



ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

News from the Section on Archives and Human Rights
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Commentary.

Expulsion seems to be in vogue with today's authoritarian governments. Often cited as "foreign agents" or accused of misusing funds, nongovernmental organizations from Russia to Nicaragua, Hungary to Indonesia and the Philippines have had governments arbitrarily close or impede or expel them.

For instance, on 28 June Russia's foreign ministry announced that two Swedish organizations must cease operations, and the next day the State Duma passed a bill expanding criteria for individuals and organizations who can be listed as "foreign agents" and susceptible to expulsion. In May, Amnesty International reported, activist Mikhail Iosilevich was sentenced "to one year and eight months in a penal colony" for "collaborating with an 'undesirable organization'--the now defunct Otkrytaya Rossiya (Open Russia) movement founded by Kremlin critic Mikhail

Khodorkovsky." https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/05/russia-activist-mikhail-iosilevich-jailed-for-collaborating-with-so-called-undesirable-organization/

Or consider Nicaragua. On 19 July Human Rights Watch wrote, "Since June 6, 2022, Nicaraguan authorities have passed laws and resolutions canceling the legal registration of over 770 nongovernmental organizations and foundations, effectively forcing them to shut down their operations in the country. These include medical associations and organizations working on a range of issues from child protection to women's rights to climate change mitigation. The government has canceled the registration of more than 950 organizations since 2018. Many of these decisions are based on abusive legislation, including a 'foreign agents' law." https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/19/nicaragua-government-dismantles-civil-society Among the latest expulsions was that of the Missionaries of Charity, the group founded by Mother Teresa. https://www.eurasiareview.com/01072022-nicaragua-ortega-government-orders-dissolution-of-missionaries-of-charity/

Nongovernmental organizations, particularly those focused on human rights issues, often depend on foreign funds to exist. In May Cuba adopted a new penal code which, said the Washington Office on Latin America, includes "Article 143... in the section of the code that targets violations of state security and is punishable with sentences ranging between 4 and 10 years in prison. It targets individuals who receive foreign funding that may be acting on their own or on the behalf of 'non-governmental organizations, international institutions, associations or any natural or legal person of the country or of a foreign state'—criminalizing both public and private funds." https://www.wola.org/analysis/5-concerns-about-cuba-penal-code/ On the first anniversary of the 11 July 2021 mass protests in Cuba, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights condemned "persistent State repression of individuals who took part in social demonstrations or supported participants," identifying "six waves of State repression," one of which was "shutdowns of democratic platforms" and another "bills aimed at monitoring and punishing dissident views and government criticism, as well as at criminalizing the actions of independent civil society organizations." https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2022/153.asp

Providing social services, enhancing community cohesion, providing an alternative route to influence government behavior, allowing personal growth: these are some of the benefits of nongovernmental organizations, for individuals and for the entity as a whole. Archival organizations, whether local, national, or international, fall into this category. And while there have been no reports of a professional

archival organization shut down by a government, in the past some governments have interfered with the operation of archival associations. Next month the International Council on Archives, founded in the wake of World War II, will meet in Rome. The ICA's Forum of Professional Associations could well consider how to protect archival associations in countries where the very existence of nongovernmental organizations is threatened.

SAHR News. The Section on Archives and Human Rights will meet during the ICA conference in Rome on Thursday, 22 September, between 15:30 and 17:30. There will be a Zoom connection for those who cannot be in Rome.

International news.

Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. The High Court of Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court "found that sections of the colonial-era Sexual Offences Act of Antigua and Barbuda—which punished adult consensual same-sex activity—contravene the Constitution" of Antigua and Barbuda and are "violations to the rights to liberty, protection of the law, freedom of expression, protection of personal privacy and protection for discrimination on the basis of sex." The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights welcomed the ruling and called on "all States in the Inter-American region to repeal any laws that continue to criminalize consensual sexual relations between adults or allow for the prosecution of LGBTI persons in any other form." <a href="https://www.eccourts.org/orden-david-et-al-v-the-attorney-general-of-antigua-and-barbuda/; https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/en/IACHR/media_center/preleases/2022/162.asp

<u>International Court of Justice.</u> The court "rejected Myanmar's attempts to halt a case accusing it of genocide against the country's Rohingya minority, paving the way for evidence of atrocities to be heard," the *Guardian* reported. For background, see *SAHR News* 2019-11. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/22/genocide-case-against-myanmar-over-rohingya-atrocities-cleared-to-proceed

International Labor Organization and World Health Organization. The two UN organizations issued a joint report analyzing data on women working in health and care sectors in 54 countries, concluding that they earn "a staggering 24% less than their male counterparts," *Geneva Solutions* reported. Women are about 67% of the of the sectors' workforce and the "pay gap in the health and care sector is . . wider than any other sector of employment." The report said one way to address "this systematic injustice is to ensure that data is properly collected. Data, for example, on employment, working conditions and wages paid to workers will help policymakers to analyse and interpret trends and patterns."

https://genevasolutions.news/global-health/women-earn-24-per-cent-less-than-men-in-health-and-care-sectors-who-ilo-report?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email

<u>United Nations.</u> "With 161 votes in favor and eight abstentions, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on Thursday, declaring access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a universal human right." https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1123482

Five UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO) published the 2022 edition of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. It "paints a grim picture: As many as 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021—46 million people more from a year earlier and 150 million more from 2019." And the "gender gap in food insecurity continued to rise in 2021—31.9% of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure." A subsidiary report provides "results of assessments based on the food insecurity experience scale (FIES), data collected by FAO in twenty least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) between November 2021 and February 2022. For nine of the countries (including eight SIDS), it was the first time FIES data had been collected." https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0721en

The Annual Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict was released. Highlighting "23,982 verified grave violations against children," it warned that "statistics should never overshadow the individual suffering of children in armed conflict." After the report was released, PassBlue wrote that it "failed to acknowledge widespread kidnappings through northwest and northcentral Nigeria that were recorded" by UNICEF. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General

for Children and Armed Conflict replied that "the data do not meet its Monitoring Report Mechanism . . standard to verify the crimes" in Nigeria. <a href="https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/2022/07/statistics-should-never-overshadow-the-individual-suffering-of-children-in-armed-conflict-we-must-redouble-efforts-to-end-grave-violations/?utm source=PassBlue+List&utm campaign=33a77lede7-RSS PassBlue&utm medium=email&utm term=0 4795f55662-33a77lede7-55008469; https://www.passblue.com/2022/08/01/un-report-fails-to-recognize-major-child-abductions-in-parts-of-nigeria/

<u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).</u> "Global forced displacement is at an all-time high, increasing every year over the past decade," said UNHCR in its *2021 Global Trends Report*. More than two-thirds of all refugees originate from just five countries, with Türkiye hosting the largest population of any country; 41% of the forcibly displaced were children; and the U.S. is the world's largest recipient of new individual asylum applications. The report explained, "The data are generally provided by governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection." https://reporting.unhcr.org/globalreport2021/pdf;; https:/

<u>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</u>. Research released by UNFPA revealed "nearly a third of all women in developing countries begin child bearing at age 19 and younger and nearly half of first births to adolescents are to children, or girls aged 17 and younger." Alarmingly, "complications from giving birth are a leading cause of death and injury for adolescent girls, but being an adolescent mother can also lead to other grave violations of their human rights and social consequences, including child marriage, intimate-partner violence and mental health issues. The youngest child mothers face the highest risks." The data for the analysis came from "408 Demographic and Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, World Fertility Surveys, Generations & Gender Programme Surveys, and other national demographic and reproductive health surveys." https://www.unfpa.org/press/unfpa-research-reveals-nearly-third-all-women-developing-countries-become-mothers-during

World Health Organization (WHO). A report from WHO said "millions of refugees and migrants are being denied access to quality healthcare in their host countries due to their legal identities," *Geneva Solutions* reported. "The report also shows that there are critical gaps in health information concerning refugees and migrants. It added that while data available is aplenty, it is fragmented and not comparable between countries and across time periods and stressed that countries must have inclusive healthcare policies and coherent data." <a href="https://genevasolutions.news/global-health/legal-status-of-refugees-main-barrier-in-access-to-healthcare-says-who?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email

World/general news.

<u>Business.</u> The case against the French cement company Lafarge has been underway since 2016, when a group of former employees filed a complaint, assisted by two NGOs, for paying armed groups in Syria to enable the company to keep its Jalabiya plant operating in 2013-2014. Characterized as crimes against humanity, *Justice Info* said "this is the first time that a company has been indicted, as a legal entity, on such grounds." The article provides a clear review of the case and the general state of corporate liability in France. For background, see *SAHR News* 2021-06, 09. https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/103141-lafarge-judicial-twists-and-turns-corporate-liability-france.html

The NGO European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) filed an "application for conciliation" in the Swiss town of Zug on behalf of people on the Indonesian island of Pari, alleging that the Swiss cement company Holcim, which merged with the French cement company Lafarge, is responsible for climate change that is threatening to make their island unlivable. Holcim is "one of the 50 biggest CO2 emitters of all companies worldwide," ECCHR said. "A new study shows that the Swiss company emitted more than seven billion tons of CO2 from 1950 to 2021. That amounts to 0.42% of all global industrial CO2 emissions since the year 1750—or more than twice as much generated by the entire country of Switzerland during the same period." The application for conciliation "marks the first formal civil proceedings in Switzerland against a company for its contribution to climate change." It "calls for Holcim not only to assume historical responsibility, but also future responsibility . . to rapidly reduce emissions." https://www.ecchr.eu/en/press-release/an-island-demands-justice/

"French anti-terrorism prosecutors have opened an investigation into allegations of potential complicity in war crimes made against Groupe Castel in the Central African Republic," *Reuters* reported. Groupe Castel is "one of the world's biggest wine and beverages conglomerates." In 2021 the NGO The Sentry published a report, heavily documented, that said the Groupe's "subsidiaries had deals to provide armed militia UPC with cash and vehicle support in order to secure regional market position. The United Nations says the UPC has killed, tortured, raped, and displaced civilians, and engaged in arms trafficking, illegal taxation and warfare." https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/french-prosecutors-open-war-crime-probe-linked-groupe-castel-unit-central-2022-07-02/; for The Sentry report see https://cdn.thesentry.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CultivatingAtrocities-TheSentry-Aug2021.pdf

"The unprecedented leak to the *Guardian* of more than 124,000 documents—known as the Uber files—lays bare the ethically questionable practices that fuelled the company's transformation into one of Silicon Valley's most famous exports," the *Guardian* reported. The documents show how, between 2013 and 2017, the ride-sharing company "flouted laws, duped police, exploited violence against drivers and secretly lobbied governments." https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/jul/10/uber-files-leak-reveals-global-lobbying-campaign

"Between 2016 and 2019, more than 2,600 pregnant women working in meat plants were reported as suffering maternal disorders, including infections, bleeding and excessive vomiting, according to Brazil's National Institute of Social Security," the *Guardian* reported. "The excess risk of maternal disorders for the pig and poultry sectors, where most women work, was at least twice as high compared with all other employment sectors in Brazil between 2000 and 2016, according to data collated by labour prosecutors, who are now arguing for safe working conditions."

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/07/brazils-meat-plants-could-be-putting-pregnant-workers-at-risk-say-health-experts

The court of appeals in the U.K. ruled that the case against Anglo-Australian mining company BHP for the damages caused by the 2015 collapse of the Fundao tailings dam in Brazil can proceed. More than 200,000 victims of the disaster are plaintiffs, along with 530 businesses, 25 municipalities and 6 religious organizations, "making it the largest group claim in English legal history," the *Guardian* reported. At the time of the dam's collapse BHP had its headquarters in the U.K. Although a suit in Brazil had awarded damages, the U.K. court said, "The vast majority of claimants who have recovered damages have only received very modest sums in respect of moral damages for interruption of their water supply." https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/08/uk-court-of-appeal-case-victims-brazil-mariana-dam-collapse-aoe

NGOs Global Witness and Foxglove tested "Facebook's ability to detect hate speech ahead of the Kenyan elections, sourcing ten real-life examples of hate speech used in Kenya since 2007 and submitting them for approval" both in English and Swahili. All but one, in English, were accepted; the one rejected was for "failing to comply with Facebook's Grammar and Profanity policy," although all violated "Facebook's Community Standards, qualifying as hate speech and ethnic-based calls to violence." A second submission was also approved. This confirms the pattern Global Witness found in Mayanmar and Ethiopia, see *SAHR News* 2022-03. https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/digital-threats/hate-speech-kenyan-election/

Environment. "In a world-first, the supreme court of Brazil has declared that the Paris Agreement," the international treaty on climate change, "is a human rights treaty that must take precedence over national laws," *Optimist Daily* wrote. The suit that led to the decision was filed by four political parties "as a response to the government failing to distribute money from the national Climate Fund . . since 2019." https://www.optimistdaily.com/2022/07/in-a-world-first-brazil-rules-that-paris-agreement-is-a-human-rights-treaty/

"Satellite images taken between January and June show 4,000 square kilometers (1,500 square miles) of forest destroyed" in the Brazilian Amazon, "more than in any six month period in the seven years of record-keeping under the current methodology," *AP* reported. Analysis by the Amazon Environmental Research Institute, a Brazilian NGO, said the "area destroyed in the first half of 2022 is 80% larger than the same period in 2018," the year before current president Jair Bolsonaro took office; "around half of the felling occurred on public lands." https://apnews.com/article/climate-jair-bolsonaro-new-york-city-deforestation-and-environment-3d22fd36946c3b6aeda628eeacb89ab4

The Igarape Institute, a Brazilian NGO, published another study in a series on "the role of criminal and illegally-tainted economies, and of the players involved in deforestation and degradation" of the Amazon Basin in eight countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) and one territory (French Guiana). The study is based on a review of 302 Federal Police operations. It "identified 846 territories that make up the ecosystem of environmental crime in the Amazon" where "environmental and associated crimes converge to fuel illegal deforestation, illegal logging, public land grabbing . . agriculture and livestock [production] rife with environmental illegalities and illegal mining." The Institute built a database of police operations "using public information obtained by the Institute from the Federal Police via the Right to Information Law (LAI), in addition to research using public sources, including institutional websites and media." It includes a good description of the methodology used. https://igarape.org.br/en/connecting-the-dots-territories-and-trajectories-of-environmental-crime-in-the-brazilian-amazon-and-beyond/

The U.K.-based NGO Business & Human Rights Resource Center "tracked publicly reported allegations of environmental and human rights abuses against companies planning or operating hydropower plants . in Armenia, Georgia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan" over the last 10 years. It recorded 32 hydropower projects with 265 human rights and environmental issues, 98 of which had adverse impacts on community livelihoods. Of the 32, 17 received funding from international financial institutions; 71% of the projects studied in Georgia are funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and "all were linked to issues with access to information;" and "all of the investee companies have been linked to allegations of human rights and/or environmental abuse" and not one "has a publicly available human rights policy." https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/from-us/briefings/drying-up-tracking-the-environmental-and-human-rights-harms-caused-by-hydropower-in-the-caucasus-and-central-asia/

Medical records. "Researchers from Boston University [U.S.] have developed an artificial intelligence program that can automate and optimize" the process of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease at an early stage. The model "picks up cognitive impairment from audio recordings of patients' neuropsychological interviews." The test looked at 1,000 individuals from a previous study and found that "the sound of the recording and the way that the patients spoke were less important to diagnosis than what they are saying." https://www.optimistdaily.com/2022/07/listening-ai-could-diagnose-alzheimers-early/

<u>Technology.</u> Meta, the Facebook company, released its first annual human rights report, covering due diligence performed in 2020-21. It includes "a summary of a controversial human rights impact assessment of India that Meta commissioned law firm Foley Hoag to conduct," *Reuters* reported. Human rights groups demanded the full release of the India assessment. https://www.reuters.com/technology/facebook-owner-meta-releases-first-human-rights-report-2022-07-14/

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Afghanistan/Australia/Timor Leste. Using the Freedom of Information Act, *ABC News* (Australia) obtained 251 pages of reports from the Australian Department of Defense relating to "allegations of ADF [Australia Defense Forces] misconduct in East Timor in 1999." One document, titled "Lessons Learned," warned that "the first issue of importance to come out of this matter is the code of silence which permeates elite units in the ADF" and recommended that this culture be broken. A similar inquiry into allegations of ADF war crimes in Afghanistan, which was released in redacted form in 2020, also made "30 references to a culture or code of silence within the special forces." Asked why the Lessons Learned document was released, Defence "noted the significant importance of this document within the historical context of ADF operations and that of the Commonwealth of Australia." https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-06/defence-report-warned-of-special-forces-code-of-silence/101209430

Afghanistan/United Kingdom. "BBC Panorama analysed hundreds of pages of SAS [U.K. special forces] operational accounts, including reports covering more than a dozen 'kill or capture' raids carried out by one SAS squadron in Helmand [Afghanistan] in 2021/11." The documents suggest "one unit may have unlawfully killed 54 people in one 6-month tour" and "the former head of special forces failed to pass on evidence to a murder inquiry." For background, see SAHR News 2019-11. https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62083196?campaign_id=7&emc=edit_mbae_20220713&instance_id=66459&nl=morning-briefing%3A-asia-pacific-edition®i_id=101584506&segment_id=98314&te=1&user_id=a7ae650a5933afcfe2a94b7e6b74576d

Australia/Timor Leste. Australia's attorney general closed the case against whistleblower Bernard Collaery who, along with "Witness K," was prosecuted in May 2018 for the disclosure of information about the bugging of the Timor-Leste cabinet by the Australian Secret Intelligence Service in 2004. The attorney general's office had compiled and submitted to the court "a large volume of secret material.. dealing with the conduct of the [John] Howard government and the Australian Secret Intelligence Service in bugging the Timor-Leste cabinet." Now the attorney general wants the court to give it back, and the court "seems inclined to return the material, describing the 'practicalities' of storing the materials as 'unattractive'." *Crikey* argued that the material is useful for other investigations and "must be retained for safekeeping" by the court. https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/prosecution-of-bernard-collaery-was-anassault-on-values-australia-holds-dear-20220712-p5b10s.html?ref=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_source=rss_politics_federal; https://www.crikey.com.au/2022/07/11/bernard-collaery-trial-government-federal-icac/?utm_source=pushengage&utm_medium=push&utm_campaign=pn

In a speech to parliament, a senator from Australian Capital Territory said that the Collaery trial was not the only secret proceedings; another is over "a request to the National Archives for access to a 22-year-old cabinet submission relating to the Timor Gap negotiating strategy of the Howard government" which the requester, a former senator, is fighting to obtain "but he's not allowed to see the documents and [is] being prevented from hearing the government's arguments." https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parllnfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id:%22chamber/hansards/25930/0082%22

Balkan wars. Bosnia's state prosecutor for the first time "published data on its work on cases covering. people in category A" war crimes, revealing that 2004-2022 "it registered a total of 814 cases referred by the Prosecution of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia" and had ended investigations in more than 250 of them, *BIRN* reported. The Bosnian prosecutor said it "has not considered publishing the names as they have to take account of protection of personal and confidential data of persons against whom investigations have been discontinued," but the president of the Association of Victims and Witnesses of Genocide said, "Those are lost cases, and it would be good to know the names . . . so we can see who those people are." https://balkaninsight.com/2022/07/11/prosecutions-discontinued-in-250-category-a-war-crime-investigations/

Belgium/Democratic Republic of Congo. On June 30 in Kinshasa, a tooth of Patrice Lumumba was ceremonially buried, 61 years after he was assassinated, *Justice Info* reported. Belgium had returned the tooth to the DRS ten days before; the tooth was the only remains after Lumumba's "body was dissolved in acid, following his execution on January 17, 1961." In 2011 Lumumba's granddaughter "filed a complaint in Belgium for war crimes, torture and degrading treatment," and the "investigating judge asked the House of Representatives to send her the documents of the Belgian parliamentary commission of inquiry which ruled between 2000 and 2001 on the assassination." Her case is now at the Brussels Court of Appeal where a decision on whether the family will have access to the minutes of the closed-door hearings of the commission is expected in September. https://www-justiceinfo-net.translate.goog/fr/103326-dent-de-lumumba-restitution-attendant-verite.html? x tr sl=auto& x tr hl=auto

Belgium/Guatemala. Each year from 1980 to 1982 a Belgian missionary was killed and disappeared in Guatemala. The cases were never investigated. Families of the victims formed an organization in 2002 to push the case in Belgian courts, and on 14 June 2022 "the Belgian criminal court ordered the arrest of eight former high-level Guatemalan government officials," including a former President, minister of interior and director of national police, for crimes against humanity as defined by Belgian law. Only five of the accused are still alive. "Even if the accused will never be arrested in Guatemala, the collection of evidence in the Belgian case can help to clarify the past and thus contribute to truth finding," *Justice Info* wrote. https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/103279-universal-jurisdiction-belgian-justice-guatemalan-victims.html

<u>Canada/Vatican.</u> On his visit to Canada, Pope Francis asked forgiveness for the "evils committed by so many Christians" against First Nations families during the years of Canada's residential school system. Some leaders of First Nations bodies were not satisfied with the Pope's apology; one posted a "to do" list for the Church, including rescinding a 1493 Papal Bull that legitimized colonial land title, a records review and provision of all residential school records to "entities authorized by Indigenous Peoples," and repatriation of "anything taken from indigenous Peoples by the Church or Holy See . . including lands, cultural artifacts, records, and human remains." https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgyde4/pope-apology-residential-

Egypt/Israel. Israel's prime minister said his office "would investigate reports of a mass grave in central Israel containing the bodies of Egyptian commandos who were killed during the 1967 Middle East war" near Latrun, *Al Jazeera* reported. "Newspapers *Yedioth Ahronoth* and *Haaretz* published archival material and interviews with residents recounting how dozens of Egyptian soldiers killed in the battle may be buried there." https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/11/israel-says-investigate-1967-mass-grave-of-egyptian-soldiers

France/Rwanda. A Paris court sentenced former Rwandan prefect Laurent Bucyibaruta to 20 years in prison for "complicity in genocide" but acquitted him "as a perpetrator of genocide" of Tutsis during the massacres in 1994, *AFP* reported. The court said that for the execution of students at the Marie Merci school in Kibeho there were "not sufficient elements to say that he had given instructions" to kill. The president of the Collective of Civil Parties for Rwanda called the ruling "a half-fig, half-grape sentence." <a href="https://www-justiceinfo-net.translate.goog/fi/103493-genocide-au-rwanda-bucyibaruta-coupable-par-complicite.html? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=auto

<u>Iran/Sweden.</u> A Swedish court sentenced former Iranian official Hamid Noury to life in prison for his part in the mass execution and torture of political prisoners at the Gohardasht prison in Karaj, Iran, in 1988, *Reuters* reported. Noury was an assistant to the deputy prosecutor at the prison at the time. This is the first time an Iranian official has been tried and convicted of the mass execution of opponents in the 1980s. For background, see Amnesty International's 2018 report "Blood-Soaked Secrets" and *SAHR News* 2019-07. https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/swedish-court-verdict-iran-prison-executions-trial-due-thursday-2022-07-14/; https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/blood-soaked-secrets/

<u>Japan/South Korea.</u> Foreign ministers of the two countries met; one of South Korea's aims was "a breakthrough" in historical disputes "dating to Japan's 1910-1945 occupation of Korea," *Reuters* reported. The Korean government is "gathering opinions from victims of forced labour, lawyers and experts via a newly launched public-private panel." At issue are South Korean court orders "for a seizure of assets of Japanese companies accused of not compensating some of their colonial-era labourers." For background see *HRWG News* 2018-10. https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-seeks-kickstart-talks-resolve-historical-feuds-with-japan-2022-07-15/

<u>Libya/United States.</u> In a civil lawsuit, a U.S. court "issued a default judgement against Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar, finding him liable for war crimes against several Libyan families who have accused him of extrajudicial killings and torture," *Middle East Eye* reported. "War crimes by Haftar's forces and allied groups have been well documented, including by *Middle East Eye* in 2020 when it investigated and revealed mass graves found in the city of Tarhuna." For background, see *SAHR News* 2021-05. https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-court-finds-libyas-khalifa-haftar-liable-war-crimes

Mideast wars. The Syrian Justice and Accountability Centre (SJAC) published a report exploring the "targeting of civilians and first responders through 'double tap' airstrikes, designed to terrorize local populations and impede the work of humanitarian actors." SJAC said "Syrian and Russian air forces have utilized this tactic from 2013 to the present," verifying 58 incidents. The research used "hundreds of images, videos, and other evidence from SJAC's database, social media platforms, media outlets, and satellite imagery." <a href="https://syriaaccountability.org/press-release-new-investigation-shows-syrian-and-russian-governments-responsible-for-58-double-tap-airstrikes-on-civilian-and-humanitarian-targets-in-syria/?utm source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm campaign=1a03fe3882-EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019 01 10 02 56 COPY 01&utm medium=email&utm term=0 0a7405c641-1a03fe3882-90540617

<u>Ukraine war.</u> At a conference at the International Criminal Court, "45 nations signed a political declaration," promising to provide 20 million euros "to assist the ICC and to support the prosecutor general's office in Ukraine and efforts by the United Nations to investigate war crimes," *Al Jazeera* reported. "With some 23,000 war crimes being investigated and different countries heading investigative teams in Ukraine, evidence needs to be credible and organized, officials said." The Dutch foreign minister said "the Netherlands would consider setting up an international Ukraine war crimes tribunal, in part because neither Ukraine nor Russia [are] members of the ICC." https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/14/45-nations-pledge-to-coordinate-evidence-of-war-crimes-in-ukraine

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights told the Human Rights Council on July 5 that "the high numbers of civilian casualties and the extent of destruction caused to civilian infrastructure continued to raise significant concerns that attacks conducted by Russian armed forces were not complying with international humanitarian law. On a much lower scale, it also appeared likely that Ukrainian armed forces were not fully complying with international humanitarian law in eastern parts of the country. Over 10,000 civilian deaths or injuries had been documented . . with 335 children among the 4,889 documented as killed . . Most of the documented civilian casualties were caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas." https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/high-commissioner-human-rights-high-numbers-civilian-casualties-ukraine

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe presented the report of its mission of experts 1 April-25 June 2022. It had "access to a large amount and variety of evidence" and "discovered clear patterns of serious violations of IHL [international humanitarian law], attributable mostly to Russian armed forces," and international human rights law, also "extensively violated in the conflict in Ukraine." https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf

On 24 July, with the mediation of the United Nations and Türkiye, Ukraine and Russia reached an agreement to allow the shipment of grain from three Ukrainian ports through the Black Sea. According to *Caspian News*, "Ministers from both countries each inked separate but identical agreements in Istanbul since Kyiv officials refused to put their names on the same document with Russia amid the ongoing war." Three days later a Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) with "senior representatives" of all four parties was established in Istanbul to authorize the passage of grain ships. The parties need to make sure the records of the JCC are preserved. https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/russia-ukraine-sign-deal-with-turkiye-and-unto-resume-grain-export-via-black-sea-2022-7-24-0/; https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2022-08-01/note-correspondents-the-joint-coordination-centre-black-sea-grain-initiative">https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2022-08-01/note-correspondents-the-joint-coordination-centre-black-sea-grain-initiative

Amnesty International published "Children': The Attack on the Donetsk Regional Academic Drama Theatre in Mariupol." Its "Crisis Response team interviewed numerous survivors and collected extensive digital evidence, concluding that the attack was almost certainly carried out by Russian fighter aircraft, which dropped two 500kg bombs that struck close to each other and detonated simultaneously." Satellite imagery taken "just minutes after the strike" was used in the analysis, as were a "mathematical model of the detonation" built by a physicist and two sets of architectural plans of the theatre. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/06/ukraine-deadly-mariupol-theatre-strike-a-clear-war-crime-by-russian-forces-new-investigation/

An explosion at the Olenivka prison in Russian-occupied Donetsk killed at least 50 Ukrainian prisoners of war, the *Guardian* and other media reported. Ukraine and Russia traded accusations of responsibility for the attack, and analysts were reviewing satellite imagery and video footage posted online. Ukraine's "domestic security agency, the SBU, said it had intercepted phone calls that pointed to Russia being responsible. Ukraine's prosecutor general, Andriy Kostin, said he had opened a war crimes investigation into the blast." https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/30/prison-attack-that-killed-ukraine-pows-a-war-says-zelenskiy-amid-calls-for-un-inquiry

According to the Ukrainian president's adviser on the protection of children, "an interactive public website will soon go live to assist expert search teams that are tracking missing children," *PassBlue* reported. As of 11 July, 45 children had been returned from Russia and Russian-dominated areas, some apparently taken from orphanages or other institutions, with "another 5,100 confirmed and documented cases . . still on the docket for action." https://www.passblue.com/2022/07/14/ukraine-boosts-its-campaign-to-find-children-that-russia-has-abducted/

The NGO Human Rights Watch published a report on 22 July saying "Russian forces have tortured, unlawfully detained, and forcibly disappeared civilians in the occupied areas of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions . . Russian forces have also tortured prisoners of war (POWs) held there." The report is based on interviews with 71 people from those regions, who described 42 cases of apparent war crimes and said that "in several cases, Russian forces released detainees only after they signed a statement promising to 'cooperate' with the authorities or recorded a video in which they exhorted others to cooperate." HRW "documented the torture of three members of the Territorial Defense Forces who were POWs. Two of them died." https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/22/ukraine-torture-disappearances-occupied-south

According to *Babel*, a video was released showing a Russian soldier using a "clerical knife" to castrate a captured Ukrainian soldier. https://babel.ua/en/news/82186-the-president-s-office-reacted-to-the-video-of-the-russians-castrating-a-ukrainian-prisoner-of-war

National news.

Afghanistan. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released a report "outlining the human rights situation . . over the 10 months since the Taliban takeover." The Acting Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan said, "Our monitoring reveals that despite the improved security situation since 15 August [2021], the people of Afghanistan, in particular women and girls, are deprived of the full enjoyment of their human rights." UNAMA has recorded "at least 160 extrajudicial killings of former government and security officials by members of the *de facto* authorities between 15 August 2021 and 15 June 2022," and human rights violations affecting 65 human rights defenders, 64 of which "were attributed to the *de facto* authorities," and 173 journalists and media workers, six of whom were killed. https://unama.unmissions.org/un-releases-report-human-rights-afghanistan-taliban-takeover

Argentina. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights declared Argentina compliant with the settlement in the case of the theft of Evelyn Vazquez Ferra, the granddaughter of Inocencia Luca Pegoraro and Angelica Chimeno de Bauer, "who was born in a clandestine detention center during the military dictatorship." The agreement included requiring Argentina to create a "Documentary Regularization Unit of victims of human rights violations within the framework of the actions of state terrorism," adopt "procedures for obtaining DNA samples of the identification of granddaughters and grandchildren stolen during the dictatorship," and institute "an action protocol" for cases of children stolen during the period as well as a protocol for the treatment of victims and witnesses. https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2022/151.asp

On 6 July, 19 former members of the Argentine armed forces were found guilty of crimes of torture, kidnapping, homicide, as well as raids, aggravated robberies and aggravated sexual abuse against hundreds of detainees during Argentina's military dictatorship 1976-1983, *Justice Info* reported. Known as the Campo de Mayo mega-case, there were two rulings: 4 July confirmed the existence of the so-called "death flights" when people were "thrown alive from planes into the Rio de la Plata," and July 6 condemning the torturers. The trial "required 2,126 court sessions and more than 700 witnesses" and the prosecutor's closing argument was 1,500 pages long. According to the Office of the Prosecutor for Crimes against Humanity, since the end of the dictatorship "a total of 1,058 people were convicted for these crimes in 273 trials" and more than 30 cases are still open. Of the estimated 500 stolen children, "130 were able to recover their identity to date." Think of the volume of records these cases have generated. https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/103817-argentina-ultimate-rendez-vous-justice.html

<u>Bangladesh.</u> Villagers in the Narial district accused a local Hindu boy of making a blasphemous Facebook posting against Islam; a mob then "left a temple, houses and businesses of Hindus destroyed, forcing dozens of Hindus to flee," reported *UCA News*. The boy was arrested by police, as were five people charged with "vandalism." https://www.ucanews.com/news/bangladesh-government-failing-to-protect-minorities/98082

Belarus. The UN International Civil Aviation Organization issued its report on the false bomb threat sent to a Ryanair flight on 29 May 2021, leading the plane to make an unplanned landing in Minsk, Belarus, and allowing the arrest of a passenger—an Belarussian opposition activist—and his girlfriend. "Based on the facts established, the safety of Ryanair Flight FR4978 was endangered when a false bomb threat was communicated to the crew leading to its diversion." It complained that "the authorities of Belarus did not provide logs of the email server airport.by, nor the email files containing the threat messages saved in their original format including their metadata, citing their erasure in accordance with their data retention policy." Cell phone records of the "personnel involved" also were not made available by Belarus, and only short extracts of video recordings from cameras at the airport were provided. For background, see *SAHR News* 2021-05.

https://www.icao.int/Security/Documents/Ryanair%20FR4978%20FFIT%20report.pdf#search=Ryanair

Bolivia. The Senate passed a bill "that allows the exceptional compensation of more than 1,700 victims of dictatorial governments that ruled the country between 1964 and 1982," *teleSUR* reported. "The families have been claiming compensation from the State for 40 years." The records of payments must be protected in the archives. <a href="https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Bolivian-Senate-Passes-Bill-to-Compensate-Dictatorship-Victims--20220710-0002.html?utm_source=planisys&utm_medium=NewsletterIngles&utm_campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm_content=10

<u>Canada</u>. "As of July 13, 2022, foreign nationals outside Canada will have the right under the Privacy Act to access their personal information being held by federal government institutions," the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada announced. https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/news-and-announcements/2022/an 220713/

The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Executive Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation announced the establishment of the National Advisory Committee on Residential Schools Missing Children and Unmarked Burials "to ensure Indigenous communities have access to independent, trusted and expert information in their efforts to identify, locate, and commemorate their missing children." The two parties are "co-administrators," both apparently keeping official records. https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/the-government-of-canada-and-the-national-centre-for-truth-and-reconciliation-announce-the-new-national-advisory-committee-on-residential-schools-missing-children-and-unmarked-burials-835197809.html

Raymond Frogner, head of the archives at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, completed his preliminary assessment of archives of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Rome. He reviewed "photographs of life at residential schools, administrative records from Oblates in Canada and the supervisory office in Rome, and records of the Oblate members' service to the Order." Records he selected will be digitized and transferred to the Centre, where analysis will be made to identify potential discrepancies in the records and decide whether additional transfers will be required. https://nctr.ca/nctr-and-oblates-of-mary-immaculate-complete-initial-review-of-oblate-archive-in-rome/; https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/nctr-oblate-rome-archive-photos-residential-schools-1.6524189

Central African Republic. The International Criminal Court unsealed the 2019 arrest warrant for former security minister and Seleka militia group leader Mahamat Nouradine Adam. The judge wrote that "the supporting evidence" which includes ICC and non-ICC statements, public reports emanating from the United Nations and non-governmental organisations and news reports, "is sufficient to establish reasonable grounds to believe that a non-international armed conflict existed and a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population occurred." https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/CourtRecords/CR2022_05821.PDF

Based on investigations by the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), the UN Human Rights Office issued two reports on "extremely disturbing events recently occurring" in the Central African Republic. "One details a brutal, organised attack on a village by a pro-Government militia, based on multiple witness accounts of "documented incidents." The second describes how specific armed groups have perpetrated recurring acts of sexual violence in a "systematic and widespread manner" and is based on four "investigative missions" as well as regular monitoring and reporting work documenting cases in regions under the control of armed groups. https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/07/central-african-republic-un-reports-detail-serious-violations-some-possibly

<u>China.</u> "The Shanghai police records—containing the names, government ID numbers, phone numbers and incident reports of nearly 1 billion Chinese citizens—were stored securely," cybersecurity experts told the *Wall Street Journal*. "But a dashboard for managing and accessing the data was set up on a public web address and left open without a password, which allowed anyone with relatively basic technical knowledge to waltz in and copy or steal the trove of information." The database was exposed from April 2021 until mid-June 2022 "when its data was suddenly wiped clean and replaced with a ransom note for the Shanghai police to discover." https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-police-database-was-left-open-online-for-over-a-year-enabling-leak-11657119903?mod=djemalertNEWS

<u>China/Hong Kong.</u> The Hong Kong Democracy Council, an NGO based in the U.S., sent a report to the UN Human Rights Committee for its 4th periodic review of Hong Kong at its June-July session. The Council said its database records 1,022 political prisoners detained between 9 June 2019, the start of

mass protests in Hong Kong, and 23 May 2022. "In all, more than 10,500 people have been arrested for their political speech and actions since June 2019. So far, about 3,000 of them have been prosecuted, with over 600 political defendants still awaiting trial."

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/HKG/INT_CCPR_CSS_HKG_48900_E.pdf

Colombia. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) charged 19 former soldiers, an intelligence agent and two civilians "for the murders and forced disappearance of hundreds of people in the eastern Casanare department." The dead were presented as FARC fighters killed, a practice known as "false positives." The JEP said it "had gathered enough evidence" to make the charges, *Al Jazeera* reported. <a href="https://www.jep.gov.co/Sala-de-Prensa/Paginas/JEP-imputa-a-22-miembros-del-ej%C3%A9rcito,-un-funcionario-del-extinto-das-y-a-dos-civiles-por-%C2%B4falsos-positivos%C2%B4-en-Casanare.aspx?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

<u>Denmark/Greenland.</u> The government of Greenland announced that it will conduct an "historical investigation" of the period from World War II to the present focusing on "the political decisions, events and other factors that contributed to the development of Greenland and the Greenlandic population as well as the relationship" between Denmark and Greenland and the impact of colonialism on the Inuit population, *Eye on the Arctic* reported. The report will be done by "independent researchers;" the terms of reference will be presented in October. In addition, Greenland's parliament said it requested a report from the Danish government on the "IUD program in place from the 1960s to 1991 that saw Danish health authorities insert the contraceptive device in Greenlandic women and teenagers, some as young as 13, and often without their, or their parents, permission." https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2022/06/09/greenland-denmark-initiate-investigation-into-past-relations/

Ecuador. The National Assembly "asked the Ombudsman's Office to set up a 'Truth Commission' to investigate what happened during the national strike, which was called by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador" 13-30 June 2022, *teleSUR* reported. The report is to be submitted within 90 days. The National Assembly also asked the Constitutional Guarantees Commission to submit a report within 30 days on the status of the agreements reached between the government and social organizations. For background, see *SAHR News* 2022-06. <a href="https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Truth-Commission-to-Investigate-National-Strike-in-Ecuador-20220706-0006.html?utm source-planisys&utm medium=NewsletterIngles&utm campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm content=8

<u>El Salvador.</u> Crisis Watch reported that the human rights prosecutor said his office "had received 2,673 complaints of human rights violations related to state of emergency implementation," which began in late March and continues. https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch

Images posted to Instagram and Facebook by a woman who calls herself his "life partner" show Mara Salvatrucha gang leader Elmer Canales Rivera, who was supposed to be serving a 40-year prison term, living freely in El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico, *El Faro* reported.

https://elfaro.net/en/202207/el_salvador/26264/Transnational-Escape-of-MS-13-Leader-%E2%80%9CCrook%E2%80%9D-Caught-on-Social-Media.htm?utm_source=DB+El+Faro_English&utm_campaign=fad9101ac2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-fad9101ac2-363082696

Ethiopia. Amnesty International urged Ethiopian authorities to "launch an impartial investigation into the summary killing of over 400 Amhara residents of Tole Kebele in Oromia region on 18 June." Interviews and satellite imagery document the massacre. Victims allege the crime was committed by the Oromo Liberation Army, an armed group opposed to the government.

https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/ethiopia-authorities-must-investigate-massacre-of-ethnic-amhara-in-tole/

Gambia. Six members of the top leadership of the National Intelligence Agency during the regime of Yahya Jammeh (1994-2017) "were sentenced to death for their role in the 2016 killing of political activist Ebrima Solo Sandeng, and other crimes," *Justice Info* reported. One of the convicted men "was found to have forged the death certificate of Sandeng and lied to the court about it." The judgement ran to 300 pages. https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/103778-gambia-death-penalty-former-leaders-national-intelligence-agency.html

<u>Guatemala</u>. The Inter-American Court for Human Rights ordered Guatemala to "adopt urgent measures to protect judge Miguel Angel Galvez, the pretrial judge in the Military Diary case," who has "faced a crescendo of attacks and spurious lawsuits by promilitary actors who want to shut down this and all war crimes trials," reported Jo-Marie Burt and Paulo Estrado of NGO Verdad y Justicia en Guatemala.

Although the judge has ruled that nine of the accused must stand trial, he must both "complete the admission of evidence hearings, which is a necessary final step" before the case goes to the trial court and "convene an evidentiary phase hearing for the other five suspects who have been arraigned." <a href="https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/medidas/gudiel_se_01.pdf?utm_source=Verdad+y+Justicia+Guatemala&utm_campaign=flace8f7fl-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_05_18_07_35_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dd4594766d-flace8f7fl-593709509; https://www.facebook.com/VerdadJusticiaG

<u>Haiti.</u> According to the UN, "between 8 and 17 July 2022, over 471 people were killed, injured or unaccounted for" in the commune of Cite Soleil and other neighborhoods of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. "Serious incidents of sexual violence against women and girls as well as boys being recruited by gangs have also been reported. Around 3,000 people have also fled their homes, including hundreds of unaccompanied children, while at least 140 houses have been destroyed or burnt down." https://haiti.un.org/index.php/en/191932-un-humanitarian-agencies-deliver-relief-aid-directly-people-affected-violence-cite-soleil

India. The Labour Ministry told Parliament that since 2016 "the Ministry has no records of child labour" and the "currently available data is of the 2011 Census, which says the country has more than a million child labourers," *The Hindu* reported. A member of Parliament said the schools for child laborers "have . . more or less stopped functioning due to scarcity of funds."

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-has-no-data-on-child-labour-since-nclp-was-merged-with-samagra-shiksha-abhiyan/article65631877.ece

Israel. After five years of deliberations on the application filed by the Akevot Institute and its researcher Adam Raz, the "president of the Military Court of Appeals ruled in favor of opening a large portion of the [1956] Kafr Qasim massacre trial transcripts," Akevot said. *Haaretz* reported that the released documents "reveal a massacre of Israeli citizens—among them women, children and elderly people—with the goal of promoting a population transfer," that is, to encourage Israeli Arabs to flee. It editorialized, "In a properly run country that wasn't afraid of looking in the mirror and grappling with its past, these documents would have been released long ago instead of only after 66 years" and urged the government to "establish an independent committee that will reconsider the state's policy on publishing historical documents and release information about the country's past to the public." <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PloBP_LV-VY; https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/editorial/2022-08-01/ty-article/.premium/there-are-thousands-of-classified-pages-israel-has-yet-to-reveal-for-the-sake-of-healing/00000182-55e5-d9b3-a1a2-55fd3d1d0000

"According to a trove of training documents and videos obtained by *The Intercept* through a publicly accessible educational portal intended for Nimbus users, Google is providing the Israeli government with the full suite of machine-learning and AI tools available through Google Cloud Platform." Nimbus is a contract between Israel and Google for a \$1.2 billion cloud computing system jointly built by Google and Amazon. "While they provide no specifics as to how Nimbus will be used, the documents indicate that the new cloud would give Israel capabilities for facial detection, automated image categorization, object tracking, and even sentiment analysis that claims to assess the emotional content of pictures, speech and writing." https://theintercept.com/2022/07/24/google-israel-artificial-intelligence-project-nimbus/?utm-medium=email&utm-source=The%20Intercept%20Newsletter

Kosovo. "Important files, photographs and witness records that illuminate the history of the Kosovo war are being kept separately by human rights groups, amateur archivists and the State Archives, as the authorities haven't managed to establish a proper central archive," *BIRN* wrote. Worried about the capacities and security of the State Archives, which has only eight cubic meters of material, private individuals and groups are hesitant about transferring materials to it. The chair of the government's working group on Kosovo's national transitional justice strategy "said that the strategy will also include the establishment of a database of archival materials." https://balkaninsight.com/2022/07/25/fractured-history-why-kosovo-has-no-proper-wartime-archive/

<u>Liberia.</u> A new law permits dual citizenship and allows individuals to claim Liberian citizenship through their mothers, *Al Jazeera* reported. Land ownership and access to certain jobs are restricted to citizens, and this law opens those options for dual citizens. However, a dual citizen cannot hold an elective position and cannot be governor of the Central Bank, finance minister or defense minister. https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/7/27/all-you-need-to-know-about-liberias-new-dual-citizenship-law?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

<u>Libya</u>. "The Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya issued its comprehensive report on 29 June, providing further evidence of crimes against humanity, war crimes and gross human rights violations" since 2016. The mission conducted 103 interviews with victims and witnesses and "collected evidence relating to over 27 places of detention in the east and west of Libya holding thousands of inmates, including secret and extra-legal prisons." The mission "focused its investigative work on the widespread and systematic attack on the civilian population of Tarhuna," benefitting "from the use of UN technological capacities." It said it "has reasonable grounds to believe that it has uncovered new mass grave sites." https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/accountability-pivotal-prosecute-those-responsible-war-crimes-and-crime

Mexico. Data from the Federal Ministry of Health on injuries treated in clinics and hospitals show that between January and June 2022 "at least 47 women were intentionally burned," *Animal Politico* reported. Further, according to medical records, in only 28 cases did health authorities report the injuries to the Public Ministry for possible action against the perpetrator. https://www.animalpolitico.com/2022/07/mujeres-quemadas-47-entre-enero-junio/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Myanmar. Amnesty International researchers interviewed 43 people in Kayah state where fighting between the military and Karenni armed groups has gone on since May 2021. It reported that the military is "committing war crimes by laying antipersonnel landmines on a massive scale" in and around villages. The NGO Karenni Human Rights Group "documented at least 20 civilians killed or seriously injured by landmines in Kayah State since June 2021." *Landmine Monitor* said, "Myanmar's military is the only state armed forces confirmed to have used antipersonnel landmines in 2020-21." https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/myanmar-militarys-use-of-banned-landmines-in-kayah-state-amounts-to-war-crimes/

With NGO partners inside and outside the country, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is "monitoring the significant increase in labour and human rights abuses of garment workers across the country since the military takeover" on 1 February 2021. The Centre's tracker "captures over 100 cases of alleged labour and human rights abuses perpetrated against at least 60,800 garment workers" at 70 factories producing for at least 33 global fashion brands and retailers. "The data highlights the scale and scope of abuse and the widespread impunity enjoyed by perpetrators." <a href="https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/big-issues/labour-rights/myanmar-garment-worker-allegations-tracker/?utm-source-wu&utm-medium-wuemail&utm-campaign=2022MyanmarGarment&utm-content=email

Nepal. The government extended the terms of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission for Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) for three months, *NepalPress* reported. https://english.nepalpress.com/2022/07/15/tr-ciedp-term-extended-by-three-months/

Pakistan. The National Database and Registration Authority is responsible for issuing the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) and maintaining the nation's biometric database, *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported. "It has issued some 120 million CNICs" to "96% of adults in the nation of about 212 million people," but millions, "including women, transgender people, migrant workers and nomadic communities, are still without a CNIC." The card is required for accessing government benefits including public schools and healthcare; a woman reported she could not get a COVID-19 vaccine shot because she did not have a card. Privacy violations of the database are a risk, as it can be "accessed by about 300 public and private service providers, from the tax department to the election commission to mobile service providers." https://news.trust.org/item/20220725151706-

<u>Panama.</u> The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression reacted to the strikes and demonstrations that have taken place since 6 July, saying "social protest is an essential element for the existence and consolidation of democratic societies and for the defense of human rights; therefore, it is the duty of the State to guarantee, protect and facilitate the legitimate exercise of the right to peaceful protest." During the protests, demonstrators blocked highways, and on 19 July "both protesters and members of the public forces were injured in operations to clear the blocked highways." The Ombudsman's Office "recorded clashes between demonstrators and police units that would have endangered the integrity of third parties, older persons,

children and adolescents who were not part of the social protests." https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2022/168.asp

<u>Papua New Guinea.</u> According to *Crisis Watch*, "prospective voters in East Sepik and Hela provinces 4-6 July destroyed ballot boxes and set fire to ballot papers to protest not being enrolled on voter lists." https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch

South Africa. Human Rights Watch published a report describing "the human rights risk of unrehabilitated coal mines in South Africa," based on "documents and data" from the government, "reports from Parliamentary meetings," South African NGO research, interviews, and academic papers. South Africa has over 6,000 abandoned mines, and "according to government records, there are no fewer than 400 abandoned coal mines" leaving behind polluted land and highly-toxic water. Although South African law requires companies to rehabilitate mine sites, enforcement is lacking. HRW filed four requests for information under the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) about water quality, abandoned mines, and deaths on unrehabilitated mine sites, none of which were not completed within the time frame of the act. HRW pointed out that basic information of water quality data or abandoned mine locations "should be publicly available on government websites even without the need for PAIA submission" but that type of information on websites was "incomplete or missing with no explanation or justification." https://www.hrw.org/report/2022/07/05/forever-mines/perpetual-rights-risks-unrehabilitated-coal-mines-south-africa

South Korea. The National Intelligence Service filed criminal complaints against two of its former chiefs for "ordering an investigation to end and destroying intelligence documents," *Reuters* reported. One complaint involves "forcing officials to close an investigation" and "drawing up a false document" in the case of a "2019 decision to deport two North Korean fishermen suspected of murdering 16 of their shipmates." The other involves "destroying intelligence reports" on the case of a "South Korean official missing at sea in September 2020 while working as a fishing inspector. North Korea authorities later shot him dead and set his body on fire." https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/south-korean-spy-agency-files-complaints-against-ex-chiefs-over-nkorea-cases-2022-07-06/

<u>Sri Lanka.</u> For anyone still wondering whether email can be an official record: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa "tendered his resignation in a letter sent by email" to the speaker of parliament, *CNN* reported. https://edition.cnn.com/2022/07/14/asia/sri-lanka-gotabaya-rajapksa-thursday-intl-hnk/index.html

<u>Tanzania</u>. Using "27 months of empirical data from 13 large-scale agro-investments in Tanzania across 4 regions and 6 districts," three researchers found that when combined, four legislative acts on land formalization (titling and tenure security) and land acquisition processes for large-scale agro-investments resulted in "a systematic dispossession of village land."

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264837722002824?utm source=substack&utm medium=email

Thailand. Canada's Citizen Lab with Thailand's NGO iLaw and NGO Digital Reach reported that they "forensically confirmed" that the government used the Israeli spyware Pegasus to monitor at least 30 people from "key civil society groups in Thailand, including activists, academics, lawyers, and NGO workers." Their phones were infected between October 2020 and November 2021, coinciding with a "period of widespread pro-democracy protests, and predominantly targeted key figures in the pro-democracy movement." Many of the victims "have been repeatedly detained, arrested, and imprisoned for their political activities or criticism of the government," while others were not involved in the protests. The police denied the government used the spyware, but the "Digital Economy and Society Minister told parliament that authorities used spyware in a limited number of cases related to national security without identifying spyware as Pegasus or specifying which government agencies used it," *Crisis Watch* reported. https://citizenlab.ca/2022/07/geckospy-pegasus-spyware-used-against-thailands-pro-democracy-movement/; https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch

<u>Timor-Leste</u>. Police charged journalist Raimundos Oki "for allegedly violating judicial secrecy by publishing reports" of the virginity tests the public prosecutor had 30 girls undergo, *UCA News* reported. The girls, inmates of the Topu Honis Shelter in Oecusse, had been sexually abused by a convicted former priest who was convicted of the crimes. Oki "insisted that the reports were based on the results of his investigations and direct interviews with the 30 girls," not from records of a criminal

proceeding. "Some of his reports appeared in video format, with the girls' faces and identities exposed." https://www.ucanews.com/news/timorese-journalist-charged-for-questioning-forced-virginity-tests/97879

<u>Ukraine</u>. Justice Info published a report by its Ukrainian partner Sudovyi Reporter on the trials of "members of the armed units" who fought against Ukrainian government troops in eastern Ukraine and were captured after February 24. "According to court documents from one of these proceedings, at least 40 of these Ukrainian citizens joined the army of the Russian Federation, took part in the invasion of Ukraine under Russian command, and are today prisoners of war." The trials were conducted "by a single judge instead of the usual panel of three magistrates, and without a jury, as is expected in cases that can result in life imprisonment. The reason for this is simple: they expect to be exchanged with prisoners of war from the other side and to return home quickly." Defense lawyers said they "had difficulty obtaining certain documents relating to the family situation or the place of work of the defendants from their relatives living in the occupied territories. But for all the accused there was at least one file from the prison camp." The defendants "participated via video link" from the camp where they were held. https://www-justiceinfo-net.translate.goog/fr/103689-interieur-tribunaux-juges-ukrainiens-prisonniers-deguerre.html? x tr sl=auto& x tr tl=en& x tr hl=auto

<u>United Kingdom.</u> "Lawyers or investigators working on potential miscarriages of justice cases are routinely denied access to evidence, while court transcripts may only be made available at a cost of thousands of pounds," the *Guardian* wrote. NGOs are "calling for legal reforms," and the Law Commission confirmed it is reviewing the law around criminal appeals. https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/jul/10/prisoners-denied-access-to-forensic-evidence-in-bid-to-prove-their-innocence

<u>United States.</u> The American Civil Liberties Union "published thousands of pages of previously unreleased records about how Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other parts of the Department of Homeland Security are sidestepping [the] Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable government searches and seizures by buying access to, and using, huge volumes of people's cell phone location information quietly extracted from smartphone apps."

https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/new-records-detail-dhs-purchase-and-use-of-vast-quantities-of-cell-phone-location-data

Using records of the Public Land Survey, "a collection of highly detailed forest surveys conducted by government contractors in the mid-1800s, shortly before forest clearing took off," and fossilized grains of ancient pollen, researchers found that "forests in the upper Midwest gained almost a billion tons of carbon over the last 8,000 years, doubling their carbon storage. And then, in the span of just 150 years, almost all of that gain disappeared into the atmosphere" as "Euro-American settlers began clearing large swaths of forest," researcher Jason McLachlan reported in *The Conversation*.

 $\frac{\text{https://theconversation.com/midwest-forests-lost-8-000-years-of-stored-carbon-in-just-150-years-new-animated-maps-track-the-changes-revealing-lessons-for-climate-projects-today-revealing-revealin$

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"Some 870,000 Native American artifacts—including nearly 110,000 human remains—that should be returned to tribes under federal law are still in the possession of colleges, museums and other institutions across the country, according to an Associated Press review of data maintained by the National Park Service." https://apnews.com/article/travel-education-museums-massachusetts-eb338326dd75fc0b1ab65b2f10d027af

"Amazon's smart-doorbell company, Ring, has provided surveillance footage to law enforcement without a warrant or the consent of doorbell-owners 11 times this year alone, according to a letter Amazon sent to Congress earlier this month," *CNN* reported. The letter said Ring "partners with 2,161 law enforcement agencies (and 455 fire departments) that can request surveillance data from Ring doorbells." https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/14/tech/amazon-ring-police-footage/index.html

"Real-world evidence is the application of real-world data to drug and medical device regulatory filings. Legal and privacy experts have identified the types of surveillance and data that could be used as evidence of having an abortion or providing one, such as GPS data, purchasing history, social media activity, phone call records, prescriptions, online drug purchases, and personal health information,"

researcher Eric Perakslis reported in *STAT*. "Real-world evidence remains a valuable tool for biomedical research, but the human price required for it may soon become too high," he wrote, suggesting that "individual hospitals and health systems" consider "a serious pause of data sharing or further data sharing plans until the risks to their clinical staff and patients are fully understood and mitigated." <a href="https://www.statnews.com/2022/07/08/real-world-evidence-must-not-become-evidence-for-abortion-related-prosecution/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=177665755e-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-177665755e-149736437

<u>Uzbekistan.</u> Reacting to protests over proposed constitutional amendments that would have (among other things) prohibited the region of Karakalpakstan's right to seek independence, where at least 18 people were killed, over 200 injured and 516 detained and "dozens still missing," President Mirziyoev withdrew the proposal and said he would appoint a commission to investigate the unrest. The commission is to include "independent activists and other members of the public," *Crisis Watch* reported. https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch

Publications.

International Journal of Missing Persons, a new academic, peer reviewed journal focusing on "all issues relating to missing persons": https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/ijmp/

Centre for Law and Democracy and News Media Europe, "Guide for Journalists on How to Document International Crimes": https://www.law-democracy.org/live/guide-for-journalists-on-documenting-international-crimes/

Elizabeth Bellizzi, "Lives Reclaimed Through Maps," *medium.com*: https://medium.com/@wrytebb/lives-reclaimed-through-maps-4473fa2dc182

Tom Dannebaum, Alex de Waal and Daniel Maxwell, "Starvation, A War Crime Never Yet Punished, in Ukraine and Elsewhere," *Justice Info*: https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/103213-starvation-war-crime-never-punished-ukraine-elsewhere.html

Sevane Garibian and Marion Viroda Dubray, "Death and Dignity in Ukraine's Armed Conflict: An Insight into the Protection of Victims' Remains under International Law," in 2 parts, *Opinio Juris*: http://opiniojuris.org/2022/07/04/death-and-dignity-in-ukraines-armed-conflict-an-insight-into-the-protection-of-victims-remains-under-international-law-part-ii/

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