



BCHR

Newsletter

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The BCHR Network

The BCHR Network is pleased to present the BCHR Update Newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the network and its members. The main purpose of this newsletter is to a) share information about the work of the network and its members to a wider audience, and b) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the network members themselves and with other interested parties.

- Click [here](#) to learn more about the BCHR Network.
- Click [here](#) for a complete list of the BCHR Network members

INDEX / Newsletter

1. Other announcements	4
a. Public Consultations, call for papers.....	4
b. Events, workshops and courses.....	5
c. New Library Resources.....	6
2. International News	8
3. Blogs and Opinions	11
4. About our network	12
5. Sharing and posting materials	13

Other announcements

A. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, CALL FOR PAPERS

- **Call for Papers: International Conference on Business & Human Rights – International Law Challenges, European Responses**

Deadlines: Submission of abstracts: 31 January, Selection of papers: 15 February 2017, Delivery of full papers: 15 May 2017.

The University of Milan, encourages scholars to submit papers on the following topics: The implementation of the international legal instruments and principles on Business and Human Rights in Europe, the European contribution to the development of international principles on Business and Human Rights, legislation addressing corporate behavior and the provision for a human rights due diligence process in Europe, amongst others.

For more information please contact: angelica.bonfanti@unimi.it

- **Mapping Research and Initiatives on Access to Remedy and Business & Human Rights**

Deadline: 8 February

The 2017 UN Forum on Business & Human Rights (27-29 November) will have a major focus on the issue of access to remedy for business-related human rights impacts. In order to inform preparations, the Forum Secretariat is doing a mapping of ongoing research and projects linked to this topic. All stakeholders are encouraged to submit brief information about ongoing or planned research and projects for 2017-18 related to the issue of access to remedy in the context of business and human rights.

[Learn more](#)

- **Public Consultation: Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct**

Deadline: 09 February

The OECD is currently developing a general Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct to provide practical support to companies on the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Comments received will be taken into account when finalising the Guidance which is scheduled for completion in 2017.

[Learn more](#)

B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

• International conference “Business and Human Rights: comparing experiences”

Date: 16-17 February 2017

Place: Parliament of Catalonia

Organized by: ICIP and the Directorate-General for Cooperation of the Generalitat of Catalonia

ICIP and the Directorate-General for Cooperation of the Generalitat of Catalonia organize the international conference “Business and Human Rights: Comparing Experiences. A View Focusing on the Extraterritorial Perspective”, which will take place at the Parliament of Catalonia on 16-17 February. As public policy in Catalonia regarding the relationship between business and human rights is currently being defined, this international seminar aims to raise the main problems related to this matter and learn about the most advanced initiatives that are taking place to promote corporate respect for human rights.

[Learn more](#)

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• Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (inc. child labour)

Date: February

Place: Sion and Geneva, Switzerland

Organized by: Centre for Children’s Rights Studies, University of Geneva

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR) is a part-time international and interdisciplinary postgraduate programme, which takes place over a two-year period in Switzerland.

[Learn more](#)

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• Public event: Swiss Global Compact Dialogue 2017 on Responsible Business – Let’s make Global Goals Local Business

Date: 14 April 2016

Place: Die Post, Wankdorfallee 4, 3030 Bern

Organized by: Global Compact Network Switzerland

The forum aims to learn from small and large companies, business schools, NGO’s and media and participate in a dialogue for a better understanding and improvement of responsible long term business practices.

[Learn more](#)

• **The Role of Market Actors in Mass Atrocity**

Date: April 4 to April 20 2017

Place: Grinnell College

Organized by: Grinnell College

To illuminate dynamics of mass atrocity and the needs atrocity creates, genocide and conflict-related studies consider the role of state, perpetrator, and victim groups. The inclusion of market actors, however, remains marginalized. This course considers dynamics perpetuating this marginalization and its costs, exploring the possibilities for greater inclusion of corporation in genocide-related discussion.

[Learn more](#)

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C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• **Shining a Light on Human Rights: Corporate Human Rights Performance Disclosure in the Mining, Energy and Financial Sectors**

Author: Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and VINCULAR

The main objective of this study was to identify trends in corporate human rights performance disclosures in the mining and metals, energy and financial services sectors. As an initial study, these three sectors were chosen based on their direct human rights impacts in the case of the mining and energy sectors, or the influence companies have on the human rights performance of their clients in the case of the financial services sector.

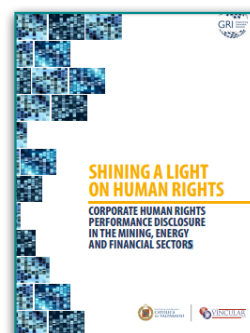


Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/zke9yfq>

[Learn more](#)

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• **The Garifuna Struggle in Honduras (video)**

Author: CGTN

This story aims to portrait the struggle for the land the Garifuna people in Honduras is dealing with. Several of their leaders have been killed as they fight to defend it. Private investors and even Honduras' government are now after their land.

[Learn more](#)

• **Fragile! Handle with Care: Multinationals and Conflict**

Authors: SOMO

As part of the Multinational Corporations in Conflict-Affected Areas (MCAA) programme, between 2013 and 2016 SOMO, together with its local partners, undertook research on extractives and agro-industries in five countries, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

[Learn more](#)

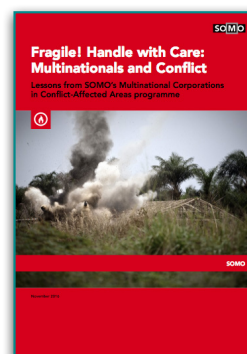


Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/jcwt7y3>

• **Should companies be involved in peacemaking, or mind their own business?**

Author: Mark Van Dorp

[Learn more](#)

• **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights Discussion – Paper for Banks on Implications of Principles 16–21**

Author: The Thun Group

This discussion paper provides a conceptual framework to help consider the meaning and reach of Principle 13 of the UNGP’s for banks in a corporate and investment banking context and further consideration of the due diligence envisaged by Principle 17.

[Learn more](#)

International News

• Tanzania Allows Maasai Land to be Stolen Under the Guise of Development

Date: 08 December 2017

Source: Mondiaal Nieuws

Tanzania is receiving development assistance to further develop the agricultural sector through public-private cooperation. The projects are being promoted under the premise that fertile land is abundant but, in practice, this land is almost occupied. This means that large-scale agricultural projects are driving people off their land. An example is the case of the Maasai of Mabwegere.

[Learn more](#)

• Costa Rica's Supreme Court Stops Hydroelectric Project for Failing to Consult Indigenous Peoples

Date: 02 January 2017

Source: Cultural Survival

On November 1, 2016, the Constitutional Chamber of Costa Rica's Supreme Court provided news to a Terraba Indigenous territory when it stopped the state-run Costa Rica Electricity Institute from going forward with the Diquis hydroelectric project for failing to consult Indigenous communities who would see part of their lands flooded.

[Learn more](#)

• The Human Cost of Palm Oil Production in Myanmar

Date: 04 January 2017

Source: Al Jazeera

Although the inception of the palm oil sector in Myanmar has provided regular jobs to unskilled labourers seeking regular employment and is increasing the internal supply of cooking oil within the country, the industry at large is being criticised on a number of fronts, especially those related to forced labour.

[Learn more](#)

• **Jokowi Grants First-Ever Indigenous Land Rights to 9 Communities – Indonesia**

Date: 04 January 2017

Source: Mongabay

For the first time, Indonesia's central government has recognized the rights of nine indigenous communities to the forests they call home, a milestone for a national indigenous people's movement that is seeking to bring to a close an era of abuse and discrimination at the hands of the state.

[Learn more](#)

• **Policemen Shoot Protesting Chi Limited Workers, Kill Two**

Date: 04 January 2017

Source: Punch

Two casual workers with Chi Limited have lost their lives after a team of policemen opened fire on them during a protest at the company's headquarters on Ajao Estate, Lagos State.

[Learn more](#)

• **Child Slavery Claims Against Nestle, Cargill Get One More Chance**

Date: 09 January 2017

Source: Bloomberg

Six men forced into slavery as boys to harvest cocoa pods have a second chance to go after some of the world's biggest chocolate companies in U.S. court, saying the companies should have known their suppliers used forced labour.

[Learn more](#)

• **Eighth Arrest Made in Hunt for Killer of Environmentalist Berta Cáceres**

Date: 16 January 2017

Source: El País

The investigation into the murder of Honduran environmental campaigner Berta Cáceres has taken a new turn. Mexican Federal Police officers have arrested one of the suspects in Reynosa (Tamaulipas). The detainee is Henry Javier Hernández Rodríguez, a 26-year-old former member of the military, who was working in a barber shop at the time of his arrest. A total of eight people have been detained so far in the investigation.

[Learn more](#)

• Uganda To Commence International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Protocol (ICGLR) Mineral Certification

Date: 18 January 2017

Source: Oil in Uganda

Don Binyina was sworn the Executive Director Africa Centre for Mineral Policy and the new Chair of the Audit Committee of ICGLR against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources. The International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Protocol against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources came into force in 2006. 12 member heads of State of the countries that form the ICGLR signed this protocol into place. ICGLR puts in place a mechanism for the certification of natural resources that the Audit Committee implements.

[Learn more](#)

• Second Winner of Environmental Prize Killed Months after Berta Cáceres Death

Date: 18 January 2017

Source: The Guardian

Goldman prize winner Isidro Baldenegro López, who was known for his activism against illegal logging, was shot dead months after Berta Cáceres was murdered. Baldenegro's murder is yet another grave reminder of the dangers faced by environmental and land activists in the region.

[Learn more](#)

• Trapped in Dying Tea Gardens, Workers Lose Children to Traffickers

Date: 20 January 2017

Source: Reuters

Tea gardens began shutting in 2002 and within five years, most had fully closed because management said they were unviable to run or struggled with big loans. In the 276 mostly closed tea gardens of West Bengal, young girls are dropping out of high school and "disappearing" with agents, according to a Child Welfare Board official.

[Learn more](#)

• Surigao IP leader, Anti-mining activist, Gunned Down

Date: 23 January 2017

Source: Davao Today

A leader of Mamanwa tribe was gunned down by unidentified gunmen riding a motorcycle on January 20 in Claver, a mining town in Surigao del Norte. Delamente was known for fighting the rights of Mamanwa tribe and his tough stance against the large scale nickel mining companies operating within their ancestral lands.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Upasana Khatri

U.S. Court Assists with Dutch Human Rights Lawsuit Against Shell

The author of this blog analyzes the latest development of the Kiobel case and how in 2013 in a U.S. Court, Judge Alvin Hellerstein granted her the Foreign Legal Assistance application.

[Learn more](#)

About our Network

The Network brings together researchers, practitioners and NGO members from various fields with the aim of researching and analysing the role of business in conflict situations reducing the human and people's rights violations and any other negative social and environmental impact as well as other adverse consequences. It also looks at the potential role of companies in relation to peace building.

The Network reflects upon the causes, dynamics and consequences of business involvement in armed conflicts and systematic state repression, as well as upon existing or potential responses to such involvements in light of the responsibilities of all concerned actors and ongoing international and local efforts to develop and apply appropriate initiatives and guidelines.

Visit: <http://www.networkbchr.org/>

Sharing and posting materials

We very much welcome your comments and suggestions for how the BCHR newsletter can better serve the network's needs and interests as well as those of its members. We kindly invite you to share this newsletter with academics, NGO and practitioners that might be interested in its content.

If you are interested in contributing to future editions of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at maria.prandi@networkbchr.org.
