

Another Month in Honduras...

Human Rights Monitor – October 2020

Both the Guapinol defenders and Berta Cáceres, in her case posthumous, were nominated for an international human rights award. But in Honduras, the Guapinol defenders continue being criminalized, as were members of COPINH and the important process against David Castillo suffers from a complete lack of transparency. Even worse, one of the Guapinol defenders, Arnold Joaquín Morazán Erazo, was assassinated this month. The debate about the electoral reforms in Congress is still ongoing and those who hope for change from a new president may think twice as one of them was just accused of corruption. And yes, COVID-19 is still hitting Honduras hard while the JOH regime continues to mismanage it and new corruption cases surface. Welcome to another month in Honduras.

In solidarity,

Daniel Langmeier

Honduras Forum Switzerland

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Abbreviations

ASJ	Association for a More Just Society
ATIC	Technical Bureau for Criminal Investigation
BID	Inter-American Development Bank
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CDM	Center for Women's Rights
CIPRODEH	Center for Human Rights Research and Promotion
CMH	Medical Association Honduras
CNA	National Anti-Corruption Council
COFADEH	Committee of Families of the Detained-Disappeared in Honduras
COIPRODEN	Coordination of Private Institutions for Children's Rights
CONADEH	National Human Rights Commission
COPINH	Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras
FEPRODDHH	Special Public Prosecutor Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators
FOSDEH	Social Forum on the External Debt of Honduras
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IACtHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
ILO	International Labor Organization
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights
MACCIH	Support Mission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras
MADJ	Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice
MP	Attorney General's Office
OACNUDH	UN Human Rights Office in Honduras
TSC	Supreme Audit Court
UFERCO	Special Prosecuting Unit against Corruption Networks
UNAH	National Autonomous University of Honduras
ZEDE	Zone for Employment and Economic Development

The COVID-19 Crisis

Dengue cases continue to rise, by the end of the month, the cases reached over 21'829.¹ Health authorities declared seven departments in a situation of alert due to the rising number of dengue cases.²

October started with 77'598 COVID-19 cases and 2380 officially recognized deaths.³ ContraCorriente reported on the increase of cases in rural areas.⁴ But the funeral homes, once again, made public that the real number is much higher. They have documented some 5900 cases.⁵ At the end of the month, the official numbers have risen to 97'404 cases and 2672 deaths.⁶

CESPAD published the results of the public survey "Citizen fear and caution in the pandemic, but discontent with its management: from the apocalyptic vision of corruption to the demand for change". It was conducted in the context of the crisis generated by the pandemic and the mismanagement of the JOH regime.⁷ Criterio reported: "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."⁸

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.⁹

State Reaction

Congress approved during this month the emission of state bonds worth \$850 million.¹⁰ Honduras' debt has almost reached 60% of GDP.¹¹ Hugo Noé Pinto, former president of the Central Bank, denounced that the money could be used for the coming electoral cycle by the National Party and the JOH regime.¹² FOSDEH warned that Honduras will be indebted for the next 35 years due to the debt taken up during the pandemic.¹³

1 <https://elpulso.hn/?p=49626>

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

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

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

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

6 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1419343-466/honduras-muertes-infectados-covid-19-sinager>

7 <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/>

8 <https://criterio.hn/poder-ejecutivo-congreso-nacional-y-poder-judicial-encabezan-percepcion-de-corrupcion-en-honduras-con-86-85-y-84/>

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

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

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

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

13 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-queda-endeudada-por-los-proximos-35-anos-debido-a-la-pandemia/>

On October 19, Honduras opened its borders again to neighboring countries.¹⁴ And throughout the month, the lockdown was renewed. At the same time, the JOH regime announced that the Morazán Holidays will take place this year at the start of November. At the end of the month, COPECO announced that they would take place without restrictions, i.e. no limits on how many people can circulate.¹⁵ This is against the recommendations of health experts.¹⁶ The same day, the multi-sector board decided against increasing the number of people allowed to circulate on any given day.¹⁷ Mixed messages or rather playing politics with the health of the people by the JOH regime.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹

Health Sector

Another nurse died from COVID-19 this month²⁰ as well as several doctors,^{21 22 23} among them the creator of the Catracho treatment.²⁴ The Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) held a tribute in honor of them.²⁵ At least 49 have died so far during the pandemic.²⁶ At the same time, health workers still needed to hold protests demanding biosafety equipment.²⁷ The National Association of Auxiliary Nurses (ANEEAH) warned that they have seen a 10% increases in infections among their members in the last 9 days.²⁸ El Libertador reported on October 7 that the JOH regime assigned 600 million Lempiras to strengthen the 32 hospitals.²⁹ ANEEAH called for contracting 2000 more nurses to confront the pandemic.³⁰

"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."³¹ Not only did the Honduran population in general suffer from more mental health problems, the mental health institutes themselves have a hard time coping with the pandemic. "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

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- 14 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-se-abre-al-exterior-mientras-covid-repunta/>
 - 15 <https://confidencialhn.com/y-la-pandemia-sinager-flexibiliza-la-circulacion-a-quienes-se-movilizaran-en-megaferiado-de-noviembre/>
 - 16 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418926-466/feriado-morazanico-vacaciones-en-tiempos-de-pandemia>
 - 17 <https://confidencialhn.com/mesa-multisectorial-desestima-aumento-de-digitos-para-circulacion-diaria-de-personas/>
 - 18 <https://twitter.com/baraudawaguchu/status/1321562806831992834>
 - 19 <https://confidencialhn.com/joh-pide-que-dejen-de-criticar-el-feriado-morazanico-porque-hay-familias-que-dependen-del-turismo/>
 - 20 <https://confidencialhn.com/otra-enfermera-de-honduras-pierde-la-vida-por-sospechas-por-el-nuevo-coronavirus/>
 - 21 <https://confidencialhn.com/dos-medicos-hondurenos-fallecen-por-las-secuelas-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>
 - 22 <https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-rinde-homenaje-a-galenos-y-personal-sanitario-fallecidos-por-pandemia/>
 - 23 <https://confidencialhn.com/muere-en-siguatepeque-otro-medico-por-sospecha-del-nuevo-coronavirus/>
 - 24 <https://criterio.hn/muere-uno-de-los-doctores-que-desarrollo-tratamiento-catracho-en-honduras/>
 - 25 <https://elpulso.hn/?p=49326>
 - 26 <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1418477-410/medicos-hondurenos-conmemora-dia-enlutados-49-muertes-coronavirus-covid>
 - 27 <https://proceso.hn/enfermeras-de-area-quirurgica-del-hospital-escuela-protestan-para-exigir-material-de-bioseguridad/>
 - 28 <https://proceso.hn/aumentan-en-10-por-ciento-contagios-de-covid-19-entre-enfermeras-auxiliares/>
 - 29 <https://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2314-honduras-gobierno-aprueba-600-millones-tras-rebote-de-casos-covid>
 - 30 <https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-solicita-contratacion-enfermeros-honduras/>
 - 31 <https://criterio.hn/150-pacientes-diarios-atiende-hospital-santa-rosita-la-mayoria-por-ansiedad-y-depresion/>

alarming, because that hospital center does not have the infrastructure, personnel and medicines to care for those infected with that disease."³²

"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."³³

At the end of the month, medical experts warned once again that the early lifting of some measures by the JOH regime led to an increase in cases. "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."³⁴ "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."³⁵

Human Rights

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."³⁶ Various national and regional human rights organizations published a report on "Defending Rights in Times of COVID".³⁷

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,

32 <https://criterio.hn/se-reportan-contagios-masivos-de-covid-19-a-pacientes-y-enfermeras-del-hospital-siquiatrico-santa-rosita/>

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

34 <https://criterio.hn/se-incrementan-las-atenciones-por-covid-19-en-el-hospital-san-felipe-de-la-capital/>

35 <https://criterio.hn/mal-manejo-de-la-pandemia-sigue-preocupando-al-gremio-medico-de-la-costa-norte/>

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

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

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".³⁸ At the end of the month, they also published the 32nd joint manifesto. "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".³⁹

Corruption

There is finally some good news in the fight against corruption having taken and taking place during the pandemic. Maybe about four to five months too late, the MP emitted arrest warrants for the former director of Invest-H, Marco Antonio Bográn Corrales at the beginning of October. He was arrested the same day together with the administrator at Invest-H, Alex Alberto Moraes Girón.⁴⁰ At the same time, the MP criticized the behavior of the Supreme Court which made public the coming arrest warrant indirectly warning Bográn.⁴¹

The CNA welcomed the arrests, but at the same time, there is criticism regarding the underlying reasons for the arrest.⁴² 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".⁴³

Maybe due to the public pressure, maybe planned from the start, the MP presented a second charge against Marco Bográn the next day, this time for benefiting his uncle's company with a contract worth 1.2 million Lempiras.⁴⁴ At the same time, the Anti-Corruption Coalition voiced concern that the MP was not considering these crimes as corruption networks. Consequently, they stated that it is very likely that the investigation would only infer criminal responsibility to Bográn and not to the

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

39 <https://copinh.org/2020/10/manifiesto-publico-32-octubre-2020/>

40 <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>

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

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

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

44 <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>

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".⁴⁵

On October 8, a judge decided that both men could await trial with alternative measures to imprisonment. Once again, the contrast to criminalized human rights defenders is stark.^{46 47} El Libertador denounces it as a first step to white wash the multi-million embezzlement of the Honduran people.⁴⁸ The MP announced to challenge the decision.⁴⁹ In the second case against Bográn, another hearing took place on October 19. A judge decided to again open trial against him. Unlike many criminalized human rights defenders, Bográn was once more allowed await trial outside prison.⁵⁰ Bográn did not even attend the hearing.⁵¹ At the end of the month, another hearing in Bográn's case was suspended. The courts argued that an appeal had to be dealt with first.⁵²

Instead of concentrating in fighting corruption, the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) rather focused on other anti-corruption bodies. On October 12, it announced to audit the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA).⁵³ The CNA speaks of a revenge attack because they, and others, highlighted the familial relation ship of the president of the TSC with former Invest-H head Marco Bográn.^{54 55} The CNA also summarized its previous 12 reports on corruption during the pandemic and emphasized that it has cost the public at least 817 million Lempiras so far.⁵⁶ Libre Congressman Jari Dixon reacted to the report saying that such reports have no impact as long as the justice system is co-opted: "Attorney General Oscar Chinchilla works for the criminal structure of Juan Orlando Hernandez".⁵⁷

You cannot make this up. On October 21, El Pulso reported that 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.⁵⁸ ConfidencialHN focused on the role of the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) 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."⁵⁹

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

46 <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>

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

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

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

50 <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>

51 <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>

52 <https://criterio.hn/suspenden-audiencia-preliminar-contramarco-bogran/>

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

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

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

56 <https://criterio.hn/cna-revela-en-12-informes-un-desfalco-de-1-817-millones-de-la-secretaria-de-salud-copeco-e-invest-h/>

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

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

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

At the end of the month, 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.^{60 61}

Mobile Hospitals

The mobile hospitals came back into the headlines this month. 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.⁶² Invest-H reacted by saying that they would not be satisfied with faulty hospitals (but they were with the two first ones) and they would 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.⁶³

On October 11, two more mobile hospitals, out of the five remaining, arrived in Honduras. They are meant for Copán and Choluteca.⁶⁴ Two days later, the MP and ATIC started their inspection.⁶⁵ The same day, months too late, Invest-H finally presented the certified documentation of the mobile hospital to the Honduran authorities. But even then, the documentation was not complete.⁶⁶ The TSC demanded that Invest-H should demand \$6.1 million as a penalty from the vendor of the mobile hospitals for their delay.⁶⁷ On October 19, the CNA found problems with these two mobile hospitals. "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."⁶⁸

OCCRP published an important article on the mobile hospital purchase and Axel G. López, "Mr. HispanoPreneur™: The Man Behind Honduras' \$47-Million Coronavirus Disaster".⁶⁹ A Liberal Party leader, meanwhile, demanded the extradition of López to Honduras.⁷⁰

At the end of the month, Invest-H once again made promises regarding the mobile hospitals. They promised the two hospitals meant for Choluteca and Santa Rosa de Copán would be operational by Christmas.⁷¹

60 https://tiempo.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Informe-Coalicion-Anticorrupcion-ASSP-OCT2020-1_compressed.pdf

61 <https://criterio.hn/31-informes-constatan-que-honduras-acomodo-leyes-para-la-corrupcion-en-pandemia/>

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

63 <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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

71 <https://tiempo.hn/invest-h-hospitales-choluteca-santa-rosa-navidad/>

Poverty

The costs of basic goods have increased by 6.2% during the pandemic.⁷²

Education

Teachers protested outside the Finance Ministry against outstanding paychecks at the beginning of the month.⁷³

Economy

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.⁷⁴ Honduras will receive 9 billion Lempiras less in custom revenue this year.⁷⁵ Micro-, small- and medium-sized companies demanded 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.⁷⁶ At the same time, the JOH regime claimed that Foreign Direct Investment has risen by 19.5% in the first semester of 2020 compared to 2019.⁷⁷ And Proceso Digital also wanted to see some improvements. Remittances increased a bit over the time of the pandemic and they only slightly lower than last year.⁷⁸

Due to the corona crisis, the deputy secretary of finance claimed that there would not be more taxes in the coming four years. This statement seemed rather linked to the coming elections than to rigorous analysis.⁷⁹ 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.⁸⁰ Just one day after claiming that taxes would not rise, El Libertador reported 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."⁸¹ JOH regime announced to have come to an agreement with banks to support small businesses.⁸² According to Criterio, this deal would not deliver on its promises.⁸³

"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

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

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

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

75 <https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-recaudacion-aduanera-caera-en-nueve-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-el-cierre-de-2020/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?"⁸⁴ There were also protests by workers this month. "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."⁸⁵

"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."⁸⁶

Human Rights and Their Defenders

The European Parliament selected the nomination of Berta Cáceres and the Guapinol defenders as finalists for the Sakharov Prize.^{87 88} The Guapinol defenders were also awarded with the National "Carlos Escaleras" Award.⁸⁹ The Sakharov Prize was finally awarded to the protesters in Belarus, but EU Parliamentarian Miguel Urbán Crespo used the ceremony to highlight Berta Cáceres and the Guapinol defenders as "two symbols of struggle and resistance, they are examples for all people who protect the planet".⁹⁰

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."⁹¹

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 offers a succinct summary of the situation in Honduras in the last months.⁹²

84 <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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UPR

Pasos de Animal Grande published several articles on the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Honduras at the UN Human Rights Council this November.⁹³ 94 117 human rights organizations participated at a (virtual) pre-session on October 13 and presented a shadow report.⁹⁵ 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."⁹⁶

Assassinations

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.⁹⁷

On October 14, Arnold Joaquín Morazán Erazo, one of the criminalized Guapinol defenders, was shot dead in his house. 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."⁹⁸ OACNUDH condemned the murder.⁹⁹ EU embassies expressed concern.¹⁰⁰

Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment

"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."¹⁰¹ OACNUDH announced that they are accompanying the case.¹⁰²

Different human rights organizations presented an Appeal for Protection in favor of the priest Florentino Hernández, who is a victim of judicial and religious persecution.¹⁰³ The National Union

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

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

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

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

97 <https://proceso.hn/cuatro-defensoras-de-ddhh-han-sido-asesinadas-este-ano-en-honduras-segun-ong/>

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

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

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

101 <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/3006-con-argumentos-inestables-policia-captura-a-militante-del-meu>

102 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDHNN/status/1321453472965971972>

103 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/presentan-recurso-de-amparo-a-favor-del-sacerdote-florentino-hernandez/>

for Rural Workers published a report on the criminalization of peasant activists during the pandemic.¹⁰⁴

COFADEH denounced that "[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."¹⁰⁵

Indigenous Peoples

COPINH was awarded the yearly human rights award by the Denver Justice and Peace Committee.¹⁰⁶

OFRANEH announced this month, that another case concerning the Garífuna community, this time the one in San Juan Tela, goes to the IACtHR. The case is about 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".¹⁰⁷

On October 7, OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda sent out an alert: "A contingent of armed men entered into Vallecito, sacred Garífuna 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".^{108 109} OACNUDH called of the State of Honduras to guarantee the security of the Garífuna people.¹¹⁰

Three days later, COPINH published an 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."¹¹¹

OFRANEH and Garífuna communities also continued to protest against the thermal energy plant La Ensenada (see last month). They denounce the lack of a prior consultation and the grave environmental impact of such a plant.^{112 113 114}

104 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s2sKSVF3_8NVhGS_O329O1sPRBHgCdFL/view

105 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-policia-captura-a-dos-campesinos-en-quilaperque-la-paz/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"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."¹¹⁵

COPINH sent out another alert on October 18. "This Thursday, October 15, in the morning hours, 3 compañeras and 3 compañeros members of COPINH from the community of El Achotal, 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."¹¹⁶ After one week, the hearing took place and 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.¹¹⁷ ¹¹⁸ One week later, COPINH sent out another alert regarding the situation in El Achotal as another six COPINH members were detained by the police.¹¹⁹ 39 EU member of parliament wrote an open letter to JOH expressing their "deepest concerns" over the situation of COPINH.¹²⁰

Also this month, the bodies of two leaders of the Garifuna community Triunfo de la Cruz, murdered on October 8, 1996, were exhumed 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 leader.¹²¹ OFRANEH commented: "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".¹²²

Forced Disappearance

By the end of October, three months have passed since the forced disappearance of the five young men from the Garífuna community Triunfo de la Cruz.¹²³ OFRANEH Europe launched a campaign to call for their save return in 90 cities starting in Lisbon, Portugal.¹²⁴ The next day, OFRANEH published a new article focusing on the forced disappearance of the five young men from the

¹¹⁵ <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2998-se-calienta-represion-contra-indigenas-de-la-paz-en-sesion-de-corporacion-municipal>

¹¹⁶ <https://copinh.org/2020/10/alerta-envian-a-carcel-a-6-companerxs-de-la-comunidad-de-el-achotal-por-recuperar-la-tierra/>

¹¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1318604427335487491>

¹¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1318741178322505728>

¹¹⁹ <https://copinh.org/2020/10/alerta-continua-la-criminalizacion-contra-miembros-de-la-comunidad-de-el-achotal-siguatepeteque/>

¹²⁰ <https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1322215894899138567>

¹²¹ <https://criterio.hn/honduras-exhuma-a-dos-garifunas-asesinados-hace-24-anos-tras-sentencia-de-la-corte-idh/>

¹²² <https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1320045842309500931>

¹²³ <https://radioprogreso.net/instante/tres-meses-y-los-garifunas-no-aparecen/>

¹²⁴ <https://twitter.com/EuropaOfraneh/status/1317585133713690625>

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.¹²⁵

The Case of Berta Cáceres

On October 1, COPINH sent out an alert. They voiced fear that David Castillo could be released from pre-trial detention after all after his defense team presented two Habeas Corpus challenges.¹²⁶ They further denounced a new attempt by the defense to delay the process.¹²⁷ On October 8, the process was meant to continue. But the hearing was once again suspended and postponed. Additionally, the hearing was again not broadcast as demanded by COPINH.¹²⁹ OACNUDH had also called for a public hearing.¹³⁰ On October 16, COPINH sent out an alert because the defense of David Castillo presents another habeas corpus.¹³¹ The trial continued on October 22 and once again, the hearing was not transmitted. The judge claimed that the person responsible for the transmission was not there.¹³² ¹³³

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.¹³⁴ Pasos de Animal Grande later published more on this case. "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".¹³⁵ OACNUDH expressed concerns about the case.¹³⁶

Another case linked to the murder of Berta Cáceres is the Gualcarque Fraud case which reappeared in the headlines this month. 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".¹³⁷ CEJIL also published a press release demanding COPINH to be recognized as a victim of the corruption case.¹³⁸ On October 13, a hearing took place without the participation of COPINH.¹³⁹ On October 15, COPINH presented a demand at the Supreme Court to be recognized

¹²⁵ <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/>

¹²⁶ <https://copinh.org/2020/10/david-castillo-busca-fugarse-del-proceso-judicial-por-el-asesinato-de-berta-caceres/>

¹²⁷ <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1312196535388528640>

¹²⁸ <https://copinh.org/2020/10/mas-retrasos-en-el-proceso-contr-uno-de-los-asesinos-de-berta-caceres/>

¹²⁹ <https://copinh.org/2020/10/suspenden-audiencia-contr-david-castillo/>

¹³⁰ <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1314362458644140032>

¹³¹ <https://copinh.org/2020/10/defensa-de-castillo-promueve-nuevo-habeas-corpus-para-permitir-su-fuga/>

¹³² <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1319306142133211147>

¹³³ <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1319332322718744579>

¹³⁴ <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2296-honduras-excomisionada-de-policia-se-exilia-ante-persecucion-judicial>

¹³⁵ <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>

¹³⁶ <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/131433288996179968>

¹³⁷ <https://www.fidh.org/es/temas/defensores-de-derechos-humanos/honduras-mision-calificada-advier-contr-exclusion-de-copinh-como>

¹³⁸ <https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-honduras-debe-garantizar-derechos-del-copinh-victimas-proceso-fraude-gualcarque-0>

¹³⁹ <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1315806298542419973>

as victims in the Gualcarque Fraud case.¹⁴⁰ ¹⁴¹ At the end of the month, 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.¹⁴² OACNUDH agrees.¹⁴³

LGBTQ

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, 2018.¹⁴⁴

The World Food Program informed about its support to the Honduran LGBTQ+ community during the pandemic.¹⁴⁵ 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".¹⁴⁶

Freedom of Expression and Journalists

The Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR demanded in a press release that the State of Honduras must investigate in a complete, effective and impartial manner murder of journalist Luis Almendares last September 27 in Comayagua.¹⁴⁷ OACNUDH 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."¹⁴⁸ By the end of the month, López' situation further worsened. "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."¹⁴⁹

ACI Participa 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 of García since last March.¹⁵⁰ Pasos de Animal Grande reported on the ongoing criminalization of the journalist Jairo López.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁰ <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/>

¹⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1316810987526389760>

¹⁴² <https://copinh.org/2020/10/carta-abierta-a-los-mecanismos-internacionales-de-ddhh/>

¹⁴³ <https://twitter.com/OACNUDDHH/status/1318371930941120512>

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/164-octubre2020/6400-seis-jovenes-condenados-por-muerte-de-un-miembro-de-la-comunidad-lgbt-en-sps>

¹⁴⁵ <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>

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/07/every-day-i-live-fear/violence-and-discrimination-against-lgbt-people-el-salvador>

¹⁴⁷ <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>

¹⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1315465003944669189>

¹⁴⁹ <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>

¹⁵⁰ <https://criterio.hn/piden-investigar-al-alcalde-de-nacaome-valle-por-la-persecucion-del-periodista-leonel-garcia/>

¹⁵¹ <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-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez-por-tenencia-de-explosivos>

C-Libre also published various alerts regarding journalists and freedom of speech. "Through a communiqué, organizations from the southern zone of the country denounced the aggression against journalist Merciadés Zepeda, correspondent and members of the coordinating team of Radio Choluteca Triunfeña, which occurred on Sunday, October 18."¹⁵² "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."¹⁵³ "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 Almendares, 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."¹⁵⁴

Violence against Women

"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."¹⁵⁵ 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 245.¹⁵⁶ The Center for Women's Rights documented 30 femicides in September, on average one per day.¹⁵⁷

Protection Mechanism

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.¹⁵⁸ The same month, COFADEH also discussed "the shortcomings, laziness and ineffectiveness" of the National Protection Mechanism.¹⁵⁹

The journalists César Obando Flores and Geovanny Sierra denounced that officials of the MP and the Protection Mechanism avoid them, do not answer their calls and do not even investigate what is happening to them.¹⁶⁰ COFADEH denounced that the protection mechanism also rejected support for the journalist Leonel García.¹⁶¹

¹⁵² <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1266-denuncian-agresion-contra-periodista-de-radio-comunitaria-al-sur-del-pais>

¹⁵³ <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1267-titular-de-salud-amenaza-con-sancionar-a-personal-medico-que-participe-en-protestas>

¹⁵⁴ <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1268-acciones-intimidatorias-antes-y-durante-planton-ciudadano-convocado-en-demanda-de-justicia-para-periodista-asesinado>

¹⁵⁵ <https://criterio.hn/estado-de-honduras-abandono-a-las-mujeres-durante-la-pandemia/>

¹⁵⁶ <https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/209525>

¹⁵⁷ <https://criterio.hn/un-femicidio-diario-en-honduras-durante-el-mes-de-septiembre/>

¹⁵⁸ <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>

¹⁵⁹ <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-impunidad-hace-inservible-al-mecanismo-nacional-de-proteccion/>

¹⁶⁰ <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>

¹⁶¹ <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-no-ayudo-a-periodista-de-nacaome/>

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".¹⁶²

Extractive Industries

Mining

Radio Progreso later 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."¹⁶³

Guapinol

On October 8, 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".¹⁶⁴ In the legal battle, the defense of the criminalized defenders presented an amparo in favor of them.¹⁶⁵

On Monday, October 12, the EU Parliament shortlisted the Guapinol defenders and Berta Cáceres for the Sakharov Prize (see above). A day later, 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 (see also above).¹⁶⁶ A few days later, OACNUDH representative Isabel Albaladejo visited the imprisoned Guapinol defenders.¹⁶⁷ ¹⁶⁸ OACNUDH then went on to visit the Guapinol community directly.¹⁶⁹

On October 16, 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

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

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

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

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

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

167 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1316751092793966592>

168 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1316899456768499712>

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

Guapinol River for the crimes of usurpation and damages to the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares."¹⁷⁰ OACNUDH welcomed 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".¹⁷¹

Six US members of Congress wrote a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressing concern about the situation of the Guapinol defenders.¹⁷² 39 EU member of parliament also wrote an open letter to JOH expressing their "deepest concerns" over the situation of the Guapinol defenders.¹⁷³

One of the criminalized human rights defender from Guapinol, Jeremías Martínez Díaz, had his trial date set to February 2021.¹⁷⁴

ZEDES

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."¹⁷⁵ Baker Street Herald compiled important information on the men and women behind and in control of the Próspera ZEDE in Honduras.¹⁷⁶ 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".¹⁷⁷ CESPAD published an analysis on corruption linked to social security programs.¹⁷⁸

The president of Crawfish Rock's board of trustees, Luisa Connor, denounced that the central government is seeking to sell "our cultural heritage to foreigners" and reiterated that they would not

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.guapinolresiste.org/post/corte-de-apelaciones-ratifica-derecho-a-protesta-en-caso-guapinol>

¹⁷¹ <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1317267252190859266>

¹⁷² <https://raskin.house.gov/sites/raskin.house.gov/files/10.28.20%20Letter%20to%20Pompeo%20Honduras%20Guapinol%20Water%20Defenders.pdf>

¹⁷³ <https://twitter.com/MiguelUrban/status/1322215894899138567>

¹⁷⁴ <https://radioprogreso.net/instante/programa-juicio-oral-y-publico-contradefensor-del-rio-guapinol/>

¹⁷⁵ <http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/02/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-implicaciones-de-prospera-zede-en-roatan-y-los-retos-de-la-resistencia-territorial/>

¹⁷⁶ <https://bakerstreetherald.com/2020/09/case-2-private-governments/>

¹⁷⁷ <https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/12/esto-es-lo-que-aprendi-sobre-secreto-como-extranjera-investigando-las-zede-en-honduras/>

¹⁷⁸ <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/>

step back from defending their territory.¹⁷⁹ Local inhabitants protested throughout the month.¹⁸⁰ The rejection includes new voices such as the consul of Great Britain or the Chamber of Tourism of the Bay Islands (CCIIB).¹⁸¹ Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana called the ZEDEs a form of treason.¹⁸² OFRANEH denounced that the ZEDE on Roatán violates the Wyke- Cruz Treaty from 1856.¹⁸³

Last month, the imposition of a second ZEDE, in Choloma, became public.¹⁸⁴ Local authorities voiced their opposition to the project.¹⁸⁵ 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.¹⁸⁶ Inhabitants of Amapala also protested against the planned ZEDE on their island.¹⁸⁷ And finally, people protested outside Congress against ZEDEs.¹⁸⁸

Some weeks ago, the progressive wing at the Honduran Bar Association (CAH) won internal elections. A first result was seen this month. The CAH published a statement against the ZEDEs denouncing the underlying law as unconstitutional.¹⁸⁹ This month, social organizations also announced to collect signature to force a referendum on the ZEDEs.¹⁹⁰ ¹⁹¹ Even corporate media outlets in Honduras started to report widely on the rejection of the ZEDEs¹⁹² and by the end of the month, a united front was formed on the Bay Islands against the Próspera ZEDE.¹⁹³ The pressure on the ZEDEs rose even further as Congressman Denis Castro Bobadilla presented a bill calling for the derogation of the articles allowing the creation of the ZEDEs.¹⁹⁴

Hydroelectricity

MADJ presented a legal challenge against the hydroelectric project on the Jilamito River in Arizona, Atlántida.¹⁹⁵

Agriculture

"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

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

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

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

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

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

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

185 <https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/autoridades-de-choloma-cortes-se-pronuncian-contras-las-ciudades-modelo/>

186 <https://radioprogresohn.net/pt/incrementa-persecucion-contras-defensores-en-zacate-grande/>

187 <https://criterio.hn/amapalinos-se-unen-en-contras-de-las-ciudades-modelo/>

188 <https://criterio.hn/plataformas-sociales-y-populares-dicen-no-a-las-zede-en-honduras>

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

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

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

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

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

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

195 <https://radioprogresohn.net/instante/demandan-nulidad-de-proyecto-hidroelectrico-de-jilamito-atlantida/>

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."¹⁹⁶ A second program also was greeted with criticism. "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."¹⁹⁷

Another report by CESPAD highlighted how the agricultural policies of the JOH regime further undermined food security.¹⁹⁸

Corruption and Its Enemies

El Pulso published a three-parts series on the question of "Justice in the service of whom?". The three article look at the MP¹⁹⁹, the Supreme Court,²⁰⁰ and the lawyers²⁰¹ in corruption cases. Political analyst Tomás Andino denounced 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".²⁰² A study by Democracy without Borders found that it takes at least 78 months for a corruption charge being brought to trial in Honduras.²⁰³

The Nationalist mayor of Tegucigalpa and presidential hopeful Nasry Asfura is being investigated by UFERCO for money laundering.²⁰⁴ "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."²⁰⁵ As feared and expected, the Constitutional Court admitted a challenge by Asfura. "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."²⁰⁶

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

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

198 <http://cespad.org.hn/2020/10/28/politicas-agrarias-en-honduras-que-agudizan-la-crisis-alimentaria-en-tiempos-de-pandemia/>

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

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

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

202 <https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-tsc-solo-ha-seguido-ordenes-del-ejecutivo-frente-a-los-actos-de-corrupcion-durante-la-pandemia/>

203 <http://www.radioamerica.hn/estudio-revela-que-78-meses-tarda-un-juicio-de-corrupcion-en-los-tribunales-de-justicia-de-honduras/>

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

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

206 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418775-466/corte-admite-recuso-amparo-alcalde-nasry-asfura>

ConfidencialHN denounced how the National Party benefits its members with high paying jobs at the Honduran Customs Administration.²⁰⁷ El Libertador reported on nepotism at Invest-H.²⁰⁸ Last but not least, the brother of a Nationalist councilor is providing goods for the Fuerza Honduras program.²⁰⁹

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.²¹⁰ CESPAD published an analysis on corruption linked to social security programs.²¹¹

Nasry Tito Asfura

Nationalist mayor of Tegucigalpa and presidential candidate Nasry Tito Asfura is accused together with another public official of fraud, embezzlement and more by UFERCO.²¹² This is the result of a one year investigation and the sum in question is more than 28 million Lempiras.²¹³ The same Nasry Asfura is also accused by civil society organizations of pushing forward the privatization of drinking water in the capital.²¹⁴

Pandora

The MP challenged a recent appeals court decision to drop the charges against 22 accused in the Pandora corruption case (see last month).²¹⁵ ²¹⁶ Former Attorney General Edmundo Orellana welcomed this challenge by the MP.²¹⁷ Also this month, the case, i.e. what was left of it, was sent to an anti-corruption court.²¹⁸

Expediente Público called the case in a recent article "a collusion of powers that calls into question the MP and the Court of Justice".²¹⁹

Narcopolítica

CESPAD published an update in the Narcopolítica corruption case.²²⁰

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

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

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

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

211 <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/>

212 <https://criterio.hn/fiscalia-contra-redes-de-corupcion-denuncia-a-nasry-asfura-y-otros-funcionarios-edilicios/>

213 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1418333-466/antejuicio-acusan-nasry-asfura-desviar-29-millones>

214 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/ponada-banca-privada-administrara-por-30-anos-cobro-por-servicio-de-agua-en-tegucigalpa/>

215 <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>

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

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

218 <https://criterio.hn/tras-absolver-a-todos-los-funcionarios-publicos-caso-pandora-pasa-a-un-juzgado-anticorupcion/>

219 <https://expedientepublico.org/pandora-una-colusion-de-poderes-que-pone-en-entredicho-al-mp-y-la-corte-de-justicia/>

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

Corruption on Wheels

In a corruption case going back to the MACCIH, Corruption on Wheels, an appeals court confirmed the accusations against seven government officials.²²¹ CESPAD published an overview of the case.²²²

State Security Forces

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.²²³

A police sub-inspector was arrested this month allegedly for drug trafficking.²²⁴ ConfidencialHN reported that the MP would present charges against some 30 members of the state security forces in the coming months.²²⁵ Another police inspector was arrested yesterday accused of heading a criminal gang.²²⁶ Three police agents were arrested for criminal activity.²²⁷ 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.²²⁸ A police agent and two civilians will face trial for the murder of a minor.²²⁹ 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.²³⁰

Post-Electoral Human Rights Violations

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.²³¹

Assassinations

Defensores en Línea reported 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.²³²

221 <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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

228 <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>

229 <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>

230 <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>

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

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

Penitentiary System

Even though the pandemic is ongoing, Honduran authorities started with prisoner transfers again.²³³ In a recent session at the IACHR, Honduran human rights organizations denounced the human rights situation of inmates.²³⁴ And at the end of the month, COFADEH denounced: "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."²³⁵

Militarization

JOH's militarization program for the agricultural sector caused widespread protest when it was first presented one year ago. This month, even the MP officially called for it to be declared unconstitutional.²³⁶

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."²³⁷ ContraCorriente also looked 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."²³⁸

International Community

Honduras and El Salvador will receive \$1 million from Japan and the BID to counteract the school closures due to the pandemic.²³⁹ Congress approved a \$19.9 million credit from the Inter-American Development Bank (BID) meant for the agriculture sector.²⁴⁰ 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

240 <https://proceso.hn/aprueban-prestamo-por-mas-de-19-millones-para-creditos-agricolas-en-honduras/>

will become available for the JOH regime.²⁴¹ And as always, Javier Suazo offered a good analysis of this newest agreement.²⁴²

US

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."²⁴³ ²⁴⁴ Civil society organizations demanded in response a comprehensive investigation.²⁴⁵

The US embassy tweeted this month: "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."²⁴⁶ The US embassy also donated \$8 million in form of food aid.²⁴⁷

US, Guatemalan and Honduran State representatives met with month to discuss the prevention of "irregular migration".²⁴⁸

EU

Honduras and the EU announced a contest that will finance with up to 400.00 euros innovative ideas or solutions that contribute to boost food and nutritional security.²⁴⁹

Drug Trafficking

A judge approved the extradition of José del Tránsito García Teruel to the US this month.²⁵⁰ Cocaine hidden inside Honduran coffee bags was found in Spain.²⁵¹ Proceso Digital published an article on the Central American drug trafficking routes.²⁵² Also InSight Crime covered the topic this month. "The number of destroyed illegal airstrips and the volume of seized cocaine in Honduras this year

241 <https://twitter.com/MarcoMidence/status/1322302043009200133>

242 <https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/209573>

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

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

245 <https://www.cejil.org/en/civil-society-organizations-denounce-dhs-border-externalization-guatemala-call-immediate>

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

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

248 <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1418572-410/honduras-guatemala-evitar-caravanas-migrantes-estados-unidos->

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

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

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

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

are set to surpass 2019 figures, indicating aerial routes for trafficking cocaine in the region remain very much alive."²⁵³

This month, there was a curious amount of reporting on seized drug planes, lawyer Ramón Barrios offered 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".²⁵⁴

Varia

JOH

Proceso Digital published 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".²⁵⁵ Pasos de Animal Grande followed with another article on the problems with the IAIP.²⁵⁶

El Libertador published two articles at the beginning of October highlighting links of JOH to organized crime, especially the MS-13.^{257 258} The US arrested the former Mexican Defense Minister Salvador Cienfuegos when he entered the country. The Pro Honduras Network highlighted links between Cienfuegos and the JOH regime.²⁵⁹ More articles followed making the connection.^{260 261} As a consequence, the Armed Forces and the JOH regime were on the defensive rejecting against all evidence possible links to drug trafficking rather presenting themselves as important pillar to fight drug trafficking.^{262 263 264} 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.^{265 266} Accordingly, JOH's Twitter feed is

²⁵³ <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/aerial-cocaine-trafficking-honduras-guatemala/>

²⁵⁴ <https://confidencialhn.com/consideran-curioso-que-durante-la-visita-de-funcionarios-de-ee-uu-a-honduras-incremente-el-decomiso-de-narcoaviones/>

²⁵⁵ <https://proceso.hn/portales-de-transparencia-mas-abiertos-y-menos-discretos/>

²⁵⁶ <http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/monitoreo-de-compromisos-internacionales/item/2989-el-laberinto-de-la-opacidad-estatal-se-construye-desde-el-iaip>

²⁵⁷ <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2309-exclusiva-ms-13-gobierna-desde-casa-presidencial-general-ramirez-del-cid>

²⁵⁸ <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2315-honduras-tras-emparentarlo-con-el-porky-oficial-acusa-campana-de-desprestigio>

²⁵⁹ <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/>

²⁶⁰ <https://confidencialhn.com/califican-de-vergonzoso-que-ejecutivo-condecorara-a-exsecretario-de-defensa-mexicano-involucrado-en-narcotrafico/>

²⁶¹ <https://criterio.hn/en-verguenza-honduras-por-condecorar-a-exsecretario-de-defensa-de-mexico-capturado-por-narcotrafico-en-ee-uu/>

²⁶² <https://confidencialhn.com/fredy-diaz-justifica-condecoracion-a-exsecretario-de-defensa-mexicano-vinculado-en-narcotrafico/>

²⁶³ <https://tiempo.hn/fuerzas-armadas-no-mencionadas-juicio-tony-herandez/>

²⁶⁴ <https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-las-ffaa-sostiene-que-siempre-luchan-por-reforzar-combate-al-narcotrafico-y-delincuencia-organizada/>

²⁶⁵ <http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/2337-honduras-jefe-del-comando-sur-llega-a-supervisar-dominio>

²⁶⁶ <https://criterio.hn/jefe-del-comando-sur-de-ee-uu-miente-al-felicitar-a-joh-por-lucha-contra-las-drogas/>

full of pictures with him and the admiral.²⁶⁷ 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.²⁶⁸ He was later released and denounced that there was a plan to assassinate him in place.²⁶⁹

Radio Progreso denounced that the JOH regime is playing electoral favoritism again with social programs.²⁷⁰ 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%.²⁷¹

"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."²⁷²

The, rather corporate, Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) announced this month 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.²⁷³

Labor Rights

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."²⁷⁴

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

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

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

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

271 <https://tiempo.hn/quitar-activistas-ahorro-de-120-mil-millones/>

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

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

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

Migration

A new migrant caravan has taken off from Honduras and over 3000 crossed the border to Guatemala on the first day.^{275 276 277} 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."²⁷⁸ OACNUDH's reminder has not been heard by the States. The Guatemalan president said that migrants will be detained and deported.²⁷⁹ And Mexico threatened migrants with prison.²⁸⁰ The same day, 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.²⁸¹ And the next day, Guatemala detained 25 minors from Honduras who took part in the caravan.²⁸² IM-Defensoras denounced the violent repression against the migrants.²⁸³

On October 3, Guatemalan authorities reported that at least 2000 Hondurans who participated in the newest migration caravan had returned to Honduras.²⁸⁴ JOH, meanwhile, claims without any evidence that the caravans are being promoted by "a political movement".²⁸⁵ The next day, Guatemalan authorities even claimed that over 3000 Hondurans had been returned to Honduras.²⁸⁶ Honduran authorities questioned this number. According to them, some 1043 migrants returned/were deported.²⁸⁷ 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."²⁸⁸

El Libertador reported that some smaller groups still pushed on towards Mexico on the dangerous Petén route.²⁸⁹ At the same time, La Prensa reported 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.^{290 291} ContraCorriente summarized this latest migrant caravan as the "chronicle of a caravan destined to fail".²⁹²

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

283 <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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the end of October, The Guardian reported: "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."²⁹³ Another report found: "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."²⁹⁴

Elections

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."²⁹⁵ ²⁹⁶ 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.²⁹⁷

There are ongoing problems with the process and the newest one was revealed at the beginning of the month. "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."²⁹⁸

There are several candidates already who have announced to run in the primary elections of their parties. A further one to come, even got international attention. Jeff Ernst reported 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."²⁹⁹ Rosenthal,

293 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/oct/21/trump-separation-policy-545-children-parents-still-not-found>

294 <https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/630/>

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

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

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

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

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

meanwhile, announced that he will officially launch his campaign on October 11³⁰⁰, which he later did.³⁰¹

On October 7, Congress was meant to continue the discussions about the new Electoral Law, but they made no progress and suspended the discussion and approval another time.^{302 303} The next day, when the discussion continued a new bone of contention surfaced. The Nationalist want to drop the prohibition for public officials to oversee voting booths/stations.³⁰⁴

Another problem with the coming electoral cycle became apparent this month. Political parties constantly violated lockdown measures for holding political rallies. There were calls to prohibit such rallies.³⁰⁵ Sinager later announced to sanction parties holding rallies with more than 50 people.³⁰⁶ But, holding rallies at the current time of the electoral calendar violates the Electoral Law outright.³⁰⁷

On October 14, Congress discussed additional articles of the Electoral Law regarding gender parity and alternation.^{308 309} The corresponding congressional commission spoke out in favor of a reform of the Law on Financing, Transparency and Control of Political Parties and Candidates.³¹⁰ At the same time, PINU “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”.³¹¹

On October 22, Proceso Digital reported that 40 more articles of the new Electoral Law were approved by Congress, i.e. 147 of 333 articles had been approved by then.³¹² Key reforms, such as a two-round presidential election, were not among them.³¹³ Criterio, meanwhile, cited 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”.³¹⁴ ContraCorriente explained how the current electoral reforms are insufficient to stop illicit funds flowing to political parties.³¹⁵

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

314 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-ira-a-elecciones-con-reformas-electorales-cosmeticas-que-no-garantizan-transparencia/>

315 <https://contracorriente.red/2020/10/30/reformas-electorales-son-insuficientes-para-evitar-financiamiento-ilicito-de-partidos-politicos/>

Also this month, Criterio took a critical look at the National Electoral Council (CNE).³¹⁶ Mapa Soluciones offered its services to them to transmit the results from the coming electoral cycle. But the company raises many questions.³¹⁷ They have participated in both the fraudulent elections of 2013 and 2017 and the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) had accused them of fraud.³¹⁸

Debt

El Heraldo reported 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.³¹⁹ At the same time, tax exemptions will increase to 47 billion Lempiras, that is 16% of the total state budget.³²⁰ Criterio reported on the link between the taking up of debt by the JOH regime and corruption.³²¹

Toxic Waste

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.³²²

And Light at the End of a Month

The Foundation San Alonso Rodríguez celebrated 21 years of accompanying the people of the Aguán Valley.

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

317 <https://proceso.hn/que-nos-digan-quienes-son-los-duenos-de-mapa-soluciones-pide-salvador-nasralla/>

318 <https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1320818718780264448>

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

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

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

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

Another Month at the Honduras Forum Switzerland

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-

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-

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