

01/10/20

Honduras Daily: Migration - Caravan; Berta - Trial; HRDs - Protection; Toxic Waste - UN; HR - UN, US; ZEDES; COVID-19 - Economy; Elections - Liberal Party; and Honduras' Role at the BID

A new migrant caravan has taken off from Honduras and over 3000 have already crossed the border to Guatemala.

OACNUDH tweeted that they "have followed the departure of between 3500 and 4000 migrants today at the Corinto border. We remind you that people have a #Right to migrate and states have an obligation to respect the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality."

The caravan already claimed its first victim when a young Honduran fell from a driving truck whose driver gave him and others a ride after the Guatemalan border.

OACNUDH's reminder has not been heard by the States. The Guatemalan president said that migrants will be detained and deported.

And Mexico threatens migrants with prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/hasta-ingenieros-electricos-van-en-la-nueva-caravana-migrante-de-hondurenos-rumbo-a-ee-uu/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/01/el-exodo-de-la-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogresoahn.net/instante/caravana-de-migrantes-hondurenos-ingresa-a-guatemala/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1311771747075661825>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2292-honduras-muere-primer-migrante-del-nuevo-exodo>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1311776529064488960>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48599>

<https://criterio.hn/mexico-amenaza-hasta-con-10-anos-de-carcel-a-migrantes-de-caravana-que-va-hacia-ee-uu/>

<https://radioprogresoahn.net/pt/caravana-mas-de-3-mil-personas-huyen-de-honduras-por-la-pobreza-y-violencia/>

COPINH published a newsletter with updates on the Berta Cáceres trial and more.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1311745042768330752>

Regarding the process against David Castillo, COPINH sent out an alert. They fear that Castillo could be released from pre-trial detention after all after his defense team presented two Habeas Corpus challenges.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/david-castillo-busca-fugarse-del-proceso-judicial-por-el-asesinato-de->

[berta-caceres/](#)

Pasos de Animal Grande published an important article on the protection mechanism. There are currently 197 defenders who should benefit. 8 people who should have benefited have been murdered and 22, who asked for protection but their petition was denied or ignored, were also assassinated.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2986-mecanismo-de-proteccion-entre-las-migajas-estatales-y-el-incremento-de-los-ataques-a-la-poblacion-meta>

Marcos A. Orellana, UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, wrote a letter to the Honduran government expressing his concern about a recently approved decree which allows for the import, manufacturing and recycling of acid or lead batteries.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1311694647710941184>

OACNUDH met with Padre Melo and Radio Progreso as well as with the Women's Forum for Life.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1311851974405521410>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1311867406910992384>

The US embassy tweeted: "We had a productive conversation with civil society organizations about human rights challenges. We will continue to work together to promote human rights and protect the fundamental rights of all Hondurans."

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1311788034254426114>

El Pulso published another article on the second planned ZEDE in Choloma. Local authorities oppose the project.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48580>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/instante/autoridades-de-choloma-cortes-se-pronuncian-contra-las-ciudades-modelo/>

1568 tests have been conducted yesterday resulting in 698 positive cases for a total of 77'598. 27 more Hondurans died, officially 2380 have died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1412466-466/reportan-muerte-mas-hondurenos-covid-19-hay-nuevos-casos>

COHEP presented a new report on the economic situation during the pandemic. According to the report, some 182'000 jobs were lost and 3316 businesses closed.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48569>

Congress approved the transitory articles of the new Electoral Law which allows among other things voting with the current ID card and not the new one which should have been ready for this electoral cycle. "The deputy of the Partido Libertad y Refundación (Libre), Jorge Cálix, proposed to modify the deadline of 30 December for the National Electoral Council (CNE) to complete the provisional census. "The national electoral census must be concluded on 8 January 2021 and must contain the files of the identities registered until 30 December so that it is in line with Article 1 and the list of the purged dead," said Cálix. He justified, that the CNE will have the term of the week of 1 to 8 January to gather all the information and elaborate the final national electoral census. The vice president of the National Congress, Antonio Rivera Callejas, agreed with the proposal and the modification was approved by more than 86 votes."

The same day, Congress approved a \$39.4 million credit from the BCIE to create a bio-metric registry and the new identity card. It is the second credit in a year for this and the total costs are over \$60 million.

There are ongoing problems with the process and the newest one was revealed yesterday. "The deputy of the National Congress, Luis Redondo, denounced at noon this Thursday, October 1, that the Consortium Thales and Selp, in charge of printing the identity card of the Hondurans, has subcontracted a company linked to the embezzlement of the Honduran Institute of Social Security and the National Party, to handle the data of all the citizens who will be able to exercise the vote in the next electoral process."

<https://proceso.hn/cn-aprueba-ley-transitoria-para-elecciones-primarias-2021/>

<https://criterio.hn/elecciones-primarias-2021-se-realizaran-con-nuevo-censo-electoral-provisional/>

<https://tiempo.hn/identificate-aprueban-fondos-rnp-pese-inconsistencias/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-que-nuevo-padron-electoral-podria-ser-contaminado-por-empresa-hondurena-subcontratada/>

Jeff Ernst reports on the prospect of Yani Rosenthal running for president in Honduras. "When Yani Rosenthal - a former legislator who served nearly three years in a U.S federal prison for money laundering connected to drug trafficking - arrived home to Honduras in August, he got a hero's welcome."

Rosenthal, meanwhile, announced that he will officially launch his campaign on October 11.

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/v7g9ej/could-an-ex-money-lauderer-for-drug-trafficking-be-the-next-president-of-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/yani-rosenthal-anuncia-que-su-lanzamiento-sera-el-proximo-11-de-octubre/>

After the controversial take over of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) by the US imposing their candidate as president, the JOH regime seems also to benefit. Of course, they supported the efforts by Trump and now, a former Honduran minister and current Honduran ambassador to the US, Marlon Tábor, was nominated as the vice-president of Finance at the IDB.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2290-exfuncionario-hondureno-asesorara-a-presidente-del-bid>

02/10/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Trial, Corruption, Exile; ZEDEs; Migration - Caravan; HRDs - UN; IACHR - OFRANEH, Prisons; Journalists - Protection; Dengue; COVID-19 - Violence, Political Parties; JOH - Militarization; and the Most Corrupt President

COPINH denounces that the defense of David Castillo continues to delay the process.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1312196535388528640>

The coming Monday, the bail hearing will take place in the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1312097843335827456>

According to Wilfredo Méndez, Libre congresswoman and former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas fled Honduras after she heard about her imminent arrest. She has been a victim of a criminalization campaign linked to the Berta Cáceres case. Borjas had dared to talk about the Atala Zablah family and their link to Berta's case.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2296-honduras-excomisionada-de-policia-se-exilia-ante-persecucion-judicial>

CESPAD published a report on the Próspera ZEDE in Roatán. "The following report explains the way in which the territorial conflict is developing in Roatan, in view of the intention of the company Prospera-ZEDE to install a series of industrial and extractive projects in the island community of Crawfish Rock. This is a development initiative with major impacts on social, economic, political, cultural and environmental rights, which began without any consultation with the community. The first section details the context of approval of the Employment and Development Zones (ZEDES) in Honduras. The second section identifies the main components of Próspera ZEDE in Roatán and its territorial, political and environmental impact on the island communities. The third section outlines the main demands of the island organizations in relation to the ZEDE. In the fourth, a series of political scenarios are presented that can be expressed in the short and medium term. Finally, in the fifth section, a series of recommendations are proposed so that island social organizations can strengthen the current process of struggle and resistance against the ZEDES."

The ZEDEs are also rejected at the national level and social movements demand the derogation of the law allowing them to be built.

The south has been threatened for a while with a ZEDE and Radio Progreso links it with the increasing persecution of human rights defenders on Zacate Grande.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/02/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-implicaciones-de-prospera-zede-en-roatan-y-los-retos-de-la-resistencia-territorial/>

<https://criterio.hn/anuncian-marcha-para-exigir-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-las-zedes/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/articulacion-nacional-rechaza-ciudades-modelo-y-anuncia-manifestaciones/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/pt/incrementa-persecucion-contra-defensores-en-zacate-grande/>

Guatemala has detained 25 minors from Honduras who took part in the newest migrant caravan. "In his analysis, the director of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences of Honduras (Flacso Honduras), Rolando Sierra, interpreted the outbreak of the second migrant caravan in times of pandemic, meanwhile, as a reflection of the hundreds of people who had to suspend their migration project because of the health crisis. In fact, "in a study conducted a month ago, the IOM took an opinion poll to find out the disposition of people to migrate. In the case of Honduras, 8 out of 10 people said in this context of caravans, that they had only temporarily suspended their migration project," contextualized the director of Flacso Honduras."

The newest caravan was also covered internationally.

<https://proceso.hn/bajo-custodia-de-guatemala-25-menores-hondurenos-que-viajan-solos-en-caravana-migrante/>

<https://criterio.hn/caravana-de-migrantes-se-debe-a-la-agudizacion-de-la-crisis-economica/>

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkyjk9/another-migrant-caravan-just-left-honduras-headed-for-the-united-states>

OACNUDH continues to meet Honduran human rights organizations and social movements. Yesterday, they met with MADJ.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1312216236483211265>

The IACHR presented another case involving Honduras to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. "The case refers to the international responsibility of the State for the extrajudicial execution of Deras García, a teacher, leader of the Communist Party of Honduras and advisor to several trade unions on the northern coast of the country, as well as the threats, illegal detentions and acts of torture against his family members. These events took place in a context of serious human rights violations in Honduras during the 1980s."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-cidh-presenta-caso-sobre-honduras-ante-la-corte-interamericana/>

Another case going to the IACtHR concerns the Garífuna community of San Juan Tela and local land disputes. "The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) opened an ex officio petition in favor of this community in 2006, after having issued precautionary measures, in view of the evident dispossession of the community".

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/10/02/caso-comunidad-garifuna-de-san-juan-tela-admitido-en-la-corte-idh/>

The IACHR also held a session on the situation of inmates, OACNUDH participated.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1312070566338334723>

Dengue cases continue to rise, there are now over 20'000 cases, 20'159.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48624>

"The journalists César Obando Flores and Geovanny Sierra, are victims of the delays in the Public Ministry and the National Protection System, they denounced. Both said that officials of these two entities avoid them, do not answer their calls and do not even investigate what is happening to them."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2987-denuncian-periodistas-mp-y-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-se-hacen-de-la-vista-gorda-en-sus-casos>

1663 tests, 761 new cases, 78'269 in total. 6 more people died, 2386 in total.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1412801-410/coronavirus-honduras-contagio-cifra-muertes->

ContraCorriente published an article on the ongoing violence during the pandemic. "Up to August 2020, 2199 homicides have been registered, according to data from the National Police. Although this represents a decrease of 425 in relation to the same period of time in 2019, analysts point out that violence continues to be a serious problem in the country and that the restrictions due to the pandemic did not generate a considerable impact in the course of the decrease in homicides."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/02/la-pandemia-no-cambio-la-violencia-en-honduras/>

"The restriction measures in the pandemic do not apply to everyone equally, the political parties are currently privileged instances that, despite the prohibitions of the National System in Risk Management (Sinager), carry out without any limit concentrations with activists."

<https://criterio.hn/sinager-debe-prohibir-concentraciones-politicas/>

JOH's militarization program for the agricultural sector caused widespread protest when it was first presented one year ago. Now, even the MP officially called for it to be declared unconstitutional.

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-declara-que-traspaso-de-funciones-agricolas-a-las-ff-aa-viola-la-constitucion/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1412741-410/honduras-agricultura-ministerio-publico-militares>

<https://confidencialhn.com/juan-orlando-hernandez-es-el-presidente-mas-corrup-to-de-la-historia-cualquier-dia-saldra-huyendo/>

03/10/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ+; Police - Assassination; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19 - Economy; National Party;

6 young men (maybe even minors) were found guilty of murdering a member of the LGBTQ+ community and were sentenced to 20 years in prison. The case goes back to February 12, 2018.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6400-seis-jovenes-condenados-por-muerte-de-un-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi-en-sps>

Defensores en Línea reports on the case of Rufino Portillo López, who was detained by the police on August 3 without giving any reason, they tortured him according to his family and he died in custody. His family demands justice, to no avail so far.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-dos-meses-del-asesinato-de-rufino-portillo-por-elementos-policiales-su-familia-exige-justicia/>

"The director of Casa Alianza, Guadalupe Ruelas, pointed out this Saturday that the causes of Honduran migration are always present as a consequence of poverty, violence and lack of opportunities."

Guatemalan authorities report that at least 2000 Hondurans who participated in the newest migration caravan have returned to Honduras.

JOH, meanwhile, claims without any evidence that the caravans are being promoted by "a political movement".

<https://confidencialhn.com/ruelas-lamenta-que-problemat-ica-social-se-convierte-en-propaganda-para-clase-politica/>

<https://proceso.hn/al-menos-2-mil-migrantes-hondurenos-han-retornado-a-su-pais-desde-guatemala/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1412935-466/joh-movimiento-politico-promueve-caravanas-migrantes>

1388 tests, 519 new COVID-19 cases, 78'788 in total. 13 more Hondurans died, 2399 have died in total according to official numbers.

According to doctor Carlos Umaña, president of the Medical Association at the IHSS, Honduras has the first re-infections of COVID-19 patients.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1412911-466/covid-19-acaba-con-vida-mas-personas-en-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/confirman-en-honduras-los-primeros-recontagios-de-covid-19/>

The JOH regime claims that Foreign Direct Investment has risen by 19.5% in the first semester of 2020 compared to 2019.

<https://proceso.hn/inversion-extranjera-en-honduras-subio-19-5-en-seis-meses-pese-a-pandemia/>

The Nationalist mayor of Tegucigalpa and presidential hopeful Nasry Asfura is being investigated by UFERCO for money laundering.

"The Prosecutorial Unit against Corruption affirms that the complaint is secret and urges the taking of statements from protected witnesses who "were asked to be granted due protection through the Witness Protection Program of the Public Prosecutor's Office, in view of the fact that the witnesses are being subjected to pressure from those under investigation to change or alter their statements at the administrative headquarters."

<https://criterio.hn/uferco-investiga-al-alcalde-de-tegucigalpa-nasry-asfura-por-lavado-de-activos/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2301-alerta-en-peligro-testigos-del-proceso-contra-alcalde-de-tegucigalpa>

04/10/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Berta - Trial; HRDs - Protection; ZEDEs; Migration - Caravan; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Economy; Transparency;

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

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=7279

COPINH has more on the newest delaying tactics by the defense of David Castillo.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/mas-retrasos-en-el-proceso-contra-uno-de-los-asesinos-de-berta-caceres/>

COFADEH discussed "the shortcomings, laziness and ineffectiveness" of the National Protection Mechanism in their program Voices against Oblivion.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-impunidad-hace-inservible-al-mecanismo-nacional-de-proteccion/>

"From Crawfish Rock in Roatán, the president of the community's board of trustees, Luisa Connor, denounced that the central government is seeking to sell "our cultural heritage to foreigners" and

warned that they are the first to be affected by the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) and that they will not step back from defending their territory."

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-esta-vendiendo-nuestro-patrimonio-cultural-a-extranjeros-lideresa-de-crawfish-rock/>

The Guatemalan authorities claimed that over 3000 Hondurans had been returned to Honduras (see yesterday). Honduran authorities question this number. According to them, some 1043 migrants returned/were deported.

At the same time, the Honduran authorities claim that only some 1250 people had left. But not only social movements estimate the number to be much higher, OACNUDH as well spoke of up to 4000 people.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1413157-410/honduras-inmigrantes-caravana-retornados-guatemala>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1413160-471/canciller%C3%ADa-83-por-ciento-de-caravana-regres%C3%B3-a-honduras>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/mas-de-900-migrantes-que-iban-en-caravana-han-sido-deportados/>

1824 tests, 841 new cases, 79'629 in total. 23 more Hondurans died, 2422 in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413153-466/honduras-contagios-muertes-coronavirus>

The JOH regime prolonged the lockdown for another week to October 11.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413158-466/honduras-toque-de-queda-11-octubre>

Proceso Digital wants to see an improvement in the Honduran economy. Remittances have increased a bit over the pandemic and they are only slightly lower than last year.

<https://proceso.hn/economia-comienza-a-dar-luces-de-recuperacion/>

Proceso Digital has a long article on the transparency portals of the JOH regime and the problems with them. "According to the Alternative Report on Access to Public Information, the research provides evidence that the guidelines used by the IAIP to qualify information published on transparency portals "allow State entities to engage in behavior that leads to the concealment of information. This process includes both the active omission of the complete presentation of public information on the services they offer, the budgets they use in spending and the functions performed by their hierarchical units"."

<https://proceso.hn/portales-de-transparencia-mas-abiertos-y-menos-discretos/>

05/10/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, LGBTQ+, Economy; Migration - Caravan; JOH - Transparency, Drug Trafficking; and Treason

The International Forum for Human Rights in Honduras wrote an open letter to the Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva expressing concern about the situation of the indigenous Lenca community in Río Blanco and COPINH (see also last week).

https://www.cejil.org/sites/default/files/forodddhh_carta_karlacueva_rioblanco.docx .pdf

"The State must investigate in a complete, effective and impartial manner this crime, clarify its motive and determine the relationship it could have with journalistic activity and freedom of expression, said the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR, in a press release, referring to the crime of journalist Luis Almendares last September 27 in Comayagua, central Honduras."

"The human rights defense organization, ACI Participa, has denounced that the life of the journalist, Leonel García, is in danger and is asking for an investigation of the mayor of Nacaome, department of Valle, Víctor Flores, for the alleged persecution that this social communicator from the southern zone of Honduras has been suffering since last March."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2988-segun-la-cidh-estado-de-honduras-debe-esclarecer-si-movil-del-crimen-contra-periodista-luis-almendares-tiene-relacion-con-el-ejercicio-de-la-profesion>

<https://criterio.hn/piden-investigar-al-alcalde-de-nacaome-valle-por-la-persecucion-del-periodista-leonel-garcia/>

Honduras surpassed 80'000 COVID-19 cases yesterday. There are now 80'020 cases and at least 2433 people died from it, more likely this number is more than twice as high.

Criterio reports about the low testing rate in Honduras and how the JOH regime lies about it.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413402-466/honduras-suma-mas-contagios-covid-19-muertes-suben>

<https://criterio.hn/secretaria-de-salud-miente-con-pruebas-rapidas-de-antigeno/>

Another nurse died from COVID-19.

At the same time, health workers still need to hold protests demanding biosafety equipment....

<https://confidencialhn.com/otra-enfermera-de-honduras-pierde-la-vida-por-sospechas-por-el-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://proceso.hn/enfermeras-de-area-quirurgica-del-hospital-escuela-protestan-para-exigir-material-de-bioseguridad/>

Maybe about four to five months too late, the MP finally emitted arrest warrants for the former director of Invest-H, Marco Antonio Bográn Corrales. He was arrested the same day together with the administrator at Invest-H, Alex Alberto Moraes Girón.

At the same time, the MP criticizes the behavior of the Supreme Court which made public the coming arrest warrant and indirectly warning Bográn.

The CNA welcomes the arrests, but at the same time, there is criticism regarding the underlying reasons for the arrest. The arrest warrant wasn't emitted for one of the many big corruption cases that had surfaced these last months, but rather for a minor case. They are accused for spending some 100'000 Lempiras in per diem for four public official traveling to Turkey.

Accordingly, lawyer Omar Menjivar speaks of a bad joke for the Honduran people. "That the Public Ministry issues an accusation against Marco Bográn, for a crime linked to the payment of 100,000 lempiras in travel expenses to four foreigners, is a mockery, a joke, especially because the citizens are waiting for fiscal requirements for the embezzlement of at least 36 million dollars in the purchase of the mobile hospitals, considered the greatest offense of the former official".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6405-se-presenta-primer-requerimiento-fiscal-por-malversacion-de-caudales-publicos-en-compras-hechas-durante-la-emergencia-del-covid-19>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1313265898153803776

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1313151280156749825

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1313151280156749825

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1313314968012558336>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48736>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48735>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/acusacion-contramarco-bogran-es-una-burla-para-el-pueblo-dice-penalista/>

The World Food Program informs about its support to the Honduran LGBTQ+ community during the pandemic.

<https://insight.wfp.org/honduras-the-wfp-e-card-means-more-than-putting-food-on-the-table-for-lgbt-people-it-means-427253a2dd4b?gi=8340ebd39f81>

"The Center for the Study of Democracy (CESPAD), presents the Second Monitoring Report on Public Management in the Framework of the Covid-19 pandemic (...) The document makes an x-ray and analysis of the situation and conditions in which thousands of employees in the maquila industry are facing the pandemic, answering the following questions: has the Honduran State developed an efficient and equitable management to minimize the damage of the pandemic and

prevent the effects from favoring the business side on maquila workers? Have state actions and decisions by employers in the maquiladora industries and the Honduran Maquiladora Association (AMH) protected the human and labor rights of maquila workers?"

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/05/sobre-quienes-recaen-los-costos-del-impacto-de-la-pandemia-del-covid19-en-el-sector-de-la-maquila/>

The newest migrant caravan, the first big one during the pandemic, was met with widespread repression already in Guatemala and many have (been) returned to Honduras (see previous days). El Libertador reports that some smaller groups still push on towards Mexico on the dangerous Petén route.

Sandra Cuffe reports on the LA Times on how "Honduran migrants are caught between economic despair and militarized crackdowns".

The caravan also led to a dispute between Guatemala and Honduras, the former accusing the later of not receiving deported migrants.

OACNUDH observed the situation of some of the returned migrants. "We recall the international obligation of States to carry out all necessary actions to guarantee voluntary, safe and dignified returns and to provide immediate, adequate and differentiated attention to returnees, guaranteeing their human rights."

<https://criterio.hn/guatemala-disuelve-caravana-de-migrantes-mediante-la-represion-brutal-y-el-engano/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2306-intervencion-de-gobiernos-freno-caravana-migrante-afirma-presidente-mexicano>

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-10-03/migrant-caravan-daily>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48729>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1313282942144253952>

After Proceso Digital, Pasos de Animal Grande now also has a long article on the lack of transparency in Honduras and the role of the Institute for Access to Public Information (IAIP).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2989-el-laberinto-de-la-opacidad-estatal-se-construye-desde-el-iaip>

CESPAD portrays former Army captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana who has accused the Armed Forces and the JOH regime to be involved in drug trafficking and suffered greatly for it.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/05/de-capitan-del-ejercito-a-principal-acusador-de-la-administracion-herandez/>

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana calls the ZEDEs a form of treason.

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/10/05/traicion-a-la-patria/>

06/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, UPR, Extractivism; HR-Situation; Berta - Corruption; ZEDES; Migration - Caravan; Dengue; COVID-19 - Corruption, Education, Economy, Prisons; JOH - Organized Crime; Agriculture - EU; Elections; and They're Coming for You

The Guardian published an important article by Nina Lakhani on "[h]ow Honduras became one of the most dangerous countries to defend natural resources".

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/oct/06/how-honduras-became-one-of-the-most-dangerous-countries-to-defend-natural-resources>

Criterio denounces in a new article on the selective releases of prisoners due to the pandemic which leaves out criminalized HRDs, among them the ones from Guapinol.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-excarcela-a-2700-privados-pero-se-ensana-con-los-ambientalistas-de-guapinol/>

This grave situation will surely be a topic at the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Yesterday, OACNUDH held a preparatory session with human rights organization and diplomatic representatives.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1313576234530623495>

Today at 2:30pm, JASS will hold a talk with Honduran and a Guatemalan women human rights defenders on the territorial struggle in defense of life.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1313558414677757953>

LAWG published a new briefing on how "Closing Space for Honduran Citizens, along with the Pandemic, Poverty, Corruption, and Violence, Fuel Migration from Honduras". It overs a succinct summary of the situation in Honduras in the last months.

<https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/Honduras-memo-October-2020-LAWGEF-1.pdf>

A group of international human rights organizations "warns against the exclusion of COPINH as victims in the case of corruption denounced by Berta Cáceres before her murder", i.e. concerning the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case.

<https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/honduras-mision-calificada-advierte-contr-exclusion-de-copinh-como>

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/mision-calificada-advierte-contr-exclusion-de-copinh-como-victimas-en-caso-de-corrupcion/>

OFRANEH continues to denounce that the ZEDE on Roatán violates the Wyke- Cruz Treaty from 1856.

Defensores en Línea reports on the ongoing protests by local inhabitants.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1313580896050651138>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/islenos-de-roatan-no-zederan-sus-bienes-comunes/>

IM-Defensoras denounces the violent repression against the most recent migrant caravan (see previous e-mails).

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/10/alerta-urgente-mesoamerica-estados-de-la-region-envian-a-fuerzas-especiales-y-militares-para-interceptar-y-disolver-la-caravana-de-migrantes-que-salio-de-honduras-el-30-de-septiembre/>

Criterio reports on the dengue situation in Honduras, another crisis which has over 20'000 cases in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-supera-los-20-mil-casos-de-dengue-en-2020-sin-que-salud-haga-algo/>

1211 tests, 642 new COVID-19 cases, 80'662 in total. 14 more Hondurans died, 2447 in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413646-466/honduras-confirma-nuevos-casos-muertes-por-covid>

Maybe due to the public pressure, maybe planned from the start, the MP presented a second charge against Marco Bográn (see also yesterday), this time for benefiting his uncle's company with a contract worth 1.2 million Lempiras.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6406-nuevo-requerimiento-fiscal-para-exdirector-de-invest-por-violacion-a-los-deberes-de-los-funcionarios>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2307-honduras-nuevo-proceso-contra-bogran-por-favorecer-a-tio>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413456-466/nuevo-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-marco-bogr%C3%A1n-por-otorgar-millonario-contrato-a-su>

Teachers protested outside the Finance Ministry against outstanding paychecks.

<https://confidencialhn.com/maestros-protestan-frente-a-la-secretaria-de-finanzas-por-falta-de-pago-salarial/>

Another protest took place by workers organized in the labor union Stibys against the outsourcing of labor contracts.

"Unjustified dismissals, demands for workers to report to work even if they have symptoms of

covid-19, and disrespect for medical reports, are some of the conditions of violation of rights suffered by women workers in the maquila sector, denounced by women's defense organizations."

<https://confidencialhn.com/stibys-realiza-protestas-por-tercerizacion-de-contratos-a-favor-de-terceros/>

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-violaciones-a-derechos-laborales-y-de-salud-a-mujeres-en-las-maquilas-durante-la-pandemia/>

Even though the pandemic is ongoing, Honduran authorities started with prisoner transfers again. In a recent session at the IACHR, Honduran human rights organizations denounced the human rights situation of inmates.

<https://confidencialhn.com/trasladan-a-30-reclusos-de-la-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara-a-la-carcel-de-el-progreso/>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-de-dd-hh-denuncian-situacion-de-riesgo-de-privados-de-libertad-en-honduras/>

New accusations were leveled against JOH regarding links to organized crime, especially with the MS-13.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2309-exclusiva-ms-13-gobierna-desde-casa-presidencial-general-ramirez-del-cid>

"Honduras and the European Union (EU) announced this Tuesday a contest that will finance up to 400.00 euros (470.198 dollars) innovative ideas or solutions that contribute to boost food and nutritional security in the Central American country."

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-y-la-ue-lanzan-un-concurso-para-impulsar-la-seguridad-alimentaria/>

Mauricio Oliva, Congress' president, announced that Congress will continue to discuss the Electoral Law today.

<https://proceso.hn/este-miercoles-cn-continuara-la-discusion-de-la-nueva-ley-electoral/>

Just look at the picture...

<https://confidencialhn.com/movimiento-juntos-podemos-oficializa-precandidatura-de-juan-diego-zelaya-a-la-alcaldia-capitalina/>

07/10/20

OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda sent out an alert yesterday: "A contingent of armed men entered into Vallecito, sacred Garifuna territory, supposedly looking to purchase lands. Weird thing is that they went right to OFRANEH's sub-coordinator. We hold the dictator government responsible for what

happens".

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1313937885255659520>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1313867602842841092>

<https://criterio.hn/hombres-armados-incursionan-en-comunidad-garifuna-de-vallecito-limon/>

This morning, another hearing will take place in the process against David Castillo.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1313992653558734850>

HRW published a report on "Violence and Discrimination Against LGBT People in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and Obstacles to Asylum in the United States".

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/07/every-day-i-live-fear/violence-and-discrimination-against-lgbt-people-el-salvador>

Baker Street Herald compiled important information on the men and women behind and in control of the Próspera ZEDE in Honduras.

<https://bakerstreetherald.com/2020/09/case-2-private-governments/>

Avispa Midia reports on the ongoing imprisonment of human rights defender from Guapinol. In the case of the defender Jeremías Martínez Díaz, his trial date was set to February 2021.

<https://avispa.org/honduras-ocho-activistas-continuan-encarcelados-por-oponerse-a-minera-en-area-natural-protegida/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/programan-juicio-oral-y-publico-contra-defensor-del-rio-guapinol/>

COFADEH denounces that the protection mechanism rejected support for the journalist Leonel García.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-no-ayudo-a-periodista-de-nacaome/>

498 new cases for a total of 81'160 COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday. 19 more people died for a total of 2466.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413936-466/honduras-pandemia-coronavirus-sinager-7-octubre>

"Entitled, "Citizen fear and caution in the pandemic, but discontent with its management: from the apocalyptic vision of corruption to the demand for change," the Center of Study for Democracy (CESPAD), presents the results of a public opinion survey that was conducted in the context of the

crisis generated by the effects of the pandemic in Honduras."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/07/encuesta-del-cespad-hondurenos-con-temor-y-prudencia-por-la-pandemia-pero-descontentos-con-la-corrupcion-en-su-manejo/>

El Libertador reports that the JOH regime assigned 600 million Lempiras to strengthen the 32 hospitals as the pandemic continues to test them.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2314-honduras-gobierno-aprueba-600-millones-tras-rebote-de-casos-covid>

The mobile hospitals are back in the headlines. As a short reminder, seven heavily overpriced mobile hospitals were bought by Invest-H under suspicious circumstances. After months, two finally arrived in Honduras, but had so many defects that they are still not operational. Invest-H promised the arrival of the remaining five on various occasions, but it never came about. Now, it was made public that a technical mission sent by Invest-H to Turkey documented 57 problems with the remaining mobile hospitals.

Invest-H reacts by saying that they won't be satisfied with faulty hospitals (but they were with the two first ones) and they will take up legal measures to have the contract respected. The mobile hospitals would have been needed in the beginning of the pandemic and now may arrive months or even years later, if at all.

Proceso Digital writes that the intervention body which took over at Invest-H got stuck in a web of contradictions when it comes to the mobile hospitals.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413712-466/exclusiva-hospitales-m%C3%B3viles-est%C3%A1n-plagados-de-fallas-y-defectos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413806-466/caso-hospitales-moviles-las-57-observaciones-de-fallas-que-hizo-mision-de-invest-h>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mision-de-investh-halla-57-irregularidades-en-los-hospitales-moviles-comprados-a-empresa-turca/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413810-466/invest-h-no-recibir%C3%A1-ning%C3%BAn-hospital-m%C3%B3vil-si-no-se-corrigen-fallas>

<https://proceso.hn/la-interventora-de-invest-h-se-enreda-en-sus-propias-versiones/>

While the MP finally made some progress in the corruption cases linked to Invest-H by arresting Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes (see last two days), it is not enough. The CNA fears that "the scheme used by the MP in the controversial case "helps the corrupt political and economic elites to dismantle the legacy left by Ufecic/Maccih" (...) According to the Anti-Corruption Coalition, the Prosecutor's Office is not considering these crimes - for which Bográn and Moraes were captured - as corruption networks. Consequently, they stated that it is very likely that the investigation will only infer criminal responsibility to Bográn and not to the rest of the "corruption network that operates and has been evidenced in multiple investigations and denunciations of citizen

organizations in the framework of the pandemic."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1413855-466/coalicion-anticorrupcion-fiscalia-legado-ufecic>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48795>

ConfidencialHN denounces how the National Party benefits its members with high paying jobs at the Honduran Customs Administration.

And El Libertador reports on nepotism at Invest-H.

Last but not least, the brother of a Nationalist councilor is providing goods for the Fuerza Honduras program.

<https://confidencialhn.com/prosigue-el-familion-en-la-administracion-aduanera-apadrinado-por-nacionalista-rigoberto-chang/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2312-honduras-tio-y-sobrino-dirigen-comunicaciones-del-polemico-invest-h>

<https://criterio.hn/hermano-de-regidor-nacionalista-es-proveedor-de-insumos-del-programa-fuerza-honduras-en-santa-barbara/>

Criterio denounces the lack of transparency regarding the situation of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS).

<https://criterio.hn/informe-de-la-junta-interventora-del-ihss-se-maneja-como-secreto-de-estado/>

Congress was meant to continue the discussions about the new Electoral Law yesterday, but they made no progress and suspended the discussion and approval another time.

<https://criterio.hn/polemica-en-discusion-de-nueva-ley-electoral-en-el-pleno-del-congreso-nacional/>

<https://proceso.hn/congreso-nacional-inicia-aprobacion-de-la-nueva-ley-electoral/>

08/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Berta - Trial, FoE, Gualcarque; OFRANEH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospital, Corruption; Corruption - JOH, IHSS; JOH - Organized Crime; Elections - Drug Trafficking; and Garbage River

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons and Public Goods from Tocoa sent out an alert yesterday that two police and two Military Police patrols entered the Guapinol community. They denounced this "police siege".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-asedio-policial-mantiene-en-alerta-a-la-comunidad-de-guapinol/>

The hearing against David Castillo was once again suspended and postponed yesterday. Additionally, the hearing was again not broadcast as demanded by COPINH. OACNUDH had also called for a public hearing.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/suspenden-audiencia-contradavid-castillo/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1314362458644140032>

Another case linked to Berta's assassination concerns the former police commissioner and Libre congresswoman María Luisa Borjas. She was sentenced to over 2 years in prison for defamation in a lawsuit brought forward by Camilo Atala. "The legal defense of Congresswoman María Luisa Borjas, argues in an Appeal for Protection presented before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, that apart from violating the congresswoman's fundamental rights, the court is attacking the right to information of the Honduran society and condemning her for a crime that no longer exists in the new Honduran Criminal Code". OACNUDH expressed concerns about the case.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2990-recurso-de-amparo-caso-maria-luisa-borjas-la-sala-de-lo-constitucional-a-quien-obedecera-a-la-ley-o-al-poder>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1314333288996179968>

And in the third case linked to Berta, the Gualcarque Fraud Case, CEJIL published a press release demanding COPINH to be recognized as a victim of the corruption case.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-honduras-debe-garantizar-derechos-del-copinh-victimas-proceso-fraude-gualcarque-0>

OACNUDH called of the State of Honduras to guarantee the security of the Garífuna people.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1314302339231240193>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1314236563535126528>

1461 tests, 512 new COVID-19 cases, 81'672 in total. 11 more Hondurans died, officially 2477 have died so far.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-honduras-sinager-512-nuevos-casos-11-fallecidos/>

The National Association of Auxiliary Nurses (ANEEAH) warns that they have seen a 10% increase in infections among their members in the last 9 days.

<https://proceso.hn/aumentan-en-10-por-ciento-contagios-de-covid-19-entre-enfermeras-auxiliares/>

Invest-H once again promises that the mobile hospital in San Pedro Sula will start operation next

week.

Radio Progreso reports on how no one believes anything anymore that the JOH says or promises regarding the mobile hospitals.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1414129-466/hospital-movil-honduras-sps-invest>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/ciudadania-dejo-de-creer-en-explicaciones-que-gobierno-da-sobre-hospitales-moviles/>

In the corruption case involving Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes, a judge decided that they can await trial with alternative measures to imprisonment. Once again, the contrast to criminalized human rights defenders is stark.

El Libertador denounces it as a first step to white wash the multi-million embezzlement of the Honduran people.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6432-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-por-malversacion-de-caudales-publicos>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6434-favorecen-con-medidas-sustitutivas-en-segundo-caso-contra-marco-bogran-por-lo-que-el-mp-interpondra-recursos-pertinentes-para-obtener-prision-preventiva-y-que-este-no-interfiera-con-investigaciones>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2316-corte-empieza-a-lavar-millonario-desfalco-a-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/libre-bogran-en-las-dos-causas/>

<https://criterio.hn/marco-bogran-y-alex-moraes-se-defenderan-en-libertad/>

In a corruption case going back to the MACCIH, Corruption on Wheels, an appeals court confirmed the accusations against seven government officials.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6421-confirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-contra-siete-implicados-en-el-caso-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/reafirman-formalizacion-de-causa-penal-contra-implicados-en-corrupcion-sobre-ruedas/>

Criterio reports on the newest public survey by CESPAD. "Seventy-five percent of respondents believe that corruption has increased and 15% believe that it remains the same. If corruption was already very high for citizens, then 90% of the population believes that corruption was exacerbated during this pandemic period. It is significant that only 5% believe that it decreased (...) The Cespada survey reveals that the population has an almost total aversion against Invest-H and even more against the Presidency of the Republic."

<https://criterio.hn/poder-ejecutivo-congreso-nacional-y-poder-judicial-encabezan-percepcion-de->

[corrupcion-en-honduras-con-86-85-y-84/](#)

IHSS' labor union fears that the corruption at this institution has been ongoing even after an intervention body took over.

<https://criterio.hn/desfase-financiero-de-tres-mil-millones-para-el-2021-en-el-ihss/>

El Libertador continues to report on possible links between the JOH regime and organized crime.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2315-honduras-tras-emparentarlo-con-el-porky-oficial-acusa-campana-de-desprestigio>

The discussion in Congress about the new Electoral Law is still ongoing and there is a new bone of contention. The Nationalist want to drop the prohibition for public officials to oversee voting booths/stations.

<https://criterio.hn/denuncian-que-partidos-politicos-podran-ubicar-a-funcionarios-publicos-a-defender-votos-en-mesas-electorales/>

Given the discussions about electoral reforms and the coming electoral cycle, CESPAD reminds us about an important corruption case presented by the MACCIH, Narcopolítica, which highlighted the close links between politics and drug trafficking in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/08/narco-politica-el-caso-que-pone-en-evidencia-el-financiamiento-del-narcotrafico-a-las-campanas-politicas-en-honduras/>

"The garbage that the Motagua River carries from Guatemala invades the beaches of the port of Omoa in Honduras every year. Tons of plastic have replaced fish, the livelihood of impoverished families living amidst the sea's stalking and pollution. By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans, according to the World Economic Forum and Ellen MacArthur Foundation's report The New Plastics Economy. In Honduras, you can already see that in 25 kilometers of beach in Omoa, this place has become a dumping ground that affects the weak health of its fishing communities. The fishermen lack food but have plenty of plastic."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/08/la-basura-de-unos-el-problema-de-otros/>

9/10/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Río Blanco; Lawyers; Post-Electoral Violence; OFRANEH; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals, Violence; JOH; Drug Trafficking; Congress; IHSS; and It's the Economy, Stupid

COPINH published a second alert regarding the situation in Río Blanco. "Protected by the legal representative of the Mayor's Office of Intibucá, members of the Madrid Family have invaded Vega de Culatón, territory recovered from the DESA company by the community of Río Blanco."

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/alerta-invaden-tierras-de-la-comunidad-de-rio-blanco/>

A lawyer working for the Supreme Court was shot dead yesterday in San Pedro Sula.

<https://proceso.hn/asesinan-a-balazos-a-abogada-del-poder-judicial-en-sps/>

An important hearing against a Military Police agent accused of the homicide of David Octavio Quiroz on December 15 while he was participating in a peaceful mobilization against the electoral fraud, finally continued this week.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-juicio-oral-y-publico-agente-de-la-pmop-acusado-de-asesinar-a-manifestante-durante-la-crisis-post-electoral-de-2017/>

Almost three months have passed since the forceful disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz. Proceso Digital published a longer article on the case.

<https://proceso.hn/incierto-paradero-de-cinco-garifunas-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

Lawyer Oscar Hendrix presents the ZEDEs as "cocktails of rights violations at all levels".

<https://criterio.hn/las-zedes-son-cocteles-de-violaciones-de-derechos-a-todo-nivel-oscar-hendrix/>

1921 tests, 880 new COVID-19 cases, 82'552 in total. 15 more Hondurans died, 2492 have officially died.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1414397-466/honduras-reporta-mas-muertes-casos-por-covid-19>

The MP inspected for a third time the mobile hospital in Villanueva , Cortés.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1414481-410/hospital-movilde-villanueva-corrupcion-ministerio-publico->

At least 2500 people were murdered so from January to September this year in Honduras , even though most of the time the country was in a lockdown.

<https://criterio.hn/confinamiento-durante-la-pandemia-no-ha-evitado-el-asesinato-de-2500-hondurenos/>

Congress just approved the emission of state bonds worth \$850 million.

Honduras' debt has almost reached 60% of GDP.

Hugo Noé Pinto, former president of the Central Bank, denounces that the money could be used for the coming electoral cycle by the National Party and the JOH regime.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1414458-410/congreso-honduras-aprueba-emision-bonos-soberanos-endeudamiento->

<https://confidencialhn.com/economista-senala-que-deuda-externa-de-honduras-ascendio-a-14-mil-millones-de-dolares/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2319-honduras-dictadura-dejara-al-pais-sumamente-endeudado-advierte-economista-2>

A court gave the MP green light to seize goods and money linked to the Los Cachiros drug cartel.

<https://confidencialhn.com/justicia-autoriza-al-ministerio-publico-a-confiscar-bienes-del-cartel-de-los-hermanos-rivera-maradiaga/>

"The Board of Directors of the National Congress, since April 24th of this year, decided to establish virtual sessions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 among the parliamentarians, however, after six months of pandemic many demand to return to face to face sessions. The deputy of the Freedom and Refoundation Party, Jorge Cálix, wonders what is the excuse for not legislating in a face-to-face manner if several congressmen, including the president of that State power himself, are involved in political campaigns."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48907>

Criterio continues to cover the situation at the IHSS. "The Honduran Institute of Social Security, (IHSS), is experiencing its own existential catastrophe by being involved in the trilogy in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic, the blows to its finances after the closure of formal businesses, together with the unpleasant perception that in matters of the fight against corruption nothing has changed with the Intervention Body appointed for its "rescue" in the last year of the government of Porfirio Lobo Sosa."

<https://criterio.hn/ihss-en-crisis-existencial-por-nefasta-trilogia/>

"The people in the next elections are not going to vote for the number of deaths left by the pandemic... there were 2,800 deaths, 3,000 deaths, the people are not going to vote for that: the people are going to vote for how much they have in their purse... not even for the issue of corruption... they are going to vote for the economic issue," said with a criminal accent, Ebal Díaz, an evangelical pastor and right-hand man of the Honduran president, Juan Hernández.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2317-honduras-muertes-por-covid-no-importan-afirma-secretario-de-joh>

10/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, OACNUDH; Journalists; Security Tax; COVID-19 - Mental Health, Economy; Migration - Caravan; and Win United or Lose by Yourself

Tomorrow, a press conference will be hold at the Supreme Court on the presentation of an amparo in favor of the 13 criminalized defenders from Guapinol

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1315023119686545416>

OACNUDH visited MASSVIDA and the Network of Women Human Rights Lawyers, both in Choluteca.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1314971472645980162>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1315036661143818241>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the ongoing criminalization of the journalist Jairo López.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2991-entre-la-sana-y-el-cazabrujismo-mp-insiste-en-seguir-juicio-contr-periodista-jairo-lopez-por-tenencia-de-explosivos>

The controversial security tax - Tasa de Seguridad Poblacional - has collected over 15.6 billion Lempiras over the last 8 years, money allegedly spent to improve public security.

<https://criterio.hn/aun-con-pandemia-el-tason-llego-a-mas-de-l-15-686-millones-recaudados-en-8-anos/>

1829 tests, 594 new cases, 83'146 in total. 12 more Hondurans died for a total of 2504.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1414631-466/contagios-honduras-muertos-coronavirus-pandemia>

"The worrying state of mind of a sector of the Honduran population can be seen in the daily figures reported by the psychiatric care hospitals in the country, a situation that has increased in times of the Pandemic, according to authorities and other personnel of these care centers."

<https://criterio.hn/150-pacientes-diarios-atiende-hospital-santa-rosita-la-mayoria-por-ansiedad-y-depresion/>

Micro-, small- and medium-sized companies demand equal treatment in matters of fiscal policies. The tax exemptions only favor the same big companies, while the smaller one present the backbone of the economy.

<https://criterio.hn/mipymes-piden-equidad-fiscal-para-tener-verdaderas-oportunidades/>

ContraCorriente published a new article on the latest migrant caravan, or as they call it, "chronicle of a caravan destined to fail".

La Prensa reports that four Hondurans having taken part in the newest migrant caravan have died so far on their way to the US and 4 more have disappeared.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/10/el-ultimo-bastion-cronica-de-una-caravana-destinada-a-fallar/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1414670-410/migrantes-hondure%C3%B1os-fallecidos-estados-unidos-sue%C3%B1o-americano->

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2321-urgente-otro-hondureno-muere-en-exodo-del-crimen-y-miseria>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sociologo-eugenio-sosa-sugiere-a-la-oposicion-articular-alianza-para-ganar-elecciones/>

11/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - OACNUDH; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals, Corruption; National Police; Elections;

OACNUDH continues to visit human rights organizations and defenders in the south. They met with ADEPZA and the recently threatened Pedro Canales.

OACNUDH also accompanied the criminalized journalist Jairo López. "We recall that criminal law should not be used to criminalize social protest and the importance of oversight of hearings and their national and international observation."

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1315389057338347520>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1315389459060404224>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1315465003944669189>

1807 tests, 935 new COVID-19 cases, 84'081 in total. 8 more Hondurans died, 2512 have so far died in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1414828-466/honduras-registra-muertes-y-contagios-coronavirus>

The lockdown measures were renewed again for another week.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1414827-466/medidas-vigentes-honduras-del-12-al-18-octubre>

According to the president of the auxiliary nurses, seven auxiliary nurses got reinfected with COVID-19.

<https://proceso.hn/siete-enfermeras-auxiliares-se-reinfectan-de-covid-19-segun-aneeah/>

Two more mobile hospitals, out of the five remaining, arrived in Honduras yesterday. They are meant for Copán and Choluteca.

Invest-H announced to inspect them on Tuesday. The last two which had arrived weeks ago are still not operational and the same is expected for those two.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1414769-466/llegan-puerto-cortes-hospitales-moviles-copan-choluteca>

<https://tiempo.hn/inspeccion-embarque-hospitales-moviles-invest-h/>

<https://criterio.hn/hondurenos-son-simples-espectadores-de-llegada-de-hospitales-que-no-funcionan/>

Tomorrow, the second hearing in the case against Marco Bográn and Alex Morales will take place.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2323-honduras-estos-son-los-jueces-que-enviaron-a-casa-a-marco-bogran>

A police sub-inspector was arrested yesterday allegedly for drug trafficking.

<https://proceso.hn/capturan-a-subinspector-de-policia-en-gracias-lempira/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/arrestan-en-lempira-a-exjefe-de-posta-policial-de-tegucigalpa-por-trasiego-de-drogas/>

As expected, Yani Rosenthal launched his presidential campaign yesterday. Criterio criticizes the lack of biosafety measures at political rallies.

<https://confidencialhn.com/yani-lanza-su-precandidatura-presidencial-y-agradece-a-leales-que-no-lo-dejaron-solo/>

<https://criterio.hn/ni-el-uso-de-mascarilla-ni-el-metro-de-distancia-parece-importar-a-politicos/>

12/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - EU, Guapinol; Berta - Gualcarque; ZEDEs; UPR - Children's Rights; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Political Parties; Corruption - Wheels; Migration - IACHR; Drug Trafficking - US; and Losing Ground

The European Parliament has selected the nomination of Berta Cáceres and the Guapinol defenders as finalists for the Sakharov.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1315708543404773376>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/defensores-del-rio-guapinol-y-legado-de-berta-caceres-finalistas-del-premio-sajarov/>

The same day, the defense of the criminalized defenders presented an amparo in favor of them.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/caso-guapinol-defensores-impugnan-fallo-judicial-para->

[garantizar-derechos](#)

<https://criterio.hn/presentan-amparo-a-favor-de-ambientalistas-de-guapinol-criminalizados/>

Yesterday, a hearing took place in the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case without the participation of COPINH who has not yet been recognized as a victim.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1315806298542419973>

ContraCorriente published an article by Beth Geglia on her investigation into ZEDEs: "This is what I learned about secrecy as a foreigner investigating the ZEDE in Honduras".

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/12/esto-es-lo-que-aprendi-sobre-secretividad-como-extranjera-investigando-las-zede-en-honduras/>

"Honduras will face the Universal Periodic Review, (UPR), in November 2020, without significant progress on the recommendations made by other countries, within the framework of international standards for the protection of children and adolescents (NNA), therefore the State maintains a disastrous approach, according to Lizeth Coello, from the Coordinator of Private Institutions for Children, Adolescents, Youth and their Rights (COIPRODEN)."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2993-coiproden-honduras-tiene-un-abordaje-desastroso-de-los-derechos-de-la-ninez-y-adolescencia>

332 new COVID-19 cases were detected yesterday for a total of 84'413. 9 more Hondurans died, officially 2521 have died so far, the real number is likely more than twice that.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415081-466/honduras-muertos-infectados-coronavirus-pandemia>

"Some 85 million lempiras that the Ministry of Health requested as a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), will be managed by the Honduran Red Cross, as part of the process of decentralization of public health in Honduras. (...) However, the Honduran Red Cross, by accepting the management of the 85 million lempiras financed by the IDB, becomes the Non-Governmental Organization that the government needs to advance the process of decentralization of public health, Roberto Castellanos, delegate of the Medical Association in El Progreso, told Radio Progreso. "The Red Cross would be the manager to administer public funds in hospitals, a situation that goes against the principles of this humanitarian institution recognized around the world," he said, assuring that, the Medical College will be filing the complaint in the next few days, because the Red Cross is lending itself to increase the social conflict that the country is experiencing in the face of the process of decentralization or privatization of public health that the citizens reject."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/colegio-medico-interpondra-denuncia-por-fondos-publicos-en-manos-de-cruz-roja/>

There have been several news article reporting on reinfections with COVID-19. La Prensa cited doctor Omar Videá yesterday who claims that he has registered the first such case in Honduras.

The Secretary of Health denies the existence of such cases.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1414982-410/mujer-reinfeccion-covid19-honduras-coronavirus-omar-vidia>

<https://proceso.hn/2020/10/12/secretaria-de-salud-confirma-que-no-existen-casos-de-reinfeccion-por-la-covid-19-en-honduras/>

Criticism of political parties violating lockdown measures for holding political rallies continues (see also previous days). There are calls to prohibit such rallies.

Sinager announced to sanction parties holding rallies with more than 50 people.

But, holding rallies at the current time of the electoral calendar seems to violate the Electoral Law outright.

<https://confidencialhn.com/umana-pide-a-sinager-prohibir-concentraciones-politicas-y-actuar-con-fuerza-para-que-se-respete-la-ley/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sinager-amenaza-con-sancionar-a-partidos-que-realicen-concentraciones-con-mas-de-50-personas/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48487>

Instead of concentrating in fighting corruption, the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) rather focuses on other anti-corruption bodies. It just announce to audit the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA). The CNA speaks of a revenge attack because they, and others, highlighted the familial relationship of the president of the TSC with former Invest-H head Marco Bográn.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1315800738455580672>

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/como-revancha-cataloga-el-cna-auditoria-que-emprenderia-el-tsc-organo-anticorrupcion/>

<https://criterio.hn/acciones-mas-energicas-demanda-el-cna-en-caso-de-marco-bogran/>

CESPAD published an overview of the Corruption on Wheels case which resurfaced after a court recently confirmed the accusations against various defendants (see previous e-mails).

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/12/corrupcion-sobre-ruedas-el-robo-de-dinero-destinado-a-sectores-vulnerables-que-financio-la-campana-de-la-administracion-hernandez/>

The IACHR held a session on the human rights situation of refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to the US. "'The human rights situation of unaccompanied migrant refugees and children and adolescents in the region" was the theme of the hearing before the IACHR, at the request of civil society organizations due to the hardening of anti-immigrant policies promoted by the United States. Jesuit priest Ismael Moreno represented Honduras."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/acuerdo-de-cooperacion-de-asilo-una-amenaza-para-migrantes-denuncian-ante-cidh/>

A judge approved the extradition of José del Tránsito García Teruel to the US.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/10/12/autorizan-extradicion-del-hondureno-jose-garcia-teruel-a-eeuu/>

Honduras is losing land due to the climate crisis.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48937>

13/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; COPINH - Gualcarque; Labor' Rights; ZEDEs; Migration - US; UN - UPR; Campesines; Journalists; COVID-19 - Poverty; Corruption - Pandora, Soptravi; Judicial System; Drug Trafficking; and I Just Wanna Dance

On Monday, the EU Parliament shortlisted the Guapinol defenders and Berta Cáceres for the Sakharov Prize (see yesterday). This morning, Diario Colón reported on a shooting in Guapinol during which Arnold Joaquín Morazán Erazo was killed inside his house. He is one of the 32 criminalized Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1316229285812862979>

As feared, COPINH was excluded from the hearing in the Gualcarque Fraud case. They launched a public letter in support of their call to be recognized as victims in the trial.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1316115118871240704>

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/carta-publica/>

Honduras ranks now among the ten worst countries regarding working conditions and labor rights in the Global Rights Index. "Honduras has long been plagued by endemic violence against workers. Engaging in trade union activities remained extremely dangerous and often resulted in death threats and murder. Impunity prevailed as the government failed to provide timely and adequate protection to trade unionists who received death threats and failed to investigate and prosecute anti-union crimes. Furthermore, employers largely used union-busting practices, such as summary dismissals, to circumvent workers' representation and collective bargaining."

<https://www.ituc-csi.org/ituc-global-rights-index-2020>

Some weeks ago, the progressive wing at the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) won internal elections (see previous e-mails). A first result can already be seen. The CAH just published a statement against the ZEDEs denouncing the underlying law as unconstitutional.

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-debe-derogar-la-ley-que-dio-vida-a-las-zedes-cah/>

A review by US Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee found that US border agents stationed in Guatemala detained and return Honduran migrants in an unauthorized operation at the beginning of this year. "The DHS breach of its interagency agreement with the State Department and initial effort to obfuscate the violation must be seen in the broader context of the Trump administration's failed track record of coercive policies toward Central America. To advance President Trump's narrow goals, his Administration has resorted to a wide range of aggressive tactics."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-agents-returned-migrants-to-honduras-in-unauthorized-operation-senate-report-says-11602592201>

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/DHS%20Run%20Amok%20-%20SFRC%20Democratic%20Staff%20Report.pdf>

Pasos de Animal Grande continues to report on the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Honduras at the UN Human Rights Council this November. 117 human rights organizations participated at a (virtual) pre-session yesterday and presented a shadow report.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2995-estado-de-honduras-se-prepara-para-el-e-pu-y-organizaciones-alistan-sus-argumentos-para-demostrar-que-no-ha-cumplido>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2994-el-derecho-de-asociacion-y-reunion-es-atacado-constantemente-desde-el-estado-de-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-esta-en-el-ojo-del-huracan-en-violaciones-e-incumplimientos-de-derechos-humanos-e-pu/>

"Representatives of several peasant organizations have announced actions to protest against the approval of PCM 030-2020, called by rural activists the "Banana Law", which gives plots of land to national and international private capital. In the opinion of the peasants, this decree is a retreat from the agrarian conquests obtained in recent years and encourages the transfer of land (which for now is cultivated by peasants) to the hands of the highest bidder."

<https://criterio.hn/campesinos-anuncian-acciones-de-protesta-contra-aprobacion-de-ley-bananera/>

Criterio writes about "The Way of the Cross of being a journalist in Honduras: murders, firings and a "Secrecy Law"".

<https://criterio.hn/el-viacrucis-de-ser-periodista-en-honduras-asesinatos-despidos-y-una-ley-de-secretos/>

1198 tests, 439 new COVID-19 cases, 84'852 in total. Seven more Hondurans died, 2528 in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415317-466/honduras-muertes-infectados-por-covid-19>

The costs of basic goods have increased by 6.2% during the pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/cohep-informa-que-costo-de-la-canasta-basica-incremento-hasta-septiembre-en-un-6-2-por-ciento/>

The MP challenged a recent appeals court decision to drop the charges against 22 accused in the Pandora corruption case (see previous e-mails).

Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana welcomes this challenge by the MP.

CESPAD describes the challenge as one that tries to rewrite the history in the Pandora case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6450-mp-interpone-accion-constitucional-de-amparo-y-solicita-suspension-del-acto-reclamado-en-caso-pandora>

<https://criterio.hn/amparo-del-ministerio-publico-evidencia-corrupcion-judicial-en-sobreseimiento-de-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/xfiscal-general-orellana-respalda-iniciativa-del-ministerio-publico-contra-el-sobreseimiento-a-implicados-en-pandora/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/13/el-recurso-de-amparo-que-busca-cambiar-la-historia-en-el-caso-la-caja-de-pandora/>

Three accused in the Soptravi corruption case will face trial.

<https://proceso.hn/2020/10/13/elevan-a-juicio-oral-a-tres-imputados-por-caso-de-corrupcion-en-soptravi/>

El Pulso published a three-parts series on the question of "Justice in the service of whom?". The three article look at the MP, the Supreme Court, and the lawyers in corruption cases.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48945>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48949>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=48952>

Cocaine hidden inside Honduran coffee bags was found in Spain.

Proceso Digital published an article on the Central American drug trafficking routes.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1316234914824507392>

<https://proceso.hn/2020/10/13/las-redes-de-la-cocaina-se-posan-en-centroamerica/>

<https://www.reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2020/10/13/como-el-baile-permite-a-miles-de-jovenes->

[huir-de-las-pandillas-y-la-muerte/](#)

14/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol, MADJ; COPINH - Gualcarque; OFRANEH - Thermal Energy, Eviction; Militarization; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption, Mobile Hospitals, Education; Corruption - Narcopolítica; Drug Trafficking; Public Debt; Elections;

The murder of Guapinol defender Arnold Joaquín Morazán (see yesterday) is being condemned by national and international organizations. The Municipal Committee in Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa held a press conference. "The Municipality of Tocoa continues to mourn, grieve, and express indignation at the violent environment that the government has imposed on this territory."

OACNUDH condemned the murder.

Instead of properly reacting to the violence caused by extractive projects, the Nationalist majority at Congress plans to approve even more fiscal benefits for mining companies.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/no-more-violence>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2996-reacciones-ante-crimen-de-defensor-la-violencia-llego-con-inversiones-los-pinares>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/condenan-asesinato-de-defensor-del-rio-guapinol-en-tocoa/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1316551758202769409>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-aprobara-mas-beneficios-fiscales-a-empresas-mineras-en-honduras/>

OACNUDH accompanied a press conference by MADJ in front of the Natural Resources and Environment Secretariat regarding the situation in Arizona, Atlántida. "We remind the Honduran state of its obligation to guarantee the rights to water and the peaceful assembly of the human rights defenders the community of Jilamito."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1316446789030027264>

COPINH and the Río Blanco community will present a request at the Supreme Court today to have them recognized as a victim in the Gualcarque Fraud case.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/manana-15-de-octubre-2020/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/se-presenta-escrito-ante-corte-suprema-de-justicia-confirmando-amparo/>

OFRANEH and Garífuna communities continue to protest against the thermal energy plant La Ensenada. They denounce the lack of a prior consultation and the grave environmental impact of

such a plant.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1316431422622773253>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1316404847818702849>

<https://tiempo.hn/protestan-garifunas-en-atlantida-contra-laeisz/>

In a second case, Miriam Miranda sent out an alert regarding the eviction of members of the Garífuna community Rio Esteban who occupied parts of their ancestral land.

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1316395410206920704>

CESPAD published a piece of analysis on the human rights effects of the remilitarization of Honduras and the police purge. "It is important to emphasize that these patterns of action by the security forces occur in the current sociopolitical context where militarization has been strengthened and a process of police purification has not been able to respond to the problems of low citizen confidence in the National Police in the face of high levels of corruption, penetration of drug trafficking, police abuses to address social conflict and impunity."

ContraCorriente also looks at the Armed Forces, especially their political function. "In this context, the armed forces continue to be a reliable partner for many local and foreign actors. Does this mean that they are also a reliable partner for a vulnerable population that does not need more repression but rather economic and social development? Will they also be a reliable partner for a democracy that is still in its infancy? This necessarily requires that the armed forces reduce their political protagonism and their bureaucratic expansion. Whether this will come from within the Armed Forces or will be the result of a citizen's impulse remains to be seen. Perhaps it will also have to be the result of international pressure. Hopefully not as a response to another chapter of disasters, natural or human."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/14/los-derechos-humanos-en-el-marco-de-la-remilitarizacion-y-depuracion-policia-en-honduras/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/14/una-institucion-para-todo-la-funcion-politica-de-las-ff-aa-en-honduras/>

1649 tests, 606 new COVID-19 cases, 85'458 in total. 5 more Hondurans died to COVID-19, 2533 have officially died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415566-466/honduras-muertos-infectados-covid-19-pandemia-octubre-sinager>

ACI PARTICIPA presented its September edition of the human rights in context of the pandemic report.

<https://aciparticipa.org/2020/10/12/honduras-situacion-de-derechos-humanos-en-contexto-covid-19-septiembre-2020/>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) handed over a report to the MP regarding the purchases of Invest-H. The report highlights several irregularities. Most of it has already been known and made public by the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) and others. Additionally, it took the TSC a long time to write the report.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415481-466/informe-tsc-invest-h-corrupcion-honduras>

<https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-informa-al-ministerio-publico-que-marco-bogran-cometio-actos-de-corrupcion-en-investh/>

The MP and ATIC started the inspection of the two newest mobile hospitals which arrived this week.

Months too late, Invest-H finally presented the certified documentation of the mobile hospital to the Honduran authorities. But even now, the documentation is not complete.

The TSC also (see above) writes that Invest-H should demand \$6.1 million as a penalty from the vendor of the mobile hospitals for their delay.

Proceso Digital published a long article entitled "Mobile hospitals, the worst purchase in times of a pandemic".

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-inspecciona-68-contenedores-de-los-hospitales-moviles-comprados-en-turquia/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415581-466/pgr-recibe-informe-comision-interventora-invest-h-hospitales-moviles>

<https://tiempo.hn/tsc-atraso-hospitales-invest-h-cobrar-millonaria-multa/>

<https://proceso.hn/hospitales-moviles-la-peor-compra-en-tiempos-de-pandemia/>

Honduras and El Salvador will receive \$1 million from Japan and the BID to counteract the school closures due to the pandemic.

<https://www.elpais.hn/2020/10/14/el-bid-y-japon-donan-un-millon-de-dolares-a-honduras-y-el-salvador-para-educacion/>

CESPAD published an update in the Narcopolítica corruption case.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/14/a-juicio-oral-y-publico-10-implicados-en-caso-narcopolitica/>

"The number of destroyed illegal airstrips and the volume of seized cocaine in Honduras this year are set to surpass 2019 figures, indicating aerial routes for trafficking cocaine in the region remain very much alive."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/aerial-cocaine-trafficking-honduras-guatemala/>

El Heraldo reports on the Honduran public debt and how debt services consumes more and more state funds. Next year, Honduras will have to pay over 41 billion Lempiras in debt services. At the same time, tax exemptions will increase to 47 billion Lempiras, that is 16% of the total state budget.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1415479-466/honduras-pagara-el-46-de-la-deuda-externa-con-mas-deuda>

<https://tiempo.hn/fosdeh-1-3-mil-millones-incrementaran-exoneraciones-fiscales-2021/>

Congress continues to discuss the new Electoral Law and yesterday they approved additional parts regarding gender parity and alternation.

At least, this is what Proceso Digital writes. According to El Tiempo, the parties did not come to an agreement regarding one of the key articles, Article 75, and suspended the discussion until today.

<https://proceso.hn/aprueban-paridad-y-alternancia-de-genero-en-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-paridad-mujeres-cargos-publicos-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/discusion-de-ley-electoral-deja-en-evidencia-falta-de-consenso-entre-partidos-politicos/>

15/10/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - UN; COPINH - Gualcarque, EU; Extractivism - Taxes, MADJ; Agriculture; Violence; Dengue; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption, Mobile Hospitals, Economy, Sports; Corruption - UNA; UN; National Police; Elections; and the Jaguar King

OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo visited the imprisoned Guapinol defenders.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1316751092793966592>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1316899456768499712>

COPINH presented their demand at the Supreme Court to be recognized as victims in the Gualcarque Fraud case.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/the-civic-council-of-popular-and-indigenous-organizations-of-honduras-and-the-community-of-rio-blanco-should-not-be-excluded-from-the-judicial-processes-that-we-are-victims-of/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1316810987526389760>

COPINH and the Municipal Committee in Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa presented a joint press release on their nomination for the Sakharov Prize by the EU Parliament.

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/comunicado-conjunto-premio-sajarov>

Health authorities declared seven departments in a situation of alert due to the rising number of dengue cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-alerta-en-siete-departamentos-del-pais-por-aumento-de-casos-de-dengue/>

Criterio published more information of the newest tax exemptions for the mining industry (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/aprobados-nuevos-beneficios-fiscales-para-empresas-mineras-en-congreso-nacional/>

MADJ presented a legal challenge against the hydroelectric project on the Jilamito River in Arizona, Atlántida.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/demandan-nulidad-de-proyecto-hidroelectrico-de-jilamito-atlantida/>

"The Government of Honduras announced Agrocrédito 8.7, as a "comprehensive credit, guarantee, technical assistance and conditionality program to generate access and financial inclusion for agricultural producers," with a view to reaching "inland". However, thousands of peasants are still unable to access the funds made available under this program, despite the government's claim that the program has a capital of three billion lempiras in credit to make the land productive."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/15/las-mentiras-del-programa-agrocredito-8-7/>

"More than half of the population believes that the situation in the country will worsen in the coming years, reveals a survey conducted by the University Institute for Peace and Democracy. (...) According to the survey of citizen perception of insecurity and victimization in Honduras prepared by the University Institute for Peace and Democracy (Iudpas), more than 80 percent of people interviewed said that they had been victims of robbery in 2019, and with the pandemic, criminal acts have increased."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49102>

1576 tests, 631 new COVID-19 tests, 86'089 in total. 19 more Hondurans died, 2552 in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415801-466/muertes-por-covid-19-honduras-aumentan-y-contagios>

Various national and regional human rights organizations published a report on "Defending Rights in Times of COVID".

https://www.cejil.org/sites/default/files/defending_rights_in_times_of_covid_1.pdf

The MP will challenge the decision by a court to allow Marco Bográn and Alex Moraes to await trial outside prison in the Invest-H corruption cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-pide-a-la-justicia-anular-medidas-sustitutivas-para-marco-bogran-y-que-retorne-a-prision/>

The mobile hospitals continue to cause even international headlines. BBC reported on the "controversial purchase".

In Honduras, the first of the seven purchased mobile hospitals started operations after months of delay.

Invest-H, meanwhile, claims that the last three hospitals are on the way to Honduras now.

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-54548236>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hospital-movil-sampedrano-inicia-funciones-con-pacientes-afectados-por-coronavirus-cuestionan-su-efectividad/>

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-anuncia-tres-hospitales-moviles-restantes-estan-altamar/>

"The Platform for the Defense of Honduran Workers' Rights, made up of different public sector union organizations in the country, has denounced that the government owes wages to workers in different institutions that have already spent the entire budget allocated to them for the entire year."

<https://criterio.hn/empleados-publicos-organizados-protestan-por-violaciones-a-sus-derechos-laborales/>

"On September 26, the Honduran National League resumed its activity, despite the fact that the pandemic has not abated and the economic hardships of most teams. There is no audience in the stadiums. Many vendors were left without income because they depended on these shows. The ball fights a great battle against the pandemic."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/15/honduras-el-futbol-y-su-juego-contra-el-covid-19/>

The Appeals Court in Matters of Corruption revoked a previous court ruling to dismiss the corruption charges against the former dean of the National Agriculture University Marlon Oniel Escoto Valerio and various other UNA officials.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1415807-466/revocan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-exfuncionarios-de-la-una-incluido-marlon-escoto>

The new UN coordinator in Honduras, Alice H. Shackelford, talked with Proceso Digital about her priorities for the UN in Honduras for the coming years.

<https://proceso.hn/cuatro-ejes-centran-agenda-de-la-coordinadora-residente-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN reports that the MP will present charges against some 30 members of the state

security forces in the coming months.

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-presentara-30-requerimientos-fiscales-contrapolicias-por-supuestos-ilicitos/>

"The Innovation and Unity Party, PINU, through a press release has denounced that in the National Congress the discussion of the new Electoral Law is not being discussed and approved with the speed that the situation requires, so they suspect that it would not be ready before the deadline to register the pre-candidates."

The corresponding congressional commission spoke out in favor of a reform of the Law on Financing, Transparency and Control of Political Parties and Candidates.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/advierten-que-nueva-ley-electoral-no-sera-aprobada-antes-de-inscripcion-de-precandidaturas/>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-reforma-ley-de-politica-limpia-para-establecer-limites-de-financiamiento-de-campanas-electorales/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/jaguar-king-honduras-little-french-key/>

16/10/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - UN, EU; Berta - Trial; COPINH; ZEDEs; Rural Women; MILPAH; COVID-19 - HR, Borders; US; JOH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; National Police; Elections - CNE; and a Mental Health Crisis

An appeals court confirmed a recent court ruling to drop the charges against 12 of the accused Guapinol defenders. "The communities defending the Guapinol River against the mining project inside the Carlos Escaleras National Park have the right to protest, the Court of Appeals ratified in its ruling notified today. By unanimous vote, the Court confirms the dismissal definitively dictated on February 28, 2019 in favor of 11 defenders and one female defender of the Guapinol River for the crimes of usurpation and damages to the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares."

OACNUDH welcomes the decision and calls for "the guarantee of due process and the application of international standards in the review of preventative detention in the second case for which there are 8 Guapinol defenders deprived of their liberty".

<https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/corte-de-apelaciones-ratifica-derecho-a-protesta-en-caso-guapinol>

<https://criterio.hn/corte-de-apelaciones-declara-no-ha-lugar-persecucion-penal-para-defensores-de-rio-guapinol/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1317267252190859266>

OACNUDH continues to accompany the Guapinol community. After visiting the criminalized defenders in prison (see yesterday), they visited the Guapinol community directly.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1317229042609901568>

This was a very difficult week for the Guapinol community with some good news followed by another unbearable shock. First, they were shortlisted for the Sakharov human rights award, then the next day Guapinol defender Arnold Joaquín Morazán was murdered. Yesterday, EU embassies also expressed concern about the assassination.

<https://twitter.com/EmbEspHonduras/status/1317230418605858827>

COPINH sent out an alert because the defense of David Castillo presents another habeas corpus.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1317177665720340481>

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/defensa-de-castillo-promueve-nuevo-habeas-corpus-para-permitir-su-fuga/>

<https://criterio.hn/presidente-del-codeh-se-parcializa-con-autor-del-crimen-de-berta-caceres-copinh/>

COPINH was awarded the yearly human rights award by the Denver Justice and Peace Committee.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/copinh-recibe-premio-anual-a-la-justicia-y-la-paz-global/>

"Considering that the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDs) are unconstitutional and threaten the sovereignty of Honduras, social organizations will begin this coming weekend a process of collecting signatures to request the National Congress to approve a "referendum" so that the population can decide whether or not to accept the installation of what are also known as "Charter Cities"."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/solicitaran-referendum-para-que-el-pueblo-hondureno-decida-futuro-de-ciudades-modelo/>

On Thursday was the International Day for Rural Women. Women's rights organization held a virtual event to discuss "the strategies that they should devise to defend their right of association and assembly before a State that persecutes, discriminates and criminalizes them".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2999-mujeres-exponen-las-estrategias-para-defender-su-derecho-de-asociacion-y-reunion>

"The general coordination of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz Honduras, MILPAH, warned this October 15, 2020, that in an ordinary meeting of the municipal corporation, the mayor discriminated against and declared the members of this organization and the Lenca Indigenous Councils of the municipality of La Paz as unwelcome persons who are against the

projects being carried out, and, therefore, they fear an attempt on their lives.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2998-se-calienta-represion-contra-indigenas-de-la-paz-en-sesion-de-corporacion-municipal>

1994 tests, 602 new COVID-19 cases, 86'691 in total. 4 more Hondurans died, 2556 in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1416049-466/honduras-covid-19-sinager-casos>

Human rights organizations and social movements published their 31st joint press release during the pandemic. “We live in one of the bloodiest dictatorships in our history, a dictatorship that is strengthened by drug trafficking, the neo-liberal culture, plundering, militarization, judicialization, and planning the death of those who defend territoriality, ethics, and life itself. We consider that we will always be in time to stop this sad passage in our lives, and we will do so to the extent that we collectivize and decolonize the struggle, that we make dignity a habit and open ourselves to a new citizen political culture, where love for the homeland continues to run through our struggles, as is present in this meeting of organizations that raise their voices in this Thirty-first public manifesto”.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/manifiesto-publico-31-octubre-2020/>

Honduran borders will open again next Monday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-reabrira-el-lunes-sus-fronteras-con-guatemala-el-salvador-y-nicaragua/>

The US embassy donated \$8 million in form of food aid. The El Tiempo article either made a mistake or some Honduras benefited a lot (the article says that the aid is meant for 116 Hondurans, what they meant to write was 116'000).

<https://tiempo.hn/eeuu-donacion-8-millones-honduras-emergencia-alimentos/>

<https://proceso.hn/eeuu-dona-200-millones-de-lempiras-en-alimentos-a-honduras/>

Radio Progreso denounces that the JOH regime is playing electoral favoritism again with social programs.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/billetera-electronica-seran-fondos-para-proselitismo-electoral-y-continuidad-de-joh-dicen-analistas/>

The US arrested the former Mexican Defense Minister Salvador Cienfuegos when he entered the country. The Pro Honduras Network highlights links between Cienfuegos and the JOH regime.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/10/16/juan-orlando-h-y-fredy-diaz-zelaya-condecoraron-con-el-maximo-honor-a-ex-ministro-de-defensa-mexicano-capturado-por-vinculos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

A police inspector was arrested yesterday accused of heading a criminal gang.

Already during the week, three police agents were arrested for criminal activity. Lastly, but as important, the police commissioner Leonel Saucedo will remain in pre-trial detention as a court rejected for the second time his challenge.

<https://tiempo.hn/capturan-inspector-de-policia-nacional-quimistan/>

<https://proceso.hn/en-relieve-policias-involucrados-en-el-crimen/>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6490-por-segunda-vez-niegan-medidas-sustitutivas-a-comisionado-general-de-policia-procesado-por-lavado-de-activos>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2330-honduras-comisionado-leonel-sauceda-seguira-presos-por-lavado-de-activos>

Criterio takes a critical look at the National Electoral Council (CNE).

<https://criterio.hn/falta-de-planificacion-y-transparencia-la-carta-de-presentacion-del-cne/>

<https://criterio.hn/solo-1-se-invierte-en-salud-mental-en-honduras/>

17/10/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Forced Disappearance; Bajo Aguán - UN; ZEDEs; MAS; Journalists; COVID-19 - Mobile Hospitals; Corruption - Debt; Armed Forces; Drug Trafficking - JOH; and Work, Workers and COVID

Three months have passed since the forced disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.

OFRANEH Europe launched a campaign to call for their safe return in 90 cities starting in Lisbon, Portugal.

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/tres-meses-y-los-garifunas-no-aparecen/>

<https://twitter.com/EuropaOfraneh/status/1317585133713690625>

OACNUDH visited defenders in the Bajo Aguán organized in the Agrarian Platform of the Aguán. "The State must fulfill its duty to protect them and to investigate the multiple acts of violence they face."

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/HN/status/1317556321374404610>

In the south, center and the north, people are protesting against the ZEDEs.

They demand a referendum against the ZEDEs.

And the rejection includes new voices such as the consul of Great Britain or the Chamber of

Tourism of the Bay Islands (CCIIB).

<https://twitter.com/adepza/status/1317593000118202369>

<https://tiempo.hn/solicitaran-referendum-decidir-futuro-zedes-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/zede-en-roatan-sus-opositores/>

ConexiHon reports on the activism of the Environmental Movement of Santa Barbara (MAS). "MAS is an organization for the territorial defense of the human rights of the Lenca people. It also fights for the vindication of the rights of the people of Santa Barbara, especially women, and is part of the Coalition Against Impunity (CCI).

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1749-tiempos-de-pandemia-no-paralizan-el-trabajo-de-defensoria-de-ddhh-del-mas>

In a second article focused on Santa Barbara, ConexiHon reports on the work of journalists and social communicators there and the challenges they face.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1750-medidas-de-bioseguridad-transporte-y-publicidad-para-pagar-sus-espacios-han-sido-las-mayores-limitantes-para-los-periodistas-en-santa-barbara>

1950 tests, 903 new cases, 87'594 in total. Seven more people died, 2563 in total.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1416224-466/honduras-reporta-nuevos-casos-de-covid-19-y-muertes>

OCCRP published an important article on the mobile hospital purchase and Axel G. López, "Mr. HispanoPreneur™: The Man Behind Honduras' \$47-Million Coronavirus Disaster". A Liberal Party leader demanded the extradition of López to Honduras.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/coronavirus/mr-hispanopreneur-the-man-behind-honduras-47-million-dollar-coronavirus-disaster>

<https://confidencialhn.com/exigen-a-fiscalia-que-pida-extradicion-de-axel-lopez-por-corrupcion-en-compra-de-hospitales-moviles/>

Criterio reports on the link between the taking up of debt by the JOH regime and corruption.

<https://criterio.hn/fondos-de-prestamos-suscritos-por-el-estado-son-absorbidos-por-corrupcion/>

A member of the Armed Forces serving as a prison guard has to remain in prison awaiting trial for allegedly working with the MS-13 to bring drugs into a prison.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6507-militar-que-permitia-ingreso-de-estupefacientes-a-carcel-la-tolva-queda-con-prision-preventiva>

The recent arrest of the former Mexican Minister of Defense in the US for drug trafficking continues to reverberate in Honduras, especially linked to JOH (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/califican-de-vergonzoso-que-ejecutivo-condecorara-a-exsecretario-de-defensa-mexicano-involucrado-en-narcotrafico/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-verguenza-honduras-por-condecorar-a-exsecretario-de-defensa-de-mexico-capturado-por-narcotrafico-en-ee-uu/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/trabajo-trabajadores-y-covid/>

18/10/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH; OFRANEH - Forced Disappearance; Guapinol - UN; COVID-19 - State Reaction, Corruption, Economy; Transport; and Military Prisons

COPINH sent out an alert. "This Thursday, October 15, in the morning hours, 3 compañeras and 3 compañeros members of COPINH from the community of El Achiotal, Siguatepeteque were detained by the National Police of Honduras accused of the crime of land usurpation. The judge in charge of the case decided on pre-trial detention for Benito Herrera, Maria Leticia Sánchez, Benjamín Sánchez, Iris Yolanda Herrera, Maria Trinidad Herrera and Edi Alexis Funez. Benito Herrera and Maria Leticia are the parents of three children, aged 11, 9 and 5, who have been left in a state of distress and without contact with their parents."

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/alerta-envian-a-carcel-a-6-companerxs-de-la-comunidad-de-el-achotal-por-recuperar-la-tierra/>

OFRANEH published a new article focusing on the forced disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz and how the reports by the JOH regime to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights lacks concrete information and contains inconsistencies.

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2020/10/18/inconsistencias-en-los-informes-del-estado-hondureno-ante-la-corte-idh-en-relacion-a-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-jovenes-garifunas-de-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

OACNUDH met with representatives of the Municipal Committee in Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1317989786804752384>

None of the corporate news outlets published the newest COVID statistics this morning. But the Platform All against COVID-19 published a report criticizing the official statistics for not grasping the real situation in Honduras. There have been previous reports highlighting how the number of deaths is likely twice as high as the official number.

<https://tiempo.hn/covid-19-sinager-ofreciendo-datos-dudosas-informe/>

The lockdown was again renewed for another week, but the hours in which one is allowed to circulate were extended; they are now from 5am to 10pm.

As announced, the borders to the neighboring countries open today.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1416455-466/honduras-ampl%C3%ADa-el-toque-de-queda-hasta-el-25-de-octubre>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-abre-al-exterior-mientras-covid-repunta/>

The hearing in the case of Marco Bográn will start today at 9am.

<https://proceso.hn/a-audiencia-inicial-este-lunes-marco-bogran-por-violacion-a-los-deberes-de-los-funcionarios/>

JOH promised yesterday, without given much detail, new support for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises thanks to a deal he reached with banks.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/economia/1416412-466/presidente-hern%C3%A1ndez-anuncia-acuerdo-para-salvar-las-mipymes>

The transport sector has suffered a lot this year due to COVID, but they also continue to suffer from violence. At least 44 workers of the transport sector have been murdered so far this year.

<https://proceso.hn/suman-44-los-transportistas-asesinados-este-ano-en-honduras/>

"The situation of the prisoners of the First Infantry Battalion is a cause for consternation among their relatives, who denounce new abuses on the part of the officers in charge of that module."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/familiares-denuncian-violacion-a-ddhh-de-privados-de-libertad-en-batallon-militar/>

19/10/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; HRDs - South; COPINH - Gualcarque; Journalists; Extractivism; COVID-19 - Corruption, Mobile Hospitals, Poverty, Economy; and the Ongoing Energy Crisis

Last week the former Mexican Defense Minister was arrested in the US for drug capturing (see previous e-mails). This also reverberated in Honduras and links to JOH and the Armed Forces were made. They are on the defensive rejecting against all evidence possible links to drug trafficking rather presenting themselves as important pillar to fight drug trafficking...

In the midst of this, the US head of the Southern Command had no better idea to travel to Honduras and give JOH a great photo op.

Accordingly, JOH's Twitter feed is full of pictures with him and the admiral.

Even worse, the same day, former army captain Santos Rodríguez Orellana was arrested, he was among the first to publicly denounce the drug trafficking links of the armed forces and the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fredy-diaz-justifica-condecoracion-a-exsecretario-de-defensa-mexicano-vinculado-en-narcotrafico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/fuerzas-armadas-no-mencionadas-juicio-tony-hernandez/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2337-honduras-jefe-del-comando-sur-llega-a-supervisar-dominio>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-las-ffaa-sostiene-que-siempre-luchan-por-reforzar-combate-al-narcotrafico-y-delincuencia-organizada/>

<https://criterio.hn/jefe-del-comando-sur-de-ee-uu-miente-al-felicitar-a-joh-por-lucha-contra-las-drogas/>

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1318327380696535040>

<https://twitter.com/PJAsmann/status/1318299540198404101>

<https://confidencialhn.com/arrestan-al-capitan-santos-rodriguez-orellana/>

<https://proceso.hn/detienen-a-excapitan-santos-orellana/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation of human rights defenders in the South of Honduras.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/persecucion-carcel-y-muerte-es-el-escenario-para-defensores-ambientalistas/>

COPINH wrote an open letter to international human rights mechanism highlighting the need for them and the Río Blanco community to be recognized as victims in the Gualcarque Fraud case. OACNUDH agrees.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/carta-abierta-a-los-mecanismos-internacionales-de-ddhh/>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHHN/status/1318371930941120512>

Pasos de Animal Grande writes about the work of media workers in the departments Cortés, La Paz and Comayagua.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3000-periodistas-ejercen-la-profesion-entre-el-temor-tras-los-crimenes-de-colegas-y-agendas-informativas-impuestas>

Radio Progreso published a helpful summary of the newest benefits for extractive projects. "A new move in favor of the economic groups took place last week in the National Congress, when the deputies of the ruling party approved without discussion, reforms to the Mining Law, which are aimed at granting tax benefits to national and foreign mining companies."

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/reformas-a-la-ley-minera-sirven-para-fomentar-negocio-extractivista-afirman-analistas/>

2066 tests, 956 new COVID-19 cases, 89'381 in total. 8 more Hondurans died, 2576 have officially died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1416675-466/muertes-covid-19-en-honduras-llegan-2576-contagios-89381>

A judge decided yesterday to open trial against the former Invest-H director Marco Bográn. Unlike many criminalized human rights defenders, Bográn can await trial outside prison. Bográn did not even attend the hearing.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6515-juez-dicta-segundo-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-marco-bogran-sin-embargo-mp-interpondra-recursos-hasta-obtener-prision-preventiva>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2339-honduras-juez-confirma-que-bogran-se-defendera-en-libertad-y-no-se-fue-a-audiencia>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1416662-466/marco-bogran-invest-contrato-tio>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) found problems with the two newest mobile hospitals that arrived in Honduras last week. "Among the findings are leaks, which fell on technical equipment essential for the care of patients with COVID-19. "With concern we observed deficiencies in furniture equipment, identified that the hospitals suffered from water filtration, causing some computers to get wet and will no longer be functional for patient care," the report cites."

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1318198348831166465>

<https://criterio.hn/equipo-de-mala-calidad-y-paredes-oxidadas-forman-parte-de-nuevos-hospitales-moviles-cna/>

UNDP reports on "an innovative social protection program" called "Single Voucher" (Bono Unico), "a one-time subsidy of \$82 dollars (2,000 lempiras) delivered through an electronic voucher that can be exchanged for food, medicine and /or medical supplies to up to 260,000 persons in the country in the next three months".

<https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/honduras->

[launches-innovative-transfer-program-in-response-to-cov.html](https://confidencialhn.com/sera-cierto-finanzas-reafirma-que-no-habra-mas-impuestos-en-los-proximos-cuatro-anos/)

Due to the corona crisis, the deputy secretary of finance claims that there won't be more taxes in the coming four years. Sounds a lot like part of an electoral campaign...

At the same time, the director of the Revenue Administration Service (SAR), Miriam Guzman, said that tax revenues will drop by 23% by the end of the year.

El Pulso has more information on the bank deal by the JOH regime to support small businesses.

According to Criterio, it won't deliver on its promises.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sera-cierto-finanzas-reafirma-que-no-habra-mas-impuestos-en-los-proximos-cuatro-anos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sar-preve-que-ingresos-tributarios-caeran-en-un-23-por-ciento-al-cierre-de-2020/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49217>

<https://criterio.hn/acuerdo-entre-banca-y-gobierno-no-favorece-a-mipymes-cifras-de-inflacion-del-bch-son-irreales/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49185>

<https://criterio.hn/la-cree-alega-ignorancia-y-se-desmarca-de-la-enee-ante-denuncias-de-corrupcion-por-contratos/>

20/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; COPINH; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; UN - UPR; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption, Economy, Education; Drug Trafficking;

The Guapinol defenders were awarded with the National "Carlos Escaleras" Award.

The award is dedicated to Carlos Escaleras, a popular leader from the Aguán who was assassinated in 1997.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/defensores-encarcelados-de-guapinol-reciben-premio-carlos-escaleras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/np/la-memoria-de-carlos/>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/a-23-anos-del-asesinato-de-carlos-escaleras-personas-defensoras-del-ambiente-siguen-siendo-asesinadas-en-honduras/>

<https://cejil.org/es/23-anos-del-asesinato-carlos-escaleras-personas-defensoras-del-ambiente-siguen-siendo-asesinadas>

Yesterday, a hearing took place in the case of six criminalized members of COPINH from El Achotal, Siguatepeque (see previous e-mail).

After one week in detention, they were released with alternative measures to imprisonment, they have to sign in at the court every week and they are not allowed to approach the field they are working on and sustaining their family with.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1318604427335487491>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1318741178322505728>

Another hearing was announced in the process against David Castillo, it is the third time this hearing should take place but was postponed due to delaying tactics by his team.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1318707464473292801>

Even corporate media outlets in Honduras report now widely on the rejection of the ZEDEs, i.e. Charter Cities.

There is a united front on the Bay Islands against the Próspera ZEDE.

<https://proceso.hn/alcaldes-de-islas-de-la-bahia-camara-de-turismo-y-camara-de-comercio-pide-dejar-sin-efecto-la-zede/>

<https://tiempo.hn/autoridades-de-islas-de-la-bahia-exigen-salida-zede/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1318552196607299589>

On November 6, the JOH regime will face the Universal Periodic Exam (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council. This is the third time that Honduras is being examined. The JOH regime claims that they have implemented 101 out of the 152 previous recommendations. Human rights organizations do not agree. "In view of the extensive recommendations and observations of the United Nations Human Rights Council made to the state of Honduras, it is concluded that the regime of Juan Orlando Hernández will be left without arguments to justify the non-application of the provisions issued by the world body, focused on the issue of human rights."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-se-quedara-sin-argumentos-para-superar-el-examen-periodico-universal-epu-de-naciones-unidas/>

1968 tests, 851 new COVID-19 cases, 90'232 in total. Six more Hondurans died, 2582 have died so far in total.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/especiales/coronavirus/1416934-410/coronavirus-pandemia-honduras-muertes-contagios-sinager->

Microbiologist Héctor Edgardo Dubón died to COVID-19, his twin brother, a doctor, had died to COVID-19 less than two weeks ago.

ConfidencialHN reports on the death of yet another doctor, 49 have died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1416838-466/muere-microbiologo-hector-edgardo-dubon-covid-19-pandemia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/dos-medicos-hondurenos-fallecen-por-las-secuelas-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>

The CNA summarized its previous 12 reports on corruption during the pandemic and finds that it has cost the public at least 817 million Lempiras so far.

Libre Congressman Jari Dixon reacted to the report saying that they don't serve as long as the justice system is co-opted: "Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla works for the criminal structure of Juan Orlando Hernandez".

<https://criterio.hn/cna-revela-en-12-informes-un-desfalco-de-l-817-millones-de-la-secretaria-de-salud-copeco-e-invest-h/>

<https://proceso.hn/perdidas-de-l-817-millones-deja-mal-manejo-de-la-pandemia-segun-cna/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/jari-dixon-indica-que-chinchilla-es-parte-de-la-estructura-criminal-de-juan-orlando-hernandez/>

Just one day after claiming that taxes won't rise for four years, El Libertador reports that the JOH regime plans a tax on electronic sales. "Miriam Guzmán, tax collector for the Juan Hernández regime, will send a proposal to the National Congress to apply "sales [15 percent] and income [profit] taxes" to e-commerce, which will greatly affect micro, small and medium-sized businesses that have survived the virus until today through digital sales."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2341-lo-que-faltaba-honduras-aplicara-impuestos-a-ventas-por-internet>

"The problem of never ending between the government and the teachers is the lack of compliance with salaries that has become a constant in this 2020, especially in the period that the pandemic has lasted. Every month, teachers suffer delays of up to 15 days in depositing their payments, a situation that is interpreted by the leadership of this union as a malicious attack by the government led by Juan Hernández."

<https://criterio.hn/maestros-siguen-exigiendo-su-salario-mientras-el-gobierno-hace-oidos-sordos/>

Former army captain Santos Orellana was released after having been detained for an hour (see yesterday). He denounced that there is a plan to assassinate him in place.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2345-honduras-capitan-orellana-denuncia-plan-para-asesinarlo>

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/persiste-la-persecucion-del-regimen-en-contra-del-capitan->

[santos-rodriguez-orellana/](https://www.santos-rodriguez-orellana.com/)

21/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - IACtHR, La Tigra; ZEDEs; Journalists; COVID-19 . Health Sector, Corruption; Forced Displacement; National Police; Migration - US;

In the last 11 years, the State of Honduras has been sentenced three times by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in cases linked to the assassination of human rights defenders. "When the IACtHR issues a sentence, this must be the basis for the member countries of the American States to build and approve public policies that guarantee the lives of defenders. However, Honduras, the main actor in the judgments, has ignored the Court's mandate, "and a reflection of that is that, it continues to figure as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for environmental defenders," said María Luisa Gómez of the Center for Justice and International Law, Cejil".

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/estado-hondureno-debe-implementar-politica-publica-integral-dirigida-a-personas-defensoras/>

There hasn't been much coverage about the situation of the National Park La Tigra recently. Criterio has an update. "Civil society entities denounce that the pandemic continues to be used as a vehicle to deepen the looting, corruption and privatization processes in parallel to the ineffectiveness of the Public Ministry, which does not respond to the denunciations made against the abuse of the mayor of the capital, Nasry Asfura. In a public pronouncement five NGOs that protect the National Park La Tigra denounced the signing of a contract for the financial and accounting management of the Treasury Income of the Municipal Unit of Potable Water, (UMAPS), for 30 years, between the mayor Asfura and Banco FICOHSA."

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-del-agua-denuncian-ilegal-traspaso-del-manejo-del-agua-a-banco-ficohsa/>

The pressure on the ZEDEs rose again as Congressman Denis Castro Bobadilla presented a bill calling for the derogation of the articles allowing the creation of the ZEDEs.

<https://proceso.hn/presentan-proyecto-para-derogar-articulos-que-permiten-las-zedes-en-honduras/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with Leonardo Rodas, the lawyer of the criminalized journalist Jairo López, about the ongoing persecution of his client.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3001-abogado-leonardo-rodas-en-caso-de-periodista-jairo-lopez-vamos-con-todo-para-la-audiencia-porque-este-juicio-es-una-persecucion-politica>

2074 tests, 846 new COVID-19 cases, 91'078 in total. 14 more Hondurans died, the official death rate is 2596.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1417186-466/honduras-suma-mas-muertes-por-covid-19-contagios>

Yesterday, another Honduran doctor died to COVID-19, Luis Enamorado, he was known for creating the so-called Catracho treatment to combat COVID-19.

The National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH) warns that in only two weeks, COVID-19 cases among nurses have increased by 14% again.

The former minister of health Carlos Aguilar calls for the strengthening of the hospital network for the second wave.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fallece-por-coronavirus-el-medico-creador-del-tratamiento-catracho-luis-enamorado/>

<https://criterio.hn/muere-uno-de-los-doctores-que-desarrollo-tratamiento-catracho-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-culpa-ihss-contagios-covid-19-enfermeras/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/piden-al-gobierno-un-plan-de-fortalecimiento-hospitalario-por-rebote-de-covid-19/>

You cannot make this up. The intervention body of Invest-H plans to spend up to 20 million Lempiras on an external audit of Invest-H and the purchase of the mobile hospitals...

ConfidencialHN focuses on the role of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the current corruption cases in Honduras. "The three auditors of Inversión Estratégica de Honduras (Investh) José Leva, José Benítez and José Boquín earn a spectacular salary to hide acts of corruption committed during Marco Bográn's administration and covered up by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) according to a document placed on the transparency portal of the state agency."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49283>

<https://confidencialhn.com/bid-avala-corrupcion-de-joh-e-investh-al-autorizar-jugosos-sueldos-a-interventores-para-ocultar-corrupcion-de-bogran/>

"The Honduran Human Rights Secretariat urged the country's Parliament on Wednesday to approve the law to prevent, attend to and protect people internally displaced by violence, a phenomenon that has forced some 247,000 Hondurans to leave their homes between 2004 and 2018."

<https://proceso.hn/piden-al-parlamento-hondureno-aprobar-una-ley-para-atender-y-proteger-a-los-desplazados/>

A police agent and two civilians will face trial for the murder of a minor.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6528-agente-de-la-policia-preventiva-y-dos-hermanos-son-remitidos-a-la-carcel-del-el-provenir-por-muerte-de-menor-en-gracias-lempira>

"Three years after Donald Trump ordered a crackdown on undocumented migrants crossing into the US, lawyers are still struggling to find the parents of 545 children separated from them under the

“zero-tolerance” policy, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.”

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/oct/21/trump-separation-policy-545-children-parents-still-not-found?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

22/10/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists - Assassination, JOH; Water; Berta - Trial; HRDs - Sakharov; COVID-19 - Medical Sector, Protests, Corruption; Elections; Liberal Party; National Police; and Saved by Reggaeton

"On October 22, 2020, the judge in charge of the trial against journalist Jairo López decreed two prison sentences, one for possession of explosives and the other for wearing police clothing. Meanwhile, she provisionally dismissed the crime of carrying artifacts and she definitively dismissed the one for attacking the security of the State of Honduras. All this took place in an initial hearing that lasted two consecutive days, where the prosecutors of the Public Ministry sought to obtain 15 to 29 years in prison. Both parties will appeal the judicial resolution because they disagree."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3004-jueza-decreta-dos-autos-de-prision-por-tenencia-de-explosivos-e-indumentaria-policia-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez>

On the first day of the hearing: <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3002-fiscales-llevaron-testigos-que-se-contradijeron-kilometrica-audiencia-inicial-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez-sigue-este-jueves>

Defensores en Línea talked to journalists in Comayagua on how the recent murder of journalist Luís Almendares has marked a before and after for doing journalism in this region.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/asesinato-de-luis-almendares-impacto-al-periodismo-en-comayagua/>

The, rather corporate, Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) announced yesterday that they won't be accomplices of the JOH regime (I would add, anymore). "We cannot become accomplices to a government that does not respect human rights, freedom of expression, fundamental rights and the defense of territory and the environment". Criterio criticizes that the CPH still benefits from a shield of impunity granted by the JOH regime regarding irregularities at their pension fund.

<https://criterio.hn/cupula-de-cph-ya-no-quiere-ser-complice-de-gobierno-pero-sin-renunciar-a-escudo-de-impunidad/>

The newest attempt to privatize drinking water in the capital (see yesterday), is met with protest.

<https://www.hispanTV.com/noticias/honduras/479988/agua-tegucigalpa-privatizacion>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49307>

The trial against David Castillo continued yesterday and once again, the hearing was not transmitted. They claimed that the person responsible for the transmission was not there...

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1319306142133211147>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1319332322718744579>

While the Sakharov Prize was awarded to the protesters in Belarus, EU Parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo highlights Berta Cáceres and the Guapinol defenders as "two symbols of struggle and resistance, they are examples for all people who protect the planet".

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1319238049247744002>

1214 tests, 431 new COVID-19 cases, 91'509 in total. 8 more Hondurans died, officially 2604 have died so far.

But the funeral homes, once again, made public that the real number is much higher. They have documented some 5900 cases.

ContraCorriente reports on the increase of cases in rural areas.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1417441-466/honduras-muertes-infectados-covid-19-sinager>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49329>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/22/crecen-contagios-de-covid-19-donde-el-acceso-a-la-salud-es-mas-precario/>

After a short break in September, October has been a very deadly month again for medical staff fighting against the corona pandemic in Honduras (see last few days). The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) held a tribute in honor of them.

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-rinde-homenaje-a-galenos-y-personal-sanitario-fallecidos-por-pandemia/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49326>

Medical and teacher's unions announced to take up the struggle again by the Platform of Health Care and Public Education.

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-y-maestros-anuncian-que-reactivaran-la-plataforma-de-la-salud-y-la-educacion/>

After the salaries of the intervention body of Invest-H were made public and caused an outcry, they now claim to have them revised.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1417456-410/comisi%C3%B3n-interventora-de-invest-dice-que-revisar%C3%A1n-altos-salarios>

Proceso Digital reports that yesterday 40 more articles of the new Electoral Law were approved by Congress, i.e. 147 of 333 articles have been approved so far.

Key reforms, such as a two-round presidential election, are still not on the table.

<https://proceso.hn/aprobadas-las-alianzas-politicas-entre-partidos-en-nueva-ley-electoral/>

<https://criterio.hn/en-discusion-de-ley-electoral-nacionalistas-dejan-clara-su-oposicion-a-segunda-vuelta/>

The Liberal Party is divided by those loyal to the JOH regime and those who oppose it.

<https://criterio.hn/luis-zelaya-le-emprende-contra-diputados-liberales-que-actuan-como-nacionalistas/>

Trial will be opened against a police agent who threw a tear gas canister in a full bus some weeks ago.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6538-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-policia-que-lanzo-bomba-lacrimogena-dentro-de-unidad-de-transporte-en-choloma-cortes>

The JOH regime nominated the reggaeton musician Max Alejandro González, "el Killa", as the new head of the Permanent Contingency Commission (Copeco).

"I would be lying", in this way, the reggaeton musician and new head of the Permanent Commission of Contingencies Max Alejandro el Killa Gonzalez admitted that he has no idea how he will perform in his position".

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-ejecutivo-hondureno-hoy-si-tiene-flow-nombran-a-reguetonero-el-kill-como-jefe-de-copeco/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2348-honduras-con-reguetonero-en-copeco-joh-prepara-baile-electoral>

<https://confidencialhn.com/seria-mentirles-reguetonero-y-nuevo-jefe-de-copeco-no-sabe-como-dirigir-el-organismo-rector-de-las-emergencias/>

23/10/20

Honduras Daily: Garífunas - IACtHR; HRDs - Impunity; Berta - Trial; ZEDEs; Dengue; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Economy, Debt; COPECO; Political Parties - Transparency; Migration - US; and Honduras' Double Agent-in-Chief

"The bodies of two leaders of the Garifuna community in the municipality of Triunfo de la Cruz, murdered on October 8, 1996, were exhumed this Friday after the Inter-American Human Rights

System pressured the State of Honduras to comply with a ruling that holds them responsible for the death of these leaders."

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-exhuma-a-dos-garifunas-asesinados-hace-24-anos-tras-sentencia-de-la-corte-idh/>

Defensores en Línea explains how the lack of investigation into the murder of human rights defenders (and Hondurans in general) presents a form of violation of the human right to life. They highlight this in the case of Angel Pacheco León, a politician and businessman murdered in 2001. This case was brought to the Inter-American Human Rights System by COFADEH and Lawyers without Borders Canada.

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-protocolo-de-minnesota-y-el-caso-pacheco-leon/>

Amnesty International criticizes the lack of transparency in the newest hearing against David Castillo (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/ErikaGuevaraR/status/1319479066718654464>

Inhabitants of Amapala protested against a planned ZEDE on their island.

<https://criterio.hn/amapalinos-se-unen-en-contra-de-las-ciudades-modelo/>

Dengue cases have risen to 21'438.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49389>

1461 tests, 373 new COVID-19 cases, 91'882 in total. 8 more Hondurans died, 2612 have died officially so far, in reality it is more than twice as high (see yesterday).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1417648-466/honduras-suma-mas-muertos-infectados-por-covid-19>

Given the high prevalence of corona cases in Honduras, the medical sector asks to have canceled the coming Morazán Holidays.

But at the same time, the tourism sector has great hopes for them.

Medical experts fear that the current second wave will especially affect the rural areas.

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/medicos-piden-cancelar-feriado-morazanico/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/empresarios-del-turismo-ponen-sus-esperanzas-en-el-feriado-morazanico/>

<https://criterio.hn/medicos-temen-que-nueva-ola-de-covid-19-afecte-con-mas-fuerza-a-zonas-rurales/>

"The Union of Workers of the maquiladora company Strechline in Choloma, Cortés, protested in the

early hours of today, Friday, demanding the reinstatement of 117 workers suspended in the context of the pandemic."

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/nueva-protesta-de-trabajadores-de-maquila-en-choloma/>

FOSDEH warns that Honduras will be indebted for the next 35 years due to the debt taken up during the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-queda-endeudada-por-los-proximos-35-anos-debido-a-la-pandemia/>

The nomination of Max Alejandro González Bonilla as the new head of COPECO by JOH is met with widespread criticism.

<https://criterio.hn/ex-reguetonero-al-frente-de-copeco-refleja-irrespeto-y-desgobierno-coinciden-julio-escoto-y-victor-meza/>

Even ASJ denounced the lack of actions by the Clean Politics Unit. "There are no reports, sanctions, data, names of politicians for financing political companies with drug trafficking, that is worrisome".

<https://confidencialhn.com/asj-cuestiona-a-unidad-de-politica-limpia-por-no-indagar-origen-de-dinero-sucio-para-campanas-politicas/>

"The undersigned civil society organizations denounce the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) border externalization operations in Guatemala as documented by a new Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) Democratic Staff report, DHS Run Amok? A Reckless Overseas Operation, Violations and Lies. We call for an immediate, comprehensive investigation into this operation by the State Department and DHS inspectors general."

<https://www.cejil.org/en/civil-society-organizations-denounce-dhs-border-externalization-guatemala-call-immediate>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2350-honduras-joh-es-agente-de-la-dea-y-narcotraficante-monsenor-santos>

24/10/20

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Forced Disappearance, Exhumation; Drug Trafficking - US; COVID-19 - HR, Corruption, Health Sector, Education; Corruption; and Taken

Today marks 100 days since the forceful disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz. OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda denounces the ongoing harassment of local leaders, in the newest case concerning Nilfor Yosel Flores from Santa Fe.

<https://criterio.hn/a-99-dias-de-la-desaparicion-forzada-de-garifunas-persecucion-contrasus-lideres-continua/>

OFRANEH also commented on Friday's exhumation (see yesterday). "In its sentence five years ago, the IACtHR ordered that the investigation into the deaths be initiated within a reasonable time. We point out that a late exhumation is not synonymous with an investigation".

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1320045842309500931>

These last few days, there was a curious amount of reporting on seized drug planes, lawyer Ramón Barrios has an explanation. "[E]vidently when U.S. officials, whether from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), or the Southern Command come to make evaluations or examinations of particular state policy in Honduras, events occur, there has been an increase in planes that have been intercepted, allegedly drugs have been seized, I say allegedly because you never see the drugs or the pilots that are captured and processed by the Public Ministry".

<https://confidencialhn.com/consideran-curioso-que-durante-la-visita-de-funcionarios-de-ee-uu-a-honduras-incremente-el-decomiso-de-narcoavionetas/>

2469 tests, 842 new COVID-19 cases, 92'724 in total. 5 more Honduras died, the official death count is at 2617.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1417852-466/honduras-muertos-infectados-covid-19-sinager>

Human rights organizations and social movement published their 32nd joint press release during the pandemic. "If the essence of the dictatorship is reduced to corruption, militarization, criminalization, privatization, contract killing, looting, plundering, fascism, fear and hate, why accept it? Why assume it as a normalized culture? We reject it, and as part of that ethical, responsible opposition, full of love and hope, we present this Thirty-Second Public Manifesto".

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/trigesimo-segundo-manifiesto-publico/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/manifiesto-publico-32-octubre-2020/>

Political analyst Tomás Andino denounces the lack of independence of the Supreme Audit Court (TSC), once again highlighted by their inaction regarding the most recent corruption cases. "the TSC is a Storybook Superior Court (...), it has done nothing but follow the orders of the Executive".

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-tsc-solo-ha-seguido-ordenes-del-ejecutivo-frente-a-los-actos-de-corrupcion-durante-la-pandemia/>

"The deputy director of the San Felipe hospital in Tegucigalpa, Heriberto Rodríguez, has reported that as a result of the economic reopening and the greater availability of transportation in the capital and neighboring municipalities, the number of people with Covid-19 has increased in the last week."

<https://criterio.hn/se-incrementan-las-atenciones-por-covid-19-en-el-hospital-san-felipe-de-la-capital/>

Criterio reports on the violation of the right to education in Honduras, in general and especially now during the pandemic.

<https://criterio.hn/abandonados-mas-de-un-millon-de-ninos-que-el-gobierno-mantiene-sin-acceso-a-la-educacion/>

A study by Democracy without Borders found that it takes at least 78 months for a corruption charge being brought to trial in Honduras.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/estudio-revela-que-78-meses-tarda-un-juicio-de-corrupcion-en-los-tribunales-de-justicia-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1320117101751881734>

"Today is the ninth day since men in police clothing and heavily armed raided the home of Erika Marina Valladares Cáliz, taking her away to an unknown destination."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/hombres-encapuchados-raptan-a-mujer-embarazada/>

25/10/20

Honduras Daily: Femicide; HRDs - UN; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Mobile Hospitals, Economy; National Party;

The Center for Women's Rights documented 30 femicides in September, on average one per day.

<https://criterio.hn/un-femicidio-diario-en-honduras-durante-el-mes-de-septiembre/>

OACNUDH continues to visit HRDs and communities in resistance against extractive projects.

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1320525237121912835>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1320483052804546560>

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1320502107762528256>

1197 tests, 490 new COVID-19 cases, 93'214 in total. 6 more people died, 2623 have officially died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418048-466/honduras-reporta-casos-covid-suma-mas-muertos>

"According to the President of the Union of Workers of the Psychiatric Hospital, Santa Rosita, Mario Rojas, sixty-eight people, among employees and patients of that care center are infected with

Covid-19, a situation he describes as alarming, because that hospital center does not have the infrastructure, personnel and medicines to care for those infected with that disease."

<https://criterio.hn/se-reportan-contagios-masivos-de-covid-19-a-pacientes-y-enfermeras-del-hospital-siquiatrico-santa-rosita/>

Every week or so, there is a promise by Invest-H regarding the mobile hospitals. Yesterday, they promised the two hospitals meant for Choluteca and Santa Rosa de Copán will be operational by Christmas.

<https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-hospitales-choluteca-santa-rosa-navidad/>

As the cases continue to rise, the business lobby warns of the economic effects of the lockdown measures. They also complain about the different treatment of the informal and formal economy maybe not understanding what a key component of the informal economy is, i.e. its informality.

<https://proceso.hn/no-podemos-seguir-cerrando-empresas-y-aumentar-niveles-de-pobreza-requiere-el-cohep/>

Congress' Nationalist president and presidential candidate Mauricio Oliva warns his followers that he needs a great result at the internal elections to counteract the tendency of the Nationalist leadership (to which he belongs) to impose their own candidate referring to the Nationalist mayor of Tegucigalpa, Nasry Asfura.

<https://proceso.hn/oliva-reclama-que-cupula-del-pn-en-tegucigalpa-impone-candidatos/>

26/10/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH; HRDs - Students; Berta - Trial; Corruption; Journalists; COVID-19 - Health Sector, IMF, Inflation; Elections; and John Oliver on US Asylum

COPINH sent out another alert regarding the situation in El Achotal as another six COPINH members were detained by the police.

<https://copinh.org/2020/10/alerta-continua-la-criminalizacion-contra-miembros-de-la-comunidad-de-el-achotal-siguatepeque/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1320829540416049155>

<https://criterio.hn/detienen-ilegalmente-a-integrantes-del-copinh-en-siguatepeque/>

"Marcio Noé Silva, student of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and militant of the University Student Movement (MEU), was captured on October 26, 2020, in the afternoon, in a neighborhood of the capital, by patrol car 543 of the National Preventive Police, whose agents took him to the Police Department of Investigation (DPI), where, according to the complaint of the affected person, they threatened to kill him for being a student of this

organization."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3006-con-argumentos-inestables-policia-captura-a-militante-del-meu>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1320935840768405505>

COPINH published the newest edition of its newsletter on the Berta Cáceres trial.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1320871004659421185>

Nationalist mayor of Tegucigalpa and presidential candidate Nasry Tito Asfura is accused together with another public official of fraud, embezzlement and more by UFERCO.

This is the result of a one year investigation and the sum in question is more than 28 million Lempiras.

The same Nasry Asfura is also accused by civil society organizations of pushing forward the privatization of drinking water in the capital.

<https://twitter.com/LuisSan16779987/status/1320840282615721984>

<https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-contra-redes-de-corrupcion-denuncia-a-nasry-asfura-y-otros-funcionarios-edilicios/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418333-466/antejuicio-acusan-nasry-asfura-desviar-29-millones>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/banca-privada-administrara-por-30-anos-cobro-por-servicio-de-agua-en-tegucigalpa/>

CESPAD published an analysis on corruption linked to social security programs and corruption behind the approval of the ZEDEs.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/26/derechos-humanos-en-tiempos-de-covid-19-informe-1-la-corrupcion-detras-de-los-programas-de-ayuda-social-y-en-la-instalacion-de-la-zede-en-roatan/>

"The Public Ministry, through the Special Prosecutor's Office for Crimes Against Life (FEDCV), has made significant progress in its task of determining the relationship of guilt of those responsible for the crime against journalist Luis Almendares, for which it is coordinating with Forensic Medicine and the Police Directorate of Investigations (DPI), according to the communications officer of that agency, Carlos Morazán, at pasosdeanimalgrande.com, on October 26, 2020."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3005-asegura-fiscal-mp-tiene-lineas-de-investigacion-muy-fuertes-para-determinar-quienes-mataron-al-periodista-luis-almendares>

1727 tests, 752 new cases, 93'966 in total. 10 more Hondurans died, 2633 have officially died so far.

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-acumula-93966-contagiados-y-2633-defunciones-por-covid-19/>

"The President of the Medical College of Honduras, San Pedro Sula Chapter, Oscar Sanchez, assures that despite the reduction of serious cases of Covid-19 in the intensive care rooms of the hospitals in the northern zone, the situation of the pandemic is worrisome, because eight months after the emergency, the strategy of the government continues to be inadequate for the fight against the disease."

<https://criterio.hn/mal-manejo-de-la-pandemia-sigue-preocupando-al-gremio-medico-de-la-costa-norte/>

The Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Tegucigalpa (CCIT) argues that the IMF should reconsider the conditions of its Stand-By agreement with Honduras due to the pandemic.

<https://proceso.hn/fmi-debe-de-flexibilizar-acuerdo-firmado-con-honduras-segun-director-ejecutivo-de-la-ccit/>

"For the economist and researcher of the Honduran Social Forum on Foreign Debt (FOSDEH), Alejandro Kafati, the inflation index of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) is not reliable to be used as a reference for the real context in which Honduran households live, because the indicator used in its measurement dates from 1999 and only shows part of the reality."

<https://criterio.hn/indice-de-inflacion-del-banco-central-no-es-confiable-porque-esta-desfasado-asegura-economista/>

Mapa Soluciones offered its services to the National Electoral Council (CNE) to transmit the results from the coming electoral cycle. But the company raises many questions.

The have participated in both the fraudulent elections of 2013 and 2017 and the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) had accused them of fraud.

Criterio has an update on the situation of the electoral reforms. It cites various experts denouncing the lack of priority given to this topic and that the years were lost against between the last elections and the coming one. "We believe that everything is out of time, it is not possible that we are already called to primaries, and that we are still discussing electoral reforms, more so when we had everything in 2018 and 2019. We believe that it is a strategy of the government to delay and not to approve anything profound".

<https://proceso.hn/que-nos-digan-quienes-son-los-duenos-de-mapa-soluciones-pide-salvador-nasralla/>

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1320818718780264448>

<https://criterio.hn/honduras-ira-a-elecciones-con-reformas-electorales-cosmeticas-que-no-garantizan-transparencia/>

"With the 2020 election underway, John Oliver explains how the Trump administration has handled asylum seekers over the past four years, why it matters, and what we can do about it."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtDU5RPDZqI>

27/10/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; Berta - Trial; CNTC; WHRDs - Guapinol; HRDs - Zacate Grande; JOH; COVID-19 - Health Sector, Corruption; MP; Migration - US; National Party; and the Vote Buying Already Started

COPINH and CESPAD invite to a digital forum on extractive projects and corruption today at 2pm.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1321280017461116939>

David Castillo's evidentiary hearing is scheduled for November 9.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1321248878843334660>

The National Union for Rural Workers published a report on the criminalization of peasant activists during the pandemic.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s2sKSVF3_8NVhGS_O329O1sPRBHgCdFL/view

"The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Honduras, (RNDDH), spoke out in a virtual press conference on October 27, 2020, about the constant surveillance, siege and harassment of armed men, police and military, apparently linked to the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares, against women, who are fighting to protect the Guapinol River, in Tocoa, Colon, Honduras."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/3007-segun-red-nacional-de-defensoras-hombres-armados-estan-tras-las-mujeres-de-guapinol>

"This morning, different human rights organizations presented an Appeal for Protection in favor of the priest Florentino Hernández, from the parish of Cristo de Esquipulas, in El Triunfo, Choluteca, who is a victim of judicial and religious persecution."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/presentan-recurso-de-amparo-a-favor-del-sacerdote-florentino-hernandez/>

""We believe that today, threats and warnings can easily become a prelude to violent and direct actions against fighting people like you." These were the words expressed by the director of Radio Progreso and the Jesuit Reflection, Research and Communication Team (ERIC), Father Ismael Moreno, member of the national coordination of the Convergence against Continuity (CCC), during a visit that several members of the renowned organization made on Monday, October 26, to community leader Pedro Canales."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/teratenientes-y-megaproyectos-amenazan-liderazgos-comunitarios-y-promueven-el-despojo-en-zacate-grande/>

According to calculations by economist Rodulio Perdomo, the JOH regime could save some 20 billion Lempiras by reducing the number of Nationalist activists paid by the regime by 30%.

<https://tiempo.hn/quitar-activistas-ahorro-de-120-mil-millones/>

2093 tests, 657 new COVID-19 cases, 94'623 in total. 6 more people died, 2639 have so far died according to official numbers.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418530-466/honduras-suma-nuevas-muertes-casos-covid>

Yesterday was the Day of the Doctor in Honduras but there was nothing to celebrate as another doctor died to COVID-19. At least 49 have died so far during the pandemic.

""This date is perhaps the saddest Doctor's Day since the Honduran Medical College (CMH) exists, and it calls for more reflection. We pray to God for the 49 colleagues who are no longer with us, who have died in these seven months," said Carlos Umaña, president of the Association of Social Security Physicians of the northwestern region of the Central American country. (...) Umaña considers that "more than heroes" they are "victims of an inequitable system, with little social justice and corruption, in which politicians have destroyed public health"."

Instead of recognizing this dire situation, the JOH regime tried to boost its image with a PR campaign focused on its "great" work addressing the pandemic.

<https://confidencialhn.com/muere-en-siguatepeque-otro-medico-por-sospecha-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1418477-410/medicos-hondurenos-conmemora-dia-enlutados-49-muertes-coronavirus-covid>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/portada/mas-de-48-medicos-han-muerto-por-covid-19-en-honduras/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2361-las-mentiras-de-omar-y-solorzano-a-hondurenos-tocaron-fondo>

The Anti-Corruption Coalition published an exhaustive report on acts of corruption during the pandemic. They find that over half, 56.23%, of the spending by the Ministry of Finance on the pandemic show irregularities summing up to over 2 billion Lempiras.

https://tiempo.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Informe-Coalicion-Anticorrupcion-ASSP-OCT2020-1_compressed.pdf

<https://criterio.hn/31-informes-constatan-que-honduras-acomodo-leyes-para-la-corrupcion-en-pandemia/>

<https://tiempo.hn/fosdeh-sobrevaloracion-hospitales-moviles-94-91/>

A first change in communication by the Bar Association of Honduras (CAH) after its leadership

change can already be seen. Its vice-president criticizes the work of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vicepresidente-de-abogados-senala-que-desempeno-de-chinchilla-en-el-ministerio-publico-deja-mucho-que-desear/>

Yesterday, US, Guatemalan and Honduran State representatives to discuss the prevention of "irregular migration".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1418572-410/honduras-guatemala-evitar-caravanas-migrantes-estados-unidos->

The most recent accusations against Tegucigalpa mayor and presidential hopeful Nasry Asfura (see first link below and yesterday) could be the result of National Party infighting. Political analyst Raúl Pineda Alvarado does not believe that. He neither believes that the accusation will have a lasting legal impact, they will have a political impact.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/27/23-cheques-tres-cuentas-bancarias-y-mas-de-un-millon-de-dolares-tienen-en-la-mira-al-alcalde-de-tegucigalpa/>

<https://criterio.hn/mauricio-oliva-podria-estar-detras-de-investigacion-al-alcalde-nasry-asfura/>

<https://criterio.hn/acusacion-contra-nasry-asfura-no-tendra-impacto-legal-pero-si-politico/>

<https://criterio.hn/diputados-de-honduras-sacan-la-chequera-del-estado-en-busca-de-votos/>

<https://criterio.hn/arrecia-estrategia-politica-pueblo-hambriento-para-manipularlo/>

28/10/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Students, Guapinol; Corruption - MP; Journalists and FoE; COVID-19 - Public Health, Women, State Reaction, Journalists; Elections; Food Security; and 21 Years of Accompanying the People of the Aguán

OACNUDH announced that they are accompanying the case of criminalized and detained student Marcio Silva (see previous e-mail).

<https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1321453472965971972>

Six US members of Congress wrote a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressing concern about the situation of the Guapinol defenders.

<https://raskin.house.gov/sites/raskin.house.gov/files/10.28.20%20Letter%20to%20Pompeo%20Honduras%20Guapinol%20Water%20Defenders.pdf>

As feared and expected, the Constitutional Court admitted a challenge by the mayor of Tegucigalpa Nasry "Tito" Asfura accused of corruption. "With the admission of the appeal, the investigations and previous proceedings carried out by the Fiscal Unit against Networks of Corruption (Uferco) in the Criminal Court on Corruption Matters are stopped."

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418775-466/corte-admite-recurso-amparo-alcalde-nasry-asfura>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1321644652420845568>

The MP conducted operation Jupiter V yesterday, aimed at "embezzlement, collusion to defraud the treasury, judicial malfeasance and other crimes related to abuses in the public service".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6570-mp-afrenta-la-corrupcion-el-narcotrafico-y-delitos-contra-grupos-sociales-vulnerables-con-la-operacion-jupiter-iv>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ministerio-publico-realiza-la-operacion-jupiter-iv-para-castigar-actos-de-corrupcion-en-la-funcion-publica/>

C-Libre published a list of recent alerts regarding journalists and freedom of speech. "Through a communiqué, organizations from the southern zone of the country denounced the aggression against journalist Mercedez Zepeda, correspondent and members of the coordinating team of Radio Cholula Triunfeña, which occurred on Sunday, October 18."

"On October 23, the Secretary of State for Health, Alba Consuelo Flores, threatened to initiate hearings for the release of medical personnel participating in the protests."

"Facing fear, a group of citizens, in a sit-in in front of the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP), in the city of Comayagua, claimed the lack of actions to find the authors of the crime against journalist Luis Almdares, murdered a month ago. Gerson Soler, a lawyer and one of those who arrived at the protest, denounced that days before the sit-in, they received threats from profiles on the Facebook social network, where they called for action to demand justice for the murdered communicator."

"After a two-day hearing, journalist Jairo López was found guilty of three crimes, in the Criminal Courts of the city of Choluteca, in the south of the country, thus sharpening the criminalization against him after a criminal process that dates back to January 2019." (see also previous e-mails)

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1266-denuncian-agresion-contra-periodista-de-radio-comunitaria-al-sur-del-pais>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1267-titular-de-salud-amenaza-con-sancionar-a-personal-medico-que-participe-en-protestas>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1268-acciones-intimidatorias-antes-y-durante-planton-ciudadano-convocado-en-demanda-de-justicia-para-periodista-asesinado>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1269-juzgado-declara-culpable-a-periodista-y-agudiza-criminalizacion-en-su-contra>

1990 tests, 576 new COVID-19 cases, 95'199 in total. 13 more Hondurans died, 2652 have officially died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418746-466/honduras-ya-suma-2652-muertos-por-covid-19-y-reporta-95199-contagios>

The National Association of Auxiliary Nurses of Honduras (ANEEAH) calls for contracting 2000 more nurses to confront the pandemic.

<https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-solicita-contratacion-enfermeros-honduras/>

"During the time of confinement Honduran women have been affected by different types of violence ranging from domestic and intra-family violence, sexual violence and even lack of attention to sexual and reproductive health."

This is a long-standing catastrophe in Honduras. In the last 15 years (2005-2019) 6137 women were murdered, 3891 since 2012, i.e. during the reign of JOH. The death toll this year until September is again 245.

<https://criterio.hn/estado-de-honduras-abandono-a-las-mujeres-durante-la-pandemia/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/209525>

While the situation remains very tense, the new head of COPECO just announced that the so-called Morazán Holidays (starting on November 4) will take place without restrictions, i.e. no limits on how many people can circulate. This is against the recommendations of health experts (see previous days).

The same day, the multi-sector board decided against increasing the number of people allowed to circulate on any given day. Mixed messages or rather playing politics with the health of the people by the JOH regime.

<https://confidencialhn.com/y-la-pandemia-sinager-flexibiliza-la-circulacion-a-quienes-se-movilizaran-en-megaferiado-de-noviembre/>

<https://www.radiohrn.hn/en-honduras-en-la-semana-morazanica-podran-circular-todas-las-personas>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mesa-multisectorial-desestima-aumento-de-digitos-para-circulacion-diaria-de-personas/>

<https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1321562806831992834>

The Journalists Association of Honduras tested its members for COVID-19 and 15 tested positive.

<https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-de-periodistas-de-honduras-confirma-15-comunicadores-positivos-con-covid19/>

"The issue of financing minority parties in the new Electoral Law was added to the list of more than 30 articles suspended in the discussion of the regulations, which must be submitted to consensus meetings and then presented to the plenary of the Legislative Branch. These suspended articles have filled opposition legislators with concern and suspicion, who believe that it could become a maneuver by the government to not approve the new Electoral Law in time and form." Another challenge is how to exclude from the electoral process politicians and would-be-politicians linked to corruption and drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/en-suspenso-queda-financiamiento-a-partidos-minoritarios/>

<https://criterio.hn/politicos-vinculados-a-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-deben-ser-inhabilitados-por-organos-electorales/>

A study by the World Food Program (WFP) and CEPAL found that malnutrition cost \$2.3 billion in 2017.

A new report by CESPAD highlights how the agricultural policies of the JOH regime further undermine food security.

<https://es.wfp.org/noticias/la-malnutricion-le-cuesta-honduras-el-10-por-ciento-del-pib>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/28/politicas-agrarias-en-honduras-que-agudizan-la-crisis-alimentaria-en-tiempos-de-pandemia/>

<https://radioprogreso.hn/instante/fundacion-san-alonso-rodriguez-cumple-21-anos-de-acompanamiento-al-pueblo-del-valle-del-aguan/>

29/10/20

Honduras Daily: Campesines; WHRDs; HRDs - US; Drug Trafficking - JOH; ZEDEs; COVID-19 - State Reaction; Corruption - Pandora; Agriculture; Migration - US; and No Zoom-Etiquette

"A police patrol attacked and took father and son, who were working on the side of the street, away to an unknown destination, denounced the peasant group "10 de Junio" of the Quilaperque community, department of La Paz. The incident took place at 10:30 a.m. when José Celestino Galeas (30) and his father José Guadalupe Galeas (55) were selling firewood on the edge of the land that they had been fighting to recover for seven years. At that point the patrol stopped, causing fear among the indigenous Lenca who ran, so the police fired shots in the air until they were captured."

<https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-policia-captura-a-dos-campesinos-en-quilaperque-la-paz/>

The National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders documented 4 assassinations of WHRDs in the first half of 2020 as well as 529 attacks against WHRDs for their work.

<https://proceso.hn/cuatro-defensoras-de-ddhh-han-sido-asesinadas-este-ano-en-honduras-segun-ong/>

US congressman Mark Pocan denounces the murder of Honduran environmentalists. Criterio reported on the letter by six members of Congress on the same topic (see yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/repmarkpocan/status/1321524005527015424>

<https://criterio.hn/ee-uu-debe-trabajar-para-poner-fin-a-la-impunidad-de-asesinatos-de-defensores-del-agua-y-los-territorios-en-honduras/>

The Pro Honduras Network writes about another attempt by Tony Hernández' lawyer to postpone the sentencing hearing.

<https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2020/10/30/abogado-de-tony-hernandez-pide-aplazar-por-ultima-vez-la-audiencia-de-sentencia/>

People protested outside Congress against ZEDEs.

<https://criterio.hn/plataformas-sociales-y-populares-dicen-no-a-las-zede-en-honduras/>

2068 tests, 951 new COVID-19 cases, 96'150 in total. 9 more people died, 2661 have officially died so far.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418986-466/honduras-sinager-coronavirus-nuevos-casos-muertos-covid>

The coming Morazán Holidays continue to raise question and criticism, especially from health experts.

ConfidencialHN highlights the fact that the new head of COPECO, a former Reaggaton artist named El Killa, is allowing people to go on holidays but at the same time gives them the complete responsibility to take care of themselves.

JOH, meanwhile, presents it as a way of helping 274'000 families depending on tourism as if all the stolen money could not have served as a better and safer way to support them.

Hotels near beaches and in the mountains are already booked by over 90%.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418926-466/feriado-morazanico-vacaciones-en-tiempos-de-pandemia>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49576>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2366-honduras-urgente-dos-familias-contagiadas-de-covid-tras-vacacionar>

<https://confidencialhn.com/el-killa-traslada-a-hondurenos-la-responsabilidad-de-cuidarse-durante-megaferiado-de-noviembre/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-pide-que-dejen-de-criticar-el-feriado-morazanico-porque-hay-familias-que-dependen-del-turismo/>

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49570>

The Pandora corruption case, i.e. what is left of it, was sent to an anti-corruption court. Expediente Público called the case in a recent article "a collusion of powers that calls into question the MP and the Court of Justice".

<https://criterio.hn/tras-absolver-a-todos-los-funcionarios-publicos-caso-pandora-pasa-a-un-juzgado-anticorrupcion/>

<https://proceso.hn/remiten-caso-pandora-a-juzgado-de-letras-en-materia-de-corrupcion/>

<https://expedientepublico.org/pandora-una-colusion-de-poderes-que-pone-en-entredicho-al-mp-y-la-corte-de-justicia/>

Congress approved a \$19.9 million credit from the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) meant for the agriculture sector.

<https://proceso.hn/aprueban-prestamo-por-mas-de-19-millones-para-creditos-agricolas-en-honduras/>

"The odds of success in receiving asylum or an alternative form of relief continued to vary greatly by the asylum seeker's nationality. Among the ten countries with the largest number of asylum decisions, Hondurans had the least success with 87.3 percent of applicants who were denied. Those from Guatemala had the second lowest success rate, with 85.8 percent denied, followed by Mexicans whose asylum applications were denied 85.0 percent of the time."

<https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/630/>

<https://proceso.hn/honduras-encabeza-tasa-de-negacion-de-asilo-en-eeuu-durante-2020/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1418776-410/catedratico-unah-honduras-clase-sociologia>

<https://confidencialhn.com/no-soporto-los-maricones-maestro-da-clases-de-pataneria-a-los-que-lo-reportaron-por-ponerlos-a-borrar-mensajes-anti-josh/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2367-honduras-unah-procesa-a-edgardo-rodriguez-por-decir-maricones-a-estudiantes>

30/10/20

Honduras Daily: Envío; IMF; Dengue; COVID-19 - Corruption, Poverty; Corruption - Asfura; Elections; Penal Code; Social Security; and Drunk Diplomats

The newest edition of Envío is available.

<https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1322324291535409152>

The IMF and the JOH regime came to an agreement in the third revision of the IMF's program in the country. This means that \$88 million will become available for the JOH regime.

Criterio writes that the IMF should have looked into the failure of the JOH regime to rescue the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE).

And as always, Javier Suazo offers a good analysis of this newest agreement.

<https://twitter.com/MarcoMidence/status/1322302043009200133>

<https://criterio.hn/gobierno-debe-rendirle-cuentas-al-fmi-sobre-fracaso-de-plan-de-rescate-financiero-de-la-enee/>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/209573>

Dengue cases have reached 21'829.

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49626>

2001 tests, 738 new COVID-19 cases, 96'888 in total. 8 more people died, 2669 have officially died so far.

Even though it has been promised for months, the testing capacity is still as low as ever. The 100'000 tests donated by Germany probably won't change that.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1419181-466/honduras-muertos-coronavirus-pandemia-covid-19>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2371-sos-hondurenos-alemania-dona-100-mil-pruebas-y-2-5-millones-para-salvar-vidas>

The hearing in the process against former Invest-H director Marco Bográn was suspended. The courts argued that an appeal had to be dealt with first.

<https://criterio.hn/suspenden-audiencia-preliminar-contra-marco-bogran/>

"The Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP), presented an analysis of the impact on businesses, jobs and the social level that the country faces due to the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, where it highlights that poverty will reach 71 percent and more than 500

thousand people will be unemployed."

<https://elpulso.hn/?p=49613>

The corruption case against the mayor of Tegucigalpa Nasry Asfura is being moved between different courts, a delaying tactic used in many corruption cases in Honduras.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2369-honduras-ante-juicio-de-asfura-queda-en-manos-de-corte-de-apelaciones>

ContraCorriente explains how the current electoral reforms are insufficient to stop illicit funds flowing to political parties.

Radio Progreso spoke with sociologist Eugenio Sosa about the upcoming electoral cycle.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/30/reformas-electorales-son-insuficientes-para-evitar-financiamiento-ilicito-de-partidos-politicos/>

<https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/no-hay-reformas-politicas-solo-ajustes-para-un-nuevo-competidor/>

The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) asked the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court to finally discuss its petition handed in four months ago against the new Penal Code.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1322207614109962241>

<https://proceso.hn/ente-hondureno-pide-a-sala-constitucional-que-se-pronuncie-sobre-codigo-penal/>

Criterio published an article on the privatization of social security in Honduras.

<https://criterio.hn/politicos-empresarios-y-banqueros-el-trinomio-de-la-privatizacion-de-la-seguridad-social/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1419025-410/detienen-dos-diplomaticos-hondure%C3%B1os-estado-ebriedad-estados-unidos->

<https://confidencialhn.com/serian-gudiel-y-mcneil-detienen-a-dos-diplomaticos-hondurenos-en-ee-uu-por-conducir-en-estado-de-ebriedad/>

31/10/20

Honduras Daily: Guapinol & COPINH - EU; COVID-19 - Corruption, Poverty, Customs; Corruption - CSJ; Migration; ENEE; and Honduras' Police Commissioners...

39 EU member of parliament wrote an open letter to JOH expressing their "deepest concerns" over the situation of both the Guapinol defenders and COPINH.

<https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1322215894899138567>

<https://criterio.hn/39-diputados-del-parlamento-europeo-piden-a-honduras-liberar-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

1707 tests, 516 new COVID-19 cases, 97'404 in total. 3 more Hondurans died, officially 2672 have died so far during the pandemic.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1419343-466/honduras-muertes-infectados-covid-19-sinager>

Consumer association denounce the most recent increase of the prices of basic goods.

<https://criterio.hn/consumidores-preocupados-por-incremento-de-precios-de-productos-de-consumo-popular/>

The JOH regime nominated Carlos Cordero, who served for six months as the head of COPECO, as the new ambassador for the Vatican. But at the same time, he is being investigated for the irregular purchases made by COPECO during the pandemic.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1419193-466/carlos-cordero-embajador-honduras-vaticano-corrupcion-copeco>

Honduras will receive 9 billion Lempiras less in custom revenue this year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-recaudacion-aduanera-caera-en-nueve-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-el-cierre-de-2020/>

Cirterio explains how the Supreme Court offers an important defense for corrupt official using as example the case of Tegucigalpa mayor Nasry Asfura as well as a previous example involving Congress' president Mauricio Oliva.

<https://criterio.hn/la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-se-ha-convertido-en-el-salvador-de-corruptos-en-honduras/>

Guatemala detained two small groups of Honduran migrants.

<https://proceso.hn/detienen-a-dos-grupos-de-migrantes-hondurenos-en-su-transito-por-guatemala/>

According to president of the Union of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE), Miguel Aguilar, ENEE is losing one million Lempiras per day.

<https://confidencialhn.com/miguel-aguilar-reconoce-que-enee-pierde-un-millon-de-lempiras-diariamente-y-reduccion-de-perdidas-no-es-efectiva/>

...one is on the run, the other one soon before court.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1419196-466/esperan-captura-de-comisionado-lorgio-tinoco-para-seguirle-proceso-penal>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1419195-466/ministerio-p%C3%BAblico-alista-juicio-en-contra-de-leonel-sauceda-y-su-esposa>