

01/09/20

Honduras Daily: Alert; HRDs - Guapinol; Berta; Students; Torture; FoE; Extractivism - Escazú; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector; Corruption - Congress; Women; Elections - LGBTQ+, Political Opposition; Airports; and Back in the 80s

COPECO sent out an alert for seven departments due to the tropical storm Nana.

<https://criterio.hn/ante-tormenta-tropical-nana-copeco-emite-alerta-verde-para-7-departamentos-de-honduras/>

A year ago yesterday, seven water defenders from Guapinol were sent to pre-trial detention and an eighth one has been in jail even since December 2018. A newly launched campaign once again calls for their freedom while posting more about each of the defenders in the coming days.

On this occasion, US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky tweeted: "Today marks 1 year in jail for the #Guapinol water defenders. The Honduran Government must end their arbitrary detention & protect them from the threats they face for speaking out against illegal mining."

More national and international voices joined the call, for example also by the EU parliamentarian Diana Riba i Giner.

<https://guapinolresiste.wixsite.com/freedomforguapinol>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/defensores-del-rio-guapinol-cumplen-ano-en-prision/>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1300799590585831427>

<https://criterio.hn/eurodiputada-pide-a-presidente-de-honduras-poner-fin-a-violaciones-contra-defensores-de-guapinol/>

<https://criterio.hn/diversas-voces-de-la-comunidad-internacional-piden-liberacion-de-defensores-de-guapinol/>

Today, we commemorate the live and struggle of Berta Cáceres in a worldwide online vigil service. Berta's daughter and General Coordinator of COPINH, Berta Zúniga, recently spoke to Radio Mundo Real about the newest development in the case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1300865898899812352>

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/rmr-causa-berta-caceres-juicio-para-militar-y-empresario-acusado-como-autor-intelectual-del-crimen/>

Students movements have been targeted with violence and criminalization by the JOH regime and 2014 was a very grim year in this respect. The aftermaths are still felt today and in the case of three criminalized students, Pasos de Animal Grande uncovered troubling new information. "Three years in prison, forced labor in jail, suspension of rights and payment for alleged damages that the

authorities of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNAH, never accredited, was the sentence that was hidden for three years by the Fourth Chamber of the Court of Judgment of Tegucigalpa, against the students at that time, Cesario Padilla, Sergio Ulloa and Moisés Cáceres, condemned for the crime of illegal detention of public property, actions promoted by the former rector Julieta Castellanos."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2960-tres-anos-despues-de-esconder-condena-tribunal-de-sentencia-mostro-sus-garras-contra-los-estudiantes-cesario-padilla-sergio-ulloa-y-mois-es-caceres>

Last week, the JOH regime announced a controversial nomination for CONAPREV (see previous e-mail). Now, "OACNUDH urges the State of Honduras to comply with its international obligations in designating the persons who make up the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (@CONAPREV) to guarantee their personal and institutional independence."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1300956145822072832>

A new report by Article 19 shows how the measures taken by President Juan Orlando Hernández have evidenced authoritarian attitudes, encouraging abuse by the police and military forces, and put a dam on access to information, making the work of the press more difficult.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2959-informe-articulo-19-honduras-tiene-una-historia-larga-de-violencia-contra-la-prensa>

CESPAD published an article on the opportunities and challenges for socio-environmental organizations in Honduras regarding the Escazú Agreement. "The Escazú Agreement focuses on citizen participation and is outlined as a legal instrument that seeks to resolve socio-environmental conflicts and will ensure that communities are compensated for damages. It is framed in principles and postulates that socio-environmental movements have questioned in recent decades, such as "the notion of sustainable development", "corporate responsibility" and "green capitalism", that is, they question the narratives imposed from business visions, through the recognition of all community actors and the work of territorial defense and the right to a healthy environment."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/01/5336/>

September started with 61'769 COVID-19 cases, 755 more than the previous days, and 1888 deaths, 15 more than the previous day.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405432-466/honduras-coronavirus-covid-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/01/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-1-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Employees of some 16 state institutions protested outside the Ministry of Finance demanding the

outstanding payment of their salaries.
ConfidencialHN writes off some 50'000 unpaid workers.

<https://www.proceso.hn/empleados-de-16-instituciones-protestan-frente-a-finanzas-por-falta-de-pago-de-salarios/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-50-mil-trabajadores-estatales-exigen-al-ejecutivo-nacionalista-que-les-paguen-salarios-atrasados/>

Another doctor died to COVID-19.
Contract employees of the health system protested in order to get the Health Ministry to give them permanent positions, in compliance with the decree approved several months ago by the National Congress.

<https://www.proceso.hn/muere-medico-por-sospecha-de-covid-en-san-francisco-de-yojoa-cortes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-de-la-region-metropolitana-de-salud-exigen-que-se-les-den-contratos-permanentes/>

In the Red de Diputados corruption case, an appeal court admitted an injunction from the Public Prosecutor's Office to reopen the case which had been inactive for several years.

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-con-lugar-apelaciones-del-ministerio-publico-por-trama-corrupta-red-de-diputados/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/de-nuevo-a-tribunales-implicados-en-el-caso-corrupcion-red-de-diputados/>

Congress approved a bill presented by congresswoman Olivia Zúniga Cáceres called "Special Measures, Dissemination, Prevention and Care of Violence Against Women".

<https://tiempo.hn/ley-integral-emergencia-violencia-hacia-mujeres-ya-vigencia/>

"In a forum called "Access and Political Participation of LGTBI groups in Honduras", the Dutch Institute for Multiparty Democracy, addressed the need to build clear proposals for the strengthening of political democracy in the opening of spaces for sexual diversity in the electoral processes."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-comunidad-lgtbi-reclama-espacios-democraticos-para-participacion-en-politica-electoral/>

The three men at the head of the three main opposition parties continues to fight instead of planing a united opposition against the National Party.

At the same time, five small parties joined forces in a coalition called "Creciendo por el Cambio"

(CREO, I believe in English). These small parties are a problematic part of Honduras' democracy as they have served in the past to get money from the state and bid of their seats at the electoral tables to the highest bidder.

<https://confidencialhn.com/luis-revela-que-mel-se-opuso-que-declararan-ganador-a-nasralla-expresidente-dice-que-los-dos-legitimaron-a-johc/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47453>

"The legal opinion for the creation of the state company that will manage three international airports establishes that it will be at a cost of 150 million lempiras managed by five members of different public institutions despite the rejection of private business." (see also previous e-mails on this topic).

Criterio writes that business people in the north of Honduras are in an undeclared war with the JOH regime and Coalianza over the airports.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47432>

<https://criterio.hn/empresarios-del-norte-en-guerra-no-declarada-contra-el-gobierno-y-coalianza-por-aeropuertos/>

<https://criterio.hn/desaparicion-de-garifunas-y-encarcelamiento-de-ambientalistas-recuerdan-decada-de-los-80-en-honduras/>

02/09/20

Honduras Daily: Students; Berta - Trial; Violence against Women; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, Economy; ID Card; Elections; and a Stunted MP?

The prison sentences for three former students for protests (see yesterday and first link below) even reached the corporate media outlets in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2219-honduras-justicia-selectiva-condena-a-tres-anos-de-carcel-a-exuniversitarios>

<https://proceso.hn/tres-universitarios-condenados-a-3-anos-de-prision-por-detencion-ilegal-de-bienes-publicos/>

The seven-part podcast on the Berta Cáceres case by Bloomberg concluded this week. All episodes can be found online.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/blood-river/>

CESPAD published report on violence against women in Honduras and the lack of an adequate response by the State.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/02/y-despues-de-las-patadas-y-de-los-punetazos-que-sigue/>

757 new cases, 36 additional deaths for a total of 62'526 and 1924 respectively.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405712-466/honduras-suma-62526-contagios-y-1924-muertes-por-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/02/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-2-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

"In simultaneous press conferences held in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, a group of 70 professionals from various disciplines, including doctors, lawyers, engineers and economists, concerned about the mishandling of the Covid 19 pandemic, announced the emergence of the citizen's movement, Patria en Acción, to recommend the government to step aside and hand over the management of the emergency to a commission of experts."

<https://criterio.hn/patria-en-accion-insta-al-gobierno-a-la-integracion-de-un-consejo-de-emergencia-nacional/>

Another doctor died to COVID-19, 44 have died so far during this pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/suman-44-los-galenos-fallecidos-por-causa-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

According to the regional director of the IHSS, Omar Jananía, the mobile hospital installed in San Pedro Sula "is incomplete and therefore not in a position to care for patients with the new coronavirus".

<https://confidencialhn.com/director-del-ihss-revela-que-hospital-movil-de-sps-esta-incompleto-y-no-tiene-capacidad-para-atender-pacientes-con-coronavirus/>

The BCIE created a \$28 million fund for micro, small and medium-sized businesses affected by the crisis.

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-crea-nuevo-fondo-garantia-mypimes-afectadas-pandemia/>

The JOH regime will receive \$39.4 million from the BCIE for the ongoing elaboration of the new identity card.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-y-finanzas-firman-contrato-de-prestamo-para-nuevo-documento-de-identificacion-nacional/>

The new party by the former presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla will be inscribed next week. According to the vice-president of Congress, the Nationalist Antonio Rivera Callejas, the new Electoral Law will have 450 articles, some of them transitory ones, e.g. to allow voting with the new and former ID card in the primary elections in the beginning of 2021.

But there is a lot of uncertainty about the law and if there is enough time to pass it. The Inter-Party Dialogue Board requested an urgent meeting with the president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva.

Radio Progreso fears that Honduras will have to go through another electoral cycle without the necessary electoral reforms.

The Liberal Party even says that without a two-round presidential election, the new president won't be legitimate.

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-del-cne-sostiene-que-mantiene-su-voto-para-inscribir-el-partido-de-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://tiempo.hn/manera-unanime-cne-opta-inscripcion-partido-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://proceso.hn/nueva-ley-electoral-tiene-ocho-articulos-transitorios-para-encarar-comicios-primarios-dice-ono-rivera/>

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-de-dialogo-interpartidario-solicita-reunion-con-presidente-del-congreso/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/honduras-ira-a-elecciones-sin-reformas-profundas-en-sus-reglas-de-juego/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/vaticinan-que-sin-segunda-vuelta-proximo-presidente-no-tendra-legitimidad/>

"The Public Prosecutor's Office has not carried out an investigation on its own initiative for more than 10 years; all the cases of great impact have not been initiated by the Public Prosecutor's Office, but most or all - for example, the case of the IHSS and Pandora - were reported by the media, independent journalists or by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA), Honduran lawyer and former prosecutor Omar Menjívar told Criterio.hn. (...) Although the Maccih had no fangs to bite, i.e., the power to prosecute, it had helped to create the Special Fiscal Unit Against Impunity and Corruption (Ufecic), but they were eliminated together by the Government of Honduras and the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Specialized Fiscal Unit Against Corruption (Uferco) was created. "The Maccih was suppressed, Ufecic was dismantled and the name was changed to Uferco, with the same prosecutors. The truth is that these prosecutors do not have the same support, since Ufecic already operated basically with the technical backing of the Maccih, providing it with at least 20 or 25 forensic auditors, key to the investigation of this type of crime. Ufecic no longer has this technical staff; it's like having your arm cut off. That's a problem," states Menjívar."

<https://criterio.hn/hace-10-anos-que-el-ministerio-publico-no-investiga-de-origen-un-caso-de-alto->

[impacto/](#)

03/09/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Journalists; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Corruption; TIGRES; Drug Trafficking - Armed Forces; Migration; Elections; Violence; and Energetic Blackmail

EU parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo sent a message of solidarity to COPINH and demands justice for Berta.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1301289421099225093>

Journalist Santiago López, correspondent for TV HCH, had three attacks in the last two weeks, from intimidation to punctured tires.

Radio America, a radio station belonging to "Grupo America", fired all its employees as a result of the economic impact of the epidemic by COVID-19.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2961-horas-despues-de-que-policias-llegaron-a-su-casa-llantas-de-vehiculo-del-periodista-santiago-fueron-ponchadas>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1243-radioemisora-emplea-despidos-masivos-tras-afectaciones-economicas-por-covid-19>

ContraCorriente published an important article on the planned ZEDE, i.e. charter city, on Roatán. "Islas de la Bahía is the tourist destination par excellence for both Hondurans and foreigners and is also the designated territory for the creation of Próspera, an Employment and Development Zone (ZEDE). This initiative was launched in May 2020, as the Honduran population focused on surviving the third month of confinement due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Local inhabitants are on alert regarding Próspera.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/03/roatan-una-micro-nacion-a-la-venta/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47521>

623 new cases, 30 more deaths, 63'158 and 1954 in total respectively.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1405948-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-suman-1954-muertes-y-63158-contagios>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/03/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-3-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

MADJ denounces the impunity in the corruption cases linked to the pandemic. "Today is the 145th day since the first act of corruption was discovered and denounced in Honduras within the state

management of the emergency by covid-19, a determining fact for the Honduran population to be aware of the destination of the funds approved and managed at will by public officials in collusion with NGOs linked to the government."

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/09/03/la-pandemia-de-la-impunidad-para-la-corrupcion-en-el-covid-19/>

COFADEH requested before a court in Catacamas, Olancho, the exhumation of Rinel Eclicerio Argueta Oliva, murdered by TIGRES agents and agents of the National Preventive Police, which occurred in the municipality of San Esteban this June.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-solicita-exhumacion-de-cuerpo-de-joven-asesinado-por-policias-en-olancho/>

The head of the Armed Forces, Tito Livio Moreno, sent out a warning against people linking them and their members to drug trafficking (see also yesterday). Former congressman Jari Dixon Herrera won't be intimidated and said that they are not only involved in drug trafficking but also in corruption networks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/moreno-dice-que-no-permitira-senalamientos-de-narcotrafico-y-delincuencia-organizada-contra-ffaa/>

<https://criterio.hn/fuerzas-armadas-no-solo-están-involucradas-en-narcotrafico-sino-en-redes-de-corrupcion-jari-dixon/>

28'182 Hondurans have been deported this year until August, mostly from the US and Mexico. This is 64.4% less than in 2019.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1405957-410/hondure%C3%B1os-deportados-estados-migrantes-mexico->

The discussion about the new electoral bill did not start yesterday as planned but will only take off next week. Pinu denounces that its representative was excluded from the commission preparing the general discussion.

Pinu also denounces back room deals of the major parties.

As in previous electoral cycles, JOH requested the accompaniment of the OAS.

<https://criterio.hn/discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral-sera-la-proxima-semana-en-congreso-nacional/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47496>

<https://criterio.hn/doris-gutierrez-denuncia-negociacion-de-cupulas-partidistas-en-vispera-de-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-solicita-acompanamiento-oea-elecciones/>

According to a new report by ASJ, both impunity levels and the homicide rate had increased in 2019 compared to the previous year.

"At least 89.9 percent of the population considers Honduras to be an unsafe country, and 55 percent say that the municipality in which they live is unfavorable in terms of security, according to data collected in the fourth Citizen Perception Survey on Insecurity and Victimization in Honduras."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47517>

<https://criterio.hn/89-9-de-la-poblacion-opina-que-honduras-es-un-pais-inseguro-pese-al-alto-gasto-en-seguridad-y-defensa/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/en-honduras-empresas-termicas-chantajean-al-estado-para-que-apruebe-contratos-energeticos/>

04/09/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Corruption; Drug Trafficking - JOH; OFRANEH; HRDs- Guapinol; Extractivism - Guards, Escazú; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HR, Corruption, Health Sector, Transport; Lawyers; Corruption - Electricity; Prisons; Elections - ID; and Not the Time to Celebrate COPINH announced that a bail hearing has been scheduled for David Castillo next Monday.

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/convocan-a-audiencia-en-el-caso-contra-david-castillo/>

<https://criterio.hn/tribunal-de-sentencia-convoca-a-examinacion-de-diligencias-y-revision-de-medidas-a-david-castillo/>

"The Special Prosecutor's Office for Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage will appear next Monday, September 7, at the initial hearing against Raúl Pineda Pineda and Plutarco Mejía Cardona, ex-mayor and ex-vice mayor of San Francisco de Ojuera, Santa Bárbara, respectively, for the crime of abuse of authority in the irregular and unconsulted granting of the municipal construction permit for the "Agua Zarca" hydroelectric project on the Gualcarque River, territory of the Lenca indigenous community."

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/161-septiembre2020/6251-a-audiencia-inicial-exalcalde-de-san-francisco-de-juera-santa-barbara-por-caso-agua-zarca>

"Twelve days before the sentencing of "Tony" Hernandez, the international portal Pro Honduras Network, warned this Friday, September 4, that the naval bases of the Army in Naco, Cortes and Puerto Castilla, Gracias a Dios, were logistical centers for "Tony" and his brother, Governor Juan Hernandez, to traffic drugs to the United States," according to the prosecutor of the Southern

District of New York, Amanda Houle."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2223-fiscal-amanda-houle-th-y-joh-usaron-bases-navales-hondurenas-para-traficar>

With a big street painting in Tegucigalpa, OFRANEH demands to know the whereabouts of the forcefully disappeared young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://criterio.hn/persecucion-y-violencia-respuesta-del-estado-de-honduras-a-comunidades-indigenas-y-negras-que-defienden-sus-territorios/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1406176-410/exigen-esclarecer-desaparicion-cinco-gar%C3%ADfunas-honduras>

"One year after the deprivation of liberty of Guapinol River defenders, OACNUDH calls on the relevant authorities to review the precautionary measure of preventive detention imposed in this case, in accordance with the State's international obligations."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1302067951005315078>

CESPAD published an important analysis on the use of state security forces as private security guards for extractive projects and the lack of legality for this.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/04/de-militares-y-policias-a-guardias-de-seguridad-de-empresas-mineras-e-hidroelectricas/>

Alice H. Shackelford, UN resident coordinator, joins the call to have Honduras join the Escazú agreement (see also previous days).

<https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1302065366911406080>

640 new cases, 63'798 in total, 30 additional deaths, 1984 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1406179-466/honduras-covid-registra-nuevos-casos-muertes>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/04/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-4-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

"A few days ago, the members of the Grupo Promotor del Diálogo Fiscal (Promotion Group of Fiscal Dialogue) launched a proposal to the central government and the citizens of Honduras on the need to make radical changes that seek to benefit the people in health and economic matters. "First of all, there is a major criticism in the management of the pandemic, and that there is no comprehensive plan to solve the problem from both a health and economic point of view. The Government is called upon to create a comprehensive plan with the participation of various

sectors," said Dr. Hugo Noé Pino. (...) On the observations and analysis made by the Grupo Promotor del Diálogo Fiscal, Radio Progreso spoke with one of its members, Dr. Hugo Noé Pino (HNP), former President of the Central Bank of Honduras."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/hugo-noe-pino-se-necesita-un-plan-integral-de-solucion-sanitaria-y-economica/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the intimidation of Hondurans protesting against state corruption during the pandemic. "José Romero, from the movement "Where is the Money", was arbitrarily summoned by means of a telephone call made to him by two alleged agents of the Technical Agency of Criminal Investigation, (ATIC), to appear at the offices of Tegucigalpa, next Thursday, as they argued that they are not operating in San Pedro Sula. According to what they explained, he should arrive to be interrogated for his participation in the vehicular protests."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2963-arrecian-estrategias-silenciadoras-atic-cita-a-ciudadano-para-ser-interrogado-por-las-protestas-de-donde-esta-el-dinero>

"In the midst of the hypocritical ceremonies with which the so-called "Month of the Fatherland" is inaugurated, the savagery of the narco-dictatorship continues against the Honduran people and against the social fighters in particular, demonstrating its policy of state terrorism and judicial assassination to try to silence the voices of the best sons and daughters of Honduras and to ensure the most reprehensible impunity. But with the same dignity of Morazán, here we are and we raise our voice firmly in this Twenty-Fifth Public Manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/vigesimo-quinto-manifiesto-publico/>

Invest-H had to admit that the two mobile hospitals are not completely water proof, rain water can enter...

"Contracorriente (CC) spoke with German Pérez (GP), who was invited by the Presidential Designate, María Antonia Rivera, to visit the facilities of the mobile hospital in San Pedro Sula, along with other representatives of civil society, in order to learn about the progress of the project. Perez points out that Invest-h assures that the missing equipment is on its way, but they do not give a date and that the purchase of the mobile hospitals was a hasty decision."

The health center in Choloma, known for its maquila industry, has not enough staff and only opens three days a week.

<https://confidencialhn.com/investh-admite-que-hospital-movil-de-san-pedro-sula-presenta-filtraciones-de-agua/>

<https://proceso.hn/invest-h-informa-que-se-filtran-aguas-lluvias-en-hospital-movil-de-sps-y-que-trabaja-en-reparaciones/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/04/con-el-dinero-invertido-en-hospitales-moviles-ya-se-hubiera->

[construido-un-hospital-de-verdad-german-perez-de-la-andi/](#)

[https://tiempo.hn/centro-salud-choloma-no-atiende-todos-los-dias/](#)

The transport sector announces protests for next week as the pilot for reopening only brings them losses.

[https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1406170-410/tansportistas-anuncian-protestas-honduras-pilotaje-perdidas](#)

A lawyer working for a local government in Santa Cruz de Yojoa. Cortés, the 35-year old Julio Andrés Pineda Díaz, was murdered.

[https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1406206-466/muerto-y-atado-hallan-cad%C3%A1ver-de-abogado-que-laboraba-en-alcald%C3%ADa-de](#)

There is widespread criticism of recently approved energy contracts (see previous e-mail). The Electrical Energy Regulatory Commission (CREE) criticizes that Congress approved them unlawfully.

OFRANEH denounces that the energy project in question is located between two protected areas and two Garífuna communities, which were not consulted.

According to MADJ, this recent decision by Congress shows the priorities of the ruling class during the pandemic.

[http://elpulso.hn/?p=47567](#)

[https://tiempo.hn/cree-contratos-energia-aprobados-cn-no-base-ley/](#)

[https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1301882718641414145](#)

[https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1301989132407898113](#)

[https://madj.org/index.php/2020/09/04/extractivismo-y-generacion-de-energia-las-prioridades-de-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-en-honduras/](#)

In a press release, a coalition of human rights organizations rejects the nomination of Germán McNeil as a CONAPREV commissioner (see previous e-mails). He "served as deputy director of the National Penitentiary Institute, whose mandate was characterized by escapes, murders, allegations of torture and cruel treatment against persons deprived of liberty and their families that remain uninvestigated to date, and by systematic disregard for CONAPREV recommendations."

[https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/preocupacion-y-rechazo-al-nombramiento-de-german-macneil-rueda-como-comisionado-de-conaprev/](#)

Criterio published a long article on how "lack of transparency and politicization worsen the identification process in Honduras", i.e. the elaboration of a new identity card needed for the coming electoral process.

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-transparencia-y-politizacion-salpican-proceso-de-identificacion-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/magisterio-anuncia-que-no-participara-en-ninguna-convocatoria-de-celebracion-virtual-de-fiestas-patrias/>

05/09/20

Honduras Daily: Indigenous Women; Students; Tear Gas; Lawyers; COVID-19 - Corruption; Infrastructure; Elections; and Berta's Garden

Yesterday was the International Day of the Indigenous Woman.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1302334875828092932>

Faculty members at the UNAH spoke out against the conviction of the three former student leaders (see previous e-mail).

<https://tiempo.hn/ocho-claustros-profesores-unah-pronuncian-sentencia-ex-estudiantes/>

Libre congressman Rony Martínez presented a bill prohibiting the use of tear gas against protesters.

<https://tiempo.hn/diputado-presenta-proyecto-ley-prohibir-gas-lacrimogeno-necesita-medicamentos/>

The murdered lawyer Julio Andrés Pineda Díaz (see yesterday) was also a activist with A World Without War and Violence and was the spokesperson in the 2017 Central American Peace March. He would have run in the coming elections as part of a worldwide movement to have peace activists elected.

<https://criterio.hn/secuestran-torturan-y-asesinan-pacifista-miembro-de-un-mundo-sin-guerras-y-sin-violencia/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/encuentran-a-joven-defensor-asesinado-y-con-signos-de-tortura-en-santa-cruz-de-yojoa/>

Honduras has surpassed 2000 deaths yesterday, 2006 people have officially died to COVID-19 with the real number even higher as previously highlighted. There were also 554 new cases for a total of 64'352.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1406364-466/covid-suma-nuevos-casos-en-honduras-muertes>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/05/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-5-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Libre congressman Jorge Cáliz denounces that the mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura, tries to stop an investigation into his management of the pandemic and possible acts of corruption.

<https://confidencialhn.com/diputado-de-libre-revela-que-asfura-busca-frenar-investigacion-por-supuestos-ilicitos/>

Proceso Digital reports that the JOH regime will re-start various road infrastructure projects thanks to a \$1 billion loan from the BCIE.

Talks began regarding this with Invest-H, ignoring that this entity has been highlighted in various corruption cases during the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-reactivara-proyectos-viales-con-prestamo-de-mil-millones-de-dolares-de-parte-del-bcie/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-dialoga-con-interventora-de-investh-para-asignacion-mil-millones-de-dolares-en-carreteras/>

The Liberal Party criticizes the high costs of Honduran elections.

<https://tiempo.hn/liberales-proceso-electoral-2021-mas-pobre-honduras/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/el-ayuntamiento-de-valencia-pone-el-nombre-de-la-activista-medioambiental-berta-caceres-a-un-jardin-de-la-ciudad/>

06/09/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Ecocide; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Transport; and New Struggles for Education and Health

OFRANEH sent out an alert yesterday: "In this moment, Nat't police are getting ready to evict members of Trujillo community from their own territory. There is an ancestral title since 1901 for Garifuna of Trujillo & now they are accused of being invaders! We demand respect for our ancestral titles".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1302753497926918144>

<https://criterio.hn/mirian-miranda-denuncia-intento-de-desalojo-contragarifunas/>

Criterio reports on the installation of the thermal power plant Ensenada between Sambo Creek and Corozal, which OFRANEH denounces as "ecocide".

<https://criterio.hn/ecocidio-consideran-comunidades-instalacion-de-termica-en-la-ceiba/>

Criterio spoke with four media workers on how the pandemic has changed their lives and work.

<https://criterio.hn/periodistas-hondurenos-cuentan-como-el-covid-19-les-ha-cambiado-la-vida/>

<https://criterio.hn/presencia-de-la-pandemia-un-disparador-de-estres-en-el-gremio-periodistico/>

There are now 64,764 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2007 deaths in Honduras. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1406557-466/coronavirus-honduras-sinager-muertos-casos-contagios>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/06/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-6-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

The Finance Minister Marco Midence was tested positive for COVID-19.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1406587-466/ministro-de-finanzas-confirma-que-es-positivo-al-coronavirus>

The transport sector announced a nationwide strike for today. "The measure is intended to pressure government authorities, the Multisectoral Table and the National Risk Management System (Sinager) to create a "negotiating table" where they can expose the problems afflicting the industry in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1406539-466/paro-transporte-honduras-nivel-nacional-pandemia>

The Platform for the Defense of Public Health and Education announced new actions. "The president of the Medical College of Honduras (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa, announced that "at this time it is time to articulate with all sectors of civil society so that together we can seek ways to respect our rights. Therefore, "we make an energetic call to all local, departmental, and municipal platforms to be attentive to the call made by the national platform for health and education for the next few days to take specific actions."

<https://criterio.hn/anuncian-nuevas-luchas-de-la-plataforma-para-la-defensa-de-la-salud-y-educacion/>

07/09/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Berta - Trial; Students; Extractivism - OFRANEH, Escazú; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Transport; Corruption; Elections; SANAA; and Missing Women

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the August 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=6291

The bail hearing against David Castillo accused for planning the murder of Berta Cáceres did not take place as planned yesterday because his defense team recused the three judges.

COPINH reacted with a press release. "Today, the defense of Mr. David Castillo has presented a recusal against the Tribunal that is hearing the case for the murder of Berta Cáceres. This is another delaying maneuver in the legal process that is being developed by the defense team of one of the perpetrators of the crime."

COPINH also published a newsletter on the trial highlighting that the pre-trial detention of Castillo has not run out. "Although the Honduran Code of Criminal Procedure states that after two and a half years the accused must be released, Article 181 establishes that: "Within this period, the time that the delays produced by the defense have lasted, which have been declared without place, shall not be counted". Criminal Procedural Code, Art. 181, para. 6. This implies that the multiple delays caused by his defense in the process must be taken into account when tallying the time that Castillo has been in jail. For example, there have been four separate occasions that the preliminary hearing was suspended due to dilatory action by his legal defense team before it finally ended on 21 August."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1303079966758899712>

<https://tiempo.hn/berta-caceres-defensa-de-roberto-castillo-recusa-a-tribunal-de-sentencia/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/david-castillo-the-intellectual-co-author-who-wants-to-evade-justice/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/newslettern-9-cause-berta-caceres/>

Giorgio Trucchi talked to the three criminalized and recently sentenced students Moisés Cáceres, Sergio Ulloa and Cesario Padilla (see previous e-mails).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-no-me-arrepiento-de-nada-y-la-persecucion-me-hizo-mas-fuerte/>

In a new article, OFRANEH denounces the thermal power plant by Laeisz and the circumstances of its approval.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/09/07/laeisz-termicas-toxicas-y-el-secuestro-de-la-atlantida/>

Criterio reports that there is so far no sign that the JOH regime will sign the Escazú Agreement (see previous e-mails) while at the same time, it is quite apt at handing out concessions for extractive projects.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-lenta-para-firmar-acuerdo-de-escazu-pero-eficiente-en-concesiones-extractivistas/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47662>

Honduras conducted only 281 tests yesterday. This again shows that instead of working towards taking 3000 thousand tests per day, the JOH regime goes the other direction. The Secretary of Health claims that the PCR tests will be replaced with antigen tests which are faster but more imprecise. There are currently 64'814 COVID-19 cases and as 16 more people died, 2023 deaths. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1406818-466/honduras-covid-19-registra-nuevos-casos-y-muertes>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/07/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-7-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

El País reports that regional hospitals are filling up again with corona patients. Already back in March, Congress approved \$420 million to build 94 health centers to address the pandemic, so far this has been an empty promise.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/09/07/hospitales-regionales-se-estan-llenando-nuevamente-de-pacientes-con-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/triajes-el-paliativo-con-que-el-gobierno-sustituyo-promesa-de-94-centros-de-salud%e2%80%af-%e2%80%af-%e2%80%af%e2%80%af/>

The CNA published its tenth investigation into corruption during the pandemic, the second on the mobile hospitals. They highlight the problematic state the mobile hospitals are in and warn that they even offer a risk for patients. The equipment of the mobile hospital does not fit the purpose and the construction violates international norms.

Instead of looking into this, the intervention body at Invest-H speaks of a hate campaign...

In another case, the MP cited Foreign Minister and Special Representative for the Coronavirus Pandemic, Lisandro Rosales, to testify about the controversial purchase of Vivo mechanical respirators, whose use was ruled out by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (FDA) for serious design flaws.

A third case was brought to light by Expediente Público. They documented that the company Sersel still has links with the presidential family and received in the midst of the pandemic between March and August 2020 contracts for \$320'000 granted by the State for surveillance in hospitals.

Protesting against corruption continues to be a dangerous endeavor in Honduras. Padre Melo denounced that a group of young people in El Progreso was attacked and persecuted by members of the National Police while painting the popular claim: "Where is the money?". "During the incident, the director of Radio Progreso stopped when he saw the police carrying long weapons and bombs against the youth. Both Moreno and the journalists present were threatened by the agents."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1302981166597902337>

<https://confidencialhn.com/consejo-nacional-anticorrupcion-denuncia-que-hospitales-moviles-son-un-riesgo-biologico/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47641>

<https://proceso.hn/invest-h-acepta-que-por-error-del-proveedor-no-recibieron-ventiladores-en-primeros-hospitales/>

<https://expedientepublico.org/exclusiva-presidente-hernandez-y-su-familia-aprovechan-pandemia-para-hacer-negocios/>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-amenaza-al-padre-melo-por-defender-jovenes-manifestantes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-cita-al-canciller-por-la-polemica-compra-de-140-ventiladores-mecanicos-descartados-por-la-fda/>

As announced, there were protest actions by the transport sector yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/transportistas-bloquean-las-principales-carreteras-como-protesta-por-no-recibir-respuestas-para-reiniciar-operaciones/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2228-se-recrudece-insatisfaccion-social-en-honduras>

An investigation by ConfidencialHN and Radio Globo found irregularities in the management of the social program Crédito Solidario (Solidarity Credit).

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivos-de-credito-solidario-de-joh-sustrajeron-mucho-dinero-usando-a-supuestos-beneficiarios/>

According to the president of the Electoral Commission at Congress, Mario Segura, they have come to an agreement on the new Electoral Law and it was sent to the secretariat of Congress yesterday morning. The law has to be approved before the official call for the coming electoral cycle on September 13, in 5 days...

The small parties reject the new law calling it a deal between the traditional parties.

Seguro, who also figures as the head of the Liberal Party in Congress, further announced that the

two-round presidential election won't be approved due to a lack of political will from the National Party.

The plenary discussion about the new Electoral Law will start tomorrow.

The National Electoral Council (CNE) has inscribed three new parties: Salvador de Honduras (Savior of Honduras), Liberación Democrática de Honduras (Democratic Liberation of Honduras) and Todos Somos Honduras (We All Are Honduras).

The former Attorney General Edmundo Orellano warns that another reelection bid by JOH is a real possibility. "For Orellana, there is no doubt that he has currently absolute control of all the organs of the State, absolutely all of them, without exception. And he puts forward two scenarios for a possible continuity of Juan Hernández: absolute control of power through re-election or taking advantage of the pandemic to remain in office."

<https://proceso.hn/consensuada-nueva-ley-electoral-y-sera-entregada-este-lunes-a-la-secretaria-del-cn/>

<https://criterio.hn/secretaria-del-congreso-recibe-proyecto-de-dictamen-de-nueva-ley-electoral-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47656>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-bancada-liberal-senala-que-segunda-vuelta-no-se-aprueba-porque-no-hay-voluntad-de-nacionalistas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-legislativo-convoca-a-sesion-virtual-en-esta-semana-para-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/cne-inscribe-a-tres-nuevos-partidos-politicos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/posibilidad-de-otra-reeleccion-de-juan-hernandez-es-muy-real-edmundo-orellana/>

SANAA employees protested against outstanding paychecks and for the lack of biosafety equipment they need to protect themselves.

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-sanaa-protestan-para-exigir-cumplimiento-del-contrato-colectivo-e-incremento-salarial/>

"In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the public only recently started to talk about disappeared women. This is a phenomenon full of prejudice and to which States have been slow to give a forceful response. In El Salvador and Guatemala, laws were created to help understand the situation, but records in Honduras are still limited."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/07/las-mujeres-que-faltan-en-el-norte-de-centroamerica/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/07/las-que-no-olvidan-mujeres-y-organizaciones-que-buscan-a-desaparecidas-en-honduras/>

08/09/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; FoE; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, Transport; Elections - Political Parties; Corruption - IHSS, Narcopolitics;

Police agents harassed the journalist Bartolo Fuentes while he was reporting on an anti-corruption protest in El Progreso, Yoro.

200 former employees of El Tiempo demand justice for their unjustified dismissal.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/policia-ataca-al-periodista-bartolo-fuentes-mientras-transmitia-en-directo/>

<https://criterio.hn/200-exempleados-de-diario-de-tiempo-exigen-justicia-por-despido-injustificado/>

"To fight for freedom of expression and information, the Solidarity with María Luisa Borjas Committee was formed. She was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison, in a sentence issued by the Court of Appeals of Tegucigalpa and ratified by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Rolando Argueta" (see previous e-mails).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2965-contra-sentencia-que-violenta-su-libertad-de-expresion-se-conforma-comite-de-solidaridad-con-maria-luisa-borjas>

404 new COVID-19 cases, 65'218 in total and 11 additional deaths, 2034 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407036-466/honduras-casos-coronavirus-muertes-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/08/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-8-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

FOSDEH published a report for a "Plan for the Economic and Social Reconversion of Honduras".

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/elementos-de-diagnostico-y-lineamientos-de-propuesta-del-fosdeh-para-un-plan-de-reconversion-economica-y-social-de-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47703>

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) agrees with the CNA (see yesterday) that the mobile hospitals are not fit for purpose.

CNA spoke of the mobile hospitals as "a deadly trap".

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-afirma-que-hospitales-moviles-no-cumplen-con-la->

[funcion-para-atender-covid19/](#)

<https://radioprogreso.net/portada/de-trampa-mortal-califican-a-hospital-movil-de-san-pedro-sula/>

El Heraldo reports that the MP also cited Defense Minister Fredy Díaz Zelaya and the head of the Armed Forces Tito Livio Moreno Coello regarding the irregular purchase of mechanical lung ventilators for the Military Hospital.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407110-466/fiscal%C3%ADa-investiga-al-ministro-de-defensa-y-al-jefe-de-las-fuerzas>

The transport sector initially continued its protest yesterday as they did not come to an agreement with the JOH regime.

But then, an agreement was found. It includes support for the support for the companies and drivers, but also allows them to go back to 100% capacity, which given the situation in Honduras may be quite problematic.

Criterio writes of "a perfect storm".

<https://radioprogreso.net/instante/transportistas-no-logran-acuerdos-y-seguiran-en-las-calles/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407074-466/transportistas-gobierno-honduras-acuerdo-paro-nacional-protesta-reclamo-reactivacion>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2232-honduras-transporte-operara-al-100-de-capacidad-salvese-quien-pueda>

<https://criterio.hn/con-apertura-del-sector-transporte-se-avecina-la-tormenta-perfecta/>

The US embassy tweeted that the approval of the new Electoral Law "will be an important step in restoring credibility to the electoral process and the 2021 election".

Political analyst Gustavo Zelaya sees this as a message to the National Party to approve the law in Congress.

COHEP also asked for the approval of the law.

While the law offers important reforms (see also below), it falls a lot short of what is needed. The two-round presidential election is not part of it, there remains the open question of the presidential reelection and transparency regarding party financing may even make a step back.

CESPAD published a report on this so-called Clean Politics Bill which now may become even less potent.

Especially the lack of regulating the presidential reelection lets voices resurface warning of yet another JOH reelection bid.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1303370633892503552>

<https://criterio.hn/injerencia-ee-uu-da-visto-bueno-a-reformas-electorales-de-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407001-466/cohep-exige-congreso-nacional-aprobar-ley-electoral>

<https://proceso.hn/ley-electoral-minimiza-financiamiento-de-campanas/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/08/analisis-estado-de-la-fiscalizacion-del-financiamiento-publico-y-privado-de-la-politica-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/parlamentario-nacionalista-sostiene-que-reeleccion-sigue-abierta-mientras-no-se-regule-en-nueva-norma-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-joh-tiene-las-puertas-abiertas-para-buscar-un-tercer-mandato/>

Several new parties were added to the already long list of parties in Honduras (see yesterday); there are currently 14 parties.

But if the new Electoral Law will come into force, this may change quickly. It contains changes to the payment of the so-called "political debt", money given to parties by the State. The current rules incentivize the creation of parties to get money and power by trafficking credentials for the voting stations. This may come to an end.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47689>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-va-a-elecciones-con-14-partidos-pero-nueva-ley-electoral-hara-que-muchos-desaparezcan/>

ConfidencialHN published the second part of its investigation into irregularities at the Crédito Solidario program and highlights the links to JOH and his wife Ana Rosalinda García Carías.

<https://confidencialhn.com/estafa-sobre-dos-ruedas-joh-y-su-esposa-hacen-negocios-con-fallido-proyecto-credibici/>

The Supreme Court orders the re-trial of the former IHSS director Mario Zelaya and the administrative manager José Ramón Bertetty. They had been declared innocent in the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407056-466/sala-penal-ordena-repetir-juicio-en-el-que-fueron-absueltos-zelaya-y>

In the so-called Narcopolitics case, the former mayor of Tegucigalpa, Miguel Pastor, has to remain in pre-trial detention.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2230-honduras-seguira-presos-fallo->

[enfermedad-a-ex-edil-miguel-pastor](#)

09/09/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; UNAH; Journalists; COVID-19 - Protests, Health Sector; Militarization - Prisons; Elections - JOH; Corruption; Migration - US; and Liar in Chief

Jair Meza, spokesperson of the National Police, claims that they are awaiting arrest warrants for those involved in the forcefully disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/policia-a-la-espera-de-ordenes-de-captura-en-caso-secuestro-de-garifunas/>

The defense of JOH's brother Tony Hernández was again asked for a postponement of the sentencing scheduled for September 16.

<https://tiempo.hn/una-vez-mas-defensa-tony-hernandez-retrasar-audiencia-sentencia/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/defensa-de-tony-hernandez-pide-al-juez-castel-aplazar-un-mes-la-sentencia-contras-su-cliente/>

While the JOH regime successfully criminalizes student activists (see previous e-mail), it fails to bring to justice those responsible for attacks on students and human rights defenders. "An open process for concealment and usurpation for exercising their work as human rights defenders are the consequences of a selective justice system that released the torturing officers and kept open a criminal process against three defenders, who could go as far as an oral and public trial for exercising their right to defend human rights, said Ariel Diaz, who on September 8, 2017 was tortured and imprisoned for protecting students who were peacefully demonstrating at the National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNAH."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2966-a-tres-anos-de-actos-de-barbarie-policia-en-la-unah-estado-nos-ha-castigado-por-ser-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-y-dejo-en-libertad-a-los-oficiales-torturadores>

"The network of organizations Voices of the South presented a report on the state of press freedom in 10 countries in the Latin American region, identifying Honduras among the main countries with the most aggressions reported."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-entre-los-paises-con-mayor-registro-de-agresiones-contrala-libertad-de-prensa/>

The JOH regime once again only conducted 1000 tests which resulted in 379 positive results, for a new total of 65'597. 10 additional people died, the official death rate rose to 2044.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407358-466/honduras-sinager-contagios-muertos-coronavirus-pandemia>

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

"The Platform for the Defence of Public Education & Healthcare are calling Hondurans to protest this Friday, Sept 11th at 10 am to denounce number of preventable Covid-19 deaths & stolen public money designated to the covid response".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1303706369153875971>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/el-viernes-se-moviliza-plataforma-en-defensa-de-la-salud-y-la-educacion/>

Two months ago, two mobile hospitals arrived in Honduras, they are still not functional.

<https://proceso.hn/a-dos-meses-de-su-llegada-hospitales-moviles-no-funcionan/>

CESPAD published an analysis highlighting the armed forces as "Key Players in Democratic Reversals".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/09/analisis-los-militares-protagonistas-clave-de-los-retrocesos-democraticos/>

JOH militarized the prison with the promise that they will keep orders. Yesterday, Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Orlando Espinoza López was separated as the director of the Támara prison. "This event occurred after EL HERALDO disclosed how the officer, along with other prison officials, using a court ruling on a 2017 case being heard in the La Ceiba courts, released prisoner Hosmin Steven Medina Rodríguez or Osmin Steven Rodríguez Medina, against whom two courts in 2003 and 2004 in this capital imposed five sentences totaling 101 years in prison."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1407297-466/destituyen-al-director-de-la-penitenciar%C3%ADa-de-t%C3%A1mara-por-fuga-de-reo>

<https://tiempo.hn/suspenden-coronel-jaime-espinoza-director-penitenciaria-tamara/>

Congress started the discussion of the new Electoral Law yesterday. All 333 articles were read in Congress (virtually) and approved. La Prensa highlights some of the new elements, e.g. an article on gender parity.

In the coming days, the law and its articles will be further discussed.

"The Youth Electoral Platform, made up of different organizations from different regions of the country, have expressed their opinion that the electoral reforms contained in the new Electoral Law

should contain provisions that resolve citizens' demands, such as the second round of elections, the supervision of political financing, the updating of the National Electoral Census and the integrity of the system for the transmission of results."

Their voice is joined by many others expressing concerns about the insufficiency of the discussed law.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/sin-incluir-segunda-vuelta-congreso-nacional-inicia-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1407192-410/congreso-nacional-discute-dictamen-reformas-electorales>

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-en-su-totalidad-la-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/plataforma-juvenil-se-pronuncia-porque-reformas-electorales-resuelvan-las-demandas-ciudadanas/>

<https://criterio.hn/ausencia-de-debate-sobre-segunda-vuelta-y-reeleccion-presidencial-enciende-alarmas-en-honduras/>

Reacting to recent statements and warnings voiced by the political oppositions, JOH again reiterated that he won't run for another (illegal) term disparaging the opposition.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407327-466/joh-lideres-oposicion-van-perder-honduras-presidente-elecciones-reeleccion>

ConfidencialHN published the third part of its investigation into a corruption case involving Crédito Solidario.

<https://confidencialhn.com/colaboradores-de-credito-solidario-recurrieron-al-lavado-de-dinero-para-aparentar-negocios-legitimos/>

"Although lack of employment has been one of the main reasons why Hondurans decide to migrate, a new study by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (Flacso) reveals the link between migration policies, gang violence, and the structural socioeconomic problems that affect the lives of deported persons."

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47757>

Journalist Camilo Montoya-Galvez reports that "DHS No. 2 Ken Cuccinelli ordered officials in Dec. 2019 to fire or reassign staffers who compiled reports on violence, corruption and poverty in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras that Cuccinelli felt undermined the Trump admin's asylum policies, per a whistleblower complaint".

<https://twitter.com/camiloreports/status/1303768145451196417>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1717-honduras-entre-la-pandemia-y-un-regimen-que-rebasa-la-mentira-una-camara-de-ecos>

10/09/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Children; Journalists; COVID-19 - Protests, Corruption, Economy, Transport; Elections - Small Parties, Opposition; and Build Back Better

COPINH denounces a defamatory attack by the defense team of David Castillo. "The attack against COPINH, against the Court of Judgement and against the international community, undertaken by the lawyer Ritza Antúnez and Juan Sánchez Cantillano, is part of the strategy of disinformation to Honduran society and the international community, with the intention of provoking impunity in the case."

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/copinh-in-response-to-the-defamation-of-david-castillos-defense/>

The request by Tony Hernández' legal team was successful, his sentencing was postponed again, this time to November 10.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407530-466/postergan-sentencia-tony-herandez-noviembre-kevin-castel>

Yesterday, Honduras commemorated the Day of the Honduran Child. COIPRODEN rightly asked if this should be celebrated as 77% of Honduran children live in poor households. Almost 4000 children tested positive for COVID-19 and 21 died. Over one million Honduran children are without access to education.

MADJ adds to this the difficult situation of children in communities under siege by extractive projects and criminalized by the JOH regime.

<https://tiempo.hn/coiproden-se-puede-celebrar-77-ninos-hogares-pobres/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/09/10/el-dia-del-nino-y-la-nina-en-los-hogares-de-las-personas-criminalizadas-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47784>

"A resolution of the Court of Criminal Appeals, in the department of Francisco Morazán, puts the life and integrity of journalist César Omar Silva at risk, after partially upholding an appeal filed by the lawyer of Abelardo Mendoza, who assaulted the journalist while he was making his television program, in February 2018."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1249-corte-de-apelaciones-deja-en-indefension-a-periodista-hondureno>

Continuing with its low testing rate, Honduras has 205 new cases, 65'802 in total, and 5 more Hondurans died for a total of 2049.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407615-466/honduras-casos-covid-pandemia-coronavirus-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/10/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-10-de-septiembre-del-2020>

Feeling abandoned by the State, public employees call for protests on September 15, Honduras' "independence" day.

<https://criterio.hn/sindicatos-de-empleados-publicos-convocan-a-protesta-este-15-de-septiembre/>

According to the CNA, the ten corruption cases investigated by them cost the Honduran people some 811 million Lempiras.

As a response to the corruption scandal around the mobile hospital, Invest-H sent a delegation to Turkey to inspect the construction of the remaining 5 mobile hospitals. The travel costs were 300'000 Lempiras.

Foreign Minister and COVID-Special Envoy Lisandro Rosales had to appear before the MP regarding the purchase of problematic lung ventilators.

During his questioning he claimed not to have authorized the purchase.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/corrupcion-durante-pandemia-suma-mas-de-811-millones-de-lempiras-afirma-el-cna/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407430-466/viaje-turquia-invest-hospitales-moviles>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/interrogado-canciller-de-la-republica-por-supuesto-acto-de-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/canciller-se-desmarca-por-compra-de-respiradores-descartados-por-la-fda/>

""In Honduras, a street vendor pays more taxes than the owner of a transnational company," said attorney Yadira Minero, a specialist in labor law, in a virtual forum to analyze the impact of labor precariousness in the maquila industry, developed by the Regional Coalition of Women for Decent Work."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-durante-la-pandemia-el-gobierno-dejo-sin-acceso-a-la-justicia-a-miles-de-trabajadores/>

The Honduran Institute for Terrestrial Transport (IHTT) now claims that they have not allowed the transport sector to go back to 100% capacity (see previous e-mail).

<https://confidencialhn.com/instituto-del-transporte-aclara-que-aun-no-se-autoriza-circulacion-de-unidades-con-el-100-por-ciento-de-capacidad/>

While Wednesday raised the possibility of smooth sailing regarding the new Electoral Law, yesterday it all came crashing down. Given the substantial lacks of the proposed law, Libre congresswo/men walked out of Congress, i.e. in times of corona, this means leaving a Zoom-Call. The head of Libre in Congress, Carlos Zelaya, denounced: "They intend to call for elections under the current law. With the census of fraud and corruption, where the dead vote, with credentials for suitcase parties [small parties in the hand of the National Party], no fingerprints, no second round, no parity and alternation".

Additionally, the rosy picture painted by Congress' president Mauricio Oliva regarding a majority of the responsible commission voting in favor of the new law may have been fake news.

One article of the new Electoral Law caused quite a stir, it is one of the 19 transitory articles only applying to the 2021 elections, article 330. "The norm establishes that Hondurans will be able to go to the polls either with the current identity card or the one that is being manufactured to be the new document. In addition, the controversial "330" indicates that, in search of guaranteeing the universal right of citizenship to vote, the National Electoral Council (CNE) will approve, through regulations, a special mechanism. This system will allow citizens who do not appear on the lists to be able to choose their candidates. To do so, they will only have to verify their fingerprint electronically and register on a single list."

And there are also voices highlighting that the coming electoral fraud won't be stopped due to the old census and this uncertainty regarding the ID card.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2237-honduras-mauricio-oliva-fallo-afirma-ex-presidente-zelaya>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-se-retira-de-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral-y-su-aprobacion-queda-en-suspenso/>

<https://criterio.hn/borrador-de-ley-electoral-no-obtuvo-mayoria-de-votos-a-favor-de-comision-de-dictamen-como-expreso-mauricio-oliva-y-mario-segura/>

<https://criterio.hn/crisis-parlamentaria-es-causada-por-el-partido-nacional-luis-redondo/>

<https://tiempo.hn/polemico-articulo-330-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/fraude-electoral-2021-va-en-marcha-larios/>

El Tiempo explains what the new Electoral Law would mean for small parties. If they cannot gather at least 2% of the votes, they could be cancelled. But if they succeed to gain a seat in Congress, this can overturn the cancellation. Apparently, the writing allows for different interpretation and causes

confusion.

El Libertador published an article on the problems with the small parties in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/partidos-politicos-pequenos-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2238-honduras-nueva-ley-deja-vestidos-y-alborotados-a-partidos-bonsais>

In the midst of this, there are ongoing calls for a united opposition.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47799>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/reconstruimos-mejor-el-reto-post-pandemia/>

11/09/20

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol; OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; Journalists; Arrests; Torture; Dengue; COVID-19 - Protests, HR, State Reaction, Health Sector; Elections - CNE, JOH; Drug Trafficking; and the Barriers to Information

A report written by international scholars was published on the mining conflict in Guapinol will be presented today by the Central American Alliance Against Mining.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1304518792492523520>

Report: https://www.acafremin.org/images/documentos/Guapinol_ESP_Baja_Res.pdf

Radio Progreso reports on the situation in the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz suffering sadness and impotence due to the forced disappearance.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/zozobra-tristeza-e-impotencia-se-vive-en-triunfo-de-la-cruz-por-secuestro-de-garifunas/>

COPINH published its newsletter with an update on the process against David Castillo.

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/newsletter-no-8-year-2020/>

Back in 2015, journalist Dunia Montoya was brutally attacked by police agents covering a protest. Only one police agent was later accused and he now could only be convicted for injuries. The MP has requested the minimum sentence...

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2968-con-manos-de-seda-mp-y-poder-judicial-para-castigar-a-policia-torturador-de-la-periodista->

[dunia-montoya](#)

"The state of Honduras, through the Attorney General's Office (PGR) announced today that by mid 2021, it will have a "National Registry of Detentions", in compliance with the Amicable Solution Agreement in the Dixie Miguel Urbina case and the sentence in the Juan Humberto Sanchez case, which demanded the state to create such a registry."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-anuncia-un-registro-nacional-de-detenciones-como-respuesta-a-demandas-dictadas-por-el-sistema-interamericano-de-ddhh/>

National and international human rights organizations wrote an open letter to Mauricio Oliva, Congress' Nationalist president, regarding the announced election of German Allan McNeil Rueda as commissioner at the anti-torture commission CONAPREV (see also previous e-mails).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/carta-abierta-al-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-de-honduras/>

There are almost 19'000 dengue cases in Honduras, 18'905.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47834>

The testing capacity continues to go the wrong direction, down. Yesterday, the JOH regime tested only 739 people, a third tested positive, 247. There are now 66'049 COVID-19 cases in the country and 2058 people officially died from it.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1407831-466/honduras-registra-casos-muertes-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

The Platform for the Defense of Public Health and Education called for protests and Hondurans followed.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2240-honduras-pueblo-vuelve-a-la-calle-con-la-plataforma-por-salud-y-educacion>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1304485724763365378>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/1718-corrupcion-una-pandemia-mas-letal-que-el-covid-19>

Social movements and indigenous organizations published their 26th joint statement during the pandemic. "While the narco-dictatorship has surpassed the limits of impunity and corruption, and while the neoliberal business class and the transnationals are preying on the rights of the workers and imprisoning defenders of water and natural resources, there is a people that is turning its anger

and indignation into an organized struggle, and is preparing to recover the homeland from the criminals who are shaming us today".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/vigesimo-sexto-manifiesto-publico/>

"Sociologist and researcher Leticia Salomón expresses her doubts about how the Honduran government is handling the Codvid-19 pandemic to such an extent that she wonders what is behind the government's apathy."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/que-hay-detras-de-la-apatia-del-gobierno-para-enfrentar-la-pandemia/>

The Secretary of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores, claims that they have spent 472 million Lempiras to address the pandemic.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/09/11/salud-ha-ejecutado-mas-de-1472-millones-para-atender-emergencia/>

The debate in Congress about the new Electoral Law has led to more or less a political crisis. After Libre, the Liberal Party now also withdrew itself from the discussion emphasizing that they will only return if the reform includes a two-round presidential election.

As a result, the approval of the law was suspended.

The small parties sought out CONADEH denouncing that their participation in the coming elections is being obstructed.

Salvador Nasralla requests that the call for elections, scheduled for tomorrow, will be postponed for a month.

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle offers his insight into the current situation.

<https://criterio.hn/partido-liberal-se-retirara-de-discusion-de-ley-electoral-si-no-aprueban-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/partido-liberal-se-pronuncia-en-desacuerdo-con-las-reformas-electorales/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47829>

<https://www.hispan.tv.com/noticias/honduras/476773/crisis-politica-elecciones>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salvador-nasralla-pide-postergar-por-un-mes-la-convocatoria-a-elecciones-primarias/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-dilema-de-las-elecciones-y-las-reformas/>

The National Electoral Council (CNE) will have a new presidency, the Liberal council member Ana

Paola Hall. The presidency is for a year.

This also means that the presidency of Rixi Moncada is over, but she will continue at the council.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47855>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47847>

JOH, meanwhile, is trying to shore up the continuous support of the evangelical voters by handing out government support to pastors.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-sobre-bono-a-pastores-acto-humanidad/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2239-honduras-de-que-se-extranan-por-bono-del-gobierno-preguntan-pastores>

The National Police reports to have dismantled a coca plant in Irióna Cortés.

<https://confidencialhn.com/policia-nacional-desmantela-plantacion-de-arbustos-de-hoja-de-coca-en-la-region-norte/>

<https://criterio.hn/estudio-enumera-barreras-que-obstaculizan-acceso-a-la-informacion-publica-en-honduras/>

12/09/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Dengue; COVID-19 - HR, Agriculture; Elections - Fraud; and a Worrisome Trump Victory

56 days have passed since the forceful disappearance of Sneider, Suami, Milton, Junior and Alberth. "The Honduran State is said to have sent the report requested by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) on the adoption of adequate measures to find the whereabouts of the Garífunas who have been missing since July 18 of this year. The document was due to be sent on August 24. However, the content of the state's response has not been made public and the relatives and the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras, OFRANEH, are not aware of its content either." The IACHR called in a press release "on the States of the region to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, promote cultural change and adopt measures of integral reparation for people of African descent".

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1304810084535500800>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2967-estado-de-honduras-habria-enviado-informe-sobre-desaparicion-de-garifunas-a-la-corteidh>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/216.asp>

Sometimes forgotten due to the corona pandemic, Honduras continues to suffer from dengue. "The pediatric ward of the Hospital Escuela in the Honduran capital remains crowded with dengue patients, it was reported this weekend. Dr. Carlos Maldonado, head of the pediatric ward, said at least 17 minor patients are receiving care for dengue fever."

<https://proceso.hn/abarrota-sala-de-pediatria-por-ninos-de-dengue-en-el-hospital-escuela/>

Testing went up to over 2000 again yesterday, it hopefully being more than just a one-day phenomenon. The 2131 tests resulted in 1087 new cases for a total of 67,136. 7 more Hondurans died, 2065 in total.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408033-466/honduras-registra-cifra-r%C3%A9cord-con-1087-nuevos-contagios-de-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

ACI-Participa published its August human rights report under COVID-19.

<https://aciparticipa.org/2020/09/11/honduras-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-contexto-covid-19-agosto-2020/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the effects of the pandemic and the authoritarian response by the JOH regime on campesino communities highlighting the case of El Porvenir, Siguatepeque.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/de-donde-sacamos-dinero-para-nuestras-cosechas/>

With a political crisis looming, or already taking place, PINU now also called for the postponement of the call for elections until after the Electoral Law has passed. There called also demanded the inclusion of the two-round presidential election as well as taking away the control of the pooling stations from political parties.

The Liberal Party presented a bill to Congress regarding the two-round presidential election.

The small parties, meanwhile, threatened to seek out the Supreme Court in the Electoral Law would not be reformed regarding their status (see previous e-mails).

But this may all be moot as the call for election now has been officially published in La Gaceta.

"The convocation occurs while Libre demands a new census, the National Party does not want to lose the voting tables and the Liberal Party demands a second round, disagreements that expose an uncertain panorama in the electoral environment and that according to analysts consulted by EL HERALDO could derive in a new political crisis. The call to go to the polls will be made with the current Electoral Law because the new one has not yet been approved and has entered into a sort of doubt due to the last positions of the majority parties."

<https://criterio.hn/pinu-sugiere-postergar-convocatoria-a-elecciones-primarias-hasta-que-se-apruebe-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/partido-liberal-entrega-cn-ley-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/partidos-minoritarios-amenazan-con-acudir-a-corte-suprema-de-justicia-si-nueva-ley-electoral-no-se-reforma/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408003-466/publican-en-la-gaceta-convocatoria-oficial-a-elecciones-primarias>

The outgoing president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), councilwoman Rixi Moncada, made public a report detailing how the electoral frauds in 2013 and 2017 came about.

<https://criterio.hn/magistrada-del-cne-revela-como-se-impuso-el-fraude-electoral-de-2013-y-2017/>

"President Donald Trump's candidate Mauricio Claver-Carone won the election to lead the Inter-American Development Bank, placing an American at the head of the important lender as he looks to counter China's influence in the hemisphere. (...) Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee that would need to approve a U.S. capital increase for the bank, criticized the nomination of Claver-Carone. Leahy said in June that his presidency could jeopardize U.S. support for the bank and warned that Claver-Carone's adversarial relationship with the governments of Venezuela and Cuba could polarize the IDB."

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-12/trump-s-candidate-elected-to-lead-latin-america-development-bank?utm_source=google&utm_medium=bd&cmpId=google

<https://proceso.hn/el-bid-elige-como-nuevo-presidente-al-estadounidense-mauricio-claver-carone/>

13/09/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ; COVID-19 - ; Elections - JOH, Libre; and the US-Honduran Relationship

El Tiempo reports that a member of the LGBTQ community was attacked by a man with a machete in San José, Comayagua. The authorities later rejected receiving the complaint about the attack.

<https://tiempo.hn/comayagua-hieren-a-miembro-lgtb-autoridades-se-niegan-a-recibir-denuncia/>

653 new cases, 67'789 in total, 14 additional deaths, 2079 in total.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408193-466/honduras-confirma-653-nuevos-contagios-14-muertes-covid>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/13/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-13-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

After the publication in La Gaceta (see yesterday), the president of the CNE now also called for the primary elections on TV and radio for March 14, 2021.

CNE councilmember Rixi Moncada denounced the call as illegal and unconstitutional given that it is based on the 2017 census.

In an interview with Criterio, Mel Zelaya called it a complete violation of the rights of the Honduran people.

Salvador Nasralla called it an imposition by JOH and demands a postponement of two weeks to discuss and approve a new Electoral Law.

El Libertador spoke with political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado about this volatile situation.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408209-466/cne-convoca-oficialmente-partidos-inscritos-elecciones-primarias>

<https://confidencialhn.com/moncada-califica-de-ilegal-convocatoria-a-elecciones-con-censo-de-2017/>

<https://criterio.hn/ambiente-tenso-magistrada-del-cne-anuncia-que-no-participara-en-convocatoria-a-primarias-porque-es-ilegal-y-falsa/>

<https://criterio.hn/convocatoria-a-elecciones-es-falsa-y-esta-viciada-de-toda-nulidad-mel-zelaya/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/convocatoria-a-elecciones-es-imposicion-de-joh-nasralla-pide-postergar-llamado-por-15-dias/>

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2243-entrevista-grupo-excepcionalmente-perverso-ha-secuestrado-honduras>

Many priests won't be bought off by JOH declining state support (see Saturday's email).

<https://tiempo.hn/tres-mil-pastores-rechazan-bono-del-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/mario-fumero-en-contra-de-privilegios-para-pastores-de-iglesias-evangelicas/>

"The legal representative of the Liberty and Refoundation Party (LIBRE), Benedicto Santos, was the target of an attack this Sunday, as he was moving from the La Guadalupe community in Reitoca to Tegucigalpa. The events occurred at about 12:52 noon in front of the base where the Battalion of the now disappeared Centauros, now known as the police base, was located a mile from the center of Lepaterique. Santos received a bullet graze to the right buttock when his vehicle was hit by two shots from the driver's side, which he called an attack by the state."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/frente-a-base-policial-atentan-contra-el-abogado-benedicto-santos/>

"Star investigation: US supports Honduran government that forces many to migrate as it protects drug trafficking"

https://tucson.com/news/local/star-investigation-us-supports-honduran-government-that-forces-many-to-migrate-as-it-protects-drug/article_cbfacb4c-dc94-50e8-a80f-82f307574662.html

14/09/20

Honduras Daily: Campesines; LGBTQ+; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Corruption; US; Elections - Armed Forces; and Nothing to Celebrate

The 38-year old campesino leader Jairo Enrique Sales was shot dead by various assailants in Villanueva, San Pedro Sula.

<https://confidencialhn.com/matan-a-dirigente-campesino-en-la-zona-norte-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/matan-presidente-de-campesinos-en-dos-caminos/>

ConexiHon reports on a recent virtual forum called "Knowing the problems and context of trans women in Honduras" which especially focused on their situation during the pandemic.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/37-lgtbi/1721-la-comunidad-trans-vulnerable-violentada-y-discriminada-durante-la-pandemia-por-covid-19>

OFRANEH published the IACtHR resolution from September 2 on the Garífuna communities Triunfo de la Cruz and Punta Piedra.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1305509463575670784>

831 news cases, 8 additional deaths for a total of 68'620 and 2087 respectively. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408450-466/honduras-casos-muertes-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

The CNA published a report into the irregularities behind the social program Honduras Solidaria. The CNA denounced that the pandemic served as another excuse to suppress transparency. According to the JOH regime, they "invested" 659 million Lempiras in the program.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1305506360377958400>

<https://twitter.com/radioamericahn/status/1305542785727172608>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-hallazgos-compras-de-honduras-solidaria/>

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-es-la-oportunidad-de-oro-de-los-funcionarios-para-suprimir-la-transparencia-gabriela-castellanos/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/09/14/honduras-solidaria-ha-invertido-l-659-millones-para-entregar-alimentos-a-la-poblacion-afectada-por-el-confinamiento/>

El Heraldo interviewed the former acting US Secretary of State Thomas A. Shannon about US-Honduran relations and how they could change under Biden.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408224-466/thomas-shannon-biden-entender%C3%ADa-la-importancia-de-centroam%C3%A9rica>

Radio Progreso published a helpful article summarizes the last days' events regarding the (lack of) electoral reforms and the official launch of the coming electoral cycle.

Criterio is not hopeful. "The panorama for the next electoral process is not very promising according to analysts, who predict a more complex situation than in 2017, in the elections to be held in 2021."

<https://radioprogressohn.net/noticias-nacionales/en-honduras-se-convoca-a-elecciones-en-medio-de-la-polemica-y-la-incertidumbre-por-la-pandemia/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-inicia-proceso-para-las-elecciones-de-2021-sin-reformas-electorales/>

<https://criterio.hn/tras-fracaso-del-dialogo-politico-honduras-se-condujo-a-un-nuevo-proceso-electoral-sin-reformas-profundas/>

The Armed Forces also commented on the call for elections, but they did not offer answers on what they would do in a case JOH tried to get reelected again.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-militar-evade-responder-si-ffaa-actuara-por-posible-reeleccion-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

<https://proceso.hn/las-ffaa-tienen-destinadas-sus-funciones-en-los-procesos-electorales-recuerda-jefe-castrense/>

Today, Honduras commemorates its independence day, but there is not much to celebrate, rather there are widespread calls for protest.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1305726396224794624>

<https://criterio.hn/cual-independencia-y-donde-esta-el-dinero-seran-las-consignas-populares-de->

[este-15-de-septiembre/](#)

15/09/20

Honduras Daily: September 15 - Repression, History, US; COVID-19 - Rural Regions, Transport; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Facebook; Elections; Budget; Mexico; and Wa-dani, a Garífuna News Outlet

Honduras commemorated its "independence" day yesterday. The day was accompanied by protests and brutal state repression.

"Marcela Licon, Irma López and Elizabeth Medina, from Human Rights Without Borders (DHFH), were attacked by the National Police when they were evacuating elderly people affected by tear gas. The officers pushed them against the wall, insulted them, and beat them to remove the cell phones where they were documenting the violence, assaulting two elderly men, a private guard, and young people they had detained."

"Cristian Esteban Espinoza Meza, 26 years old and being treated in the public hospital in Tegucigalpa after being sprayed by a police water tank mixed with chemicals."

OACNUDH reminded the JOH regime that "the use of force must be governed by the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, prevention and non-discrimination".

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/15/manifestacion-y-represion-en-el-199-aniversario-de-la-independencia/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2969-honduras-manifestacion-del-dia-de-independencia-concluye-en-fuerte-represion-y-ataques-a-defensores>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1306002506846068737>

<https://tiempo.hn/joven-queda-con-sus-ojos-heridos-despues-de-manifestacion/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1306006072029835266>

El Pulso published a historic analysis of the Central American independence or "The Great Creole Farce".

MADJ also wonders which independence exactly is being celebrated.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47927>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/09/15/la-independencia-no-se-puede-celebrar-si-no-es-nuestra/>

The Trump administration congratulated Honduras, a country with which they have "a relationship based on shared values, trade, culture and family ties".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1408614-410/estados-unidos-felicita-honduras-199-aniversario->

[independencia](#)

SINAGER did not publish new data on the corona pandemic yesterday, probably on the occasion of the independence day celebrations.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-15-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

As feared, COVID-19 has spread to the rural regions where the medical system is even less well prepared.

<https://criterio.hn/tal-como-lo-advirtieron-los-especialistas-el-covid-19-se-propaga-en-la-zona-rural/>

Contracorriente reports on the transport sector and the possible effects of its reactivation. "During 6 months of the health emergency in Honduras, public transportation was paralyzed, but this week it was enabled at 100 % of its capacity. The risk of contagion in the poor condition of the transportation system stands in contrast to the calamity that thousands of transporters have been condemned to in the midst of the pandemic. The reopening of transportation has been done without hearing scientific opinion in a country that continues to have high rates of contagion."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/15/a-pesar-del-riesgo-transporte-publico-se-reanuda-en-honduras/>

The Pro Honduras Network highlighted new drug trafficking links of JOH based on US court documents in the case of Fredy Nájera Montoya. "Approximately between 2013 and 2014 Fabio Lobo and Fredy Nájera received shipments with large quantities of drugs that would later be sent to the Sinaloa Cartel and for that purpose they used the port located in Puerto Cortés as a reception point. The documents state that to move said drugs through Honduras they received help from Juan Orlando Hernández, later the Sinaloa Cartel paid them 1 million dollars that was divided among those who facilitated the transportation and protection of the shipment. (It should be noted that this amount is not the same million dollars reported in the case of Juan Antonio Hernandez.)"

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/09/15/juan-orlando-hernandez-ayudo-a-transportar-cargamentos-de-cocaina-del-cartel-de-sinaloa/>

"Facebook ignored or was slow to act on evidence that fake accounts on its platform have been undermining elections and political affairs around the world, according to an explosive memo sent by a recently fired Facebook employee and obtained by BuzzFeed News. The 6,600-word memo, written by former Facebook data scientist Sophie Zhang, is filled with concrete examples of heads of government and political parties in Azerbaijan and Honduras using fake accounts or misrepresenting themselves to sway public opinion. (...) It took Facebook's leaders nine months to act on a coordinated campaign "that used thousands of inauthentic assets to boost President Juan Orlando Hernandez of Honduras on a massive scale to mislead the Honduran people." Two weeks after Facebook took action against the perpetrators in July, they returned, leading to a game of

“whack-a-mole” between Zhang and the operatives behind the fake accounts, which are still active.”

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/craigsilverman/facebook-ignore-political-manipulation-whistleblower-memo>

Both the National and the Liberal Party reacted to the official call to election by calling their own political movements inside the party to sign up for the coming electoral cycle. Libre, meanwhile, called for an emergency meeting to discuss the electoral fraud in the making.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47914>

The Council of Ministers approved the General Budget of the Republic for the year 2021 in the amount of some 288 billion Lempiras.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47932>

The JOH regime received some \$20 million from Mexico for the project Sembrando Vida, "a project that seeks the conservation of the environment by planting timber and fruit trees".

<https://criterio.hn/donan-41-millones-de-dolares-a-honduras-y-el-salvador-por-acuerdos-suscritos-con-gobierno-mexicano/>

<https://criterio.hn/lanzan-en-honduras-el-portal-informativo-garifuna-wa-dani-com/>

16/09/20

Honduras Daily: Sakharov Prize; Extractivism; 9/15 - Repression; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Economy; Prisons; Elections - Census, ID Card; Lawyers; Police; Armed Forces - Assassination, US; Debt; Budget; Drug Trafficking - JOH; and the Impunity Map

Some great news to start the day: "Happy and proud Greens/EFA nominate #Guapinol Water Defenders and Berta Cáceres for the Sakharov prize. We're sending a strong signal of support for the environmental and social movements in #Honduras"

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1306319116198912004>

FOSDEH has compiled an atlas of extractive concessions on indigenous and black territories. "The Territories at Risk II research[1] shows how, in practice, indigenous and black peoples are being impacted by the implementation of extraction and development projects. The rights to life, physical integrity, health, non-discrimination, consultation and consent, cultural identity, information, and participation, among others, are affected."

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/atlas-de-las-concesiones-en-territorios-indigenas-y-negros-en-la->

republica-de-honduras/

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-90-concesiones-con-serios-cuestionamientos-en-territorios-indigenas-y-negros-de-honduras/>

There is widespread condemnation of the newest state repression against protests taking place on September 15 (see yesterday) and calls for an investigation into the responsible state security forces. COFADEH documented the arrest of at least 15 young protesters.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1255-represion-policial-detenciones-y-heridos-en-manifestacion-popular-por-aniversario-de-independencia>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1725-tercer-ano-fuerzas-policiales-reprimen-movilizacion-popular-en-conmemoracion-de-independencia>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-actuar-contr-policias-y-militares-que-reprimieron-manifestacion-del-15-de-septiembre/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/15-jovenes-detenidos-deja-la-brutal-represion-del-regimen-dictatorial-de-joh/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/por-preguntar-donde-esta-el-dinero-policia-reprime-a-manifestantes/>

UNESCO published a report on the repression of journalists covering protests around the world. "Safety of Journalists Covering Protests - Preserving Freedom of the Press During Times of Turmoil".

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374206>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1724-unesco-reporta-aumento-de-ataque-a-periodistas-que-cubren-protestas>

2542 tests resulted in 1040 new positive COVID-19 cases for a total of 69'660. 15 additional Hondurans died, for a total of 2102. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1408919-466/honduras-acumula-nuevos-casos-muertos-por-covid-19-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/16/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-16-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Starting next week, twice as many people may circulate on any given day in Honduras.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1408942-466/aprueban-circulaci%C3%B3n-de-dos-d%C3%ADgitos-en-honduras-a-partir-del-21-de>

On March 18, the JOH regime bought the first two out of seven mobile hospitals. They are still not operational - the date was just postponed again, for a fourth time.

The JOH regime continues to defend their purchase without convincing anyone according to Criterio.

Criterio also reports on the purchase of dysfunctional mask by the JOH regime for over \$3 million from the Honduran Maquiladoras Association (AHM).

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47963>

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-corrupcion-secretario-de-la-presidencia-defiende-a-capa-y-espada-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-pago-mas-de-l-78-millones-a-maquiladores-en-mascarillas-que-son-una-burla/>

The informal economy has grown to over 2 million people during the pandemic according to FOSDEH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fosdeh-senala-que-comercio-informal-en-honduras-subio-a-mas-de-dos-millones-de-personas/>

In a joint press release, OACNUDH and the IACHR expressed concerns about the situation of inmates in Honduras.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/221.asp>

<https://criterio.hn/onu-solicita-a-honduras-informe-sobre-proceso-de-intervencion-militar-en-centros-penales/>

UNAH joined the debate about the electoral reforms and calls for a solution to the presidential reelection problem and speaks out in favor of a two-round presidential election.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1408957-410/unah-reeleccion-presidencial-honduras>

RNP commissioner Óscar Rivera reiterates that the database of the National Electoral Census "is not reliable".

<https://confidencialhn.com/comisionado-del-rnp-sostiene-que-base-de-datos-del-censo-electoral-no-son-confiables/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=47961>

Salvador Nasralla presented a challenge to the roll out process of the new identity card by the RNP.

<https://proceso.hn/nasralla-interpone-recurso-contr-el-proceso-de-enrolamiento-de-la-nueva-identidad/>

The lawyer Luis Enrique Villalta Pacheco was murdered in Tocoa, Colón.

<https://confidencialhn.com/matan-a-abogado-a-disparos-en-el-departamento-de-colon-huyen-los-autores-del-crimen/>

"A judge ordered the exhumation of the body of Rinel Argueta Oliva, who lost his life at the hands of police officers in the municipality of San Esteban, Olancho, on June 21."

"The Public Ministry and the Committee of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras (Cofadeh), in a preliminary hearing held in the Courts of Catacamas, Olancho, formalized an accusation against four police officers who were found responsible for the death of Rinel Eclicerio Argueta Oliva, which occurred on June 21 in the municipality of San Esteban."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-22-de-septiembre-exhumaran-cuerpo-de-rinel-argueta-para-obtener-nuevos-elementos-de-prueba/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mp-y-cofadeh-formalizan-acusacion-contr-cuatro-policias-responsables-de-dar-muerte-a-una-persona-en-san-esteban-olancho/>

A member of the Armed Forces was charged with murder.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/161-septiembre2020/6312-requerimiento-fiscal-para-militar-por-homicidio-de-poblador-de-omoa>

"Some 60 soldiers assigned to the 480th Military Police Company, 92nd Brigade of the Puerto Rico National Guard arrived Wednesday at Soto Cano Air Base in Comayagua, central Honduras."

<https://tiempo.hn/policias-militares-puerto-rico-base-soto-cano-comayagua/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2247-en-mes-patrio-marines-de-ee-uu-haran-operativos-en-honduras>

The external debt of Honduras has grown 19.5% compared to last year, it reached almost \$11 billion.

<https://proceso.hn/la-deuda-externa-hondurena-sub-e-a-10795-millones-de-dolares-un-195-mas-que-en-2019/>

"After the presentation of the General Budget of the Republic for the fiscal year 2021 [see

yesterday], Honduran economists are of the opinion that, in the formulation of the proposal sent by the Secretariat of Finance to the National Congress, a planning conceived with "erroneous figures lacking the national reality" is identified, which also has little emphasis on budgetary investment for the economic reactivation."

<https://criterio.hn/presupuesto-2021-tiene-poco-enfasis-en-recuperacion-de-economia-post-pandemia/>

Two sons of convicted drug trafficker and former police officer, Víctor Oswaldo López Flores, were arrested.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/161-septiembre2020/6309-hijos-de-expolicia-condenado-por-narcotrafico-en-estados-unidos-son-capturados-por-la-atic-acusados-del-asesinato-de-un-asiatico>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hijos-de-expolicia-condenado-en-ee-uu-por-narcotrafico-son-capturados-por-la-atic-acusados-del-asesinato-de-un-asiatico/>

Yesterday, Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez had his day in US courts, on the day of the now postponed sentencing of Tony Hernández. The Pro Honduras Network reports that Ramírez' case will be linked with the one against the former police agent and cousin of JOH, Mauricio Hernández Pineda.

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1306253835854319617

<https://proceso.hn/el-mapa-de-la-impunidad-en-los-departamentos-de-honduras/>

17/09/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Journalists; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption; Elections; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Police - Assassination; Budget; Lawyers; and Ongoing Violence

Almost two months have passed since the forceful disappearance of the five young men of the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

<http://www.albasud.org/noticia/1255/la-persecucion-al-pueblo-gar-funa-en-honduras-continua>

C-Libre denounced that the photojournalist Orlando Sierra working for French Press Agency (AFP) was launched a tear gas canister against his body when he was covering the violent repression of the independence day protests.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1256-policia-dispara-directamente-contra-fotoperiodista-internacional>

There are now over 70'000 COVID-19 cases in Honduras, 70'120, and as 20 more people died to it yesterday, the total, official and questionable, death toll rose to 2122.

The deputy health minister once again announced a higher testing capacity for the coming days.

According to him, 3000 tests per day should be possible.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1409200-410/honduras-sinager-covid-recuperados-coronavirus-recuperados>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1404852-528/pruebas-pcr-honduras-laboratorios>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/17/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-17-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Social movements and indigenous organizations published their 27th joint press release during the pandemic.

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/manifiesto-publico-27-septiembre-2020/>

Even though there have been several corruption cases unearthed involving Invest-H and the MP opened several investigations - without pressing any charges though - Congress continues to benefit Invest-H. They just approved a new construction project for them.

Reporteros de Investigación, meanwhile, reports on suspicious purchases by the IHSS, again linked to Invest-H.

<https://criterio.hn/a-pesar-de-corrupcion-congreso-sigue-entregando-fondos-a-invest-h/>

<https://proceso.hn/cn-autoriza-que-invest-h-busque-fondos-para-obras-de-mitigacion-en-el-aguan-y-los-amates/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/09/17/en-medio-del-covid-19-seguro-social-hizo-compras-por-1-265-6-millones-favorecieron-a-empresas-relacionadas-con-invest-h/>

"The resistance to not approving the electoral reforms in the face of the next electoral contest will aggravate and prolong the social crisis in Honduras, as analyzed by the University Institute for Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS) of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH)."

Libre, meanwhile, announced that they would not participate in Congress' virtual session as long as the new electoral law is not discussed.

They denounce that the National Party refuses to discuss questionable transitory articles of the new law which would allow the coming electoral process to take place with the old census and the old ID cards.

<https://tiempo.hn/iudpas-reformas-electorales-en-honduras-crisis/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-asistira-sesiones-hasta-pn-rectifique-posicion-sobre-ley-electoral/>

<https://proceso.hn/libre-no-esta-dispuesto-a-seguir-la-jugarreta-del-partido-nacional-dice-diputado-dixon/>

According to the authorities, they have destroyed 30 drug plane landing sites so far this year.

<https://proceso.hn/suman-30-pistas-del-narcotrafico-destruidas-este-ano-en-honduras/>

"A judge issued a warrant for the arrest of former Captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana, accused of 15 counts of slander by the Minister of Defense and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, retired General Fredy Santiago Díaz Zelaya. (...) Rodríguez Orellana gave statements affirming that Díaz Zelaya had participated in the construction of clandestine tracks for drug trafficking and was part of criminal structures, for which reason his defense pointed out that such assertions are false and damage the image, honor and integrity of the person he represents." "On October 21, 2016, the Armed Forces dishonorably separated Captain Rodríguez Orellana from active duty, arguing that the military man was being investigated by the United States for alleged ties to organized crime, something that was never confirmed by the U.S. embassy. The separation of the military institution took place after the military man denounced that Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, used his influence to traffic drugs to the United States using the helicopters of the Armed Forces."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/tribunal-emite-orden-de-captura-contra-capitan-santos-rodriguez-orellana/>

<https://criterio.hn/emiten-orden-de-captura-contra-capitan-santos-rodriguez-orellana/>

ATIC arrested a sub-inspector of the National Police accused of murdering a 20-year old this May.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/161-septiembre2020/6320-atic-captura-a-subinspector-de-policia-por-homicidio-de-joven>

There is ongoing criticism regarding the new budget for the coming fiscal year (see previous days). Some economist speak of "a fiscal bomb" left behind for the future government. Hugo Noé Pino also questions the predicted 5.2% economic growth for 2021.

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-nacionalista-deja-una-bomba-fiscal-al-proximo-gobierno-economistas/>

<https://criterio.hn/hugo-noe-pino-desmiente-proyeccion-optimista-de-crecimiento-economico-del-5-2-para-2021/>

<https://criterio.hn/tres-anos-tardara-honduras-en-recuperar-la-economia-asegura-ex-ministro-de-finanzas/>

"Tomorrow is a key day for Honduras and for the Honduran Bar Association (CAH), the new board of directors of jurists that against all odds defeated the arm of the ruling National Party that for several years had assaulted that strategic institution for the control of the State, takes office and now everything indicates that it will serve the Nation."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2250-honduras-abogados-derrotan-al-partido-nacional-en-eleccion-historica>

In the newest mass murder in Honduras, five people were killed in the El Pedregalito neighborhood in the capital.

<https://confidencialhn.com/enesima-masacre-asesinan-a-cinco-personas-en-la-colonia-capitalina-el-pedregalito/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2254-alerta-en-20-horas-de-hoy-10-asesinatos-y-8-heridos-en-honduras>

18/09/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; OFRANEH; Dengue; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption, Health Sector, Children, UNAH; US; Elections; and The Logging Barons of Catacamas

"COPINH is announcing that a hearing is scheduled for next Monday, Sept 21 at 1:30 pm to determine whether David Castillo, accused intellectual author of #BertaCaceres murder case, will be released or not from pre-trial detention #Honduras"

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1307004297150824448>

Two months into the forced disappearance of the five young men from Triunfo de la Cruz, Padre Melo holds the JOH regime responsible for its suspicious silence on the case.

<https://criterio.hn/estado-tiene-responsabilidad-en-desaparecimiento-de-garifunas-por-sospechoso-silencio-padre-melo/>

Dengue cases have risen to 19'535 in Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=48076>

Only testing 1024 people, there are 491 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 70'611. 24 more Hondurans died, at least 2146 have died so far.

The Association of Funeral Homes, meanwhile, assures that the real figure exceeds 5 thousand deaths, according to their records.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1409420-466/honduras-reporta-casos-y-muertes-por-covid-19>

<https://tiempo.hn/muertes-por-covid-19-igual-honduras-funerarias/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/18/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-18-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

"Seven months after the suspension of Constitutional Guarantees in Honduras, the population has adapted to online methods for the organization of labor, political, and popular activities, among others, with electronic platforms being one of the tools for spying on certain sectors, with the aim of repressing and silencing them."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2971-pandemia-favorece-el-espionaje-a-las-reuniones-y-asociaciones-de-la-sociedad-civil>

The recent decision by Congress to approve more funds for the controversial Invest-H is met with criticism (see also previous e-mail).

In a press conference, the Health Secretariat and the intervention body of Invest-H commented on the current state of the two mobile hospitals in Honduras. They have arrived over two months ago and are not operational yet...and won't be for the time being. According to the authorities, they are still testing their equipment.

The authorities have been sending contradictory messages since the beginning. When the first two mobile hospitals arrived, they said that they would be operational within days. Since then, new possible dates of operation have been promised. Yesterday in the press conference, they then said that they would not promise an exact date only to later promise that all seven hospitals (five are still being produced in Turkey or on the way) will be operational in November...

The former head of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI), Adolfo Facussé, criticizes that the intervention body at Invest-H is only there to cover things up and say that everything is fine."

ConfidencialHN published another article on the corruption case involving Crédito Solidario.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1409286-410/congreso-aprueba-fondos-investh-amates-aguan-obras-corrupcion>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1409343-410/salud-investh-hospital-movil-san-pedro-sula-paciencia-operaciones-covid>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2256-gobierno-pide-paciencia-hospitales-se-pudren-y-hondurenos-insisten-y-el-dinero>

<https://proceso.hn/siete-hospitales-moviles-estarian-habilitados-en-noviembre-segun-interventora-de-invest-h/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/uferco-apunta-sus-dardos-ante-masivos-actos-de-corrupcion-en-credito-solidario/>

<https://tiempo.hn/adolfo-facusse-junta-interventora-de-invest-h/>

"In the morning, employees of the Vicente D'Antoni Hospital in the city of La Ceiba, department of Atlántida, carried out a protest due to the breach of the collective contract, where they also questioned the disrespect of the administration of this assistance center towards the acquired rights of the workers."

<https://criterio.hn/empleados-de-hospital-dantoni-de-la-ceiba-protestan-por-incumplimiento-a-contrato-laboral/>

"The COIPRODEN Network has studied the Government's figures and through a report on the situation of children and young people during the pandemic, it has detailed that at least 18,344 young people (19 to 30 years old) and 4,222 children (between 0 and 18 years old) have suffered from Covid-19. COIPRODEN's figures show that so far at least 6,540 young people and children have had a satisfactory recovery, and 53 minors have lost their lives due to the disease, 22 of them girls and boys and 31 young people."

<https://criterio.hn/incremento-de-casos-en-menores-de-edad-positivos-de-covid-19-genera-preocupacion-en-honduras/>

UNAH announced to suspend 1200 teachers basing this on the PCM 021-2020 decree and giving the corona pandemic as an excuse. Its labor union denounced the decision.

<https://tiempo.hn/sitraunah-denuncia-despido-arbitrario-mas-mil-trabajadores-1/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/suspenden-a-unos-mil-empleados-de-la-unah-sindicato-denuncia-que-son-despidos-encubiertos/>

Honduras has a new ambassador in the US, Luis Suazo Barahona.

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-suazo-embajador-cartas-credenciales-donald-trump/>

https://twitter.com/DHS_Wolf/status/1307045708307075077

In an emergency meeting, Libre decided after all to attend the primary elections, but under protest. ContraCorriente published an analysis of the coming electoral cycle - "alliances, new aspirations and mistrust".

<https://criterio.hn/partido-libre-ira-a-elecciones-primarias-bajo-protesta/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/18/primer-acto-del-proceso-electoral-2021-alianzas-nuevas-aspiraciones-y-desconfianza/>

"Catacamas is the largest municipality in Central America, home to thousands of square kilometers of pristine forest. Political elites in this remote part of Honduras have maintained a profitable relationship with timber traffickers for decades. Their power, cemented by allowing corporations to pillage Catacamas' natural wealth and their government connections, has allowed them to murder those who speak out against them, grow rich off the deforestation of cedar, mahogany and pine trees, and even possibly assist drug traffickers."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/investigations/logging-barons-catacamas-honduras/>

19/09/20

Honduras Daily: Femicides; ZEDEs - Próspera; COVID-19 - Economy, BCIE;

"The lack of research, budget and exhumation of corpses as scientific evidence, are one of the factors that generate a slow process in the resolution of cases of femicide in the country, detailed this Friday the general coordinator of the Center for Women's Studies in Honduras (CEMH), Suyapa Martinez."

Proceso Digital reports on how the pandemic has not put a stop to violence against women, but rather has worsened the situation.

<https://confidencialhn.com/feministas-cuestionan-falta-de-investigacion-de-fiscalia-por-crimenes-contra-las-mujeres/>

<https://proceso.hn/imparables-crimenes-contra-mujeres-en-pandemia/>

The planned Próspera charter city continues to be met with protest and public rejection. Meanwhile, inhabitants of the Crawfish Rock community are being threatened by the CEO of Próspera of dispossession and his body guards intimidated inhabitants.

According to OFRANEH, the JOH regime is violating the 1864 treaty between Honduras and England with this planned ZEDE.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1307333591622397952>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2257-el-colmo-gringos-quieren-robar-tierra-a-islenos-de-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/extranjero-roatan-honduras-puede-declarar-expropiacion/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1307469820460441600>

There are 532 new COVID-19 cases and 20 more Hondurans lost their lives. In total, there are 71'143 cases and 2166 confirmed deaths by the government, the later is likely twice as high (see yesterday).

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1409628-466/muertos-casos-covid-honduras-sabado>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/19/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-19-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

According to the lawyer Fausto Cáliz, the announced mass-firing of 1200 UNAH teachers (see yesterday) would be illegal.

Carlos Madero, Secretary of Work and Social Security, announced that the unemployment rate could grow from 5.7% to 13%.

<https://criterio.hn/anunciado-despido-de-docentes-por-hora-en-la-unah-seria-ilegal/>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/09/19/ministro-del-trabajo-carlos-madero-tasa-de-desempleo-subira-de-5-7-a-13/>

The BCIE disbursed \$35.5 million this week for micro-, small- and medium-sized companies in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-fondos-para-mipymes-financiamiento-honduras/>

20/09/20

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs - Próspera; HRDs - Guapinol; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector; JOH; and the UPR Process

OFRANEH continues to denounce the situation with the planned ZEDE Próspera, e.g. that they did not conduct a consultation with the black community at Crawfish Rock.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1307655167697981441>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1307670424948441088>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1307716012746461189>

ContraCorriente published an article on the struggle by the Guapinol community against a mining project focusing on the local leader Juan López, one of 32 local defenders being criminalized.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/20/honduras-y-como-luchar-por-el-medio-ambiente-sin-convertirse-en-martir/>

1163 tests resulted in 473 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 71'616. 2184 people have died so far according to, questionable, official statistics.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1409812-466/honduras-coronavirus-finales-septiembre-pandemia>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/20/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-20-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Starting today, twice the amount of Hondurans can circulate again on any given day, still determined by the last digit of their ID.

Restaurants may run again with 50% of their capacity.

The Multi-Sectorial Board even announced that the so-called "Semana Morazánica" will take place this year from November 4-7 allowing Hondurans to take holidays.

But the state of exception was still prolonged to October 4.

And there are warnings about a second wave hitting Honduras - while it is not even clear that the first wave is already over.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1409838-466/aprueban-salida-de-dos-d%C3%ADgitos-y-sigue-fase-1-de-la-reapertura>

<https://confidencialhn.com/restaurantes-listos-para-empezar-a-atender-con-el-50-por-ciento-de-su-capacidad/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2258-honduras-semana-morazanica-va-con-infeccion-viral-en-alza>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1409806-466/toque-de-queda-honduras-coronavirus-pandemia-octubre>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-debe-prepararse-para-segunda-oleada-de-la-pandemia/>

The JOH regime announced that the additional medical staff hired to face the pandemic won't have their contracts renewed. To be precise, they told them on September 17 that their contract running out today, won't be renewed...

<https://criterio.hn/para-gobierno-de-honduras-pandemia-ya-termino-y-despide-medicos/>

JOH confirmed in a talk with Israel's president Netanyahu to open an embassy in Jerusalem by the end of the year, i.e. move the one from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1307775009922973696>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1409813-466/presidente-hern%C3%A1ndez-confirma-que-honduras-abrir%C3%A1-embajada-en-jerusal%C3%A9n-este-a%C3%B1o>

This November, Honduras will sit the Universal Periodic Review at the UN human rights council. Pasos de Animal Grande denounced: "The Honduran State will have an enormous delay in complying with the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review, UPR, of 2015, among them those related to the freedom of expression and the protection of the people who practice journalism in the country."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2972-el-examen-es-en-noviembre-honduras-llegara-con-recomendaciones-incumplidas-al-epu-2020>

21/09/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Guapinol; Violence against Women; COVID-19 - Protests, Health Sector, Corruption, Economy; Budget - Debt; Corruption - UNA; Elections;

The bail hearing against David Castillo was supposed to take place yesterday afternoon. In preparation, COPINH explained against that his pre-trial detention has not run out due to the delaying tactics of his defense team. According to COPINH, they unjustifiably delayed the process already by 1 year, 4 months and 10 days.

And the delaying continues as the defense team did not show up and the judge suspended the hearing - even though the law would allow for the hearing to take place without the defense present.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1308122541039513600>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1308147642011127809>

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1308233907972771848>

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons and Public Goods held a press conference yesterday denouncing the ongoing criminalization of Guapinol defenders.

<https://radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/denuncian-persecucion-politica-contra-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1308081296472772614>

"Between July and August 2020, a total of 15 girls were victims of sexual violence in Honduras, according to media monitoring conducted by the Center for Women's Rights (CDM). (...)

"According to the registry, twelve of the aggressors were unknown to the victims, but were known to the family members because they are owners of grocery stores or evangelical pastors," she said, stressing that it is necessary to demand justice for the victims and also access to health services to avoid complications from sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. Between July and August, 33 femicides were registered in Honduras, four of these deaths were caused by multiple homicides. The victims were mostly young people between the ages of 10 and 39. "This shows that staying home was never a safe place for most women," said CDM's Helen Ocampo."

<https://radioprogreso.net/instante/alarmante-incremento-de-violaciones-sexuales-en-menores-hondurenas/>

The JOH regime again only tested 908 people, but 459 tested positive for a new total of 72'075

COVID-19 cases. 2204 people have died so far.

Scientist Marco Tulio Medina criticizes that the lack of testing impedes Honduras to have a clear epidemiological picture of the situation.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1410082-466/honduras-muertos-infectados-coronavirus-pandemia-pruebas>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/09/21/falta-de-pruebas-de-laboratorio-pcr-impide-claridad-sobre-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/21/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-21-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

OACNUDH has documented 477 protests in 76 municipalities in the 190 days of the lockdown.

<https://criterio.hn/mas-de-470-manifestaciones-en-190-dias-de-confinamiento-reflejan-descontento-de-los-hondurenos/>

Health workers protested outside the IHSS yesterday against the removal of 145 workers (see also yesterday).

The director of the Leonardo Martínez Hospital warns of the imminent closure of their intensive care unit due to a lack of doctors.

<https://tiempo.hn/145-medicos-despedidos-en-el-ihss-protesta/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-140-trabajadores-del-hospital-de-especialidades-del-ihss-exigen-renovacion-de-contrato-laboral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sin-medicos-intensivistas-sala-de-uci-del-hospital-leonardo-martinez-de-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sanpedro/1409982-410/hospital-leonardo-martinez-uci-cierre-honduras-pandemia-covid>

The CNA published its 11th report on corruption during the pandemic. This one focuses on the purchase of face masks from a company linked to a Nationalist congresswoman and her husband.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1308048543391846400>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-irregularidades-compra-de-mascarillas-de-invest-h/>

<https://criterio.hn/adjudicacion-de-invest-h-a-gyt-no-es-mas-que-un-aparente-negocio-fraudulento-cna/>

"Honduran maquila workers held a virtual conversation about the working conditions of workers in times of pandemic, where they questioned the multiple violations of their rights, as well as the inadequacy of the Law to assist the productive sector and workers in the face of the effects of the pandemic caused by Covid-19, which contemplated the allocation of a bonus to workers suspended during the pandemic."

<https://criterio.hn/bono-de-auxilio-del-gobierno-no-se-cumplio-a-cabalidad-denuncian-trabajadoras-de-la-maquila/>

Javier Suazo published a critical analysis of the 2021 budget.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/208968>

Honduras payed more than 4.4 billion Lempiras in the first seven months of 2020 only to service its debt. In one year, the debt to GDP level rose from 29% to 37%.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1408964-466/deuda-prestamos-honduras-julio-2020>

ConfidencialHN published its fifth article on corruption linked to the Crédito Solidario program.

<https://confidencialhn.com/las-munecas-de-la-mafia-de-credito-solidario-prestaron-sus-nombres-para-sustraer-dinero/>

El Herald reports on irregularities at the National Agriculture University (UNA). They found steep salary increased handed out in a very selective manner and even retroactive.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1409884-466/fiesta-sin-l%C3%ADmites-con-el-dinero-de-la-universidad-de-agricultura-en>

Congress called for a session on Wednesday to discuss the transitory articles of the new Electoral Law, these articles only apply to the next electoral cycle.

<https://proceso.hn/cn-conocera-el-miercoles-articulos-transitorios-sobre-temas-electorales-y-censo/>

22/09/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; Elections; IMF; JOH - UN; EU; and Germany and the Green City

Today, a hearing takes place in the criminalization case against human rights defender from Guapinol, Jeremías Martínez.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1308509020446175232>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/39-conflictos/1730-liberacion-inmediata-para-defensores->

[de-guapinol-encarcelados-hace-un-ano-de-forma-arbitraria](#)

Over two months have passed since the forced disappearance of five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz. On several occasions, the authorities claimed to have made progress, but nothing substantial came about it. Yesterday, the DPI again claimed to have leads and to have made progress.

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda about the situation.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1410334-466/rapto-cuatro-lideres-garifunas-dpi-pistas-avances>

<https://proceso.hn/el-fbi-no-resuelve-los-casos-en-un-mes-la-investigacion-criminal-no-es-facil-justifica-jefe-de-dpi/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/miriam-miranda-nos-enfrentamos-a-gente-poderosa-y-seguimos-en-pie-de-lucha/>

COPINH continues to denounce the dilatory tactics of the defense of David Castillo (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1308572118733459457>

Pasos de Animal Grande has additional reporting on the recent attack against AFP correspondent Orlando Sierra during his coverage of the independence day protests. Additionally, "[i]n the nine months of 2020, the Association for Democracy and Human Rights, (ASOPODEHU), has documented 65 cases of violence against media workers".

C-Libre documented even 82 attacks, 19 by state security forces.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2973-policia-ataca-otra-vez-a-corresponsal-de-afp-en-honduras-durante-cobertura-de-manifestacion>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1728-onu-pide-libertad-para-periodistas-encarcelados-por-su-labor>

The testing rate dropped even lower, to only 650 yesterday. 231 resulted positive for a new total of 72'306 COVID-19 cases. Two more Hondurans died, 2206 have officially died so far.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1410319-466/honduras-covid-nuevos-casos-muertes-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/22/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-22-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

The controversy, or rather outcry, regarding the non-renewal of contracts of health workers continues (see last two days).

<https://proceso.hn/plazas-otra-batalla-del-personal-sanitario/>

The CNA wrote an open letter to the Attorney General and his deputy regarding the lack of action by the MP in all the corruption cases that came to light during the pandemic.

The National Party, meanwhile, presents the idea of a new anti-corruption body...wasn't there something already? And isn't there still the UFERCO lacking political support and budget?

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1308571582932152320>

<https://criterio.hn/seis-meses-y-once-informes-de-corrupcion-y-el-ministerio-publico-no-ha-emitido-ningun-requerimiento-cna/>

<https://criterio.hn/partido-nacional-planea-crear-otro-ente-anticorrupcion-en-medio-de-escandalos-de-latrocinio/>

Criterio reports that Libre, the Liberal and the National Party came to an agreement to continue the discussion of the new Electoral Law.

<https://criterio.hn/tras-acuerdos-politicos-congreso-nacional-retomara-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tripartidismo-acuerda-retomar-discusion-y-aprobacion-de-la-nueva-ley-electoral/>

The IMF will send a technical delegation to Honduras on October 19.

<https://proceso.hn/hasta-el-19-de-octubre-arribara-a-honduras-mision-tecnica-del-fmi/>

JOH once again asks the UN to qualify gangs and drug traffickers as terrorists.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-pide-a-la-onu-calificar-de-terroristas-a-pandilleros-y-narcotraficantes/>

El Libertador printed a statement from the Ambassador of the European Union in Honduras, Jaume Segura Socias, on the Honduran-EU relation.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2265-opinion-exclusiva-la-union-europea-socio-principal-de-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2264-honduras-alemania-apuesta-por->

[convertir-tegucigalpa-en-ciudad-verde](#)

23/09/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; HR - US; IACHR; Drug Trafficking; Police - Assassination; Extractivism - Azacualpa; UN - UPR; COVID-19 - Corruption, Health Sector; Corruption - Pandora; Elections - TJE, JOH; and Remembering Milgen Soto Ávila

OACNUDH observed the hearing against human rights defender from Guapinol, Jeremías Martínez.

They also highlighted the need for a public and transparent process.

"Roberto Herrera Cáceres, National Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras, said on September 23, 2020, that it is no longer justified for a National Court to hear the case of the Guapinol defenders and that it should already be in the hands of an ordinary court of law with due judicial guarantees, otherwise the fundamental rights of eight Guapinol defenders imprisoned between 2018 and 2019 may be being violated."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1308965046614196225>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1308821502993797121>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2975-ombudsman-hondureno-caso-de-guapinol-deberia-ya-ser-conocido-por-un-juzgado-de-letras-ordinario>

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda, Juan López from the Municipal Committee of Tocoa, and Padre Melo were invited to speak about the human rights situation in Honduras in front of the Foreign Relations Committee at Congress.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/activistas-hondurenos-se-reunen-con-congresistas-de-estados-unidos/>

The so-called Follow-Up Board for the Compliance with the Judgements and Resolutions of the IACtHR held an online webinar to discuss and analyze the cases in front of the Inter-American Human Rights System involving Honduras. The State of Honduras has been sentenced in 13 cases, 11 are still in the follow-up stage, i.e. they have not been complied with yet.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/inicia-los-seminarios-virtuales-para-analizar-sentencias-internacionales-y-deudas-pendientes-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-aplazada-en-cumplir-sentencias-de-corte-idh-por-centenares-de-muertes-de-privados-de-libertad/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2976-mesa-de-seguimiento-a-las-sentencias-de-la-corte-idh-senalan-que-el-estado-de-honduras-pretende-siempre-evadir-la-responsabilidad>

A drug plan seized in Honduras in 2010 crashed in Colombia and people wonder how it ended up there.

Libre congressman and former public prosecutor Jari Dixon sees it as further proof that Honduras is governed by a narco-government.

<https://confidencialhn.com/como-salio-de-honduras-narcoavioneta-confiscada-en-2010-se-accidente-en-un-aeropuerto-de-colombia/>

<https://criterio.hn/avioneta-accidentada-en-colombia-confirma-que-honduras-es-dirigida-por-un-narcogobierno-jari-dixon-herrera/>

The MP conducted the exhumation of Rinel Argueta Oliva who was murdered by the police in San Esteban, Olancho (see previous e-mails).

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/para-obtener-pruebas-que-apoyen-la-investigacion-medicina-forense-exhumo-cuerpo-de-rinel-argueta-asesinado-por-policias/>

Radio Progreso reports on the mining conflict in Azacualpa, Copán, a situation which has become worse during the pandemic. Back in 2018, a court in San Pedro Sula admitted a Amparo challenge presented by MADJ, but the mining company has not yet complied with it.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/conflicto-minero-en-copan-se-agudiza-en-tiempos-de-pandemia/>

The next Universal Periodic Review cycle for Honduras starts with a pre-session this October 13.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2977-honduras-estara-en-el-banquillo-el-13-de-noviembre-proximo-para-ser-evaluado-por-el-consejo-de-derechos-humanos-de-la-onu>

Again, only 665 people were tested for COVID-19 yesterday and still 369 resulted positive. There are now 72'675 cases and 2222 people died, 16 yesterday.

Carlos Umaña, president of doctors at the IHSS, criticizes the lack of testing.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1410580-466/honduras-registra-nuevos-contagios-muertos-covid-19>

<https://proceso.hn/no-se-si-reir-o-llorar-critica-doctor-umana-ante-bajo-procesamiento-de-pruebas-pcr/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/23/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-23-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

El Pulso reports that the US has canceled the visas of former COPECO commissioner Gabriel Rubí

and former Invest-H director Marco Bográn for their role in the many corruption cases having taken place during the pandemic.

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=48257>

The Medical College of Honduras (CMH) will go to the international level regarding the non-renewal of medical contracts. "Young doctors do not deserve the treatment by the government, to take their jobs when they have exposed their lives attending to COVID-19 patients". The former deputy health minister Carlos Aguilar speaks of an insult to the medical profession. The general situation has also worsened with the closure of the ICUs in San Pedro Sula.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/colegio-medico-de-honduras-acudira-instancias-internacionales-por-despido-de-galenos-durante-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/despido-de-medicos-es-un-insulto-del-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-de-sps-sufren-de-cansancio-extremo-y-viven-una-pesadilla-por-mal-manejo-del-covid-19/>

Josué Fernando Suárez Ramírez, accused in the Pandora corruption case, had confirmed his participation and offered proof regarding the involvement of others, but the MP instead only went after him.

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-se-ensana-contras-el-unico-imputado-que-reconocio-el-desfalco-del-caso-pandora/>

Smaller parties fear being left out from discussions about the new Electoral Law. "In a statement issued on Wednesday, PINU rejects the imposition of "copyrights" by traditional political groups, which are the product of particular and sectarian negotiations that disregard the principle of general application of laws and have exceeded their particular and extremist political ambitions by designing a three-party law to the detriment of the principle of equality before the law and contrary to the principle of approving policies of general application, as symptomatic behavior that denies the limiting principle of democracy that minorities count."

<https://criterio.hn/pinu-reclama-participacion-en-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral/>

The Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE), which should have the last word on conflicts during the next elections, has no budget to work with. If the TJE cannot act, the Supreme Court of Justice dominated by nationalists will decide. The opposition says it is all a plot by the president, Juan Hernández, to manipulate the elections and remain in power at all costs".

<https://criterio.hn/sin-ley-y-sin-dinero-para-el-tribunal-de-justicia-electoral-honduras-a-merced-de-un-nuevo-fraude/>

Labor leaders fear for the IHSS as the JOH regime seems to play electoral politics promising social security to the informal sector. In general a welcome idea, but in the current context, it is more likely that it is solely meant to bolster support for the National Party and will disappear again after the 2021 elections or bring the system to a collapse.

<https://criterio.hn/demagogia-y-proselitismo-es-propuesta-de-ampliar-cobertura-del-seguro-social/>

<http://elpulso.hn/?p=48236>

One year ago, indigenous Tolupán and social activist Milgen Soto Ávila was murdered, the MP has not made progress in looking into his murderers.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1308916242166808576>

24/09/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial; HRDs - Protection; ZEDEs; OFRANEH; Drug Trafficking - JOH, Armed Forces; Extractivism - Hydroelectricity, Escazú; Police; COVID-19 - Poverty, Health Sector, Holidays; Elections; Prisons; Budget - Transparency; and the Deportations Continue

The bail hearing in the process against David Castillo was rescheduled for next Monday at 8am.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1309190866318307328>

"Repeated mistreatment and lack of respect for their work as human rights defenders and representatives of human rights organizations in Honduras were denounced on September 24, 2020 by Councilmembers [at the Protection Mechanism] Donny Reyes and Dina Meza, who repeatedly requested that the State grant safe conduct to human rights defenders to carry out their work in the country, but there are only ever different excuses for denying it."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2978-concejales-por-las-organizaciones-de-ddhh-ante-el-consejo-nacional-de-proteccion-denuncian-malos-tratos-de-la-viceministra-de-derechos-humanos>

In the program Cuarto Poder (Fourth Power) Libre congressman Jari Dixon and the president of the Federation of Patrons of the Bay Islands (FEPAIB), Miguel Tejada, presented the ZEDEs as a result of deals by corrupt politicians.

El Libertador presents some of the illustrious, i.e. very problematic, people behind the ZEDE in Roatán.

The problems with the ZEDEs also reached more mainstream media outlets. El Tiempo published an interview with Pablo Kummetz from DW Spain. He warns that the State of Honduras voluntarily renounces its sovereignty.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48278>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2270-una-racista-y-activistas-de-joh-rigen-ciudad-modelo-en-roatan-honduras>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2979-las-zede-son-un-proyecto-de-tercerizacion-de-despojo-territorial-a-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras>

<https://tiempo.hn/zedes-honduras-renuncia-voluntariamente-a-su-soberania-dice-analista/>

The International Federation for Human Rights denounces that the State of Honduras "fails in its obligation to investigate and find the four Garifuna defenders who disappeared two months ago".

<https://www.fidh.org/es/region/americas/honduras/honduras-el-estado-incumple-su-obligacion-de-investigar-y-encontrar-a>

"Yesterday, Facebook permanently closed the personal account of Gabriela Amador, who serves as Executive Director of our organization, after the bots paid by the Narco Party that governs Honduras systematically began a massive campaign of denunciations against her personal profiles and the information portals of Pro Honduras Network. With this action, several sectors involved in corruption and drug trafficking intend to censor our denunciations and the right to free speech guaranteed by the violated constitution that governs Honduras."

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/09/24/bots-que-trabajan-para-sectores-involucrados-con-el-narcotrafico-realizan-ataque-masivo-que-busca-cerrar-los-portales-de-informacion-de-pro-honduras-network/>

Former army captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana rejects the conciliatory process by the Secretary of Defense Fredy Díaz Zelaya. According to Orellana, the truth cannot be reconciled and he continues to stay firm that the Armed Forces have trafficked drugs.

<https://criterio.hn/la-verdad-no-se-concilia-ffaa-han-traficado-drogas-capitan-rodriguez-orellana/>

<https://criterio.hn/santos-rodriguez-orellana-firme-frente-a-una-justicia-torcida/>

MADJ denounces that Congress continues to sell off Honduras' rivers by approving another hydroelectric project on the Ulúa River.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1309206920746733568>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-en-segundo-debate-nuevo-contrato-de-generacion-hidroelectrica/>

OACNUDH reminds the State of Honduras not to stay behind regarding the international Escazú Agreement.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1309245663457271808>

Defensores en Línea denounces that the police did not want to receive a complaint by Anderson Lesbi Padilla Chicas who was attacked by police agents during the social protests on September 15.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/denuncia-contra-policias-no-fue-aceptada-en-el-core-7/>

1039 tests resulted in 518 new cases for a total of 73'193. 27 more Hondurans died, 2249 people died according to official numbers.

The president of the Funeral Home Association, meanwhile, says that they have documented 5265 deaths.

The Secretary of Health received 192'000 testing kits which hopefully will lead to a higher testing rate.

This is highly needed as ContraCorriente points out in a new article.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1410878-410/curva-coronavirus-honduras-contagios-fallecidos-muertes->

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48301>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-salud-recibe-192-mil-kits-de-extraccion-de-pruebas-para-diagnosticar-coronavirus/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/24/subregistro-de-recuperados-por-covid-19-muestra-desconocimiento-sobre-la-pandemia-en-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/24/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-24-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Radio Progreso reports on the increase of poverty in Honduras due to the pandemic.

FOSDEH fears that up to three out of every four Hondurans will be below the poverty line by 2021.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/pandemia-incrementa-numero-de-familias-en-pobreza/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-2021-tres-de-cada-cuatro-hondurenos-seran-pobres-fosdeh/>

Medical staff at the University Hospital protest against the conditions at their workplace.

Libre, meanwhile, demanded that the IHSS offer permanent contracts to the doctors employed for the pandemic (see previous e-mails).

The situation at the Honduran hospitals have recovered a bit, especially in San Pedro Sula, where hospitals were on the brink of collapse in the first months of the pandemic. But the situation remains tense and medical expert fear the consequences of the so-called "intelligent reopening" by the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/radiologos-del-hospital-escuela-exigen-solucion-para-terminar-con-el-hacinamiento-en-los-quirofanos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-exige-cumpla-ley-otorgue-permanencia-medicos/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/24/hospitalizaciones-por-covid19-bajaron-pero-capacidad-de-diagnostico-sigue-siendo-minima/>

The nation-wide holiday, Semana Morazánica, was officially postponed by one month to the beginning of November.

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprueba-decreto-para-que-la-semana-morazanica-se-traslade-a-noviembre/>

Libre withdrew again from the discussion about the new Electoral Law as an impasse has been reached regarding the transitory articles of the law which only apply to the next electoral cycle.

<https://proceso.hn/libre-se-retira-de-sesion-virtual-por-desacuerdos-en-articulos-transitorios-de-ley-electoral/>

Inmates at the women's prison in Támara denounce abuses by the prison's director Kelly Vanessa Amador Espinoza.

<https://confidencialhn.com/privadas-de-libertad-de-la-pnfas-denuncian-abusos-por-las-autoridades-penitenciarias/>

FOSDEH published a guide to better understand and critically accompany the budget process in Honduras.

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/guia-ciudadana-del-ciclo-presupuestario-en-honduras/>

In a second document, FOSDEH highlights the ongoing lack of transparency by the JOH regime.

<https://fosdeh.com/publicacion/transparencia-y-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica/>

Over 30'000 Hondurans have been deported so far this year.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48291>

25/09/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - HRDs; HR - UN; IACHR - HRDs; ZEDEs; Indigenous Peoples; COVID-19 - HR, Violence against Women, Corruption, Economy; IHSS; Elections; Drug Trafficking; Violence; and Fishing White Powder

OACNUDH welcomes that the court revoked the preventive detention of the Guapinol defender Jeremías Martínez (see also previous days).

But the struggle continues and Radio Progreso takes a closer look at the suffering of the family members of the criminalized defenders.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1309511423190609923>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/en-crisis-economica-y-emocional-estan-familias-de-presos-por-defender-rio-guapinol/>

OACNUDH published additional tweets yesterday on the importance of HRDs, the rights of indigenous peoples, and about a meeting its representative had with the Honduran Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1309568355175665666>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1309583452849737729>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1309634495776272386>

CODEH criticizes that the Attorney General's Office (PGR) demanded the withdrawal of 14 protective measures granted by the IACHR.

<https://proceso.hn/codeh-cuestiona-peticion-de-la-pgr-ante-la-cidh-de-suspender-medidas-cautelares/>

In a second case involving the IACHR, the latter just announced to have approved an "agreement for a friendly settlement regarding case 12,891, Adán Guillermo López Lone and others, signed on June 19, 2019, between the Honduran State and Mrs. Bertha Oliva de Nativí, Coordinator of the Committee of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), the petitioner organization representing the victims. On April 27, 2006, the IACHR received a petition presented by the Committee of Families of Detained Persons of Honduras, alleging the international responsibility of the Honduran State for the facts related to the search of the home of Mr. Rafael Rivera Torres, as well as for the arbitrary detention and subsequent torture and cruel treatment, inhumane and degrading acts suffered by the victims Adán Guillermo López Lone, Edwin Dagoberto López Lone, Gilda María Rivera Sierra, Ana Suyapa Rivera Sierra, Marlén Irasema Jiménez Puerto and Milton Danilo Jiménez Puerto, as well as the sexual violence suffered by Gilda María Rivera Sierra and Marlene Irasema Jiménez Puerto, in acts deployed by State agents on the 27th of 1982."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-cidh-aprobo-acuerdo-de-solucion-amistosa-en-el-caso-12-981-adan-guillermo-lopez-lone-y-otros/>

PINU congressman Luis Redondo presented a bill which would derogate the Organic Law of the

Special Development Zones.

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-iniciativa-de-ley-para-derogar-ciudades-modelo/>

MADJ commemorates the two indigenous Tolupán leaders José Salomón Matute and his son Juan Samael Matute who were murdered 19 months ago, 19 months without any justice.

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1309564409380048901>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1309601186354466816>

647 new cases were detected yesterday, there are now 73'840 cases. 22 additional Hondurans died for an official total of 2271.

The lack of testing by the JOH regime continues to be widely criticized. Only Belize has tested less in the region.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1411089-466/honduras-muertos-por-covid-19-mas-contagiados>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2273-gobierno-hondureno-segundo-peor-de-la-region-detectando-covid>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/25/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-25-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

"Behind the official patriotic boasts, the regime ratifies its surrender by selling off our sovereignty and territory, criminalizing defenders of the common good, hiding public information and infringing on freedom of expression. These are times of a crushed homeland, but they are also times for the organized struggle from which we grow in commitment that leads to shaking off the traitors who today have captured the homeland, and sell it as they have sold their consciences. And from our spirit of rebellion, we raise our voice in this Twenty-Eighth Public Manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/vigesimo-octavo-manifiesto-publico/>

Radio Progreso reports on the increase in violence against women during the pandemic.

Criterio published an additional article focusing on the situation of migrant women.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/pandemia-covid-19-provoca-mas-sufrimiento-y-violencia-para-las-mujeres/>

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-aumenta-factores-de-riesgo-que-enfrentan-mujeres-migrantes/>

The newest chapter in the farce about the mobile hospitals - a very costly and corrupt farce - is the announcement by the intervention body of Invest-H that they identified a problem in the air conditioning system at the mobile hospital in San Pedro Sula...

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48330>

16 different public unions protested outside the Ministry of Labor denouncing that day laborers were not included in the wage increase.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sindicalistas-protestan-en-la-secretaria-de-trabajo-por-falta-de-aumentos-salariales/>

El Tiempo reports that the intervention body at the IHSS will withdraw and be replaced by a tripartite body (government, business and workers).

<https://tiempo.hn/ihss-sin-junta-interventora-gobierno-tripartito/>

Libre announced protests in the form of occupations of highways as well as the offices of the RNP to demand the approval of the new Electoral Law.

<https://confidencialhn.com/libre-anuncia-protestas-en-las-calles-por-no-aceptar-que-el-oficialismo-vaya-a-elecciones-con-viejo-censo/>

<https://criterio.hn/libre-sigue-en-protesta-por-falta-de-acuerdos-sobre-articulos-transitorios-en-nueva-ley-electoral/>

The Armed Forces announced that they intercepted a drug plane from South America in Brus Laguna, Gracias a Dios.

<https://criterio.hn/un-nuevo-cartel-de-narcotrafico-emerge-en-la-mosquitia-de-honduras-para-suplir-al-de-colon/>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-narcoavionetas-se-desactivan-en-honduras/>

Another mass killing claiming five lives took place yesterday, the 37th this year.

<https://criterio.hn/con-asesinato-de-cinco-personas-en-lempira-honduras-suma-37-masacres-en-2020-con-137-victimas/>

https://twitter.com/Prohn_Honduras/status/1309670812170018818

26/09/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; HRDs - South; COVID-19 - Poverty, Corruption, Health Sector, BCIE, Transport; Migration; and How is This Still a Thing

OFRANEH and the Garífuna people protested yesterday in San Pedro Sula demanding the return of the forcefully disappeared young men.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1309518021506076673>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1309930592839053313>

Human rights defender from Zacate Grande, Pedro Canales, denounced that his dog was shot dead as an act of intimidation against him. "It's really a difficult situation for me and the family, because pets have been a part of our security, at least we consider it like this. Already in 2016 they killed two dogs and then in 2018 another, and last year they also killed in the same way a puppy and then today with "Cinnamon", we are very sad to see how cruel they are with these animals". Also in the south, in Choluteca, Defensores en Línea denounced a new attempt of criminalization of social leader and Catholic priest Florentino Hernández.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/nuevo-ataque-contra-pedro-canales-defensor-de-la-tierra-y-los-territorios/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2981-yo-se-quien-te-va-a-volar-la-cabeza-le-dice-emisario-a-pedro-canales-lider-de-adepza>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/se-reanuda-persecucion-judicial-contra-sacerdote-florentino-hernandez/>

1751 tests brought forward 708 new cases for a total of 74'548. 17 more Hondurans died, officially the death toll lies at 2288.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1411272-466/honduras-muertes-infectados-por-coronavirus>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/26/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-26-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

"The COVID-19 pandemic will increase inequality, the number of unemployed and poor in Honduras, especially in the Dry Corridor, where more than 1.6 million people suffer from food insecurity, the humanitarian organization Oxfam warned this Saturday."

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/09/26/oxfam-dice-que-la-pandemia-amenaza-con-aumentar-la-pobreza-y-agudizar-el-hambre-en-honduras/>

According to Libre congressman and former public prosecutor Jari Dixon, the MP has sufficient proof to charge those responsible for the mobile hospital corruption scandal.

Doctor Fidel Barahona calls the mobile hospitals "white elephants".

<https://confidencialhn.com/dixon-dice-que-fiscalia-tiene-pruebas-para-presentar-requerimientos->

[por-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/](#)

<https://confidencialhn.com/subrayan-que-hospitales-moviles-se-conver-tiran-en-cinco-elefantes-blancos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/hospitales-moviles-invest-h-retrasos-continuan-no-funcionan/>

The doctor Manuel Sarmiento died to COVID-19 at the IHSS hospital.
The EU donated biosafety equipment to the University Hospital.

<https://criterio.hn/muerte-de-doctor-manuel-sarmiento-conmociona-a-gremio-de-la-salud-que-sigue-siendo-enlutado-por-pandemia/>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/union-europea-dona-equipo-y-material-de-bioseguridad-al-maximo-centro-asistencial-de-honduras/>

Honduras has taken up most debt during the pandemic from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) among all the member states, over \$1 billion.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/09/26/honduras-el-pais-que-mas-se-endeuda-por-pandemia/>

Over 100 vehicles for public transport have been decommissioned for violating biosafety rules.

<https://criterio.hn/decomiso-de-mas-de-100-unidades-confirma-que-transportistas-incumplen-medidas-de-bioseguridad/>

La Prensa reports on the search of disappeared Honduran migrants by their family members. "In Honduras, 499 migrants have been reported missing, of which 59 are children. Honduras is the country that reports the most missing migrants. "The forensic bank is the one that informs us when a Honduran is identified in Mexico. There are more than 500 DNA samples that have been taken from family members who do not know where their relatives are and they are crossed with the genetic profiles that are in Mexico. Many are found in clandestine graves," explained Rosa Nelly Santos of the Committee of Relatives of Disappeared Migrants."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1411290-410/de-499-migrantes-desaparecidos-en-la-ruta-migratoria-59-son-menores-honduras>

In the words of John Oliver, "How is this still a thing": reducing female politicians to their looks.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1411248-468/mujeres-politicas-guapas-mundo>

27/09/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Berta - Agua Zarca; HRDs - Guapinol; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, HRDs, Health Sector, Transport; Drug Trafficking; Violence; and Protesting for Fair Elections

There was an attack on the life of journalist Luis Almeyda, he was shot several times in Comayagua. He was transferred to a hospital and survived. "Almeyda had already denounced death threats and has been protected by human rights organizations since he has received threats of lawsuits by the Municipal Corporation of Comayagua and the Chamber of Commerce of that city, according to reports he has made in his program and social networks."

<https://criterio.hn/intentan-asesinar-al-periodista-luis-almeyda-de-comayagua/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/atentan-contra-periodista-luis-almeyda-se-debate-entre-la-vida-y-la-muerte/>

COPINH will hold a press conference today at 11:30am on the Gualcarque corruption case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1310347803785396224>

EU Parliamentarian Tilly Metz tweeted: "Today on #WorldRiversDay I send all my support to the @guapinolre and all environmental defenders in the world who are imprisoned and attacked for defending their water, land and rivers. I propose #Guapinol defenders & Berta Cáceres for the @Europarl_EN's #SakharovPrize!"

<https://twitter.com/MetzTilly/status/1310116214115569664>

<https://criterio.hn/en-honduras-mucha-gente-esta-en-prision-por-defender-su-tierra-expresa-eurodiputada/>

Protests by the Garífuna community continued, yesterday in Trujillo.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1310244665472569345>

1291 tests, 561 new COVID-19 cases, 75'109 in total. One more Honduran died, officially 2289 people have died so far, in reality, it is more likely twice as much. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1411466-466/honduras-llega-contagios-por-covid-hay-muertos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/27/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-27-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Honduras entered Stage II of the reactivation.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-avanza-a-fase-ii-de-la-apertura-economica-y-social/>

Six months into the pandemic, the Human Rights Secretariat finally announced safe passage to human rights defenders.

OACNUDH welcomed this but also announced to monitor its implementation.

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-de-dd-hh-pueden-solicitar-salvoconducto-ante-sedh/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1310321840196325378>

News that the notorious Invest-H will be responsible for managing the operating rooms of the University Hospital caused concern among its employees.

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-quiroyfanos-hospital-escuela-empleados-desconfianza/>

La Prensa reports that interurban transport in the north of Honduras is running at 40% again.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1411516-410/transporte-interurbano-honduras-coronavirus-buses-taxis->

The National Police claims that Honduran farmers are forced to grow coca and marijuana by organized crime.

<https://proceso.hn/campesinos-hondurenos-son-obligados-a-sembrar-coca-y-marihuana-revela-la-policia/>

Two multiple killings took place this weekend in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/masacre-en-olancho-dos-educadores-un-ganadero-son-victimas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/otra-masacre-en-honduras-asesinan-a-cuatro-personas-en-la-ceiba/>

Libre reiterated its will to protest to demand the approval of the electoral reforms.

<https://criterio.hn/libre-anuncia-toma-de-carreteras-y-protestas-para-exigir-la-aprobacion-de-reformas-electorales/>

28/09/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists - Assassination; HRDs - Assassination; Berta - Trial, Corruption; ZEDES; US; COVID-19 - Corruption, Economy; Airports; and a Right Withheld

Just hours after the attack against journalist Luís Almeyda, in which he was shot three times, he died in the hospital (see also yesterday).

The Platform for Freedom of Expression criticized the JOH regime, calling it a "pre-announced

death in the face of the State's lack of political will to protect those of us who practice journalism and defend freedom of expression".

The Journalist Association of Honduras even withdrew from the Protection Mechanism for journalist, HRDs, and judicial workers. "We have participated in several meetings of the Protection Mechanism and we regret that in the meetings we have had to deal with this specific issue, there has been a total absence of the heads of the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Defense, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Judiciary, the National Police and the Armed Forces".

OACNUDH tweeted: "OACNUDH deeply regrets the murder of journalist Luis Almeyda and expresses its concern about the persistent violence against journalists. To date, there have been three communicators murdered in Honduras in 2020."

The MP announced to conduct an autopsy and the Human Rights Secretariat condemned the murder.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2983-periodista-luis-almeyda-muere-tras-atentado>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1258-muere-periodista-tras-ser-atacado-en-comayagua>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2984-fuertes-criticas-al-estado-de-honduras-de-la-plataforma-por-la-libertad-de-expresion-ante-crimen-de-luis-almeyda-y-ataques-a-periodistas-en-la-ceiba>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-periodistas-se-retira-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion-tras-asesinato-de-excorresponsal-de-radio-globo/>

<https://proceso.hn/cph-se-retira-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion-a-periodistas-comunicadores-y-defensores-de-ddhh/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1310674146897133569>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/161-septiembre2020/6364-ingresa-al-departamento-de-patologia-forense-el-cadaver-del-periodista-luis-alonso-almeyda>

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-ddhh-condena-asesinato-del-excorresponsal-de-radio-globo-luis-almeyda/>

The same day of the attack against Luí Almeyda, police agents attacked journalists Wilmer Montoya (Channel 6) and Fernando Lanza (CHTV) and obstructed their work in La Ceiba.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1257-policias-agreden-e-impiden-labor-de-periodistas-en-la-ceiba>

Also on Sunday, two assailants murdered the social activist and environmentalist José Antonio

Teruel together with his wife Francisca Aracely Zavala and his brother-in-law Marco Tulio Zavala. This took place in the community San Fernando in Olancho. OACNUDH laments the assassinations and demands an swift, impartial and effective investigation.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/asesinan-al-ambientalista-jose-antonio-teruel-a-su-esposa-y-cunado/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1310694748106219520>

<https://tiempo.hn/oacnudh-lamenta-asesinato-ambientalista-hondureno-masacre/>

The death threats against human rights defender Pedro Canales from ADEPZA continue (see also previous e-mails).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/28/alerta-amenazan-a-muerte-a-pedro-canales-defensor-de-las-tierras-de-zacate-grande/>

And finally some good news, the court responsible for the process against David Castillo decided by unanimous vote to declare the request to change the pre-trial detention measures to be without merit.

In the same case, COPINH's Berta Zúniga denounces: "BAC Credomatic, the Bank of Jacobo Atala, is offering to post a bond for David Castillo for Lps. 4,000,000.00 in customs review measures Why? they fear he will talk about their involvement in the crime of #BertaCaceres Very scandalous".

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1310647013843832832>

<https://criterio.hn/corte-de-apelaciones-excluye-al-pueblo-indigena-lenca-y-al-copinh-del-juicio/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1411619-466/niegan-cambio-medidas-roberto-castillo-mejia-bertha-caceres>

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1310609451645366276>

COPINH denounces that they and the Río Blanco community are being excluded from the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1310689521382629376>

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/copinh-denounces-the-illegal-exclusion-of-the-gualcarque-fraud-case-the-origin-of-bertha-caceres-murder/>

OFRANEH published a new article on the ZEDEs in Honduras as a "return of the domination of European chiefs and American kings to the north shore of Honduras".

ContraCorriente investigates who is responsible for regulating the ZEDEs. "Over the weekend in Roatan, there was a protest against the "Honduras Próspera" project, the Special Employment and Development Zone (ZEDE) that began to be developed on the island last May. A conflict has broken out and so far the Committee for the Adoption of Best Practices of the ZEDE, better known as CAMP, is conspicuous by its absence. Only four politicians and government officials stand out on this 21-person committee, the remaining members being well-known political strategists, businessmen, bankers and foreign activists. To date, at least two people on this committee have died and there is no known restructuring of the committee."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/09/28/1956/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/09/28/quienes-deben-regular-los-proyectos-zede-en-honduras/>

Given all of the above, it is disheartening to see how the US continues to highlight its loyalty to the JOH regime.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1310799084593188865>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1310788729955590145>

933 tests resulted in 428 new cases for a total of 75'537. 12 more Hondurans died, officially 2301 have died so far, in reality the number is likely more than twice as high. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1411712-466/honduras-contagios-covid-coronavirus-sinager>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/28/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-28-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

The CNA published its 12th report on corruption during the pandemic.

The report focuses on the first purchase of a mobile hospital by COPECO (previous to the seven bought by Invest-H), which was set up in Villanueva. The CNA denounced the high purchase price and the bad quality.

"a canvas tent instead of a mobile hospital; installation on muddy ground; irreparable damage to the structure; 3 out of 4 air conditioners not working".

FOSDEH denounced that the inaction by MP and TSC in relation to the corruption of INVEST-H and COPECO could be classified as complicity.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1310578293951823874>

<https://criterio.hn/copeco-pago-mas-de-5-5-millones-de-lempiras-en-carpa-de-lona-con-pretensiones-de-hospital-movil/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48391>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1310612202320285697>

<https://criterio.hn/como-complicidad-podria-catalogarse-la-inactividad-del-mp-y-tsc-frente-a-la-corrupcion-de-invest-h-y-copeco/>

InterAirports held the operating concession for 20 years for the four international airports in Honduras and this concession has now run out.

<https://confidencialhn.com/aeropuertos-de-honduras-finaliza-concesion-de-20-anos-terminales-pasaran-a-manos-de-ehisa-y-emco-2/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2279-mision-cumplida-aeropuertos-de-honduras-entrega-aerodromos-internacionales>

Previous estimates of unemployment due to the corona pandemic were around 500'000 jobs lost, FOSDEH now fears that more than one million people could become unemployed.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48417>

Yesterday was the international day for free, safe, and secure abortion. "OACNUDH recalls the recommendation to Honduras to modify its legislation so that women avoid unwanted pregnancies and do not have to resort to clandestine, life-threatening abortions."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1310776394025250816>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/35-mujeres/1732-28-de-septiembre-dia-que-conmemora-los-derechos-al-acceso-a-la-informacion-y-al-aborto-legal>

29/09/20

Honduras Daily: ZEDEs; OFRANEH; HRDs - Guapinol; OACNUDH; US; COVID-19; Corruption - Pandora; Police; Penal Code; Elections; and Punishment Trumps

People in Choloma fear that a second ZEDE will be installed there, called Ciudad Morazán.

<https://criterio.hn/en-choloma-buscan-organizarse-contra-zede-que-quita-soberania-a-su-territorio/>

Avispa Midia published a new article on the situation of the Garífuna community in Honduras and the case of the forcefully disappeared young men.

<https://avispa.org/honduras-caso-de-garifunas-desaparecidos-sin-avance-despues-de-meses/>

EU Parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo supports the nomination of the Guapinol defenders and Berta Cáceres for the Sakharov Prize.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1310957505095151616>

<https://criterio.hn/eurodiputado-pide-apoyo-a-comunidad-europea-en-nominacion-a-berta-caceres-y-defensores-de-guapinol-a-premio-sajarov/>

CESPAD published a report/long article on the situation in Guapinol.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/29/el-sol-el-aguao-un-fusil-en-la-frente/>

OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo met with COFADEH's Berta Oliva at the Hogar contra el Olvido, a place commemorating the forcefully disappeared of Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1311127100905193477>

ConfidencialHN also criticizes the attempt of white-washing of the record of the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla by the US embassy (see yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/ee-uu-ignora-masiva-corrupcion-del-regimen-y-reafirma-su-apoyo-a-fiscal-general-oscar-chinchilla/>

Another 561 COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday for a total of 76'098. 22 more people died, officially 2323 have died so far.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1411971-466/honduras-acumula-nuevos-casos-covid-19-nuevos-decesos>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/29/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-29-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

State security forces violently evicted protesters with tear gas in the south of Tegucigalpa; the participants demanded that the mayor's office pave the access road to their neighborhoods.

<https://proceso.hn/policia-desaloja-a-manifestantes-en-carretera-que-conduce-al-sur-del-pais/>

Former president of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH), Hugo Noé Pino, sees one important reason for the various corruption cases during the pandemic in the non-renewal of the MACCIH which gave a carte blanche to the corrupt.

<https://proceso.hn/con-salida-de-la-maccih-se-dio-via-a-libre-a-la-corrupcion-segun-economista/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/pandemia-ha-servido-para-que-politicos-hagan-fiesta-con-fondos-publicos-cna/>

A big part in this play the courts. Yesterday, an appeals court granted two accused in the Pandora

case to leave their pre-trial detention after dismissing the case against them.

<https://tiempo.hn/pandora-corte-apelaciones-dicta-sobreseimiento-definitivo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-justicia-hondurena-da-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-dos-implicados-en-pandora/>

The Constitutional Chamber declared inadmissible an amparo complaint against the new Penal Code.

<https://proceso.hn/declaran-inadmisible-recurso-de-amparo-en-contra-del-codigo-penal/>

Libre continues to protest against the lack of electoral reforms and denounces that Honduras is going to hold elections with one million dead people still active in the electoral census. FOSDEH, meanwhile, denounces the high costs of Honduran elections due to the lack of budgetary planning. "In a press conference held through the virtual platform, Voto Informado, the economist Ismael Zepeda, from FOSDEH, said that for the 2017 elections the National Congress approved 204 million lempiras, but that in the end the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) spent 1.2 billion. 510% more than what was approved".

<https://tiempo.hn/millon-muertos-habilitados-para-votar-riesgo-calix/>

<https://criterio.hn/por-falta-de-planificacion-entidades-electorales-disparan-el-gasto-en-anos-de-elecciones/>

"Honduran youth are condemned and criminalized, there is no room for social and psychological reform, rather than invest in educational projects to rescue them, the Government of Honduras prioritizes a "maximum security" prison that recently reactivated works."

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2283-honduras-gobierno-hace-el-pocito-para-encerrar-jovenes-infractores>

30/09/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; WHRDs; HRDs -Guapinol, Protection; Journalists; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Poverty, Health Sector, Corruption; Elections; and Another Caravan

COPINH sent out an alert yesterday. "The Madrid Family and a group of at least 9 people, are on their way to the Vega del Culatón, territory recovered by the community of Rio Blanco, in order to destroy more than 30 manzanas of land grown by the community."

<https://copinh.org/2020/09/alerta-ataque-a-la-comunidad-de-rio-blanco/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/09/alerta-urgente-honduras-integrantes-de-la-familia-madrid-vinculada-a-la-empresa-desa-se-dirigen-con-violencia-a-territorio-recuperado-por-la-comunidad-de->

[rio-blanco/](#)

The Networks of Women Human Rights Defenders has registered 17 attacks against WHRDs so far this year.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2985-honduras-pandemia-persecucion-y-campanas-sucias-contra-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos>

The Freedom for Guapinol campaign has published an important update on the judicial process against the Guapinol defenders.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/update-on-the-judicial-process-of-the-guapinol-river-defenders>

The human rights organization Asopodehu presented an App which would allow journalists and HRDs to register alerts in real time.

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-app-para-denunciar-atropellos-contra-periodistas-y-defensores-de-ddhh/>

Congresswoman Patricia Murillo denounces the lack of actions by the MP in cases of human rights violations, especially the murder journalists and defenders. She wants Congress to cite the Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla to report to them about his work or lack thereof.

<https://criterio.hn/diputada-pide-interpelar-al-fiscal-general-por-asesinato-de-periodistas-y-ambientalistas/>

"The journalist Thelma Mejía received threats this Sunday, September 27, after publishing on her twitter account a message of solidarity with her colleague Anastasia Mejía, who is facing a process of criminalization in Guatemala."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1260-mujer-periodista-amenazada-de-muerte-en-su-cuenta-de-twitter>

Inhabitants of the Bahía Islands traveled to Tegucigalpa to protest outside the MP against the ZEDE in their area.

As the opposition against the ZEDEs continues to grow, Nationalists defend them as "an opportunity for Honduras"...

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2288-honduras-defensores-de-soberania-realizan-planton-contra-zedes>

<https://criterio.hn/a-pesar-de-rechazo-popular-oficialismo-ratifica-apoyo-a-ciudades-modelo/>

1760 tests, 802 new cases, 76'900 COVID-19 cases in total. 30 Hondurans died yesterday, 2353 in total have died so far.

According to COIPRODEN, more than 25'000 minors got infected with COVID-19. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1412246-466/honduras-contagios-muertes-coronavirus-pandemia>

<https://tiempo.hn/coiproden-mas-25-menores-contagiado-covid-19-62-han-muerto/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/09/30/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-30-de-septiembre-del-2020/>

Casa Alianza is also concerned about the situation of children in Honduras and not only due to the pandemic. "Children have been one of the most forgotten sectors, dengue fever, teenage pregnancies and children who continue to flee the country due to violence and poverty are recurrent problems that cannot be eradicated. The director of Casa Alianza, Guadalupe Ruelas said that begging has increased in recent years, some studies have revealed that more than 15 thousand children sleep in the streets only in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, however, in other sectors these cases continue to increase."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48512>

Another doctor died to COVID-19, Job Gerardo Villanueva Núñez. At least 46 doctors have died so far during the pandemic.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/09/30/muere-por-covid-19-reconocido-medico-de-tela-atlantida/>

The former Invest-H director Marco Bográn once again claimed his innocence, but few believe him and people protested his press conference and even threw eggs at him afterwards.

At the same time, the MP and ATIC inspected once again the offices of COPECO regarding the mobile hospital in Villanueva (see previous e-mails).

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2289-corrup-to-de-m-gritan-hondurenos-a-exfuncionario-del-caso-hospitales-fantasmas>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1412221-466/lanzan-huevos-a-marco-bogran-inocente-atic-investh>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-investiga-copeco-irregularidades-compras-pandemia/>

Congress' president Mauricio Oliva promised once again that there will be electoral reforms.

And the RNP promised the new identity card for the beginning of next year.

Several wanna-be presidential candidates seem to have already started their campaign violating the electoral law.

<https://proceso.hn/tendremos-reformas-electorales-promete-el-presidente-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://criterio.hn/segun-comisionados-del-rnp-nueva-identidad-estaria-a-inicios-del-proximo-ano/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48487>

El Libertador reports on the possible formation of another migrant caravan.

<http://www.web.elibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2285-honduras-urgente-nueva-caravana-de-migrantes-sale-desde-choluteca>