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Comentario.

Si se toma el camino desde Laura (un pueblo bautizado por los marineros de Estados Unidos con el nombre de la estrella de cine de la Segunda Guerra Mundial Lauren Bacall, pero mal escrito) alrededor del atolón de Majuro, la capital de la República de las Islas Marshall, a la derecha se encuentra el Océano Pacífico salpicando en las rocas y a la izquierda está la laguna, donde media docena de barcos de pesca japoneses esperan para cargar las capturas de atún de aleta amarilla, barracuda y pez espada. El camino recibe algo de sombra desde las palmeras y pandanus, pero la extensión de tierra es tan estrecha que casi siempre se puede ver tanto el océano y la laguna con sólo girar la cabeza. Y aunque suena como un paraíso de postal, es un edén amenazado por el calentamiento global: aumento del nivel del mar y las mareas de tormenta podrían fusionar la laguna y el océano, aun cuando se construyan paredes en el mar.

Las pequeñas naciones insulares son vulnerables. El promedio de 2 metros (6 ½ pies) sobre el nivel del mar de las Islas Marshall ya está expuesto a erosión violenta. Un aumento del nivel del mar de hasta medio metro pondría a aquellas pequeñas naciones insulares como Tuvalu, las Islas Marshall, Kiribati y las Maldivas "en peligro existencial", según el Instituto de Clima.

<http://www.climate.org/publications/Climate%20Alerts/Autumn2009/HighStakesforSmallIslands.html> El presidente de Kiribati acaba de comprar ocho millas cuadradas de tierra en Fiji para trasladar su población cuando sea necesario <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/01/3455135/island-bought-land-to-escape-climate-change/> En estas islas hoy no hay lugar seguro para los archivos.

Y sin embargo, las personas que viven en estas islas amenazadas crean y necesitan preservar los documentos de sus gobiernos y su patrimonio documental en general. UNESCO adoptó recientemente un documento de política sobre la preservación del patrimonio documental (véase más adelante) y la conferencia sobre el clima en París garantizó promesas de 196 países a tomar medidas para reducir el calentamiento global. Pero nadie puede predecir qué tan exitoso será el acuerdo de París, y es prudente suponer que en un futuro próximo veremos la continuación del calentamiento global, con intensificadas tormentas de marea, inundaciones costeras, y la erosión costera.

El problema de la seguridad de los archivos en los estados amenazados por el cambio climático no puede ser resuelto por las naciones afectadas por sí solas. La UNESCO está pensando en los archivos en riesgo, y ese esfuerzo debe hacer un seguimiento especial a los archivos que están en peligro por el cambio climático. Para los países de baja altitud, la única protección obvia para sus archivos es colocar una copia de seguridad digital de sus discos más importantes en otra ubicación geográfica. En conversaciones sostenidas en noviembre con la UNESCO y el Consejo Internacional de Archivos, discutimos la posibilidad de convocar una reunión conjunta de los archiveros nacionales de las naciones en peligro por el cambio climático, con un enfoque especial en las naciones insulares, y las instituciones dispuestas a ser instituciones receptoras, con el fin de elaborar estrategias de preservación. Necesitamos avanzar juntos. Necesitamos avanzar ahora. Los mares no esperan.

Noticias internacionales.

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos. La Oficina del Alto Comisionado de la ONU para los Derechos Humanos y la Misión de Apoyo de la ONU en Libia (UNSMIL) emitieron un informe conjunto sobre los "graves abusos y violaciones al derecho internacional" ocurridas en Libia entre el 1 de enero y el 31 octubre de 2015. UNSMIL obtuvo la información de entrevistas con una variedad de personas; además "siempre que fue posible y pertinente, UNSMIL revisó los registros médicos, quejas legales, documentos judiciales, evidencia fotográfica y audiovisual, y otra información."

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/UNSMIL_OHCHRJointly_report_Libya_16.11.15.pdf

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados. El Alto Comisionado emitió un informe que estima que 70.000 niños apátridas nacen cada año: uno cada diez minutos. El informe "pone de relieve cómo no ser reconocido como un nacional de algún país puede crear barreras insuperables para la educación y la atención de salud adecuada y sofocar las perspectivas de empleo." Enfatiza la necesidad crítica de la inscripción del nacimiento: "La falta de registro de nacimiento crea un riesgo particularmente alto de apatridia para grupos específicos, como los refugiados y los migrantes, así como para las poblaciones nómadas y de frontera. El registro de nacimiento es, por tanto, de vital importancia para, por ejemplo, los niños refugiados sirios nacidos en los países de asilo, muchos de los cuales han sido separados de sus padres o familiares; que ayudaría a prevenir la apatridia entre estos niños, aseguraría que fueran reconocidos como ciudadanos sirios y les permitiría volver a Siria cuando las condiciones lo permitan".

<http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/i-belong-i-am-here/>

Banco Mundial. El Banco Mundial publicó un estudio de la urbanización y los derechos de propiedad, que demuestran sus "dinámicas conjuntas" y que la reducción del costo de la "formalización de la tenencia de la tierra" (es decir, títulos de propiedad) mejora el bienestar de la población.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/11/25260752/urbanization-property-rights>

Corte Criminal Internacional. La Corte Penal Internacional publicó su "Informe sobre examen preliminar Actividades" 2015 con informes sobre diez "situaciones" y discusiones de las fuentes disponibles para la Corte. <https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/otp/OTP-PE-rep-2015-Eng.pdf>

Naciones Unidas. En una acción inusual, dos Relatores Especiales de la ONU y tres Expertos Independientes de la ONU emitieron una declaración apoyando un proyecto de ley en discusión en Argentina que establecería una "comisión de la verdad en la complicidad económica" para "evaluar el papel y la responsabilidad de empresarios por violaciones durante la dictadura de 1976-1983." Los funcionarios dijeron que "La creación de esta Comisión representa una gran oportunidad para establecer la verdad y promover la rendición de cuentas por violaciones cometidas en el pasado con la complicidad o participación activa del sector empresarial." En septiembre académicos del Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la ONU y del Centro de estudios Legales y Sociales de Buenos Aires publicaron *Los Cómplices Económicos de la Dictadura Argentina: Deudas Pendientes*, un volumen editado de estudios de casos que investigan el papel desempeñado por actores tales como Ford, Mercedes Benz, la prensa, y bancos extranjeros durante la dictadura. <http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16733&LangID=E>

Tribunal Penal Internacional para Ruanda. Los funcionarios del Tribunal Penal Internacional para Ruanda y "líderes judiciales de Ruanda" se reunieron y discutieron cuestiones relacionadas con el cierre del Tribunal el 31 de diciembre. *The New Times* informó "Ruanda no cejará en su esfuerzo para acoger los archivos del genocidio del Tribunal Penal Internacional para Ruanda (TPIR) aún cuando la corte sea cerrada". Los archivos están en la custodia del Mecanismo Residual del Tribunal en Arusha, Tanzania, donde se encontraba TPIR, y son propiedad de las Naciones Unidas. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201511170537.html>

UNESCO. En su reunión de noviembre la Conferencia General de la UNESCO aprobó por unanimidad y sin revisar el proyecto de "un nuevo instrumento normativo" sobre la preservación de, y acceso a, Patrimonio Documental incluyendo en forma digital. Para el proyecto que fue aprobado, ver <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002339/233916e.pdf>; para el comunicado de prensa ver http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_general_conference_adopts_unanimously_a_new_normative_instrument_on_the_preservation_of_documentary_heritage/#.VmeLYN-ZMnE

Unión Europea/Interpol. Los Ministros de Justicia y Asuntos de Interior de la Unión Europea (UE) decidieron que todos los puntos de control de las fronteras exteriores de la UE serán "conectados a las bases de datos mundiales de INTERPOL", que contienen "detalles de unas 6.000 personas, con más de 50 por ciento de los datos procedentes de fuentes externas a la UE" y "detalles de casi 54 millones de documentos procedentes de 170 países, incluyendo información sobre 250.000 pasaportes declarados perdidos o robados -entre ellos documentos bancarios- por Siria e Irak", informó *Eurasia Review*. Los ministros también hicieron un llamado a "todos los Estados de la UE a llevar a cabo el registro sistemático, incluyendo toma de huellas dactilares, de los nacionales de terceros países que entran ilegalmente en el espacio Schengen." El Secretario General de INTERPOL dijo, "Cada registro adicional disponible a través de las fronteras construye una nueva oportunidad para Europa, pero cada pieza de información dejada sin explotar crea un nuevo riesgo". http://www.eurasiareview.com/23112015-eu-ministers-want-access-to-interpols-databases-at-border-points/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29

Noticias del mundo/generales.

Big data. Un especialista en tecnología de la Fundación Ford informó que, contrariamente a la idea popular en cuanto a que el *big data* ayudará a "las empresas, los gobiernos y las organizaciones a tomar decisiones mejores y más eficientes", la "aplicación y uso del *big data* no es imparcial ni objetivo" y "en realidad puede perpetuar y agravar los sistemas existentes de racismo, discriminación y desigualdad". <http://www.fordfoundation.org/ideas/equals-change-blog/posts/can-computers-be-racist-big-data-inequality-and-discrimination/>

Archivos de empresas. A raíz de los informes de los grupos de derechos humanos y de los medios de comunicación sobre los generalizados abusos laborales y de derechos humanos en la industria pesquera en Tailandia, Nestlé, una empresa gigante de comida suiza, anunció un plan de acción para asegurarse de que los productos del mar que obtiene no vienen de trabajadores que sufren tales abusos. El plan depende en gran medida en documentos; no sólo exigen contratos escritos para los trabajadores en los barcos de pesca, sino también Nestlé indica que establecerá un sistema "para mejorar la trazabilidad de los ingredientes de mariscos utilizados por Nestlé, desde los buques pesqueros hasta los sitios de fabricación. Este sistema comenzará a implementar un sistema de identificación de los buques pesqueros. Los contratos comerciales incluirán un objetivo de trazabilidad, así como la implementación de un sistema de monitoreo y reparación en derechos humanos y estándares laborales. Esto ayudará a la identificación de todos los orígenes posibles (granjas, molinos, hasta los buques de pesca) de los ingredientes de mariscos utilizados por Nestlé. Una vez identificadas, las fuentes de estos proveedores serán evaluadas de forma continua y se les prestará asistencia para asegurar que cumplan con nuestros estándares de Directrices para el Abastecimiento Responsable". <http://www.nestle.com/csv/rural-development-responsible-sourcing/responsible-sourcing/fish-seafood>

El fiscal general de Nueva York comenzó a investigar a Exxonmobil para ver si "mintió a la población sobre los riesgos del cambio climático", informó el *New York Times*. La investigación comenzó con una solicitud de "registros financieros extensos, correos electrónicos y otros documentos." Para más antecedentes ver HRWG Noticias 2015-10. <http://www.nytimes.com/images/2015/11/06/nyfrontpage/scan.pdf>

Vigilancia electrónica. *Der Spiegel* informó que la agencia de inteligencia alemana BND "espía sistemáticamente" a los "aliados", incluyendo a las embajadas de los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea, a las oficinas del gobierno de Estados Unidos, al Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja, Care International y Oxfam. El informe no deja claro cuánta invasión de la privacidad personal significaron estas prácticas. <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-bnd-intelligence-spied-on-friends-and-vatican-a-1061588.html>

Tierra. Una coalición de grupos indígenas y de derechos humanos e investigadores desarrolló una herramienta de mapeo para mostrar las reivindicaciones de derechos de tierras formuladas por los grupos indígenas que "a menudo han sido explotadas debido a la falta de mapas y datos", informó la *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. El *World Resources Institute*, una de las organizaciones participantes, indicó que el mapa *LandMark* demostrará la existencia de pueblos y comunidades indígenas "a personas que toman decisiones sobre el cambio climático, el desarrollo económico, la reducción de la pobreza, y la conservación de los recursos nacionales." http://www.trust.org/item/20151110185408-ccmon/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+Digest+11+Nov+2015&utm_content=Weekly+Digest+11+N

Minas terrestres. La *Thomson Reuters Foundation* también informó sobre un estudio realizado por la Campaña Internacional para la Prohibición de Minas Terrestres que mostrará que "el año pasado ha sido testigo de inquietantes retrocesos en términos del nuevo uso y de las víctimas de minas terrestres." Grupos rebeldes utilizan minas en 10 países, el mayor número desde 2006. Tres estados (Myanmar, Siria y Corea del Norte) también utilizaron minas. http://www.trust.org/item/20151126090219-tyvwf/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+digest+December+2+2015&utm_content=Weekly+digest+December+2+2015+CID_5a6573d5b51e6346b532ba9abb7ba2ef&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=Global%20landmine%20casualties%20increase%20Afghanistan%20largely%20to%20blame-study

Privacidad. Un estudio realizado por investigadores de tres universidades mostró que "casi las tres cuartas partes de las aplicaciones de Android y cerca de la mitad de las aplicaciones de iOS están compartiendo de manera inapropiada información de los usuarios de teléfonos inteligentes", informó *securityintelligence.com*. <https://securityintelligence.com/news/university-researchers-show-how-widely-mobile-apps-share-users-personal-information/>; para el estudio, ver <http://jots.pub/a/2015103001/>

Google ha "borrado enlaces a más de 500.000 sitios web de las versiones europeas de sus motores de búsqueda" desde que rige el "derecho al olvido" 2014 de la Corte Europea, informó *siliconbeat.com*. <http://www.siliconbeat.com/2015/11/24/98677/>

Huelga de drones de EE.UU. Una Ley de Libertad de Información de demanda por el *New York Times* y la Unión Americana de Libertades Civiles pidió la liberación de unos 10 documentos conciernientes a "operaciones de asesinato dirigidas contra no ciudadanos en el extranjero." Sin embargo, un tribunal federal de apelaciones dictaminó "que el Departamento de Justicia podría continuar ocultando documentos internos relacionados con los asesinatos selectivos en la lucha contra Al Qaeda", informó el *New York Times*. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/24/us/politics/appeals-court-rules-targeted-killing-memos-can-stay-secret.html?_r=0

Noticias bilaterales y multinlaterales.

Armenia/Turquía/Vaticano. El Vaticano publicó siete volúmenes que contienen "todos los documentos sobre el genocidio armenio de la época de las masacres hamidianas hasta el año posterior al genocidio del régimen kemalista conservados en los archivos cerrados del Vaticano", informó un comunicado de prensa del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Armenia. <http://asbarez.com/142152/documents-on-armenian-genocide-from-vatican-archive-published-in-7-volume-set/>

Australia/Indonesia/Timor Oriental. Indonesia ocupó Timor Oriental desde 1975 a 1999. *ABC News* informó que un investigador en el Archivo Nacional de Australia encontró un documento escrito a mano de agosto de 1975, dado a la Embajada de Australia en Yakarta, Indonesia, por una persona que trabajaba para un "think tank" indonesio. Titulado "Pasos para Prevenir la Fuga de Agitadores Comunistas", el documento enumera 19 miembros prominentes del partido político de la independencia de Timor Oriental"; el investigador y un ex cónsul australiano en Timor caracterizan el documento como una "lista de la muerte." <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/australian-received-east-timor-hit-list/6979268>

Francia/Estados Unidos. En virtud de un acuerdo entre los EE.UU. y Francia, el Departamento de Estado administrará un fondo de \$ 60 millones proporcionado por Francia para pagar una indemnización a los sobrevivientes del Holocausto, sus cónyuges y herederos "por las deportaciones de judíos y otros prisioneros a campos de exterminio nazis a bordo de trenes franceses," informó *CBS News* y otros. Los solicitantes deben proporcionar "toda la información de identificación y documentación disponibles relativa a la deportación del individuo pertinente de Francia durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, incluyendo si es posible la fecha, convoy, y el lugar de salida y llegada de la deportación", dice la página web del Departamento de Estado sobre el programa, y agrega: "La información sobre las personas que fueron deportadas desde Francia durante el Holocausto está disponible en los archivos del Memorial de la Shoah, en <http://www.memorialdelashoah.fr/index.php/en/>. Sin embargo, la información sobre estas personas no está disponible en los archivos de la Sociedad Nacional de Ferrocarriles Franceses (SNCF)". <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/french-to-pay-60m-in-reparations-to-holocaust-survivors-in-u-s-and-beyond/>; <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rt/hcst/deportationclaims/index.htm>

Kosovo/Serbia. The Kosovo War Crimes Research Institute published four books on the 1998-1999 war in Kosovo, including one on “Challenges of Researching War Crimes in Kosovo 1998-99.” A member of the Institute said the “wartime killings and expulsions had to be documented in order to prove genocide,” reported *BIRN*. Kosovo’s Justice Minister said the documentation in the books will help Kosovo bring a suit against Serbia for crimes committed during the war. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-institute-publish-books-on-serbian-war-crimes-11-04-2015?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=39cac74cae-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_561b9a25c3-39cac74cae-311109073

United States/Vietnam. Between 1981 and 1990 five Vietnamese-American journalists were killed in the United States, all of whom worked for small publications serving the Vietnamese refugee community. No arrests were made. *ProPublica* and *Frontline* reopened the investigation into the murders, using “thousands of pages of newly declassified FBI documents, as well as CIA cables and immigration files.” The journalists concluded that a U.S.-based group called the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam, “a prominent group led by former military commanders from South Vietnam,” operated “a secret assassination unit in the U.S.” The Front tried “to restart the Vietnam War, even launching three failed invasions from the borders of Thailand and Laos” in violation of the U.S. Neutrality Act “which bars residents and citizens of this country from efforts to overthrow a foreign government.” <https://www.propublica.org/series/terror-in-little-saigon> ; <http://www.propublica.org/article/how-we-reported-murder-of-vietnamese-journalists>

National news.

Algeria. Algeria’s former counter-terrorism chief, who was responsible for “leading a war against various groups that lasted over 20 years,” was sentenced to five years in prison “for allegedly breaching orders and destroying documents,” reported *Jurist*. <http://jurist.org/paperchase/2015/11/algeria-sentences-former-counter-terrorism-chief.php>

Australia. In July the Queensland government established a commission of inquiry into the previous state administration’s closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre in Brisbane in January 2014 and the subsequent deaths of three “high-risk” teenagers. The commission asked all government departments to provide relevant documents. According to *ABC News*, the state’s Education and Health Department told the commission that “many of Health’s millions of emails need to be restored to modern readable form and until that happens emails can’t be searched.” The Department warned that the cost of restoration “is likely to run into millions of dollars,” and the state’s Premier said “the development of archive systems has not kept pace with email as the preferred means of communication.” <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-19/emails-'hard-to-recover'-for-inquiry-into-barrett-centre-closure/6956420>

Bahrain. Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report on torture and abuse of persons detained in Bahrain. It based its report on interviews with fourteen people, but most importantly compared what it learned with “similar torture methods” it documented in 2010 and the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry documented in 2011, again showing the importance of retaining records in human rights organizations. HRW noted that “little information is available” from the three bodies established in 2012 to reform detention practices (the Office of the Ombudsman in the Interior Ministry, a Special Investigations Unit in the Office of the General Prosecutor, and the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission). <http://www.eurasiareview.com/23112015-bahrain-detainees-tortured-abused-says-hrw/>; for the report see <https://www.hrw.org/node/283352>

Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust held a meeting to discuss the “main obstacle to enforcement of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013,” reported *New Age*. One participant noted that “the police don’t enter the names of some of the detained persons in the police stations’ registers” with the result that “these people remain untraced though they are in custody.” <http://newagebd.net/173478/custodial-deaths-torture-political-interference-blamed/>

Brazil. The Brazilian newspaper *Folha* found that shootings by military police were “reclassified without notice in April” as “deaths caused by police intervention” which allowed the state governor of Sao Paulo to claim that the homicide rate was falling more rapidly than it actually has. “The change allowed 102 deaths to be removed from the statistics in just six months,” including revenge attacks “that left up to 23 dead.” The revenge attacks “often” involved “off-duty police, vigilantes and drug traffickers” who “frequently

check victims' names or ask whether they have criminal records before shooting.”

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/4593-brazil-murders-by-military-police-disappear-from-official-statistics>

Mud from a dam that burst in November at an iron ore mine, killing 12 people and polluting an important river, “contained high levels of toxic heavy metals and other toxic chemicals,” the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said. This contradicts claims by the mine operator, Samarco (owned jointly by the Anglo-Australian company BHP Billiton and Brazil’s Vale) that the mud released “presented no danger to human health and did not contain water contaminants.” The High Commissioner said its statement was based on “new evidence” but *The Guardian* said that the UN agency “did not identify the studies that were the basis for the evidence or say who conducted them.”

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/nov/26/mud-from-brazil-dam-disaster-is-toxic-un-says-despite-mine-operator-denials>

Canada. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation opened at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. It is the permanent home for all statements and other records of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. <http://umanitoba.ca/nctr/>

China. China is considering entering some 13 million “unregistered people” into the “hukou” or household registration system, reported *RFA*. “The Ministry of Public Security in Beijing says the one percent of Chinese people who have been excluded from official records also lack access to fundamental social services, including education and healthcare.” [http://www.eurasiareview.com/29112015-plan-to-register-13-million-unofficial-chinese-sparks-](http://www.eurasiareview.com/29112015-plan-to-register-13-million-unofficial-chinese-sparks-doubts/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29)

[doubts/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29](http://www.eurasiareview.com/29112015-plan-to-register-13-million-unofficial-chinese-sparks-doubts/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29)

Egypt. “More than 2,000 Egyptian women have been detained since the 2013 military coup against President Mohamed Morsi, the Revolutionary Coalition for Egypt’s Women said this week,” reported *The Daily Sabah*. The Coalition said “it has documented 20 cases of rape against female political prisoners in Egyptian jails.” http://www.dailysabah.com/mideast/2015/11/25/ngo-documents-20-cases-of-rape-against-female-political-prisoners-in-egypt?mkt_tok=3rkmnjwfff9wsronvajpe+/hmjteu5z17u0kukcg38431ufwdcjkpmjr1vjiscjgi+sldweyglv6sgfslhmma12z7glxxi=

Guatemala. The International Platform Against Impunity in Central America and MiningWatch Canada commissioned an investigation of the Escobal mining concession belonging to Tahoe Resources, a Canadian-U.S. mining company, and the public resistance to its mining operations. Using a variety of sources, including Canadian court records and the website of Tahoe Resources, the report provides details of the “quasi-military security strategy” adopted by Tahoe Resources and the “militarization of community life.” http://www.miningwatch.ca/sites/www.miningwatch.ca/files/solano-under_seige_report_2015-11-10.pdf

Hungary. During the renovation of an apartment in Budapest, about “6,300 registration forms used to register the Budapest Jewish population in 1944” were found in a cavity behind a wall, *AFP* reported. “The registration cards were sent to all homeowners, and had to be completed within 24 hours. The information on the forms included names of the owners, the tenants, rent figures, as well as the number of Christians and Jews.” <http://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-of-holocaust-papers-found-in-budapest-apartment/>

Iraq. In late October Iraq passed a National Identity Card law. Its Article 26 says, as reported by *Al-Monitor*, “A non-Muslim may switch his religion according to the law. A minor is registered as Muslim following a conversion of any of the parents to Islam.” A representative of the Yazidi minority told *Al-Monitor* that the provision on conversion of the child “is reproduced from a law passed under Saddam Hussein.” The law provides no option for a Muslim to change religion. Religious minorities and civil society organizations staged several demonstrations and protest rallies against the law in various regions of Iraq in early November. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/11/iraq-law-id-discrimination-minorities.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=0fb32507ac-November_20_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-0fb32507ac-93088897

Kenya. Recurring drought is a problem in Kenya, causing farmers to dig deeper and deeper wells to obtain water. According to *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, “One key problem is lack of data . . . According to the Kenya Water Industry Association, not one of the country’s several water regulation agencies, including the Water Resources Management Authority, has reliable data that captures the distribution, quantity and quality of available groundwater.” UNESCO and Kenya are working on a four-year Kenya Groundwater

Mapping Programme to build “a comprehensive database of the nation’s groundwater wealth.” The UNESCO director in East Africa said the project will both help manage ground water and help the Kenyan staff “learn how to use modern technologies such as GPS and geographic information systems . . . to gather and keep reliable data.” http://www.trust.org/item/20151030082053-5dgtm/?source=jtOtherNews2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+Digest+04+Nov+2015&utm_content=Weekly+Digest+04+Nov+2015+CID_6f31f33f9b52f36c8b4a6ac81b028286&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=To%20arm%20against%20drought%20Kenya%20maps%20its%20water%20resources

Lebanon. During the 15 year Lebanese civil war (1975-1990) an estimated 17,000 people went missing. The International Committee of the Red Cross hopes to begin a DNA testing program, reported *Al-Monitor*, collecting samples from family members that will be stored in “a lab the ISF [Lebanon’s Internal Security Forces] will provide” to be matched with DNA from “skeletal remains found in mass graves all over the country.” However, the law that would “officially commission the DNA investigation” has not been passed and the project “is still waiting for ministerial approval to store samples with the ISF, whose crime lab will later create a database to identify the missing.” <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/11/lebanon-missing-civil-war-icrc-dna-program.html#ixzz3rgDG66aC>

Protests were held in central Beirut in early November “demanding the Lebanese law be amended to allow women married to foreigners to pass their nationality to their children,” reported *Middle East Monitor*. “The participants held banners that read ‘nationality is not identification papers’ and ‘the mother is the origin’.” https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/22104-lebanese-women-demand-right-to-grant-citizenship-to-their-children?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRonva7Jc%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17u0kUKCg38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIJT8NmI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFSLHM
[Ma12z7gLXxI%3D](http://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/22104-lebanese-women-demand-right-to-grant-citizenship-to-their-children?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRonva7Jc%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17u0kUKCg38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIJT8NmI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFSLHM)

Peru. The government announced it will “create a national registry for the victims of forced sterilization in the 1990s,” reported *International Business Times*. The registry, said the government, “is meant to provide a legal framework to help implement services such as legal assistance, psychological treatment and holistic health for the victims.” For background see *HRWG News* 2015-05 and 06. <http://www.ibtimes.com/peru-victims-forced-sterilization-registry-not-political-calculation-against-2176008>

Saudi Arabia. In October the Saudi Shoura Council voted to amend the Civil Service Law to enhance women’s rights. A key change is that every female citizen will have an identification card and the “information of a husband and wife and their family members must be registered at a ministry of interior Civil Status Department office to ensure that the rights of a wife are not lost should the husband marry another women,” reported *Saudi Gazette*. Women must apply for an ID card “within 60 days of marrying” and provide “documentary evidence for the matrimonial relationship.” Women will also have the right to report births and deaths. http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/finally-saudi-women-have-their-own-id-cards/?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRonvqTBe%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17u0kUKCg38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIJTMNrI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFSLHM
[Ma12z7gLXxI%3D](http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/finally-saudi-women-have-their-own-id-cards/?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRonvqTBe%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17u0kUKCg38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIJTMNrI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFSLHM)

South Africa. On October 27, the 44th anniversary of Ahmed Timol’s death in detention in a police station, “a partial set of inquest documents kept by one of the [Timol] family’s legal representatives” was made public, reported *VOC News*. Timol was a well-known anti-apartheid activist. The documents were given to the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation; a nephew said he is working with the Foundation for Human Rights “exploring the possibility of reopening the inquest.” <http://www.vocfm.co.za/timol-inquest-papers-made-public/>

Spain. The legacy of the Franco years continues to stir Spanish politics, even 40 years after Franco’s death. The city of Valencia has a history commission, which is “likely to recommend changing 30 to 60 street names” that are linked to the Franco regime, reported the *New York Times*. Careful record-keeping of the changes to street names is critical, as these names are often needed to identify locations of and ownership of properties, particularly after a period of civil war or repression. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/20/world/europe/in-spain-civil-war-legacy-continues-to-divide-politics-and-streets.html?ref=europe&_r=1

Turkey. The Turkish army has amended the rules of pre-draft medical examinations, ending some practices that humiliated homosexual men and drew harsh criticism. Gay men “no longer need to provide visual proof of their homosexuality” to avoid the military draft, reported *Al-Monitor*. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/11/turkey-military-gay-rights-homosexual-picture.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=5f63132eba-WR+November+21+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-5f63132eba-93088897

The Izmir Bar Association's Women's Rights and Legal Support Office told *Hurriyet Daily News* that "the number of women who are subjected to violence and murder has increased, but so has the brutality of the violence." The Office believes that between 5000 and 6000 femicides (killing of women) occurred in that last "few years," but because "state bodies either cannot or do not disclose exact records" the data are obtained through "media monitoring." A journalist has made an interactive "Femicide Map" of Turkey, and the chairman of the Izmir branch of We Will Stop Femicides Platform, an advocacy group, said it has "attended all femicide court cases around Turkey," an example of monitoring as a source of documentation when records from the state are not available. http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/violence-against-women-in-turkey-increases-both-in-number-and-brutality.aspx?pageID=238&nid=91880&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRonvajPe%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17u0kUKCg38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIJSJgI%2BSLDwEYgJlv6SgFSLHMMa12z7gLXxI%3D

United Arab Emirates. The Dubai Foundation for Women and Children said it has reports of "over 1,500 cases of domestic violence against women," but the government has "no official figures" on such cases in Dubai. <http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/society/more-women-are-speaking-up-about-domestic-violence-1.1625716>

United Kingdom/Northern Ireland. The Police Service of Northern Ireland said it "wants to relinquish ownership of the thousands of legacy files in its 'murder archive' and hand them over to a new investigations unit being proposed under the Stormont House Agreement," reported the *Irish Times*. The police said the archives contain "almost 12,000 boxes relating to murders committed since 1968, including over 3,700 attributed to the Troubles." <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/psni-wants-to-hand-over-murder-files-if-ni-talks-reach-deal-1.2415900>

United States. The Justice Department announced that it will share Federal criminal and civil records with ten Native American tribes in a trial program that may be expanded to other tribes. Called the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP), it grants access to national crime information databases and will provide technical support "to tribes in analyzing their needs for national crime information and help provide appropriate solutions, including a state-of-the-art biometric/biographic computer workstation with capabilities to process finger and palm prints, take mugshots and submit records to national databases, as well as the ability to access the FBI's Criminal Justice information Service (CJIS) systems for criminal and civil purposes through the Department of Justice." <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/us/politics/us-to-share-criminal-records-with-native-american-police.html>; for the press release, see <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-announces-10-tribes-participate-initial-phase-tribal-access-program>

ProPublica published an article on the lack of Federal jurisdiction over violations of patient privacy by companies offering home paternity tests or data collected by fitness trackers or health apps. http://www.propublica.org/article/privacy-not-included-federal-law-lags-behind-new-tech?utm_source=et&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter&utm_content=&utm_name=

United States/Illinois. A judge ordered the release of a video "from a police dashboard camera showing the fatal shooting of a black 17-year-old by a white Chicago police officer on a Southwest Side street a year ago," reported the *New York Times*. According to the *Associated Press*, "hours after" the city of Chicago released the "audio-free dashcam video" a 35-second excerpt with sound appeared online, which was viewed at least half a million times on social media. The video brought public condemnation and outrage and led to mass street protests in Chicago. By early December "experts, city police and an *Associated Press* analysis" concluded that the 35-second video excerpt had been doctored, but by whom or why was not known. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/20/us/laquan-mcdonald-chicago-police-shooting.html> ; <http://bigstory.ap.org/urn:publicid:ap.org:cd993ba1711843d38437dbd2aa6462e5>

United States/New York. During the course of a lawsuit claiming that a man died from exposure to asbestos fibers during his employment with J-M Manufacturing, the plaintiffs learned that on two occasions J-M's documents were "lost," once in 1990 when the company's corporate headquarters were moved from California to New Hersey and once in 1997 when an employee discarded 27 "bankers' boxes" during the renovation of a facility. The judge ruled that the plaintiff is entitled to have the jury in the case instructed that "the missing documents would have supported the plaintiff's claims." The court stated, said *National Law Review*, "that the documents lost in 1990 were lost because of 'gross negligence'" and "that the 1997

document loss occurred due to J-M's bad faith, i.e., even though they had a document retention policy, they failed to instruct employees to preserve relevant evidence."

<http://www.natlawreview.com/article/new-york-city-asbestos-litigation-presiding-judge-rules-manufacturer-should-have>

United States/West Virginia. Donald Blankenship, the former chairman of Massey Energy, one of whose coal mines exploded, killing 29 employees and exposing the company's poor safety record, was convicted of conspiring to violate mine safety regulations but acquitted of felony fraud. For background to this case, which featured Blankenship's audio recordings of his conversations, see *HRWG News* 2015-10.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/blankenship-convicted/>

Zambia. A second break-in occurred at the Lusaka Magistrates Court complex, with "various items" stolen from the offices and "registries." According to *Zambia Reports*, the court's registrar said "it is suspected that those involved are targeting some Court documents," but all the court case files are digitized, with a backup stored "at a secure location." <http://zambiareports.com/2015/11/05/thieves-terrorise-lusaka-magistrate-courts-targeting-records/>

Announcements and Publications.

The University of East London has "been awarded a small amount of seed funding" from the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration to establish a "Working Group for Archiving and Documentation of History of Forced Migration." Anyone interested in participating should look at the initial webpages <http://iasfm.org/adfm/> or write to Paul Dudman at p.v.dudman@uel.ac.uk

The archives at Casa Rui Barbosa, Rio de Janeiro, launched a website "about slavery, abolition and the post-abolition period in Brazil." In addition to the researcher portion of the site, the design includes "an area devoted to a younger audience where it is possible to explore digital copies of historical documents while playing memory games, quizzes, word games and palaeographical challenges."

<http://www.memoriaescravidao.rb.gov.br/>

The Akevot Institute for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Research in Tel Aviv, Israel, marked its first anniversary by adding the 20,000th digitized document to its Repository of Conflict Records from sources including the Israel State Archives, Israel Defense Forces and Security System Archives, Knesset Archives, Central Zionist Archives and more. <http://www.akevot.org.il>

The National Security Archive (a United States non-governmental organization) posted documents from a briefing book it compiled for the "critical oral history" conference in The Hague last June on the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. The press release says, "The documents show the Srebrenica genocide represented a debacle for international peacekeeping and a turning point towards more forceful intervention, culminating in the Dayton accords that ended the Balkan wars on November 21, 1995." The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and The Hague Institute for Global Justice co-organized the conference with the Archive's support, and published the conference transcript and rapporteur's summary to mark the 20th anniversary of the Dayton agreement. <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB535-Srebrenica-genocide-on-road-to-Dayton-accords/>

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