

# *Another Month in Honduras...*

## Human Rights Monitor – July 2022

The assassination of Berta Cáceres has been dealt on various occasions in Honduran courts. In June the sentencing of David Castillo finally took place and the case even entered the Dutch legal system. This month, another important aspect of the case, corruption dealt in the Gualcarque Fraud case, went to trial. July also saw the devastating second anniversary of the forced disappearance of the four Garifuna men and leaders from the Garifuna community of Triunfo de la Cruz. Two social leaders, Edward Iván Cáceres and Ubodoro Arriaga Izaguirre were murdered this month. But there was also some good news. A judge dropped the usurpation charges against members of indigenous defenders from Marcala and the Radio Progreso correspondent Sonia Pérez. A key topic this month continued to be the selection of the new Supreme Court judges which should take place in September. After weeks of debates, in Congress, but also more broadly, a new framework for the selection of the Nominating Board for the judges was approved on July 19. It is now up to the seven mandated organizations to appoint their representatives to the board. July also saw another high-level multiple murder. Among the victims were the 19-year old son of former president Pepe Lobo, the 23-year old nephew of former general Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, and the nephew of Nationalist congressman Walter Chávez. 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

"This week the national and international organizations that make up the Follow-up Committee for Compliance with the Judgments and Resolutions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Honduras will hold a series of meetings with various government agencies and the United Nations, with the aim of encouraging the Honduran State to move forward in complying with the structural reparation measures that have been ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) in the judgments issued against it."<sup>1</sup>

A debate about the future of the current CONADEH commissioner Blanca Izaguirre started at the end of the month. "After an investigation that lasted nearly three months, the Justice and Human Rights Commission of the National Congress concluded that the election and swearing in of the current head of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (Conadeh), Blanca Izaguirre, was carried out amid irregularities and, although it did not explicitly request her dismissal, it suggested the repetition of the entire process."<sup>2</sup> Izaguirre presented herself as the victim of political prosecution.<sup>3</sup>

## Assassinations

Teacher and labor leader Edward Iván Cáceres Salgado was murdered in his house in El Bálsamo, Yoro.<sup>4</sup>

COFADEH denounced the murder of lawyer and founder of the National Resistance Front (FNRP) after the 2009 coup, Ubodoro Arriaga Izaguirre. He was shot dead in a restaurant in Marcala.<sup>5 6</sup>

## Attacks, Criminalization and Harassment

"The law firm Estudios para la Dignidad warned of threats made against human right defender Fredy García by employees of the company Minerales de Occidente S.A., a subsidiary in Honduras of the transnational Aura Minerals."<sup>7</sup>

On July 9, the CNTC campesino organization denounced another incursion by armed men intimidating and threatening organized women farmers in Las Galelias, Jutiapa, Atlantida.<sup>8</sup>

"The peasant families grouped in the Camarones cooperative, located in the community of Quebrada de Arena, in Tocoa Colón, were victims of threats, intimidation and attempted displacement from their land by seven cattle ranchers, who intend to evict them."<sup>9</sup>

1 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/mesa-de-seguimiento-presenta-petitorio-a-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-para-avanzar-en-cumplimiento-de-sentencias-dictadas-por-la-corte-idh/>

2 <https://criterio.hn/abierta-posibilidad-de-destituir-a-blanca-izaguirre-como-titular-del-conadeh/>

3 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6162-comision-del-cn-recomienda-repetir-la-eleccion-de-conadeh-pero-la-titular-denuncia-un-ataque-por-papel-en-junta-nominadora>

4 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/duelo-el-cofadeh-lamenta-la-perdida-de-manera-violenta-del-maestro-y-miembro-del-copemh-edward-caceres/>

5 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/exigen-justicia-por-el-vil-asesinato-de-ubodoro-arriaga-uno-de-los-fundadores-del-fnrp/>

6 <https://twitter.com/EnriqueReinaHN/status/1553197785364717568>

7 <https://criterio.hn/amenazan-a-defensor-por-proteger-fuente-de-agua-en-riesgo-por-minera-en-copan/>

8 <https://twitter.com/hondurassol/status/1545784533529788417>

9 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1512-ganaderos-de-tocoa-colon-amenazan-con-desplazar-a-familias-campesinas-de-la-cooperativa-camarones>

Human rights defender and director of MASSVIDA, German Chirinos, denounced persecution by unknown men on a motorcycle.<sup>10</sup>

On July 29, a judge dropped the charges against members of indigenous defenders from Marcala and the Radio Progreso correspondent Sonia Pérez. They were accused of usurpation. OACNUDH welcomed the ruling.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, just outside the court, the vice-president of the Indigenous Lenca Council, Martin Gómez Vásquez, was threatened with death.<sup>12</sup>

## Indigenous Peoples

It's been two years since the forced disappearance of the four Garifuna men and leaders from the Garifuna community of Triunfo de la Cruz.<sup>13</sup>

"Lideni is a Lenca person; one of the main Indigenous peoples of Honduras. A young girl, Lideni and her family were not allowed to return to their home in Tierras del Padre after her mother was issued a restraining order. Lideni eventually returned, but three attempts at eviction have made her fearful of losing her land, gardens, crops, and friends all over again."<sup>14</sup> On July 12, the MP announced to appeal a ruling favoring a former Property Institute official who had handed over Garífuna land to a third party.<sup>15</sup>

"Members of the Preventive Council of the Tolupán Tribe of San Francisco de Locomapa call on the Honduran population to support their struggle to defend their forests. María Ángela Murillo, a member of the tribe of San Francisco de Locomapa, in the municipality of Yoro, denounced that the previous administration of the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) granted a forest management plan that is still in force in favor of the timber businessman Wilder Domínguez and he will execute it at any moment."<sup>16</sup>

"The coordinator of the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (Ofraneh), Miriam Miranda, denounced the intensification of ecocide in Tela Bay through the filling of the Los Micos lagoon for the construction of housing complexes."<sup>17</sup>

"The leaders of the Lenca indigenous community of El Volcán, in Santa Elena, La Paz, would be at serious risk because the mayor and activists of the National Party are promoting violence to forcibly establish a mountain hotel, as denounced in social networks by Rosalío Vásquez García, president of the Indigenous Council, this July 28, 2022."<sup>18</sup> The hotel would affect the ancestral Cueva Pintada, a sacred meeting place for the indigenous people who live in the area.<sup>19</sup>

10 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1518-en-motocicleta-le-dan-persecucion-a-defensor-de-los-derechos-humanos-de-choluteca>

11 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1553234978175172608>

12 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1521-amenazan-de-muerte-a-martin-gomez-vicepresidente-del-consejo-indigena-nueva-palestina>

13 <https://radioprogreso.net/aplicacion-movil/se-cumplen-dos-anos-de-la-desaparicion-de-garifunas-de-el-triunfo-de-la-cruz/>

14 <https://contracorriente.red/en/2022/06/22/how-an-indigenous-lenca-child-was-kicked-off-her-land-by-a-real-estate-company/>

15 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/se-apela-resolucion-que-favorece-a-exfuncionario-del-ijp-acusado-de-titular-irregularmente-tierras-ancestrales-del-pueblo-garifuna/>

16 <https://criterio.hn/planes-de-manejo-forestal-en-detrimiento-del-pueblo-tolupan-siguen-vigentes/>

17 <https://criterio.hn/garifunas-denuncian-ecocidio-en-laguna-de-los-micos-en-la-bahia-de-tela/>

18 <https://pasosdeanimalgrande.com/es-co/component/k2/item/6161-indigenas-denuncian-que-alcalde-y-activistas-del-partido-nacional-alientan-la-violencia-contra-las-comunidades-para-imponer-un-hotel-de-montana>

19 <https://criterio.hn/denuncian-imposicion-de-hotel-de-montana-que-afectaria-cueva-pintada-en-santa-elena-la-paz/>

## FPIC

COPINH met with government officials and US legal experts to discuss the importance of indigenous rights, especially the right to be consulted according to international standards.<sup>20</sup>

## The Case of Berta Cáceres

COPINH's Berta Zúniga spoke with EFE:Verde about their legal battle against the Dutch development bank FMO (see last month). "The responsibility of all the people or entities that facilitated the commission of this crime must be determined, These banks make an exercise of colonialism, publicly (the FMO) always defended the DESA company, criminalized COPINH and took part in the conflict unleashed by the Agua Zarca project".<sup>21</sup> COPINH further denounced that DESA was able to present land belonging to the indigenous Lenca community as collateral for its loan from FMO.<sup>22</sup> COPINH further demanded that the State of Honduras canceled the concession for the Gualcarque River in commemoration of Berta Cáceres.<sup>23</sup>

On July 25, the Gualcarque Fraud case went to court.<sup>24</sup> The national and international organizations that make up the Qualified Observation Mission in the Berta Cáceres Case followed the hearings.<sup>25</sup> Honduras Now offered again a daily coverage of the proceedings. "The trial began at approximately 10 am. During the first few hours, human rights observers were not permitted inside the small courtroom that is inadequate for a trial with six accused, each represented by at least one defense attorney. The first few hours were also not made available online to the public. Without public observation, the judge sanctioned attorneys Ritza Antúnez and Juan Carlos Sánchez, the defense team representing David Castillo, for violating the court's code of conduct. The attorneys requested to change the date of a previous hearing and misrepresented their reasons for doing so. The sanction is valued at two monthly minimum wages. David Castillo's defense attorney Sánchez requested that the judge not allow human rights organizations into the trial claiming that they misinform about the legal process. The trial was rescheduled for Wednesday, July 27 at 2:00 pm because attorney Héctor Durán representing two of the accused, Luis Eduardo Espinoza Mejía and José Mario Carbajal Flores, did not attend the trial because of a medical issue."<sup>26</sup> On July 27, the trial was again rescheduled to August 1.<sup>27</sup>

The national and international organizations that make up the Qualified Observation Mission in the Berta Cáceres Case will follow hearings.

## Freedom of Expression and Journalists

"In its latest country report, the OAS Office of the Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression highlights its concern about the climate of hostility towards journalism in Honduras, which is heightened by

20 <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1547746143655776256>

21 <https://efeverde.com/familia-berta-caceres-busca-sentar-precedente-demanda-fmo/>

22 <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1546919883467853826>

23 <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1547332668852953088>

24 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/sentencia-condenatoria-se-solicitará-contraseis-involucrados-en-el-caso-fraude-sobre-el-gualcarque/>

25 <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/americas/honduras/international-mission-will-observe-fraud-in-the-gualcarque-case>

26 <https://www.hondurasnow.org/day-one-the-fraud-on-the-gualcarque-trial-begins/>

27 <https://twitter.com/COPINHHONDURAS/status/1552398304041996299>

attacks on social networks, obstacles to journalistic work, legal reforms, threats, aggression and stigmatization, among other aspects."<sup>28</sup>

"Using irregular mechanisms of persecution against journalists and media outlets that denounce anomalies committed in the Municipality of Danlí, El Paraíso, the municipal mayor of that city, Abraham Kafatti, ordered the cable company, ISG, to take the television channel, Aviva TV, off the air."<sup>29</sup>

"In a violent eviction carried out by the National Police at the facilities of the Health Region of Choluteca, police officers assaulted the social communicator, Joel Gómez, an employee of the Televida television channel, to prevent him from broadcasting live, when several demonstrators were arrested."<sup>30</sup>

## Violence against Women

The Center for Women's Rights (CDM) denounced the murder of at least 149 women in the first half of 2022.<sup>31</sup> Only 20 cases that are in the process of prosecution.<sup>32</sup>

Security Vice-Minister Julissa Villanueva denounced the failures to properly investigate femicides in Honduras, especially the lack of autopsies.<sup>33</sup> A poll by ERIC-SJ brought also to light that a disturbing 30% of respondents believe that women are mainly to blame for femicides.<sup>34</sup> Women's rights organization, meanwhile, have called for a long time for the approval of the Shelter Home Law, but it is stuck in Congress.<sup>35</sup>

"The Ministry of Health (Sesal) launched this Tuesday the creation of the National Committee for the Surveillance of Maternal Mortality, a phenomenon that has shown great concern, since the figures registered so far reveal an increase of more than 100%."<sup>36</sup>

## Protection Mechanism

A simmering conflict with the human rights defender protection mechanism erupted this month with two simultaneous press conference, one by civil society organizations, journalists and prosecutors, the other by the Minister of Human Rights Natalie Roque. The former denounce a lack of political will by the later to implement important reforms. Roque rejects the attacks as misinformed and highlights how audits have brought to light various irregularities under the previous administration which need to be dealt with. She also promised a report on the Protection Mechanism for the end of the month.<sup>37</sup> During the press conference, Roque also presented Carmen Escobar<sup>38</sup> as the new

28 <https://proceso.hn/relatoria-destaca-clima-hostil-para-libertad-de-expresion-en-honduras/>

29 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1514-alcalde-de-danli-ordena-sacar-del-aire-canal-de-television-atv>

30 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/alertas/agresion-fisica/1516-en-desalojo-violento-policia-nacional-agrede-a-comunicador-social-de-televida>

31 <https://proceso.hn/ong-denuncia-el-asesinato-de-149-mujeres-en-honduras-en-lo-que-va-de-2022/>

32 <https://criterio.hn/autoridades-en-honduras-no-ponen-freno-a-muertes-violentas-de-mujeres-en-2022-catrachas/>

33 <https://confidencialhn.com/ante-ausencia-de-autopsias-no-esperen-calidad-y-celeridad-en-investigacion-de-femicidios-senala-julissa-villanueva/>

34 <https://criterio.hn/sistema-patriarcal-y-machista-incide-en-culpabilizar-a-las-mujeres-por-femicidios/>

35 <https://criterio.hn/ante-alza-de-femicidios-y-violencia-contr-la-mujer-exigen-refugios-para-las-sobrevivientes-y-sus-hijos/>

36 <https://confidencialhn.com/mortalidad-materna-aumento-mas-100-en-2021-respecto-al-ano-anterior-sesal/>

37 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-desmiente-crisis-en-mecanismo-de-proteccion/>

38 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/21/primera-defensora-de-derechos-humanos-en-asumir-la-direccion-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion/>

director of the Protection Mechanism fulfilling one of the ten recommendations by civil society organizations to have one of their representatives lead the mechanism.<sup>39</sup>

On July 30, OACNUDH called for the strengthening of the Protection Mechanism. "OHCHR underscores the importance of achieving a constructive and permanent exchange that contributes to the strengthening of a public policy for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, with the effective participation of civil society. The Office reiterates the need to provide the National Protection System with all the financial, human and technical resources necessary to fulfill its mandate and its willingness to continue providing technical assistance to the Honduran State in the fulfillment of its international human rights obligations and responsibilities."<sup>40</sup>

## Extractive Industries

"Five months and 22 days into government, open-pit mining remains an unaddressed promise by President Xiomara Castro's administration. In her government plan, Castro promised: "to eliminate open-pit mining concessions that threaten the nation's natural heritage and displace communities". While in her inaugural speech she ordered: "No more open pit mining permits or exploitation of our minerals, no more concessions in the exploitation of our rivers, watersheds, our national parks and cloud forests". The leader of the Municipal Committee in Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, Reynaldo Domínguez, made a call to retake President Castro's speech regarding the suspension of projects that involve open pit mining and that hurt the life of the communities. (...) The Guapinol defender called on the authorities of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MiAmbiente), the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF) and the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (Inhgeomin) to solve the environmental problems in the area."<sup>41</sup> "The lawyer of the law firm Estudios para la Dignidad, Víctor Fernández, demanded coherence in the extractivist policy to the administration of President Xiomara Castro, after the announcement Honduras "free of mining" only remained in a press release. The demand was made in the framework of the presentation of the nullity action against the environmental licenses granted to the company Minerales de Occidente (Minosa), without Free and Informed Prior Consultation (FPIC) to the Maya Chortí indigenous community of Azacualpa in La Unión, Copán."<sup>42</sup>

On July 20, campesino groups marched to the Presidential palace presenting a proposal to the Xiomara administration aiming to resolve the conflict in the Bajo Aguán.<sup>43</sup> <sup>44</sup> Government and campesino representatives agreed to start a dialogue.<sup>45</sup>

## ZEDES

At the beginning of the month, Jeff Ernst wrote for The Guardian about the resistance to ZEDE Próspera on Roatán. "Legal analysts consulted by the Guardian suggested that in order to avoid a

<sup>39</sup> <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/gobierno-cede-direccion-del-mecanismo-de-proteccion-a-sociedad-civil/>  
<sup>40</sup> <https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-al-fortalecimiento-del-sistema-nacional-de-proteccion-para-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos/>  
<sup>41</sup> <https://criterio.hn/en-guapinol-piden-a-presidenta-castro-cumplir-promesa-y-prohibir-mineria-a-cielo-abierto/>  
<sup>42</sup> <https://criterio.hn/coherencia-en-politica-extractivista-exigen-al-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro/>  
<sup>43</sup> <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/154974493688624256>  
<sup>44</sup> <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/campesinos-del-aguan-piden-incidencia-de-presidenta-para-recuperar-el-valle/>  
<sup>45</sup> <https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-y-campesinos-acuerdan-instalar-mesas-de-dialogo-para-solucionar-conflicto-agrario-en-el-bajo-aguan/>



lawsuit, the government could either strike an agreement with investors, or challenge whether the Zedes were created in strict accordance with the now repealed law. “I emphatically believe that the repeal is good, but it does not end here,” said Gustavo Solórzano, legal adviser for Cohep, the country’s largest chamber of commerce. “Now the state has to review these concessions and it would be best for the state to verify if all the legal requirements were met and if not, proceed to cancel the concessions delivered.” Meanwhile, the residents of Crawfish Rock remain vigilant. “We have our eyes open,” said Connor. “We don’t trust no one.”<sup>46</sup> ZEDE Próspera, meanwhile, continues on the offensive stating that it won’t accept its derogation.<sup>47</sup> At the end of the month, Criterio even reported the following: “This time the head of the Secretary of State in the Office of Social Development (Sedesol), José Carlos Cardona Erazo, denounced in his social networks the inauguration of a medical trial clinic in Próspera, prior to its replication in the United States.”<sup>48</sup>

“The State of Honduras is preparing to face imminent international lawsuits after the repeal of the Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDE) that lacerate the sovereignty and national territory and that intend to continue under ruses that were put in place during its illegal creation. The head of the Secretariat of Transparency and Fight against Corruption, Edmundo Orellana, confirmed that the State is proposing a series of strategies through the competent institutions to face future demands from the regimes.”<sup>49</sup> Honduras Now also reported on the reactions in Honduras on the threat of an international lawsuit.<sup>50</sup>

The derogated ZEDEs in Honduras come with a so-called Committee for the Adoption of P, such as his former presidential advisor and fugitive to Nicaragua, Ebal Díaz. Another interesting figure is Arnaldo Castillo Figueroa, former Minister of Economic Development. He invested in Ever Green S.A. which belonged to sentenced drug trafficker Geovanny Fuentes Ramírez.<sup>51</sup>

Links to the ZEDEs ideology are cryptocurrencies. This month, Santa Lucia made headlines in this regard. “People can pay for a slushie with crypto in the streets of “Bitcoin Valley,” a project in the Honduran tourist enclave of Santa Lucia through which the country has entered the digital currency trend. The small town in the mountains, 20 minutes from the capital Tegucigalpa, has become a bitcoin city.”<sup>52</sup> <sup>53</sup> The Central Bank of Honduras (BCH) reiterated that they do not support the use of cryptocurrency in Honduras.<sup>54</sup>

## Hydroelectricity

The Patuca III hydroelectric dam was promised to bring sustainable energy to Honduras. But it mostly brought environmental damage, a huge debt and it only produces half as much energy as promised.<sup>55</sup>

46 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/05/honduras-land-rights-fight-crypto-colonialists>

47 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/14/zede-honduras-prospera-reta-a-gobierno-castro-y-lanza-campana-por-television/>

48 <https://criterio.hn/abren-centro-para-ensayos-clinicos-de-terapia-genica-en-zede-prospera/>

49 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-plantea-estrategias-ante-inminentes-demandas-por-parte-de-regimenes-zede>

50 <https://www.hondurasnow.org/honduran-commissioner-against-zedes-discusses-zede-prosperas-request-for-cafta-consultations%ef%bf%bc/>

51 <https://criterio.hn/nucleo-intimo-de-juan-orlando-herandez-estaria-en-el-camp-de-las-derogadas-zede/>

52 <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/honduras-launches-bitcoin-valley-tourist-town-santa-lucia-2022-07-29/>

53 <https://www.laprensa.hn/premium/santa-lucia-primera-ciudad-hondurena-usara-bitcoin-monedas-digital-KI9291804>

54 <https://proceso.hn/el-bch-recuerda-que-no-respalda-el-uso-de-criptoactivos-en-honduras/>

55 <https://confidencialhn.com/patuca-iii-solo-esta-generando-57-megavatios/>

## Mining

The MP has requested the mayor of Tocoa, Adán Fúnez, to give testimony linked to the mining permit to Ecotek.<sup>56</sup>

## Corruption and Its Enemies

Transparency International found in a new report that Honduras loses 12.5% of its GDP to corruption.<sup>57</sup>

The Xiomara administration announced at the beginning of June that they would investigate NGOs created under the JOH regime as some of them had been used to steal government money.<sup>58</sup> <sup>59</sup> El Herald and La Prensa uncovered an investigation case involving the Armed Forces. "Among the irregularities that this journalistic team found, it was evidenced that for the construction of the airfield of Río Amarillo, in Copán, valued at 335,715,925.86 lempiras, 43,789,033.81 corresponded to the Sales Tax (ISV), from which the military were exempt."<sup>58</sup> The Forest Conservation Institute (IFC) denounced that 43 million Lempiras were stolen under its former leadership.<sup>59</sup>

The Supreme Audit Court (TSC) investigated another case of corruption from the JOH-era involving the misappropriation of funds meant for social programs.<sup>60</sup> More than 48 million Lempiras were stolen.<sup>61</sup>

A key topic this month continued to be the selection of the new Supreme Court judges which should take place in September. The main challenge is the approval of a new framework for the selection. On July 6, the responsible congressional commission received a proposal by the executive.<sup>62</sup> A day later, OACNUDH published a press release reiterating the importance of such a new legal framework.<sup>63</sup> Defensores en Línea dedicated its weekly editorial to the Supreme Court election in Honduras including important historical background on its setup, the previous control over it by the National and Liberal Party and the complete dominance by the National Party, i.e. JOH since 2012. "The rules of the game must change. It is an ethical obligation to at least reduce the margin of discretion of the nominating board and reform the election mechanism within Congress. Merit, suitability, transparency, independence and humanity must be at the forefront. There is no loss in that. The U.S. Embassy, the European Union and the United Nations must know how to interpret these wishes and aspirations of the Honduran people, who have suffered a level of impunity of over 95% in the last 15 years. They should never again vulgarly take the side of the criminal coup perpetrators. The ungovernability of Honduras is not caused by the impoverished sectors nor by the forces of resistance to the narco neoliberal model nor by Mel Zelaya or Salvador, this inability to

56 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1553213493075140609>

57 <https://criterio.hn/honduras-pierde-mas-de-dos-mil-lempiras-cada-segundo-por-causa-de-la-corrupcion-transparencia-internacional/>

58 <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/tsc-insta-a-investigar-corrupcion-militar-en-construccion-de-aerodromos-FK8927241>

59 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/11/icf-denuncia-desvio-de-43-millones-de-lempiras-en-la-administracion-pasada/>

60 <https://confidencialhn.com/tsc-descubre-indicios-de-estafa-en-millonario-proyecto-a-cargo-de-ongs/>

61 <https://criterio.hn/mas-de-148-millones-malversados-en-estafa-de-ongs-fantasma-con-contratos-de-construccion-de-letrinas/>

62 <https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-recibe-iniciativa-del-poder-ejecutivo-para-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

63 <https://oacnudh.hn/oacnudh-llama-a-la-adopcion-de-un-nuevo-marco-legal-para-la-junta-nominadora-que-garantice-una-eleccion-de-magistrados-y-magistradas-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia-transparente-y-basada-en-meritos/>

manage conflicts in democracy is the sole responsibility of the elite that took over the judiciary, the media and the churches that decimate the power of the people."<sup>64</sup>

On July 11, ContraCorriente gave an update on the framework governing the election. "The predominant law proposal to regulate the functioning of the Nominating Board that will select the 45 candidates for CSJ magistrates is the one presented by the Executive Branch, assures Deputy Ramón Barrios, president of the Legislation and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the National Congress. However, this Commission is still merging elements of three proposals: the Executive's and those presented by Congressmen Fátima Mena and Rassel Tomé."<sup>65</sup> Congressional President Luis Redondo, meanwhile, proposed that Hondurans with an internationally renowned profile should make up the nomination committee.<sup>66</sup> He even presented a list of such luminaries.<sup>67 68</sup> He also presented a new voting system which publicly registers the vote of all members of Congress.<sup>69</sup>

Congress finally discussed the reform on July 14 and 15.<sup>70 71</sup> To give the deliberation enough time, an extra session on Saturday was added.<sup>72</sup> The UN, OACNUDH and the US embassy applaud the efforts by Congress.<sup>73</sup> Even critical observers of the new administration welcome the changes. "We must recognize that @Congreso\_HND is showing a parliamentary and democratic height that has not been seen for a long time with respect to a debate and deliberation of a law."<sup>74</sup> On Saturday, 14 out of the 28 articles were approved and the discussion continued on Monday, July 18.<sup>75 76</sup> A last sticking point was Article 15 and the question if party leaders should be allowed to be part of the nominating committee.<sup>77 78</sup>

Around midnight on July 18, the new framework was approved, by 73 votes against 44.<sup>79</sup> Congressional president Luis Redondo promised "the most transparent selection of magistrates in the country's history".<sup>80</sup> Given previous iterations this may be true while at the same time there are still problems with the election process. UFERCO's Luis Santos did not mince words: "Today more than ever a CICIH is needed in Honduras. Our political class is incapable, by itself, of generating substantial changes that will help dismantle the CORRUPTION NETWORKS that operate from and for the State. This has been evidenced by the approval of the JN [Selection Committee] law."<sup>81 82</sup> One key point is that Congress maintained the politicization of the election, political leaders are still able to be members of the committee.<sup>83 84</sup> At the same time, human rights lawyer Joaquín Mejía highlighted: "I believe that it is also not possible to demonize the permanence to a political party because the problem is not to belong or not to a political party, the problem is that when they reach

64 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-eleccion-de-la-corte/>  
65 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/11/ramon-barrios-sobre-eleccion-de-csj-un-cambio-sustancial-es-que-hoy-todos-los-abogados-que-tengan-los-requisitos-se-van-a-autopropner/>  
66 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1546684624352546816](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1546684624352546816)  
67 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/12/redondo-propone-lista-de-notables-que-acompanen-eleccion-de-magistrados/>  
68 <https://tiempo.hn/rechazo-propuesta-notables-en-junta-nominadora/>  
69 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1546677858567090176](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1546677858567090176)  
70 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1547402353455816704](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1547402353455816704)  
71 <https://criterio.hn/propuesta-de-notables-para-integrar-junta-nominadora-empantana-camino-para-eleccion-de-nueva-corte/>  
72 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1548148035657404416](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1548148035657404416)  
73 <https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1548044361421639681>  
74 <https://twitter.com/LawyersforHR/status/1548446453885849605>  
75 <https://confidencialhn.com/congreso-nacional-aprobo-14-de-los-28-articulos-para-ley-organica-de-la-junta-nominadora-el-lunes-continuan/>  
76 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/16/congreso-nacional-suspende-sesion-tras-lograr-consenso-para-que-la-corte-suprema-siga-en-manos-de-los-partidos-politicos/>  
77 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/18/aprobar-o-eliminar-inciso-b-del-articulo-15-expondra-la-vinculacion-politica/>  
78 <https://radioprogreso.hn.net/portada/polemica-por-requisitos-para-postularse-a-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>  
79 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1549272407386488832](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1549272407386488832)  
80 <https://confidencialhn.com/le-garantizamos-al-pueblo-la-seleccion-de-magistrados-mas-transparente-en-la-historia-del-pais-luis-redondo/>  
81 [https://twitter.com/Luis\\_Santos\\_C/status/1549585089369194497](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1549585089369194497)  
82 <https://proceso.hn/mas-que-nunca-urge-una-cicib-en-honduras-dice-fiscal-santos-tras-aprobacion-de-ley-de-jn/>  
83 <https://elbertador.hn/2022/07/19/inconformidad-y-opinion-dividida-deja-nueva-ley-de-seleccion-judicial/>  
84 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/19/nueva-ley-de-junta-nominadora-deja-abierto-el-camino-para-que-partidos-politicos-controlen-la-corte-suprema/>

the Supreme Court of Justice they make decisions, adopt sentences and resolutions to defend the interests of those parties and not to defend rights and guarantee the supremacy of the Constitution."<sup>85</sup> The new law also has some important improvements.<sup>86</sup> What is also true from a political perspective, many of those criticizing the process, such as the business lobby, have stayed quiet in the past under the JOH regime. But the Xiomara administration came to power with the promise of transformative change.<sup>87</sup>

UN Resident Coordinator Alice H. Shackelford called the reform an important step even if it did not fulfill 100% of what was expected.<sup>88</sup> A day later, she additionally welcomed the new transparency that comes with the recently approved reform. But she also highlighted the need for citizen oversight for the next steps.<sup>89</sup> <sup>90</sup> OACNUDH published a press release on the selection process of the new Supreme Court judges. "On the occasion of the approval of the law of the Nominating Board for the nomination of candidates to the Supreme Court of Justice, OACNUDH recalls the importance of this selection process for the strengthening of judicial independence and the rule of law in Honduras. The Office considers that the approved text incorporates important advances in terms of transparency and accountability, gender equity, measurable selection criteria and addressing conflicts of interest, from the perspective of judicial independence as a basis for guaranteeing human rights. The Office notes, however, that the elimination in the debate of the proposed new disqualifications in Article 15, as well as the requirement to justify the exercise of certain legal representations in Article 19, may enable undue interference in the process. Therefore, OACNUDH urges the organizations and institutions that make up the Nominating Board and the National Congress to effectively apply the new safeguards that the law incorporates, through an exhaustive evaluation of the candidacies according to the criteria of merit, suitability, capacity and integrity, and by guaranteeing active scrutiny and oversight by civil society and the citizenry."<sup>91</sup>

On July 29, Luis Redondo, congressional president, officially summoned the seven organizations to appoint their representatives to the Nominating Board for the selection of candidates for magistrates of the Supreme Court.<sup>92</sup> <sup>93</sup> <sup>94</sup> The board has to be setup by latest August 31.<sup>95</sup> US ambassador Laura F. Dogu also commented on the election. ""The Government is working in that area (corruption), but the Supreme Court, is part of this, it is important for the Honduran people to have a transparent and reliable process and it is also important for foreign investors," the diplomat emphasized."<sup>96</sup>

## **The Onslaught against the Anti-Corruption Bodies**

On June 1, "[t]he administrator of the Presidential House of Honduras, Karen Suyapa Recinos García, confirmed that the previous authorities destroyed all the public information that had been

85 <https://criterio.hn/intereses-de-los-grupos-de-poder-prevalen-en-proceso-de-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema/>

86 <https://criterio.hn/intereses-de-los-grupos-de-poder-prevalen-en-proceso-de-seleccion-de-la-nueva-corte-suprema/>

87 <https://confidencialhn.com/segun-silvia-ayala-nueva-ley-de-junta-nominadora-no-favorece-a-las-elites-de-poder/>

88 <https://proceso.hn/aprobacion-de-la-ley-de-junta-nominadora-no-es-un-100-lo-que-se-esperaba-pero-es-un-paso-alice-shackelford/>

89 <https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1550106293007831040>

90 <https://confidencialhn.com/la-separacion-de-poderes-en-eleccion-de-la-corte-suprema-es-fundamental-para-confiar-en-instituciones-alice-shackelford-representante-de-la-onu-en-honduras/>

91 <https://oacnudh.hn/nueva-ley-de-la-junta-nominadora-oacnudh-insta-a-una-aplicacion-efectiva-de-las-salvaguardas-que-la-nueva-ley-incorpora-para-fortalecer-el-proceso-seleccion-de-la-csj/>

92 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1553115218762502151](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1553115218762502151)

93 <https://criterio.hn/congreso-convoca-a-organizaciones-de-la-junta-nominadora-a-acreditar-a-sus-representantes/>

94 <https://twitter.com/aliceshackel/status/1553404969386229760>

95 <https://tiempo.hn/junta-nominadora-conformada-antes-31-agosto-2022/>

96 <https://proceso.hn/es-importante-un-proceso-transparente-y-confiable-para-eleccion-de-nueva-csj-remarca-embajadora-de-eeuu/>

generated in that state agency in the last governmental periods".<sup>97</sup> This also means that the repeal of the Law of Classification and Public Documents, known as the Secrecy Law, has on the one hand led to more requests for access to information, but on the other side, the responses were mostly null and void, since almost all the information had been destroyed."<sup>98</sup>

"A decree approved by the National Congress on May 27 granted a special status within the Public Prosecutor's Office to the Special Prosecutor's Unit Against Corruption Networks (Uferco) which, according to pro-government deputies, gave it independence and greater investigative capacities. However, the obstacles for this prosecutor's office to present fiscal requirements have had nothing to do with submitting to the authorization of the Attorney General, but rather with the lack of structural reforms and technical support and the approval of impunity pacts."<sup>99</sup> UFERCO's Luis Santos called for the repeal of at least three more JOH-era decrees which undermine the fight against corruption.<sup>100</sup> Proceso Digital reported that a draft document from the UN came to light which contains the condition for the installation of a UN-backed anti-corruption mission in Honduras. "The Participants recognize that it would be necessary to adopt all reforms that would allow the future international mechanism to fight impunity and corruption to conduct independent investigations as well as to become a private prosecutor. Likewise, it would be necessary, inter alia, the reform of the normative framework that regulates the crime of illicit enrichment, including the abrogation of Decree 116-19; the lifting of the secrecy concerning the status of trusts; and regulatory reforms that improve the investigation and prosecution instruments of the Public Ministry, including the approval of the necessary instruments for the establishment of the figure of effective collaboration."<sup>101</sup>

## Congress

In May, a reform strengthened UFERCO. Among other things, this allows them to investigate corruption at Congress. On July 1, UFERCO made use of that and started such an investigation.<sup>102</sup> A corruption case involving the previous Congress, the MACCIH-era Corruption Network, went to a hearing this month.<sup>103</sup> Almost 20 million Lempiras meant for social projects were stolen.<sup>104</sup> The court decided to bring the case to trial which will start on August 5.<sup>105 106</sup>

## Hermes

An appeals court reopened an important MACCIH-era corruption case, the Hermes case. JOH bought journalist for positive coverage.<sup>107</sup> According to the Appeals Court which reopened the case,

97 <http://www.clibrehonduras.com/cl/index.php/portada-alertas/1509-confirman-que-el-gobierno-anterior-destruyo-toda-la-informacion-publica-de-la-casa-presidencial>

98 <https://criterio.hn/solicitudes-de-informacion-aumentaron-tras-derogarse-la-ley-de-secretos/>

99 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/18/uferco-sigue-limitada-a-pesar-de-estatus-especial-otorgado-por-el-congreso-nacional/>

100 [https://twitter.com/Luis\\_Santos\\_C/status/1552509844984315905](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1552509844984315905)

101 <https://proceso.hn/onu-pide-en-borrador-para-instalacion-de-la-cicoh-tener-independencia-en-las-investigaciones/>

102 <https://proceso.hn/uferco-realiza-investigaciones-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

103 <https://confidencialhn.com/programan-audiencia-contradiputado-y-cuatro-exdiputados-por-saqueo-de-fondos-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

104 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/manana-miercoles-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputado-por-presuntas-operaciones-fraudulentas-de-ongs-en-el-congreso-nacional/>

105 [https://twitter.com/Luis\\_Santos\\_C/status/1552452544387072002](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1552452544387072002)

106 <https://proceso.hn/medidas-distintas-al-diputado-chedrani-y-4-excongresistas-por-manejo-de-recursos-del-legislativo/>

107 <https://criterio.hn/sala-de-apelaciones-reactiva-caso-hermes-que-sacude-gremio-de-periodistas-sobornados-por-joh/>

only the involved authorities should be persecuted, but not the journalists, Criterio sees this differently.<sup>108</sup> UFERCO filed a motion for reconsideration in the Hermes corruption case.<sup>109</sup>

## Pandora

The Pandora corruption case involving high-level politicians wrote another interesting chapter. An accused and former protected witness, Fernando José Suárez, was caught in El Salvador, but moments before he was brought to Honduras, it was made public that Spain gave him political asylum stopping the extradition to Honduras.<sup>110 111</sup>

## IHSS

A preliminary hearing against 14 accused in the IHSS corruption case was meant to take place this month.<sup>112 113</sup> But then it was postponed to August 1.<sup>114</sup>

## Mobile Hospitals

The MP requested the return of over 100 million Lempiras from Axel Gamaliel López Guzmán, the man behind the mobile hospitals corruption case who resides in the US.<sup>115 116</sup>

## State Security Forces

President Xiomara reacted to various acts of violence at the beginning of the month. "We are firmly fighting inherited insecurity. This Wednesday, together with the National Police and the Security Secretariat, we will launch in Santa Barbara the Community Police program that will reach thousands of communities in the country. I condemn murders and massacres."<sup>117</sup> It builds on Citizen Security Boards in all 198 municipalities.<sup>118</sup> While the idea behind community policing is welcomed, there was some criticism regarding its implementation. "In an interview with Criterio.hn, Mejia said that the current curriculum to be implemented in the Technical Police Institute (ITP) already speaks of community policing with a human rights approach. Mejia believes that there is no point in training police with a community vision and a human rights approach if these same police officers then go to work in the national police, a hierarchical, militarized institution that is still linked to organized crime."<sup>119</sup> Radio Progreso later reported that for the reform to work a real clean-up inside the institution is needed.<sup>120</sup> The Xiomara administration also announced some changes to the police leadership.<sup>121</sup>

108 <https://criterio.hn/opinion-de-corte-de-apelaciones-sobre-caso-hermes-no-libra-de-potencial-enjuiciamiento-a-periodistas/>

109 <https://twitter.com/UFERCO1/status/1549975536004464641>

110 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/12/capturan-en-el-salvador-a-implicado-en-caso-pandora-espana-le-da-asilo/>

111 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/12/espana-impidio-extradicion-a-honduras-del-cerebro-en-corrupcion-pandora/>

112 <https://confidencialhn.com/mp-solicitar-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-para-14-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss/>

113 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-solicitar-auto-de-apertura-a-juicio-para-14-implicados-en-desfalco-de-158-millones-de-lempiras-del-ihss/>

114 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/tribunal-reprograma-para-el-1-de-agosto-audiencia-preliminar-la-audiencia-preliminar-por-desfalco-multimillonario-en-el-ihss/>

115 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-solicita-privacion-definitiva-de-dominio-y-retorno-al-pais-de-mas-de-100-millones-de-lempiras-asegurados-a-axel-lopez-en-estados-unidos/>

116 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/27/fiscalia-pide-a-ee-uu-confiscar-cuatro-millones-de-dolares-a-axel-lopez/>

117 <https://twitter.com/XiomaraCastroZ/status/1543729239471673346>

118 <https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-y-autoridades-policiales-realizan-lanzamiento-de-las-mesas-de-seguridad-ciudadana/>

119 <https://criterio.hn/analistas-creen-que-policia-comunitaria-a-largo-plazo-no-tendra-el-efecto-que-se-busca/>

120 <https://radioprogressohn.net/portada/policia-comunitaria-sera-efectiva-solo-si-existe-una-verdadera-depuracion-policial/>

121 <https://tiempo.hn/anuncian-cambios-en-la-estructura-de-la-policia-nacional/>

CESPAD reported on various problems with the investigation into the murder of public prosecutor Karen Almendarez last May.<sup>122</sup> The Security Ministry suspended a commission general for irregular purchases worth 20 million Lempiras.<sup>123</sup> "The Public Prosecutor's Office executed [on July 29] the definitive deprivation of ownership of 40 assets that belonged to the former general director of the National Police, José Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, who is accused of money laundering."<sup>124</sup>

Reporteros de Investigación published an investigation into the National Anti-Gang Force (FNAMP). They accuse them of operating with false testimonies, fabricated cases and arbitrary executions.<sup>125</sup> <sup>126</sup> <sup>127</sup> Interestingly, just as this investigation was published, the Xiomara administration announced to replace the FNAMP with the Anti-Maras, Pandillas and Organized Crime Police Directorate (Dipamco).<sup>128</sup> <sup>129</sup>

On July 22, police agents demanded from the Xiomara administration to comply with a promised raise.<sup>130</sup> At the end of the month, Police commissioner Gustavo Pacheco informed that at least 300 purged members of the National Police would be reintegrated into the force.<sup>131</sup>

## Post-Electoral Human Rights Violations

The Woman Human Rights Lawyers Network presented an Amicus Curiae in the case of Kevin Pérez, a young man tortured by state security forces as part of the 2017 post-electoral repression. His case, as many more, remain unpunished.<sup>132</sup>

## Assassinations

"Since October 2011, a judicial process has been underway against six police officers accused of the crimes of harassment and abuse of authority against more than twelve citizens of the community of Coyolito, Zacate Grande Peninsula in the municipality of Amapala, Valle, after an illegal and violent eviction. Eleven years later, the Sentencing Court of Nacaome established to carry out the oral and public trial, which will take place on Wednesday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m."<sup>133</sup>

A former DPI agent was sent to pre-trial detention accused of murdering the lawyer José García Herrera on July 17.<sup>134</sup>

## Penitentiary System

On July 4, "six prisoners were killed inside the maximum-security prison "El Pozo" in Santa Barbara. They were detained inside the cell block controlled by the 18th Street gang. The prisons

122 <https://cespad.org/hn/2022/07/03/policia-y-fiscalia-se-tiran-la-pelota-en-investigacion-del-crimen-de-la-fiscal-hondurena-karen-almendarez/>  
123 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/secretaria-seguridad-suspension-comisionado-felix-maldonado-jimenez-compra-irregular-licencias-DF8896731>  
124 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/29/ejecutan-privacion-de-bienes-contras-exjerarca-policia-ramirez-del-cid/>  
125 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/12/escuadron-militar-de-ejecuciones-arbitrarias-en-la-fnamp-y-sicariato-desde-la-pmop/>  
126 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/13/fnamp-horror-torturas-testigos-falsos-siembra-de-evidencia/>  
127 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/14/de-los-falsos-positivos-al-sabotaje/>  
128 <https://confidencialhn.com/gobierno-crea-dipamco-para-contrarrestar-de-forma-integral-al-crimen-comun-y-organizado/>  
129 <https://confidencialhn.com/oficializan-la-direccion-policia-anti-maras-y-pandillas-contras-el-crimen-organizado-dipamco/>  
130 <https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/policias-escala-basica-piden-gobierno-cumplir-promesa-aumento-salarial-AB9223882>  
131 <https://confidencialhn.com/unos-300-policias-depurados-seran-reintegrados-a-sus-labores-este-fin-de-semana/>  
132 <https://twitter.com/reddeabogadas/status/1542985806490599424?s=21&t=PK8rPcgY9wdgACZYaNRn8A>  
133 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/en-agosto-se-realizara-juicio-oral-y-publico-contras-seis-policias-acusados-de-vejamenes-y-abuso-de-autoridad/>  
134 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/ex-agente-de-la-dpi-es-enviado-a-prision-por-suponerlo-responsable-de-muerte-de-profesional-del-derecho-en-sps/>

have been under the control of the Honduran police since March".<sup>135</sup> <sup>136</sup> OACNUDH expressed concerns.<sup>137</sup> One of the inmates murdered was gay. LGBTQ+ organizations denounced that his murder was linked to his sexuality.<sup>138</sup> "At least 24 prisoners have died violently and more than fifty have been injured in a dozen violent incidents that have taken place in the maximum security prison known as "La Tolva" since it was opened in May 2017, according to records of the Departmental Delegation of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (Conadeh) in the eastern department of El Paraíso."<sup>139</sup>

"Honduras' prisons are overcrowded with an overpopulation of at least six thousand people. The capacity of the country's prisons is 15,000; however, there are currently around 21,000 inmates, according to data from the Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture (CPTRT)."<sup>140</sup>

## Militarization

This month's high-profile murder case (see below) was used as an excuse to reinforce the position of the Military Police.<sup>141</sup> <sup>142</sup> Joint patrols of the Military Police and the National Police started on July 22.<sup>143</sup> Criterio also reported that, against their promises, the Xiomara administration increased the budget of the Military Police. "The promise to demilitarize security in Honduras remains a chimera, or at least this is evidenced by the actions of the government of President Xiomara Castro, who despite having promised to take the military off the streets, is doing the opposite by allocating them more resources compared to last year."<sup>144</sup>

The Xiomara administration promised to repeal the JOH-era National Defense and Security Council (CNDS) which gives control over justice and security actors to the presidency.<sup>145</sup> A week later, ConfidencialHN reported that the Council of Ministers was about to ratify the repeal.<sup>146</sup> But then a debate started if Congress should rather repeal the law instead of the Executive.<sup>147</sup>

## International Community

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will invest \$40 million in the Honduran textile, i.e. maquila, sector.<sup>148</sup>

The Honduran congressional president Luis Redondo and his Puerto Rican counterpart Rafael Hernández signed an institutional cooperation agreement.<sup>149</sup>

135 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1544157010496819200>

136 <https://proceso.hn/seis-privados-de-libertad-muertos-en-la-carcel-el-pozo/>

137 <https://twitter.com/OACNUDH/status/1544324608509313026>

138 <https://criterio.hn/crimenes-de-odio-contra-comunidad-lgbti-se-trasladan-a-las-carceles-de-honduras/>

139 <https://proceso.hn/al-menos-24-privados-de-libertad-han-muerto-violentamente-en-la-tolva/>

140 <https://criterio.hn/hacinamiento-en-carceles-de-honduras-alcanza-el-70-a-nivel-nacional/>

141 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/18/la-policia-militar-retornara-a-las-calles-en-apoyo-a-la-seguridad-nacional/>

142 <https://tiempo.hn/ministro-policia-militar-no-ha-sido-sacada-calles/>

143 <https://confidencialhn.com/manana-viernes-la-policia-nacional-y-pmop-inician-operaciones-combinadas/>

144 <https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-aumento-el-presupuesto-de-la-policia-militar-brazo-armado-de-joh/>

145 <https://criterio.hn/xiomara-castro-ordena-mantener-policia-militar-y-promete-derogacion-de-consejo-de-seguridad/>

146 <https://confidencialhn.com/en-consejo-de-ministros-se-preve-ratificar-la-derogacion-del-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad/>

147 <https://criterio.hn/ley-del-consejo-nacional-de-defensa-y-seguridad-debe-ser-extinguido-por-congreso-no-mediante-decreto-ejecutivo/>

148 <https://confidencialhn.com/bid-invest-financia-con-40-millones-de-dolares-al-sector-textil-de-honduras/>

149 <https://confidencialhn.com/presidente-del-cn-y-camara-de-representantes-de-puerto-rico-firman-acuerdo-para-fortalecer-institucionalidad-legislativa/>



Criterio investigated the question why the Xiomara administration had not yet taken up diplomatic and commercial ties with China.<sup>150</sup>

## US

"Over 900 workers from the company building the new US Embassy in Tegucigalpa have occupied the construction site to denounce the illegal labor contract they were forced to sign that waives their rights".<sup>151</sup> The strike went on over various days.<sup>152</sup> <sup>153</sup> On July 25, construction workers demanded to see the US ambassador.<sup>154</sup> They also called on president Xiomara to intervene to ensure that the Honduran labor law is being followed.<sup>155</sup>

The director of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) stayed in Honduras this month.<sup>156</sup> <sup>157</sup> His visit was accompanied by great concern from defenders. "However, their visit is causing concern among land defenders in Honduras due to the ties that the DFC has maintained with extractivist companies in the region. Such was the case with Inversiones de Generación Eléctricas Sociedad Anónima (INGELSA), which intends to impose the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Jilamito River in Arizona, in the department of Atlántida, Honduras. Although the DFC ended up withdrawing the loan it had promised for USD 35.750 million, corresponding to 47.3% of the total capital required -whose total cost was USD 75.561 million- the threat of losing one of the last sources of water for human consumption in the municipality of Arizona remains."<sup>158</sup>

During the last week of July, both US Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas<sup>159</sup> <sup>160</sup> and Cindy H. McCain, US ambassador to the FAO<sup>161</sup> <sup>162</sup> visited Honduras on separate occasions. Additionally, the head of the Armed Forces José Jorge Fortín Aguilar met with the head of SOUTHCOM Laura Richardson in Brazil.<sup>163</sup>

On July 15, a leaked Engel's List made the rounds containing former officials of the Zelaya administration as well as current members of Congress, among them two vice-presidents.<sup>164</sup> <sup>165</sup> According to UFERCO's Luis Santos, ten out of the 15 people listed have faced corruption charges by MACCIH.<sup>166</sup> Libre congressional vice-president Rasel Tomé, who is on the list, claimed that in communication with the US State Department he was told that the list was neither complete nor precise.<sup>167</sup> The timing of the leak, just when Congress was about to approve a crucial piece of

150 <https://criterio.hn/por-que-gobierno-de-xiomara-castro-no-ha-cumplido-con-iniciar-relaciones-diplomaticas-y-comerciales-con-china/>

151 <https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1544702036998078464>

152 <https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1545030558580973568>

153 <https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1551930552659443712>

154 <https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1551583697777876992>

155 <https://twitter.com/adriennepine/status/1553060462723465216>

156 <https://confidencialhn.com/director-del-dfc-llega-a-honduras-para-promover-el-desarrollo-del-sector-privado/>

157 <https://confidencialhn.com/dfc-de-eeuu-comprometida-con-promover-inversiones-sostenibles-en-honduras/>

158 <https://criterio.hn/visita-de-director-de-corporacion-financiera-de-ee-uu-a-honduras-preocupa-a-defensores-del-territorio/>

159 <https://confidencialhn.com/presidenta-xiomara-castro-y-secretario-de-seguridad-de-eeuu-abordan-tps-tema-migratorio-y-el-fortalecimiento-de-relaciones-de-cooperacion/>

160 <https://twitter.com/SecMayorkas/status/1552461513105068033>

161 <https://confidencialhn.com/embajadora-de-eeuu-ante-agencias-de-la-onu-conocera-proyectos-en-honduras/>

162 <https://criterio.hn/estados-unidos-ofrece-ayuda-para-aliviar-el-creciente-costo-mundial-de-los-fertilizantes/>

163 <https://confidencialhn.com/jefe-del-estado-mayor-conjunto-y-ministro-de-defensa-sostienen-importante-reunion-con-el-secretario-de-defensa-de-eeuu/>

164 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1548114043654660096>

165 <https://twitter.com/cnahonduras/status/1547984325517328386>

166 [https://twitter.com/Luis\\_Santos\\_C/status/1548158605706203138](https://twitter.com/Luis_Santos_C/status/1548158605706203138)

167 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/15/lista-engel-filtrada-no-es-completa-ni-precisa-dice-ee-uu/>

legislature (see above under Corruption) also raised suspicion. Among the 15 people on the leaked list was David Castillo, recently sentenced for the murder of Berta Cáceres.<sup>168</sup>

A week later, the State Department published the official update to the List and it still had the same 15 Hondurans on it.<sup>169</sup> The Honduran government "categorically rejected" the list denouncing it as interventionist and politically motivated.<sup>170 171</sup> El Libertador denounced that no "big fish" from the JOH dictatorship made the list.<sup>172</sup> According to Human Rights Minister Natalie Roque, at least three out of the 15 Honduran names on the list should not be there. The IACHR had stated that the right of due process was violated in the case of Enrique Flores Lanza; COFADEH found the case against congressman Edgardo Casaña to be politically motivated; and congressman Rasel Tomé was never found guilty for the alleged acts of corruption stated by the US.<sup>173</sup> At the end of the month, the political opposition presented a request for impeachment, but it was not supported by the necessary 86 votes.<sup>174</sup>

Former president Manuel Zelaya called the publication of the list counterproductive to the bilateral relationship between the US and Honduras.<sup>175</sup> There were various articles on how this would negatively affect the US-Honduran relations.<sup>176 177</sup> But both the Honduran Foreign Minister and the US ambassador to Honduras denied that.<sup>178 179</sup> COFADEH spoke in its weekly radio program with the leader of the Political Organization Los Necios (OPLN), political analyst Gilberto Ríos. The focus of the program was the US-Honduran relationship and the long tradition of US interference. "It should be understood that we are not anti-American because of the long history of relations between our peoples, but what we do not agree with is the interference, in its imperial facet as a government, which has done us so much harm and has not allowed us to develop, because how can we explain 120 years as allies of the United States and we are the poorest country in the continent, questioned the analyst."<sup>180</sup> At the end of the month, the relationship with the US became another chapter richer with the announcement by Manuel Zelaya that the former US ambassador to Honduras, Hugo Llorens, would be an advisor to the Xiomara administration. This is especially noteworthy as he was the US ambassador during the coup d'état against Zelaya himself.<sup>181 182</sup>

## Drug Trafficking

Honduras ranks 10th in the Global Organized Crime Index.<sup>183</sup> Honduran authorities reportedly have destroyed 13 drug labs so far this year. "According to data provided in 2014, six drug laboratories were dismantled; in 2015 and 2018, one in each year; in 2016 and 2017, three were dismantled in

168 <https://twitter.com/COPINHONDURAS/status/1548014621746794496>

169 <https://www.state.gov/reports/section-353-corrupt-and-undemocratic-actors-report-2022/>

170 <https://twitter.com/CancilleriaHN/status/1549923825655189504>

171 <https://criterio.hn/gobierno-de-honduras-rechaza-lista-engel-y-la-cataloga-como-una-politica-injerencista-de-ee-uu/>

172 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/20/ee-uu-libera-engel-otra-vez-sin-peces-gordos-de-la-dictadura/>

173 <https://confidencialhn.com/secretaria-de-derechos-humanos-justifica-3-de-15-casos-mencionados-en-la-lista-engel/>

174 <https://criterio.hn/juicio-politico-contra-rasel-tome-y-casana-no-es-admitido-ante-pumpuneo-de-pn-pl-y-pac/>

175 <https://confidencialhn.com/contraproducente-a-relaciones-bilaterales-considera-manuel-zelaya-la-publicacion-de-lista-engel-por-eeuu/>

176 <https://contracorriente.red/2022/07/22/lista-engel-tensa-las-relaciones-entre-estados-unidos-y-gobierno-hondureno/>

177 <https://confidencialhn.com/lista-engel-agrieta-las-relaciones-entre-honduras-y-eeuu/>

178 <https://proceso.hn/canciller-reina-descarta-que-lista-engel-agriete-la-relacion-entre-honduras-eeuu/>

179 <https://proceso.hn/eeuu-y-honduras-tienen-una-relacion-cercana-senala-embajadora-dogu/>

180 <https://www.defensoresenlinea.com/la-injerencia-de-estados-unidos-en-los-asuntos-internos-de-honduras-es-historica/>

181 <https://ellibertador.hn/2022/07/27/embajador-del-golpe-hugo-llorens-sera-lobista-de-honduras-en-ee-uu/>

182 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/hugo-llorens-exembajador-lobista-honduras-gobierno-xiomara-castro-FX9303979>

183 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-aparece-entre-los-10-paises-mas-criminales-del-mundo/>

each year; in 2019, four; in 2020, a total of 12; in 2021, 20; and this year, 13."<sup>184</sup> According to the Armed Forces, during the last three days of July, they destroyed over 1.3 million coca bushes, four drug laboratories, nurseries and chemical precursors in the department of Colón.<sup>185</sup>

Honduras courts admitted the extradition of José Luis Oliva to the US, but rejected the extradition of Rafael Cáceres Soto to Panama.<sup>186</sup> <sup>187</sup> On July 26, Herlinda Bobadilla was extradited to the US, the second woman extradited for drug trafficking and the 31st Honduran.<sup>188</sup> Criterio reported that even with Herlinda Bobadilla's extradition, their clan is not completely dismantled.<sup>189</sup> Bobadilla face a first judge in the US on July 30.<sup>190</sup>

InSight Crime reported on the role of brokers and US banks in Honduran drug trafficking. "García Torres' case offers a glimpse into how criminal groups like the Atlantic Cartel repatriate profits from the drug trade using brokers and bank accounts in the US. Drug groups receive millions of dollars in illicit cash, and brokers like García Torres are key to separating the funds into smaller chunks that can be wired through US banks accounts or carried home in cash without raising eyebrows. The US banking system is central to this. Drug traffickers often receive cash payments in the United States – the primary destination for Latin America cocaine. Depositing the funds into US accounts provides a legitimate front for transferring and hiding the money. Prosecutors estimate the FBI informant laundered approximately \$2.8 million for the Atlantic Cartel with García Torres' assistance over the course of the US investigation, highlighting the potential for quick financial gains."<sup>191</sup>

The US prosecutors demanded a life sentence for convicted drug trafficker and former Honduran congressman Fredy Najera.<sup>192</sup> The Pro Honduras Network reported that Pepe Lobo and Rosa Elena Bonilla de Lobo received \$400'000 from a security firm of an alleged partner of JOH.<sup>193</sup> JOH's cousin and former police Mauricio Hernández Pineda declared himself not guilty this month. His case will go to trial in the US on January 23, 2023.<sup>194</sup> <sup>195</sup> Lastly, El Tiempo reported that the Honduran lawyer José Tercero Midence may join JOH's legal team.<sup>196</sup>

## JOH

JOH's defense team announced on July 1 that the US authorities shared the first batch of evidence with them, 1000 GB of data.<sup>197</sup> <sup>198</sup> A member of the defense team also visited Honduras this month.<sup>199</sup> Shortly afterwards, they announced that they would soon present an application for bail.<sup>200</sup> At the same time, "[t]he U.S. Attorney's Office managed that the judge of the Southern District

184 <https://confidencialhn.com/13-narcoslaboratorios-han-sido-destruidos-este-ano-en-honduras/>

185 <https://proceso.hn/ffaa-totaliza-operacion-en-colon-con-casi-un-millon-de-arbustos-de-coca-narcoslaboratorios-y-viveros/>

186 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/01/conceden-la-peticion-de-extradicion-del-senor-de-los-cielos-hacia-eeuu/>

187 <https://confidencialhn.com/csj-deniega-solicitud-de-extradicion-del-ciudadano-hondureno-rafael-caceres-soto-pedido-por-el-gobierno-de-panama/>

188 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-extradita-a-herlinda-lider-del-clan-montes-bobadilla-a-eeuu/>

189 <https://criterio.hn/extradicion-de-herlinda-bobadilla-no-desarticula-el-clan-montes-bobadilla-en-su-totalidad/>

190 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/herlinda-bobadilla-comparece-por-primera-vez-ante-la-justicia-de-ee-uu-DF9340500>

191 <https://insightcrime.org/news/honduras-atlantic-cartel-us-money/>

192 <https://confidencialhn.com/fiscalia-de-eeuu-pide-cadena-perpetua-para-el-exdiputado-hondureno-fredy-najera/>

193 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/07/25/entre-120-mil-y-150-mil-dolares-recibieron-porfirio-lobo-y-rosa-elena-de-lobo-de-la-empresa-de-seguridad-de-uno-de-los-presuntos-socios-de-juan-orlando-herandez/>

194 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/07/27/mauricio-herandez-pineda-ex-policia-y-primo-de-juan-orlando-herandez-se-declara-inocente-y-decide-irse-a-juicio/>

195 <https://proceso.hn/expolicia-hondureno-mauricio-herandez-pineda-a-juicio-rapido-en-enero-de-2023-en-eeuu/>

196 <https://tiempo.hn/abogado-jose-tercero-defensa-joh/>

197 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/entregan-mil-gb-evidencia-juan-orlando-herandez-testimonios-IX8909391>

198 <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/pruebas-contras-juan-orlando-son-conversaciones-entre-criminales-dice-defensa-LH8911872>

199 <https://proceso.hn/abogado-del-expresidente-juan-orlando-herandez-de-visita-en-honduras>

200 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/honduras/solicitud-fianza-juan-orlando-herandez-narcotrafico-estados-unidos-IA9031586>

Court of New York, Kevin Castel, granted to keep the information against former President Juan Orlando Hernandez classified until November 14, a situation that makes his defense a difficult task. Castel granted to keep the evidence classified so that neither he nor the legal representatives will know the evidence that the US prosecution has to sink the former Honduran president".<sup>201</sup>

On July 4, Reporteros de Investigación reported that JOH's cousin Mauricio Hernández Pineda, also held for drug trafficking in New York, had his defense team call for a rescheduling of his trial. They wanted to use the time for plea deal discussions.<sup>202</sup>

Another case related to JOH is the one of the former police commander Juan Carlos “El Tigre” Bonilla. His second hearing was postponed to August 10, allegedly to have more time to negotiate with him.<sup>203</sup>

## Varia

### High-Level Assassinations

Heavily armed men in state uniforms murdered four young men in the early morning of July 14.<sup>204</sup> Among the victims are the 19-year old son of former president Pepe Lobo, the 23-year old nephew of former general Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, and the nephew of Nationalist congressman Walter Chávez.<sup>205</sup> <sup>206</sup> The Xiomara administration condemned the assassinations and held death squads responsible.<sup>207</sup> They also spoke of a general attempt by organized crime to destabilize Honduras and the new administration.<sup>208</sup>

Two days later, the police held a press conference. They had arrested 6 out of the claimed 11 people involved.<sup>209</sup> According to the police, MS-13 was behind the attack and the main objective was to assassinate Pepe Lobo's son.<sup>210</sup> On July 18, the MP presented the first charges against one of the arrested.<sup>211</sup> A day later, two more faced a judge which ordered judicial detention.<sup>212</sup>

A judge ruled to have two accused for the high-profile multiple murder remain in detention. Their initial hearing will take place on July 25. Three out of the six initially detained have so far been presented to judges. It is unclear what happened to the three other ones. By that time, it was unclear what the status of the three more detained suspects was. First it was reported that they were let go<sup>213</sup>, just to be refuted by the police.<sup>214</sup>

On July 23, "Pro-Honduras Network denounces that 9 weapons went missing from the storage facilities of Directorate for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking (DLCN) just days before the

201 <https://criterio.hn/clasificacion-de-informacion-en-contra-de-juan-orlando-herandez-pone-cuesta-arriba-su-defensa/>

202 <https://reporterosdeinvestigacion.com/2022/07/01/primo-de-juan-orlando-pide-posponer-audiencia-para-seguir-negociaciones-con-la-justicia-de-estados-unidos/>

203 <https://proceso.hn/nuevamente-suspenden-audiencia-contra-juan-carlos-el-tigre-bonilla-en-eeuu/>

204 <https://criterio.hn/asesinan-a-hijo-de-expresidente-porfirio-lobo-y-sobrinos-de-diputado-y-exjefe-militar/>

205 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1547569169343791109>

206 <https://twitter.com/jeffgernst/status/1547608980704206848>

207 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/14/ejecutivo-atribuye-a-escuadrones-de-la-muerte-la-violencia-registrada-en-honduras/>

208 <https://elpulso.hn/2022/07/14/seguridad-denuncia-que-grupos-criminales-quieren-desestabilizar-el-gobierno/>

209 <https://confidencialhn.com/autoridades-policiales-aseguran-que-fue-la-ms-13-la-que-ejecuto-la-masacre-y-el-blanco-era-el-hijo-del-expresidente-porfirio-lobo-sosa/>

210 <https://proceso.hn/masacre-fue-ejecutada-por-la-ms-13-el-blanco-era-hijo-de-expresidente-lobo-y-hay-seis-detenido/>

211 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/mp-presenta-requerimiento-fiscal-contra-la-primera-implicada-en-el-crimen-del-hijo-del-expresidente-de-honduras/>

212 <https://proceso.hn/detencion-judicial-para-dos-imputados-en-asesinato-de-hijo-del-expresidente-lobo-y-tres-jovenes-mas/>

213 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/sucesos/dejan-libertad-cinco-seis-detenido-masacre-contra-hijo-expresidente-pepe-lobo-otros-tres-jovenes-honduras-hugo-maldonado-NE9143197>

214 <https://confidencialhn.com/a-audiencia-de-declaracion-de-imputados-llegan-dos-detenido-por-el-crimen-contra-hijo-del-expresidente-pepe-lobo-y-tres-jovenes-mas/>

massacre of 4 ppl in Tegucigalpa including ex-Prez Pepe Lobo's son, Said Lobo".<sup>215</sup> <sup>216</sup> On July 31, the MP commented on this in a press release. They acknowledged the theft but denied any links with the assassinations.<sup>217</sup>

## Amnesty Law

At the beginning of the month the, JOH-era, Supreme Court declared the Amnesty Law unconstitutional. According to its ruling, it generates impunity. While some scrutiny of the law is welcome, that this ruling comes from a court which protected for years any Nationalist figure from corruption or drug trafficking investigation is cynical to say the least.<sup>218</sup> The question of the Amnesty Law also divides Libre and its governing partner PSH.<sup>219</sup>

## Poverty

According to the World Food Program representative, 2.6 million Hondurans suffer from hunger.<sup>220</sup> 500'000 more could soon face hunger.<sup>221</sup> Based on data by Bloomberg, a basket of basic food stuff in Honduras is one of the most expensive in all Latin America. It costs over 60% of a minimum wage.<sup>222</sup> Almost 20% more remittances were sent to Honduras in the first half of 2022 compared to the same period last year.<sup>223</sup>

The Xiomara administration announced on July 1 to completely cover the 11.2% increase in energy prices.<sup>224</sup> Additionally, the Honduran Fund for Social Investment (FHIS) aims to build 55'000 social housing units in the next four years.<sup>225</sup>

The UNDP published its yearly human development report. Honduras ranks second to last in Latin America in its accompanying human development index.<sup>226</sup> <sup>227</sup> Only 29% of Hondurans have a job with a fixed contract, before the pandemic the number was 42%.<sup>228</sup>

## Migration

221'000 Hondurans have fled Honduras in 2021, 15% more than in 2020.<sup>229</sup> UNHCR called for the adoption of the Forced Displacement Law.<sup>230</sup> "At least 54,275 immigrants, mostly from Cuba, have been detained in Honduras in the first half of 2022 for illegally entering the country with the idea of reaching the United States, according to figures from the National Institute of Migration (INM)".<sup>231</sup>

215 <https://twitter.com/HondurasNow/status/1550574715198119938>

216 <https://prohondurasnetwork.com/2022/07/22/nueve-fusiles-fueron-extraviados-de-las-bodegas-de-la-direccion-de-lucha-contra-el-narcotrafico-dias-antes-del-asesinato-de-said-lobo/>

217 <https://www.mp.hn/publicaciones/comunicado-3/>

218 <https://confidencialhn.com/amnistia-politica-es-inconstitucional-concluye-sala-de-lo-penal-de-la-corte-suprema-de-justicia/>

219 <https://criterio.hn/partido-salvador-de-honduras- apuesta-por-reformar-amnistia-politica-libre-abandera-su-continuidad/>

220 <https://confidencialhn.com/alertan-que-un-total-de-2-6-millones-de-hondurenos-estarian-en-situacion-de-crisis-de-hambre/>

221 <https://tiempo.hn/mas-2-millones-hondurenos-en-crisis-alimentaria/>

222 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-tiene-la-canasta-basica-mas-cara-de-latinoamerica-segun-empresa-financiera-de-ee-uu/>

223 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-recibio-4-1756-millones-de-dolares-por-remesas-en-primer-semestre/>

224 <https://proceso.hn/gobierno-oficializa-que-no-habra-incremento-a-tarifa-de-energia-en-trimestre-de-julio-a-septiembre-de-2022/>

225 <https://proceso.hn/fhis-preve-la-construccion-de-55-mil-viviendas-sociales-para-los-proximos-cuatro-anos/>

226 <https://confidencialhn.com/honduras-en-penultimo-puesto-en-los-indices-de-desarrollo-humano-de-latinoamerica/>

227 <https://twitter.com/PNUDHonduras/status/1546956747943956480>

228 <https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/data/alarmando-cifra-solo-30-de-cada-100-hondurenos-tienen-un-trabajo-formal-en-honduras-1Y9346208>

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230 <https://twitter.com/ACNURhonduras/status/1551003534203699200>

231 <https://proceso.hn/honduras-ha-retenido-a-54275-extranjeros-por-movilizarse-de-manera-irregular/>

## Violence

Migdonia Aystas, director of UNAH's Violence Observatory, denounced§ that Honduras loses every year 800 minors to violence.<sup>232</sup>

## Penal Code

Luis Redondo nominated a special commission to prepare and submit a detailed report on all documentation related to the discussion, voting and approval of the current Penal Code.<sup>233</sup> On July 25, "Silvia Ayala, deputy president of the special legislative commission said (..) that they have begun the process to investigate the approval process of the recently approved Penal Code in Honduras."<sup>234</sup> His colleague Netzer Mejía later stated that they most certainly would reform the chapter on corruption. "He argued that the previous National Congress reduced the crimes for corruption with the intention that politicians who had committed irregular acts could receive lesser sentences to the point that they could be commuted. He questioned that the penalties for embezzlement of public funds and illicit enrichment have been lowered to the point of being commutable offenses."<sup>235</sup>

## And Light at the End of a Month

The indigenous Tolupán tribe San Francisco de Locomapa had an important victory before court. "The Tolupán indigenous community of San Francisco de Locomapa (SFL), Yoro, succeeded in having the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice confirm the decision issued in February 2021 by the Administrative Court of SPS recognizing the violation of their rights by the municipal authorities of Yoro when they denied them access to food and health resources on the grounds of discrimination and political sectarianism."<sup>236</sup>

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232 <https://confidencialhn.com/al-menos-800-menores-pierden-la-vida-violentamente-al-ano-en-honduras/>

233 [https://twitter.com/Congreso\\_HND/status/1544863686858244098](https://twitter.com/Congreso_HND/status/1544863686858244098)

234 <https://confidencialhn.com/comision-especial-del-congreso-nacional-da-inicio-a-investigacion-para-el-proceso-de-aprobacion-al-codigo-penal-en-honduras/>

235 <https://proceso.hn/diputado-de-libre-adelanta-que-delitos-de-corrupcion-seran-reformados-en-el-codigo-penal/>

236 <https://madj.org/2022/07/13/sentencia-de-la-corte-una-victoria-del-pueblo-tolupan-de-beneficio-para-todos-los-pueblos-originarios-de-honduras/>

### **Another Month at the Honduras Forum Switzerland**

Past Activities:

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Upcoming Activities:

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