



BCHR

Newsletter

July 2018
N°33



Image take from: <https://tinyurl.com/jy9agkvuv>

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. Network Announcements	4
Annual conference 2018: the Call for Speakers is NOW open.	
2. Other announcements	5
a. Events, workshops and courses.....	5
b. New Library Resources.....	6
3. International News	11
4. Blogs and Opinions	10
5. About our network	11
6. Sharing and posting materials	12

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: 10th September 2018

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

Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

• **Business And Human Rights – What does it Mean for Companies and Civil Society Organisations?**

Date: August 2nd

Place: Webinar

The webinar will introduce the UN Guiding Principles and provide practical information on how and why companies need to embed a human rights perspective into their management and operational structures. It will briefly look at the specific guiding principles that apply to companies and how they should implement a due diligence process in the business.

[Learn more](#)

.....

• **Coaching: Putting Principles into Practice: Securing Long Term Business Success Through Enhanced Social Sustainability in your Operations and Supply Chains**

Date: August 28th

Place: Hawassa & Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Corporate responsibility is an increasingly important factor for businesses wishing to succeed in a competitive and interconnected world. This one-day course offers a practical introduction to social and human rights issues for businesses. This is an interactive training, offering multiple opportunities for participants to share experiences and develop practical solutions to common challenges.

[Learn more](#)

.....

• **Workshop on Integrity and Human Rights**

Date: September 6th

Place: Accra, Ghana

Corporate responsibility and integrity is an increasingly important factor for businesses wishing to succeed in a competitive and interconnected world. The event covers responsible business conduct and integrity and provides an overview on business practice, stakeholder expectations and the current debate around the topic.

[Learn more](#)

- **Business and Human Rights: Managing Risks, Pushing Innovation**

Date: September 10th-12th

Place: Manchester

The course is led by Alliance Manchester Business School's Business and Human Rights Catalyst, one of the first human rights projects to be hosted within a business school. It aims, through world-leading research and policy recommendations, to have a real impact on the rights of some of the most vulnerable people in society.

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

- **Dirty Profits 6 Report, Mining and Extractive Companies: Promises and Progress**

Author: Facing Finance

The **Dirty Profits 6** report released by Facing Finance highlights the investments of ten European banks in ten extractive companies which continually violate human rights and damage the environment. Some of the violations in this report have been done by Barrick Gold, Grupo Mexico, Eni and Gazprom amongst others.

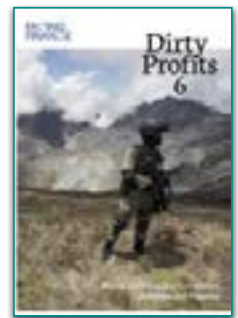


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y9qgkvuv>

[Learn more](#)

- **Access to Remedy Through Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Insights from cases in Myanmar and South Africa**

Author: The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)

This report provides insights from two case study-based sessions entitled 'Access to Remedy Through MultiStakeholder Engagement', which took place on 28 November 2017 as part of the sixth annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (the Forum). GBI and BHRRC have released this report in their capacity as co-organisers of the session, alongside the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.



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

[Learn more](#)

• The “Dead Angle” of International Law: The Transnational Companies and their Supply Chains

Author: Lorena Sales Pallarés and Maria Chiara Marullo

The creation of binding rules and the search for effective remedies for the victims of serious human rights violations committed by transnational corporations have been, and are, the objectives of the hardest struggle faced by defenders of human rights around the world. At the international level, many have been the attempts of creation of binding rules on the protection of human rights in the field of business.

[Learn more](#)

• Extraterritoriality: Outstanding Aspects

Author: Francisco Javier Zamora Cabot, Lukas Heckendorn Urscheler, Stéphanie De Dycker

For some time, the changing concept of extraterritoriality has been associated in a variety of ways with the international protection of Human Rights. It is, for example, linked to efforts to make the reparation mechanisms of the UN’s Guiding Principles accessible. Similarly, the notion is relevant to the States’ formal Extraterritorial Obligations (ETOS), which pressure States to fulfil the framework established in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In both cases, the volume and quality of the technical contributions that have been produced are remarkable and worth taking into consideration.

[Learn more](#)

• Developing Effective Grievance Mechanisms in the Banking Sector

Author: Bank Track and OXFAM

This paper reviews banks’ responsibilities and provides suggestions and recommendations for how banks can develop and implement effective operational-level grievance mechanisms that will be legitimate, trusted and meet their responsibilities under the Guiding Principles.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/yd3aep8>

International News

• **Complaint before UN Due to Corruption and Violence by Pipeline**

Tuxpan-Tula

Date: June 13th

Source: Regeneración

The company TrasnCanada, Tlacuilotepec, Pahuatlán and Honey, Puebla, Federal and State Governments authorities were reported to the Special Rapporteur for the indigenous peoples of the Organization of United Nations for acting against the national interests and the rights of native peoples in the construction of the gas pipeline Tuxpan-Tula.

[Learn more](#)

• **Vancouver-Based Mining Company Granted Supreme Court Appeal In ‘Conscripted Labour’ Case**

Date: June 22nd

Source: The Star

Vancouver-based mining company accused of using forced labour in an Eritrean mine will argue at Canada’s top court that a case filed against it shouldn’t go to trial. Nevsun Resources Ltd. has vehemently denied allegations of human rights violations at the Bisha gold mine, of which it owns 60 per cent. In 2013, the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch alleged myriad problems at the mine — including that the company allowed the use of “conscripted labour” through arrangements with the Eritrean government.

[Learn more](#)

• **Women Speak Out About Abuse at Barrick Gold’s North Mara Mine in Tanzania**

Date: June 25th

Source: Mining Watch

In a video released by MiningWatch Canada, women living in villages around Barrick Gold’s North Mara mine in Tanzania speak out publicly for the first time about the sexual violence they suffered at the hands of private and public (police) mine security at the North Mara mine. They also discuss the inadequacies of the remedy they have received from the mine’s grievance mechanism, and the ongoing hardship they continue to suffer as a result of their rapes.

[Learn more](#)

• European Parliament Adopts Far-Reaching Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous People Worldwide

Date: July 3rd

Source: Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)

On 3 July 2018, the European Parliament adopted by 534 votes to 71, with 73 abstentions, a resolution on violations of the rights of indigenous peoples in the world, including land grabbing, drafted by rapporteur Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Francisco Assis (S&D). The UNPO welcomes this initiative and the support of the Friends of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America in the European Parliament, among others, for the protection and promotion of indigenous rights worldwide.

[Learn more](#)

• Thailand: Labor Abuses Persist in Fishing Fleets Reforms to Curtail Forced Labor Fall Short of Addressing EU Concerns

Date: July 15th

Source: Human Rights Watch

The Thai government has failed to address widespread labor rights abuses in Thailand's fishing fleets, Human Rights Watch said in a letter to senior European Union officials. Human Rights Watch urged the EU to renew efforts for serious reforms of Thai policies and practices to effectively curtail forced labor and other abusive treatment of migrant fishing workers.

[Learn more](#)

• Defending Land and Environmental Rights Has Become an Increasingly Deadly Endeavor

Date: July 24th

Source: The Intercept

In a recent report, Global Witness, found that 2017 was the most fatal year for human rights and environment defenders. The report attributed the increase of the murders to the growing opposition to the farming companies. The largest numbers of murders are reported in Brazil, followed by the Philippines, Colombia and Mexico.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Andrew Smith and Alice Lepeuple

Holding Companies Criminally Liable for Human Rights Abuses

Under existing law, it is extremely difficult to prosecute companies for human rights abuses committed overseas. This is for a variety of reasons. Some of the most serious human rights abuses constitute crimes of universal jurisdiction – such as torture under section 134 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 – allowing a prosecution to take place in the UK even if all of the offending conduct occurred overseas. However, successfully prosecuting companies for these crimes depends on identifying a directing mind and will (“DMW”) in the company who aided and abetted the offending.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: John G. Ruggie and Emily K. Middleton

Money, Millennials and Human Rights: Sustaining ‘Sustainable Investing’

As recently as the late 1990s, “there was no recognition that companies had human rights responsibilities,” according to Arvind Ganesan, head of business and human rights at Human Rights Watch. Today, that responsibility is increasingly recognized by global firms as well as the transnational regulatory ecosystems in which they operate.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: Legal Design

Shell In Nigeria: The Case for New Legal Strategies for Corporate Accountability

One of the most thoroughly-documented and long-standing cases of corporate abuse in the world is that of Shell petroleum’s decades-long conflict with the Ogoni people in the Niger Delta. This blog reviews several of the cases filed by the Ogoni community to obtain remedy from Shell, as an example of the challenges that face even the most activist of affected communities.

[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.
