

02/02/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists; Students; Lawyers; Militarization; Extractivism - Oil; Migration - Caravans, Children; Violence; Femicide; and Increasing Child Labor

The social communicator Mauricio Ortega wanted to report a missing person to the police in Omoa, Cortés, but the police did not attend him and a police agent tried to force him out of the station.

<https://tiempo.hn/video-policia-agrede-comunicador-intentaba-realizar-denuncia/>

A group of five students from the CURC university met with the authorities of the UNAH in Tegucigalpa, to try to reach a conciliation agreement that would allow them to obtain their definitive letter of freedom after they were criminalized for defending public and quality education in 2017.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/estudiantes-criminalizados-del-curc-buscan-acuerdo-conciliatorio-con-autoridades-de-la-unah/>

Gabriel Chacón, a lawyer in Tegucigalpa, was murdered in his house in front of his wife and daughter.

<https://confidencialhn.com/asesinan-a-un-abogado-frente-a-su-esposa-e-hija-en-residencial-capitalina/>

<https://tiempo.hn/asesinan-a-un-abogado-frente-a-su-esposa-e-hija-en-residencial-las-uvas/>

Criterio reports on the militarization of Honduras by Pepe Lobo and than even more by JOH in the last 10 years. "In one decade, the government spent more than 150 billion Lempiras on defense and security, yet the country remains among the most violent in the world. (...) Currently, the country has 60 police and military forces that have been unable to stop the violence in the country. And recently, President Hernández announced the creation of a new unit."

<https://criterio.hn/analistas-afirman-60-fuerzas-militares-y-policiales-incapaces-de-frenar-ola-de-violencia-en-honduras/>

In 2013, the British company BG Group International signed a exploration and exploitation agreement for oil with the Honduran government. BG Group was later bought by Shell which then sold the license to Azipetrol Honduras and CarbiX, the later again from the UK. The drilling of the new well is expected to take place in 2021, in the Mosquitia region on the Atlantic coast where the government granted a 4-year concession, extendable by two years, as well as a concession of 20 years for exploitation.

<https://criterio.hn/perforaran-pozo-en-la-mosquitia-hondurena-en-busca-de-petroleo/>

The newest migrant caravan from Honduras crossed the Agua Caliente border point with Guatemala yesterday.

<https://tiempo.hn/segunda-caravana-migrante-cruza-frontera-agua-caliente/>

In a press release, UNICEF writes that "[a]n estimated 2,200 migrants and asylum seekers, including 700 children, are effectively stranded in the Mexican border city of Matamoros as they wait for their asylum cases to work their way through the U.S. court system. Conditions for children and families on the ground, many of whom have been waiting at the border for weeks or months, are difficult because of insecurity and limited access to essential services".

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/mexico-estimated-700-migrant-children-stranded-matamoros-near-us-border>

Data from UNAH's Violence Observatory reveal that between 2010 and 2019, nearly 4,000 people were killed in the 988 documented massacres, counting only those events with three or more victims.

The observatory's director, Migdonia Ayestas, told Proceso Digital that 98% of violent deaths in Honduras remain unpunished.

<http://www.web.llibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3725-honduras-casi-mil-masacres-en-ultimo-decenio-dejo-imperio-criminal>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/el-98-de-asesinatos-quedan-en-impunidad-segun-migdonia-ayestas.html>

The JOH regime once again announced a special commission to investigate femicides - there are already bodies responsible for that but they are underfunded and lack a strong mandate.

<https://tiempo.hn/comision-investigar-femicidios-luis-suazo/>

A new study by UNAH says that the number of children between 5 and 17 years old working increased from 13.6% in 2001 to 16.4% in 2018.

<https://tiempo.hn/unah-ninos-honduras-estudio-investigacion/>

03/02/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Post-Electoral Repression; Journalists; Penitentiary System - OAS; Elections - Political Parties, Census; Migration - US; and Rock, Paper, Scissors

COPINH and Berta's family help a press conference yesterday outside the MP accompanied by human rights organizations and social movement. They handed over a petition to the MP demanding the prosecution of the intellectual authors for the murder of Berta Cáceres. The petition was signed by over 1000 national and international organizations and individuals.

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/no-mas-excusas-el-mundo-exige-justicia-para-berta/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/component/k2/item/2680-enjuiciamiento-a-los->

[autores-intelectuales-en-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres-reiteran-en-escriito-presentado-ante-mp](#)

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1381-mil-organizaciones-exigen-enjuiciamiento-de-los-atala-por-asesinato-de-berta-cacares>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1224405867367489540>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1224428276388638725>

Yesterday was a busy day before the MP. Former president Mel Zelaya filed a complaint for obstruction of the investigation of cases of crimes against humanity with the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights demanding the prosecution of the military and police who killed more than 40 people during the period of the protests in the 2017 elections.

Just a week ago, OACNUDH published an important report on this highlighting the ongoing impunity in these cases.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2681-mel-zelaya-ante-el-mp-crimenes-de-lesa-humanidad-en-honduras-se-mantienen-en-impunidad-por-la-obstruccion-del-mismo-estado-hondureno>

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-zelaya-pide-justicia-al-mp-por-muertes-registradas-en-2017/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1224471928557264898>

Honduras is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a journalist. During the last decade, at least 40 have been killed in connection with their work, according to a report published by the International Press Institute (IPI). This figure makes Honduras the second deadliest country for a reporter, and more dangerous than some war zones. Even worse, including social communicators and media workers in general, the number is likely to be over 80.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1380-honduras-uno-de-los-lugares-mas-peligrosos-del-mundo-para-los-periodistas>

Some time ago, the now defunct MACCIH presented a plan to reform the Honduran prison system. Yesterday, the OAS announced that it will help Honduras develop a plan to reform its prison system - no mention of the already existing plan...

https://www.oas.org/es/centro_noticias/fotonoticia.asp?sCodigo=FNC-98529

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1353933-410/oea-apoyara-honduras-reformas-sistema-penitenciario>

Honduras political parties are already in election mode again. Salvador Nasralla speaks of a possible alliance as in 2017 but which could also include Nationalists dissatisfied with the JOH-controlled National Party.

And there is still some disagreement if in 2017 the position of the front runner for the opposition

alliance had also been offered to the Liberal Luis Zelaya.

<https://confidencialhn.com/nasralla-no-descarta-que-nacionalistas-integren-posible-alianza-para-encarar-a-joh/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/alianza-de-oposicion-podria-ser-integrada-incluso-por-nacionalistas-senala-nasralla.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/mel-sostiene-que-tiene-testigos-de-que-ofrecio-candidatura-de-alianza-a-luis/>

According to the National Register of Persons (RNP) the new electoral census has increased by more than 400'000 people.

<https://confidencialhn.com/interventora-del-rnp-confirma-que-censo-incrementara-en-mas-de-400-mil-personas/>

The US has deported 222 Hondurans and 156 El Salvadorians to Guatemala as part of the Safe Third Country Agreement so far.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/guatemala-ha-recibido-378-hondurenos-y-salvadorenos-por-acuerdo-de-asilo.html>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1378-piedra-papel-y-tijera>

04/02/20

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression - OACNUDH, Forced Disappearance; Berta - Impunity; Journalists; WHRDs; Extractivism - Pajuiles, Guapinol; Lawyers; National Police; National Party; Privatization; Corruption - Impunity; and Post-MACCIH Honduras

Radio Progreso has an important comment on the impunity for the post-electoral repression and the role of Attorney General Óscar Chinchilla. "In recent weeks, the regime and its spokespersons have launched a campaign to highlight the figure of the "Five Star Prosecutor", Óscar Chinchilla, and sell him as a champion of justice. However, it is impossible to hide the fact that in his two illegitimate periods he has done nothing relevant in the fight against corruption and impunity without the push of the disappeared MACCIH. A glance at the serious human rights violations is enough to prove that the MP is one of the key institutions in the existence of a structural impunity that, according to the IACHR, exceeds 90%, which places Honduras among the 13 countries with very high impunity in the world according to the Global Impunity Index. One example: According to OACNUDH, in the context of the 2017 electoral fraud, the Military Police, the National Police and the Army used lethal force against protesters, injuring at least 60 and killing 22, including two children. Two years later, no case of human rights violation has obtained a conviction and most of the grave violations documented by OACNUDH, such as summary or extrajudicial executions and enforced

disappearances, remain under investigation; others have not even been investigated. Guess what is one of the reasons for the impunity in these cases? The Public Prosecutor's Office led by the "Five Star Prosecutor", thanks to "the weakness in the investigation and prosecution strategy" it adopted, and internal staff and coordination limitations, according to OACNUDH."

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/np/la-impunidad-el-fiscal-5-estrellas-y-el-informe-de-la-oacnudh/>

The OACNUDH continues to inform on Twitter about its newest report highlighting the impunity in these cases (see also previous e-mails).

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1224836911790989312>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1224698613256855553>

Linked to this, Defensores en Línea reports that the UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances gave the state of Honduras until February 22, 2020, to send information on the recommendations contained in a note sent earlier requesting information on progress made in finding the whereabouts of Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador. He was forcefully disappeared on December 3, 2017 during the post-electoral repression.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-estado-hondureno-tiene-hasta-el-22-de-febrero-para-informar-a-la-onu-sobre-la-desaparicion-de-joven-durante-la-crisis-post-electoral/>

The expert mission accompanying the Berta Cáceres case invites for a "public conversation" next Monday at 10am in Tegucigalpa.

There are also more articles on Monday's protest outside the MP by COPINH and Berta's family (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1224914744286556161>

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/boletin4f/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1382-copinh-preocupados-por-el-cierre-de-la-ufecic-que-llevaba-el-caso-del-gualcarque>

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/204559>

On February 3, 2020, communities, organizations and networks of human rights defenders recognized the work of journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez and of alternative media outlets. "She currently works at Radio Progreso and has suffered two attempts on her life, one against her daughter and an attempted kidnapping outside her home. Even so, the journalist refused to leave the country in exile and said that Honduras is where she was born and here she wants to die."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2682-sandra-maribel-sanchez-hacer-periodismo-alternativo-en-honduras-es-un-reto>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/periodista-sandra-maribel-sanchez-una-voz-por-la-verdad-y-justicia/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/tv/1383-movimiento-social-premia-al-periodismo-que-rompe-el-silencio>

The community of Pajuiles near Tela, Atlántida is still waiting for the Supreme Court of Justice to issue a resolution to stop the construction of the Central El Progreso project by HIDROCEP.

<https://criterio.hn/corte-suprema-aun-no-suspende-proyecto-hidroelectrico-de-hidrocep-en-pajuiles-tela/>

There are also news in the Guapinol case. The Municipal Committee for the Defense of the Commons and Public Assets of Tocoa, Colón held a press conference denouncing that the mining concession for the extraction and processing of iron oxide in favor of the companies Inversiones Los Pinares and Pelletizadora Ecotek belonging to Lenir Perez, was granted illegally. They revealed new irregularities found in the documentation that the company has presented to the environmental authorities in order to obtain the corresponding environmental license and operating permits.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/en-ambiental-de-tocoa-denuncia-nuevos-enganos-e-ilegalidades-de-inversiones-los-pinares/>

The former lawyer Francisco Muñoz Tábor, who recently had filed a complaint against the Banco de Occidente, was attacked and wounded by unknown assailants.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3727-urgente-atentan-contra-don-francisco-abogado-que-denuncio-al-banco-de-occidente>

Last Wednesday, the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Honduras (RNDDH) held its first National Situation Analysis, "a space for reflection and political discussion for women who recognize the country's structural problems and are interested in generating strategies for political, social, economic and cultural transformation from a feminist perspective". In a press release, they highlighted various findings, such as "a badly distributed general state budget" or "a growing application of neoliberal measures accompanied by the progressive dismantling of all public institutions".

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/02/boletin-informativo-31-de-enero-2020-la-rn-ddh-desarrolla-jornada-de-analisis-de-coyuntura-nacional/>

The MP published an update on the case of the former police commissioner Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez accused of money laundering. There will be an evidentiary hearing in the coming days.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5405-mp-a-la-espera-de-la-audiencia-de-proposicion-de-pruebas-contr-excomisionado-ambrosio-ordonez>

In the last days, three local leaders of the National Party were murdered in Tegucigalpa.

The National Party condemned the murders and demands an investigation.

The aspiring presidential candidate Ricardo Álvarez called it an orchestrated plan and complained about the ineffectiveness of the police investigation.

<https://radiohrn.hn/de-luto-el-partido-nacional-tres-dirigentes-han-sido-ejecutados-dos-en-menos-de-cinco-horas/>

<http://elpulso.hn/partido-nacional-condena-asesinatos-contrasus-dirigentes-de-base/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/dirigencia-del-partido-nacional-repudia-crimen-contras-tres-activistas-en-una-semana.html>

<https://criterio.hn/ricardo-alvarez-dice-que-asesinatos-de-sus-activistas-responde-a-un-plan-orquestado/>

<http://elpulso.hn/violencia-llega-a-dirigentes-de-barrio-del-partido-nacional/>

Members of INFOP Workers' Union protested yesterday demanding that the institution not be privatized.

<https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-anuncian-nueva-movilizacion-para-evitar-privatizacion-del-infop/>

<https://tiempo.hn/infop-sindicalistas-se-movilizan-contrala-privatizacion/>

ConfidencialHN reports that a magistrate in the judiciary pulled strings so that a friend of his avoided going to jail for tax fraud and alleged money laundering for which he has been under investigation since 2009.

<https://confidencialhn.com/magistrado-trafico-influencias-para-proteger-a-perseguido-por-defraudacion-fiscal-y-lavado/>

"The question then arises: what is behind Juan Orlando Hernández's decision not to extend the MACCIH agreement? The answer to the previous question cannot be found from political rationality. (...) The rationality that has dominated in the case of the non-renewal of the MACCIH agreement is the instrumental and protective rationality by the networks of corruption and impunity in the face of possible judicial actions, even at any political cost. There are those who still wonder why the MACCIH agreement was not renewed if its actions did not reach the highest levels of political and economic power. The answer is that the non-renewal of the MACCIH agreement was a reaction not so much to what the MACCIH had done, but to what it could do in a second period. (...) Now, without the MACCIH, the context for the fight against corruption is extremely adverse. (...) A new unit has been set up at the MP, the Special Prosecutor's Unit against Networks of Corruption (UFERCO), as well as UFECIC, led by Prosecutor Luis Javier Santos. However, the same Prosecutor Santos, has denounced that UFERCO has less budget than UFECIC; prosecutors have less protection and salaries are lower (which generates discouragement) and do not have the support of at least 25 technical specialists that UFECIC had through MACCIH. On 27 January

2020, Juan Orlando Hernández announced a new System of Transparency and Fight against Corruption and Impunity, which will be comprised primarily of the Supreme Court, the Executive Branch, the Superior Court of Accounts, the National Congress and the Attorney General's Office, among others. This initiative, which comes from the government and, above all, from officials and institutions that have been denounced for being involved in high-profile corruption cases and for being the ones who promoted the campaign against the MACCIH until it was eliminated, lacks credibility and does not generate any type of expectation in the fight against corruption."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/04/cronologia-y-sin-la-maccih-y-la-ufecic-en-honduras-cual-es-la-ruta/>

05/02/20

Honduras Daily: Post-Electoral Repression; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Homicide Rate, US; FPIC; Campesinxs - Women, BANADESA; Migration - US, Spain; Extortion; and in Need of Water

While OACNUDH continues to highlight information from its important report on the post-electoral human rights violations and the impunity in these cases, the MP informs that the primary hearing against the police agent Olvin Fernando Gonzáles Velásquez was evacuated yesterday. He is held responsible for the murder of the 17-year old Virgilio Jared Ávila Gonzáles in December 2017. He had been arrested already in November 2018, but the trial has still not started yet.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1225086366553399302>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1225187504132952064>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5413-mp-pedira-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-en-contra-de-policia-acusado-de-muerte-de-menor-de-edad-durante-protesta-post-electoral>

The US asks for the extradition of Mauricio Hernández Pineda, former member of the police force and cousin of JOH.

Hernández Pineda was charged with "conspiring to import cocaine into the United States and related weapons offenses involving the use and possession of machineguns and destructive devices" in September 2019.

The Judicial Power only said that they received an extradition request related to drug trafficking.

<https://criterio.hn/piden-en-extradicion-a-policia-primo-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ee-uu-pide-en-extradicion-a-oficial-de-policia-vinculado-a-joh-y-tony-por-narcotrafico/>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/former-honduran-national-police-officer-charged-conspiring-import-cocaine-united-states>

<https://tiempo.hn/nueva-solicitud-extradicion/>

Pinu congresswoman Doris Gutiérrez denounces what has been highlighted here for years, "to determine the percentage of the homicide rate, a different formula is used than in previous years, which "is an invention of Arturo Corrales (former minister of security)", and serves as a "masquerade" to lower the high levels of this epidemic".

<https://tiempo.hn/metodo-ac-no-incluyen-muertos-desconocidos-estadisticas-de-homicidios/>

Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan visited Honduras. He met, among others, with Security Minister Julián Pacheco Tinoco; he was linked to drug trafficking both in the case against Fabio Lobo and against Tony Hernández.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/jefe-de-proteccion-fronteriza-de-eeuu-sostiene-reuniones-en-honduras-sobre-temas-de-migracion.html>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1225061636362424320>

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1225106638736101376>

<https://twitter.com/CBPMarkMorgan/status/1225098114555678726>

<https://twitter.com/CBPMarkMorgan/status/1225120221142376449>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1354584-466/abrir%C3%A1n-centros-de-recepci%C3%B3n-de-solicitantes-de-asilo-en-honduras>

The Observatory of the Human Rights of Honduras' Indigenous and Black Peoples (ODHPINH) invited opposition politicians to inform them about the problematic consultation bill promoted by Nationalist congressman Óscar Nájera.

Berta Zúniga Cáceres, coordinator of COPINH, denounced that the bill contains three problematic proposals: "1. To limit who will be consulted and only refer to those directly affected when in the extractive projects there are affected people who are not in the project area. 2.- To establish that the consultation period will be 120 days and this does not respect the communities' times. 3.- To establish that the head of the CONACOL will be appointed by the President of the Republic and not by the indigenous peoples."

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/porque-estamos-en-contra-del-la-ley-najera/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2684-cuestionan-ley-najera-por-violentar-derechos-ancestrales-de-los-pueblos-indigenas>

<https://criterio.hn/cn-tiene-3-propuestas-de-la-ley-de-consulta-previa-y-son-lesivas-para-los-pueblos-originarios/>

<http://elpulso.hn/comunidad-garifuna-los-once-diputados-negros-no-nos-representan/>

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1225138136545665025>

"The most representative and belligerent peasant organizations in the country, grouped together in LA VIA CAMPESINA HONDURAS, and the Center of Studies for Democracy (CESPAD), have been investigating, analyzing and permanently monitoring the deep agrarian, food and environmental crisis in the country for several years. We observe with great concern the deterioration of production, productivity and the effect of climate change on the agricultural, livestock and forestry sectors of the country. (...) In the current context it is absolutely impossible to recover the agricultural, livestock and forestry sector of the country, for that reason WE PROPOSE: TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC, the approval of the: EMERGENCY LAW FOR THE REACTIVATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK AND FORESTRY SECTOR TO COMBAT POVERTY."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/05/organizaciones-campesinas-presentan-propuesta-para-superar-la-crisis-agraria-alimentaria-y-ambiental-de-honduras/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2685-sectores-organizados-del-agro-presentaran-una-propuesta-ante-el-cn-para>

<https://criterio.hn/campesinos-de-honduras-viven-en-riesgo-alimentario/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/campesinos-hondurenos-proponen-una-ley-para-reactivar-el-sector-agricola.html>

In the press conference, they also highlighted that 88% of women in Honduras do not own land for agricultural production.

<https://criterio.hn/solo-el-1-de-la-mujer-campesina-logro-creditos-en-banadesa/>

Javier Suazo writes about the uncertain future of BANADESA. "The so-called development bank, the one led by the State, which is not oriented by mercantile criteria to grant credits, nor does it have as a fundamental objective the profit of a group of people, since its ultimate goal is to use idle resources such as land, to increase the production and consumption of food and the monetary income of the peasant families, faces again a hard test with the referral by the presidency of the Republic of the executive decree to the National Congress for the liquidation and closure of the National Bank of Agricultural Development (BANADESA)."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/204581>

On the visit of Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan (see above), La Prensa reports that "[s]ome 400 agents of the Migration Control Force guard blind spots in Choluteca in order to prevent the entry of Haitians, Cubans and Africans".

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1354609-410/honduras-tiende-muro-contra-migrantes-cubanos-haitianos-migracion>

"At least 200 Salvadoran migrants and asylum seekers have been killed, raped or tortured after

being deported back to El Salvador by the United States government which is turning a blind eye to widely known dangers, a new investigation reveals."

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/05/salvadorans-deported-us-killed-abused-report>

Report: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/05/us-deported-salvadorans-abused-killed>

More than 6700 Hondurans requested asylum in Spain in 2019.

<https://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/mas-de-6-mil-700-hondurenos-solicitaron-asilo-en-espana-en-2019.html>

Extortion continues to gravely impact cab and bus drivers in Honduras; in La Ceiba, some went on a 24h strike.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1225070500910706688>

According to SANAA, the water reserves for Tegucigalpa may last until June.

<https://confidencialhn.com/sanaa-advierte-que-los-laureles-y-la-concepcion-tienen-agua-para-unos-cuatro-meses-mas/>

06/02/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Business, Church; Campesinxs; Post-Electoral Repression; JOH - Business, Drug Trafficking; Corruption - Elections, CPH; UFERCO; Migration - US; Public Health; Budget; Electoral Reforms; Penitentiary System; and to Migrate, in Spite of Everything

"On February 6, 1995, Blanca Jeannette Kawas Fernández was murdered in retaliation for her work in defense of human rights and the environment after she denounced cases of illegal logging and publicly opposed various economic projects on the Punta Sal Peninsula. 25 years later, her case, like that of hundreds of environmentalists murdered in Honduras, remains totally unpunished."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/portada/a-25-anos-del-asesinato-de-jeannette-kawas-honduras-tiene-pendiente-garantizar-justicia/>

"From 2015 to 2019, the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre has documented more than 2,000 attacks on HRDs raising concerns about business-related human rights abuses - from frivolous lawsuits, arbitrary arrests and detentions to death threats, beatings and even killings." They also have a case study on Honduras and the findings are very bleak. "In 2019, Honduras was the country with the highest number of attacks against HRDs related to business. (...) Since the 2009 coup, Honduras's economic growth strategy has been focused on opening the country to mining, agribusiness and renewable energy investment and in 2011, the government declared the country "open for business". As part of this promise, the government has relaxed environmental regulations, and approved projects without ensuring free, prior and informed consent. In 2019 we recorded 98 attacks on HRDs in Honduras, up from 31 in 2018."

<https://dispatches.business-humanrights.org/hrd-january-2020/index.html>

A judge dismissed the criminalizing trial against defender and priest Florentino Hernández from El Triunfo, Choluteca (see also last week).

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/declaran-sin-lugar-querella-contra-el-padre-florentino-hernandez/>

At least 50 peasant families were evicted in the municipality of Guaimaca, Francisco Morazán. The eviction took place last Tuesday against a peasant association, which took possession of the land more than 15 years ago,

<https://criterio.hn/desalojan-a-campesinos-de-tierras-en-guaimaca/>

Defensores en Línea spoke with Sandy Mancía, whose husband David Octavio Quiroz was murdered by the Military Police on December 15, 2017 as part of the post-electoral repression. "So far what I've received are threats, abuse, persecution and arrests, because of all those situations I faced after my husband's death. I had to flee my country to safeguard the life of my family, and even so, where we are now, it hasn't been easy to face our life together with my children, it's not easy for them or for me".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/violaciones-a-los-derechos-humanos-y-asesinatos-politicos-durante-crisis-post-electoral-siguen-en-la-impunidad/>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1225429496960049155>

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1225571450465247232>

Radio Progreso explains JOH's hold on power. "At least in the last decade, Honduras has been led by the most voracious political bureaucracy in history; its public administration has been the occasion for a small group of families to concentrate the country's greatest wealth. The man in the Presidential House is a love to those families, because they need each other. For these small families, the political parties and the State are instruments to approve all the legal scaffolding that facilitates the transfer of public resources to their companies. They often act as owners of the State and from there negotiate their privileges and establish alliances with transnational companies. There is much evidence to support these claims. (...) Today, as we close the second decade of the 21st century, the dictatorship supported by the Honduran business leadership is the main obstacle to getting the country off the cliff."

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/np/en-quienes-se-sostiene-la-dictadura-hondurena/>

The Pro Honduras Network speaks of the Hernández Cartel with four members having been mentioned in US courts: brother Tony Hernández, the two cousins Mauricio Hernández Pineda and Hernán Hernández, and JOH himself.

The US recently asked for the extradition of Hernández Pineda (see also yesterday).

This has been confirmed by the Judicial Power in the meantime.

https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1280607452127273/?d=n&fb_noscript=1

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3732-fiscal-de-new-york-narra-cronica-criminal-del-imperio-hernandez>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/primero-de-joh-seria-extraditado-a-eeuu/>

<https://tiempo.hn/mauricio-hernandez-exoficial-pedido-en-extradicion-por-eeuu-fue-depurado-en-2018/>

On the launch of the Observatory of Criminal Anti-Corruption Policy, the CNA and FOSDEH presented the result of a new study. Honduras is losing 65 billion Lempiras every year to corruption, that is 12.5% of its GDP.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1225510887668277250>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/65-mil-millones-de-lempiras-pierde-honduras-cada-ano-por-corrupcion/>

<http://elpulso.hn/del-2014-al-2018-un-70-por-ciento-a-aumento-la-corrupcion/>

<http://www.fosdeh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Preguntas-y-Respuestas-al-Estudio.pdf>

Congress made questionable reforms to the budget. If there are surplus items in one sector, the Ministry of Finance will be empowered to subtract them and allocate them where it sees fit. "Opposition deputies described the reforms as a new abuse by the ruling party, and the creation of a legal way to finance the ruling party's candidacies with public funds for the next electoral process."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/noticias-nacionales/presupuesto-general-podria-utilizarse-para-financiar-campanas-electorales/>

Libre congressman Rony Martínez presented a bill to derogate a decree approved last September by the National Party that gave impunity to the board members of the Honduran College of Journalists (CPH).

<https://criterio.hn/piden-en-congreso-derogar-escudo-de-impunidad-a-directivos-de-periodistas/>

The CNA also criticized that the replacement for UFECIC, UFERCO does not have the right tools to fight corruption.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/uferco-no-tiene-herramientas-para-investigar-corrupcion-hay-retroceso-en-esta-lucha-dice-cna.html>

Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan stayed another day in Honduras (see also yesterday) praising the Frontier Police and meeting with business leaders.

But the main focus has again been migration. As highlighted yesterday, Morgan confirmed that Honduras will open migrant reception centers as part of the safe third country agreement. Contrast this to El Salvador which just announced that they are not ready to receive migrants.

<https://twitter.com/CBPMorgan/status/1225541210422550528>

<https://twitter.com/CBPMorgan/status/1225563944154169347>

<http://elpulso.hn/honduras-lista-para-recibir-solicitantes-de-asilo-el-salvador-no/>

Tomás Andino Mencía takes the occasion of the coronavirus to talk about the Honduran public health system and the reasons people currently die in Honduras. He concludes that the public health system fell victim to another virus, neoliberalism. "We cannot fall into the media trap that wants to hide the real problems of Honduras from us. The worst epidemic we are suffering from is the corrupt and inept government that has enthroned itself in power and is stealing our right to public health care. So, if we want to survive, the real virus that we must eradicate from our territory is not the coronavirus but the narco-dictatorship and its neoliberal model of underdevelopment." Meanwhile, the temporary agreement between the JOH regime and the auxiliary nurses (see last week) broke down and they took up strike actions again.

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/06/coronavirus-en-honduras/>

<https://radiohrn.hn/sin-acuerdo-enfermeras-y-enfermeros-auxiliares-continuaran-en-asambleas-informativas/>

According to Congress' president Mauricio Oliva, a two-round presidential election is still on the table.

And he promised that the problematic tiny political parties won't disappear with the new Electoral Law.

<https://confidencialhn.com/oliva-asevera-que-sigue-en-analisis-implementacion-de-segunda-vuelta/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partidos-minoritarios-no-desapareceran-con-la-nueva-ley-electoral-asegura-oliva.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/nueva-ley-electoral-regulara-el-negocio-la-deuda-politica-segun-asesor-del-congreso.html>

FUSINA presented the first report on the progress made by the National Penitentiary Institute INP Intervention Commission within the prisons.

<https://tiempo.hn/avances-interventora-cobertura-75-centros-penales/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/06/migrar-a-pesar-de-todo/>

07/02/20

Honduras Daily: Corruption - UFERCO, BANADESA, UNA; Transport Sector; Liberal Party; National Police - US; Migration; Business; and Criminalizing the Dead

On Thursday, FOSDEH and the CNA published a new study on corruption in Honduras (see yesterday). Now the study can also be found online.

<http://www.fosdeh.com/2020/02/estimacion-del-impacto-macroeconomico-de-la-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

Radio Progreso spoke with the former head of UFECIC and new head of UFERCO, Luis Santos. "I have been very clear that the moment I feel that there is not enough support to continue this fight, I will make my position available to the Attorney General". He also admits that UFERCO "was born weakened, no longer has the specialists assigned by the Maccih to accompany the investigations and does not have international backing either".

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/si-no-hay-apoyo-me-ire-del-ministerio-publico-sentencia-fiscal-luis-javier-santos/>

Another article (see previously this week) looks at the situation of the National Agricultural Development Bank (BANADESA). "Given the current situation of corruption-privatization of public entities, the future of BANADESA is shaken by the continuous effort of the government for its eradication and the little viability of its rescue."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/07/crisis-financiera-en-banadesa-la-quebra-que-tambien-habla-de-corrupcion/>

The MP announced yesterday the filing of an injunction against the former rector of the National University of Agriculture (UNA) and 18 other people, implicated in a millionaire diversion of resources that were used for an irregular salary increase. The former rector, Marlon Escoto, was the Secretary of Education under Lobo and still holds a position in the JOH regime.

<https://criterio.hn/por-millonario-desvio-de-fondos-en-universidad-de-agricultura-presentan-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-marlon-escoto/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3736-por-desfalco-acusan-a-marlon-escoto-y-exdirectivos-de-universidad-agricola>

<https://tiempo.hn/mp-acusa-19-funcionarios-por-desvio-de-1160-millones-de-la-una/>

At least 14 workers of the transport sector were murdered in January 2020.

<https://tiempo.hn/ov-unah-14-transportistas-fueron-asesinados-en-enero-2020/>

The Liberal Party celebrated its 129th anniversary by protesting in Tegucigalpa demanding the end of the JOH regime.

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3735-liberales-celebran-129-aniversario-con-protesta-en-la-capital>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/partido-liberal-marcha-denunciando-manipulacion-en-el-proceso-electoral.html>

The US, through INL, and the mayoralty of San Pedro Sula collaborate "to strengthen" the police.

<https://tiempo.hn/alcaldia-de-sps-y-embajada-de-eeuu-fortaleceran-a-la-policia-nacional-y-comunitaria/>

The IACHR urges El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico to guarantee the rights of migrants and refugees in the region.

The National Migration Institute (INM) claims that over 5000 Hondurans migrants voluntarily returned to the country since January 15. This contradicts previous reports that less than 100 of them really returned on their own terms.

<https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/027.asp>

<https://www.proceso.hn/migrantes/1-migrantes/mas-de-5-mil-migrantes-hondurenos-han-optado-por-retorno-voluntario.html>

According to the Commerce and Industries Chamber of Tegucigalpa (CCIT), the number of business created fell by 5% in the first month of 2020.

<https://confidencialhn.com/disminuye-en-cinco-por-ciento-la-creacion-de-empresas-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/campesinos-denuncian-orden-de-captura-contra-dirigente-muerto-chavez/>

08/02/20

Honduras Daily: Corruption - UFERCO, UNODC; Migration - Children; Extractivism; Climate Crisis; National Party; Extradition; Poverty; Public Health; and Green Tela

Radio Progreso continues to cover the problems with UFERCO. "The presence of the Maccih in Honduras was accepted in the midst of serious doubts by Honduran society, but it has received with greater frustration the news of the recently created Specialized Fiscal Unit Against Networks of Corruption, Uferco. An instance, almost as if taken out of the sleeve by the authorities at the MP and JOH's government, used to coin this false sensation that the will to fight corruption is maintained, and with greater strength, in spite of ending, in one fell swoop, the Maccih and the

Special Prosecutor's Unit Against the Impunity of Corruption, UFECIC.

Prosecutor Luís Javier Santos, former director of Ufecic and current director of the newly created Uferco, is right to point out that they are using it to send false messages of the fight against corruption. They are taking advantage of the image of an honest, hard-working prosecutor committed to the ideals of the MP to defend Honduran society. Santos knows this, and Honduran citizens are waiting to see what action he will take in this regard beyond making a public denunciation.

Honduran society knows, very clearly, that institutions such as the MP are politically controlled by sectors of power that tie up the possibility of it fulfilling its function. However, as attorney Luis Javier Santos has publicly voiced, they, now as Uferco, assume their commitment to investigate and present cases of corruption and hope that there is the political will to take firm steps to follow-up all the fiscal requirements that will be presented.

Attorney Santos also committed, publicly and most recently in an interview with Radio Progreso, to denounce and resign, if necessary, if the institutionality of the MP, under the charge of the questioned five-star prosecutor Oscar Fernando Chinchilla, hinders him from presenting the cases or simply stores them in the drawers of his office.

They have also committed to continue with the cases they have already presented and which are public knowledge such as "Red de Diputados", "Pacto de Impunidad", "La Caja de Pandora", "Caja Chica de la Dama", "Caja Chica del Hermano", "Arca Abierta", among others. But he also promised to continue the investigations into the cases that had been identified with the Maccih, cases that will surely test the political will to put an end to the corruption that the Attorney General is so fond of."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/np/luis-javier-santos-y-la-dura-lucha-contr-la-corrupcion/>

Vice-dean at UNAH and economist Julio Raudales welcomes the recently published study on corruption by FOSDEH and the CNA (see the last two days). "It is clear that the FOSDEH and CNA document allows us to conclude with greater rigor, that corruption has a strong impact on the already turbulent life of the people and perhaps it is worth asking and reflecting rigorously, what is the effect that acts of corruption and above all their impunity have on the economy: How does it affect public finances, the distribution of wealth and free competition between companies? Well, how much poorer is Honduras due to these terrible vices of public behavior? Among the most common corrupt practices is the use of public office for personal gain. (...) Another clear example is the construction of large public works that are financed in an unjustified manner that entails enormous costs for the treasury and that do not generate any social benefit or economic return."

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/02/08/un-estudio-con-proposito-serio/>

CONADEH's Roberto Herrera calls corruption "the biggest threat" for democracy in Honduras. And, interestingly, he considers to invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to Honduras.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/corrupcion-la-amenaza-mas-grave-para->

[democracia-y-desarrollo-de-honduras.html](https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-mil-menores-fueron-deportados-a-honduras-en-enero.html)

1192 Honduran minors were deported in January from the US and Mexico.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/mas-de-mil-menores-fueron-deportados-a-honduras-en-enero.html>

The community Motatal in Comayagua said no in a public town hall meeting to the exploitation of their rivers.

<https://criterio.hn/comayagua-dice-no-a-la-explotacion-de-sus-rios/>

El País writes about Honduras as "ground zero of climate change" and how unprepared it is due to "official indifference".

https://elpais.com/sociedad/2020/02/08/actualidad/1581121631_785715.html?ssm=TW_CC

Defensores en Línea comments on the recent killing of four local National Party leaders. The JOH regime tries to blame the political opposition, but the National Party in itself is divided and one of the victims, Obdulio Liconá, said previous to his death that if something were to happen to him it would be the responsibility of people belonging to the National Party.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/asesinato-de-dirigentes-politico-toca-la-puerta-del-partido-nacional/>

The former president of the Supreme Court, Jorge Rivera Avilés, demands an extradition law to regulate the procedures. But this may lead to more suspected drug traffickers remaining in Honduras not being able to bring valuable information to US courts.

<https://confidencialhn.com/indican-que-extradiciones-no-pueden-seguir-manejandose-por-un-simple-auto-acordado-entre-honduras-y-ee-uu/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/es-necesaria-una-ley-de-extadicion-no-se-puede-seguir-bajo-acuerdo-expresidente-de-la-csj.html>

Economist Claudio Salgado criticizes the new approach by the JOH regime to count (away) poverty (see previous week).

<https://tiempo.hn/economista-nuevo-metodo-de-medicion-de-pobreza-esta-maquillado/>

After a back and forth, El Tiempo reports that the JOH regime and the auxiliary nurses came to an agreement.

<https://tiempo.hn/aneeah-salud-acuerdan-reajuste-salarial-enfermeras-auxiliares/>

"The building of the Accounting Office in front of the impressive bay of Tela, was the scene of the historic decision of the population of the municipality of Tela, Atlantida, in terms of environmental

protection, to declare itself a Green Municipality. (...) The declaration includes a ban on the sale of turtle eggs, protection of the forest especially in water-producing areas, as well as strategies to end the planting of African palm monocultures in protected areas, such as the Jeannette Kawas White National Park. It also includes a ban on single-use plastics (straws and bottles)."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/declaran-a-tela-municipio-verde/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1355214-410/honduras-tela-lucha-contra-plastico-tala>

09/02/20

Honduras Daily: HR-Situation; Militarization; Corruption - UFERCO, MP, Palmerola; Migration; and a Worried Glance Across the Border

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

https://honduras-forum.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2001_AnotherMonthInHonduras.pdf

The human rights organization CPTRT denounces an attempt by Congress to militarize the Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CONAPREV).

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2686-segun-cptrt-congreso-nacional-estaria-cometiendo-una-nefasta-decision-al-nombrar-militares-en-el-conaprev>

UFERCO coordinator Luis Santos repeats his call for international support for this new anti-corruption body.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-uferco-enfatiza-necesidad-de-apoyo-internacional-para-combatir-corrupcion/>

The Finance Minister Rocío Tábora, meanwhile, announced that she will present a bill to Congress which would allow the MP to hire more people.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/finanzas-identifica-fuentes-para-contratacion-de-nuevo-personal-para-el-ministerio-publico.html>

The construction of the Palmerola airport and its tender process has raised concerns on various occasions, now the president of the private business lobby COHEP demands a revision of its contracts.

In a second article, La Prensa writes: "The Palmerola International Airport will be a profitable business for Inversiones Emco S.A de C.V. and for the operator of the Munich-Franz Joseph Strauss International Airport, but it will represent a terrible investment for the State of Honduras, which for

nearly 30 years will not receive a single penny from the administration and operation of the airport, nor from the payment of taxes."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1355415-410/contrato-de-palmerola-debe-ser-sometido-a-una-revisi%C3%B3n-detallada-juan-carlos>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/1355416-410/concesi%C3%B3n-de-palmerola-no-pagar-%C3%A1-canon-en-28-a%C3%B1os>

El Heraldo reports on the Sowing Live program by Mexico in Honduras to stop young Hondurans from migrating.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1355421-410/m%C3%A9xico-y-honduras-definen-plan-para-evitar-que-20000-j%C3%B3venes-emigren>

"The threats of President Nayib Bukele against the Legislative Assembly, or Salvadoran Congress, his polemical call for an "extraordinary session" to approve a spending bill, as well as his warning that he would charge legislators with unconstitutional conduct if they didn't attend, lay bare Bukele's method of exercising power: start with coercion, and then move to force."

<https://elfaro.net/en/202002/columnas/24003/Editorial-No-More-Coups-Against-Democracy.htm>

<https://criterio.hn/bukele-malinterpreta-la-constitucion-e-intenta-controlar-la-asamblea/>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/fotogalerias/1355472-468/fotos-con-el-congreso-militarizado-bukele-llama-a-la-insurrecci%C3%B3n-por-un>

10/02/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - FPIC, Impunity; HRDs; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Corruption - JOH; Secrecy Law; Bajo Aguán; National Police; and the Return of the Rosenthal

The expert mission on the Berta Cáceres case together with Honduran indigenous and human rights organizations invited yesterday to a forum on the link between the violation of free, prior and informed consent and the assassination of Berta.

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/foro-publico-consulta-previa-y-el-crimen-de-berta-caceres/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2687-senalan-en-conversatorio-estado-implementa-una-farsa-detras-de-la-consulta-previa>

The same expert mission will hold a press conference this morning at 8am to present their findings about the Berta Cáceres case.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1226977541652701190>

The environmental defenders Iván Juárez and Meregildo Guillén from the community of Cuaca,

located in the municipality of Gualaco had went to the MP to ask it to investigate illegal logging in the community, but instead of investigating, it notified the businessman Nery Roberto Murillo Montalván that they held responsible. He then went on to criminalize them. But now, the Court of Judgments of Juticalpa, Olancho issued a definitive dismissal of the case.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/sobreseimiento-definitivo-para-ambientalistas-querellados-por-defender-el-bosque/>

According to ConfidencialHN, the defense of JOH's brother Tony Hernández subtly admitted in a letter to federal judge Kevin Castel that their client was indeed involved in drug trafficking. They ask for the minimum sentence of 40 years in prison so that he can return to Honduras in his old age. Back in Honduras, the extradition of JOH's cousin, former member of the police force and accused drug trafficker Mauricio Hernández Pineda is expected.

<https://confidencialhn.com/previo-a-su-sentencia-defensa-de-tony-admite-sutilmente-que-su-cliente-es-narco/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tony-hernandez-defensa-solicita-pena-minima-de-40-anos-de-prision/>

<https://criterio.hn/policia-primero-de-tony-y-joh-conspiro-para-mantener-al-clan-en-el-poder/>

After he closed the MACCIH, the JOH regime continues to play the symbolic field of anti-corruption efforts to feign political will. Yesterday, he invited to a forum on transparency and against corruption and impunity.

Even worse, Doris Gutiérrez, PINU congresswoman, denounced that the National Congress with the approval of the reform to the General Budget Law leaves JOH to manage funds without any discretion.

<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1226891932338573313>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/presidente-hernandez-dice-que-actuar-con-transparencia-es-como-una-vacuna-contra-la-corrupcion.html>

<http://elpulso.hn/ejecutivo-podra-manejar-fondos-a-su-antojo-con-reforma-ley-presupuesto/>

But maybe there is some help from the courts to improve the situation in Honduras. The Law for the Declassification of Public Documents Related to Security and Defense, better known as the "Secrecy Law" was declared partially unconstitutional by the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice. This was the response to a challenge filed by C-Libre.

<https://tiempo.hn/sin-unanimidad-declaran-inconstitucional-parcial-la-ley-de-secretos/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-parcialmente-inconstitucional-la-ley-de-secretos-impuesta-por-joh/>

COFADEH denounces that Unit of Violent Deaths in Bajo Aguán (UMVIBA) lacks the resources to

investigate but rather serves as another body intimidating and even profiling campesino activists.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-umviba-deficiente-para-investigar-y-eficiente-para-perfilar/>

The Fiscal Unit of Support to the Process of the Police Purge (Ufadpol) demands the seizure of goods of the former police commissioner Lorgio Oquelí Mejía Tinoco and his family. He is accused of money laundering.

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-pide-confiscar-unos-24-bienes-de-exfuncionario-policial-acusado-por-lavado-de-dinero/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1355755-410/fiscal%3%ADa-pide-la-privaci%3%B3n-definitiva-de-24-bienes-de-oquel%3%AD-mej%3%ADa-tinoco>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1355699-466/empresario-yankel-rosenthal-retorna-a-honduras-tras-recobrar-libertad>

11/02/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; National Police - US; Journalists; Secrecy Law; Extractivism; Corruption - HR, JOH; Migration - US; and Tegucigalpa's Water Crisis

The expert mission on the Berta Cáceres case held a press conference yesterday in Tegucigalpa. They presented a report highlighting the "history debt of justice". "Justice in the case of Berta Cáceres will not be fully realized until the responsibilities for the intellectual authorship of the actions as well as for the different delaying tactics and the hindering of the investigation and trial of the case are established."

<https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1227295416775053313>

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/la-justicia-hondurena-en-deuda-en-caso-berta/>

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20200211/473460893455/justicia-en-crimen-berta-caceres-sera-plena-al-castigar-autores-intelectuales.html>

On Monday, the MP announced the seizures of goods of a former police commissioner (see yesterday), now an active police commissioner was arrested for money laundering tied to drug trafficking. "This morning, Hondurans woke up to the news that police commissioner Leonel Luciano Saucedo Guifarro and his wife, Patricia Sbeltana Estrada Pacheco, had been arrested in Tegucigalpa. A large police and military operation raided their Tegucigalpa-based home this morning and will conduct a "series of seizures of property illicitly obtained, 8 houses, 2 vehicles, 23 bank accounts, all properties of the accused" says the communiqué published by the Honduran Prosecutor's Office. (...) Just ten days ago on January 30, Leonel Saucedo was promoted to police

commissioner - one of the highest positions in the Honduran National Police. Despite the April 2016 creation of the U.S.-funded Special Commission for the Cleanup and Transformation of the Honduran National Police (CEDTPN), Saucedo and other police believed to be involved in criminal activities, remain active and are promoted inside the institution. (...) Two public figures that represent Honduran "civil society" are involved in the CEDTPN including representatives of the U.S.-funded Association for a More Justice Society (ASJ). Up until last year, ASJ received over half of their total budget in Honduras from different agencies of the U.S. government."

Hours later, the MP announced that the accused will be held in custody and that the initial hearing will take place on Friday.

The purging commission immediately tried to whitewash its role in it publishing a press release. At the same time, the press speaker of ATIC said that he had been investigated for four years. The purging committee itself asked for an investigation in 2016 contradicting their claim that they knew nothing.

The Bureau of Police Disciplinary Affairs (DIDADPOL) then also claimed they had known of nothing.

Political analyst Tomás Andino Mencía offers three explanations for why Saucedo was arrested now: 1) pressure by the US embassy; 2) it is a rescue mission for him; by trying him in Honduras, he won't be extradited to the US; or 3) they want to silence him so that he cannot be used against the JOH regime.

Another political analyst, Jorge Yllescas, said that this is another proof of the failure of the police purge.

El Pulso published a portrait of him.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2020/2/11/active-police-commissioner-with-ties-to-us-drug-cases-arrested-for-money-laundering>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5441-mp-captura-y-asegura-33-bienes-a-comisionado-general-de-policia>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5448-detencion-judicial-por-lavado-de-activos-contra-comisionado-general-de-policia>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/por-lavado-de-activos-capturan-a-jefe-policial-leonel-sauceda/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/depuradores-se-lavan-las-manos-tras-arresto-de-sauceda-no-sabian-de-investigaciones-en-su-contras/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/atic-investigaba-patrimonio-de-sauceda-desde-hace-cuatro-anos-y-desmiente-a-junta-depuradora/>

<https://tiempo.hn/didadpol-no-conocio-denuncia-alguna-contra-leonel-sauceda/>

<https://criterio.hn/el-arresto-de-leonel-sauceda-y-sus-posibles-motivos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/captura-de-comisionado-sauceda->

evidencia-el-fracaso-de-depuracion-policial-dice-analista.html

<http://elpulso.hn/quien-es-leonel-sauceda-el-comisionado-de-policia-acusado-de-lavado-de-activos/>

C-Libre published a report yesterday on journalism and freedom of expression in Honduras called "From Informative Silence to Exodus".

<https://criterio.hn/estado-hondureno-retrocede-en-promocion-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-sostiene-informe/>

Pasos de Animal Grande demands the complete derogation of the controversial secrecy law after the constitutional chamber declared parts of it unconstitutional (see yesterday).

C-Libre denounced the law as an important pillar of corruption.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2688-pleno-de-la-csj-debe-declarar-inconstitucionalidad-absoluta-la-ley-de-secretos-oficiales>

<https://tiempo.hn/c-libre-sobre-ley-de-secretos-es-un-pilar-para-seguir-con-la-corrupcion/>

"The month of January 2020 began with events that highlight the convulsive territorial situation in Honduras: The murder of indigenous leader Santos Felipe Escobar, a member of the Pech people[1], the death of Garifuna leader Karla Ignacia Piota[2], who in December 2019 suffered several gunshot wounds in an attack; criminal proceedings against peasant leaders in Bajo Aguán; and the call by the Special Commission of the National Congress to meet and discuss the Bill for Free, Prior and Informed Consultation; the blocking of roads (territorial control) by indigenous and peasant groups in La Paz against forest extractivism and the announcement of the Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH) regime, regarding the investment of 24.81 billion lempiras in the construction of 54 dams nationwide[3]. In this context, this analysis seeks to put into perspective the understanding of the current correlation of forces and proposes ideas to advance in the rearticulation of the socio-territorial movement, within the framework of the militarization of agrarian policies."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/11/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-que-podria-pasar-con-las-comunidades-campesinas-indigenas-y-negras-en-la-lucha-por-sus-rios-bosques-y-bienes-naturales-en-el-2020/>

Last December, the IACHR published a report on corruption and human rights. DPLF published a helpful summary of its findings.

http://www.dplf.org/sites/default/files/info_corrupcion_digital_vf.pdf

Report: <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/informes/pdfs/CorrupcionDDHHES.pdf>

JOH, meanwhile, continues to self-promote as a promoter of the fight against corruption (see also yesterday).

<https://twitter.com/EbalDiazHN/status/1227303723648659456>

<https://confidencialhn.com/hernandez-corroboracion-entrega-de-iniciativa-al-legislativo-para-destinar-fondos-al-ministerio-publico/>

US Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mark Morgan announced that "[t]he time when large caravans could illegally travel through Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico has ended. CBP is directly engaged with these countries and together we are tackling this regional crisis".

<https://twitter.com/CBPMarkMorgan/status/1227375279615729665>

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-marcha-plan-de-distribucion-de-agua-a-medio-millon-de-personas/>

12/02/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Impunity; Indigenous Peoples - AHER; Journalists; JOH - Twitter, Protest; Bajo Aguán - IACHR; Migration - US, Journalist; Corruption - IHSS, Infrastructure, Congress; National Police - Landaverde; CONADEH; and Nike in Honduras

The expert mission on the Berta Cáceres case published a summary of their recently published report (see yesterday).

The delegates continued to stay in Honduras and met with President of the Honduran Supreme Court, Rolando Argueta.

<https://www2.abogacia.es/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Resumen-ejecutivo-misi%C3%B3n-Berta-C%C3%A1ceres.pdf>

<https://twitter.com/JosephBerra/status/1227311972452007937>

The MP presented charges against the president of the Honduran Association of Renewable Energy, Elsia Esther Paz Mancias, who has been publicly attacking indigenous peoples and human rights defenders for their opposition to extractive projects. She is now accused of discrimination against indigenous Lenca leaders.

COPINH welcomes this and the above-mentioned expert mission met with Jany del Cid, the special prosecutor for Indigenous people, and "commended her for bringing charges of discrimination against the president of the Honduran Assoc of Renewable Energy for publicly insulting the Lenca people".

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5451-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-presidenta-de-la-asociacion-de-energia-electrica-renovable>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2693-por-discriminacion-contra-indigenas-lencas-libran-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-presidenta-de-empresas-energeticas>

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/fiscalia-de-etnias-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-elsia-paz-video/>

<https://twitter.com/JosephBerra/status/1227731119308759045>

Trying to cover the murder of a young man in police detention, the journalist Nahún Monje was harassed and threatened with death by the police.

<http://elpulso.hn/periodista-es-victima-de-agresion-por-miembros-de-la-policia/>

"On July 16 of the previous year, a U.S. Federal Court of Appeals, based in New York, established and ordered President Donald Trump to unblock users he had blocked from his Twitter account for posting comments against his government. This decision ratified what was already determined, in 2008, by Judge Reice Buchwald of the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York who said that "blocking plaintiffs for their political views is a form of discrimination. In Honduras, reviewing the social network accounts (Twitter and Facebook) of President Juan Orlando Hernández, and other more socially acceptable politicians, we found that, in Hernández's account, it is practically impossible to find a comment against his government, when it is known that he has been one of the most opposed presidents in the history of Honduras. Many denounce this situation through their profiles; wanting to comment or react to publications made by Hernandez they found themselves "blocked"."

<http://elpulso.hn/los-bloqueados-por-joh-en-redes-sociales/>

Representatives of the Convergence against Continuity and the National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners met with social movements in the south of Honduras, the place where the protest against the JOH regime is most vocal.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/organizados-y-coordinados-en-unidad/>

"Almost six years after a resolution by the IACHR, in which it requested the State of Honduras to adopt protection measures to benefit more than one hundred members of peasant organizations in Bajo Aguán, the demands are still not met.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2690-casi-seis-anos-de-sobresaltos-amenazas-y-persecucion-por-falta-de-proteccion-idonea-del-estado-de-honduras>

A new report by Doctors without Borders denounces the US-Mexican migration regime. "The report, No Way Out, is based on 480 interviews and testimonies of Central American migrants and asylum seekers, experiences of MSF staff, and medical data from more than 26,000 people helped along the migration route through Mexico during the first nine months of 2019. The medical evidence points to high levels of violence and ill treatment suffered by migrants and refugees in their home countries, along the migration route, and in the custody of US and Mexican authorities. The high levels of violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America (NTCA) is comparable to that in war zones where MSF has been working for decades—and is a major factor fueling migration north to Mexico and the US."

"More than two-thirds of the migrants fleeing Central America's northern triangle countries –

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador – experienced the murder, disappearance or kidnapping of a relative before their departure, according to a new study by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF)."

Human Rights Watch also denounced the situation yesterday. "A United States government program exposes children, as well as their parents, seeking asylum to serious risk of assault, mistreatment, and trauma while waiting for their cases to be heard, Human Rights Watch said today in a joint investigation report. Human Rights Watch, working with Stanford University's Human Rights in Trauma Mental Health Program and Willamette University's Child and Family Advocacy Clinic, found that the US Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program, commonly known as "Remain in Mexico," compelled families with children to wait in unsafe environments in Mexico for many months. Parents said that prolonged immigration court proceedings, fear of being incarcerated, and uncertainty about the future took a toll on their family's health, safety, and well-being. Many described changes in their children's behavior, saying they became more anxious or depressed after US authorities sent them to Mexico to await their hearings."

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/no-way-out-msf-report-shows-damaging-health-impacts-us-mexico>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/11/migrants-fleeing-central-america-guatemala-honduras-el-salvador-family-taken-killed-study>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/policy-puts-migrants-risk-kidnapping-extortion-msf-200211174904629.html>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/12/us-remain-mexico-program-harming-children>

According to a new report by C-Libre (see also yesterday), at least 20 journalists had to leave Honduras between 2018 and 2019 to save their lives.

<https://tiempo.hn/c-libre-20-periodistas-hondurenos-huyeron-pais-entre-2018-2019/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/vigilancia-intimidacion-ataques-y-asesinatos-rebela-informe-sobre-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras/>

Coming Monday, a new trial against Mario Roberto Zelaya Rojas in the IHSS corruption case will start.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5449-proximo-lunes-se-celebrara-nuevo-juicio-por-corrupcion-en-el-ihss>

<https://confidencialhn.com/proximo-lunes-se-celebrara-nuevo-juicio-contrario-zelaya-por-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

Rodulio Perdomo, an economist at Fosdeh, said that the most expensive roads in Central America are in Honduras. According to him, in Costa Rica one kilometer costs 700,000 dollars, while in Europe they are worth approximately 1.2 million dollars and in Honduras they reach 2.3 million

dollars.

<https://confidencialhn.com/senalan-que-honduras-tiene-las-carreteras-mas-costosas-de-centroamerica-odebrecht-fue-beneficiada/>

Radio Progreso covers the newest acts of corruption by Congress by taking away oversight of how the state budget is used (see previous e-mails).

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/uncategorized/congreso-nacional-elimina-presupuesto-para-educacion-y-proyectos-sociales/>

The arrest of police commissioner Leonel Luciano Saucedá (see yesterday) made international headlines.

And everyone still claims that they are not to blame for his recent promotion while JOH ally and member of the purging committee Alberto Solórzano even tries to defend him.

Just a day later, the head of the Fiscal Unit of Support to the Process of Police Clearance (Ufadpol), Luis Echeverría, announced that there are a dozen fiscal requirements against police officers for money laundering.

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/02/11/world/americas/ap-lt-honduras-corruption-.html>

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/congreso-nacional-se-lava-las-manos-sobre-ascenso-de-leonel-sauceda/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cuando-asumio-la-depuradora-habia-50-oficiales-en-la-cupula-hoy-no-queda-ninguno-dice-carlos-hernandez.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/solorzano-recurre-a-la-hipocresia-al-lamentar-la-detencion-de-sauceda-y-su-esposa/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-docena-de-requerimientos-fiscales-para-varios-policias-por-blanqueo-de-capitales/>

In the midst of this, the former police director Ricardo Ramírez del Cid claims that he knows who murdered Alfredo Landaverde, coordinator of the Anti-Drug Trafficking Bureau (DLCN), in 2011.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/yo-se-quien-mato-a-alfredo-landaverde-ahi-hay-gente-grande-revela-ramirez-del-cid.html>

A new head of CONADEH will be elected next month on March 25 as the term of Roberto Herrera Cáceres comes to an end.

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/nombran-comision-para-elegir-al-nuevo-comisionado-nacional-de-derechos-humanos/>

<http://elpulso.hn/nuevo-comisionado-de-derechos-humanos-sera-electo-en-marzo/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/advierten-que-al-oficialismo-le-conviene-que-ombudsman-permanezca-en-su-cargo/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1356147-410/colocan-primera-piedra-parque-industrial-proyecto-arena>

13/02/20

Honduras Daily: Berta - Corruption; FPIC; JOH - Drug Trafficking, Armed Forces, Business, Reelection; Organized Crime; Journalists; Political Prisoners - US; Penitentiary System; National Police; Fire Arms - US; Climate Crisis; and the Need for a Political-Social Alliance

The MP informs that a court dismissed the attempt by the accused in the Gualcarque Fraud corruption case, linked to the murder of Berta Cáceres, to avoid a hearing.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5456-sin-lugar-excepciones-por-falta-de-accion-y-competencia-interpuestas-por-defensores-privados-de-imputados-en-el-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque>

ContraCorriente spoke with Olivia Zúniga Cáceres, Libre congresswoman and daughter of Berta Cáceres, about the controversial Nájera Bill, i.e. a distorted version of free, prior and informed consent, extractivism in Honduras and the lack of legitimacy of the indigenous groups presented by the JOH regime to whitewash the bill..

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/13/libre-tiene-que-permanecer-en-su-demanda-y-denuncia-a-favor-de-la-madre-tierra-olivia-zuniga-caceres-sobre-proyecto-de-ley-de-consulta-previa/>

The Pro-Honduras Network reported that Mauricio Hernandez Pineda, JOH's cousin and former police officer who was recently requested for extradition to the U.S. to face drug trafficking charges, has been arrested on Wednesday in the US.

This was later confirmed by Univision and other media outlets. Some wrote that he handed himself over to US authorities.

In his testimony before the New York court last year, confessed drug trafficker Alexander Ardón said that he spoke with Hernández Pineda on the phone and that the latter that he did that following instructions of JOH.

<https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1286071401580878/?d=n>

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/america-latina/en-custodia-el-testigo-clave-en-el-caso-por-narcotrafico-contra-el-hermano-del-presidente-hondureno>

<https://tiempo.hn/expolicia-mauricio-hernandez-se-entrega-a-la-justicia-de-eeuu/>

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1228164071398109189>

Minister of Defense, Fredy Díaz, unconvincingly claims that the trial against Tony Hernández somehow cleared the Honduran Armed Forces of all charges being involved with drug trafficking...

<https://confidencialhn.com/secretario-de-defensa-se-congratula-porque-ffaa-no-fueron-mencionadas-en-nueva-york/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/fuerzas-armadas-no-fueron-mencionadas-en-cortes-de-eeuu-se-jacta-ministro-de-defensa.html>

A dispute broke out between representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortés (CCIC) and the Honduran Private Enterprise Council (COHEP), the former accusing the latter of being too cosy with JOH.

<https://confidencialhn.com/faraj-emplaza-a-presidente-del-cohep-a-aclarar-su-relacion-carnal-con-el-ejecutivo-de-joh/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-sale-en-defensa-del-cohep-reganan-a-faraj-por-usar-a-joh-con-fines-politicos/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/jorge-faraj-busca-visibilizarse-y-darse-a-conocer-porque-tiene-aspiraciones-politicas-ebal-diaz.html>

JOH feels the need again to reassure everyone that he is not seeking reelection.

<http://elpulso.hn/ebal-diaz-afirma-que-joh-no-busca-permanecer-en-el-poder/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/por-enesima-vez-joh-insiste-que-no-buscara-reeleccion-mientras-proponen-su-continuismo/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lo-mismo-dijeron-en-2014-yo-no-les-creo-podria-haber-reeleccion-dice-salvador-nasralla.html>

A MS-13 gang leader, Alexander Mendoza a.k.a. “El Porky.” Mendoza, was freed from custody when he was brought to a courthouse in El Progreso for unknown reason from his prison cell at the Támara prison. He was freed through a shoot-out in which four state security forces, two of which Military Police, died. Aquí Abajo raises some important questions: "So why was Mendoza imprisoned in the Tamara prison after he was taken last year BY HELICOPTER – because of his highly dangerous status - to La Tolva jail? Why was Mendoza brought to the courthouse if he has already been sentenced?"

Another question is raised by Tomas Andino Mencía. He wonders why the so-called Maras who freed Mendoza looked like ATIC agents.

The JOH regime put out a two million Lempiras reward for information leading to his re-capture.

<https://www.aquiabajo.com/blog/2020/2/13/youre-not-safe-in-a-courtroom-in-honduras-todays->

[shoot-out-in-el-progreso](#)

https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1356587-410/porkys-muertos-policias-militares-el_progreso-honduras-mara-salvatrucha-

<https://criterio.hn/juicios-a-la-vista-recrudecen-las-contradicciones-de-la-narcodictadura/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/rescate-de-cabecilla-de-la-ms-13-deja-tres-militares-muertos-y-dos-heridos-en-tribunales-en-el-progreso/>

<https://twitter.com/PMOP016/status/1228103880879353856>

While this took place, inside the court a hearing against the member of the police, Carlos Alberto Arzú, should have taken place. In a violent act of repression, he broke the arm of journalist Dunia Montoya in September 2015. Given the violent encounter at the court, the hearing was postponed.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2695-dunia-montoya-lo-que-espero-es-justicia-y-castigo-para-los-policia-que-me-torturaron>

In the evidentiary hearing yesterday against the political prisoner Rommel Baldemar Herrera Portillo, the US Embassy in Honduras intends to charge him \$1.7 million for alleged damage to the structure of the embassy. The defense of the accused has opposed the charge because it is disproportionate and not calculated according to the law.

The hearing will continue in April.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2697-embajada-de-estados-unidos-en-honduras-quiere-cobrar-a-rommel-baldemar-mas-de-un-millon-de-dolares>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/agendan-para-abril-el-juicio-para-joven-acusado-de-quemar-puerta-de-embajada-de-eeuu.html>

The CPTRT denounces the ongoing mistreatment of inmates by military personnel.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2694-el-cptrt-no-parara-denuncias-contra-coroneles-que-permiten-abusos-en-las-carceles>

After the arrest of police commissioner Leonel Saucedá (see last two days), more arrest may follow. El Heraldó reports that there are 20 arrest warrants at the Fiscal Unit of Support to the Process of Police Clearance (Ufadpol) for high-ranking current and former police officials. El Pulso continues to publish background information on Saucedá.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1356361-466/acusar%C3%A1n-por-lavado-a-veinte-exoficiales-de-la-polic%C3%ADa-nacional>

<http://elpulso.hn/la-caida-de-sauceda-un-hombre-de-dios-que-jugo-para-el-diablo/>

<https://criterio.hn/de-coladuras-y-depuradoras/>

"The astonishing violence in Central America is a major root cause of forced migration to the US from the region. US guns play a clear role in fueling the crisis. A few of these weapons originated from US military shipments to militaries and paramilitaries in the region during the Cold War. Most modern traffic to cartels and gangs occurs through the black market, with US residents legally purchasing firearms here and then illegally transporting them south. Harry Penate — at the time the only ATF official responsible for US arms tracing in all of Central America — gave one example of a gun bought at a licensed gun store in Baltimore being recovered from criminals in El Salvador less than a week later. But not all US guns come through the black market. US gun manufacturers regularly export guns to foreign buyers legally through a weak and underenforced regulatory system, often allowing guns to wind up in the hands of organized crime. The Trump administration has recently published regulations that will make the system even weaker. This will not only put profits before lives in Central America, but is likely to worsen the drivers of the very migrant flows Trump viciously opposes."

<https://cepr.net/the-trump-administrations-new-rules-on-arms-exports-are-aimed-at-enriching-the-firearms-industry-at-the-expense-of-human-lives-around-the-world-especially-in-mexico-and-central-america/>

El Pulso reports on the weak institutional response by the JOH regime compared to the severity of the climate crisis for Honduras.

<http://elpulso.hn/icf-y-mi-ambiente-vs-el-cambio-climatico-y-la-mano-criminal-del-hombre/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/np/por-una-necesaria-alianza-politica-y-social/>

14/02/20

Honduras Daily: Drug Trafficking - JOH, DEA; OACNUDH - Post-Electoral Repression; Political Prisoners; Organized Crime; Garífuna; and Another Worried Glance Across the Border

Yesterday, JOH's brother Tony Hernández addressed the judge of his case, Kevin Castel, telling him that he does not have any money left to cover his legal fees and that he needs a public defendant... As a consequence, the sentencing was rescheduled again (Tony was already found guilty of all four crimes he was accused for, but the sentencing has not taken place yet). The sentencing would have taken place on February 24, a new date has not been set yet.

<https://criterio.hn/tony-hernandez-se-declara-en-quebra-y-pide-defensa-publica/>

<https://criterio.hn/sentencia-de-tony-hernandez-ya-no-sera-el-24-de-febrero/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3740-reprograman-sentencia-de-tony-porque-no-puede-pagar-abogado>

Univision also published an English version of their article on the recent arrest of JOH's cousin in the US (see yesterday). "Mauricio Hernández Pineda is a former high-ranking Honduran police accused of protecting cocaine shipments along with Juan Antonio 'Tony' Hernandez, the brother of President Juan Orlando Hernández. He was arrested in New York on Wednesday."

<https://www.univision.com/univision-news/latin-america/key-witness-arrested-in-drug-case-against-brother-of-the-honduran-president>

<https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-federal-de-nueva-york-presenta-cargos-formales-contrapariante-de-joh-y-tony-por-narcotrafico/>

ConfidencialHN reports that a DEA mission was in Honduras for two weeks to investigate the murder of a key witness, Magdalena Meza Fúnez, in a Honduran maximum-security prison last year.

<https://confidencialhn.com/la-dea-investiga-en-honduras-el-asesinato-de-magdalena-meza-antes-de-ser-extraditado-a-ee-uu/>

26 national, regional and international human rights organization published a press release in support of OACNUDH and their recent report on the ongoing impunity for the post-electoral human rights violations.

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/02/organizaciones-de-derechos-humanos-respaldan-informe-de-la-oacnudh-sobre-graves-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-en-honduras/>

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-de-dd-hh-respaldan-informe-de-la-oacnudh-sobre-violaciones-en-honduras/>

In one of the cases linked to the post-electoral human rights violations, the murder of David Octavio Quiroz Urrutia on December 15 by the Military Police, there was at least an arrest and an accusation. The defense team of the accused, Denis Omar Cáceres, are looking for a minimal sentence and a abbreviated trial.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/defensa-de-pmop-acusado-de-homicidio-contramanifestante-busca-la-pena-minima/>

Defensores en Línea published additional articles on the newest court day in the case of the political prisoner Rommel Valdemar Herrera Portillo (see also yesterday).

The National Committee for the Liberation of the Political Prisoners already exists two years and on this occasion it demanded that all the criminalizing charges be dropped against the people who protested against the electoral fraud in late 2017, beginning 2018.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/mp-estigmatiza-protesta-social-en-caso-de-rommel-herrera/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-abril-sera-el-juicio-oral-y-publico-contrael-profesor-rommel/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-el-segundo-aniversario-del-comite-pro-liberacion-de-los-presos-politicos-de-honduras-exigimos-nulidad-de-los-casos/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/unidad-lucha-y-conocimiento-elementos-necesarios-para-la-liberacion-de-presos-politicos/>

The violent rescue mission for gang leader "El Porky" Mendoza (see yesterday) also made international headlines.

In Honduras, a new video shows again how the assailants were dressed in military uniforms.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-51501103?>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1228325055538401280>

<http://elpulso.hn/liberacion-de-el-porky-desnuda-falta-de-un-sistema-de-inteligencia/>

Garífuna women protested in La Ceiba against femicide and the targeted murder of women indigenous defenders.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1228362041729179650>

This time to Guatemala.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/02/guatemala-legislative-initiatives-seriously-threaten-human-rights/>

15/02/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Organized Crime; National Police; Migration - US; Transport Sector; and the Militarized Northern Triangle

"In a massive open town hall meeting, the residents of the municipality of Marcala, in the department of La Paz, approved on Saturday that there will be no more logging, mining or hydroelectric projects in their territory."

<https://criterio.hn/marcala-la-paz-en-cabildo-abierto-dice-no-a-proyectos-extractivistas/>

JOH's brother not only claimed to be lacking money for his lawyer (see yesterday), according to him, his defense team excluded evidence that was crucial for the jury to make a different ruling. He also claims that he was misrepresented and therefore all the evidence in his favor should be considered to prove his innocence.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/juez-autoriza-asignacion-de-un-nuevo-abogado-para-juan-antonio-hernandez-en-eeuu.html>

In record speed, the JOH regime presented two young men allegedly responsible for the rescue

mission of Mara leader "El Porky" Mendoza.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/detencion-judicial-para-dos-implicados-en-rescate-violento-en-juzgado.html>

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5474-requerimiento-fiscal-contraprimeros-implicados-en-la-liberacion-de-alexander-mendoza-el-porky>

The arrested police commissioner Leonel Luciano Saucedá Guifarro and his wife (see previous emails this week) will remain in prison.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5473-mp-obtiene-la-prision-preventiva-de-comisionado-general-de-policia-acusado-de-lavar-activos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/juzgados-determinan-prision-preventiva-contracomisionado-leonel-sauceda-y-su-esposa/>

In its campaign to stop migration, the US embassy tweeted that 14'636 Hondurans have been deported from the US since October 2019.

<https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1228695741947949058>

Cab drivers announced a national strike for this coming Monday as a response to Congress' intention to legalize 15'000 units of Taxis VIP.

<https://tiempo.hn/ataxis-anuncia-paro-nacional-mocion-cn-legalizar-taxis-vip/>

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/13/el-norte-militar-del-triangulo-centroamericano/>

16/02/20

Honduras Daily: Extractivism - AHER; Indigenous Peoples; Journalists; Organized Crime; Forced Displacement; and 19th Century Literature by Honduran Women

ConexiHon highlights the importance of last week's injunction for discrimination by the Special Prosecutor's Office for Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage against the president of the Honduran Renewable Energy Association (AHER), Elsie Esther Paz Mancías. Honduras' indigenous communities hope that this serves as a legal precedent.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/dh/57-pueblos-indigenas/1396-estado-hondureno-sentaria-precedentes-tras-acusar-a-elsia-paz-por-discriminacion>

María Santos, National Coordinator of Indigenous and Black Women of Honduras, CONAMINH, denounced verbal aggression, harassment and death threats against several women defenders who belong to the original Maya Chortí people, in the community of El Florido, Santa Rita, in the

department of Copán.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2699-testaferros-ligados-a-crimen-organizado-amenazan-a-lideresas-del-pueblo-maya-chorti>

The journalist Mauricio Ortega recently suffered an attack by a police agent (see previous e-mail). Now, the same police agent accused him and Ortega has to appear before a judge today.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1106-periodista-es-citado-judicialmente-por-policia-agresor>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2700-nuevo-hecho-de-violencia-contra-la-prensa-en-cortes-policias-criminalizan-a-reportero-al-que-agredieron-con-gas-lacrimogeno>

La Prensa reports that the rescue mission of gang leader "El Porky" Mendoza cost some 20 million Lempiras. The two accused (see yesterday) were sent to the so-called maximum-security prison El Pozo.

The former police commissioner María Luisa Borjas, meanwhile, believes that a special operations team rescued him also highlighted by their ATIC gear and uniform (see last e-mails).

COFADEH comments on the statement by Borjas: "If we read that quote carefully between the lines, we can easily deduce that the MS leader was uncomfortable inside the prison, as was Magdaleno Meza [a drug trafficker and witness to the Tony Hernández case murdered inside prison], because of his direct relationship with the structure of organized crime that controls the State of Honduras from 2009 to date."

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1357180-410/unos-120-millones-pag%C3%B3-el-porkys-por-ejecutar-su-fuga>

<https://tiempo.hn/maria-borjas-unidad-especial-ejecuto-operacion-liberar-el-porkys/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/el-rescate-la-liberacion-y-el-espectaculo/>

Radio HRN reports on the Law for the Care and Protection of Displaced Persons which has been in force for one year now.

<https://radiohrn.hn/engavetada-ley-para-la-atencion-y-proteccion-de-personas-desplazadas/>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/opiniones/1397-las-primeras-mujeres-que-hicieron-literatura-en-honduras>

17/02/20

Honduras Daily: LGBTQ; Journalists; JOH - Drug Trafficking; Secrecy Law; Migration - US; Economy; Labor; Electoral Reforms; and the Energy Rationing Begins

"The deaths against the LGTBI community continue to be treated as a common crime, without analysing the fact that they are members of a discriminated group where the State of Honduras tries to avoid his responsibility."

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2701-sistema-de-justicia-de-honduras-no-penalizo-como-un-crimen-de-odio-el-asesinato-de-bessy-ferrera-de-la-comunidad-lgtbi>

Pasos de Animal Grande published an update on the criminalizing case against journalist Mauricio Ortega, who was attacked by the police and then a police agent accused him of wrongdoing (see also yesterday). Yesterday's hearing was postponed to February 25.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2702-periodista-entre-citatoria-judicial-y-problemas-de-salud-por-gases-lacrimogenos-que-le-lanzo-la-policia-de-omoa-cortes>

According to the Pro Honduras Network, the US wants the extradition of another key witness in the Tony Hernández case, accused drug trafficker, former JOH ally Arnaldo Urbina Soto.

https://www.facebook.com/PROHNN/videos/1656217794517320/?vh=e&d=n&_fb_noscript=1

<https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1289339421254076/?d=n>

C-Libre had a partial victory in front of the Supreme Court when it declared the so-called Secrecy Law partially unconstitutional. But they criticized that the court did not analyze the law in its entirety. This week, they presented another constitutional challenge.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/transparencia/secretividad/1400-csj-debe-derogar-y-declarar-inconstitucional-la-ley-de-secretos>

The Washington Post reveals another shocking element of the US migration regime. "The government required him to see a therapist. He thought his words would be confidential. Now, the traumatized migrant may be deported."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/immigration-therapy-reports-ice/>

A recent diagnostic published by the World Bank contradicts official statistics by the JOH regime regarding economic growth and poverty. "As a result, Honduras continues to have low economic growth and extreme poverty, which contradicts the figures provided by the authorities, said World Bank Task Force Manager Ian Walker."

<https://confidencialhn.com/banco-mundial-discrepa-de-cifras-oficiales-del-ejecutivo-sobre->

[crecimiento-economico/](#)

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1357385-410/banco-mundial-hondure%C3%B1os-migran-eeuu-frustracion-falta-oportunidades>

Congress started to discuss a new Labor Procedure Code; it explains the entire procedure for applying labor law.

<https://tiempo.hn/comienzan-a-discutir-en-cn-el-nuevo-codigo-procesal-laboral/>

The head of the Central Committee of the National Party, Reinaldo Sánchez, now suddenly says that a two-turn presidential election should be discussed.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/hay-que-hablar-sin-temor-sobre-la-segunda-vuelta-electoral-afirma-reinaldo-sanchez.html>

After water, energy rationing will begin in Honduras in March. The head of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (CREE), José Morán, announced that they will last from 30 minutes to two hours.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/apagones-hasta-de-dos-horas-iniciarian-en-marzo-y-se-prolongaran-hasta-julio.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/stenee-advierte-sobre-inminentes-rationamientos-en-honduras-durante-segundo-trimestre-de-2020/>

18/02/20

Honduras Daily: Political Prisoners; JOH - Militarization, Forced Displacement, CCG; Extractivism; Zacate Grande; Violence against Women; Corruption - UFERCO, FONAC, Mayors; Infrastructure; Coronavirus; and "I have to go, but I will never leave the struggle"

The trial against the political prisoner Raúl Álvarez, currently free after 19 months in prison, was set to December 3. Already in May, he will face other charges together with the second political prisoner Edwin Espinal.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-diciembre-se-realizara-juicio-oral-y-publico-contra-raul-alvarez-en-caso-burger-king/>

"Each year, the Institute for Economics and Peace releases the Global Peace Index, which is an indicator that measures the level of peace in a country or region and ranks countries according to their absence of violence. (...) In 2013, Honduras was ranked 123rd (...) However, over the years Honduras has been improving in the ranking of this index, since in 2014 it occupied position 117, in 2015 position 116, in 2016 position 111, in 2017 position 106 and in 2018 position 118. But in 2019 Honduras fell to 123rd place, dropping five places and returning to the same level of violence it experienced in 2013, which shows the failure of the repressive and militarized approach of security

policies to solve the problem of serious levels of crime. While it is possible that violence may decrease in the first moments of military deployment, this index shows that it will rise again, that other forms of criminality are increasing and that reports of human rights violations by the military are increasing dramatically. The militarization of public security does not address the causes of criminality, but only its effects and diverts limited public funds to benefit the military sector in exchange for keeping the Juan Orlando Hernández regime in power."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/np/el-fracaso-de-la-militarizacion-de-la-politica-de-seguridad/>

On December 3, the young Manuel de Jesús Bautista Salvador was forcefully disappeared. COFADEH, after receiving the complaint from the family of the young man and taking the necessary actions, and not obtaining any response, presented the complaint to the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances. After analyzing the case, the Committee made a series of recommendations to the State, but it did not respond.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/berta-oliva-el-estado-de-honduras-en-temas-de-desaparicion-forzada-esta-haciendo-el-ridiculo/>

JOH's prestige project, the Government Civic Center (CCG), is starting to be filled with people.

<http://elpulso.hn/comienzan-a-ocupar-centro-civico-gubernamental/>

Over 70 communities in Honduras have so far declared themselves free of extractive projects.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/nn/mas-de-70-municipios-se-han-declarado-libre-de-extractivismo/>

Pasos de Animal Grande covers the tense situation in Playa Blanca on Zacate Grande where Jorge Luís Cassis has been criminalizing the local people for their struggle to get access to their land.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2703-playa-blanca-un-lugar-codiciado-por-los-poderosos-para-hacer-mas-dinero>

The Center for Women's Studies of Honduras, together with 28 organizations that make up the Platform November 25 demanded that the JOH regime invest more resources from the General Budget to counteract violence against women.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2704-mujeres-le-exigen-al-estado-rendicion-de-cuentas-del-presupuesto-asignado-para-investigar-las-muertes-violentas-y-femicidios>

<http://elpulso.hn/exigen-mayor-inversion-para-atender-la-violencia-contra-la-mujer-en-honduras/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1357554-410/economia-honduras-deuda-hondurena-diciembre>

Proceso Digital interviewed the former head of UFECIC and current head of UFERCO, Luis Javier

Santos Cruz. He speaks of his 22 years as a public prosecutors, a career full of death threats and obstacles put in his way. He then focuses on UFERCO, the open corruption cases brought over by MACCIH and UFECIC and the challenges ahead. Answering the question if he is satisfied with the justice system in Honduras, he answered: "Definitely not. We are really far from satisfied with justice". He also reiterates the need for international support and the problems with the new Penal Code.

<https://proceso.hn/portadas/10-portada/la-corrupcion-no-tiene-color-hay-que-visibilizarla-fiscal-santos.html>

Javier Suazo presents the recently resurfaced FONAC (see previous e-mails last month) as a way of the JOH regime to debilitate the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) and the fight against corruption in general.

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/204810>

The CNA informs about a corruption network involving 25 current and former mayors accused of having embezzled 33.5 million Lempiras.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1229875675269607426>

<https://criterio.hn/red-de-alcaldes-corrup-tos-desvio-mas-de-l-33-5-millones-de-las-aportaciones-al-ihss/>

Radio Progreso denounces that the JOH regime is financing infrastructure projects through an emergency decree approved by Congress.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/con-aumento-a-tasa-vehicular-construiran-puentes-y-carreteras/>

While Honduras still suffers from a grave dengue crisis, the international attention to the coronavirus also left its mark. A National congresswoman demanded a 100 million Lempira fund for possible future coronavirus cases.

Airports also started using a new security protocol.

Meanwhile, the first Honduran suspected of having the virus arrived in the country. "The patient pointed out that since she entered the country she has been used as a circus disrespecting her life. In addition, she explained that she came from Taiwan with a bit of flu and that the media exposed her in an exaggerated way."

Even the local WHO representative criticized her treatment.

<https://criterio.hn/diputada-del-partido-nacional-pide-l-100-millones-para-coronavirus/>

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3743-aeropuertos-de-honduras-activo-protocolos-contra-coronavirus>

<https://tiempo.hn/aeropuertos-honduras-activan-protocolos-seguridad-coronavirus/>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-mujer-hospitalizada-sospecha-coronavirus-permanece-estable/>

<https://tiempo.hn/sospecha-de-coronavirus-lastimosamente-me-han-usado-como-circo-1/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/es-inaceptable-lo-ocurrido-a-paciente-hondurena-aislada-por-sospecha-de-coronavirus-dice-representante-de-ops.html>

"Jaime Rodríguez, former president of the Union of Secondary Teachers (Copemh) and social activist, abandoned the country after surviving an assassination attempt. del Colegio de Profesores de Educación Media de Honduras (Copemh)"

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/jaime-rodriguez-i-have-to-go-but-i-will-never-leave-the-struggle/>

19/02/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Militarization - US; National Police; FoE - Penal Code; Migration - US; Energy; Privatization; Public Health; Judicial Power; and Another Plan by Jared

COPINH will hold a Dignity Rally of the Lenca People outside the courts in Tegucigalpa to protest against Elsie Paz, president of AHER and recently accused of discrimination against Lenca leaders (see last week).

The Coalition against Impunity published a press release denouncing the "racist and classist behaviour" by Paz.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1230213308994793472>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2705-coalicion-contra-la-impunidad-repudiamos-la-conducta-racista-y-clasista-de-elsia-esther-paz-mancias>

In the case of Tony Hernández, a provisional legal counsel was appointed (see also last week's e-mail) and on February 24, they will decide on a definitive one and the sentencing will be rescheduled.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1230208538552737792>

"In 2019, Honduras ranked third among Latin American countries with the most members of the "Security" Forces who graduated from the School of the Americas that year. Colombia ranks first with 490, Chile second with 201 and Honduras third with 146 members of the security forces trained at the School of the Americas, which was founded in 1946 in Panama and is operated by the United States Army. In Honduras, since the 2009 coup d'état led by SOA graduates, 13 forced disappearances have been documented and more than 160 social activists and land defenders have been killed."

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/en-el-2019-honduras-entreno-146-miembros-de-las-fuerzas-de->

[seguridad-en-la-escuela-de-las-americas/](#)

The MP and the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) still claim that there were no open investigations into the now detained police commissioner Leonel Saucedo (see previous week) even though there is evidence that he has been investigated for years for money laundering.

The Bureau of Disciplinary Police Matters (Didadpol) presented 377 cases in 2019 of which only 45 were successful.

<https://confidencialhn.com/a-pesar-de-investigaciones-contrasaucedo-fiscalia-y-tsc-asegararon-que-no-tenia-cuentas-pendientes-con-la-ley/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/didadpol-judicializo-377-policias-en-2019.html>

Against the vote of the Libre congresswomen, Congress eliminated two articles of the new Penal Code. The president of the Honduran Association of Journalists (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, deplored the reform of the criminal code as continues to criminalize and punishes with prison freedom of expression.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/congreso-nacional-elimina-articulos-28-y-153-del-codigo-penal.html>

US Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf has become a regular guest in Honduras and he arrived there again yesterday for the 12th Regional Security Conference. "The ministerial will bring together security officials from the U.S., Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama to discuss efforts to jointly address irregular migration, border security, and transnational criminal organizations in the region. As part of an ongoing emphasis on regional coordination, the officials will discuss ways they can continue to work together to target human smuggling and trafficking organizations operating in the region. The group will plan further progress on the agreements signed in 2019 and consider initiatives, with a focus on creating an environment that leads to greater opportunity and prosperity for people closer to home, instead of undertaking a long, dangerous, and expensive journey to the U.S."

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/02/19/acting-secretary-wolf-traveling-honduras-regional-security-conference>

At the beginning of the week, CREE announced electric energy rationing for the coming months (see previous e-mail). OFRANEH links the energy crisis with corruption and a inept business-political elite.

Congress, meanwhile, announced to buy more energy.

The president of the ENEE labor union STENEE, Miguel Aguilar, claims that this won't be enough to stop the rationing.

<https://twitter.com/ofraneh/status/1230110634437750784>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/compra-de-240-megavattios-seria->

aprobada-a-precio-historico-anuncia-diputado-oscar-najera.html

<https://confidencialhn.com/stenee-asegura-que-habran-rationamientos-a-pesar-de-masiva-compra-de-energia/>

<http://elpulso.hn/en-marzo-se-agudizaran-rationamientos-de-energia-electrica/>

The Union of Workers of the National Institute of Vocational Training (Sitrainfop), once again demanded through a protest outside Congress the cancellation of the reform seeking to privatize Infop.

<https://criterio.hn/sindicalistas-piden-al-congreso-detener-privatizacion-del-infop/>

The Medial Association of Honduras (CMH) does not believe that the 100 million Lempiras demanded to confront the coronavirus (see yesterday) will help. "In our country the entire health system is collapsed and it is practically impossible with these amounts of money to address a problem that is structural."

<https://tiempo.hn/cmh-sistema-salud-colapsado-no-educacion-manejar-coronavirus/>

Very similar, after closing the MACCIH, the JOH regime tried to divert attention by boasting to hand over more money to the MP. Human rights defender Edy Tábora highlights the ineffectiveness of this give that "the application of justice is not a budgetary issue, but the lack of judicial independence of this branch of government".

<https://tiempo.hn/eddy-tabora-problema-poder-judicial-no-presupuesto-de-independencia/>

After presenting his plan for Israel and Palestine, Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner now also has a plan for Central America...

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-02-19/kushner-plans-mexico-city-investment-event-to-curb-migration>

20/02/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; Journalists - Penal Code, Forced Displacement; OACNUDH - Impunity; UPR; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Death Squads; Corruption - Renewable Energy; US; Migration - US, Women;

On yesterday's World Social Justice Day, there was a call for the freedom of the imprisoned environmental defenders from Guapinol.

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1230536189670719488>

<https://twitter.com/guapinolre/status/1230554126125125633>

The newest scheme by Congress regarding the new Penal Code (see yesterday) caused widespread condemnation. The elimination of two articles did not guarantee freedom of expression. C-Libre detected no less than 20 attacks on freedom of expression in the Penal Code.

According to C-Libre, among the main impacts of the approval of the new Penal Code are "the lack of transparency and accountability in relation to the drafting, discussion and approval process, the limited access to information in relation to the discussion schedule of the draft Penal Code and the weakness of channels of dialogue in the process of building the Penal Code and the limited impact of the observations by civil society".

One main problem with the Penal Code remains the legal persecution with possible prison sentences of so-called crimes against honor, i.e. injury or defamation.

Criterio published a helpful article on the controversy regarding the elimination of the two articles mentioned in yesterday's e-mail.

Libre congressman and lawyer Jari Dixon even called the derogation illegal (see also the subsection below on the OACNUDH).

The same Jari Dixon was stopped yesterday by the police and he denounced that they threatened him with death.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1408-c-libre-nuevo-codigo-penal-contiene-20-delitos-que-violentan-la-libertad-de-expresion>

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1406-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-sigue-siendo-una-amenaza-para-la-libertad-de-expresion>

<https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-cph-esta-preocupado-porque-no-hubo-derogacion-de-delitos-contra-el-honor/>

<https://criterio.hn/cph-pidio-eximir-a-duenos-de-medios-de-aplicacion-de-codigo-penal/>

<http://elpulso.hn/derogacion-de-articulos-del-nuevo-codigo-penal-es-una-artimana-ilegal-jari-dixon/>

<https://tiempo.hn/detienen-a-diputado-jari-dixon-por-infraccion-vial-denuncia-amenaza-a-muerte/>

C-Libre also denounced again the ongoing forced displacement of journalists - they have to flee Honduras threatened by death for their work.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1407-periodistas-hondurenos-huyen-para-proteger-sus-vidas>

OACNUDH ones more reminds the JOH regime about the importance to investigate human rights violations to avoid impunity and the lack of access to justice. They also remind them about the chain-of-command, i.e. that officials can be held responsible for the human rights violations of their subordinates.

This message by OACNUDH can also be read in relation to the above-mentioned discussion regarding the new Penal Code. The two articles that were eliminated not only protects corporate media owners, but also higher state security officials. Article 153 established that senior military

officials or their superiors had criminal responsibility for human rights violations, not only the one who executes. Now, this article has been derogated...

Radio Progreso denounced this as guaranteed impunity for military officials and COPINH als legalized impunity.

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1230632782583517187>

<https://criterio.hn/congreso-exime-de-responsabilidad-penal-a-autores-intelectuales-de-crime-les-humanidad/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/congreso-nacional-otorga-inmunidad-a-altos-mandos-militares/>

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1230358781839761414>

This May, Honduras will have its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/12722-2/>

Back in 2018, the Honduran drug-trafficker Bayron Ruiz was captured in Guatemala and one year later, he was deported to the US. "Ruiz faces three charges, the first for international conspiracy to distribute cocaine, the second for conspiracy to distribute cocaine using narco-aircrafts, and the third for use of machine guns and destructive devices for drug trafficking. According to information from Pro Honduras Network, on April 22, 2019 Ruiz began the process of negotiation with the Prosecutors for the Eastern District of New York, pleading guilty and signing a cooperation agreement that was finalized on January 7, 2020. At this time Ruiz is already cooperating with important information about his links to drug trafficking in Honduras."

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3744-ultima-hora-narcotraficante-acuerda-con-corte-de-new-york-delatar-altos-socios-hondurenos>

<https://confidencialhn.com/capo-bayron-ruiz-acepta-colaborar-con-justicia-de-ee-uu-tras-declararse-culpable-delatara-a-socios/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1358247-410/narco-hondure%C3%B1o-bayron-ruiz-declara-culpable-nueva-york->

At the same time, JOH's cousin and former police officer Mauricio Hernández Pineda has declared himself innocent. He may face a similar trial as Tony Hernández, JOH's brother.

<https://criterio.hn/policia-primode-joh-se-declara-inocente-en-nueva-york/>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1358263-410/expolicia-mauricio-hernandez-pineda-declara-no-culpable-corte-nueva-york->

The former head of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, reiterates that JOH has death squads at his disposal.

<https://confidencialhn.com/exjefe-policial-sostiene-que-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-son-operados-desde-casa-presidencial/>

"In 2007, the Law for the Promotion of Electricity Generation from Renewable Resources was approved, authorizing the direct purchase of energy without the need for bids and the promotion of incentives for power-generating companies. Since then, more than 200 contracts have been signed with private companies, of which only 90 have come into operation and are generating energy. The installed capacity of renewable generators represents 62% of the total contracted in the country. According to estimates by the Workers' Union of the National Electrical Energy Company (STENEE), between renewables and thermal, Honduras produces an average of 1,600 megawatts of the 1,670 megawatts required in 2020. After 13 years, a large percentage of the 70 billion Lempiras of debt held by ENEE is due to contracts that guaranteed a great business for the entrepreneurs, but meant tariff increases and no improvement for the approximately 1.6 million inhabitants that do not have electricity in the country."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/20/la-gran-estafa-renovable-de-la-enee/>

The US embassy in Honduras published the opening remarks at the Regional Security Conference in Tegucigalpa of Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf.

The Honduran embassy in Washington used the occasion to publish two press releases, one highlighting the final implementation of the so-called third safe country agreements, the other one tries to present the JOH regime as a willing to fight corruption.

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/acting-dhs-secretary-chad-wolf-opening-remarks-regional-security-conference-tegucigalpa-honduras/>

<https://twitter.com/EmbHondurasUSA/status/1230650455174385664>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/honduras-y-eeuu-reafirman-compromisos-de-acuerdos-migratorios.html>

<https://twitter.com/EmbHondurasUSA/status/1230578063479595013>

"This is Nuevo Laredo, in the north-west corner of Tamaulipas state, opposite Laredo, Texas, the world's busiest commercial trans-border hub. The people waiting to board the van have already crossed into the USA, but have been sent back under the Trump administration's so-called Migrant Protection Protocols - known as "Remain in Mexico" – whereby would be asylum seekers must await their appointed hearing south of the border. MPP was rolled out in January last year, since when an estimated 57,000 people now wait south of the border for their asylum hearing date. Tens of thousands more are waiting just for the initial application for asylum. These are the faces behind statistics in a shocking report by Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which found 80% of migrants waiting in Nuevo Laredo under MPP to have been abducted by the mafia, and 45% to have suffered violence or violation."

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/feb/18/mexico-kidnappers-migrants-trump-immigration>

Thousands of Honduran women organized in different spaces sent a letter to the House of Representatives in Washington DC stating that a plan to reduce the migratory flow in the region that does not take into account the needs and minimum rights of women would be incomplete and destined to fail.

<https://criterio.hn/mujeres-hondurenas-piden-al-congreso-de-ee-uu-de-dejarlas-fuera-de-plan-migratorio/>

21/02/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Repression; JOH - Organized Crime; Drug Trafficking - JOH; National Police; Corruption - UNA; Congress - Opposition; UN - UPR; and Women's Growing Wrath

As announced (see Thursday's e-mail), COPINH held a rally of dignity outside the courts yesterday in Tegucigalpa to protest against Elsie Paz, president of AHER and recently accused of discrimination against Lenca leaders. The protest was met with state violence as the police started to arbitrarily detain young protesters.

One of them, Selvin Milla, member of a community radio, was later transferred to the hospital due to the blows he received by the police.

Berta Zúniga, coordinator of COPINH, denounced: "The police have a "natural" instinct to side with the tie-wearing, high-heeled people who show in their appearance their superiority and also a brutal prejudice with young people with simple clothes, piercing and bracelets. Today we have experienced xenophobia".

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1230887379730403328>

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/mediante-altercado-elsia-paz-pretende-suspender-audiencia-en-su-contra-por-racismo/>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2708-por-protestar-contra-la-discriminacion-de-que-han-sido-victimas-detienen-a-integrantes-de-copinh>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1230920265011548160>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1230973774071304198>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1231081219628191744>

<https://twitter.com/BerthaZuniga1/status/1230959119462473729>

Radio Progreso covers the most recent revelations based on files leaked by the former head of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid (see also yesterday). "In recent days, through reports and

statements by former senior officers of the National Police, citizens have been able to learn about audios that reveal the criminal and corrupt way in which Nationalist governments operate, in order to maintain territorial control to continue the business with drugs and organized crime. "These are documents and audios that entities such as the MP have been taking away because they link to businessmen, police and politicians," said journalist Milton Benítez to Radio Progreso, assuring that these are difficult times for the families of the Perro Amarillo team, but as journalists they feel obliged to reveal all the information because the country deserves a better future. (...) In addition, he has summoned renowned social leaders of the country to form a "Commission of Notables", to whom he proposes to follow up on the information that could reveal the direct links that the nationalist governments, Porfirio Lobo and JOH, have maintained for years with the criminal groups that control drug trafficking and hit men."

<https://www.radioprogreso.net/noticias-nacionales/el-perro-amarillo-revelaremos-informacion-que-vincula-al-gobierno-con-bandas-criminales/>

InSight Crime picked up the recent violent rescue mission of gang leader “El Porky” Mendoza (see previous e-mails) highlighting all the questioned it raised. "First, by all accounts, Mendoza was a prominent MS13 gang leader in Honduras’ second-largest city, and authorities have treated him as such in the past. After already being sent to La Tolva maximum-security prison and receiving a 20-year sentence for illicit association, authorities have yet to clarify why Mendoza was brought to El Progreso less than a year after his high-profile transfer. What’s more, with the presence of such a high-ranking member of the MS13 — one of the government’s primary anti-gang targets — security surrounding the courthouse was woefully inadequate. Such targets have in the past been accompanied by extra security to mitigate the threat of any possible attack. The style of the attack also did not appear to resemble the MS13’s work. While the gang has previously sold high-powered weapons, its members rarely use them nor have they shown an ability to carry out a coordinated attack with this level of sophistication. Extortion is the bedrock of the MS13’s operations, but the group is also involved in petty drug dealing and other small-time crimes in the territories they control. More importantly, the gang has a decentralized power structure with no clear hierarchy, which raises questions about the group’s ability to carry out such an attack. (...) This extraordinary situation has not changed, raising questions about what role, if any, the armed forces may have played in the decision that brought Mendoza out of a maximum-security prison and to the low-security courthouse he was eventually freed from."

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/ms13-leader-honduras-questions-answers/>

Journalist Jeff Ernst clarifies that Mauricio Hernandez Pineda, JOH's cousin, declaring himself innocent does not mean that his case will go to trial (see yesterday). It is more likely that he will try to make a deal.

The sentencing of the former Honduran congressman Fredy Renán Nájera Montoya in New York was postponed to June 23, 2020.

<https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1230869824882036740>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/exdiputado-fredy-najera-conocera-sentencia-el-23-de-junio-de-2020.html>

ATIC captured Denisse Yamileth Morales, the former wife of police commissioner Lorgio Oqueli Mejía Tinoco. Both are wanted for money laundering and Mejía Tinoco is still on the run.

<https://criterio.hn/capturan-exesposa-de-comisionado-de-policia-profugo-de-la-justicia-por-lavado-de-activos/>

<https://tiempo.hn/exesposa-lavado-activos-lorgio-oqueli-mejia-tinoco/>

The former University of Agriculture dean and former Secretary of Education, Marlon Escoto, may await trial for corruption outside prison.

<https://confidencialhn.com/escoto-recibe-medidas-sustitutivas-por-presunta-corrupcion-en-universidad-de-agricultura/>

Opposition congresswo/men have denounced for the umpteenth time that they are not allowed to participate in the sessions to present their motions and projects.

<http://elpulso.hn/denuncian-que-en-congreso-no-se-brinda-participacion-a-diputados-de-la-oposicion/>

With the next UPR cycle on Honduras starting in May (see yesterday), Pasos de Animal Grande looks back at the two previous ones in 2010 and 2015 and all the unfulfilled recommendations by the JOH regime.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2707-estado-de-honduras-a-las-puertas-de-una-nueva-examinacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-el-epu>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/crece-la-ira-de-las-mujeres/>

23/02/20

Honduras Daily: COPINH - Repression; Vía Campesina; Femicide; Organized Crime; Forced Disappearance; National Police; Water; Energy; Electoral Reforms; and a New CONADEH

The three young men detained on Friday during a protest by COPINH (see Saturday's e-mail) have been released.

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/liberados-los-jovenes-detenidos-ayer/>

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1231243982161707013>

Pasos de Animal Grande reports on a break-in at the offices of Vía Campesina Honduras yesterday.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/denuncias/item/2709-ataques-reiterados-incursionan-en-la-sede-de-via-campesina-honduras>

Cristina Alvarado of the Movimiento de Mujeres por la Paz Visitación Padilla denounces that more than 50 women have been murdered so far in Honduras and demands that a national emergency be declared.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/feminicidios-se-recrudescen-en-honduras.html>

A police agent helped a gang member escape from a police station in Zambrano, Francisco Morazán.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/seguridad-confirma-complicidad-policial-en-fuga-de-un-pandillero-de-posta-policia.html>

Family members of Franklin Díaz López, a MS-13 member, denounce that he was forcefully disappeared after a raid by the National Anti-Mara and Pandilla Force (FNAMP).

<https://tiempo.hn/familiares-denuncian-desaparicion-de-un-ms-13-tras-allanamiento-de-la-fnamp/>

The head of the Bureau of Police Disciplinary Affairs (Didadpol), Alan Edgardo Argeñal, wants to meet up with the Supreme Audit Court (TSC) magistrates to find out about current investigations into active members of the police force.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/didadpol-solicitara-al-tsc-informacion-sobre-investigaciones-a-policias-activos.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/didadpol-solicitara-tsc-lista-policias-estan-investigacion/>

"Dennis Flores and Victor Alvarado left Honduras on November 25, 2019. As thousands of immigrants looking for a dream that turned into a nightmare because they were kidnapped in Mexico and, even though they had to sell what little they left in Honduras to be released, things got out of control."

<https://www.univision.com/noticias/inmigracion/la-cruda-historia-del-secuestro-de-dos-hondurenos-que-perdieron-todo-por-intentar-cambiar-su-suerte-en-eeuu>

The president of the Honduran Association of Water and Sanitation Boards, Manuel Amador, denounces that the barrel of water that used to cost 35 Lempiras, now costs 100.

<https://confidencialhn.com/precio-del-barril-de-agua-aumenta-de-35-a-100-lempiras-en-tegucigalpa/>

Roberto Ordóñez, Secretary of Energy, announced the purchase of another 170 MW of electric power to minimize the announced energy rationing.

<https://confidencialhn.com/notifican-compra-de-170-megavattios-de-energia-electrica-por-inminentes-rationamientos/>

This week, Congress is supposed to present the electoral reforms but there is still widespread disagreement. One problem is what to do with the polling stations. The National Party wants there to be five people, three from the main parties and two from the small parties. Libre and the Liberal Party oppose this. Most small parties have served in the past as representatives of the National Party. In 2017, for example, the small parties received 252'000 credentials for the polling stations, but all of them together just received some 30'000 votes...

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1358867-410/sin-consenso-conformaci%C3%B3n-de-las-mesas-electorales>

Four lawyers have applied so for the position as the commissioner at CONADEH, Carlos Moises Del Cid, Larisa Karina Pineda, Ángela Sosa and Karla Eugenia Cueva Aguilar. Other aspirants have until March 2.

<https://tiempo.hn/cuatro-abogados-se-postulan-para-el-cargo-de-comisionado-de-ddhh/>

24/02/20

Honduras Daily: UN - HR; HRDs - Guapinol, Vía Campesina; COPINH - AHER; Berta - Anniversary; Drug Trafficking - JOH; Journalists - Protection; Organized Crime - JOH; Militarization - UFERCO; National Police - Purge; Penal Code - FoE; Dengue; Remittances; and the Cost of the 2017 Elections

The UN has released the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Honduras.

ENG: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session43/Documents/A_HRC_43_3_Add2_AUV.DOCX

SP: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session43/Documents/A_HRC_43_3_Add2_AUV_SP.DOCX

In a global action, social movements and human rights organizations are calling for the freedom of the water defenders from Guapinol.

<https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1231972968386961409>

The break-in at the offices of Vía Campesino (see yesterday) was widely condemned. It was the ninth attack on their offices in recent time.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/alerta-nuevo-ataque-a-la-via-campesina-es-violacion-a-los-derechos-campesinos/>

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/02/alertadefensorashn-personas-desconocidas-irrumper-y-ocasionan->

[danos-materiales-a-oficinas-de-la-via-campesina/](#)

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/24/alerta-desconocidos-irrumphen-oficinas-de-la-via-campesina-en-honduras/>

<https://tiempo.hn/por-novena-vez-atacan-sede-via-campesina-hurtan-computadoras-1/>

The trial against Elsia Paz for discrimination against Lenca leaders had been rescheduled to yesterday.

The court dropped the charges.

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1232030413717213184>

<https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1232073346080178177>

<https://tiempo.hn/dictan-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-favor-de-elsia-paz123/>

COPINH invites to the fourth anniversary of the "sowing" of Berta Cáceres which will take place on March 2.

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/accion-global-justicia-para-berta/>

Tony Hernández has a new, public defender.

The US judge also made public the new date for the sentencing, April 16, 2020.

https://www.facebook.com/545738022280890/posts/1295073890680629/?d=n&fb_noscript=1

<http://www.web.ellibertador.hn/index.php/noticias/nacionales/3747-no-mas-atraso-a-sentencia-de-tony-juez-castel-fija-el-16-de-abril>

<https://tiempo.hn/audiencia-final-tony-hernandez-sentencia-15-abril-1/>

The director of the "El Perro Amarillo" program, Milton Benítez, requested protection after receiving information from the former director of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, on death squad activities by the JOH regime (see last week).

Human Rights Minister Karla Cueva, meanwhile, claims that so far 45-50 journalists and social communicators have benefited from the protection mechanism.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1111-periodista-demanda-proteccion-tras-revelar-informacion-clave>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/al-menos-medio-centenar-de-periodistas-bajo-mecanismo-de-proteccion.html>

And just a week after the revelations by Ricardo Ramírez del Cid (see above), another former police commissioner, Henry Osorto Canales, makes similar claims in an interview with Radio Progreso.

"We are in a failed state, with links to drug trafficking, corruption and organized crime. Unfortunately, those who run these institutions are part of an organization that responds to drug trafficking."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/entrevistas-categoria/honduras-ha-sido-gobernada-por-politicos-vinculados-con-el-narcotrafico-comisionado-henry-osorto/>

The closure by the JOH regime of the MACCIH was an important blow to the anti-corruption fight in Honduras. A small sign of hope was that the replacement of UFECIC by UFERCO would not mean a change of leadership at the new institution. But soon a lot of other weaknesses of the new body surfaced and hope further dissipated. Now, it seems almost entirely gone as yesterday Radio Progreso made public that the deputy coordinator of UFERCO is a military man...

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/nombran-a-fiscal-con-talla-militar-como-subcoordinador-de-uferco/>

Omar Rivera, purger-in-chief, fails a fact-checking article by El Heraldo, normally very aligned with him, for his statement that there was nothing they could have done to stop the promotion of Leonel Saucedo - Saucedo who just weeks later was arrested for money laundering (see previous e-mails).

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/inspectoreh/1359113-504/omar-rivera-no-se-obstaculiz%C3%B3-ascenso-de-saucedo-porque-no-exist%C3%ADa-reparo>

Last week, the Nationalist-controlled Congress made controversial changes to the new Penal Code which the political opposition called illegal. In a press release, the National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) agrees with this assertion.

<https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1231992207441301505>

<https://criterio.hn/ilegalidad-sigue-vigente-con-nuevas-reformas-al-codigo-penal/>

Congress also abstained from decriminalizing crimes against honor still listed in the new Penal Code.

The Association of Communication Media (AMC) once again asked for its decriminalization.

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/index.php/portada-alertas/1110-diputado-oficialista-apoya-seguir-criminalizando-delitos-contra-el-honor>

<https://confidencialhn.com/asociacion-de-medios-de-comunicacion-pide-la-despenalizacion-de-los-delitos-contra-el-honor/>

Even though media attention has shifted, the dengue crisis has still a strong grip on Honduras. At least seven people have died so far this year in Honduras from dengue.

<http://elpulso.hn/incontrolable-epidemia-del-dengue-en-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/siete-muertes-confirmadas-por-dengue-grave-en-honduras-durante-2020.html>

Hondurans living in the US send on average \$542.7 per month back home.

<https://confidencialhn.com/unos-542-7-dolares-mensuales-envian-al-pais-hondurenos-residentes-en-eeuu/>

CESPAD published a new report on 2017 elections. It took the responsible bodies quite a while to come up with important dates of the election, for example that over \$42 million were spent on the electoral campaign, most of it by JOH.

<http://cespad.org.hn/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Pol%C3%ADtica-Limpia2020-CESPAD.pdf>

25/02/20

Honduras Daily: Journalists . Impunity; COPINH - AHER; Social Movements - Water, Guapinol; CONADEH - JOH; Corruption - UFERCO, National Police, Sedis; Migration - US; Southcom; Central Bank; Economy; and Swiss Cooperation

IM-Defensoras denounced the defamation campaign against journalist and human rights defender Dina Meza. "From various profiles and Facebook pages, images were published with photographs of the defender and the detained youth [from a COPINH rally, see last week] with comments where she is accused of "helping mareros and delinquents to go free" which in the Honduran context means placing Dina in the sights of multiple aggressors."

<http://im-defensoras.org/2020/02/alertadefensorashn/>

Journalist Esdras Amado López filed an appeal of unconstitutionality at the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court for the annulment of the trial against a member of the Armed Forces who broke into the Canal 36 facilities in Tegucigalpa during the coup d'état.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/presentan-recurso-contr-a-anulacion-de-juicio-a-militar-que-irrumpio-instalaciones-de-canal-36.html>

The Special Prosecutor's Office for Ethnic Affairs and Cultural Heritage challenged the dismissal of the charges against Elsie Paz for discrimination (see yesterday).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5524-mp-apelara-sobreseimiento-a-favor-de-presidenta-de-asociacion-hondurena-de-energia-renovable>

Honduras' social movements organized a first Encounter of the Peoples for Water where they formed a national movement in defense of the natural resources.

<https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-sociales-de-honduras-se-unen-en-defensa-del-agua/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/articular-lucha-por-el-agua-consigna-de-encuentro-nacional-de-los-pueblos/>

Radio Progreso reports that 64-year old Jeremías Martínez will be the first of the criminalized environmental defenders from Guapinol to go to court. He has already been in pre-trial detention for 14 months.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/ambientalista-de-tocoa-colon-a-juicio-oral-y-publico-por-oponerse-a-minera/>

ConfidencialHN denounces that JOH is trying to take control over CONADEH by presenting Larisa Pineda as a candidate. She is the wife of the current deputy minister of security Luis Suazo, a strong JOH-ally.

<https://confidencialhn.com/92928-2/>

The head of UFERCO, Luis Javier Santos, needs some 20 more public prosecutors to follow-up on all the corruption cases.

<https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-de-la-uferco-pide-a-chinchilla-mas-personal-para-investigar-corrupcion/>

Proceso Digital reports on corruption inside the National Police Force.

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/impunidad-empieza-a-ceder-en-la-policia-nacional.html>

The CNA presented a corruption case at the TSC against a high official at the Development Secretariat (Sedis) for illegal enrichment.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/cna-denuncia-a-alto-funcionario-de-sedis-por-presunto-enriquecimiento-ilicito.html>

<https://confidencialhn.com/cna-sindica-a-funcionario-de-la-secretaria-de-desarrollo-social-por-enriquecimiento-ilicito/>

"The flow of migrants being returned across the border into Mexico included more than 100 people a day here last fall. That stream of Central Americans, carrying papers stamped with a future date in U.S. immigration court, has now slowed to a trickle, with fewer than a dozen crossing back into Matamoros daily. Immigration attorneys and migrant advocates say the Trump administration is phasing out its year-old Migrant Protection Protocols policy, also known as "Remain in Mexico," instead prioritizing newer, more restrictive programs that make qualifying for asylum in the United States extremely difficult."

"President Trump's immigration policies — from travel bans and visa restrictions to refugee caps and asylum changes — have begun to deliver on a longstanding goal: Legal immigration has fallen

more than 11 percent and a steeper drop is looming."

At the same time, the Trump administration intends to increase the capacities of the Central American countries to receive migrants.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/remain-in-mexico-deportation-asylum-guatemala/2020/02/20/9c29f53e-4eb7-11ea-9b5c-eac5b16dafa_story.html

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/24/us/politics/trump-border-legal-immigration.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeuu-busca-aumentar-capacidades-de-asilo-en-paises-del-triangulo-norte-de-ca.html>

The Secretary of National Defense of Honduras, General Fredy Díaz Zelaya, and the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, General Tito Livio Moreno, held a meeting with the U.S. Southern Command at the headquarters in Miami yesterday.

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1359373-466/honduras-socio-confiable-comando-sur-lucha-narcotrafico>

The salary of the president of the Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) has risen by over 30% since 2014 to over 250'000 Lempiras per month.

The average pay rise for employees at the BCH was between 8000 and 17000 Lempiras this year while the minimum wage rose by 300-400 Lempiras.

<http://elpulso.hn/casi-70-mil-lempiras-ha-aumentado-desde-2014-salario-de-presidencia-del-banco-central/>

<https://criterio.hn/funcionarios-del-banco-central-reciben-aumentos-estratosfericos/>

Public debt has risen to \$11 billion in 2019 which represents 45.9% of GDP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/finanzas-informa-que-deuda-publica-ascendio-a-11-mil-millones-de-dolares/>

The Swiss government wants to withdraw its cooperation from Latin America. Swiss social movements are trying to avoid this and the final say will be with the parliament.

<https://confidencialhn.com/suiza-retirara-su-agencia-de-cooperacion-de-honduras-y-tres-paises-de-america-latina/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/nacionales/9-nacionales/cooperacion-suiza-se-retirara-de-nicaragua-y-honduras.html>

26/02/20

Honduras Daily: OACNUDH; UN - UPR; Extractivism - Guapinol, Patuca III; FoE - IACHR; Corruption - UFERCO, National Police; Electoral Reforms; Militarization; and More Problems for ENEE

Human rights defender Edy Tábora denounces that the imminent departure of the head of OACNUDH in Honduras, María Soledad Pazo, is due to pressure by the JOH regime. He denounces this as a strategy "to weaken an office that has been denouncing the serious situation of human rights violations in Honduras".

Human rights defender Gilda Rivera sees this as part of the strategy by the JOH regime to have important bodies and personalities in the struggle against corruption and human rights violations withdrawn from Honduras.

<http://www.radioamerica.hn/oacnudh-ha-venido-sufriendo-hostigamiento-por-parte-del-gobierno-de-honduras-edy-tabora/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/joh-ordena-salida-inmediata-de-jefa-de-la-oficina-para-los-ddhh-de-onu/>

The Coalition against Impunity will present on March 4 their findings and recommendation for the coming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process at the UN Human Rights Council on Honduras.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/cci-dara-a-conocer-informe-que-presento-al-consejo-de-derechos-humanos-de-naciones-unidas/>

There is more coverage of Tuesday's National Encounter of Communities in Defense of Water and the Environment (see also yesterday). Over 20 communities from Honduras and even El Salvador met in Tegucigalpa to denounce the widespread destruction by extractive industries.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/contexto/item/2710-encuentro-nacional-de-comunidades-en-defensa-del-agua-y-el-medio-junto-fuerzas-para-luchar>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/se-realizo-encuentro-de-pueblos-por-el-agua-y-solidaridad-para-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

One important case highlighted is the one of the criminalized environmental defenders from Guapinol.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/familiares-y-ambientalistas-exigen-libertad-de-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>

<https://criterio.hn/defensores-de-los-territorios-y-bienes-comunes-se-articulan-para-defender-el-agua/>

El Pulso reports that communities in the municipality of Patuca, Olancho living near the Patuca III hydroelectric dam project have been affected by flooding and have been cut off.

<http://elpulso.hn/comunidades-del-municipio-de-patuca-se-encuentran-incomunicadas/>

The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression by the IACHR, Edison Lanza, will speak in Tegucigalpa this morning at 9.30am.

<http://www.conexihon.hn/index.php/libertad-de-expresion/1419-censura-en-honduras-relator-para-la-libertad-de-expresion-brindara-conferencia-en-honduras>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/relator-de-la-cidh-expondra-peligros-de-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras.html>

The MP conducted Operation Jupiter II yesterday in which UFERCO played the leading role. It seized goods in two important corruption cases - the case against the former first lady Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo and in the Pandora case.

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5527-mp-solicita-privacion-definitiva-de-bienes-y-hace-nuevos-aseguramientos-en-casos-emblematicos-de-corrupcion-y-secuestra-documentos-por-otros-actos-ilicitos>

https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1232837643341357061

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/aseguran-otros-16-bienes-a-implicados-en-caso-caja-chica-de-la-dama.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/operacion-jupiter-ii-contr-redes-de-corrupcion.html>

Denisse Yamileth Morales, the former wife of the police commissioner Lorgio Oquelí Mejía Tinoco, himself still on the run, will remain in pre-trial detention accused of money laundering (see previous week).

<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/153-febrero2020/5530-fiscales-de-apoyo-al-proceso-de-depuracion-policial-obtienen-la-prision-preventiva-de-exesposa-de-comisionado-de-policia-implicada-en-lavado-de-activos>

<https://www.elheraldo.hn/pais/1359664-466/prision-preventiva-exesposa-comisionado-lavado-activos>

Manuel Zelaya announced yesterday that according to him, 90% of the electoral reforms have already been accepted, such as the new census, but that the National Party still won't accept a two-round presidential election.

Luis Zelaya, president of the Central Executive Committee of the Liberal Party, fears that Manuel Zelaya is being satisfied with the 90% while he believes that an electoral reform without the two-round election is only superficial, not structural.

The cynic excuse by the National Party for this? There is no time from now until the elections to

implement a two-round presidential elections. If only someone had the idea a bit earlier...

<https://tiempo.hn/mel-zelaya-el-90-reformas-estructurales-electorales-estan-hechas/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/reformas-electorales-avanzan-en-90-dice-mel-zelaya-y-agrega-que-el-camino-no-es-la-violencia.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/lamento-que-mel-se-conforme-con-que-no-haya-segunda-vuelta-luis-zelaya.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1359758-410/elecciones-2021-segunda-vuelta-electoral-honduras->

Some months ago, a 4 billion Lempiras "gift" to the Armed Forces in the form of the supervision of the Program for Agriculture Development of Honduras (PDAH) was met with widespread criticism. Now, the JOH regime suddenly announced that it may be substantially less money, 1 billion Lempiras, but still a lot.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1359745-410/-millones-programa-agr%C3%ADcola-fuerzas-armadas-honduras-agro->

Various media outlets reported yesterday that the Energy Company Honduras (EEH) will sue the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) for 4 billion Lempiras.

Hours later, EEH's head Ricardo Roa Barragán denied it but at the same time said that they are looking into it.

<https://tiempo.hn/eeh-demandara-a-enee-por-4000-millones-de-lempiras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/eeh-demanda-a-la-enee-por-4-mil-millones-de-lempiras.html>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/no-hemos-interpuesto-demanda-solo-revisamos-honorarios-gerente-de-eeh.html>

27/02/20

Honduras Daily: HRDs - Guapinol; OACNUDH; HR; Journalists; FoE - IACHR; Corruption - JOH; Insecurity - UNAH; Forced Displacement; Migration - US, Children; Political Parties; National Police; Economy - IMF; Judicial Power; EU - JOH; and Protecting Our Water

Yesterday, CEJIL argued before the Honduran Court of Appeals that the deprivation of liberty of the seven criminalized defenders from Guapinol should be revoked, as it constitutes an arbitrary measure contrary to international human rights standards and due process guarantees.

<https://www.cejil.org/es/honduras-cejil-solicita-revocacion-prision-preventiva-caso-defensores-guapinol>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/continuan-acciones-hasta-lograr-la-liberacion-de-los-presos-politicos-de-guapinol/>

OACNUDH now officially informed about the departure of María Soledad Pazo (see yesterday) presenting it as an "ordinary and periodic rotation".

Human rights organizations continue to denounce this, fearing that she was forced out by pressure from the JOH regime in what constitutes a weakening of the office.

Gilda Rivera, Director of the Center for Women's Rights, commented: "We know that her term was expiring as established by the Human Rights Council, but we know that this term can be renewed and from our analysis as civil society we consider that her departure is quite inopportune and that there could be certain types of pressure from the government not to renew her mandate".

<https://twitter.com/ONUDDHH/status/1233111733314686977>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/instante/salida-de-titular-de-la-oacnudh-deja-indefensa-a-la-poblacion-berta-oliva/>

<http://elpulso.hn/representante-del-alto-comisionado-de-naciones-unidas-deja-el-pais-el-viernes/>

Amnesty International published its annual report on the human rights situation across the globe in 2019. On Honduras they write: "The Honduran security forces brutally repressed protests between April and June. Human rights defenders continued to be subjected to attacks, including killings and the misuse of criminal proceedings against them. This raised further concerns over the shrinking space for civil society in the country. Persistent high levels of crime and violence, impunity, inequality and poverty led thousands of people to flee Honduras, either individually or as part of several "caravans" seeking refuge in the USA and Mexico. However, in September the governments of Honduras and the United States signed an Asylum Cooperative Agreement, also known as a "safe third country" agreement, provoking well-founded concerns about Honduras' capacity to ensure the protection of people forced to seek asylum there instead of the US."

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AMR0113532020ENGLISH.PDF>

Criterio reports on the ongoing criminalization of journalist Jairo Antonio López. The MP now accuses him of possession of commercial explosives and possession of home-made construction devices. They even go after a former member of the police who had been assigned as a guard for the journalist.

"[W]ith tears in his eyes and his choked voice [he] asked Edison Lanza, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), this Thursday to do something for his case because otherwise they are going to put him in jail or kill him" (see also below).

<https://criterio.hn/ministerio-publico-arremete-contra-periodista-jairo-lopez-acusando-de-varios-delitos/>

<https://criterio.hn/hoy-graben-por-si-me-matan-o-me-llevan-presos-periodista-jairo-lopez/>

The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, Edison Lanza, held a speech yesterday in Honduras saying that if the new Penal Code enters into force as it stands, Honduras would go backwards in terms of freedom of expression, while he also regretted that murders against journalists continue to go unpunished.

He also asked for the decriminalization of honor crimes.

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-el-nuevo-codigo-penal-en-vez-de-avanzar-se-retrocede-en-materia-de-libertad-de-expresion/>

<https://criterio.hn/nuevo-codigo-penal-limita-investigacion-de-corrupcion-en-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-a-tiempo-de-despenalizar-delitos-contr-el-honor-relator-lanza.html>

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2711-en-medio-de-una-grave-situacion-en-honduras-relator-especial-para-la-libertad-de-expresion-de-la-cidh-ya-llego-a-honduras>

ConfidencialHN reports that the JOH regime through the Finance Secretary handed out some 500 million Lempiras without oversight to NGOs to support differently-abled people.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-el-nombre-de-los-pobres-y-discapacitados-oeneges-se-agenciaron-en-2019-de-unos-500-millones-de-lempiras/>

Students protested at the UNAH against the widespread insecurity reigning at the university.

<http://www.elpais.hn/2020/02/27/protestan-por-masivos-asaltos-en-la-unah/>

<https://tiempo.hn/tras-denuncias-y-protestas-unah-promete-reforzar-seguridad/>

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/registro-minucioso-en-la-unah/>

The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, says in a report that between 2014 and 2018, some 247,000 people have left their homes in Honduras due to violence.

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn.net/instante/en-4-anos-247-mil-personas-han-huido-de-la-violencia-segun-acnur/>

"The Trump administration can withhold millions of dollars in law enforcement grants to force states to cooperate with U.S. immigration enforcement, a federal appeals court in New York ruled Wednesday in a decision that conflicted with three other federal appeals courts."

<https://apnews.com/f2a328bfa091de9f59b34deee463e2fc>

"The trauma Donald Trump's administration caused to young children and parents separated at the

US-Mexico border constitutes torture, according to evaluations of 26 children and adults by the group Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)."

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/feb/25/trump-family-separations-children-torture-psychology?CMP=share_btn_tw

CESPAD published an analysis of the political situation in Honduras, the role of the political parties and the persistence of authoritarianism.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/27/analisis-la-persistencia-del-autoritarismo-tradicional-en-el-sistema-de-partidos-politicos-y-los-desafios-hacia-su-democratizacion/>

The director of the Bureau of Police Disciplinary Affairs (Didadpol), Alan Edgardo Argeñal, confirmed that since January 2, 2020 they have in their possession 150 files of police for the alleged participation in illegal actions.

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/en-poder-de-didadpol-150-expedientes-de-policias-involucrados-en-actos-ilicitos.html>

Javier Suazo reflects on economic development beyond the Maquilas. "In a country like Honduras, with a highly corrupt government infiltrated by drug trafficking, maquiladora companies come and go. However, President Hernández is betting on the maquiladora sector as the main driving force behind the Honduran economy, in addition to Extractivism and beach tourism. In maquila, the fiscal sacrifice is high, and in Extractivism and tourism much higher. The Political Opposition has not yet begun to structure an alternative government proposal to this model, based on the most felt needs of the population and their demands. Several of its political leaders, especially from the liberal party and even LIBRE, endorse policies and incentives in favor of the maquila sector, without visualizing an urgent change in the productive matrix that revalues the production of the internal market, labor, and promotes a selective insertion in international markets based on chains whose greatest benefits, in the style of Evo's Bolivia, remain in the country and its people. There are already advances, identifying items such as specialty coffees, rational and chain-linked exploitation of forest resources, domestic tourism, basic foods, community housing, care economies and computer support services. We have to think about long-term development proposals, where employment, food and protection of natural resources and water sources are state policies. It is not a question of conspiring against one of the country's main economic activities, as the maquiladoras think, but rather of accommodating the productive structure to the great national objectives, in democracy and with a State at the service of the people."

<https://www.alainet.org/es/articulo/204943>

An IMF delegation will come to Honduras in April.

<https://confidencialhn.com/en-la-ultima-semana-de-abril-llegara-a-honduras-una-mision-tecnica-del-fmi/>

Congress approved an additional 250 million Lempiras for the Judicial Power.

<https://tiempo.hn/cn-aprueba-ampliacion-de-1250-millones-presupuesto-poder-judicial/>

<https://confidencialhn.com/justifican-aumento-de-presupuesto-para-ministerio-publico-y-poder-judicial/>

A delegation from the European Parliament traveled to Honduras. Proceso Digital reports on talks about security, climate change, transparency and electoral reforms but doesn't mention human rights.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/el-presidente-de-honduras-y-un-grupo-de-eurodiputados-hablan-sobre-seguridad.html>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1359977-410/juan-orlando-hernandez-reune-eurodiputados-seguridad-transparencia>

"In the face of global threats to water, as a country we have an obligation to promote minimum agreements on water, which will help to address current deficiencies and prevent future conflicts. First agreement. To establish water as a strategic asset for the country. This implies revising the current General Water Law, establishing new legal regulations that protect water as a strategic asset for the population and for the State. It implies that our rivers, aquifers, and lakes are a priority in terms of public policy. Second agreement. Linked to the first agreement, to define water as a public good and a human right. This implies that under no circumstances should community and municipal water systems be privatized, it implies rescuing SANAA, investing in it and turning it into a strategic institution of the State. Third agreement. Revise the current development model centered on extractivism, because it has become the main threat to the water production cycle and the entire ecosystem. To continue with this model is to sign the death certificate of the rivers that are still alive. Fourth agreement. To promote educational processes in public schools as well as private institutions on the care and production of water. This implies raising awareness about water use, creating programs for protecting national parks, programs for delimiting and reforesting micro-basins, and programs for educating and protecting national aquifers."

<https://www.radioprogreso.hn/np/acuerdos-minimos-sobre-el-agua/>

28/02/20

Honduras Daily; Guapinol; OACNUD/NH; Extractivism - Lencas; Violence against Women; Journalists; Transport Sector; National Police - US; Public Health - Corona; Water; EU; US; and the Tijuana Waiting Room

US congresswoman Jan Schakowsky also spoke out about the Guapinol case: "It is clear the Guapinol water Defenders in #Honduras must be immediately released. Those who speak out to defend community water sources should not be jailed! I urge the appeals court to act swiftly and ensure due process in this case."

Earth Rights International offers a short overview of the case ending with the same call for justice. "Today, we join others in calling for justice and the immediate release of the criminalized Guapinol

defenders. Earth rights defenders must be able to conduct their essential activities in defense of the earth, its resources, and their communities without fear of criminalization and arbitrary detention."

<https://twitter.com/janschakowsky/status/1233437669847420928?s=21>

<https://earthrights.org/blog/criminalized-guapinol-earth-rights-defenders-should-be-immediately-released/>

<https://copinh.org/2020/02/solidaridad-guapinol-video/>

The regional secretary of UITA wrote an open letter to High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet regarding OACNUDH in Honduras expressing grave concern about the departure of both the deputy head Silvia Lavagnoli and the head of the office María Soledad Pazo in just two months (see recent days).

Bertha Oliva denounces that "Bachelet is leaving Honduran human rights defenders orphaned by the abrupt removal of (...) María Soledad Pazo".

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/carta-de-rel-uita-a-la-alta-comisionada-michelle-bachelet/>

<http://defensoresenlinea.com/con-salida-forzosa-de-la-alta-comisionada-maria-soledad-pazo-los-y-las-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-que-damos-en-orfandad-y-con-mas-altos-niveles-de-vulnerabilidad/>

CESPAD published "an analysis of the recent exercise in defense of its natural resources undertaken by the Regional Land Management Board in various [Lencas] communities of the department of La Paz, in favor of the defense and protection of the natural commons: land, water, forest, flora and fauna."

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/28/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-comunidades-lencas-se-unen-y-luchan-contra-el-saqueo-de-sus-riquezas-naturales/>

El Faro published the English translation of an insightful interview with Andrea Nuila, a member of the feminist collective Luchemos, about territorial conflicts and drug trafficking practices, and how these conflicts compound violence against women. The interview has been lightly edited in translation. The interview was held at the end of 2019.

<https://elfaro.net/en/202002/internacionales/24060/Feminist-Collective-Pushes-Back-Against-Violence-in-Honduras.htm>

<https://criterio.hn/incesante-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-honduras/>

"[S]ocial communicators and journalists located in different departments of Honduras presented a letter with petitions according to the specific needs and problems of their work context and, above all, the impact that the new Criminal Code will have on the exercise of journalism, to the IACHR's Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, so that he can intercede in accordance with his mandate before the State of Honduras" (see also yesterday).

The president of the Honduran College of Journalists (CPH), Dagoberto Rodríguez, denounces that journalists are being restricted and threatened so that information can no longer inform the public because of the danger to their lives.

<http://www.pasosdeanimalgrande.com/index.php/en/amenazas-a-la-libertad-de-expresion/item/2713-periodistas-el-interior-del-pais-expresaron-ante-relator-edison-lanza-sus-preocupaciones-sobre-nuevo-codigo-penal>

<https://tiempo.hn/oea-deben-investigar-sancionar-crimenes-periodistas/>

<http://elpulso.hn/solo-en-regimenes-dictatoriales-se-cuarta-la-libertad-de-expresion-dagoberto-rodriguez/>

The former vice-president of the Cab Association of Honduras (Ataxish), Rony Figueroa, was murdered on Thursday, after having received death threats.

CONADEH, meanwhile, says that they had received the information about the death threats and transferred them to the MP.

<https://confidencialhn.com/matan-a-reconocido-dirigente-de-taxis-habia-sufrido-atentado-hace-un-mes/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/mas-noticias/32-m%C3%A1s-noticias/conadeh-asegura-que-denuncia-de-rony-figueroa-fue-remitida-al-mp.html>

CESPAD published a short analysis of the trial against police commissioner Leonel Luciano Saucedá Guifarro and the purge of the National Police Force. The analysis also takes a close look at the role of the US.

El Pulso also takes a closer look at Saucedá's case.

<http://cespad.org.hn/2020/02/28/analisis-el-juicio-al-comisionado-general-sauceda-y-el-proceso-de-la-depuracion-de-la-policia-nacional>

<http://elpulso.hn/expediente-sauceda/>

El Pulso reports on the public health crisis in Honduras and the dual appearance of unemployed doctors and a lack of doctors in hospitals.

<http://elpulso.hn/abundancia-de-medicos-desempleados-pero-carencia-en-los-hospitales/>

The former health secretary Roxana Araujo, meanwhile, claims that the coronavirus will arrive in Honduras any day now.

Both the Health and the Education Secretariat announced that they are working in emergency plans.

<https://confidencialhn.com/exsecretaria-de-salud-asegura-que-es-cuestion-de-dias-para-que-llegue-el-coronavirus-a-honduras/>

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/es-cuestion-de-horas-para-que-coronavirus-llegue-a-honduras-dice-exministra-de-salud.html>

<https://tiempo.hn/salud-y-educacion-preparan-plan-de-prevencion-contracoronavirus-y-dengue/>

SANAA announced that the water rations for the Central District will increase for the next 9 days.

<https://confidencialhn.com/anuncian-que-a-partir-del-domingo-aumentara-a-nueve-dias-los-rationamientos-de-agua/>

On its second day in Honduras (see also yesterday), the EU parliamentarians also expressed concern about the closure of the MACCIH and they asked for the implementations of the electoral reforms recommended by the EU. They also called for transparency in the Berta Cáceres case and expressed concern about the situation of the LGBTQ community.

<https://www.proceso.hn/politica-nacional/36-proceso-electoral/eurodiputados-preocupados-por-la-cancelacion-de-la-mision-de-oea-en-honduras.html>

Honduras wants to expand its diplomatic ties with the US by opening another consulate.

<https://www.proceso.hn/actualidad/7-actualidad/honduras-anuncia-expansion-de-red-consular-en-eeuu.html>

"The wall goes through the city, into the mountains and a little bit into the sea. But in reality, the wall is not that fence of about 8 meters, it is the immigration policies that reinforce the plan against illegal immigration started by Bill Clinton in 1994 and the fear of the "bad men" that, in Tijuana, are the Central American migrants. On the Mexican side, that rusty red fence separates the fate of the refugees from a huge waiting room. Every day in El Chaparral, from very early on, hundreds of migrants come to find out how their turn is going, they have signed up for a list to ask for asylum. In July 2019, the organization Al Otro Lado spoke of more than 9,000 names on that first waiting list, and now, with Donald Trump's new immigration policies, these migrants, when finally called to begin the process, could be returned to Mexico for a second wait, to complete their asylum process."

<https://contracorriente.red/2020/02/27/tijuana-la-gran-sala-de-espera/>