

Another Month in Honduras...

Human Rights Monitor – April 2022

Step by step, the nefarious legacy of the 12 years of the JOH regime are being dismantled in Honduras. Two key steps took place this month, the first being the extradition of JOH himself to the US. What seems unthinkable after his illegal reelection backed by the US in 2017 and still very unlikely just some months ago, has now passed in record speed. He already faced court once, virtually, in New York this month where his pre-trial detention was confirmed. A second cornerstone of JOH's reign were the ZEDEs, the private cities. Their legal basis were outright repealed, unanimously, by Congress this month. A huge victory for Honduras' social movements, while still leaving many questions unresolved regarding the existing ZEDEs in Honduras. Just days before next month's May Day, the new administration celebrated another victory with Congress repealing the Employment by the Hour Law. The Xiomara administration and its allies in Congress further reformulated the 2022 budget which includes more spending on education and public health, but also rose some question, especially regarding the spending on state security forces. Last but definitely not least, after two years of more or rather less functioning online classes, schools started to reopen. Welcome to another month in Honduras.

In solidarity,

Daniel Langmeier

Honduras Forum Switzerland

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Abbreviations

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

Human Rights and Their Defenders

Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment

On April 11, the Women Human Rights Defenders Network denounced that police agents intimidated OFRANEH defender Melissa Martínez.¹

"The Observatory for Justice for the Guapinol River Defenders urged the Honduran State to compensate the damages caused, investigate and punish those responsible for the events and offer immediate physical and psychological protection measures to the defenders and their environment."²

Seven human rights defenders belonging to ARCAH had the criminalizing charges against them dropped.^{3 4}

"The human rights defender, Santos Roberto Lagos Majano, denounced death threats and a smear campaign against him by Wilfredo Aguilera, a former justice of the peace of Orocuina, Choluteca, interested in titling ancestral lands in favor of private individuals. Lagos Majano is the president of the patronage, Work and Development, of the indigenous village of Santa Lucía de Yuculimay, in the jurisdiction of Orocuina and is also the coordinator of the Human Rights Secretariat of the Social Environmental Movement for Life (Massvida) and Land Judge in 14 communities in the region."⁵

Indigenous Peoples

This month, a hearing took place at the Inter-American Court on Human Rights of the Garífuna community San Juan versus the State of Honduras.^{6 7}

On April 7, indigenous rights and human rights organizations held a protest in front of the MP calling for a stop to the criminalization and eviction of indigenous peoples in Honduras.⁸ The same day, "[t]he coordinator of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (Ofraneh), Miriam Miranda, denounced that agents of the Police Directorate of Investigation (DPI) went to the Garífuna community of San Juan (...), arguing a complaint for alleged land usurpation".⁹

1 <https://twitter.com/RedDefensoras/status/1513327446782881796>

2 <https://criterio.hn/exigen-resarcir-danos-investigar-y-sancionar-a-responsables-de-la-detencion-ilegal-de-los-defensores-de-guapinol/>

3 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3362-notifican-sobreseimiento-definitivo-a-favor-de-defensores-y-defensoras-de-arcah>

4 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/HN/status/1516880257927852032>

5 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1473-vos-lo-que-queres-es-una-tiroteada-le-dicen-a-defensor-de-una-comunidad-indigena-de-choluteca>

6 <https://twitter.com/CorteIDH/status/1510740408992739328>

7 <https://avispa.org/garifunas-piden-ante-la-corte-idh-reconocimiento-de-su-territorio/>

8 <https://madj.org/2022/04/07/comunicado-no-mas-criminalizacion-y-despojo-contralos-pueblos-indigenas-de-honduras/>

9 <https://criterio.hn/alertas-sobre-persecucion-judicial-contralos-garifunas-de-tela-atlantida-en-honduras/>

The Case of Berta Cáceres

On April 1, COPINH and the Río Blanco community commemorated the 9th anniversary of the start of the protest against the Agua Zarca hydroelectric project.¹⁰ The same day, in Tegucigalpa, a court denied the application of the Amnesty Law to David Castillo making way for his sentencing currently scheduled for May.¹¹

On April 6, COPINH announced that a court denied David Castillo's defense a request to prevent the swearing in of the expert who will extract information from Daniel Atala's computers. "The court expressed the ineptitude and inaccuracy of David Castillo's defense due to the lack of legal standing in basic legal concepts, by filing an appeal to protect Daniel Atala's rights, even though they are not even his legal representatives."¹²

LGBTQ

"Sexual diversity movements turned out en masse to the polls to elect President Xiomara Castro. Will her government respond to the demands and expectations of these groups?"¹³ One hopeful sign materialized this month. "Honduras ratified (...) its request to join the United Nations group for the protection of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) people. This was informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through a statement reiterating the position of Honduras on this issue."¹⁴

Freedom of Expression and Journalists

On April 2, there was an attack on journalist Leonardo Pineda from Choluteca. Driving, he was followed by another car and shot at.¹⁵ "Manuel Serén, a journalist, was threatened on Saturday, April 2, with legal action against him for the exercise of his profession by an official of the Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS). Serén, who works for the digital newspaper Reporteros de Investigación, reported that an official, whose name he requested to be withheld for security reasons, threatened to sue him if he did not delete a publication following an interview with the head of SEDIS, José Carlos Cardona."¹⁶

On April 8, UNE TV journalist César Omar Silva was arrested accused of libel and slander. "The Honduran justice system, which during the government of the extraditable Juan Orlando Hernández persecuted its opponents, among them journalists, continues in its evident function of persecution and harassment. This midday, the arbitrary arrest of César Omar Silva, journalist of UNE TV, was reported. After several hours he was released due to the diverse reactions of human rights organizations and other sectors that condemned his detention for almost five hours."¹⁷ Silva's arrest strengthened calls again to decriminalize such crimes against honor.¹⁸

10 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1510027764828626946>

11 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1509945034954743813>

12 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1511759011716247559>

13 <https://criterio.hn/cumplira-xiomara-castro-con-las-demandas-de-la-comunidad-lgbtqi/>

14 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-ratifica-solicitud-de-ingreso-al-grupo-de-naciones-unidas-para-proteccion-de-las-personas-lgbti/>

15 <https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/atentan-contra-periodista-leonardo-pineda-en-choluteca-XF7061462>

16 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1466-funcionario-de-sedis-amenaza-con-querellar-a-periodista>

17 <https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-arrecia-contra-periodistas-opositores-al-regimen-de-joh/>

18 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/amenazas/item/3355-arresto-del-periodista-cesar-silva-reabre-el-debate-sobre-la-despenalizacion-de-los-delitos-contra-el-honor>

On April 10, Social communicator Elder Martínez was threatened and then run over by a motorbike leaving him unconscious on the ground.¹⁹

Violence against Women

At the beginning of the month, news broke that the Ministry of Health (SESAL) would discuss a possible elimination of the prohibition of the use of the Emergency Contraceptive Pill with church actors which caused protest by women's rights organizations.²⁰

"In Honduras, violence against women has grown alarmingly to reach the highest point of its manifestation, femicide. This is confirmed by the Center for Women's Rights (CDM), updating that up to March 31 there have been 82 violent deaths of women."²¹ A month later, this devastating number rose to 108.²² "The United Nations in Honduras expresses its concern about the figures of violence against women, in its various expressions, in the country and urges the State and various sectors of society to take decisive action to contribute to the elimination of all types of gender-based violence against women."²³

Extractive Industries

ZEDEs

Mid-April, Congress' president Luis Redondo spoke out in favor of a popular consultation on the ZEDEs and mining in Honduras.²⁴ Redondo later doubled down and stated that the ZEDEs would disappear from Honduras.²⁵ "The advisor to presidential designee Doris Gutiérrez, Andres Benedith, announced that the government of President Xiomara Castro is taking action in the matter of the repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (Zedes). He added that part of these actions is that "a special commissioner has already been appointed and he will have the task of analyzing and visualizing the issue in the best possible way".²⁶ Mel Zelaya said that ZEDEs should not be existing in Honduras.²⁷

On April 19, Redondo went on to present a bill to have the ZEDEs derogated.²⁸ The same day, social movements demanded that their citizen request to derogate the ZEDEs law presented last July with 22'000 signatures would be taken up by Congress.²⁹ On April 20, Congress discussed two decrees repealing the legal framework for the ZEDEs.³⁰ The next day, Congress approved it unanimously.³¹ ³² "The president of the Legislative Power, Luis Redondo, categorized as "criminals" the businessmen who set up the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) in

19 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1467-imparables-las-violaciones-a-la-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras>

20 <https://criterio.hn/eliminar-la-prohibicion-de-la-pae-en-honduras-se-empantana-por-asuntos-religiosos/>

21 <https://criterio.hn/marzo-cerro-con-82-femicidios-y-mujeres-piden-aprobar-ley-integral-contra-la-violencia/>

22 <https://confidencialhn.com/108-femicidios-en-lo-que-va-de-2022-registran-mujeres-organizadas/>

23 <https://honduras.un.org/es/179435-naciones-unidas-llama-la-accion-contra-la-violencia-hacia-mujeres-y-ninas>

24 <https://www.radioamerica.hn/presidente-del-congreso-favor-de-consultar-al-pueblo-sobre-las-zedes-y-explotacion-de-minas/>

25 <https://proceso.hn/seran-derogadas-digan-lo-que-digan-presidente-del-congreso-nacional-sobre-las-zedes/>

26 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/12/aseguran-que-gobierno-de-castro-esta-trabajando-en-derogacion-de-las-zedes/>

27 <https://proceso.hn/las-zedes-no-deberian-de-existir-en-honduras-mel-zelaya/>

28 <https://proceso.hn/presentan-proyectos-de-decretos-para-derogar-las-zedes/>

29 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3360-unas-21-organizaciones-demandan-cumplimiento-de-iniciativa-de-ley-ciudadana-para-derogar-las-zede>

30 <https://proceso.hn/derogadas-las-zedes/>

31 <https://twitter.com/Lredondo/status/151718869447787248>

32 <https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/derogadas-las-zedes/v>

Honduras, while waiting for the prosecution to prosecute and recommends them to adhere to the current regimes. Through a press conference, the president of the National Congress of Honduras celebrated the publication in the official newspaper La Gaceta of the repeal of the Model Cities disguised as ZEDE, which was put in place by former President Juan Orlando Hernández, which is nothing more than the sale of territory and national sovereignty to foreign capital. With the publication, the repeal of the regimes becomes law and the constitutional framework that was arbitrarily and illegally reformed by the conservative National Party in 2012 is reinstated."³³

On April 23, Proceso Digital reported: "The government will set up a negotiation table with the businessmen who invested in the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs) to protect their investment, said the private secretary, Rodolfo Pastor. "With those that are already installed (companies) we are going to set up a negotiation process to see how we can help them so that the investment they have already made is protected and maintained within the framework of national sovereignty", said the private secretary."³⁴ According to Pasos de Animal Grande, "[t]he Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) are still in force and will disappear in 2023 only when the Second Legislature ratifies the decree repealing them and it is published in the Official Gazette La Gaceta".³⁵ On April 25, President Xiomara signed the repeal of the legal framework of the ZEDEs. "Today is the most important day of the 88 days of my administration, returning sovereignty to the country was an unavoidable commitment we had with history. I can tell the Honduran people that mission accomplished, I sanctioned the decree that repeals the ZEDE law."³⁶ ³⁷ OACNUDH welcomed the repeal.³⁸

Also this month, town hall meetings at the local levels continued. Colón declared its territory free of ZEDEs.³⁹

Criterio reported that the president of the ZEDE Próspera is a US state senator from Mississippi, Joel Bomgar.⁴⁰ Criterio then continued to cover more people behind the ZEDE Próspera.⁴¹ They continued to ignore the will of the Honduran people and announced this month that they had raised over \$60 million to invest in their project.⁴² In the past, a repeal of the ZEDEs law was countered with possible financial ramifications for Honduras. Redondo does not seem to share this fear. "The President of the National Congress points out that the elimination of the Zedes will not generate indemnification to individuals and companies, since they were not entitled to the benefits. For this reason, article one establishes the repeal of the referred decree and all derived legal norms should have no legal validity."⁴³ At the end of the month, social movements demanded the MP to act ex officio against the investor of the ZEDE Morazán, Massimo Mazzone. "The Italian businessman, in a message published on Wednesday, April 20, addressed what he called "merchants of despair", and continued: "Parasites who need their poor to justify their existence and continue living off the

33 <https://criterio.hn/no-son-empresarios-son-delincuentes-afirma-presidente-del-congreso-de-honduras-a-duenos-de-las-zede/>

34 <https://proceso.hn/gobierno-buscara-consenso-con-los-empresarios-que-ya-invirtieron-en-las-zedes-segun-secretario-privado/>

35 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3364-hasta-el-2023-con-la-ratificacion-de-la-derogatoria-desapareceran-las-zede>

36 <https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1518743913766563840>

37 <https://criterio.hn/presidenta-de-honduras-sanciona-derogacion-de-ley-de-las-zede/>

38 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1518776261602168837>

39 <https://radioprogreso.hn/noticias-nacionales/colon-se-declara-libre-de-zedes-y-exige-derogar-ley/>

40 <https://criterio.hn/presidente-de-zede-prospera-es-congresista-estatal-de-misisipi-estados-unidos/>

41 <https://criterio.hn/exfuncionarios-de-ee-uu-entre-directivos-del-centro-financiero-de-zede-prospera/>

42 <https://twitter.com/Prosperahn/status/1516182245400367109>

43 <https://proceso.hn/presentan-proyectos-de-decretos-para-derogar-las-zedes/>

crumbs sent to them by other parasites, the politicians and NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) of Europe."⁴⁴

Mining

CESPAD published an analysis of the mining conflict in Azacualpa. "We understand socio-environmental conflicts to be those related to access to and control of the common goods of nature and territory, involving diverse actors, with divergent interests and values, in a context of great asymmetry of power. An emblematic case with these characteristics, among many others, is that of the Azacualpa community in the municipality of La Unión, department of Copán, Honduras. This is the scenario of an ongoing and long-standing territorial conflict, which has its origins in 1998, when the mining company Greenstone Minerals, of Canadian capital, began operations in the area (Orellana Peña, 2016), which gradually changed its corporate name, until it currently operates under the name Minerales de Occidente S.A. (MINOSA)."⁴⁵

Agriculture

The new government faces one of many challenges in the Aguán Valley. The start of the Xiomara presidency was accompanied by a hope of a reduction in "socio-environmental and agrarian conflicts" as stated by CESPAD. Various members of the new administration have already visited the region and a conflict resolution board was installed. "The attacks on the negotiation process have not been long in coming, as recently expressed by the Agrarian Platform and the Popular Coordination of Organizations of Bajo Aguan (COPA), in a public statement: "landowners and agribusinesses in Aguan are planning to boycott the government of the constitutional president Xiomara Castro"[5]. The facts in the area lead to infer that the attack is of an economic nature, since the extraction plants to which the peasant companies sell the African palm fruit are being closed. This is happening with the clear intention of economically asphyxiating the peasant families, in view of the negotiation process that will be developed and that affects the interests of these sectors that have historically controlled the agricultural territory, to increase their wealth and ensure their class interests."⁴⁶

Corruption and Its Enemies

The UN resident coordinator Alice Shackelford met with Honduran civil society organizations on the topic of a UN Anti-Corruption body.⁴⁷ "Shackelford considered that the State of Honduras has shown a great commitment to fight corruption and impunity in the country. She indicated that the letter sent by President Xiomara Castro to the UN requesting the installation of the International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) is an example to combat this scourge."⁴⁸ Also at the beginning of the month, "US Senators Tim Kaine and Patrick Leahy asked US Secretary of

44 <https://criterio.hn/exigen-al-mp-proceder-contrainversionista-que-llamo-parasitos-a-quienes-se-opusieron-a-las-zede/>

45 <https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/10/coyuntura-desde-los-territorios-azacualpa-que-hacer-alrededor-del-conflicto-socioambiental/>

46 <https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/24/en-riesgo-el-proceso-de-salida-al-conflicto-agrario-en-el-bajo-aguan/>

47 <https://criterio.hn/organizaciones-demandan-instalar-comision-anticorrupcion-que-no-responda-a-estructuras-criminales/>

48 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/04/existe-un-compromiso-del-gobierno-para-luchar-contrala-corrupcion/>

State Antony Blinken to support the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH) to outlast the Xiomara Castro administration. In a letter, the U.S. senators ask that the commission receive the necessary funding to accomplish its mission, and that it consult sufficiently with Honduran civil society organizations, which are key stakeholders in the fight against corruption".^{49 50}

At the beginning of the month, an exploratory mission of the UN was announced to visit Honduras.^{51 52} In preparation of such a mission, UFERCO's Luis Santos demanded that more JOH-era laws which undermine anti-corruption investigation should be repealed.⁵³ On April 25, it was announced that the exploratory mission would arrive in May.⁵⁴ According to Edmundo Orellano, they mission will arrive in Honduras on May 9.⁵⁵

The CNA presented new corruption cases this month. One took place at the Administrative Office for Seized Foods (OABI). The case went back to the JOH-era where JOH himself illegally ordered the sale of 21 goods linked to the IHSS corruption case.⁵⁶ "OABI has been managed as a private estate by former government officials," said CNA director Gabriela Castellanos.⁵⁷ A second case revealed the names of the politicians who used the funds of the National Commodities Supply Company (Banasupro) as their private bank.⁵⁸

The JOH regime illegally employed more than 10'000 people between December 2021 and January 2022.⁵⁹ Additionally, at least 80% state institutions had important documents destroyed by their former authorities to hide corruption.⁶⁰ On April 19, the CNA presented a report on this. "The National Anti-Corruption Council (CNA) denounced that the outgoing authorities of the former Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (Sedis) signed 581 permanent appointments before the end of the government of Juan Orlando Hernández. The report called "Sedis senior officials who closed with a flourish their concert of corruption", in which it states that the signing of the 581 appointments caused economic damage to the State, exceeding 178 million lempiras."^{61 62}

Members of Congress reactivated a disputed law from the JOH-era time which allows them to spend money on projects in their departments. Every member of Congress has 1 million Lempiras at their disposal and their deputies have another 500'000 Lempiras.⁶³ This was met by a public outcry.⁶⁴ Lead members of the Xiomara administration disputed this⁶⁵ and then the president of Congress Luis Redondo stated that the law has not been reactivated, but at the same time said that there were plans since December 2021 to create an alternative.^{66 67} This did not clarify matters but

49 <https://criterio.hn/una-cicih-sin-sesgos-y-sin-injerencias-de-poderes-visualizan-senadores-de-ee-uu/>

50 https://www.kaine.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/kaine-leahy_state_dept_letteronhondurascicih.pdf

51 <https://criterio.hn/mision-exploratoria-para-instalacion-de-comision-contra-la-impunidad-visitara-honduras-en-abril/>

52 <https://proceso.hn/la-cicih-una-esperanza-depositada-en-la-mision-de-la-onu/>

53 <https://criterio.hn/fiscal-anticorruccion-reitera-exigencia-al-congreso-para-derogar-leyes-que-blindan-la-corruccion/>

54 <https://radioprogreso.hn/aplicacion-movil/en-mayo-podria-llegar-mision-exploratoria-para-instalacion-de-cicih/>

55 <https://criterio.hn/el-9-de-mayo-llegara-mision-exploratoria-para-establecer-cicih-en-honduras/>

56 <https://tiempo.hn/joh-bienes-ihss-oabi/>

57 <https://proceso.hn/exfuncionarios-compraron-a-la-oabi-el-ganado-incautado-a-los-amador-en-olancho/>

58 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/28/cna-revela-escandalo-de-corruccion-en-banasupro-involucran-a-excandidato/>

59 <https://confidencial.hn.com/mas-de-10-mil-nombramientos-irregulares-deja-el-gobierno-pasado/>

60 <https://criterio.hn/en-el-80-de-las-instituciones-del-estado-se-habria-destruido-informacion-para-esconder-corruccion/>

61 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/19/cna-denuncia-pinata-de-contratos-en-sedis-antes-de-concluir-gobierno-de-joh/>

62 <https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1516461703218839557>

63 <https://tiempo.hn/diputado-confirma-regreso-fondo-departamental-honduras/>

64 https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1513950033640628225

65 <https://twitter.com/hnoepino/status/1513934403310919688>

66 https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1513964404185964547

67 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/12/eufemismo-de-redondo-congreso-reactiva-con-otro-nombre-fondo-departamental/>

led to more confusion.^{68 69} Even news outlet close to the opposition such as El Libertador, criticized this.^{70 71} A week later, Redondo and PSH congresswoman Fátima Mena stated that no replacement of the fund was created.⁷² Mena further said that to derogate the old law, 86 votes are needed, i.e. National and Liberal members needed to vote in favor of derogating it.⁷³

The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies

CESPAD gave an overview of some of the laws that were still in place at the beginning of April and undermine anti-corruption efforts.⁷⁴ In a meeting with the Liberal Party, the CNA proposed reforming several laws, among them the Penal Code, to effectively fight corruption in Honduras.⁷⁵ Another law in need of reform is the money laundering law. Its reform allowed among others the former police commissioner Leonel Luciano Saucedo Guifarro to have charges dropped against him. He allegedly stole 3.3 million Lempiras. The MP challenged the acquittal this month.⁷⁶

CESPAD also published an analysis on one of the at least ten legal norms, laws, etc. that undermine corruption investigations, the Special Law for the Management, Allocation, Execution, Liquidation and Redaction of Accounts of Public Funds for Social and Community Projects, Infrastructure and Social Programs. "Chapter IV of the Law, regarding Control and Auditing, establishes in Article 13 that the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC) is the entity in charge of the control and auditing of the resources assigned to the public institutions of the Central and/or decentralized Government, municipal corporations and the National Congress". But, it is at this point that the Law complicates the panorama because it empowers the TSC to carry out audits and special investigations of the management of the funds of deputies within a period of three years and, worryingly, it adds that "during the time the audit and special investigation is in force and until the Court does not issue a final resolution, any other type of administrative, civil or criminal action is suspended, regardless of the phase in which it is found, in relation to the deduction of any type of responsibility on the funds that are being audited". In other words, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the entity that promotes the criminal prosecution and the accusatory function before the courts of justice in investigations of crimes of public action in Honduras, will not be able to carry out any action that leads to the deduction of responsibility of the deputies who misuse the public funds assigned to them, during the three years that the TSC audit lasts."⁷⁷ On April 27, Congress repealed the law in a first discussion.⁷⁸

Over 2.5 years after presenting a challenge in a MACCIH-era corruption case, the challenge was finally admitted. UFERCO's Luis Santos demanded that the Constitutional Chamber swiftly present its verdict.⁷⁹

68 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3357-contradicciones-sobre-aprobacion-en-cn-de-fondo-social-con-las-mismas-caracteristicas-del-cuestionado-fondo-departamental>

69 <https://proceso.hn/fondo-departamental-cambia-de-nombre-confirma-el-titular-del-legislativo/>

70 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/13/nuevo-congreso-viejas-manas-192-millones-se-repartiran-diputados-en-2022/>

71 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/04/13/fondo-social-del-congreso-es-nulo-por-usurpacion-constitucionalista/>

72 https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1516570003440553987

73 <https://confidencialhn.com/de-los-partidos-liberal-y-nacional-depende-derogacion-del-fondo-departamental-dice-fatima-mena/>

74 <https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/03/el-reto-en-honduras-la-derogacion-de-leyes-que-blindan-a-los-corrupitos-y-la-creacion-de-un-sistema-normativo-contra-la-corrupcion/>

75 <https://confidencialhn.com/cna-propone-reformar-codigo-penal-codigo-procesal-penal-y-revisar-otras-leyes/>

76 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-impugna-fallo-absolutorio-a-favor-de-comisionado-general-de-policia-erradamente-justificado-en-reformas-en-materia-de-lavado-de-activos/>

77 <https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/23/los-diputados-hondurenos-y-la-ley-que-les-exime-de-recibir-castigo-si-roban/>

78 <https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprueba-en-primer-debate-derogacion-de-decretos-que-limitan-las-investigaciones-del-mp/>

79 https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1516556736789991426

Congressional Network

In a MACCIH-era case, the Congressional Network, a judge issued a formal indictment. Five former members of Congress (Audelia Rodríguez, Augusto Cruz Asensio, Dennys Sánchez, Eleazar Juárez and Héctor Padilla) accused of embezzlement of public funds will go to trial and have house arrest until then. In the case of Geovanny Deras, the charges were provisionally dropped, and in the case of José Panchamé, the charges were definitively dropped as he had died in the meantime.⁸⁰ The Congressional Network case is linked to the controversial departmental fund which came to prominence again this month when Congress discuss its repeal but also a possible replacement (see above)⁸¹. The CNA denounced that the charges were dropped against Deras, who was named in another MACCIH-era corruption case, Open Chest.⁸²

IHSS

This month, a new trial in the IHSS corruption case started. The accused are businesswoman and lawyer Jenny Carolina Andrade Lemus and the former Deputy Administrative and Financial Manager of the IHSS, José Ramón Bertetty Osorio.⁸³ ⁸⁴ The same day, a court confirmed the trial against another 14 accused in the IHSS case.⁸⁵ Also this month, a court decided that two businessmen and a former official involved in the IHSS corruption case have to remain in pre-trial detention.⁸⁶ On April 28, a court found two former IHSS board members guilty of the crime of violation of the duties of public officials.⁸⁷

Reading the above, no wonder the Executive Director of the IHSS, Adriana Zúniga, denounced that the past administration left as an inheritance a privatized social security system that was in the hands of corruption mafias.⁸⁸ Linked to the IHSS corruption case, the MP is coordinating with the US Justice Department to return to Honduras \$1 million stolen as part of the fraud.⁸⁹

Mobile Hospitals

In the mobile hospitals corruption case, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by Marco Bográn.⁹⁰

State Security Forces

Radio Progreso reported that members of the police force are extorting migrants trying to cross Honduras on their way to the US.⁹¹ On April 11, ATIC seized 83 properties belonging to two former police commissioners, Marcelino Flores and José Zavala, accused of money laundering.⁹²

80 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/auto-de-formal-procesamiento-a-los-siete-implicados-en-el-caso-red-de-diputados/>

81 <https://criterio.hn/entre-2007-y-2018-se-desvariaron-mas-de-1-62-millones-del-fondo-departamental-a-bolsillos-personales/>

82 <https://confidencialhn.com/ante-decision-de-la-csj-en-el-caso-de-red-de-diputados-el-cna-senala-que-la-corrupcion-continua-operando/>

83 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/inicia-nuevo-juicio-por-corrupcion-en-el-ihss/>

84 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/concluye-juicio-contras-empresaria-y-exadministrador-del-ihss/>

85 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/afirman-auto-de-formal-procesamiento-para-14-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss-seis-guardan-prision-preventiva/>

86 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/se-mantiene-prision-preventiva-contras-dos-empresarios-y-un-exfuncionario-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss/>

87 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-impugnara-fallo-en-caso-licitacion-fraudulenta-dimesa-ihss/>

88 <https://confidencialhn.com/el-ihss-se-encontraba-en-manos-de-mafias-de-corrupcion-por-decadas-revela-informe/>

89 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-y-departamento-de-justicia-de-eeuu-coordinan-retorno-al-pais-de-mas-de-un-millon-de-dolares-por-el-mega fraude-del-ihss/>

90 <https://confidencialhn.com/declaran-sin-lugar-recurso-de-reposicion-interpuesto-a-favor-de-marco-bogran/>

91 <https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/denuncian-que-policia-nacional-extorsiona-a-migrantes-en-el-oriente-de-honduras/>

92 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/11/aseguran-unos-83-bienes-a-dos-exoficiales-de-policia-habrian-lavado-dinero/>

"The Prosecutorial Unit of Support to the Police Purification Process (UF-ADPOL) initiated the trial of deprivation of ownership in which it seeks the definitive confiscation of 21 goods and financial products seized from former commissioner Ambrosio Maradiaga Ordóñez."⁹³

On April 24, three members of the police force were shot dead in the Agua Amarilla community in Trujillo, Colón. They were ambushed trying to enter a finca.⁹⁴ President Xiomara declared a state of exception in Colón.⁹⁵ Karen Springs shared her insight on the situation in the Bajo Aguán. "According to campesino groups in the Aguan, the same police patrol used by the three police responded to attacks against a campesino group during an attack on April 21st. The same campesino group signed an agreement with a Presidential Commission created on Feb 22 to investigate land conflicts in the Aguan. The attacks against the campesino group were perpetuated by hitmen working with a powerful former National party Congressman Oscar Nájera. It seems like large land owners are not interested in any sort of change in the status quo in the Aguán even though the Government Commission is just beginning to be formed. (...) As campesino groups recover land, criminal groups working with powerful individuals continue to generate violence. Attack against police patrol was likely a retaliation against police for going to assist campesino group recovering land."^{96 97 98} "According to criminal lawyer German Licon, the murder of three policemen in an ambush in Colon, is a provocation for the Executive Branch led by Xiomara Castro. "This is a provocation to the Executive since after January 27 (inauguration) we have seen how they have been efficient in the capture of drug traffickers, the seizure of drugs and the dismantling of drug laboratories, and that has generated uneasiness because these areas were not being well attended", Licon stated."⁹⁹ Avispa Midia published an overview of the situation in the region.¹⁰⁰

At the end of the month, the director of the National Police, Gustavo Sánchez, discussed the possibility of rehiring of two thousand police officers, among them, several uniformed officers who were purged during the JOH regime.¹⁰¹ Criminal lawyer Abel Orellana advises to review the files of the purged police officers before they are reintegrated into the institution.¹⁰² The discussion about the reintegration also spurred talks about the role of the purging unit. "Between 2016 and 2019, the Intervention Board purged six thousand police officers, after evaluating 13,500 of them. However, the purge always generated suspicion and, entities such as the Armed Forces, were never subjected to purge. (...) The former director of the National Police, Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, also shared with local media that the Commission did not act in accordance with the law and left doubts in the population. For which he advised, they should undergo a thorough investigation".¹⁰³

93 <https://proceso.hn/mp-inicia-juicio-de-privacion-de-dominio-a-21-bienes-de-excomisionado-ambrosio-maradiaga/>

94 <https://confidencialhn.com/tres-policias-fueron-acribilladas-en-una-finca-de-la-comunidad-de-agua-amarilla-en-trujillo-colon/>

95 <https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1518401950034837505>

96 <https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1518641455664971779>

97 <https://twitter.com/springkj/status/1518679678118203393>

98 <https://www.hondurasnow.org/communique-in-response-to-land-evictions-murder-of-three-police-and-state-of-exception-in-colon/>

99 <https://confidencialhn.com/asesinato-de-policias-en-colon-es-una-provocacion-al-ejecutivo-por-acciones-contra-la-narcoactividad-asegura-experto-en-seguridad/>

100 <https://avispa.org/estado-de-excepcion-en-el-aguan-campesinos-responsabilizan-agroindustria/>

101 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/26/policia-evalua-reintegrar-a-agentes-y-oficiales-depurados-en-el-pasado/>

102 <https://confidencialhn.com/recomiendan-revisar-expedientes-de-policias-depurados-antes-de-reintegrarlos-a-la-institucion/>

103 <https://criterio.hn/piden-investigar-junta-interventora-que-depuro-policias-entre-2016-y-2019/>

Repressions

In 2019, Junior Alfredo Godoy Velásquez was attacked by the police and instead of the police being prosecuted he himself was charged with violence against two police agents. He was sentenced, but COFADEH now obtained conditional suspension of his sentence.¹⁰⁴ Sánchez wants to break with the legacy of the Honduran police known for extrajudicial killings, torture, and more. Part of this new approach is to create a community police force.¹⁰⁵

Penitentiary System

On April 1, the National Police officially took control from the Armed Forces of the Támara prison.¹⁰⁶ An important step, but more steps are needed. "After President Xiomara Castro ordered the demilitarization of prisons throughout Honduras, the National Police took command of the penitentiary system and will have 10 months to reorganize the authorities of the various prisons in order to curb violence and improve the conditions of those deprived of liberty. Different human rights organizations assure that this cannot be guaranteed unless civilians are in charge of the penitentiary system."¹⁰⁷

Last year, the violent escape of gang leader Alexander Mendoza, "El Porky", made headlines. El Heraldo uncovered that the escape, which led to the death of four members of the Armed Forces, was supported by an army colonel who was at the time the director of the Támara prison.¹⁰⁸

Militarization

"The Constitutional Chamber has declared the unconstitutionality by way of action of decree PCM 052-2019 where the Armed Forces are assigned powers to manage an agricultural development program in Honduras. The resolution of the Court of Justice (CSJ) is related to the controversial fund of 4,000 million lempiras that the previous government had assigned to the Armed Forces for agricultural issues."¹⁰⁹

International Community

An IMF delegation arrived in Honduras on April 27. They met with the economic team of the Xiomara administration and discussed among other things, "sustainable growth, the external debt, inflation and the crisis of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE)".¹¹⁰ Concluding their visit a day later, the IMF delegation expressed that they "will remain open and available to accompany the government of Xiomara Castro in the implementation of its social and economic program".¹¹¹

104 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cofadeh-logra-suspension-condicional-de-la-pena-para-victima-de-policias/>

105 <https://www.expedientepublico.org/violaciones-a-derechos-humanos-empanan-labor-de-entes-de-seguridad-en-honduras/>

106 <https://confidencialhn.com/policia-nacional-asume-control-de-penitenciaria-nacional-de-tamara/>

107 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/12/desmilitarizacion-en-carceles-comienza-a-paso-lento-y-sin-garantias-de-detener-violencia/>

108 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/director-de-carcel-de-tamara-facilito-amas-vestimenta-sicarios-que-liberaron-el-porky-YL728427>

109 <https://confidencialhn.com/csj-declara-inconstitucional-pcm-que-facultaba-a-ffaa-manejar-4-mil-millones-de-lempiras-para-el-manejo-del-programa-de-desarrollo-agricola-en-honduras/>

110 <https://proceso.hn/analizan-inflacion-deuda-externa-y-crisis-energetica-en-primer-dia-del-fmi-en-honduras/>

111 <https://proceso.hn/fmi-dispuesto-a-apoyar-a-presidenta-hondurena-en-programa-social-y-economico/>

Also this month, "Honduras, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Finance, submitted a formal request to join CAF-Development Bank of Latin America".¹¹²

US

Foreign Minister Enrique Reina thanked the outgoing US chargé d'affaires Anne Colleen Anne Hoye for her support in fighting corruption in Honduras with the Decoration of the Civil Order "José Cecilio del Valle" in the Grade of "Commander".^{113 114} After a five-year break, the US has an ambassador again in Honduras. On April 7, Laura Farnsworth Dogu arrived in Honduras.^{115 116} President Xiomara later met with her on at least two occasions.^{117 118} Some feared that this renewed US attention also signified an attempt by the US to bring the Xiomara administration on line.¹¹⁹ One possible instance of this was a statement of solidarity with Israel, which has been one of the strongest allies of JOH.¹²⁰ A week later, the Xiomara administration published another statement, this time denouncing the deadly attacks by Israeli state security forces on Palestinian protesters.¹²¹

Radio Progreso commented on the renewed US interest in Honduras. "It is true, then, that there is a need to support us. But it can never be at the cost of being trapped in the current stormy international geopolitics in which we will be left like a little paper boat, adrift and without direction. The leaders of international politics have the enormous task of taking advantage of our territory and the recognition that the government has in the international community, but it is a formidable opportunity to exercise our sovereign decisions and defend the principle of self-determination of the peoples."¹²²

At the end of the month, Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina visited the US for a so-called Strategic Dialogue between the two countries. "Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya and Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina launched the United States-Honduras Strategic Dialogue. Vice President Kamala Harris proposed this Strategic Dialogue during her meeting with President Xiomara Castro on January 27, following the President's inauguration. Yesterday's Strategic Dialogue, the first in a planned series of meetings between our governments, advances joint priorities on economic recovery; fostering anti-corruption and good governance; improving human rights protections and reducing gender-based violence; and ensuring humane management of irregular migration while addressing its root causes."¹²³ On April 27, "[t]he Secretary of National Defense, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, met this Wednesday with the Ambassador of the United States (USA), Laura F. Dogu to reaffirm ties of military cooperation and friendship, with whom he also discussed progress in the fight against drug trafficking".¹²⁴ A day

112 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-presenta-solicitud-para-ingresar-al-caf-banco-de-desarrollo-de-america-latina/>

113 <https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1511483405854195716>

114 <https://tiempo.hn/honduras-condecora-a-colleen-hoye-de-eeuu/>

115 <https://twitter.com/usembassyhn/status/1511862366526447622>

116 <https://proceso.hn/embajadora-de-eeuu-visita-a-empresarios-del-bazar-del-sabado/>

117 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/embajadora-laura-fansworth-xiomara-castro-estados-unidos-honduras-reunion-B17390470>

118 <https://proceso.hn/embajadora-de-eeuu-se-reune-con-presidenta-castro-para-abordar-temas-de-economia-y-crisis-energetica/>

119 <https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-muestra-una-confusa-politica-internacional-entre-su-discurso-y-sus-posturas/>

120 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-condena-los-actos-terroristas-que-violentan-los-derechos-humanos-del-pueblo-de-israel/>

121 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/honduras-condena-ataque-de-israel-en-contra-de-palestinos-durante-celebracion-del-ramadan-HG7549867>

122 <https://radioprogreso.hn/net/np/en-las-turbulentas-aguas-de-la-geopolitica/>

123 <https://www.state.gov/u-s-honduras-strategic-dialogue/>

124 <https://proceso.hn/autoridades-de-honduras-y-eeuu-sostienen-reunion-en-el-despacho-de-defensa-nacional/>

later, the US ambassador met with representatives of the Honduran business sector organized in COHEP.¹²⁵

EU

The German embassy visited a protest camp organized by MADJ in Pajuiles and Jilamito where inhabitants protest the imposition of hydroelectric projects.^{126 127}

Drug Trafficking

Vice-president Salvador Nasralla proposed the legalization of the cultivation of medicinal cannabis.¹²⁸

On April 7, the former head of the police, Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla”, had his extradition hearing.¹²⁹ The Supreme Court approved his extradition.¹³⁰ El Tigre’s defense appealed the decision.¹³¹ The appeal was dismissed on April 20.¹³² At the end of the month, the plenary of the Supreme Court signed his extradition.¹³³

On April 12, the former Honduran congressman Fredy Nájera faced the next hearing in the US.^{134 135} US prosecutors presented their evidence for his involvement in drug trafficking.¹³⁶ Proceso Digital reported on the first day: "During the hearing, the name of former Liberal presidential candidate Yani Rosenthal came up, to whom the Sinaloa cartel allegedly gave \$1 million for his campaign, and funds were also given to former President Juan Orlando Hernandez for the same purpose."¹³⁸

InSight Crime published a new article on drug production inside Honduras. "Coca farms and cocaine production camps are proliferating in Honduras, showing that the illicit crop has taken root in the country after years of low-level experimentation. Between January and March this year, authorities have destroyed some 543,000 coca plants, about 11,000 more during all of 2021, when authorities destroyed a record high of 532,000 plants, Proceso Digital reported."¹³⁹

JOH

On April 1, after running out all legal procedures to challenge his extradition, JOH’s possessions were finally seized.¹⁴⁰ The MP seized 30 real estate assets, eight companies, 16 vehicles and 80 financial products.¹⁴¹ Among the properties is a hotel, the most prestigious one in Gracias, Lempira,

125 <https://confidencialhn.com/embajadora-laura-dogu-se-reune-con-sector-privado/>

126 <https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1511010896281280514>

127 <https://twitter.com/MovAmplioHn/status/1511010902065172482>

128 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/10/nasralla-propone-cultivar-cannabis-en-honduras-diputados-apoyan-propuesta/>

129 <https://proceso.hn/el-tigre-comparece-ante-el-juez-a-merced-de-ser-extraditado/>

130 <https://criterio.hn/corte-suprema-de-honduras-da-luz-verde-para-extradicion-de-el-tigre-bonilla/>

131 <https://confidencialhn.com/defensa-de-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-apela-decision-de-juez-que-resolvio-la-extradicion-a-eeuu/>

132 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/pleno-magistrados-ratifica-extradicion-juan-carlos-tigre-bonilla-eeuu-XD7757404>

133 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/magistrados-csj-firman-extradicion-eeuu-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-DL7872849>

134 <https://twitter.com/jeffgerst/status/1512578005113126912>

135 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/04/13/juan-orlando-herandez-vinculado-con-el-cartel-de-sinaloa-en-audiencias-de-fredy-najera/>

136 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/04/13/yani-roenthal-recibio-un-millon-de-dolares-del-cartel-de-sinaloa-a-cambio-de-proteccion-a-cargamentos-de-cocaina/>

137 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/fiscalia-eeuu-fredy-najera-controla-narcopistas-catacamas-olancho-BL7195517>

138 <https://proceso.hn/primer-dia-de-audiencia-a-fredy-najera-revela-tentaculos-del-narcopoder/>

139 <https://insightcrime.org/news/coca-growing-cocaine-production-reach-new-heights-in-honduras/>

140 <https://criterio.hn/joh-hizo-transacciones-financieras-y-constituyo-empresas-con-narcos-revela-el-ministerio-publico-al-incautar-y-asegurar-bienes/>

141 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/aseguramientos-e-incautaciones-contrabienes-de-expresidente-herandez/>

where JOH comes from.¹⁴² "Honduran authorities executed the seizure of several properties held by Ficohsa bank after that financial institution carried out atypical operations, which were requested by the extraditable and alleged drug trafficker Juan Orlando Hernández, from the very battalion where he is being detained."¹⁴³ Additionally, El Pulso reported how JOH illegally ordered the sale of 21 goods seized as part of the investigation into the IHSS corruption case.¹⁴⁴

On April 4, the Ad-Hoc Constitutional Chamber that would hear the appeal filed by the defense of JOH was formed by the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ).¹⁴⁵ The amparo appeal presented was illegal as the extradition order did not contemplate the filing of appeals for legal protection.¹⁴⁶ Nevertheless, the Supreme Court treated it as legal. This raised fear that they could protect JOH after all, but on April 6, the amparo was rejected.¹⁴⁷ Afterwards, it took a long time for all the 15 magistrates to sign the ruling.¹⁴⁸ Only on April 12, all the signatures came together.¹⁴⁹ The next day, the resolution was sent to the Foreign Ministry.¹⁵⁰

JOH was extradited to the US on April 21.¹⁵¹ Hondurans celebrated his departure.¹⁵² US Attorney General Merrick B. Garland commented on the extradition. "Hernández is charged with participating in a corrupt and violent drug-trafficking conspiracy to facilitate the importation of tons of cocaine into the United States from 2004 to 2022. As is charged in the indictment, Hernández abused his position as President of Honduras from 2014 through 2022 to operate the country as a narco-state."¹⁵³ ¹⁵⁴ Already on April 22, JOH, virtually, faced court in the US for the first time.¹⁵⁵ The court set the initial hearing for May 10 and determined that JOH has to await trial in prison.¹⁵⁶ His wife, Ana García, indicated that JOH's legal team was preparing "a bail package" so that he could defend himself in freedom during his trial.¹⁵⁷

JOH's legal team soon made negative headlines going after journalists "The journalist, Milton Benítez, director of the digital media, El Perro Amarillo, confirmed to C-Libre that he was sued in the United States for the exercise of his profession. However, he considers that "the truth cannot be sued". Benítez, better known as El Perro Amarillo, was sued in a Manhattan court for the alleged crime of defamation against private detective Ángel Martínez, defender of former President Juan Orlando Hernández and who, according to an AFP publication, is claiming a compensation of US\$20 million. The complaint also covers the president of the National Congress, Luis Redondo."¹⁵⁸

As a consequence of JOH's case, "[t]he congressman of the Libertad y Refundación Party (Libre), Jari Dixon Herrera stressed (...) that Honduras can no longer continue with the Attorney General of

142 <https://elibertador.hn/2022/04/01/conozca-hotel-incautado-a-exgobernante-herandez/>

143 <https://lph.news/nacionales/autoridades-aseguran-propiedades-a-banco-ficohsa-tras-movimiento-de-bienes-de-extraditable-juan-orlando-herandez/>

144 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/03/joh-ordeno-vender-ilegalmente-21-bienes-asegurados-por-mega fraude-al-ihss/>

145 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/sala-constitucional-recurso-amparo-juan-orlando-herandez-extradicion-joh-KC7105581>

146 <https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/magistrados-siguen-sin-firmar-ratificacion-de-extradicion-de-joh/>

147 <https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-declara-inadmisibile-amparo-para-evitar-extradicion-de-juan-orlando-herandez/>

148 <https://proceso.hn/dos-firmas-y-dos-votos-particulares-dilatan-proceso-de-extradicion-de-joh/>

149 <https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/completas-las-firmas-en-expediente-de-extradicion-de-joh/>

150 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/resolucion-extradicion-joh-cancilleria-narcotrafico-KY7515639>

151 <https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/dia-historico-extraditado-joh/>

152 <https://criterio.hn/adios-joh-el-grito-de-honduras-para-celebrar-la-extradicion-de-juan-orlando-herandez/>

153 <https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-merrick-b-garland-delivers-remarks-announcing-charges-against-juan>

154 <https://hn.usembassy.gov/juan-orlando-herandez-former-president-of-honduras-indicted-on-drug-trafficking-and-firearms-charges-extradited-to-the-united-states-from-honduras/>

155 <https://radioprogressohn.net/aplicacion-movil/hoy-sera-presentado-joh-ante-la-justicia-de-nueva-york/>

156 <https://www.univision.com/noticias/estados-unidos/expresidente-juan-orlando-herandez-comparece-tribunal-de-nueva-york-21238>

157 <https://confidencialhn.com/defensa-legal-de-herandez-prepara-un-paquete-de-fianza-para-que-pueda-defenderse-en-libertad-indica-ana-garcia/>

158 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1475-director-de-el-perro-amarillo-confirma-que-ha-sido-demandado-por-decir-la-verdad>

the Republic, Óscar Chinchilla, for having links with the dictatorship of the soon to be extraditable Juan Orlando Hernández. According to the parliamentarian, there is information linking the Attorney General of the Republic, with illegal transactions linked to the dictatorship of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez".¹⁵⁹ On April 18, "[t]he president of the Extradition Commission, Ramón Barrios, advanced that one of his recommendations for the final report of the committee is to develop the political trial against the Attorney General, Óscar Fernando Chinchilla (2016-2023), for his actions far from the role conferred to him by the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras."¹⁶⁰ On this regard, Criterio reported on the need of breaking with criminal structure left behind by JOH in Honduras.^{161 162}

Varia

Amnesty Law

Five criminalized students protesting the murder of Keyla Martínez in a police station in 2021 now benefited from the Amnesty Law and had the charges dropped against time. COFADEH had accompanied their case.¹⁶³ On April 22, "four human rights defenders and 23 political opponents, criminalized in the municipality of Las Vegas, Santa Barbara, by the regime of Juan Orlando Hernandez since 2018, will appear at a hearing to request the application of political amnesty".¹⁶⁴

And there are many more hoping for amnesty, as their criminalization continues. "Although publicly Francisco Herrera, current rector of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, UNAH, says he is interested in ending the criminalization processes against students of this educational institution, in practice it seems mere delays that aim to sustain a dark period of the previous rector Julieta Castellanos, as evidenced by leaving in limbo a request for a meeting to address the case through a note sent to him by ASOPODEHU and the Justice for the Peoples Law Firm, which has been stamped as received for more than a month. At other times he argues that he does not have the power in his hands."¹⁶⁵

On April 27, "[f]ive letters of release were obtained by the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH), in favor of a group of university students criminalized for the alleged crime of usurpation".¹⁶⁶

The Amnesty Law was also applied again in a dubious case this month. The former mayor of San Pedro Sula, Rodolfo Padilla Sunseri, was accused among other things of embezzlement. A previous court denied his case the application of the Amnesty Law, but in a second try, he was now successful.¹⁶⁷

159 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-ya-no-puede-tener-un-fiscal-general-vinculado-a-la-dictadura-de-joh-recalca-jari-dixon-herrera/>

160 <https://criterio.hn/comision-de-extradicion-solicitar-juicio-politico-contr-fiscal-oscar-chinchilla/>

161 <https://criterio.hn/joh-fue-extraditado-pero-dejo-montada-una-estructura-criminal-en-las-instituciones-del-estado/>

162 <https://criterio.hn/corte-fiscalia-partidos-politicos-y-ffaa-principales-instituciones-que-deben-reestructurarse-por-complicidad-criminal/>

163 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/amnistia-a-manifestantes-que-exijian-justicia-para-keyla-martinez/>

164 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/27-opositores-politicos-criminalizados-comparecen-a-audiencia-para-solicitud-de-aplicacion-de-amnistia/>

165 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/especial/defensa-de-la-protesta-social-en-la-unah/item/3363-rector-de-la-unah-demuestra-no-tener-voluntad-para-terminar-procesos-de-criminalizacion-contr-estudiantes>

166 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/con-estudiantes-del-curc-suman-81-beneficiarios-de-amnistia-politica/>

167 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/10/justicia-beneficia-con-amnistia-al-exalcalde-sampedrano-padilla-sunseri/>

Congress

The new Congress had a rough start in January with two competing leadership groups and more (see previous monthly monitors). Things have improved a lot, but some challenges remain as highlighted by Criterio this month. "More than two months after the installation of the new National Congress under the leadership of the deputy of the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH), Luis Redondo, laws continue to be sanctioned, repealed and approved without recording the votes of the 128 congressmen due to the lack of a verification system. With a show of hands, Honduran congressmen conduct legislative sessions in the absence of an electronic voting system, so it is not possible to determine with veracity and transparency if the requirements to approve, sanction or repeal laws have been met."¹⁶⁸

Migration

Over 4300 Honduran children have been deported back to Honduras in the first three months, almost 1200 of them were unaccompanied.¹⁶⁹ "The deportation of Hondurans, mainly from the United States and Mexico, increased by 84.2% in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the same period of 2021, the Consular and Migration Observatory of Honduras reported".¹⁷⁰

On April 20, "[a]t the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Migration held in Panama, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic, Enrique Reina, formally requested the U.S. authorities to renew the Temporary Protected Status (TPS), to benefit the migrant community residing in the United States."¹⁷¹ Reina was later also in the US, where he reiterated the request to have Hondurans having fled from Eta and Iota granted TPS.¹⁷²

The UNHCR called on Honduras this month "to legislate to prevent internal displacement, a phenomenon that has "multiple causes" and has forced 250,000 people to leave their homes in recent years, who must be protected"¹⁷³. "The Honduran Red Cross (HRC) made a call (...) to recognize and respect the rights and specific needs of migrants concentrated in Danlí and Trojes, eastern Honduras."¹⁷⁴ Also this month, the US published a fact sheet on its Strategy for Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Central America.¹⁷⁵

Budget 2022

The Xiomara administration announced a reform to the JOH-era budget for this year. The new government faces a dire financial situation with 50% of the budget going to service debt.¹⁷⁶ FOSDEH's Mauricio Díaz Burdett called on the administration to additionally reallocate resources as part of the reformulation.¹⁷⁷ On April 7, president Castro signed her first executive decrees

168 <https://criterio.hn/congreso-nacional-continua-aprobando-leyes-sin-sistema-para-consignar-votos-de-diputados/>

169 <https://criterio.hn/mas-de-4300-ninos-hondurenos-han-sido-retornados-en-lo-que-va-de-2022/>

170 <https://confidencialhn.com/en-un-842-aumento-la-deportacion-de-migrantes-hondurenos-en-primer-trimestre/>

171 <https://confidencialhn.com/cancilleria-hondurena-solicita-renovacion-del-tps-para-beneficiar-a-la-comunidad-migrante-en-ee-uu/>

172 <https://criterio.hn/solicitan-tps-para-hondurenos-desplazados-por-huracanes-que-migraron-a-ee-uu/>

173 <https://confidencialhn.com/acnur-insta-a-honduras-a-legislar-para-protger-a-desplazados-por-violencia/>

174 <https://proceso.hn/cruz-roja-pide-reconocer-necesidades-y-derechos-de-migrantes-varados-en-oriente-de-honduras/>

175 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/19/fact-sheet-update-on-the-u-s-strategy-for-addressing-the-root-causes-of-migration-in-central-america/>

176 <https://www.expedientepublico.org/honduras-gobierno-prepara-fuertes-medidas-ante-crisis-financiera/>

177 <https://confidencialhn.com/el-gobierno-de-castro-debe-reasignar-el-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-fosdeh/>

(PCMs), one of them on the reformulation of the current budget.¹⁷⁸ The budget was increased by 51 billion Lempiras and will strengthen key ministries such as health and education.¹⁷⁹ Several state bodies, 17 in total, will be abolished.¹⁸⁰ Two days later, Congress approved this new budget.^{181 182}

ContraCorriente published an in-depth analysis of the new budget including some problems, especially the fact that military spending remained as high as ever.¹⁸³ Pasos de Animal Grande agrees. "In 2021, the Ministry of Defense exceeded its budget expenditure by almost 872 million lempiras because it did not execute the 8,464 million 949,206 lempiras approved by the National Congress but L.9,336,149,156. And in the first days of this month and for 2022, the deputies validated and approved the L.9,336,149,156,156 that it executed the previous year."¹⁸⁴

The latter also criticized the reformulated budget from a human rights perspective. "In the general budget of the Republic only 0.069 percent is destined for institutions that must attend to victims of human rights violations, a meager amount of 247 million 674 thousand 512 lempiras compared to the expenditure assigned to the Secretariat of Security which totals 7 billion 850 million 251 thousand 535 lempiras, which leaves doubts about the strengthening of the protection of fundamental rights, which President Xiomara Castro announced in her campaign promises before becoming president."¹⁸⁵

Criterio reported that the reformulated budget included 15 million Lempiras as part of the Financial Services of the Central Administration (SFAC) which are controlled by president Xiomara Castro herself.¹⁸⁶ Finance Minister Rixi Moncada clarified this. "It is FALSE that there is a Confidential Item in the 2022 Budget. All expenditures are subject to accountability. There are no secrets."¹⁸⁷ Criterio later published an overview of the different views on the budgetary item.¹⁸⁸

Poverty

According to the National Institute for Statistics, poverty reached 74% and extreme poverty 53.4% in 2021.¹⁸⁹

The price of basic goods has increased by 68 Lempiras in the first three months of 2022.¹⁹⁰ The basket of basic goods costs more in Honduras than a minimum wage.¹⁹¹ According to Honduran authorities, poverty has reached some 7 million Hondurans.¹⁹² The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) warned of "worsening" food insecurity in Honduras, a situation that affects 2.6

178 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1512276166190657539>

179 <https://confidencialhn.com/ejecutivo-enviara-al-congreso-nacional-la-reformulacion-del-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-para-su-aprobacion/>

180 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/gobierno-xiomara-crea-nueva-estructura-poder-ejecutivo-HL7184832>

181 https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1512383265537200128

182 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/aprobada-reformulacion-del-presupuesto-general/>

183 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/13/diputados-gestionaran-proyectos-sociales-tras-aumento-desmesurado-del-16-al-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica/>

184 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3359-segun-datos-oficiales-en-la-misma-ruta-presupuestaria-para-militares-y-policias-que-en-2021>

185 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/contexto/item/3358-menos-del-uno-por-ciento-en-el-presupuesto-general-de-la-republica-para-instituciones-que-atenden-victimas-de-violaciones-a-derechos-humanos>

186 <https://criterio.hn/mas-de-1-15-mil-millones-seran-administrados-por-xiomara-castro-para-refundar-honduras/>

187 <https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-finanzas-senala-que-es-falso-que-en-el-presupuesto-modificado-2022-se-haya-aprobado-una-partida-confidencial/>

188 <https://criterio.hn/partida-especial-deja-a-discrecionalidad-millonarios-fondos-al-no-ser-consignados-en-sectores-concretos/>

189 <https://confidencialhn.com/persiste-la-extrema-pobreza-en-honduras-con-un-cierre-de-53-4-en-2021/>

190 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/10/cohep-asegura-que-el-precio-de-la-canasta-basica-aumento-68-lempiras/>

191 <https://proceso.hn/adquirir-la-canasta-basica-en-honduras-requiere-mas-del-salario-minimo-asevera-asociacion-del-consumidor/>

192 <https://proceso.hn/sag-asegura-que-7-millones-de-hondurenos-están-en-línea-de-pobreza/>

million people in the country.¹⁹³ CESPAD presented some pointers on how to tackle the food crisis in Honduras.¹⁹⁴

"Seventy percent of rural women in Honduras live in poverty and only 14% of these (280,000) are owners of the land, peasant organizations said Wednesday, who demanded the Government equal access to resources. The spokeswoman for the Articulation of Women of the Via Campesina Honduras and the Council for the Integral Development of Peasant Women, Wendy Cruz, told Efe that of the two million women living in rural areas, only 14% (280,000) have land titles."¹⁹⁵

Remittances sent to Honduras were 22% higher in the first three months of 2022 compared to 2021.¹⁹⁶

COVID-19

Honduras approved a fourth vaccine shot for front line workers.¹⁹⁷

Labor Rights

In trilateral discussions, an increase of 5%-8% of the minimum wage was agreed.¹⁹⁸ On April 28, Congress repealed the Hourly Employment Law, a great victory for Honduran workers.¹⁹⁹ ²⁰⁰

"Libertad y Refundación (Libre) deputy, Juan Barahona, warned employers today, Thursday, that they would be committing an illegality by firing workers who worked under the recently repealed Hourly Employment Law."²⁰¹

Public Health

A great victory was one in the Supreme Court this month.²⁰² "Law for Social Protection was declared unconstitutional 7 years after it was challenged in courts. The law was the framework to privatization the public healthcare system including implementing co-payments & sending patients to private (instead of public) services".²⁰³

Libre activists held a protest outside the University Hospital on April 6 demanding the replacement of its director. According to the Health Minister, the protesters were just calling themselves member of Libre and were protesting for their own benefit hoping they would get employed under a new Libre director.²⁰⁴ The nominations for work in the public health sector have been highly politicized for years. Helga Codina, the president of the Medical Association of Honduras, denounced: "We are under a completely corrupt health system, but changes are being made in order to achieve governance, which today is a mess and we must pay attention to it."²⁰⁵

193 <https://confidencialhn.com/la-onu-alerta-del-empeoramiento-de-la-crisis-alimentaria-en-honduras/>

194 <https://cespad.org.hn/2022/04/27/puntos-para-gestionar-la-actual-crisis-alimentaria-en-honduras/>

195 <https://www.elpais.hn/2022/04/20/solo-el-14-de-las-mujeres-rurales-tienen-tierras-en-honduras-y-70-son-pobres/>

196 <https://proceso.hn/las-remesas-enviadas-a-honduras-suben-el-22-entre-enero-y-marzo-de-2022/>

197 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-aplicara-cuarta-dosis-de-vacuna-anticovid-a-personal-sanitario/>

198 <https://confidencialhn.com/fijan-el-nuevo-aumento-al-salario-minimo-en-honduras/>

199 <https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1519787629067350016>

200 <https://criterio.hn/congreso-extingue-ley-que-menoscabo-derechos-de-los-trabajadores-en-honduras/>

201 <https://confidencialhn.com/es-illegal-despedir-a-trabajadores-tras-derogacion-de-la-ley-de-empleo-por-hora-juan-barahona/>

202 <https://criterio.hn/justicia-de-honduras-declara-inconstitucional-la-ley-marco-de-proteccion-social/>

203 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1511542280166932482>

204 <https://confidencialhn.com/colectivos-de-libre-abren-portones-del-hospital-escuela-y-exigen-el-cambio-de-autoridades/>

205 <https://confidencialhn.com/los-nombramientos-en-la-secretaria-de-salud-no-deben-ser-por-politica-sino-por-capacidad-presidenta-del-cmh/>

Back in March 2020, an executive decree allowed the employment of frontline health workers in response to the pandemic. But in December 2021, their contracts run out. Congress has taken measures to safeguard the health workers, but the problems remain. "Suyapa Figueroa, congresswoman for the Salvador Party of Honduras (PSH) and former president of the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH), assures that she has received many letters from health personnel in which they express that their contracts for professional services have been terminated since the end of December. In view of this, the congresswoman indicates that, although it was irresponsible of the Hernández government to appoint health personnel by means of decrees without having the budgetary support, the current government should review these appointments of health personnel before they are canceled. (...) Ligia Ramos, congresswoman for the same party, agrees with this. Ramos states that in the repeal of the PCM issued at the end of 2021, the deputies of the Libre Party and the PSH applied a safeguard so that this repeal would not affect frontline staff. "I know that the position of the Secretary of Health is to give them appointment and agreement to the health personnel, then we do not know what is happening with the dismissals to the health personnel. It could be that there are people in middle management who are making these decisions to make the government look bad," Ramos said."²⁰⁶

On April 19, the Medical Association of Honduras (CMH) threatened with a general strike. They gave the Xiomara administration 48 hours to confirm the payment of outstanding salaries, going back to the JOH regime, as well as to hand out permanent contract to front line medical workers (see above). The Secretary of Health reiterated their previous commitment to have a delegate from the CMH join their working group on the issue of permanent contracts.^{207 208} Doctor and PSH congressman Carlos Umaña denounced that the JOH regime disappeared a list of names of those doctors who were employed with external funding. Additionally, he clarified: "The funds are available at the Finance [department]. The problem is that a thorough investigation of each case has to be done. Especially in rural areas many were hired as doctors without having graduated as such, without having their degree."^{209 210} The 48 hours passed without any clear result and on Monday 24, the CMH announced that their protest actions would continue.²¹¹ Later that week, doctor and deputy of the National Congress, Carlos Umaña, said that payment of the outstanding wages would be made and the respective appointments would be delivered to the front line workers.²¹² A day later, Secretary of Health José Manuel Matheu announced that the outstanding wages of 3400 health workers would be paid and 9000 jobs would be created.²¹³ On April 29, both the CMH and the Xiomara administration announced that they came to an agreement.²¹⁴

At the end of the month, the Xiomara administration, through the Council of Ministers, decided to declare a sanitary emergency in the health sector allowing them to directly purchase medicine for the hospital network.²¹⁵

206 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/13/sin-pago-y-en-medio-de-despidos-personal-de-primer-linea-contr-a-el-covid-19-en-honduras-continua-sin-nombramientos/>

207 <https://confidencialhn.com/colegio-medico-convoca-a-asambleas-informativas-por-incumplimiento-en-nombramientos-y-falta-de-pago/>

208 <https://proceso.hn/gremio-medico-dice-gobierno-puede-resolver-problematika-en-24-horas-sesal-pide-se-nombre-representante/>

209 <https://www.radiohrn.hn/carlos-umana-denuncia-irregularidad-sector-salud-administracion-joh>

210 <https://proceso.hn/medicos-seguiran-con-asambleas-informativas-este-jueves/>

211 <https://proceso.hn/colegio-medico-anuncia-que-asambleas-informativas-continuaran-esta-semana/>

212 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/en-las-proximas-horas-pagaran-a-medicos/>

213 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/aplicacion-movil/unas-9-mil-plazas-se-entregaran-esta-semana-afirma-secretario-de-salud/>

214 <https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-y-colegio-medico-logran-acuerdos-de-nombramientos-y-pago-de-salarios-atrasados-y-suspenden-asambleas-informativas/>

215 <https://proceso.hn/para-realizar-compras-directas-de-medicamentos-gobierno-declara-emergencia-en-sector-salud/>

Violence

Libre councilman Juan Carlos Vega was shot dead in Danlí in April 4.²¹⁶

The homicide rate the three first month of 2022 is 5.3% higher than last year according to UNAH's Violence Observatory.²¹⁷

Education

Minister of Education Daniel Sponda called for a return to in-person classes by April 18.²¹⁸ UNICEF and UNESCO welcomed this.²¹⁹ On April 16, Sponda confirmed again, that children would return to class two days later.²²⁰ On the day itself, schools reopened, but just some 3000, while many remained closed.²²¹ "After more than two years of paralyzed educational system, there is still a notable resistance to the return to classes in Honduras, being the main arguments the lack of structure, lack of conditioning of the institutes, added to the obstacle of the covid pandemic and the negligence of parents and teachers."²²² A day later, the Secretary of Education claimed that over 70% of schools had reopened.²²³ A week later, the teachers' union COPEMH said that it is only 42% in urban areas and 63% in rural areas had opened.²²⁴

The new budget (see above) includes 150 million Lempiras to improve school infrastructure. It is estimated that of the 17'500 schools, 12'000 have problems with drinking water and electricity.²²⁵ In May, a new school food program will start with the aim of serving 1.5 million children.²²⁶

Elections

At the beginning of the month, Congress held hearings on an electoral reform to implement a two-round presidential election.^{227 228}

What has been an open secret in Honduras for a long time, was also confirmed this month by US prosecutors, JOH committed electoral fraud in 2013 and 2017 (see above).²²⁹ This led to calls to investigate the former magistrates at the now defunct Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE).²³⁰

Electricity

ContraCorriente reported on the situation of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE). "The debt of the National Electric Energy Company (ENEE) reaches about 75,000 million lempiras. Since 2016, with the arrival of Energy Company Honduras (EEH), a division emerged in the

216 <https://confidencialhn.com/de-varios-impactos-de-bala-acribillan-a-regidor-municipal-de-danli-el-paraiso/>

217 <https://confidencialhn.com/un-total-1144-muertes-violentas-en-el-pais-registra-ov-unah/>

218 <https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/secretaria-de-educacion-ordena-volver-a-clases-presenciales-a-partir-del-lunes-18-de-abril/>

219 <https://confidencialhn.com/unicef-y-unesco-aplauden-el-retorno-de-las-clases-presenciales-en-honduras/>

220 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/15/a-clases-presenciales-el-lunes-18-de-abril-afirma-el-titular-de-educacion/>

221 <https://proceso.hn/tibio-regreso-a-clases-presenciales-este-lunes-en-honduras/>

222 <https://criterio.hn/falta-de-estructura-pandemia-y-negligencia-de-padres-y-docentes-empanan-retorno-a-clases/>

223 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/19/mas-del-70-por-ciento-de-centros-educativos-retornaron-a-clases-presenciales/>

224 <https://proceso.hn/solo-42-de-poblacion-educativa-urbana-regreso-a-clases-presenciales-segun-dirigencia-magisterial/>

225 <https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/destinan-150-millones-para-reparar-centros-educativos/>

226 <https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/en-mayo-entregaran-merienda-escolar/>

227 <https://tiempo.hn/socializacion-segunda-vuelta-electoral-en-honduras/>

228 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/04/19/diputados-impulsan-proyecto-de-ley-para-aprobar-segunda-vuelta-electoral/>

229 <https://criterio.hn/juan-orlando-herandez-cometio-fraude-electoral-en-2013-y-2017-fiscalia-de-nueva-vork/>

230 <https://criterio.hn/exigen-investigar-y-enjuiciar-a-quienes-perpetraron-los-fraudes-electorales-de-2013-y-2017/>

company's union. Despite this, the two factions agree that the state-owned company can be rescued."²³¹ The debt became a hot topic again at the end of April, when the head of the Energy Secretariat, Erick Tejada, denounced that the thermal company Luz y Fuerza de San Lorenzo S.A. de C.V. (Lufussa) threatened the government to suspend energy supply due to the debt.²³²

And Light at the End of a Month

COPINH launched a new community radio in Guachipilín, La Paz.²³³

231 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/04/28/dos-sindicatos-el-negocio-de-la-eeh-y-una-empresa-estatal-quebrada/>

232 <https://criterio.hn/gobierno-acusa-que-generador-de-energia-lufussa-amenaza-con-suspender-suministro-ante-millonaria-deuda/>

233 <https://criterio.hn/copinh-lanza-radio-comunitaria-lenca-en-guachipilin-la-paz/>

Another Month at the Honduras Forum Switzerland

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-

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-

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