



# BCHR

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016  
N°16



# 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 that more than 40 experts will be participating at the conference to be held on the 17th 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 fifth international conference will take place in Geneva on the 17th of November 2016. It is based on the four previous conferences organised by the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) in Barcelona and London, which gathered a wide range of academics and NGOs and other practitioners particularly concerned with business, human rights and conflict. The fifth conference takes place in cooperation with DCAF.

Preliminary list of attendees, [here](#).

Preliminary program, [here](#).

If you have not done it yet , please register [here](#) in order to confirm your attendance.

Click [here](#) to know more about the network.

# Other announcements

## A. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, CALL FOR PAPERS

- **Call for Papers: Conference on Accountability and International Business Operations at Utrecht University**

The Utrecht Centre for Accountability and Liability Law (UCALL) welcomes abstracts from both senior and junior researchers for an international conference titled 'Accountability and International Business Operations: Providing Justice for Corporate Violations of Human Rights, Labor and Environmental Standards' at Utrecht University on 19 and 20 May 2017.

[Learn more](#)

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## B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **Let's Account for Human Rights: How Finance Professionals Ensure Respect for Human Rights**

**Date:** 01 November

**Place:** Online, Facebook Q&A

**Organized by:** Day Associates

This event will discuss the management accountants' responsibility for identifying risks and safeguarding their organizations to create value in the face of human rights threats.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Launch of the IBA's Practical Guide on Business and Human Rights for Business Lawyers**

**Date:** 01 November

**Place:** Berwin Leighton Paisner, Adelaide House, London Bridge, EC4R 9HA

**Organized by:** International Bar Association

An evolving role –lawyers, legal practice and integrating the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Several speakers will share their experience in the field.

[Learn more](#)

• **Training: Human Rights Due Diligence in Practice**

**Date:** 03 November

**Place:** Bern, Switzerland

**Organized by:** Global Compact Network Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Twentyfifty

This workshop supports the participants to identify human rights related risks and improvement opportunities for their operations and business relationships and to develop solutions and approaches for their business.

[Learn more](#)

**C. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES**

• **Human Rights and Business Country Guide: Nicaragua**

**Author:** The Danish Institute for Human Rights and Nicaraguan Union for Corporate Social Responsibility

For companies to manage their potential human rights impacts, they must have comprehensive information about the local human rights context in which they operate. The Country Guide provides a systematic overview of the human rights issues that the companies should be particularly aware of.

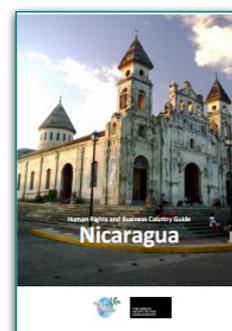


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[Learn more](#)

• **Corporate Crime: New Principles Will Help Governments and Law Enforcement Tackle Corporate Abuse**

**Author:** Amnesty International

A group of legal experts, with the support of Amnesty International and the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR), have developed a set of “Corporate Crime Principles” to advance the investigation and prosecution of human rights cases.

[Learnmore](#)

• **Human Rights and Business Country Guide Belarus**

**Author:** Danish Institute for Human Rights and Belarusian Helsinki Committee

The Country Guide is a compilation of publicly available information from international institutions, local NGOs, governmental agencies, businesses, media and universities, among others. International and domestic sources are identified on the basis of their expertise and relevance to the Belarusian context, as well as their timeliness and impartiality.

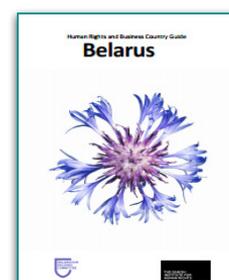


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[Learn more](#)

## • **Guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence**

**Author:** Japan Federation of Bar Associations

In response to the adoption of the “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework”, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations announces its issuance of the Guidance concerning Human Rights Due Diligence, based on such Guiding Principles, targeted at encouraging Japanese corporations to fulfill their responsibilities in respecting human rights.

[Learn more](#)

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## • **Corporate Liability for Forced Labour and Human Trafficking**

**Author:** IHRB and Hogan Lovells

This report maps corporate liability for forced labour and human trafficking across several jurisdictions, highlighting legislation that applies to companies and what duties are expected in business operations and activities.

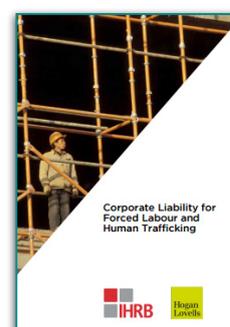


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[Learnmore](#)

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## • **The “Canada Brand”: Violence and Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America**

**Author:** Justice and Corporate Accountability Project

The Justice and Corporate Accountability Project has documented troubling incidents of violence associated with Canadian mining companies in Latin America. In general, neither the Canadian government nor industry are monitoring or reporting on these incidents.

[Learn more](#)

# International News

## • **EDC Support to Oil Companies Accused of Abuses in Colombia Questioned**

**Date:** 23 September 2016

**Source:** Above Ground

Export Development Canada's financing of two oil companies active in Colombia's Rubiales and Quifa oil fields is questioned a letter from Above Ground, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) and Project for International Accompaniment and Solidarity in Colombia (PASO International).

[Learn more](#)

## • **Google Investors "Deeply Concerned" Over Human Rights Violations in Kenyan Wind Project**

**Date:** 03 October 2016

**Source:** Danwatch

Google is preparing to acquire a large share in Kenya's prestigious green-energy Lake Turkana Wind Power project, but the deal is mired in accusations of violations of indigenous peoples' rights and a court case over illegal land acquisition. In a leaked letter obtained by Danwatch, Google investors say they are "deeply concerned".

[Learn more](#)

## • **Swiss Firms Could be Held to Account for Actions Abroad**

**Date:** 10 October 2016

**Source:** Swiss Info

Swiss companies must comply with human rights and environmental standards when they operate abroad – or be brought to account before Swiss courts. This is the demand of the Corporate Responsibility people's initiative that was handed in to the Federal Chancellery in Bern on October 03 this year.

[Learn more](#)

## • **Widow Sues Mine for U.S.\$500,000**

**Date:** 12 October 2016

**Source:** Mining Zimbabwe

A Penhalonga widow is claiming \$500 000 from Metallon Corporation owned Redwing Mine after a mine security guard shot and killed her husband on August 26 this year, leaving the family without a bread winner.

[Learn more](#)

## • What this Week's Canadian Mining Company Court Case Means for the Future

**Date:** 08 October 2016

**Source:** News 1130

Canadian courts appear to be more willing to hear accusations levelled against Canadian mining companies operating on foreign soil. Three Eritrean men who claim they were forced to work at Nevsun Resources' Bisha copper-zinc mine have won the right to have their accusations heard in a Canadian court.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Responsible Private Security: Major Progress Towards an Operational Code of Conduct

**Date:** 29 September 2016

**Source:** ICoCA

The Association calls for commitment to a code of conduct that ensures good governance within the sector, and respect for international humanitarian law and human rights. ICoCA's three main functions include: (i) Certification of Member companies; (ii) A monitoring process to ensure adherence to the Code of Conduct and to promote improved performance; (iii) A complaints procedure to offer a mechanism to report and remedy non-compliance or other concerns, and to assist PSCs in developing effective internal grievance mechanisms.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Inter-American Development Bank Confirms Mexico Wind Farm Project Violated Indigenous Peoples Policies

**Source:** Indian Law Resource Center

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) affirmed claims that the land rights of seven communities in Oaxaca, Mexico, were being violated by a Bank-funded wind power project. The Indian Law Resource Center filed a complaint on behalf of the communities in December, 2012, because the IDB failed to secure the indigenous communities' full participation in the design of the project.

[Learn more](#)

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## • The Kids Who Have to Sew to Survive

**Date:** October 23 2016

**Source:** BBC

Panorama has gone undercover in Istanbul and found evidence that Syrian refugee children are making clothes for leading British brands in inhumane conditions. Many of the children, in order to survive, have to work illegally without any rights and low wages.

[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/>**

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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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