
ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

News from the Section on Archives and Human Rights *Winner of the Premio Internacional Derechos Humanos 2020 de la Asociación pro Derechos Humanos de España*

Issue no. 152, August 2022

Written and compiled by Trudy Huskamp Peterson

Commentary.

Readers of *SAHR News* know that news from international organizations leads the four sections of items. But not this month. August is summer in the Northern Hemisphere when work generally slows, in international bodies as well as in national governments and private sector operations. International organizations did take a few broadly applicable actions in August; one was the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which published its findings on the situations in Azerbaijan, Benin, Nicaragua, Slovakia, Suriname, the United States of America, and Zimbabwe, all of which make dismal reading (“deeply regretted,” “deeply concerned,” “disturbed”). <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/08/un-committee-elimination-racial-discrimination-publishes-findings-azerbaijan> And the Organization of American States scolded the entire international community for its failures in Haiti, writing in a searing statement, “The last 20 years of the international community’s presence in Haiti has amounted to one of the worst and clearest failures implemented and executed within the framework of international cooperation.” https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-045/22

However, significant reports pertaining to specific states were released by international bodies, and links to these items are found in the sections below. Perhaps the most anticipated was the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights’ report on the “human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China.” Also important are the UN report on missing people in Syria, which includes a recommendation for a new international institution, and a UN report presenting evidence that Rwanda is supporting a rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reviewed its four years of monitoring Nicaragua, and the International Labour Organization published an assessment of the resilience of trade unions and civil society organizations in Myanmar, with useful suggestions on how international organizations can effectively provide support.

With the opening of the 77th United Nations General Assembly on 13 September and the appointment of Volker Turk as the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the September issue of *SAHR News* will surely be full of reports of new initiatives and assessments of existing conditions and actions by international tribunals. Stay tuned.

SAHR News. The Section on Archives and Human Rights will meet on Thursday, September 22, from 15:30-17:30 at the ICA meeting in Rome and by Zoom. All meeting participants are welcome to attend. Persons who are not members of SAHR and wish to join by Zoom should ask the SAHR chair, Vitor Fonseca, for invitations as observers (vitormowlac@gmail.com).

Also at the Rome ICA meeting, International Criminal Court Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala is the opening keynote speaker, discussing the role of records in the work of the Court. SAHR members will present SAHR projects in a number of sessions: on safe havens and mapping climate change (on September 21) and truth commission records (September 23).

At the next First Tuesday Talk on October 4 Ruth Borja will speak about Peru’s truth commission and its records. The talk will be in Spanish on Zoom.

World/general news.

Business records. In February the French oil company TotalEnergies agreed to fund 62% of an East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline, with China owning 8% and the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments dividing 30%. It is to create the “longest heated oil pipeline in the world,” *World Politics Review* reported, running from the west of Uganda to a port in Tanzania, pulling oil from “Lake Albert’s Tilenga oilfield with hundreds of new wells that will spread from residential areas into protected animal habitats in Uganda’s famed Murchison Falls National Park.” Four environmental groups sued Total, saying its 2021 “rebrand” and advertising showing the company “with plans to reduce its reliance on income from oil by investing in wind and solar energy and electricity” amounts to “criminal greenwashing,” misleading consumers and shareholders alike. They argued that Total’s “new advertisements are illegal under French law.” <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/oil-africa-climate-change/?one-time-read-code=126295166078927036507>

Investigation by Earthsight and De Olho nos Ruralistas, NGOs [non-governmental organizations], revealed that Brasilia do Sul, a soybean farm in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, “sits on Takuara, the ancestral land of the Guarani Kaiowa who were violently and illegally evicted decades ago” although the federal government has “officially recognized it as indigenous land.” The farm supplies soy for chicken and pet food sold in Europe, and its beans are purchased by U.S. agribusiness giants Cargill and Bunge, shipment records analyzed by Earthsight reveal. Bunge, however, said it “does not have Brasilia do Sul farm in its supplier data base.” <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/US-agribusiness-soy-linked-to-stolen-indigenous-land>

The pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson announced that it will “cease global sales of its talc-based baby powder by 2023,” the *Daily Beast* reported, two years after the company stopped selling the product in the U.S. and Canada. The powder has been alleged to cause diseases like ovarian cancer, which the company denies. For background, see *SAHR News* 2020-05. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/johnson-and-johnson-to-dump-talc-based-baby-powder-in-2023-after-ovarian-cancer-lawsuits?ref=home>

Global Witness, an NGO, “submitted ten Brazilian Portuguese-language ads to Facebook—five containing false election information and five aiming to delegitimize the electoral process”—and Facebook approved all of them for distribution. This is the same lax enforcement pattern Global Witness discovered in postings in Myanmar, Ethiopia and Kenya. For background, see *SAHR News* 2022-03, 07. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/digital-threats/facebook-fails-tackle-election-disinformation-ads-ahead-tense-brazilian-election/>

A Swiss court ruled that it has jurisdiction and granted legal aid to an Indian farmer and two wives of deceased Indian farmers who are suing the agrochemical company Syngenta, the NGO European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) reported. The case involves severe poisoning of farmers and farm workers while spraying pesticides made by Syngenta on cotton fields in the central Indian district of Yavatmal. “While Syngenta . . . denies any responsibility for the events, official police records from local authorities document that 96 cases of poisoning, two of which led to fatalities, were linked to a Syngenta insecticide going by the name of ‘Polo’.” For background, see *SAHR News* 2020-11. <https://www.ecchr.eu/en/press-release/yavatmal-pesticides-poisonings/>

A U.S. Federal court in Ohio awarded \$650 million in damages to two Ohio counties in a lawsuit against national pharmacy chains CVS, Walgreens and Walmart which were found to have distributed opioids to customers in ways that “caused severe harm to communities and created a public nuisance,” *AP* reported. Two other chains—Rite Aid and Giant Eagle—settled lawsuits with the counties before trial. In a separate case, Endo International plc, based in Ireland, settled with a number of states, agreeing to pay “as much as \$450 million over 10 years” for “deceptive marketing practices” and “to put opioid-related documents online for public viewing and pay \$2.75 million in expenses to publicly archive those documents.” Where that archives will be held was not reported. https://www.statnews.com/2022/08/17/opioid-suit-cvs-ohio-walgreens-walmart/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=09bb938577-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-09bb938577-149736437

The Danish Institute for Human Rights published a discussion paper “which aimed to use algorithm assisted analysis of a large number of company reports maintained in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Disclosure Database against a set of human rights indicators to supplement qualitative analysis of company reporting.” Unsurprisingly, the researchers found difficulty in downloading reports, “considerable variation in the presentation of data,” and a “variety of different standards as a point of departure.” They highlighted “the need for a common set of standards and a central repository of reports in machine readable format” to be able to reliably review corporate reporting. <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/sustainability-reporting-human-rights>

Climate. Records of and loss to: China experienced the “longest and hottest heatwave . . . since national records began in 1961,” *New Scientist* reported. “In part of the Yangtze [River], water levels are the lowest since records began in 1865.” In Europe the drought “may be” the worst in 500 years. Meanwhile, other locations experienced record-setting floods. In late July, floodwaters in Knott County, Kentucky, U.S., breached the Hindman Settlement School’s archives, some of which was saved and some lost forever, an historian who had used the materials reported to the *History News Network*. And with an estimated one-third of Pakistan under water, many archives there are surely destroyed. https://www.newscientist.com/article/2334921-heatwave-in-china-is-the-most-severe-ever-recorded-in-the-world/?utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=echobox&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1661269229; <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/183619>

Human trafficking. *Al Jazeera* reported on an interview with a human trafficker in Mexico who said “WhatsApp and Facebook had ‘opened the market’ to places he was unable to reach before. ‘It’s great for us. We don’t have to spend money on long-distance calls to Central America anymore; that’s the first win,’ he said. ‘Second of all, we are reaching people from Africa, Afghanistan--even from Russia lately, and all thanks to WhatsApp and Facebook.’” A Facebook spokesperson said “the company prohibits any content that offers to ‘provide or facilitate’ human smuggling.” https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/8/17/metax-latin-america-expansion-a-boon-to-human-smugglers?emci=3eea0dab-021f-ed11-bd6e-281878b83d8a&emdi=26f11d47-031f-ed11-bd6e-281878b83d8a&ceid=9780675&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Medical records. Unconventional oil and gas development, commonly known as “fracking,” “releases chemicals that have been linked to cancer and childhood leukemia.” More than 10,000 fracking wells were drilled in the U.S. State of Pennsylvania between 2002 and 2017. A research team used the State’s birth records (which provided residence at birth) and its cancer registry for the years 2009-2017 and compared them to “permit and production report data sets” from the State government’s Office of Oil and Gas Management. They reported in *Environmental Health Perspectives* that children with at least one such well within 2 km of their birth residence had 1.98 times the odds of developing acute lymphoblastic leukemia in comparison with those with no wells. <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP11092>

“Forever chemicals” or PFAS are the shorthand names for the toxic substances perfluoroalkyl and polyfluorooctane, which are now “ubiquitous” in food packing, furniture, and oil- and water-resistant clothing. A team of researchers used data from the Multiethnic Cohort Study, which is a “unique, ethnically diverse prospective cohort of 200,000 African American, Latinos, Native Hawaiians, Japanese Americans, and Whites followed since the early 1990’s in California and Hawaii” and found that high levels of the substances “were associated with 4.5 fold increased risk” of cancer, they reported in *JHEP*. A stunning 98% of U.S. adults have some PFAS chemicals in their blood. [https://www.jhep-reports.eu/article/S2589-5559\(22\)00122-7/fulltext](https://www.jhep-reports.eu/article/S2589-5559(22)00122-7/fulltext)

A research team investigated differences in cancer survival rates among East, South, and Southeast Asian patients as compared to Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander patients. They used the U.S. National Cancer Database, “a hospital-based, comprehensive data set that captures more than 70% of all newly diagnosed malignancies in the United States,” and looked at the nine most common cancers for each ethnic group. Reporting in *JAMA*, they said “Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander patients with the most common cancers had significantly worse outcomes than East, South, and Southeast Asian patients compared with White patients.” https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2795161?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=e22860f10c-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-e22860f10c-149736437

Migration. The NGO American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) wrote to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, saying that during June and July its “partners in Arizona” documented nearly 50 cases of Sikh individuals arriving in the Yuma, Arizona, “who reported that their religious headwear had been taken by U.S. Customs and Border Protection . . . and never returned or replaced.” ACLU termed this a “serious religious-freedom violation.” The NGO Washington Office on Latin America added to this, writing, “WOLA’s Border Oversight database includes many more cases of non-return of documents and belongings, going back to 2020.” <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/22125092/aclu-of-arizona-letter-on-border-patrol-confiscating-sikhs-turbans.pdf>; <https://www.wola.org/2022/08/taken-away-u-s-border-agents-widespread-confiscation-of-migrants-valuable-personal-items/?emci=10abb65b-ac24-ed11-bd6e-281878b83d8a&emdi=4813105c-7325-ed11-bd6e-281878b914e7&ceid=8788546>

“Harassments, bribes and frauds in the name of medical tests at designated medical facilities stalk aspiring migrants to the Gulf countries,” *The Business Standard* reported. Persons wanting to work in six Middle Eastern countries have to undergo medical tests at designated centers, and the aspiring migrants “alleged that most of the designated centres make the clients unfit and then approach them for bribes to change the medical report.” <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/medical-test-adds-aspirant-migrants-woes-468962>

Refugees. A pilot program by the government of Cameroon and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees issued digital, biometrics-based identity cards to 6,000 refugees from the Central African Republic to help them access basic services, *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported. With these government-recognized IDs, the refugees “are starting to access education, jobs, healthcare, and travel around without fear of arrest.” However, because Cameroon has no data protection or privacy law, the personal data of the refugees is at risk in government custody. https://news.trust.org/item/20220826125934-b35yj/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Espresso%2030%20August&utm_content=Espresso%2030%20August+CID_37d4e7038d5ea6076bdcd46e1b8aa32&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=For%20refugees%20in%20Cameroon%20digital%20IDs%20are%20a%20life%20chance

Repatriation. U.S. prosecutors announced the repatriation of “dozens of looted relics to Cambodia,” each of which had been sold by deceased antiquities dealer Douglas Latchford, whose activities were revealed in the “Pandora Papers, a trove of more than 11.9 million records” obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. The U.S. officials said the pieces being returned “followed common paths of international relics smuggling—namely forged origin records, fake customs documents and quiet private sales.” https://www.icij.org/investigations/pandora-papers/as-us-returns-looted-relics-to-cambodia-officials-call-on-more-collectors-to-come-clean/?utm_source=ICIJ&utm_campaign=bcbd50c070-20220815_WeeklyEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_992ecfdbb2-bcbd50c070-83815091

Slavery. Three scholars of modern slavery used “an established database about war, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program . . . to look at how much and in what ways, armed conflict intersects with different forms of contemporary slavery,” they reported in *The Conversation*. Looking at 171 different armed conflicts between 1989 and 2016, which raged for a cumulative 1,113 years, they compared conflict data to information from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, “scholarly accounts, journalists’ reporting and documents from governmental and international organizations” and found that of the 1,113 years “87% contained child soldiers . . . 34% included sexual exploitation and forced marriage, about 24% included forced labor and almost 17% included human trafficking.” https://theconversation.com/slavery-and-war-are-tightly-connected-but-we-had-no-idea-just-how-much-until-we-crunched-the-data-169904?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2025%202022%20-%202383823799&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2025%202022%20-%202383823799+Version+B+CID_176b445e361bfce346f65265ce96bb7e&utm_source=campaign_monitor_us&utm_term=Slavery%20and%20war%20are%20tightly%20connected%20%20but%20we%20had%20no%20idea%20just%20how%20much%20until%20we%20crunched%20the%20data

World War II. *The Guardian* published a feature article on Moritz Hochschild, a mining magnate in Bolivia in the 1930s who was instrumental in rescuing “as many as 22,000 Jews from Nazi Germany and occupied Europe by bringing them to Bolivia between 1938 and 1940.” The activity is documented by papers from his company, which were found in 1999 in warehouses owned by the state mining companies that had taken over Hochschild’s companies after Bolivia’s 1952 revolution. The records are now in Bolivia’s congressional library. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/11/bolivia-tin-baron-moritz-hochschild-saved-thousands-of-jewish-refugees?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

A new law in the U.S. State of New York requires museums “to display signage alongside works of art from before 1945 that are known to have been stolen or forcibly sold under Nazi rule,” *NBC News* reported. And state law “requires works that were created before 1945 that changed ownership in Nazi Europe to be registered in the Art Loss Register, a private database of more than 700,000 works of lost, stolen and looted art.” <https://www.aol.com/news/york-museums-required-acknowledge-art-164626713.html>

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Algeria/France. During French President Emmanuel Macron’s visit in Algeria the two nations issued a proclamation that included “the promise of opening up the archives of both countries to a mixed commission of French and Algerian historians to study contentious issues of historical memory,” *Wilson Weekly* reported. Wilson Fellow Steven Kramer warned, “Confronting historical memory . . . risks focusing on the extreme violence of 130 years of French colonialism in Algeria in which the indigenous population lost its land and property and was deprived of civil and political rights. The process of decolonization was also horrific . . . it’s not clear that focusing on the past will favor good comity between the two countries.” https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/macron-algeria-weight-past?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=wilson&emci=89194f02-0a2a-ed11-ae83-281878b83d8a&emdi=75ddff7a-c32a-ed11-ae83-281878b83d8a&ceid=29308

Cameroon/France. French President Macron announced during his official visit to Cameroon on 26 July that he supported the creation of a mixed commission of researchers from the two countries to “shed light” on the actions of France, both during colonization and after the independence of Cameroon. Interviewed by *Le Monde*, scholar of Cameroon Jacob Tatsitsa said he was “sceptical” about the proposal of an official commission, pointing out the scholarly work that has already been done and the fear of a “historiography under state control.” However, he “would like the effective opening of the last archives, especially those of the secret services, and that all the archives are open to everyone, and not only to the Commission.” <https://histoirecoloniale.net/Pour-l-historien-Jacob-Tatsitsa-la-reconnaissance-de-la-guerre-du-Cameroun-a.html>

Democratic Republic of Congo/Rwanda. The United Nations Group of Experts on Congo sent a report to the Security Council presenting “evidence based on eyewitness testimony and drone footage that the Rwanda Defence Force has supported the M23 rebel group” in the Democratic Republic of Congo, *Bloomberg* reported. “The report includes an annex with dozens of pages of photographs and screen captures of drone footage that appear to support accusations by Congo’s government that Rwanda is backing the M23 rebellion, which the UN refugee agency estimates to have displaced more than 170,000 people since November.” <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-08-04/un-group-of-experts-say-rwanda-is-backing-rebels-fighting-congo>

India/Pakistan. Seventy-five years after the Partition of India and Pakistan, tensions between the two states continue and “they rarely grant visas to each others’ citizens, making visits nearly impossible—but social media has helped people on either side of the border connect,” wrote *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. The two countries are “among the biggest social media markets in the world,” and projects like the 1947 Partition Archive, which contains about 10,500 oral histories, and Project Dastaan, which “uses virtual reality . . . to document accounts of partition survivors and enable them to revisit their place of birth,” have many followers. However, history professor Ayesha Jalal warned, “While immensely useful, these initiatives surrounding the Partition should not be seen as a replacement to historical understandings of the causes of Partition.” https://news.trust.org/item/20220809131732-vkkm9?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Espresso%2010%20August&utm_content=Espresso%2010%20August+CID_b874fb5a712b1eb8e84403bed39cd916&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=India%20Partition%20After%2075%20years%20tech%20opens%20a%20window%20into%20the%20past

Indonesia/Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta conferred an award on retired Indonesian army general Hendropriyono, *UCA News* reported. The Timor-Leste truth commission (CAVR) report *Chega!* includes Hendropriyono in its list of senior officers and officials who appear to bear individual or command responsibility for crimes against humanity in 1999 and who should “at a minimum be the subject of further criminal investigations,” former commission adviser Patrick Walsh wrote. <https://www.ucanews.com/news/timorese-slam-award-for-rights-abuser-ex-general/98487>; <https://www.facebook.com/patrick.walsh.73594479>

Islamic State/United States. Mohammed Khalifa, a “Saudi-born Canadian citizen” who was a prominent member of the Islamic State (ISIS), was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in the U.S. after pleading guilty to “conspiring to provide material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization.” He “provided the narration and translation for approximately 15 videos created and distributed” by ISIS, including two in which he is seen executing a Syrian soldier.

https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/leading-isis-media-figure-and-foreign-fighter-sentenced-life-imprisonment?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=0f8c71c126-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-0f8c71c126-90540617

Israel/Lebanon. Using 243 letters from 2006 to 2021 addressed by Lebanon to the UN Security Council, a Lebanese investigator with support from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz reconstructed 22,111 Israeli overflights of Lebanese airspace, *Al Monitor* reported. Studies have shown health impacts on people subjected to low-flying military aircraft noise, including “both physical and mental effects, especially perceived psychological disorders.”

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/07/israeli-warplanes-become-every-day-reality-lebanese?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Takeaway%20August%203%202022%20838&utm_content=The%20Takeaway%20August%203%202022%20838+CID_86c6f7c8a7a89d90febd565548cb4c2&utm_source=campmgr&utm_term=traumatizing%20Israeli%20presence%20in%20Lebanese%20skies

Israel/Palestine. Seven Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations were forcibly shut down by Israeli raids, *Al Jazeera* reported, during which “offices were ransacked and equipment confiscated, with doors welded shut.” Defense of Children International--Palestine chapter, one of the closed, “shared on Twitter surveillance camera footage of the moment Israeli forces raided their offices and confiscated materials.” “Since 1967, Israel has banned more than 400 local and international organisations, including all major Palestinian political parties.”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/19/what-are-the-palestinian-ngos-that-israel-shut-down>

Israel/Russia. Coincidentally, as Israel was shutting down the seven NGOs, Israeli and Russian justice ministry officials met to discuss Israel’s objection to Russia’s plan to shut down the Jewish Agency which assists Russian Jews who want to emigrate to Israel. “Russia’s Justice Ministry claims that the Jewish Agency’s collection of data about Russian citizens violates Russian law and denies the case is political,” wrote a scholar in *The Conversation*.

<https://theconversation.com/russias-threats-to-shut-down-jewish-agency-raise-alarm-bells-for-those-who-remember-the-past-187954>

Kenya/United Kingdom. “Kenyans forced off their land by British settlers during colonial rule are taking their case against the UK to the European Court of Human Rights,” *AFP* reported. This step follows a 2019 complaint to the UN, with “more than 100,000” signatories, demanding an apology and reparations.

<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2022/08/kenyans-taking-uk-to-eu-court-over-colonial-era-abuses/>

Kosovo/Serbia. “Serbia and Kosovo agreed that neither side will require any additional documents for border crossings, besides those that people already have, like IDs,” *BIRN* reported. Serbia’s President Aleksandar Vucic “assured Serbs that this was not a step towards recognition of Kosovo’s independence.”

<https://balkaninsight.com/2022/08/29/kosovo-serbia-deal-on-ids-raises-implementation-question-expert-says/>

Saudi Arabia/United States. A U.S. Federal court convicted a former Twitter employee of spying on behalf of Saudi Arabia, “accused of accessing private information about users without authorization and sharing it with officials of the Saudi Arabian government while he was a Twitter employee.” In addition to counts of wire fraud, money laundering, and related offenses, he was also convicted of falsifying records, *Axios* reported.

<https://www.axios.com/2022/08/10/twitter-employee-saudi-arabia-spying>

Ukraine war. The European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy announced that “passports issued by the Russian authorities” in territories of Ukraine under Russia’s control “will not be recognized,” *Interfax* reported.

<https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/82736/>

At the request of both Ukraine and the Russian Federation, UN Secretary-General Guterres appointed a three-member UN Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the explosion at a prison in Olenivka, Ukraine, that killed Ukrainian prisoners of war, mainly from the Azov regiment.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2022-08-22/members-of-fact-finding%C2%A0mission-regarding-incident-olenivka-ukraine-29-july-2022%C2%A0>

The U.S. Conflict Observatory “used images from Telegram channels, commercial satellites, and existing documentation to identify the locations of camps used by the Russian military for interrogation, detention, and registration of Ukrainian civilians, some of whom are then forcibly deported to Russia,” *WIRED* reported. It identified “to high confidence 21 facilities engaged in the filtration of Ukrainian civilians.” The researchers also used satellite imagery to identify what one researcher described as “‘grave-like digging’ near a filtration center in the village of Olenivka, where Ukrainian prisoners of war were being held.” https://www.wired.com/story/satellites-show-the-alarming-extent-of-russian-detention-camps/?bxiid=5c48efcf2ddf9c4807adf975&cndid=53684912&esrc=sign-up-page&mbid=CRMWIR092120&source=EDT_WIR_NEWSLETTER_0_DAILY_ZZ&utm_brand=wired&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_content=WIR_Daily_082622&utm_mailing=WIR_Daily_082622&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nl&utm_term=P2

WIRED also explained that a few days after a pro-Russian journalist shared photos on Telegram “that allegedly showed the local Wagner [paramilitary group] headquarters,” Ukraine’s military “turned the base to rubble.” https://www.wired.com/story/wagner-group-osint-russia-ukraine/?bxiid=5c48efcf2ddf9c4807adf975&cndid=53684912&esrc=sign-up-page&mbid=CRMWIR092120&source=EDT_WIR_NEWSLETTER_0_DAILY_ZZ&utm_brand=wired&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_content=WIR_Daily_082622&utm_mailing=WIR_Daily_082622&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nl&utm_term=P4

“On July 28, a series of horrifying videos circulated on pro-Russian social media which depicted an act of sexual violence and execution of what appeared to be a Ukrainian prisoner of war,” Bellingcat, the investigative NGO, wrote. Although Russian sources claimed the videos were “likely forgeries,” Bellingcat’s “investigation into visual clues in the videos . . . corroborates the authenticity of the three violent videos and indicates that fighters from ‘Akhmat,’ a Chechen paramilitary formation serving with the Russian armed forces in Ukraine, were present at the scene of the murder.” Bellingcat identified one of the men involved and the location where the incident was filmed.

<https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2022/08/05/tracking-the-faceless-killers-who-mutilated-and-executed-a-ukrainian-pow/>

National news.

Afghanistan. Between September 2021 and June 2022 Amnesty International interviewed 90 Afghan women and 11 girls, “current or former staff members of detention centres,” and staff members of NGOs and the UN and “reviewed reports from UN agencies, international and national NGOs and media.” The report of this research described “a web of interrelated restrictions and prohibitions in which Afghan women and girls are trapped. It shows how the Taliban’s violation of any single right can have pernicious implications for the exercise of other rights.” https://www.amnestvusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ASA1156852022_EN_DeathInSlowMotion-1.pdf

Albania. An exhibit at Bunk’ Art 2, a museum in Tirana, shows how the Ministry of Internal Affairs destroyed large amounts of paper by putting it into “the same type of mixer one might use for kneading bread” and making pulp, reported *Atlas Obscura*. “The displayed documents detail the minimum of 10 liters of water per second needed for the process, and that in 60 minutes, the machine could work through up to 800 kilograms of paper,” after which the “dough” was either dumped in rivers or buried. The Ministry began using the process in the 1970s, so by the time the Communist regime was ending in 1990 it was efficient enough to disappear “some 29,000” secret police files through the mixers, with only about “10% of what once existed” remaining. https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/albania-communist-records?fbclid=IwAR2VFhoVVZJKQ4wKGFgOIxe9rGpMk1i3b_2uaPQny2MTWhTURypU5R-mJKw

Argentina. The judiciary in Cordoba suffered a computer attack on its website, digital services, and databases, *Clarín* reported. While such attacks in various countries have been ransomware, in which after payment the hackers release the data, in this case the investigators believe that the attack was aimed at “total system deletion.” Thanks to Mariana Nazar for the information. https://www.clarin.com/sociedad/denuncian-hackearon-poder-judicial-cordoba-pagina-web-sistemas-base-datos-funcionan_0_c2JqFXVITJ.html?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

The government announced its decision to declassify documents found in Air Force storage in May 2018, covering the period of the de facto government of Alejandro Agustín Lanusse (1971-1973), *EFE*

reported. This declassifies the meeting minutes of the Board of Commanders in Chief, including minutes concerning the August 1972 massacre of 16 persons at the Almirante Zar base in the city of Trelew. <https://www.publico.es/internacional/argentina-desclasifica-documentos-gobierno-dictatorial-lanusse-50-anos-despues-masacre-trelew.html#md=modulo-portada-fila-de-modulos:3x2-t1:mm=mobile-medium>

Brazil. The Catholic Church's Indigenous Missionary Council released its annual report on violence against Indigenous people. It said there were 305 invasions into Indigenous lands in 2021, compared to 263 cases in 2020 and "almost three times more than the cases . . . in 2018, when Bolsonaro was elected president," *Reuters* reported. Suicides of Indigenous people rose to 148, the highest ever recorded, while the 176 murders were 6 fewer than in 2020 "which had the highest number of homicides on record." https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/attacks-brazils-indigenous-people-rose-sharply-2021-report-says-2022-08-17/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Cameroon. Human Rights Watch said government soldiers "summarily killed at least 10 people and carried out a series of other abuses between April 24 and June 12, during counter-insurgency operations in the North-West region," which is an anglophone area where separatist groups are active. HRW interviewed 35 people "with knowledge of 4 incidents in which the security forces allegedly committed serious abuses" and also reviewed 53 photographs and 16 videos "shared directly with researchers, showing evidence of the military violations." <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/11/cameroon-army-killings-disappearances-north-west-region>

China. Late on the evening of 31 August, just as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet was leaving office, the Office of the High Commissioner [OHCHR] released its "assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous region" (XUAR). It said, "Serious human rights violations have been committed in XUAR in the context of the Government's application of counter-terrorism and counter-'extremism' strategies." In making the assessment, OHCHR reviewed and "critically" analyzed "publicly available official documentation, as well as research material, satellite imagery and other open-source information . . . particular attention was given to official Government documentation and information, including laws, policies, statistical data, court decisions, and official statements and White Papers made public by the Government, as well as a number of other documents that are in the public domain and which OHCHR has assessed as highly likely to be authentic based on strong indicia of official character." In a footnote, the list of these "likely to be authentic" documents included the "so-called 'China Cables,' the 'Xinjiang Papers,' the 'Karakax List,' the 'Urumqi Police database' and, most recently, the 'Xinjiang Police files'." <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ohchr-assessment-human-rights-concerns-xinjiang-uyghur-autonomous-region>

Colombia. The truth commission, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), and the national archives announced that the records of the truth commission will be transferred to the custody of the national archives. <https://twitter.com/archivogeneral/status/1563277584011407369?s=24&t=dozZP61tay4xw96PVjahcg>

The truth commission and the U.S. NGO National Security Archive developed and launched a "Truth Clarification Archive" digital library of more than 15,000 previously classified documents related to Colombia's decades-long conflict. A further request to the U.S. to declassify more U.S. federal records on Colombia is pending. In the announcement of the digital platform, the National Security Archive noted that the truth commission recommended that the Colombian government "relax and reform restrictions that keep most of Colombia's own intelligence archives hidden from the public." <https://archivo.comisiondelaverdad.co/>; <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/colombia/2022-08-24/bloody-expensive-and-prolonged-coercive-effort?eType=EmailBlastContent&efd=b641756b-1373-45b0-9ed8-9e1ecf61a8cd>

Egypt. Human Rights Watch urged the government to investigate videos circulating on social media that appear to show the military and pro-government militias committing extrajudicial executions of suspected Islamic State-affiliated Sinai Province militants. HRW "reviewed and analyzed dozens of photographs and videos published by the same militia groups . . . on Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, Twitter, and TikTok" and "geolocated two sites that appear in the videos in relation to recent fighting." <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/30/egypt-new-videos-north-sinai-executions>

El Salvador. Documents from the "Institute of Legal Medicine, seen by *Reuters*, show authorities recovered 207 bodies from mass graves" between June 2019 and February 2022, while documents from

the Attorney General Office's (AGO) "show 158 bodies recovered in over three years between January 2019 and February 2022." Asked about the difference, the AGO said the "information was now 'sealed' for two years." https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/el-salvador-discrepancy-over-deaths-mass-graves-alarms-critics-2022-08-03/?r=5xd66&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

The government declared a "state of exception" on 27 March, which suspended the right of association, the right to be informed of the reason for an arrest, and the right of access to a lawyer, among other restrictions. *El Faro* reported on 8 August that according to four dossiers amounting to 1,251 pages that were presented to the court by the Attorney General's Office, 690 people were arrested in six departments between 27 March and 19 April, with 518 of them "profiled as gang members or collaborators prior to their arrest." Throughout the state of exception, "authorities have relied on profiles created by police intelligence or pulled from police archives. In their arguments before the court, prosecutors submit records of interrogation interviews, along with identity documents of the arrestees. No other evidence is included." https://elfaro.net/en/202208/el_salvador/26298/State-of-Exception-Files-Hundreds-Arrested-for-Prior-Convictions-or-%E2%80%9CLooking-Nervous%E2%80%9D.htm?utm_source=DB+El+Faro_English&utm_campaign=49eaab05d4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-49eaab05d4-363082696

On 31 August, *El Faro* said that from 27 March through 23 August "authorities reported 50,500 arrests, an average of 338 per day." Through 10 August 69 deaths in prison were "registered," and "Medicina Legal, the coroner's office, found signs of torture and murder in at least 35." Autopsies for all of them "reported the same cause of death": pulmonary edema. https://elfaro.net/en/202208/el_salvador/26351/Two-Months-after-Wrongful-Arrest-Don-Paco-Returned-Home-in-a-Casket.htm?utm_source=DB+El+Faro_English&utm_campaign=467a5a8646-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-467a5a8646-363082696

The Brussels-based NGO International Crisis Group published a story on women in El Salvador's gang wars. By June 1, "official sources" said 5,114 women "had been arrested amid raids and round-ups in gang-controlled areas" since 27 March, compared to the entire 2021 population of women prisoners: 2,710. The report includes remarkable photographs of women in prison. https://facesofconflict.crisisgroup.org/women-in-el-salvadors-gang-war/?r=5xd66&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Guatemala. The Interior Ministry reported that the National Police broke up "at least five human trafficking rings so far this year," *Insight Crime* reported. Over the last three years, according to the Attorney General's Office for Human Rights, "authorities have recorded nearly 1,500 human trafficking victims of primarily sexual exploitation, nearly two-thirds of whom are women and young girls," but the office "registered only about half as many official complaints." https://insightcrime.org/news/guatemala-sex-traffickers-earn-millions/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Workers from the Municipality of Nebaj began to board up the office of the NGO Ixil Authorities in the municipal building "while the people were still inside," the NGO Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA reported. Ixil Authorities "not only serves an essential function for the Ixil people . . . and is protected under the Constitution, but is currently housing legal documents related to investigations into the Municipal Mayor of Nebaj." The municipality said that the group had to be evicted so renovations on the building can begin, "but no remodeling project or plan has been disclosed." <https://ghrcusa.wordpress.com/2022/09/01/alert-municipal-government-of-nebaj-attempts-to-evict-ixil-indigenous-authorities-from-their-office/>

Haiti. Haiti's NGO National Human Rights Defense Network reported on interviews with 50 women who related rapes and beatings at the hands of gangs G-PEP and G-9 and Family, *Insight Crime* reported. Of the 50 women, 20 had been raped in front of their children, and "in almost all cases, rapes were accompanied by robbery, beatings, humiliation, and violence towards other family members present." From 2006 to 2019 Haitian courts convicted an average of 49 individuals a year for sexual assault, but, said the report, "Since 2019, sexual assault trials have become increasingly rare. It is precisely this rarity that . . . leads the bandits to engage in cases of collective and repeated rape, without fear of being prosecuted and convicted." https://insightcrime.org/news/haitis-gangs-engage-in-campaigns-of-mass-sexual-violence/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Mexico. September 26 will mark eight years since 43 students from Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers College were forcibly disappeared. On 18 August the Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in the

Ayotzinapa Case (COVAJ) published its report, confirming that the disappearance was a crime of the State and providing data on military involvement and the participation of officials in a promoting false “truth” about the case. The next day the former Attorney General was arrested for his role in creating the false “historic truth,” and the National Prosecutor’s Office announced that it had obtained 83 new arrest warrants for persons, including high level military and civil officials, involved in the matter. The NGO Washington Office on Latin America published a useful commentary on the state of the case. It noted that the COVAJ report explained that “during the current federal administration, tens of thousands of documents related to the case have been received (from 15 institutions) and digitized. The information and evidence includes testimonies, videos, audios, transcripts, reports, messages, and other materials. At the same time, the report points out that delays and reluctance to hand over information have persisted in some federal institutions” such as the Defense Ministry and “different offices” of the national prosecutor (Fiscalia General de la Republica). https://www.wola.org/analysis/ayotzinapa-key-points-understand-mexican-governments-new-actions/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

The national statistics agency said that “on average, some 10 women are killed every day,” and based on a survey it conducted, “more than 70% of 50.5 million women and girls aged over 15 have experienced some kind of violence,” with half of all women surveyed reporting sexual violence, *Reuters* reported. “The vast majority of women who experienced physical or sexual violence did not formally report their attacker or seek help from a public institution.” <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/violence-against-women-mexico-rises-over-70-study-finds-2022-08-31/>

Myanmar. The International Labor Organization “conducted an assessment of the organizational resilience of trade unions and CSOs [civil society organizations] in Myanmar to identify how international organizations can most effectively provide support for their continued operation.” The study “faced some significant limitations, particularly in its ability to complete interviews with the targeted trade unions and CSOs,” but did interview persons at 6 trade unions and 15 CSOs, including those viewed by the State as operating illegally. All the organizations said they had “ceased their activities involving direct cooperation with the de facto authorities,” including not “working with regime officials to obtain documents for workers.” Staff members of organizations declared illegal have had passports revoked and homes and offices raided. The organizations “requested that funders reduce or simplify their technical and financial reporting and due diligence requirements;” for example, “lowering the expectations for obtaining and retaining documentary evidence,” not requiring adherence to “strict legal registration requirements,” and, to ensure personal safety, not requiring “detailed participant information and meeting attendance records.” https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/briefingnote/wcms_854071.pdf

Nicaragua. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights presented a report on the four years of work by its Special Monitoring Mechanism for Nicaragua (MESENI). It heard 1,986 testimonies and documented serious human rights violations that “have left at least 355 people dead, more than 2,000 people injured, and 1,614 people arrested . . . hundreds of arbitrary dismissals of healthcare professionals and more than 150 unwarranted expulsions of university students.” In addition, “more than 1,400 civil society organizations have had their legal status revoked.” https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2022/189.asp

Pakistan. The province of Balochistan created a parliamentary committee on the issue of missing persons, to be headed by the provincial home minister and to include two members each from the government and opposition, *Balochistan Post* reported. Activists and families of the missing were not satisfied; no civil society members will be included in the committee. <https://thebalochistanpost.net/2022/08/balochistan-cabinet-approves-commission-on-missing-persons/>

Romania. Former president Ion Iliescu and three other former government officials will face trial, accused of crimes against humanity committed after the revolution of 1989, *BIRN* reported. On 8 April 2019 prosecutors sent the 3,330 volume file on the case to the court, but in 2021 the court sent it back “after the Supreme Court excluded several pieces of evidence submitted by the Military Prosecutor’s Office,” such as “reports drawn up by the Intelligence Service . . . and the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the Revolution.” The prosecutor said the file now has been corrected and sent it back for trial. For background see *SAHR News* 2019-04,11. <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/08/04/romania-ex-president-faces-fresh-trial-for-1989-revolution-crimes/>

Saudi Arabia. Salma al-Shehab, 34, a Saudi citizen and a Ph.D. candidate at Leeds University, U.K., was arrested in 2021 while on holiday in Saudi Arabia and convicted “of aiding dissidents seeking to ‘disrupt public order’ and publishing ‘false rumours’” by her tweets critical of the government, *BBC News* reported. In August she was sentenced to 34 years in jail and another 34 years of travel ban upon release. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-62574102>

Sierra Leone. Parliament passed the Customary Land Rights Act and the National Land Commission Act, which will “transform communities’ ability to protect their land rights and the environment,” the NGO Namati said. Among other provisions, the laws will “grant all local communities the right to Free Prior Informed Consent . . . over all industrial projects on their lands” and “incorporate public environmental license conditions into binding legal agreements between communities and companies.” https://namati.org/news-stories/sierra-leone-passes-globally-unprecedented-legislation-on-climate-environment/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Singapore. The government announced that it will repeal Section 377A, a colonial-era law banning consensual sex between men, *AP* reported. It is not clear whether previous convictions under the law will be expunged from the records. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/singapore-repealing-ban-on-gay-sex-1.6557865>

South Africa. In August 2012 34 miners were killed by the South African Police Service during a wildcat strike at the Lonmin platinum mine in Marikana. On the tenth anniversary of the massacre the Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation published a report on the “repair and corporate accountability” that had taken place during the decade. The researchers interviewed 40 people and also used such sources as “reports from civil society organizations, academic journals and online media articles, documentaries, public company communications and official statements, as well as video footage and transcripts from interviews, and events concerning the Marikana Massacre.” While acknowledging the efforts of the state and the mining company to address victim and community needs in the wake of the massacre, “these provisions did not effectively improve the living and working conditions of mineworkers that had contributed to the violent strike in 2012.” <https://www.csvr.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/800648-R-CSVR-Marikana-Report-WEB.pdf>

South Korea. “South Korean prosecutors raided the Presidential Archives south of Seoul . . . in connection with their investigation into the forced repatriation of two North Korean fishermen in Nov. [November] 2019,” *NK News* reported. The administration of former president Moon Jae-in had claimed “the fishermen killed 16 of their crewmates before fleeing south, suggesting the two men did not genuinely wish to defect.” In June, South Korea’s unification ministry had released photos “showing one of the two fishermen resisting during his handover” to North Korean officials. Forced repatriation (refoulement) violates both international and South Korean domestic law. For background, see *SAHR News* 2022-07. <https://www.nknews.org/2022/08/prosecutors-raid-presidential-archives-over-forced-repatriation-of-north-koreans/>

Spain. The government published a draft law on official secrets, renamed the Law on Classified Information, to replace the current law dating from the period of the Franco dictatorship and partially modified in 1978 before the Spanish constitution was approved. Archivists and other information professionals provided lengthy, serious comments to call attention to the role of records management and good practices on access to classified records, citing such international instruments as the Global Principles on National Security and the Right to Information (Tshwane Principles). Thanks to Antonio Gonzalez Quintana for the information. <https://elpais.com/espana/2022-08-12/peticion-para-que-no-se-puedan-declarar-secretas-violaciones-de-los-derechos-humanos.html?ssm=whatsapp>

Syria. The UN Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly on missing people in Syria. It considered all persons who are missing, whether or not they are Syrian citizens. OHCHR, which undertook the study, wrote that “there are multiple partial lists of missing persons spread across many stakeholders,” with families “registering cases with multiple agencies” when they don’t know where to go to give or request information. The report said it is “crucial to strengthen the analysis of existing information” and to “better consolidate and use existing information and information-seeking processes.” The report recommends the establishment of a new international institution on missing persons in Syria and proposes core principles and standards for it. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3985565?ln=en>

In its 11th annual report on enforced disappearances in Syria, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) said “the number of people detained since March 2011 who still remain forcibly disappeared as of August 2022 has now reached at least 111,000 individuals, the vast majority of whom were detained by the Syrian regime.” The report relies on data from SNHR’s database, as well as interviews with families of the disappeared. <https://snhr.org/blog/2022/08/30/the-11th-annual-report-on-enforced-disappearance-in-syria-on-the-international-day-of-the-victims-of-enforced-disappearances-the-number-of-victims-is-rising/>

Uganda. The government “suspended” the operation of the NGO Sexual Minorities Uganda which “advocates for the rights of sexual minorities,” saying it was operating without “a valid NGO permit,” *Reuters* reported. https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/uganda-suspends-operations-charity-championing-lgbt-rights-2022-08-06/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

United Kingdom. “The University of Exeter looked at 126,000 cancer cases in England between 2006 and 2016. The data covered the four most common cancers--lung, breast, prostate and colorectal--and three commonly diagnosed in ethnic minorities: oesophagogastric, myeloma and ovarian.” The researchers found, reported the *Guardian*, that “Black and Asian people . . . have to wait longer for a cancer diagnosis than white people, with some forced to wait an extra six weeks,” delays that “may mean fewer treatment options while starting treatment later may also mean it is less effective--reducing the odds of survival.” https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/aug/28/black-asian-people-wait-longer-cancer-diagnosis-england-than-white-people?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=f2fe675e7a-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-f2fe675e7a-149736437

In April the Home Office “replaced a system of physical residency cards with a digital verification process to confirm migrants’ rights to rent and work,” *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported, aiming to “phase out physical documents by 2024.” However, “organisations that work with vulnerable migrants said the system is exacerbating digital divides, with those who are not digitally literate, lack devices, or cannot afford data costs left behind.” https://news.trust.org/item/20220812092044-vk82l/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Espresso%2015%20August&utm_content=Espresso%2015%20August+CID_3a235b084c51f32892737842970301e5&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=UK%20digital%20residence%20checks%20lock%20out%20refugees%20slavery%20victims

The government plans to use smartwatch facial recognition technology to “track and gather data on migrants” who have been convicted of criminal offences, *Voice Online* reported. “The roll-out of smartwatches will also record subjects’ GPS location 24/7, on top of requiring them to scan their faces up to five times a day.” The government said “data collected could be held for several years and shared between police, the Ministry of Justice, and the Home Office.” Civil liberties and human rights experts pointed out that facial recognition “regularly misidentifies people of colour” and can lead to “false allegations and excessive enforcement.” <https://www.voice-online.co.uk/news/uk-news/2022/08/09/experts-slam-government-facial-recognition-technology-for-migrants/>

United States. The NGO Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund and the “digital investigations firm” Memetica analyzed the radicalization of the gunman who used an assault weapon to kill ten people and wound three others at the Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, New York, on 14 May. “The Buffalo shooter presents a case study on the dangerous mix of racism, easy access to firearms, and easy access to technical and tactical video instructions that go far beyond practical and safe firearms training for civilian gun owners.” They found that “YouTube served as his library, instructing him in ways to improve his marksmanship, reload firearms faster, ‘win gunfights,’ and easily modify” his gun to use high-capacity magazines. He also kept a “private online diary” of his preparation for the attack and wrote a “180-page diatribe” to explain his actions. The two organizations urged Facebook to “enforce existing Community Guidelines with respect to guns.” <https://everytownresearch.org/report/armed-extremism-buffalo-shooting/>

ProPublica and *The Texas Tribune* used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain data on nearly 8,400 Army courts-martial cases from the last decade. They found that “soldiers accused of sexual assault are less than half as likely to be detained ahead of trial than those accused of offenses like drug use and distribution, disobeying an officer or burglary.” <https://www.propublica.org/article/army-sexual-assault-pretrial-confinement-rates>

The Mozilla Foundation reviewed 25 apps and products that track periods and pregnancies and found that “most . . . share information about their users, and offer only vague explanations of when and how much data they will share with law enforcement,” *VICE News* reported.

https://www.vice.com/en/article/88qxj4/period-tracking-apps-privacy-data?utm_source=email&utm_medium=editorial&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=220817

“Facebook turned over the chats of a mother and her daughter to Nebraska police after they were served with a warrant as part of an investigation into an illegal abortion, court documents show,” reported *NBC News*. In addition, police seized “six smartphone and seven laptops” used by the two women, who were charged with three felonies and two misdemeanors (mother) and a felony and two misdemeanors (daughter), all “related to performing an abortion, concealing a body and providing false information.” *Motherboard* obtained the court records. <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/facebook-turned-chat-messages-mother-daughter-now-charged-abortion-rcna42185>; <https://www.vice.com/en/article/n7zevd/this-is-the-data-facebook-gave-police-to-prosecute-a-teenager-for-abortion>

A research team compared “historical manufacturing directories, which locate the majority of former industrial facilities,” with “flood risk projections from the First Street Foundation” for six cities. They identified “over 6,000 sites at risk of flooding in the next 30 years” and estimated that nearly “200,000 residents live on blocks with at least one flood-prone relic industrial site and its legacy contamination.”

https://theconversation.com/flood-maps-show-us-vastly-underestimates-contamination-risk-at-old-industrial-sites-186620?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Science%20Editors%20Picks%20%20August%203%202022%20-%202365523592&utm_content=Science%20Editors%20Picks%20%20August%203%202022%20-%202365523592+Version+A+CID_1fbce3942d4e494342bd88c280454f35&utm_source=campaign_monitor_us&utm_term=Flood%20maps%20show%20US%20vastly%20underestimates%20contamination%20risk%20at%20old%20industrial%20sites

The *Associated Press* “obtained nearly 12,000 pages of sealed records” from a child sex abuse lawsuit in West Virginia against the LDS (Mormon) church, offering “the most detailed and comprehensive look yet” at the “help line” used for guidance to church officials. “Families of survivors who filed the lawsuit said they show it’s [the help line] part of a system that can easily be misused by church leaders to divert abuse accusations away from law enforcement and instead to church attorneys who may bury the problem, leaving victims in harm’s way.” The church’s director of Family Services said the notes of all help line calls are destroyed at the end of every day. <https://apnews.com/article/Mormon-church-sexual-abuse-investigation-e0c39cf9aa4fbe0d8c1442033b894660>

The Atlantic published a feature article on the migrant family separation policy of the Trump administration. A supplement provided images of the documents referenced in the article.

https://www.theatlantic.com/newsletters/archive/2022/08/family-separation-american-catastrophe/671253/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=atlantic-daily-newsletter&utm_content=20220825&utm_term=The%20Atlantic%20Daily

United States/Mississippi. A Leflore County grand jury “determined there was insufficient evidence” to indict Carolyn Bryant Donham for her accusation that set off the lynching of Black teenager Emmett Till in 1955, *AP* reported. For background, see *SAHR News* 2022-06. <https://apnews.com/article/arrests-mississippi-kidnapping-emmett-till-greenwood-86b6b9acefe957dff24f0b04dc6a615e>

Publications.

The Sedona Conference’s draft *Commentary on Managing International Legal Holds* is open for public comment through 30 October 2022: comments@sedonaconference.org

The Day After, “A Guide to INTERPOL Red Notices for Human Rights Defenders Associated with the Syrian Situation”: <https://tda-sy.org/2022/07/28/a-guide-to-interpol-red-notices-for-human-rights-defenders-associated-with-the-syrian-situation/>

Syria Justice & Accountability Centre, guides to the use of universal jurisdiction by national jurisdictions (Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States) to pursue crimes committed in Syria: https://syriaaccountability.org/universal-jurisdiction/?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=d722b6f26a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-d722b6f26a-9642896

Network of Concerned Historians, *Annual Report*: <http://www.concernedhistorians.org/ar/22.pdf>

Transparency International, “Corruption Perception Index 2021 for the Americas: A region in crisis”: https://www.transparency.org/en/news/cpi-2021-americas-a-region-in-crisis?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Foeke Postma, “Using New Tech to Investigate Old Photographs”: <https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/2022/08/09/using-new-tech-to-investigate-old-photographs/>

Diane Webber and Khaola Sherani, Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Addressing the Continuing Phenomenon of Enforced Disappearances”: https://www.csis.org/analysis/addressing-continuing-phenomenon-enforced-disappearances?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Please share news with us! trudy@trudypeterson.com To view previous issues, see <https://www.ica.org/en/sahr-newsletters>

The Section on Archives and Human Rights is grateful to the online Italian archival magazine *Il Mondo degli Archivi* for handling the distribution of SAHR News. To subscribe to the News, enter the required information on the form that you will find here: <https://anai.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5942a8a83f3023c6a5a63139e&id=324882c3f7>

This Newsletter is published under a Creative Commons license. Feel free to further circulate it and reuse it for non-commercial purposes.