



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

We are glad to announce our next conference to be held on the 30th of November in Geneva.

This sixth international conference will take place in Geneva on the 30th of November 2016. It is based on the five previous conferences organised by the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) in Barcelona, London and Geneva, which gathered a wide range of academics and NGOs and other practitioners particularly concerned with business, human rights and conflict.

Preliminary program, [here](#).

It is necessary to confirm your attendance, [here](#).

Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **Business and Human Rights – Implementing the Responsibility to Respect**

Date: 1-3 December 2017

Place: Department of Comparative Politics | University of Berge

Organized by: Univ. of Bergen Dep. of Comparative Politics, IHRB & Rafto Foundation for Human Rights

This new Masters-level course explores the links between human rights violations and corporate activity, and the importance of international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in strengthening state and business performance regarding these issues.

[Learn more](#)

- **Human rights in impact assessment: Masterclass for practitioners**

Date: 29-30 January 2018

Place: Danish Institute for Human Rights, Wilders Plads 8K, 1403 København K, Denmark

Organized by: Danish Institute for Human Rights & Community Insights Group

The masterclass is designed for practitioners involved in the impact assessment of business projects who have some experience and knowledge of social impact assessment but want to increase their knowledge of human rights and human rights-based approaches.

For more information, please write to: Natasha Maria Lund Andersen at naan@humanrights.dk.

- **Collective redress procedures in human rights claims against businesses**

Date: 08 November 2017

Place: British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

Organized by: The British Institute of International and Comparative Law, the European Law Institute and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

This event run jointly with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the European Law Institute focusses on the role of collective claims in business and human rights litigation, examining the recent developments in this sphere and covering substantive law, procedural issues and practical topics such as funding and costs.

For more information, please write to: eventsregistration@biicl.org.

B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **Human Rights Impact Assessment: A report about the East African coffee sector in: Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Burundi.**

Author: Conducted by the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) on behalf of Coop Danmark A/S and African Coffee Roasters Ltd., Kenya.

The HRIA focused on the coffee supply chain in four sourcing countries: Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and, to a lesser extent, Rwanda. The purpose of this HRIA is to provide a foundation for the development of an appropriate human rights due diligence process for Coop's and ACR's operations in these sourcing countries that is in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and Coop's and ACR's responsibility to respect human rights.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y9hkwdvt>

[Learn more](#)

- **Removing Barriers to Justice: How a treaty on business and human rights could improve access to remedy for victims**

Author: Daniel Blackburn, International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR)

The report focuses specific attention on policy and legal developments in the European Union (EU). It identifies whether and in what way a UN treaty on business and human rights could complement and improve policy development and action at the national level to address barriers to remedy, as well as setting the framework for harmonising key elements of law.



Image taken from: <https://goo.gl/nCEB0T>

[Learnmore](#)

- **Extract-A-Fact**

Extract-A-Fact is a project of Publish What You Pay - United States and is born out of our commitment to empower citizens, activists and journalists to harness oil, gas, and mining data and use it as a tool to demand accountability from governments and extractive companies.

[Learn more](#)

International News

- **Investor Alliance for Human Rights**

ICCR announce the launch of a new initiative, the Investor Alliance for Human Rights (IAHR), established to provide a collective action platform to facilitate investor advocacy on a full spectrum of human rights and labor rights issues. This new Alliance, the first of its kind, builds on longstanding ICCR member advocacy to amplify the global investor voice on critical human rights challenges and to promote corporate accountability on human rights.

[Learn more](#)

- **Top global sports brands Adidas and Mizuno shamefully defy international standards on workers' rights in Indonesia**

Date: 29 September 2017 / **Source:** Clean Clothes

Sports' brands Adidas and Mizuno, as major buyers to the Panarub Dwikarya Benoa (PDK) factory in Indonesia in 2012, should finally ensure that 345 former workers receive the severance payments they are rightfully owed. In continuing to refuse to take responsibility Adidas and Mizuno are directly violating international human rights norms and standards.

[Learn more](#)

- **Environmentalists in Honduras, “neither ignorant nor anti-development”**

Date: 11 October 2017 / **Source:** Equal Times

Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres, the new general coordinator of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organisations of Honduras (COPINH), a position held by her mother, Berta Cáceres, until she was murdered on 3 March 2016, tells *Equal Times* that the indigenous people of this Central American country have development proposals for foreign investment funds that are prepared to listen to them. As well as being viable, they are proposals that respect the environment and human rights.

[Learn more](#)

- **Social opposition to extractive industries hits all-time high in Colombia**

Date: 12 October 2016 / **Source:** Dialogo Chino

Tensions over land and natural resources persist in rural areas despite the end of conflict between FARC and the Colombian government. This is in part because the government continues to prioritise the extraction and export of commodities such as oil without properly consulting affected communities, according to Camilo González Posso, director of Colombia's Institute for Peace and Development Studies (INDEPAZ).

[Learn more](#)

• Canadian Mining Is Dispossessing Indigenous Peoples and Campesino Communities in Mexico

Date: 16 October 2017

Source: Global Research

As Prime Minister Trudeau makes his first official visit to Mexico, writes Mining Watch Canada, “the Mexican Network of Mining Affected People” (REMA by its initials in Spanish) has issued a communiqué to call on Trudeau to live up to his commitments and stop the devastation of Indigenous and campesino communities that has enabled Canadian mining companies to make big profits

[Learn more](#)

• Criminalizing Resistance: Militarization, Murder, and Extractivism in Chiapas

Date: October 17 2017

Source: Upsidedown World

Just as the health effects of mineral extraction projects have proven deadly for local populations, so, too, has expressing political opposition to them. In 2009, Mariano Abarca, the leader of an anti-mining movement in Chiapas, was assassinated and Canadian mining firm Blackfire Exploration Ltd., allegedly tied to the murder, was accused of human rights abuses and corruption.

[Learn more](#)

• BHP expected to reject activists’ push to give shareholders a greater voice

Date: 19 October 2017

Source: The Guardian

Attempts by corporate shareholder activists to have BHP accept advisory resolutions from shareholders look set for defeat but the momentum for companies to take greater account of shareholders’ views on matters of corporate governance, environmental sustainability and corporate ethics is mounting.

[Learn more](#)

• ExxonMobil, Shell among companies told to attend human rights investigation over climate change

Date: 20 October 2017

Source: Green Peace

The Commission on Human Rights in the Philippines have called on 47 carbon producers to attend a preliminary meeting in its investigation into their corporate responsibility for climate-related human rights abuses. The companies include ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, Total, BHP Billiton, Suncor, and ConocoPhillips.

[Learn more](#)

• **Tories under pressure over use of UK troops to sell arms to Gulf states**

Date: 21 October 2017

Source: The Guardian

The Department for International Trade (DIT) is facing calls to reveal details of its use of British troops to sell arms after it prevented the publication of the names of countries that sent delegations to watch UK soldiers carrying out demonstrations for weapons manufacturers.

Liam Fox's department has overseen a major increase in arms sales to Gulf states including Saudi Arabia amid allegations of human rights violations in the war in Yemen.

[Learn more](#)

• **Glencore subsidiary in UK High Court battle over human rights abuse claims in Peru**

Date: 27 October 2017

Source: Leigh Day

The case will be determined under Peruvian law and the Court will hear evidence from Peruvian legal experts. The claimants essentially allege that Xstrata is liable because it provided significant assistance to the PNP and failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the use of excessive force by the PNP.

[Learn more](#)

• **Mining company accused over deadly police crackdown in Sierra Leone**

Date: 26 October 2017

Source: The Guardian

Evidence to be presented to the high court on Thursday will allege the company's involvement in the police operation. The multimillion pound case against Tonkolili Iron Ore Ltd, formerly a subsidiary of African Minerals Ltd, has been brought by London law firm Leigh Day on behalf of 41 people from Bumbuna, in the north of Sierra Leone.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

• What the ‘renewables rush’ means for human rights

Article by: Roberta Pinamonti

In 2015, Amnesty International and Greenpeace released a joint calling on governments at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings to urgently shift to phase out fossil fuels through a transition to 100 percent renewable energy worldwide by 2050. What is noteworthy and special about this announcement around the global climate negotiations is the fact that it frames the energy transition as a necessary step for the protection of human rights.

[Learn more](#)

• Corporate Crimes Principles and Bridging the Impunity Gap

Article by: Ian Binnie

The United States, France, Germany, and the UK need to start taking steps to hold multinational corporations criminally accountable for human rights abuses.

That's the conclusion of a group of legal experts who earlier this year released a report titled The Corporate Crimes Principles.

The goal of those behind the report – to advance the investigation and prosecution of human rights cases.

[Learn more](#)

• Supreme Court Must Recognize that with Power, Comes Responsibility

Article by: ICAR, Judicial Remedies

Corporate rights without responsibilities creates a bizarre double standard. For instance, if an individual breaks the law, (s)he will face consequences, including the possibility of civil liability. Meanwhile, if the harm was caused by a corporation, its incorporation alone would be sufficient to shield it from civil liability under the ATS.

[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.
