



BCHR

Newsletter

JULY 2016
N°13



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 |
| New section "Members in focus" | |
| 2. Other announcements..... | 5 |
| a. Public Consultations, call for papers..... | 5 |
| b. Events, workshops and courses..... | 5 |
| c. New Library Resources..... | 6 |
| 3. International News..... | 9 |
| 4. Blogs and Opinions..... | 11 |
| 5. About our network..... | 12 |
| 6. Sharing and posting materials..... | 13 |

Network Announcements

We are pleased to announce a new section in our newsletter aimed at describing the aims and activities of our member organisations. The newsletter is delighted to showcase its work in the new *"Members in Focus"* section.

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. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, CALL FOR PAPERS

- **Call for contributions for 2nd session of United Nations Inter-governmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.**

Deadline: 1 September 2016

Request for written contributions from relevant stakeholders to the second session of the open-ended inter-governmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

[Learn more](#)

B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **The Essentials Series: tools to improve working conditions in global supply chains**

Date: 10 July – 10 November 2016

Place: Ethical Trading Initiative, 8 Coldbath Square, London, EC1 5HL

Organized by: Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)

The Essentials series are aimed at providing tools to help understand, manage and improve conditions of workers in companies' global supply chains.

[Learn more](#)

-
- **Modern Slavery Act: is your business ready?**

Date: 15 July, 21 September 2016

Place: Manchester, UK

Organized by: ETI

This course takes a multi-stakeholder perspective. It will enable participants to consider who will be reading & reviewing companies' Modern Slavery Statements and what should inform it.

[Learn more](#)

- **Course: Business, Human Rights & Corporate Responsibility**

Date: 18 July – 11 November 2016

Place: Online

Organized by: Australian National University

This course aims to provide an advanced understanding of how law and regulation relate to current debates about corporate responsibility and business respect for human rights standards.

[Learn more](#)

.....

- **Master Class on Social Performance in the Mining and Oil & Gas Sectors**

Date: 08 – 10 August 2016

Place: Golden, Colorado USA

Organized by: Colorado School of Mines

The course is a three-day intensive workshop that will provide a comprehensive picture of where the extractive industry is in its engagement with the external world, particularly its communities.

[Learn more](#)

C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

- **2016 Zambia National Baseline Assessment on Business and Human Rights**

Author: Zambia Human Rights Commission

The baseline provides a comprehensive account of the status of protection of human rights with regard to business activities in Zambia. In particular, the baseline examines the measures that the Zambian Government has taken to protect human rights impacts of business activities.

[Learn more](#)

.....

- **As Black as Coal: Business and Human Rights with Focus on Coal Mining in Colombia**

Author: Karin Gregow and Forum Syd

This report discusses business and human rights issues with examples from coal mining Cerrejón in Colombia. It looks at Sweden's policies in relation to sustainable business and the roles and responsibilities of states, companies and institutional investors laid down in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/gsq9ao2>

International News

- **Afghanistan's Famous Lapis Mines Funding the Taliban and Armed Groups, New Investigation Shows**

Date: 06 July 2016

Source: Global Witness

A new investigation reveals how Afghanistan's 6,500 year old lapis mines are driving corruption, conflict and extremism in the country. Global Witness has found that the Taliban and other armed groups are earning up to 20 million dollars per year from Afghanistan's lapis mines. As a result, the Afghan lapis lazuli stone should now be classified as a conflict mineral.

[Learn more](#)

- **UK NCP Final Statement on Complaint against G4S Relevant to all Private Security Companies**

Source: LinkedIn

Date: 14 June 2016

The UK NCP concluded that G4S has not adequately met the requirements under OECD Guidelines Chapter IV, Paragraph 3 to seek to address the human rights impacts of its business relationships.

[Learn more](#)

- **Activists denounce murder of Philippine anti-coal campaigner**

Date: 04 July 2016

Source: Rappler

A woman who campaigned against the expansion of coal-fired power plants in the Philippines has been killed, police said. This is the latest death in one of the world's deadliest nations for environmental activists.

[Learn more](#)

- **A Human Rights Defender was murdered in Honduras**

Date: 06 July 2016

Source: Front Line Defenders

On 6 July 2016, the body of human rights defender Lesbia Yaneth Urquia Urquia was found near the municipal dump of Marcala, in the department of La Paz, Honduras. Lesbia Yaneth, was a community leader and a member of the Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (Copinh).

[Learn more](#)

- **Force used against workers' protest in Jujuy**

Date: 15 July 2016

Source: Buenos Aires Herald

Jujuy police and military forces fired rubber bullets and tear gas against workers of the Ledesma group — which owns the largest sugar mill plant in the country — in the midst of a protest yesterday, leaving at least 80 people injured as a result of the violence.

[Learn more](#)

- **Court Ruling Stirs Controversy Over Colombia's 'Para-Economy'**

Date: 19 July 2016

Source: In Sight Crime

The northern city of Jenin, which has a population of more than 40,000, said its water supplies had been cut in half by Mekorot, Israel's national water company. Jenin is home to a refugee camp, established in 1953, which contains 16,000 registered refugees.

[Learn more](#)

- **Indonesia / Japan: Japanese OECD National Contact Point accepts complaints on Batang coal plant**

Date: 20 July 2016

Source: UNDPPI

The OECD National Contact Point for Japan has accepted the complaint of 23 community leaders united in Paguyuban against two Japanese firms, Itochu and J-Power, regarding for violations committed by a joint-venture they helped establish to construct and operate a coal-fired power plant in Batang, Central Java, Indonesia.

[Learn more](#)

- **World Bank: Human Rights All But Absent in New Policy**

Date: 21 July 2016

Source: Human Rights Watch

The bank's third, and most likely final, draft of its new environmental and social framework, published on July 20, 2016, does not require the bank to respect human rights. Instead, it only references human rights in its non-binding "vision" statement.

[Learn more](#)

- **Indigenous Peruvians' human rights claim: UK High Court rules on dispute over disclosure of documents by mining giant Xstrata**

Date: 21 July 2016

Source: Leigh Day

The Claimants are seeking compensation from Xstrata for human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by the Peruvian National Police during a protest in the vicinity of the Tintaya copper mine in Peru in May 2012. The complaint focused on the initial omission to disclose an email from an Xstrata director [Charles Sartain] to its senior South America manager [Jose Marun] which had proposed a “direct, proactive and strong approach” to confront community representatives to whom he referred as “sons of whores”.

[Learn more](#)

- **Human Rights abuses escalate in Chiadzwa**

Date: July 24 2016

Source: The Southern Daily

Police have launched an all offensive brutal attack characterised by arbitrary human rights abuses against people residing in Chiadzwa and surrounding areas close to the diamond fields in Manicaland province. The police operation whose code name cannot be ascertained at this time began 3 days ago, with members of the force targeting men and women of youth resemblance whom they accuse of touting and illegal gold panning.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Theodore J. Boutrous

The Ends Do Not Justify the Means

In 2014, a federal court found that an American lawyer fabricated evidence, bribed court officials and intimidated judges as part of a lawsuit in Ecuador against a U.S. oil company. In its 500-page opinion the court declared that “Justice is not served by inflicting injustice. The ends do not justify the means.” In other words, one cannot commit a series of knowingly fraudulent and illegal acts, even if purportedly done in the name of a noble cause.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: Claes Cronstedt and Robert C. Thompson

A Proposal for an International Arbitration Tribunal on Business and Human Rights

The article explores the challenges and benefits of an international arbitration tribunal on business and human rights in order to give proper remedies to victims of human rights violations committed by multinational corporations.

[Learn more](#)

Campaigns

- **Time for Governments and the OECD to #StepItUp**

Governments need to step it up if NCPs are to provide victims with remedies for harms from corporate abuses and to bring about changes in corporate behaviour.

[Learn more](#)

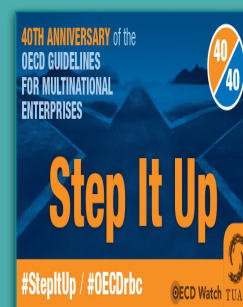


Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/zdqwq8o>

- **Coalition for Human Rights in Development**

The petition call on all international financial institutions to ensure that the activities they finance respect human rights and that there are spaces for people to participate in the development of IFI projects and hold IFIs to account without risking their security.

[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.
