



News of February 2013

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The following is the seventh in a series of brief discussions of the *Principles of Access to Archives* adopted by the International Council on Archives at its Annual General Meeting in August 2012.

Principle 6. Institutions holding archives ensure that victims of serious crimes under international law have access to archives that provide evidence needed to assert their human rights and to document violations of them, even if those archives are closed to the general public.

The Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity (2005) of the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights declares that victims of serious crimes under international law have a right to know the truth about the violations. The Principles emphasize the vital role that access to archives plays in learning the truth, holding persons accountable for human right violations, claiming compensation, and defending against charges of human rights violations. The Principles state that each person is entitled to know whether his or her name appears in State archives and, if it does, to challenge the validity of the information by submitting to the archival institution a statement that will be made available by the archivists whenever the file containing the name is requested for research use.

Archival institutions obtain and hold the evidence needed to protect human rights and to contest the violation of human rights where serious crimes under international law have been committed. Persons seeking access to archives for human rights purposes are given access to the relevant archives, even if those archives are closed to the general public. The right of access for human rights purposes applies to public archives and, to the extent possible, to private archives.

The Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity states plainly that the State must undertake specific measures to protect the right to know, one of which is that the State “must ensure the preservation of, and access to, archives concerning violations of human rights and humanitarian law.” This clearly links to right to information to archives and human rights.

The right to know what the State has done is fundamental, but this right is not without costs. The most famous case of the right to know and the despair of knowing is that of Vera Wollenberger, an East German woman who asked to see the file kept on her by the Stasi, the secret police of the former German Democratic Republic. She found out that her husband had been informing on her. <http://www.nytimes.com/1992/04/12/magazine/east-germans-face-their-accusers.html>

Whether the State is obligated to preserve non-governmental records to secure these rights is a question that has not yet been adjudicated, but the sense of responsibility outlined in the *Updated Set of Principles* suggests that if the State knows that records in non-governmental hands shed light on human rights abuses, it has the duty to preserve them, also.

The South African History Archive (SAHA) recently published *PAIA Unpacked*, a guide for lawyers and paralegals using the national Promotion of Access to information Act. The Act provides a right to access information from the records of private bodies (defined in the Act), which “**must** grant a requester access to a record if: the record is required for the exercise of any rights; the requester has complied with the procedural requirements in the Act; and access is not refused under one of the grounds for refusal.” While the right to records of a private body is more limited than the right to records of a public body, the link of access to the “exercise of any rights” is squarely within the intent of both the UN *Principles* and Principle 6.

The need for access is crucial for both individuals and societies. Persons who gain access to records relating to violations of their rights or those of their loved ones may find it a troubling experience, and archivists who provide reference service on these materials might find it useful to have some basic training in handling situations where emotional support is needed. Hard as it is for individuals to look clearly at the troubled past, the cost to society of NOT looking at the collective past is even greater. As the UN *Principles* say, individuals have a right to know, but there is a corollary “duty to remember, which the State must assume, in order to guard against the perversions of history that go under the names of revisionism or negationism; the knowledge of the oppression it has lived through is part of a people’s national heritage and as such must be preserved.” Archivists are duty-bearers to assure these rights.

International news.

European Court of Human Rights/Poland/United States. The European Court of Human Rights decided to declassify and release documents submitted to it by Poland regarding a “probe into a Guantanamo inmate’s claims he was tortured in an alleged CIA secret prison in Poland in 2002-2003,” *globalpost.com* reported. <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130205/poland-concerned-over-release-black-site-papers>

The Open Society Foundation published a related study, “Globalizing Torture: CIA Secret Detention and Extraordinary Rendition.” The report says that as many as 54 countries participated in rendition, with at least 136 persons reportedly subject to this treatment “but the total number will remain unknown until the United States and its partners make this information publicly available.” Once again pointing to the importance of preserving the records of non-governmental institutions, OSF says the report is based on “credible public sources and

information provided by reputable human rights organizations.”

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/globalizing-torture-20120205.pdf>

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Argentina/Iran. The Argentine Senate approved the agreement with Iran to set up an international “truth commission” on the bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in 1994. See *HRWG News* of 2013-01 for background information.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/22/us-iran-argentina-bombing-idUSBRE91L02Y20130222>

Australia/Israel. An Australian-Israeli citizen known as “Prisoner X” was arrested in February 2010 and secretly held in solitary confinement in Israel, where he died in his jail cell in December 2010. After an Australian journalist broke the story in February 2013, Israel released 8 of the 28 pages of the government’s investigation into the death. According to the *New York Times*, the judge who conducted the investigation said she reviewed police photographs, administrative and medical files on the prisoner, a diary of phone calls he made, video images from security cameras, and testimony taken from dozens of people, from family members to prison officials. http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/20/world/middleeast/israel-releases-part-of-report-on-prisoner-xs-death.html?_r=0 Among the hundreds of articles published on the story, see one published by a reporter who wanted to break the story in June 2010 at

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/02/prisoner-x-israel-mossad-gag-order.html>

Belarus/Russia/Ukraine. On December 8, 1991, Boris Yeltsin of Russia, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Belarussian President Stanislav Shushkevich signed an agreement confirming that the Soviet Union ceased to exist and creating the Commonwealth of Independent States in its place. The three governments hold certified copies, but the original has disappeared.

<http://news.yahoo.com/back-ussr-key-soviet-document-missing-114202732.html>

Bulgaria/Israel/Lebanon. Bulgarian officials announced that by examining the passports and a forged drivers’ license that belonged to the suspects in the bombing of a bus in Bulgaria that killed five Israeli tourists, the bus driver, and the bomber, and by using the European Bomb Database System hosted by Europol, they have concluded that the bombers were members of Hezbollah, the Shi’a militant group and political movement based in Lebanon.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/europol-supports-investigation-terrorist-attack-burgas-airport-bulgaria>

Chad/Senegal. The trial of Hissene Habre, the former dictator of Chad, began in Dakar, Senegal.

<http://thinkafricapress.com/chad/trial-hissene-habre-turning-point-justice-africa>;

<https://hrdag.org/chad/> Extensive documentary evidence is available for use in the trial; see, for example, the work on Chad posted by the Human Rights Data Analysis Group

<https://hrdag.org/chad/> For background, see *HRWG* 2012-07.

China/Japan/Philippines/Taiwan/Vietnam. Disputes over ownership of islands in the Pacific embroil a number of Asian countries (see, for example, China/Philippines item in *HRWG News*

2013-01). Although many of the islands are not inhabited, some are, leaving the citizenship of the inhabitants in doubt. In an enlightening review article, the *Washington Post* pointed out that China is using its “archival arsenal” to buttress its claims to various islands, adding that China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has “shut down access to a large portion of its archival documents” for “upgrading of the system.” http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-15/world/37108248_1_diaoyu-islands-china-and-japan-senkaku-islands

Cyprus/Europe/Lebanon. Hossam Taleb Yaacoub is on trial in Cyprus. An admitted operative for Hezbollah, he is charged with conducting surveillance to determine where to attack Israeli tourists (technically, conspiracy to commit a felony). When he was arrested last July, reported the *New York Times*, he had “a small red notebook with the license plate numbers of two buses ferrying Israelis to vacation spots”—and two weeks later a bus of Israeli tourists was bombed in Bulgaria (see above). <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/165482>

El Salvador/United States. As reported in *HRWG News* 2013-01, Professor Terry Karl has been testifying at the trial of Jose Garcia, whom the United States seeks to deport for lying on his immigration forms. Karl’s testimony, which stretched over three days, was based on voluminous archival documentation; the Center for Justice and Accountability posted summaries of the Karl testimony on the Center’s website. <http://cja.org/article.php?list=type&type=465>

Israel/Palestine. *Unfree in Palestine*, a new book written by a Palestinian living in Canada and a British Jew, traces the history of Israel’s use of records (such as identity documents, censuses, and population registries) to control Palestinians “between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.” <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/02/palestinians-denationalized-israeli-census.html>

Israel/Russia/Ukraine. The *Atlantic Monthly* reported on the problem facing Israelis of Russian heritage when they need proof that they are Jewish in order to marry in Israel: “Soviet emigrants had often been prohibited from taking many of their vital documents out of the country, forced to surrender their original birth certificates in exchange for official government copies” which are not trusted by Israeli officials. Detective bureaus now research genealogy in Russia and Ukraine for prospective Israeli brides and grooms, a task that has been harder since 2006 when “Russia passed tough new laws to keep citizens’ biographical data confidential.” <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/print/2013/02/getting-married-in-israel-why-it-so-often-means-hiring-a-detective/273127/>

Lebanon/Syria. *Al-Monitor Lebanon Pulse* published a story about the continuing consequences of the arbitrary border drawn between Lebanon and Syria by agreement between France and the United Kingdom in 1916 (the Sykes-Picot Agreement). Today about 14 villages in Syria are homes to Lebanese Shi’a, while the members of the Hamadah clan in Lebanon still have “documents proving their ownership” of “vast territories” within Syria. <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/02/hezbollah-shiites-syria.html>

Mexico/United States. The Washington Office on Latin America published a new report on security and migration trends along the border between south Texas and Mexico. This is the latest in a series of studies in six different areas along the U.S.-Mexican border, providing

WOLA with data to compare changes in the region since 2011. The *Washington Post*, citing the WOLA study, noted that the U.S. is now increasingly repatriating Mexicans apprehended crossing the border illegally by transporting them “laterally” to south Texas and then forcing them across the border into areas of Mexico that are especially violent.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/02/12/lateral-deportation-migrants-crossing-the-mexican-border-fear-a-trip-sideways/>

For the WOLA report, see

http://www.wola.org/commentary/border_security_and_migration_a_report_from_south_texas

National news.

Australia. A brief investigation was conducted in the autumn of 1989 into allegations of child abuse at the John Oxley Youth Centre in Queensland. In February 1990, despite requests for documents made to the government by the lawyers for a person implicated in the investigation, the Cabinet Secretary of Queensland requested approval from the Queensland State Archivist to destroy the investigation records. The State Archivist approved within a day, reported the *Brisbane Times*; the Cabinet approved ten days later; and the records were shredded on March 23, 1990. Now an official inquiry is looking into the handling of the earlier inquiry and the destruction of the records. <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/heiner-documents-destroyed-for-greater-good-exminister-says-20130218-2emun.html>; <http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/>

Bangladesh. Abdul Quader Mollah was found guilty of murder, rape, torture and arson during Bangladesh’s war to break away from Pakistan and sentenced to life in prison. As *The Guardian* noted, war crimes in 1971 are “evidenced by the discovery of mass graves throughout the country, Pakistani documents detailing operations and massacres, hit-lists of local collaborators, journalists’ reports, photographs and video footage, and, most importantly, the eyewitness accounts of the survivors.” <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/13/shahbag-protest-bangladesh-quader-mollah> For background, see *HRWG News* 2012-01, 2012-05 and 2012-12.

Bosnia. *BIRN* reported that a coalition of victims’ groups proposed legislation to require the government “to establish the exact number of prison camps and the amount of detainees during the 1992-95 conflict in order to end the manipulation of statistics for political gain.”

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/bosnian-victims-want-law-on-torture>

Canada. Two large data breaches were announced. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada lost a portable hard drive containing “data on 583,000 Canada Student Loans Program borrowers from 2000 to 2006” including student names, social insurance numbers, dates of birth, contact information and loan balances of borrowers. And healthcare data for 38,000 British Columbians were shared “inappropriately” with a university researcher.

<http://www.canadiansecuritymag.com/IT-Security/News/Feds-lose-personal-information-affecting-half-a-million-Canadians.html>

<http://www.securityweek.com/health-data-more-5-million-canadians-accessed-multiple-breach-incidents>

Human Rights Watch released a report on “abusive policing and failures in protection of indigenous women and girls in Northern British Columbia.” The research included interviews with 50 indigenous women and girls and 37 interviews with families of murdered and missing women, indigenous leaders, community service providers, and others across 10 communities. HRW urged the Canadian government to establish a national commission of inquiry on the policing failures it found; the records of those interviews would be important sources for such a commission. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/13/canada-mounties-abuse_n_2681117.html For the Human Rights Watch report, see <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2013/02/13/those-who-take-us-away-0>

Chile. A video recorded by tourists visiting Las Salinas and posted on YouTube on February 4 showed 27 Chilean sailors chanting, “I will kill Argentines, I will shoot Bolivians, I will behead Peruvians.” The Chilean Navy said that sanctions against the sailors “will be announced within the next 20 days,” the *Argentina Independent* reported.

<http://www.argentinaindependent.com/tag/chile/> See also *Impunity Watch* <http://impunitywatch.com/chilean-marines-caught-on-tape-chanting-xenophobic-tunes/>

France. Following the publication of a report by the French Senate that called upon the government to make further efforts to locate the owners of artworks confiscated by the Nazis and now in France, the French government “is setting up a group of historians, regulators, archivists and curators to actively track down families” reported *Bloomberg News*. The Senate report also called upon the government to “Réaliser un répertoire complet des archives relatives aux oeuvres spoliées (Ministère des affaires étrangères, AJ38 des Archives nationales, Louvre) et le rendre accessible en ligne.” <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-18/nazi-looted-art-s-jewish-owners-sought-by-france-in-new-quest.html>; for the Senate report see http://www.senat.fr/fileadmin/Fichiers/amdcom/cult/4P_C_Bouchoux_oeuvres_spoliees_vJM_cor_CB.pdf

Guinea. A new report from the International Crisis Group on the “election quagmire” in Guinea points to the problem of electoral registration and the right to vote. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) established in September 2012 is “stalled,” said the ICG, and it recommends that the president of the INEC give all the commissioners “all the documents relating to the organization of elections and clarify the procedures for the revision of the electoral register” and “reopen discussions on the electoral register in the INEC plenary.”

http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/africa/west-africa/guinea/199-guinea-a-way-out-of-the-election-quagmire.aspx?utm_source=guinea-report&utm_medium=1&utm_campaign=mremainl

India. In a new report on child sexual abuse in India, Human Rights Watch notes that the government sponsored a study in 2007 which, based on interviews with 12,5000 children in 13 Indian states, found that 53 percent of the children reported having been sexually abused in some way, but only three percent of the cases were reported to the police. The records of that massive study should be in the government archives, while Human Rights Watch preserves the records of its recent interviews with more than 100 people. Among the remedies that HRW proposes is records-based: “Require registration and the meeting of specified standards by children’s residential care facilities before they open. Establish penalties for facilities that fail to register.” For the HRW study, see <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2013/02/07/breaking-silence-0>

Iraq. The Kurdistan Regional Government is pressing Iraq's central government to join the International Criminal Court "to ensure that what took place under the rule of the successive regimes in Iraq before 2003—when the Kurdish people were subjected to assaults and ethnic cleansing—would ever repeat itself," reported *Al-Monitor Iraq Pulse*. However, ICC cannot prosecute any crime that occurred before it was established in 2002, so the crimes of the Saddam Hussein era, for which massive records exist, cannot be brought before the ICC. <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/02/iraq-kurd-icc.html>

Ireland. The government published a 1000 page report concluding that there was "significant state involvement" in the incarceration of women and girls in a system of workhouses known as "Magdalen laundries." The "Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries" said that 10,012 women and girls were detained in "laundries" from 1922 to 1996, but this figure excludes two large "laundries" operated by the Sisters of Mercy, a Catholic order, whose records were too fragmentary to include. Chapter 4 of the report is a detailed statement of the archives that were consulted, including archives of public bodies, religious institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Chapter 6 of the report lays out the commission's plans for managing the archives of its work. The report is here: <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/MagdalenRpt2013>

Italy. Proving that arrest warrants are eternally interesting, the *Huffington Post* reported that a researcher in Italy seems to have found the original arrest warrant from 1513 for Niccolo Machiavelli, the famous author of *The Prince*. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/26/machiavelli-arrest-warrant_n_2765671.html?view=screen

Italy's Supreme Court of Cassation ruled in late January that the government must compensate the families of the 81 people killed in an airplane crash in the sea off Sicily in 1980. The crash has led to "three decades of inquiry boards, parliamentary commissions, countless expert reports, and one of the longest judicial inquiries in recent Italian history," the *New York Times* wrote. Although the Court said that it was "abundantly" clear that the plane was shot down by a missile, the perpetrators remain unknown. Legal requests for documents relating to the crash, called letters rogatory, have been sent to Belgium France, Germany and the United States by prosecutors in Rome. <http://www.italymag.co.uk/italy/plane-crash/italy-s-supreme-court-rules-ustica-plane-struck-missile>

Kosovo. The owner of a medical clinic and his son are on trial, charged with human trafficking and illicit kidney operations in which the "poor people from Turkey, Russia, Moldova and Kazakhstan were allegedly lured to the clinic with the false promise that they would receive up to 15,000 euro for their kidneys." *BIRN* reported that a handwriting expert testified that "the majority of the documents authorizing the operations" were signed by the owner. He compared the handwriting on the authorizations to the handwriting on a document the owner sent to Kosovo's health ministry and concluded they were from the same person. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/medicus-owner-signatures-identified-in-warranties-for-victims>

Lebanon. In a highly political case, a former Lebanese cabinet minister and a Syrian major general are on trial for plotting to carry out terrorist acts, including transporting explosives from Syria into Lebanon to assassinate parliament members, clerics and politicians. The military prosecutor recommended the case for trial based on the examination of “audio-visual records,” *Al-Monitor Lebanon Pulse* reported.

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/02/samaha-mamlouk-indictment-lebanon.html>

Mali. In a building in Timbuktu that was occupied by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb until they were forced out in January, a reporter for the *Associated Press* found a nine-page document signed by the senior commander, assessing the al-Qaida operation in Mali and discussing how quickly and strictly to apply Islamic law. In the document the commander expresses “dismay over the whipping of women and the destruction of Timbuktu’s ancient monuments.” The document is numbered 33/234, a “system reserved for al-Qaida’s internal communications” according to a French scholar who authenticated the letter.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AF_MALI_AL_QAIDAS_SAHARA_PLAYBOOK?SITE=AP Images of the original document and an English translation of the text are found at <http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/international/pdfs/al-qaida-manifesto.pdf>

Mexico. A day after Human Rights Watch released a report documenting 249 “disappearances” of persons during the six years starting 1 December 2006, the government announced that it will work with the International Committee of the Red Cross to search for the disappeared, which it believes may number more than 27,000 individuals. The details of the agreement have not been made public, but the government said that it will be updating its list of 27,523 missing people and will be collecting DNA from the families of the disappeared. The HRW report, documenting cases as examples of the larger picture, said it believes that in 149 of the 249 cases “state actors likely participated in the crime,” basing that judgment on “a range of official documents such as arrest reports, detention registers, complaints filed by victims’ relatives, witness testimony, investigation case files, press releases by officials, amparos [legal documents filed to compel the government to take action] and reports by government rights commissions” as well as material gathered from “victims’ families, local human rights defenders, and journalists” including “security camera surveillance videos, witness video footage, audio recordings by victims’ families of meetings with officials, photographs of abductions, and maps of the signal emitted by victims’ cellphones or radios” and over 100 interviews. For background, see *HRWG News* 2012-01 and 2012-12. The HRW report is

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/02/20/mexico-crisis-enforced-disappearances> The *Associated Press* report of the Mexico-ICRC agreement is http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci_22638595/mexico-pledges-hunt-disappeared

Myanmar. The Lawyers Network of Myanmar and Justice Trust, an international NGO, released a report on violence at Letpadaung copper mine, a “joint venture” of two companies owned by the Chinese military and the Myanmar military. The NGOs report that “local government officials used duress and fraud to compel villagers to sign contracts” with the joint venture, demonstrating the reliance on documents—even fraudulent—as proof. The evidence in the report is based on “eyewitness testimonies, interviews in hospital with injured protesters, legal documents, and photographs and video footage,” which need to be safely preserved by the NGOs. <http://justice-trust.org/wp-content/uploads/Letpadaungreportforpublicrelease.pdf>

North Korea. Digital Globe Analytics and the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea published a report based on satellite imagery, “North Korea’s Camp No. 25.” Using eleven satellite photographs from years between 2003 and 2013, they trace the changes in the camp, which the Committee believes holds around 5000 political prisoners in the far north east of the country. http://hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK_Camp25_LR.pdf

Philippines. The President signed into law the Human Rights Violations Victims Reparation and Recognition Act of 2012. The law covers the human rights violations of the martial law period (192-1986) of the Ferdinand Marcos regime. As part of the new law, a claims board will be established to “generally provide for the process of legally documenting the abuses suffered by the victims” and to produce a roll of martial law victims and create a museum and library/archives in honor of the victims. <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/02/25/912786/long-wait-ends-hr-victims>

Serbia. A new exhibition at the Belgrade Cultural Center “uses X-rays, medical reports, and personal testimonies to document the role of violence in Serbian society,” *Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty* reported. <http://www.rferl.org/content/serbia-museum-of-violence/24896662.html>

Sri Lanka. A British filmmaker released a new documentary that includes four photographs of a 12-year-old boy, two showing him alive and two of his corpse with five bullet holes. The child is the son of a leader of the Tamil Tigers and, according to the *BBC*, the group Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka says the photos were taken by the same camera on 19 May 2009, “the final day of Sri Lankan forces’ bitter 26-year war against the Tigers” and the same day as the boy’s father, a leader of the Tigers, was killed. How the pictures were obtained is not clear. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-21509656>; for an article by the filmmaker, see <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/this-is-proof-beyond-reasonable-doubt-of-the-execution-of-a-child--not-a-battlefield-death-8500298.html>; for information about film, see <http://nofirezone.org/>

South Africa. A taxi driver arrested by police for a parking violation was handcuffed to the back of a van and dragged; he later died. A video of the scene, taken by a witness on a cell phone, was sent to Johannesburg’s *Daily Sun*, which uploaded it to Facebook. Eight police officers have been arrested for the killing. http://www.dailysun.co.za/sunnews_new_item.rbml?rssItemId=http%3A%2F%2Fwordpress.integrat.co.za%2Fdailysun%2F%3Fp%3D37549; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-21627554>

Switzerland. In the wake of the shooting of three women (who died) and two men (who were wounded) in a Swiss village, the Swiss parliament is considering a referendum on the creation of a national gun registry. According to an article in the *Washington Post*, Switzerland’s “26 cantons have individual registries, but they do not share information, making tracking even more difficult.” The registration debate recalls similar questions in the United States, Canada where the long-gun registry was abolished, and Germany where a registry has just been implemented (see *HRWG News* of 2012-12 for the U.S. debate; 2012-04, 2012-05, 2012-09, 2012-11 for the

Canadian abolition controversy; and 2013-01 for the German registry)
<http://thewashingtonpostnie.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Turkey. Argentina's *La Nacion* published an article on "Secret Armenians," people of Armenian origin, estimated to number hundreds of thousands, who continue to live in Anatolia and Istanbul under false identities. <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/culture/2013/02/turkey-secret-armenians.html#ixzz2LTYYYWMn7>; <http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1553055-huellas-de-los-armenios-secretos-de-turquia>

United Kingdom. After a 31-month public inquiry into deaths at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, a massive report of findings was published saying at least 400 and perhaps as many as 1200 people died "needlessly." The report relied on "over a million pages" of evidence. A further investigation has begun at five trusts "which comprise eight district general hospitals," reported *The Telegraph*. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/9854030/3000-more-patients-have-died-needlessly-in-hospital.html> For the report, see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/interactive/2013/feb/06/mid-staffordshire-nhs-foundation-trust-public-inquiry-executive-summary>

United States. The Federal Department of Health and Human Services released a new rules for implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act which limit the protection of medical records to 50 years after death and provide helpful guidance on redacting records for use before that date. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-25/pdf/2013-01073.pdf>

The Federal Department of Veterans Affairs announced that a review of "every grave in the national cemetery system" found 15 sets of remains buried in "wrong spots" and 800 other problems. Some of the problems relate to documentation; for example, the map of the Winchester National Cemetery in Virginia had "not been updated since 1956, even though 10 percent of its burials have occurred since then," the *Washington Post* reported. The Administration said it is working to ensure that the maps in all cemeteries are "updated and accurate" and announced that it will create a "new grave site accounting system." http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-07/local/36970716_1_cemetery-system-grave-sites-burial-problems

After a review of "hundreds of records, including lawsuits and Food and Drug Administration documents" plus interviews with "dozens of government and industry officials," the *Washington Post* found that there are "serious problems at three of fifteen large-scale" pharmacies that produce compound drugs and "dominate the industry." Two companies' "missteps" were linked to at least six deaths. http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-07/national/36970682_1_medications-for-individual-patients-massachusetts-pharmacy-meningitis-outbreak

California. In the continuing scandal over sexual abuse by priests, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of California complied with a court order and released 12,000 pages of internal church documents which had been redacted but which did include the names of an additional 24 men accused of abuse, an addition to the 236 names previously made public. Los Angeles police are reviewing the release to determine whether any new criminal charges should be filed, and the Los Angeles school district, who hired one of the men after he left the church, is reviewing its

records to determine why he was hired. The release has been extensively covered by the *Los Angeles Times*; see <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2013/02/lapd-launches-new-probe-of-priest-molestation-records-.html>; <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/priestabuse/>

District of Columbia. The District of Columbia police announced that they located documentation for “at least 109 of 170 reports of sexual assault” that Human Rights Watch alleged were missing from the police files and were never investigated (see HRWG News 2013-01 for background). The city engaged a law firm to investigate the HRW allegations, reported the *Washington Post*. http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-04/local/36744927_1_sexual-assault-police-files-197-page-report; <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-34200894.html>

The D. C. Superior Court, acknowledging “that DNA often has cleared defendants long after their convictions,” decided to begin keeping trial records permanently rather than destroying them after 10 years. http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-13/local/37079875_1_informants-dna-tests-wrongful-convictions

Maryland. A gynecologist committed suicide after being accused of surreptitiously video-taping and photographing many of his patients; police seized the electronic evidence. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/crime/blog/bs-md-ci-hopkins-doctor-investigation-20130218,0,3650212.story>

Virginia. The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill to make it easier for parents, guardians or other legal representatives of a deceased child to gain access to the minor’s online accounts within 30 days of death. The law was prompted by the experience of a couple who were unable to gain access to the Facebook account of their son after he committed suicide. http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/va-politics/virginia-general-assembly-approves-measure-easing-parental-access-to-facebook-accounts-of-deceased-child/2013/02/18/0c4c43a6-7a19-11e2-9a75-dab0201670da_story.html

Zimbabwe. Police in Zimbabwe have been “conducting a crackdown on NGOs and human rights groups, raiding offices, confiscating files and arresting employees,” *IRIN Africa* reported. The executive director of Zimbabwe Human Rights and two staff members were arrested on charges of “forging and manufacturing” counterfeit certificates of voter registration; they were released on bail. Cell phones and hard drives were confiscated at the Zimbabwe Peace Project; according to *Africa Review* the police had a warrant to seize “any subversive material, documents, gadgets and recordings.” <http://www.nonprofitquarterly.org/policysocial-context/21810-zimbabwe-ngos-facing-police-raids-for-subversive-material.html> <http://www.irinnews.org/Report/97549/Zimbabwe-police-ban-radios-crack-down-on-NGOs>

Publications, conferences.

Swisspeace revised and expanded its bibliography “Archives in Human Rights and Dealing with the Past: A Collection of Resources,” with sections on publications (monographs and articles); United Nations documents; manuals and guidelines; blogs and newsletters; software, databases, and online services; and a selection of websites.

http://archivesproject.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/archivesproject/Publications/MASTER_R_Resources_Archives_and_Dealing_with_the_Past_Jan13.pdf

The preliminary program for the 2013 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums is now available at www.atalm.org. It will be held June 10-13 at Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, U.S.A.

The American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) is offering a course, Community Language Archiving, designed to aid in the understanding, creation and maintenance of a language archives. It will be held June 3-28 in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. For more information go to <http://aildi.arizona.edu/2013-courses> or contact COE-AILDI@email.arizona.edu , 520-521-1068.

Please share news with us! trudy@trudypeterson.com or j.boel@UNESCO.org

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