

# BCHR NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Network for Business, Conflict and Human Rights

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Call for submissions;

Events, workshops, and courses;

New Library Resources;

News on the United States, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and more.



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.

## ABOUT THE BCHR NETWORK:

- Click [here](#) to learn more about the BCHR Network.
- Click [here](#) for a complete list of the BCHR Network 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.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### ***Trade, Law, and Development***

**Deadline:** The last date for submissions is 15 August 2020.

The Board of Editors of *Trade, Law and Development* is pleased to invite original, unpublished manuscripts for publication in the Winter '20 Issue of the Journal (Vol. 12, No. 2) in the form of 'Articles', 'Notes', 'Comments' and 'Book Reviews'. Manuscripts received by 15 August 2020 pertaining to any area within the purview of international economic law will be reviewed for publication in the Winter '20 issue. *Trade, Law and Development* seeks to generate and sustain a constructive and democratic debate on emergent issues in international economic law and to serve as a forum for the discussion and distribution of ideas.

Manuscripts may be submitted via e-mail or ExpressO.

For further information about the Journal, please click [here](#). For submission guidelines, please click [here](#). In case of any queries, please feel free to contact us at: [editors@tradelawdevelopment.com](mailto:editors@tradelawdevelopment.com). To view the original call for submissions, click [here](#).

### ***The Canadian Journal of Human Rights***

**Deadline:** Manuscripts are read and considered on a rolling basis for current and future volumes.

The *Canadian Journal of Human Rights* is now inviting submissions for its ninth volume. The journal is a peer-reviewed forum for scholars to explore concerns in human rights and humanitarian law and policy relevant to Canadian society. The CJHR welcomes submissions of articles from scholars from diverse backgrounds of academic engagement. Please contact us in advance if you are interested in submitting a book review. Articles are published online as completed and in print at year end. All articles and book reviews will be made available pursuant to our Open Access Policy. For our submission requirements, please visit our [website](#). CJHR does not accept submissions that are being considered by other journals or law reviews.

Kindly send article manuscripts, including an abstract of no more than 150 words, via e-mail as attachments in Word to:

Dr. Donn Short, Editor-in-Chief  
Canadian Journal of Human Rights  
[cjhr@umanitoba.ca](mailto:cjhr@umanitoba.ca)

Authors should include full contact information (name, institution, mailing address, telephone) in the body of the e-mail.

## EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

### NO WARMING, NO WAR: CONNECTING MILITARISM WITH THE CLIMATE CRISIS

**Date:** July 27, 2020

**Time:** 8:00pm – 9:30pm EDT

**Hosted by:** The Institute for Policy Studies

**Co-Sponsored by:** The Leap, Climate Mobilization, and the Mexican Network of Mining-Affected People

Register by completing [this form](#).

A Zoom link will be shared with registered participants.

This webinar will discuss the international links between militarism and climate change. Panelists from the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines will discuss issues such as militarism, extractivism, climate migration, and border militarization, and explore existing paths, current limitations, and the future possibilities of global cooperation on climate. This webinar will be conducted in English and Spanish, and live interpretation into English and Spanish will be available.

[Learn more](#)

## HONG KONG'S NATIONAL SECURITY LAW: IMPLICATIONS FOR COMPANIES AND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES

**Date:** July 30th, 2020

**Time:** 8:00pm – 9:30pm HKT

**Hosted by:** Public Law and Human Rights Forum of City University of Hong Kong

Register by sending an email with your name and institution to Mr. Julian Fung at [jcyfun@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:jcyfun@cityu.edu.hk).

A Zoom link will be sent to registered participants.

This webinar will explore the impacts of Hong Kong's new National Security Law (NSL) on companies and organizations operating in Hong Kong. This sweeping new law criminalizes four broadly-defined acts – secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign or external forces – the punishment of which can result in life sentences in prison. Expert panelists will discuss the challenges that Hong Kong-based companies face in trying to comply with the NSL while also abiding by their international human rights responsibilities, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[Learn more](#)

## THE DIGITAL DIALOGUE SERIES ON CRSV

**Date:** TBD, but a webinar will be hosted monthly from September 2020 to February 2021

**Hosted by:** The UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Center for Human Rights, Gender and Migration at the Institute for Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis, in collaboration with Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute and Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University

Registration links will be updated [here](#) before each upcoming webinar.

This webinar series was spurred by the launch of a Special Issue of the Journal of International Criminal Justice on Progress and Challenges of National Efforts to Address Impunity for Sexual Violence. Over the next several months, scholars, practitioners, and policymakers will discuss national accountability efforts in relation to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), seeking to move the conversation forward and identify future steps to address the biggest challenges in the fight against impunity for CRSV at the national level. Future dialogues will discuss a range of topics, including: the national prosecution of CRSV in Guatemala and Colombia, justice for CRSV cases committed in terrorist contexts, and new judicial and non-judicial avenues to reparations for CRSV victims.

[Learn more](#)

## BOOK LAUNCH: TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY BELOW

**Date:** August 11th, 2020

**Time:** 5:00pm (Bogota time)

**Hosted by:** Dejusticia and Corporate Accountability Lab

More details for how to join will be made available on the [Corporate Accountability Lab twitter page](#) closer to the event.

This book launch will celebrate “Transitional Justice and Corporate Accountability from Below,” a new book by Leigh A. Payne, Gabriel Pereira, Laura Bernal-Bermudez. This book examines the trials of economic actors who faced prosecution for the Holocaust’s crimes against humanity. It further tracks and analyzes similar transitional justice mechanisms for holding economic actors accountable for human rights violations in dictatorships and armed conflict, especially in the Latin American context. Along with an exciting list of panelists, the authors will discuss the significance of the book, and the important role of corporate accountability in transitional justice processes.

[Learn more](#)

## NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS AND RMIT UNIVERSITY PUBLISH NEW GUIDE FOR BUSINESS IN CONFLICT ZONES

**Published:** July 2nd, 2020

**Source:** Mirage

The new 'Doing Responsible Business in Armed Conflicts' guide outlines some of the risks, rights and responsibilities that businesses should address when operating in conflict-affected regions. This publication can be quite helpful for managers and executives. In particular, it can provide an overview of international humanitarian law and enable companies to plan and execute operations that respect international standards.

[Learn more](#)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### UNITED STATES: SUPREME COURT TO MAKE SEMINAL JUDGEMENT ON CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

**Published:** July 2nd, 2020

**Author:** Avery Kelly

**Source:** Corporate Accountability Lab

The US Supreme Court will review a 2018 Ninth Circuit decision regarding Nestle SA and Cargill Inc. Back in 2015, both companies had been sued under the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) for perpetuating forced child labor in their Ivorian supply chains. In 2018, the Ninth Circuit upheld aiding and abetting as a liability under the ATS. The Supreme Court's decision to review this case now, poses a significant threat to accountability of corporations for human rights abuses abroad.

[Learn more](#)

### HONK KONG: GROWING UNEASE ABOUT CHINA'S PLANNED NATIONAL SECURITY LAW FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

**Published:** June-July, 2020

**Source:** Business & Human Rights Resource Center

This past May, China approved a resolution to impose national security law on Hong Kong. The law would not only violate the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and 'One Country, Two Systems' governance framework, but also undermine individual freedoms. For these reasons; actors in the business sector like Federated Hermes or Aviva investors have publicly expressed their disagreement with Chinese intervention in Hong Kong. WhatsApp, Telegram, Google and Facebook have also paused the processing of government requests for user data in the region. In the public sector, UN experts have called for decisive measures to protect fundamental freedoms in China. Moreover, the US Senate has passed bipartisan legislation to impose sanctions on people or companies that back restrictions to Hong Kong's autonomy.

[Learn more](#)



## CAMBODIA: COVID-19 OUTBREAK RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER WORKERS' RIGHTS

**Published:** June-July, 2020

**Source:** Business & Human Rights Resource Center

For the past few months, Southeast-Asian workers have been facing numerous human rights challenges. Notably, Cambodia is grappling with the suspension of over 400 factories; a rise of at least 150,000 unemployed people; protests demanding delayed furlough wages; and accusations of union busting by independent unions. The Cambodian garment and tourism industries are unlikely to recover until retail sales in Europe and North America resume. More alarmingly, a recent joint briefing paper between the Cambodian Alliance of Trade Unions (CATU), the Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights (CENTRAL) and the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) suggests that the vast majority of Cambodian factory workers are highly indebted and hence at the mercy of micro-loan providers.

[Learn more](#)

## FACEBOOK ACCUSED OF BEING "A BREEDING GROUND FOR RACIAL HATE GROUPS" IN ONGOING ADVERTISING BOYCOTT

**Published:** July 3rd, 2020

**Author:** Nancy Scola

**Source:** Politico

On June 17th, a coalition of civil rights organizations asked companies to temporarily halt advertising on Facebook. Over 800 advertising companies have already joined this boycott under the hashtag #StopHateForProfit, with the aim of fighting what president of the NAACP Derrick Johnson calls "a breeding ground for racial hate groups." So far, the social media giant has not made any major concessions, and the StopHateForProfit campaign keeps condemning Facebook for not taking strong actions against hate speech on its platform. In the aftermath of the George Floyd protests and a few months away from presidential elections in the United States, StopHateForProfit is gaining considerable momentum.

[Learn more](#)

## HIGH HOPES FOR BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS GERMANY ASSUMES THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

**Published:** July 1st, 2020

**Source:** Federal Foreign Office

Germany has taken over the six-month Presidency of the Council of the EU this past July 1st. The Programme for Germany's Presidency outlines strategies for sustainable economic and social recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. These include commitments to follow the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to discuss the Commission's proposal for a minimum wage and social partnership framework, and to actively support young people entering the labor market. Altogether, the new Presidency can hopefully lay the groundwork for a more solidary and socially cohesive EU.

[Learn more](#)

## BLOGS AND OPINIONS

### THREAT OF ANNEXATION SHOULD SPUR CORPORATE HR DUE DILIGENCE ACROSS OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

**Published:** June 4th, 2020

**Author:** Marya Farah

**Source:** Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

With Israel's expected annexation of parts of the West Bank, businesses operating in the area should take note that they will likely come under greater human rights scrutiny. While the United States and European Union member countries have issued disparate guidance to businesses operating in occupied territory, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has repeatedly underscored the need for coherent human rights due diligence in situations of occupation. Businesses must ensure that they play a positive role in the well-being of an occupied territory, instead of fueling and profiting from the unjust administration of the territory.

[Learn more](#)

### MINING ON INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES BRINGS ECOLOGICAL DEVASTATION, LAND INVASIONS, AND RENEWED CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

**Published:** July 2nd, 2020

**Author:** Ana Paula Vargas

**Source:** Amazon Watch

The Yanomani, an Indigenous community in Brazil's Roraima state, have launched an international campaign to immediately expel 20,000 illegal gold miners from their territory. Tired of the Bolsonaro administration's complicity in the face of illegal mining, the Yanomani have taken matters into their own hands. Their #MinersOutCovidOut campaign calls on the Brazilian government to remove gold miners operating illegally on their territory, aiming to avoid the serious environmental and social harms that come with illegal mining and have long endangered the health of Indigenous communities in the Amazon.

[Learn more](#)

## COBALT IS CRITICAL TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION. HOW CAN WE MINIMIZE ITS SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COST?

**Published:** June 17th, 2020

**Author:** Bianca Nogrady

**Source:** New Security Beat

Various organizations and businesses want to ensure that cobalt – a mineral garnering increasing importance in global markets – does not follow in the footsteps of conflict minerals such as tungsten, tin, tantalum, and gold. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where 60 percent of the world's cobalt supply is mined, the environmental and human health impacts of cobalt mining are staggering. For these reasons, organizations and businesses are looking more closely at the sourcing of cobalt, ensuring that it is sourced in an ethical and sustainable manner. The increased monitoring of and pressure on cobalt miners provides hope that environmental and human rights abuses in the industry and in the DRC will not be exacerbated.

[Learn more](#)

## MYANMAR JADE MINE DISASTER HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNMENT INACTION

**Published:** July 14th, 2020

**Author:** Hanna Hindstrom

**Source:** Global Witness

A recent disaster at a jade mine in northern Myanmar killed 174 people, when a pile of mining waste caused massive flooding. For years, armed groups and military-linked mining groups have operated jade mines in a reckless manner. Despite recent attempts for reform to prevent likely environmental disaster, the Myanmar government has been largely complicit in the continued lawlessness and conflict surrounding the operation of lucrative jade mines. To prevent future deaths, the Myanmar government must commit to an independent investigation of the disaster, new mining regulations, legislation to push the military and armed groups out of extractive industries, and a redistribution of the country's jade wealth for the benefit of the local population.

[Learn more](#)

## SHARING AND POSTING MATERIALS

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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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## ABOUT THE NETWORK

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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 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.

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**Visit:** <http://www.networkbchr.org/>