



BCHR

Newsletter

June 2018
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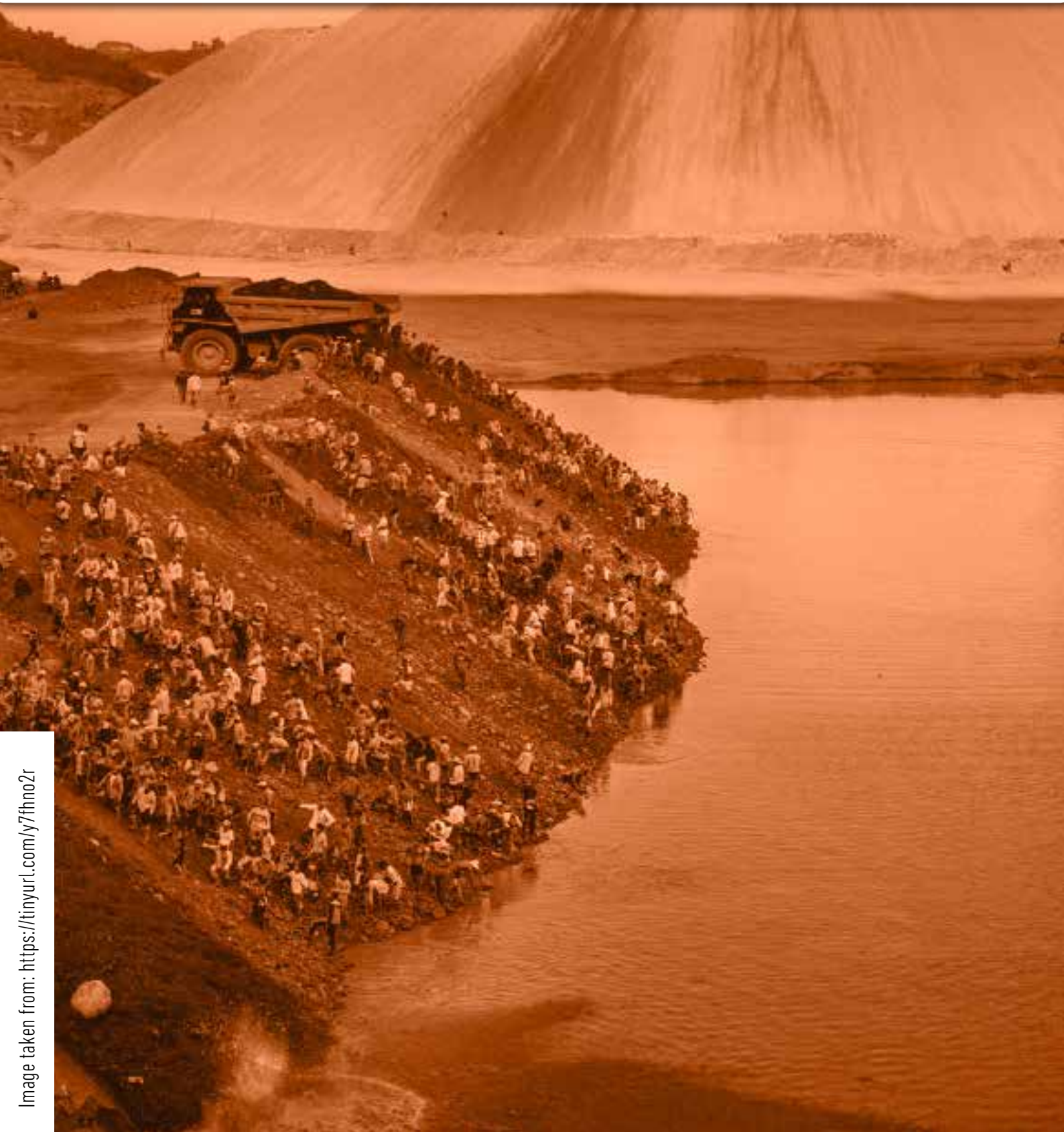


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The BCHR Network

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

Annual conference 2018: the Call for Speakers is NOW open.

The Call for Speakers gives BCHR members the opportunity to send proposals to speak at our next annual conference with the aim to present practical tools that analyse the links between business, conflict and human rights. Speakers will have the opportunity to explain the results of their research if these are based on practical and on-line public platforms. Participation is also open to practical guidance documents on a particular topic related to the research undertaken by individuals and organisations.

Deadline: 31st July 2018

We invite all members to submit a proposal by sending an email to: maria.prandi@networkbchr.org

- Register [here](#) to become a member of the network.
- Click [here](#) to know more about the network.

Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

• **Summer School: Business and Human Rights – Interdisciplinary Challenges and Opportunities**

Date: July 8th - 20th

Place: University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

The Centre for Human Rights Studies at the University of Zurich hosts a summer school every year examining the topical theme of business and human rights. The summer school, BHRICO (Business and Human Rights - Interdisciplinary Challenges and Opportunities), is a two-week intensive programme that seeks to be a forum of learning with leading experts on the topic.

[Learn more](#)

• **“Unpacking” Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence Developments in Europe**

Date: July 5th

Place: Online

The series will begin with five sessions focused on five case-studies, namely the French Duty of Vigilance Law; the Swiss Responsible Business Initiative; the Dutch Child Labour Due Diligence Bill; the German proposal for a Human Rights Due Diligence Act, and the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation. Each session will look at the legal approach chosen, the scope of obligations, and their enforcement. These sessions' goal is to facilitate a common understanding of the different ways in which mandatory HRDD or parent company liability can be embedded into different legal systems.

[Learn more](#)

• **Banks and Human Rights Today**

Date: July 9th

Place: Herbert Smith Freehills, Exchange House, Primrose St, London, EC2A 2EG

The purpose of the event is to open a debate about the wider impacts of finance on human rights today; what are its most salient (un)intended consequences, and what can be done to use finance as a force for good for human rights. Professor Kinley will give a short presentation, followed by remarks from distinguished commentators.

[Learn more](#)

• Human Rights and Technology

Date: July 24th

Place: Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney

Big data, artificial intelligence and social media are upending how we live, work and communicate. How can we protect our basic human rights? Leaders in industry, government and academia will explore the human rights implications of unprecedented technological change at a landmark event in Sydney.

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• Overlooked and undermined – Communities affected by jade mining operations in Myanmar and the responsibilities of companies providing machinery

Author: Swed Watch

Irresponsible jade extraction has led to extensive human suffering and environmental degradation in Myanmar's conflict-affected Kachin state. The use of heavy mining equipment, manufactured by companies such as Caterpillar, Komatsu and Volvo Construction Equipment, has enabled extraction to take place at an unprecedented speed.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y7fmo2r>

[Learn more](#)

• Advancing and Strengthening the OECD National Contact Point Peer Review Process

Author: Accountability Counsel, ICAR, OECD Watch

Accountability Counsel, the ("ICAR"), and OECD Watch have conducted research to evaluate the National Contact Point ("NCP") peer review process and identify opportunities for improvement, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that NCPs are functionally equivalent and provide effective access to remedy. The findings and recommendations are based on a desk review as well as interviews with 27 individuals from NCPs.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/yapw7bcz>

[Learn more](#)

• Private sector and prevention of violence against children

Author: UNICEF

Recent evidence indicates that violence against children can be prevented and eliminated. In addition to being a shared responsibility, the prevention of violence against children yields a high return on investment for individuals, businesses and countries.



Image: <https://tinyurl.com/y9aqzqwb>

[Learn more](#)

• Respecting Human Rights in the Energy and Natural Resources Sector

Author: Hogan Lovells

Criminal liability for complicity in murder, torture and war crimes; civil liability running to hundreds of millions of dollars: courts around the world are extending their jurisdiction to business related human rights impacts in the energy and natural resources sector, including those which occur extra-territorially and throughout a business's value chain.

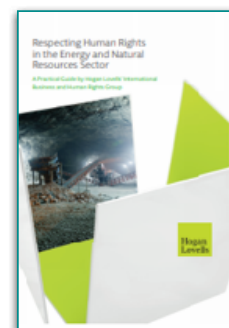


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y8gh4adf>

[Learn more](#)

International News

- **Indonesia: Human Rights Commission Investigates Death of Journalist Detained for Defamation of Palm Oil Company**

Date: June 21st

Source: Mongabay

Indonesia's national commission on human rights has vowed to investigate the death of a journalist, Muhammad Yusuf, who was being held on charges of defaming a palm oil company owned by a powerful tycoon. Yusuf's arrest and death have prompted activists and fellow journalists to take a closer look at the roles of the police, the company and the district attorney's office in this case.

[Learn more](#)

- **Japan: Investigate Brewer Kirin over Payment to Myanmar Military Amid Ethnic Cleansing of Rohingya**

Date: June 20th

Source: Amnesty International

Japanese authorities must urgently launch an investigation into payments that a subsidiary of the multinational brewing giant Kirin made to Myanmar's military and authorities at the height of an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Rohingya population in late 2017, Amnesty International said.

[Learn more](#)

- **Swiss Firms Lack 'Unified Approach' on Business and Human Rights**

Date: June 14th

Source: SWISSINFO

Companies in Switzerland are quite active when it comes to corporate social responsibility, but a common approach is lacking and many large firms are unfamiliar with their international human rights obligations, says business ethics campaigner Chantal Peyer.

[Learn more](#)

- **Adidas and Nike Pay Record-Breaking Amounts to Footballers, but Deny Decent Wages to Women Stitching their Shirts**

Date: June 11th

Source: Clean Clothes Campaign

While millions of people are getting ready to cheer their favorite teams during the Football World Cup, a report by Éthique sur l'étiquette and Clean Clothes Campaign, 'Foul Play', reveals that adidas and Nike, major sponsors of the global event, pay poverty wages to the thousands of women in their supply chain that sew the football shirts and shoes of players and supporters.

[Learn more](#)

- **A Community Challenges a Mining Company In Ghana, And Wins**

Date: June 5th

Source: OXFAM

The scale of justice was tipped in favor of 23 residents of the mining-affected community of Dormaa Kantinka in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana when Accra High Court (Human Rights Division) ruled last July that the minister for lands and natural resources should intervene to support their resettlement. People living in nearby communities were displaced by the extension of Newmont (GH) Ltd's Ahafo mine, a 2014 gold mining concession which required resettlement of affected occupants and landowners.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Ben Rigby

Human Rights and Legal Risks

The need for businesses with African subsidiaries to keep apprised of the consequences of alleged human rights abuses is increasing. In the first of a two-part article, ALB shows how law firms are leading by example.

[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.
