

Writing Portfolio: Latin American News Digest

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Guatemalan Migrants Demand Right to Vote Abroad

From Prensa Libre of Guatemala City

A group of Guatemalan migrants living in the U.S. demanded on Wednesday, October 26, that their right to vote in the 2023 elections from abroad be guaranteed. "The right to vote of Guatemalans in the U.S. is at risk, and the elections could fail," said Ben Monterroso of Vote for Guatemalans Living Abroad (Voguare). The entity sued the Supreme Court of Justice to ensure Guatemalans in the U.S. can vote. Of the three million Guatemalans living in the U.S., only 300,000 are eligible to vote, and only 12,000 have been allowed to register so far. The organization asks the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to enable at least the 23 consular offices that Guatemala has in the U.S. to be used as voting centers. In 2019, the first time Guatemalans in the U.S. had the option to vote for president, only 734 people participated across four voting centers.

Bolivian Police Detain Opposition Governor, Sparking Crisis

From Página/12 of Buenos Aires

The Bolivian police have detained Luis Fernando Camacho, the governor of the Santa Cruz department and one of President Luis Arce's most prominent opponents. The arrest is part of the "Coup d'état I" investigation related to the 2019 coup against Evo Morales. Following Camacho's arrest, his supporters have obstructed his transfer to La Paz by blocking two regional airports, halting all air travel in the city and setting the local prosecutor's office on fire. The government denies the arrest was an abduction, stating it was an internal matter, while two former presidents and opponents of the government have requested an international alert be issued.

Environmental Weaknesses in Central America

From Estrategia & Negocios Magazine of Honduras

Recent weather events, including Tropical Storms ETA and IOTA in 2020 and Hurricane Julia in 2022, have highlighted that climate change is a major threat to Central America. These storms have caused complex situations in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, decreasing economic growth and causing significant damage to infrastructure. In response to

growing global threats, the UN's Sendai Framework was created in 2015 to define a policy path for governments to prevent and mitigate natural and man-made hazards. The framework links risk reduction and resilience to broader goals for sustainable development and climate action, emphasizing the need for an integrated and innovative approach to systemic risk.

Colombia and Ecuador to Implement Border Protection Plan

From El Comercio of Quito

On December 28, 2022, military and police commanders from Ecuador and Colombia signed an agreement to implement a Border Protection Plan in 2023. The gathering took place in Ipiales, Colombia, with the goal of reducing drug trafficking and organized crime along their shared border. The plan will enable the implementation of short-, medium-, and long-term border protection strategies. The Ecuadorian government stressed that the agreements must be translated into concrete plans and orders to effectively protect both countries from transnational criminal activities.