
ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

News from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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Commentary.

Out of business. No, that is not a sign on a clothing store or a coffee shop. It is, instead, the news from the hybrid courts for Cambodia and Lebanon.

In June the Special Tribunal for Lebanon announced that it “will close after July because of a funding crisis.” <https://liberties.aljazeera.com/en/special-tribunal-for-lebanon-to-close-its-doors/> Just days later, Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister “informed foreign diplomats representing 10 donor countries that the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), commonly known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, will finish its last case by the end of this year and will focus on archiving thereafter.” <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national-kr-tribunal/eccc-closing-final-case-years-end>

After the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda were in operation, with international prosecutors and judges, questions arose about the participation of the countries where the crimes occurred. Out of this concern grew the first “hybrid” court, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, with a mix of international and Sierra Leonean judges and prosecutors. Set up in 2002, it finished its cases in 2013 and a Residual Special Court was created, with its “principal seat” in Freetown, Sierra Leone, but carrying out its functions “at an interim seat in The Netherlands with a sub-office in Freetown for witness and victim protection and support.” After negotiations, a digital copy of the publicly available records was made and given to the government of Sierra Leone, while the originals of all formats were shipped to the new interim seat in The Hague.

The International Criminal Court was established on 1 July 2002 when 60 countries had ratified the Rome Statute creating the Court. And although there was now a true international criminal court, hybrid courts continued to be created:

*The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia were established by agreement between the United Nations and the government of Cambodia in 2003 to try serious crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge period (1975-1979), crimes that predated the establishment of the International Criminal Court (the ICC can only try cases when the crimes were committed after 1 July 2002). It sits in Phnom Penh with both Cambodian and international judges, prosecutors and staff.

*The Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor’s Office were established in 2016 following an agreement between Kosovo and the European Union, and Kosovo amended its national constitution to incorporate this court into the Kosovo judicial system. It tries cases arising from the conflict in Kosovo between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000, a period also predating the International Criminal Court. It sits in The Hague with judges and prosecutors drawn from the European Union and other financially contributing countries but not from Kosovo.

*The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was established by the United Nations Security Council in May 2007. The primary mandate of the Tribunal is to try the people accused of carrying out the attack of 14 February 2005 in Beirut which killed 22 people, including the former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and injured many others. It sits in The Netherlands with both Lebanese and international judges and staff.

So where will the original, sensitive records of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon go? Although a prosecutor in one of the international hybrid tribunals once argued to me that the court's only important records were those of the official proceedings in court, the prosecutor's records contain a wealth of information that, for reasons of proof or time, was never entered into the court record yet has great historical significance. Records of the registrar, such as those on the protection of witnesses and victims, public information activities, and operating procedures, are likewise significant, as are records of judges' chambers and judicial conferences. Further, these courts try international crimes, and while the records are most critical to a country's or region's history, they have worldwide precedential and historical value. And, after the millions of dollars and Euros and yen poured into the courts, will there be money now to make digital copies, at least of public proceedings, and make those available to the public in the most affected countries?

A decade ago there was active interest in erecting in The Hague a building for the archives of international courts. This plan seems to have evaporated, and once again there will be a scramble to find a secure, yet accessible place to hold these internationally important records. All parties need to agree, and the public has to be informed. A sensible solution must be found. Now. Will the international community meet the challenge?

SAHR News. The next First Tuesday Talk will be on August 2. Peter Horsman will speak on "Documenting Genocide Justice: The Rwanda Gacaca Archives."

International news.

European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). The International Federation for Human Rights, Memorial Human Rights Center (HRC), and the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM) filed a complaint with the Court, alleging that "Russia had effective control over the part of Syria territory" where a man, Mohammed A., was brutally killed by men believed to be members of the Wagner Group, a Russian private military company. Videos of the man's death appeared in 2017 and 2019, leading to the identification of both the victim and the killers. Complaints filed in Russian courts were unsuccessful, saying that "the reality of Mohammed's death had not been established and the reliability of the video footage had not been confirmed." The Syrian Justice and Accountability Center commented that the "Russian government repeatedly denies any ties" to Wagner, and Russia has "expressed its intent to withdraw from the European Convention of Human Rights and thus the ECtHR's jurisdiction," making the outcome of the complaint unclear. https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/wagner-cedh-q_a-en.pdf; https://syriaaccountability.org/the-case-against-russias-wagner-group-and-what-it-means-for-syria/?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=57a4658a75-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-57a4658a75-96428969

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. *BIRN* announced that it awarded grants to 13 journalists, historians, artists and activists "to create small projects based on the archives of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague and domestic courts in former Yugoslav countries." A *BIRN* official said, "The archives themselves are not a guarantee of the non-recurrence of conflicts, but if they are used by various actors from different research and academic backgrounds, they can contribute to raising awareness and can be used as tools to spark dialogues and inspire others to continue their efforts to seek justice and truth." <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/06/02/birn-funds-projects-to-research-war-crime-case-archives/>

International Labor Organization. The delegates to the International Labour Conference adopted a resolution to add "a safe and healthy working environment" as a fifth principle of the International Labour Organization's "Fundamental Principles and Rights to Work." The Principles were adopted in 1998, and all Member States are to abide by the Principles. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_848132/lang--en/index.htm

International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT). The Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, presented a progress report to the Security Council. He noted that when the IRMCT's work is completed, there will "remain thousands of cases that still need to be completed in national courts": more than 1,000 fugitives indicted by Rwanda and "more than 3,000 suspected perpetrators of war

crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide to be investigated and prosecuted” in the Balkan states. The IRMCT’s “evidence collection contains more than eleven million pages of testimony, reports and records that national prosecutors need.” He reported that the chief prosecutors in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia “continue to exchange evidence and case files,” but “both countries are experiencing severe difficulties obtaining cooperation from Croatia.” <https://www.irmct.org/sites/default/files/statements-and-speeches/220614-prosecutor-remarks-unscc-en.pdf>

In November 2021 Niger’s government signed an agreement with the UN to resettle in the country eight people who completed their sentences handed down by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The men arrived on 5 December, “supposedly to live freely and permanently,” *JusticeInfo* reported. Then Niger reversed its position, declaring the agreement at an end and telling the UN that the men must be removed because their presence “constitutes a threat and a disturbance of public order.” Niger authorities have “deprived [the men] of their papers since December 25, 2021,” and have them under house arrest, “watched by police officers who have surrounded their residence.” IRMCT has been unable to find a new host country. https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/93462-punishment-stateless-ictm-migrants.html#utm_source=emailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter-EN-06-06-to-10-06-2022

“Activists have renewed call to bring to Rwanda physical archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda,” *The New Times* (Rwanda) reported. <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/activists-renew-call-return-un-court-archives-rwanda>

UNICEF. “Between 2005 and 2020, the United Nations verified over 266,000 grave violations against children committed by parties to conflicts in more than 30 conflict situations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. . . This figure is a fraction of the violations believed to have occurred, as access and security constraints, among others, and the shame, pain, and fear that child and family survivors suffer often hamper the reporting, documentation and verification of grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.” The report is based on “sixteen years of data from the Secretary-General’s Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict.” <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/staggering-scale-grave-violations-against-children-conflict-revealed-new-unicef>

United Nations. The UN published “Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence for Business in Conflict-Affected Contexts: A Guide.” In a section called “Tracking,” the Guide says, “[T]racking needs to consider how lessons learnt relating to heightened human rights due diligence are captured, stored and shared to ensure that they inform future activities. There is often a reluctance to document and communicate when business activities face difficulties, yet this is the time when the most valuable lessons can be learned and shared.” It also reminds businesses that “when communicating, businesses should be careful not to disclose information about how specific impacts are being addressed when it could pose risks to affected stakeholders or personnel.” <https://www.undp.org/publications/heightened-human-rights-due-diligence-business-conflict-affected-contexts-guide>

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a revised Istanbul Protocol, officially known as the *Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. It is “the global standard for the effective investigation and documentation of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, which has been endorsed by OHCHR since 1999. The updated Istanbul Protocol is the culmination of a six-year process, with contributions from more than 180 anti-torture experts from 51 countries.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/06/istanbul-protocol-launch-revised-version-international-guidelines>

World Health Organization. “The World Health Organization said . . . its latest investigation into the origins of COVID-19 was inconclusive, largely because data from China is missing,” *Reuters* reported. <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/pandemics-origins-observed-by-lack-chinese-data-who-panel-2022-06-09/>

World/general news.

Business. Global Witness, the U.K.-based NGO, reported that “rubber, even more than palm oil, is the agricultural export that poses the biggest threat to the tropical forests of central and west Africa,” which are “critical to the fight against the climate emergency.” Its investigation “used Landsat and Sentinel satellite data on established agribusiness concessions across Cameroon, Gabon, Liberia, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana” and found that industrial rubber cultivation “appears to be responsible for almost

520 square kilometers of deforestation since 2000.” Data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity showed the EU imported from west and central Africa in 2020 \$503,000,000 of rubber, compared to \$39,000,000 of palm oil. Three international companies currently own most of the plantations where deforestation took place: Singapore-based Olam and Halcyon Agri and French/Belgian Socfin; the report contains responses from the companies.

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/forests/rubbed-out/>

A U.S. Federal court “dismissed a lawsuit by eight citizens of Mali who sought to hold Hershey Co, Nestle SA, Cargill Inc and others liable for child slavery on Ivory Coast cocoa farms,” saying “the plaintiffs in the proposed class action lacked standing to sue because they did not show a ‘traceable connection’ between the seven defendant companies and the specific plantations where they worked,” *Reuters* reported. The judge also said “the plaintiffs also did not adequately explain the role of intermediaries in the cocoa supply chain, noting that the companies did not monitor activity in ‘free zones’ where about 70% to 80% of the cocoa is produced.” In other words, no record of connections, no suit. <https://money.usnews.com/investing/news/articles/2022-06-28/hershey-nestle-cargill-win-dismissal-in-u-s-of-child-slavery-lawsuit>

JusticeInfo published a survey of the “growing number of criminal proceedings aimed at holding multinational companies accountable for their direct or indirect role in international crimes or serious human rights violations. These include complicity in war crimes, complicity with dictatorships or environmental destruction. NGOs and victim communities are fighting to undermine the legal protections for economic actors involved in such abuse.” <https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/102125-corporations-face-rising-tide-justice.html>

Climate change. A new report by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and the more-than-20-member coalition Climate Action Against Disinformation documented “the extent and diverse nature of climate disinformation around last year’s international climate conference in Glasgow, COP26,” *Inside Climate News* reported. The research team “analyzed hundreds of thousands of social media posts over the last 18 months” and found “that despite promises from tech companies in recent years to crack down on the spread of ‘fake news’ on their platforms, posts with misleading or false information about climate change continue to flourish online. It also found that much of the disinformation is coming from a small group of actors.” It recommended that tech companies “Restrict misleading fossil fuel advocacy in paid advertising and sponsored content; Enforce or introduce policies against repeat offenders spreading disinformation on their products and services; Better label old or misleading content to prevent re-circulation of disinformation; Enable image-based searches via APIs [application programming interface] to better track viral disinformation in meme, video and image format.”

https://insideclimatenews.org/todaysclimate/online-disinformation-uses-culture-wars-to-delay-climate-action-study-says/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=c4eb02c470-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-c4eb02c470-328765186 ; <https://foe.org/news/deny-deceive-delay/>

Medical records. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared for use the StrivePD software that uses Apple’s Movement Disorder API to “track tremors and dyskinesic symptoms of Parkinson’s [disease] from the Apple Watch,” *STAT* reported. “The data is all collected in an iPhone application, which allows patients to record their symptoms and keep tabs on medication.”

https://www.statnews.com/2022/06/13/apple-watch-parkinsons-rune-fda/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=c7e76c7c4e-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-c7e76c7c4e-149736437

A research team “extracted data” for 2016-2019 “from ClinicalTrials.gov on U.S.-based, pharmaceutical industry or government-funded Phase 1-3 clinical trials of drugs and devices,” it reported in *Contemporary Clinical Trials*. “Across 1,433 trials including 302,664 participants in our analysis, on average 41.2% were female,” whether for cardiovascular disease, psychiatry, or cancer trials, including conditions where the majority of patients are female. “Given potential sex-based differences in treatment responses and toxicities, adequate inclusion of females in clinical trials remains critical.”

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1551714422000441?via%3Dihub&utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=00ef72d9c9-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-00ef72d9c9-149736437

Migration. Human Rights Watch called for an “independent, impartial investigation” into the deaths of at least 23 male migrants at the Mililla (Spain)-Morocco border on 24 June. HRW said it had seen “video and photographs” showing “bodies strewn on the ground in pools of blood, Moroccan security

forces kicking and beating people, and Spanish Guardia Civil launching teargas at men clinging to fences,” as well as photographs of “at least 10 freshly dug individual graves” that it located by using satellite imagery. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/29/morocco/spain-horrific-migrant-deaths-melilla-border>

Human Rights Watch said “migrant and asylum seekers who enter Mexico through its southern border face abuses and struggle to obtain protection or legal status as a result of policies aimed at preventing them from reaching the U.S.” HRW “interviewed more than 100 migrants, asylum seekers, representatives of migrants’ rights groups and UN agencies, and officials from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, between August 2021 and April 2022” and found that “most asylum seekers enter Mexico undocumented.” In 2021 the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) received “more than 130,000” refugee status applications “but only processed 38,005.” Subsequently, Western Hemisphere countries gathered at a summit meeting issued a “Declaration of Los Angeles” promising to increase financing for “migration challenges” and improve “information sharing.” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/06/mexico-asylum-seekers-face-abuses-southern-border>; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/10/los-angeles-declaration-on-migration-and-protection/>

Mexico’s migration agency said it “issued nearly 7,000 temporary documents and transit visa . . . to members of a migrant caravan” in southern Mexico. *AP* said migrants showed reporters “papers that gave them a period of one month or more to leave the country or begin regularization procedures in Mexico.” <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-issues-7000-temporal-documents-migrant-caravan-ends-85334506>

Reveal, through a “public records request and subsequent lawsuit,” received from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement the “Significant Incident Reports,” records that shelters housing refugee children must file when something “notable happens with a child in a given program’s care.” It “obtained full narratives about suicidal episodes among migrant children from late January to late April 2021,” but without the names of the children or the outcomes of the cases. “*Reveal* found nearly 600 episodes in which migrant children in the government’s custody said they’d considered or attempted suicide, either before or since arriving in the United States.” The records showed no child died by suicide while in shelter custody. https://revealnews.org/article/migrant-children-suicide-thoughts-us-custody/?utm_source=reveal-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-reveal

Restitution. At the “Culture Grows” symposium in Nairobi, speakers urged that the demands for return of cultural material now housed outside the African continent focus not only on “sculptures and artifacts” but also on the “rich archival film footages and audio recordings taken during the colonial period,” *Global Voices* reported. “Over 90% of the material cultural legacy of sub-Saharan Africa remains preserved and housed outside of the African continent, experts believe.” <https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/africas-heritage-restitution-debate-extends-to-audio-and-visual-archives/>

World War II. The Vatican announced that Pope Francis ordered “the online publication of 170 volumes of files relating to Jewish people from the recently opened Pope Pius XII archives,” the *Guardian* reported. “The documentation contains 2,700 files of requests for Vatican help from Jewish groups and families, many of whom had been baptized as Catholics and were no longer practicing Jews.” The announcement followed the 7 June publication of David Kertzer’s book *The Pope at War*, which analyzes information found during research in the newly opened Vatican archives for the World War II period and reports on “documents attesting to frantic searches for baptismal certificates, lists of names of converts handed over by the Vatican to the German ambassador and heartfelt pleas from Catholics for the pope to find relatives of Jewish descent,” *AP* reported. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/23/pope-francis-orders-online-release-of-second-world-war-era-jewish-files?fbclid=IwAR25vGBOWFSfSEnMs580ZzwLyfMbluQq1CKmWvR-7o4l9YCzfPtpLI3vv0>; <https://apnews.com/article/politics-united-states-vatican-city-religion-28c7c34e524434110b23743e53281d6d>

A German court sentenced a 101-year-old former Nazi concentration camp guard to five years in prison, “the oldest person so far to go on trial for complicity in war crimes during the Holocaust,” *Al Jazeera* reported. “Prosecutors had based their case on documents relating to an SS guard with the man’s name, date and place of birth, as well as other documents.” <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/germany-sentences-101-year-old-nazi-camp-guard-to-5-years-in-jail/ar-AAYX3jh>

“On the 78th anniversary of Stalin’s deportation of the Crimean Tatars, the Ukrainian foreign ministry called on the international community to recognize that that action was a genocide,” *Euromaiden Press* reported. Over 200,000 Crimean Tatars were deported to “remote rural locations in Central Asia and Siberia. Over 46% of the Crimean Tatar people perished during the trip and in the first 2 years of the exile due to the harsh conditions. A year after the deportation when the WW2 ended, demobilized Crimean Tatar soldiers were sent from the Soviet Army directly into exile.” Russian archives hold relevant records, see <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/trans-l2tartar.html>. <https://euromaidanpress.com/2022/06/04/ukraine-calls-to-recognize-1944-deportation-of-crimean-tatars-was-genocide/?swfcp=1>

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Algeria/France. *Mediapart* reported that “unpublished archives of the Presidency of the Republic, consulted by *Mediapart*, now prove it: Charles de Gaulle and the Élysée knew everything—and very quickly” about the massacre of Algerians in Paris on 17 October 1961, yet kept those responsible in their posts. *Mediapart* published several of the newly declassified documents. <https://histoirecoloniale.net/De-Gaulle-et-le-massacre-des-Algeriens-a-Parisautour-du-17-octobre-1961.html>

Antigua-Barbuda/United Kingdom. The residents of the island of Barbuda “have practiced communal land ownership for centuries” and a 2007 Barbuda Land Act codified it. The present government of Antigua-Barbuda wants to overturn the law, the Prime Minister arguing that “Barbuda’s development depends on a developed property rights system that provides individuals freehold and leasehold ownership” and has a land registry, *Just Caribbean Updates* reported. The controversy made its way to the United Kingdom, the overlord of the islands, and the London-based Privy Council ruled against the communal land rights. Barbudans feel the change “will destroy their unique way of life and erase their cultural identity,” fearing that the government will turn the island into a “high-end tourist attraction.” <https://caribbeannewsupdates.blogspot.com/2022/06/privy-council-rules-against-barbuda.html>

Balkan wars. The Humanitarian Law Center, a Belgrade-based NGO, issued a report on the Croatian bombing of refugee columns during Operation “Storm” in August 1995. It consists of excerpts from witness statements which Center staff members “collected immediately after the refugees’ arrival in Serbia.” http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/The_bombing_of_the_refugee_column_on_Petrovačka_Cesta.pdf

Bangladesh/Myanmar. Meeting with Myanmar counterparts on the repatriation of over 1.2 million people from Myanmar’s Rakhine State who are refugees in Bangladesh, Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister said Bangladesh gave Myanmar “a list of 830,000 individuals containing biometric data” but Myanmar has “only verified 58,000,” *BSS* reported. Myanmar insists on verifying each refugee’s past residency in Myanmar before permitting return. <https://www.bssnews.net/news/66753>

Europe. The Conference of European Statisticians, the chief statistical officers of 57 European countries, adopted Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in 1992, which were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2014. At its June meeting the Conference issued an official statement agreeing to use private data for official statistical purposes. The conferees said they would “engage effectively with private sector data providers to ensure mutual benefits of collaboration while avoiding conflicts of interest with other public interests” and would ensure “that acquisition of data is based on the principles of necessity, always has a specific purpose, and that the purpose of the acquisition is in the best interest of the citizens.” No clear mention of personal privacy considerations. https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Position%20statement_access%20to%20data_adopted%20on%2022.06.2022.pdf; https://genevasolutions.news/science-tech/european-statisticians-reach-consensus-on-using-private-data-for-official-purposes?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email

Liberia/United States. The former commanding general of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Moses Wright, was charged in U.S. Federal court “with fraudulently attempting to obtain citizenship, fraud in immigration documents, false statements in relation to naturalization, and perjury in connection with his fraudulent attempt to obtain US citizenship,” *Civitas Maxima*, a Swiss NGO, reported. Wright “is suspected of having lied to U.S. immigration authorities about atrocities he allegedly committed or ordered troops under his command to commit, including but not limited to: persecution of civilian noncombatants and Mano tribesmen, murder of civilian noncombatants, assault of civilian noncombatants, false arrest of civilian noncombatants and false imprisonment of civilian

noncombatants.” <https://civitas-maxima.org/2022/06/24/former-liberian-government-army-general-charged-in-philadelphia-united-states-in-connection-with-alleged-war-time-crimes/>

Mideast war. The UN Human Rights Office published a report “that, following rigorous assessment and statistical analysis of available data on civilian casualties, estimates that 306,887 civilians were killed between 1 March 2011 and 31 March 2021 in Syria due to the conflict.” Of these, “143,350 civilian deaths . . . have been individually documented by various sources with detailed information, including at least their full name, date and location of death.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/un-human-rights-office-estimates-more-306000-civilians-were-killed-over-10>

The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued its 11th annual report on torture in Syria, saying “the documented death toll of those killed under torture has reached 14,685 individuals, from March 2011 until June 2022, including 191 children and 94 women (adult female), with the vast majority of all these victims killed at the hands of Syrian regime forces.” <https://snhr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/R220610E.pdf>

Saudi Arabia/United States/Yemen. An investigation by the *Washington Post* and Colombia University’s law school showed that the “Saudi-led coalition carried out more than 150 airstrikes on civilian targets in Yemen” and “a substantial portion of the air raids were carried out by jets developed, maintained and sold by U.S. companies and by pilots who were trained by the U.S. military.” The researchers “reviewed more than 3,000 publicly available images, news releases, media reports and videos identifying for the first time 19 fighter jet squadrons that took part in the Saudi-led air campaign in Yemen.” https://www.stripes.com/theaters/middle_east/2022-06-04/saudi-airstrikes-yemen-war-crimes-us-support-6232657.html

Ukraine war. As of 27 June, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said it had “recorded 19,631 civilian casualties in the country: 4,731 killed and 5,900 injured.” OHCHR said it “believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/06/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-27-june-2022>

On 14 June Amnesty International reported that the Medical Department of the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration said 606 civilians had been killed and 1,248 injured in the Kharkiv region since the conflict began. Amnesty researchers “investigated 41 strikes . . . and interviewed 160 people in Kharkiv over 14 days in April and May, including survivors of attacks, relatives of victims, witnesses, and doctors who treated the injured. The organization’s researchers collected and analysed material evidence from strike locations, notably munitions fragments, as well as an array of digital materials.” Amnesty said it found “evidence of Russian forces repeatedly using . . . cluster munitions as well as scatterable mines, both of which are subject to international treaty bans because of their indiscriminate effects.” <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/06/ukraine-hundreds-killed-in-relentless-russian-shelling-of-kharkiv-new-investigation/>

Art News reported that Ukraine’s Ministry of Culture and Information Policy said on 9 June that “389 cultural heritage sites have been destroyed or damaged since the invasion began.” The article surveyed the international efforts to document the destruction, and reported that Interpol is uploading on its ID-Art site images of artworks trafficked from Ukraine; the International Council of Museums is creating a “red list” (a “categorized inventory of cultural objects within the collections of recognized Ukrainian institutions and which are at imminent risk of being stolen”); and the Instagram collective Divchata is maintaining “a database of art that has been evacuated from the country.” Damaged or destroyed, trafficked, at risk of theft, evacuated. <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/06/10/is-ukraines-cultural-heritage-under-coordinated-attack>

Noting that “new technologies permit the documentation of Russian war crimes in real time,” Russia specialist Paul Goble, writing for *Euromaiden Press*, said not only will national and international tribunals have far more evidence to work through, but also for “Ukrainian victims, it means that the documentation of these crimes serves as an additional mobilization factor” while “for the Russian army, it means that war crimes have become normalized, with so many of its officers and men implicated that there is a sense they must achieve victory or they will face punishment.” <https://euromaidanpress.com/2022/06/10/ukraine-has-documented-more-than-11600-war-crimes-by-russian-forces/?swcfcpc=1>

United Kingdom/former colonies. Writing for the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Mandy Banton, a specialist on British colonial archives, reported that the National Archives “withdrew” the entire body of Foreign and Commonwealth Office “migrated archives” from public access. The Archives said the records have “been temporarily withdrawn from public access due to evidence of historical preservation treatment of these files indicating insecticide use” and is developing “a risk assessment and safe handling guidance in order to create avenues for access to this series,” with a promise to update the situation at the end of July. “Migrated archives” are records which were selected for preservation by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the time of decolonisations in British colonies, sent to London, but not turned over to the National Archives until 2012, far after the scheduled time for transfer. These are critically important records for all research on former colonies. <https://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/blog/recent-withdrawal-public-access-important-migrated-archives>; <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C12269323>

National news.

Algeria. The national radio gave its archives relating to the independence struggle to the National People’s Army (ANP) for “preservation and enhancement of national memory,” *Algerian Press Service* reported. <https://www.aps.dz/algerie/142077-la-radio-algerienne-remet-un-lot-de-ses-archives-historiques-a-l-anp>

Argentina. In the first ruling by a supreme court in Latin America on the “right to be forgotten,” the Argentine court denied a celebrity’s petition “to have content about a scandal she was involved in more than 25 years ago removed” from Google search engines, *Rest of the World* reported. The court said, “No sufficient arguments have been provided to demonstrate that a person who was, and is, a public figure has the right to limit access to truthful information of public interest that circulates on the internet.” https://restofworld.org/2022/argentina-supreme-court-google-right-to-be-forgotten-denegri/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email&utm_medium=email; <https://sjconsulta.csjn.gov.ar/sjconsulta/documentos/verDocumentoByIdLinksJSP.html?idDocumento=7765751&cache=1656442328022>

Australia. The Information Commissioner and Privacy Commission, the Freedom of Information Commissioner, and heads of several “ombud agencies” issued a joint statement on the importance of access to historical records for Stolen Generations survivors and their families, *The Mandarin* reported. They committed to working “to champion timely, easy access to records through informal access schemes wherever possible, with formal access applications required only as a last resort.” “Stolen Generations” refers to the children who were forcibly removed from their families by governments, churches and welfare bodies between 1910 and 1970 to be raised in institutions, fostered out or adopted by non-Indigenous families, nationally and internationally. <https://www.themandarin.com.au/191253-historical-records-key-to-truth-telling-information-and-privacy-authorities-say/?fbclid=IwAR2PVFuj2aNmUnBqk6gRuHls3Ndg7t6hshYIP2nVTSNHK9qz88FfSbOS0eA>

Bulgaria. The Sofia municipality “refused to give citizenship to ‘baby Sarah,’ the daughter of a same-sex couple, a Bulgarian and a U.K. citizen, who had married in Gibraltar,” *BIRN* reported. The child is stateless under Spanish and U.K. law. In December 2021 the Court of Justice of the European Union “ruled that the child should be issued a Bulgarian passport,” a ruling that the city ignored. <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/06/14/european-rights-court-censures-bulgaria-over-homophobic-murder/>

Canada. “The Sisters of St. Ann’s archives on First Nations residential schools will be turned over to the Royal B.C. Museum in an agreement that will allow the museum to digitize boxes of paperwork and provide better access to survivors,” *Times Colonist* reported. http://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/museum-sisters-of-st-ann-reach-agreement-on-orders-archives-5433040?fbclid=IwAR2gwpXNquW1rbYPlzQ8r5GaQrvALHNUhUpq9RsgAflBFLmnKakAZy_RnLg

Colombia. The Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Recurrence Commission issued its final report, 800 pages on nearly six decades of civil conflict. <https://www.comisiondelaverdad.co/hallazgos-y-recomendaciones-1> See analysis by NGOs Washington Office on Latin America <https://www.wola.org/analysis/colombias-truth-commission-final-report-meeting-the-victims/?emci=2f7abe07-d0f7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=0007353f-5ff9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=8788546> and National Security Archive on the Commission’s use of “thousands of declassified U.S. documents.” <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/colombia/2022-06-28/there-future-if-there-truth-colombias-truth-commission-launches>

The Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) held a hearing where “seven former commanders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) faced their victims in the kidnapping of thousands of people,” *JusticeInfo* reported. JEP “registered 3,029 persons as parties to the case,” and “at least one in ten of those kidnapped did not return, according to the findings of the JEP: 627 were killed, in cases where their families managed to recover their remains, and 1860 are still missing.”

<https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/102992-colombia-day-farc-leaders-faced-victims-kidnappings.html>

JusticeInfo also published a story illustrating the work of the Unit of the Search for Disappeared Persons; the Truth Commission said 121,763 people disappeared between 1985 and 2016. During the search for the remains of a young woman, anthropologists from the Search Unit used the records of a parish office in the town of Santo Domingo, the hospital archives for the autopsy report, and a priest’s private inventory of the burials of “unknown persons” in a cemetery. https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/93366-colombia-end-mother-20-year-quest-missing-daughter.html#utm_source=emailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter-EN-06-06-to-10-06-2022

Dominican Republic. “Dominican Republic environment minister Orlando Jorge Mera was fatally shot in his office, allegedly by a childhood friend over denied environmental permits, according to judicial documents,” *Al Jazeera* reported. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/6/9/dominican-republic-environment-minister-killed-over-permits-report?emci=79c45ffa-fae7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=69daedfc-fbe7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ccid=4606001>

Ecuador. On 13 June thousands of people went on a national strike against the government, which the government repressed, *REAL News Network* reported. The Alliance of Human Rights Organization, an NGO, said that between 13 and 19 June “state security forces committed 39 types of human rights violations against citizens participating in the national strike and killed an 18-year-old Indigenous boy.” On 19 June “the national police occupied the Benjamin Carrion Cultural Center in the capital Quito to use its facilities as a base to house the policemen who came from other provinces to contain the social protests. Hours before the police takeover, officials of the State Attorney General’s Office raided the center, arguing that they had received an anonymous complaint, according to which protesters were storing explosives there. The authorities, however found nothing.” At the end of the month the government and the “country’s main Indigenous group . . . reached an agreement” to pause the strikes, giving the government 90 days to meet demands of the strikers, *AP* reported.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/01/ecuador-deal-reached-to-end-weeks-of-deadly-protests-and-strikes?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

El Salvador. On 2 June Amnesty International said that “over the past few weeks” it had “meticulously documented” 28 cases of human rights violations involving 34 people. Through extensive interviews, it “found that thousands of people are being detained without the legal requirements being met—there was no administrative or judicial arrest warrant and the person was not apprehended in flagrante delicto.” Further, a “minority” of people arrested “have been able to access private defenders and they do not have access to the case file and do not know what information the Prosecutor’s Office has submitted.”

<https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/president-bukele-engulfs-el-salvador-in-a-human-rights-crisis-after-three-years-in-government/>

Guatemala. Guatemala’s Constitutional Court, acting on Human Rights Ombudsman Jordan Rodas’ appeal, ordered the Human Rights Commission of the Guatemalan Congress to “supply corresponding records or a circumstantial report within 48 hours,” the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA (an NGO) reported. Rodas’s request came following the Commission’s 31 May attempt to remove him from office, the seventh such removal attempt he has faced throughout his almost five years in the position. “In light of the removal attempt, Rodas has faced increasing blatant threats and ridicule, especially from leaders within Foundation against Terrorism (FCT). Video footage reveals FCT lawyer Raul Falla threatening Rodas when the men crossed paths . . . on June 8.” <https://ghrcusa.wordpress.com/>

Germany. A report by a team of researchers from the University of Muenster “found that at least 196 clerics in the German Catholic diocese of Muenster sexually abused minors between 1945 and 2020,” *AP* reported. “The researchers said they were granted unhindered access to church files and spoke with numerous victims.” <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/report-finds-196-clerics-abused-minors-german-diocese-85357263>

Haiti. An armed group occupied the court in Port-au-Prince and, according to an official of the National Association of Haitian Clerks, “they set fire to the files, they took away the safe and the vehicles in the courtyard.” The building holds the archives of the courts in Port-au-Prince and Croix-des-Bouquets. <https://lenouvelliste.com/article/236459/des-bandits-detruisent-des-archives-au-tribunal-de-premiere-instance-de-port-au-prince>

Honduras. Human Rights Watch sent a letter and report to President Xiomara Castro. Among the key issues addressed was resolving land conflicts, which “are at the core of many human rights problems in Honduras. Previous governments granted rights to land and resources to companies through contracts that lack transparency.” HRW urged her to “establish an efficient system for providing titles for traditional territories to Indigenous communities and communities of mixed African and Indigenous ancestry.” https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/30/honduras-rights-agenda-castro-administration?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Roberto David Castillo, the man who planned Berta Caceres’s murder, was sentenced to 22 years and 6 months in jail for the assassination of the Indigenous environmentalist, the *Guardian* reported. “The court ordered that the case files be kept under wraps as the investigation remains open.” For background, see *SAHR News* 2021-07. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/20/honduras-man-who-planned-berta-caceres-jailed-for-22-years?emci=8ed137c8-6bfl-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=55c80fcb-6cfl-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=4606001>

The Intercept reported that “a trove of Dutch and U.S. legal and financial documents . . . reveal, for the first time, the flow of international funding in the days leading up to March 2, 2016” when Caceres was killed. Two Dutch human rights lawyers obtained the documents. “In at least four instances, according to the records,” the Dutch-state-owned bank FMO “released funding to a company affiliated with Castillo and [Daniel] Atala that did not match the state payee, routing the money through an offshore account with Deutsche Bank in New York City.” Castillo was the chief executive and Atala was the chief financial officer for the company building the dam that Caceres died protesting. The family and the lawyers have filed a petition with Dutch prosecutors, seeking a criminal probe of FMO. <https://theintercept.com/2022/06/23/honduras-berta-caceres-murder-money-trail/>

India. Researchers at the security firm SentinelOne and NGOs Citizen Lab and Amnesty International found that the hackers who “fabricated evidence on the computers of at least two activists arrested in Pune, India, in 2018, both of whom have languished in jail,” was part of a “broader hacking operation that targeted hundreds of individuals over nearly a decade, using phishing emails to infect target computers with spyware.” When the researchers tracked the hacked accounts, they found ties between the hackers and “the very same Indian police agency in the city of Pune that arrested multiple activists based on the fabricated evidence,” *WIRED* reported. For background, see *SAHR News* 2021-02. <https://www.wired.com/story/modified-elephant-planted-evidence-hacking-police/>

“The Goa Legislative Assembly’s records from 1953, when the House had its first session, till the year 2000 were destroyed during relocation of the secretariat, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said,” *Outlook* reported. <https://www.outlookindia.com/national/goa-assembly-s-records-from-1963-to-2000-destroyed-during-relocation-cm-pramod-sawant-news-205193?fbclid=IwAR3A-wTYahZ4DOrtw38-SSxp3dYYx5Uu8z2eWo7-ejolphgWrRr4ayH3818>

Israel. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said it had concluded its “independent monitoring” of the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh while covering an Israeli army operation in Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank. The spokesman said, “We find that the shots that killed Abu Akleh came from Israeli security forces,” *France 24* reported. “In line with its human rights monitoring methodology, the UN rights office inspected photo, video and audio material, visited the scene, consulted experts, reviewed official communications and interviewed witnesses.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2022/06/killing-journalist-occupied-palestinian-territory>; <https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20220624-un-panel-finds-journalist-shireen-abu-akleh-was-killed-by-israeli-fire>

Kenya. Ahead of the presidential election on 9 August, “social media users in Kenya are being exposed to political disinformation, hate speech and incitement against ethnic communities,” *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported. A report by the Mozilla Foundation said it “found more than 130 TikTok videos featuring hate and disinformation over a six-month investigation, which had collectively amassed more than 4 million views.” The National Cohesion and Integration Commission “had identified 83 cases of online hate speech related to the elections and individuals were being prosecuted.”

https://news.trust.org/item/20220623150254-pe4vm/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=trf-corro&utm_content=thread

Libya. The UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya’s report to the Human Rights Council said that since it started operating in June 2020 it has “conducted over 300 interviews,” reviewed “laws and regulations, court documents, medical and forensic reports” and had medical examinations conducted “by the Mission’s forensic physician.” Investigating “gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law” which have occurred since 2016, “the Mission learned of hundreds of incidents resulting in civilian casualties and/or the destruction or damage of civilian objects,” among other violations. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/libya/index>

Mexico. “A former official who led Mexico’s search for the disappeared has been found guilty of sharing confidential genetic information from thousands of recovered human remains with a private company,” the *Washington Post* reported. “A key piece of evidence in the trial was an official document signed by [the former official] agreeing to provide the genetic material to AND,” a biotech company in Mexico. He was alleged to have met with a company representative and “allowed her to download genetic information on a USB stick.” <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2022/jul/01/ex-leader-of-mexicos-search-for-the-disappeared-co/>

Myanmar. Fortify Rights, an NGO, issued a 63-page report, “Genocide by Attrition: The Role of Identity Documents in the Holocaust and the Genocides of Rwanda and Myanmar,” revealing “how the Myanmar junta is continuing to force Rohingya to obtain National Verification Cards (NVCs) that effectively strip Rohingya of access to full citizenship rights and protections.” The report draws on “historical research from past genocides, interviews with more than 20 Rohingya genocide survivors, leaked Myanmar junta documents, and a post-coup media analysis of junta-backed outlets.” <https://www.fortifyrights.org/downloads/Genocide%20by%20Attrition%20-%20Fortify%20Rights%20Report.pdf>

Over the months since the coup on 1 February 2021, the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar reported, “the military has killed at least 142 children in Myanmar. Over 250,000 children have been displaced by the military’s attacks and over 1,400 have been arbitrarily detained. At least 61 children, including several under three years of age, are reportedly being held as hostages. The UN has documented the torture of 142 children since the coup.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/un-expert-releases-new-report-documenting-military-juntas-impact-myanmars>

Nicaragua. Since the end of 2018, the government has cancelled the legal status (the right to operate) of 870 non-profit organizations, *Redaccion Confidencial* reported. The cancellations are either through legislative decrees by the National Assembly or “through the Ministry of the Interior (Migob), where the registries of the agencies were cancelled.” https://www.confidencial.digital/politica/regimen-ilegaliza-a-796-oeneges-en-el-primero-semester-de-2022/?utm_source=DB+El+Faro+English&utm_campaign=a1c01b551a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-a1c01b551a-363082696; https://www.confidencial.digital/nacion/regimen-expulsa-de-nicaragua-a-misioneras-de-la-caridad-fundada-por-madre-teresa-de-calcuta/?utm_source=DB+El+Faro+English&utm_campaign=a1c01b551a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-a1c01b551a-363082696

Philippines. The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court filed an application with the judges seeking authorization “to resume its investigation in the Situation in the Republic of the Philippines.” The statement by the prosecutor said, “After a careful and thorough review of all information provided by the Philippines, as well as other information available publicly, provided by third parties, or already in our collection, I have concluded that the deferral requested by the Philippines is not warranted, and that the investigation should resume as quickly as possible.” The focus is on alleged crimes against humanity committed between 1 November 2011 and 16 March 2019 “in the context of the Philippine Government’s so-called ‘war on drugs’.” <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/statement-prosecutor-international-criminal-court-karim-khan-qc-following-application-order>

Both the *Guardian* and the *New York Times* carried articles on the Philippine human rights organizations, activists and historians who fear that “documents may vanish” after Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos’ son assumed the presidency on 30 June. The Human Rights Violations Victims’ Memorial Commission is digitizing 11,103 case files of victims who secured reparations from the Human Rights Victims Claims Board and volunteers at the Monument of Heroes are digitizing

documents from the Marcos era. A safe haven for the copies may be required.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/07/archivists-rush-to-preserve-records-of-atrocities-under-ferdinand-marcos-sr-philippines?CMP=share_btn_link; <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/07/world/asia/philippines-martial-law-marcos-museum.html>

Poland. The Ministry of Health “added pregnancies to a list of information about Poles’ health to be included in a national online medical database,” *BIRN* reported. “The government having access to information about every woman’s pregnancy is causing concern in a country where abortion is now virtually illegal.” <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/06/07/polish-women-worry-about-government-move-to-add-pregnancy-info-to-online-database/>

Romania. A May 2022 announcement by the National Archives said “researchers’ access to the historical documents on the communist period is completely halted until further notice,” wrote Elena Dragomir on the H-Romania blog. “After 15 years of improved access to the communist archives, in 2021 and 2022 the secret service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs started a series of verifications in the National Archives (central and local branches alike) all over the country under the Law no 182/2002 on the protection of classified information and the Government Decision no 585/2002 establishing the applications standards of that law. Two researchers and two archivists are currently under investigation by the Direction for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism, being accused of . . . ‘organized crime and terrorism’ in relation to the fact that they had access or allowed others to have access to classified historical documents from the National Archives. Archivists have also revealed that documents from the National Archival Fund have been destroyed at the request and under the supervision of the secret services, all over the country.” <https://networks.h-net.org/node/7941/discussions/10356425/end-archive-research-communist-and-post-communist-romania>

South Africa. The Western Cape High Court ordered the city of Cape Town to return the belongings of the homeless living around the Castle and the city centre who were evicted from their locations in a “clean-up operation,” *News 24* reported. In an affidavit filed in the case, a homeless woman stated, “Some of the personal belonging taken by law enforcement and the EPWP [Expanded Public Workers Programme] workers include identity documents, asylum-seeker permits, mattresses, HIV/TB medication, clinic cards, personal documentation, birth certificates, clothing, toiletries and money.” <https://www.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/city-of-cape-town-to-return-belongings-to-homeless-after-agreement-in-court-20220603>

Sudan. The U.S.-based NGO C4ADS issued a report on “a repressive cartel of state-affiliated actors” that “uses its control of the economy to obstruct Sudan’s democratic ambitions.” It “mapped the ecosystem” of state-controlled enterprises in Sudan, using “official, public Sudanese government data sources from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOF) and RDC [Regime Dismantlement Committee]” and identified 408 state-controlled enterprise in “sectors as diverse as agriculture, banking and military industry.” It explained, “C4ADS uses official corporate records whenever possible to verify corporate ownership networks. However, this information represents only a snapshot of corporate activity at a given time; records may not be updated regularly, may not be consistent or wholly accurate.” <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/566ef8b4d8af107232d5358a/t/62bc52d3bb85f700a809a64a/1656509153182/Breaking+the+Bank+-+C4ADS.pdf>

Syria. In 2014 Tamer Turkmani, a Syrian, wrote a Facebook post “urging people on his friends list to send the photos of their loved ones who have been gunned down mercilessly by the Assad regime,” *TRT World* wrote. He now has 40,000 gigabytes of videos, photos, databases, books, etc., all showing crimes of the Syrian war. Turkmani now lives outside Syria. <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/40-thousand-gigabytes-an-archive-of-assad-s-war-crimes-in-syria-57624?fbclid=IwAR0zHnVxz6aSpIzwfbkwDmCmDxKsUb5ZMcDdzQTm30xz5Z88s3lcSU4FS7w>

Tanzania. “Thousands of Maasai people have fled their homes . . . following a brutal police crackdown on protests against government attempts to evict them to make way for trophy hunters and conservation,” the NGO Survival International wrote. “Videos and photos widely shared on social media show a deadly and indiscriminate attack on the protesters. Now police are going house-to-house in Maasai villages, beating and arresting those they believe distributed images of the violence, or took part in the protests.” Sadly, “many Maasai facing violence today were also evicted from Serengeti in 1959, by British colonial officials.” <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/13051>

United States. “Nearly 40% of law enforcement agencies around the country did not submit any data in 2021 to a newly revised FBI crime statistics collection program, leaving a massive gap in information,” wrote the Marshall Project, an NGO. “Since 1930, the nation has relied on the FBI’s data collection to understand how crime is changing, such as how many murders or rapes took place last year, which city had the highest murder rate, or how many people were arrested.”

https://www.themarshallproject.org/2022/06/14/what-did-fbi-data-say-about-crime-in-2021-it-s-too-unreliable-to-tell?utm_source=email&utm_medium=editorial&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=220614

A group of 13 people sued the Federal government because more than two years after they applied for citizenship, the Citizenship and Immigration Service has not scheduled them for citizenship interviews, *CNN* reported. Immigration history records, known as A-files, must be retrieved from National Archives’ records center storage and sent to the Immigration Service in order to process the citizenship applications; due to pandemic operating restrictions that reduced staffing at the records centers the retrieval of the files was delayed. There are now 40,000 pending requests (down from a reported peak of 350,000); the National Archives said it is “on the verge of eliminating the backlog.”

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/12/us/immigration-records-lawsuit-limestone-caves-ccc/index.html?fbclid=IwAR30L40fbkEii18TCUFKZO4weN8xkU9PUTs7WIIH5SHUZ8ee4W5P- Y4qyk>

Reveal and *The Markup* published the results of a joint investigation that found Facebook is “collecting data about people who visit the websites of hundreds of crisis pregnancy centers. Which are quasi-health clinics, mostly run by religiously aligned organizations whose mission is to persuade people to choose an option other than abortion.” The data is collected “through a tracking tool called the Meta Pixel that works whether or not a person is logged into their Facebook account.” The researchers “analyzed the sites of nearly 2,500 crisis pregnancy centers—with data provided by the University of Georgia—and found that at least 294 shared visitor information with Facebook.” A Facebook spokesman said, “It is against our policies for websites and apps to send sensitive information about people through our Business Tools.” https://revealnews.org/article/facebook-data-abortion-crisis-pregnancy-center/?utm_source=reveal-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly-reveal&mc_cid=f15a2af8a0&mc_eid=984067ef8d

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision that there is no constitutional right to abortion, many people expressed fear over the use of period-tracking apps and the potential use of health records to prosecute people seeking abortions who reside in states where it is now illegal, *STAT* reported. The chief executive of the NGO Civitas Networks for Health explained, “[T]he lack of a national data privacy protection law is hurting everything. It’s hurting people’s health. It’s hurting people’s privacy. It’s making it hard to exchange data for permitted purposes.” https://www.statnews.com/2022/06/30/roe-abortion-health-data-privacy-cambridge-analytica/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=059492f101-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-059492f101-149736437

<https://apnews.com/article/politics-health-syphilis-race-and-ethnicity-business-0a393357b7014707cf2dd18454a3cce4>

The Milbank Memorial Fund, a New York philanthropy, had historian Susan Reverby research the Fund’s participation in the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study in which, starting in 1932, “government workers in rural Alabama withheld treatment from unsuspecting Black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the disease and dissect their bodies afterward,” *AP* wrote. “About 620 men were studied, and roughly 430 of them had syphilis.” The U.S. surgeon general at the time asked the Fund to provide money to the men’s families to persuade them to allow the autopsies. The Fund provided over \$20,000 for about 234 autopsies and knew what they were funding, because, Reverby said, “The records say very clearly, untreated syphilis.” <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/New-York-fund-apologizes-for-role-in-Tuskegee-17235153.php>

United States/California. The state reparations task force issued a report offering “a comprehensive look at the impacts of enslavement and generations of discrimination on Black Californians and Black Americans more broadly,” *NBCBL* reported. It said the harms inflicted on Black citizens and residents “were largely intentional, crafted through local and national policies that reinforced one another.” The report “includes testimony from experts and public meetings of the task force, as well as a comprehensive review of media articles, academic papers and historical documents.”

<https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/ab3121-reparations-interim-report-2022.pdf>

United States/Maryland. The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission held a public hearing on the case of Howard Cooper, “a 15-year-old Black boy” who was accused of having assaulted

and raped a white girl and was “sentenced to death by a jury that deliberated for less than a minute,” the *Baltimore Sun* reported. Not waiting for an official death procedure, Cooper was “dragged from his cell and hanged . . . outside the Towson jailhouse in Baltimore County by a mob of white men in 1885.” The great-great-granddaughter of the man identified as the leader of the lynch mob said, “I am in awe of the archive that brought this truth to light.” <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/bs-md-hearing-lynching-howard-cooper-1885-20220604-cdwjilbcubdh7gxugi7blvde24-story.html>

United States/Mississippi. One of the most famous cases of racial injustice was the August 1955 abduction and killing of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Black boy accused of making improper advances to a white woman at a store in Money, Leflore County, Mississippi. Researchers using county records found an “unserved warrant” dated 29 August 1955 charging a white woman, Carolyn Donham, with involvement in Till’s 1955 kidnapping. The arrest warrant was known at the time, but “the Leflore county sheriff told reporters he did not want to ‘bother’ the woman since she had two young children to care for.” Donham is still alive; Till’s relatives want the warrant used to arrest her.

https://www.wjtv.com/news/1955-warrant-in-emmett-till-case-found-family-seeks-arrest/?utm_medium=referral&utm_source=t.co&utm_campaign=socialflow

Conferences, publications.

Call for contributions to a two-series workshop *Local Responses to Missing Persons and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding*, the first to be held online in December 2022; the second, a face-to-face workshop, will be in mid-2023. Proposals due 31 July 2022. For further details about workshop themes, aims and dates, contact Simon Robins simon.robins@simonrobins.com

Jennifer Easterday, Jacqueline Geis, Alexa Koenig, “Seven Essential Questions for Ethical War Crimes Documentation,” Responsible Data: <https://responsibledata.io/2022/06/01/seven-essential-questions-for-ethical-war-crimes-documentation/>

Anna Myriam Roccatello, “In Ukraine, Justice for Victims is More than Criminal Accountability,” International Center for Transitional Justice: <https://www.ictj.org/latest-news/ukraine-justice-victims-more-criminal-accountability>

Isber Sabine, Ristam Abdo, Neil Brodie, “Some New Evidence Documenting the Involvement of Da’esh in Syria with the Illicit Trade in Antiquities,” *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies*, Vol. 10., No. 2, 2022: <https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/47891>

“The Race to Hide Your Voice,” *WIRED*: <https://www.wired.com/story/voice-recognition-privacy-speech-changer/>

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