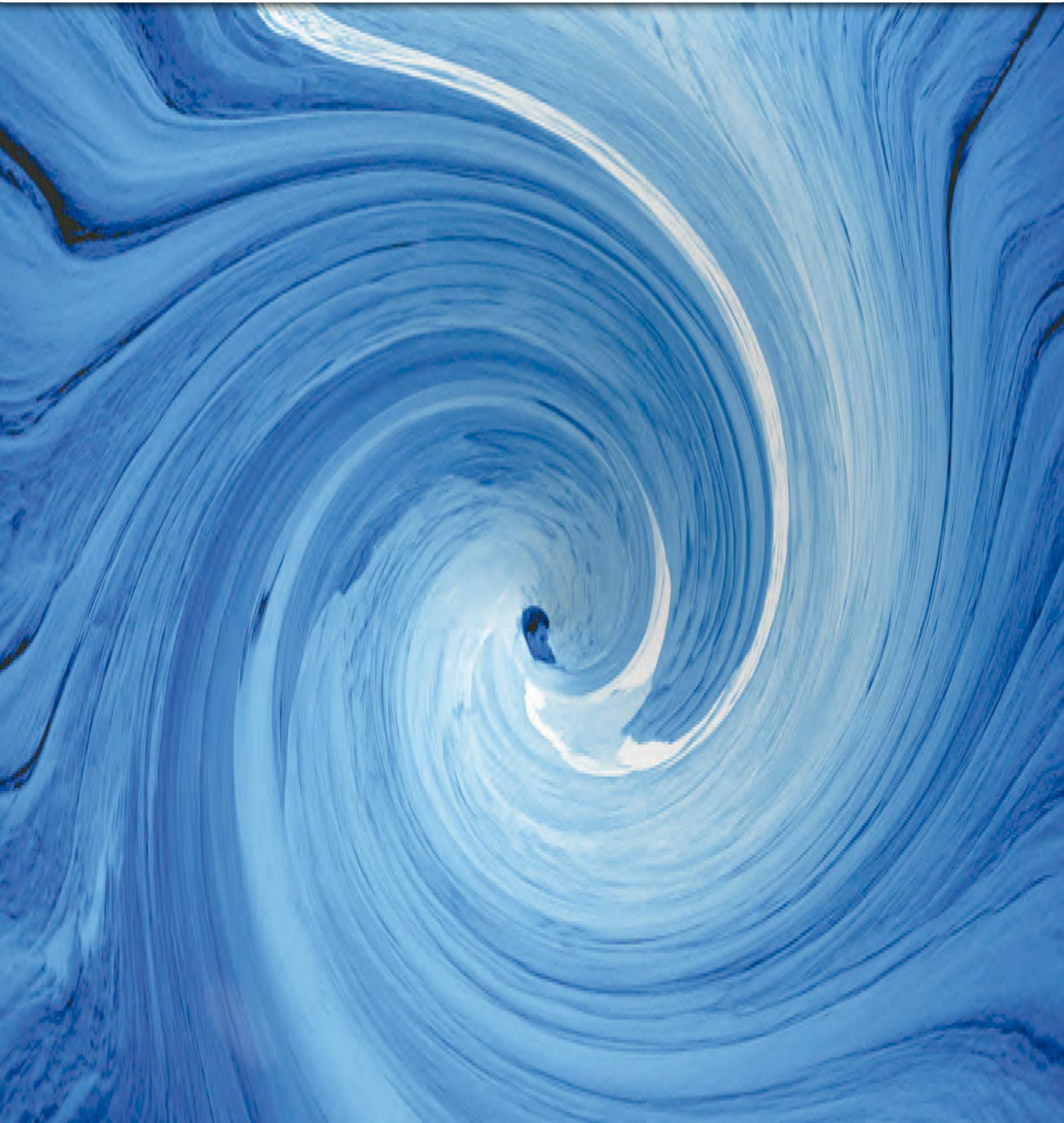




BCHR

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016
N°18



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 very much welcome your ideas and suggestions for how the BCHR newsletter can better serve your own needs and interests. We also kindly ask that you share this newsletter widely with practitioners, academics and enthusiasts alike.

The next edition of the BCHR newsletter will be published by the end of January. If you are interested in contributing to future editions of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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 Papers: An Invitation to the Conference on Corporate Accountability, Business and Human Rights: African Perspective, June 2017**

Deadline: 29 January 2016

This Pan-African conference on Business and Human Rights will be held under the theme 'Corporate Accountability: An African Perspective'. The purpose of the proposed conference is to discuss how the business and human rights framework can better accommodate, and be more responsive to, the African political, social, legal and economic context.

[Learn more](#)

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B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **Launch of the US National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct**

The US National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct was released on December 16th in Washington DC.

[Learn more](#)

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- **4th International Winter Course: Human Rights & Asia 2017**

Date: 9 to 20 January, 2017

Place: Seoul National University Human Rights Center, Seoul

Organized by: Seoul National University Human Rights Center

The International Winter Course 'Human Rights and Asia' is designed to allow participants to think about the universality of human rights in particular contexts of Asia and to gain a deepened understanding about human rights issues in this region.

[Learn more](#)

- **The New U.S. National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct: Initial Reflections on the Way Here and the Road Ahead**

Date: 12 January 2017

Place: American University Washington College of Law, Claudio Grossman Hall, Washington DC

Organized by: Various

With the new Trump administration taking office, now is a crucial time to take stock of the NAP and the U.S. government's plans to fulfil its duty to protect human rights and ensure strong implementation of the NAP. Speakers will offer their insights and expertise on a number of questions relating to the process, content, and future of the NAP.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Land Rights, Risk, & Conflict in Africa**

Date: 9 February 2017

Place: Radisson Blu, Dakar, Senegal

Organized by: Rights and Resources Initiative

This international event—being held for the first time in Africa—will bring together representatives of governments, local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, and companies and investors to discuss the future of community land rights.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Global Conflict Mineral Compliance & Supply Chain Transparency Summit**

Date: 2 – 3 March 2017

Place: Hilton Hotel, Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

Organized by: Corporate Parity

This 2-day senior level meeting will provide participants with the steps the key industry groups are taking to ensure the conflict minerals supply chain compliance.

[Learn more](#)

C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• Built on Slavery: Debt Bondage and Child Labour in Cambodia's Brick Factories

Authors: Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights (LICADHO)
LICADHO publishes its report “Built on Slavery: Debt Bondage and Child Labour in Cambodia’s Brick Factories” which presents evidence of the widespread use of contemporary forms of slavery in Cambodia’s brick manufacturing industry.

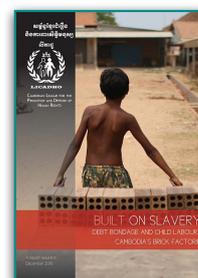


Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/zhybv4>

[Learn more](#)

• Business and Human Rights: The role of the legal profession

Author: Fernando Pombo Foundation

The Fernando Pombo Foundation has published the book “The role of the lawyer in the implementation of the Ruggie Principles: 8 good practices for business lawyers”, a unique collective work that gathers the investigation carried out on the key role law has in the new global framework of the UN Guiding Principles



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/zfajq3cx>

[Learn more](#)

• Colombia's Invisible Force: The Impact of Military Companies and Private Security Companies

Authors: NOVACT

Colombia Invisible Force examines the role and impact of Military Companies and Private Security Companies on human rights and its role in the peacebuilding process. This report traces a route through the internal conflict in Colombia and explains the role and actions of those in Colombia who have facilitated and contributed to the growth and impunity of the mentioned Companies.



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/zrgy3y6>

[Learn more](#)

• Assessing Business-Related Impacts on Human Rights

Authors: INEF

With a view to informing the policies and practices of states, business enterprises, and other stakeholders towards universal corporate respect for human rights, the document proposes principled and practical indicators to support the assessment of human rights impacts with which business enterprises may be involved.

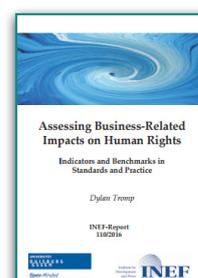


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[Learn more](#)

• **The Human Rights Guide to the SDGS: Linking Human Rights with all Sustainable Development Goals and Targets**

Authors: The Danish Institute for Human Rights

The Guide illustrates the human rights anchorage of the 17 goals and provides concrete links between the 169 targets and the range of human rights instruments and labour standards.

[Learn more](#)



International News

• EU Agrees Law to Curb Flow of Conflict Minerals

Date: 22 November 2016

Source: Reuters

The European Union agreed a deal on the 20 of November 2016 to stem the flow of gold and other metals used to fund armed conflicts or produced in conditions that breach human rights. EU importers of tin, tungsten, tantalum, gold and their ores will from 2021 have to carry out checks on their suppliers in legislation that will also apply to smelters and refiners.

[Learn more](#)

• Palm Oil Scandal: Labour Abuses Behind Big Brand Names

Date: 30 November 2016

Source: Amnesty International

Amnesty International found serious human rights abuses on the plantations of Wilmar and its suppliers. These included forced labour and child labour, gender discrimination, as well as exploitative and dangerous working practices that put the health of workers at risk.

[Learn more](#)

• Legal Action Filed Against Fifa Over Treatment of Qatar Migrant Workers

Date: 08 December 2016

Source: The Guardian

The Netherlands Trade Union Confederation confirmed on Thursday that Fifa has been "summoned to appear in the commercial court in Zürich" in a case it has brought against the world governing body on behalf of the Bangladeshi migrant worker, Nadim Sharaful Alam.

[Learn more](#)

• Corker: Bill to Launch end Modern Slavery Initiative to Become Law

Date: 08 December 2016

Source: Corker

U.S. Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today announced passage of his initiative to end modern slavery worldwide. The initiative will help establish a powerful effort in concert with the private sector and foreign governments to eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking around the globe

[Learn more](#)

• Top 10 Business and Human Rights Issues

Date: 10 December 2016

Source: Institute for Human Rights and Business

Marking International Human Rights Day on the 10th of December 2016, IHRB has published the eighth annual list of the Top 10 Business & Human Rights Issues for the coming year. The human rights challenges expected in 2017 reflect a stark shift in social, political and economic drivers at the global level.

[Learn more](#)

• What Happens In Colombia Doesn't Stay in Colombia

Date: 12 December 2016

Source: Huffington Post

Federal judge tells Chiquita it must face human rights allegations in the U.S. The legal decision is important for the farmers, workers and labour organizers who endured killings, disappearances and violence without remedy.

[Learn more](#)

• Germany adopts National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

Date: 21 December 2016

The German government adopted the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights on 21 December 2016. The NAP Contains the first steps and agreement about the further integration of human rights into business practices.

[Learn more](#)

• Environmental Defenders Are Being Murdered at an Unprecedented Rate, Says UN Special Rapporteur

Date: 22 December 2016

Source: News Security Beats

On average three environmental activists were killed each week in 2015, according to a recent report from the United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Latin America and Asia are the hotspots for increased environmental human rights violence, where industries like mining, deforestation, and palm oil cultivation are taking a toll on the land and people.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: David Segall

Assessing FIFA's Progress Since the Ruggie Report

In October, the international football governing association FIFA released a report entitled FIFA 2.0: Vision for the Future. It has now been more than six months since Professor John Ruggie issued a report for FIFA, in which he recommended six overarching steps the organization should take as part of its obligations under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[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.
