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## ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### News from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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#### Commentary.

Fuel. Climate change is all about fuel. Well, not quite, because there are other causes of climate change, but fossil fuels--especially big oil, natural gas and coal extraction and use--are a key part of it. Combustion of these fossil fuels releases the greenhouse gases that are causal factors in global warming.

The news on climate change is dire. In a report released before the current Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said, "The three main greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide--all reached new record highs in 2021." It was the "biggest year-on-year jump in methane concentrations . . . since systematic measurements began nearly 40 years ago." There is a "need to strengthen the greenhouse gas information basis for decisions on climate mitigation efforts," WMO argued, and confirmed it is working on developing "a framework for sustained, internationally coordinated global greenhouse gas monitoring, including observing network design and international exchange and use of the resulting observations." <https://public.wmo.int/en/greenhouse-gas-bulletin>

Melting glaciers, rising sea levels leading to forced migrations of populations, increasing heat are all results of the long-term changes. The projected effect on health is drastic: The *2022 Report of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change* warned that damage will include food insecurity, as crop yields are affected by the changing growing seasons; heat will aggravate chronic health conditions; and diseases like malaria and dengue will spread for more time each year. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)01540-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)01540-9/fulltext)

And we are a long way from shedding our dependence on fossil fuels, as we can see from actions by nation states. For example, in October Israel and Lebanon reached an agreement on a "permanent maritime boundary" that, wrote *Al Monitor*, resolves "a longstanding territorial dispute over a potentially gas-rich 330-square-mile stretch of the eastern Mediterranean Sea." Lebanon said that French corporation Total Energies will "immediately" begin work in the declared Lebanese waters. *Crisiswatch* reported that on 3 October Japan "lodged a protest with China over gas sea development in the East China sea, in [an] area where Beijing and Tokyo in 2008 agreed to jointly develop resources," but since then "China unilaterally proceeded with development and has installed 18 structures." And to the south, in the contested South China Sea where several countries claim maritime boundaries, a Chinese oil company "claimed to find the first 'deep-deep' gas field in the western" part of the sea. [https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/10/us-touts-historic-breakthrough-israel-lebanon-maritime-border?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118&utm\\_content=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118+CID\\_b7cb355f19dab4c4fb2b2b16acce207b&utm\\_source=campmgr&utm\\_term=reached%20an%20agreement](https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/10/us-touts-historic-breakthrough-israel-lebanon-maritime-border?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118&utm_content=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118+CID_b7cb355f19dab4c4fb2b2b16acce207b&utm_source=campmgr&utm_term=reached%20an%20agreement); <https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch>

The pressure to reduce the use of fossil fuels has focused on governments, but alongside that are efforts to hold the fossil fuel companies responsible for climate change. An essay by Benjamin Bibas in *justiceinfo.net* pointed to a 2017 report by U.S. and British NGOs that said "100 fossil fuel companies . . . are responsible for 71% of global emissions since 1988, with the 25 most polluting companies responsible for 51 % of the emissions . . . the first four places being occupied by Saudi oil company Saudi Aramco, Chinese coal company Shenhua (which became Chinese Energy in August 2017)

Russian gas company Gazprom, and the National Iranian Oil Company.” (Note the government ties of these companies.) Several NGOs have filed lawsuits against the fossil fuel companies, including Shell and Total, arguing both that the companies fail to comply with international standards for the reduction of emissions and the “serious humanitarian consequences of their pollution.”

<https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/108457-redefining-climate-justice.html> ; [https://climate-laws.org/geographies/france/litigation\\_cases/notre-affaire-a-tous-and-others-v-total](https://climate-laws.org/geographies/france/litigation_cases/notre-affaire-a-tous-and-others-v-total)

Determining the degree of climate change relies on historical data against which current conditions can be measured. The UN Environment Programs’ recent report acknowledged the need for and uncertainties of historical data, writing, “Historical emissions inventories and emissions projections from global integrated assessment models differ and are associated with uncertainties.”

<https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2022> But data is what we have for understanding the recent past, and preserving that data is a responsibility archivists feel keenly. The ICA Section on Archives and Human Rights has a study in progress that seeks to locate the archives of the major fossil fuel companies and is finding it very difficult work. ICA’s Section on Business Archives has no representation from the international fossil fuel sector. It is essential that the records of those companies—not just those of governments—be preserved, managed, and made available for research. After all, the work of those companies that affects us all—existentially.

**SAHR News.** The next First Tuesday Talk will be December 6 when Raymond Frogner, the head of archives at the University of Manitoba’s National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, will speak about the records of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The talk will be in English.

### **International news.**

**United Nations.** Two NGOs, the Syria Legal Development Program and the Observatory of Political and Economic Networks (OPEN), examined UN procurement contracts in Syria. Focusing on the top 100 UN private and joint public-private suppliers, they used data in the UN Statistical Division’s procurement database for 2019 and 2020, OPEN’s database of “nearly 8,000 individuals and entities in regime-held Syria,” online business directories that rely on “official gazette records,” news websites and social media. They found that “nearly 47% of procurement funding in Syria, during the period . . . is estimated to have been awarded to risky or highly risky suppliers,” including human rights abusers taking advantage of the system and individuals and entities sanctioned for human rights abuses. They urged donor states to add “a new reporting requirement on Human Rights Due Diligence related to procurement operations, and demand more transparency from the UN.”

[https://storage.googleapis.com/karam\\_viz/karam\\_online\\_publications/SLDP-OPEN%20Report%202022-%20UN%20Procurement%20Contracts%20in%20Syria.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/karam_viz/karam_online_publications/SLDP-OPEN%20Report%202022-%20UN%20Procurement%20Contracts%20in%20Syria.pdf)

The UN released “Every Woman Every Child Progress Report,” which said “women’s and children’s health have suffered dramatic setbacks as a result of the combined factors of the coronavirus pandemic, armed conflict and climate change. Food insecurity, hunger, child marriage, intimate partner violence and adolescent depression and anxiety have all increased” since its 2020 report. The data used was from 136 low- and middle-income countries that had data available from 2017 and later.

[https://protect.everywomaneverychild.org/?utm\\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=cb32f3aa97-MR\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8cab1d7961-cb32f3aa97-149736437](https://protect.everywomaneverychild.org/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=cb32f3aa97-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-cb32f3aa97-149736437)

### **World/general news.**

**Business records.** Marsam, one of Brazil’s biggest gold refiners, “was quietly removed by the Responsible Minerals Initiative from a public list of smelters and refiners deemed to follow best sourcing practices,” *AP* reported. A previous *AP* investigation showed Marsam “shared ownership links and processes gold on behalf of an intermediary accused by Brazilian prosecutors of buying tarnished gold from indigenous territories and other protected areas.” The Initiative can remove refiners for a variety of reasons, including “overlooking evidence that actors in its supply chain falsified mandatory declaration of origin forms, a rampant problem in the Amazon’s prospecting frontier.” Marsam said it would appeal the delisting. [https://apnews.com/article/business-caribbean-forests-brazil-sao-paulo-8df9385962106fb5748504193c1d12ae?user\\_email=f553fa26cd5d27697a335ab74e22a11c9b48c47784712d14145ae3c0ed4aad10&utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Oct05\\_MorningWire&utm\\_term=Morning%20Wire%20Subscribers](https://apnews.com/article/business-caribbean-forests-brazil-sao-paulo-8df9385962106fb5748504193c1d12ae?user_email=f553fa26cd5d27697a335ab74e22a11c9b48c47784712d14145ae3c0ed4aad10&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Oct05_MorningWire&utm_term=Morning%20Wire%20Subscribers)

A *BBC* investigation found that “displaced families in Syrian camps are begging for donations on TikTok while the company takes up to 70% of the proceeds.” *BBC* followed 30 TikTok accounts broadcasting live from Syrian camps for displaced people for five months and built a computer program to scrape information from them. As an experiment, *BBC* sent a \$106 gift to a purported refugee, and at the “end of the livestream, the balance of the Syrian test account was \$33,” TikTok having taken the rest. Then 10% of the \$33 was taken by the local money transfer shop and the TikTok middleman took 35% of the remainder, leaving \$19 to go to the recipient of the donation. [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-63213567?utm\\_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=bf46fabfdf-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_01\\_10\\_02\\_56\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0a7405c641-bf46fabfdf-96428969](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-63213567?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=bf46fabfdf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-bf46fabfdf-96428969)

“French cement maker Lafarge pleaded guilty in U.S. court . . . to a charge that it made payments to groups designated as terrorists by the United States, including Islamic State, so the company could keep operating in Syria,” *Reuters* reported. A French investigation into the payments continues. For background, see *SAHR News* 2022-05, 07. [https://www.reuters.com/legal/french-cement-maker-lafarge-plead-guilty-us-charges-supporting-islamic-state-2022-10-18/?utm\\_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=3a6417a4a5-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_01\\_10\\_02\\_56\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0a7405c641-3a6417a4a5-96428969](https://www.reuters.com/legal/french-cement-maker-lafarge-plead-guilty-us-charges-supporting-islamic-state-2022-10-18/?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=3a6417a4a5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-3a6417a4a5-96428969)

An alliance of journalists used information gathered by the Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information (RAISG) for a “geospatial analysis in the Amazonian region . . . to analyze the magnitude of . . . overlap” between Indigenous territory and land in commercial oil production blocks. They found that “1,647 Indigenous territories and 52 protected areas are affected by encroaching oil lots in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. In the case of Colombia, although there are no protected areas that overlap with oil fields, 70 forest reserves in the Amazon are affected,” *Mongabay* reported. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/10/in-the-western-amazon-oil-blocks-eat-away-at-indigenous-lands-protected-areas/>; for the data <https://www.raisg.org/en/>

Citizenship. “Spain passed a law granting citizenship to the grandchildren of people exiled under the Francisco Franco dictatorship,” the *Guardian* reported. “The law also covers the descendants of women who lost their citizenship by default through marrying non-Spaniards.” Archives will be critical: “Applicants will have to show proof of parentage and must also demonstrate that their ancestors were fleeing political persecution.” As many as 700,000 people could be eligible for Spanish citizenship under the law; the offer closes in October 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/27/spains-new-citizenship-law-for-franco-exiles-offers-hope-in-latin-america>

Human rights defenders. Since 2015 the NGO Business & Human Rights Resource Centre has been tracking attacks against human rights defenders who focus on business activities. As of 26 October, the database holds information on 4,295 attacks, including SLAPPs (strategic lawsuits against public participation). “Collecting data on attacks against these defenders is important to understand the scope of this problem, identify higher risk business sectors and areas, advocate for accountability and remedy for harm as well as more rights-respecting practices, and strengthen support for defenders subjected to attacks.” <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/from-us/human-rights-defenders-database/>

Migration. According to figures released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in the year ending 30 September persons attempting to enter the U.S. at the border with Mexico were “stopped 2.38 million times, up 37% from 1.73 million the year before,” *AP* reported. [https://apnews.com/article/biden-mexico-us-customs-and-border-protection-cuba-immigration-8fbba5bde9afca3f40eaa96bcfd136a?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://apnews.com/article/biden-mexico-us-customs-and-border-protection-cuba-immigration-8fbba5bde9afca3f40eaa96bcfd136a?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

Privacy. CNIL, France’s privacy office, fined Clearview AI 20 million euros for failing “to respond to an order last year from the CNIL . . . to stop its unlawful processing of French citizens’ information and delete their data,” *TechCrunch* reported. Clearview AI is the “controversial facial recognition firm that scrapes selfies and other personal data off the Internet without consent to feed an AI-powered identity-matching service it sells to law enforcement and others.” <https://techcrunch.com/2022/10/20/clearview-ai-fined-in-france/>

Religious archives. The Vatican confirmed a Dutch media report that in 2020 it had secretly sanctioned Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, “the revered independence hero of East Timor,” for sexual misconduct, *AP* reported. After leaving Timor, Belo lived in Portugal and Mozambique. Portugal’s attorney

general's office confirmed that there is also an investigation of possible Church cover-up of abuser priests in Mozambique. In early October leaders of the Catholic Church in Portugal apologized "for the hurt caused by decades of alleged abuse and cover-up—current estimated number around 400 cases" in the country, the number that a "lay committee looking into historic church sexual abuse cases" has found since it began its work in January. "The United Nations and advocates for victims have called on [Pope] Francis to authorize an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Belo's 2002 retirement, when he was 20 years shy of the normal retirement age, and why he was sent to Mozambique." Church records are essential for all these investigations. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/portugal-abuse-cases-mount-amid-questions-over-nobel-bishop/ar-AA12xnKw?ocid=winn2sv1plustaskbarhover&cvid=230bef1164bd41dea50d5082e32f144e>

**Slavery.** Michael Bennet, an historian collaborating with the Bank of England Museum and Archive, published an essay on the investigation into "the Bank's links to historical slavery and colonialism." A "key area" of research was the Bank's involvement with two sugar plantations in Grenada: the minutes of the Court of Directors, the Bank's governing body, "provide useful insights into the decisions made by the managers of the Bank" and the documents of the Bank's management of the plantations include a document "listing the 599 enslaved men and women on the plantations when the Bank took possession" of the properties. [https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/online-collections/blog/a-story-of-archival-discovery?fbclid=IwAR2oAOf-oF9tye9NOsGsSCU8rzOo4ctQ5TY2ipd8Yn\\_bwD\\_FQsVe\\_zKpEi4](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum/online-collections/blog/a-story-of-archival-discovery?fbclid=IwAR2oAOf-oF9tye9NOsGsSCU8rzOo4ctQ5TY2ipd8Yn_bwD_FQsVe_zKpEi4)

### **Bilateral and multilateral news.**

**Afghanistan/Australia.** Former Australian military lawyer David McBride is "being prosecuted for allegedly leaking a cache of documents to the *ABC* that informed a series on alleged war crimes in Afghanistan and led to a much-publicized federal police raid on the *ABC*'s Sydney offices in 2019," the *Guardian* reported. His lawyers' attempt to shield him under whistleblower protection failed when the government refused to let security classified documents be used in the case. The 2021 Bereton report that found "credible evidence of war crimes by Australian special forces while serving in Afghanistan" resulted partly from the McBride allegations. For background, see *SAHR News* 2021-12. <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/oct/27/david-mcbride-afghanistan-alleged-war-crime-whistleblower>

**Albania/Iran.** An Iranian hacking group called "Homeland Justice" published on Telegram information allegedly related to people in the Albanian State Police's database, including photos of the individuals, "their ID numbers, names and surnames, names of their fathers, dates of birth, birth cities and nationality," *BIRN* reported. Albania "hosts a group of exiled Iranian dissidents," and relations between the two countries have been strained. <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/10/03/iranian-hackers-leak-database-of-albanian-criminal-suspects/>

**Algeria/France.** In 2020 France returned to Algeria "the skulls of 24 people taken as trophies during France's brutal colonial rule," the *New York Times* reported. The remains were represented as those of "resistance fighters" that fought French rule. Now, however, documents from the French government and the Museum of Mankind, which had held the skulls, "show that while six of the skulls returned were those of resistance fighters, the rest were not or were of uncertain origin." <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/184252>

**Argentina/Nicaragua.** Argentina's justice ministry opened an investigation to determine whether Nicaragua's president Daniel Ortega and members of his political circle have committed crimes against humanity, *Confidencial* reported. The case began with a complaint filed by two Argentine lawyers based on the principle of universal jurisdiction that is recognized in Argentina's Constitution. The complaint cited the series of reports by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, the Center for Legal and Social Studies, the International Federation for Human Rights, the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights, and the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts for Nicaragua that "indicate a series of stages in the repressive strategy of the Ortega regime, which has left at least 355 murdered in that country, a thousand political prisoners, and more than 100,000 Nicaraguans in exile." <https://www.confidencial.digital/english/argentine-justice-opens-investigation-on-crimes-against-humanity-in-nicaragua/>

**Armenia/Azerbaijan.** Bellingcat, the investigative journalism group, analyzed a video of an apparent execution of Armenian soldiers by Azerbaijani troops and was able to locate the place where the filming

was done and identified “several pieces of evidence that would support” the date and time when the film was made. Armenia’s foreign ministry said it “would file a case with the international criminal court . . . in relation to footage showing the extrajudicial execution of prisoners.” Lawyers representing some of the victims identified in the video have “applied to the European Court of Human Rights for the purpose of protecting the servicemen’s rights.” <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2022/10/20/an-execution-near-sev-lake-armenia-azerbaijan/>

Balkan wars. The Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT) published research revealing that “half of the 900 sexual abuse cases that the KRCT has documented were committed in what it called ‘rape houses,’ where women were temporarily held to be assaulted, and that in 621 cases they were sexually abused by more than one perpetrator,” *BIRN* reported. KRCT said its “data is public in the form of statistics and it can be used for access to justice.” The Kosovo government’s Commission to Recognise and Verify Survivors of Sexual Violence during the war has received more than 1,200 applications, with more than 900 applicants officially acknowledged as survivors. <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/10/26/rape-used-as-weapon-during-kosovo-war-says-ngo>

China/United Kingdom. The NGOs Global Legal Action Network and the World Uyghur Congress took the U.K. government to court “to challenge their failure to tackle imports of Uyghur forced-labor cotton into the U.K.” The NGOs argued that the Foreign Prison Made Goods Act of 1897 “prohibiting the importation of prison-made goods is being violated,” among other statutes cited. For background see *SAHR News* 2021-11, 12. <https://www.glanlaw.org/uyghur-forced-labour-uk-action>

El Salvador/Netherlands. El Salvador’s minister of defense in the early 1980s and the former director of the Treasury Police were arrested for their alleged responsibility for the murder of four Dutch journalists in 1982, *El Faro* reported. Two former colonels and a sergeant were also ordered arrested. One of the colonels, now living in the United States, was interviewed by Dutch journalists in 2018; their reporting “revealed secret UN documents in which he [the colonel] shared information on the operation with commanding officers and U.S. military advisor Bruce Hazelwood.” For background, see *SAHR News* 2018-09. [https://elfaro.net/en/202210/el\\_salvador/26431/Top-Former-Military-Officers-Arrested-for-1982-Murder-of-Four-Dutch-Journalists.htm?utm\\_source=DB+El+Faro\\_English&utm\\_campaign=e52b33034d-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_22\\_01\\_08\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3ec9190c89-e52b33034d-363082696](https://elfaro.net/en/202210/el_salvador/26431/Top-Former-Military-Officers-Arrested-for-1982-Murder-of-Four-Dutch-Journalists.htm?utm_source=DB+El+Faro_English&utm_campaign=e52b33034d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-e52b33034d-363082696)

Israel/Palestine/United Kingdom. Eighty-eight-year-old Palestinian Munib al-Masri, supported by famous international human rights lawyers Luis Moreno Ocampo and Ben Emmerson, is petitioning the U.K. government for compensation for alleged war crimes by U.K. forces during the U.K.’s Mandate period in Palestine, *BBC News* reported. Al-Masri was wounded during that era’s conflict. “The petition, involving a 300-page dossier of evidence, asks for a formal acknowledgement and apology for abuses during the period of British rule in Palestine from 1917 until 1948.” The U.K. Ministry of Defense promised that “any evidence provided would be ‘reviewed thoroughly’.” The Imperial War Museum in London holds oral history accounts by British soldiers and police officers who had served in Palestine, some of which “detail accounts of ‘punitive’ raids, the use of human shields and torture.” <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-63145992>

Latin America. A group of hackers known as Guacamaya leaked “nearly 10 terabytes of emails from military and police organizations in various countries in Central and South America, including one from the Joint Chiefs of Staff (EMCO) of the Chilean Armed Forces.” Amnesty International said the documents obtained by the Guacamaya collective “have revealed monitoring of the activities of civil society organizations, including Amnesty International, by the military in Mexico and Peru so far, showing the deterioration of respect for human rights.” [https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/americas-military-monitoring-human-rights/?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/americas-military-monitoring-human-rights/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email); <https://nationworldnews.com/who-is-behind-guacamaya-the-group-of-hackers-who-claimed-to-have-attacked-the-joint-chiefs-of-staff-nation-world-news/>

Marshall Islands/United States. “Health and environmental problems linger on decades after the United States detonated 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall islands,” *Geneva Solutions* wrote. The Marshall Islands submitted a proposal to the Human Rights Council, asking the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to “provide technical assistance to the Marshall Islands’ National Nuclear Commission in its efforts to pursue ‘nuclear justice’ as well as ‘transitional justice’ and submit a report to the Council in September 2024.” The proposal was backed by Australia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and

Nauru and opposed by the U.S., China, U.K. and Russia. Ultimately, the Council “requested the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realisation and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the Marshall Islands, stemming from the State’s nuclear legacy.” The National Nuclear Commission controls access to the records of the Islands’ Nuclear Claims Tribunal, duplicate copies of which are in safe haven custody at the Swiss Federal Archives and the City Archives of Girona, Spain. <https://genevasolutions.news/climate-environment/marshall-islands-takes-us-nuclear-legacy-to-the-human-rights-council>; <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/human-rights-council-concludes-fifty-first-regular-session-after-adopting-41>

Middle East war. The NGO Syria Justice and Accountability Centre (SJAC) published a paper “Missed Opportunities: Searching for the Missing while Prosecuting ISIS.” In it SJAC presented “an overview of what it learned from the trial” of two of four members of the notorious ISIS “Beatles” group and through “subsequent witness interviews in order to show how evidence uncovered for accountability purposes can be relevant to missing persons investigations.” The trial provided information on 18 separate sites of detention; “the location of detention centers is at the core of SJAC’s missing persons investigations.” The trial also provided information on patterns of detainee transfer and the locations of executions and gravesites. <https://syriaaccountability.org/missed-opportunities/>

SJAC also published “Hunting the Wounded,” a report investigating a type of attack in which “Syrian government and allied forces” struck an initial location, then struck the hospital to which those injured in the initial attack were brought. “SJAC uncovered Syrian government documents describing the use of sequential strikes early in the conflict . . . These documents illustrate the intentional development of this tactic as a systematic practice employed by government forces.” SJAC used its database to identify hospitals struck and then “verified that a preliminary attack had taken place before the attack on the hospital and geolocated the first attack to confirm that it occurred near the hospital in question.” [https://syriaaccountability.org/hunting-the-wounded/?utm\\_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=3a6417a4a5-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_01\\_10\\_02\\_56\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0a7405c641-3a6417a4a5-96428969](https://syriaaccountability.org/hunting-the-wounded/?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=3a6417a4a5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-3a6417a4a5-96428969)

South Korea/United States. On 29 September the Supreme Court of Korea “confirmed an earlier ruling that each of the women who worked in the brothels set up for U.S. soldiers” during the Korean conflict in the 1940s should be compensated between 3 and 7 million won, *Yahoo News* reported. “The verdict also confirmed the existence of the brothels set up in U.S. military camptown in Korea 65 years ago.” The NGO Camptown Women’s Human Rights Coalition was created in 2012 to advocate for the “victims of the state-managed camptown sex trade.” It is not clear what proof will be required for compensation. [https://news.yahoo.com/supreme-court-rules-korean-comfort-222016308.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xiLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAC5GkvOPt6OgE6q3EyYTuKpJn69aFR4p\\_DFnEIE6e6t\\_oSmRWQYswNRUR5eA\\_a3nAg5mAG6q-cn6fOZeMbk94Urm\\_Hvs4JeA9IGpp3CGwzQKZ6LIWOyALvaMjZ\\_2o2\\_WH1VaDMEV7NfnWibggivWODYAyravAcaqvJTqD8vKo](https://news.yahoo.com/supreme-court-rules-korean-comfort-222016308.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xiLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC5GkvOPt6OgE6q3EyYTuKpJn69aFR4p_DFnEIE6e6t_oSmRWQYswNRUR5eA_a3nAg5mAG6q-cn6fOZeMbk94Urm_Hvs4JeA9IGpp3CGwzQKZ6LIWOyALvaMjZ_2o2_WH1VaDMEV7NfnWibggivWODYAyravAcaqvJTqD8vKo)

Syria/Türkiye. Between February and August Human Rights Watch interviewed 47 Syrian refugees in Türkiye, 37 of whom later were deported to northern Syria. All but two had a “Turkish temporary protection permit” granting access to basic services. “All said they were deported together with dozens or even hundreds of others. All said they were forced to sign forms either at removal centers or the border with Syria. They said that officials did not allow them to read the forms;” they understood by signing them they were agreeing to voluntary repatriation. “Many said that they saw Turkish officials beat other men who had initially refused to sign, so they felt they had no choice.” A Turkish official called the allegations of forced return “baseless.” [https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/24/turkey-hundreds-refugees-deported-syria?utm\\_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=bef9fc09ab-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_01\\_10\\_02\\_56\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0a7405c641-bef9fc09ab-90540617](https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/24/turkey-hundreds-refugees-deported-syria?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=bef9fc09ab-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-bef9fc09ab-90540617)

Ukraine war. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine told the UN General Assembly that, based on its investigations in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Sumy regions, there are “reasonable grounds to conclude that an array of war crimes, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law have been committed in Ukraine.” The Commission documented “attacks where explosive weapons were used indiscriminately in populated areas,” as well as “patterns of summary executions, unlawful confinement, torture, ill-treatment, rape and other sexual violence committed.” The Commission interviewed 191 victims and witnesses, “consulted a large number of documents and reports,” and said it will “seek to contribute to the identification of those responsible.” It found two cases of war crimes committed by Ukrainian forces who abused Russian prisoners of war, but

the Russian forces were responsible for most violations. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/10/un-commission-has-found-array-war-crimes-violations-human-rights-and>

UNESCO said that as of September it “has verified damage to 196 sites since February 24 . . . including 82 religious sites, 13 museums, 37 historic buildings, 36 buildings dedicated to cultural activities, 18 monuments and 10 libraries,” *Art News* reported. [https://news.artnet.com/art-world/ukraine-museums-pillaged-annexation-2184617?utm\\_content=from&utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=US%20AM%2010%2F4&utm\\_term=US%20Daily%20Newsletter%20%5BMORNING%5D](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/ukraine-museums-pillaged-annexation-2184617?utm_content=from&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=US%20AM%2010%2F4&utm_term=US%20Daily%20Newsletter%20%5BMORNING%5D)

*AP* and *Frontline* produced a report on the responsibility of Russian Col. Gen. Alexander Chaiko for strategic violence in Ukraine. An international human rights lawyer in London “said the evidence *AP* and *Frontline* collected was enough to merit an investigation of Chaiko at the International Criminal Court.” The report shows the varied documents (maps, intercepted phone calls, military orders, photographs, interviews) that together provide a foundation for a legal case. [https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-europe-middle-east-government-and-politics-e3756976cf33cf5de29aa62d61ea7eb6?utm\\_source=homepage&utm\\_medium=TopNews&utm\\_campaign=position\\_08](https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-europe-middle-east-government-and-politics-e3756976cf33cf5de29aa62d61ea7eb6?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=TopNews&utm_campaign=position_08)

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) announced that from 24 February to 31 October it “recorded 16,295 civilian casualties in the country: 6,430 killed and 9,865 injured.” Most of the civilian casualties “were caused by the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects, including shelling from heavy artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, missiles and air strikes. OHCHR believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration.” <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/10/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-31-october-2022>

According to Bellingcat, “despite hundreds of open-source images and videos showing the flight and deadly impact of cruise missiles” that struck Ukraine’s cities on 10-11 October, little was known about “who exactly is responsible for setting their targets and programming their flight paths,” so Bellingcat, *The Insider* and *Der Spiegel* investigated. They identified a “group of dozens of military engineers with an educational and professional background in missile programming. Phone metadata shows contacts between these individuals and their superiors spiked shortly before many of the high-precision Russian cruise missile strikes.” The researchers also identified two locations where the group members work. <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2022/10/24/the-remote-control-killers-behind-russias-cruise-missile-strikes-on-ukraine/>

## **National news.**

**Albania.** A draft law approved by the parliament’s legal affairs committee would declassify the documents from the former State Security Directorate (1944-1991) “except in cases that involve national security or relations between Albania and other states,” *BIRN* reported. However, provisions were rejected that would give anyone the right to request a copy of these documents and would require every public institution to publish a list of all former State Security documents it has. <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/10/10/albania-moves-towards-declassifying-communist-era-security-files/>

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that former state prosecutor Besnik Cani’s 2020 dismissal “by a vetting body set up to scrutinize judicial officials for potential signs of corruption” was unfair. The Court found that “one of the members of the appeal body that decided on his case had forged documents in order to gain his position,” *BIRN* reported. <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/10/04/sacked-prosecutor-wins-european-court-case-against-albania/>

**Brazil.** According to the NGO Brazilian Forum on Public Safety, police killed 6,145 people last year, an average of almost 17 a day and nearly triple the 2013 total, *Los Angeles Times* reported. “Black people make up 55% of Brazil’s population, but 84% of the people police killed last year.” [https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-10-01/brazil-police-killings?emci=57644187-f643-ed11-b495-002248258d38&emdi=ccee2cfc-f743-ed11-b495-002248258d38&ceid=9780675&utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-10-01/brazil-police-killings?emci=57644187-f643-ed11-b495-002248258d38&emdi=ccee2cfc-f743-ed11-b495-002248258d38&ceid=9780675&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

**Central African Republic.** The Special Criminal Court, a hybrid court of Central African and international judges created with UN support in 2015, issued its first verdict, *justiceinfo.net* reported. It found three former members of a Central African armed group guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in 2019. The court record documenting the events is an important source for

understanding these otherwise likely undocumented crimes; protecting the court archives is a critical task. <https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/108356-central-african-republic-special-criminal-court-first-judgment.html>

Ecuador. The government reached 218 agreements with the Indigenous communities, *Reuters* reported. Among them are a moratorium on 15 oil block authorizations and suspension of “granting of some mining concessions until there is a law establishing prior and informed consultation for communities living nearby.” <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-10-14/ecuadors-government-indigenous-groups-reach-agreements-following-talks>

El Salvador. The human rights ombudsman released a report revealing that since 27 March, when the government proposed a “state of exception” suspending rights to association and legal defense and permitting the intercept of communications without warrant, his office has received 3,777 complaints of human rights violations, *Crisiswatch* reported. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch>

Leaked police documents show that the government released MS-13 gang leader Elmer Canales Rivera from prison in November 2021, although he was sentenced in 2020 to more than four decades in prison. The collective Guacamaya hacked emails, police files and prison intelligence reports from the National Civil Police, which *El Faro* subsequently obtained, providing the details of the illegal release. For background, see *SAHR News* 2022-07. [https://elfaro.net/en/202210/el\\_salvador/26446/Police-Documents-Prove-Illegal-Release-of-MS-13-Leader-in-El-Salvador.htm?utm\\_source=DB+El+Faro\\_English&utm\\_campaign=59db64d6d8-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_04\\_22\\_01\\_08\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3ec9190c89-59db64d6d8-363082696](https://elfaro.net/en/202210/el_salvador/26446/Police-Documents-Prove-Illegal-Release-of-MS-13-Leader-in-El-Salvador.htm?utm_source=DB+El+Faro_English&utm_campaign=59db64d6d8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_22_01_08_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ec9190c89-59db64d6d8-363082696)

Guatemala. On 5 September, two groups of Indigenous women presented a proposal for a law that would protect their weaving designs, *Waging Nonviolence* reported. Not only are the weavers concerned about the exploitation of traditional designs by industry and the “appropriation of Indigenous weavings in products sold by companies owned by non-Indigenous Guatemalans,” but they also are worried about possible patent laws. As weaver Ixchel Guoron Rodriguez explained, “We are very concerned about the issue that they can patent a design and then weavers can’t weave [it] in the future.” <https://wagingnonviolence.org/2022/10/indigenous-women-guatemala-defend-weavings-from-cultural-appropriation/>

Haiti. The High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Integrated Office in Haiti issued a joint report showing “how armed gangs have used rape, including collective rapes, and other forms of sexual violence to instill fear, punish, subjugate, and inflict pain on local populations with the ultimate goal of expanding their areas of influence, throughout the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince.” Gangs were accused of using recorded videos of rapes to threaten the families of victims to pay ransoms. The report is based on more than 90 interviews conducted in April and May 2022, reflecting “incidents which occurred in 2021 and 2022.” Following this report, the United Nations Security Council agreed to sanction “gang leaders accused of raping and terrorizing Haitian people,” *PassBlue* reported. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/20221014-Report-on-Sexual-Violence-haiti-en.pdf>; <https://www.passblue.com/2022/10/24/the-un-security-council-sanctions-haitian-gang-leaders-but-has-not-moved-on-a-strike-force-yet/>

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) published a report on the number of people displaced by gang-related violence in Port-au-Prince, using data from IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix. IOM assessments between June and August 2022 “identified over 113,000 internally displaced persons,” of which 96,000 were in the capital; 17,000 were still displaced from the August 2021 earthquake. <https://www.iom.int/news/96000-haitians-displaced-recent-gang-violence-capital-iom-report>

India. “India’s Intelligence Bureau, the country’s main domestic intelligence agency, bought hardware from the Israeli spyware firm NSO Group that matches the description of equipment used elsewhere to deploy the company’s flagship Pegasus software, import documents show,” the NGO Crime and Corruption Reporting Project said. Pegasus “secretly infects mobile phones with surveillance software, has been deployed in a wide variety of countries, in many cases to spy on journalists, activists, opposition politicians, and dissidents.” [https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16915-indian-spy-agency-bought-hardware-matching-equipment-used-for-pegasus?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=context-dataveillance](https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16915-indian-spy-agency-bought-hardware-matching-equipment-used-for-pegasus?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=context-dataveillance) For additional information on NSO and Pegasus, see “Exploit Archaeology: A Forensic History of In-the-Wild NSO Group Exploits,” *virusbulletin*: <https://www.virusbulletin.com/uploads/pdf/conference/vb2022/papers/VB2022-Exploit-archaeology-a-forensic-history-of-in-the-wild-NSO-Group-exploits.pdf>



Iran. As protests continued, the government adopted techniques of “digital repression,” *The Intercept* reported, based on “a trove of internal materials from the Iranian cellular carrier Ariantel, including years of email correspondence and a variety of documents shared between Ariantel employees, outside contractors, and Iranian government personnel.” They revealed that the Iranian Communications Regulatory Authority uses a system called SIAM, “a web program for remotely manipulating cellular connections.” A researcher at Canada’s Citizen Lab explained, “SIAM can control if, where, when, and how users communicate.” [https://theintercept.com/2022/10/28/iran-protests-phone-surveillance/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Intercept%20Newsletter](https://theintercept.com/2022/10/28/iran-protests-phone-surveillance/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Intercept%20Newsletter)

Ireland. The government introduced an online service “that for the first time promises adopted people born in Ireland, wherever they now live, the right to see any information the state holds about them—including the names of their birth mothers,” the *New York Times* reported. “It also offers a free tracing service for anyone, including birth mothers, trying to find relatives lost to them through Ireland’s adoption system.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/07/world/europe/ireland-adoption-records.html?partner=IFTTT>

Kenya. “Prosecutors announced that 12 police officers will face charges of crimes against humanity over a deadly crackdown on post-election protests in 2017,” the *Guardian* reported. The director of public prosecutions said, “This is the first case of crimes against humanity charged under Kenyan domestic law using the International Crimes act and also the first criminal prosecution of electoral-related sexual violence.” The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights “documented 94 deaths during the crisis, as well as 201 cases of sexual violence and more than 300 injuries—most of which were attributed to security forces.” Missing Voices, an NGO that began collecting data in 2017, said there have been 1,264 deaths at the hands of police since that time. New president William Ruto announced he disbanded a police unit accused of extra-judicial killings. [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/28/kenyan-police-charged-with-crimes-against-humanity-over-2017-crackdown?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/28/kenyan-police-charged-with-crimes-against-humanity-over-2017-crackdown?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

Libya. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report on migrants in Libya, saying bluntly, “The situation in Libya today is marked by a complete failure to protect the human rights of migrants.” While the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has approximately 43,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers, the report estimates there are roughly 600,000 migrants of 40 nationalities in Libya, “though estimates are difficult to verify due to the lack of official government data.” OHCHR said it is “seeking to identify, document and analyse human rights violations and protection gaps impacting migrants in Libya and the neighboring region and to formulate recommendations.” <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/OHCHR-Report-on-assisted-return-and-reintegration.pdf>

The NGOs World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the Libyan Anti-Torture Network (LAN) issued a report saying they have documented “at least 581 people . . . killed by law enforcement agents and militias between January 2020 and March 2022,” *Geneva Solutions* reported. LAN spent two years collecting “hundreds of testimonies from witnesses and survivors carried out across Libya.” Most cases—487 of the 581—were Libyan civilians, “while 83 victims were migrants, asylum seekers or refugees of various nationalities including Nigerians, Sudanese and Syrians. There were also 11 documented cases of bodies found in mass graves in Tarhouna.” For background on Tarhouna, see *SAHR News* 2021-05. [https://genevasolutions.news/peace-humanitarian/libya-torture-and-killings-of-civilians-by-law-enforcement-endemic?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](https://genevasolutions.news/peace-humanitarian/libya-torture-and-killings-of-civilians-by-law-enforcement-endemic?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email)

Mexico. “Mexican digital rights organization R3D . . . has identified Pegasus infections against journalists and a human rights defender taking place between 2019-2021. The Citizen Lab provided technical support for R3D’s analysis and validated the infections,” *animalpolitico* reported. [https://www.animalpolitico.com/2022/10/sedena-software-espia-periodistas-defensores-derechos-humanos/?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.animalpolitico.com/2022/10/sedena-software-espia-periodistas-defensores-derechos-humanos/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email); <https://citizenlab.ca/2022/10/new-pegasus-spyware-abuses-identified-in-mexico/>

“Crucial new evidence” presented by the Mexican government’s truth commission in its August 2022 report on the 43 students from a rural teachers college in Ayotzinapa missing since 2014 “could not be verified as real,” the head of the truth commission told the *New York Times*. The questionable evidence is a series of 467 screen captures of WhatsApp messages provided by “a single source” and “purportedly sent in 2014 by criminals, members of the military and other officials previously implicated in the abduction.” The *Times* said, “The extraordinary admission—along with a review of

government documents, a previously undisclosed recording and interviews with several people involved in the inquiry—points to how the government’s rush to deliver answers resulted in a series of missteps: a truth commission that relied on unsubstantiated evidence and a criminal investigation that botched the prosecution of key suspects.” For background see *SAHR News* 2022-03.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/26/world/americas/mexico-iguala-missing-kidnapped-students.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=LfwEx48aM2Bic6Q91JGH6avf47Que5\\_IPTm98PU91BkDnqP-s5LeRLfqkKmXCTHDvGOKw3lu06hb0ZcFqF4n7q39lltI9tmmYqHack5iPtGfoRYJRJiAxfK-Uc2PFaU6xA5ES3gjWrQyR1SaSiyggdQtFdsVkdtt1rddlvz-oergVWEa99qj-qp\\_yoLSZFFy6RrXuXZcueDyBgCavXkXamr9Xq3TEBbNuBkPz\\_n76JbDgLOJNaHKlhZ\\_3H21JgKkzbxDHSrbvjCrq5mCibRFRelQhSFuRd8D7oni8iCoW3NGebVwzhdvDgs3TWHORa\\_iBhUPZfq06Y42x11UWXHR6Gm75ZQ-5UcKLLkvaOO6Nn7ezf6aAXX5po&smid=em-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/26/world/americas/mexico-iguala-missing-kidnapped-students.html?unlocked_article_code=LfwEx48aM2Bic6Q91JGH6avf47Que5_IPTm98PU91BkDnqP-s5LeRLfqkKmXCTHDvGOKw3lu06hb0ZcFqF4n7q39lltI9tmmYqHack5iPtGfoRYJRJiAxfK-Uc2PFaU6xA5ES3gjWrQyR1SaSiyggdQtFdsVkdtt1rddlvz-oergVWEa99qj-qp_yoLSZFFy6RrXuXZcueDyBgCavXkXamr9Xq3TEBbNuBkPz_n76JbDgLOJNaHKlhZ_3H21JgKkzbxDHSrbvjCrq5mCibRFRelQhSFuRd8D7oni8iCoW3NGebVwzhdvDgs3TWHORa_iBhUPZfq06Y42x11UWXHR6Gm75ZQ-5UcKLLkvaOO6Nn7ezf6aAXX5po&smid=em-share)

Myanmar. The NGO Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) 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. BHRRC’s tracker of allegations showed, as of 5 October, “100 cases of alleged labour and human rights abuses perpetrated against at least 60,800 garment workers, revealing widespread and systemic abuse of garment workers in international brands’ supply chains” at 70 factories “producing for at least 33 global fashion brands and retailers,” including such famous names as adidas, C&A, Zara, GUESS, and H&M. <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/big-issues/labour-rights/myanmar-garment-worker-allegations-tracker/>

A statement issued by political prisoners in Yangon’s Insein Prison and somehow made public “revealed the names of officials and staff there involved in torture and rights abuses of prisoners of conscience,” *The Irrawaddy* reported. The statement said “about 5% of political prisoners arrested since the coup have been permanently disabled by the junta’s brutal torture.” It called for investigations by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other “international agencies.” <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/myanmar-political-prisoners-issue-list-of-torturers-in-juntas-insein-jail.html>

Paraguay. In an end of mission statement, the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights expressed his “extreme concern” about the disinformation being spread about the Escazu Agreement (Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean), which Paraguay signed but the Executive Branch has now withdrawn from Senate approval. He also said he was “particularly concerned about the lack of compliance with the rulings of the Human Rights Committee” and the fact that the “communities have not received measures of reparation and compliance with the rulings . . . [and] toxic agrochemicals continue to be spread around these communities.” He noted that the government does not have the capacity to measure pollutants emitted into the air and therefore lacks information on environmental air quality; it does not have actual reports on hazardous waste generation; and it lacks data “such as an updated agricultural census, which would be necessary to inform robust policies” to manage the use of pesticides in the country. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/toxicwaste/2022-10-14/EOM-Statement-SR-Toxics-Paraguay-14-Oct-2022-EN.pdf>

Russia. The UN Human Rights Council decided “to appoint a special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation for a period of one year, and requests that mandate holder to monitor the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, to collect, examine and assess relevant information from all relevant stakeholders” and to report in a year. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G22/520/25/PDF/G2252025.pdf?OpenElement>

South Africa. “Faulty DNA testing and politics continue to fail South Africa’s Rape Victims,” *PassBlue* headlined. According to figures from the NGO World Population Review, South Africa has one of the highest rates of rape in the world, “although experts acknowledge that it’s difficult to quantify such numbers, given the widely varying definitions of rape from country to country and the prevalence of underreported cases by victims to avoid stigmatization. The number of reported rapes was about 72.1 rapes per 100,000 people in 2019-2020, according to the South African Police Service.” A further problem, according to the government’s South Africa Independent Police Investigating Directorate, is that “since 2012 South African police officers have been accused of committing nearly 1,000 rapes, some of which allegedly occurred within police custody.” <https://www.passblue.com/2022/10/17/faulty-dna-testing-and-politics-continue-to-fail-south-africas-rape-victims/?highlight=%22South%20Africa%20rape%22>

Spain. During the Francisco Franco regime (1939-1975) new-born babies were taken from hospitals in Spain, particularly children from women who were unwed or poor, and sold to well-off Catholic parents, the *New York Times* explained. The article features a woman who finally located her birth mother, despite “forged paperwork from after she was born” and judges who, when cases of alleged kidnapping were brought, “simply archived case after case, citing the statute of limitations.”

[https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/27/magazine/spain-stolen-babies.html?campaign\\_id=190&emc=edit\\_ufn\\_20221005&instance\\_id=73767&nl=updates-from-the-newsroom&regi\\_id=50599369&segment\\_id=109054&te=1&user\\_id=8fcd7efd9e9d6389b9f914ad34a5948d](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/27/magazine/spain-stolen-babies.html?campaign_id=190&emc=edit_ufn_20221005&instance_id=73767&nl=updates-from-the-newsroom&regi_id=50599369&segment_id=109054&te=1&user_id=8fcd7efd9e9d6389b9f914ad34a5948d)

Sri Lanka. The UN Human Rights Council recognized the “importance of preserving and analysing evidence relating to violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes in Sri Lanka with a view to advancing accountability” and decided to “extend and reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to collect, consolidate, analyse and preserve information and evidence and to develop possible strategies for future accountability processes for gross violations of human rights or serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sri

Lanka.” <https://www.unognewsroom.org/story/en/1483/hrc51-vote-on-promoting-reconciliation-accountability-and-human-rights-in-sri-lanka-06-october-2022>

Syria. The NGO Association of Detainees & the Missing in Sednaya Prison published a report “The Administrative Structure and Organizational Ties of Sednaya Prison.” Noting that it was not “possible to search the official state records for information about this prison” and hypothesizing that anyway “such records would not contain much useful information about the management of this prison given the nature of internal operations at Sednaya; these operations depend to a large extent on verbal commands and written codes or camouflage,” they relied on individual interviews. They managed to get interviews with former members of the prison staff; they encoded the data which allowed cross-reference checks and analysis. [https://www.admsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/The-Administrative-Structure-and-Organizational-Ties-of-Sednaya-Prison-30\\_SEP\\_2022.pdf](https://www.admsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/The-Administrative-Structure-and-Organizational-Ties-of-Sednaya-Prison-30_SEP_2022.pdf)

The NGO Syria Justice and Accountability Centre (SJAC) published “Leave No Traces.” “In late 2021, a Syrian media activist (the source) from the Damascus suburbs (currently living outside Syria) contacted SJAC about a collection of videos and photos in his possession that show the execution, burning, and burial of detainees. He said the videos were originally found on a cell phone and laptop belonging to a group of Syrian government forces, who were ambushed . . . in Daraa by an opposition armed group.” The source purchased the laptop from a brigade member who took it from the car of one of the persons ambushed. Now SJAC has open-source and field documentation that linked members of the 9<sup>th</sup> Division to the torture and summary execution of defected fighters and civilians and photographs of the unit burning the bodies. [https://syriaaccountability.org/leave-no-traces/?utm\\_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=40ace112d1-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_01\\_10\\_02\\_56\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0a7405c641-40ace112d1-96428969](https://syriaaccountability.org/leave-no-traces/?utm_source=SJAC+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=40ace112d1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_10_02_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0a7405c641-40ace112d1-96428969)

Türkiye. Turkish police raided the homes and offices of Kurdish news agency reporters in six cities and detained at least ten Kurdish journalists, *BIRN* reported. It quoted the *Mezopotamya News Agency* saying, “The police confiscated computers, notebooks, newspapers, Kurdish magazines, ID cards and more than 100 books found in a house.” <https://balkaninsight.com/2022/10/25/turkish-police-swoop-on-kurdish-journalists-in-dawn-raids/>

Uganda. When he released a “study report on reparations for survivors of armed rebellion and sexual violence in northern region,” the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs “called for the creation of a national registry for war victims,” *Monitor* (Uganda) reported. Nearly simultaneously, the NGOs International Center for Transitional Justice, the Women’s Advocacy Network, and the Global Survivors Fund released a report on the “reparative justice needs” of victims of conflict-related sexual violence. The report is “based on field research involving interviews and focus groups discussions,” as well as previous NGO reports, “policy documents, judicial decisions, and academic commentary.” It did not “seek to establish the total number of victims,” but, like the government report, it estimated that more than 25,000 young women and girls were abducted by the Lord’s Resistance Army between 1987 and 2006. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/mao-calls-for-registry-of-war-victims-3991442>; <https://www.ictj.org/latest-news/new-study-calls-reparations-victims-conflict-related-sexual-violence-uganda>

Ukraine. After her posts supporting Russia’s invasion on a “banned social network attracted the attention the country’s security services,” a woman from Cherkasy was arrested, tried, and sentenced to 10 years in prison for treason. However, a man who “exchanged maps with his daughter on his phone showing the location of the Ukrainian Armed Forces” but swore he meant no harm was prosecuted; however, the security service and the man agreed “on a suspended sentence of five years, with a probationary period of three years,” *justiceinfo.net* wrote. [https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/108184-ukraine-from-classroom-to-prison-one-click.html?mc\\_cid=550cc452ea&mc\\_eid=cac5f32aeb](https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/108184-ukraine-from-classroom-to-prison-one-click.html?mc_cid=550cc452ea&mc_eid=cac5f32aeb); <https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/108007-ukraine-trial-ordinary-citizen-betrayed-by-phone.html>

United Arab Emirates. A new law to protect domestic workers will take effect on 15 December. Among its provisions is a person’s right to receive a copy of the work contract, *Al Monitor* reported. [https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/10/uae-touts-new-domestic-workers-law?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118&utm\\_content=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118+CID\\_b7cb355f19dab4cfb2b2b16acce207b&utm\\_source=campmgr&utm\\_term=Domestic%20Helper%20Law](https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/10/uae-touts-new-domestic-workers-law?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118&utm_content=business%20newsletter%20101222%20October%2012%202022%20118+CID_b7cb355f19dab4cfb2b2b16acce207b&utm_source=campmgr&utm_term=Domestic%20Helper%20Law)

United Kingdom. Reviewers of records of the Church of England found 383 cases relating to abuse of “vulnerable adults and children by clergy, Church officers and volunteers,” *BBC News* reported. “The cases range from errors in information sharing to those that should have been referred to the police.” *BBC* did not say what time period the report covers. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63144354>

United States. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy issued “The Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights,” identifying five principles that should “guide the design, use, and deployment of automated systems to protect the American public in the age of artificial intelligence.” The Blueprint is accompanied by a handbook for anyone seeking to incorporate those protections into policy and practice. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/ai-bill-of-rights/>

Under Federal rules that took effect 6 October, “health care organizations must give patients unfettered access to their full health records in digital format,” *STAT* reported. [https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/06/health-data-information-blocking-records/?utm\\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=434303506e-MR\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8cab1d7961-434303506e-149736437](https://www.statnews.com/2022/10/06/health-data-information-blocking-records/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=434303506e-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-434303506e-149736437)

The Department of Homeland Security’s “mission to fight disinformation, stemming from concerns around Russian influence in the 2016 presidential election, began taking shape during the 2020 election and over efforts to shape discussions around vaccine policy during the coronavirus pandemic. Documents collected by *The Intercept* from a variety of sources, including current officials and publicly available reports, reveal the evolution of more active measures by DHS.” They reported that there is “a formalized process for government officials to directly flag content on Facebook or Instagram and request that it be throttled or suppressed through a special Facebook portal that requires a government or law enforcement email to use.” [https://theintercept.com/2022/10/31/social-media-disinformation-dhs/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Intercept%20Newsletter](https://theintercept.com/2022/10/31/social-media-disinformation-dhs/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Intercept%20Newsletter)

The U.S. Supreme Court “refused to reconsider the so-called ‘Insular Cases,’ a series of cases decided in the early 1900s that are infamous today for their racist foundation,” *NPR* reported. The case before the Court was brought by three people from American Samoa who are not granted birthright U.S. citizenship, although they are from a U.S. “possession” (territory). The American Samoan government “intervened in the case to argue that U.S. birthright citizenship for American Samoans would undermine the island’s ability to self-govern and maintain cultural autonomy.” <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/17/1128918500/supreme-court-insular-cases>

Private contractors are accused of abusive labor practices on U.S. military bases, according to *NBC News*, which—with partners the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, *The Washington Post* and Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism—interviewed current and former employees of contractors at military bases. *NBC* also used Congressional testimony, reports from the Justice and Defense Departments, Securities and Exchange Commission filings, and other documents “to reveal which companies were accused of trafficking workers or determined to have trafficked them.” State Department records showed that from 2017 to 2021 “the military itself took action in 176 incidents of labor violations by military contractors and subcontractors,” and the Justice Department found there were “substantiated violations involving more than 900 workers in fiscal 2020 alone.” Names of

companies with violations are to be entered into a Federal database, but the U.S. Government Accountability Office reported last year that military contracting officers were not entering the data and “at least 10 companies with substantiated trafficking violations since 2007 have received billions in new government contracts.” [https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/private-contractors-are-accused-abusive-labor-pracCompanies-violating-the-regulationstices-us-military-ba-rcna52110?cid=sm\\_npd\\_nn\\_tw\\_ma&fbclid=IwARlqre2aKYogzUHqTifWb9fDLDO-iGdj-vLpNERAXxTk0xyPJGVTVqF\\_cE](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/private-contractors-are-accused-abusive-labor-pracCompanies-violating-the-regulationstices-us-military-ba-rcna52110?cid=sm_npd_nn_tw_ma&fbclid=IwARlqre2aKYogzUHqTifWb9fDLDO-iGdj-vLpNERAXxTk0xyPJGVTVqF_cE)

United States/Louisiana. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency told the State of Louisiana that it “must examine how polluters imperil the health of Black residents,” *ProPublica* and *Grist* reported. “Black residents in southeastern Louisiana bear a disproportionate cancer risk from industrial air pollution, the agency found, with children at one predominantly Black elementary school having been exposed to a dangerous carcinogen [chloroprene] at levels 11 times what the EPA considers acceptable,” although “at times over the past few years, air samples collected by the EPA on school grounds showed concentrations as high as 83 times the acceptable guideline.” <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-10/2022%2010%2012%20Final%20Letter%20LDEQ%20LDH%2001R-22-R6%2C%2002R-22-R6%2C%2004R-22-R6.pdf>; [https://undark.org/2022/10/25/epa-cites-environmental-racism-in-louisianas-cancer-alley/?utm\\_source=Undark%3A+News+%26+Updates&utm\\_campaign=87fad6d448-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_5cee408d66-87fad6d448-176036617](https://undark.org/2022/10/25/epa-cites-environmental-racism-in-louisianas-cancer-alley/?utm_source=Undark%3A+News+%26+Updates&utm_campaign=87fad6d448-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5cee408d66-87fad6d448-176036617)

United States/Pennsylvania. In 2014 the state “expanded the list of professionals required to report it when they suspect a child might be in danger, broadened the definition for what constitutes abuse and increased the criminal penalties for those who fail to report.” *NBC News* and *ProPublica* investigated the results of the changes. Using both state and Federal data, they found that “a flood of unfounded reports followed, overwhelming state and local child protection agencies. The vast expansion of the child protection dragnet ensnared tens of thousands of innocent parents, disproportionately affecting families of color living in poverty. While the unintended and costly consequences are clear, there’s no proof that the reforms have prevented the most serious abuse cases.” [https://www.propublica.org/article/mandatory-reporting-strains-systems-punishes-poor-families?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=editorial&utm\\_content=news&utm\\_campaign=221012](https://www.propublica.org/article/mandatory-reporting-strains-systems-punishes-poor-families?utm_source=email&utm_medium=editorial&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=221012)

## **Publications.**

2022 *WJP Rule of Law Index*, World Justice Project: <https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/>

Maya Sabatello, Daphne O. Martschenko, Mildred K. Cho, Kyle B. Brothers, “Data sharing and community-engaged research,” *Science*: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abq6851>

Shayan Sardarizadeh, “Simple Tips for Verifying if a Tweet Screenshot is Real or Fake,” Global Investigative Journalism Network: <https://gijn.org/2022/10/04/simple-tips-for-verifying-if-a-tweet-screenshot-is-real-or-fake/>

Gerben Zaagsma, “Digital History and the Politics of Digitization,” *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*: <https://doi.org/10.1093/llc/fqac050>

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