



BCHR

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017
N° 20



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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Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses**

Date: February-June 2017

Place: Various UK Locations

Organized by: stronger2gether

Workshop designed for: UK industry sectors whose businesses and UK supply chains are characterised by a high proportion of migrant workers undertaking unskilled and irregular work.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Responsible Business, Responsible Supply Chain “How Should Japan Act to Implement The UN Guiding Principles On Business and Human Rights? : A Launch of Multi Stakeholders Engagement for NAP Process**

Date: 01 March 2017

Place: Japan External Trade Organization Headquarters 5F Exhibition Hall Ark Mori Building, 6F 12-32, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Organized by: IDE-JETRO

This symposium, invites experts, members of UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, to discuss to identify areas and challenges where accelerated action is needed by Japan as a whole. We hope this symposium will create a forum for multi stakeholders, government, business and civil society to discuss Japan’s NAP future.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Global Conflict Mineral Compliance & Supply Chain Transparency Summit**

Date: 2- 3 March 2017

Place: Amsterdam

Organized by: Corporate Parity

This 2-day senior level meeting will provide you with the steps the key industry groups are taking to ensure the conflict minerals supply chain compliance. The speaker panel includes IBM , ABB , Philips , HP , Cisco , Ericsson , EICC , Thales Group and many more.

[Learn more](#)

• EU Parliament Event: Enhancing Corporate Responsibility Through Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence

Date: 28 March 2017

Place: European Parliament, Brussels

Organized by: ECCJ, Amnesty, & others

Following the French legislative initiative on duty of care, how can the EU Commission and Member States make business accountable?

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• Honduras: The deadliest Place to Defend the Planet

Author: Global Witness

Nowhere are you more likely to be killed for standing up to companies that grab lands and trash the environment than in Honduras. More than 120 people have died since 2010, according to Global Witness research. The victims were ordinary people who took a stand against dams, mines, logging or agriculture on their land –murdered by state forces, security guards or hired assassins.

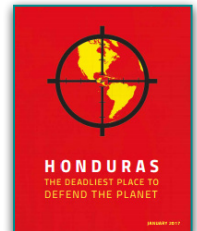


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[Learn more](#)

• Canadian Extractive Industries and Their Impact on Human Rights: Waiting for Trudeau

Author: Francisco Javier Zamora Cabot

The document highlights the impact of the extractive Canadian industries on Human Rights, as far as their activities abroad are concerned. It is recalled, for instance, the initiative C-300 and different notorious cases, such as the Massacre of Kilva, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), or Anvil Mining in Sudan, and recent international reports analyzing the problem in detail.

[Learn more](#)

• The Myanmar Dilemma: Can the Garment Industry Deliver Decent Jobs for Workers in Myanmar?

Author: SOMO

This report asks whether, and how Western garment brands can operate fairly in the fledgling democracy of Myanmar. Over the past few years, Myanmar has rapidly become a popular sourcing destination for the garment industry, however, conditions for workers in this industry are far from acceptable.

[Learn more](#)

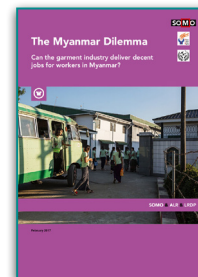


Image taken from: <https://goo.gl/2dNtBx>

• 11 White Papers Published on Mega-Sporting Events and Human Rights

Author: Several authors

Every January 31, the Mega-Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights (MSE Platform) publishes the Sporting Chance White Papers, a series of 11 white papers that present the latest thinking, practice, and debate in relation to key human rights issues involved in the planning, construction, delivery, and legacy of mega-sporting events.

[Learn more](#)

• Implementing the UNGPs in the European Union: Towards an Open Method of Coordination for Business and Human rights

Author: Daniel Augenstein, Mark Dawson and Pierre Thielbörger

The paper argues that some of the procedural and substantive shortcomings currently observed in the implementation process could effectively be addressed through the Open Method of Coordination – a governance instrument that the EU has already successfully used in other policy domain such as employment, social protection and education.

[Learn more](#)

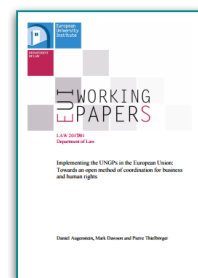


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• The Rise of Supply Chain Transparency Legislation: What is at stake for Canadian investors?

Author: Elise Dueck, Delaney Greig, Kevin Thomas

Canada's trading partners abroad are expanding corporate reporting to address supply chain human rights due diligence. While here at home reporting remains voluntary and inconsistent leaving investors without consistent and reliable information on critical risk issues.

[Learn more](#)

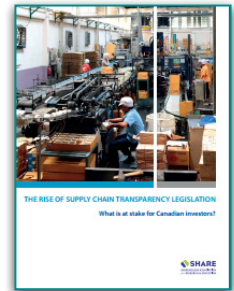


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• Business and human rights: A seven-step guide for managers

Author: Equality and Human Rights Commission

This guide is for managers of companies in England, Scotland and Wales who have a responsibility for human rights practices in their companies. It will also help managers who have responsibilities for social issues, human resources, customer and community relations and those who advise the board.

[Learn more](#)

• Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Hydro-electric Projects in Guatemala: The Case of the Ch'orti' in Chiquimula

Author: Julian Burger, Monica Feria-Tinta and Claire McGregor

The report has been prepared by an independent delegation at the request of the Guatemalan nongovernmental organization Nuevo Día, which works with the Ch'orti' communities. The delegation was invited to review the human rights impacts of the two proposed hydro-electric dams on the Maya Ch'orti' communities and in so doing meet with and received information from all parties and interests.

[Learn more](#)

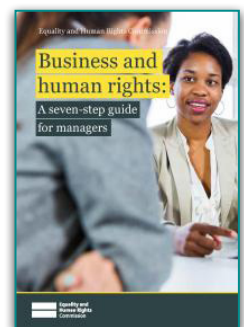


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• Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector

Author: OECD

The OECD has developed a Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector. This Guidance, developed through an intense multi-stakeholder process, supports a common understanding of due diligence and responsible supply chain management in the sector.

[Learn more](#)

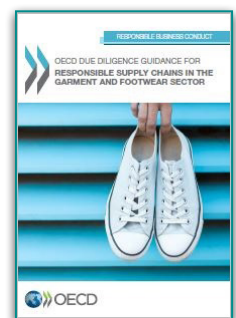


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International News

- **Launch of the Iran Business Responsibility Project**

Source: Iran Business Responsibility Project

The signing of the nuclear deal and the easing of international sanctions against Iran has opened up the opportunity for increased foreign business activities in the country. While there are different views regarding foreign investment in Iran, where such investment does occur, the imperative should be on promoting responsible business standards.

[Learn more](#)

- **Swiss court rules in FIFA's favor over Qatar labor lawsuit**

Source: Doha News

Date: 07 January 2017

A commercial court in Zurich has rejected a lawsuit against FIFA that accused the body of failing to protect migrant workers in Qatar. The legal action was filed against FIFA last month by Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV).

[Learn more](#)

- **Brazil Urged to Distribute Land to Stop Modern Slavery After Landmark Court Ruling**

Source: Reuters

Date: January 18 2017

Brazil has been urged to speed up land distribution to farmers to protect them from slavery after a landmark court decision ordered the government to compensate over 100 workers enslaved at a cattle ranch. A United Nations official and analysts said Brazil had fallen behind in the past two years on efforts to clamp down on modern slavery, a catch-all term to describe forced labour, debt bondage, sex slavery and human trafficking.

[Learn more](#)

• **UPDATE 1–Canada set as jurisdiction for Guatemalan suit against Tahoe Resources –court**

Source: Reuters

Date: January 26, 2017

A Canadian court ruled on Thursday that a lawsuit against Tahoe Resources Inc. filed by Guatemalan men who claim to have been shot by the miner's private security guards can proceed in British Columbia, according to a copy.

[Learn more](#)

• **Environmental Groups Voice Opposition to IFC Dam Workshops**

Source: Burma News International

Date: January 30, 2017

Leading Burmese environmental groups, including Burma Rivers Network (BRN) and Save the Salween Network (SSN), today released a statement, voicing strong opposition to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which they say is currently promoting various hydropower projects in areas that are primarily conflict zones.

[Learn more](#)

• **International Criminal Court told Australia's detention regime could be a crime against humanity**

Source: The Guardian

Date: 13 February, 2017

Australia's offshore immigration detention regime could constitute a crime against humanity, a petition before the International Criminal Court from a coalition of legal experts has alleged.

[Learn more](#)

• **How businesses can make right their wrongs: the ICJ establishes advisory Panel on company grievance mechanisms**

Source: International Commission of Jurist

Date: 13 February, 2017

The ICJ announced the establishment of an expert panel of jurists to study and provide guidance on the effectiveness of grievance procedures provided by businesses to address and remedy harms arising from their operation.

[Learn more](#)

- **Honduras: Indigenous Leader José Santos Sevilla Assassinated**

Source: Democracy Now

Date: 21 February, 2017

In Honduras, indigenous leader José Santos Sevilla has been assassinated by armed gunmen in his home in Montaña de la Flor, north of the capital. Santos Sevilla was the leader of the indigenous Tolupan people, who are fighting to protect their ancestral lands from industrial mining and logging project.

[Learn more](#)

- **France adopts Corporate Duty of Vigilance law: a first historic step towards better human rights and environmental protection**

Source: CIDSE

Date: 23 February, 2017

The French Parliament has adopted a much-awaited law establishing a duty of vigilance obligation for parent and subcontracting companies. The law marks a historic step towards improving corporate respect for human rights and the environment.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Milos Barutciski and Josh Scheinert

Business and Human Rights in Foreign Operations: The Stakes Just Got Bigger

Canadian courts took another step in further opening the country's courts to civil claims by foreign victims of alleged human rights abuses against Canadian corporations for acts committed abroad.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: Julie Bédard, Lea Haber Kuck, Timothy G. Nelson

Business and Human Rights Movement Spurs Development of Remedial Options

With respect to the call for effective remedies, divergent proposals have been advanced, largely independent of one another. Corporate actors and their lawyers should be aware of key developments in this area.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: John Morrison

Colombia – a new social contract?

Colombia's experience of civil war (lasting for more than 50 years) whilst also being one of South America's earliest democracies with a vibrant civil society gives it some important lessons for the rest of the world.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: Joe Westby

An elusive justice—holding parent companies accountable for human rights abuse

A UK judgement on Shell's operations in Nigeria yet again shows the need to prevent powerful multinationals hiding behind their subsidiaries to dodge accountability for human rights abuses.

[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.
