

01/08/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Río Blanco, Impunity; Migration - US, Mexico, Climate Change; ZEDE; Public Sector - Repression; Violence against Women; Bajo Aguán; Penal Code; Electoral Reforms; MACCIH; Corruption - Pandora; and the Need for Salvation

Both IM-Defensoras and CESPAD sent out alerts regarding the situation of Rosalina Domínguez, local COPINH leader in Río Blanco (see also yesterday).

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/08/alertadefensoras-honduras-nuevas-amenazas-de-muerte-intimidacion-y-hostigamiento-contra-rosalina-dominguez-del-copinh/>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/01/alerta-esta-es-bruja-igual-a-berta-la-amenaza-contra-la-indigena-lenca-rosalina-dominguez/>

In a recent statement (see below), US Senator Patrick Leahy also mentions the case of Berta Cáceres. "Many of us also remember the emblematic case of Berta Cáceres, a courageous indigenous environmental activist who was repeatedly harassed and threatened and ultimately assassinated for opposing the illegal construction of a hydroelectric plant. After the police tried to cover up the crime, it was only thanks to international outrage that seven individuals, including an employee of the DESA hydroelectric company, a former security chief for the company who was an ex-U.S.-trained army lieutenant, another U.S.-trained special forces major, and a former special forces sergeant, were arrested and convicted. Yet more than three years after that horrific crime, none of them has been sentenced. The prosecution of an eighth individual, David Castillo, the former DESA president who was also a U.S.-trained former military intelligence officer, has been stalled for months. It is also widely believed that there are other co-conspirators who have not been charged."

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-of-senator-patrick-leahy-on-the-situation-in-honduras>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/01/senador-patrick-leahy-pide-a-trump-ver-el-caos-que-vive-honduras/>

US Senator Patrick Leahy published a press release on the situation in Honduras to highlight the inhumanity of US migration policy. "Anyone who follows the situation in Honduras, as I and many Vermonters do, cannot help but be disappointed and concerned by what is happening there. I won't take the time to discuss in detail the lengthy litany of circumstances that have resulted in the deep social and political divisions, the rampant corruption, violence and insecurity, the prevalence of threats and assassinations by gangs, the dysfunctional justice system, and the sense of desperation and hopelessness that so many Hondurans are feeling. But I do want to mention several that should concern every senator."

In the Senate, Leahy also denounced that "Chairman Graham just broke FOUR committee rules in order to advance Pres. Trump's bill to lock up immigrant children INDEFINITELY. Rules every Republican voted for 6 months ago. Rules I always respected as chairman". He then went on to rip up the bill.

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/statement-of-senator-patrick-leahy-on-the-situation-in-honduras>

<https://twitter.com/SenatorLeahy/status/1156978453851320321>

Bill: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s1494/text>

Mexican police agents shot against a group of Honduran and El Salvadorian migrants including six children.

<https://tiempo.hn/policia-mexicana-dispara-contramigrantes-hondurenos/>

Nina Lakhani reports for the Guardian how rising sea levels will affect Honduras, further driving migration. She explains that this situation is further exacerbated by an extractive development model. "Sea levels are rising around the world, but in this region another local factor is helping speed up coastal degradation: swathes of mangrove forests have been destroyed to make way for industrial shrimp farms which have proliferated even inside protected reserves."

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jul/31/honduras-community-coastal-towns-rising-sea-level>

A future driver of migration may be the ZEDEs, but there was not much news about them in recent months. Now René Osorio Canales claims that the ZEDEs are delayed due to the "political crisis" in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/por-crisis-politica-se-ha-retrasado-la-zede-dice-comisionado-rene-osorio-canales.html>

The Platform in the Defense of Education and Healthcare took to the streets again yesterday.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/miembros-de-la-plataforma-protestan-en-colon.html>

The family members of the 17-year old Eblin Noel Corea Maradiaga demand transparency regarding the results of his exhumation (see also yesterday).

University teacher and social leader Sergio Rivera denounces having been followed for several days by a private university guard.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/familia-de-eblin-corea-exige-transparencia-en-resultados-de-exhumacion/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-el-lider-magisterial-sergio-rivera-denuncia-nueva-vigilancia-de-parte-de-seguridad-privada-en-la-unah/>

CEM-H and others published a report on the impact of violence and insecurity on the lives of women.

<http://www.cemh.org.hn/informe-seguridad-humana/>

The former Dinant guard accused of murdered four campesinos in 2012 in the Bajo Aguán will await trial in prison.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/139-julio2019/4570-prision-preventiva-por-asesinato-de-tres-campesinos-del-aguan>

The Association of Judges for Democracy (AJD) published a study on the new Penal Code.

In a meeting with the National Party, the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) demands the elimination of six articles of the new Penal Code for violating the freedom of expression and the press.

<https://juecesporlademocracia.org/estudio-sistemico-del-proyecto-de-nuevo-codigo-penal-de-honduras/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1174-asociacion-de-jueces-publica-estudio-sobre-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-hondureno>

<http://elpulso.hn/colegio-de-periodistas-pide-eliminar-6-articulos-del-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

El Pulso reports that the National Party, Liberal Party and Libre work on a transitory bill for the election of the representatives of the new electoral bodies.

<http://elpulso.hn/eleccion-de-nuevas-autoridades-electorales-sera-exclusiva-del-congreso/>

Civil society organizations demand clear rules for the evaluation of the MACCIH.

<http://elpulso.hn/exigen-reglas-claras-en-evaluacion-de-la-maccih/>

El Tiempo published additional information on the role of JOH's wife and brother-in-law in the Pandora corruption case - something that resurfaced with the MACCIH's demand to have goods in the Pandora case seized.

Former president Pepe Lobo reacts to this by reiterating that "the problem of Honduras and the National Party is called Juan Orlando Hernández".

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-solicito-incautar-bienes-ana-de-hernandez-por-caso-pandora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/pepe-califica-de-manoso-a-hernandez-por-inminente-aseguramiento-de-la-sede-del-partido-nacional/>

"Salvation will come from the same sick, marginalized and unemployed Hondurans who, before being what they are, were also oppressed and exploited children."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/quien-salvara-a-este-pueblo-humillado/>

02/08/19

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; JOH; Corruption - Pandora, Lobo; Drug Trafficking - US; Germany; Electoral Reforms; Migration; and the Fishermen from Gracias a Dios

41 months have passed since the assassination of Berta Cáceres and her family and COPINH continue to demand justice.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1157327688203407364>

The Economist published a portrait of JOH as a president losing power. "Juan Orlando Hernández, Honduras's president since 2014, was thought to be the region's political genius, endowed with a preternatural talent for keeping and wielding power. (...) A Gallup poll in May found that 86% of Hondurans believe that the country is on the wrong track, up from 60% in 2017. Mr Hernández's net approval rating dropped from +31 to -17. The left-wing opposition, which lost the election in 2017, remains convinced that it was stolen. More worrying for the president, his own centre-right National Party (PN) is turning against him. In past elections it has defeated a divided opposition by staying united, says Raúl Pineda Alvarado, a former PN congressman. Now the PN itself is split.

Many PN politicians think Mr Hernández is betraying them. MACCIH is locking up its members, including the wife of Mr Hernández's predecessor, Porfirio Lobo. Business people, once friendly to Mr Hernández, grumble about slowing growth, corruption and rising taxes. Middle-class Hondurans pay twice for basic services, through taxes and again by spending money on health and security because the state's provision is so bad, says Pedro Barquera, the head of the chamber of commerce in the state of Cortés. The attorney-general has accused the army top brass, who are among Mr Hernández's staunchest allies, of refusing to co-operate with his investigation into the shooting of protesters after the election. That has enraged the generals, who expected the president to protect them as they have protected him."

<https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2019/08/03/the-humbling-of-hondurass-president-juan-orlando-hernandez>

It does not help, that JOH's wife Ana Rosalinda García Carías has been in the news these last days due to her links to the Pandora corruption case. She claims that she has distanced herself from the company linked to the Pandora case. The company was founded in December 2005 by her, her friend and former Minister for Social Development Zoila Patricia Cruz Cerrato, and the husband of JOH's deceased sister Hilda Hernández, Jean Francois Marie de Peyrecave Fiallos.

ContraCorriente explains that in 2006, the year she claims she disconnected with the company, García Carías founded two NGOs (FUNDEIH and FUNDEIMH) which are the main executor of the Vida Mejor social program of JOH, an important pillar of his presidency. Both NGOs are suspected of wrongdoing and when the MACCIH under his former head Juan Jiménez Mayor started to investigate them, this caused an internal crisis leading to Jiménez Mayor's resignation.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/02/primera-dama-de-honduras-dice-que-se-desligo-de-empresa-que-saqueo-al-estado/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/02/caso-pandora-empresa-ligada-a-primera-dama-recibio-l-1-5-millones/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/yo-no-fui-fue-tete-ana-rosalinda-quiere-desmarcarse-de-pandora-fiscalia-presenta-evidencias/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/08/02/los-expedientes-perdidos-de-la-primera-dama/>

The head of UFECIC Luis Santos questions the decision by the judge to drop charges against two former state officials in the corruption case Caja Chica del Hermano, Wilfredo Cerrato and the brother of Pepe Lobo, Jorge Lobo.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/ufecic-cuestiona-determinacion-judicial-en-el-caso-caja-chica-del-hermano.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/sobreseen-a-dos-exfuncionarios-por-la-caja-chica-del-hermano-ufecic-no-pudo-argumentar-causa-penal/>

The US Department of Justice informs about the sentencing for life of the Honduran drug trafficker Hector Emilia Fernández Rosa, Don H.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-drug-trafficker-sentenced-life-prison-distributing-over-150-tons>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/02/don-h-sentenciado-a-cadena-perpetua-en-nueva-york/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1306923-410/hector-emilio-fernandez-don-h-narcotrafico-honduras-eeuu-sentencia-fiscal%C3%ADa-nueva-york>

CESPAD published an analysis by Tomas Andino Mencía on the role of US courts in trying Honduran drug traffickers and its links to an imperial strategy. He concludes: "The leaking and dissemination of court documents from the United States are part of the political instruments used by the empire and, in turn, the government in office to manipulate political actors based on the interests of US foreign policy and the country's elite. Hopes that something good can be expected from these colonial mechanisms are misplaced, because even if they do lead to immediate justice, in the long term they are depriving Hondurans of developing our own means of doing justice, undermining our sovereignty as a people. The corrupt, fraudulent, narco criminals and others must be judged and paid in our country through a reliable and expeditious justice system, which we do not yet have, but for which we must fight."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/02/los-juicios-de-new-york-y-la-estrategia-imperial-para-honduras/>

"The Federal Republic of Germany contributed €1 million (US\$1.1 million) to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), supporting emergency food assistance to more than 16.000 families severely affected by the drought in the Dry Corridor of Honduras".

<https://www1.wfp.org/news/germany-contributes-eu1-million-support-families-dry-corridor-honduras>

The European Union and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) will spend some \$70.9 million on the new Honduran identity card.

<https://tiempo.hn/bcie-y-union-europea-destinan-70-9-millones-proceso-nueva-identidad-1/>

Radio Progreso speaks with Yolanda Gonzáles from the Jesuits Network for Central American Migrants (RJM) about migration and US policy.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/politica-de-cero-tolerancia-de-trump-no-logra-detener-a-migrantes/>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/senor-warren-el-buzo-que-estuve-cara-a-cara-con-la-muerte/>

03/08/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Berta - Impunity; Migration - US; and a Forest Made of Memories

An already difficult week got just worse for JOH. First, his wife made headlines for several days due to her links to the Pandora corruption case, then the Economist highlighted the weaknesses of the JOH regime and now, US court documents identified JOH "as a co-conspirator in a drug trafficking and money laundering case against his brother. Prosecutors say \$1.5 million in drug proceeds was used to help elect him in 2013. (...) Based on the information contained in the documents, Cooperating Witness – 3 appears to be Alexander Ardon, a former National Party mayor of El Paraiso, near the border with Guatemala. Ardon, who was known for having installed a helipad on top of city hall and being flanked by armed guards, was indicted by U.S. prosecutors in January."

US congresswoman Norma Torres denounced that the former US chargé d'affaires posed for many photo ops with JOH giving him credibility.

JOH himself held a press conference yesterday negating everything.

He was accompanied on stage by the Security Minister, his deputy, the Defense Minister, the Foreign Secretary and high police and military officials.

At the same time, a new social media campaign was launched demanding his resignation, #RenunciaYa.

The president of the Liberal Party, Luis Zelaya, wonders what else has to happen until JOH resigns.

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/president-of-honduras-implicated-in-1-5-million-drug-money-conspiracy-by-new-york-prosecutor>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/presidente-de-honduras-implicado-en-una-conspiracion-para-usar-u-1-5-millones-del-narcotrafico-en-sus-campanas>

<https://tiempo.hn/fiscalia-nueva-york-implica-joh-dinero-narcotrafico-financiar-campana/>

<https://twitter.com/NormaJTorres/status/1157774073927282688>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-niega-nexos-con-el-narcotrafico-tras-imputacion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/casa-presidencial-acusaciones-contra-presidente-falsas/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-desmayara-lucha-contra-el-narco-dice-hernandez-y-anuncia-nuevo-paquete-de-leyes-en-seguridad.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/03/hondurenos-arrancan-campana-en-redes-sociales-pidiendo-salida-de-joh/>

<https://tiempo.hn/luis-zelaya-que-mas-pasar-renuncie-joh/>

According to ConfidencialHN, new court files have further shown that JOH's brother Tony Hernández was implicated in the murder of two drug traffickers in 2011 and 2013.

<https://confidencialhn.com/vinculan-a-tony-hernandez-con-muerte-de-narcos-hondurenos/>

Radio Progreso shines a critical light on what they see as one of the main sources of migration, the neoliberal economic model and how it turned migration into a business. "In the last two decades, migrants have become one of the most profitable businesses in the world, especially on the routes of Mesoamerica to the United States. Experts and non-experts recognize that the current migration is the expression of the failure of the neoliberal model that has concentrated wealth and widely distributed misery. Every year between 200'000 and 400'000 Central Americans cross Mexico fleeing hunger and violence from the Northern Triangle, however, the operators of neoliberalism instead of reviewing the causes, have turned the suffering into a business that fills the pockets of local, multinational entrepreneurs and even serves as cannon fodder to define electoral agendas. (...) But the business of the most impoverished does not seem to have limits. Transporting migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean represents a business of 7,000 million dollars a year. The detention service for undocumented migrants in the US It is in private hands and represents a business of 3 billion dollars a year."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/un-negocio-llamado-migrantes/>

The artist Karla Lara describes her return to Río Blanco, 41 months after the assassination of Berta Cáceres, 41 months without justice.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/03/volver-a-rio-blanco-a-41-meses-sin-justicia-para-berta-caceres/>

In a second article, Radio Progreso describes how migrants serve as pawns for the interventionist US foreign policy. "In recent days we have seen, with great shame, how the rulers of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico have bowed their heads and obeyed the orders of the empire by making decisions that will make them more vulnerable and contradict the reality each of these impoverished nations face and that far from stopping migration, this will force more people to leave in search of opportunities because in the end the roots that cause forced migration and internal displacement are not being addressed."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/los-migrantes-monedas-de-cambio/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-un-verde-silencio-crece-el-bosque-de-la-esperanza/>

04/08/19

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH; Mexico; National Police; and Ever More Remittances

The US press also reported on the newest revelations in the drug trafficking case against Tony Hernández which includes direct accusations against JOH himself (see yesterday). "A 49-page document filed in New York's southern district on Friday refers to Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández as a co-conspirator who worked with his brother, Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernández, and former President Porfirio Lobo "to use drug trafficking to help assert power and control in Honduras." It says that the president and his predecessor "relied on drug proceeds" to fund political campaigns and cites "evidence of high-level political corruption."

There are also more demands of JOH's resignation. Libre called for protest marches and the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare announced to remain in the streets until JOH's resignation.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the\\_americas/honduran-president-accused-in-ny-of-drug-conspiracy/2019/08/03/4f4afbc0-b61c-11e9-acc8-1d847bacca73\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.2548ee8830aa](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/honduran-president-accused-in-ny-of-drug-conspiracy/2019/08/03/4f4afbc0-b61c-11e9-acc8-1d847bacca73_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.2548ee8830aa)

<https://www.thestar.com/news/world/americas/2019/08/03/honduran-president-accused-in-ny-of-drug-conspiracy.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-zelaya-libre-calles-renuncia-joh/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/plataforma-de-salud-llama-a-movilizarse-hasta-que-salga-del-poder-el-presidente-hernandez.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/03/vicepresidenta-del-ccepl-exige-renuncia-de-joh-y-todos-los-funcionarios-mencionados/>

Yesterday, it came to light, that Tony Hernández was involved in at least two assassinations of drug traffickers in 2011 and 2013. Criterio publishes more details on the cases.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/03/tony-hernandez-involucrado-en-asesinatos-a-narcotraficantes-en-copan-y-colon/>

El Tiempo published a portrait of the drug trafficker and former mayor of El Paraíso, Copán, Alexander Ardón, the man behind the latest revelations.

El Heraldo published more information on the links between Ardón and Tony Hernández.

<https://tiempo.hn/alexander-ardon-el-narcopolitico-que-gobierno-en-copan-durante-mas-de-una-decada/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1307291-466/fiscal%C3%ADa-de-nueva-york-ty-hern%C3%A1ndez-marcaba-coca%C3%ADna-en-lempira>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1307298-466/tony-hernandez-alquilo-helicoptero-a-alexander-ardon-mover-droga>

Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle published an analysis of the recent \$30 million agreement with Mexico.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/04/los-30-millones-de-amlo-y-el-suplicio-del-pueblo-de-honduras/>

According to DIDADPOL, 256 members of the police force have been purged so far this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/a-256-policias-asciende-la-depuracion-de-policias-este-ano.html>

Remittances once again rose this year compared to 2018.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-capto-entre-enero-y-junio-3-mil-millones-en-remesas-11-2-mas-que-2018.html>

05/08/19

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; JOH - US; Public Sector; Extractivism - Mining; OFRANEH; COFADEH; Drug Trafficking; Electoral Reforms; Migration; and Plan Colombia and its Honduran Aftermath

Yesterday, a week long campaign in support of the political prisoners in Honduras began. Family members and the Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners met before the MP to start a solidarity fasting from 7am to 5pm, every day until Friday.

The same day, the political prisoners Raúl Alvarez, Edwin Espinal and Rommel Portillo announced that they would start a hunger strike.

COPINH sent a message of solidarity.

Among those who joined the fasting is the former president Manuel Zelaya.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/inicia-ayuno-en-tegucigalpa-y-el-progreso-para-apoyar-huelga-de-hambre-de-los-presos-politicos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/05/presos-politicos-de-honduras-se-declaran-en-huelga-de-hambre/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/presos-politicos-iniciaron-hoy-una-huelga-de-hambre-al-interior-de-la-tolva/>

<https://twitter.com/nicaraguaymas/status/1158496437006667777>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1158500976199909376>

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1158382410108678145>

For over a week, first Ana García, the wife of JOH, and the JOH himself made headlines linked to the Pandora corruption case and drug trafficking. Hondurans once more called for his resignation. Yesterday, the US chargé d'affaires felt the need for this answer: "Today I met with the President of #Honduras @JuanOrlandoH to reaffirm the collaboration and cooperation between the US and Honduras on issues of bilateral importance, including irregular migration, the fight against corruption, economic development, regional security, extraditions and dismantling of transnational criminal networks." What else is there to say...

The same day, InSight Crime published an article called "Will Drug Conspiracy Allegations End US Support for Honduras President?".

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1158519821895684096>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/encargado-de-negocios-de-eeuu-se-reune-con-el-presidente-hernandez.html>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1307661-466/estados-unidos-reafirma-apoyo-contracorrupt%C3%B3n-en-honduras>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/will-drug-conspiracy-allegations-end-us-support-for-honduras-president/>

But the pressure is still there on JOH. The Liberal Party held a press conference demanding his resignation and they also demand a stop of international support to the JOH regime.

Salvador Nasralla clarifies that not his resignation, but rather his arrest must be demanded.

Manuel Zelaya believes that JOH wrongly assumed the US will always have his back. The statement above by the chargé d'affaires may give JOH right, but at least from the US judiciary, there is mounting pressure.

Criterio wonders if the US courts will press charges against JOH.

ConfidencialHN has similar hopes.

JOH reacts to all this by calling Nasralla and the two Zelayas "spokespersons of drug traffickers".

Some National Party activists also voiced their support of JOH.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/05/partido-liberal-exige-la-salida-inmediata-de-juan-hernandez/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/05/no-es-la-renuncia-es-la-captura-de-joh-la-que-se-esta-pidiendo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/05/el-error-de-joh-es-haber-creido-que-ee-uu-le-iba-a-cubrir-la-espaldavideo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/05/corte-de-ee-uu-podria-presentar-cargos-contrajuan-hernandez/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/justicia-de-ee-uu-podria-pedir-en-extradicion-por-sus-nexos-con-el-narcotrafico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-nasralla-mel-y-luis-zelaya-deben-renunciar-a-ser-voceros-de-delincuentes/>

<https://tiempo.hn/nacionalistas-a-joh-presidente-usted-no-esta-solo-tiene-partido-que-lo-respalda/>

El Libertador published an interesting text by Rodolfo Pastor Fasquelle comparing the treatment by La Prensa of the two accusations against JOH on the one side and against Manuel Zelaya on the other side of having receiving money from drug traffickers.

El Libertador published another interesting piece of analysis.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3467-honduras-acusaciones-contramel-y-joh-en-la-prensa-similitudes-y-diferencias>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3463-cc-4-la-reeleccion-y-la-ira-de-dios>

At the same time, the JOH regime still faces pressure from the widespread protests having taken place these last three months.

Yesterday, students protested in San Pedro Sula and in Tegucigalpa. They were once more repressed by state security forces.

The Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare announced a protest for this morning at 9am at the UNAH.

And the National Association of Auxiliary Health Workers (ANEEAH) announced strike actions starting on Monday.

<https://tiempo.hn/vuelve-el-gas-estudiantes-unah-vs-protestan-policia-reprime/>

<https://tiempo.hn/protesta-y-quema-de-llantas-frente-a-la-unah-en-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1307681-466/plataforma-de-salud-y-educaci%C3%B3n-convoca-a-manifestaci%C3%B3n-en-la-unah>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asociacion-de-enfermeros-amenaza-con-huelga-para-el-proximo-lunes-a-nivel-nacional.html>

Radio Progreso reports on the successful campaign by indigenous Tolupán in Yorito, Yoro to expel a mining company.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/poblacion-tolupan-de-yorito-expulsa-a-empresa-minera/>

C-Libre denounces that the mining company Inversiones Zúniga García S. de R.L attempted to silence a local councilor and environmental defender in San Ignacio, Francisco Morazán.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1046-minera-pretende-silenciar-a-regidor-y-defensor-del-medio-ambiente>

OFRANEH denounces that a Garífuna man and his two children were attacked in Vallecito, Colón.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1158494295462227968>

OACNUDH published a grief note after the death of Gil Alfonso Oliva Guifarro, brother of Bertha Oliva, general coordinator of COFADEH.

<https://www.facebook.com/ONUDDHH/photos/a.1863848500522606/2489798164594300/?type=3&theater>

The MP announced the Operation Andromeda against the Los Cachiros drug cartel. The operation included several arrests and the seizure of goods, properties and businesses.

ConfidencialHN speaks of a possible smoke-screen.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4586-ordenes-de-captura-y-multiples-aseguramientos-contras-empresas-y-bienes-de-socios-de-los-cachiros>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cortina-de-humo-lanzan-operacion-andromeda-para-quitar-bienes-a-cuadros-de-los-cachiros/>

A former TSE magistrate denounces that the electoral bodies are still very easily infiltrated by organized crime.

<https://tiempo.hn/exmagistrado-asegura-que-tse-aun-facil-de-filtrar-crimen-organizado/>

In the first seven months of 2019, some 65'000 Hondurans have been deported, mostly from Mexico and the US.

According to Proceso Digital, there were even 70'153 deportations.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cerca-de-65-mil-hondurenos-han-retornado-de-la-ruta-migratoria/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-70-000-hondurenos-deportados-este-ano-un-55-4-mas-que-en-2018.html>

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<http://elpulso.hn/del-plan-colombia-a-la-iniciativa-merida-el-origen-del-narco-como-lo-conocemos-en-honduras/>

06/08/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Corruption, Drug Trafficking, Social Media; Public Sector; Political Prisoners; Mining - Tolupán; MADJ; Drug Trafficking - MP; Violence; and the Country of Remittances

Hondurans took to the streets yesterday demanding the resignation of JOH.

The Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare additionally demands the impeachment of JOH. The protest march ended in a two-hour long repression by state security forces using tear gas. A human rights defender also reported on attacks by private security forces from Congress. There were also protests in other cities, equally repressed by the regime.

COFADEH reported various injured protesters.

A cameraman from Channel 11 was attacked by police agents.

OACNUDH once more felt pressed to urge the JOH regime to respect the right to protest.

New protests are announced for today.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/06/en-gigantesca-protesta-hondurenos-exigen-la-salida-de-hernandez-por-vinculos-con-el-narco/>

Photos: <https://criterio.hn/2019/08/06/vea-el-reportaje-grafico-de-la-movilizacion-de-este-6-de-agosto/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3468-ultima-hora-hondurenos-reactivan-insurreccion-popular-exigiendo-renuncia-de-joh>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/juicio-politico-contra-cc-4-exige-plataforma-popular/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/varios-heridos-deja-represion-policial-en-movilizacion-en-el-centro-de-tegucigalpa/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1308004-410/polic%C3%ADa-agrede-camarografo-canal-11-protesta-unah-vs->

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1158819946199232519>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/plataforma-convoca-a-asambleas-en-el-instituto-central-este-miercoles.html>

Univision, i.e. Jeff Ernst, continues to focus on JOH, this time focusing on corruption and the Pandora case. "A vast corruption scheme in Honduras involving the embezzlement of public funds through shell nonprofits and a secretive slush fund controlled by the presidency, is linked to dozens of nonprofits and at least 176 politicians, according to court documents and sources familiar with a wide-ranging investigation by anti-corruption prosecutors. Official documents and court records reviewed by Univision connect the politicians to a corrupt network of at least 53 nonprofits which received more than \$70 million over the last decade, the majority of which evidence suggests was funneled to politicians and campaigns to influence elections and important votes. (...) A pair of nonprofits linked directly to the family of President Juan Orlando Hernández are among those under investigation by anti-corruption prosecutors. The majority of the funds involved in the alleged corruption schemes investigated by Univision were authorized by Hernández's office, according to correspondence between legislators and the presidency."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/exclusive-a-pandoras-box-of-corruption-in-honduras>

There is also more news on the drug trafficking front of the JOH regime. Radio Progreso uncovered that the newly nominated foreign minister Lisandro Rosales had links to drug traffickers now extradited to the US. "A report issued by the Intelligence of the Naval Force, on April 12, 2010, reports to the authorities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a series of meetings between Fabio Lobo, Porfirio Lobo, Javier Rivera Maradiaga, Tony Hernández and Lisandro Rosales, who discussed issues related to business, legal aspects, military and police security, operation and functioning of aeronautical radars."

Reporteros de Investigación published the most important excerpts from the testimonies involving JOH.

Criterio criticizes that CONADEH tried to downgrade the importance of the accusations made against JOH.

At the same time, CONADEH demands an official investigation by the MP and MACCIH into the accusations coming from the US.

Wilfredo Méndez demands that also the accusations by the former police commissioner Ramón Sabillón, made in 2016 against JOH, should be investigated.

JOH, meanwhile, hired a new company to represent him, Mishcon de Reya LLP.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/informe-de-inteligencia-militar-revela-reuniones-de-actual-canciller-lisandro-rosales-y-pepe-lobo-con-narcotraficantes-extraditados/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/06/canciller-de-honduras-se-reunia-con-fabio-lobo-para-hablar-de-crear-empresas-segun-informe-de-inteligencia/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/06/7456/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/06/conadeh-entra-al-juego-de-la-manipulacion-de-joh-sobre-narcotrafico/>

<https://tiempo.hn/conadeh-pide-al-mp-maccih-investigar-alusiones-politicos-tribunal-neoyorquino/>

<https://tiempo.hn/wilfredo-mendez-denuncias-del-general-sabillon-contr-el-presidente-deben-investigarse/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-contrata-lujoso-bufete-que-lo-representaria-en-ee-uu-por-narco-y-lo-ayudaria-a-huir-de-honduras/>

ContraCorriente reports on JOH's social media strategy, or how they call it, "the manipulation by a unpopular president on social media".

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/08/06/la-manipulacion-de-un-presidente-impopular-en-redes-sociales/>

El Tiempo reports on another form of repression against the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare. The president of a dentists union was impeded to go to his work at a military clinic for belonging to the platform.

<https://tiempo.hn/video-por-ser-plataforma-impiden-a-medico-laborar-clinica-de-militares-12/>

On day two of the solidarity fasting with the political prisoners, more social and political leaders joined, for example members from Citizen Action against the Dictatorship and from the Convergence against the Reelection.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-segundo-dia-de-ayuno-accd-y-ccc-exigen-libertad-para-los-presos-politicos/>

A trial will be opened against the head of the environment division at the Yoro mayoralty, Medardo Varela Bustillo, for illegally granting mining licenses in territory by the indigenous Tolupán tribe in San Francisco de Locomapa.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4595-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-por-otorgamiento-ilegal-de-permisos-mineros-en-territorios-de-tribu-tolupan>

MADJ, who accompanies the Tolupán in San Francisco de Locomapa, held its general assembly.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/08/06/declaracion-de-la-xi-asamblea-general-2019-del-madj-juan-samael-y-jose-salomon-presentes/>

The MP praises itself for the successful trial against the two material authors of the assassination of the public prosecutor Orlan Arturo Chávez in 2013. One of the two men is a former police agent. The presumed intellectual author is a police official who faces trial in the US for drug trafficking.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4598-gracias-a-investigacion-de-atic-y-fedcv-se-logra-condena-contr-asesinos-del-fiscal-orlan-arturo-chavez>

In the newest mass killing, the 41st this year, men in police uniforms shot at people attending a funeral in San Pedro Sula killing four people.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1307870-466/honduras-140-personas-han-muerto-en-41-masacres-en-lo-que-va>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/honduras-el-pais-de-las-remesas/>

08/08/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Repression, Protests, EU, US: Political Prisoners; MACCIH; National Police; and Sweet Dreams

Honduras lived through another day of protest and the participants suffered more repression by the JOH regime. The international press started to cover this new wave of protests.

The Honduras Solidarity Network denounces three injured students at least one by bullets, in Tegucigalpa.

In San Pedro Sula, the police threw tear gas into buses transporting university students.

UNAH dean Francisco Herrera called it "a barbaric act".

El Tiempo reports that an unknown armed man threatened students on the university campus in San Pedro Sula.

COPINH denounced a hunt by state security forces of protesting youths in Esperanza, Intibucá.

OACNUDH "energetically condemned" the attacks against journalists and social communicators as well as the disproportionate actions taken against the protesting students. OACNUDH sent out a note of solidarity with the students.

C-Libre released two alerts, one on the attack against a Channel 11 cameraman, another on the repression in general.

CESPAD also sent out an alert directed at the MP, CONADEH and the Human Rights Secretariat.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/07/honduras-protesters-president-juan-orlando-hernandez-riot-police>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-49263115>

Video: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-latin-america-49268565/honduras-protest-we-want-this-narco-dictator-out-of-presidency>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1159205859441823744>

<https://tiempo.hn/video-uso-bombas-lacrimogena-provoca-incendio-unah/>

Video: <https://twitter.com/GildateleSUR/status/1159070340984836096>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/rector-califica-como-acto-de-barbarie-abuso-policial-contra-universitarios.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/video-hombre-amenaza-con-arma-de-fuego-a-estudiantes-en-unah-vs/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1159294855274729477>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1159163439165706242>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1050-policias-atacan-a-camarografo-de-canal-11>

<https://radiohrn.hn/colegio-de-periodistas-condena-agresion-a-camarografo-de-canal-11/>

<https://tiempo.hn/agresion-contra-camarografo-de-canal-11-indigna-a-periodistas-de-sps/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/camarografo-de-canal-11-y-estudiantes-son-agredidos-por-policias-en-sps.html>

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1049-reprimen-protestas-opositoras-hernandez-mientras-resguardan-movilizaciones-oficialistas>

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/07/alerta-condenamos-la-brutal-represion-policial-y-militar-que-sufre-el-pueblo-de-honduras/>

The Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare calls for new protests today including one in front of the MP demanding the issuance of an arrest warrant against JOH and his family.

<https://radiohrn.hn/con-ayuno-plataforma-exigira-requerimiento-fiscal-para-el-presidente-hernandez-y-su-familia/>

Criterio reports that a group of EU Parliamentarians wrote to the EU's parting Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini demanding a suspension of the collaboration with the JOH regime and the investigation of the accusations against JOH.

Libre congressman Jari Dixon Herrera sees a weakened JOH. "I had never seen him give two press conferences in a couple of hours. I had never seen him say so many absurd things in such a short time, something which reflects despair".

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/07/eurodiputados-piden-cancelar-ayuda-a-honduras-e-investigar-acusaciones-contrajoh/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/06/joh-va-a-ser-extraditado-procesado-y-condenado-jari-herrera-video/>

At the same time, and just shortly after meeting with JOH, the US Chargé d'Affaires met yesterday with Salvador Nasralla.

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1159215327181512704>

The solidarity fasting continued yesterday for the third consecutive day.

Human rights defender and former UNAH dean spoke of Honduras as a whole as another political prisoner whose democracy is imprisoned.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/los-presos-politicos-deberian-ser-considerados-heroes-nacionales-y-no-criminales/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-es-un-pais-presopoliticamente-con-una-democracia-encarcelada-juan-almendares-bonilla/>

The MP published a press release praising the collaboration with the MACCIH and the MACCIH did the same thing in return.

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1159272628198301696](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1159272628198301696)

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-012.MACCIH-MANIFIESTA.pdf>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-ufecic-mp-un-socio-fundamental-elogian-a-fiscal-general/>

The former police official René Darío Méndez was found guilty of sexually abusing a woman.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4597-sentencia-condenatoria-para-ex-oficial-de-policia-por-el-delito-de-violacion>

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<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/07/dios-me-revelo-que-th-y-joh-seran-condenados-a-cadena-perpetua/>

08/08/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Repression, US; Political Prisoners; US; Indigenous Peoples; Migration - US; Climate Change; Dengue; National Police; and 8 Reasons to Get Rid of JOH

Radio Progreso speaks with Mario Membreño, member of the coordinating committee of the Convergence against the Reelection - a civil society platform formed in 2016/2017 when JOH announced he would run for reelection.

And more international press outlets have picked up the protests in Honduras, among them El País.

The Liberal Party challenges JOH on his choice of defense, a "luxurious English law firm" and they demand that he takes care to pay it with his own money.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/dictadura-comienza-a-erosionarse-senala-analista/>

[https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/08/08/america/1565217869\\_215142.html](https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/08/08/america/1565217869_215142.html)

<https://tiempo.hn/indican-a-joh-como-pagar-al-prestigioso-bufete-que-lo-defendio-ante-univision/>

The Coalition against Impunity published a press release condemning the violent repression by the JOH regime.

They also demand the international community to speak up regarding the situation in Honduras.

In a second press release, university teachers condemned the recent attacks on students as part of the widespread repression of the protests against the JOH regime.

ConexiHon published additional information on the recent attack on the Channel 11 cameraman Juan Carlos Castillo. He was covering the protests when police agents attacked him.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/del-discurso-maniqueista-de-buenos-y-malos-a-la-represion-brutal/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/08/piden-a-comunidad-internacional-no-guardar-silencio-sobre-lo-que-sucedee-en-honduras/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/claustro-de-profesores-de-la-unah-vs-condenan-acto-criminal-contr-estudiantes-universitarios/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1182-me-daban-patadas-punetazos-me-tomaron-del-cuello-camarografo-narra-agresion-policia>

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/434959/protesta-orlando-herandez-policia-represion>

Slavador Nasralla spoke with El Tiempo about his talk with US chargé d'affaires Lawrence Gumbiner. He gave Gumbiner a report on the electoral reforms as well as one on the current crisis in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/nasralla-entrego-una-carta-un-documento-y-un-informe-sobre-actual-crisis-a-gumbiner/>

On day 4 of the solidarity fasting with the political prisoners, COPINH, CINPH and OFRANEH joined the protest outside the MP.

In the midst of this, the news broke that in the case of Edwin and Raúl, a review hearing will take place today at 9am, giving their defense team only a minimum amount to prepare.

ConexiHon spoke with the lawyer Prisila Alvarado about the inhumane situation of the political prisoners.

The same day, prison authorities also announced the transfer of 420 inmates to so-called high-security prisons.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/indigenas-y-negros-se-sumaron-al-ayuno-para-exigir-libertad-para-los-presos-politicos/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1159656621561303040>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1180-la-abogada-prisila-alvarado-denuncia-la-situacion-inhumana-en-las-que-se-encuentran-los-presos-politicos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1308388-466/a-c%C3%A1rceles-de-m%C3%A1xima-seguridad-mueven-421-reos-la-mayor%C3%ADa-pandilleros>

"Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a bipartisan Congressional delegation to Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and McAllen, Texas. "As our high-powered delegation begins our visit to the Northern Triangle, we look forward to strengthening our partnership to enhance regional security and stability, create greater economic opportunity, combat corruption and advance human rights to make it safer for people to thrive in their communities," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "In our meetings with representatives from government, the judiciary, civil society, community and faith-based groups, the private sector and human rights organizations, we will renew our commitment to advancing our shared interests and to helping empower the people of the Northern Triangle to build a better future at home. We also look forward to honoring the cultural and family ties that connect our people and the enormous contributions that generations of immigrants from the region have made to the United States."

<https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/8819/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/08/presidenta-del-congreso-de-ee-uu-nancy-pelosi-visita-el-triangulo-norte-de-centro-america/>

Radio Progreso reports on the various attacks on indigenous Lenca communities in these last weeks.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/se-agudizan-ataques-contr-comunidades-indigenas-lencas/>

Book Review: "A principal goal of the Trump administration's policy at the U.S.-Mexico border — and in Central America, considered of late only in relation to that border — has been to get other governments to handle the increase in migrants seeking to enter the United States. (...) Another way to describe these efforts is what the U.S. security establishment has long referred to as "pushing out the border." It's not a project that's new to the Trump administration, and it's not one that's unique to the United States, as journalist Todd Miller expounds in his latest book, "Empire of Borders: The Expansion of the U.S. Border Around the World.""

<https://theintercept.com/2019/08/03/migration-empire-borders-book/>

Criterio published a long articles on the negative effects of climate change on Honduran agriculture and the further deterioration of the situation in the so-called dry corridor.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/08/un-millonario-sueno-que-se-evaporo-en-riegos-y-semillas/>

Taiwan will donate \$2 million to the JOH regime to combat dengue. JOH also met with the Taiwanese Minister of Defense, Yen Teh-fa.

<http://copeco.gob.hn/Ayuda-de-Taiwan>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presidente-hernandez-recibe-al-ministro-de-defensa-de-taiwan.html>

The MP arrested an active police agent accused of homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4615-fedcv-y-atic-dan-captura-a-policia-activo-por-el-homicidio-de-un-joven-en-la-colonia-villa-nueva>

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/capturan-policia-activo-por-homicidio-de-joven-en-la-colonia-villanueva.html>

"First. He must leave because he has been identified by a prosecutor of a US court to have conspired with drug traffickers to become president of the National Congress and President of the Republic. (...) Second. He must leave because he violated the Constitution of the Republic when he was re-elected (...) Third. JOH fraudulently won the 2017 elections. (...) Fourth. JOH is primarily responsible for at least 43 people killed in demonstrations against the electoral fraud, and in addition [he is responsible] of human rights violations. (...) Fifth. JOH must leave because he and the main members of the National Party are accused of looting public institutions (...) Sixth. JOH is primarily responsible for illegally commercializing natural assets and for privatizing public services. (...) Seventh. Citizens are tired of JOH. (...) Eighth. He must leave because his wife Ana

Rosalinda García was indicated by the Maccih and the Ufecih to have participated in the looting of around 280 million lempiras from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/ocho-razones-para-sacar-a-joh/>

09/08/19

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; JOH - Protests, Repression, Youth, US; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Migration - JOH; Business and HR; Domestic Workers; and No Northern Triangle Alliance?

Yesterday, the solidarity fasting with the political prisoners ended with a concert and a great victory. A hearing took place to review the pre-trial detention of Edwin Espinal and Raúl Ordoñez (see also yesterday).

The judge decided that both Edwin and Raúl should be released and that they can await trial outside prison - after one year and eight months of pre-trial detention.

COPINH celebrated the decision and demanded the release of the two other political prisoners, Rommel Portillo and Gustavo Cáceres.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-un-concierto-finaliza-hoy-ayuno-en-favor-de-los-presos-politicos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensa-el-encarcelamiento-contr-edwin-espinal-y-raul-ordonez-es-ilegal/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1159919892839059456>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1159918074000285699>

<https://tiempo.hn/en-libertad-se-defenderan-jovenes-acusados-de-danar-el-hotel-marriot/>

Hondurans took once again to the streets in great numbers yesterday afternoon demanding the resignation of JOH.

Manuel Zelaya called for a new opposition alliance which he calls Alliance for the Social and Democratic Reconstruction.

OACNUDH accompanied the protest reminding the JOH regime to respect the freedom to protest.

New protests will take place today.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/marea-roja-exige-la-salida-de-hernandez-por-nacotrafico-y-corrupcion/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3470-indignacion-miles-de-hondurenos-en-todo-el-pais-exigen-hoy-renuncia-de-joh>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/mel-zelaya-propone-nueva-alianza-para-darle-la-estocada-final-a-joh/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1159953306027999233>

<https://hch.tv/2019/08/09/plataforma-de-defensa-de-salud-y-educacion-convoca-movilizacion-para-manana-sabado/>

There is no report of repression of yesterday's march in Tegucigalpa. But Thursday's repression was very brutal (see also yesterday) and a new information came to light. US anthropologist Adrienne Pine denounced on Twitter: "Honduran police tried to kill me today [Thursday] as I filmed them attacking @UNAHoficial students after students shouted that I was a human rights defender from the U.S. (which they mistakenly assumed b/c I was next to a human rights worker wearing a vest) & filming".

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation of Juan Carlos Castillo, a cameraman attacked by the police this week. Yesterday, he presented an official complaint at the MP. He continues to suffer headaches from the hits to his head.

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on the state repression suffered by journalists and social communicators covering this week's protests.

<https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1159639031661105152>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/camarografo-atacado-por-policia-busca-justicia-para-frenar-agresiones/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2529-entre-bombas-lacrimogenas-y-sangre-la-libertad-de-expresion-esta-bajo-ataque-en-honduras>

Adrienne Pine recently also published an article looking at the difficult situation of Honduras' youth having to choose between "suffering violence and repression at home or risking the dangerous journey to the United States".

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/flee-honduras-child-braves-tear-gas-sell-vinegar-bags/261243/>

In a speech at the end of yesterday's protest march in Tegucigalpa, Manuel Zelaya addressed US Speaker of Congress Nancy Pelosi who traveled as part of a Congressional delegation to the region. "Mrs. Pelosi if you came to join the people to get rid of the dictatorship, welcome, if not, return home".

Padre Melo wrote an open letter to Pelosi. "You arrive in Honduras, a country devastated by public policies promoted by governments that throughout history have had the full support of the governments of the United States". He then went on to challenge her "to be the person who defies the Trump administration, preventing resources from being allocated for the Armed Forces and for the security of Honduras, or on the contrary, to be an accomplice of that repressive administration".

Interestingly, Criterio just announced that there will be no meeting between Pelosi and JOH, but rather with Honduras' Foreign Secretary Lisandro Rosales.

Oscar Estrada published an analysis on El Pulso concluding that the Trump administration will continue to support the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/senora-pelosi-si-usted-viene-a-unirse-al-pueblo-para-sacar-la-dictadura-bienvenida-si-no-regrese-a-su-casa-mel-zelaya/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/carta-publica-sra-nancy-pelosi-y-su-comitiva-de-representantes-de-la-camara-baja-congreso-de-los-estados-unidos-de-america/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/pelosi-puede-desafiar-a-trump-o-ser-complice-de-la-represion-en-honduras-padre-melo/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/nancy-pelosi-no-se-reunira-con-gobernante-de-honduras/>

<http://elpulso.hn/de-por-que-joh-no-se-va/>

To divert attention away from him, JOH has talked on various occasions that he was the target of assassination plans by drug traffickers. To keep the media attention rolling, this week he announced that he will soon reveal their names.

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-anuncia-revelera-narcotraficantes-querian-matarlo-2017/>

Honduras appears on a US black list of drug transit and production countries.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/ee-uu-incluye-a-honduras-en-lista-negra-de-paises-de-transito-y-produccion-de-drogas/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1308805-466/honduras-en-lista-de-22-pa%C3%ADses-m%C3%A1s-involucrados-en-narcotr%C3%A1fico>

Proceso Digital reports that some 20% of deported Honduran children show signs of anxiety and post-traumatic stress.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cerca-de-un-20-de-la-ninez-migrante-retornada-al-pais-presenta-trastornos-de-ansiedad.html>

The Human Rights Secretariat met with civil society representatives to discuss a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/autoridades-analizan-necesidad-de-construir-un-plan-nacional-de-empresas-y-ddhh.html>

El Pulso reports on the outstanding promise of a law for Honduras' estimated 139'000 domestic workers.

<http://elpulso.hn/ley-trabajo-domestico-hn/>

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<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/alianza-del-triangulo-norte-a-punto-de-derrumbarse/>

10/08/19

Honduras Daily: US - HR, Drug Trafficking, COPINH, MACCIH, Migration; JOH - Protests, Repression; Drug Trafficking;

The congressional delegation headed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Honduras on Friday evening. Yesterday, they held several meetings, but not with JOH (see also yesterday's e-mail). They were welcomed by the new Foreign Secretary Lisandro Rosales, the same person recently highlighted in the drug trafficking case linked to Fabio Lobo....

El Libertador published an article saying that Rosales tried to paint an overly rosy picture of Honduras.

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1160362726469885954>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3472-nancy-pelosi-no-se-reunio-con-gobernante-de-honduras>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3473-canciller-hondureno-quiso-enganar-a-congresistas-de-ee-uu>

<https://confidencialhn.com/queriamos-escuchar-a-las-personas-no-a-el-pelosi-desmiente-al-regimen-sobre-las-maravillas-hondurenas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/denuncias-corrupcion-injusticia-e-impunidad-preocupan-a-congresistas-estadounidenses/>

Congressman Jim McGovern tweeted that "I told the Honduran officials how deeply troubled I am by the culture of corruption and human rights abuses surrounding Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández."

<https://twitter.com/RepMcGovern/status/1160246222332059649>

COPINH wrote an open letter to the 13 congresswo/men, starting the letter as follows: "Start doing the right thing: a Honduras without weapons, a Honduras without war, a Honduras without JOH."

COPINH's General Coordinator Berta Zúniga met with the delegation and highlighted the importance to approve the Berta Cáceres Bill.

Congressman Jim McGovern denounced that "Berta's family & @COPINHHonduras continue to be threatened and attacked for their search for justice and their environmental, land rights and human rights work. We stand with Berta's family and all the brave indigenous and human rights defenders in #Honduras!"

<https://copinh.org/2019/08/carta-abierta-a-nancy-pelosi-y-congresistas-de-eeuu-open-letter/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1160312995685326848>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1160255370071330816>

<https://twitter.com/RepMcGovern/status/1160262386575663104>

They met with the MP as well as the MACCIH reconfirming US support for their work.

Criterio reports that the delegation was also made aware about the insufficient investigations into the JOH regime, i.e. JOH himself.

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1160364691295756288](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1160364691295756288)

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1160328954961715207](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1160328954961715207)

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/10/congresistas-de-ee-uu-prometen-monitorear-denuncias-de-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-contra-hernandez/>

The US delegation also met with the private business lobby COHEP which promised to play its part in avoiding migration.

The Central American Fiscal Studies Institute (ICEFI), meanwhile, highlighted the role of a problematic economic model in creating migrants instead of offering Central Americans good prospects at home.

<https://tiempo.hn/cohep-promete-a-congresistas-ee-uu-trabajar-para-evitar-migracion-hondurenos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/debilidad-fiscal-de-paises-del-triangulo-norte-agudiza-crisis-migratoria/>

Protests against the JOH regime took place again yesterday.

<https://tiempo.hn/libre-junto-plataforma-de-lucha-defensa-salud-y-educacion-marcharon-exigiendo-salida-joh/>

ConfidencialHN reports that the death of the young Eblin Noel Corea by bullets of state security forces has been confirmed.

<https://confidencialhn.com/afirman-que-eblin-corea-fue-asesinado-por-bala-militar-en-protestas-en-la-paz12/>

ContraCorriente published an interesting analysis regarding the current protests against JOH.

"President Juan Orlando Hernández is now facing a new wave of protests that demand his resignation and prosecution. The statements of a drug trafficker, a former member of his political party, put him back in the face of popular discontent and ratified what has been said of Honduras several years ago: that it is a "narco-state." However, that Hernández may have financed his campaign with drug money does not seem to be the main trigger for the protests in the streets of Honduras, although it does seem to be the excuse for the international community to see and recognize him as an illegitimate president, a criminal. Honduran society has been quite tolerant of drug trafficking (...) Being a drug trafficker in Latin America is a symbol of success, of risk, a kind of "Pablo Robin Hood Escobar" who transgresses all the norms and uses violence to benefit from a corrupt system and who, in addition, is a benefactor of those who give him admiration or fear For

this reason, a protest against drug traffickers or a self-defense strategy against drug traffickers has never been seen in Honduras.

(...) Many representatives of the political and business elites also accept the narco, protect it because it protects them, support it because it finances them.

(...) However, there is a line that this protesting society is not willing to accept that be crossed. These people find the looting of the health and education system unforgivable and even more, the fraudulent re-election that keeps him in power (...) These are the real triggers."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/08/09/no-es-por-narco/>

11/08/19

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; JOH - US; Dengue; Poverty - Climate Change; Corruption; and Honduran Dichotomies

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

foro\_honduras\_suiza@riseup.net

[https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/1907\\_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf](https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/1907_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf)

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez is not hopeful that Saturday's visit by a congressional US delegation (see yesterday's e-mail) will change much. According to her, JOH won't give up his power. She also calls for a united political opposition - manifested not only in calls for unity, but practical behavior in Congress.

<https://tiempo.hn/doris-gutierrez-visita-congresistas-eeuu-superficial/>

The number of deaths due to Dengue rose to 89 in Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/asciende-89-muertes-por-dengue-en-honduras/>

Criterio published another article on the negative effects of climate change on food production in Honduras, especially in the dry corridor. "For the fifth consecutive year, erratic and extreme weather patterns of drought and prolonged rainfall have decimated corn and bean crops in the Dry Corridor of Central America. The destruction of crops means hunger for peasant farmers who struggle daily to feed their families. More than 2 million people in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua have been affected, and 1.4 million need urgent help."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/11/el-clima-se-llevo-sus-cosechas-y-ahora-pasan-hambre/>

The new president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, announced the creation of their own international anti-corruption body, the CICIÉS, in the first 100 days of his presidency.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/09/cici-sera-lanzada-en-el-salvador-antes-de-primeros-100-dias-de-gobierno-anuncia-bukele/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/quienes-son-los-malos/>

12/08/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Repression, US, Economy; Journalists - Protection Mechanism; MACCIH - US; UFECIC; OFRANEH; Environmental Law; Migration - US; and Transnational Fundamentalism

Protests against the JOH regime continued yesterday including marches and occupation of highways in different parts of the country.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/nueva-jornada-de-protestas-y-represion-vive-honduras/>

Padre Melo accompanied a protest in Baracoa, Cortés. He denounces that he was followed by the Armed Forces in an unmarked car and that they took pictures of him.

This took place just three days after Padre Melo wrote an open letter to the US congressional delegation (see this weekend's e-mails) calling for an end of US security support to Honduras.

Yesterday, the Journalists Association of Honduras (CPH) met with the Security Secretariat to discuss the ongoing repression suffered by journalists covering protests.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/director-de-radio-progreso-y-el-eric-sj-denuncia-persecucion-de-fuerzas-armadas/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-militares-dan-persecucion-y-vigilancia-al-padre-ismael-moreno/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/12/padre-melo-denuncia-que-desde-vehiculo-de-las-ff-aa-le-dan-persecucion/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cph-y-pn-analizan-comportamiento-policial-frente-a-la-prensa-en-manifestaciones.html>

The JOH regime published a press release announcing that JOH and some cabinet members traveled yesterday to Washington DC to participate at a meeting by the IACHR. Twitter went wild after this announcement as there is no official meeting announced on the IACHR homepage, i.e. the meeting in question would take place in Argentina and not the US. Some link the visit to the newest revelations of JOH's link to drug trafficking.

The Pro Honduras Network also challenged the JOH regime regarding the real reasons for its US visit.

Rumors further spread when the president of the Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta Pérez, announced that they had received a new request for an extradition.

Former president Pepe Lobo immediately announced that he is still in Honduras and that he won't be extradited.

[https://twitter.com/Presidencia\\_HN/status/1161012233603899393?s=20](https://twitter.com/Presidencia_HN/status/1161012233603899393?s=20)

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-viaja-a-washington-cancilleria-dice-que-fue-a-reunion-en-la-oea/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/12/casa-presidencial-confirma-misterioso-viaje-de-hernandez-a-washington/>

<https://tiempo.hn/cph-seguridad-promete-respetar-labor-de-periodistas-en-manifestaciones/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/12/pro-honduras-network-desmiente-reunion-de-joh-con-oea-cicad-en-washington/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidente-csj-revela-nuevo-requerimiento-extradicion/>

<https://tiempo.hn/pepe-lobo-estar-en-honduras-y-no-ser-extraditado/>

El Libertador reports that the director of the Commerce and Industry Chamber of Cortés (CCC) tweeted that JOH is doing a lot of harm to Honduras and that he should step aside.

JOH's assessor Marvin Ponce went on the offensive speaking of a conspiracy by corrupt business elites to get rid of JOH...

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3477-industria-hondurena-exige-a-joh-hacerse-a-un-lado>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/empresarios-corruptos-integran-conspiracion-para-sacar-a-hernandez-del-poder-marvin-ponce.html>

Reporteros de Investigación reports on the situation of the police escort mandated by the protection mechanism to protect the journalist Jairo López. "The police escort of the journalist Jairo López has been persecuted, tortured, sent to dark cells and suffered a job transfer in retaliation for doing his job of protecting a facing death threats journalist."

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/12/peligro-y-tortura-sufre-escolta-policial-al-cumplir-con-proteccion-de-periodista-jairo-lopez/>

After the US congressional delegation ended its regional visit, the House Foreign Affairs Committee tweeted: "In Honduras, it's essential that the work of @OEA\_MACCIH continue when its mandate expires. While I don't object to an independent evaluation of MACCIH, such an assessment cannot be used as an excuse to end/weaken the org. #MACCIH has strong bipartisan backing in our congress."

<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign/status/1160719825200660480>

The Washington Post published a profile of the head of the MACCIH's Honduran counterpart UFECIC, public prosecutor Luis Santos. "Mr. Santos has filed charges against powerful congressmen, ex-ministers and a former first lady in Honduras. He has another 20 ongoing investigations that target members of current and past administrations, and involve about \$100 million in allegedly stolen government funds, he said. Honduras lawmakers have stymied some of those investigations and some legislators are now challenging the right of Mr. Santos and his team of nine prosecutors to continue their work under a special arrangement with the Organization of American States, which provides funding, foreign prosecutors and experts to assist with cases. They've argued the OAS mission, which is up for renewal in January, is unconstitutional because it infringes on Honduran sovereignty and undermines judicial independence."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/honduran-prosecutor-stalled-by-politicians-who-see-us-as-their-enemies-11565524801?redirect=amp#click=https://t.co/dMvwuUwDyT>

The Environmental Law Institute of Honduras (IDAMHO) published its newest edition of the Gaceta Verde.

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/168d3f48-2d77-4c69-a219-a4375e8e716f/Gaceta\\_Verde\\_74\\_Mayo\\_Junio\\_2019.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d02dd2498a2fb3cd56bd850c3/files/168d3f48-2d77-4c69-a219-a4375e8e716f/Gaceta_Verde_74_Mayo_Junio_2019.pdf)

OFRANEH published a series of short videos on the repression suffered by their communities in the coastal north of Honduras by state and non-state actors wanting their land.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1160931055425269761>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1160937586539606017>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1160934704679399424>

"More than 100 detained immigrants across two U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities in Louisiana have been "subjected to excessive use of force and retaliation" over their participation in hunger strikes, a high-profile immigration advocacy group has claimed."

<https://www.newsweek.com/ice-detainees-hunger-strike-pepper-sprayed-excessive-force-1452953>

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<https://contracorriente.red/2019/08/12/transnacionales-de-la-fe/>

13/08/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - US; Political Prisoners; Journalists; LGBTQ; Drug Trafficking; MACCIH; Corruption - Impunity Pact, IHSS; Electoral Reforms; Migration - Poverty; and Run JOH, Run

The theories about the real reasons for JOH's stay in the US continue to spread. Criterio reports that various cars with official government license plates parked outside of the hotel JOH stays in and that he had hour-long meetings with them.

He also met with the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almargo.

JOH, meanwhile, felt pressured to claim that he is not facing criminal charges in the US.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/13/joh-no-se-reunio-con-el-cicad-como-dijo-casa-de-gobierno-de-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sobre-viaje-de-joh-gobierno-fomenta-cultura-de-la-desinformacion-asegurista/>

<https://tiempo.hn/con-fotos-y-a-traves-de-twitter-informan-de-citas-de-joh-y-primera-dama/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1309898-466/presidente-hondure%C3%B1o-asegura-que-no-enfrenta-cargos-en-eeuu>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-en-washington-no-hay-acusaciones-formales-son-alegaciones-de-un-narco/>

Rel UITA spoke with lawyer and director of C-Libre, Edy Tabora, about the important legal precedent set last week with granting alternative measures to imprisonment to the political prisoners Edwin Espinal and Raúl Álvarez.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-sento-un-precedente-importantisimo/>

A DPI police agent aggressively stopped the journalist Wenceslao Canales from reporting on an incident and threatened with arrest. The same journalist received threats last month after reporting on corruption at a local hospital in Tocoa.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1053-jefe-de-la-dpi-impide-cobertura-y-amenaza-a-periodista>

The MP informs about an initial hearing in the case of the assassinated LGBTQ activist Walter Orlando Tróchez. He was murdered in the post-coup d'état repression in December 2009.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4635-en-audiencia-inicial-presunto-asesino-de-defensor-de-derechos-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi>

Radio Progreso published a short video explaining highlighting the drug trafficking routes through Honduras to the US.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8b1gn1ronc>

The MACCIH and OACNUDH held a public forum on "Structural Patterns of Corruption Networks and Widespread Human Rights Violations".

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1161329536077836288](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1161329536077836288)

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/la-oea-y-onu-dicen-que-corrupcion-en-honduras-tiene-impacto-negativo-en-ddhh.html>

In the first so-called Impunity Pact, the Nationalist congresswoman Sara Medina evaded a trial by paying 20'000 Lempiras and a deal with the PGR. Now, a judge challenged this deal and the trial will continue.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/13/desestiman-arreglo-de-diputada-sara-medina-con-la-pgr/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/niegan-a-diputada-sara-medina-conciliar-por-caso-pacto-de-impunidad.html>

An appeals court confirmed the opening of the trial against the former IHSS director Mario Zelaya for embezzlement. At the same time, they dropped four charges of abuse of authority.

The charges against the businessman Roberto Bandes Atuán in the same case were completely dropped.

<https://tiempo.hn/caso-ihss-corte-quita-cuatro-delitos-a-mario-zelaya-y-sobresee-a-roberto-bandes/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/corte-de-apelaciones-dicta-sobreseimiento-para-empresario-acusado-en-megafraude-al-ihss.html>

The Association for a More Just Society (ASJ) published a proposal for a bill regarding the selection, election and the work of the two new electoral bodies; the National Electoral Council and the Electoral Justice Tribunal.

Congress, meanwhile, held a first session yesterday to discuss such a bill.

At the end of the day, Libre, the National and the Liberal Party seem to have come to an agreement and created a congressional commission on the topic.

This also represented the end of a 91-day congressional insurrection by Libre.

<http://elpulso.hn/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Propuesta-de-Ley-de-Seleccio%CC%81n.Eleccio%CC%81n.Funcionamiento.Electoral.pdf>

<http://elpulso.hn/congreso-comenzara-a-discutir-nueva-ley-para-nombrar-autoridades-electorales-hoy-y-terminar-insurreccion-de-libre/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/13/nombra-comision-legislativa-para-integrar-organos-electorales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/13/libre-pone-fin-a-insurreccion-legislativa/>

In a joint press release, several international human rights organizations raised concern "about recent harassment and intimidation by Mexican authorities of personnel working at the Casa del Migrante de Saltillo. We fully support the work of the Casa del Migrante de Saltillo (...) In addition,

the shelter documents and denounces human rights violations suffered by migrants during their journey. (...) On July 20, at around 1:00 PM, five Federal Police officers arrived at the shelter in official vans and tried to forcibly enter the shelter to conduct an immigration check."

EN: <https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/Casa-del-Migrante-de-Saltillo-public-statement-final.pdf>

ES: <https://www.lawg.org/wp-content/uploads/Statement-Casa-del-Migrante-Spanish-final.pdf>

"The World Food Program says it's planning to nearly quadruple the number of people that the U.N. agency helps in four central American countries affected by drought, seen as one of the drivers of migration through the region. WFP spokesman Herve Verhoosel says the agency aims to provide food assistance to 700,000 people in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua — up from 160,000 helped already this year."

<https://apnews.com/d91bd9124aff407391d60c4949b16750?utm>

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<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/13/juan-hernandez-un-presidente-que-se-volvio-omnipresente/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/buenos-aires-es-la-capital-de-ee-uu-joh-sale-a-correr-en-washington-y-los-tuiteros-lo-vacilan-sin-parar/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1309702-466/juan-orlando-hernandez-honduras-washington-ejercicio-drogas-reunion>

14/08/19

Honduras Daily; OFRANEH; Berta - Trial; UN; LGBTQ; Journalists; HRDs - Penal Code; Corruption - Human Rights; JOH - Protests, Drug Trafficking, US; Electoral Reforms; Militarization; Penitentiary System; Mexico; and Community Energy

OFRANEH sent out an alert as once again armed men threaten the Garífuna community of Vallecito. OFRANEH denounces that organized crime takes control of an area the Honduran state has given up decades ago.

Protection International holds the JOH regime responsible of infringing the human rights of the Vallecito community.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1161681588385718272>

<https://twitter.com/PImesoamerica/status/1161718072580988928>

Back in April, the preliminary hearing against David Castillo Mejía, one of the intellectual authors in the Berta Cáceres case, was suspended because his defense presented an expert opinion trying to unlink him from the assassination. But this was neither the time and place in the legal procedure to present such a thing. Nevertheless, the judge allowed it. The MP then appealed this and the whole process came to a standstill. Now, last Friday, an Appeals Court rejected the expert opinion

criticizing the judge for allowing it in the first place. The trial won't continue, because on Monday, the defense of Castillo presented an appeal for reversal.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1185-corte-de-apelaciones-rechaza-peritaje-de-la-defensa-de-david-castillo-por-procedimiento-irregular>

Tomorrow, the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Diego García-Sayán, will arrive in Honduras for a one-week evaluation.

<https://oacnudh.hn/experto-de-naciones-unidas-visita-honduras-para-evaluar-la-independencia-de-su-sistema-judicial/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24891&LangID=E>

"Four LGBT+ people are murdered every day in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to "alarming" new research released on Thursday by a regional network of gay rights groups. At least 1,300 LGBT+ people have been murdered in the region in the past five years, with Colombia, Mexico and Honduras accounting for nearly 90 percent of all deaths, according to data collected by the network of 10 groups."

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-latam-lgbt-killings/lgbt-murders-at-alarming-levels-in-latin-america-study-idUSKCN1UY2GM>

Reporteros de Investigación reports on the situation of journalist Jairo López and the failure of the JOH regime to implement the approved security measures by the Protection Mechanism.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/14/sigue-alto-riesgo-y-acoso-estatal-contra-periodista-ha-tenido-que-empenar-hasta-su-computadora/>

The Articulation 611, a platform of Honduran human rights organizations formed to critically accompany the elaboration of the Penal Code, held a press conference yesterday. They denounce that the new Penal Code will further support the criminalization of human rights defenders.

CEJIL agrees.

<https://www.facebook.com/ClibreHonduras/videos/2666002980336891/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/14/nuevo-codigo-penal-atenta-contra-libertad-de-expresion-y-reduce-penas-a-corruptos-articulacion-611/>

<https://www.cejil.org/es/cejil-nuevo-codigo-penal-honduras-facilitaria-criminalizacion-defensa-derechos-humanos>

OACNUDH informs about its recent event with the MACCIH on corruption and human rights (see also yesterday).

<https://oacnudh.hn/elementor-4166/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2531-concluyen-en-foro-el-golpe-de-estado-de-2009-fortalecio-estructuras-de-corrupcion-en-honduras>

Foreign Policy reports on the protests in Honduras against the JOH regime. "Conditions under Hernández are increasingly dire. Nearly two-thirds of Hondurans live in poverty, while a third live in extreme poverty, according to Honduras' National Institute of Statistics. Murder rates are among the highest in the world, and each year, Hondurans pay an estimated \$200 million total in extortion fees to gangs. Meanwhile, over the past decade, education spending has dropped from 32.9 percent of the government's budget in 2010 to 19.9 percent this year, while health spending has dropped from 14.3 percent to less than 10 percent. The U.S. Embassy in Honduras' site says, "support staff facilities and necessary equipment and supplies are not up to U.S. standards anywhere in Honduras." In fact, protesters say the government's cuts to medical facilities are to blame for the size of the dengue outbreak. And since Hernández's first term in office began in 2014, he has also increased military spending and sent forces, including the U.S.-trained TIGRES unit, to target human rights defenders, while modifying the penal code to increase punishment for anti-government opponents. Rampant corruption has exacerbated dire conditions to the breaking point, sending thousands of people out of the country."

Protests continued yesterday spearheaded by the student movement.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/08/13/honduran-protestors-have-little-cause-for-hope/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/14/estudiantes-de-honduras-piden-renuncia-de-hernandez-en-concurrida-protesta/>

<https://tiempo.hn/universitarios-y-alumnos-realizan-mega-planton-exigiendo-la-salida-de-joh/>

ContraCorriente spoke with the former Honduran president Manuel Zelaya about the accusations against JOH, the general situation in Honduras and possible scenarios for the future. They also talk about the campaign launched by La Prensa and JOH himself against Zelaya and Salvador Nasralla trying to turn the table and accusing them of links to drug trafficking. One passage of the interview is especially worth highlighting. "The DEA knows exactly what has happened in Honduras during these years. In the case of Tony Hernández, it is said that it goes back to 2004. I was in a political campaign back then, but who was the secretary of Congress? Juan Orlando. Who was the president of Congress? Porfirio Lobo. That of the Republic? Ricardo Maduro. Since 2004 they were investigating him [JOH, they already knew that they he was involved and that he was involved in this. I was in a political campaign in opposition to them."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/08/14/ex-presidente-mel-zelaya-narcotraficantes-encontraron-su-mejor-lugar-para-vivir-despues-del-golpe-de-estado/>

Luis Zelaya, president of the Liberal Party, voiced hope that in the coming electoral year in the US JOH will lose even more support there.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lider-opositor-hondureno-confia-en-que-hernandez-va-a-perder-el-apoyo-de-eeuu.html>

The Citizens Convergence and organized UNAH students presented their own proposal for electoral reforms including for example a two-round presidential election.

<http://elpulso.hn/convergencia-ciudadana-y-estudiantes-de-la-unah-presentan-propuesta-de-reformas-electorales/>

Honduras state security forces and the MP regularly conduct widespread operations accompanied by a social media campaign, especially dozens of Tweets listing alleged successes. In the most recent operation, Operation Ant VII, the focus was consumer protection. This led to the absurd situation that fully armed Military Police agents accompanied the inspection of small food stalls investigating if they have discounts for the elderly in place...

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1161720161461780483](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1161720161461780483)

Two inmates at the youth detention center were able to escape.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lester-ramirez-senala-que-ley-especial-contiene-varias-inconsistencias.html>

The Mexican foreign minister presented new details on Mexico's development plan for the Northern Triangle. Projects in Honduras will be implemented in the Central District, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, El Progreso and Choluteca.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/14/canciller-de-mexico-detalla-plan-de-migracion-y-desarrollo-para-centroamerica/>

Radio Progreso presents a successful community energy project to juxtapose to the many imposed extractive projects so common in Honduras.

<https://wp.radioprogressohn.net/plan-grande-la-pequena-hidroelectrica-que-cambio-la-vida-de-una-comunidad-en-honduras/>

15/08/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH; Political Prisoners; COPINH; UN; JOH - Protests, Business; Drug Trafficking - Police; Corruption - de Lobo; Militarization; Deforestation; Migration - Mexico, US; Electoral Reforms; and JOH's Four Last Straws

National and international organizations sent out alerts regarding the newest threats faced by the Garífuna community in Vallecito (see also yesterday).

Even El Tiempo reported on it.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/15/alerta-hombres-fuertemente-armados-amenazan-comunidad-garifuna-de-vallecito/>

[http://act.grassrootsonline.org/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=26848](http://act.grassrootsonline.org/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=26848)

<https://tiempo.hn/colon-comunidad-garifuna-de-vallecito-amenazada-y-en-zozobra-por-hombres-armados/>

In the case of the political prisoner recently released from pre-trial detention, Edwin Espinal, a hearing took place yesterday. Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the MP continues to persecute him.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2532-ministerio-publico-empecinado-en-mantener-en-cautiverio-a-edwin-espinal>

COPINH reports that the Lenca community La Jarcia had its land measured as a first step to receive community land titles. The community of La Jarcia has been living on this land and cultivating it for nine years, but in 2016 they were temporarily evicted and their cultures destroyed.

<https://copinh.org/2019/08/la-jarcia-medicion-de-terreno/>

The UN Working Group on business and human rights will make its first official visit to Honduras from August 19 to 28 to assess efforts to identify, prevent and address the adverse effects of business activities on human rights.

<https://oacnudh.hn/honduras-visita-de-expertos-de-la-onu-para-evaluar-el-respeto-de-los-derechos-humanos-por-parte-de-las-empresas/>

ERIC and Padre Melo invited various representatives of Honduras' social movement to a joint reflection of the current crisis. Bertha Oliva called for a pact of unity to jointly demand an end to the JOH regime (see also the last entry of this e-mail).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/un-pacto-de-unidad-demanda-bertha-oliva-del-movimiento-social-que-exige-la-salida-de-joh/>

The head of the National Industrialists Association (Andi), Santos Gabino Carvajal, told ConfidencialHN that 90% of Hondurans want JOH gone.

<https://confidencialhn.com/representante-de-la-andi-asegura-que-el-90-por-ciento-de-los-hondurenos-claman-la-salida-de-joh/>

The former head of police José Francisco Murillo López negated on national television that he was mentioned in US court documents in regards to the murder of anti-drug czar Julián Arístides González Irías.

The Pro-Honduras Network shows that this is a lie.

<https://tiempo.hn/exdirector-dnic-mismos-mataron-zar-antidrogas-asesinaron-alfredo-landaverde/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/15/francisco-murillo-lopez-si-esta-senalado-en-asesinato-de-julian-aristides-gonzalez/>

The Judicial Power informs about an expected ruling in the corruption case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo on August 20.

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1162074038551883776>

<https://tiempo.hn/resolucion-caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama-conocera-agosto/>

Defensores en Línea denounces that soldiers and police agents illegally raided the house of an 86-year old. When he denounced this at the MP, the public prosecutor changed his testimony and put as the main perpetrators the police agents, omitting against the protest of the victim the soldiers.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/%ef%bb%bfpolicia-militar-allana-casa-de-ancianos-y-el-mp-omite-denuncia-completa/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/15/brutalidad-agentes-de-la-dpi-ingresan-a-la-fuerza-a-vivienda-en-colonia-el-pedregal/>

"Powerful drug-traffickers and landless farmers continue to push cattle ranching and illegal logging operations deeper into the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in eastern Honduras. (...) Local sources claim the government participates in drug trafficking, and those involved in the drug business are allegedly the same people who are involved in illegal exploitation of the land for cattle ranching and illegal logging of mahogany and cedar. (...) Deforestation in Río Plátano means a loss of habitat for wildlife and a loss of forest resources for indigenous communities that depend on them. But another threat is emerging: water resources are becoming increasingly scarce as forests are converted into grasslands."

<https://news.mongabay.com/2019/08/rainforest-destruction-accelerates-in-honduras-unesco-site/>

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3481-politicos-narcos-militares-y-ganaderos-aceleran-destruccion-de-selva-hondurena>

"Partly armed and trained by the United States, Mexico's police and immigration authorities are carrying out a campaign of fear and violence against migrants—with impunity. Just last week, Mexican police shot and killed a Honduran migrant in front of his 8-year-old daughter in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila. The details are still unclear, but the man was shot near a migrant shelter where he was staying with his daughter. And in June a 19-year-old woman was shot and killed after the truck she was in ran through a Mexican police checkpoint.

(...)

The Mexican state has created a security apparatus that regularly violates the human rights of its citizens and migrants passing through the country. The United States—long involved with pushing violent security crackdowns—has played an outsize role in shaping Mexico's response to migrants for at least the past decade. As Todd Miller explains in his recent book *Empire of Borders*, the

Department of Homeland Security has been exporting its model of border militarization all over the world, helping to train guards, surveil border crossers, and fortify divisions between states."

<https://www.thenation.com/article/mexico-migrant-crisis-border/>

The Migration Policy Institute has published a report on Central American immigrants in the US.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/central-american-immigrants-united-states>

Nincy Perdomo published her newest installment of the Parliamentary Chronicles focused on the debate about the electoral reforms.

The newest instance of the more general reform, the law regulating the nomination and selection of the representatives of the new electoral bodies, was approved by Congress these last two days. As the only party, PINU opposed the law as just another typical distribution of positions between the political parties.

<http://elpulso.hn/cp-131415-08-2019/>

<https://wp.radioprogresohn.net/ley-para-eleccion-de-representantes-electorales-culminara-repartiendocargos-valoran-diputados/>

Radio Progreso presents four strategies used by the JOH regime to prolong its stay in power. "First strategy. Undermine the documents from the New York prosecutor's office. JOH and his team refined and socialized a speech to argue that they represent a revenge against him by the drug traffickers extradited, that there is a conspiracy of the narcos to assault the presidential palace and he accuses the opposition of being linked to organized crime. (...) Second strategy. Create an environment of rumors to fuel uncertainty. It seems that his media strategists have worked hard to launch lies and fake photographs with which many unsuspecting people become demobilized. (...) Third strategy. Spread fear and terror to the new cycle of protests, to create a fictional environment of normalcy. (...) This already led to new attacked journalists and various injured by bullet wounds. Fourth strategy. Bring the opposition onto the electoral ground. (...) We are in the throes of the dictatorship, the life that remains is dependent on the ability to articulate the energy of all social sectors and demand the end of the JOH regime in one voice. Let's not lose any more time."

<https://wp.radioprogresohn.net/cuatro-estrategias-en-la-agonia-de-la-dictadura/>

<https://wp.radioprogresohn.net/estrategia-de-terror-e-incertidumbre-utilizan-para-desmovilizar-dice-analistas/>

16/08/19

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - Repression, Protest; OFRANEH; UN; JOH - Drug Trafficking, OAS, Repression; Political Prisoners; MACCIH; Migration - US; Electricity; and No Time to Lose

Radio Progreso reports on the violent repression suffered by the inhabitants of Yorito, Yoro. The indigenous Tolupanes have been protesting for over a year against the imposition of a mining project in their community. They have rejected the project already in three town hall meetings, but

the local authorities and the company pushed on. This Thursday, the police attacked the protesters and at least four of them suffered bullet wounds.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn/policia-reprime-a-defensores-ambientales-en-yorito-yoro/>

Various Honduran popular movements met on Thursday to discuss their joint resistance to the extractivist economic model being imposed in Honduras which regularly leads to instances such as the one mentioned above.

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/08/16/posicionamiento-de-organizaciones-populares-y-de-lucha-territorial-de-honduras/>

Giorgio Trucchi published a helpful overview of the difficult situation faced by the Garífuna people in Honduras which came to light once more this week due to the events in Vallecito (see previous e-mails).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/honduras-generamos-proyectos-de-vida-y-al-estado-le-importa-un-carajo/>

OACNUDH expressed concern about a violent eviction in San Juan Pueblo this Tuesday resulting in 4 injured. Once more, they call on the JOH regime to respect the right to protest.

The UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers arrived in Honduras this week. In a meeting with the president of the Judicial Power, he said: "Too many people are threatened or have lost their lives in the exercise of law in Honduras, at the hands of networks of corruption and organized crime, and the vast majority of these crimes remain unpunished, which cannot be accepted at all in a State of law".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1162468936467845120>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/relator-de-la-onu-para-la-independencia-de-jueces-inicia-visita-a-honduras.html>

Criterio reports that Tony Hernández' defense presented a document trying to untie him from the claimed financing of his brother's presidential campaign.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/16/defensa-busca-desvincular-a-tony-hernandez-de-sobornos-para-financiar-campana-de-joh/>

Human rights lawyer and former public prosecutor Omar Menjivar denounces that just as pressure grew against JOH in Honduras due to the newest revelations regarding his possible links to drug trafficking, the OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro offered him support by allowing a visit between JOH and him, giving JOH much needed international credibility.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/16/luis-almagro-y-el-narco/>

But JOH also has allies in Honduras, among them the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ). Its representative Omar Rivera was challenged this week by journalist for its lack of public comments regarding JOH's possible drug trafficking ties.

<https://tiempo.hn/consultan-omar-rivera-sobre-silencio-guardado-asj-ante-acusaciones-a-joh/>

Also in Honduras, the JOH regime continues to repress physically, but also verbally the protests. In the latest instance, presidential advisor Ebal Díaz claimed that the business lobby in San Pedro Sula is financing the protests against JOH.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3484-ebal-diaz-asegura-que-empresarios-en-cortes-financian-protestas>

COPINH celebrates that yesterday the second political prisoner, Raúl Álvarez, was released from pre-trial detention. They demand the liberation of the two remaining political prisoners Rommel Portillo and Gustavo Cáceres.

Several Latin American labor unions joined the call for their liberation.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1162537616065122304>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sindicatos-centroamericanos-exigen-libertad-para-presos-politicos/>

Canada supports the renewal of the MACCIH's contract.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/canada-apoya-renovacion-de-contrato-de-la-maccih.html>

In a joint effort, The Associated Press and PBS investigated the situation of migrant children separated from their families in the US. More than 3000 children were affected in the last years. "A review of 38 legal claims obtained by The Associated Press — some of which have never been made public — shows taxpayers could be on the hook for more than \$200 million in damages from parents who said their children were harmed while in government custody. (...) The allegations of abuse and assaults in foster care raise fresh questions about the government's efforts to place younger children with families in lieu of larger shelters and packed detention facilities."

"In total, 514 people have died this year in the Americas through Aug. 14, up from 384 a year ago. It's the fastest that the 500 mark has been reached since IOM began counting in 2014. Millman told reporters in Geneva that the death rate on the U.S.-Mexico border hasn't changed much in the last six years of tracking such figures, now still amounting to about one per day. (...) Millman said the figures don't include deaths of people in detention: 11, including eight in the U.S. and three in Mexico."

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/migrant-kids-split-border-harmed-foster-care/>

<https://www.apnews.com/eca87b5b898a40c0ab591a55117a70ba>

<https://apnews.com/433d67f47d7c406098748e7a5e4ebcf6>

Radio Progreso comments on the migration policy of the Trump administration. According to them, it seeks to create a docile, cheap and disposable labor force in constant fear of being deported.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/politica-de-inmigracion-de-trump-buscara-trabajadores-dociles-baratos-y-desechables/>

A US delegation of public employees and civil society organizations from Massachusetts was in Honduras last week for three days to find out about the root causes of migration. They traveled to Colón and visited Guapinol, a community in resistance against a mine.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/delegacion-de-eeuu-conoce-realidad-del-valle-del-aguan/>

El Pulso published an analysis of Honduras' energy system and the broken promises of the Energy Company Honduras (EEH). At its creation in 2016, it promised investments of \$93.5 million in 2017 and \$113 million in 2018, the real figures were \$40.1 million in 2017 and less than \$60 million in 2018. At the same time, ENEE paid EEH \$315 million...

<http://elpulso.hn/eeh-la-enee-y-las-eternas-promesas-del-gobierno/>

"To regain our homeland, we have no time to lose"

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/comunicado-a-recuperar-la-patria-no-tenemos-tiempo-que-perder/>

17/08/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH; Extractivism - Militarization; Political Prisoners; Violence against Women; Protests; Electoral Reforms; and Capital Soccer Violence

The recent wave of attacks against COPINH and its communities continues. Yesterday morning in Río Blanco, men linked to the Madrid Family stopped some 20 women belonging to COPINH from reaching Río Blanco as part of a mission of solidarity.

[https://twitter.com/IM\\_Defensoras/status/116284502284635750](https://twitter.com/IM_Defensoras/status/116284502284635750)

COPA denounces the militarization of Yorito, Yoro, after the newest protests by its inhabitants against the imposition of a mining project (see also previous e-mails this week).

The mayor of Yorito, Margie Gonzales, received threats and according to her, the mining company CEAHSA has no permit.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/copa-condena-represion-y-militarizacion-en-yorito/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/17/copa-condena-la-represion-policial-y-militar-contra-el-pueblo-de-yorito-yoro/>

<https://tiempo.hn/alcaldesa-de-yorito-dice-que-el-dueno-de-ceahsa-no-tiene-permiso-para-explotar-mina/>

Adrienne Pine reports for MintPress on the release of the political prisoner Edwin Espinal, but also on the one week solidarity action that came before and the repression suffered by Hondurans taking to the streets. "The issue of political prisoners is one of the few causes (along with the demand that the dictator leave power) that fully unites disparate groups on the Honduran left, from hierarchical ballot-focused organizations like former President Mel Zelaya's Libre Party to the radically horizontal, anti-electoral, indigenous- and Garífuna-led organizations COPINH and OFRANEH."

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/honduras-political-prisoner-edwin-espinal-released-us-trained-police-medieval/261374/>

María Virginia Díaz Méndez reports on violence against women with a focus on the neighborhoods in Tegucigalpa.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/17/distrito-central-la-ciudad-mas-peligrosa-de-america-latina-para-las-mujeres/>

CONADEH tries to avert from the widespread state repression of protests by claiming that of the 4177 protests having taken place between 2013 and 2018 in Honduras, 94% were peaceful. Even if this is true, between November 2017 and the beginning of 2018, several dozens of protests were violently repressed, over 30 people were killed and impunity still reigns in all these cases. CONADEH also says that the goal is to reduce step by step the violent protests ignoring that just this year, which is not part of the statistic, once again dozens of protests were violently repressed with at least 8 new assassinations.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/segun-conadeh-el-94-de-mas-de-4-mil-manifestaciones-de-protesta-social-fueron-pacificas-y-ordenadas.html>

Libre congressman Rafael Sarmiento is concerned that with the creation of the Electoral Justice Tribunal (TSE), the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court will be weakened in electoral matters.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/con-creacion-del-tje-se-limitan-funciones-a-sala-de-lo-constitucional-segun-diputado.html>

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<https://www.elheraldo.hn/deportes/1311004-466/tres-muertos-y-varios-heridos-durante-caos-en-el-estadio-capitalino>

<https://confidencialhn.com/seguridad-intenta-ocultar-uso-excesivo-de-la-fuerza-durante-fallido-encuentro-deportivo/>

18/08/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH; JOH - Students; UN; Migration - Deportation; Mexico; and Rising Debt

The solidarity mission with COPINH and the people of Río Blanco succeeded in its visit after suffering various acts of harassment (see yesterday).

<https://copinh.org/2019/08/gracias/>

Tom Sullivan reports for Jacobin on Honduras' student movement. "In what is starting to look each day more like a defining lucha (fight) for Honduras between a regime lacking legitimacy and a diverse movement of street protests, the role of the student movement has been critical. The key battleground has been the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) in the capital, Tegucigalpa. With a student population of over 93,000, since the coup UNAH has become both a symbol of government encroachment into Honduran society as well as popular resistance against the regime. Bitter fights have broken out over everything from administrative changes, to attempts to criminalize student protest, to an increase of the passing grade from 60 percent to 70 percent, which would have effectively kicked 13,000 students out of the university. Various groups within the movement have taken their fight all the way to the National Congress and even the Supreme Court of Justice, which in 2015 ruled in favor of ten students who had been illegally suspended for shutting down a UNAH campus in protest for sixteen days."

<https://jacobinmag.com/2019/08/honduras-coup-juan-orlando-hernandez-regime-student-protests>

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Diego García-Sayán met yesterday with the ad-interim spokesperson of the MACCIH, Ana María Calderon.

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1163153145977016328](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1163153145977016328)

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/relator-de-onu-y-jefa-de-maccih-hablan-de-independencia-judicial-en-honduras.html>

According to the human rights defender Miroslava Cerpas, more than 17'000 minors have been deported so far this year.

<http://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/mas-de-17-mil-menores-migrantes-han-sido-retornados-a-honduras.html>

JOH traveled to Mexico yesterday as a follow-up meeting on the recently presented development plan for Honduras' agricultural sector. JOH will also visit a temporary migrant shelter.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presidente-hernandez-de-visita-en-mexico-para-adquirir-ideas-e-impulsar-produccion-agricola.html>

Public debt has grown by 4.2% compared to the same period in 2019 to over \$9 billion.

<http://www.proceso.hn/economia/6-economia/deuda-de-honduras-crece-4-2-y-llega-a-9-mil-035-millones-de-dolares-en-6-meses.html>

19/08/19

Honduras Daily: CNTC - Repression; Berta - UN; UN - MP; LGBTQ; MACCIH - Germany; Armed Forces - US; Migration - Femicide; US - Foreign Aid; Soccer; Dengue; and Money Down the Train

Honduras Resists reports from the recent violent repression of state security forces against the campesinxs in San Juan Pueblo. "As the bus entered the small town of San Juan Pueblo (SJP) on August 15th we passed a police station where an unusual crowd (more than 20) of police were hanging around. Later, walking with a friend who lives in SJP near the highway that runs from Progreso to La Ceiba, we saw a military style truck full of police headed in the direction of the police station. Only a couple of days earlier on August 13th, police had opened fire on protesters blocking the highway with burning tires - the emblematic sign of protest in Honduras. Four men were injured, one very seriously with a chest wound- a few days later it was being reported among the population that one man had died. This was the second very recent violent attack against protesters in SJP, one of the centers of resistance and protest in the province of Atlantida in northern Honduras."

<http://hondurasresists.blogspot.com/2019/08/a-moment-in-honduras-celebrations-and.html>

COPINH's general coordinator Berta Zúniga met with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Diego García-Sayán to discuss the case of her mother Berta Cáceres.

<https://copinh.org/2019/08/nuestra-coordinadora-bertha-zuniga-se-reune-con-relator-onu/>

The former head of forensic medicine, Julissa Villanueva, also met with García-Sayán. She denounced that scientific proof is not being respected in Honduras, she spoke of a conspiracy against justice and human rights by the JOH regime.

She also spoke of the murder case of Sherill Jubissa Hernández, an ATIC departmental head, which has been stalled for a year.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/19/en-honduras-hay-una-conspiracion-contra-la-justicia-y-los-derechos-humanos/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/19/femicidio-de-agente-de-la-atic-sheryl-jubissa-hernandez-sigue-dormido-video/>

Defensores en Línea reports about a public forum taking place today on the impacts of the coup d'état on the rights of the LGBTQ community and labor rights.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/derechos-humanos-versus-impunidad/>

The vice-director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Günther Maihold, favors a continuation of the MACCIH in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/maccih-debe-continuar-sugiere-instituto-politico-aleman.html>

"Soldiers with the U.S. Army Reserve assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo conducted a Medical Readiness Training Exercise with Honduran military counterparts in the Atlántida department".

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/336300/joining-forces-maintain-operability-provide-medical-care>

The New York Times published an article on femicide as a driver of Central American migration with a focus on Guatemala. "Here in Guatemala, the homicide rate for women is more than three times the global average. In El Salvador, it is nearly six times. In Honduras, it is one of the highest in the world — almost 12 times the global average."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/18/world/americas/guatemala-violence-women-asylum.html>

"The Trump administration has finalized and is moving forward with a plan to cancel billions of dollars in foreign aid funding, a senior administration official told CNN on Saturday, teeing up a fight between the White House and Congress over the rarely used and controversial move known as rescission. (...) The official told CNN that they expect the rescission package to be made public at the beginning of next week. The official said Friday the rescission includes money to the United Nations -- including some peacekeeping funds -- funding for the Northern Triangle countries of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, and cultural programs."

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/08/16/politics/omb-rescission-package-foreign-aid-funding/index.html>

The deaths of four soccer fans and the injuries of many more last Saturday led to various articles trying to interpret the events. "Once again, violence and chaos seized Honduras' most important media and social event, soccer. In the multiple statements that invade the media during and after these unfortunate events, there is no lack of those who argue that these things occur in many countries. While that is true, there are two reactions that come to mind. The first is that the pain of the families of the victims will never be overcome knowing that in other unimaginable countries "these things also happen." (...) The second is that when these events are repetitive, as in Honduras, they are no longer justifiable when compared to other countries. They are not - and never were - matters of soccer fan groups. They are the result of negligence."

<https://contracorriente.red/2019/08/19/no-fue-el-futbol-fue-la-negligencia/>

<http://elpulso.hn/futbol-en-honduras-violencia-generaliza-y-falta-de-valores/>

<http://elpulso.hn/por-que-se-da-la-violencia-en-el-estadio-y-que-hacer-ahora/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/19/que-cierren-el-estadio-que-cierren-toda-honduras/>

The number of deaths by Dengue in Honduras has officially reached 101.

<https://confidencialhn.com/salud-confirma-101-muertes-por-dengue-hemorragico-en-honduras/>

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<https://tiempo.hn/por-la-falta-de-35-millones-represa-hidroelectrica-patuca-iii-no-inicia-operaciones/>

20/08/19

Honduras Daily: CNTC- Militarization; Berta - UN, Río Blanco; WHRDs - Protection Mechanism; LGBTQ; Labor Rights; Hydroelectricity; Corruption - de Lobo, Astropharma; MACCIH; MP - UN; National Police; and a Satellite for Honduras

Various human rights organizations presented a habeas corpus for the San Juan Pueblo community which has been heavily militarized (see also yesterday).

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/20/desmilitarizacion-y-retiro-de-agentes-policiales-de-san-juan-pueblo-atlantida-exigen-organizaciones-de-derechos-humanos/>

La Vanguardia reports on the recent meeting between COPINH coordinator Berta Zúniga and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Diego García-Sayán on the Berta Cáceres case (see also yesterday).

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20190820/464178261519/relator-onu-indaga-obstaculos-de-entorno-berta-caceres-en-juicio-a-asesinos.html>

ConexiHon published a short video on the harassment suffered by the indigenous Lenca community of Río Blanco.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1191-entrevista-del-hostigamiento-contr-el-campamento-indigena-en-rio-blanco>

The recent incident at Río Blanco is also important as it once more highlights the ineffectiveness of the protection mechanism. Women human rights defenders had asked for accompaniment before their solidarity visit to Río Blanco, but they were denied and suffered the consequences.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2536-estaban-en-grave-riesgo-mecanismo-de-proteccion-habria-ignorado-llamados-de-auxilio-de-mujeres-defensoras-que-llegaron-a-rio-blanco>

Defensores en Línea reports on yesterday's forum on the consequences of the coup d'état for the LGBTQ community and on labor rights.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/despues-del-golpe-de-estado-aumento-la-violencia-contr-la-comunidad-lgtbi/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pasantia-renadett-participa-en-el-foro-sobre-impacto-del-golpe-de-estado-y-violacion-a-derechos-laborales-y-lgtbi/>

In a third article, Defensores en Línea especially focuses on the labor rights aspect.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-modelo-neoliberal-y-la-involucion-de-los-derechos-laborales/>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on protests by the indigenous Lenca community Chinda near El Tornillito, Santa Bárbara, against a hydroelectric project.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2535-vecinos-de-chinda-santa-barbara-protestan-por-construccion-de-represa-hidroelectrica>

Popular protests around hydroelectric projects and plants in Honduras are widespread. In La Paz, Criterio spoke with Alfonso Martínez of the Environmental Indigenous Lenca Council of Honduras (CILAH). He denounces that Gladis Aurora López and other congresswo/men buy up concessions to then sell them to international investors.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/20/gladis-aurora-lopez-compra-las-concesiones-hidroelectricas-para-venderlas-a-las-transnacionales-video/>

The MACCIH and UFECIC have their first sentence. The former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo was found guilty on eight counts of fraud and three counts of undue appropriation.

She faces up to 87 years in prison.

The US Chargé d'Affaires tweeted that the MACCIH can continue to count with US support.

<https://twitter.com/PJdeHonduras/status/1163957687274659841>

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1163961968476262406](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1163961968476262406)

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3488-hasta-87-anos-en-carcel-puede-pasar-la-rosa-exprimera-dama-hondurena>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/20/de-58-a-87-anos-de-prision-enfrentara-exprimera-dama-de-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1164017549249536002>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/poner-fin-a-la-impunidad-y-corrupcion-claves-para-la-estabilidad-y-prosperidad-senala-encargado-de-negocios-de-eeuu.html>

The same day, the Honduran judicial system acquitted the Gutiérrez family in the Astropharma corruption case. "This ruling, according to the criminal lawyer, Omar Menjivar, highlights the technical and probative weaknesses of the MP and that induces the courts to issue favorable sentences as happened with those linked to the Astropharma case. Those deficiencies of the MP, the well-known litigant exposes, causes prosecutors to lose their judgments and be unable to fight high-profile corruption cases."

Civil society organizations also denounce the acquittal.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3487-no-hubo-pastillas-de-harina-libres-los-gutierrez-junto-a-14-enjuiciados>

<http://elpulso.hn/libres-los-acusados-en-el-caso-astropharma/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/20/padre-melo-insta-a-vendedoras-de-baleadas-a-producir-pastillas-de-harina/>

And also yesterday, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) held a forum called "Analysis on the Progress of the MACCIH in the Fight against Corruption".

The director of the CNA, Gabriela Castellanos, was in the US last week where she met with the State Department and the Justice Department.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1163858846101770240>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-planteo-lineas-de-investigacion-sobre-corrupcion-y-narcotrafico-en-reuniones-en-washington.html>

The MP met with both the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers Diego García-Sayán and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1163860343078162435](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1163860343078162435)

[https://twitter.com/MP\\_Honduras/status/1163902335728398337](https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1163902335728398337)

A former DPI agent was sentenced to 11 years for attempted homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4676-en-tamara-cumplira-11-anos-de-prision-exagente-de-la-dpi-por-intento-de-homicidio-y-atentado>

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<http://elpulso.hn/satelite-hn-2021/>

21/08/19

Honduras Daily: COPINH; Extractivism - WHRDs, OFRANEH, Guapinol; FoE - Penal Code; Journalists; Protection Mechanism; Corruption - Astropharma, de Lobo, JOH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; US; and Enough is Enough

In the last six weeks, communities affiliated with COPINH suffered at least nine attacks.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1164328087200440320>

The Assembly of Fighting Women of Honduras (Asamblea de Mujeres Luchadoras de Honduras) held a protest in front of the Supreme Court yesterday "denouncing the systematic looting of common lands and property, the criminalization of protest and the prosecution of defenders, the militarization of territories, racism and violence against women".

The protest was accompanied by the National Network of Defenders of Land and Territory (Renadett).

<https://nicaraguaymasespanol.blogspot.com/2019/08/asamblea-de-mujeres-luchadoras-de.html>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/21/mujeres-de-honduras-denuncian-el-saqueo-y-la-militarizacion-de-sus-territorios/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/renadett-acompana-planton-de-la-asamblea-de-mujeres-luchadoras-de-honduras/>

As part of this protest, OFRANEH denounced the situation suffered by the Garífuna community in Vallecito (see third link) demanding security and an end to impunity.

OFRANEH's general coordinator Miriam Miranda also spoke with Defensores en Línea where she denounced a "perverse plan to hand over territories to transnational capital and private enterprise, and that plan involves the expulsion of the indigenous peoples from their ancestral lands".

[https://twitter.com/ContraC\\_HN/status/1164311359053606913](https://twitter.com/ContraC_HN/status/1164311359053606913)

<https://hondudiario.com/2019/08/21/mujeres-garifunas-protestan-para-exigir-seguridad-y-alto-a-la-impunidad/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/incrementan-agresiones-y-hostigamiento-en-vallecito-colon/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/existe-un-plan-perverso-para-expulsar-a-las-comunidades-de-sus-territorios/>

The same day, seven criminalized HRDs from Guapinol presented themselves voluntarily at the courts in San Pedro Sula reaffirming that they are not criminals but are defenders of life.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1164245917186363392>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/justicia-hondurena-pone-en-riesgo-a-defensores-del-rio-guapinol-en-colon/>

C-Libre organized a forum on freedom of expression with the presence of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression of the Inter-American Human Rights System, Edison Lanza.

At the forum, C-Libre publicly recognized the work of the journalist Geovanny Sierra.

ConfidencialHN reports that Lanza also commented on the criminalization of Radio Globo director David Romero demanding his freedom.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2537-relator-especial-para-la-libertad-de-expresion-de-la-cidh-llego-a-honduras-preocupado-por-la-situacion-de-periodistas>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/21/expresarse-en-redes-sociales-es-libertad-de-expresion-edison-lanza/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1195-el-relator-especial-para-la-libertad-de-expresion-edison-lanza-explica-las-obligaciones-de-los-estados-en-relacion-con-las-y-los-periodistas-que-cubren-situaciones-de-protesta-social>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1193-las-tendencias-de-la-regulacion-penal-que-criminaliza-la-libertad-de-expresion>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/21/c-libre-reconoce-labor-de-periodista-geovanny-sierra-video/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/relator-de-la-cidh-repudia-negligencia-del-estado-hondureno-por-no-excarcelar-a-david/>

During the forum, the problems with the new Penal Code were also discussed.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1194-violencia-estatal-criminalizacion-y-riesgos-del-nuevo-codigo-penal>

And lastly, on the occasion of the forum, ConexiHon published a short documentary on the attacks faced by Honduran journalists.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1192-honduras-prensa-bajo-ataque>

CESPAD published an empirical study of the effectiveness of the protection mechanism for HRDs taking Guapinol as the test case.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/21/en-el-caso-de-guapinol-y-san-pedro-funciona-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-de-ddhh-salvaguada-la-vida-de-las-y-los-defensores-de-la-tierra-bosque-y-rios/>

The MP challenges the recent acquittal in the Astropharma corruption case (see yesterday's e-mail).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4682-ministerio-publico-presentara-recurso-de-casacion-tras-conocer-fallo-judicial-a-favor-de-imputados-en-caso-denominado-astropharma>

The CNA warns of seeing the sentence in the corruption case against the former first lady as a complete victory (see yesterday's e-mail).

In the same case, her brother-in-law was acquitted.

<https://tiempo.hn/cna-sobre-fallo-contr-rosita-no-es-victoria-total-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-es-el-problema/>

<https://tiempo.hn/luego-de-18-meses-en-prision-absuelven-a-cunado-de-mi-rosa/>

Reporteros de Investigación reports that JOH's salary wasn't made public anymore starting after his illegal, fraudulent and violent reelection in January 2018. They found that in July 2019, JOH gained almost 140'000 Lempiras per month, 40'000 more than before the electoral fraud.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/21/joh-con-un-aumento-de-40000-lempiras-en-secreto-desde-su-reeleccion/>

The public prosecutors in New York apparently do not trust the defense of Tony Hernández with written evidence. They requested from the judge better protection of the evidence fearing that it may be leaked to Honduras impeding future trials.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3490-fiscalia-de-new-york-pide-proteccion-de-informacion-ligada-al-caso-de-tony>

Proceso Digital reports that the US will send Colleen Hoey to be in charge of the US embassy in Honduras.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/collen-hoey-sera-la-jefa-de-mision-de-eeuu-en-tegucigalpa.html>

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<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3485-ya-estoy-harta-de-tanta-violacion-a-derechos-humanos-bertha-oliva>

22/08/19

Honduras Daily: Violence against Women; Protection Mechanism; UN - Judicial System; Corruption - de Lobo, IHSS; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Migration - IACHR; National Police; TIGRES; National Party; Electoral Reforms; and Corruption in Honduras' Courts

Swisspeace interviewed the human rights defender Edna Ortega on violence against women in Honduras. "Since the current government came to power, there have been several setbacks in terms of international law and the respect for women's rights and human rights in general. Previously, the head of the National Institute of Women had the rank of a minister. Now women disappear from

high positions in the government and Women's Offices lost any decision-making power. Structures that guarantee women's rights are missing and mostly they are only used for propaganda purposes and government assistance programs."

<https://www.swisspeace.ch/apropos/honduras-frauenrechte-in-einem-von-gewalt-gepraegten-land/>

Pasos de Animal Grande spoke with OFRANEH's Miriam Miranda about the lack of protection for her and the Garífuna community by the Protection Mechanism.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2538-miriam-miranda-ante-las-amenazas-que-estoy-pasando-el-mecanismo-de-proteccion-no-ha-dicho-esta-boca-es-mia>

UN Special Rapporteur Diego García-Sayán finished a one-week visit to Honduras. He presented preliminary observations as well as some recommendations, e.g. on the ongoing challenge of judicial independence or on the controversial role of the Security and Defense Council. García-Sayán also lauded the work of the MACCIH and UFECIC.

He will present his final report to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2020.

<https://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24910&LangID=S>

<https://independence-judges-lawyers.org/es/comunicados-de-prensa/honduras-relator-especial-urge-adoptar-las-medidas-necesarias-para-poner-fin-a-la-corrupcion-y-garantizar-la-independencia-judicial/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/22/relator-de-la-onu-urge-adoptar-las-medidas-para-poner-fin-a-la-corrupcion-y-garantizar-la-independencia-judicial/>

<https://tiempo.hn/relator-de-la-onu-injerencia-politica-afecta-independencia-judicial-hondurena/>

Even though the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo was convicted on many accounts of corruption (see previous e-mails), charges for embezzlement of public money were dropped because the MP failed to prove that she was a public official...

MADJ comments it as follows: "Nothing more outrageous and impunity-inducing for a court to affirm that Rosa de Lobo cannot be considered as a public official despite the fact that, without discussion because it was a notorious fact, she assumed public functions, administered and squandered public funds, abused her status as a civil servant. This statement of the Court of Justice is a slap to the intelligence and dignity of the people. That statement is insane, uncritical and irrational."

"“While it underscores the breadth of corruption, and the importance of continuing and strengthening the MACCIH, [former first lady Lobo’s] conviction is token and largely for show ... to make it appear that corruption is being effectively addressed,” Dana Frank, a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, told InSight Crime."

The former spokesperson of the MACCIH, Juan Jiménez Mayor, greeted the sentence but warned about the uncertain future of the MACCIH.

<http://elpulso.hn/es-o-no-es-funcionaria-publica-la-primera-dama/>

<https://madj.org/index.php/2019/08/22/alborotada-y-desbordada-impunidad-de-los-corruptos-en-honduras/>

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/honduras-anti-graft-body-secures-historic-conviction-former-first-lady/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/component/k2/38-politica-nacional/exvocero-de-maccih-celebra-fallo-a-exprimera-dama-pero-alerta-sobre-futuro-de-la-mision.html>

The MP succeeded in getting the goods and companies of Jesús Wilfredo Cerna Ordóñez and Nancy Johana Bertetty Gary seized, linked to the IHSS corruption case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4693-mp-logra-nueva-sentencia-de-comiso-sobre-bienes-de-origen-ilicito-ligados-al-desfalco-del-ihss>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mp-logra-nueva-sentencia-de-comiso-de-bienes-de-origen-ilicito-ligados-al-desfalco-del-ihss.html>

In the US, the judge of the Tony Hernández case declared testimonies and other evidence as secrets fearing that they could be leaked to Honduras (see also yesterday).

<https://confidencialhn.com/admiten-peticion-de-fiscalia-de-nueva-york-para-mandar-a-reserva-investigaciones-contratony/>

Honduras is among the ten countries with the highest number of asylum seekers in the world, 42'500 asylum requests were made by Hondurans in 2018.

"KJZZ's Fronteras reporting team is joining migrants as they travel thousands of miles to reach the U.S. This multi-part series puts reporters on the ground from Honduras to Portland, Maine, to document the challenges migrants face on their trek through Central America,

Mexico and the U.S."

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/22/honduras-el-octavo-pais-a-nivel-mundial-con-mas-solicitudes-de-asilo/>

<https://kjzz.org/journey/>

The IACHR published a report on internally displaced people in the Northern Triangle countries.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2019/204.asp>

An active police agent was found guilty of homicide.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/141-agosto2019/4694-condenan-a-policia-activo-por-homicidio-en-perjuicio-de-militar>

Didadpol opened discharge hearings against 96 TIGRES agents for their protests some weeks ago against state violence.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/abren-expedientes-a-96-agentes-especiales-que-participaron-en-huelga-de-fusiles-caidos.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/investigacion-a-casi-100-agentes-de-la-fuerzas-especiales-por-supuestos-delitos/>

The current Nationalist president of Congress, Mauricio Oliva, launched his presidential bid yesterday to succeed JOH.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3494-ahora-si-mauricio-oliva-lanza-precandidatura-presidencial>

La Gaceta published the special law for the selection and nomination of the electoral authorities.

Mauricio Oliva (see above) will head the responsible commission for electing the representatives of the two new electoral bodies and the RNP..

<https://tiempo.hn/publicada-en-la-gaceta-ley-especial-electorales-armaron-cupulas-pn-libre-pl/>

<https://tiempo.hn/presidente-cn-conforma-comision-para-nombrar-autoridades-electorales-y-del-rnp/>

"This week we witnessed the resolution of two trials with two different results. The first was the Astropharma case, which accused Lena Gutierrez, her father, her husband, her brother and 9 others. The second was the case (...) against Rosa Elena de Lobo, her private secretary and brother-in-law Mauricio Mora, detained since February 2018. (..) The question that comes to mind is why where there two different resolutions to two cases with obvious signs of corruption? There are at least two explanations: in the case of Lena Gutierrez and her honorable family, it seems that the decision was more a political one than a legal one. The political decision was expressed in the technical deficiencies of the MP by not doing the criminal investigation required to show irrefutable evidence of acts of corruption. That is, there was a crime, but there was no criminal investigation (...) [In the other case] things were different, the case was investigated by the Special Fiscal Unit Against Impunity and Corruption. The UFECIC did its job, showed scientific evidence of the crimes that were committed. That is, there was a crime and there was a criminal investigation and independence in the UFECIC investigation, so that the court had no other way but to issue a conviction."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/dos-decisiones-una-estructura-criminal/>

23/08/19

Honduras Daily: Public Sector - Protests, Repression, Education; Forced Displacement; Poverty - Women; US - Aid, Electoral Reforms; Drug Trafficking - IACHR; Corruption - de Lobo; and the National Potatoes Festival

After some days of silence, the protests by the Platform for the Defense of Education and Healthcare continued yesterday.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/23/plataforma-por-la-salud-y-la-educacion-se-moviliza-esta-manana/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3495-hondurenos-reactivan-protesta-en-la-capital-suman-defensa-de-la-tigra>

Pasos de Animal Grande denounces that the teacher Ángel Adeldo Reyes Aguilar was suspended for supporting the protests.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2540-violentado-derecho-a-la-protesta-suspender-a-primer-docente-por-participar-en-tomas-y-marchas-de-la-plataforma>

Investigating the situation in Francisco Morazán and La Paz, Transformemos Honduras found that Honduran families with children pay up to 14'000 Lempiras per year to support the public schools, i.e. up to 47.3% of their income. In all of Honduras, families support the school by 21'000 million Lempiras, while the JOH regime spends 18'000 million Lempiras.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/22/padres-de-familia-de-honduras-erogan-hasta-l-14-200-al-ano-para-sostener-los-centros-educativos/>

Pasos de Animal Grande published a helpful overview of the newest report by the IACHR on forced displacement in the region (see yesterday). The IACHR "recognizes a practice of forced evictions that lead to internal displacement to the detriment of indigenous and peasant communities, with a devastating impact on the rights of these groups. It has also identified that due to situations of discrimination, women, girls, adolescents and LGBTI population suffer a differentiated impact".

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2539-informe-de-la-cidh-organizaciones-criminales-son-la-causa-principal-del-desplazamiento-forzoso>

Radio Progreso reports on the feminization of poverty in Honduras as a result of a patriarchal culture.

Oxfam published a new report investigating the disproportionate effect of taxes on women in Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/cultura-patriarcal-hace-que-la-pobreza-tenga-rostro-de-mujer-en-honduras/>

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/do-takes-influence-inequality-between-women-and-men>

"President Donald Trump has scrapped a plan to freeze more than \$4 billion in foreign aid in a move that would have been another end run around Congress' power of the purse."

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/08/22/white-house-backs-off-foreign-aid-cuts-1472130>

US Chargé d'Affaires Lawrence Gumbinder commented on Twitter on the electoral reforms. He holds Congress responsible for guaranteeing a fair and transparent electoral process for the new magistrates of the electoral bodies.

But once again, there remains a lot of doubt as the Nationalist elite tries to push through their agenda. "Two years remain for the primary elections, and the political parties put the accelerator to impose the electoral issue on the country's agenda, although there are other more important and decisive interests for the life of Honduras. During the current week, the ruling party carried out two electoral movements: the first, launching of a candidacy disguised as a conversation by the president of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, who, clearly, showed interest in competing for the ownership of the Executive Power. The second is the open campaign, to promote and approve the advancement of the primary elections, for November 2020, that is to say in a year and two months. According to the current electoral law, the primary and general elections are held the same year, one in March and the other in November."

<https://twitter.com/USAmbHonduras/status/1165037929980399620>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/nacionalistas-proponen-adelantar-elecciones-primarias-sin-reformas-electorales-profundas/>

The accused drug trafficker Matta Ballesteros is held in the US. He now successfully brought his case to the IACHR. His family demands that he is transferred to Honduras.

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/23/matta-ballesteros-podria-ser-trasladado-a-carcel-de-honduras-su-pleito-judicial-avanza-en-la-cidh/>

El Heraldo reports how the new Penal Code would reduce the possible duration of the sentence of the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo for corruption.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1312188-466/con-el-nuevo-c%C3%B3digo-penal-se-reduce-pena-de-rosa-elena-de>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1312727-466/la-primera-dama-de-honduras-es-una-funcionaria-p%C3%BAblica>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/intibuca-celebra-tradicional-festival-de-la-papa/>

24/08/19

Honduras Daily: JOH - Protests, Diplomacy, US; Political Prisoners; Migration - US; Electoral Reforms; and a Letter to Almagro

HispanTV published a video of Friday's protests against the JOH regime.

<https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/honduras/436160/plataforma-ampliada-protesta-orlando-hernandez>

This week, the XVII Tuxtla Honduras summit took place over four days in San Pedro Sula.

The main headlines made by the summit were not the agreements made or the topics discussed, but the fact that none of the head of states invited showed up, even though some had previously confirmed their assistance.

This news was even picked up by France 24.

Former attorney general Edmundo Orellana Mercado sees this as further proof of the isolation of the JOH regime.

<https://tiempo.hn/xvii-cumbre-tuxtla-honduras-finaliza-con-acuerdos-politicos-y-sociales/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/24/hernandez-se-queda-solo-en-la-cumbre-de-tuxtla/>

<https://www.france24.com/es/20190824-presidentes-evitan-cumbre-de-honduras-por-descr%C3%A9dito-de-gobierno-anfitri%C3%B3n-seg%C3%BA-analistas>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/24/hernandez-se-debilita-cada-vez-mas-edmundo-orellana-mercado/>

The US human rights activist Vicky Cervantes visited Honduras this month. She reports on her findings in yesterday's edition of the radio show The Grass is Greener.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-240416425/the-grass-is-greener-2019-08-4>

While the fight for the liberation of the political prisoners saw an important victory this month with the release from pre-trial detention of Edwin and Raúl, others still remain imprisoned. One of them is Gustavo Cáceres. Human rights defender Karina Flores denounces that even though the organic impairment of his brain as well as his cognitive impairment has been diagnosed, the JOH regime still denies him alternative measures to imprisonment.

<https://twitter.com/KarinaFloresHN/status/1165123598954237953>

A 29-year old Honduran migrant as well as a mother and her three year-old died trying to cross Río Bravo to reach the US.

<https://tiempo.hn/continuan-muertes-por-ahogamiento-de-hondurenos-en-el-rio-bravo/>

On Friday, Congress opened the application process for the new electoral bodies and the RNP. It remains open until the coming Wednesday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/abren-convocatoria-para-escoger-a-los-nuevos-cargos-electorales/>  
<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lanzan-convocatoria-para-la-seleccion-de-funcionarios-electorales.html>

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<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/24/presidente-de-partido-politico-envia-carta-al-secretario-de-la-oea-luis-almagro-para-que-no-sea-complice-del-criminal/>

25/08/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - World Bank; Corruption; JOH; National Police; and White Smoke Over Honduras

In October 2015, OFRANEH filed a complaint with the CAO, an oversight body of the World Bank's private investment arm IFC. The complaint alleges a number of issues stemming from the Indura Beach and Golf Resort (Indura project) at Tela Bay, Honduras and is directed at the support of the IFC for Banco Ficohsa. Specifically, the complaint alleges the following impacts: land grabbing, community displacement, lack of economic benefits and environmental degradation. This June, the CAO released its monitoring report which concludes among other things that "IFC lacks assurance that the client is: (a) categorizing prospective investments in accordance with IFC's requirements; (b) conducting and documenting E&S due diligence assessments of its higher risk loans in accordance with Performance Standards requirements; (c) including necessary covenants to require borrowers to operate in accordance with IFC's Performance Standards and Exclusion List as relevant; (d) monitoring the E&S performance of borrowers in a manner that is commensurate to risk; and (e) implementing a grievance mechanism which is "readily accessible...to affected communities" and about which affected people are informed. (...) Overall, CAO finds that IFC's response to this compliance investigation only partially addressed its compliance findings. Nevertheless, CAO has decided to close its monitoring of the investigation considering that IFC divested from its Ficohsa equity and corporate loan investments."

[www.cao-ombudsman.org/cases/document-links/documents/CAO\\_SecondComplianceMonitoringReport\\_Honduras\\_Ficohsa\\_000.pdf](http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/cases/document-links/documents/CAO_SecondComplianceMonitoringReport_Honduras_Ficohsa_000.pdf)  
[http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/cases/case\\_detail.aspx?id=243](http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/cases/case_detail.aspx?id=243)

CESPAD published a report investigating the role of the public in fighting gran-scale corruption cases in Honduras.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Corrupcion-WEB-1.pdf>  
<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/25/como-puede-sumarse-la-ciudadania-a-la-lucha-contra-la-gran-corrupcion-en-honduras-propuestas-de-participacion/>

For the second time in a few weeks, JOH traveled to the US again. He met with the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tras-fracaso-de-la-cumbre-de-la-soledad-joh-viaja-a-ee-uu-no-se-reunira-con-trump/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presidente-hernandez-llega-a-washington-para-reunirse-con-el-secretario-interino-de-seguridad-nacional.html>

A police official was murdered in Comayagüela yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-oficial-de-policia-cuando-gozaba-de-dia-libre/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asesinan-subinspector-policia-zonal-belen-comayagua/>

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<http://www.proceso.hn/tecnologia/2-ciencia-y-tecnologia/grupo-de-especialistas-analizara-extrano-humo-blanco-en-montana-pico-bonito.html>

26/08/19

Honduras Daily: Mining - Guapinol; UN; COPINH - UN; Journalists - IACHR; Security Tax; UFEIC; Drug Trafficking - Forests; Migration - US, Deportation; and the Honduras Legend

The seven criminalized human rights defenders from Guapinol were sent to pre-trial detention yesterday accused of illegal firearms carrying and illicit association. The second one is a very common accusation used to criminalize HRDs, because the law stipulates that it leads to pre-trial detention. Their hearing will be this Thursday at 9am.

According to Criterio, the protest against the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares in Guapinol has led to at least six deaths and dozens of criminalized members of the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common Goods and Nature.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1166117418047090689>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/26/honduras-envian-a-prision-a-siete-ambientalistas-que-se-oponen-a-contaminacion-del-rio-guapinol/>

Just last week, Pasos de Animal Grande asked the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of magistrates and lawyers Diego García Sayán regarding the use of judges with national jurisdiction to criminalize HRDs using the Guapinol case as an example.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2542-relator-especial-sobre-independencia-judicial-dijo-no-tener-informaciones-claras-y-completas-sobre-uso-de-jueces-nacionales-para-criminalizar-defensores>

The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights met with COPINH yesterday. COPINH denounced "the extractive policies that are tried to be imposed in the Lenca communities causing division, violence and serious environmental damage in the communities where these projects are installed".

<https://copinh.org/2019/08/visita-onu-grupo-de-empresas-y-ddhh/>

Journalists and social communicators from Santa Rosa de Copán denounce the lack of access to public information by local state institutions.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2541-que-esconden-instituciones-estatales-en-copan-niegan-informacion-a-periodistas>

Proceso Digital spoke with IACHR Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression Edilson Lanza, who visited Honduras until Sunday.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/relator-aboga-por-garantias-ante-amenaza-de-nuevo-codigo-penal.html>

FOSDEH economist Ismael Zepeda denounces irregularities regarding the security tax (tasa de seguridad).

<https://tiempo.hn/economista-del-fosdeh-incremento-en-la-tasa-seguridad-no-refleja-pais/>

UFECIC is growing and seeking more than 40 new employees.

[https://twitter.com/OEA\\_MACCIH/status/1166091947737591808](https://twitter.com/OEA_MACCIH/status/1166091947737591808)

"Illegal timber and drug trafficking are closely linked in northeastern Honduras, a major cocaine corridor in this region. There, criminal groups have savvily combined these two businesses to maximize their illicit profits."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/how-drug-traffickers-became-masters-of-honduras-forests/>

El Tiempo and EL Heraldo report on the newest US visit of JOH to discuss migration (see also yesterday).

<https://tiempo.hn/interino-eeuu-y-joh-acuerdan-mejorar-seguridad-abordar-migracion/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1313426-466/secretario-interino-de-eeuu-y-hern%C3%A1ndez-abordan-migraci%C3%B3n-irregular>

Honduras is on the way to a record year of deportations from the US and Mexico. Already now, the number is higher than the total of the last four years (individually), 77'834.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/deportados-honduras-ya-supera-cifras-de-cierre-de-ultimos-cuatro-anos.html>

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<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/una-leyenda-llamada-honduras/>

27/08/19

Honduras Daily: OFRANEH - Vallecito; Mining - Guapinol; Berta - Trial; Tolupanés; HRDs - Impunity; LGBTQ; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Transparency; Penal Code; Corruption - de Lobo; Migration; Identity Card; and Mental Health in Honduras

IM-Defensoras launched an urgent action in defense of the Garífuna community in Vallecito which are part of OFRANEH. "Although the Garífuna culture was declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO and even though they have a property title to the territory in which they are settled since 1997, the attempts to strip them of their lands caused that the community has had to face the harassment, intimidation and threats by companies, local landowners, drug traffickers and the Honduran State itself. This situation of violence has intensified in recent months, in which both the community and OFRANEH have been subjected to multiple aggressions of different types that put the lives and integrity of their inhabitants and leaders."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2019/08/llamado-a-la-accion-honduras-defendamosvallecito/>

Urgent Action:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWUJfoJWqFkWGytTxWUfA4VOGxli00bvtF09xSZjCCTT2wvw/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWUJfoJWqFkWGytTxWUfA4VOGxli00bvtF09xSZjCCTT2wvw/viewform?usp=send_form)

Both Radio Progreso and Pasos de Animal Grande published an overview of the criminalization of the resistance against a mining project in Guapinol which culminated in the pre-trial detention of seven local HRDs (see also yesterday). Their hearing takes place tomorrow starting at 9am.

A protest calling for their liberation was held outside the MP yesterday.

A curiosity of the accusation is that the list of accused includes a dead man, Antonio Martínez Ramos who died in April 2015.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/estado-insiste-en-acusaciones-contra-ambientalistas-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2543-carcel-por-ser-defensores-el-sistema-judicial-es-un-arma-contra-guapinol>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/27/pobladores-de-guapinol-exigen-la-liberacion-inmediata-de-los-ambientalistas/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/27/ministerio-publico-de-honduras-acusa-a-hombre-que-murio-en-el-2015/>

COPINH announced a press conference for September 4 in which new information about the Berta Cáceres case will be revealed.

COPINH also published a video on their meeting with the UN working group on business and human rights of last Sunday.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1166480994964267008>

<https://copinh.org/2019/08/video-sobre-reunion-con-onu/>

CESPAD reports on the situation of the indigenous Tolupán community of San Francisco de Locomapa in Yoro. "In Honduras there are 31 indigenous Tolupanes tribes: 25 are based in the department of Yoro and 6 in Francisco Morazán. The last estimate made through a census in 2012, establishes that there were about 30 thousand indigenous people in both departments. Each tribe has a Governing Board, a structure composed of members of the tribe, to which the community has delegated the administration of its natural resources (rivers and forests). (...) Although they are tribal and ancestral, it is from the Governing Board that the internal division begins in the Tolupanes tribes. Strong denunciations of compromises made between the them, loggers and state authorities linked to the use of wood, dot the management of the Tolupán forest."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2019/08/27/el-negocio-detras-de-la-explotacion-del-bosque-de-los-indigenas-tolupanes-en-honduras/>

Radio Progreso commemorates in a short video homage human rights defender Margarita Murillo who was murdered in 2014 and whose case, as many others, remain in impunity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knyaimqv96w>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/margarita-murillo-heroina-y-martir-del-pueblo/>

Honduras discusses a bill on trans identity.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/27/afinan-proyecto-de-ley-de-identidad-de-genero-para-las-personas-trans/>

"The former mayor who may bring down Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández first appears on page eight of what can only be described as one of the most jaw-dropping condemnations of a political party ever produced by the US Justice Department. (...) Amilcar Alexander Ardón Soriano, himself a rising member of the National Party, was running for re-election as mayor of El Paraíso, Copán, a small town along the border with Guatemala and a key trafficking corridor. It was from there that he'd gone from cattle rustler to milk farmer to drug capo, serving as a bridge between Colombian and Mexican traffickers. (...) During the meeting in 2008, Tony had a proposal for the

mayor: give money to the National Party campaign for his brother, who was running for re-election in Congress, and the then-candidate for president, Porfirio Lobo. In return, Tony would provide protection for Ardón and his trafficking network, which was referred to as the “Alex Cartel” and the “AA Cartel,” and name his relatives to a high-level post in the government. (...) In November 2009, Lobo won 1,213,695 votes, 56 percent, and with them the presidency. Hernández got 49,653 votes, or nearly half the votes cast in his state of Lempira, and was re-elected as a congressman. And Ardón got 8,480, or 94.7 percent, of the votes to be re-elected mayor. Following the election, Juan Orlando Hernández allegedly met with Ardón again and asked him to help bribe other congressmen, so he could become elected president of the legislative body. Ardón did, the DOJ says, and Hernández was elected president of the congress, setting the stage for his eventual run for the presidency. (...) The relationship with Tony deepened further. Ardón asked Tony to kill a nosy police official; Tony had the police official transferred. Ardón later requested he help him murder a rival who was blocking their route into Guatemala; Tony talked to a “high-ranking member of the Honduran National Police” who had the rival monitored and assassinated, the DOJ document says. In 2013, Ardón returned the favor by having a drug trafficking ally arrange the murder of a trafficker in custody, and whom Tony suspected could be a liability. In 2013, worried Ardón was becoming a liability himself, then-presidential candidate Juan Orlando Hernández told Ardón not to run for mayor again. By then, the United States had pressured Honduras into re-establishing extradition with the United States as a means of going after drug traffickers, and Hernández warned Ardón he could no longer protect him if he remained a public figure. Ardón agreed and retired from politics. He also provided Hernández’s campaign with \$1.5 million in drug proceeds, the DOJ says, “including by paying cash bribes to other officials and providing gifts and favors to local politicians.””

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/how-ex-mayor-could-bring-down-honduras-president/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/27/como-un-exalcalde-podria-tumbar-al-presidente-de-honduras/>

ConexiHon published two videos on the right to environmental information at the Inter-American and Honduran level.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1196-estandares-interamericano-del-derecho-a-la-informacion-ambiental-explicado-por-el-relator-especial-para-la-libertad-de-expresion-de-la-comision-interamericana-de-derechos-humanos-edison-lanza>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1197-estado-de-los-sistemas-de-informacion-ambiental-nacionales-explicado-por-el-abogado-eddy-tabora-director-de-c-libre>

The business lobby COHEP demands that the new Penal Code does not come into force in November.

But Congress' president Mauricio Oliva just announced that it will come into force this fall.

<https://tiempo.hn/cohep-al-cn-pide-no-entre-en-vigencia-nuevo-codigo-penal/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-garantiza-transparencia-en-reformas-electorales-codigo-penal-entrara-en-noviembre-sostiene/>

UFECIC requested a 77-year prison sentence for the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo and 64-year for her accomplice Saul Escobar.

<https://twitter.com/UFECIC1/status/1166477633460330497>

"The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is currently launching five campaigns to prevent the risks of irregular migration and encourage informed decision making among potential young Central American migrants."

<https://www.iom.int/news/iom-launches-five-campaigns-prevent-irregular-migration-mexico-and-central-america>

Honduras and the Central-American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) signed a \$63 million loan agreement for the establishment of the new identity card.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/finanzas-y-bcie-firman-convenio-por-63-millones-para-proyecto-de-identificacion-nacional.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rnp-justifica-prestamo-de-63-millones-de-dolares-para-proyecto-de-identidad/>

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<http://elpulso.hn/salud-mental-al-margen/>

28/08/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Assassination; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Political Prisoners; HRDs - Impunity; UN - HR & Business; Church; Electoral Reforms; Migration - US; and Know Your History

Hours before the hearing against 7 of the totally 32 criminalized human rights defenders from Guapinol, one of them, Roberto Antonio Argueta, was murdered in Tocoa. The Municipal Committee in Defense of Commons and Public Goods and the Coalition against Impunity condemned the assassination and demanded an investigation.

OACNUDH laments the murder and demands a swift and impartial investigation. They also highlight the important work of HRDs in Honduras, especially in the Guapinol case.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1201-asesinado-a-balazos-uno-de-los-acusados-por-defender-el-rio-guapinol>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1166912656529395713>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2545-precedida-del-asesinato-de-un-defensor-de-guapinol-se-desarrollara-audiencia-contra-ambientalistas>

Previous to the assassination, the Observatory for the Protection of Defenders by the OMCT and FIDH issued a press release condemning the use of criminal law to criminalize HRDs in Honduras.

<https://www.omct.org/es/human-rights-defenders/urgent-interventions/honduras/2019/08/d25488/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1202-de-aqui-para-alla-la-justicia-juega-con-criminalizacion-de-defensores-encarcelados>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1203-torcer-la-justicia-para-favorecer-a-empresas-extractivas>

The public prosecutor in New York published a list with 16 Honduran politicians and public officials including JOH which are seen as possible accomplices of JOH's brother Tony Hernández. 8 of them have already been accused of even sentenced for drug trafficking.

JOH's presidential adviser Ebal Díaz tries to undermine the significance of the list.

JOH, meanwhile, traveled to Israel to open a commercial and cooperation office in Jerusalem.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/28/fiscalia-de-nueva-york-presenta-lista-de-politicos-y-funcionarios-hondurenos-complices-y-socios-de-tony-hernandez/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/28/fiscalia-de-nueva-york-enlista-como-narcotraficante-a-presidente-de-honduras-junto-a-su-hermano-ex-directora-de-la-dlcn-y-a-13-politicos-mas/>

<https://tiempo.hn/ebal-diaz-llama-camino-correcto-a-denominacion-cc-5/>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/28/ebal-diaz-se-burla-de-imputacion-de-la-fiscalia-de-nueva-york/>

<https://tiempo.hn/joh-viajara-a-israel-para-inaugurar-oficina-diplomatica-en-jesuralen/>

Labor, indigenous and campesino organizations jointly denounced the existence of a clandestine airstrip in the protected area of Cordillera de Montecillos in La Paz.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/1199-organizaciones-indigenas-descubren-pista-clandestina-en-zona-protegida-de-la-paz>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/28/organizaciones-indigenas-de-la-paz-descubren-pista-clandestina-en-zona-protegida/>

Giorgio Trucchi spoke with one of the recently released political prisoners, Raúl Álvarez.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/no-me-doblegaron-y-la-lucha-continua/>

The murder of human rights defender Margarita Murillo (see also yesterday) will be brought to the IACHR as the JOH regime has failed for five years to investigate the case.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/interpondran-internacional-contr-a-estado-hondureno-por-retardar-justicia-en-el-crimen-de-margarita-murillo/>

On its last day in Honduras, the UN Working Group on Human Rights and Business visited Reitoca to meet with the Indigenous Lenca Council and hear about the imposition of a hydroelectric project.

Afterwards, the working group ended its ten-day visit to Honduras. In a press release, they urge the Honduran government to act "to address the root causes of social conflicts, as well as the extreme distrust of the ability of state institutions to promote a fair and inclusive economy".

COPINH highlighted some of the main findings of the working group, e.g. the socialization of a project is not equal to a meaningful consultation.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/28/dante-pesce-experto-de-la-onu-conoce-situacion-de-proyecto-extractivista-de-reitoca/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/honduras-el-gobierno-y-las-empresas-hondurenas-deben-garantizar-la-proteccion-de-los-derechos-de-las-personas-afectadas-por-los-proyectos-de-desarrollo-dicen-expertos-de-la-onu/>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1166886182413692928>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1166878659447316481>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1166906315035168769>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1166898261942263809>

The priest Florentino Hernández who dared to stay on the side of the people in the South of Honduras is being persecuted by the Catholic Church.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2544-partido-nacional-esta-atras-represion-elesial-y-uso-de-militares-y-policias-contr-a-el-padre-florentino>

The head of investigation at the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) believes that at the end of the election process for the new electoral bodies, it will be more of the same.

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/al-final-quedan-las-mismas-personas-dice-odir-fernandez-sobre-eleccion-de-nuevos-cargos-electorales.html>

El Tiempo wonders why the US prolonged the Temporary Protection Stat us (TPS) for people from Nicaragua and El Salvador, but not Honduras.

<https://tiempo.hn/eeuu-extiende-tps-para-sudan-nicaragua-haiti-el-salvador-y-honduras-1/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-la-juventud-esta-obligada-a-conocer-la-historia-sobre-los-desaparecidos/>

29/08/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Criminalization, Assassination; Berta - Impunity, Gualcarque Case; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Protests, Corruption, Penitentiary System; Political Prisoners; UN - HR & Business; MACCIH - Penal Code; Political Opposition; Electoral Reforms; Drinking Water; Debt; Violence; Migration; and More Work, Less Child Labor

Before yesterday's hearing in the criminalization case against seven HRDs from Guapinol, Front Line Defenders launched an urgent appeal calling for their liberation.

The hearing was accompanied by protests and road blocks.

The defense team of the HRDs challenged the nomination of the judge Carlos Irías de León and the audience was stalled in wait for a new judge.

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/upcoming-hearing-members-comite-municipal-de-defensa-de-los-bienes-comunes-y-publicos-amid>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1167219600473243648>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/bertha-oliva-solo-la-sabiduria-de-los-pueblos-originarios-puede-salvar-la-naturaleza/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/inseguridad-juridica-genera-estado-contra-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/recusan-juez-que-conoceria-caso-de-criminalizados-por-la-defensa-de-guapinol/>

The Observatory for the Protection of Defenders by the OMCT and FIDH launched an urgent call regarding the murder of Roberto Antonio Argueta Tejada, one of the criminalized HRDs from Guapinol, on Wednesday (see also yesterday).

<https://www.omct.org/es/human-rights-defenders/urgent-interventions/honduras/2019/08/d25489/>

Nine months have passed since the material authors in the Berta Cáceres case were found guilty but there is still no sentence.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1167086499386593281>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bAPTEV\\_vx8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bAPTEV_vx8&feature=youtu.be)

Some months ago, MACCIH presented the Gualcarque Fraud case investigating the corruption around the murder of Berta Cáceres. Yesterday, an appeals court rejected to recognize COPINH as a victim in this case. The same court decided to open trial against 14 of the imputed who were not accused of fraud in the previous hearing.

UFECIC welcomes the second decision but stays quiet on the first one.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1167237129895854082>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/revocan-sobreseimiento-provisional-a-12-implicados-en-caso-gualcarque.html>

<https://twitter.com/UFECIC1/status/1167183571766927371>

Jeff Ernst published another article for Univision on the Tony Hernández trials and the links to JOH. "Alleged drug trafficker, Tony Hernandez, goes on trial October 2. But all eyes will be on his brother, Honduran president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, who prosecutors have identified as an alleged 'Co-Conspirator' in the case. (...) Drug trafficking conspiracy charges have a five-year statute of limitations that runs from the end date of the conspiracy. In this case, the end date appears to fall in either 2016 or 2017, based on the evidence presented by prosecutors thus far. That would mean that prosecutors would have to present charges against any co-conspirators by some time in 2022 at the latest. Hernandez's current term ends January 2022. If upon the culmination of the Tony Hernandez trial prosecutors feel they have enough evidence to implicate President Hernandez beyond a reasonable doubt, three potential scenarios that could play out, according to former Southern District prosecutors. First, if the prosecutors believe they have time on their side, they could simply wait until the president leaves office to present charges, meanwhile targeting other co-conspirators. Second, they could present the indictment and attempt to extradite the president. In this event the president would not be protected by diplomatic immunity, but sovereignty and other diplomatic considerations could be an issue. Third, due to the obvious difficulty of extraditing a sitting head of a foreign state, prosecutors could also choose to file the indictment under seal within the five-year timeframe and wait until the president leaves office, whether that comes in 2022 or beyond. Even then, President Hernandez would still enjoy immunity from arrest under Honduran law as a member of the Central American parliament for another five years, as is customary for outgoing heads of state in the region."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/from-president-to-co-conspirator-honduras-awaits-outcome-of-new-york-drug-trial>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/29/joh-y-pepe-lobo-dirigieron-relacion-simbiotica-entre-narcos-y-el-partido-nacional/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/al-descubierto-las-mentiras-de-joh-si-entablo-nexos-con-chande-durante-sus-campanas-de-2013-y-2017/>

There are also ongoing protests against the JOH regime in Honduras. Yesterday, tear gas was widely used again to repress them and on one occasion, live bullets were fired against protesters.

<https://tiempo.hn/bombas-lacrimogenas-disparos-piedras-frente-unah/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/policia-desaloja-a-pobladores-que-mantenian-tomada-la-salida-al-sur-del-pais.html>

A public official known for irregularities and nepotism, the head of the Deputy Directorate of Customs Revenue Eny Bautista, resigned yesterday.

<https://confidencialhn.com/renuncia-eny-bautista-a-la-direccion-del-sistema-aduanero-deja-estela-de-nepotismo/>

It has become common in Honduras that when the media attention on JOH and his regime becomes too negative, he tries to divert it by conducting a transfer of inmates to the so-called high-security prisons as happened on Wednesday.

<http://elpulso.hn/en-operacion-arpia-trasladan-180-pandilleros-a-carceles-de-maxima-seguridad/>

Defensores en Línea reports on the situation of the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo who was medically evaluated yesterday after three months in the La Tolva high-security prison. Just as a reminder, he is there, in this high-security prison, accused of having set tires on fire in front of the US embassy during a protest.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/rommel-baldemar-herrera-estar-recluido-en-una-carcel-de-maxima-seguridad-ha-sido-una-etapa-muy-fragil-de-mi-vida/>

The International Cooperation Association (Espacio ACI) published a joint press release welcoming the recent visit of the UN Working Group on Human Rights and Business and the presentation of their preliminary findings.

See Attachment

The MACCIH announces that new international teams have joined their team in the last weeks.

<https://www.oas.org/es/sap/dsdme/maccih/new/docs/MCH-013.MACCIH-OEA-se-fortalece-con-la-incorporacion-de-nuevos-expertos-internacionales.pdf>

<https://tiempo.hn/maccih-tres-nuevos-expertos-internacionales-fortaleceran-trabajo-anticorrupcion/>

The MACCIH delivered a technical analysis of the new Penal Code to Congress. They call for a prolongation "vacatio legis" (the time before it comes into force) to be further discussed and that the responsible bodies get to know it and develop the right mechanism for a successful implementation. But as well as to further reform it and harmonize it with international conventions.

The same day, Congress' president announced that they will derogate all articles regarding crimes against honor, i.e. articles possibly criminalizing the work of journalists. And also yesterday, the president of the Supreme Court suggested that the new Penal Code only comes into force at the end of 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/misi%C3%B3n-de-apoyo-contra-la-corrupci%C3%B3n-y-la-impunidad-en-honduras-maccih/maccih-entrega-an%C3%A1lisis-t%C3%A9cnico-del-nuevo-c%C3%B3digo-penal-al-congreso-de-la-rep%C3%BAbli/1208300966041160/>

<https://www.oas.org/fpdb/press/AnalisisJuridicoDelNuevoCodigoPenalMACCIH.pdf>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1314332-410/congreso-nacional-eliminara-delitos-injuria-calumnia-nuevo-codigo-penal-honduras->

Radio Progreso presents their understanding of the role of the official political opposition: to meet and listen to the social opposition outside of official circles of decision-making to fill the hole left by the current dictatorship.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/una-palabra-dirigida-a-la-oposicion-hondurena/>

Starting next Monday, the public hearings for the new representatives of the electoral bodies will take place. "This selection process, like previous ones, does not enjoy the sympathy of a large part of the population, although many others do support it, especially the supporters of the Libertad y Refundación, Libre party and the National Party. In the Liberal Party there is an internal division that also expresses itself in the support of its candidates."

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/en-medio-de-criticas-partidos-politicos-siguen-con-nombramientos-de-representantes-de-entes-electorales/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3500-liberales-se-anticipan-a-cachurecada-y-nombran-candidatos-para-organos-electorales>

Criterio reports on a housing project by "powerful businessmen and politicians, which will destroy at least 20% of the water source supplying the population of the capital".

The same day, but unrelated to the above, the mayor of Tegucigalpa advises his citizens to save water.

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/29/gigantesco-proyecto-habitacional-en-la-tigra-destruira-fuente-de-agua-de-tegucigalpa/>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/hay-agua-para-todo-septiembre-pero-hay-que-cuidarla-dice-el-alcalde-capitalino.html>

The external public and private debt rose by another \$358 million to over \$9 billion. In the first six months of 2019, the JOH regime received disbursements worth \$830 million from multilateral organizations and \$75.8 millions in debts from multilateral lenders.

<https://tiempo.hn/bch-3587-millones-aumento-deuda-publica-externa-privada-de-honduras/>

The number of mass killings in the first eight months of 2019 has increased by 43.8% compared to 2018 and the number of victims by even 51.9%.

<http://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/masacres-acentuan-violencia-contra-jovenes-en-honduras.html>

12'000 Honduran migrants have so far been returned to Mexico this year under the program "Staying in Mexico".

<http://www.proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/eeuu-ha-retornado-a-mexico-a-12-mil-hondurenos-solicitantes-de-asilo.html>

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<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/28/lanzan-campana-para-hacer-conciencia-sobre-mas-de-400000-casos-de-trabajo-infantil/>

30/08/19

Honduras Daily: Guapinol - Trial; Berta - Trial; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Forced Disappearance; Migration - US; Women's Rights; Electoral Reforms; US; Germany; and Free of Extractivism

On Thursday, the judge in the newest criminalization trial against the HRDs from Guapinol was recused because of his involvement in the other Guapinol cases (see yesterday's e-mail). A new judge was quickly found and his nomination causes great concern. He, Claudio Aguilar, is known to deal with cases involving the Military Police and that he sends defendants to pre-trial detention in the high-security prisons. Furthermore, the initial hearing now takes place at a military facility violating the principle of oral and public hearings, i.e. family members and social movements are limited in their capability to accompany the trial. C-Libre denounced that entry to journalists and lawyers was denied. ConexiHon published testimony by human rights defender and lawyer Omar Menjívar. According to him, the fact that a military judge heads the trial is unconstitutional. Outside of the military facility, a solidarity protest took place. CEJIL published a press release condemning the criminalization of the HRDs and the murder of Roberto Antonio Argueta Tejada (see previous two days).

See Attachment

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1205-sin-acceso-y-sin-defensa-en-caso-guapinol-aqui-no-se-puede-grabar>

<https://twitter.com/cejil/status/1167480153032843264>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1204-militares-bloquean-acceso-a-defensores-de-caso-guapinol>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/es-inconstitucional-que-un-juez-militar-conozca-el-caso-de-guapinol-denuncia-abogado-defensor/>

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/caso-guapinol-justicia-militarizada-a-favor-de-los-grupos-de-poder/>

<https://cejil.org/es/cejil-condenamos-criminalizacion-personas-defensoras-derechos-humanos-y-bienes-naturales-guapinol>

The Coalition against Impunity and the local Municipal Committee for the Defense of Commons and Public Goods published a report summarizing the events in Guapinol leading up to the criminalization of the local HRDs.

See Attachment

"[A] group of expert human rights organizations that have been closely monitoring the Berta Cáceres case in Honduras released, "Violence, Corruption & Impunity in the Honduran Energy Industry: A Profile of Roberto David Castillo Mejía." The carefully researched report brings together information that implicates Castillo, the CEO of the Desarrollos Energéticos S.A. (DESA) corporation, in a pattern of violence, human rights violations and corruption to benefit companies with which he was associated. Castillo has been involved with at least eight companies, registered in Honduras and Panama, which are described in the report."

<http://www.soaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Violence-Corruption-Impunity-A-Profile-of-Roberto-David-Castillo.pdf>

<https://criterio.hn/2019/08/30/publican-informe-sobre-violencia-corrupcion-e-impunidad-en-la-industria-energetica-de-honduras/>

ConfidencialHN reports that new court documents show that JOH's brother Tony Hernández also trafficked arms for the Sinaloa cartel and the FARC which means that if found guilty, his sentence could be even higher than previously expected.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-de-nueva-york-confirma-que-tony-vendio-armas-al-cartel-de-sinaloa-y-las-farc-a-cambio-de-cocaina/>

COFADEH commemorates the International Day of Forced Disappearance.

On this occasion, the UN published a press release reminding the States of their responsibility to search for forcefully disappeared migrants and to investigate their cases.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/dia-nacional-del-detenido-desaparecido-fotos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/pronunciamento-el-estado-debe-saldar-la-deuda-historica-con-los-detenidos-desaparecidos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/30-de-agosto-dia-del-detenido-desaparecido-la-esperanza-de-volvernos-a-encontrar/>

<https://oacnudh.hn/los-estados-deben-actuar-ante-las-desapariciones-de-migrantes-dicen-expertos-de-la-onu/>

The Temporary Protection Status for some 44'000 Hondurans in the US will be prolonged.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/minisitios/hondurenosenelmundo/1314652-471/estados-unidos-confirma-continuidad-indefinida-del-tps-a-hondure%C3%B1os>

Women and feminist organization held a protest outside Congress demanding the elimination of the ordinance prohibiting the use of emergency contraceptive pills.

<https://confidencialhn.com/tiene-que-eliminarse-ya-ese-decreto-necesitamos-las-pae-feministas-reclaman-suprimir-prohibicion/>

Out of the 97 initial candidates, 45 were selected by a multi-party committee of Congress to present themselves in public hearings for the positions at the new electoral bodies.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1314572-410/congreso-publica-lista-45-aspirantes-cargos-cne-tje-rnp->

The US has a new Chargé d'Affaires in Honduras, Colleen A. Hoey. She replaced Lawrence J. Gumbiner who had the position ad-interim for some weeks.

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/asume-nueva-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-eeuu-en-honduras.html>

<http://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/gumbiner-agradece-colaboracion-de-hondurenos-en-su-corto-tiempo-al-frente-de-la-embajada-de-eeuu.html>

Germany signed a 10 million Euros contract with the National System for Protected Areas in Honduras (SINAPH).

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1314576-410/alemania-aporte-conservacion-areas-protegidas-honduras-banco-aleman-desarrollo>

Two more communities in La Paz declared themselves free of mining and hydroelectric projects.

<https://wp.radioprogreso.hn.net/municipios-de-la-paz-se-suman-a-declaratorias-de-zonas-libres-de-mineria-e-hidroelectricas/>

31/08/19

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Guapinol - Criminalization; Berta - Trial; Violence; and the Memory is All that is Left

Yesterday, journalist Edgar Joel Aguilar was murdered in La Entrada, Copán. He was in a barbershop when unknown assailants entered and shot him. He is the third journalist murdered in 2019 after Leonardo Gabriel Hernández in March and Santiago “Santi” Carvajal in July.

In these last years, Aguilar had received threats on several occasions.

Danilo Morales, director of the Protection Mechanism, claims that he has not been made aware of the threats he faced.

But according to Pasos de Animal Grande, Aguilar had denounced receiving threats and fearing for his security at the Bureau of Police Investigation (DPI) but he received no answer.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1057-asesinado-el-tercer-periodista-de-2019-en-honduras>

<http://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/a-balazos-asesinan-a-periodista-de-canal-6-en-copan.html>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/31/asesinan-periodista-en-occidente-de-honduras-habia-denunciado-amenazas-a-muerte-y-no-lo-protegieron/>

<https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2019/08/31/director-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion-no-fuimos-informados-de-amenazas-a-muerte-contra-periodista-de-canal-6/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2554-dpi-sabia-que-lo-amenazaban-por-celular-y-no-investigo>

Yesterday, the hearing against one of the eight local HRDs from Guapinol, Arnold Javier Alemán Soriano, took place in a military facility. He was provisionally released after the hearing.

Afterwards, the hearing against the remaining HRDs should have taken place, but this time the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares challenged the judge (on Thursday, the defendants challenged the previous one).

The Coalition against Impunity, meanwhile, filed constitutional challenged against the decree establishing the figure of national judges, misused to legally persecute HRDs.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2548-estado-desconocio-convenios-internacionales-un-cuartel-militar-para-el-juicio-de-defensor-de-guapinol>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2552-caso-guapinol-ministerio-publico-recusa-a-juez-que-dejo-en-libertad-definitiva-a-12-defensores>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cci-presenta-recurso-de-inconstitucionalidad-contra-juzgados-de-jurisdiccio-nacional/>

"The children of murdered Honduran activist Berta Cáceres have applied to a US federal court to subpoena bank records linked to a \$1.4m luxury house in Texas purchased by the alleged mastermind of the crime just months after the killing. (...) One of the executives identified in court was David Roberto Castillo Mejía, the CEO of Desa. In March 2018 Castillo was indicted as an "intellectual author", who is alleged to have coordinated with, and provided funds to, the killers. He vehemently denies any involvement. Castillo, a US-trained former intelligence officer and former government employee, bought the luxury five-bedroom, five-bathroom detached home in Houston in November 2016, thanks to a \$400,000 down-payment and \$1.04m mortgage from the Hancock Whitney Bank in Mississippi, Louisiana. The application by Cáceres' children to subpoena financial details held by the bank has been filed at the southern district court of Mississippi. The application is for foreign legal assistance, and seeks to uncover evidence for use in the Honduran murder trial against Castillo."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/31/berta-caceres-murder-trial-subpoena-david-castillo>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2549-hijos-de-berta-caceres-solicitan-ante-tribunal-de-eua-datos-sobre-compra-de-lujosa-casa-por-david-castillo-despues-del-crimen>

In the newest mass murder taking place in Omoa, Cortés, at least five people were murdered.

The same day, another mass murder took place in El Barro, Olancho.

These were mass murder No. 47 and 48 this year.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/1314899-466/masacre-en-honduras-al-menos-cinco-muertos-en-omoa>

<https://confidencialhn.com/nueva-masacre-deja-tres-personas-muertas-en-poblado-de-olancho/>

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<http://defensoresenlinea.com/nos-queda-la-memoria/>