



# 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

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# Network Announcements

The Network's **next annual meeting** will take place on the **17<sup>th</sup> of November 2016** in Geneva. All members are kindly invited to take part in this international conference that will gather a wide range of academics, practitioners and NGO. We would be delighted to have you on board!

**REGISTER NOW!** A wide range of organisations and experts have already registered.

[Register here](#) to attend the conference.

Please notice that the conference will take place the day after the closing of the Vth Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights.

We are planning a day of rigorous debates about research and networking. The conference will take place at the auditorium of the World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva (7 bis avenue de la Paix).

If you wish to make a presentation of your last publications or projects, please contact Maria Prandi at [maria.prandi@networkbchr.org](mailto:maria.prandi@networkbchr.org) before the [September 30<sup>th</sup>](#).



## Other announcements

### A. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, CALL FOR PAPERS

#### • Italian National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

The Italian NAP is open for consultation according to the Italian Interministerial Committee for Human Rights. The NAP aims to address the adverse impact that business may have on human rights and identifies specific commitments with the aim of effectively integrate UNGP's at national level and business activities.

[Learn more](#)

### B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

#### • Conference: The Removal of Barriers to Access to Remedy for Corporate Related Human Rights Abuses

**Date:** 08 September 2016

**Place:** Brussels, Belgium

**Organized by:** Human Rights in Business

The main objectives of the Conference are to disseminate the final research results of the Human Rights in Business research consortium, which focuses on the removal of barriers to access to remedy for victims of corporate related human rights abuses, to develop a relevant debate with experts and business representatives, and to bring visibility to the issues.

[Learn more](#)

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#### • Business & Human Rights Scholars Conference

**Date:** 16-17 September

**Place:** University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington

**Organized by:** The University of Washington School of Law, the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights, the Rutgers Business School, the Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance, and the Business and Human Rights Journal

The institutions mentioned above, will held the second Business and Human Rights Scholars Conference. Conference participants will present and discuss scholarship at the intersection of business and human rights issues.

[Learn more](#)

# C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

## • **Whitepaper: Responsible Business Conduct: Understanding Human Rights Due Diligence**

**Author: EthixBase**

This whitepaper explains how human rights due diligence has emerged as a critical driver to demonstrating responsible business conduct. It also details how leading global frameworks by the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development can provide guidance and recommendations on how organizations can integrate human rights due diligence within existing compliance processes.



Image taken from: <http://tiny.cc/530wdy>

[Learn more](#)

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## • **Respecting Business and Human Rights: IBA’s Guidance on Applying the UN Guiding Principles**

**Author: Anna Triponel**

This Article looks at the International Bar Association’s guidance on applying the UN Guiding Principles and provides information on steps that law firms can take to be seen as counsellors on business and human rights issues as well as trusted advisors.

[Learn more](#)

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## • **Mexico: Over 60 Cases of Alleged Corporate Abuse Documented in Advance of UN Working Group Visit**

**Author: over 100 Mexican NGOs**

More than 100 NGOs and social movements in Mexico document cases of corporate abuse in different sectors. The report, compiling 68 cases, identifies patterns of violations and abuses from the State and different industries.



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/gpicf68>

[Learn more](#)

# International News

- **Inside the Corporate Utopias where Capitalism Rules and Labor Laws don't Apply**

**Date:** 25 July 2016 - **Source:** In These Times

Under Cambodian law, the right to organize is supposed to be ironclad. No employer, government agent or citizen may impede union activity. Inside the walls of Cambodia's largest special economic zones (SEZs), however, *In These Times'* reporters saw a system designed to tightly control the workforce by keeping workers fenced in and unions out.

[Learn more](#)

- **Iradvocates File Second Amended Complaint in Nestle in an Attempt to Bring Justice to Former Child Slaves in West Africa**

**Source:** Iradvocates - **Date:** 15 July 2016

On July 14, 2016, six former child slaves who had been trafficked from Mali to Cote D'Ivoire, filed an amended class action complaint alleging they were forced to harvest cocoa for Nestle, Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland. This continues their nearly 11-year legal battle to establish that they have the legal right to sue these companies for knowingly providing substantial assistance to plantation owners in Cote D'Ivoire who systematically use child slave.

[Learn more](#)

- **Amnesty Report on Coal India Baseless: Goyal**

**Date:** 15 July 2016 - **Source:** Business Standard

Union Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines [Piyush Goyal](#) has refuted the report by [Amnesty](#) International alleging human rights violation at Coal India. Goyal said that the report is completely baseless and is "floated by elements which do not want to see India's development and prosperity". According to reports, Amnesty International has alleged that the land acquisition process for the coal mining operations has resulted in human rights violation on the people in some of the Indian States.

[Learn more](#)

- **World's Largest Carbon Producers Face Landmark Human Rights Case**

**Date:** 27 July 2016 - **Source:** The Guardian

The world's largest oil, coal, cement and mining companies have been given 45 days to respond to a complaint that their greenhouse gas emissions have violated the human rights of millions of people living in the Philippines. In a potential landmark legal case, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR), a constitutional body with the power to investigate human rights violations, has

sent 47 “carbon majors” including Shell, BP, Chevron, BHP Billiton and Anglo American, a 60-page document accusing them of breaching people’s fundamental rights to “life, food, water, sanitation, adequate housing, and to self determination”.

The move is the first step in what is expected to be an official investigation of the companies by the CHR, and the first of its kind in the world to be launched by a government body. The complaint argues that the 47 companies should be held accountable for the effects of their greenhouse gas emissions in the Philippines and demands that they explain how human rights violations resulting from climate change will be “eliminated, remedied and prevented”.

It calls for an official investigation into the human rights implications of climate change and ocean acidification and whether the investor-owned “carbon majors” are in breach of their responsibilities.

[Learn more](#)

## • Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights Publishes Model Clauses for Agreements Between Govt. Security Forces & Companies on Human Rights

**Date:** 04 August 2016 - **Source:** Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights

The Voluntary Principles Initiative has adopted model clauses for use in security agreements between Government Security Forces and companies in the extractive and energy sectors. They are designed to be used together or individually, but all reflect different aspects of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights as they relate to Government Security Forces.

[Learn more](#)

## • Chevron Evacuates Staff as Protesting Villagers Surround Company

**Date:** 10 August 2016 - **Source:** Pulse

Following protest by elders, leaders, youths and women of Ugborodo community in the Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State, Chevron Nigeria Limited has reportedly evacuated its staff.

[Learn more](#)

## • Militants: Ex-president is Sponsor of Nigeria Oil Attacks

**Date:** 08 August 2016 - **Source:** Star Tribune

A splinter group of Nigerian oil militants accuses former President Goodluck Jonathan and other politicians in the oil-rich Niger Delta of sponsoring attacks on oil installations that have slashed the West African nation’s petroleum production.

[Learn more](#)

## • Marange Communities Implore Government to Disband ZCDC

**Date:** 13 August 2016 - **Source:** NewsDay

Communities in the Marange diamond mining area have called on the newly-established Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) to halt operations, alleging it was worse than the previous mining firms.

[Learn more](#) *and* [Learn more](#)



## • Human Rights Lawyer's Home Ransacked in Guatemala in Latest String of Attacks

**Date:** 15 August 2016 - **Source:** The Guardian

Armed men forcing entry into Ramón Cadena Rámila's house part of escalating threats against lawyers after arrest of military officials for alleged civil war crimes. Cadena, who has played a key role in high-profile human rights cases including the suspension of a lawyer representing former military dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, was not at home at the time of the raid.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Honduran Activist Wants Trudeau to Pressure Canadian Mining Companies on Human Rights Abuses

**Date:** 16 August 2016 - **Source:** Mariana Jimenez

Father Melo fears he may soon be a target of assassination. His home country is both one of the most dangerous in the world for activists and fertile ground for Canadian investment.

[Learn more](#)

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## • South Sudan's Ethnic Conflict has A Whole Lot to do with Oil

**Date:** 17 August 2016 - **Source:** Vice and Associated Press

The civil war has its roots in a conflict that began decades ago and touches on control of land and natural resources, including a vast oil wealth. When South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, it got most of the oil fields, while Sudan controlled the means of exporting the oil, setting the stage for a war that has often focused on oil-producing areas.

[Learn more](#)

# Blogs and Opinions

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**Article by:** Dan Bindman

## **Law Firms Urged to Lead Fight Against Modern Slavery**

Law firms should be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery, both in terms of their own impact as businesses and advising clients on meeting their human rights obligations, the Law Society has urged.

[Learn more](#)

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## 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/>**

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## 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](mailto:maria.prandi@networkbchr.org).

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