/>

610 new cases, 19 additional deaths, 46'365 and 1465 in total respectively.

Honduras has a low testing rate in general and even comparatively to its Central American neighbors. It only tested 1.2% of its population, compared to 5.8% in Panama or 3.9% in El Salvador for example.

Even worse, El Tiempo reports that 250'000 detection tests bought in April were damaged. Additionally, the coordinator of the Virology Laboratory in the Cortés department, Carlos Leitzelar, denounced that of the five machines that process PCR tests to detect COVID-19, only one has reagents.

This has been visible these recent weeks. Instead of evolving in the processing of PCR tests for the detection of the new virus, Honduras has regressed on a variable that is critical to the development of a profile of the pandemic in the country. Last month, the Virology Laboratory was able to perform and obtain the results of up to 2,000 samples to diagnose positive cases of COVID. But in recent weeks that number has dropped significantly. In some days, only 800 to 100 tests have been performed. In the SINAGER report the drop is notorious.

Health Minister Alba Consuelo Flores, meanwhile, claims that testing is not really that important...

Expediente Público published a new article on what the JOH regime tries to hide with the low testing rate, the real impact of the pandemic in Honduras.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399686-466/honduras-covid-coronavirus-sinager-muertos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldodata/1399598-504/honduras-pruebas-pcr-coronavirus-centroamerica>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-en-plena-crisis-sanitaria-trasciende-250-mil-pruebas-danaron/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/de-cinco-maquinas-solo-una-tiene-reactivos-para-procesar-pruebas-pcr-dice-jefe-la-laboratorio.html>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/amplian-restricciones-de-las-garantias-constitucionales-a-nivel-nacional-por-pandemia>

<https://criterio.hn/ministra-de-salud-no-es-urgente-hacer-pruebas-de-deteccion-del-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/especiales/los-cementerios-covid-19-y-el-subregistro-de-muertes-empiezan-a-hacer-mella-en-las-cifras-de-la-pandemia-en-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/07/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-7-de-agosto-del-2020/>

CESPAD published an analysis on the corona policies at the local level and the lack of support from the JOH regime. "After almost five months of the pandemic in Honduras, many municipal governments are "juggling" what little money they have because the central government owes them transfers from the beginning of the year to date, and the tax money collected in their areas is not

even enough to pay the payroll for employees, much less to deal with Covid-19. "Scratching a living", this is how they describe the crisis facing the mayors, who have paraded in the media through appearances in which all, without exception, cite two common denominators: they have no funds and they lack health personnel and supplies to contain the pandemic."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/07/los-aprietos-de-las-alcaldias-de-honduras-y-la-deuda-del-gobierno-herandez/>

Speaking to Pasos de Animal Grande, Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), holds the JOH regime responsible for the high death rate in the medical sector during the pandemic.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2931-autoritarismo-prevalece-a-la-solucion-de-la-pandemia-gobierno-de-joh-es-responsable-de-alta-tasa-de-muertes-de-medicos-por-covid19>

"Girls forced to give birth as a result of rape because they do not have access to the Emergency Contraception Pill (ECP), because its use is restricted; women who are not treated for cancer or other diseases, or even lack of access to food, are just some of the problems that have become more acute for women, and about which the State of Honduras turns a blind eye, using Covid-19 as a pretext to leave women completely abandoned".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2930-covid19-es-la-excusa-estado-ha-dejado-en-el-total-abandono-la-salud-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras>

According to official figures, over 1100 inmates were infected with COVID-19. The Coalition against Impunity denounces that at least 29 inmates died to COVID-19.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1399599-410/privados-libertad-contagiados-carceles-honduras-covid-coronavirus>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1682-al-menos-29-privados-de-libertad-han-muerto-por-el-covid-19-en-honduras>

Four former Military Police agents were sentenced to 22 years in prison for murdering a merchant in Comayagüela.

<https://tiempo.hn/cuatro-exmilitares-sentenciados-22-anos-prision-matar-comerciante/>

Yani Rosenthal Hidalgo returned to Honduras after having been imprisoned in the US for three years.

And with his return, voices grow louder claiming he may run for president for the Liberal Party. "A powerful business tycoon jailed in the United States for laundering drug money may soon be a presidential candidate in Honduras following his release this month. At least 14 lawmakers from the opposition Liberal Party are reportedly urging Yani Rosenthal to run for president when he returns to the Central America nation on August 7, according to Criterio. One of them, Juan Carlos Ávila,

said they believe Rosenthal is the “only one” able to unite the political opposition ahead of the 2021 general election.”

<https://criterio.hn/yani-roenthal-llega-a-honduras-envuelto-en-un-manto-de-impunidad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yani-roenthal-llega-a-honduras-tras-cumplir-condena-en-prision-federal-de-ee-uu/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/drug-money-lauderer-president-honduras/>

Criterio reports on the coming elections and the need for a united opposition to get through Congress the much needed electoral reforms.

<https://criterio.hn/si-oposicion-no-se-une-proximas-elecciones-seran-sin-reformas-electorales-profundas/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2928-falta-de-claridad-en-estados-de-cuenta-ocasiono-el-cierre-del-programa-sin-cafe-no-hay-manana>

08/08/20

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol; MILPAH; OFRANEH; Berta - Corruption; LGBTQ+; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Poverty; Corruption - de Lobo, Pandora; and Disturbing Patterns

Yesterday, an alert was sent out that hooded soldiers were intimidating the Guapinol community.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1291962201566257154>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2932-zozobra-en-guapinol-ante-presencia-inexplicable-de-militares>

CESPAD sent out an alert denouncing threats against MILPAH leader Víctor Vásquez.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/08/alerta-amenazas-y-detenciones-contr-el-pueblo-lenca/>

21 days have passed since the forced disappearance of the five men, four of them Garífuna from Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1292100799443668992>

There is an important corruption case in Honduras linked to the assassination of Berta Cáceres and the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project, the Gualcarque Fraud case, originally presented by the MACCIH. The MP now reports that the Court of Appeals of the Anti-Corruption Circuit denied the appeals filed by the private defense of three of the 16 accused in the case, among them the former vice-minister of SERNA, Darío Roberto Cardona Valle.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6110-confirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-ex-viceministro-de-la-serna-y-otros-involucrados-en-el-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque>

This last week, LGBTQ+ rights defender and director of the Trans Feminist Association (AFET), Viena Ávila, was unjustifiably detained by members of the Military Police in San Pedro Sula.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/08/alerta-defensoras-hn-honduras-policia-militar-retiene-injustificadamente-a-defensora-de-los-derechos-lgbti/>

608 new cases for a total of 46'973 and 11 more deaths for a total of 1476. The number of death is in reality significantly higher, as has been highlighted here before. Yesterday, Harry Bock, head of the Metropolitan Health Region, explained that only in the Central District, there are 940 deaths suspected of COVID-19 which have not been confirmed yet and therefore are not counted. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399869-466/honduras-llega-a-las-1476-muertes-por-coronavirus-y-46973-contagios->

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

Another doctor and nurse died to COVID-19.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1399821-410/muere-doctor-enfermera-coronavirus-onduras->

"Without a detailed study of who the victims of the Covid-19 in Honduras are, some argue that the poorest are losing the battle in the face of the pandemic".

<https://criterio.hn/los-mas-pobres-pagan-con-sus-vidas-factura-de-pandemia-en-honduras/>

An appeals court denied the appeal for reconsideration filed by a group of judges who refused to be responsible for the retrial of the former first lady (see previous e-mail).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1399729-466/corte-de-apelaciones-obliga-a-jueces-a-conocer-juicio-de-rosa-elena>

In the second big corruption case from the MACCIH-area, ConfidencialHN reports that the seized goods can remain in the hands of the state even though 22 accused have seen their charges dropped (see previous e-mail).

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-el-estado-puede-confiscar-bienes-incautados-a-imputados-en-pandora/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/los-patrones/>

09/08/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Indigenous Peoples; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector; Drug Trafficking; Elections;

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the July 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=4842

Yesterday was the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, a day on which "there's nothing to celebrate, but there's plenty to demand".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/donatila-giron-en-el-dia-internacional-de-los-pueblos-indigenas-no-hay-nada-que-celebrar-pero-si-mucho-que-exigir/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/dia-internacional-de-los-pueblos-indigenas-mensaje-de-michelle-bachelet-alta-comisionada-para-los-derechos-humanos-de-las-naciones-unidas-9-de-agosto-de-2020/>

481 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 47'454 and 19 additional deaths, the official death toll now being at 1245.

There are between 4000 and 5000 unprocessed corona tests in Honduras.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400020-466/covid-19-honduras-sinager-agosto-muertos-pandemia-casos-nuevos>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-falta-equipo-honduras-hay-retraso-5-mil-pruebas/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/09/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-9-de-agosto-del-2020/>

The state of exception has been prolonged for another two weeks to August 23. At the same time, the lockdown was reduced from 8pm to 6am.

8 additional public institutions take up their work again today.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400034-466/toque-queda-honduras-agosto-sinager-pandemia>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/otras-ocho-instituciones-publicas-se-suman-a-la-reapertura.html>

The capital woke up to a huge street painting asking "Where is the money?".

In recent days, two big Honduras flags were hung up over night in public places again with the

same slogan.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1292625941076889605>

<https://criterio.hn/donde-esta-el-dinero-el-grafiti-que-enfurece-a-joh/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1399976-466/d%C3%B3nde-est%C3%A1-el-dinero-el-reclamo-pintado-sobre-el-bulevar-suyapa>

According to ANEEAH, 17 nurses died so far to COVID-19 and 1800 got infected.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/covid-19-a-cobrado-la-vida-de-17-enfermeras-y-mil-800-se-han-contagiado-segun-la-aneeah.html>

José del Transito García Teruel, a.k.a. «El Pipo», was arrested due to possible drug trafficking activities. The US had requested his extradition.

<https://criterio.hn/a-peticion-de-ee-uu-detienen-a-extraditable-hondureno-vinculado-a-traffic-transnacional-de-drogas/>

Once again, the RNP promises a purged census and new identity cards for the coming electoral cycle. They have been promising this for months.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/si-habra-censo-depurado-y-nueva-identidad-en-proximas-elecciones-afirma-comisionado-del-rnp.html>

10/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector; Corruption - Pandora; Elections; Violence; and the Subsidized Energy Sector

There are ongoing calls and protests by the Garífuna people for the return of their community members.

Radio Progreso published a new article on the forced disappearance asking "What is the reality behind the forced disappearance of Garifuna leaders?"

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1293007906036568064>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1292903537899438082>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/bajo-que-realidad-se-sustenta-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-dirigentes-garifunas/>

The official death count rose over 1500 yesterday to 1506. There were also 418 new cases detected for a total of 47'872.

Instead of continuously improving the testing capacity, the JOH regime has made steps backwards

these last week, maybe pulling a silent Trump (fewer tests, means fewer cases, so everything is alright). Yesterday, it was made public that at least 100'000 out of 250'000 PCR tests purchased were ruined because the cooling process was not complied with. They are worth 50 million Lempiras.

Marco Bográn's lawyer tried to defend the former head of Invest-H claiming that this was not his fault, he had just purchased the tests.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400280-466/honduras-sinager-casos-covid-muertos>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46678>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/interventor-de-invest-h-advierte-perdidas-de-l-46-millones-por-pruebas-pcr-danadas.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400267-466/abogado-marco-bogran-no-reclamo-kits-danados-pcr-exdirector>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/10/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-10-de-agosto-del-2020/>

A virtual forum took place yesterday on the corruption during the pandemic focusing on the mobile hospital case.

<https://criterio.hn/sobrevaloracion-de-hospitales-moviles-opero-gracias-a-debilidad-de-institucionalidad-hondurena/>

<https://criterio.hn/todo-mundo-sabe-que-el-dinero-ha-sido-saqueado-padre-melo/>

Last week, doctor and outspoken critic of the JOH regime, Marco Eliud Girón, denounced a planned attack on his life. Last night, he denounced that he was arbitrarily detained by the police on the way to a patient.

CESPAD published an important report, as part of a series, on the public management of the corona pandemic. The report focuses on the situation of health workers. "Unprotecting those who protect us: Health worker risks in the face of the pandemic"

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2163-honduras-urgente-doctor-que-denuncio-atentado-envia-sos-por-detencion-policia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/galeno-denuncia-arresto-ilegal-cuando-iba-asistir-un-paciente-policia-asegura-que-amenazo-a-una-pareja/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/1-informe-monitoreo-COVID.pdf>

"Estimates by the Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development of Honduras (FOSDEH) indicate that around 65 billion lempiras are lost annually due to corruption, a figure that represents 25% of the General Budget of the Republic."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-pierde-alrededor-65-mil-millones-de-lempiras-por-corrupcion-segun-fosdeh/>

The Acting Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Michael G. Kozak, commented on the most recent developments in the Pandora corruption case. "The Pandora case is an emblematic corruption case. Attorney General Chinchilla's announcement committing @MP_Honduras to appeal the dismissal of charges continues the fight against corruption and impunity. #NoMásImpunidad"

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1292872671097688064>

<https://criterio.hn/el-caso-pandora-es-simbolico-de-la-corrupcion-en-honduras-subsecretario-para-asuntos-del-hemisferio-occidental-de-eua/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400218-466/alto-funcionario-estadounidense-exige-no-m%C3%A1s-impunidad-en-el-caso-pandora>

Political analyst Julio Navarro was invited to the program Cuarto Poder to discuss the coming electoral cycle. He highlighted a two-round presidential election as an important way forward. The former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla denounces that the National Electoral Council (CNE) refuses to inscribe his new party "Salvador de Honduras".

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46648>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nasralla-denuncia-que-cne-no-quiere-inscribir-su-partido-y-anuncia-protestas.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/avance/2161-honduras-sshhh-la-rueda-de-elecciones-gira-y-gira-y-un-nino-llora>

There have been at least 26 massacres so far in Honduras, 20 during the lockdown.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46659>

Congressman Enrique Yescas condemned the tax exemption approved by Congress to benefit the companies of the electricity sector (see previous e-mail). For him, this type of action and the onerous contracts signed with the energy generators keep the ENEE in bankruptcy and harm the people.

In a second article, Criterio writes that "despite the constant complaints and extortions from energy producers to the Government regarding energy generation, this sector has been one of the most benefited by the provisions approved in this area in the last decade".

<https://criterio.hn/la-sentencia-triunfo-de-la-cruz-de-la-corte-interamericana-de-derechos-humanos/>

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-recibir-mas-exoneraciones-fiscales-productores-de-energia-no-bajan-la->

[tarifa-al-consumidor-final/](#)

11/08/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Mining, Hydroelectricity; TIGRES; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Health Sector, Corruption, Poverty, Education; Electricity; Corruption - Pandora; BID; and Trying to Extinguish Corruption with Oil

Today at 3pm Honduras time, a webinar takes place on the role of the youth in resisting illegal mining. Gabriela Sorto representing the Guapinol community will participate.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1293252341265838081>

Tomorrow, another webinar takes place on the defense of water by communities taking the fight of the Lenca people in Honduras as one of the examples.

<https://twitter.com/cejil/status/1292967396731387910>

COFADEH requested a report from the MP in Catacamas, Olancho, on the progress made in the investigation into against TIGRES agents and the National Police involved in the murder of a young man in the municipality of San Esteban.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/solicitan-informe-sobre-ampliacion-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-policias-involucrados-en-asesinato-de-joven-en-olancho/>

531 new cases were detected for a total of 48'403 and nine more people died for a current death toll of 1515.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400564-466/honduras-covid-coronavirus-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Japan donated \$9 million to the JOH regime to combat the pandemic. It is meant to improve the radiology department at the University Hospital.

According to the Finance Ministry, the JOH regime has only executed so far 63% of all the funds destined to fight the pandemic.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1400552-410/japon-dona-honduras-millones-dolares-oronavirus->

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/solo-un-15-de-los-2-500-millones-autorizados-por-el-cn-ha-ingresado-al-tesoro-nacional.html>

ACI PARTICIPA published a report on the human rights situation in Honduras during the pandemic.

See Attachment

The illegal arrest of doctor Eliud Girón caused widespread outrage yesterday (see previous e-mail and first link below).

He was released after 24 hours. but journalist César Silva denounced that he was beaten by the police. Girón was evaluated by a forensic doctor and then transferred to a hospital as a result of the beatings.

"The illegal detention of Dr. Eliud Giron was an orchestrated arrest aimed at intimidating doctors who have denounced the atrocities of the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez, in the opinion of Dr. Ligia Ramos, Prosecutor of the Medical College of Honduras."

The Human Rights Roundtable demanded that CONAPREV investigates the case.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2933-la-persecucion-se-concreto-policia-detiene-al-doctor-eliud-giron-quien-es-un-fuerte-critico-del-manejo-que-joh-hace-de-covid19>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dejan-en-libertad-a-galeno-marco-giron-fiscalia-desestima-denuncia-de-pareja-que-habria-sido-amenazada-con-una-pistola/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2934-interno-en-hospital-por-los-abusos-policia-propina-golpiza-a-doctor-eliud-giron-dentro-de-la-celda>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/doctor-eluid-giron-permanece-interno-en-el-ihss/>

<https://criterio.hn/colegio-medico-de-honduras-la-aprehension-de-eliud-giron-fue-ilegal/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2935-colegio-medico-fue-un-arresto-orquestado-para-amedrentar-a-los-medicos-que-denuncian>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2936-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-demanda-investigacion-sobre-detencion-ilegal-y-torturas-contradoctor-eliud-giron>

The spokesperson for the MP, Yuri Mora, confirmed that there are 16 lines of investigation into the purchases made during the pandemic.

The controversy about the damaged PCR test kit continues (see yesterday). Both Invest-H and the Health Secretariat continued to claim that it was not their fault.

But ConfidencialHN was able to show that they, accompanied by a representative of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) and someone from ASJ received the tests on April 21.

And then there is a separate debate about the question if "only" the first batch, i.e. 100'000 tests were damaged, or the complete order of 250'000 tests.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/mp-confirma-16-lineas-de-investigacion-por-compras-durante-la-pandemia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-salud-asegura-que-no-tiene-ninguna-responsabilidad-sobre-perdida-de-100-mil-pruebas-pcr/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-e-investh-mienten-las-100-pruebas-de-coronavirus-fueron-recibidas-por-las-autoridades-sanitariass/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2166-honduras-desde-abril-gobierno-acepto-pruebas-covid-danadas-y-no-puede-reclamar>

<https://tiempo.hn/asj-revela-100-mil-pruebas-pcr-llegaron-danadas-mayo-nadie-investigó/>

Poverty levels will reach 70% in Honduras as a result of the pandemic and the failed response by the JOH regime.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46731>

US chargé d'affaires highlighted in a virtual conference the importance of getting Honduran children access to education during the pandemic.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1400542-410/encargada-negocios-eeuu-compromiso-educacion-honduras->

ASJ published a report on the Honduran energy sector finding that it has the worst track record in all Central America having lost electricity due to a failing infrastructure and lack of maintenance (triggered by corruption) worth \$3.4 billion between 1998 and 2018.

ASJ further denounced that the Honduran government pays 3.15 billion lempiras a year to Empresa Energía Honduras (EEH) to make the situation worse for the National Electric Power Company (ENEE).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-el-pais-con-mayores-perdidas-electricas-en-america-latina-asj.html>

<https://criterio.hn/sin-participacion-de-otras-empresas-ficohsa-le-adjudico-el-contrato-a-eeh-y-la-enee-sigue-en-la-quebra/>

Two accused in the Pandora case, former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), Jacobo Regalado and his partner Luis Fernando Urrutia, had their pre-trial detention prolonged for six more months.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6120-amplian-prision-preventiva-a-exministro-de-la-sag-por-el-caso-pandora-no-obstante-mp-presentara-accion-de-amparo-por-sobreseimiento-a-otros-22-involucrados>

"There are growing calls in Latin America -- and Europe -- to postpone the election for the Inter-American Development Bank's new president. The new head is scheduled to be chosen in September, but there are calls -- from Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, and Argentina -- to postpone the

vote to March, ostensibly due to coronavirus logistical complications. But the true controversy is related to the U.S. Trump administration's nomination of Mauricio Claver-Carone to head the region's leading development finance lender. Claver-Carone would become the first person from outside Latin America to lead the Washington-based bank, upsetting a longstanding tacit distribution of power in which the IMF is headed by a European and the World Bank by somebody from the U.S." <http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-agosto-del-2020/>

<https://latinamericadailybriefing.blogspot.com/2020/08/calls-to-postpone-idb-election-aug-11.html>

<https://criterio.hn/ni-el-aceite-quemado-pudo-borrar-grafiti-donde-esta-el-dinero/>

12/08/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Extractivism, Guapinol; Forced Disappearance; Post-Electoral Violence; LGBTQ+ - IACtHR; Dengue; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, Prisons; Elections; Corruption - de Lobo; and the Face of Injustice

"In the current country context, marked by the COVID-19 health crisis and the suspension of constitutional guarantees, a strong wave of violence and rights violations is developing in the territories in resistance and fight against extractive activities. From March to July, a total of 5 murders (9 so far this year) and a hundred criminalization actions against environmental defenders were registered."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/12/analisis-honduras-la-nueva-ola-de-violencia-y-vulneracion-de-ddhh-en-las-comunidades-en-resistencia/>

Lawyer Kenia Oliva denounced that in the case of the eight imprisoned Rio Guapinol defenders, the Supreme Court could be acting maliciously by delaying their case.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2937-abogada-de-los-encarcelados-el-caso-guapinol-puede-estar-siendo-retenido-maliciosamente>

"On this day, Lizeth Tejada, mother of the minor José Miguel Hernández Tejada, who disappeared in the municipality of Las Vegas, department of Santa Bárbara, on 3 August, went to the regional Public Prosecutor's Office to file a formal complaint about her son's disappearance, but the prosecutors refused to receive it. According to the child's mother, Prosecutor Héctor Gómez responded that he could not receive the complaint because the forced disappearance was not a crime, thus denying the mother the right to denounce and demand an investigation into her son's disappearance."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/insolito-ministerio-publico-se-niega-a-recibir-denuncia-de-madre-de-menor-desaparecido-en-santa-barbara/>

A police agent accused of murdering a minor during the post-electoral violence in 2017 will have his case sent to trial.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/a-juicio-policia-acusado-por-muerte-de-menor-en-la-crisis-postelectoral/>

The murder of trans woman Vicky Hernández on June 28, 2009 in Honduras will be known by the Inter-American Human Rights System on November 11, 2020. They could hold Honduras responsible for transfemicide.

<https://criterio.hn/audiencia-contra-estado-de-honduras-por-caso-de-vicky-hernandez-ya-tiene-fecha/>

There are over 16'000 dengue cases in Honduras and some 88% are in the Francisco Morazán department.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/salud-revela-que-francisco-morazan-registra-el-88-por-ciento-de-los-casos-de-dengue-en-honduras/>

The JOH regime continues to test less than 1000 people a day, even less than some weeks ago. Yesterday, 254 more cases were detected for a total of 48'657 and 18 people died, the current death toll being at 1533.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400826-466/honduras-covid-muertos-sinager-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Another nurse died to COVID-19.

ContraCorriente reports on the Honduras Force Program. "The Honduras Force program, approved by the National Congress on July 16, consists of a 250 million lempira (\$10 million) fund from a loan with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to set up triage and isolation centers in all municipalities except the Central District and San Pedro Sula. Experts say this should have been done earlier and seems to be a last resort to fix the incompetence with which the entire pandemic has been handled."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/12/brigadas-medicas-y-triajes-de-alcaldias-se-haran-con-prestamo-del-bid/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/muere-por-covid-19-enfermera-del-hospital-santa-teresa.html>

Odir Fernández, head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), commented on the current situation in Honduras. "We go from [corruption] case to case; expired PCR tests, overpriced hospitals not arriving, incomplete mechanical ventilators...all of this acquired by Invest-H, but so far no charges have been brought forward. The corrupt keep watching Netflix from

home."

Some days ago, the capital woke up to a huge street painting asking "Where is the money?". After the JOH regime erased it, people just came back yesterday and repainted it.

<https://twitter.com/odirfernandez/status/1293565278719225856>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400821-466/bulevar-suyapa-graffiti-dinero-frase-pandemia>

<https://tiempo.hn/hondurenos-remarcan-letras-grafiti-donde-esta-el-dinero-1/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2938-donde-esta-el-dinero-descubre-la-corrupcion-en-el-manejo-de-la-pandemia-en-honduras-y-provoca-ira-en-el-gobierno-de-joh>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) ordered prison transfers of over 200 inmates in the midst of a pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trasladan-a-privados-de-libertad-a-diferentes-centros-penitenciarios-de-honduras/>

There has been an interesting development regarding the electoral reforms. The National Electoral Council (CNE) unanimously spoke out in favor of a two-round presidential election. But Congress will have the last word.

The CNE, together with the Ministry of Finance, will define campaign spending ceilings for the primary elections in March 2021.

Last but not least, Libre congressman Jorge Cálix indicated that there is no consensus on the conformation of the electoral tables for the next elections. "He explained that institutions such as Libre and Liberal are opposed to giving credentials to political parties that do not get enough votes in an election."

<https://criterio.hn/cne-aprueba-segunda-vuelta-electoral-decision-final-esta-en-manos-del-congreso/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/pleno-de-magistrados-del-cne-se-pronuncia-a-favor-de-la-segunda-vuelta-para-proximas-elecciones.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/finanzas-y-cne-definiran-techo-de-gastos-de-campana-para-elecciones-primarias-de-2021.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/no-hay-consensos-en-la-conformacion-de-las-mesas-electorales-indica-diputado-calix.html>

Jeff Ernst reported for Vice on corruption in Honduras under the headline "Corruption Is King in Trump's 'Safe Third Country'".

The former head of the MACCIH, Ana María Calderón, resurfaced to comment on the disappointing decisions made in two MACCIH cases. "She pointed out that "it is not possible that

the Supreme Court of Justice has declared the oral trial null and void for breach of form; the MACCIH covered the entire trial and found that it was conducted impeccably by the judges of the anti-corruption circuit following all the standards of due process".

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/dykdyc/corruption-is-king-in-trumps-safe-third-country

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/reacciona-exvocera-de-la-maccih-para-cuestionar-decisiones-sobre-casos-caja-chica-de-la-dama-y-pandora.html>

"Injustice has a face: Judge Lisseth Vallecillo and the Guapinol case"

<https://radioprogreso.net/np/la-injusticia-tiene-rostro-la-jueza-lisseth-vallecillo-y-el-caso-guapinol/>

13/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; US; National Police; Extractivism - Guapinol; Judicial Power; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Corruption, Health Sector; Corruption - Penal Code; Elections; Prisons; and 11 Years of Impunity

COPINH announced that the preliminary hearing against David Castillo in the murder case of Berta Cáceres will start up again next Monday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1293951543427948552>

"Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) led a letter to oppose the Trump Administration's plan to invest \$1 billion in controversial projects in Honduras over the next three years through the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC). The DFC was created through passage of the Build Act in 2018—with the mission of promoting and facilitating investment with respect for human rights, the environment, and worker rights in developing countries. The letter raises serious concerns related to human rights, worker rights, environmental protections, and community consultation on the proposed project. "There are elements of the proposed investment that run in direct and flagrant contradiction to DFC's stated commitment – and Congress's stated intent in creating DFC – to promote and facilitate investment with respect for human rights, the environment, and worker rights," the Members wrote. "It is a staggering disappointment, just seven months into DFC's existence, that it would take such a profound misstep."

<https://omar.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-omar-leads-letter-condemn-trump-administration-s-plan-invest-controversial>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/08/13/congresistas-norteamericanos-piden-detener-financiamiento-a-empresas-hidroelectricas-generadoras-de-violencia-en-honduras/>

A video made the rounds yesterday of a police agent throwing a tear gas canister into a full bus. The content of the video has been confirmed. The bus transported Maquila workers to their workplace. The video caused widespread outcry and the MP announced an investigation. Two police officer were involved in the attack and El Heraldo later reported that they were

suspended.

A year ago, something similar happened, when police threw tear gas into a bus transporting students.

A new survey by IUDPAS found that only 28.2% of Hondurans trust the police, 31.9% the Military Police and 15.2% the presidency. Worst off is Congress with 13.9%.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1293999460054233088>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policias-lanzan-bomba-lacrimogena-al-interior-de-bus-que-transportaba-personal-de-maquila-son-separados/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6130-fiscales-de-ddhh-investigacion-incidente-ocasionado-por-policias-al-lanzar-bomba-lacrimogena-en-el-interior-de-autobus>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400955-466/suspenden-policias-bomba-lacrimogena-bus-choloma-pasajeros>

<https://tiempo.hn/universitarios-y-operarios-de-maquila-dos-veces-la-policia-ha-gaseado-buses/>

<https://criterio.hn/solo-tres-de-cada-10-hondurenos-confian-en-la-policia-segun-estudio/>

CONADEH urged the authorities to provide democratic security to guarantee respect for human rights in the community of Guapinol which opposes the construction of a mining company.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/39-conflictos/1689-conadeh-retenes-militares-crean-temor-e-incertidumbre-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol>

In a new report, FOSDEH highlights how the failure to allocate resources to the Judiciary and the MP in compliance with the constitution hinders the application of justice in Honduras.

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/apuntes-presupuestarios-sobre-el-poder-judicial-y-ministerio-publico-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46820>

385 new cases and 9 additional deaths, 49'042 and 1542 in total respectively. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401091-466/honduras-llega-a-49042-casos-y-1542-muertos-por-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/13/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-13-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Javier Suazo published an important article analyzing the role of the state budget during the pandemic and the complete lack of transparency in deciding about its content and execution.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/208434>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 22nd joint statement during the pandemic.

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/manifiesto-publico-22-agosto-2020/>

ContraCorriente reports on the effects of corruption on the testing of Hondurans. "In almost 5 months of the pandemic, Honduras has counted 48,400 people infected with COVID-19 after processing an estimated 118,000 PCR tests. Only 0.12% of the Honduran population has been tested with the nasopharyngeal swab test used to detect the virus. Some private laboratories have taken it upon themselves to perform and process samples for people who can afford to pay a high price. Meanwhile, the lack of technical capabilities in the public health system and corruption have resulted in a loss of \$1.9 million in tests that were ruined in transport and storage while waiting for machines purchased for \$585,360.00 to process tests."

El Heraldito compared purchase of the mobile hospitals, accompanied by widespread corruption, with similar purchases in other countries. They found that Honduras paid one of the highest prices per bed. Additionally, they came late, some may never come, and are of questionable quality. Radio Progreso reports on the newest manifestation of public unrest with the widespread corruption in Honduras during the pandemic, the giant street painting (see previous days). "These elements of citizen creativity reflect a deep-seated malaise in the citizenry. Probably the confinement and the pandemic block the possibility of demonstrations in mobilizations therefore it is expressed in this way, it is part of the struggle".

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/13/mas-de-2-millones-suman-a-las-irregularidades-de-invest-h-con-compra-de-pruebas-y-maquinaria-para-su-procesamiento/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldodata/1401083-528/hospitales-moviles-honduras-costo>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/expresiones-en-grafitis-reflejan-un-profundo-malestar-ciudadano/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1688-nuevamente-las-calles-representan-la-indignacion-ciudadana-donde-esta-el-dinero>

"Ligia Ramos, the prosecutor of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), reported on her Twitter account that a patrol car has been posted in front of her house and that police officers got off to take pictures of her home."

Meanwhile, another doctor died to COVID-19. Almost 40 doctors have died so far.

<https://criterio.hn/doctora-ligia-ramos-denuncia-persecucion-policial/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401029-466/muere-covid-19-doctor-josue-calix-ardon-ihss-virus>

The new Penal Code already starts to benefit the corrupt, as foreseen by human rights organizations. Mario Antonio Rojas Rodríguez had been sentenced to 15 years in prison linked to the IHSS

corruption case, but he was released now to house arrest.

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2171-honduras-estafador-del-ihss-en-libertad-gracias-a-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401043-466/t%C3%ADo-de-mario-zelaya-queda-en-libertad-gracias-al-nuevo-c%C3%B3digo-penal>

The debate about the two-round presidential election has taken up steam again (see yesterday). The National Party continues to block it, i.e. now claims that it needs a popular vote which cannot be done before the coming election...

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1400977-466/segunda-vuelta-electoral-honduras-cne-polemica>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-cierra-filas-para-que-segunda-vuelta-no-se-implemente-en-elecciones-de-2021/>

Last year, 20 inmates were murdered in one day at the prison in Tela. Now, the Court of Appeals of the city of La Ceiba granted a period of two months to the authorities of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) to begin work on the improvement and remodeling of the prison.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6134-habeas-corpus-correctivo-presentado-por-la-fiscalia-especial-de-derechos-humanos-obliga-a-las-autoridades-del-inp-a-mejorar-condiciones-en-centro-penal-de-tela>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/12-de-agosto-la-fecha-que-no-se-puede-olvidar/>

14/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; National Police; Militarization; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Elections; JOH; UNAH; Airports; Coffee – EU;

"28 days since their disappearance.

“Assassinations & disappearing Garifuna leaders is a strategy of expulsion w/ African palm, tourism projects & model cities as catalysts that have increased dispossession & violence.

You took them alive, we want them back alive””

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1294285550954872833>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/donde-esta-mi-nino-grande-suplica-de-padre-de-garifuna-desaparecido/>

CONADEH called on the police to respect the rule of law. This was a reaction to a police officer throwing tear gas into a full bus (see yesterday).

The MP has now officially pressed charges against him.

But the problems with the Honduran police are more widespread. Yesterday, the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC), denounced the municipal police of San Pedro Sula of abuse of authority, illegal searches and death threats. It's worth highlighting that the CCIC has been growing ever more critical of the JOH regime these last months.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/conadeh-llama-a-respetar-estado-de-derecho-a-policia-nacional-ante-uso-desproporcionado-de-la-fuerza.html>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6140-requerimiento-fiscal-contrapolicia-que-lanzo-bomba-lacrimogena-dentro-de-autobus>

<https://criterio.hn/ccic-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte-y-allanamiento-ilegal-por-policia-municipal-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/ccic-denuncia-a-policia-municipal-por-allanamiento-ilegal-abuso-de-autoridad-y-amenazas-de-muerte.html>

CESPAD published a short new analysis on the militarization of Honduras, focusing on their role in politics. This was recently highlighted by a statement of the head of the Armed Forces, Tito Livio Moreno Coello, attacking the political opposition while defending the lack of transparency and effectiveness of the JOH regime in face of the pandemic.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/14/analisis-el-peligroso-avance-politico-de-los-militares-hondurenos/>

425 new cases, 6 additional deaths, 49'467 and 1548 in total respectively.

The lack of testing continues to be publicly discussed. "Karla Pavón, head of monitoring at the Health Ministry and director of the National Virology Laboratory, has asked Minister of the Presidency Ebal Díaz to visit the laboratory before criticizing it and to learn that it operates under difficult conditions due to government neglect."

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401304-466/hasta-este-14-de-agosto-honduras-registra-1548-muertos-y-49467-contagios>

<https://criterio.hn/jefa-de-virologia-le-dice-a-ebal-diaz-vaya-al-laboratorio-mire-lo-que-le-falta-y-despues-exija/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the most recent act of intimidation against Doctor Ligia Ramos (see yesterday) is just part of a five-year campaign of persecution and threats.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2940-cinco-anos-de->

[persecucion-y-amenazas-contra-doctora-ligia-ramos-que-el-estado-de-honduras-no-ha-tomado-en-serio](#)

According to FOSDEH economist Alejandro Kafati, a two-round presidential election would cost an additional 400-500 million Lempiras, funds that neither the National Electoral Council (CNE) has planned for nor has it the Finance Secretary in its budget.

And then there is the general problem of the lack of profound electoral reforms. "In the opinion of analysts in Honduras there are no conditions for democratic elections, and this is because the reforms approved have not been profound. The analyst Tomás Andino and coordinator of the Convergence Against Continuity in Francisco Morazán believes that it is necessary for the social and popular movement to continue mobilizing to achieve substantial changes for the citizenry."

"Women in Honduras continue to be subjected to systematic and structural violence that does not distinguish between social classes and that continues to affect political participation and thus representation in elected office."

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/segunda-vuelta-electoral-no-es-viable-economicamente-dice-economista.html>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-a-las-puertas-de-un-proceso-electoral-sin-garantias-de-transparencia/>

<https://criterio.hn/la-violencia-sigue-limitando-la-participacion-politica-de-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

Every month or so, the former president Pepe Lobo publicly attacks JOH. This time, he called him an animal that is used to fight and will do everything to stay in power.

Lobo is also part of a new party coalition formed to oust him from power, but may as well divide the opposition against him, even more if there is now two-round presidential election (see above).

"Under the name "Political and Social Coalition with Different Forces, Social Movements and Political Parties" the first political alliance was formed in view of the upcoming electoral process with the objective of removing the National Party of Honduras from power. Five minority parties such as the Democratic Unification Party (UD), Christian Democracy (DC), and the parties in formation Rescate Honduras, Todos Somos Honduras and the movement led by former president Porfirio Lobo Sosa "Todos por el Cambio" formed this coalition against the National Party and Juan Orlando Hernandez himself."

<https://confidencialhn.com/expresidente-porfirio-lobo-califica-de-animal-a-joh-y-sostiene-que-hara-todo-para-sacarlo-del-ejecutivocv/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=46858>

According to its dean, the JOH regime owns UNAH one billion Lempiras. Due to this, wages won't be payed on time.

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-falta-de-desembolso-autoridades-de-la-unah-atrasan-a-empleados-el-pago-de-salarios/>

El Heraldo reports on the risk that the government takes over airport operations at three out of the four international airports in Honduras. "According to experts consulted by EL HERALDO, the government should have carried out the concession process for the international air terminals two years ago, but since the work was not done, it will now take over in the midst of a crisis, since the outlook is uncertain."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401132-466/aeropuertos-en-manos-del-estado-pueden-perder-su-certificaci%C3%B3n>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2175-honduras-industriales-temen-mas-fracasos-en-administracion-estatal-de-aeropuertos>

"The European Union (EU), through its program known as Progresía, granted co-financing for more than 900 solar dryers to dry coffee to 135 coffee organizations in the department of El Paraíso, eastern Honduras."

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ue-cofinancio-mas-de-900-secadoras-solares-a-135-organizaciones-cafetaderas-en-el-paraiso.html>

15/08/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs- Guapinol; Envío; Gender Violence; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; Drug Trafficking; Elections; and a Pandemic Extortion Break

On of the emblematic struggles currently taking place in Honduras, the case of Guapinol, was a blow back yesterday when the Court of Appeals revoked the provisional freedom of five defenders granted on March 4, 2019. "The Municipal Committee of Public Assets Defenders strongly rejects the decision of the Court of Appeals that once again confirms the political persecution against the defenders. And it reaffirms its defense of water, environment, territory and peace, from the year 2015, in Tocoa".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/peligra-la-libertad-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-persecucion-politica-detras-del-reves-judicial-contradefensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

https://twitter.com/ContraC_HN/status/1294748124771164161

The newest edition of Envío was published by ERIC focusing on the pandemic with one article on the fight against corruption pre- and post-MACCIH.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hZip8lJooTw8OlXlzfFJ5_LphMXz_NNL/view

There have been more than 65'000 calls made during the pandemic to the authorities denouncing "domestic violence". Women's rights and feminist organization denounce that only some 5% of the calls have been answered by the authorities. ""The issue of violence against women, domestic

violence and violence within the family is a growing problem. The calls for help to 911 for this type of situation already in this year exceed 65,000 complaints; but the problem is that only five percent manage to obtain a response and process in the courts".

<https://tiempo.hn/feministas-solo-el-5-de-denuncias-por-violencia-intrafamiliar-llega-a-tribunales/>

<https://criterio.hn/menos-del-5-de-65-mil-denuncias-por-violencia-intrafamiliar-son-atendidas/>

512 new COVID-19 cases were detected for a total of 49'979. 19 more Hondurans died, the official death toll is now at 1567.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401529-466/honduras-sinager-casos-covid-coronavirus-pandemia-muertos-cifras>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-15-de-agosto-del-2020/>

According to infectologist Tito Alvarado, Honduras is living a critical moment with more cases of COVID-19 and less testing for the new virus.

ELMED Medical Systems Inc. now claims that the five remaining mobile hospitals will have been built by the end of this month. Even if this were true, they still need to be shipped to Honduras and the two previously shipped ones raised, apart from all the corruption surrounding the case, a lot of questions regarding their quality.

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/sin-pruebas-honduras-camina-a-ciegas-en-el-abordaje-de-la-pandemia-lo-que-se-avecina-es-una-mayor-mortalidad-segun-infectologo-tito-alvarado>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401505-466/hospitales-moviles-restantes-listos-finales-agosto-alex-lopez-honduras>

Criterio reports on how the slogan "Where is the Money!" has surfaced all over Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/donde-esta-el-dinero-el-grafiti-que-se-hizo-viral-en-honduras-y-que-quieren-borrar-de-cualquier-forma/>

The Armed Forces report on the dismantling of three drug labs in Colón.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1401523-466/honduras-desmantela-laboratorio-coca-cocaina-narcolaboratorio>

"The Electoral Census, which is being built from the process for the new National Identification Document, will be ready in December, Oscar Rivera, commissioner of the National Registry of Persons, RNP, said on Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/censo-electoral-estara-listo-en-diciembre/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-expresan-que-la-ms13-les-notifico-que-no-cobrar-mas-extorsion/>

16/08/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs- Guapinol; Hydroelectricity; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector, Poverty; Spain; Prisons; Elections; and Owing Palmerola

A press release explaining the newest, very concerning, developments in the Guapinol case was released (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1295064485380620290>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2941-corte-de-apelaciones-chepeo-de-otra-sentencia-para-mantener-presos-a-ocho-defensores-y-reabrir-proceso-contra-otros-cinco>

ConexiHon reports on the situation in Patuca, a place with water shortages while at the same time a hotspot for hydroelectric project.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/39-conflictos/1691-patuca-graves-problemas-de-escasez-de-agua-en-medio-de-un-proyecto-hidroelectrico>

The number of COVID-19 cases surpassed 50'000 yesterday to reach 50'502. At the same time, 8 more people died for a total of 1575. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401673-466/a-cinco-meses-de-la-pandemia-1575-hondure%C3%B1os-han-muerto-y-50502>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/16/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-16-de-agosto-del-2020/>

International flights are now officially allowed again.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sinager-autoriza-operacion-de-aeropuertos-para-vuelos-internacionales/>

The JOH regime again painted over the large street painting in Tegucigalpa with the trending anti-corruption slogan "Where is the money?".

Luis Santos, head of UFERCO, reacted: "The erasure of this slogan shows in all its splendor, INTOLERANCE towards criticism, towards the demand for transparency in the management of public funds, but at the same time, permissive of the praise towards those who manage them, this in the best of cases is, hypocrisy."

Similar words from the CNA: "They were more concerned with erasing the popular call than with getting the mobile triages up and running or answering the question "Where's the money? So much

money has been stolen that it can never be forgotten; more than L 90 billion unaccounted for."

The most direct response came by Padre Melo presenting JOH out as "the thief".

Meanwhile, the MP increased their lines of investigation into corruption cases linked to the pandemic from 11 to 16.

In a press conference, JOH presented himself and his government as very transparent and effective.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/borran-pinta-que-reclama-transparencia-protestantes-anuncian-que-la-remarcaran.html>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1295147761050976257>

<https://twitter.com/odirfernandez/status/1295037241786535936>

<https://twitter.com/Melosjmoreno/status/1295099068897808384>

<https://criterio.hn/el-ladron-se-llama-joh-padre-melo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-se-preocuparon-mas-en-borrar-graffiti-que-poner-a-funcionar-triajes-moviles/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/corrupcion-en-honduras-en-alza-en- apenas-un-mes-fiscalia-pasa-de-11-a-16-lineas-de-investigacion-activas>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/situacion-no-es-facil-para-honduras-por-la-situacion-del-covid-19-dice-presidente-hernandez.html>

The health sector is affected by the corruption in two ways, first, the lack of funds, second, its members also protesting against the corruption are being harassed, threatened and sometimes detained. Yesterday, another doctor, María Angélica Milla, was detained for some time because she painted the question "Where is the Money?" near the Olympic Stadium in San Pedro Sula. After an uproar, the police claimed that she had been detained for violating the lockdown.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1401713-410/polic%C3%ADa-libertad-doctora-milla-detenido-donde-esta-el-dinero>

In of the most disputed programs in response to the pandemic, and linked to several corruption charges, the JOH regime claims that the Operation Honduras Solidarity brought food to some 1.5 million Honduran families.

According to consumer protection organizations, some 60 basic goods have seen their prices substantially rise during the pandemic.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/08/16/honduras-solidaria-ha-entregado-alimentos-a-casi-15-millones-de-familias-afectadas-por-la-pandemia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/60-productos-de-canasta-basica-aumentaron-precio-durante-la-pandemia/>

The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arancha González Laya, met with her counterparts in

Guatemala and Honduras to discuss the needs of these countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cancilleres-de-espana-guatemala-y-honduras-tratan-apoyo-espanol-por-covid-19.html>

A 31-year old inmate died in the Támara prison, apparently in his sleep. Forensic medicine is investigating the case. "Elma Ordoñez, a member of the Association of Relatives of Prisoners, said that with the death of Cristian Rivera, a total of 24 prisoners have died so far this year."

<https://tiempo.hn/fallece-privado-libertad-tamara-desconocen-causas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-en-la-carcel-de-tamara-un-privado-de-libertad-mientras-dormia/>

According to political analyst Raúl Pineda, the two-round presidential election is just a distraction for there being more important electoral reforms. "Instead, he believes it is important to talk about reforms that will reduce the high cost of elections in Honduras or the proliferation of small parties that have turned political participation into a business; while trying to exclude others that do have a significant number of supporters."

<https://criterio.hn/segunda-vuelta-electoral-es-un-distractor-asegura-analista-raul-pineda/>

According to FOSDEH, the Honduran State is the main owner of the new Palmerola airport.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-afirma-que-el-estado-es-el-gran-accionista-del-aeropuerto-de-palmerola/>

17/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; HRDs- Guapinol; COVID-19 - Corruption, Poverty; Corruption - Pandora; Elections; Migration; and no Hard Questions for JOH

COPINH published a newsletter on the upcoming hearing in the case of David Castillo. The same day, this hearing was postponed for the fourth time...new date is this Friday.

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/newsletter-david-castillos-trial-a-consummated-delaying-maneuver/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/posponen-por-cuarta-vez-audiencia-preliminar-contradavid-castillo/>

Almost one month into the forced disappearance of the five men from a Garífuna community, Democracy Now spoke with OFRANEH representative Carla Garcia.

https://www.democracynow.org/2020/8/17/garifuna_land_defenders_honduras

An English press release summarizes the worrisome recent development in the Guapinol case (see previous e-mails).

Pasos de Animal Grande reports that on July 24, 2020, the lawyers for the Guapinol defenders

presented a document to the MP in Tocoa, Colón, requesting the application of the new Penal Code to the accused who have been illegally imprisoned since August of last year, and desist from the precautionary measure of preventive detention. However, they have not responded to this request.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1295518431501058048>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2943-fiscalia-de-tocoa-colon-tiene-sin-resolver-peticion-de-los-abogados-para-que-se-aplique-nuevo-codigo-penal-a-los-defensores-de-guapinol>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/corte-de-apelaciones-criminaliza-y-da-persecucion-politica-a-defensores-del-agua/>

There were 493 new cases detected yesterday for a total of 50'995. 8 more people died, 1583 in total so far.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401944-466/honduras-covid-muertos-sinager-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/17/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-17-de-agosto-del-2020/>

The slogan of the current anti-corruption movement in Honduras is "Where is the money?". It is a rhetorical question, as most Honduran know where the money is. Padre Melo clearly said on Sunday "JOH is the thief" (see yesterday).

Yesterday morning, there was a new sign outside of the offices of the National Party saying "Here is the money".

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the JOH regime has started to arbitrarily arrest people from stopping the spread of the slogan.

Heavily armed police threatened a group of people painting the slogan in El Progreso.

The intervention body at Invest-H found that its former director Marco Bográn left some \$230 million in debt.

In the case of the mobile hospitals, the MP claims to be awaiting the assistance of judicial bodies in the US and Turkey in order to file charges against officials involved.

<https://criterio.hn/donde-esta-el-dinero-la-consigna-que-esta-en-calles-puentes-y-paredes-en-honduras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/crece-reclamo-ciudadano-por-la-galopante-corrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/aqui-esta-el-dinero-la-frase-que-pone-en-jaque-al-partido-nacional/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1401851-466/aqu%C3%AD-esta-el-dinero-el-rotulo-plasmado-en-la-sede-del-partido>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2942-detenciones-arbitrarias-es-la-nueva-estrategia-para-evitar-las-pintas-de-donde-esta-el-dinero>

<https://criterio.hn/con-fusiles-ar-15-policia-desaloja-a-ciudadanos-que-pintaban-donde-esta-el-dinero/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/interventor-revela-que-exjefe-de-investh-dejo-deudas-de-mas-de-230-millones-de-dolares/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/asistencia-juridica-internacional-retrasa-requerimientos-fiscales-en-caso-hospitales-moviles/>

Taiwan donated 6.6 million pounds of rice to Honduras meant to alleviate poverty during the pandemic.

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2181-sedis-entregara-6-6-millones-de-libras-de-arroz-donadas-por-taiwan>

In the Pandora corruption case, UFERCO accused three judges of the Appeals Court for their recent decision to drop the charges against 22 accused (see previous e-mails). UFERCO called their decision "devoid of elementary logic".

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-a-tres-magistrados-del-poder-judicial-que-emitieron-sobreseimiento-a-favor-de-22-imputados-por-pandora/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/uferco-denuncia-a-magistrados-que-absolvieron-a-imputados-de-caso-pandora.html>

According to the president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, electoral reforms must be approved before the call of the primary elections, i.e. September 13, 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/moncada-antes-13-septiembre-aprobar-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nueva-ley-electoral-debe-ser-aprobada-previo-a-convocatoria-de-elecciones-pide-presidenta-del-cne.html>

Criterion published a long article on "The upsurge in migration in Honduras driven by despair".

<https://criterio.hn/el-repunte-del-fenomeno-migratorio-en-honduras-empujado-por-la-desesperanza/>

<https://criterio.hn/periodistas-no-hicieron-preguntas-incomodas-a-hernandez-en-conversatorio/>

18/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; Extractivism - Azacualpa; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; National Party - JOH; Militarization; Education; BID - US; Elections;

It has been a month now since the disappearance of the five men from a Garífuna community, four of them Garífuna, one from Belize.

There were protest actions in various parts of the country.

The Americas Director of Amnesty International made a video call in support of them.

Even El Heraldo published a long article on it.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/12957348741256069>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/a-un-mes-del-secuestro-de-garifunas-gobierno-sigue-con-silencio-complice/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/129577765225981542812>

<https://twitter.com/ErikaGuevaraR/status/1295817404593971206>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1402004-466/garifunas-secuestro-honduras>

Berta Zúniga, COPINH's general coordinator, spoke on UNE TV about the upcoming hearing against David Castillo (see previous days).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1295892762689253377>

"Despite the opposition of the residents of the community of Azacualpa, department of Copán, the Canadian mining company Aura Minerals (MINOSA), which operates in the area, began to dynamite the hill where the local cemetery is located, in order to extract gold. However, the neighbors denounce that the machinery is collapsing two hills that surround the community, putting at risk some 590 homes that are in danger of falling down if the collapses continue."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/18/alerta-minosa-comienzo-de-nuevo-a-dinamitar-cementerio-de-azacualpa-y-pone-en-riesgo-decenas-de-familias/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2944-copinh-audiencia-de-david-castillo-demostraria-su-relacion-con-la-familia-atala-zablah-y-la-responsabilidad-en-el-asesinato-de-bertha-caceres>

675 new COVID-19 cases, 10 additional deaths for a total of 51'670 and 1593 respectively.

There has been widespread criticism of the Ministry of Health recently for the drop in testing capabilities. Alba Consuelo Flores now promises that they will increase capabilities again this week.

But even if they go back to previous levels of some 2000 tests per day, this is still nowhere enough for safely reopening the economy.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402209-466/honduras-muertos-sinager-contagios>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1402129-410/ministra-secretaria-salud-inventario-pruebas-covid-tres-meses-honduras>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/18/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-18-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Another doctor died to COVID-19.

"Héctor Escoto, president of the Union of Workers of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (SITRAIHSS) denounced the delay of almost four months in the delivery of the 63 mechanical fans purchased by the institution."

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-muere-manuel-ordonez-querido-doctor-el-paraiso/>

<https://tiempo.hn/perdidos-ventilados-comprados-por-el-ihss-costaron-142-millones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ihss-invirtio-mas-de-42-millones-de-lempiras-por-ventiladores-que-no-han-sido-entregados-por-oferente/>

Hondurans find ever more creative ways to ask "Where is the money?".

Pasos de Animal Grande believes that this makes the JOH regime nervous. No doubt, there are some very disproportionate reactions to this new movement. "The mayor of Utila, Troy Bodden, of the National Party, called the graffiti asking "Where is the money?" on the façade of the mayor's office in that Bay Island municipality a criminal act. He also offered the island's population 25,000 lempiras for anyone who would denounce and help capture the individuals so that the law would be applied because this type of action he will not tolerate, since it is a new and beautiful building, he said to local media."

They are also arresting people for painting the slogan (see also yesterday).

Radio Progreso calls for an addition to the slogan linking it to the faces of corruption. "The feminist and social fighter, Noemí Dubón, said in Zona Informativa that the population knows very well where the money is, because it is well known who pulls the strings of power in the country. She explained that the citizens, with that slogan, are asking for the prosecution of those responsible for the embezzlement of public funds, starting with president Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1295785098881773568>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2945-la-protesta-en-la-cuarentena-que-pone-nervioso-al-gobierno-de-joh>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1233-detienen-a-ciudadanos-por-expresar-en-via-publica-consigna-donde-esta-el-dinero>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/donde-esta-el-dinero-debe-comenzar-a-senalar-a-responsables-del-descarado-robo-sugieren-analistas/>

It seems that some Nationalist leaders want to distance themselves from the JOH regime and its

ever more tainted image due to widespread corruption (and human rights violations, etc, but corruption is occupying the news). Of course, these leaders are themselves part of the same elite, but it is still an interesting observation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-cargaremos-muertos-de-funcionarios-corruptos-ricardo-se-desliga-de-criticas-por-corrupcion-al-ejecutivo-de-joh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2182-honduras-oliva-presiona-por-elecciones-para-rescatar-al-partido-nacional>

CESPAD published a short piece of analysis on the remilitarization of public security as a setback for the Honduran democracy.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/18/analisis-la-remilitarizacion-de-la-seguridad-publica-signo-relevante-en-los-retrocesos-de-la-democracia-hondurena/>

"For the third week in a row, teachers have called a virtual assembly to define actions to address the government's failure to pay salaries. The Ministry of Finance has not paid the salaries of teachers in more than ten departments."

<https://criterio.hn/maestros-a-las-calles-a-exigir-pago-de-salarios/>

The JOH regime once again shows its loyalty to the US and the Trump administration by calling on the member states of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to respect the date for electing its new president. The Trump administration presented a controversial candidate who rightly was met with opposition (see previous e-mail).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cancilleria-hondurena-insta-a-paises-miembros-del-bid-respetar-fecha-de-eleccion-de-presidente.html>

The draft bill of the new Electoral Law should be presented in Congress this week.

<https://criterio.hn/borrador-de-nueva-ley-electoral-sera-presentado-esta-semana-ante-congreso-nacional/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/comienza-a-calentarse-ambiente-politico-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

19/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Guapinol; OFRANEH; Dengue; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption, Health Sector, Poverty, Transport Sector; JOH; Elections; Drug Trafficking; and a Dictatorial Penal Code

COPINH sent out an alert yesterday after they were made aware that the judge in the legal process against David Castillo had been replaced without previous notice.

They will hold a press conference today at 11am.

El Heraldo reports that the hearing will still take place this Friday. They also talked to the defense team of Castillo who try to present him as a victim.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1296152399497908224>

<https://twitter.com/MisionCaso/status/1296195582281895947>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1296279620258615296>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402367-466/csj-traslada-jueces-casos-alto-impacto-juzgados-ordinarios>

The legal defense of the HRDs from Guapinol presented a challenge against the recent decision by the appeals court (see previous days).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2946-abogados-denunciaron-a-corte-de-apelaciones-que-ayuda-a-inversiones-los-pinares-a-perseguir-a-defensores-de-guapinol>

Over a month has passed since the forced disappearance of the five men. Yesterday, CONADEH explained that they have been collaborating with other state bodies, but also expressed concern about the time passed without any results.

<https://confidencialhn.com/conadeh-asegura-que-colabora-con-entes-de-investigacion-para-encontrar-garifunas-raptados/>

There are 17'790 dengue cases in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47007>

Honduras is still not back at testing more than 2000 people per day. Yesterday, out of 1572 tests, 626 resulted positive for a total of 52'296. 15 more Hondurans died, 1608 have died so far. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402485-466/coronavirus-honduras-sinager-muertos-infectados>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/19/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-19-de-agosto-del-2020/>

The Human Rights Roundtable published a press release denouncing the ongoing human rights violations during the pandemic: "the deepening of the human rights crisis, the larceny of public resources, selective justice that favors the groups in power and fails to protect the victims, and the lack of institutions to counteract this situation".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2947-denuncia-mesa-de-ddhh-en-conferencia-de-prensa-las-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-justicia-selectiva-para-grupos-de-poder-y-el-latrocinio-del-erario-publico-sin-castigo>

Hondurans once again expressed that they won't let slide all the corruption having taken and taking place during the pandemic. In a protest action, they repainted the Peace and Hope Bridge in Tegucigalpa, this time adding the slogan "#JOHStoleIt" (#JOHSELOROBÓ).

Three young women and a boy were arrested for participating in a "Where is the Money?" protest held in the municipality of Santa Ana, Francisco Morazán.

The police even intimidated a group of Liberal activists who painted the slogan on a building owned by the Liberal Party.

Radio Progreso organized a virtual forum on this new anti-corruption movement.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402476-466/donde-esta-dinero-joh-puente-bulevar-suyapa-reclamo-honduras>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2184-honduras-protesta-masiva-repinta-puente-donde-esta-el-dinero>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2948-en-santa-ana-francisco-morazan-policia-golpea-y-detiene-cuatro-jovenes-por-preguntar-donde-esta-el-dinero>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-intimida-a-liberales-que-escribian-en-su-sede-leyenda-donde-esta-el-dinero/>

<https://criterio.hn/andan-libres-quienes-roban-cientos-de-millones-pero-arrestan-al-que-pinta-un-graffiti-pedro-barquero/>

Another doctor died to COVID-19.

<https://confidencialhn.com/otro-galeno-de-la-region-norte-muere-por-complicaciones-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>

"According to Daniel Durón, Secretary General of the Central General de Trabajadores (CGT), Honduras has more than half a million workers who are unemployed due to layoffs and the suspension of work contracts. He said that the problem is aggravated by the lack of administrative follow-up at the Ministry of Labour, which remains closed."

Radio Progreso denounces that more than 400 workers are about to be fired in the Delta Apparel maquila, located in Villanueva, Cortes. Among those laid off are pregnant women and a good number with occupational diseases caused by high production goals.

<https://criterio.hn/en-calamidad-domestica-mas-de-medio-millon-de-hondurenos-suspendidos-y-despedidos-de-sus-trabajos/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/denuncian-masivos-y-arbitrarios-despidos-de-obreras-de-maquila-en-villanueva-cortes/>

"Leaders of urban transport catalog as a failure the piloting of transport; they are reporting losses but rule out a rise in the price of the ticket; they also report that police checkpoints are receiving

bribes not to seize vehicles carrying passengers clandestinely."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47015>

The JOH regime is under pressure from all sides. Hondurans are once again fed up with the corruption (see above), the Liberal Party also follows this line saying that the Nationalists should all be ashamed.

The former head of the Armed Forces and coup general Romeo Vásquez Velásquez said that "the time has come" for JOH and he proposes a transitional government.

Former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla goes even further and calls for a coup against JOH followed by a transitional government made out of the Armed Forces and the political opposition. A very dangerous proposition.

Nasralla continues to denounce that the National Electoral Council (CNE) has so far failed to have him inscribe his new party.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-considera-que-verguenza-de-los-nacionalistas-por-corrupcion-es-puro-cinismo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exjefe-de-las-ffaa-propone-salida-de-joh-y-un-gobierno-provisional-para-recuperar-la-democracia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402456-466/salvador-nasralla-pide-dar-golpe-y-arremete-contra-oficina-de-la-onu>

<https://criterio.hn/salvador-nasralla-la-no-inscripcion-de-mi-partido-es-negligencia-u-orden-de-joh/>

But both electoral bodies, the CNE and the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE), suffer from a lack of budget and staff. "Enrique Reina, Magistrate President of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) of Honduras, said Wednesday that this body has only 22 professionals, of whom only 10 are lawyers, who have been working on extensive issues - strategic plans, the communication part and the content of a website - when in reality next year they will have to resolve challenges that have to do with legal and electoral issues."

The CNE promised "greater transparency in the procurement process, and also promised that the electoral projects will be made public so that citizens can see and understand clearly how they will be executed".

The National Persons Registry (RNP), meanwhile, found some 50'000 dead people in its census in a first control.

<https://criterio.hn/tribunal-de-justicia-electoral-solo-cuentan-con-22-empleados-y-un-raquitico-presupuesto/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47018>

<https://criterio.hn/consejera-del-cne-que-convocara-a-elecciones-promete-publicar-compras-para-transparentar-proceso/>

<https://criterio.hn/rnp-encontro-50-mil-muertos-habilitados-para-votar-en-primeras-pesquisas-del-censo-electoral/>

"Authorities in Honduras have seized more cocaine during the first seven months of this year than all of 2019, indicating a resurgence of one of Central America's most important cocaine routes despite border shutdowns and transport restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic. Officials say 2,241 kilograms of cocaine have been seized between January and July 2020, a little more than last year's entire haul of 2,218 kilograms, Proceso Digital reported."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/cocaine-honduras-corridor/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/eddy-tabora-codigo-penal-busca-que-ciudadania-este-callada-sumisa-y-con-miedo/>

20/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; HRDs; Journalists; COVID-19 - HR, State Reaction, Corruption, Health Sector; JOH - Corruption, Cabinet, Israel; Corruption - Pandora; Elections; and Deadly Prisons

Berta's family members, their legal team and COPINH published a press release on the newest developments in the process against David Castillo. "The decision of the Supreme Court of Justice to remove Judge Lisseth Rosario Vallecillo Banegas raises strong concerns about the intentions of continued impunity for the intellectual authors of the crime, the Atala Zablah family. (...) The judicial process has been unjustifiably delayed, which is the responsibility of the judiciary. (...) In the judicial and investigative process, the evidence, including chats, calls, text messages, photos, GPS locations, telephone tapping, among others, which clearly demonstrates the responsibility of David Castillo in the coordination with the hitmen who murdered Berta Cáceres and those who made the decision in the Atala Zablah family. The evidence is clear and conclusive."

The hearing is supposed to take place today at 10am.

UN Congressman Albio Sires commented: "If David Castillo goes free, it will be yet another triumph for impunity in #Honduras. More than four years since the murder of #BertaCáceres, justice delayed increasingly looks like justice intentionally denied."

"OACNUDH considers it essential that the hearings relating to the murder of human rights defender Berta Cáceres be subject to reinforced guarantees of publicity because of the great impact of the events on society as a whole and as a guarantee of the right to truth and non-repetition."

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/impunity-continues-in-the-berta-caceres-case/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/video-conferencia-de-prensa-20-agosto-2020/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1296605618342711296>

<https://twitter.com/RepSires/status/1296538203076386817>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1296591544183672833>

Criterio reports that the Bureau of Police Investigation (DPI) claimed to have made "encouraging" progress in the case of the forcefully disappeared Garífuna men. Apart from the question of what this progress entails, there is the question why the DPI is still involved in the investigation. They promised a while back to withdraw given that witnesses saw men in DPI uniforms take the Garífuna men.

<https://criterio.hn/policia-dice-tener-avances-esperanzadores-sobre-garifunas-desaparecidos-en-tela-atlantida/>

This Wednesday, a group of state security forces, mostly military, illegally detained Katherin Cruz, a member of the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders of Honduras, at a checkpoint in the Tegucigalpa ring road. "The defender denounces that in spite of having presented the documentation that accredits her to mobilize in the city, the military, exercising a task out of their competence, held her and her companion (who was driving the vehicle) illegally for approximately 40 minutes, until they decided to release them."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/08/militares-retienen-injustificadamente-a-defensora/>

"At the end of a press conference, the Head of Epidemiological Surveillance, Karla Pavón, used the expression "That shitty journalist..." against the journalist Heidy Mondragón. Interviewed by C-Libre this Tuesday, August 18, Mondragon said that the insult against her by the official occurred at the end of a press conference at the premises of the Ministry of Health."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1234-esta-periodista-de-mierda-preguntandome-donde-esta-el-dinero>

523 new cases, 9 additional deaths for a total of 52'819 and 1619 respectively.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402745-466/honduras-suma-1619-muertos-y-52819-infectados-por-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/20/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-20-de-agosto-del-2020/>

According to the Human Rights Board, more than 34'000 Hondurans have been arrested since the start of the lockdown.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/mas-de-34-mil-personas-han-sido-detenido-durante-la-pandemia/>

The Multi-Sectorial Board discussing the conditions of further reopening the Honduran economy did not come to an agreement on the issue of having people circulate on weekends and have more people circulating on weekdays.

The state of exception was prolonged to September 6. SINAGER also extended the possibility to circulate on weekends deciding over the Multi-Sectorial Board. If one can leave their home still depends on the last digit of one's identity card.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/sin-consenso-en-mesa-multisectorial-para-aprobar-la-circulacion-de-dos-digitos-por-dia.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sinager-extiende-a-fines-de-semana-la-circulacion-de-personas-con-un-digito-por-dia/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounces that COPECO and Invest-H had bought overpriced face masks which additionally are inadequate to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. One go-to response to the corruption in Honduras has always been to create an intervention body. This also took place in the case of Invest-H. Criterio questions this approach asking if they are really intervention bodies or rather distractive bodies. "Ismael Zepeda, an economist with the Honduran Social Forum on Foreign Debt and Development (Fosdeh), regrets that when these models are applied in Honduras, what they do is make the institution disappear, as was the case with the Road Fund, change the name, as in the case of Soptravi, which was renamed Insep, or leave the intervention board with an infinite temporality, as is the case with the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS), without the perpetrators of the crime being investigated and held accountable."

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-copeco-invest-h-compraron-mascarillas-no-medicas-precio-doble/>

<https://criterio.hn/juntas-interventoras-o-juntas-distractoras-el-futuro-de-invest-h/>

A nurse died to COVID-19.

When the two mobile hospitals arrived much too late and in a bad state last month, the JOH regime promised that one would be ready and operating in San Pedro Sula by August 15...which of course did not become reality.

<https://tiempo.hn/con-sospechas-covid-19-fallece-enfermero-hospital-tela/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47046>

In the newest Global Impunity Index, the JOH regime ranks highest in Latin America and second highest out of the 69 countries considered.

<https://www.udlap.mx/cesij/files/indices-globales/0-IGI-2020-UDLAP.pdf>

<https://confidencialhn.com/regimen-de-joh-hundio-a-honduras-en-el-foso-de-la-corrupcion-segun-indice-global-de-impunidad-2020/>

Three days ago, the Finance Minister Rocío Táborá was questioned by ATIC. Yesterday, she renounced claiming health issues as the reason.

Marco Midence was nominated as her replacement.

His nomination was immediately questioned. According to ConfidencialHN, he is a firebrand

Nationalist activist "known for responding pejoratively to his critics on social networks and lying compulsively".

<https://confidencialhn.com/atic-mando-a-pedir-a-exsecretaria-de-finanzas-que-informara-a-quienes-entrego-dinero-para-atender-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/renuncia-ministra-de-finanzas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-nacionalista-confirma-la-renuncia-de-rocio-tabora-por-asuntos-de-salud/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402735-466/marco-midence-nuevo-ministro-de-finanzas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cuestionado-militante-nacionalista-y-abogado-juramenta-como-secretario-de-finanzas/>

Israel opened a cooperation office in Tegucigalpa yesterday.

<https://www.enlacejudio.com/2020/08/20/israel-inaugura-oficina-de-cooperacion-comercial-en-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/israel-ve-como-un-paso-importante-la-inauguracion-de-su-oficina-en-honduras.html>

Another accused in the Pandora case had his charges dropped, Elvin Ernesto Santos Lozano. The head of UFERCO, Luis Santos, cannot believe this. "More than 100 million, coming from the SAG [Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock], deposited in a simulated and fractioned form in an account opened in the name of the CCEPL [Central Committee of the Liberal Party], but managed outside of its accounting by the accused and a personal employee and the CSJ [Supreme Court] does not see an OFFENSE in this act... This cannot be!"

<https://criterio.hn/dictan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-contra-elvin-santos-lozano/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1296569064798801922>

El Libertador has more on the problematic current census (see also yesterday). "According to Libre's commissioner, Oscar Rivera, the current database "is a disaster, we have been able to verify that the database is 'fulleada' (full) of irregular data of all kinds: deceased, transfers and other inconsistencies."

The new UN resident coordinator Alice H. Shackelford talked to Mauricio Oliva, Congress' president, about the electoral reforms.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2188-honduras-piden-que-haya-elecciones-hasta-que-los-muertos-descansen>

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1296592206929764354>

"Targeted killings, massacres, and deadly riots have all occurred in Honduras' maximum-security prisons this year, putting a spotlight on how violence has spiraled out of control despite government efforts to stop it. Since November 2019, at least 55 killings have taken place inside Honduras' prison system, according to InSight Crime's count of murders by inmates reported in local media. Officials did not respond to requests for these figures."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/honduras-rising-violence-prisons/>

21/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; HRDs; JOH - OEA; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Corruption, Economy; Corruption; ID Card; Mayors; and Environmental Defenders in a Pandemic

Yesterday morning, the hearing in the process against David Castillo took place. The International Forum for Human Rights in Honduras called for a transparent and public process, the same call was made the day before by OACNUDH (see yesterday's e-mail).

But the opposite took place and even worse than feared. Not only granted the judge the petition by Castillo's defense to not transmit the process, three of Berta's daughters and one son were stopped from attending the hearing.

COPINH denounced that the defense of Castillo tried against all evidence to manipulate the public opinion presenting him as a victim.

COPINH called for trial and the sentencing of Castillo as a co-author of Berta's assassination.

OACNUDH later denounced the lack of transparency during the hearing. "OACNUDH expresses concern about the lack of publicity of the hearing on the murder of Berta Cáceres held today, which resulted in the impossibility of participation by victims and observers, including Berta's relatives."

In a press release, the MP denounced the tactics by the defense of Castillo. "Now, in what the Public Prosecutor's Office describes as a new delaying tactic, the private defense of the accused presented an appeal for annulment with which it intends to disqualify the findings of the expert's report of criminal links, since it is a key evidence in the process, by managing to link messages and calls between David Castillo and the former military officer, Geovanny Bustillo, convicted of the crime against the indigenous leader".

<https://cejil.org/es/foro-internacional-honduras-debe-garantizar-transparencia-y-publicidad-audiencia-caso-berta-caceres>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1296859530786209792>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1296876730762833920>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1296978501678116869>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1296935222391562240>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6181-nulidad-que-plantea-defensa-del->

[presidente-de-desa-no-cumple-requisitos-de-admisibilidad-y-busca-disfrazar-el-hecho-que-este-pago-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres](#)

OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda talked to the head of diplomatic missions in Honduras about indigenous rights.

Jared Olson published for Vice an article on the forced disappearance of the five men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1296804087065972736>

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/v7gjp3/5-black-men-kidnapped-by-police-in-honduras-are-still-missing

OACNUDH condemns the murder of community leader Rosa Aydee Tórres in Santa Bárbara on August 18.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1296821274946211842>

Throughout the existence of the JOH regime, there has been talks about his unholy alliance with the OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro. Yesterday, talks began again. "Attorney Julio Arbizu, former prosecutor of the now defunct Mission of Support Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (Maccih), confirmed this Friday -in the program Directo al Grano produced by Radio Progreso and hosted by journalist Jose Peraza- that his resignation and that of former Maccih chief Juan Jimenez Mayor was due to the pact between Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro. He also said that they were pressured by groups in Honduras not to investigate the cases denounced by Berta Cáceres before she was murdered. He also revealed that they were pressured not to appoint Luis Javier Santos as head of the Special Prosecutor's Unit against Impunity of Corruption (UFECIC) of the Public Ministry."

<https://criterio.hn/julio-arbizu-confirma-pacto-entre-joh-y-secretario-de-la-oea-e-indica-que-hubo-presiones-para-no-investigar-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

C-Libre denounced that the intervention body of Invest-H further restricted access to information by mandating journalist to send them their questions before an interview and having their answers pre-recorded.

According to Pasos de Animal Grande, the pandemic brings to light the difficult working conditions of Honduran journalists and social communicators.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1236-para-no-perder-tiempo-interventora-de-invest-h-impone-envio-de-preguntas-previas-a-entrevista-periodistica>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2949-la-pandemia-solo-sacpo-lo-evidente-censuras-impacto-sicologico-y-precaridad-economica-son-el-dia-a-dia-de-periodistas-y-comunicadores-sociales>

562 new cases, 13 additional deaths, 53'381 and 1632 in total respectively. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1402945-466/honduras-coronavirus-contagios-sinager-cadena>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/21/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-21-de-agosto-del-2020/>

The JOH regime will receive another \$500'000 from the BCIE to confront the corona pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-dona-500-mil-dolares-a-honduras-para-el-centro-de-contencion-del-sars-cov2/>

Human rights organizations and social movements published their 23rd public manifest during the pandemic. "We continue to assert that the main crisis is not the Coronavirus crisis. The fundamental crisis is the one that is led by a pact of corruption and impunity and built around the narco-dictatorship led by Juan Orlando Hernandez. With an unshakable firmness, we raise our voices to call for unity between all of the social and popular movements to help lead and create a new path forward, one that expunges the criminals who control the country and institutions. In an attempt to continue gathering more voices for our coordinated response we collectively put forward this Twenty-Third public manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/vigesimo-tercer-manifiesto-publico/>

JOH's Presidential Minister Ebal Díaz unconvincingly claims that the "Where is the Money?" campaign is from the "radical left opposition, who only want to tarnish the image of the largest and most organized party in Honduras [the National Party]"...

El Tiempo uncovered the origin of the "Where is the Money?" song currently heard all around the country.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/no-dejarse-amedrentar-por-campanas-de-odio-de-la-izquierda-radical-pide-ebal-diaz-a-nacionalistas.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/conoce-origen-cancion-donde-esta-el-dinero-las-amapolas/>

There have been some worrisome court decisions in the recent weeks in corruption cases (see previous e-mails). One interpretation of them is especially worrisome. "Important point by a former attorney general. Honduran courts are absolving high-profile politicians of alleged embezzlement of public funds to finance political campaigns just as the electoral season is about to begin. In essence, a green light to repeat."

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1296807922870214656>

RMP informed that Thales Group and Cell will be the two companies to emit the new Honduran identity card before the primary elections in March 2021.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/consorcio-thales-group-cell-sera->

encargado-de-elaborar-nueva-tarjeta-de-identidad.html

The Honduran economy shrunk by 10% in the first semester of 2020.

Marriott International, a luxury hotel chain, will stop its presence in Honduras. In April, they announced to suspend it for the time being, now they officially announced their withdrawal from the country.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-economia-de-honduras-se-contrajo-un-10-en-primer-semestre-por-covid-19.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2191-cierre-oficial-de-marriott-en-honduras>

An appeals court ordered to suspend the mayor of Choloma, Leopoldo Eugenio Crivelli, and ratified the accusations against him for fraud and other crimes.

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-ordena-suspender-del-cargo-al-alcalde-de-choloma-leopoldo-crivelli/>

<https://criterio.hn/alcalde-de-choloma-asegura-que-la-corte-esta-equivocada-y-que-apelara-el-fallo-que-lo-suspende/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/21/la-defensa-del-medioambiente-se-vuelve-mas-riesgosa-con-la-pandemia-%ef%bb%bf/>

22/08/20

Honduras Daily: Forced Displacement; CONADEH; COVID-19 - Women, ADEPZA, Corruption, Public Health, Migration;

Tomorrow at 10am, a virtual forum on forced displacement organized by COFADEH, REL-UITA and OACNUDH takes place.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1297202201673244673>

The human rights ombudsman, CONADEH, is on the offensive after the Human Rights Roundtable highlighted the lack of due diligence at the office and asked for structural change as well as more independence in electing its next representative.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2951-solo-porque-le-reclamaron-que-le-falta-debida-diligencia-conadeh-acusa-a-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-de-desinformar-y-propagar-informacion-falsa>

Honduras continues to have a very high positive test rate. Yesterday again almost 50% of the 1378

conducted tests resulted in a COVID-19 case, 602 to be precise. There are now 53'983 COVID-19 cases and officially, the real number is much higher, 1643 people died as 11 more Hondurans lost their lives yesterday.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403168-466/ya-son-1643-los-hondure%C3%B1os-muertos-por-covid-y-53983-infectados>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/22/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-22-de-agosto-del-2020/>

"The prolonged confinement in Honduras continues to deepen the torment of thousands of Honduran women who are victims of domestic violence, exacerbated by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the first six months of 2020 alone, 58,688 complaints of domestic and intra-family violence were received. This is according to the Women's Movement for Peace "Visitación Padilla" with data from the National Emergency System 911."

<https://criterio.hn/ausencia-en-enfoque-de-genero-en-manejo-de-la-pandemia-acentua-violencia-contra-la-mujer/>

A report by CESPAD and ADEPZA found that the inhabitants of Zacate Grande are excluded from the programs approved by the State to address the food and health crisis as a result of the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/pobladores-de-zacate-grande-son-excluidos-de-los-programas-de-ayuda/>

El Herald reports that special audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) are hindering the corruption investigations by the MP. "As long as an audit is not presented, the Public Prosecutor's Office is hindered from filing accusations in corruption cases, because this is determined by the Law of the Departmental Fund, which assaults the powers of the prosecution agency to prosecute a case without first obtaining a report from the TSC."

El Pulso published the first part of a series on the question: "Justice in whose service?" focusing first on the role of the MP.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403028-466/auditor%C3%ADa-del-tsc-retrasa-judicializaci%C3%B3n-de-casos-de-corrupci%C3%B3n>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47136>

Another doctor died to COVID-19 yesterday.

At least 40 doctors have died so far during the pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-en-el-hospital-del-ihss-otro-galeno-por-el-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/umana-40-muertes-de-doctores-honduras/>

"About 60 percent of people planning to migrate from Central American countries and Mexico postponed or canceled such plans because of the coronavirus pandemic, the International

Organization for Migration (IOM) reported."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/pandemia-freno-60-migracion-de-mexico-y-centroamerica-a-estados-unidos/>

23/08/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Journalists; Berta - Trial; Prisons; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Armed Forces; Political Oppositions; Corruption;

Today at 10.30am, the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Commons and Public Goods will present an amparo for violation of the right to due process and personal liberty in the case of the imprisonment of Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1297670458779860993>

Journalist Santiago López denounces that a police officer has been harassing him for over a year threatening to tear gas him and now even to shoot him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2952-periodista-santiago-lopez-oficial-portillo-me-hizo-senas-con-sus-dedos-que-me-iba-a-disparar>

The MP re-published its press release from Friday after the hearing in the process against David Castillo with an English translation.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/159-agosto2020/6186-mp-alerta-que-recurso-de-nulidad-que-plantea-defensa-del-presidente-de-desa-no-cumple-requisitos-de-admisibilidad-y-busca-disfrazar-el-hecho-que-este-pago-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres>

COFADEH denounces that the young inmate Angelo Roberto López is in danger because the National Penitentiary Institute decided to transfer him to the Támara prison even though he had been threatened there previously and had been transferred as a response. "Moving him abruptly back to the place where his life is at risk is an unfortunate decision and an act of retaliation for the facts denounced and not a protection of his physical integrity from all forms of torture and ill-treatment".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/decision-arbitraria-del-inp-podria-poner-en-peligro-la-vida-de-un-privado-de-libertad/>

11 more Hondurans died yesterday, 1654 in total have died to the pandemic so far according to, questionable, official numbers. 528 new cases were detected yesterday for a total of 54'511. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403378-466/honduras-coronavirus-contagios-casos-muertes>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/23/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-23-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Two doctors died over the weekend as well as another nurse.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403393-466/muere-doctora-ada-vel%C3%A1squez-v%C3%ADctima-del-covid-19-el-d%C3%ADa-de-su-cumplea%C3%B1os>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/otra-enfermera-fallece-por-covid-en-la-zona-sur-de-honduras.html>

<https://criterio.hn/jornada-luctuosa-para-medicos-y-enfermeras-en-honduras/>

The CNA presents some of the highlights of the "Where is the Money?" movement.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1297717337949384705>

The Armed Forces claimed to have intercepted a drug plane in the Moskitia.

JOH celebrated it as a success and unbelievably claims that they have given blow after blow to organized crime. This message was rather directed to the US than to Honduras.

Journalist Jeff Ernst rightly pointed out: "President Hernandez touts the interception of another narco plane thanks to US intelligence sharing. But the strategy could have been implemented years ago were it not for the risk of his brother Tony's & other co-conspirators' planes suffering the same fate."

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-en-la-mosquitia-una-narcoavioneta-con-droga-de-america-del-sur/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/08/23/presidente-hernandez-durante-este-ano-hemos-dado-golpe-tras-golpe-al-crimen-organizado/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1297655614320054275>

CODEH president Hugo Maldonado claims that part of the Armed Forces are not satisfied with the action of the institution in Honduras. Some also question the closeness to the JOH regime.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/hay-insatisfaccion-en-las-ffaa-por-el-accionar-de-la-institucion-castrense-asegura-el-codeh.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/aseguran-que-hay-descontento-en-las-ffaa-porque-son-dominados-al-antojo-de-joh/>

Instead of presenting unity, there is another rift in the political opposition. Salvador Nasralla claims that Libre has grown used to the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-carga-contra-libre-denuncia-que-se-acomodo-al-ejecutivo-de-joh/>

Deputy Attorney General Daniel Arturo Sibrián Bueso criticizes the ever increasing obstacles in trying to go after corruption.

<https://twitter.com/dsbhn1/status/1297673266572689413>

24/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - ZEDE; Berta - Trial; HRDs - Guapinol, IACHR; Forced Disappearance; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector, HR; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Ports; Corruption - Airports; Migration; and Electoral Uncertainty

Yesterday, the deadline expired of the IACHR for the JOH regime to present a report of missing Garifunas.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-debe-cumplir-ordenanza-de-la-cidh-en-caso-de-garifunas-desaparecidos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/garifunas-desaparecidos-plazo-cidh-honduras/>

OFRANEH denounces the imposition of a so-called charter city in Roatán,

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1297910724661051392>

COPINH published a newsletter on the recent developments in the process against David Castillo (see previous e-mails).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1298058521423089667>

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/newsletter-david-castillo-must-be-tried-and-punished-for-the-murder-of-berta-caceres/>

The legal team of the eight Guapinol defenders presented an appeal for protection and to demand the immediate release of the accused.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/caso-guapinol-presentan-recurso-para-que-ambientalistas-puedan-defenderse-en-libertad/>

<https://criterio.hn/presiones-politicas-impiden-libertad-de-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

The Women's Forum for Life, ERIC together with the Human Rights in Action Clinic of the Los Angeles City University School of Law will present before the IACHR a petition to open a case against the State of Honduras for the murder of peasant and social leader Margarita Murillo.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/buscaran-justicia-internacional-en-caso-margarita-murillo/>

Yesterday, a virtual forum on forced disappearance organized by COFADEH, REL-UITA and OACNUDH took place.

OACNUDH published various impressions of the event, citing among others Bertha Oliva: "We continue working and we are not satisfied because the disappeared in Honduras were many, for many it is difficult to talk about forced disappearance when the State of Honduras has not given us an answer".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/no-podra-ningun-pais-construir-futuro-sin-la-verdad/>

<https://criterio.hn/impunidad-sobre-desapariciones-forzadas-la-deuda-historica-del-estado-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1297946752935440386>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1297939514225315845>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1297960957570883584>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/este-lunes-vence-el-plazo-que-dio-la-corteidh-al-gobierno-para-que-de-informe-sobre-garifunas-desaparecidos.html>

968 out of 1666 tests resulted positive yesterday for a new total of 55'479. 29 more Hondurans died to COVID-19, 1683 in total.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403613-466/honduras-suma-55479-contagios-y-1683-muertes-por-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/24/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-24-de-agosto-del-2020/>

El Heraldo reports that Invest-H signed an illegal confidentiality agreement with the businessman Axel López about the purchase of the mobile hospitals.

So far only two out of seven hospitals have been delivered to Honduras. La Prensa now reports that the five remaining one are being constructed in a rented workshop not really meant for this kind of work in Ankara, Turkey.

Invest-H claims that two of the five missing hospitals are finished by now and the other three are finished by 90%.

Invest-H also promises that the mobile hospital already in San Pedro Sula will be ready this week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403387-466/marco-bogran-acuerdo-de-confidencialidad-axel-lopez-hospitales-moviles>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1403437-410/en-una-bodega-rentada-axel-lopez-termina-de-ensamblar-los-5-hospitales-coronavirus-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2202-honduras-axel-ensambla->

[hospitales-en-bodega-y-con-partes-usadas](#)

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-dos-hospitales-moviles-estan-terminados-tres-restantes-90/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403574-466/hospital-m%C3%B3vil-de-san-pedro-sula-estar-%C3%A1-listo-esta-semana-seg%C3%BAn-invest-h>

Honduras' health worker continue to fight the corona pandemic without the proper equipment and State support and yet another doctor and nurse died to COVID-19 yesterday.

According to the president of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), Carlos Umaña, law enforcement authorities should investigate those responsible for the death of health workers.

The Garífuna community in Santa Rosa de Aguán protested against the closure of a local Health Center.

The University Hospital built a special COVID-19 wing. Its director Osmín Tovar criticized the government. "What I can say is that it is possible to realize a project with the right conditions in a short time with an investment that is not high. We had the need, we did not have the support of the government institutions, so we had to look for a solution on our own, and here is the product".

<https://confidencialhn.com/una-doctora-y-una-enfermera-mueren-en-las-ultimas-24-horas-por-el-coronavirus/>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-debe-de-investigar-a-los-responsables-del-contagio-de-medicos-y-enfermeras/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1298091190726926336>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hospital-escuela-inaugura-en-tiempo-record-y-con-poco-dinero-moderna-sala-especial-para-covid19/>

<https://criterio.hn/gracias-a-donaciones-hospital-escuela-instalara-nueva-sala-para-pacientes-de-covid-19/>

The above-mentioned protest by the Garífuna community is part of a more problematic trend, the deepening exclusion of indigenous and black peoples in Honduras during the pandemic due to failed state responses. This was highlighted in a recent report by FOSDEH.

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/el-abandono-tiene-rostro-y-consecuencias/>

The JOH regime presented a report allegedly highlighting its success against drug trafficking and crime (see also yesterday).

JOH also inaugurated a new police station where he said: "Today we can say that, if we defeat crime, we can defeat COVID-19"...

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1403621-410/presidente-juan-orlando-hernandez-honduras-cadena-nacional-narcotrafico>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/honduras-vencio-criminalidad-dice-hernandez-al-inaugurar-posta-policia-en-siguetepeque.html>

Contrasting JOH's rosy picture, "[t]he World Customs Organization (WCO) is concerned about the increase in seizures of drug containers coming from Puerto Cortés, despite the fact that the terminal was listed as safe several years ago by U.S. anti-narcotics authorities".

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridad-aduanera-mundial-alerta-sobre-exportacion-de-cocaina-desde-puerto-cortes/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published a report on corruption related to the concession of the new international airport Palmerola.

"According to the document, the State assumes most of the cost of the project, so that "it will not receive large amounts of economic resources, due to the poor negotiation carried out in this concession contract; in addition, it should be mentioned that through Legislative Decree No. 30-2016 of April 16, 2016, the concessionaire was granted a tax exemption"."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1297895642744922112>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-revela-inconsistencias-en-contrato-de-concesion-del-aeropuerto-internacional-de-palmerola/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-irregulares-negligencia-concesion-aeropuerto-palmerola/>

The UN human rights offices in Mexico, Panama and Tegucigalpa called on the States of El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico "to redouble efforts to search for and investigate missing migrants in the region".

The call is linked to the tragic events 10 years ago in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, where 72 migrants, most of them Hondurans, were murdered.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-insta-a-los-estados-involucrados-a-cooperar-y-redoblar-esfuerzos-para-la-busqueda-e-investigacion-de-migrantes-desaparecidos-en-la-region/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/masacre-de-san-fernando-tamaulipas/>

<https://criterio.hn/a-10-anos-de-la-masacre-de-san-fernando-tamaulipas-aun-no-hay-justicia/>

"Representatives of the Liberal Party, Innovation and Social Democratic Unity Party (PINU-SD), Christian Democratic Party of Honduras (PDCH), Honduran Patriotic Alliance Party and the Salvadoran Party of Honduras demanded in front of the headquarters of the National Electoral Council (CNE) the cessation of sectarianism and the assurance of a transparent electoral process in view of the elections of November 2021."

<https://criterio.hn/oposicion-exige-transparentar-el-proceso-electoral-y-el-cese-del-sectarismo/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/oposicion-politica-demanda-ser-veedor-en-cumplimiento-de-cronograma-electoral/>

25/08/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Economy; Militarization; Violence against Women; Elections; Political Opposition; OAS - IACHR; and the Rosenthals Uncancelled

Diario Tiempo Digital denounces ongoing harassment against its staff.

<https://tiempo.hn/se-agudiza-hostigamiento-policial-contra-persona-diario-tiempo/>

Yesterday, only 922 tests were conducted, the trend still goes in the wrong direction. 398 new cases were detected for a total of 55'877. 20 more Hondurans died, 1703 in total have died so far according to official figures.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1403862-466/honduras-cifras-coronavirus-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/25/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-25-de-agosto-del-2020/>

A 29-year old doctor, recently graduated and having worked in COVID-19 wards, died to COVID-19.

Workers at the University Hospital denounced that their protective equipment is being limited, and the masks they receive are for gardening work.

"The president of the Honduran Medical Association (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, described the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic as an absolute failure. "What hurts is that the failure, apart from the manifest inability of those who have managed the pandemic, is a blatant theft unparalleled in our country. That is what is despicable, an abomination and a crime against humanity against the Honduran people," Figueroa told Criterio.hn".

El Herald reported that for the first time, the Health Secretariat admitted yesterday that the Honduran health system had collapsed. They had claimed for months that the situation was challenging but under control even when people were receiving medical attention under plastic tents or under trees.

The Health Secretary also announced to finally pay the salaries of the microbiologists calling on them to return to work.

The WHO/OPS donated 1.5 million masks and other medical supplies to Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-muere-medico-de-29-anos-en-tocoa-colon/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/empleados-del-hospital-escuela-denuncian-que-reciben-mascarillas-para-jardineria-y-no-para-protegerse-del-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/manejo-de-la-pandemia-es-un-robo-descarado-y-un-delito-de-lesa-humanidad-suyapa-figueroa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1403886-528/colapso-hospitales-covid-19-secretaria-salud>

<https://tiempo.hn/karla-pavon-pide-microbiologos-volver-labores-manana-pagarian-salarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-salud-justifica-que-demora-del-pago-salarial-de-microbiologos-es-por-problemas-administrativos/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1403874-410/-oms-dona-honduras-insumos-pandemia-covid-19->

The Institute for Access to Public Information denounces that both COPECO and Ivest-H have not published reports on their purchases so far.

<https://tiempo.hn/desaparecido-informe-de-compras-de-invest-h-y-copeco-iaip/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/iaip-denuncia-que-investh-y-copeco-no-divulgaron-informacion-sobre-compras-de-emergencia/>

"More than 42 maquiladora companies in the department of Cortés, in northern Honduras, are firing workers who are pregnant or have medical diagnoses for occupational diseases, the coordinator of the Honduran Women's Collective Codemuh, María Luisa Regalado, denounced on Radio Progreso."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/maquilas-despiden-obreras-embrazadas-y-con-diagnosticos-medicos/>

CESPAD published a further piece of analysis on the militarization of Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/25/analisis-claves-para-entender-la-militarizacion-de-la-sociedad-hondurena/>

Proceso Digital reports on a new campaign against gender violence in Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mujer-no-estas-sola-campana-en-honduras-contra-la-violencia-de-genero.html>

RNP commissioner Rolando Kattán once again tried to reassure the public that the new identity card will be ready for the coming electoral cycle.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/nueva-identidad-estara-lista-para-elecciones-en-marzo-y-sera-una-de-las-mas-confiables-del-mundo-rolando-kattan.html>

Former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla continues to shot left and right undermining the possibility of a united opposition.

<https://criterio.hn/salvador-nasralla-con-sus-posturas-genera-anticuerpos-a-su-imagen/>

The IACHR denounced an attack on its independence after OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro decided not to renew the mandate of the head of the IACHR, Paulo Abrão.

<https://www.efe.com/efe/america/politica/almagro-echa-al-jefe-de-la-cidh-y-comision-le-acusa-violar-su-autonomia/20000035-4327363>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/202.asp>

The US has taken Jaime Rosenthal Oliva and five of his companies from a "black list". "As a result of the action, all property and property interests of the Rosenthal family that had been blocked have been released and all legal transactions involving U.S. persons and these entities and individuals are no longer prohibited."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2205-honduras-eeuu-retira-a-jaime-roenthal-y-empresas-de-lista-negra>

26/08/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; ZEDE; Dengue; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption, Health Sector, Poverty; JOH - Conaprev, Women; Political Opposition; and the US and Elections

Some good news from Honduras. A judge has formalized the charges against David Castillo in the case of Berta Cáceres. The case will go to trial now.

The US embassy tweeted that they will continue accompany the case.

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1298810617453740032

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1298749068722810881>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1298783417350467584>

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/copinh-on-the-order-to-have-a-trial-against-david-castillo-for-the-murder-of-berta-caceres/>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1298775113979105280>

A new urgent action was launched in the case of the five men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

The same day, Secretary of Security spokesperson Jair Meza claims that they now have the names of those responsible for the forced disappearance.

Almost 40 days have passed since the crime. COPINH sent a message of solidarity.

Pasos de Animal Grande fears the worst regarding the fate of the five young men, even more as in the case of three out of the five human rights defenders murdered in the last half year, they had

previously been disappeared.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1298748438671052800>

<https://tiempo.hn/identificados-secuestradores-de-cuatro-garifunas-asegura-jair-meza/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-asegura-tener-avances-sobre-los-responsables-del-rapto-de-lideres-garifunas/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/08/copinh-y-el-pueblo-lenca-en-solidaridad-con-ofraneh-y-el-pueblo-garifuna/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2953-desaparicion-previo-a-los-crimenes-un-patron-frecuente-en-algunas-muertes-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras>

Radio Progreso reports on the protests by people on Roatán against the planned ZEDE, a.k.a. Charter City, on their island.

OFRANEH explains the current situation as a "return of territorial concessions" some hundreds years after the arrival of the USS Sacramento in La Ceiba to defend the interests of the Standard Fruit Company.

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/poblacion-de-roatan-se-opone-a-construccion-de-cuidad-modelo-en-su-territorio/>

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/08/26/1942/>

El Pulso reports on a concerning fact. Rightly worried about the corona pandemic, people afflicted by dengue are not seeking out medical help in Honduras. There are 18'135 confirmed dengue cases, but likely there are much more.

There are currently at least 15 minors hospitalized for severe or even hemorrhagic dengue.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47226>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reportan-que-unos-15-menores-estan-hospitalizados-por-dengue-hemorragico/>

772 new cases and 44 additional deaths for a total of 56'469 and 1747 respectively.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404064-466/honduras-sinager-muertos-coronavirus-contagios-agosto-finales>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/26/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-26-de-agosto-del-2020/>

"From March 16 to July 2020, the National Human Rights Commissioner, CONADEH, received

some 3,179 complaints, of which 1,198 were related to crimes, detentions during public protests, excessive use of force, and poor attention to patients and family members, as a consequence of Covid.19".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2955-en-tiempos-de-pandemia-alarmando-aumento-de-quejas-por-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-en-el-conadeh>

The CNA denounces that none of the 8 corruption cases presented by them during the pandemic have resulted in anything substantial.

The Secretary of Finance, meanwhile, announced that they cannot grant more budget to Invest-H, not for its role in many corruption cases, but just because of "the limitations of financial resources of the State".

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/08/26/mp-sin-resultados-congruentes-en-8-casos-presentados-durante-la-pandemia-denuncia-cna/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/secretaria-de-finanzas-anuncia-que-no-puede-otorgar-mas-presupuesto-a-invest-h.html>

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) holds JOH and his Secretary of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores , responsible for the bad management of the pandemic, the precariousness of the Honduran health system and the death of medical staff..

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-responsabiliza-al-ejecutivo-por-mal-manejo-de-la-pandemia-y-precariedad-en-sistema-sanitario/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/colegio-medico-responsabiliza-al-estado-por-muerte-de-personal-de-salud/>

Maquilas seem to seize the pandemic as an opportunity to fire people with work-related illnesses (see also yesterday).

Remittances sent to Honduras have dropped 2.8% so far during the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/maquilas-aprovechan-la-covid-19-para-despedir-a-trabajadores-con-enfermedades-profesionales/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-ha-recibido-este-ano-un-2-8-menos-en-remesas-que-en-2019.html>

The JOH regime once again nominated a questionable person to an important position. The former deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute (INP), German McNeil, will be a new commissioner at the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture (Conaprev).

<https://confidencialhn.com/nombran-a-german-mcneil-como-comisionado-de-conaprev/>

"Women human rights defenders in Honduras face the worst of the Juan Orlando Hernandez

dictatorship, which uses all the necessary strategies to hinder the work for the rights of the population. Four women human rights defenders speak out and tell of the black holes of authoritarianism against thousands of women who defend fundamental rights throughout the country."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2954-la-mujeres-defensoras-en-honduras-se-enfrentan-a-lo-peor-de-la-dictadura-de-joh>

Mel Zelaya reacts to some of the recent statements by Salvador Nasralla (see previous e-mail). Political analyst Pineda Alvarado presents Nasralla as a "political phenomenon".

<https://confidencialhn.com/yo-iba-al-frente-y-el-salio-corriendo-mel-desestima-denuncias-de-nasralla-sobre-supuestas-alianzas-con-joh/>

<https://criterio.hn/nasralla-es-un-misil-sin-rumbo-y-un-fenomeno-politico-que-guste-o-no-arrastrara-miles-de-votos/>

Criterio asks what role the US will play in the coming elections in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/que-papel-jugara-estados-unidos-en-proximas-elecciones-en-honduras/>

27/08/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH; OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; CONADEH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Public Health, Protests, Corruption, Economy; Penal Code; Agriculture - Armed Forces; Palmerola; Elections; Political Opposition; Violence; and Magic Eggs

COPINH sent out an alert that human rights defender Reynaldo Dominguez is being intimidated by a car making circles around his home on several occasions on two consecutive days.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1299206383271907330>

The coming August 30 is the International Day against Forced Disappearance. OFRANEH calls on solidarity with the Garífuna people in their call of the return of the disappeared young Garífuna. OACNUDH also informs about the heinous crime that is forced disappearance. "Enforced disappearance is a multiple violation of human rights, a continuing and permanent crime and can also constitute a crime against humanity when committed in a systematic or widespread manner."

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1299075568542060544>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1299029948443906054>

OACNUDH commented on the newest developments in the Berta Cáceres case. "OHCHR reiterates the importance of punishing those materially and intellectually responsible for the murder of defender Berta Cáceres, and welcomes the steps taken to achieve access to justice in this case. The Office reiterates its commitment and accompaniment in the process."

After the US embassy, US Acting Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael G. Kozak, also commented on the case: "We will continue to monitor developments closely in this Honduran court case. A transparent and expeditious legal process is fundamental to upholding the rule of law."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1299121507550081027>

<https://twitter.com/WHAAsstSecty/status/1299080531724906500>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404399-466/estados-unidos-estar%C3%A1-vigilante-del-juicio-por-crimen-de-bertha-c%C3%A1ceres>

Already in march, the term of the current human rights ombudsman Roberto Herrera Cáceres came to an end, but he is still in office. "In 2014, the National Congress approved an amendment to Article 80 of the Organic Law of the Legislative Branch, which establishes that the officials elected by that branch of government when their term ends and no replacement has been appointed will remain in office until that election is held."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47263>

Honduras registered more than 1000 new cases yesterday, 1020, 57'669 in total. Additionally, 56 Hondurans died to COVID-19, 1803 have so far died according to official numbers. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404392-466/honduras-cifra-record-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/27/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-27-de-agosto-del-2020/>

After a month-long delay, the JOH regime announced some weeks ago to transfer money to the 296 mayor's offices to react to the pandemic. The so-called Operation Fuerza Honduras has now concluded with handing out 250 million Lempiras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/gobierno-completa-desembolso-de-250-millones-de-lempiras-para-operacion-fuerza-honduras.html>

CESPAD organized a forum on "Health workers in Honduras: between the pandemic and the government's lack of protection

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/27/opacidad-y-baja-ejecucion-del-presupuesto-asignado-a-la-proteccion-del-personal-de-salud-de-honduras/>

Public employees of various sectors continue to protest in Honduras as the JOH regime fails to pay their paychecks.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/docentes-personal-de-salud-y-enee-protestan-en-la-capital.html>

ASJ denounces the lack of action by the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) in the corruption cases occurring during the pandemic involving Invest-H.

ASJ also said that the five remaining mobile hospitals won't arrive at the dates promised by the authorities.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1404276-410/asj-denuncia-ciudadana-tribunal-superior-cuentas-compras-investh>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asj-sostiene-que-hospitales-moviles-no-llegaran-a-honduras-en-la-fecha-prevista-por-investh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2208-honduras-axel-cambia-de-bodegas-para-armar-hospitales-fantasmas>

FOSDEH estimates a drop of 40% in tax collection this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/preven-que-honduras-tendra-una-caida-del-40-por-ciento-en-sus-ingresos-fiscales-al-cierre-de-2020/>

C-Libre presented an additional constitutional challenge against the new Penal Code.

There have also been challenges presented against congresswo/men for approving the Penal Code.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/noticias/1238-c-libre-presenta-inconstitucionalidad-ante-vigencia-de-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/c-libre-interpone-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-el-codigo-penal.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2207-honduras-presentan-amparo-contra-diputados-que-aprobaron-codigo-penal>

A while ago, a multi-million development project for the Honduran agriculture sector governed by the Armed Forces made headlines. There are still a lot of questions regarding the program and it is not even clear how much money was transferred to the Armed Forces. They claim to have received only 23.7 million Lempiras out of the 4000 million promised.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/solo-23-7-millones-de-lempiras-han-recibido-las-ffaa-para-programa-de-desarrollo-agricola.html>

<https://criterio.hn/dinero-no-esta-en-el-sector-agricola-rafael-alegria/>

There is ongoing criticisms about the actions of the JOH regime regarding the Palmerola airport.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-denuncia-que-concesion-de-palmerola-esta-creando-una-nueva-elite-economica-y-politica/>

Criterio has two new articles on the need of political reforms but the lack thereof.

<https://criterio.hn/nueva-ley-electoral-debe-acabar-con-negocio-y-la-corrupcion-que-arrastran-partidos-minoritarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/fuerzas-politicas-siguen-sin-alcanzar-acuerdos-en-torno-a-nueva-ley-electoral/>

President of the Liberal Party Luis Zelaya still believes in the possibility of a joined opposition against the National Party.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47237>

"54% of Hondurans have been victims of crime, while 11% have been victims of crime in the last year, according to the report on victimization launched in June 2020 by the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) of the National Autonomous University of Honduras in partnership with the U.S. National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)."

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-la-mitad-de-los-hondurenos-han-sido-victimas-de-delitos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/choluteca-adentro-huevos-chiles-pareja-meter-droga-carcel/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/capturan-a-pareja-que-pretendia-ingresar-droga-oculta-en-huevos-y-chiles-al-centro-penal-de-choluteca/>

28/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; HRDs - Guapinol; Corruption - Airports; National Police; FoE; COVID-19 - HR, Health Sector, Corruption; Elections; Migration - Indigenous Peoples; and Autonomy for the IACHR

OFRANEH denounces that the JOH regime "shows its contempt for the Garifuna people, when it presents irrelevant and meaningless information in response to the request of the Inter-American Court on the disappearance of the young Garifunas of Triunfo de la Cruz."

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1299339248643039233>

<https://criterio.hn/estado-de-honduras-muestra-su-desprecio-por-el-pueblo-garifuna-miriam-miranda/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the tense situation in Guapinol (see also yesterday).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2956-se-agudiza-la-situacion-grupos-armados-se-han-instalado-en-guapinol-en-los-ultimos-dos-dias>

The Wilson Center published an important report on corruption in Honduras. "In this report, I explore salient forms of corruption in Honduras and assess existing accountability mechanisms. I find that: 1. Corruption helps fund Honduran politics, making it a fundamental input to the Honduran political process. 2. Anti-corruption and accountability mechanisms have either been undermined or are designed to provide only the appearance of accountability. 3. Despite their limitations, civil society activism and popular protest remain the main counterweight to government corruption."

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/when-corruption-funds-political-system-case-study-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/wilson-center-expone-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

El Libertador continues its coverage on corruption and Honduran airports. "The air terminals of San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba and Roatán will be managed by the Secretariat of Infrastructure and Public Services (Insep), which has already been accused of acts of corruption by evading public bidding processes to grant some 73 million lempiras."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2209-honduras-joh-crea-empresa-para-administrar-tres-aeropuertos>

CESPAD published another short analysis on the failures of the police purge focusing on the lack of reducing impunity.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/28/analisis-reducir-la-impunidad-el-flanco-mas-debil-de-la-depuracion-policial-en-honduras/>

Honduran media outlets can pay their taxes by granting the JOH regime air time...

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/medios-de-comunicacion-pagaran-impuestos-con-publicidad-gubernamental/>

1141 new cases, 24 additional deaths, for a total of 58'810 and 1827 respectively.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404576-466/honduras-suma-1827-fallecimientos-por-el-covid-19-y-58810-contagios>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/28/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-28-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Social movements and human rights organizations published their 24th joint press release during the pandemic. "August ends, but the dignity and word of these more than forty social and popular organizations remains intact. United our voices to the clamor of indignation of all our people, in repudiation of the disgusting narco-dictatorship, in calls and firm proposals".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/vigesimo-cuarto-manifiesto-publico/>

Another nurse died to COVID-19.

ANEEAH, his labor union, denounced that he was forced to work as authorities were not extending disabilities to health care employees who were infected. "Workers are not only dying from Covid-19 but from the indifference and ineffectiveness of some managers. I wonder how a director feels when a nurse dies because of his lack of humanism, because of his indifference, because he doesn't care about the life of the workers. Ungrateful! Don't continue to allow the death of our people". Over 70 health workers have died so far.

<https://www.proceso.hn/salud/5-salud-y-sociedad/otro-enfermero-fallece-bajo-sospecha-de-covid-19-en-la-capital.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47295>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldodata/1404080-528/m%C3%A1s-de-70-trabajadores-de-la-salud-han-muerto-por-covid-19-en>

A delegation sent by Invest-H arrived in Turkey to inspect the remaining five mobile hospitals. In Honduras, medical experts continue to denounce the purchase of these hospitals. According to the president of the IHSS medical association, Carlos Umaña, the hospitals bought are rather triage centers than functioning hospitals specialized on intensive care. A member of the intervention body of Invest-H also confirmed that they will use part of the remaining budget to pay off the debts of the previous administration.

<https://confidencialhn.com/comision-de-investh-viaja-a-turquia-para-verificar-construccion-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47270>

<https://confidencialhn.com/investh-confirma-que-utilizara-parte-del-presupuesto-para-saldar-deuda-de-la-administracion-anterior/>

Congress' Nationalist president Mauricio Oliva reassures that there will be primary elections. He also claims that the parties have come to important agreements regarding the electoral reforms. El Pulso paints a more realistic picture writing that the ongoing disagreements continue to delay the much needed reforms.

Radio Progreso denounces that the time is about to run out.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/hay-acuerdos-politicos-importantes-y-habra-elecciones-internas-asegura-presidente-del-congreso.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47284>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/se-acaba-el-tiempo-para-aprobar-nuevas-leyes-electorales/>

"The Tolupan indigenous group has been another population that has migrated internationally. According to one study's findings, about 32 percent of the 260 families surveyed have a member who has migrated, including minors and youth."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47302>

More than 400 civil society organizations published a joint letter calling for the respect of the autonomy of the IACHR (see previous e-mail).

<https://www.cejil.org/es/organizaciones-americanas-demandamos-respeto-autonomia-comision-interamericana>

29/08/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Health Sector; Electoral Reforms; and the Businesses of a Congresswoman

Today is the International Day of Forceful Disappearances. OFRANEH will hold a tweet storm today to call for the return of the five young men, four of them Garífuna.

The Human Rights Board calls for an international commission to investigate the case.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1299678783549640704>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1299719935589928961>

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-de-dd-hh-exige-una-comision-internacional-que-investigue-la-desaparicion-de-los-garifunas/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2958-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-estado-de-honduras-sabe-que-paso-con-los-garifunas-desaparecidos>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1299815415972016130>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1299862949092356097>

835 new cases, 59'645 in total; 15 additional deaths, 1842 in total.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404806-466/casos-muertes-sinager-honduras-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/29/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-29-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Invest-H claims that the two mobile hospitals already in Honduras are 98% ready...they came months too late and now it took weeks again to install them, even though they promised to have them installed within a week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404823-466/hospital-moviles-honduras-investh>

The president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Rixi Moncada, denounced that her two co-chairs are standing in the way of a two-round presidential system.

The Liberal Party has so far supported this, at least publicly, but now its president says that they are still in favor, but not for this election....in the end it is also a discussion about who can decide, Congress or the CNE.

According to the Nationalist president of the Electoral Commission at Congress, Mario Segura, Hondurans will be allowed to vote in the primaries with both their former and the new identity card. For years they have promised that the new identity card will be ready by the new electoral circles, which now won't be the case. Honi soit qui mal y pense.

<https://confidencialhn.com/moncada-denuncia-que-cne-bloqueo-iniciativa-para-implementar-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/obstruyen-iniciativa-de-segunda-vuelta-electoral-en-el-cne-denuncia-rix-moncada.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-apoya-segunda-vuelta-discurso-de-rix-moncada-no-es-congruente-senala-luis-zelaya.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fuego-cruzado-entre-luis-y-manuel-zelaya-tras-denuncia-de-moncada-sobre-veto-del-cne-a-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://tiempo.hn/elecciones-primarias-votar-tarjeta-identidad-vieja-nueva/>

<https://criterio.hn/dictamen-de-reformas-electorales-no-contiene-transformaciones-tecnologicas-para-evitar-otro-fraude/>

<https://criterio.hn/esposo-de-diputada-waleska-zelaya-lleva-anos-haciendo-negocios-con-el-estado/>

30/08/20

Honduras Daily: Forced Disappearance; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Economy; Electoral Reforms; Migration - US; and Only Hope Itself

Yesterday was the International Day against Forced Disappearance. OACNUDH published a statement urging "the Honduran State to guarantee the right to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition for the victims of forced disappearance in the country".

At the same time, 43 days had passed since the forced disappearance of the five men from a Garífuna community and the call for their reappearance continued.

<https://oacnudh.hn/mensaje-con-motivo-del-dia-internacional-de-las-victimas-de-desapariciones-forzadas-30-de-agosto/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/130012666731112194>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1300088366906605568>

529 new cases, 60'174 in total; 16 additional deaths, 1858 in total.

These last week, the JOH regime tested less people again daily than previously. Now, the vice-minister of Health, Nery Cerrato, says that missing parts for laboratory equipment arrived in the country and soon they will be processing 3000 tests per day.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1404982-466/honduras-supera-los-60-mil-casos-de-covid-y-1858-muertos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1404852-528/pruebas-pcr-honduras-laboratorios>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/30/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-30-de-agosto-del-2020/>

"After nearly 6 months, Honduras remains in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Absolute containment measures have been gradually lifted, although cases continue to rise steeply throughout the country. In an interview with Contracorriente, Honduran scientist Marco Tulio Medina, a member of the WHO Solidarity trial team in Honduras, warned that the vaccine could arrive in the country between March and May 2021. He also said that this trial proved that hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir are not effective treatments against the disease and that given the limited capacity for testing, rural areas of Honduras are at greater risk of further increases in infections."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/30/en-centros-urbanos-hay-reduccion-de-casos-pero-el-riesgo-de-un-rebote-es-enorme-dr-marco-tulio-medina/>

C-Libre denounces that the police took picture of a young activist when she spoke with media outlets about the "Where is the Money?" movement.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1240-policia-toma-fotografias-a-joven-mientras-brindaba-declaraciones-a-medios-de-comunicacion-exigiendo-donde-esta-el-dinero>

Criterio describes the pandemic as "the face of the enormous economic disaster that Juan Hernández already had". "

Honduran public debt rose by almost 20% compared to the first half of 2019.

<https://criterio.hn/la-pandemia-es-la-careta-del-enorme-desastre-economico-que-ya-tenia-juan-herandez/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/08/30/la-deuda-de-honduras-suba-a-10-833-millones-de-dolares-un-199-mas-que-2019/>

The RNP will present the new and, hopefully, clean electoral census on November 13. Its

commissioner Oscar Rivera promises that "the dead won't vote".

<https://tiempo.hn/rnp-muertos-no-votaran-proxima-elecciones-comisionado/>

BuzzFeed News reports on the death of a 50-year old Honduran migrant in ICE custody after having tested positive for COVID-19. "The man had been detained at the Joe Corley Processing Center in Conroe, Texas, where, according to agency statistics, 50 people have tested positive for the disease since the beginning of the pandemic."

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/a-50-year-old-honduran-immigrant-who-died-in-ice-custody>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/08/30/nos-han-robado-todo-menos-la-esperanza/>

31/08/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; ZEDE; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; Prisons; Elections; and a Land of Impunity

The International Human Rights Law Clinic of the University of Virginia found multiple violations by the Honduran judicial system during the criminalization process of the human rights defender from Guapinol.

<https://guapinolresiste.wixsite.com/guapinol/post/estado-de-honduras-debe-liberar-inmediatamente-a-ambientalistas-encarcelados>

<https://criterio.hn/sindicato-del-hospital-san-felipe-emplaza-al-gobierno-por-incumplimiento-de-pago-de-salarios/>

A petition was launched against a ZEDE, Charter City, on Roatán.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1300533343201751043>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1300543401344020482>

This month, three accused Honduran drug traffickers will appear in US courts. Among them the already convicted brother of JOH, Tony Hernández, who is expecting his sentence on September 16. The two other men are Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez and Mauricio Hernández Pineda.

"After last week's public denunciation by the former captain of the Armed Forces, Santos Orellana, of the links between high military officials and the structures of drug trafficking in Honduras, this Monday the Secretary of National Defense, Fredy Díaz Zelaya, filed a complaint against the declarations of the retired military officer, who is also recognized for being the first to denounce the illegal activities of the former nationalist deputy, Juan Antonio Hernández".

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2215-honduras-en-17-dias-dictan-sentencia-a-tony-y-dos-mas-daran-cuentas-a-ee-uu>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405013-466/tres-acusados-van-en-septiembre-a-la-corte-de-nueva-york>

<https://criterio.hn/secretario-de-defensa-querella-a-capitan-santos-orellana-denunciar-vinculos-del-alto-mando-militar-con-crimen-organizado/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/luego-que-justicia-desestimara-accion-en-su-contra-rodriguez-orellana-dice-estar-dispuesto-a-comparecer-en-ee-uu/>

840 new cases, 61'104 in total, and 15 additional deaths, 1873 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405154-466/honduras-covid-coronavirus-sinager-septiembre-casos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/08/31/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-31-de-agosto-del-2020/>

Microbiologists (and many other State employees) have not been paid for weeks or months, they have to wait another three weeks according to the authorities.

Employees at the San Felipe Hospital have not been paid for two months.

"More than 500 employees of the Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa had their salaries deducted for days of disability by Covid-19, making the economic situation more precarious for people who are on the front line of the battle against the virus, denounced Mauricio Corrales, representative of the Workers' Union."

The BCIE approved \$400 million to buy future corona vaccines. The BCIE also sent an additional \$500'000 to the JOH regime.

The president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) calls on international bodies to stop working together with the JOH regime , but should rather send a delegation to investigate "the grave crimes against humanity" conducted with the use of international funds.

The Invest-H delegation in Turkey claims that two more mobile hospitals are about to be sent by ship to Honduras, the one for Choluteca and the one for Santa Rosa de Copán.

At the same time, the intervention body at the Invest-H is going after a journalist for critically reporting on them, even demanding that he reveals his sources.

<https://tiempo.hn/respuesta-autoridades-salud-microbiologos-tres-semanas-pago/>

<https://criterio.hn/sindicato-del-hospital-san-felipe-emplaza-al-gobierno-por-incumplimiento-de-pago-de-salarios/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/trabajadores-del-hospital-escuela-en-desacuerdo-con-deducccion-de-incapacidades-de-su-propio-salario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-bcie-aprueba-400-millones-adquirir-vacunas-sica-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-pide-organismos-internacionales-no-dialogar-mas-con-joh-ante-negligencia-por-pandemia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405092-466/dos-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles-m%C3%A1s-partir-%C3%A1n-esta-semana-de-turqu%C3%ADa-rumbo-a-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/interventora-de-investh-informa-que-hospital-movil-de-choluteca-saldra-de-turquia-en-las-proximas-semanas/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1241-comision-interventora-de-invest-h-emplaza-a-medio-de-comunicacion-para-develar-fuente-de-informacion>

The CNA published its 9th report on corruption during the pandemic, this time focusing on the controversial MAIZ treatment. They showed that the drugs were overpaid by 2.8 million Lempiras. 150 days have passed since the MP opened the first investigation into a corruption case linked to the pandemic, 15 more were added, but formal accusations have been made.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1300437996852916225>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/cna-denuncia-corrupcion-tambien-en-la-compra-del-tratamiento-maiz/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405014-466/150-d%C3%ADas-16-l%C3%ADneas-de-investigaci%C3%B3n-y-sin-casos-judicializados-por-actos>

Employees at the National Penitentiary Institute (INP) protest for the lack of payment.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-instituto-nacional-penitenciario-protestan-por-falta-de-pago/>

The uncertainty regarding the two-round presidential election continues but now the Liberal magistrate at the National Electoral Council (CNE), Ana Paola Hall, says that they have sent a draft for a constitutional reform on this to Congress.

Libre magistrate and president of the CNE, Rixi Moncada, had denounced last week that the other two magistrates are blocking a two-round presidential election. Hall may have changed her mind according to the article above, but the same day ConfidencialHN reports that Moncada sent a draft bill to Congress without the support of her two colleagues. Still a lot of questions...

Congress will discuss the electoral reforms this Thursday.

<https://tiempo.hn/cne-congreso-proyecto-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/consejo-electoral-envia-proyecto-de-reforma-constitucional-para-instaurar-segunda-vuelta/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2216-queda-en-manos-del-congreso-ley-para-eliminar-elecciones-estilo-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/el-86-de-los-asesinatos-en-honduras-quedan-en-la-impunidad/>