



BCHR

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2017
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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

INDEX / Newsletter

1. Network Announcements	4
Join us in our annual conference in Geneva.....	4
2. Other announcements	5
a. Events, workshops and courses.....	6
b. New Library Resources.....	6
3. International News	7
4. Blogs and Opinions	10
5. About our Network	11
6. Sharing and posting materials	12

Network Announcements

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

Increasing attention is being paid to the ways in which business interacts with violence conflict. The exploitation and trade of natural resources in conflict affected areas, the privatisation of security and the international arms trade are just three examples of the ways in which business can be involved in armed conflict.

The Network on Business, Conflict and Human Rights (BCHR) is aimed at facilitating reflection upon the causes, dynamics and consequences of business involvement in armed conflict, as well as upon existing or potential responses to it from a transdisciplinary perspective. The network seeks to strengthen the ties between researchers working on these issues from a variety of disciplines, as well as between civil society organisations and practitioners world-wide.

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](#) as soon as possible.

Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

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

Place: Department of Comparative Politics | University of Bergen

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](#)

- **The Responsibility of Home States, the European Union, and International Organizations in the area of Business and Human Rights**

Date: 02-03 October 2017

Place: Aarhus University, Nordre Ringgade 1, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

Organized by: Aarhus University

The event will convene experts from around the world to discuss the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and its focus on communities' access to remedies for corporate related human rights abuses.

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

- **Creating a paradigm shift: Legal solutions to improve access to remedy for corporate human rights abuse**

Authors: Amnesty International and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

This briefing puts forward a number of key legal proposals that aim to eliminate or mitigate the effects of the three barriers to remedy highlighted above. The target audience includes legal experts, legislators, national, regional and international policy-makers and civil society actors working in the field of business and human rights.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y8z2wsyt>

[Learn more](#)

• A Contract Guidance Tool for Private and Military Services

Authors: The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
 There is a need for practical and unified contract guidance in order to better promote an internal human rights and international humanitarian law culture amongst private military and security companies. This Contract Guidance Tool supports actors in incorporating international human rights law and international humanitarian law into contracting practices related to the procurement of private military and/or security services.

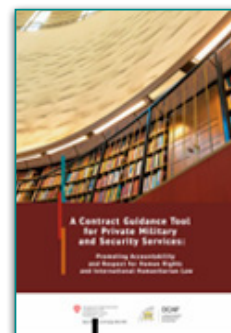


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ovrxab>

[Learn more](#)

• An Inside Job, Zimbabwe: The State, The Security Forces and a Decade of Disappearing Diamonds

Authors: Global Witness
 This report has followed Zimbabwe's diamond millions from the mines of Marange to scrapyards in South Africa; the skyscrapers of Dubai and Hong Kong; and to the anonymous companies of secrecy jurisdictions from Mauritius to the British Virgin Islands



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/yb4cqp97>

[Learn more](#)

• Modern Slavery in Company Operation and Supply Chain

Authors: Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) and commissioned by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) with support from Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
 The report gives an insight into the growing body of law and practice from international standards to emerging national legislation. This paper sets out what leading governments are already doing to insist global business does more to eradicate modern slavery.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y94n7zqn>

[Learn more](#)

International News

- **Nordic Investors Reject Dakota Pipeline Operator's Allegations**

Date: 29 August 2017

Source: Reuters

Nordic investors rejected on Tuesday allegations in a lawsuit by the operator of Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) that they divested from the project due to pressure from Greenpeace and other environmental groups.

[Learn more](#)

- **Australia can Act to Accelerate Action on Modern Slavery but a Harmonised Approach is Required**

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation

Date: 04 September 2017

Strategies for ending modern slavery were explored by global political and business leaders at the inaugural Bali Process Government and Business Forum, a regional meeting held recently in Perth bringing together 45 Bali Process member nations. This follows the Australian government's announcement that it will legislate to prevent modern slavery in company supply chains by requiring large businesses to report annually on their actions to address it.

[Learn more](#)

- **'The Directors' Bible' Includes Chapter on Human Rights for First Time**

Date: 03 September 2017

Source: Stuff

The Four Pillars of Governance Best Practice is the Institute of Directors' (IoD) textbook for directors. The inclusion of a chapter on human rights marks a seminal moment in New Zealand corporate history telling boards that the old days of "don't ask, don't tell" tolerance for human rights abuses in their supply chains are gone. Four Pillars of Governance Best Practice warns directors: "Respecting human rights is not about compliance, but rather human rights risk management."

[Learn more](#)

• Guatemala: Another Union Leader Murdered

Date: 07 September 2017

Source: Solidarity Centre

Gunmen on a motorcycle assassinated another Guatemalan union leader on Friday, bringing to 87 the number of labor leaders murdered in the country since November 2004. Tomás Francisco Ochoa Salazar, disputes secretary for the Bremen Union (SITRABREMEN), was leaving the meat-processing plant where he worked in Guatemala City when he was shot. Guatemala is one of the most dangerous places in the world for worker rights activists.

[Learn more](#)

• UN expert urges World Bank to amend its constitution to effectively advance human rights

Date: 14 September 2017

Source: OHCHR

The World Bank's commitment to development can and should go beyond financing mega-projects and proactively support smaller, inclusive projects likely to create employment while advancing human rights and environmental protection, a United Nations rights expert has urged.

[Learn more](#)

• International Finance Corporation of World Bank (IFC) Refused from Funding Lydian International's Amulsar Project

Date: 14 September 2017

Source: ECOLUR

International Finance Corporation of World Bank Group, (IFC), refused from funding Lydian International's Amulsar Project, as the letter addressed to Osvaldo Gratacós, Vice President and CAO, says. The IFC's letter is, as a matter of fact, is a response to the Ombudsman's report on the complaints lodged by the NGOs and the residents of the local communities affected by Amulsar open gold mining and heap leaching project.

[Learn more](#)

• From Enron to Wells Fargo: Expanded Violation Tracker Now Covers 18 Years of Corporate Crime & Misconduct

Date: 18 September 2017

Source: Good Jobs First

An expansion of Violation Tracker, the first public database of corporate crime and misconduct in the United States, now makes it possible to access details of cases ranging from the big business scandals of the early 2000s during the Bush administration through those of the Trump administration to date.

[Learn more](#)

• UN Statement: Private Military Security Companies

Date: 18 September 2017

Source: International Commission of Jurist

The ICJ called for international legal regulation of private military and security companies, in an oral statement to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, and welcomed recent steps towards this goal.

[Learn more](#)

• Forced Labor and Child Trafficking in India's Garment Sector

Date: 20 September 2017

Source: Asia Foundation

The International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that 168 million children worldwide are considered child laborers. This means that almost 11 percent of the world's children are working, which interferes with their ability to get an education, and jeopardizes their safety and their ability to experience childhood. The largest number of laborers in the 5 to 17-year-old age group is still found in the Asia-Pacific region.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

- **Human trafficking risks in Asia's supply chains: How should businesses respond?**

Article by: Richard Welford

Business interruptions, reputational damage and loss of consumer trust are just some ways discovering human trafficking in one's supply chains could impact the business. Here's how companies can minimize their risk, according to CSR Asia's Richard Welford.

[Learn more](#)

- **International Protection of Human Rights and Activities of Transnational Corporations**

Article by: Richard Welford

Since the 1960's the regulation of multinational corporations has become a hot topic in the international agenda. Fifty years later, the negative (or positive) impact of transnational corporations activities on human rights has steadily increased. Economic globalization has largely involved the activities of transnational corporations and such a trend has even been powered by Nation States.

[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.
