



BCHR

Newsletter

May 2017
N°23



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
Participate in the section “Members in focus”	
2. Other announcements	5
a. Events, workshops and courses.....	5
b. New Library Resources.....	5
3. International News	7
4. Blogs and Opinions	9
5. Campaigns	10
6. About our network	12
6. Sharing and posting materials	13

Network Announcements

We are pleased to remind you about the section “*Members in focus*” aimed at describing the aims and activities of our member organisations. Interested organisations are requested to send us a brief summary of their aims and activities together with the link to any public material available related to the network fields of work.

To contribute to this section, please contact us at:

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

• Private security and human rights

Date: 24 May

Place: Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

Organized by: British Institute of International and Comparative Law & Economic and Social Research Council

This event looked at the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by private security providers. It provided an overview of the regulatory framework and international developments, considering the role of certification bodies, and common challenges along with emerging practices to address them were discussed.

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• The Rule of Law and the Access to Justice in some of the Recent and Key British Decisions

Author: Francisco Javier Zamora Cabot

On this write-up, the author explores the recent ruling of the *Belhaj v. Straw* case and its implications for businesses in the human rights field.

[Learn more](#)

• Monitoring Human Rights in Global Supply Chains

Author: BHRE

This policy paper examines the issue of monitoring in global supply chains. The 'governance gap' in these supply chains, in which there is limited regulatory and contractual oversight of standards in the lower tiers of production means that it can be difficult to secure the human rights of workers within given supply chains. The problems still persist despite more efforts on instruments and initiatives to address supply chain failures. This paper in-turn offers series of recommendations necessary in the development of more effective approaches to monitoring.



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

[Learn more](#) **5**

• Best Practice Guidance on Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers

Author: Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

The purpose of this emerging Best Practice Guidance on Ethical Recruitment of Migrant Workers is to highlight the progress some companies have made on these fronts that may serve as models for companies looking to implement ethical recruitment policies and contribute driving change at the recruitment agency level. Examining selected companies in high risk sectors, best practices in the development of corporate ethical recruitment policies are analysed, identifying possible improvements.

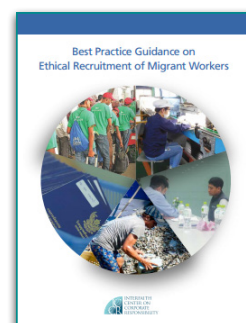


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/u29bvn>

[Learn more](#)

• South African Banks Footprint in SADC Mining Projects: Environmental, Social and Governance Principles

Author: Michael Abinare Milazi

This paper sets out to critically consider the effectiveness of Environmental, social and governance principles implemented by South Africa's banks when they fund mining projects in the Southern African Development Community region. The study evaluates the ESG frameworks used by each bank and, given the significant market share, aggregates this information to present a picture of the effectiveness of these frameworks.

[Learn more](#)

• Human Rights Reporting: Are Companies Telling Investors What They Need To Know?

Author: Shift

This research assesses 74 of the world's largest companies from different sectors on their maturity in reporting on human rights.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/3a2q7y>

[Learn more](#)

• Shock Monitor is Live

Authors: NOVACT

The Shock Monitor, powered by the International Institute for Nonviolent Action (NOVACT) is a project based on the coordination of experts in gathering and providing key information in an interactive database on the affairs of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSC). A collaborative research tool aiming to generate an all-round experience connecting international and field researchers by providing an online databank to share factual data on PMSCs, their clientele, operations and human rights violations.

[Learn more](#)

International News

• MEPs Call for EU Rules on Private Security Companies

Date: 03 May

Source: European Parliament

Foreign Affairs Committee and Defence Sub-Committee MEPs advocate EU-wide rules on private security companies (PSCs). The use of private contractors must be limited to logistical support and the protection of installations and only EU-based PSCs should be contracted for protection tasks abroad, say MEPs.

[Learn more](#)

• Ecuadorian Indigenous Leaders Deliver Letter Calling on China to Abandon Oil Drilling in Their Territory as Ecuador Faces U.N. Review

Source: Amazon Watch

Date: 01 May

Indigenous leaders Manari and Gloria Ushigua from the Sápara nation of the Ecuadorian Amazon delivered a letter on the morning of 1st of May, addressed to the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China before the United Nations in New York, in which they called on its state-run oil companies to abandon drilling plans on their rainforest territory. The Sápara are persistently opposed to oil extraction in their territory and this action occurs on the same day Ecuador faces review from the United Nations Human Rights Council during the organization's Universal Periodic Review of the country.

[Learn more](#)

• Renewable Energy Faces Growing Human Rights Concerns

Date: 03 May

Source: Eco-Business

Legal disputes, bad publicity, protests and violence. The transition to a low-carbon economy is not without problems, with renewable energy projects — mainly hydropower — running into the same community conflict issues the fossil fuels industry has faced, a report has found. Renewable energy companies in their activities are said to be failing in meeting international standards in their engagement with local communities where wind and hydropower projects are being implemented.

[Learn more](#)

• Enel Suspends Blood Coal Imports

Date: 04 May

Source: Pax for Peace

Europe's biggest energy company, Italian multinational Enel, has suspended imports of coal from the Cesar mining region Colombia. Enel CEO, Francesco Starace stated this at the annual stockholders meeting in Rome. The announcement was made in the context of investigations into the human rights impact in the coal mining region of Cesar and Enel's de-carbonization strategy.

[Learn more](#)

• Ips Fear 'All-Out War' vs Minorities With Generals in Duterte's Cabinet

Date: 19 May

Source: Davao Today

An organization of Moro and indigenous peoples in the Philippines, expressed fear that the appointment of former Army generals in cabinet positions will "intensify" attacks in their communities. "Roy Cimatu as Environment Secretary will bring more chaos in our ancestral lands and territories to defend large scale mining and big business interests..." said Datu Jerome Succor Aba, co-chair of Sandugo Movement of Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self-Determination.

[Learn more](#)

• Standing in the Way of Extractivism: Guatemalan Community Activists Resist Meg-Dams

Date: 17 May

Source: Toward Freedom

The criminal charges brought against two community leaders reflect the wider campaign against activists that organize against mega-projects across Guatemala. According to their lawyers, the criminalization represents another means used by the company to divide the community. The community leaders have since 2009 moved against the construction of the Santa Rita dam over its threat of displacing the local residents if constructed.

[Learn more](#)

• 10 More Landless Workers Massacred in Brazil

Date: 26 May

Source: Telesur

Ten campesinos (nine men and one woman) were killed by Brazil's military and civilian police on Wednesday May 24, 2017. The massacre occurred on the Santa Lucia farm in the municipality of Pau D'Arco, Para as part of an eviction order led by state forces. The victims were members of the League of Poor Campesinos.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: James G. Stewart

The Historical Importance of the Kouwenhoven Trial

Guus Kouwenhoven, a Dutch businessman was convicted for complicity in the war crimes perpetrated less than two decades ago in Liberia and Guinea. The contours of the version of complicity the Kouwenhoven trial employs helps overcome the ubiquitous but overly restrictive debate about the doctrine in Business and Human Rights.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: Ciara Dowd and Elodie Aba

Why it's Getting Harder (And More Dangerous) to Hold Companies Accountable

There is a crisis of impunity for corporate human rights abuses and it is getting worse. In the work with the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, the authors track the latest legal developments in holding companies accountable for human rights abuses, to share knowledge among lawyers and ultimately strengthen accountability.

[Learn more](#)

Campaigns

Dear members of the BCHR network,

NOVACT is coordinating the production of a new Spanish guide on Public Procurement and Human Rights in cooperation with lawyers and civil society organizations, and with the support of more than 20 municipalities in Spain, including the City Council of Barcelona. This is a key opportunity to apply specific principles and contract conditions in public procurement process regarding the respect of human rights by business. In this framework, we are interested to identify key international experiences and good practices that can be included in the guide with the aim to ensure responsible public procurement.

We are currently producing until July 2017, so your information and experience can be very useful at this stage. For more information please write to me at felip@novact.org.

Thank-you in advance,
Felip Daza Sierra
Codirector NOVACT

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.
