



News of June 2019
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Commentary.

They appeared in the doorway, two middle-aged men in dark suits, white shirts, dark ties. Dick, my boss in the office of U.S. Presidential archives, asked how he could help them. "We know," one said, "that ships from outer space have landed on the White House lawn in every Administration since Taft and you are hiding the records." No, Dick replied, space ships had not landed on the White House lawn, there are no records of such events, and the archives was not hiding such records from the public. "You lie," they said. After a little more discussion, the men explained that there are holes at the North and South Poles that lead to sub-tropical paradises where space ships fly in to refuel. That led Dick to suggest that they talk with the archivist who handled the records of polar explorations. They did. That archivist had just participated in an expedition to Antarctica; he told them he had been to the South Pole and there was no hole there. "You lie," they said.

Many people are concerned about fake information posted to social media (see <a href="https://www.journalism.org/2019/06/05/many-americans-say-made-up-news-is-a-critical-problem-that-needs-to-be-fixed">https://www.journalism.org/2019/06/05/many-americans-say-made-up-news-is-a-critical-problem-that-needs-to-be-fixed</a> and items below in the technology section). But at least as worrying is the trend to believe things that are demonstrably wrong, disbelieving government (space ships did not land on the White House lawn), experience (I was at the South Pole), or professionalism (we did not hide records).

A core human right is the freedom of belief. But does that entail the right to be wrong, to believe an untruth in the face of truth? A representative of the British Red Cross Society said that since the August 2018 outbreak of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo its workers have heard "more than 33,000 individual rumours, observations and beliefs related to Ebola," such as "The Ebola virus doesn't exist; it's a virus that was made to eliminate the Congolese." How, he asked, "do you fight a disease people don't believe in?" <a href="http://news.trust.org/item/20190620142457-zkby8/">http://news.trust.org/item/20190620142457-zkby8/</a>

The *Wellcome Global Monitor* polled people in 144 countries on beliefs about vaccines, which again and again have proven effective. It found that in France one in three people think vaccines are unsafe--the highest rate in the world--and nearly one in five believe they aren't effective. "According to the World Health Organization (WHO), reluctance or refusal to vaccinate is now one of the top ten major threats to global health. One manifestation of this is that even people in high-income countries, with good healthcare systems, are dying from easily preventable diseases." <a href="https://mosaicscience.com/story/how-france-persuading-its-citizens-get-vaccinated-measles-antivax-vaccines-vaccination/?utm\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\_campaign=6d5d1a258a-MR\_COPY\_08&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_8cab1d7961-6d5d1a258a-149736437

To be sure, there is an enormous difference between believing in holes in the Poles and believing that Ebola does not exist. The critical test for the right to be wrong must be whether acting on the belief hurts others. Believing in space ships is unlikely to harm anyone, but failure to treat a communicable disease surely can. There are limits to the right to be wrong.

Archivists know that the records we manage contain both truths and untruths, and when we provide a certified true copy of a document we only assure the recipient that it is a true copy, not that the information in the document is true. But we <u>do</u> hold records that are demonstrably true: that a treaty exists, that a person was appointed to a university post, that the efficacy and safety of a vaccine was tested before it was put on the market. And we hold records showing that an action or transaction was based on false information, prejudice, and fear. Our task is to ensure that the original record is protected, knowing that a copy of it can be manipulated in many ways and its information can be believed, disbelieved or ignored. But if you <u>do</u> happen to have a reliable, original image of a subtropical paradise at either Pole, let me know.

<u>ICA News.</u> The International Council on Archives issued a statement on the situation of the Historical Archives of the National Police of Guatemala:

## **International news.**

Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Court is responsible for monitoring States' compliance with its decisions and has been publishing the orders it issues as it monitors. It issued a "clarification" of the information it will publish on its website, noting that "academia, non-governmental organizations, and other members of civil society" are interested in "participating in the execution of the judgments in different ways" and benefit from the publication. <a href="http://www.corteidh.or.cr/cf/jurisprudencia2/acuerdo\_de\_corte.cfm?acuerdo=2&lang=en&lang\_ac=en">http://www.corteidh.or.cr/cf/jurisprudencia2/acuerdo\_de\_corte.cfm?acuerdo=2&lang=en&lang\_ac=en</a>

International Criminal Court. The Prosecutor began the process of appealing the Court's refusal to allow the investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan "allegedly committed by both Taliban insurgents and U.S. groups," *Reuters* reported. For background, see *HRWG News* 2019-04 commentary. https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-icc-afghanistan/icc-prosecutor-presses-for-afghanistan-crimes-investigation-idUKKCN1T81Z8

The Center for Constitutional Rights, a U.S. nongovernmental organization, asked the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to investigate the "interference with the independence of judicial proceedings at the International Criminal Court . . by senior officials of the United States, up to and including President Donald Trump." <a href="https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2019/06/5%20June%202019\_Special%20Rapp%20letter%20ICC\_final.pdf">https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2019/06/5%20June%202019\_Special%20Rapp%20letter%20ICC\_final.pdf</a>

International Organization for Migration (IOM). IOM issued a report on missing migrant children, saying that since 2014 it "documented more than 32,000 deaths and disappearances during the migration journey worldwide, although the true number of migrant fatalities is unknown, as many deaths go unrecorded. Data on the deaths and disappearances of missing migrant children tend to be even more limited." IOM counts at least 1,600 children dead or missing during that period. <a href="https://publications.iom.int/fr/books/fatal-journeys-volume-4-missing-migrant-children">https://publications.iom.int/fr/books/fatal-journeys-volume-4-missing-migrant-children</a>

Proposed tribunal for Syria and Iraq. On 3 June representatives of eleven EU countries met in Sweden and discussed the possibility of establishing a tribunal or some other legal mechanism to prosecute persons who committed serious crimes during the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. The Swedish Government said, "An effective system for obtaining evidence is a prerequisite for accountability. For this reason, Sweden supports the UN's mechanisms for collecting evidence, the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) in Iraq and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIM) in Syria." Before the meeting, seven prominent rights organizations sent an open letter to the Swedish Justice Minister, saying they "would advise against designing any accountability mechanism whose purpose is to deal only with crimes perpetrated by one faction in a conflict."

https://www.government.se/press-releases/2019/06/sweden-hosted-expert-meeting-on-tribunal/; http://syriaaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/Letter-to-Swedish-govt-re-ISIS-court.pdf

<u>United Nations.</u> The Secretary-General announced the launching of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. It commits "relevant UN entities . . to recognize, monitor, collect data and analyze hate speech trends." <a href="https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/pi2264.doc.htm?fbclid=IwAR3AcyqReR4bOdZlq92duZnJ7WSFRah1TacRABwYG3isdYl45Y-rSPXC1g8">https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/pi2264.doc.htm?fbclid=IwAR3AcyqReR4bOdZlq92duZnJ7WSFRah1TacRABwYG3isdYl45Y-rSPXC1g8</a>

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression issued a report on surveillance and human rights, writing, "Surveillance of individuals – often journalists, activists, opposition figures, critics and others exercising their right to freedom of expression—has been shown to lead to arbitrary detention, sometimes to torture and possible to extrajudicial killings." Among the recommendations: "States that export or permit the export of surveillance technologies ("exporting States") should ensure that the relevant government agencies solicit public input and conduct multistakeholder consultations when they are processing applications for export licenses. All records pertaining to export licenses should be stored and made available to the greatest extent possible." <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session41/Documents/A HRC 41 35.docx">https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session41/Documents/A HRC 41 35.docx</a>

The Special Rapporteur (SR) on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions issued a report on her investigation into the "unlawful death of Mr. Jamal Kashoggi," the journalist killed inside Saudi Arabia's

consulate in Turkey on 2 October 2018. The SR said Kashoggi's death "constituted an extrajudicial killing for which the State of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is responsible" and there is "credible evidence, warranting further investigation of high-level Saudi Officials' individual liability, including the Crown Prince's." The SR used "a variety of sources including official Turkish, Saudi, US and other statements, written forensic and police reports, flight details, CCTV recordings, audio recordings, and interviews of officials, witnesses and experts," but she was "not provided" evidence by Saudi authorities and the Turkish government provided limited information. The SR said the killing "constitutes an international crime over which States should claim universal jurisdiction" for prosecution. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session41/Documents/A\_HRC\_41\_CRP.1.docx

The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health issued a report "on the critical role of the social and underlying determinants of health in advancing the realization of the right to mental health." Among the recommendations is that "States develop a more holistic set of indicators" including "performance indicators on the reduction of coercion, institutionalization and excessive medicalization, and on the sustainable funding of rights-based alternatives," all of which require sustained recordkeeping. <a href="https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/34">https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/34</a>

Saying "[c]limate change is, among other things, an unconscionable assault on the poor," the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights called for states to create "a robust social safety net" as "the best response to the unavoidable harms that climate changes will bring." That also requires managing the records of the social services. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session41/Documents/A\_HRC\_41\_39.docx

The UN released "A Brief and Independent Inquiry into the Involvement of the United Nations in Myanmar from 2019 to 2018" prepared by Gert Rosenthal, the former foreign minister of Guatemala. He said the UN's many bodies failed to act together, which meant that a chance was lost to influence the government's actions and convey "the United Nations' principled concerns regarding grave human rights violations." He said he conducted a "selective perusal of internal documents — written instructions, minutes of meetings, and communications between staff members as well as official reports" to come to his conclusions. Among the recommendations: "the United Nations needs to improve, systematize and share the gathering of data, information and analysis of events on the ground in real time, in order to provide Headquarters with the best and complete information available on which the Organization can take informed decisions. If there are diverse interpretations coming from different quarters, these should be shared system-wide, and an instance to try to arbitrate and reconcile those differences is required in order to at least understand the logic between them in order to facilitate decision-making." <a href="https://news.yahoo.com/expert-un-failed-rohingya-crackdown-032158739.html">https://news.yahoo.com/expert-un-failed-rohingya-crackdown-032158739.html</a>; ylt=AwrJ7JURayNdowgAlkRpCWVH; ylu=X3oDMTByNXM5bzY5BGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMzBHZ0aWQDBHNIY

<u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).</u> UNHCR issued its annual Global Trends Report. Explaining that it "counts and tracks the numbers of refugees, internally displaced people, people who have returned to their countries or areas of origin, asylum-seekers, stateless people and other populations of concern" in order to "meet the needs of refugees" and help "organizations and States to plan their humanitarian response," UNHCR said the "global population of forcibly displaced increased by 2.3 million people in 2018," reaching almost 70.8 million individuals by the end of the year—a record high. It said further steps are being taken to improve the data collected. https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/

wNzcg--; for the report see https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/Myanmar%20Report%20-%20May%202019.pdf

<u>UNICEF/World Health Organization</u>. The two UN organizations issued a report on progress in assuring safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Writing that it "drew on a total of 4,861 data inputs" from national authorities, regional programs and UN agencies, they said that in 2017 "over half of the global population or 4.2 billion people lack safe sanitation" and while "many countries have increased basic coverage to water, sanitation and hygiene services . . relatively few have reduced the gap between he richest and poorest." <a href="https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/JMP-2019-FINAL-high-res\_compressed.pdf">https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/JMP-2019-FINAL-high-res\_compressed.pdf</a>

## World/general news.

Business records. The Lancet reported that a consortium of big pharmaceutical companies, two universities and "four start-ups" launched the "Machine Learning Ledger Orchestration for Drug Discovery" that will search "at least 10 million physical compounds, a minimum of 100 million activity datapoints collected in dose-response analyses, and more than a billion assay activity datapoints" to "harvest information" that can be used to develop new drugs. The search will focus "exclusively on preclinical data" and the data held by the individual partners will remain "under their sole control." <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)31401-1/fulltext?dgcid=raven\_jbs\_etoc\_email">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)31401-1/fulltext?dgcid=raven\_jbs\_etoc\_email</a>

A team of researchers at the drug company Pfizer discovered in 2015 that its drug for rheumatoid arthritis, Enbrel, "appeared to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease by 64 percent," reported the *Washington Post*. According to an internal company document obtained by *The Post*, the researchers urged Pfizer to conduct a clinical trial because the results they saw were "from an analysis of hundreds of thousands of insurance claims," not a scientific test. Pfizer did not and also did not make the data it had public. "Outside researchers contacted by *The Post* believe Pfizer . . should at least have published its data, making the findings broadly available to researchers." <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/pfizer-had-clues-its-blockbuster-drug-could-prevent-alzheimers-why-didnt-it-tell-the-world/2019/06/04/9092e08a-7a61-11e9-8bb7-0fc796cf2ec0\_story.html?utm\_campaign=9f7697ab94-MR\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=STAT%20Newsletters&utm\_term=.8b79fc1903ba

The Vale mining company dam burst in Brazil in January leaving at least 170 people dead and many more missing and homeless. Civil society groups asked the UN to formally "delist" the company from the UN Global Compact as not fulfilling its corporate responsibility on human, labor and environmental rights. At the end of May, Vale posted its withdrawal on its website. For background, see *HRWG News* 2019-03. <a href="https://www.conectas.org/en/news/following-pressure-vale-withdraws-from-un-social-responsibility-network">https://www.conectas.org/en/news/following-pressure-vale-withdraws-from-un-social-responsibility-network</a>

<u>Citizenship.</u> "Twenty-five countries—including Nepal, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Sudan—do not let women hand their nationality to their children, placing them at risk of becoming stateless," *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported. <a href="http://news.trust.org/item/20190627194611-ydi45/">http://news.trust.org/item/20190627194611-ydi45/</a>

<u>Justice system.</u> The World Justice Project, a nongovernmental organization, took a General Population Poll in 101 countries and jurisdictions in 2017 and 2018 "using a representative sample of 1,000 respondents in each country." The data from the access to justice module of the poll showed that while 41% of people surveyed experienced a legal problem in the last two years, only 17% took their problem to an authority or third party to mediate or adjudicate," suggesting that court records vastly underestimate the access to justice problems in a country. <a href="https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/global-insights-access-justice-2019">https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/global-insights-access-justice-2019</a>

Medical records. In 2005 the World Health Organization estimated the "prevalence of mental disorders among people affected by humanitarian emergencies." To check this estimate, a group of researchers conducted "a systematic review of evidence" based on studies published between 2000 and 2017 and "grey literature . . datasets from existing literature reviews, and reference lists from studies identified." They concluded that 22.1% of conflict-affected populations have mental disorders and said, "Mental health care must be prioritized in countries affected by conflict, not least for the well-established links between mental health, functioning and country development." They called for "building and strengthening of information systems, evidence and research for mental health in conflict-affected countries." <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2819%2930934-1">https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2819%2930934-1</a>

Using 2008-2013 data from the Corporate Data Warehouse of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, researchers examined the cases of nearly half a million patients who received a primary diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on at least two visits. Reporting in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, the study found that "all-cause mortality was significantly higher for veterans with PTSD compared with the U.S. population" and they had "a significant increase in mortality from suicide, accidental injury, and viral hepatitis" than the general population. More than half of those dying of "accidental injury" died of poisoning. https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(19)30164-3/pdf

Using the electronic medical records of 6 "integrated health care organizations," researchers examined the incidence of the shingles virus in children aged 0 through 17 years from 2003 to 2014—a total of over 6 million children. They found that if the children were vaccinated against the virus that causes chicken

pox they had a 78% lower rate of getting shingles than did the unvaccinated, *STAT* reported. <a href="https://www.statnews.com/2019/06/10/chickenpox-vaccine-shingles/?utm\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\_campaign=edaaf56e45-MR\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_8cab1d7961-edaaf56e45-149736437</a>

Two economists used "multiple Swedish administrative data sets: birth records data from the National Board of Health and Welfare (NBHW; in Swedish Socialstyrelsen), population register data from Statistics Sweden containing demographic and labor market information on the parents, data on parental leave claims from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Forsakringskassan), as well as inpatient, outpatient, and prescription drug claims data from NBHW to measure maternal health outcomes." They found that increasing the father's flexibility to stay at home "reduces the risk of the mother experiencing physical postpartum health complications and improves her mental health."

https://web.stanford.edu/~perssonp/PerssonRossin-Slater\_FathersFlexibility\_May2019.pdf

<u>Technology.</u> In a study published in *PLOS One*, researchers reported that "using an automated data collection technique" they "analyzed the entire Facebook post history of nearly 1000 patients" (all apparently in an "academic urban" medical service in the U.S.) "who agreed to have their electronic medical record linked to their profiles." The researchers tested for 21 different medical conditions, and found that language in the posts "may help identify conditions such as diabetes, anxiety, depression and psychosis." In particular, "analysis of Facebook posts could predict a diagnosis of depression as much as three months earlier than a diagnosis in the clinic." <a href="https://www.eurasiareview.com/18062019-facebook-posts-better-at-predicting-diabetes-mental-health-than-demographic-">https://www.eurasiareview.com/18062019-facebook-posts-better-at-predicting-diabetes-mental-health-than-demographic-</a>

info/?utm\_source=feedburner&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29; for the study https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0215476

Researchers taught a machine-learning program the "norms" for conversation by analyzing "the contents of conversations generated on social media, here 30,000 contributors to Reddit," *Nature* reported. They also used "speech samples" of audio recordings with participants of the North American Prodrome Longitudinal Study at Emory University (U.S.); they knew which individuals had developed psychosis. "The results revealed that conversion to psychosis is signaled by low semantic density and talk about voices and sounds. When combined, these two variables were able to predict the conversion with 93% accuracy in the training . . dataset." <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41537-019-0077-9">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41537-019-0077-9</a>

"Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death worldwide" and researchers know that people suffering from heart attacks have a pattern of gasping for breath. A team of researchers used audio recordings of emergency calls to the Emergency Medical Service in Seattle, Washington (U.S.), between 2009 and 2017 and taught "smart devices (Amazon Echo and Apple iPhone)" to identify the breathing noises associated with onsets of heart attacks, *Nature* reported. <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-019-0128-7.pdf">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-019-0128-7.pdf</a>

The American Civil Liberties Union issued an important report on the use of surveillance technology. Titled "The Dawn of Robot Surveillance," among its recommendations are: "No more data, including video data, should be collected, retained, or used in an algorithm than is necessary for, and relevant to, a video analytics system's approved purpose" and "Any data collected by a video analytics system should be handled according to other well-known privacy best practices, for example those governing retention, destruction, sharing, and security." <a href="https://www.aclu.org/report/dawn-robot-surveillance">https://www.aclu.org/report/dawn-robot-surveillance</a>

The EU-funded SURVANT project "analyses relevant surveillance videos to extract inter/intra-camera video analytics, before enriching this information with reasoning and inference," the project manager told *Eurasia Review*. "It then assists investigators to search efficiently and effectively through video archives, to find critical elements of criminal activity among the sea of footage."

 $\frac{https://www.eurasiareview.com/10062019-ai-system-finds-and-predicts-criminal-patterns-in-vast-troves-of-surveillance-footage/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29$ 

"The creator of DeepNude, an app that used a machine learning algorithm to 'undress' images of clothed women, announced Thursday that he's killing the software, after viral backlash for the way it objectifies women," *VICE News* reported. The creator said the app was trained on 10,000 naked images of women available online; it only works on women, he said, "because it's easy to find thousands of images of nude women online in porn." <a href="https://www.vice.com/en\_in/article/qv7agw/deepnude-app-that-undresses-photos-of-women-takes-it-offline">https://www.vice.com/en\_in/article/qv7agw/deepnude-app-that-undresses-photos-of-women-takes-it-offline</a>

DeepNude is only one example of the "deep fake" videos that populate social media. The *Washington Post* noted that this is a problem worldwide: "In Central Africa last year, a video of Gabon's long-unseen president, Ali Bongo, who was believed in poor health or already dead, was decried as a deepfake by his political opponents and cited as the trigger, a week later, for an unsuccessful coup by the Gabonese military." See other examples reported in *Undark*. <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/06/12/top-airesearchers-race-detect-deepfake-videos-we-are-outgunned/?utm\_term=.b184d1ede30; <a href="https://undark.org/2019/06/14/abstracts-deepfakes-manels/">https://undark.org/2019/06/14/abstracts-deepfakes-manels/</a>

The demands that hate speech be removed from social media led YouTube to erase "thousands of videos and channels that featured Holocaust denial and promoted Nazi ideologies," the *Washington Post* reported. But it also took down educational and archival material used to explore and analyze the past because they use the same terms as hate speech. From the Netherlands, You Tube "removed all archive material belonging to the regional archive in Alkmaar" which "included images from World War II which featured swastikas and other Nazi symbols," reported *NH Nieuws*. Ironically, the removal was done on national archives day; the posting was restored "after thousands of people had protested." <a href="https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/indepth/how-youtube-erased-history-in-its-battle-against-white-supremacy/ar-AACQdlW;https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2019/06/youtube-removes-alkmaar-film-archive-for-hate-mongering/">https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2019/06/youtube-removes-alkmaar-film-archive-for-hate-mongering/</a>

World War II. Dutch national railway NS announced it will pay reparations to Holocaust survivors who were transported by the railroad to Nazi extermination camps, *NL Times* reported. Widows and children will also be compensated, as will persons who do not live in the Netherlands. Starting in August, NS estimates, claimants can apply online. The *New York Times* noted, "A paper trail that documented the work done by NS existed because the company invoiced the Nazi regime for the transports to the Dutch transit camps . . where deportees were sent before being shipped on to the death camps. Last year, NS opened up its archives to researchers and said it would continue to provide assistance to any further investigations."

https://nltimes.nl/2019/06/26/dutch-railway-pay-tens-millions-holocaust-survivors-families; https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/27/world/europe/ns-dutch-railway-holocaust.html

The Bibliothèque nationale de France restored and displayed scrolls of images drawn by forty-four Jewish children before they were rounded up on 6 April 1944 by the Gestapo and deported with others of the Izieu colony to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Thanks to Perrine Canavaggio for this link. <a href="https://www.bnf.fr/fr/larestauration-des-rouleaux-dessines--les-enfants-dizieu">www.bnf.fr/fr/larestauration-des-rouleaux-dessines--les-enfants-dizieu</a>

Nachman Blumenthal, a Polish Jew, survived the war, living in the Soviet Union. In August 1944 he returned to Poland and with others established the Central Jewish Historical Commission that "transcribed 3,000 survivor testimonies between 1944 and 1947, scavenged for Nazi paperwork in abandoned Gestapo offices and meticulously preserved fragments of day-to-day ghetto life," reported the *New York Times*. In 1947 Blumenthal published a dictionary of Nazi terminology. His extensive papers have been donated to the YIVO Institute in New York City. https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/24/books/holocaust-nazi-archive.html

## Bilateral and multilateral news.

Czech Republic/United Kingdom. Ernest Fernyhough was the Parliamentary Private Secretary to U.K. Prime Minister Wilson between 1964 and 1967. After the *Daily Mail* reported that documents in the Czech State Security (StB) archives showed that Fernyhough spied for the StB, the archivist heading the Security Services Archives said Fernyhough "was very likely unaware that he was not associating with diplomats, but communist secret police handlers," reported *Radio Praha*. <a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7094953/Key-aide-Prime-Minister-Harold-Wilson-spied-Czechoslovakia.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7094953/Key-aide-Prime-Minister-Harold-Wilson-spied-Czechoslovakia.html</a>; <a href="https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/czech-archivist-fernyhough-had-no-idea-he-was-dealing-with-handlers">https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/czech-archivist-fernyhough-had-no-idea-he-was-dealing-with-handlers</a>

Kosovo/Serbia. "Babies born to Kosovo Albanian women raped by Serbian forces" during the 1998-1999 war "have been kept secret, given up for adoption or raised in orphanages," *BIRN* reported. The director of a hospital in the Kosovo city of Prizren said "further information about these cases is hard to be found because of the lack of archives. 'We cannot provide information for abandoned children during 1999-2000 as we lack evidence from the record books because supposedly there were accidentally destroyed." In 2018 the Kosovo government "launched a verification process which allows women and men who survived sexual violence during the war to obtain the status of victim and claim a monthly pension." Of

the more than 1,000 applications it has received, no woman has declared that she bore a child born of rape." https://balkaninsight.com/2019/06/20/kosovos-invisible-children-secret-legacy-of-wartime-rape/

Malaysia/Netherlands/Russia/Ukraine. An international team of prosecutors announced criminal charges against three Russian officials and one Ukrainian for their roles in shooting down Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 on 17 July 2014, the *New York Times* reported. The trial is to begin in the Netherlands in March 2020. "The Dutch authorities said they had more than 300 witnesses, intercepted calls and messages, and radar data to support their conclusions and that they were working to document the chain of command from foot soldiers to senior figures." www.nytimes.com/2019/06/19/world/europe/mh17-ukraine-russia-suspects.html

North Korea/South Korea. South Korea's nongovernmental Transitional Justice Working Group said that based on interviews with 610 North Korean defectors and satellite imagery it has identified 323 site "where witnesses claim North Korea carried out public executions and extrajudicial state killings," *AP* reported. The Group said "the information it gathered will be crucial if a political transition in North Korea allows for the identification of victims, the return of remains to families and investigations into human rights abuses committed by the government." <a href="https://www.apnews.com/b039a39cb2e04f899883fe8dea633b79">https://www.apnews.com/b039a39cb2e04f899883fe8dea633b79</a>

Russia/United Kingdom. Bellingcat, the U.K. investigative journalists group, and the *BBC* reported uncovering more information about Denis Sergeev, the third Russian man involved in poisoning Sergey and Yulia Skripal and killing Dawn Sturgess in the U.K. in 2018. Bellingcat "obtained telephone metadata logs" for a telephone it asserts is his, allowing Bellingcat "to recreate Sergeev's movements." <a href="https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/06/28/the-gru-globetrotters-mission-london/">https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2019/06/28/the-gru-globetrotters-mission-london/</a>

## National news.

<u>Australia.</u> When a sawmill worker in Queensland "refused to give his fingerprints to his employer as part of a new work sign-in" he was fired. He took his "unfair dismissal" case to the Fair Work Commission and won. The Commission said that when an employer wants to collect sensitive data such as fingerprints the "must give sufficient notification and allow for a process of informed consent," which the sawmill failed to do, said *The Law Report*, but the court did not find that biometric information is property. <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-21/fingerprints-biometric-data-worker-wins-unfair-dismissal-case/11129338">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-21/fingerprints-biometric-data-worker-wins-unfair-dismissal-case/11129338</a>

<u>Bosnia (BiH).</u> The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Mission to BiH issued a "spot report" on the management of war crimes cases by the BiH prosecutor. The Mission has been tracking the cases since 2014, and warned that the conviction rate "has significantly decreased (to 39%)" and that "by continuing to fragment cases for separate indictment or transfer—breaking up larger events into apparently isolated cases—the [prosecutor] risks re-traumatizing repeat victim-witnesses and distorting the historical record of facts." <a href="https://www.osce.org/mission-to-bosnia-and-herzegovina/423209?download=true">https://www.osce.org/mission-to-bosnia-and-herzegovina/423209?download=true</a>

Canada. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report. It said the endemic violence amounted to "genocide." The Inquiry took 2,380 testimonies, and an Annex to the report described in detail its work with government records in its "Forensic Document Review Project." It urged that the Project be continued as an independent Indigenous-led body with "statutory powers to access all relevant information and to compel the testimony of any witness necessary to enable a complete review of all cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls." <a href="https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/truth-commissions/41587-a-controversial-genocide-against-canadian-indigenous-women.html">https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/truth-commissions/41587-a-controversial-genocide-against-canadian-indigenous-women.html</a>; for the report <a href="https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/">https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/</a>

The Canadian Press reported that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service "destroyed a Cold War dossier on [former Prime Minister] Pierre Trudeau in 1989 instead of turning it over to the national archives." The Service said it was destroyed "because it fell short of the legal threshold for retention by either the service or the archives." Historians cried foul. <a href="https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/csis-destroyed-secret-file-on-pierre-trudeau-stunning-historians-1.4468120">https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/csis-destroyed-secret-file-on-pierre-trudeau-stunning-historians-1.4468120</a>

The Canadian Broadcasting Company's Indigenous languages archives project has seventeen people in five cities "working on archiving 75,000 hours' worth of recorded stories" collected in eight Indigenous languages between the 1950s and 2017, CBC News reported. <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/cbc-indigenous-archiving-project-1.5155932">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/cbc-indigenous-archiving-project-1.5155932</a>

<u>China/Hong Kong.</u> Amnesty International "examined in detail footage from 14 instances of apparent police violence" in Hong Kong during the night of 12 June and created an interactive map showing the incidents verified. "The verified footage draws upon media coverage as well as footage posted on social media."

<a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/hong-kong-police-violence-">https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/hong-kong-police-violence-</a>

verified/?fbclid=IwAR17Ux0RqSbq887y\_rd6zmUnwrZ4jLCfdHnp\_SiR0QhrwYVv0Xo0LlepHGM

Colombia. "Granting land titles is part of government efforts to promote rural development as set out in the 2016 peace deal" signed with the FARC rebel forces, reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. According to USAID, in rural Colombia "six out of 10 plots of land do not have a formal title or are not registered." The government "aims to formalize 7 million hectares of land;" farmers are to be able to "register their property with the national land registry and receive formal titles for free." <a href="http://www.thisisplace.org/i/?id=d7211972-0cb0-4620-9ef0-">http://www.thisisplace.org/i/?id=d7211972-0cb0-4620-9ef0-</a>

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Croatia. The European Court of Human Rights confirmed to *BIRN* that a nongovernmental organization had filed an application for a ruling on "an alleged denial of access to information by the Croatian government about the cost of the legal representation of 1990s generals Mladen Markac and Ante Gotovina at the Hague Tribunal" by the U.S. law firm Patton Boggs. Croatia's government paid the firm; the NGO said it cost taxpayers about 1,350,000 euros. <a href="https://balkaninsight.com/2019/06/17/croatian-generals-secret-defence-contract-queried-at-european-court/?utm\_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm\_campaign=e196968257-BI\_DAILY&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_4027db42dc-e196968257-319725265]

<u>France.</u> The minister for digital affairs said "Facebook has agreed to hand over the identification data on French users suspected of hate speech on its platform," *EurActiv* reported. <a href="https://www.eurasiareview.com/author/euractiv/">https://www.eurasiareview.com/author/euractiv/</a>

<u>Guatemala</u>. *The Intercept* interviewed Guatemala expert Kate Doyle on the nature and issues surrounding the police archives. Since that time, writes Doyle, "The Ministries of Culture and Interior extended the contract allowing the Archives to stay in the police building for a minimum of six months, but all of the senior, key people were dismissed at the end of June. The extension removes the UN Development Agency, which had been handling the donated funds, from the picture and the government is in charge now." The situation continues to be very uncertain. <a href="https://theintercept.com/2019/06/08/guatemala-historical-archive-national-police-jimmy-morales/">https://theintercept.com/2019/06/08/guatemala-historical-archive-national-police-jimmy-morales/</a>; see also opinion piece in *New York Times* <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/18/opinion/guatemala-election.html?fbclid=IwAR1RRR6FUNIhJCO4Etp2\_JCVU3aVv5z8qBI-aEt36hlojKvx0u-kmycuqRs">https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/18/opinion/guatemala-election.html?fbclid=IwAR1RRR6FUNIhJCO4Etp2\_JCVU3aVv5z8qBI-aEt36hlojKvx0u-kmycuqRs</a>

The Washington Office on Latin America and prominent nongovernmental organizations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras publish *Central America Monitor*, looking at issues of the rule of law and democratic governance. Its report on Guatemala used information gained through the use of the Access to Public information Law, supplemented by "interviews with experts, surveys, and media coverage." In 2017, it reported, "there were 6 judges for every 100,000 people in the country, well below the national global average of 17," resulting in unmanageable burdens: each judge was assigned an average of nearly 430 cases per year, while each forensic expert was assigned 664 cases. <a href="https://www.wola.org/2019/06/report-camguatemala-justice-system/">https://www.wola.org/2019/06/report-camguatemala-justice-system/</a>

On 21 June a judge ruled that "there was insufficient evidence to send six men to trial for crimes against humanity for wartime sexual violence against 36 Maya Achi women in Rabinal between 1981 and 1985," reported *International Justice Monitor*. The evidence included "the prerecorded testimonies of the women survivors, the testimonies of protected witnesses, photographs and official military documents," but the judge "did not consider the fact that the Guatemalan Army has systematically denied access to official documents that might provide key information into cases such as this one." The women plan to appeal. https://www.ijmonitor.org/2019/06/in-major-setback-judge-dismisses-charges-in-the-maya-achi-sexual-violence-case/

<u>India.</u> Over four months Equality Labs, a nongovernmental organization, and others gathered "over 1,000 posts in six different languages including Hindi, English, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, and Tamil" and created a "sample set of hate speech on Facebook India." The "most important finding is that, without question, hate speech targeting Indian caste, religious and gender/queer minorities is the most rampant," and "Islamophobic hate speech was the largest single sample set." The researchers found that Facebook did not remove hate speech in 24 hours, as promised, and "43% of all initially removed posts were found

to have been RESTORED after an average period of 90 days from the date of reporting. . . Alarmingly, 100% of all restored posts were Islamophobic posts." <a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58347d04bebafbb1e66df84c/t/5d0074f67458550001c56af1/1560311033798/Facebook India Report Equality\_Labs.pdf">Labs.pdf</a>

The Jammu and Kashmir State Archives launched its website of digitized records on 1 March and shut it down in June, reported *Kashmir Reader*. The deputy archivist explained, "Some confidential documents related to border and security issues were uploaded unintentionally on the web portal as no classification was done before." The website will be closed for 2-3 months while the records are reviewed. https://kashmirreader.com/2019/06/12/digitisation-of-jk-archives-spills-state-secrets-govt-shuts-down-portal/

<u>Indonesia.</u> In 2018 the government issued an agrarian reform decree promising to give "titles to the landless and raise farm incomes" and to register all land in the country by 2025, reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. Progress is slow, explained the assistant deputy minister for forest governance: "There are too many maps—we have 85 thematic maps for forestry, mining, plantations, customary forests, etc. We need to reconcile them all before settling a claim." <a href="http://news.trust.org/item/20190613082001-nsx7b/">http://news.trust.org/item/20190613082001-nsx7b/</a>

<u>Ireland.</u> The personal papers of Joe Barrett, a former Irish Republican Army commander who died in 1971, were found in the attic of his former home. "[M]ore than 2,000 documents include lists of IRA members, secret code words, maps showing how attacks were planned and instructions on potential assassination targets" between 1916 and 1925, reported *BBC News*. They have been given to the Kilrush and District Historical Society. <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-48646318">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-48646318</a>

<u>Kenya.</u> A court found three men guilty of conspiracy to commit a terrorist attack "after phone records and handwriting linked them to the 2015 Garissa University assault that killed 148 people," *AP* reported. <a href="https://www.courthousenews.com/three-guilty-in-kenyan-university-attack-that-killed-148/">https://www.courthousenews.com/three-guilty-in-kenyan-university-attack-that-killed-148/</a>

Nicaragua. The government established 2,000 "Reconciliation Commissions" and plans to establish up to 5,000 "to defuse political tensions and attend to those who suffered losses during the right-wing violence between April and July 2018," *telesur* reported. A Sandinista (ruling party) lawmaker said, "The Commission are sectors, channels, instruments of forgiveness, forgiveness without historical forgetting, forgiveness with justice, forgiveness with no repetition and with the purpose of achieving peace." Create and save records of the Commissions. <a href="https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Nicaragua-Creates-2000-Reconciliation-Commissions-for-Peace-20190618-">https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Nicaragua-Creates-2000-Reconciliation-Commissions-for-Peace-20190618-</a>

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Romania. "Securitate" was the common name for the secret police 1948-1991. The official National Council for the Study of Securitate Archives gave the Appeal Court "documents it has obtained from the Romanian Intelligence Service SRI and the Ministry of Defense" and asked the Court to decide "whether former president Traian Basescu ever collaborated with the so-called Securitate," *BIRN* reported. <a href="https://balkaninsight.com/2019/06/06/romanian-ex-president-accused-of-working-for-securitate/?utm\_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm\_campaign=5508e0329d-BI\_DAILY&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_4027db42dc-5508e0329d-319725265

South Africa. A court ruled that a former security policeman must stand trial for his involvement in the death of Ahmed Timol, an anti-apartheid activist who died while in police custody in 1971, reported *The Conversation*. "The Security Police officers involved in Timol's arrst and interrogation did not testify at the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission], nor did they apply for amnesty for their part in his murder." Former TRC commissioner Yasmin Sooka told *TimesLive* that the TRC referred "about 300 cases to the National Prosecuting Authority in 1999 for further investigation" but they were not pursued. She urged the National Director of Public Prosecutions to properly investigate these cases, adding, "We are very concerned because already we have a number of perpetrators who are dying."

http://theconversation.com/what-the-timol-judgment-means-for-ending-south-africas-culture-of-impunity-118276; https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-06-03-npa-must-prosecute-apartheid-era-crimes-urges-trc-commissioner/

Activists opposing Mineral Sands Resources' plan to mine in "the heritage site community of Xolobeni" were sued by the company for defamation after they voiced "concerns about MSR's compliance with laws and mining regulations" at another mine it operates. The activists sought company documents to defend themselves, but a court denied the application, saying it would be "an impossibly burdensome task" for

the company. The activists say the suit is intended "to intimidate and financially exhaust their campaign," *Fin24* reported. <a href="https://www.fin24.com/Companies/Mining/xolobeni-lawsuit-activists-denied-access-to-documents-for-defamation-defence-20190601-2">https://www.fin24.com/Companies/Mining/xolobeni-lawsuit-activists-denied-access-to-documents-for-defamation-defence-20190601-2</a>

<u>Sudan.</u> The African Union suspended Sudan's membership "until the effective establishment of a civilian-led transitional authority," *Al Jazeera* reported. The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors (CCSD) said at least 108 people have been killed and more than 500 wounded in the military crackdown against protesters demanding civilian rule, while "a health ministry official was quoted as saying the death toll stood at 61." CCSD also said "40 bodies were pulled from the Nile River" on 4 June "and taken to an unknown location by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces." <a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/african-union-suspends-sudan-violence-protesters-190606113838460.html">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/african-union-suspends-sudan-violence-protesters-190606113838460.html</a>

<u>Syria.</u> Three Syrian nongovernmental organizations issued important publications:

\*Syrian Legal Development Programme published "The Human Rights and Business Toolkit for Syria" to help "human rights defenders working on Syria to identify, document, engage and advocate on human rights issues linked to business activity in Syria, and to hold perpetrators of business-related human rights abuses to account." While focused on Syria, this fine publication could be used by any person or group working in the area of business and human rights. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/92fa9e\_85da39f5739c4809b1d0115d49a2bb5e.pdf

\*Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) published a statement on the Syrian government's refusal to allow an investigation team from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to enter Syria "to investigate and identify the perpetrators of attacks where chemical weapons may have been used." OPCW said it had two letters from the Syrian foreign ministry saying "that the Syrian government would not permit the team members to access any confidential information related to the Syrian chemical file." SNHR wrote, "This prohibition proves beyond doubt once again that the Syrian regime has been involved in these [chemical weapons] attacks and doesn't want the OPCW to reveal this." <a href="http://sn4hr.org/blog/2019/06/17/53767/">http://sn4hr.org/blog/2019/06/17/53767/</a>

\*Syrians for Truth and Justice reported that "about 700 death certificates of detainees . . have been delivered to the Civil Registry Directorate in the city of Hama and its countryside from the beginning of 2019" through May. "No bodies or details of burial locations were given." <a href="https://stj-sy.org/en/new-notifications-declare-dead-hundreds-in-syrian-security-services-detention-facilities/?utm\_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm\_campaign=6ee8ed26ca-EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN\_2019\_01\_10\_02\_56\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_0a7405c641-6ee8ed26ca-90540617

<u>Togo.</u> The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery said that child labor is widely accepted in Togo. "There is a complete lack of data, but it seems this practice mainly affects girls and some are sent abroad," she told *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. The Walk Free Foundation "estimates that 50,000 people are slaves in the country of 7.4 million" and in April Interpol (the global police organization) "rescued 157 child slaves" in Togo's neighbors Benin and Nigeria, "some of whom came from Togo." <a href="http://news.trust.org/item/20190607150215-uwi55/">http://news.trust.org/item/20190607150215-uwi55/</a>

<u>Tunisia</u>. After one year of work, "the 13 specialized chambers sitting in the courts of first instance of Tunisia have examined 38 cases out of 173 cases (about 20%) transferred to them by the Truth and Dignity Commission," *justiceinfo.net* reported. The nongovernmental Lawyers without Borders said the judges are working in "a political context unfavourable to transitional justice and especially to the specialized chambers" and the government is considering a bill that would eliminate those chambers. <a href="https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/tribunals/national-tribunals/41612-tunisia-a-year-of-trials-under-pressure.html">https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/tribunals/national-tribunals/41612-tunisia-a-year-of-trials-under-pressure.html</a>

<u>Ukraine</u>. The national memory institute of Ukraine announced it will move the archives of the Soviet secret police, 1917-1991, from the building of the Ukrainian security forces to the former premises of the National Bank and open them for research use, *The GAL Post* reported. The Institute said, "The police and security services of a democratic country should not work with historical information." <a href="https://galpost.com/ukraine-will-open-citizens-access-to-the-secret-archives-of-the-soviet-secret-police-photo/20575/">https://galpost.com/ukraine-will-open-citizens-access-to-the-secret-archives-of-the-soviet-secret-police-photo/20575/</a>

<u>United Kingdom.</u> HSBC Bank announced that it will offer a "Survivor Bank" service to "people who have escaped slavery and trafficking" and have been "identified through the government's National

Referral Mechanism," *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported. This is a welcome initiative because banks "usually require proof of address and identity documents, like passports, to open accounts, which can exclude victims of slavery and trafficking who may have had these documents confiscated or live in safe houses." http://news.trust.org/item/20190623224125-0gblf/

<u>United States.</u> Using records compiled by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University and several Federal agencies, *VICE News* developed 5 charts to show the backlog of cases in U.S. immigration courts and the reasons for it. In 2006 there were 168,827 cases while in 2019 there are 892,517. Among the reasons: too few judges, change in the type of cases (from agricultural workers to families fleeing violence), need of applicants to secure representation or collect "the necessary documents" to support an asylum claim, and change in government policy.

https://news.vice.com/en\_us/article/j5wa5y/us-immigration-courts-are-broken-these-5-charts-show-why

To examine the extent to which police officers were members of online private hate groups and thereby "participating in the spread of extremism on Facebook," *Reveal* simply "joined dozens of these groups and verified the identities of almost 400 current and retired law enforcement officials who are members." Separately, the Plain View Project "obtained published rosters of police officers employed by 8 jurisdictions across the United States," searched Facebook for public profiles that belonged to the officers and found 3500, and discovered "more than 5000 posts" that "could undermine public trust and confidence in the police." They copied these to a "searchable database organized by officer name, rank, badge number, and jurisdiction" after redacting images of anyone other than the officer. The executive director of the Project told the *New York Times*, "I can't see it as a bad apple problem anymore. I see it as a cultural problem." <a href="https://www.revealnews.org/article/inside-hate-groups-on-facebook-police-officers-trade-racist-memes-conspiracy-theories-and-islamophobia/">https://www.revealnews.org/article/inside-hate-groups-on-facebook-police-officers-trade-racist-memes-conspiracy-theories-and-islamophobia/</a>; <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/us/politics/police-officers-facebook.html?login=email&auth=login-email">https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/us/politics/police-officers-facebook.html?login=email&auth=login-email</a>

"Transparency advocates . . are pushing to open up records about police misconduct," wrote *Undark*. "Public websites making police records accessible are central to the transparency movements, and over the past several years, nonprofit organizations, public defenders, academics and journalists have mounted efforts like the Citizens Police Data Project, a large database of civilian complaints in Chicago, and CAPstat from the Cop Accountability Project, which contains data on federal civil rights lawsuits against police in New York City." <a href="https://undark.org/article/police-conduct-databases-eric-garner/">https://undark.org/article/police-conduct-databases-eric-garner/</a>

Two researchers analyzed "the data on 10,077 citizen complaints lodged against the Chicago Police Department between 2011 and 2014" and found "that just 2% of allegations made by black Chicagoans resulted in a recommendation for sanction against an officer, compared to 20% for white complainants and 7% for Latino complainants," reported *Eurasia Review*. https://www.eurasiareview.com/07062019-only-2-of-black-chicagoan-allegations-of-police-misconduct-were-

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VICE News analyzed known cases of murders of transgender women. Of the 110 trans women killed since 2014, 88 were black and 11 were Latinx; this is at severe variance from the general population of transgender adults, which a study by the Williams Institute says is 55% white, 16% African-American and 21% Latinx. Federal Bureau of Investigation data says that 42% of investigations of murdered trans women resulted in an arrest compared to 61% of murder cases across the general public.

 $\underline{https://news.vice.com/en\_us/article/597jzz/black-trans-women-are-being--why-arent-there-more-arrests}$ 

The Wall Street Journal investigated cases of sex-abuse claims against members of the Federal Indian Health Service (IHS). An IHS spokesperson said it "is currently tracking six different cases of alleged sexual abuse at its facilities, not including matters between employees such as sexual-harassment claims." The Journal staff examined "court records, government documents and emails" and conducted interviews to report on several of the cases. <a href="https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/indian-health-service-suicide-sex-abuse-investigation/">https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/indian-health-service-suicide-sex-abuse-investigation/</a>

"The Food and Drug Administration [FDA] released two decades of . . data" on "millions of medical device malfunctions and injuries," *Kaiser Health News* reported. Analyzing the data, it found that "blood glucose meters for patients with diabetes had more unique incidents than any other device in the database, logging 2.4 million reports over the past 20 years." The FDA is replacing this database with a Voluntary Summary Reporting Program in which more than 5,600 types of medical devices "are eligible for

summary reporting of device malfunctions," which will allow multiple malfunctions to be reported as one injury, thereby making real harm difficult to track and tally.  $\frac{https://khn.org/news/five-things-we-found-in-the-fdas-hidden-device-database/?utm\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\_campaign=c4ba66fc21-MR\_COPY\_01&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_8cab1d7961-c4ba66fc21-149736437$ 

Google and the University of Chicago Medical Center were sued "in a potential class-action lawsuit accusing the hospital of sharing hundreds of thousands of patients' records with [Google] without stripping identifiable date stamps or doctor's notes," reported the *New York Times*. Google apparently sought the data to help train its technology to "read electronic health records and help physicians identify medical conditions." <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/technology/google-university-chicago-data-sharing-lawsuit.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/26/technology/google-university-chicago-data-sharing-lawsuit.html</a>

Yemen. The World Food Program (WFP) and the Houthi rebel group are in conflict over the rollout of a biometric identification system to be used to distribute aid. The system uses "iris scanning, fingerprints or facial recognition" to register persons in a database of aid recipients; the Houthi want distribution handled by a local group rather than WFP. In December WFP said it discovered that food it delivered was being diverted from the intended recipients; it began a partial suspension of aid deliveries on June 18. <a href="https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2019/06/17/un-yemen-rebels-aid-theft-biometrics">https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2019/06/17/un-yemen-rebels-aid-theft-biometrics</a>; <a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-wfp/yemens-houthis-and-wfp-dispute-aid-control-as-millions-starve-idUSKCN1T51YO;">https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/wfp-suspends-food-assistance-yemens-sanaa-following-disputes-houthis</a>

The nongovernmental Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project said that since 2015 the civil war has killed at least 91,600 people; this year 11,900 have died. As of June 2019, ACLED has used "around 320 distinct sources . . to record over 39,000 events between January 2015 and June 2019 in Yemen." <a href="https://www.acleddata.com/2019/06/18/press-release-yemen-war-death-toll-exceeds-90000-according-to-new-acled-data-for-2015/">https://www.acleddata.com/2019/06/18/press-release-yemen-war-death-toll-exceeds-90000-according-to-new-acled-data-for-2015/</a>

Good reads. Teaching AI to forget: <a href="https://www.wired.com/story/the-next-big-privacy-hurdle-teaching-ai-to-forget">www.wired.com/story/the-next-big-privacy-hurdle-teaching-ai-to-forget</a>

The biggest disaster in the U.S. music business:

http://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/11/magazine/universal-fire-master-recordings.html; follow-up report: https://variety.com/2019/music/news/universal-fire-list-artists-tapes-destroyed-new-york-times-1203253136/

Jury found man guilty based on "genetic genealogy": <a href="https://www.wired.com/story/man-found-guilty-in-a-murder-mystery-cracked-by-cousins-">https://www.wired.com/story/man-found-guilty-in-a-murder-mystery-cracked-by-cousins-</a>

dna/?CNDID=53684912&CNDID=53684912&bxid=MjcwMDU3MDMwNzYzS0&hasha=8fcd7efd9e9d6389b9f914ad34a5948d&hashb=be8 6af3880f5d49a71f804266e79b70bb4fa408d&mbid=nl\_062919\_daily\_list3\_p1&source=DAILY\_NEWSLETTER&utm\_brand=wired&utm\_m ailing=WIRED%20NL%20062919%20(1)&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=nl

Newly released FBI documents on Martin Luther King create furor: <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/04/arts/king-fbi-tapes-david-garrow.html">www.nytimes.com/2019/06/04/arts/king-fbi-tapes-david-garrow.html</a>

 $Krispy\ Kreme\ Doughnuts\ and\ the\ Nazi\ inheritance:\ {\underline{https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/14/business/reimann-jab-nazi-keurig-krispy-kreme.html}}$ 

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