



# BCHR

Newsletter

JULY 2017  
N°25



# 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 pleased to remind you that the next BCHR Network annual meeting will take place on the 30th of November 2017 in Geneva, following the closing of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

All our members are most welcome to take part in this international gathering aimed at discussing the latest developments in the network's field of research as well as the next activities of the Network.

We kindly invite you to send us your suggestions regarding contents by sending an email to: [maria.prandi@networkbchr.org](mailto:maria.prandi@networkbchr.org)

We would be delighted to hear about your ideas to make the most of this event.

You are invited to register online [here](#).

- Register [here](#) to become a member of the network.
- Click [here](#) to know more about the network.

# Other announcements

## A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

### • Webinar series: 2017 human rights in impact assessment

**Date:** 13 June – 12 September

**Place:** Online

**Organized by:** TwentyFifty, NomoGaia, Oxfam America, Danish Institute for Human Rights, BSR  
60 minute webinar hosted by Twentyfifty and NomoGaia providing an insight into approaches and lessons learned from HRIA in three business sectors. The presentations by impact assessors highlighting methodologies, challenges encountered and ways they have been overcome will be followed by an interactive Q&A session.

[Learn more](#)

## B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

### • Human Rights Good Practice for Business Operating in Areas with Violent Crime

**Author:** United Nations Global Compact, prepared by Lise Smit

The aim of this Good Practice Note is to identify good practices that businesses can use to prevent and mitigate risks of being involved with adverse human rights impacts due to operating in a context of high levels of violent crime, and to support efforts to reduce the human rights impacts of violent crime rates in the areas where it operates.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y7swb64y>

[Learn more](#)

### • Economic & Social Rights Advocacy (ESRA) Brief: The State Obligation to Respect, Protect and Fulfill Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Context of Business Activities

**Author:** Institute for Social and Economic Rights

This edition of the ESRA brief, focus on the state obligation to protect, respect and fulfil Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of business activities. Several collaborations are included on this issue.

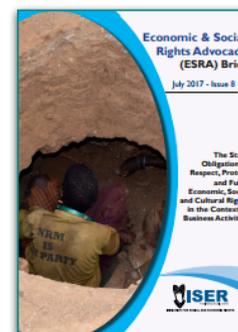


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y8z83e57>

[Learn more](#)

## • Getting Down to Business: Uncovering the Roles Played by Enterprises in Enabling and Preventing Atrocity Crimes

**Author: Sheri P. Rosenberg**

Human rights violations are not only a State matter. Contemporary business enterprises, especially multinational corporations, possess immense and increasing levels of state-like power in the national and international political economies of the present world order, and have acquired both political authority and political responsibility.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/yah7av5>

[Learn more](#)

## • Handbook for Lawyers on Business and Human Rights Risks

**Author: International Bar Association Legal Policy and Research Unit (LPRU)**

On 17 July 2017, the International Bar Association Legal Policy and Research Unit (LPRU) released a Handbook for Lawyers on Business and Human Rights to provide guidance for business lawyers and their corporate clients on how to address human rights risks in corporate and commercial transactions.

[Learn more](#)

## • Defenders of the Earth

**Author: Global Witness**

The new report of Global Witness; *Defenders of the Earth* found that nearly four people were murdered every week in 2016 protecting their land and the natural world from industries like mining, logging and agribusiness.

[Learn more](#)

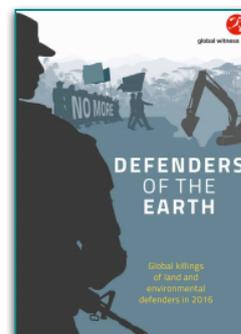


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/ywmgag5>

## • Implementing the U.N. Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

**Author: Francisco Zamora Cabot, Lukas Heckendorn Urscheler, Stéphanie De**

**Dycker**

This book is given to contribute to the business and human rights debate being born in Switzerland and Europe. To this end, the book studies the impact of the Guiding Principles in private international law by analysing different approaches.

[Learn more](#)

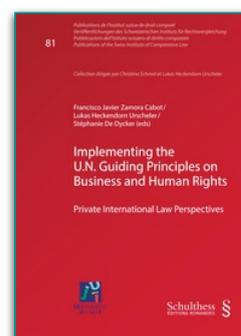


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y7bo9y47>

# International News

## • Gold Value Chain Cooperates for Responsible Gold

**Date:** 19 June 2017

**Source:** International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC)

The Dutch gold sector is cooperating to ensure responsible business conduct in the international gold value chain. Today, electronics manufacturers and jewellery makers, gold recycling firms, civil society organisations and the Dutch government signed the Dutch Gold Sector International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) Agreement. Their aim is to ensure greater respect for human rights, the environment and biodiversity throughout the chain, from mining to recycling.

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[Learn more](#)

## • Two killed in Klipspruit Protest

**Date:** 27 June 2017

**Source:** Jacaranda FM

An employee from the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) and a community member have died during a community protest in Klipspruit. Police spokesperson Kay Makhubele says the Prasa employee was beaten and stoned to death, while the community member was allegedly shot by the company's security guards.

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[Learn more](#)

## • Ogoni Widows file civil writ accusing Shell of Complicity in Nigeria killings

**Date:** 29 June 2017

**Source:** The Guardian

Women bring case against Shell in the Netherlands seeking damages and public apology for state executions carried out by military court in 1995. The widows of men who were hanged by Nigeria's military government in the 1990s have launched a civil case against Shell, accusing it of complicity in their husbands' executions.

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[Learn more](#)

## • Chevron allegedly orders security men to manhandle Delta protesters to quash protest in Warri

**Date:** 28 July 2017

**Source:** Daily Post

A Combined team of Soldiers and Policemen deployed to Chevron Nigeria Limited Warri Office on June 28<sup>th</sup> allegedly manhandled and forcefully quashed a peaceful protest embarked upon by members of KOMBOT-Egbema/Gbaramatu Graduates Association and the National Association of Ilaje Graduates in Warri.

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[Learn more](#)

## • **Is Canada to Blame for Human Rights Abuses in Guatemala?**

**Date:** 30 July 2017

**Source:** The Walrus

Canadian mining firms are not held responsible for horrors inflicted on Indigenous communities by foreign subsidiaries. But a Toronto court could change that.

[Learn more](#)

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## • **Veteran Labour Activist Liu Shaoming Sentenced to Four and a Half Years for his Activism**

**Date:** 07 July 2017

**Source:** China Labour Bulletin

Guangzhou-based Liu Shaoming is a labour activist; former member of the Beijing Workers' Autonomous Federation (WAF), China's first independent trade union; and the founder of Volunteers for Workers' Rights, an organization in China working to bridge the pro-democracy and labor rights movements during collective labor disputes.

[Learn more](#)

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## • **Tahoe Licenses Suspended for Lack of Consultation with Indigenous Communities, While Company Denies Indigenous Presence and Opposition**

**Date:** 07 July 2017

**Source:** Mining Watch

On Wednesday July 5, the Guatemalan Supreme Court of Justice announced that it was temporarily suspending two of Tahoe Resources' mining licences until a suit against the Ministry of Energy and Mines is resolved for discrimination and lack of prior consultation with Indigenous Xinka communities in the area of the company's Escobal silver mine.

[Learn more](#)

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## • **European Banks Pull Out of Honduras Dam Project After Killings of Activists**

**Date:** 07 July 2017

**Source:** NBC News

Two European development banks financing construction of a controversial dam project in Honduras have pulled out following the murders of local activists including Berta Caceres, a 2015 winner of the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize.

[Learn more](#)

## Blogs and Opinions

**Article by:** Otto Saki

### **How Companies are Using Law Suits to Silence Environmental Activists—and How Philanthropy Can Help**

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) are used to intimidate, harass, and silence activists who are working to expose corporate injustices and human rights violations. As intended, such lawsuits have a clear chilling effect on activism, silencing critical voices and stifling accountability.

[Learn more](#)

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**Article by:** Gwynne L. Skinner

### **US should broaden personal jurisdiction over multinationals operating abroad to ensure remedy for victims of corporate human rights abuses, says academic**

This article advocates for expanding general personal jurisdiction over transnational corporations so that where Congress has provided for a cause of action for extraterritorial violations of law, such as in the area of human rights and terrorism, victims have an opportunity to obtain a remedy.

[Learn more](#)

# Campaigns

- **Forced labor, including children – linked to World Bank**

**Campaign by:** Human Rights Watch

#ForcedLabor: Tell the president of the World Bank to suspend its agriculture loans to the Uzbek government until the government stops forcing people to work in project funded areas.

Participate:

<https://www.hrw.org/forcedlabor>



Image taken from: <https://www.hrw.org/forcedlabor>

## 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/>**

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## 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](mailto:maria.prandi@networkbchr.org).

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