



# BCHR

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2015  
N°6



BCHR NEWSLETTERS 2016:  
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

# The BCHR Network

The BCHR Network is pleased to send you the BCHR 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.

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## Network Announcements

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). We also 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.

With best wishes for the New Year,

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

#### • Ireland Publishes Working Outline of National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights

**Deadline: 29 January 2016**

The Irish Government decided on 24 June 2014 that Ireland would develop a national plan for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). An inter-departmental working group was formed consisting of focal points from each Government Department and state agencies and, following consultations with civil society and business, a working outline of Ireland's Plan has now been prepared. The working outline of Ireland's Plan is published on the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website, [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie). The National Plan on Business and Human Rights will build on the achievements of Ireland's National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility which was published by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in April 2014.

Interested parties are invited to submit views on the working outline of Ireland's National Plan on Business and Human Rights by e-mail to the Human Rights Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [businesshr@dfa.ie](mailto:businesshr@dfa.ie) (before 29 January 2016).

[Learn more](#)

### B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

#### • Human Rights and Asia

**Date: 4 – 15 January 2016**

Place: Human Rights Center, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea

Organized by: Seoul National University Human Rights Center

The Course on "Human Rights and Asia" intends to allow participants to think about the universality of human rights in particular contexts of Asia and gain a deepened understanding about human rights issues in the region.

[Learn more](#)



## • Human Rights Law and the Extractive Industries

**Date: 18–19 February 2016**

Organized by: Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation

This conference will be an opportunity for all stakeholders—including in-house, outside, and agency counsel, managers, NGOs, academics, and government officials—to gather and share their respective experience, and will produce practical and scholarly papers.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Human Rights Impact Assessment Lab

**Date: 19 April 2016**

Place: Skalborg 8a, 2720 Vanlose, Copenhagen (Denmark)

Organized by: Global CSR

Human Rights Impact Assessment Lab offers in-depth capacity to understand the 48 Human Rights from the International Bill of Human Rights from a business perspective. This workshop provides the necessary tools to work diligently with the content of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and with human rights in a business context. During the workshop the participants will complete a preliminary human rights impact assessment of their own business.

[Learn more](#)

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## • International Academy and Forum on Peace Mediation and National Dialogue: Mediating Company–Community Conflicts

**Date: 12 – 19 July 2016**

Place: Caux (Montreux), Switzerland

Organized by: Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (ICP)

This conference will provide insights into how mediators working under difficult circumstances can develop strategies meeting international standards and taking into account all the tension and conflict factors.

[Learn more](#)

## C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

### • Justice and Conflict in South Sudan. Observations from a Pilot Survey

**Authors:** Pax for Peace

This briefing paper presents initial observations arising from a pilot survey, conducted in Juba in April 2015, investigating people's experiences in seeking justice in relation to both conflict-related and non-conflict-related violence. The findings are intended to stimulate research and debate on the needs and opportunities for justice and reconciliation in South Sudan.



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/hqg8p2q>

[Learn more](#)

### • The Business and Human Rights Landscape. Moving Forward, Looking Back

**Editors:** Jena Martin and Karen E. Bravo

The Business and Human Rights Landscape offers the most comprehensive analysis to date of the current legal framework. It includes in-depth explorations of the UN Guiding Principles from both theoretical and practical standpoints, with case studies ranging from the Rana Plaza building collapse to Kenyan resource extraction. Bookending current analyses are historical accounts (discussing the colonial slave trade) and forward-looking perspectives (analyzing labor's role).

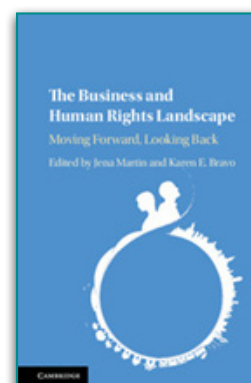


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[Learn more](#)

### • Colombia: Shadow Report on the Sustainability of Glencore's Operations in Colombia

**Authors:** NGO's Pensamiento y Acción Social, PAS (Colombia) and Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz Kolumbien, ASK! (Switzerland)

This shadow report is intended as a contribution towards civil society's duty to provide oversight and demand responsibility from large companies and transnational corporations in regards to the multiple impacts that they generate in the world through their corporate, environmental, labor, social, economic, as well as human rights performance.



Image taken from: [www.businessandhumanrights.com](http://www.businessandhumanrights.com)

[Learn more](#)

## • Kenya: Driven Out for Development

**Authors:** Amnesty International

This report exposes how the highway project, as the Kenya National Highways Authority is currently implementing it, has ignored well-established safeguards, which would prevent forced evictions taking place. It also reveals how the international financial institutions involved have failed to carry out adequate human rights due diligence to ensure they the projects they fund do not cause or contribute to human rights violations.

[Learn more](#)

## • USA: Measuring Transnational Human Rights

**Authors:** Cortelyou C. Kenney, Stanford Law School

Over the past three and a half decades, hundreds of transnational human rights civil suits—i.e., suits seeking monetary compensation for atrocities committed abroad ranging from torture and extrajudicial killing to forced labor and human trafficking—have been filed in the United States. This article collects a dataset of transnational human rights lawsuits. It also analyse the cases in a comprehensive way.

[Learn more](#)

## • Demonstrating Value

**Authors:** ICMM

ICMM has published its first ever comprehensive guide on responsible sourcing for the mining and metals industry. *Demonstrating value* examines the context and drivers for responsible sourcing and provides practical guidance on approaches that companies can take to demonstrate that they are producing materials responsibly.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/zqpd7vd>

## • The Role of the Private Sector in Improving Public Security and Access to Justice

**Authors:** International Alert

This report looks into the role the private sector can play in improving public security and access to justice in Pakistan. This research discusses what a lack of security and access to justice can mean for businesses. It also provides examples of where the private sector has played a role in improving public security and access to justice, in Pakistan and elsewhere.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/izv8ntxo>



## • Occasional Paper: Human Rights Defenders and Business – Searching for Common Ground

**Authors:** Institute for Human Rights and Business

Some companies are broadening their crisis management policies and procedures to explicitly address adverse human rights impacts, consistent with the UN Global Compact Principles and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This Good Practice Note identifies five good practices for integrating human rights considerations into crisis planning, the first phase of effective crisis management.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/h7yb22>

## • The Privatization of Security During the Israel Occupation

**Authors:** Leticia Armendáriz

The report analyzes the role of Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) and their implication in human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory. The author analyzes the use of PMSCs by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, with reference to concepts, declarations and policies of the Israeli authorities, and gauges the impact of PMSCs on the human rights of the Palestinian people.

[Learn more](#)

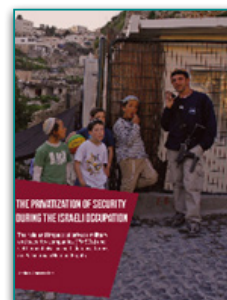


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## International News

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- **“The Power to Defend Our Territory:” Indigenous Communities Win Consultation Law in Guatemala**

**Date:** 18 November 2015

**Source:** Up Side Down World

On September 10, the Guatemalan Constitutional court ordered the suspension of licenses for the construction of the Vega I and Vega II hydroelectric projects in the Ixil territory. The court made the order following the failure of the company to consult the indigenous communities prior to the issuing of permits for the project owned by the Spanish firm Hidroxil, S.A.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Villagers in Sierra Leone are Suing Iron Ore Mining Company African Minerals**

**Date:** 01 December 2015

**Source:** Sierra Leone Telegraph

According to reports by the London Guardian newspaper and Mining.Com, African Minerals Limited is being sued in a London court over allegations that it evicted residents and violently mistreated workers and villagers living close to one of its mines in Sierra Leone.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Arrest Warrant Against the Former Security Manager of Tahoe Resources in Guatemala**

**Date:** 02 December 2015

**Source:** Centro de Medios Independientes

The Constitutional Court of Guatemala issued an arrest warrant against the former security manager of Tahoe Resources, Alberto Rotondo. Rotondo is charged with 6 murders. (Available in Spanish)

[Learn more](#)

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## • UNHCR Ends G4S Security Contracts in Jordan

**Date:** 03 December 2015

**Source:** Mondoweiss

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement announced a victory today as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Jordan confirmed to journalists that it has not renewed security contracts with the British private security firm G4S. G4S is the world's largest private security company in the world, and has come under fire from campaigners for a range of grave human rights abuses, including deaths in custody at its prisons and detention centres in the UK, Australia and South Africa.

[Learn more](#)

## • Brazil: UN Expert Group to Assess Impact of Business Activities on Human Rights

**Date:** 07 December 2015

**Source:** OHCHR

The United Nations Working Group on business and human rights undertook its first official visit to Brazil to examine the adverse impact of business activities on human rights. The visit, from 7 to 16 December, took place against the backdrop of a serious environmental disaster, caused by the collapse on 5 November of a mining tailing dam in Mariana, State of Minas Gerais, and of a range of ongoing and planned large-scale development projects, including those related to the Rio 2016 Olympics.

[Learn more](#)

## • Brutal Cartels Fight Over Mexico's 'Conflict-Free' Gold Revenues

**Date:** 07 December 2015

**Source:** Reuters

Heroin traffickers linked to the abduction and disappearance of 43 students a year ago are battling over millions of dollars paid by Canadian mining giant Goldcorp to a village in Mexico's southern gold belt, leading to a wave of murders. As a signatory to a Conflict-Free Gold Standard drawn up by the World Gold Council industry group, Goldcorp (G.TO) commits to extracting the precious metal in a manner that "does not fuel unlawful armed conflict or contribute to serious human rights abuses."

But residents of Carrizalillo in the impoverished state of Guerrero say the some \$3 million a year in rent paid by Goldcorp for their land, which the mine is built on, is fuelling a bloody feud between two rival cartels.

Village authorities say the company is not doing all it can to protect

[Learn more](#)

## • **Fifa Appoint Harvard Professor to Improve Human Rights Policies**

**Date:** 14 December 2015

**Source:** The Guardian

Crisis-hit Fifa has appointed John Ruggie to oversee an independent review that will recommend ways of embedding United Nations human rights protocols into its policies and practices. With labour abuses in Qatar under intense scrutiny in the run-up to the 2022 World Cup, Fifa and other sports governing bodies have come under pressure to consider the human rights implications of their hosting decisions. Amnesty International recently said that Qatar had yet to implement even the limited reforms that it promised in the wake of a series of investigations by the Guardian and international human rights organisations that unveiled the scale of the issue faced by the army of migrant workers in the country building the infrastructure to host the World Cup.

**[Learn more](#)**

## Blogs and Opinions

**Article by:** Margaret Jungk

### ¿Why do we Know so Little About Corporate Human Rights Abuses?

The blog tackles the lack of information about human rights violations by companies and the obstacles in finding where and how to prevent human rights abuses.

[Learn more](#)

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**Article by:** Ryan Opsal

### ¿Will Low Oil Prices Increase Internal Instability In Conflict Countries?

With over 1.6 million internally displaced in South Sudan, and another 600,000 refugees in neighboring countries, are oil price declines exacerbating humanitarian crises in oil-producing African countries, and can we expect further deterioration as a result of the recent price depression?

[Learn more](#)



## About our Network

The Network will bring 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 will also look at the potential role of companies in relation to peace building.

The Network will reflect 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).