

01/04/20

Honduras Daily: Hydroelectricity - Castor Energy; COVID-19 - Journalists, Health Sector, State Reaction, IMF, Energy, Prisons; and Urban Dystopia

ContraCorriente published an investigation into the company Castor Energy and its intentions to install a hydroelectric project on the Güince River in San Francisco de Ojuera. Castor Energy was among the companies denounced by Berta Cáceres and COPINH and the MP opened an investigation into it.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/01/castor-energy-la-continuidad-del-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to rise steeply, even though Honduras does not test widely. Out of 139 tests, 47 tested positive making a total of 219 cases. The official death toll of COVID-19 in Honduras rose to 14.

Among those suspected of COVID-19 are the health minister Alba Consuelo Flores and the WHO representative Piedad Huerta because someone from the health ministry tested positive.

La Prensa later reported that both tested negative.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/honduras-registra-14-muertos-y-219-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/ministra-de-salud-de-honduras-y-representante-de-ops-sospechosas-de-covid-19/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1369225-410/ministra-salud-ops-coronavirus-honduras->

COFADEH denounces the arrest of ten community leaders and three journalists by the police in Santa Bárbara. The arrested journalists are Edward Fernández of TV Más Canal 26, Roger David Iraeta of Canal 6 Internacional, and Onán Zaldivar of Patepluma Televisión HD canal 22. The police further confiscated their broadcasting equipment and the material recording the violent eviction of inhabitants wanting to buy groceries. According to COFADEH more than 800 people have been arrested so far since the state of exception has been established.

A day before, the journalist Lidieth Díaz had denounced that the police hindered her from going to her place of work at Radio Globo.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-captura-10-lideres-comunitarios-y-tres-periodistas-en-santa-barbara/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2759-detienen-tres-periodistas-en-santa-barbara-les-decomisan-su-equipo-y-les-borran-el-material-sobe-desalojo>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1138-policia-agrede-y-detiene-a-periodistas-en-santa-barbara>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1135-periodista-denuncia-retencion-policial-mientras-se-trasladaba-a-radioemisora>

Honduras commemorated doctor Denise Murillo who died this week from COVID-19. Added to the consternation came the outrage that even though more than 10 billion Lempiras have been approved so far to attend the emergency, health workers still confront the virus without protective gear. "We have to put on a military uniform so that they understand that we are valuable, what do we have to do so that they understand that doctors are more or equally valuable than the military," said the president of the Honduran Medical Association (CMH), Suyapa Figueroa.

Figueroa further insisted on the need to reorganize most medical centers, including the Hospital Escuela, which has a capacity of 1,200 beds. "According to projections, there will be several thousand people who will require hospitalization and will need oxygen. The problem is that in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula we do not have care centers with these capacities, therefore the hospitals must be revised in their capacities to respond to the needs of the people," said Figueroa." The Honduran Association of Resident Doctors (ASOHMER) gave the JOH regime 48 hours to distribute the safety supplies needed to prevent the spread of infection among health-care personnel and threatens to walk-out them from all emergency rooms if they do not comply.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3822-honduras-conmocionada-heroina-de-la-medicina-pierde-batalla-contra-covid-19>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/toda-la-red-hospitalaria-debe-estar-disponible-para-casos-de-covid-19-cmh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3824-urgente-medicos-dan-ultimatum-de-48-horas-al-gobierno-por-bioseguridad>

The former deputy health minister José Manuel Mattheu wrote an open letter to JOH demanding him to start to govern and to stop using the crisis for political ends.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/dejen-ya-la-politiqueria-barata-exsecretario-de-salud-reprende-a-joh-por-no-atender-debidamente-la-pandemia/>

COPINH demands transparency in the use of the funds recently approved by the IMF for Honduras (see yesterday).

This demand is widespread. FOSDEH has called for a multidisciplinary and multisectoral commission to accompany the execution of the funds.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1245380420486795267>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/piden-veeduria-eficiente-a-millonarios-fondos-para-emergencia-del-covid-19/>

Radio Progreso denounces the reluctance of the JOH regime to lower energy prices (see yesterday).

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/gobierno-no-quiere-bajar-tarifas-de-la-energia/>

The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice admitted a corrective habeas corpus in

favor of prisoners who meet the legal requirements for release from prison (see yesterday).

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sala-de-lo-constitucional-admite-habeas-corpus-a-favor-de-privados-de-libertad-con-enfermedades-graves.html>

"Urban Dystopia - to think, feel, live in times of COVID-19"

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/01/distopia-urbana-pensar-sentir-habitar-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

02/04/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Twitter; LGBTQ; COVID-19 - HR, HRDs, Journalists, State Reaction, BID, Medical Sector, Economy, Migration; and Do Not Forget Gabriel Hernández

"The company [Twitter] removed 3,104 fake accounts created from a single IP range in Honduras by a staffer on the government's behalf to retweet the president's account."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-twitter-accounts-idUSKBN21K1SK>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3826-twitter-denuncia-a-joh-y-elimina-3-000-cuentas-falsas>

On the day of visibility of the transgender community, which is commemorated on March 31 each year, Honduras shows that the right to justice, health and work, are still a challenge for the entire community of sexual diversity, especially trans women who are even more affected. "Donny Reyes, director of the LGTB organization Arcoiris said that in this emergency due to Covid-19 , trans women report assaults and sexual harassment by police. On the other hand, he denounced that this population does not receive the aid that the government announced for the most vulnerable people, in some cases they are taken to the elderly and the disabled, "but they are a forgotten population and very vulnerable to being violated in this situation".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2761-mujeres-trans-siguen-siendo-las-victimas-mas-frecuentes-de-abusos-a-sus-derechos-en-honduras>

An additional 112 tests resulted in (only) three more positive COVID-19 cases yesterday reaching 222 in Honduras. Another 62 year-old man died meaning that a total of 15 Hondurans died from COVID-19 so far.

With 6.3%, Honduras has the highest mortality rate in the Americas. But comparison is difficult as it also depends on how much is tested and the rate tends to drop when more is tested. Hopefully, this is also the case for Honduras.

Out of the 222 cases, 50 are hospitalized and 20 of which are in serious condition.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/honduras-suma-222-casos-y-15-muertos-por-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-honduras-6-la-mortalidad-mas-alta-de-america/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1369532-466/se-triplica-el-n%C3%BAmero-de-pacientes-graves-por-coronavirus-en-honduras>

The Fund for Global Human Rights reports on how the police in Honduras abuses their "pandemic powers". "The Honduran government has responded to the spread of COVID-19 by imposing exceptional emergency measures, including a police-enforced curfew for the entire country until April 12. But in a country where embattled activists and advocates live in near-constant fear for their lives, the recent arrests of two human rights defender have many worried that state and local authorities will use COVID-19 as pretext to stamp out opposition to the country's scandal-ridden president."

<https://globalhumanrights.org/blogs/honduran-activists-mobilize-to-support-detained-defenders/>

Sadly, yesterday this misuse of power showed once again its worst face. HRD Iris Argentina Álvarez was murdered by people identified as private security agents of the La Grecia Sugar Company. The incident occurred during a violent and illegal eviction in the sector of Los Chanchos, municipality of Marcovia, Choluteca. "Community witnesses say police were still in the area when the attackers opened fire on several families with many children. The police did nothing to stop the violence that ended the defender's life and left two other people injured, including a minor."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/04/defensora-es-asesinada-por-agentes-de-seguridad-en-violento-ilegal-desalojo/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/guardias-de-seguridad-privada-asesinan-a-defensora-de-la-tierra-en-monjaras/>

<https://criterio.hn/marcovia-choluteca-en-desalojo-violento-pierde-la-vida-una-mujer-y-tres-hombres-resultan-heridos/>

The three journalists detained on Wednesday (see yesterday's e-mail) were released yesterday. The Network of Journalists and Social Communicators demanded punishment for those responsible for these "despicable acts".

UNESCO, meanwhile, highlights that "[t]he role of journalists in informing the public during the current crisis is absolutely crucial".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2764-periodistas-y-defensores-de-santa-barbara-fueron-dejados-en-libertad-despues-de-varias-horas-de-detencion-y-amenazas>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-debera-responder-por-agresion-contr-periodistas-de-santa-barbara/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1494-unesco-labor-periodistica-durante-emergencia-del-covid-19-puede-salvar-vidas>

Congress approved yesterday an additional \$2.5 billion in reaction to the Corona crisis. Libre criticized that this allows the JOH regime to take on a \$2.5 billion loan without any strings attached on how to spend it. Libre made several proposals, 11 in total, such as suspending the payment of public services for three month or direct cash payments for the poorest family. The Nationalist-controlled Congress rejected them.

The measures approved once again ignore Honduras' informal sector.

The session in Congress took place without national nor international media presence.

Both CESPAD and Javier Suazo published helpful pieces of analysis on the needed reaction to the crisis. CESPAD focuses on the need for a democratic approach to the crisis and what impedes this in Honduras. Suazo focuses on the role of politics and the political opposition.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-colapsada-congreso-autoriza-deuda-por-2-500-millones-para-ampliar-contrataciones-directas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/legislativo-aprueba-paquete-de-medidas-del-ejecutivo-desestiman-propuestas-de-oposicion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3828-honduras-congreso-autoriza-endeudamiento-de-hasta-61-500-millones>

<https://criterio.hn/medidas-de-auxilio-aprobadas-en-el-congreso-dejan-por-fuera-al-sector-informal/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-sesionara-sin-presencia-de-medios-de-comunicacion/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/02/analisis-que-impide-la-gestion-democratica-de-la-crisis-generada-por-el-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/205645>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a \$59.2 million loan for Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-bid-presta-a-honduras-59-2-millones-dolares-para-reducir-pobreza-extrema.html>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) accuses the JOH regime is misinforming the public. On Social Media it claims to have handed out security gear to the medical staff at the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula. But the pictures used were not from them, the security gear were from donors organized by the recently formed civil society group Güiran.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1245898371224797186>

Criterio reports that the already problematic lay-off of thousands of workers by the maquiladora industry has an additional negative effect. In-country migration where people go back to their home towns helping to spread the virus.

<https://criterio.hn/retorno-de-personas-a-sus-lugares-de-origen-aumenta-riesgo-de-propagacion-del-covid-19/>

"Border closures and strict lockdowns have led to a steep decline in the number of migrants coming from Central America"

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/02/us-immigration-central-america-coronavirus-impact>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1493-prohibido-olvidar-a-un-ano-del-crimen-contr-gabriel-hernandez>

03/04/20

Honduras Daily: Garífuna; COVID-19 - HRDs, HR, Health Sector, int. Solidarity; Corruption - MACCIH; and a Bottom-Up Approach to the Crisis

The Garífuna community has seen a steep rise in attacks these last months and it seems to continue even during the corona-crisis. The attacks are especially directed at the Garífuna community Masca. Juan Manuel Mena Dolmo was attacked while fumigating cars against COVID-19. He is the nephew of Amada Lopez, who had been attacked in December 2019.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1246244057111814146>

Another 42 Hondurans were tested positive which means that the total number of COVID-19 cases in Honduras reached 264. Honduras is still testing only a bit more than 100 people per day. BCIE announced that they will hand out 180'000 test kits to Central American governments. Starting yesterday, CESPAD will publish a daily monitor of the situation in Honduras. I will link to it here.

<https://criterio.hn/casos-positivos-en-honduras-aumentan-a-264>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-ascienden-264-casos-covid-19-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/bcie-entregara-180000-kits-de-prueba-a-centro-america-para-detectar-covid-19/>

<https://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/03/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-3-de-abril-del-2020/>

OACNUDH published a press release condemning the murder of human rights defender Iris Argentina Álvarez Chávez (see also yesterday) and demanding a thorough investigation.

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-condena-la-muerte-de-la-defensora-iris-argentina-alvarez-chavez-e-insta-a-una-investigacion-pronta-y-exhaustiva-de-los-hechos/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2765-responsabilizan-a-seguridad-de-azucarera-del-asesinato-de-una-defensora-de-la-tierra-en-el-sur-de-honduras>

COFADEH published an important report on "The Human Rights Crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic". They documented 1115 arrests, 32 attacks against HRDs, 16 violent evictions, 20'000 suspended workers and more.

A group of social movements and human rights organizations published their third press release during this corona-crisis once more demanding a larger role for the Medical Association Honduras (CMH) and a social auditing of all the additional funds controlled by the JOH regime. They further demand the de-militarization of the emergency response and freedom for the political prisoners. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces the complete closure of civic space, especially for HRDs to monitor the situation.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/INFORME-COFADEH-DDHH-Y-COVID-19-1.pdf>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1246183364350148608>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2767-honduras-cierre-de-espacios-para-las-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos>

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, it was questioned whether Latin American countries had the health capacities for an emergency. John Hopkins University revealed an index in which it placed Honduras in the last places of countries that are not prepared for a health emergency. For Dr. Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Honduran Medical Association, the deterioration of the health system is not something recent, it has been happening gradually for 10 years, in which prevention programs have been stopped by the Ministry of Health, hospitals have been handed over to private networks and it has been unable to reduce deaths from the dengue epidemic that began in 2018." I have also highlighted in these e-mails these recent days the total lack of safety gear for health workers. As a consequence, at least 35 nurses and 19 doctors quit yesterday in San Pedro Sula.

<http://elpulso.hn/costo-en-vidas-humanas-sera-producto-del-debilitamiento-del-rol-rector-de-salud/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-menos-25-enfermeras-renuncian-en-plena-crisis-de-salud-en-san-pedro-sula.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3832-honduras-19-doctores-se-retiran-de-hospital-por-falta-de-proteccion>

The Honduras Solidarity Network sent a note of solidarity to Honduras denouncing that "Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH) is using the very real dangers and fears of the coronavirus pandemic to militarize the country, justify acts of corruption, destroy and further privatize public services, repress dissent, and criminalize poverty. (...) The Honduras Solidarity Network stands with the Honduran people and organizations who call for an end to the repression and corruption and demand urgent funds and resources for healthcare, food, and water for the Honduran people. We

also continue to stand with the people's demands for an end to the U.S. and Canada-backed narco-dictatorship. Our governments must stop propping up an illegitimate and corrupt government in Honduras."

<http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/2020/04/02/solidarity-with-the-honduran-people-in-pandemic-times-covid-19-another-weapon-in-the-hands-of-the-dictatorship/>

Reporteros de Investigación published their important findings into the alleged suicide of the police escort of the MACCIH. In May 2017, a young police agent dispatched to protect the employees at the MACCIH died during his shift. The circumstances were very suspicious but the MP and the JOH regime wanted to present it as a suicide. An investigation by Reporteros de Investigación now shows that the scientific evidence does not hold up to this theory and that the Deputy Attorney General Daniel Sibrián helped to cover this up. It is likely that the police agent was murdered as a sign of intimidation against the MACCIH as just two days before, they presented the Impunity Pact case which itself was linked to a case of corrupt congresswo/men.

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/04/03/sin-indicios-cientificos-de-suicidio-de-escolta-policial-de-la-maccih/>

<https://criterio.hn/guiran-la-innovacion-cientifica-que-nacio-en-un-grupo-de-whatsapp/>

05/04/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; HRDs- Guapinol, Campesinxs; COVID-19 - HR, State Reaction, Health Sector, Journalists, Domestic Workers, Violence, Corruption, Energy; Callejas; and Poetic Hope

The Honduras Forum Switzerland published the March 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/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2003_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

21 EU-Parliamentarians call for the freedom of the imprison defenders from Guapinol in an open letter to JOH.

See Attachment

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1246846332230303749>

Criterio reports more on the circumstances that led to the murder of HRD Iris Argentina Álvarez Chávez last Thursday. "A systematic persecution against members of the Cerro Escondido Cooperative in the municipality of Marcovia in the department of Choluteca in southern Honduras

has been denounced by the victims themselves. The persecution and harassment was carried out by the private security company (CRAE) of the La Grecia Sugar Company, reported the victims."

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-persecucion-contra-campesinos-cooperativistas-de-marcovia-choluteca/>

There are now 298 COVID-19 cases in Honduras and 22 people died from it. CESPAD published its daily summary for Saturday and Sunday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1370193-528/coronavirus-en-honduras-detectan-30-nuevos-contagios-y-cifra-se-eleva-a>

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

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/05/monitoreo-del-coronavirus-en-honduras-5-de-abril-del-2020/>

COFADED wrote an open letter to UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Michel Forst. "The letter was sent on Friday, April 3, 17 days after the suspension of constitutional guarantees decreed by Executive Decree PCM 021-2020 and ordered by the illegitimate government of Juan Orlando Hernandez. During this period, 45 defenders have been victims of aggressions in retaliation for their work and 7 journalists have been attacked, detained, their equipment confiscated and their television material erased."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-estados-de-emergencia-son-un-terreno-fertil-para-perpetrar-violaciones-a-los-ddhh/>

ContraCorriente critically covers the reaction of the JOH regime to the crisis focusing on the Honduras Solidarity campaign (see also previous e-mails). ""The big problem that can be found with the municipalities is that they do not have a structure that allows them to make a transparent distribution. So what they do is take lists from their political party and that's it. Besides, a bag with 500 Lempiras of food is not going to be enough to be able to face this crisis that is getting worse and worse," said the former councilor of the Central District, Cárleton Dávila, joining the many voices that are demanding an audit of the delivery of this budget."

Criterio published the controversial bill approved on Thursday: "Law to assist the productive sector and workers in the face of the effects of the pandemic caused by Covid-19".

The JOH regime increased the opening hours for stores until 5pm on the week days they are currently opened.

At the same time, FUSINA announced that "more stringent measures" will be taken this week to avoid crowding in the capital.

Yesterday, they arrested at least 85 people in just one neighborhood in Tegucigalpa.

In some parts of Honduras even stronger measures are imposed and not even supermarkets or pharmacies are allowed to open.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/03/la-bolsa-solidaria-de-20-y-la-deuda-millonaria-del-estado-ante-pandemia-covid-19/>

<https://criterio.hn/conozca-la-ley-aprobada-en-el-congreso-que-abre-camino-a-un-nuevo-y-millonario-endeudamiento/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1370029-410/covid-19-honduras-extiende-horarios-para-abastecerse-la-pr%C3%B3xima-semana>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/fusina-anuncia-medidas-mas-estrictas-para-evitar-aglomeraciones-en-mercados.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/tegucigalpa/1370177-466/por-incumplir-toque-de-queda-detienen-a-85-personas-en-la-kennedy>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1246960858145542145>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1370189-410/coronavirus-gobierno-restringe-garant%C3%A1a-absoluta-ciudadanos-cortes-el-progreso>

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-cierre-de-la-zona-metropolitana-del-valle-de-sula-por-incremento-del-coronavirus/>

In addition to the health workers renouncing for their lack of equipment (see Saturday's e-mail), at least some 40 nurses are in self-isolation. "Several members of the Coalition Against Impunity presented a collective appeal for protection against President Orlando Hernández Alvarado, Alba Consuelo Flores, Secretary of State for Health, and Gabriel Alfredo Rubí Paredes, Director of the Permanent Commission of Contingencies (COPECO), to guarantee the right to health and life of the Honduran population and the medical profession".

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/unas-40-enfermeras-aisladas-por-sospecha-de-covid-19-a-nivel-nacional.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2770-emergencia-covid-19-presentan-recurso-de-amparo-en-la-sala-de-lo-constitucional-para-que-se-garantice-la-vida-de-la-poblacion-y-del-gremio-medico>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presentacion-de-recurso-de-amparo-en-favor-de-la-poblacion-hondurena/>

The JOH regime now says that journalists are allowed to do their work and move around "as long as they justify to the authority their work".

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/periodistas-pueden-circular-pero-con-medidas-de-proteccion-insisten-autoridades-de-seguridad.html>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1246957331054653440>

"Domestic workers, silent victims of the Coronavirus"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/04/trabajadoras-domesticas-victimas-silenciosas-del-coronavirus/>

"Violence continues amidst the pandemic"

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/03/la-violencia-sigue-su-curso-entre-la-pandemia/>

The CNA sent out an alert expressing concern that those who control justice in Honduras seek to free those involved in the corruption case involving the former first lady (see also previous e-mail last month).

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1246924662556286977>

Energy won't be cut anymore during the crisis for people behind their electricity bills.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/gobierno-suspende-cortes-de-energia-por-emergencia-sanitaria-por-covid-19.html>

The former Nationalist president Rafael Leonardo Callejas died in the US. He had been diagnosed with leukemia. In 2016, he had pleaded guilty to accepting \$500,000 in bribes in the FIFA Gate corruption case.

The JOH regime decreed three days of mourning.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3833-urgente-muere-en-ee-uu-expresidente-rafael-callejas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-en-ee-uu-el-expresidente-hondureno-rafael-callejas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-decreta-tres-dias-de-duelo-por-el-fallecimiento-del-expresidente-callejas.html>

<https://criterio.hn/esperanza-el-poema-del-cubano-alexis-valdes-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

06/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, HR, Economy; Penal Code; Corruption; and Centuries of Resistance

Yesterday, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 305, six new cases out of 71 tests. This testing capacity should increase in the coming days as Honduras received 26'000 test kits from the BCIE.

CESPAD published its daily press monitor on COVID-19.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-sinager-francis-contreras-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-bcie-dona-26-mil-pruebas-rapidas-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/06/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-6-de-abril-del-2020/>

JOH announced that starting today, Hondurans must wear a mask when going outside. He also nominated the current state secretary Lisandro Rosales as the special envoy for the corona-crisis.

Padre Melo, meanwhile, once again highlights what would be needed to confront the crisis. "We demand three things in this crisis: one, that the emergency is assumed by a competent team, which prioritizes hospitals and health personnel; two, a system of accountability, with independent institutions; three, that the emergency is not militarized, nor is the delivery of food politicized".

And Carlos Zelaya Herrera added: "Hernández has not yet convened a technical-scientific roundtable, without politicians, to address the crisis from all points of view, including transparency and proper management of funds to ensure that the teams get to where they are most needed." Oversight would be especially important. Finance minister Rocío Táborá just announced that they had spent 2.2 billion Lempiras so far.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-conmina-a-la-ciudadania-a-portar-obligatoriamente-sus-mascarillas/>

<https://criterio.hn/desempleo-sera-de-32-por-ciento-advierte-la-gran-empresa/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-nombra-a-canciller-rosales-como-comisionado-especial-para-emergencia-del-covid-19.html>

<https://twitter.com/Melosjmoreno/status/1247295669121007618>

<https://criterio.hn/alarma-por-manejo-oficial-de-la-emergencia-sanitaria-covid-19/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/dos-mil-200-millones-de-lempiras-se-han-ejecutado-para-combatir-el-covid-19-ministra-de-finanzas.html>

Eighteen days ago the JOH regime purchased a batch of over 140 mechanical respirators and to date they have not been distributed by the national health system. Even once distributed, there will be problems. "Dr. Jorge Valle, a public health specialist and Dean of the UNAH School of Medicine, says that another factor that may be delaying the installation of mechanical ventilators is that they are not very useful for treating serious Covid-19 patients, another error in the way the emergency is being addressed in terms of care. But internist Ariel Figueroa told Radio Progreso that the training process takes years and that few professionals in the country are prepared for the job. He said it is important not only to have the ventilators but a whole set of procedures that require accurate inputs and skills from doctors and specialists when transferring a patient under mechanical ventilation." The disputed Government Civic Center is now being examined as a possible sight for a temporary hospital.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/aun-no-instalan-ventiladores-mecanicos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3838-joh-cede-a-presion-social-estudian-centro-civico-para-adecuar-como-hospital>

<https://confidencialhn.com/supervisan-centro-civico-gubernamental-para-s-atenciones-de-covid19-en-honduras/>

Defensores en Línea compares the situation in Honduras and Colombia and finds that both country used the lockdown to commit human rights violations.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/al-igual-que-honduras-en-colombia-se-ha-utilizado-el-toque-de-queda-para-cometer-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos/>

The JOH regime announced new relief measures called "Temporary Relief Mechanisms to Address the Economic Impact".

<http://elpulso.hn/joh-anuncia-nuevos-mecanismos-de-alivio-ante-impacto-economico-por-el-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/secretaria-de-trabajo-plan-reactivar-sector-economico/>

The disputed and controversial Penal Code was meant to come into force this May. The corona-crisis led us to forget about this. But as Congress now announced to be in permanent session and the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) calls out to Congress to treat their citizen's initiative presented last December which calls for the Penal Code to not come into force. Congress' organic law was changed so that they can hold their session virtually.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1247312493774503936>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/cn-realizara-este-martes-su-primera-sesion-virtual-en-el-marco-de-la-crisis-del-covid-19.html>

In the midst of the health emergency, the Honduran justice system has requested the immediate release of the former councilman of the disappeared Council of the Judiciary and the Judicial Career, Teodoro Bonilla Euceda. He had been sentenced to six years in prison in 2017 for influence peddling.

ConfidencialHN writes that he already has been released last week. They write of abuse of authority by the prison authorities.

<https://criterio.hn/teodoro-bonilla-a-las-puertas-de-la-libertad-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sale-en-libertad-el-cuestionado-exconcejal-de-la-judicatura-teodoro-bonilla/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/denuncian-abuso-de-autoridad-del-instituto-penitenciario-en-caso-de-exconcejal-teodoro-bonilla/>

"We have been resisting pandemics, plagues, invasions and pillage since 1492."

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1247356604292501505>

07/04/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; HRDs - Guapinol, Sur; Indigenous Peoples; COVID-19 - Dengue, HRDs, State Reaction, Protests, Health Sector, Penitentiary System, Corruption, BCIE, Economy, Migration; and Family Problems

"The Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras COPINH denounces the possibility that two of the murderers convicted of the death of Berta Cáceres will be released from prison as part of the health emergency. According to information received by our organization, enormous efforts are being made to ensure that Sergio Rodríguez Orellana and Douglas Bustillo, workers of the Atala Zablah family, who were sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder, are released for alleged medical reasons in the midst of the crisis by Covid-19. And also more benefits or even the release of David Castillo, one of the intellectual authors of the crime."

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/asesinos-de-berta-serian-dejados-en-libertad-en-medio-de-crisis-esen/>

<https://criterio.hn/asesinos-de-berta-caceres-serian-dejados-en-libertad-en-medio-de-crisis-alerta-el-copinh/>

Cofadeh presented a request for the immediate resolution of the corrective Habeas Corpus presented to verify the conditions of detention of the imprisoned HRDs from Guapinol.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presentan-escrito-de-pronta-resolucion-de-habeas-corpus-correctivo-presentado-en-favor-de-presos-de-guapinol/>

ConexiHon published a detailed article on the murder of the human rights defender Iris Argentina Álvarez. Today, two employees of the security company will face court.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1498-iris-argentina-alvarez-campesina-hondurena-asesinada-por-lucha-de-tierra-en-el-sur>

MADJ sent out a dire warning. "In Honduras, indigenous peoples live in inhumane conditions due to state abandonment and the excessive plundering of their natural assets, and now with the arrival of the covid19 their situation has worsened. (...) The measures imposed by the government of Honduras to prevent the spread of the covid19 have been, in concrete terms, a kind of death sentence for the indigenous peoples since their classist and elitist nature does not fit the socio-economic realities of these populations in the country that has more than 65% of its total population living in poverty, according to World Bank figures."

OFRANEH denounces a further increase in racism and xenophobia by the authorities as part of the response to the crisis.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/04/07/pueblo-tolupan-en-honduras-a-punto-de-morir-de-hambre/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1247668695377346561>

Testing 65 people yesterday resulted in 7 new COVID-19 cases for a total of 312 cases. 76 of them are hospitalized among them 5 in intensive care.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-confirman-siete-nuevos-casos-positivo-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/07/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-7-de-abril-del-2020/>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that "the defenders of territory, environment and human rights are the groups that suffer the most abuses in the Republic of Honduras during the state of emergency".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2772-la-cuarentena-por-covid19-es-aprovechada-para-acciones-contra-personas-defensoras-de-los-territorios>

Health authorities reported that dengue cases decreased these last weeks by 2% probably because of the lockdown and people staying at home.

<https://confidencialhn.com/reportan-disminucion-en-casos-de-dengue-por-autoaislamiento-obligatorio/>

The Constitutional Court admitted the appeals for protection filed for lack of supplies in hospitals and in favor of the Honduran population to guarantee their right to health, presented the previous week (see previous e-mail). The Chamber gives the accused public officials two days to send the corresponding reports, and then to decide on the requested precautionary measure.

Radio Progreso asks where all the money has gone which was meant for the health sector, some 20 billion Lempiras. They hope that the successful appeals will shed some light on this.

The number of health workers in self-isolation has increased to at least 70.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2774-emergencia-covid19-sala-de-lo-constitucional-admite-recursos-de-amparo-por-falta-de-insumos-en-hospitales-y-a-favor-de-la-poblacion-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/sala-constitucional-admite-recurso-de-amparo-para-que-el-gobierno-garantice-el-derecho-a-la-salud/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/donde-estan-los-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/revelan-que-un-total-de-70-enfermeras-con-coronavirus-se-encuentran-en-aislamiento/>

"Sociologist and political analyst Pablo Carías said on Tuesday that the political system and the neoliberal model have collapsed in Honduras, and not precisely because of the coronavirus

pandemic, rather what that disease did was "expose the weaknesses" of the country's politicians. "It is a political system that is incapable of constituting and making substantive proposals that would establish once and for all the institutionality of a developed, prosperous nation with a vision of a country," he said."

<https://radiohrn.hn/el-covid-19-vino-a-desnudar-debilidades-de-los-politicos-hondurenos-senala-analista-pablo-carias/>

El Tiempo and El Libertador report on a protest in Choloma where people took to the streets because they lack food. Thousands have lost their job there in the recent weeks.

<https://tiempo.hn/protestan-carretera-que-va-hacia-ticamaya-por-falta-de-alimentos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3839-urgente-empleados-de-maquila-protestan-en-choloma-por-cobros-impagables>

The Inter-Institutional Sub-Commission on Criminal Justice of Honduras announced that more than 200 prisoners will be placed in pre-release as a response to the corona-crisis.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1370768-410/presos-honduras-coronavirus-covid-tamara-el-progreso-centro-penitenciario>

<http://elpulso.hn/privados-de-libertad-que-tienen-otras-enfermedades-estan-expuestos-al-coronavirus/>

El Libertador uncovered how the JOH regime benefits the two telecommunications giants in Honduras, Tigo and Claro, as part of their response to the crisis.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3840-telefonazo-gobierno-aprueba-negocion-a-transnacionales-tigo-y-claro>

The president of the BCIE Dante Mossi announced new projects for Honduras to confront the crisis, for example an education program for the poorest parts of Honduras.

JOH tweeted: "Today the BCH has taken important steps to stimulate the economy by eliminating mandatory investments that retained liquidity. In 22 days the short-term liquidity of the banking system has increased from L8.8 billion to L30.6 billion, tripling resources to boost our economy."

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-financiara-proyectos-mermar-crisis-covid-19-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1247599678696370177>

FOSDEH published the second part of its analysis on how to confront the crisis focusing on fiscal policy.

They also estimate that some 250'000 jobs will be lost.

According to the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortés (CCIC), Pedro Barquero, the private sector currently loses some 1.4 billion Lempiras per day.

<https://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Propuestas-econo-covid19-II-parte.pdf>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/proyectan-250-mil-personas-desempleadas-a-finales-de-2020/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/un-total-de-mil-400-millones-diarios-pierde-empresa-privada-por-falta-de-actividad-economica/>

"U.S. immigration officials have rapidly deported nearly 400 migrant children intercepted at the U.S.-Mexico border in the past two weeks under new rules billed as seeking to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus in the United States, according to government data seen by Reuters. (...) Around 120 of the minors, who arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border without a parent or legal guardian, were quickly sent on planes back to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, according to data from March 27 to April 2. It was not clear whether the remainder of the children intercepted at the border were pushed back to Mexico or returned to their home countries during the preceding week."

"Last Sunday, March 22, at least 130 Honduran migrants were returned in a plane from the United States and landed at the Ramon Villeda Morales airport in the city of San Pedro Sula. (...) On April 2nd, a total of 232 Hondurans were deported from Mexico, the flight arrived at the Ramón Villeda Morales Airport from Villa Hermosa, Tabasco, Mexico.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-deportations/u-s-deports-400-migrant-children-under-new-coronavirus-rules-idUSKBN21P354>

<http://elpulso.hn/pese-a-pandemia-de-covid-19-siguen-llegando-hondurenos-deportados/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/responsabilizan-a-hermano-de-joh-de-destruir-manglares-en-el-golfo-de-fonseca/>

08/04/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; HRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Protests, Health Sector, Women, Inequality, Congress, USAID, La Moskitia, Dengue; Corruption; and a Special Delivery

CEJIL denounces the possible release of two men sentenced for the murder of Berta Cáceres (see yesterday).

<https://cejil.org/es/cejil-autoridades-hondurenas-deben-abstenerse-liberar-responsables-asesinato-berta-caceres>

The case against the two private security guards hired by a transnational sugar cane company accused of murdering land defender Iris Argentina Alvarez will go to trial (see also yesterday). OACNUDH is monitoring the case.

<https://criterio.hn/juzgado-de-choluteca-dicta-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contr-imputados-en-asesinato-de-iris-argentina-alvarez/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1247934036540035074>

The prison in which JOH's brother Tony Hernández is held in New York had a first COVID-19 case.

<https://criterio.hn/carcel-de-tony-hernandez-en-alerta-roja-por-coronavirus/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3843-en-alerta-roja-carcel-donde-esta-recluido-tony>

C-Libre denounced death threats against the journalist Selvin Euceda.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1140-periodista-es-amenazado-de-muerte-al-sur-del-pais>

31 Hondurans tested positive yesterday making a total of 343 COVID-19 cases. 23 people have died so far.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371105-528/coronavirus-honduras-muertos-nuevos-casos-8-abril-covid19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/08/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-8-de-abril-del-2020/>

The JOH regime presented new measures yesterday. Additional to the mask-wearing obligation, the lockdown was prolonged to April 19 and an individual can only leave their house once a week to buy groceries. On Saturdays and Sundays, there will be a complete lockdown.

It was also announced that after water and energy; phone, internet and TV services also won't be cut off during the crisis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/emiten-nuevas-disposiciones-de-circulacion-durante-toque-de-queda-por-coronavirus/>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-amplian-toque-de-queda-y-regulan-salidas-con-numero-de-identidad/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3841-honduras-tigo-y-claro-garantizan-servicio-pagado-y-gratuito-plan-basico>

El Tiempo reports on the violent repression of protests in Choloma where Military Police agents hit people and shot in the air.

<https://tiempo.hn/pmop-golpea-pobladores-que-protestaban-por-comida-en-choloma/>

"For the epidemiologist Roxana Araujo, stigmatization has caused an additional problem for people who contract the virus, as it is assumed that most deaths in the country from the disease are due to people coming to the care center late. (...) For his part, the president of the National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, denounced the fact that health workers are being stigmatized and discriminated against because they are on the "front line" of the coronavirus."

<http://elpulso.hn/el-covid-19-genera-mayor-estigmatizacion-y-discriminacion-en-las-personas/>

"Women's and feminist organizations warned on April 8, 2020, of the serious situation of violence against women during the Covid-19 emergency, a period in which the figures shot up alarmingly, adding up to more than 7,000 reports of domestic and intra-family violence, reported by the National Emergency System-SNE 911, in the month of March 2020 alone, of which 4,245 occurred in the first half of this month, that is, at the beginning of the curfew."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2777-organizaciones-de-mujeres-y-feministas-las-violencias-contra-las-mujeres-mas-letales-que-el-covid-19-en-el-quedate-encasa>

Defensores en Línea reports on how the corona-crisis and the response to it further deepens existing inequalities.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-coronavirus-afecta-mas-a-los-pobres/>

Congresswo/men from four parties - National Party, Liberal Party, Pinu and Libre -discussed in a virtual forum about the measures needed to confront the crisis. "'Congress to date has done absolutely nothing to make a real stand against this crisis, what was approved last Friday is not really useful. In order to be able to alleviate the social, humanitarian and economic crisis, it is not a benefit to water down taxes. For us, what is non-negotiable is a package of measures that prioritise people's lives, jobs and food and for that we have to make a package that covers the economic sector," responded Mr Calix. For her part, Doris Gutiérrez said that no matter how many laws are passed in response to the coronavirus crisis, it will be useless if the people don't know how the funds allocated to the crisis are invested if there is a law of secrets."

This last point is also reflected in many surveys. According to the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), 80% of Hondurans do not trust in their institutions.

<http://elpulso.hn/legislar-con-transparencia-y-justicia-social-en-medio-del-covid-19/>

<http://elpulso.hn/falta-de-credibilidad-y-confianza-en-el-manejo-de-recursos-frente-al-covid-19/>

USAID will spend \$8.9 million in Honduras in response to the corona-crisis.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/embajada-eeuu-usaid-presenta-plan-apoyo-gobierno-honduras-virus-covid19/>

CESPAD published a photo-report on the corona-crisis in La Moskitia.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/08/como-sobrevive-al-covid-19-la-mosquitia-hondurena/>

The death of two 8-year olds is being investigated. They are suspected of having died of dengue.

<https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-de-salud-investigacion-muerte-de-dos-ninos-de-8-anos-por-dengue/>

This Saturday, the former councilman of the disappeared Council of the Judiciary and the Judicial Career, Teodoro Bonilla Euceda, will be released from prison, even though he had been sentenced to six years in in 2017 for influence peddling (see also e-mail two days ago).

<https://confidencialhn.com/exconcejal-teodoro-bonilla-saldrá-del-presidio-el-proximo-sabado/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1247938238540464128>

<http://elpulso.hn/en-ambulancia-trasladaban-droga-empleados-del-hospital-escuela/>

09/04/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Protests, HR, Prisons, Women, Economy, Congress, Taiwán; Penal Code; and Goodbye Elsia

The initial hearing against Fabricio Eduardo Mendoza Ramírez and José Martin Perdomo Amador was finalized on Wednesday (see also yesterday). They are held responsible for the murder of land defender Iris Argentina Álvarez last week. They were formally charged homicide and have to await trial in prison.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dictan-prision-preventiva-contrad-dos-personas-por-suponerlas-responsables-del-homicidio-de-defensora-de-la-y-tierra/>

There are now 382 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Honduras, 111 of whom are hospitalized among them 18 in intensive care units.

One question raised by the situation in Honduras is the comparatively young age of people dying to COVID-19. ""However, in Honduras, according to [health expert Francisco] Somoza, "there are many young people who are sick, although they shouldn't be," that is, young people who are under 40 years of age and already suffer from heart problems, overweight, diabetes, asthma or even malnutrition, which makes them as vulnerable to Covid-19 as an older adult."

The president of the Association of Resident Doctors, Eduardo Nazar, comments that the real number of COVID-19 cases in Honduras is likely a lot higher. Honduras only tested 1600 people so far of which almost 25% were positive.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371353-528/coronavirus-en-honduras-confirman->

[39-nuevos-casos-y-la-cifra-se-eleva](#)

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-por-que-en-honduras-los-jovenes-mueren-medico-lo-explica/>

<http://elpulso.hn/fallecidos-por-covid-19-tenian-una-patologia-previa/>

<https://tiempo.hn/medicos-residentes-autoridades-toman-decisiones-frias-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/09/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-9-de-abril-del-2020/>

By April 3, the JOH regime had spent 2.2 billion Lempiras to confront the crisis. El Heraldito breaks down the expenses. Only some 5% were spent by the Health Secretariat, 128.1 million Lempiras. And there is a general lack of detail regarding the expenses. Ismael Zepeda from FOSDEH commented: "With those levels of purchase, one could colloquially say: Let the coronavirus come, we are ready. But unfortunately we don't even know where the purchases are. With this situation one thinks three things: either it is a lie or the supplies are in a private home or they were stolen".

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371100-528/coronavirus-honduras-presupuesto-2200-millones>

<https://criterio.hn/asi-se-gastaron-mas-de-l-2000-millones-para-contener-pandemia-segun-el-gobierno/>

Protests continue in Honduras and on Wednesday, 50 people were arrested in San Pedro Sula. Proceso Digital reports that more than 6000 in total have been arrested so far.

<https://tiempo.hn/detienen-a-50-personas-por-desobedecer-el-toque-de-queda-en-sps/>

<https://proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mas-de-6-000-detenidos-en-honduras-por-incumplir-toque-de-queda-por-covid-19.html>

Social movements, indigenous and human rights organizations published their fourth joint statement during the corona-crisis. They repudiate the actions taken by the JOH regime and once again call for a professional task force to confront the crisis led by the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH).

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/manifiesto-publico-covid-19-4/>

<https://criterio.hn/osc-exigen-que-lucha-contra-el-covid-19-sea-liderada-por-el-colegio-medico/>

The National Penitentiary Institute (INP) claims that there are no COVID-19 cases at the Támara women's prison.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371256-410/descartan-caso-coronavirus-carcel-mujeres-tamara-hoduras>

El Pulso reports on an increase in violence against women due to the lockdown (see also yesterday). "Cristina Alvarado, from the Movement of Women for Peace Visitación Padilla, pointed out that the confinement in the homes was established without taking into account the epidemiological and especially the preventive approach to the imminent violence." Security Minister Julián Pacheco recognized this increase.

<http://elpulso.hn/aumenta-violencia-contra-la-mujer-a-causa-del-confinamiento-por-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pacheco-reconoce-incremento-de-violencia-domestica-y-consumo-de-alcohol-durante-estado-de-sitio/>

The MP prolonged the suspension of work until April 19.
More than 250'000 workers are affected by this.

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-suspende-actividades-laborales/>

<http://elpulso.hn/casi-medio-millon-de-hondurenos-son-afectados-por-suspensiones-laborales/>

Congress nominated a virtual commission to follow-up on the corona-crisis. The commission consists of four Nationalists, but only one representative of all other parties.

<https://tiempo.hn/congreso-nombra-comision-sesiones-virtuales-covid-19/>

Taiwán donated 180'000 masks to Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1248301817781465088>

It seems as not even the corona-crisis can stop the new Penal Code from coming into force next month on May 10.

<http://elpulso.hn/ni-iniciativa-ciudadana-del-cna-y-covid-19-detienen-entrada-en-vigencia-del-codigo-penal/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/twitter-suspende-cuentas-de-aher/>

110/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - Protests, Health Sector, State Reaction, Indigenous Peoples, HR, World Bank, Economy, Politics, Forest Fires; and Another Rare Good

A 24-year old woman died yesterday to COVID-19 in La Ceiba, the 24th victim. 10 new Hondurans were tested positive.

ContraCorriente portrays Valle de Sula in Cortés, where 22 out of the 24 COVID-19 victims came from.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371543-528/coronavirus-en-honduras-suben-a-24-los-muertos-y-a-392-los>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/10/valle-de-sula-de-capital-industrial-a-epicentro-de-la-pandemia/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/10/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-10-de-abril-del-2020/>

There are ongoing protests in Choloma, in the north of Honduras, where people demand food and supplies.

A nationwide pot-banging protest is announced for Sunday evening at 7pm.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1248654082903904257>

<https://tiempo.hn/durante-protestas-por-comida-saquean-camion-repartidor-de-bimbo/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1371521-410/policia-evita-saqueos-lopez-arellano-habitantes-reclaman-alimentos-coronavirus-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1248672091420884993>

The Constitutional Chamber admitted the appeal for protection presented by the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) and a group of human rights lawyers for the lack of medical supplies and equipment to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

MADJ also wrote that they "filed an action of protection to guarantee the rights to health, personal integrity and life of health workers and the Honduran population in general". I am not sure, if it is the same as above or an additional one.

<http://elpulso.hn/sala-constitucional-admite-amparo-por-falta-de-insumos-ante-pandemia-de-covid-19/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/04/10/madj-presenta-amparo-a-favor-de-la-poblacion-hondurena-y-personal-sanitario/>

An army colonel was separated from the Armed Forces, apparently because he criticized the politicization of the food delivery, i.e. the Honduras Solidarity operation. This fact has been denounced previously by human rights organizations.

The army disputes this and claims he will be reassigned...

The JOH regime claims to have handed out food and supplies to 588'105 people so far as part of the Honduras Solidarity operation.

Colón, Cortés and El Progreso, Yoro, had been on complete lockdown in the last days, now, over the next nine days, people are allowed to buy groceries on one day, again depending on the last number of their identity card.

But things are not so clear after all. The same day, the appointed head to address the crisis, Lisandro

Rosales, withdrew the permission. He warned that at the moment there are no supply dates for that region and El Progreso "because we have seen the high contagion that has occurred in this area"-

<https://tiempo.hn/ffaa-separan-a-coronel-por-denunciar-politizacion-de-entrega-de-alimentos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ffaa-coronel-roosevelt-hernandez-pasara-a-otro-cargo/>

<https://twitter.com/ABueso/status/1248820552376164352>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-reprograma-salida-para-colon-cortes-y-el-progreso-yoro/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/seguridad-determina-nuevas-medidas-de-circulacion-en-zona-del-valle-de-sula/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1371561-466/extienden-toque-de-queda-absoluto-en-col%C3%B3n-cort%C3%A9s-y-el-progreso-yoro>

<https://confidencialhn.com/superfuncionario-de-joh-desautoriza-circulacion-en-el-valle-de-sula-otorgado-por-seguridad/>

The president of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Anne Nuorgam, published an open letter "to ensure indigenous peoples are informed, protected and prioritized during the global COVID-19 pandemic".

EN: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenous-peoples-es/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/04/UNPFII-Chair-statement_COVID19.pdf

SP: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenous-peoples-es/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/04/UNPFII-Chair-statement_COVID19_ESP.pdf

OACNUDH published "essential guidelines for incorporating a human rights perspective into the response to the COVID-19 pandemic"

https://oacnudh.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/V1.1_Directrices_ONU-DH_Covid19-y-Derechos-Humanos-hn.pdf

The World Bank approved a \$119 million credit for Honduras. "The main objective of the Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Credit with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) is to strengthen the financial and institutional framework of Honduras to manage risks from adverse natural events and health emergencies. (...) The program's expected results include that, within three years, all twenty health regions in Honduras will have a health emergency response plan, with emphasis on epidemics and pandemics, and at least 40 percent of municipalities in the country will formulate or update their local emergency plans to prevent and address risks related to natural phenomena and climate change."

At the same time, there is still no transparency regarding use of the funds. On Thursday, it was said that over 2 billion Lempiras have been spent, yesterday the Finance Secretariat said it was 1.7

billion. The presiding judge of the Superior Audit Court (TSC), José Juan Pineda, guaranteed that they are watching over the transfers to the entities in charge of the crisis...

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/09/honduras-recibira-apoyo-por-us119-millones-del-banco-mundial-para-hacer-frente-a-la-covid-19-coronavirus-y-otras-emergencias>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-garantiza-vigilancia-en-administracion-de-dinero-por-emergencia-del-coronavirus/>

The Commerce and Industries Chamber of Cortés (CCIC) published another press release with recommendations, one of them asks for "a rethinking of the 2020 general budget to redirect resources to areas such as health and education".

The Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (Banhprovi) has a total of 800 million Lempiras available for micro, small and medium enterprises.

<https://confidencialhn.com/piden-al-ejecutivo-medidas-para-salvaguardar-la-economia-de-los-hondurenos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/banhprovi-dispone-l800-millones-asistencia-crediticia-mipymes/>

CESPAD published an analysis on the political impacts of the corona-crisis. "Since the 2017 post-electoral crisis, the State has invested significant public resources in electoral and constitutional political reforms in an effort to re-establish the collapsed Honduran electoral institutions. The constitution of the National Electoral Council (CNE) and the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TJE) are examples of this effort. (...) In this moment of crisis, the political elites are obliged to make available what has been done and invested in the political-electoral area in order to ensure a truly transparent and legitimate political process for Honduran society.

(...)

There are, perhaps, two scenarios that arise in the face of the dilemma that can be foreseen from the future of the primary elections. (i) One scenario is "Option B", practiced in the 1985 elections, which consists of holding the primary and general elections simultaneously. The risk of this option is that it could represent logistical and administrative chaos, although it is perhaps the only way to ensure that the 2021 general election is not postponed. It is estimated that more than 15 political parties will participate in the next general election contest. (ii) Another scenario is the postponement of the primary elections to the general elections in 2022. Although this is an extreme scenario, various contingencies must be considered, from, for example, a delay, due to the current emergency, in the purging and updating of the electoral census by the National Registry of Persons (RNP); to, in the absence of effective control of the spread of the coronavirus, a resurgence of the pandemic.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/10/analisis-sobre-el-impacto-politico-del-covid-19-en-honduras/>

"A total of 19 forest fires have been reported so far this year in La Tigra National Park, but 3 fires per day have been started in recent days despite the confinement of the population due to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Honduras. The authorities are not responding to reports of the fires because they are dealing with the pandemic, or at least that is the excuse, explains Jorge Luis Palma, technical director of the Friends of La Tigra Foundation (Amitigra)."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/10/incendios-otro-factor-de-riesgo-en-honduras-ante-covid19>

Coffins

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/10/honduras-podria-quedarse-sin-ataudes-a-la-puerta-de-elevacion-de-contagios/>

11/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Food, IACHR, Economy, Corruption, Deportations; and This Is Not a Game

Another, young (36-year old), Honduran died yesterday from COVID-19 which means that at least 25 people have died from it so far. The number of confirmed cases reached 393. But at the same time, at least 15 Honduran sailors who had returned from Dubai via Brazil, tested positive and they have not been counted so far.

Experts at the National Autonomous University (UNAH) presented three scenarios for the further development of the contagion in Honduras: i) 28-46'000 cases with less than 2000 deaths; ii) more than 46'000 cases without any indication of the possible deaths; and some 3 million cases, again without indicating to how many deaths this would lead.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371697-528/honduras-393-casos-y-una-muerte-m%C3%A1s-registra-el-pa%C3%ADs-cifra-sube>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-menos-15-marinos-hondurenos-dan-positivo-a-pruebas-rapidas-de-covid-19.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-expertos-tres-escenarios-distintos-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/11/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-11-de-abril-del-2020/>

ContraCorriente spoke with the doctor Ligia Ramos about the failed reaction of the JOH regime to the crisis. "Ligia Ramos, assures that there is an under-registration, cases that are not entering the count, in addition the centralization of the PCR tests is affecting the access in different zones of the country. For Ramos, this emergency is not being handled by trained people, and COPECO wants to deceive us with its projections and data."

JOH announced to hand-out 9 million masks with a chemical that is supposed to kill the coronavirus.

The state body Strategic Investment of Honduras (INVEST-H) announced the purchase of seven mobile hospitals. They are planned to be set-up in June. Together with the purchase of 740 mechanical fans and 250,000 PCR tests, the cost is \$62.8 million.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/11/copeco-nos-quiere-enganar-entrevista-con-dra-ligia-ramos/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1371654-410/mascarillas-honduras-coronavirus-covid-pandemia>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-honduras-compra-siete-hospitales-moviles-atender-pacientes/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sin-minimos-controles-investh-invertira-63-millones-de-dolares-en-hospitales-y-equipos-medicos/>

ContraCorriente takes a closer look at the "bags of promises" by the JOH regime, i.e. the Honduras Solidarity campaign, and highlights various problems.

In a second article, ContraCorriente reports on the difficulty to buy groceries due to a general lack and the high cost. "The food supply for Honduran families seems to be getting more complicated as the health crisis in the country progresses. On the one hand, despite a decree freezing some products in the basic food basket, prices in markets and grocery stores remain high. On the other hand, there is a shortage of masks, hand gel, alcohol and the products required to leave the house. This means that the little that is available on the market costs up to ten times more than its regular price."

The Executive Decree by which the JOH regime declared as a national priority the support to the food production sector and food agro-industry came into effect yesterday.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/11/bolsas-de-promesas-para-la-pandemia-en-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/10/sobrevivir-entre-el-desabastecimiento-y-el-alto-coste-de-la-canasta-basica/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/en-vigencia-decreto-que-declara-de-prioridad-nacional-apoyo-al-sector-productor-de-alimentos-y-agroindustria.html>

The IACHR approved a new resolution "Pandemic and Human Rights".

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/073.asp>

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/decisiones/pdf/Resolucion-1-20-es.pdf>

According to the labor union CUTH, already some 50'000 people have been fired during the corona crisis.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/alrededor-de-50-mil-trabajadores-han-sido-despedidos-durante-el-confinamiento-segun-cuth.html>

Teodoro Bonilla wasn't allowed to leave prison after all yesterday (see previous e-mails this week).

<https://confidencialhn.com/creo-que-joh-no-lo-permite-impiden-salida-del-presidio-de-exconcejal-bonilla/>

"President Donald Trump signed an order late Friday threatening to impose sanctions on countries that attempt to bar the repatriation of U.S. deportees because those people have spent time in the world's worst hot spot for coronavirus."

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/04/10/trump-sanctions-countries-blocking-deportees-over-coronavirus/2874395001/>

<https://tiempo.hn/trump-amenaza-paises-que-no-accepten-deportados-covid-19/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/este-no-es-un-juego/>

12/04/20

Honduras Daily: Lawyers; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, HR, Faith, Penitentiary System; and Stranded in a Pandemic

A 30-year old lawyer, David Argueta, was murdered in San Pedro Sula yesterday. The unknown assailants entered his house and shot him.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/acribillan-a-abogado-en-el-interior-de-su-casa-en-sps.html>

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rose to 397, 122 of them are hospitalized among them 14 in intensive care units.

But the number still does not include the sailors who arrived from Dubai via Brazil on Saturday (see yesterday's e-mail). 27 of them have been tested positive already.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sube-a-397-los-casos-positivos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid19-sps-ahora-son-27-los-marinos-positivos-mediante-prueba-rapida/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-abril-del-2020/>

Even El Heraldo highlights irregularities regarding the use of funds by the JOH regime. They cite Odir Fernández, head of the Investigation, Analysis and Monitoring of Cases Unit of the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) saying that Copeco's purchases are not in line with the need. FOSDEH also denounces irregularities and a lack of transparency. "It is not explained how the Standing Committee on Contingencies [COPECO] has acquired some items at prices out of order in relation to the in-store quotations," said Alejandro Kafatti, a member of FOSDEH. As an example he cited that overpriced purchases were made in the midst of the health emergency, referring to the 10 coffee percolators on which 40,000 lempiras were spent, despite the fact that their real cost per unit on the market is 1,450 lempiras."

According to the Secretary of Finance, Rocío Tábor, 2'195 million Lempiras have been spent so far. "The Sefin transparency portal shows that 1,769.5 million lempiras were allocated to the purchase of goods, 5.2 million lempiras to construction, another 65 million lempiras to the hiring of personnel and 355.3 million lempiras invested in the purchase of food and, supposedly, assistance

for the most vulnerable citizens."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1371896-528/emergencia-del-covid-19-sectores-no-entienden-compras-de-mesas-televisores-y-percoladoras>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-abril-del-2020/>

<https://tiempo.hn/rocio-tabora-se-han-ejecutado-12195-millones-para-combatir-al-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-pide-a-copeco-explicaciones-sobre-televisores-y-percoladoras-sobrevaloradas/>

Medical staff in the north of Honduras announced protests for today for the ongoing lack of protective gear.

The Medical Association of Honduras presented an appeal to the Supreme Court demanding protection for the medical staff. The appeal also includes holding those responsible for endangering the lives of health professionals. It is not clear if it is another appeal of the one we knew about already.

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-anuncian-protestas-por-falta-de-insumos-para-combatir-el-coronavirus/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1371866-410/coronavirus-medicos-honduras-convocan-protesta-covid-19-equipo-bioseguridad>

<https://tiempo.hn/cmh-recurso-de-amparo-para-exigir-equipo-de-bioseguridad/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a video weekly update on the human rights situation.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2781-que-pasa-en-honduras-en-el-contexto-de-ddhh>

COFADEH denounces the misuse of religious faith during the crisis and the end of the secular state. "The manipulation of faith, as an instrument of fear, in the midst of the crisis caused by the coronavirus in Honduras, has the purpose of immobilizing; of accepting a situation of lack and need and constitutes a further damage to the psyche of the people. "In the name of God, the people are denied the right to food, the right to health. In the name of God, information is hidden from the people," said the General Coordinator of the Committee of Families of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), Bertha Oliva".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-cofadeh-lamenta-la-perdida-del-estado-laico-en-honduras/>

52 inmates were released on pre-release and parole as a response to the corona crisis.

The directors of both the Támara prison and the prison in La Ceiba were removed, both members of the Armed Forces, but the JOH regime presents it as a normal rotation.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/12/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-12-de-abril-del-2020/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1371835-410/centro-penitenciario-nacional-centro-penal-la-ceiba-tamara-instituto-nacional-penitenciario>

"At least 47 families, originally from the department of Choluteca, were suspended from a maquiladora company in Choloma, Cortés, in the northern part of the country, leaving them in a precarious situation as they have requested for more than a week requested safe passage from the state authorities, but to date they have not been allowed to return safely or guaranteed the minimum conditions for their stay."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1503-desidia-de-sinager-deja-47-familias-varadas-en-choloma>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/pronunciamientos/1141-urge-garantizar-retorno-seguro-de-hondurenos-varados-por-el-covid-19>

13/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Protests, Health Sector, Transparency, Journalists, HR, LGBTQ+, Children, Education, Elections, Prisons; Migration - US; and Violence Does Not Sleep

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases rose to 407 and a 26th person died, a 48-year old woman.

There is more and more doubt about these numbers. First, Honduras continues to test people at a very low rate. Second, more voices are speaking up denouncing that the JOH regime is hiding the real numbers. The director social security IHSS, Omar Janania, says that in San Pedro Sula alone, the number of deaths are 38. "We can confirm that within the Catarino Rivas unit 17 patients died, within the Covid-19 unit of Leonardo Martinez 16 patients died and within the Social Security unit five patients died".

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/diez-nuevos-casos-de-coronavirus-cifra-asciende-a-407/>

<https://tiempo.hn/38-pacientes-han-muerto-en-salas-para-covid-19-en-sps-confirma-director-del-ihss/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/13/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-13-de-abril-del-2020/>

Both Criterio and El Pulso focus on the newest executive decree (see last week) promoting the agro-industrial sector.

Honduras' campesines represented by their organizations, e.g. CNTC and La Vía Campesina explain in a press release that up to now, it has been the responsibility of small and medium-sized farms to guarantee food sovereignty and this without state support. Rather than the executive decree,

Congress should approve the the Emergency Act for the Reactivation of the Agricultural, Fish and Forest Sector to Fight Poverty.

<https://criterio.hn/la-guerra-del-hambre-y-las-promesas-del-poder-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/juan-orlando-hernandez-declara-prioridad-nacional-al-sector-productor/>

<https://twitter.com/CampesinaViaHN/status/1249780457283223552>

"Hunger and poverty continue to outstrip Covid-19, as the people cannot comply with the quarantine because there was no effective supply plan and, despite the risk involved in going out to protest, the Hondurans are putting more pressure on the government every day."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3846-hondurenos-intensifican-protesta-social-por-alimentos-e-insumos-biomedicos>

The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) felt forced again to demand security gear for the medical staff. Of just one hospital in San Pedro Sula, 12 doctors and 17 nurses are quarantined, three among them are in intensive care units.

Medical staff protested in San Pedro Sula yesterday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-de-manera-urgente-demandan-dotacion-de-equipo-de-bioseguridad-y-rendicion-de-cuentas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/no-insumos-cmh-al-gobierno-van-a-pemitir-genocidio/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/medicos-y-enfermeras-protestan-por-falta-de-equipo-de-bioseguridad-en-san-pedro-sula/>

C-Libre denounces that medical staff at a hospital in Danlí was forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement. "To prevent staff from providing information and denouncing government corruption due to the lack of supplies in hospitals, the Honduran government, through the Ministry of Health, intends to implement the muzzle law in health care centers."

ConfidencialHN highlights more irregularities in the spending by the JOH regime on the reaction to the crisis.

The CMH also continues to insist on transparency.

The Supreme Audit Tribunal (TSC) announced to look into the spending through INVEST-H (see yesterday).

Instead of working towards more transparency, the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) talks down the problem. "Ivonne Ardón, a judge at the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP), was clear and emphatic that the Ministry of Finance is not responsible for liquidating funds, nor does it publish information on what the implementing institutions did in the context of the health emergency resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1143-obligan-a-firmar-confidencialidad-en-hospital-de-zona-oriental-hondurena>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-de-joh-adultero-precios-de-mascarillas-y-enseres-para-atender-pandemia/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-exige-transparencia-en-inversion-frente-a-la-pandemia-del-sars-cov2/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-revisara-compras-directas-hechas-por-investh-para-atender-la-pandemia-del-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sefin-no-tiene-responsabilidad-de-liquidar-fondos-ni-publicar-informacion-de-que-hacen-los-ejecutores-iaip.html>

Criticism is not welcomed by the JOH regime. The Honduran government's Commissioner for COVID 19, Lisandro Rosales, reacted by referring disparagingly to journalists as "bitter people".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1142-comisionado-para-covid-19-ataca-a-periodistas-diciendo-amargados-que-ni-colegiados-estan>

OACNUDH met with several ministries "to advance the incorporation of the #DDHH approach in the state's response to #COVID19 in relation to the situation of migrants, returnees, and forcibly displaced persons".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1249841580267188226>

OACNUDH also warns that the LGBTQ+ community suffers from a lack of access to health services and that they suffer discrimination when attending health centers.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1249785857931911171>

MADJ and other human rights organizations presented an appeal in favor of about 15 thousand children and adolescents living on the street.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/04/13/presentan-amparo-para-15-mil-ninasos-en-situacion-de-calle-ante-riesgo-de-muerte-por-covid-19/>

There won't be any classes until the end of the state of emergency.

<https://confidencialhn.com/bueso-reitera-que-las-clases-permaneceran-suspendidas-hasta-que-la-emergencia-por-coronavirus-lo-permita/>

The Liberal Party denounced in a press release that groups close to JOH are looking to negotiate the suspension of the 2021 elections to keep JOH in power.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1249712809304186883>

"Relatives of prisoners are demanding a pardon for at least 400 inmates who suffer from chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and coronary and respiratory diseases, which expose them to critical conditions if they become infected with the coronavirus."

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/familiares-de-privados-de-libertad-demandan-indulto-para-400-reos-con-patologias-cronicas.html>

The Trump administration announced "additional targeted U.S. foreign assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras" focused on reducing migration.

<https://www.state.gov/united-states-continues-u-s-foreign-assistance-for-el-salvador-guatemala-and-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-mantendra-la-ayuda-economica-para-honduras-el-salvador-y-guatemala/>

The yearly report by UNAH's violence center confirmed what has been known for a while, that the homicide rate last year had risen again. It was higher than in 2017 and 2018. Even during the current corona crisis and the lockdown, the daily number of homicide remains high.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1249787896325947394>

<http://elpulso.hn/ni-con-toque-de-queda-se-reducen-muertes-violentas-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-jovenes-menoresv30-anos-mueren-a-violencia/>

14/04/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; COVID-19 - HR, LGBTQ+, Corruption, Health Sector, Protests, Social Conflict, Prisons, Political Prisoners, Violence, Dengue; and Congratulations ADEPZA

"The cameraman of Channel 6 International, Javier Lopez, was attacked by members of the Management of Public Order and the Municipal Police of the Central District, while he was covering acts of violence by these two entities against citizens".

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1145-empleados-municipales-agreden-a-camarografo>

The number of confirmed deaths from COVID-19 made a jump yesterday to 31 from 26. Out of the 55 tests made, 12 new cases were confirmed for a total of 419. This is still a very low number of tests with a high percentage of positive results. Over a week ago, Honduras was donated 26'000 tests by the BCIE and it is reasonable to ask why not more people are being tested.

One possible answer came yesterday. According to the Secretary of Health, Alba Consuelo Flores, clarified this Tuesday the tests from the BCIE are not quick tests, they lack the necessary reagents. Journalist Jeff Ernst makes the comparison with El Salvador where over three times as many tests have been made resulting in fewer positive results.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/cinco-nuevas-muertes-y-419-casos-positivos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-advierte-que-los-reactivos-donados-a-centroamerica-por-el-bcie-no-son-pruebas-rapidas/>

<https://twitter.com/HoyMismoTSI/status/1250048161340588033>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1250171213512683520>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-abril-del-2020/>

The Human Rights Board presented in a virtual press conference their report "Critical state of the nation in times of COVID-19". They denounce the approach by the JOH regime as "reactive, militaristic, individualistic" and that it lacks the special attention needed by vulnerable groups. As civil society in general, they also demand the creation of an inter-institutional committee led by the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH).

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) adopted a declaration on human rights and COVID-19.

See Attachment

<http://ciprodeh.org.hn/index.php/noticias-principales/505-mesa-de-derechos-humanos-expone-el-estado-critico-de-la-nacion-en-tiempos-de-coronavirus>

<https://criterio.hn/mesa-de-derechos-humanos-denuncia-desconfianza-incertidumbre-y-descontento-social-por-acciones-del-gobierno-ante-el-covid-19/>

http://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/alerta/comunicado/declaracion_1_20_ESP.pdf

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/corteidh-llama-a-proteger-los-derechos-humanos-en-la-emergencia-por-covid-19/>

Criterio reports on the situation of trans women during the lockdown.

<https://criterio.hn/sobreviviendo-la-situacion-de-las-mujeres-trans-en-el-confinamiento/>

These last weeks, various irregularities have been made public regarding the use of public funds to confront the crisis (see previous e-mails). The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounced this situation in a new press release.

One special problem is the purchase of overvalued supplies. The newest case concerns masks worth 45 Lempiras but bought for 190 Lempiras. Or the purchase of two mobile hospitals bought for half the price by the government in El Salvador.

COPECO and INVEST-H tried to defend it.

Radio Progreso documented further irregularities benefiting Honduras' pharmaceutical industry.

They benefit from tax exemptions for the privilege of selling antibacterial gel to the JOH regime, benefiting twice.

The head of COPECO, Gabriel Rubí, tried to defend their work.

Then, the JOH regime found scapegoats in a lower ranking COPECO administrator and some employees and suspended them.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1250261510191902721>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/sobrevaloracion-en-precio-de-mascarillas-inicio-de-lo-que-podria-ser-el-acto-de-corrupcion-record-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/copeco-e-invest-justifican-millonaria-inversion-en-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1372400-528/hospitales-transparencia-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/gobierno-pagara-48-millones-de-lempiras-a-industria-farmaceutica-por-gel-antibacterial/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/jefe-de-copeco-se-derrite-en-justificaciones-sobre-controvertida-compra-de-percoladoras-y-televisores-plasmas/>

<https://criterio.hn/suspenden-a-funcionario-que-proporcione-informacion-de-compras-sobrevaloradas-en-copeco/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3849-honduras-suspenden-ejecutivos-de-copeco-por-dudosas-compras-para-atender-virus>

The CMH has revealed that more than 30 doctors and nurses have been infected with COVID-19 at the national level; however, the authorities of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) have refrained from providing information on the people affected.

The Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare documented the cases of 12 doctors and 25 nurses.

Danelia Bueso, journalist at CESPAD, spoke with the former Director of Forensic Medicine, Julissa Villanueva, about the need to conduct autopsies of people who have died of COVID-19.

<http://elpulso.hn/medicos-son-los-mas-expuestos-ante-el-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/unos-12-medicos-y-25-personas-del-area-de-enfermeria-estan-contagiadas-con-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/14/por-que-honduras-tambien-deberia-hacerle-autopsias-a-los-cuerpos-fallecidos-por-covid-19/>

There are ongoing protests in Honduras from people demanding food and supplies.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1250212768340267009>

"The COVID-19 pandemic has led most States to place a number of restrictions on the mobility of people, with the aim of reducing mass transmission. So far, social distancing seems to be the most reasonable solution to prevent health systems from collapsing, due to the speed and ease with which the disease is transmitted. Preventing people from meeting voluntarily or involuntarily is the great objective and, to achieve it, states use legal regulations to restrict the use of public space, through limiting some constitutional guarantees. The effects that these measures produce on the economy have been discussed, but what factors condition the escalation of this situation in social conflicts? In every society these factors are related to institutions and trust, and to the legitimacy that society has towards them and their rulers. In Honduras, the pandemic crisis is a political issue quite susceptible to escalation into social conflict."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/14/del-coronavirus-al-estallido-social/>

Three mass-killings have taken place during the lockdown so far.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/covid-19-tres-masacres-se-registran-en-lo-que-va-la-emergencia-sanitaria/>

The President of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), Rolando Argueta, informed that there are 569 prisoners who had enjoyed the benefit of pre-release since last week.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/14/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-14-de-abril-del-2020/>

At the same time, the political prisoners remain locked-up. COFADEH once more demanded their freedom yesterday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-cofadeh-demanda-la-liberacion-de-los-presos-politicos-y-defensores-del-medio-ambiente/>

So far this year, there have been almost 11'000 dengue cases, among them 1003 severe ones. "For the Deputy Minister of Health, Roberto Cosenza, the dengue epidemic must be fought by taking advantage of the absolute curfew that forces people to stay in their homes and eliminating mosquito breeding grounds"

9 deaths have been confirmed, 20 deaths in total are suspected.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-covid-19-nos-ha-hecho-olvidar-la-mortal-epidemia-del-dengue/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/a-10-mil-756-ascienden-los-casos-y-nueve-fallecidos-por-dengue-en-honduras.html>

ADEPZA commemorated its 20th anniversary yesterday.

<https://twitter.com/adepza/status/1250147755114332163>

15/04/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Drug Trafficking - JOH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Protests, Deportation, Women; Forest Fires, Labor Rights; Electoral Reforms;

The national and international campaign to free the environmental defenders from Guapinol continues. They have been locked-up illegally for more than 225 days.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1250468131350425606>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/denuncian-ensanamiento-de-operadores-de-justicia-contra-presos-de-guapinol/>

The sentencing of JOH's brother Tony Hernández was postponed again, this time to June 29. He once more changed his defense team.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1372735-466/postergan-lectura-de-sentencia-de-tony-hern%C3%A1ndez-para-el-29-de-junio>

Another 4 Hondurans died of COVID-19 raising the number of deaths to 35. Again only testing a few people, 44, 7 new confirmed cases were announced for a total of 426.

Honduras has among the lowest test rates in the region.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/4-nuevas-muertes-y-426-casos-positivos-de-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/42997-2/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-15-de-abril-del-2020/>

Defensores en Línea reports that "the military tried to bury at least 12 people who died of the coronavirus yesterday in Villanueva, Cortés, but the residents of the area did not allow it because where they have dug the graves there is an aquifer that is used by five communities".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/vecinos-no-permitieron-que-militares-enterraran-muertos-por-coronavirus-en-villanueva/>

<https://tiempo.hn/entierran-a-12-victimas-de-covid-19-en-villanueva-en-contra-de-pobladores/>

According to the National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), more than 100 nurses have been isolated so far for a possible corona contagion.

El Tiempo reports on the psychological pressure suffered by health workers.

<https://confidencial.hn.com/unas-100-enfermeras-en-aislamiento-por-sospecha-de-covid19-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-psicosis-covid-19-medicos-enfermeras-abandonan-labores/>

In a press release, the MP announced to investigate the purchases by COPECO (see yesterday). Gabriela Castellanos, director of the CNA, commented: "[W]e have overvalued purchases, overvalued ministers, overvalued politicians, and undervalued people". The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) will investigate nine mayor for allegedly misusing funds for the corona crisis.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/155-abril2020/5701-ministerio-publico-investiga-compras-de-emergencia-en-copeco>

<https://confidencialhn.com/contradicciones-fiscalia-sostiene-que-desde-el-4-de-abril-esta-investigando-compras-irregulares-en-copeco/>

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-investiga-irregularidades-en-copeco-pero-limitado-por-pacto-de-impunidad/>

<https://twitter.com/radioamericahn/status/1250539780556967938>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-investiga-alcaldias-hondurenas-por-supuesto-manejo-irregular-de-dinero/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the ongoing protests in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/covid-19-no-paran-las-protestas-exigiendo-alimentos/>

Guatemala denounces that the US deports dozens of migrants with COVID-19 to the country. Also in Honduras, 3-4 planes with deported migrants return every week.

<https://hosted.ap.org/berkshireagle/article/14a3406afdd3372c763ba96e9959b0c0/guatemala-us-deportations-driving-covid-19-cases>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/15/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-15-de-abril-del-2020/>

Women and feminist organizations denounced that with the quarantine and in the midst of the crisis, the situation of women has been worrying because they have to live with their aggressors and have their lives in danger. "By the first quarter of 2020, more than 23,000 calls have been received reporting domestic violence. Since the constitutional guarantees were suspended, Ayestas said, the numbers have dropped, but that doesn't mean it isn't happening."

<http://elpulso.hn/mujeres-son-invisibilizadas-en-el-marco-del-covid-19/>

Honduras has seen an increase in forest fires and many Honduras ask what the National Institute of Conversation and Forestry Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife is doing.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1250533655857909760>

<https://radiohrn.hn/honduras-ha-perdido-14-mil-hectareas-de-bosque-en-incendios-segun-el-cuerpo-de-bomberos/>

"The employees of La Tribuna newspaper are being forced to sign a certificate to have 20 percent of their salary deducted, as an alleged act of solidarity with the company due to the crisis caused by the coronavirus".

<https://criterio.hn/violaciones-laborales-llegan-a-diario-la-tribuna/>

"The call for primary elections is in the hands of the National Congress, said the councilman of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Kelvin Aguirre, who warned that this state power has suspended the electoral reforms required to hold the elections."

<https://criterio.hn/en-manos-del-congreso-nacional-esta-la-convocatoria-a-elecciones-kelvin-aguirre/>

16/04/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; HRDs - Guapinol; COVID-19 - Indigenous Peoples, HR, Journalists, State Reaction, Corruption, Protests, Poverty, Water, Domestic Workers, BCIE, US, Deportation; and a Message of Solidarity

US Congressman Jim McGovern reacted to the possibility that the men who murdered Berta Cáceres could be freed. "Governments must both guarantee prisoners' right to health and protect their societies from those who have committed grave crimes. #Honduras must not use the #coronavirus as an excuse to free the men who murdered Berta Cáceres. #JusticeForBerta". Berta Zúniga, COPINH's general coordinator, spoke with Radio Mundo Real about this.

<https://twitter.com/RepMcGovern/status/1250577791101403136>

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/asesinos-de-berta-caceres-podrian-salir-de-prision/>

After a visit to the Olanchito Penal Center in Yoro, the National Prevention Mechanism-Honduras, MNP-CONAPREV, verified that the Guapinol defenders are held in a "reduced space, with limitations in cleaning materials, a poorly ventilated home and in a condition of overcrowding, and therefore recommended that the judicial authorities urgently review the precautionary measure of preventive detention for one that is less harmful in the context of the emergency".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2791-caso-defensores-de-guapino-conaprev-recomienda-a-las-autoridades-judiciales-cambiar-la-prision-preventiva-por-una-medida-menos-lesiva>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-conaprev-demanda-que-ambientalistas-de-guapinol-enfrenten-juicio-en-libertad-por-existir-riesgo-de-contagio/>

Six more people died of COVID-19 and 16 new cases were detected. In total, 41 people have died and 442 cases were confirmed.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1373059-528/cifra-suba-a-442-casos-de-coronavirus-y-seis-muertes-m%C3%A1s-en>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/16/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-16-de-abril-del-2020/>

OFRANEH demands that "any activity that SINAGER carries out in our Garifuna communities is coordinated with people responsible for these COVID-19 Community Centers which are fully identified in more than 20 communities."

Community radios in Honduras will air a special program today on how the indigenous and campesines communities confront the corona crisis.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1250852048985350146>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1250905525446983683>

Honduras' social movements and human rights organizations published their fifth joint press release during this crisis. It is disheartening to see that one-month in, they still have to insist that the emergency response will be lead by competent and experienced people as well as for transparency and the social auditing of government expenses in addressing the crisis. "We call on all voices to firmly ratify our fundamental denunciation: this regime has converted the resources destined to confront the pandemic and the hunger of the people into a piñata that is distributed among the members of the team and the sycophants who surround Juan Orlando Hernández. We call for the rejection of this regime that uses the illness and hunger of the people to consolidate and perpetuate its dictatorial, corrupt and criminal project."

The new International Forum on Human Rights in Honduras presented itself to the public yesterday. It consists of over 30 national and international human rights organizations and its aim is "to monitor and make visible the country's situation at the international level, generate joint analyses and actions, based on international standards, and guarantee compliance with the human rights of the entire population". Regarding the current situation, they expressed concern that "the health emergency, combined with a precarious health system, weak institutions, the lack of water supply and privatization, and serious problems of corruption, militarization and exploitation of natural resources are deepening the risks faced by the Honduran population. In this sense, we denounce that the responses of the State of Honduras to the crisis, both by action and omission, including the suspension of constitutional guarantees, have made possible new violations of human rights".

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/quinto-manifiesto-publico/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/regimen-ha-convertido-en-pinata-los-recursos-destinados-para-enfrentar-la-pandemia-y-el-hambre-del-pueblo/>

<https://www.cejil.org/es/foro-internacional-monitoreara-situacion-derechos-humanos-honduras-marco-emergencia-covid-19>

<https://criterio.hn/foro-internacional-monitoreara-situacion-de-dd-hh-en-honduras-en-el-marco-de->

[la-emergencia-por-covid-19/](#)

Criterio has in-depth article on the situation of Honduran journalists during the corona crisis.

<https://criterio.hn/covid-19-acecha-a-los-periodistas-en-honduras/>

Due to state abandonment in various parts of Honduras, local communities organize their own response to the crisis.

According to the Finance Minister, the JOH regime spent 2'787 million Lempiras so far on the crisis response, but there are a lot of question marks (see just below).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/comunidades-del-distrito-central-toman-acciones-para-prevenir-el-ingreso-del-covid-19/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/incertidumbre-por-falta-de-protocolos-en-medio-de-crisis-de-covid-19/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-ya-gasto-l-2-mil-787-millones-por-emergencia-de-covid-revela-finanzas.html>

Radio Progreso denounces that the Armed Forces bought ventilators with public funds for the Military Hospital. "With this type of purchase, the doubts about the management of these budgets, which are currently the most ostentatious of the Juan Orlando Hernández administration, leave more doubts, mistrust and indignation in the Honduran citizenry."

Radio Progreso also covers irregularities at the El Tórax Hospital.

Reporteros de Investigación uncovered various irregularities in the 5.6 million Lempiras purchase of tents from a company with links to the Colombian military.

ConfidencialHN also continues to cover corruption during the pandemic.

<https://radioprogresohn.net/portada/con-presupuesto-publico-ff-aa-compra-ventiladores-mecanicos-para-hospital-militar/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/desmienten-gasto-millonario-anunciado-por-el-gobierno-en-beneficio-del-hospital-del-torax/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/04/15/gobierno-de-honduras-mintio-sobre-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-para-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/politicos-y-empresarios-aprovecharon-y-sobrevaloraron-compras-directas-ordenadas-por-joh/>

A new pot banging protest is announced for this Saturday.

Choloma is still one of the hotspots for protests.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1250873471346847744>

<https://tiempo.hn/falta-alimentos-cuarentena-mas-protestas-choloma/>

Defensores en Línea reports from the department of Lempira, where "hunger is more threatening than the coronavirus".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/lempira-el-hambre-amenaza-mas-que-el-coronavirus/>

"The COVID-19 or coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the many problems faced by different sectors of Honduran society and specifically those with scarce resources. One of these factors, and arguably the most important, is the scarcity of drinking water in some cities of the country, with the Central District being the most affected.)Fires worsen water crisis. According to statistics from the Honduran Fire Department, fires have been reduced by 70 percent this year, but the Central District is the most affected with 95 major fires."

The MP informed about their ongoing investigation into the fires.

<http://elpulso.hn/la-poca-agua-en-la-capital-podria-durar-hasta-junio/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/incendios-forestales-otra-pandemia-que-amenaza-a-honduras/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/155-abril2020/5705-fiscalia-del-medio-ambiente-continua-investigaciones-por-incendios-forestales>

"The Network of Paid Domestic Workers of Honduras, denounced that domestic workers are prone to be infected by the COVID-19 virus, so it demanded from the government of President Juan Orlando Hernandez to include them in solidarity aid programs, since many have lost their jobs due to the global emergency."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2796-mientras-gobierno-las-tiene-excluidas-covid-19-grave-amenaza-para-las-trabajadoras-domesticas>

The JOH regime requested support worth \$900 million from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

<https://confidencialhn.com/bcie-afirma-que-solicitudes-del-ejecutivo-para-reactivar-economia-suman-900-millones-de-dolares/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-250-millones-de-dolares-son-negociados-para-reactivar-areas-productivas-del-pais/>

The US embassy published a press release announcing the reactivation of \$71 million in foreign aid to Honduras. This was part of the bargaining chip to force Honduras to sign the "safe third country" agreement.

Criterio denounces that the US continues to support a government known for corruption and drug trafficking.

The Honduran ambassador to the US, Maria Dolores Agüero, thanked the State Department for \$2.4

million to assist the corona crisis which were given in addition to the \$1.8 million reoriented in the country towards the pandemic.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/es/estados-unidos-ha-reactivado-71-millones-fondos-asistencia-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/pese-a-senalamientos-de-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-ee-uu-sigue-dando-fondos-a-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1373061-466/eeuu-reactiv%C3%B3-71-millones-de-d%C3%B3lares-de-asistencia-para-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/Mdaguero17/status/1250943088584949766>

"Trump Accused of 'Actively and Knowingly' Spreading Coronavirus to Central America Through Deportations"

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/04/15/trump-accused-actively-and-knowingly-spreading-coronavirus-central-america-through>

<https://cadeho.blogspot.com/2020/04/en-solidaridad-con-los-movimientos.html>

17/04/20

Honduras Daily: Campesines; COVID-19 - Health Sector, HR, Protests, Corruption, Transparency, State Reaction, Labor Rights, Migration, Deportation, World Bank; Suicides; and Honduras LGBTQ+ Community

Yesterday was the International Day of Peasant's Struggle.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/17/por-su-legado-y-aporte-apoyamos-la-lucha-campesina-hondurena/>

457 Hondurans tested positive for COVID-19 and 46 people died so far. This means a death rate of over 10%. At the same time, the test rate is very low which means that the real death rate, hopefully, will be much lower.

Among those tested positive are at least four journalists.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/46-muertes-457-casos-y-posibles-tratamientos-para-combatir-el-coronavirus/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1373365-528/honduras-registra-46-muertos-y-457-casos-de-coronavirus-letalidad-alarman>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1147-hospitalizan-a-periodista-contagiado-con-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/17/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-17-de-abril-del-2020/>

Criterio reports on the overburdened and collapsing hospitals in the north of Honduras, especially the hospitals Mario Catarino Rivas and Leonardo Martínez in San Pedro Sula.

According to the Health Secretary Alba Consuelo Flores, 25 percent of the medical personnel hired to attend to the emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic have resigned for fear of being infected.

Several workers at the University Hospital held a protest yesterday because the health authorities have not complied with the promised salary increase.

<https://criterio.hn/colapsan-hospitales-de-la-zona-norte-de-honduras-por-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/renuncia-el-25-por-ciento-del-personal-medico-contratado-para-atender-emergencia-por-el-coronavirus/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/empleados-del-hospital-escuela-realizan-protesta-por-falta-de-aumento-salarial/>

OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo met with COFADEH's Bertha Oliva to discuss the human rights situation in the context of the corona crisis. OACNUDH also highlighted the "historic work" of Bertha and COFADEH "in the defense and promotion of human rights in Honduras and in the search for truth, memory and justice".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1251307070420209665>

C-Libre documented 83 protests by citizens demanding food and supplies between March 23 and April 12.

<https://criterio.hn/al-menos-83-protestas-por-demanda-de-alimentos-se-han-registrado-en-honduras/>

National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) presented a report yesterday, "Corruption in Times of COVID-19 - Part 1". Only looking at the purchase of protective gear, they found an almost 3.7 million Lempiras gap between what the JOH claimed to have spent and what the goods are worth. ConfidencialHN also continues to cover irregularities and corruption. "The investigations carried out by Radio Globo and ConfidencialHN confirm that loot of over 80 billion lempiras is being distributed among pro-regime businessmen and nationalist activists".

CESPAD published an important analysis on the meaning of the Impunity Pact on the corruption happening during the current crisis. "Continuing with the previous reasoning, a critical point at this juncture is that the crimes of corruption that may be committed by public officials involved in the management of the crisis and in the execution of funds, cannot be judged and punished by the justice system, since they are protected by the Impunity Pact built in the context that concluded with the expulsion of the MACCIH from the country in January of this year."

One body looking into corruption is the Supreme Audit Court (TSC). Its president recently said that they are looking into corruption at nine municipalities (see previous e-mail). C-Libre now shows that this was a lie. Both the TSC and the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP) have

suspended their work on March 16.

<https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Corrupcion-en-los-tiempos-del-covid-1.pdf>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1373240-466/la-corrupci%C3%B3n-en-tiempos-del-covid-19-salud-sobrevalor%C3%B3-precios-de-guantes-y>

<https://confidencialhn.com/responsables-de-controlar-pandemia-clonan-pagina-para-simular-masiva-compra-de-insumos-en-ee-uu/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/17/analisis-de-como-el-pacto-de-impunidad-de-la-epoca-macchi-blindara-a-los-corruptos-en-tiempos-covid-19/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/el-observador/1510-tsc-suspendio-la-rendicion-de-cuentas-en-el-marco-de-la-crisis-por-convid-19>

The Secretary of Finance presented itself as a prodigy of transparency following international standards. CNA reacted immediately saying that it does not even comply with the minimum transparency and accountability standards established by law. "The law indicates that the information must be complete, truthful, timely and adequate. With what Sefin presents, it is impossible to identify specific characteristics of the items purchased, because there is no documentary support that provides the elements of your purchase."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1251331573833699328>

"Carlos Matus, economist and Minister of Economy of Salvador Allende in Chile, was of the opinion that, in times of economic crisis, natural disasters, pandemics, the important thing is to distinguish the type of policy measures that should be implemented and the duration of these, based on an integrating instrument, in the case of the plan, programme, agenda or strategy. With the Covid-19 pandemic, in the particular case of Honduras and other Latin American countries that have substantially weakened development and institutional planning systems and practices, the opposite was done. They have approved a series of policy measures, laws, decrees and resources, without having the integrating instrument, much less estimating and/or defining the duration of their execution."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/205927>

Karen Spring and Judy Ancel highlight the effects on labor rights of the corona crisis in Honduras. "Since mid-March hundreds of thousands of workers in these towns have been laid off as clothing manufacturers Hanes, Gildan, and Fruit of the Loom and auto parts maker Empire Electronics, among others, announced two- to four-month shutdowns. A few maquilas are calling some workers back to make medical equipment. In some unionized factories, workers got two weeks' pay as severance. Other workers got their accumulated vacation pay and nothing more. Maria Luisa Regalado is the director of CODEMUH, the Honduran Women's Collective, an organization that focuses on the occupational diseases of women maquila workers. She summed up what she'd heard from workers: "We're scared to lose our jobs...but we feel impotent. Those of us who are renters

don't know how we'll pay the rent. There's a lot that's unknown. We don't know what's going to happen with our lives.'"

<https://labornotes.org/2020/04/corona-capitalism-honduras>

The accompaniment organization Peace Watch Switzerland writes about the situation of poor migrants stuck in the south of Honduras during the current crisis.

<https://peacewatch.blog/2020/04/17/como-te-afecta-el-covid-19-cuando-eres-pobre-migrante-y-te-encuentras-en-honduras/>

And in the midst of the crisis, deportations continue. More than 500 Hondurans were deported this week.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-medio-de-crisis-mundial-suman-18-mil-59-las-deportaciones-a-honduras.html>

"The World Bank approved two loans of US\$20 million each to support El Salvador and Honduras' immediate response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. These projects, prepared in an expedited manner, will allow both countries to invest in laboratory and hospital equipment, including ventilators, respirators, beds and special equipment for intensive care units and supplies for the protection of health care personnel, among others."

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/16/el-salvador-y-honduras-recibiran-apoyo-del-banco-mundial-para-fortalecer-su-respuesta-al-covid-19-coronavirus>

"The Observatory against Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (OV-UNAH) records a progressive increase in the last five years of suicides, which are multi-casual, such as economic, social, family and passionate problems. According to its statistics, there is an average of nine suicides per week."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/redhil-paz-lamenta-suicidio-de-companera-en-base-campesina/>

Documentary " What is to be LGTBI in Honduras?"

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/37-lgtbi/1509-que-es-ser-lgtbi-en-honduras>

18/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - HR, FoE, Corruption, Health Sector, Agriculture, Poverty, Migration, BID, US; and Extortion in Times of a Pandemic

15 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed yesterday for a total of 472 cases. Health experts estimate that in the coming weeks, until the end of May, 15-20% of Hondurans could get infected.

Criterio focuses on the high death rate, over 10%, in Honduras. This is partly explained by the very-low test rate. Honduras just tested 203 people for every million inhabitants, while the official

recommendation is 6000 per one million. This cannot be explained by poverty, as the JOH regime spoke record funds to address the corona crisis - corruption may explain it better (see below). There is also a huge question mark regarding the donated test kits. The first batch lacked a reagent and the ones from South Korea have no extraction kit... CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1373573-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-confirman-15-nuevos-casos-y-cifra-suba-a-472>

<https://criterio.hn/diez-de-cada-cien-contagiados-por-covid-19-se-estan-muriendo-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-250-mil-pruebas-no-pueden-utilizarse-incompletas/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/18/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-18-de-abril-del-2020/>

COFADEH published the English version of its important report "Human Rights Crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/INFORME-COVID-19-INGLES.pdf>

In a joint press release, the IACHR and its Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (RELE), expressed their concern about the violations of freedom of expression and restrictions on the right to information as a result of the measures established by the States of the region in response to the pandemic.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/expresion/showarticle.asp?artID=1173&lID=2>

"So far, more than 80 billion lempiras (\$3.25 billion) have been allocated to address the impact of Covid-19 in Honduras, a huge figure considering the country's economic and financial difficulties. A good part of these resources will compromise the management capacity of future governments and, of course, the well-being of Honduran society in the years to come. (...) But the allegations of corruption in the management of those resources by a government that is said to be highly corrupt is extremely worrying, and makes us think of a very pessimistic outlook. If we imagine for a moment that the percentage of misappropriation of these resources reached the 10% or 12.5% estimated by some specialists, we would be talking about EIGHT THOUSAND TO TEN THOUSAND MILLION LEMPIRAS that would be stolen by those who are in charge of fighting the epidemic, which would be added to the calculations of annual losses due to corruption that amount to 65 billion (equal to 12.5% of GDP, according to CNA/2020), which sets off all the alarms and should alert the entire political party system that they will have to assume the direct consequences in the near future; civil society organizations that monitor government performance; to the international organizations that grant loans to face the epidemic, knowing that a large part of them will end up in the private hands of those who are currently in charge of the government; and, finally, to that citizenry that is deceived, manipulated and despised by cynical politicians who take advantage of their needs to obtain their vote in the elections and then betray it again and again from the three branches of government and from the municipal governments."

Gabriela Castellanos, director of the CNA, summarizes the situation in Honduras as follows: "While

we are all locked up at home, in Honduras the corrupt are free: welcome to the quarantine of impunity!"

ContraCorriente spoke with lawyer and university professor Ramón Barrios "a group of people, new entrepreneurs with political ties, who are benefiting from the crisis".

<https://criterio.hn/epidemia-emergencia-y-corrupcion/>

<https://twitter.com/GCastellanosL/status/1251551338082832391>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/18/nuevos-proveedores-son-hijos-de-elite-y-funcionarios-que-se-benefician-de-emergencia-por-covid19/>

ContraCorriente published portraits of the first line of defense, health workers.

Honduras will serve as a testing ground for the WHO for treatments for COVID-19. "Clinical trial is an affront against the Honduran people and a breach of ethics", said Suyapa Figueroa, president of the Honduran Medical Association.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/18/en-la-primera-linea/>

<https://criterio.hn/ensayo-clinico-en-honduras-solucion-o-una-burla-en-tiempos-del-covid-19/>

PBI Honduras reports on additional hardship faced by rural communities due to the corona crisis. "[S]mallholders who work the land and rely on their crops to feed their families are forced to leave their homes, but are not permitted to do so by government decrees. The National Union of Rural Workers (CNTC) explains that this implies a conflict. "The lands we farm are far away, and when we go out to work or harvest our crops we are stopped by roadblocks, where they force us to go home or even threaten us with arrest," explains Nora Ramírez, coordinator for the CNTC's El Progreso Regional Board".

<https://pbi-honduras.org/news/2020-04/smallholders%E2%80%99-lands-and-harvests-risk-due-covid>

"Children, adolescents, older adults and even entire families can be found sleeping on the sidewalks of the capital, denounced the director of Casa Alianza, José Guadalupe Ruela."

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/en-aceras-duermen-familias-desalojadas-de-apartamentos-por-falta-de-pago-durante-crisis-por-covid-19/>

"Cristhian Martínez, a Honduran migrant, denounced that there are many people from Honduras who are adrift because they were taken from the United States to the State of Tamaulipas in Mexico, but then taken to other places, including the border with Guatemala where they were detained."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2799-el-estado-de-honduras-abandono-a-su-suerte-a-connacionales-que-fueron-sacados-de-eeua-en-medio-de-la-pandemia>

"The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has made available to the countries of Central

America and the Dominican Republic nearly US\$1.7 billion in additional funding for 2020 to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. Through new programs to tackle the crisis and changes to the 2020 loan program, the IDB is now dedicating US\$2.8 billion to tackle the public health crisis and its economic ravages. The initiative features four components: the immediate public health response, aid to vulnerable people most in need, assistance for companies and their employees so as to minimize losses, and support for fiscal policy. (...) In Honduras, the government has requested a shift in US\$50 million from four already approved loans so as to aim them at development and implementation of a new health project. This plan designed to contain and confront the coronavirus features efforts to limit the spread of the pathogen, hire health-care staff and buy medical equipment, implement innovative technologies like tele-medicine and tele-assistance, and encourage people to take care of their health."

<https://www.iadb.org/en/news/idb-approves-more-funding-central-america-and-dominican-republic-fight-covid-19>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bid-apoya-con-fondos-adicionales-a-centroamerica-y-republica-dominicana-frente-al-covid-19.html>

The U.S. Embassy in Honduras donated biosafety equipment to the JOH regime.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/embajada-de-eeuu-dona-productos-de-bioseguridad-a-honduras.html>

"Extortion changes its dynamics with the pandemic"

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/18/las-extorsiones-cambian-su-dinamica-con-la-pandemia/>

19/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Women, Health Sector, Corruption, Protests, , Solidarity, HR; and Profits Before Life

5 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed yesterday reaching 477. So far, at least 46 people have died and 25 recovered. Currently, there are 150 people hospitalized, 16 in intensive care units. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/25-recuperados-y-cinco-nuevos-casos-registra-sinager-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1373741-466/coronavirus-en-honduras-con-cinco-nuevos-casos-la-cifra-suba-a-477>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/19/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-19-de-abril-del-2020/>

The lockdown measures have been prolonged again for another week to April 26.

The Judicial Power correspondingly prolonged their work suspension.

"The number of domestic violence complaints filed in Honduras during the period of confinement

rose to 88, but these will be dealt with until the judiciary regularizes its activities, reported the Court Against Domestic Violence."

<https://confidencialhn.com/extienden-por-otros-siete-dias-el-toque-de-queda-en-honduras-para-evitar-el-coronavirus/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/gobierno-amplia-toque-de-queda-absoluto-por-una-semana-mas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/poder-judicial-tambien-amplia-suspension-de-labores-hasta-el-domingo-26-de-abril.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/tsc-amplia-suspension-de-labores-hasta-el-26-de-abril.html>

Ninoska Alonzo writes for CESPAD about "the war against women: inequality and reproduction of life in times of COVID-19".

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/19/analisis-la-guerra-contra-las-mujeres-desigualdad-y-reproduccion-de-la-vida-en-el-marco-del-covid-19/>

A 20-person medical brigade from Cuba arrived in Honduras yesterday together with 53 Honduran medical students who study there.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/av/llega-brigada-de-medicos-cubanos-a-honduras/>

"One example of the irregularities is that this week a purchase order for 88 million lempiras (3.5 million dollars) was announced, executed by Inversiones Estratégicas de Honduras (Invest-H) to acquire biosecurity equipment from Access Telecom. Access Telecom is a company located in the United States with main business in selling cell phones and electronic accessories. In the public document of this purchase order, the name of Arturo Osmond Maduro Zelaya, 50-years old and nephew of the former president Ricardo Maduro, is listed. However, Marco Bográn, director of Invest-H, later assured that it had been a mistake to place him as a contact on the purchase order since "he has no responsibility and is not part of the company. This investigation reveals that Arturo Maduro has been linked to the company Access Telecom, which, according to complaints from national businessmen, has overestimated the price of biosafety equipment by up to 100%."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/19/los-afortunados-en-la-crisis/>

"The government of Juan Orlando Hernández -unconstitutionally re-elected in 2017-, started at the end of March the operation Honduras Solidarity against the emergency by #COVID19. In this campaign, they will supposedly bring 800,000 food rations to 3.2 million people throughout Honduras. However, every day there are more complaints about the products distributed and the budget, in its two models of execution, is not clear even to the authorities of the National Convergence Forum (FONAC), the institution entrusted by the government with the monitoring of the project. El Progreso, Yoro, is one of the municipalities benefiting from a government transfer of

8,460,000 lempiras, which according to the central government should represent a total of 16,920 rations, for the same number of households. According to the municipality's data, that figure covers just under 15 percent of the population in the municipality. The people have taken to the streets in desperate protest against hunger, and the government response has been repression with tear gas." As protests continue, state security forces continue to arrest people. This weekend alone, at least 610 people were arrested.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/18/desesperacion-y-hambre-un-polvorin-se-calienta-en-emergencia-por-covid19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-al-menos-610-detenidos-por-desobedecer-toque-de-queda/>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1251926506911252483>

"In Contracorriente we begin to wonder how we can stay creative if we are immersed in information. We go out to get some fresh air, just to gain the energy to talk, do interviews, scripts, computer graphics, newsletters, investigative reporting, photographs, and everything else that we produce in our journalistic craft. How to stay in that dynamic with the fear that comes with going out and being exposed and exposed to contagion, but also to let ourselves be carried away by pessimism. That is how we decided that we would also look for stories of solidarity, of community response to the pandemic and to the social crisis that this has exacerbated. There is no big or small effort, one more useful than the other, or one more transcendental than the other, only organized response actions."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/19/la-solidaridad-de-los-excluidos-%ef%bb%bf/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published its weekly human rights news update.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2801-honduras-demandas-de-diversos-sectores-represion-corrupcion-y-avance-del-covid-19>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1251873610807087104>

20/04/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Agua Zarca; Journalists; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Protests, Labor Rights; Dengue; Penal Code; and Tear Gas Soup

Four years after the murder of Berta Cáceres, the Central-American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) finally withdrew from the Agua Zarca project. "They are leaving a trail of blood and death to Rio Blanco. We demand that international banks be held responsible for financing these murderous projects. We demand the immediate cancellation of the illegal concession on the sacred Gualcarque River, which promotes the plundering and violation of the human rights of indigenous peoples."

The BCIE did not just withdraw its money and leave the project starved of funding, rather it sold its parts to a "Swiss consortium". "This implies that there remains the possibility that the threat of the construction of such an unconsulted project remains with other actors and other names."

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/bcie-retira-su-inversion-del-proyecto-hidroelectrico-agua-zarca/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/copinh-desvinculacion-bcie-agua-zarca/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1252421020511637505>

<https://www.bcie.org/novedades/noticias/articulo/el-bcie-oficializa-la-desvinculacion-definitiva-del-proyecto-agua-zarca/>

Two journalists from Noticiero "Hoy Mismo" were attacked by members of the National Police in Comayagüela.

The director of Criterio, the journalist Emy Padilla, denounced that during the State of Emergency, they have been victims of smear campaigns as a consequence of their informative work.

"Journalists and social communicators held a sit-in outside the Secretariat of Security building this morning demanding respect. "It is a call to the National Police and the Military Forces not to attack us because we are doing our job. This is not just a job for them, but also for the Honduran population. We report so that they don't go out into the streets," said one journalist."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1151-policia-nacional-agrede-a-periodistas-de-television-en-tegucigalpa>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1152-continuan-los-discursos-de-desprestigios-contra-medios-de-comunicacion>

<http://elpulso.hn/periodistas-hondurenos-exigen-que-se-respete-derecho-a-informar/>

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 497.

Out of 40 members of the Armed Forces, 17 tested positive. There are also two Military Police agent who tested positive. There are all treated in the military hospital.

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounced that "[t]he dictator has made sure that the military hospital is better stocked than the public hospitals. That's how JOH maintains his power".

The Armed Forces want only confirm two positive cases but they also say that over 100 members are in isolation.

Honduras still only tests around 100 persons per day, while between 2000-3000 per day would be necessary.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-se-acerca-a-los-500-casos-positivos-por-covid-19/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/advierten-contagio-de-covid-19-en-policias-y-militares.html>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1252406374643851265>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ffaa-confirman-dos-positivos-de-covid-y-103-efectivos-aislados-por-precaucion.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/entre-dos-mil-y-tres-mil-pruebas-al-dia-se-deben-realizar-para-detectar-contagios-de-coronavirus/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/20/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-20-de-abril-del-2020/>

ConexiHon reports on the reaction by the JOH regime to the corona crisis so far summarizing it as a "deceptive path traced by the nationalist dictatorship to overcome the health crisis".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1512-honduras-el-enganoso-camino-trazado-por-la-dictadura-nacionalista-para-superar-la-crisis-sanitaria>

The CNA denounced that some companies were set-up in express speed in preparation of selling overpriced goods to the JOH regime.

They also highlight the involvement of public officials, their children and friends, but do not say names.

At the same time, its director Gabriela Castellanos announced that "there will be reports with name and surname of those who make irregular purchases during the emergency by Covid-19 in the country".

<https://twitter.com/radionoticiashn/status/1252443000569036800>

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-hay-funcionarios-publicos-involucrados-sobrevaloracion-insumos/>

<https://criterio.hn/covid-19-amigos-e-hijos-de-funcionarios-estan-haciendo-negocios-con-el-estado/>

<https://hondudiario.com/2020/04/20/habra-denuncia-con-nombre-y-apellido-por-compras-sobrevaloras-durante-emergencia/>

The Convergence against Re-Election (CCC) "organized a gathering outside of Public Prosecutor's Office in Tegucigalpa demanding freedom for political prisoners, no to private sector lay-offs, transparency in management of public \$ for #COVID19 crisis among other demands".

CESPAD published an analysis of the current protests in Honduras. "In the context of the current crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of citizen protests are taking place in the country from four fronts: medical personnel demanding biosecurity equipment in the country's health care centers, people who were dismissed from their jobs outside the law, citizens who oppose the installation of shelters to house people suspected and infected by the virus, and ordinary citizens in neighborhoods, colonies and hamlets demanding access to food, water and sanitary security for their families." They took a closer look at the fourth type of protests of which they identified at least 128 in the month between March 18 and April 17.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1252381087403147266>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/demandan-transparencia-y-respeto-a-los-ddhh-en-la-emergencia-sanitaria/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2802-emergencia-covid-19-defensores-de-ddhh-exigen-salvoconductos-para-atender-a-las-victimas-de-violaciones-a-derechos-fundamentales>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/20/analisis-en-el-contexto-covid-19-que-factores-explican-las-protestas-de-la-poblacion-excluida-que-demanda-alimentos-en-honduras/>

The coordinator of the Collective of Honduran Women (CODEMUH), María Luisa Regalado, denounced the difficult situation faced by maquila workers.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-graves-condiciones-enfrentan-obreras-de-las-maquilas-por-suspension-de-sus-empleos/>

Honduras continues to suffer from a grave dengue crisis, but there may be some slightly good news. The number of cases compared to 2019 have dropped. It is to be hoped that this really represents a drop not just a lack of testing.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-la-semana-anterior-casos-de-dengue-grave-disminuyeron/>

Apart from dengue, another important topic lacks public scrutiny at the moment: the new Penal Code which will come into force May 10. In the words of C-Libre director Amada Ponce: "[T]his constitutes a serious risk that violates the right to freedom of expression by making social movements and especially journalists highly vulnerable".

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1514-oportunamente-peligroso-10-de-mayo-entra-en-vigencia-del-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/sopa-de-bombas/>

21/04/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Agua Zarca; Journalists - FoE; COVID-19 - Corruption, Transparency, Health Sector, LGBTQ+, Poverty, Economy, BCIE; Penal Code; and a Central American Challenge
COPINH demands transparency regarding the conditions of withdrawal from the Agua Zarca project by the BCIE (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1252640370241998848>

"The host of the program El Perro Amarillo, Milton Benitez, denounced that there is an alleged

conspiracy between bankers, a former president of the Republic and government politicians, to assassinate him."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/04/20/planificarian-asesinato-contr-el-perro-amarillo-por-sus-denuncias-de-corrupcion/>

In the newest yearly report by Reporters without Borders, the World Press Freedom Index, Honduras's rank further deteriorated. It is now on position 148, worse than after the coup d'état in 2009.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-retrocede-en-libertad-de-expresion/>

<https://rsf.org/en/honduras>

Honduras has now over 500 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 510 in total. There is now also the first official case in Choluteca, in the south of Honduras.

The official statistic did not show any new deaths to COVID-19, but a hospitalized nurse in the corona wing of a hospital in San Pedro Sula died yesterday.

"Dr. Carlos Umaña, President of the Association of Physicians of the Honduran Institute of Social Security (IHSS), says that there are more than 46 deaths in the country due to coronavirus. "We estimate that there are two thousand cases of COVID-19 and there are more deaths; about 30 more people have died in the wards because of COVID-19, which have not been reported by SINAGER," said Umaña. The doctor has questioned the strategies implemented by the government and assures that they should go to the neighborhoods and colonies, reach those infected instead of waiting for them to arrive at the laboratories."

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-supera-los-500-casos-de-covid-19/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/muere-enfermera-de-covid-19-en-san-pedro-sula/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/carlos-umana-en-honduras-no-solo-han-fallecido-46-personas-por-covid-19-por-lo-menos-hay-30-muertos-mas/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/21/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-21-de-abril-del-2020/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) found deficiencies and inconsistencies in at least 17 purchase checks linked to the management of public funds for the health emergency by Covid-19 by COPECO. The checks are worth over 16.5 million Lempiras.

Then, the Turkish embassy denied that any company from that country had sold mobile hospitals to the Honduran government, as claimed by Marco Bográn, director of Invest-H (see last week).

Bográn then said that he bought them through a US company which produced them in Turkey.

There are also problems at the Armed Forces. Radio Progreso denounces that official documents have shown that the Armed Forces used part of the emergency fund to equip their Military Hospital. "For the lawyer and doctor in Human Rights, Joaquín Mejía, this is part of a series of contradictions regarding the rights and guarantees that the Constitution of the Republic grants to its citizens. Mejía

affirms that it contradicts the right to citizen equality. It also shows that in Honduras the military not only enjoys economic, labor and judicial benefits, but also medical ones. The lawyer regrets that the people must pay through their taxes to support a center which, when they go to it, they charge for it like any private clinic. Mejía says that at a time like the present, since this center is of a public nature, consideration should be given to making it available to the Honduran people who are now suffering in the flesh from the collapse of the hospital as a result of the historical abandonment of the health system."

JOH seemed to conclude from all of the above that the scapegoat fired last week, an administrator at COPECO, was not enough and the head of COPECO himself, Gabriel Alfredo Rubí Paredes, had to go.

Just moments later, he had already nominated the former commander of the Fire Department, Carlos Cordero, as Rubí's replacement.

Rubí presents himself as a victim of a "campaign of defamation, threats and offenses".

But there is a more general problem, stated as follows by Luis Zelaya, President of Liberal Party: "Having the TSC, FONAC or [U.S.-funded NGO Association for a More Just Society] ASJ to audit funds, does not give the public any confidence".

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/tsc-senala-deficiencias-en-compras-de-copeco/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tsc-irregularidades-l16-millones-compras-copeco/>

<https://criterio.hn/turquia-desmiente-compra-de-hospitales-moviles-por-parte-de-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/director-de-invest-h-reitera-que-hospitales-moviles-fueron-adquiridos-a-traves-de-empresa-estadounidense.html>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/especiales/gobierno-esta-usando-dinero-de-emergencia-para-abastecer-hospital-militar/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/fuera-gabriel-rubi-de-copeco/>

https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1252735346737020929

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1374291-466/carlos-cordero-es-el-nuevo-ministro-interino-de-copeco>

<https://tiempo.hn/presiones-difamacion-gabriel-rubi-abandonaria-cargo-copeco/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1252721120295428096>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/que-el-tsc-asj-y-fonac-auditen-fondos-publicos-sigue-sin-generar-confianza-segun-luis-zelaya.html>

The JOH regime further fails to send information to the transparency portal of the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2806-gobierno-de-joh-el-mas-esquivo-a-la-transparencia-segun-informe-preliminar-del-iaip>

A mobile hospital recently installed by COPECO is without energy, drinking water and sanitary services. Placed in one of the most affected areas of the country, Villanueva, Cortés, the hospital is abandoned even though it cost more than 5 million to set up.

At the Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula, the corona wing is full at its maximum capacity.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/abandono-villanueva-hospital/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ya-no-hay-espacio-para-pacientes-en-la-sala-de-covid19-en-el-mario-catarino-rivas/>

The IACHR "called on States to guarantee the rights of equality and non-discrimination of LGBTI people in the care and support measures adopted, in particular to ensure their access to health services and social care programmed from a comprehensive human security perspective".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2807-la-cidh-llama-a-los-estados-a-garantizar-los-derechos-de-las-personas-lgbti-en-la-respuesta-a-la-pandemia-del-covid-19>

Radio Progreso continues to cover one of the root causes of the current protests, hunger. At the same time, the JOH regime is equipped with the funds necessary to address the crisis but the results are not seen by the people due to corruption (see above) and mismanagement.

It does not help that prices for every day goods are being increased in the midst of the crisis.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/el-coronavirus-mata-pero-el-hambre-aniquila-poco-a-poco/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-incremento-del-15-por-ciento-al-precio-de-60-productos-durante-emergencia-sanitaria/>

After the announcement made by the JOH regime to carry out an "intelligent opening" of the economy, they made public biosecurity protocols for companies.

<http://elpulso.hn/gobierno-alista-protocolos-de-bioseguridad-para-que-las-empresas-abran-sus-negocios/>

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) approved a contingency line of credit for \$200 million to strengthen the position and capacity of the Central Bank of Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1374339-410/bcie-credito-200-millones-dolares-banco-central-honduras->

The Criminal Chamber of the Judiciary sent a positive opinion to Congress on the reforms to

Articles 183 and 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code, on the draft reform to the probation regime that is contemplated in the current Penal Code and the future legislation that will come into force from May, as well as the approval of transitional rules for its effective compliance.

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-da-visto-bueno-a-reformas-del-183-y-184-del-codigo-procesal-penal-para-favorecer-a-privados-de-libertad/>

<https://criterio.hn/centroamerica-con-estadisticas-poco-creibles-fondos-a-manos-llenas-y-falta-de-transparencia/>

22/04/20

Honduras Daily: Earth Day - HRDs, Indigenous Peoples; Political Prisoners; COPINH - Agua Zarca; Labor Rights; COVID-19 - LGBTQ+, Corruption, Health Sector, Remittances, Labor Rights, Poverty, Education, Dengue; Penal Code; Electoral Reforms; US; and Solidarity versus Stigma

Yesterday, we celebrated Earth Day and there were many calls in support of human rights and indigenous defenders. COPINH called on Honduras to recognize the essential work of HRDs and defenders of land and territory, and to stop repressing and criminalizing them.

On this occasion, there was also a call to liberate the political prisoners from Guapinol.

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky wrote: "Today, we celebrate #EarthDay2020 yet those who protect it are illegally behind bars in #Honduras. @PJdeHonduras has the freedom of #Guapinol HRDs in their hands and must ensure their immediate release."

<https://twitter.com/trocaire/status/1252921788784431104?s=20>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1253039876787798017>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1253088918842544131>

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1253015848249430017>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jan-schakowsky-el-poder-judicial-de-honduras-tiene-en-sus-manos-la-libertad-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

It is tragic that just on this day, we receive an alert from Honduras from HRD and & indigenous leader Salvador Zúniga denouncing that the environmental and indigenous land defender Rosario Vasquez was arrested by security forces acting in interests of former Nationalist Congresswoman Gladis Aurora Lopez, whose family owns a dam project that Vasquez and others oppose.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1253079467238387712>

ContraCorriente published an important in-depth article including various video-interviews on the situation of the Tolupán people in Honduras called "Death and Oblivion in the Tolupan forest".

"The Tolupan San Francisco de Locomapa Tribe, in Yoro, Honduras, has suffered murders, judicial harassment and attacks due to its opposition to the power generation projects in the territory where they have always lived, but which is now in dispute. In the past 20 years, 40 Tolupan indigenes were murdered, a population that faces its own extermination."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/20/muerte-y-olvido-en-el-bosque-tol/?lang=en>

COFADEH sent a note to Joel Hernández, IACHR Rapporteur for Honduras, regarding the serious risks faced by political prisoners and environmental rights defenders, who are held in different penal centers in the country.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-por-condicion-de-presos-politicos/>

COPINH published an interview with Dunia Sánchez, a community leader in Río Blanco, reacting to the recent announcement by BCIE to withdraw from the Agua Zarca project (see last two days).

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/entrevista-dunia-rioblanco/>

A joint report published by the International Labor Rights Forum, Fair World Project, and the International Union of Food Workers (IUF) Latin America Regional Secretariat, with support from 3F International, reveals long-term, ongoing human and labor rights violations on Fyffes' melon plantations in Honduras. The report, Fyffes Farms Exposed: The Fight for Justice in the Honduran Melon Fields, calls on the company to take responsibility to remedy injustices at their farms and commit to a legally-binding, enforceable agreement to uphold workers' rights.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/92bfa5cc-92c8-4289-917e-2957fe098448>

A 56-year old nurse died of COVID-19. There are now 47 confirmed deaths and 519 cases. 26 percent of the cases reported correspond to children and young people; of the total number of confirmed cases, 35 are children and 94 are young people. "The Steering Committee of the Coordinator of Private Institutions for Children, Youth, Adolescents and their Rights (COIPRODEN), through a statement, demanded from the government of Honduras to adopt response actions to meet the needs in the context of vulnerability of children, adolescents and youth to the COVID-19 pandemic."

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-47-personas-fallecidas-519-casos-positivos-y-31-recuperados/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1374664-410/-enfermera-san-pedro-sula-murio-covid-19-coronavirus-honduras->

<http://elpulso.hn/el-26-por-ciento-de-casos-con-covid-19-en-honduras-son-ninosas-y-jovenes/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/22/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-22-de-abril-del-2020/>

OACNUDH published a manual on how to respond to the corona crisis with the LGBTQ+

community in one's mind.

<https://oacnudh.hn/covid-19-y-los-derechos-humanos-de-las-personas-lgbti/>

The back and forth regarding the purchase of mobile hospitals by Invest-H continues (see yesterday). They first claimed to have bought them in Turkey, when the Turkish embassy denied this, they changed their statement to say that they bought it from a US-company which produced them in Turkey. ConfidencialHN has more information on this and there remain various irregularities in how Invest-H operates.

The corona crisis has shown clearly that the fight against corruption in Honduras is more necessary than ever and that the tools at hand are insufficient. "Political analyst Olban Valladares urged a complete overhaul of the anti-corruption system in Honduras, as ex-post audits do not work and, most worryingly, the corrupt have lost their fear of state controllers."

CESPAD, meanwhile, highlighted how the current crisis is in dire need of a MACCIH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/turquia-reitera-que-investh-no-compro-hospitales-moviles-a-su-gobierno-o-empresas-de-esa-nacion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/investh-uso-a-politicos-empresarios-y-un-veterano-de-guerra-en-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/04/22/urgente-hacer-revision-completa-del-sistema-de-lucha-anticorrupcion-olban-valladares/>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-necesidad-de-una-maccih-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

The MP announced to investigate the abandonment of a newly installed mobile hospital in Villanueva, Cortés (see yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/155-abril2020/5725-mp-investiga-abandono-de-hospital-movil-en-villanueva-cortes-que-seria-para-atender-pacientes-con-covid-19>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1374635-466/investigan-abandono-hospital-movil-pacientes-covid-19-villanueva>

According to the World Bank, remittances will drop by 20% this year as a consequence of the corona crisis.

In Honduras, this effect is already seen and suffered. Just in one month between March 13 and April 17, \$230 million less in remittances were sent to Honduras, 43% less than usual.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-22/world-bank-sees-record-20-drop-in-remittances-due-to-pandemic?sref=EROITBzT>

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-230-millones-de-dolares-ha-dejado-de-percibir-honduras-en-remesas-a-causa-del-coronavirus/>

According to the Labor Secretary, at least 120'000 people have lost their work in Honduras during the current crisis.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-120-mil-trabajadores-han-sido-suspendidos-en-honduras-por-efecto-del-coronavirus/>

Criterio reports on the effects on poverty of the corona crisis and how many Hondurans may end up living on the street and those already without a home are especially suffering from the current situation.

<https://criterio.hn/la-calle-el-hogar-que-espera-a-muchos-hondurenos-durante-y-despues-de-la-pandemia/>

The education sector suffers from great uncertainty as to how the school year will continue in accordance with the extension of the confinement, because the measures taken by the authorities are not working in terms of people with limited economic resources.

But there are also some helpful developments. "The community radio station La Voz de Zacate Grande in solidarity with low-income students in a large part of the southern part of the country, is providing two hours of educational broadcasting so that teachers can turn to the radio to teach their classes."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2808-la-brecha-tecnologica-tiene-en-aprietos-la-continuidad-del-ano-escolar-por-la-via-virtual>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-voz-de-zacate-grande-demuestra-su-solidaridad-poniendose-al-servicio-de-la-educacion-hondurena/>

The head of the Metropolitan Health Region, Harry Bock, warned that dengue continues to spread and is constantly increasing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/los-casos-de-dengue-en-honduras-siguen-en-aumento-en-medio-de-la-actual-pandemia/>

In less than three weeks, the new Penal Code could come into force. The CNA makes an important link between the corruption occurring during the current crisis and the Penal Code. Corruption can take the form of abuse of authority which currently means 3-6 years in prison. With the new Penal Code, it would only lead to disqualification from office...

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1253039562227621894>

The corona crisis let many forget about the urgent need for electoral reforms in Honduras. "During this period of significant change, the decisions and responses of the state that have been (and will be) made will, to a large extent, determine not only the social and economic, but also the political outcomes of the country. From this point of view, the political panorama is not encouraging, since in the framework of this crisis the advances in political electoral reform, which prior to the health crisis were outlined as being of limited scope, compared to the needs for democratic advancement

of the Honduran political system, have been blocked. We cannot ignore the fact that this crisis will affect the political electoral reform itself, and the future of Honduran democracy, which is suffering from a flaw of origin that keeps it in permanent crisis."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/22/analisis-en-tiempos-del-covid19-el-estado-actual-de-las-reformas-electorales-y-los-riesgos-para-las-elecciones-2021/>

The US Department of the Treasury withdrew Yankel Rosenthal from its blacklist.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1374634-410/yankel-rosenthal-lista-negra-ofac-departamento-tesoro-eeuu>

<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/OFAC-Enforcement/Pages/20200422.aspx>

"Social stigmatization, an evil that overshadows solidarity in the midst of the pandemic"

<https://radioprogresohn.net/noticias-nacionales/estigmatizacion-social-un-mal-que-opaca-la-solidaridad-en-medio-de-la-pandemia/>

23/04/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Journalists; COVID-19 - Repression, Protests, HR, Corruption, Domestic Workers, Migration, Economy, UN, BID; BCIE; and the Penal Code

InSight Crime lists Sergio Rodríguez Orellana and Douglas Bustillo, both sentenced for their involvement in the murder of Berta Cáceres, among "the most notorious detainees seeking coronavirus clemency".

In its newest newsletter, COPINH published an update on the case. Regarding the trial of David Castillo, "the Court of Appeals is awaiting the resolution of an appeal that was irregularly filed by the defense of David Castillo, more than 6 months ago, with which they seek to annul fundamental evidence on the involvement of the criminals".

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/coronavirus-clemency-latin-america/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/justice-for-berta-is-at-risk/>

"The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (RELE-CIDH), observed with concern the excessive use of force by the State security forces - police and military - in repressing the protests, which resulted in deaths, arrests and injuries. Furthermore, the persistence of high levels of violence against journalists and the impunity of most crimes continues to be a serious problem for the exercise of journalism and the right to freedom of expression, explained RELE-CIDH in the annual report volume II on the situation of freedom of expression in the year 2019. Last year, at least six murders of social communicators were reported, whose material or intellectual authors have not yet been identified. In addition, many communicators and journalists left the country because of threats and intimidation they received for their work."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1516-rele-cidh-impunidad-en-crime-contrala-libertad-de-expresion-grave-problema-en-honduras>

Out of 172 tests, 43 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed for a total of 562. The official death toll is still at 47, while 50 people are officially recovered.

At least 71 health workers have been tested positive so far.

Honduras is still far below the recommended test rate of 2000-3000 tests per day. Maybe it will help that the The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) just announced that it will donate 182,000 extraction kits needed to diagnose COVID-19 to the Central America countries. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-50-recuperadas-y-562-nuevos-casos/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1374693-466/covid-19-coronavirus-honduras-medicos-enfermeras-contagiados>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/bcie-dona-182-000-kits-de-extraccion-para-detectar-covid-19-en-centroamerica.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/23/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-23-de-abril-del-2020/>

People protesting in Metalias near Tela, Atlántida, against the politization of the food distribution by the JOH regime were brutally repressed and for the first time during the corona crisis, state security forces used live bullets hurting at least two protesters.

CESPAD sent out an alert. "During the protest, members of the military police responded with tear gas and gunfire, leaving two gunshot victims: 20-year-old Rommel Josué Reyes Cruz and 26-year-old Francisco Javier Manueles Aguilar. The community has been in quarantine for more than a month and they are strongly denouncing that the government is against them and that what they say on their radio and television stations turns out to be lies, since the reality of the people is very different from what Juan Orlando describes. "The people are dying of hunger," says one of those attacked. Even in adversity, the government, in collusion with members of the municipality of the area and the military police, continues to trample on the rights of the Honduran population. In addition to the violent eviction, five people belonging to the Environmentalist Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ) were arrested. Their names are Roberto Ferrera, Alex Velásquez, Lorenzo, Luis Turcios, Marcos Galdámez and Cristián Eliazar Bizuela, who are being held at the police post in Tela. The residents are concerned that reprisals will be taken against the comrades, as they have done on other occasions when they go out to defend their natural commons."

COPINH denounces that in Colomoncagua, state security forces destroyed biosafety barriers set up by the community to protect them from the propagation of the virus.

Anna-Cat Brigida reports on the growing repression in Central America amid the corona virus crisis. "In Honduras, where mass mobilisations to voice citizen discontent have been common since a 2009 coup, street vendors, laid-off workers and trash collectors have blocked roads in protest of a strict curfew that has worsened conditions for the nearly 50 percent of the population that lives in poverty. "Most people in this country live day by day. You sell some socks and you buy some eggs," said Bertha Oliva, coordinator of the Honduran human rights group the Committee of Relatives of

the Disappeared in Honduras (or COFADEH, its acronym in Spanish). "They are hungry and they have to go out.""

<https://www.facebook.com/764612176953998/photos/a.806725209409361/2897852100296651/?type=3&theater>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1253423058846539776>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/23/alerta-heridos-de-bala-ciudadanos-que-demanda-alimentos-en-tiempos-de-covid-19/>

<https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1253393669115260936>

<https://tiempo.hn/gas-golpes-y-balas-hubo-durante-protesta-por-comida-en-tela/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/denuncia-publica-3/>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/central-america-unrest-repression-grow-coronavirus-crisis-200422202713659.html>

Well aware of the possible suffering of repression, protests continue. In El Progreso, residents blocked the road to San Pedro Sula demanding food.

People also protested in Tegucigalpa.

According to the municipal police, 52 people were detained in the capital yesterday.

In the north of Honduras, over 100 people were detained.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1253424164729282572>

<https://hch.tv/2020/04/23/pobladores-protestan-por-falta-de-alimentos-en-la-colonia-las-torres-de-la-capital/>

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-municipal-52-hondurenos-detenidos-irrespetar-toque-queda/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1374923-410/detenidos-policia-nacional-coronavirus-san-pedro-sula-cuarentena>

Social movements, human rights and indigenous organizations published their sixth joint press release in the corona crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sexta-manifiesto-publico/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/04/manifiesto-publico-covid-19-6-abril-2020/>

"Luis Santos of Special Prosecutor Unit Against Corruption criticizes Supreme Auditing Court for only calling #COVID19 public spending corruption as inconsistent & deficient instead of

conducting concrete investigations sufficient to punish/charge corrupt officials" (also see last two days).

Reporteros de Investigación published an infographic with the faces and the links between those responsible for the purchase of emergency goods.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1253427427285458951>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/no-existen-limitantes-para-investigar-la-corrupcion-segun-exfiscal-aldo-santos.html>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/04/23/responsables-de-compras-directas-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Honduran domestic workers filed a collective appeal for protection before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court demanding the protection of the right to health and the right to life.

<https://criterio.hn/trabajadoras-domesticas-de-honduras-exigen-protocolo-de-bioseguridad-por-coronavirus/>

130 Hondurans were deported from Mexico and arrived in Tegucigalpa.

UN human rights offices in the region, meanwhile, published a joint press release expressing their concern about the situation of deported migrants.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-130-hondurenos-deportados-de-mexico-que-arriban-este-jueves-a-tegucigalpa/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/preocupa-la-extrema-vulnerabilidad-de-las-personas-en-movilidad-ante-la-pandemia-por-covid-19-onu-derechos-humanos/>

Javier Suazo published the second part of his analysis on the economic impact of the corona crisis. "The reconstruction of the health system goes hand in hand with the strengthening of the planning system at all levels of government, but also with the integration of the proposals of economic, social and political actors to overcome the pandemic and better confront the economic recession. Actions and resource allocation must be prioritized, and the competencies and functions of the institutions and organizations involved must be fully identified. The population insists that the Honduran Medical Association (CHM) and the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) be directly involved, having access to information in the required time and detail. We must look beyond this, seeking to build a new instrument of development that makes it possible to prioritize human life over profit."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/206094>

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) may soon be responsible for purchasing medical equipment for Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/unops-estara-a-cargo-de-adquisicion-de-insumos-medicos-de-honduras.html>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is co-financing with \$700,000 a telehealth project that seeks to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Honduras and improve access to health in the country.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-bid-cofinancia-un-proyecto-de-tele-salud-para-mitigar-covid-19-en-honduras.html>

There is additional criticism of the new Penal Code especially linked to the current corruption wave in Honduras. "The new Penal Code, which will come into force on May 10, would leave the irregularities committed in the emergency purchases made by the Permanent Commission of Contingencies, Copeco, in impunity. This is what Melissa Elvir, director of the Democracy Without Borders Foundation, said on Radio Progreso. "Overvaluation and illicit enrichment, with the entry into force of the new Penal Code, could become simple administrative issues," said Elvir."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/nuevo-codigo-penal-favorecera-a-implicados-en-compras-irregulares/>

24/04/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; COPINH; COVID-19 - HR, Journalism, Protests, Repression, State Reaction, Corruption, US, Inequality, Prisons, Economy; Migration - US; Penal Code; Judicial Power; and the Need for Electoral Reforms

"[T]he San Alonso Rodríguez Foundation (FSAR), the Team for Reflection, Research and Communication (ERIC-SJ) and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), requested precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to protect the life and integrity of the eight water defenders from the Guapinol and San Pedro rivers, who have been deprived of their liberty for more than eight months. This request is due the existence of an imminent risk of irreparable damage to the rights to life, health and integrity of the defenders, by virtue of the conditions of preventive detention in which they are held, which have been exacerbated in the context of the prison crisis that Honduras is experiencing and the COVID-19 pandemic that is currently affecting humanity."

<https://www.cejil.org/es/guapinol-solicitan-medidas-cautelares-cidh-protger-vida-e-integridad-defensores-del-agua>

<https://criterio.hn/solicitan-medidas-cautelares-ante-la-cidh-para-protger-la-vida-de-defensores-del-agua/>

COPINH sent out an alert regarding a fire spreading to Río Blanco. "A fire that started on Monday in Santa Ana, San Francisco de Ojuera, has reached the community of Río Blanco in the area of El Culatón towards the Gulcarque River."

So far in 2020, more than 23,000 hectares of forest have been devastated by some 487 incidents throughout the country.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1253772239490646018>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-23-mil-hectareas-de-bosque-han-destruido-487-incendios-forestales-en-honduras.html>

Yesterday, the official government statistics listed 7 additional deaths for a total of 55. There were also 29 new confirmed cases totaling 591. At the same time, 58 people are counted as recovered. According to the head of the WHO in Honduras, Piedad Huerta, Honduras will have a first peak of cases in mid-June.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-55-personas-fallecidas-y-29-nuevos-casos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-15-de-junio-se-espera-pico-de-casos-de-covid-en-honduras-ops.html>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/24/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-24-de-abril-del-2020/>

A police agent attacked the community leader Derlin Roberto Corea Cabrera in Zacateg Grande. The police agent, in civilian clothes, drove to the community on a bike but without any face mask as is mandated in Honduras. As part of community self-protection, the local people set up a checkpoint to stop people from entering when they don't comply. When stopped, the police agent attacked them hitting Derlin with his helmet on the head, kicked him in the back and shot three times without hitting him.

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders reacted in a press release to the current situation in Honduras. "We know that the current regime is taking advantage of this crisis to try to clean up its illegitimate face, violating human rights and its links with drug trafficking, that they are taking advantage of the crisis to make 80 billion lempiras with false promises of hospitals, supplies, food. The few resources that they invest are for political proselytizing, stealing and enriching themselves with that expertise with which they know how to do it and playing with hunger and other basic needs of the people where women have a leading role."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/policia-ataca-a-dirigente-comunal-en-zacate-grande/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/04/posicionamiento-de-la-red-nacional-de-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-en-honduras-ante-la-crisis-politica-actual/>

Yesterday morning, two agents of the Preventive Police held up Alex Fernando Destephen Soto, photo-reporter of the digital newspaper Criterio later claiming that they had mistaken him for another person even though he had shown them his identification.

ConexiHon portrays four Honduran journalists highlighting the importance of critical voices to cover the corona crisis.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1153-policias-retienen-a-foto-reportero-al-confundirlo-con-un-supuesto-agente-de-inteligencia>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1520-voces-criticas-del-periodismo-hondureno-son-indispensables-para-la-cobertura-de-covid-19>

ACI-Participa has documented 134 protests in 14 out of the 18 departments in the last weeks.

<http://elpulso.hn/derechos-humanos-han-sido-violentados-durante-la-crisis-del-covid-19/>

LAWG published a helpful overview on the repression by the JOH regime in response to the corona crisis. "The government's response to the pandemic was centralized, militarized, and devoid of oversight."

<https://www.lawg.org/honduras-repression-in-the-time-of-covid-19-2/>

According to the JOH regime, the Health Secretariat has spent almost 530 million Lempiras so far on medical supplies, 400 millions alone in the last 12 days. COPECO has spent almost 155 millions, Invest-H over 1.8 billion and other state bodies another 420 millions. Libre and the Liberal Party warned that they will not support more funds to attend to the emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic if more civil organizations are not included in the monitoring.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-12-dias-salud-gasto-l400-millones-compras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/bancadas-de-libre-y-partido-liberal-anuncian-que-no-apoyaran-mas-fondos-para-emergencia-del-covid-19.html>

Congressman Dennis Castro Bobadilla denounced that the masks acquired by COPECO are of bad quality. "They are made of paper and they paid more than 100 lempiras for each one of them". ConfidencialHN uncovered that the salaries at the disputed offices of Invest-H, responsible for various eye-raising purchases (see last e-mails), are among the highest in the JOH regime with its director Marco Bográn earning over 230'000 Lempiras per month. Libre Congressman Jorge Cálix said regarding Bográn: "Marcos Bográn has committed disgusting acts of corruption".

ConfidencialHN also published its 4th article in a series on corruption in response to the corona crisis.

One of the bodies responsible for investigating corruption, the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), has currently its own problem as its president José Juan Pineda does not want to distance himself from an investigation even though there is clear lack of independence.

FOSDEH also found "ambiguities" in a report by the TSC on the purchases made by COPECO.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/mascarilla-papel-copeco/>

<https://tiempo.hn/denis-castro-fiscalia-debe-investigar-calidad-precio-mascarillas/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/planillazo-investh-paga-durante-crisis-sanitaria-jugosos-sueldos-a-sus-empleados-y-activistas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/jorge-calix-corrupcion-marcos-bogran-invest-h/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asi-opera-red-de-politicos-y-empresas-corruptas-para-drenar-dinero-por-emergencia-de-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/magistrado-de-la-tsc-pide-a-presidente-de-este-ente-que-deje-de-lado-el-orgullo-y-se-aparte-de-las-investigaciones.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/fosdeh-informe-del-tsc-sobre-anomalias-en-compras-de-emergencia-es-ambiguo.html>

Trump tweeted yesterday: "Just spoke to President Juan Orlando Hernandez of the Republic of Honduras. We work closely together on the Southern Border. Will be helping him with his request for Ventilators and Testing."

JOH reacted by tweeting a 15min-video on the conversation.

Criterio reports that JOH requested "financial support" from the IMF worth \$340 million. Already a month ago, the Central Bank of Honduras confirmed that the JOH regime will receive \$143 million from the IMF (see previous e-mail).

The US is also active through SOUTHCOM in Honduras. "The U.S. Embassy in Honduras continues to provide support to the Honduran people in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of these efforts, our Office of Security Cooperation made significant donations through the U.S. Southern Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program (SOUTHCOM)."

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1253699994516946945>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1253756767793631237>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1253725615796215808>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1375024-410/donald-trump-dara-700-ventiladores-300000-pruebas-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/en-platica-con-trump-hernandez-solicita-340-millones-al-fmi-para-enfrentar-la-crisis-del-covid-19/>

<http://elpulso.hn/estados-unidos-apoya-con-insumos-contra-la-pandemia-del-covid-19/>

CESPAD published an analysis on the corona crisis and inequality. "Inequality does not appear naturally; it is a social and political construct. As has been repeatedly stated, Honduras is one of the most unequal countries in Latin America, which is in turn the most unequal region in the world. But this statement has concrete empirical references: 64.7% of the population live in poverty, which means 5,776,400 (almost six million) people. Among them, 41.7% live in extreme poverty, which is equivalent to 3,725,048 (almost four million) people; 38.5% of the population survives on one US dollar or less per day, which is equivalent to 3,432,746 (three and a half million) people. More than 800,000 children and young people are unable to study and work[4]. Beyond these statistical figures, there are faces of people looking for work, looking for survival. The COVID-19 pandemic settled on the rubble left behind by the long and deep night of neoliberalism. The situation of the

Honduran health system is far below the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO). Honduras has 9.5 hospital beds per 10,000 inhabitants, with a coverage of 0.4 hospitals per 100,000 inhabitants and it is estimated that there are 10.1 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants. None of the 18 departments has the minimum indicator established by international standards, which is 25 physicians per 10,000 inhabitants. In the case of nurses, it is even lower. It is 2 per 10,000 inhabitants and 8 nursing assistants per 10,000 inhabitants. The WHO recommends 50 nurses per 10,000 inhabitants [5]. (...) Education is one of the sectors hard hit by the COVID-19, in an education system that has been characterized by inequality and exclusion. By 2019, approximately 900,000 (almost one million) children between the ages of 3 and 17 were out of the education system. Inequality is not only economic and social, it is also technological. "Only 16.6% of Hondurans have access to the Internet at home, and only 12.8% access this service from a computer and 87.2% from a mobile phone or cell phone"[10]. In this context of inequality, what are the possibilities of facing educational challenges from a quarantine situation in the context of COVID-19? The possibilities are nil or almost nil. Or in any case, it means continuing to reproduce a poor education for the poor."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/24/analisis-en-honduras-la-pandemia-covid19-profundiza-la-desigualdad-social-y-es-campo-de-exterminio-para-los-sectores-mas-vulnerables/>

Congress reformed the Criminal Procedure Code as a measure aimed at reducing prison crowding in Honduran prisons to prevent the spread of the corona virus. There is one big problem, the new provision does not clearly specify some important points such as the type of prisoners who will not benefit from the reform.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-aprueba-confusa-excarcelacion-de-privados-de-libertad/>

The market in Comayagüela burnt down yesterday.

"Many people find it odd that the fire occurred day after Juan Orlando Hernandez approved a funding package to help small businesses"

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/04/24/incendio-en-mercado-colon/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/vendedores-de-mercados-estan-preocupados-por-multimillonarias-perdidas-que-dejo-incendio/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1253747518275334144>

"US immigration officials are trying to deport an unaccompanied 16-year-old girl to Honduras, where she fled threats of violence because she reported her father to authorities for sexually assaulting her when she was 13, attorneys say."

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/adolfoflores/ice-unaccompanied-immigrant-girl-deportation-honduras>

The CNA continues to warn about the new Penal Code. Illicit enrichment is currently punishable by 5 to 15 years' imprisonment, while in the new Penal Code it was reduced from 4 to 6 years.

C-Libre warns how "[i]n a silent and alarming way, Article 307 of the new Penal Code will be the legal weapon to criminalize dissident voices".

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1253692999948816387>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/investigaciones/1519-de-manifestantes-a-propagadores-de-epidemias-nuevo-codigo-penal-mas-letal-que-el-covid-19>

OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo met with the head of the Supreme Court Rolando Argueta "to advance the establishment of a technical cooperation framework on access to justice and human rights issues".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1253870695131512832>

FOSDEH conducted an analysis called "From Confinement to Electoral Reforms and Elections" which raises the need to approve major electoral reforms and create a reliable and transparent electoral process as a solution to national problems.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2020/04/del-confinamiento-a-reformas-electorales-y-elecciones/>

<http://elpulso.hn/reformas-y-elecciones-transparentes-el-antidoto-para-la-enferma-democracia/>
25/04/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - UN; Corruption; COVID-19 - Repression, JOH, Corruption, Transparency; and a New CAH Leadership

"OACNUDH highlights the importance of ensuring that defenders are able to carry out their work in a safe and supportive environment, most importantly in the current health and humanitarian emergency context". The UN-body expresses concern regarding the harassment and public threats against HRDs, especially against Bertha Oliva and Padre Melo. It demands effective protective measures.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1254099397849354241>

The head of of anti-corruption body UFERCO, Luis Santos, accuses Honduras of double talk regarding corruption. "On the one hand, it ensures that the fight against corruption is strengthened, and on the other hand, it not only puts obstacles in the way, it tries to avoid as much as possible that the investigations achieve their purpose, so that the networks operating behind each case are not known."

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1253986788059885573>

Four more deaths by COVID-19 were confirmed yesterday reaching a total of 59. But there is ongoing doubt regarding this official number. El Tiempo reports that alone in the hospitals in the San Pedro Sula, there are over 60 registered deaths of COVID-19 patients. 96 tests lead also to 36 new confirmed cases meaning that Honduras continues to have a high

positive test rate even though the total amount of tests remains insufficiently high.
Maybe it will help that the IHSS has recently received 10'000 test kits.
CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-59-muertos-y-627-casos-positivos-de-covid-19/>

<https://tiempo.hn/55-muertos-por-covid-19-solo-hospitales-sps-registran-mas-60/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ihss-recibe-10-mil-pruebas-rapidas-para-analizar-covid-19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/25/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-25-de-abril-del-2020/>

Two Military Police agents shot dead a young man, Marvin Alvarado, in the community El Paraíso near Omoa, Cortés. They also brutally attacked his two brothers, all three of them were on their way back home from selling bread.

The Military Police also arrested more than 30 people in just one neighborhood yesterday.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/agentes-de-la-pmop-asesina-a-joven-en-el-paraiso-omoa>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1254120262137675776>

"In the opinion of political analyst Efraín Díaz Arrivillaga, the coronavirus health emergency facing Honduras is a convenient platform for Juan Orlando Hernández to consolidate his position and political agenda."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/emergencia-para-consolidar-a-joh-efrain-diaz/>

The Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras (ICLH) condemned the acts of corruption of the JOH regime.

Meanwhile in La Ceiba, the Bishop Miguel Lenihan and Víctor Cámara of the Social Pastoral denounced the politicization of the disputed Honduras Solidarity program which hands out food and supplies most of the time only to Nationalist voters and activist.

<https://criterio.hn/iglesia-luterana-condena-los-actos-de-corrupcion-del-actual-gobierno/>

<https://criterio.hn/sacerdotes-de-la-ceiba-denuncia-politizacion-en-entrega-de-alimentos/>

ContraCorriente focuses on the lack of transparency regarding government spending on pandemic response and the insufficient work of the IAIP and the TSC.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/25/el-acceso-a-la-informacion-es-deficiente-ante-la-pandemia/>

Fredis Cerrato and Fátima Mena will head the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) for the next two years.

This is significant as they broke the dominant position of the Nationalists inside the CAH.

But it also seems that they won't hand-over power as easily.

<https://criterio.hn/fredis-cerrato-y-fatima-mena-dirigiran-el-cah-proximos-dos-anos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-oposicion-toma-control-del-colegio-de-abogados-al-aniquilar-hegemonia-nacionalista/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/presidenta-del-cah-dice-desconocer-declaratoria-de-junta-electoral-sobre-nuevas-autoridades.html>

26/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Corruption, HR, Labor Rights, Economy; Military Police; Penal Code; and the Dictatorship is the Virus

90 tests brought to light another 34 confirmed cases for a total of 661. 61 people have died so far, the two most recent cases were confirmed yesterday. Currently, there are 158 people hospitalized, among them 8 in intensive care units.

Honduras has still the highest mortality rate in Latin America which hopefully can at least partially be explained by the lost testing rate.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-casos-de-covid-19-se-elevan-a-661-reportan-4-muertes1/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1375359-466/honduras-con-la-m%C3%A1s-alta-letalidad-por-coronavirus-en-el-continente-americano>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/26/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-26-de-abril-del-2020/>

The state of exception and the lockdown were extended for another week to May 3.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-confinamiento/>

The combination of corruption and incapability continues to rob Honduras of a good medical response to the corona crisis. The mobile hospital bought under suspicious circumstances (see previous e-mail) installed in Villanueva can still not be used. The reason? Lack of energy and water connections.

The WHO representative in Honduras does not recommend the use of disinfectant tunnels as their exists no proof regarding its effectiveness and it could even give false security to people.

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-gobernacion-justifica-incapacidad-de-poner-a-funcionar-el-hospital-movil-de-villanueva/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ops-no-recomienda-uso-de-tuneles-desinfectantes.html>

Defensores en Línea published an interview with Bertha Oliva on the situation in Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-la-poblacion-hondurena-enfrenta-dos-tipos-de-pandemia/>

Defensores en Línea also spoke with the historic labor leader Carlos H Reyes on labor rights or the lack thereof in Honduras and what that means during the current crisis.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/carlos-h-reyes-ministerio-de-trabajo-un-defensor-del-sector-capitalista-y-no-de-la-clase-trabajadora-como-es-su-obligacion/>

The only response to the various acts of corruption already highlighted during this pandemic was the suspension of head of COPECO, Gabriel Rubí. CESPAD published an analysis on what lies behind this. "On April 21, 2020, in the afternoon, the country learned of the dismissal of the Secretary of State in the National Risk and Contingency Management Offices (COPECO), Gabriel Rubí. The dismissal ordered by Juan Orlando Hernández, of this engineer by profession, takes place in the midst of the merger of two contexts: the post-MACCIH context and the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. What does the merger of both imply? The mobilization of billions of lempiras in a perfect scenario for the networks of corruption and impunity operating in Honduras." Proceso Digital picked up the important Twitter feed by UFERCO coordinator Luis Santos on corruption in Honduras (see yesterday).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/26/analisis-que-hay-detras-de-la-destitucion-de-rubi/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/sustraer-fondos-publicos-es-un-acto-reprochable-pero-hacerlo-en-la-pandemia-es-vil-e-inhumano-fiscal-uferco.html>

98% of the small and medium-sized hotels and hostels in Honduras are closed and the few that are open employ less staff.

<https://tiempo.hn/hoteles-el-76-de-los-empleados-estan-suspendidos-segun-hopeh/>

Pasos de Animal Grande has additional reporting on the murder of a young man by the Military Police (see yesterday). "On April 24, 2020, police abuse at checkpoints went so far as to cause the death of one citizen, seriously injure another and arrest a third. They are all brothers and the incident occurred in the community of El Paraíso in Omoa, Cortés, in the northern part of Honduras. According to the families of the victims, those responsible are agents of the Military Police of Public Order (PMOP) of the Maya Chortí Detachment in Masca, in that department."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2810-abusos-policiales-contra-la-poblacion-desencadena-en-un-muerto-y-dos-heridos-en-omoa-cortes>

Today at 10am in Honduras, there will be a virtual press conference on the problems with the new Penal Code by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) and others.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1254601693813190656>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/la-dictadura-es-el-virus/>

27/04/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs- Guapinol; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Food Security, Economy, Discrimination, Migration; Military Police; Penal Code; and State Violence

The constitutional chamber announced the rejection of 9 out of 10 habeas corpus in favor of inmates which lets COFADEH believe that also the habeas corpus for the imprisoned human rights and environmental defenders from Guapinol won't be successful.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/coronavirus-csj-declara-sin-lugar-nueve-de-10-habeas-corpus-presentados-a-favor-de-privados-de-libertad/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/poder-judicial-desestima-nueve-recursos-de-exhibicion-personal-a-favor-de-privados-de-libertad/>

"Journalists in the department of Santa Barbara face a "precarious situation" after the suspension of advertising contracts, which leaves them without money to pay for coverage and personal support."

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1157-periodistas-alertan-sobre-precaria-situacion-en-santa-barbara>

This Wednesday, a webinar takes places in English with Karen Spring of the Honduras Solidarity Network to discuss the corona crisis in Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1254957776561795072>

151 tests resulted in 41 new cases for a total of 702 COVID-19 cases. Three more deaths were confirmed yesterday.

Given its ongoing low testing rate, the Honduran ambassador to the UN, Mary Elizabeth Flores Flake, asked the UN Secretary for the donation of testing-kits.

A journalist and a cameraman recently tested positive for COVID-19.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-registran-41-casos-tres-muertes-honduras/>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/04/27/kits-de-pruebas-de-covid-19-para-honduras-pide-embajadora-a-la-onu-en-carta-al-secretario-general/>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1158-periodista-y-camarografo-contagiados-con-covid-19>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/27/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-27-de-abril-del-2020/>

According to the president of the National Association of Nurses and Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH), Josué Orellana, some 40 members of that organization are in isolation because they were in contact with COVID-19 positive patients. Another 15 have tested positive so far.

<https://confidencialhn.com/aneeah-reporta-el-contagio-de-unas-15-enfermeras-por-tener-contacto-con-pacientes-con-coronavirus/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/unas-40-enfermeras-aisladas-por-tener-contacto-con-pacientes-con-covid-19-afirma-la-aneeah.html>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) published its second report on corruption in the response to the corona crisis by the JOH regime. They highlight how Invest-H authorized the purchase of goods overvalued by 57.5 million Lempiras.

The head of Invest-H, Marco Bográn, threatened to sue both CNA's director Gabriela Castellanos and the head of investigation Odir Fernández.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1254787593721442306>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=NOua44RS7R8&feature=emb_title

Report: https://www.cna.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/La-Corrupcio%CC%81n-en-tiempos-del-COVID-19_Parte-II.pdf

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1967-honduras-57-millones-perdidos-solo-en-compra-de-mascarillas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/director-de-investh-amenaza-con-demandar-a-cupula-del-cna-por-informar-sobre-compras-amanadas/>

The Fund for Global Human Rights portrayed the response to the corona crisis by Garífuna communities organized in OFRANEH. "One group pioneering new ways to feed hungry communities is OFRANEH, an organization working to support the goals of the Garifuna social movement in Honduras. The Garifuna are Afro-indigenous people who live along the Honduran coast. Garifuna communities have struggled with food insecurity in the past, as large-scale development projects encroach on their farmland. Additionally, foreign-owned food production companies pressure local farmers to purchase seedlings that result in larger yields for a single growing season, but unsustainable and less nutritious crops year-after-year. Through years of collective action and successful resistance to these exploitive development projects and unsustainable agricultural practices, the Garifuna have developed new ways of ensuring their communities have access to food. As COVID-19 disrupts supply chains and drives up food prices, these innovative solutions are offering critical relief to Garifuna communities facing hunger." Regarding the issue of food security, the former FIAN Honduras president Marlon Ochoa commented: "The problem of shortage is not a product of this pandemic, since 1992 the government has dismantled all measures to regulate the price and to support producers in the field".

<https://globalhumanrights.org/blogs/local-leaders-combat-food-insecurity-in-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/crisis-alimentaria-en-el-pais-no-es-producto-del-coronavirus/>

A group of small business owner in the north of Honduras started a hunger strike demanding that electricity bills won't have to be paid for the duration of the crisis.

In Comayagüela, the market has dispersed to surrounding streets trying to make up for the lack of customers. "Honduras' income rests on 70 percent of the informal economy, the sector that is being most affected by the effects of the coronavirus. The confinement is causing the closure of businesses while the government turns its attention to big business. But complaints about this preference have begun to be felt."

The vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tegucigalpa (CCIT), Daniel Fortín, said that the tax relief measures established by the JOH do not benefit small and medium-sized companies as was claimed by JOH.

The business lobby COHEP presented a plan on how to reopen restaurants.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/inician-huelga-de-hambre-pequenos-empresarios-del-norte/>

<https://criterio.hn/no-queremos-ser-esclavos-de-eeh-ni-del-gobierno-ni-de-los-termicos-roberto-contreras/>

<https://criterio.hn/mercado-zonal-belen-se-traslada-a-las-calles-aledanas/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/ccit-indica-que-alivio-fiscal-no-beneficia-a-las-pymes-como-lo-asegura-el-ejecutivo/>

<http://elpulso.hn/cohep-pide-al-gobierno-reabrir-los-restaurantes/>

Defensores en Línea reports on a grave case of discrimination against a couple in Pespire, Choluteca, which had to go into hiding after pressure by their neighbors because the husband had returned from the north of Honduras where the majority of COVID-19 cases are.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/choluteca-familia-estigmatizada-en-medio-de-pandemia-exige-proteccion/>

"Without biosecurity materials, without money, in inhumane conditions and waiting to be attended to by the National Institute of Migration, there are more than 80 migrants of various nationalities in the department of Choluteca, in southern Honduras."

<https://criterio.hn/la-impaciente-espera-de-los-migrantes-en-choluteca-honduras/>

Family members of the 33-year old Marvin Rolando Alvarado, murdered by the Military Police (see previous e-mails), demanded justice at his funeral.

El Tiempo reports that ATIC is investigating the case.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-pancartas-y-exigiendo-justicia-llegan-familiares-al-sepelio-del-joven-que-fue-asesinado-por-la-pmop/>

<https://tiempo.hn/atic-investiga-caso-de-panadero-muerto-a-manos-de-militares-en-cortes/>

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC) published a video of their discussion together with the CNA, FOSDEH and the Medical Association of Honduras on the problems with the new Penal Code (see also yesterday).

"With the penalties, this Penal Code will benefit a small population that are the officials who have been singled out for corruption. It comes to harm human rights and the rule of law," argued the director of the CNA, Gabriela Castellanos.

<https://twitter.com/CCICHN/status/1254803524577300481>

<http://elpulso.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-perjudica-derechos-humanos-y-estado-de-derecho/>

El Tiempo published a video of state security agents, police and military, repeatedly hitting a drunk man they stopped in his car.

<https://tiempo.hn/militares-someten-y-golpean-a-supuesto-ebrio-en-santa-barbara/>

28/04/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; LGBTQ+; COVID-19 - UN, Indigenous Peoples, Health Sector, Corruption, US, Prisons, Deportation, Migration, Economy; JOH - World Bank; and a Learning Moment?

Criterio journalist Nancy Paola Cruz has suffered sexual harassment by phone calls and text messages.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1159-periodista-denuncia-llamadas-y-mensaje-con-ofrecimientos-sexuales>

Criterio portrays several lesbians in Honduras in commemoration of the Lesbian Visibility Day celebrated on Sunday. "On April 26, there was no lack of campaigns, poems, and hugs for those who are close to them during the confinement. But lesbian visibility is not a day, it is not a commemorative date that begins when the bells indicate midnight and run 24 hours and ends the next day. Every day lesbian women must go out and confront a fundamentalist state that does not recognize diversity and increases inequalities."

<https://criterio.hn/lesbiandad-los-relatos-de-mujeres-lesbianas-que-visibilizan-la-realidad-que-viven-en-honduras/>

As in the previous days, between a third and a fourth of the tests conducted, resulted in positive COVID-19 cases. Yesterday, there were 36 new cases out of 117 tests. Two more people died, a 48-year old woman from Intibucá and a 52-year old man from Santa Bárbara.

Some time ago, BCIE announced the donation of 26'000 testing kits to Honduras. They should arrive this week.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/738-casos-por-covid-19-se-reportan-en-honduras/>

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/04/28/esta-semana-llegaran-kits-de-extraccion-para-pruebas-de-covid-19-anuncia-viceministro-de-salud/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/28/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-28-de-abril-del-2020/>

OACNUDH reacted to the violent repression by state security forces these recent days leading even to a death (see previous e-mails). "OACNUDH notes with concern the increase in allegations of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials in the context of curfew enforcement operations and other state of emergency provisions. In an incident that occurred on 24 April in the community of El Paraíso, in Omoa, Cortés, two men were wounded with firearms during a control operation carried out by officers of the Military Police of Public Order, and one of them died the following day in hospital."

<https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-a-que-las-autoridades-investiguen-denuncias-de-uso-excesivo-de-la-fuerza-y-tomen-medidas-para-prevenir-su-repeticion/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2812-oacnudh-llama-a-que-las-autoridades-investiguen-denuncias-de-uso-excesivo-de-la-fuerza-y-tomen-medidas-para-prevenir-su-repeticion>

An important victory by MADJ at Honduras' court. The Court of Administrative Litigation of San Pedro Sula admitted the appeal filed on behalf of the Tolupán People of San Francisco de Locomapa, Yoro, who are victims of discrimination in the delivery of food in the context of the corona crisis. The court gives the authorities 24 hours "to immediately restore to these families their right to food".

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/04/29/abastecer-de-alimentos-en-24-horas-a-tribu-tolupana-ordena-juzgado-por-amparo/>

La Prensa reports that most of the 140 mechanical ventilators purchased by the JOH regime last month in the United States are unused and in storage because they are not suitable for patients with COVID-19. Additionally, the other 740 ventilators acquired at a cash price by Invest-H will only be delivered in stages over the next eight months...

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1375818-410/un-fiasco-compra-de-140-ventiladores-mec%C3%A1nicos>

CESPAD published a short analysis on how the health sector is especially suffering from the results of corruption during the corona crisis. "In short, the shortcomings of the health system and weaknesses in government capacity to deal with the pandemic have been exposed by doctors and health workers. This is compounded by corruption, a phenomenon rooted in the country, especially in health sector procurement and public works. One need only recall emblematic cases of corruption

such as the looting of Social Security, which led to the movement of the indignant."

In a second analysis, CESPAD uses a human rights lens to analyze corruption in the country. "In conclusion, it is important to see the costs of corruption beyond the economic issue in order to dimension the human rights crisis and its negative impact on the excluded sectors of Honduran society. The current human rights crisis is the product of a whole system in which corruption is an important part, but not the definitive one, since the current one moves through the different political fields that we have investigated and problematized in this analysis."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/28/analisis-honduras-corrupcion-y-pandemia-una-convivencia-devastadora/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/28/reporte-semanal-covid-19-y-la-crisis-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

SOUTHCOM donated a second batch of personal protection equipment to be distributed among the first response personnel working to combat the health emergency by COVID19 in Honduras.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1375962-410/comando-sur-estados-unidos-equipo-proteccion-personal-coronavirus-honduras>

A first inmate was found to have died from COVID-19, causing alarm in the so-called maximum security prison El Pozo in Santa Bárbara.

The president of the Association of Relatives of Detainees, Delma Ordóñez, asked that all prisoners be isolated.

The same day, the Execution Court determined to decree a sanitary emergency in El Pozo.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/alerta-por-muerte-de-privado-de-libertad-a-causa-del-covid-19/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1969-urgente-300-reos-en-riesgo-tras-primer-muerte-por-covid-en-el-pozo>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/familiares-de-reos-piden-aislar-a-reclusos-y-evitar-muertes-masivas.html>

<https://radiohrn.hn/decretan-aislamiento-de-reos-en-el-pozo-tras-muerte-de-reo-con-sospechas-de-covid-19/>

El Pulso reports that at least 63 Hondurans were deported from Mexico arriving in the country yesterday by plane.

<https://twitter.com/elpulsohn/status/1255199265317666821>

ConexiHon covers the worrisome situation of migrants stranded in Honduras. "According to data recorded by the National Human Rights Platform (PNDDHH), more than 300 migrants have been traced at this time, however, they warn that many of them are still unknown but that the figure could double the current number of people moving along the southern border and are mostly from

Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti and Africa."

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/mirada-al-sur/1523-migrantes-violentados-por-autoridades-en-medio-de-emergencia-nacional>

"Fifteen percent of Mipymes [micro, small and medium-sized businesses] have already closed operations in bankruptcy, 28 percent believe they only have one month to live, 39 percent almost two months, and 10 percent said they would be closing between 3 to 6 months if the aid does not arrive or the quarantine is prolonged beyond normal".

El Pulso questions the effectiveness of the "Guarantee Fund" presented by JOH for Mipymes. The business lobby COHEP, meanwhile, has demanded that the JOH regime open the economy in an intelligent manner by ensuring that they have "the most prepared biosecurity processes in all of Central America".

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/206229>

<http://elpulso.hn/sin-claridad-fondo-de-garantia-para-las-mipymes/>

<http://elpulso.hn/cohep-aboga-por-una-apertura-inteligente-de-la-economia/>

The World Bank published a short report on their contribution to the, controversial, social program Vida Mejor by the JOH regime. "The World Bank, through the International Development Association (IDA), provided credits totaling US\$ 72.72 million. The original Social Protection Project, approved on June 29, 2010, was financed by IDA credit in the amount of US\$ 35.82 million. That project received two additional credits from IDA: the first for US\$ 11.9 million, approved on August 8, 2013; and the second for US\$ 25 million, approved on March 31, 2015." They announced a new \$30 Million support for the program. "In November 2019, the IDA-financed Social Protection Integration Project in the amount of US\$ 30 million became effective. This new project aims to unify rural and urban components of the conditional cash transfer program and to standardize the procedures, rules, and delivery systems of the national conditional cash transfer program."

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2020/04/28/providing-conditional-cash-transfers-to-improve-access-to-health-services-and-education-for-honduras-extreme-poor>

"These most recent differences in policy between Honduras and Nicaragua are really a continuation of policy differences going back several decades. In Honduras, the results have produced a situation in which many live a highly insecure and precarious existence where fear, anxiety, and stress are daily results of the high levels of violence, poverty, corruption, political repression, the breakdown of public institutions, and an ethic that emphasizes that individuals are on their own and cannot expect support from their government unless, maybe, they pledge allegiance to the ruling party. That has made people more vulnerable, and their vulnerability is exacerbated by the daily stress of life in such a context. The current pandemic policies in Honduras have increased the physical and emotional vulnerability of people, leaving them perhaps, more exposed to the pandemic. One can easily detect this anxiety, even desperation, in the food riots and expressions of deep concern from popular organizations and rural communities. In Nicaragua, the policy seems to provide some

balance between defense against contagion and the necessities of daily existence in the particular social and cultural context of Nicaraguan life. Public institutions function, and measures to curb the spread of COVID19 seem to be a balance between restricting and enabling."

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/04/28/covid19-and-central-america-a-learning-moment/>

29/04/20

Honduras Daily: COVID-19 - MADJ, Health Sector, Corruption, Repression, Women, UN, Prisons, Deportation, Economy; and Return to Normal or a New-Normal?

116 tests were conducted leading to 33 new confirmed COVID-19 cases for a total of 771 cases. There are now 188 people hospitalized, among them 7 in intensive care units. 5 more people died yesterday, all from Cortés, which means that at least 71 people have died so far in Honduras. Yesterday, at least 40 sample collection kits for rapid testing and diagnosis of COVID-19 as well as medical supplies donated by the US arrived in Honduras. CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://criterio.hn/muertes-y-casos-de-covid-19-siguen-en-ascenso-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-kits-extraccion-dono-eeuu-llegan-honduras/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/29/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-29-de-abril-del-2020/>

MADJ explains how the communities organized by them have set up schemes to share food among each other. "This wave of solidarity has been joined by individual contributions from people with the intention of helping to address the hunger emergency in the various organized territories of the MADJ, where operation "Honduras Solidaria" left a large number of indigenous families without the possibility of food."

The JOH regime, meanwhile, claims to have served almost 2.4 million people through "Honduras Solidaria".

<https://madj.org/index.php/2020/04/29/solidaridad-en-tiempos-de-coronavirus-compartiendo-alimentos-entre-los-nucleos-del-madj/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gobierno-ha-entregado-alimentos-a-mas-de-dos-millones-de-hondurenos-mediante-honduras-solidaria.html>

The Honduran Medical Association (CMH) highlighted the vulnerability of all doctors employed under contract by the Ministry of Health and the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) and is calling on the JOH regime to employ them with fixed contracts including social security.

Yesterday, Congress approved a law decree aimed at granting such contracts.

"The director of the University Hospital Osmín Tovar said today that due to the high prices of the suppliers, the purchase processes had to be declared null and void. He added that suppliers have not shown support for the hospital and that of all the bidding processes, only the surgical caps could be purchased, which were at twice the price and they were forced to buy them." Additionally, they only

have disposable gowns left for another 48 hours.

<https://criterio.hn/cmh-pide-contratacion-inmediata-y-seguridad-social-para-medicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-aprueba-permanencia-laboral-para-activistas-del-partido-nacional-del-codigo-verde/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sin-insumos-el-hospital-escuela-por-los-altos-precios-de-proveedores/>

Invest-H has in short time become one of the most notorious state bodies during the pandemic. Yesterday, it came to light that four its employees enjoyed a luxury quarantine worth over 100'000 Lempiras in a hotel in Tegucigalpa.

The CNA published a short video on the disappearance of some 250'000 masks.

Given the widespread reports on corruption, even news outlets closer to the JOH regime report on it. Proceso Digital highlighted some of the laws impeding the work of the MP in investigating corruption.

There are also new voices, previous unheard regarding this topic, demanding answers to all the corruption cases. "The president of Banco de Occidente, Mr. Jorge Bueso Arias, has strongly questioned the credibility of the director of Invest-H, Marco Bográn, alleging that he must justify the 57.5 million lempiras of overvaluation of masks that the CNA exposes in a report."

Another blow to the JOH regime came from the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC) when it announced yesterday to withdraw from a working group set-up by the JOH to address the crisis for the lack of "clear and strong signals to fight corruption".

Criticism also comes from the former UNAH dean Julieta Castellanos. "It is unfortunate that the children of politicians founded companies once they realized that purchases in the millions were coming because of the Covid-19 pandemic (...) She assured that this fact is the fault of the nationalist Executive for not making the purchases through a trust subscribed with a bank. "I feel that the Executive Branch is responsible because if it had had an interest in doing things correctly, it would have delivered the purchases via the Ministry of Health and the trust with Banco de Occidente," she said."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1972-honduras-facturas-por-confinamiento-revelan-lujos-invest-h>

<https://confidencialhn.com/funcionarios-de-investh-tuvieron-cuarentena-en-lujoso-hotel-capitalino/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1972-honduras-facturas-por-confinamiento-revelan-lujos-invest-h>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1255497137657389062>

<https://proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/leyes-que-atan-al-ministerio-publico-en-combate-a-la-corrupcion.html>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1970-honduras-jorge-bueso-arias-pide-explicacion-al-gobierno-por-corrupcion-covid-19>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1971-honduras-industriales-se-aislan-del-gobierno-por-corrupcion-en-operacion-covid>

<https://confidencialhn.com/barquero-anuncia-retiro-del-ccic-de-mesas-tecnicas-por-pandemia-por-nulo-combate-a-la-corrupcion/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/julieta-castellanos-responsabiliza-al-ejecutivo-por-incentivar-compras-irregulares-en-pandemia-de-covid19/>

"Agents of the National Preventive Police in the department of El Paraíso, in eastern Honduras, are at their wits' end in the application of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment against persons who are arrested for violating the curfew, including electric shocks, the application of immersion as in the 1980s, and the placement of a towel soaked in pepper gas on the faces of those who have the bad luck to fall into the hands of state agents who enjoy complete impunity, according to several reports recorded by journalist Fermín García from the area."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2813-estan-a-sus-anchas-y-sin-control-policias-aplican-terribles-torturas-a-detenidos-en-el-toque-de-queda-en-departamento-de-el-paraiso>

The MP informs that they have attended more than 300 complaints of domestic violence so far during the lockdown.

<https://tiempo.hn/cuarentena-mp-mas-de-300-denuncias-violencia-domestica/>

OACNUDH published an important second statement on the corona crisis and prisons. While it favors de-congesting overpopulated prisons, these measures "should not lead to impunity for persons convicted in many countries of serious human rights violations, crimes against humanity, genocide or war crimes".

Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, also warned of "excessive use of force" against people seeking access to basic human rights highlighting Honduras as a negative example.

<https://oacnudh.hn/covid-19-no-hay-excusa-para-la-impunidad-de-los-condenados-por-crmenes-de-lesa-humanidad-experto-de-la-onu-en-justicia-transicional/>

<https://wtop.com/news/2020/04/u-n-high-commissioner-excessive-use-of-force-in-latin-america-amid-coronavirus/>

<https://criterio.hn/onu-denuncia-falta-de-transparencia-en-venezuela-y-honduras/>

At least 90 inmates had contact with the inmate dying of COVID-19 at the so-called maximum security prison El Pozo. (see yesterday).

A court now has ordered the closure of the prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-unas-90-personas-estuvieron-en-contacto-con-reo-muerto-por-coronavirus-en-el-pozo/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1376242-466/para-evitar-contagios-de-covid-19-ordenan-cerrar-el-pozo-en-ilama>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/activan-nueva-fase-de-contencion-por-covid-19-en-carceles-de-honduras.html>

A 27-year old woman recently deported from the US to Honduras is suspected of having COVID-19.

And in contrast to other countries, the JOH regime seems willing to continue receiving deported Honduras amidst the corona pandemic. "In a clear sign that Honduras intends to continue receiving migrants deported from Mexico & US despite concerns of spreading COVID-19, the government moved to open more quarantine centers for migrants."

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1255691940936351749>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1255584840042364935>

"The economist and former president of the Central Bank of Honduras, Hugo Noé Pino, said that the opening up of the economy in Honduras should be based on scientific criteria and those of experts such as epidemiologists, but, in addition, the collective interest should take precedence over individual interests."

<https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/apertura-de-la-economia-debe-basarse-en-criterios-cientificos-hugo-noe-pino/>

There have been some 500 forest fires and 30,000 hectares lost so far this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-500-incendios-forestales-con-30-mil-areas-perdidas-registra-honduras-en-lo-que-va-de-2020/>

<https://radioprogresohn.net/np/o-volvemos-a-la-normalidad-o-nos-re-hacemos/>

30/04/20

Honduras Daily: JOH - Drug Trafficking; Journalists; Migration - US, Deportation; COVID-19 - State Reaction, JOH, HR, LGBTQ+, Corruption; and the Penal Code

There was a short relief from only COVID-19 news at almost a back to normal for one day in Honduras: drug trafficking and its links to JOH occupied the headlines once more. The impetus came from the US Department of Justice, i.e. the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York, when they charged the former chief of the Honduran police, Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, with drug

trafficking and weapons offenses. "Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla Valladares, the former chief of the Honduran National Police, allegedly abused his positions in Honduran law enforcement to flout the law and play a key role in a violent international drug trafficking conspiracy. As alleged, on behalf of convicted former Honduran congressman Tony Hernandez and his brother the president, Bonilla Valladares oversaw the transshipment of multi-ton loads of cocaine bound for the U.S., used machineguns and other weaponry to accomplish that, and participated in extreme violence, including the murder of a rival trafficker, to further the conspiracy."

As always, a great background report comes from Aqui Abajo. "For years, Bonilla has been the subject of controversy and faced public accusations of extrajudicial killings, torture, ties to drug cartels and organized criminal groups operating inside the National police, and corruption. His indictment for drug trafficking in the U.S. is only the tip of the iceberg."

Jeff Ernst reported on it for the Guardian. "Prosecutors also allege that Bonilla was entrusted with "special assignments, including murder" by President Hernández – who is identified as a co-conspirator – and his brother, Tony."

The former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas also reacted. "In response to the accusation against Juan Carlos "El Tigre" Bonilla, the former commissioner of the National Police, María Luisa Borjas, regretted that this type of accusation came from a foreign court. She also said that these accusations come late and that "it is a pity that a foreign court is doing justice in our country. She also recalled that in 2002 she investigated "El Tigre" Bonilla and the case was sent to court with all the evidence. She added that the judge who heard the case issued the arrest warrant and issued the prison warrants. However, according to Borjas, he was released because of an out-of-court settlement. He explained that the agreement was between the then president of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), Vilma Morales, and the then minister of security, Oscar Alvarez. Similarly, referring to Alvarez, she added that he received a luxury vehicle full of dollars from El Chapo Guzman."

El Tigre reacted to the accusations in interviews and TV shows. "In his appearance on the morning news, "El Tigre" revealed that the multi-faceted politician, Arturo Corrales, had asked him to make a delivery of confiscated weapons, an order that the ex-policeman refused. He also revealed that he resisted a request from [Nationalist congressman] Mario Pérez, who asked for a modified rifle to be returned to him."

The Liberal Party demanded resignation of JOH.

JOH also denies everything.

According to the Supreme Court, there has not yet been an extradition order filed by the US.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-chief-honduran-national-police-charged-drug-trafficking-and-weapons-offenses>

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2020/4/30/us-indictment-of-el-tigre-bonilla-just-the-tip-of-the-impunity-iceberg>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/30/former-police-chief-of-honduras-accused-of-trafficking-drugs-to-us>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1256012089300267009>

<https://tiempo.hn/maria-luisa-borjas-bonilla-califico-como-psicopata/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1376527-466/eeuu-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-facilit%C3%B3-el-paso-de-coca-sin>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/1974-arturo-corrales-exigio-devolucion-de-armas-decomisadas-afirma-tigre>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/dire-lo-que-ha-pasado-en-el-pais-con-el-narcotrafico-el-tigre-bonilla/>

<https://confidencial.hn.com/partido-liberal-exige-la-renuncia-a-joh-por-sus-nexos-con-narcos-y-pide-transicion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1376666-466/son-falsos-nexos-con-el-tigre-bonilla-asegura-el-gobierno-hondure%C3%B1o>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/casa-presidencial-rechaza-mas-senalamientos-contrapresidente-hernandez-en-acusacion-a-el-tigre-bonilla-en-eeuu.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/orden-extradicion-tigre-bonilla-no-llega-csj/>

ConexiHon reports on the increase of attacks against the medium outlet Criterio.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1527-en-escalada-ataques-contracriterio-hn>

The US Department of Homeland Security published the controversial "safe third country" agreement with Honduras.

Refugees International's Senior U.S. Advocate Yael Schacher denounced: "Now that the asylum cooperative agreement between the United States and Honduras has been published, the United States can begin sending non-Honduran asylum seekers to Honduras to seek refuge there. This would be illegal and inhumane at any time because Honduras is incredibly dangerous and lacks a functioning asylum system. In the midst of a global pandemic, with Honduras on lockdown and under a state of emergency, it is absolutely unconscionable."

https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-09322.pdf?utm_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email

<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2020/4/30/published-agreement-allows-the-united-states-to-transfer-asylum-seekers-to-honduras>

ContracCorriente spoke with Jorge Peraza, head of mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala and with Melissa Vega, head of press for the IOM office in Guatemala, about the difficulties that these agreements may represent and the continuation of the flow of deportees, even in the midst of the pandemic.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/04/30/oim-nos-estamos-preparando-para-que-se-mantenga-un-flujo-sostenido-de-retornados/>

For the first time since the corona crisis, Honduras has tested more than 200 people in a day. The 207 tests yesterday resulted in 33 new positive cases for a total of 807. 4 more people died for a current death toll of 75.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1376651-528/casos-de-coronavirus-en-honduras-suba-a-804-y-75-muertos-hasta>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/04/30/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-30-de-abril-del-2020/>

JOH claims that Honduras lacks masks because they were sold to Asia.

Congress approved five billion Lempiras in debt for mayoralty of Tegucigalpa to finance water dam projects as well as road works and to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-honduras-no-hay-mascarillas-fueron-vendidas-asia/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-autoriza-que-alcaldia-capitalina-se-endeude-por-l-5-000-millones/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/congreso-aprueba-endeudamiento-de-l-5-mil-millones-para-alcaldia-capitalina.html>

JOH is getting a lot of air time during the corona crisis. "For 47 days, more than 70 radio and television stations broadcast official information in the context of the health crisis caused by the Covid-19 in Honduras. (...) In 2013, the National Congress approved Decree 86-2013, which includes the Law on the Voluntary Program for the Rescue, Promotion and Development of the Communications Sector, better known as the "Exchange Law". The special regulation allows media owners to exchange their debts concerning the payment of taxes and public services for government advertising."

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-se-extralimita-con-cadenas-de-radio-y-television/>

OACNUDH published updated guidelines for a human rights conform implementation of COVID-19 measures.

https://oacnudh.hn/v1-4_directrices_onu-dh_covid19-y-derechos-humanos/

"The LGTBI community denounced this April 30, 2020, in the forum "Coronavirus and LGTBI human rights", that the National System of Risk Management, SINAGER, does not consider this sector as a priority population and did not contemplate them in its plans to provide them with food and supplies in the Covid-19 emergency."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2816-les-nego-comida-sinager->

[no-considera-poblacion-prioritaria-a-la-comunidad-lgbti-en-honduras](#)

So far, the online one having felt the consequences for the acts of corruption during the corona crisis has been Gabriel Rubí who was suspended as the head of COPECO. He now returned to his position as a Nationalist congressman...

ConfidencialHN denounces that "[t]he head of Investh [Invest-H], Marco Bográn, is taking advantage of his position as close collaborator of the nationalist chief executive Juan Orlando Hernández in order to benefit his relatives in the concession of public works, so his conflicts of interest became a habit".

"In a public statement, the social arm of the Catholic Church "Caritas of Honduras" has indicated that the Covid-19 pandemic is developing in the country between the dubious management of government investments and the shameless speculation of companies supplying the hygiene and biosecurity kits to deal with the pandemic."

<https://confidencialhn.com/gabriel-rubi-se-reintegra-al-congreso-nacional-como-diputado-por-yoro/>

<https://criterio.hn/pandemia-transcurre-entre-dudoso-manejo-estatal-y-la-especulacion-descarada-de-las-empresas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/en-honduras-la-corrupcion-ha-hecho-casa-y-corredor-lamenta-sacerdote-carlos-rubio.html>

ASJ asks for another prolongation of the "vacation legis" of the new Penal Code, i.e. more time until it comes into force.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/asj-pide-al-legislativo-extender-vacatio-legis-del-nuevo-codigo-penal.html>

02/05/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Berta - Impunity; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Corruption, Congress, Poverty, Elderly, Education, Violence; and the Penal Code

The Pro Honduras Network reported that the Southern District Attorney's Office in New York presented evidence against Juan Orlando Hernandez. "Declassified documents in the case of Juan Antonio Hernandez involve Juan Orlando Hernandez and other Co-Conspirators in drug trafficking to the United States." In Honduras, the journalist Milton Benítez held an hour-long interview with "El Tigre" Bonilla (see last two days).

Bonilla continues to claim his innocence saying that the accusations aim to silence him.

CESPAD published an analysis of the situation JOH currently finds himself in. "It is a fact that the accusations of the U.S. Attorney's Office also represent a strong incentive for Juan Orlando Hernandez to continue in power and avoid for a long time to face an eventual trial in the U.S. courts, either through the use of the extraordinary powers granted by the state of health emergency or, through the violation of the schedule of the 2021 elections."

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/05/02/narcopresidente-enjuiciado-en-nueva-york/>

<https://criterio.hn/investigacion-anunciada-por-el-ministerio-publico-es-para-silenciarme-tigre-bonilla/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/02/analisis-joh-entre-las-acusaciones-de-la-fiscalia-estadounidense-y-la-tentacion-de-continuar-en-el-poder/>

50 months have passed since the assassination of Berta Cáceres, 50 months of demanding justice. While the intellectual authors are still not being investigated, even the partial justice reached in the case of the material authors is now in danger as there are plans to release the main ones from prison again.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1256635350958686208>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1256741853724135424>

OFRANEH denounced that on May 1, the body of Edwin Noel Sacaza Flores, from the community of Sambo Creek, was found inside a container on the campus of the La Ensenada Thermoelectric Plant. There is no official account of the events so far. "The Ensenada power plant was immediately militarized with the presence of about 40 elements, while members of the Garifuna community of Sambo Creek, were present in front of it, demanding justice and closure of the plant, for the alleged murder of Edwin Zacaza, who worked as a security guard of the power plant."

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/05/02/aparece-muerto-garifuna-dentro-del-plantel-de-termoelectrica-llega-en-sambo-creek/>

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 1010 yesterday. For the second consecutive day, testing was substantially higher, yesterday at 315 tests. This is still not enough, it should be between 2000-3000 a day, but better than up to now with less than 100 tests a day. One more person died yesterday for a total of 76.

Deputy Secretary of Health, Nery Cerrato, announced that five new virology labs will be installed in different regions to increase the capacity to perform more daily tests.

CESPAD published its daily monitor.

<https://tiempo.hn/sinager-honduras-supera-mil-casos-covid-19/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-instalara-cinco-laboratorios-para-realizar-mas-pruebas-diarias-de-covid19/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/05/02/monitoreo-del-covid19-en-honduras-2-de-mayo-del-2020/>

"After favoritism was revealed over direct purchases of biomedical supplies to attend to the coronavirus emergency, the head of Strategic Investment of Honduras (Invest-H), Marco Bográn, reluctantly decided to cancel the contract for the acquisition of some 474,000 KN95 masks from the company GYT."

The MP and ATIC intervened the municipality of El Progreso, Yoro, for alleged acts of corruption in the management of emergency funds related to the Honduras Solidarity program.

<https://confidencialhn.com/investh-cancela-a-reganadientes-contrato-de-mascarillas-a-gyt-por-denuncias-de-corrupcion/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/por-denuncias-de-corrupcion-en-la-entrega-de-alimentos-intervienen-municipalidad-de-el-progreso/>

Congress decided to continue having meetings this month even though normally in May they would be in recess.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-cn-sesiones-mayo-mes-receso-diputados/>

FOSDEH criticizes that electricity prices have fallen as much as promised by the JOH regime affecting poor households and small businesses.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/rebaja-en-factura-energetica-debio-ser-de-25-por-ciento-segun-el-fosdeh.html>

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on older people around the world. In Honduras, where only 6% of the population belongs to this age group, public policies have not prioritized attention to this population, which suffers from abandonment, mistreatment and discrimination. As if that were not enough, the State is responding to the pandemic by redirecting pension funds to address the crisis, in a questionable process."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/05/02/adultos-mayores-trabajan-y-son-discriminados-en-crisis-por-covid-19/>

Deputy Education Minister Gloria Menjivar said they have worked on a back-to-school plan with national and international experts, in which they have established a set of biosecurity strategies for the return to the classroom.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/secretaria-de-educacion-afirma-tener-plan-para-retornar-a-clases/>

Even though Honduras has seen a decrease in murders due to the lockdown, still have of all multiple killings having taken place this year happened under lockdown, five out of ten.

<https://tiempo.hn/honduras-multiples-masacres-2020-registran-cuarentena/>

The Coalition against Impunity started a campaign with the aim to ask from Congress to expand the vacatio legis of the new Penal Code. "The organizations consider it unacceptable that at a time when all state actions have or should be focused on combating the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Congress should enable the entry into force of these criminal regulations that have been poorly socialized with the citizenry and without the justice workers having been sufficiently

trained."

<https://criterio.hn/emprenden-campana-de-firmas-para-exigir-al-cn-a-ampliacion-de-la-vacatio-legis-para-el-nuevo-codigo-penal/>