

News of August 2018

Issue no. 105

Written and compiled by Trudy Huskamp Peterson for the HRWG

Commentary.

Ostraka aren't pretty, but in their day were they ever powerful! These little pieces of pottery were used by a citizen (male, free man) of Athens in the fifth century B.C.E. to vote on the person in the city that he wished to be expelled. After these ballots were counted, they were thrown away. While we think of ostraka as objects (from which the English word "ostracize" is derived), they are documents: they have a base (pottery), an impression on the base (a name scratched on it manually) and convey information (he's the one I want out of here).

Archives usually have associated objects that don't meet the criteria of a document: a glove in a court case file, a model in a patent application, a lock of hair among a set of personal papers. But some associated objects, like ostraka, have the characteristics of a document. Human rights investigators at sites of bombings may find pieces of weaponry with identifying numbers on them. These show maker and model: conveying information over space and time, on a metal base with an impression made by mechanical casting when the weapon was produced. These fragments alone they don't tell us who used weapon, just as ostraka do not tell us if the person named was actually expelled, but they have evidentiary value.

Smaller and even mightier than ostraka, DNA samples amplify the power of small material. Clearly the result of the analysis of a DNA sample is a document, whether recorded in a database or on a spreadsheet or in a report. But what of the sample itself? The language of DNA analysis talks about "reading" the DNA, and the elements of the DNA are chemical bases (a different sense of the same word archivists use to describe a document). DNA certainly conveys information over space and time, but there is no "impression on the base" as the classic definition of a document requires: the information is encoded within the DNA by natural process. In other words, DNA conveys information, but in an entirely different way than a document in archival terms. If, then, the DNA sample is an "associated object" but not a document, the sample is unlikely to be covered by institutional regulations for deciding whether or not to retain it. This question is not trivial: a recent investigation using DNA in the Netherlands found a Dutch prosecutor ordering the "voluntary sampling of up to 21,500 Dutchmen based on familial profiling, and the obligatory sampling of 1,500 men of special interest to the case," the *New York Times* reported. <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/17-500-dutchmen-gave-dna-samples-for-murder-probe-now-an-arrest-20180828-p5005e.html> The results of these analyses are records of the prosecution, to be disposed of in accordance with Dutch rules, but what should happen to the samples?

This is an extreme case, of course; in a more usual situation there would be one or more samples and an analytic report. If the sample is destroyed, it would be impossible to re-examine the DNA for possible use in a future review of evidence. One option is to preserve the DNA and the data that links the sample to the analysis as long as the person can be presumed alive, perhaps adding a few decades as a margin. But is that long enough for scientific researchers looking at populations for genetic characteristics (see, for example, the ALS item under United States below)? Is it long enough to satisfy the interests of people tracing their heritage, both for family history and for medical information?

If archives need to hold DNA samples for extended periods of times, along with the analysis and the metadata linking the two (for example, a table linking the number on the sample's vial to the report and the person), are archives equipped—physically and technically—to do this? Unlike the ostraka which, like most baked pottery, are virtually indestructible, DNA samples are susceptible to all the deterioration of a body. Any archives that is the potential recipient of DNA materials needs to think now about its decisions on retention of DNA samples and its capacities for the care of this small, powerful evidence.

HRWG News. The meeting of the HRWG at the ICA annual meeting in Cameroon is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, November 25. It will last about 2 hours. Everyone is welcome.

International news.

European Union Court of Justice. The court ruled that “posting on a website of a photograph that was freely accessible on another website with the consent of the author requires a new authorization by that author.” <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-08/cp180123en.pdf>

United Nations. The International Truth and Justice Project, a South Africa nongovernmental organization, sent a report to the UN’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations in June, saying “a cohort of senior Sri Lankan commanders who have been deployed to UN operations were involved in alleged abuses during the final phase of war with Tamil rebels in 2009,” the *Guardian* reported. The UN said it was “working with the government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the country’s domestic screening process complied with the UN’s policy on screening personnel,” which relies on access to the pertinent archives. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/21/sri-lanka-war-criminals-un-peacekeeping-missions-darfur-mali-south-sudan>

UNICEF and World Health Organization. The two UN organizations issued a report, “Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools/Global Baseline Report 2018.” Using data produced by national authorities, primarily “routine Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and periodic (non-EMIS) censuses and school facility surveys” as well as “secondary information compiled by UNESCO Institute of Statistics and regional monitoring initiatives such as the European Protocol on Water and Health,” the investigators found that nearly half the world’s schools lack clean drinking water, toilets and handwashing facilities, putting millions of children at risk of “dehydration, illness and even death.” <https://data.unicef.org/resources/wash-in-schools/>; <http://news.trust.org/item/20180827000100-o60t2>

World Health Organization. At the meeting of its Regional Committee for Africa, WHO said “healthy life expectancy . . . has been increasing in the Region” but “the levels of healthy life in the Region are still very low compared to other regions.” It released a report on the progress made “on the African Health Observatory [AHO] and its role in strengthening health information systems in the African Region.” It announced that the AHO is “fully functional, with data and statistics platforms” and it collects and analyzes health data to monitor country health situations and trends. It wants all countries in the regions to establish a “national health observatory,” and with the aim of increasing access to health data and information “to facilitate policy and decision-making” and to “strengthen . . . capacity to generate quality data and remove restrictions that limit access to data.” https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/2018-07/AFR-RC68-INF-DOC-3%20Progress%20Report%20on%20the%20African%20Health%20Observatory-Ed-En_1.pdf <https://www.afro.who.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/State%20of%20health%20in%20the%20African%20Region.pdf>

World/general news.

Aid workers killed. Humanitarian Outcomes, a UK-based nongovernmental organization, maintains an “Aid Workers Security Database.” Its new Aid Worker Security Report said the organization documented attacks in 2017 on 313 aid workers in 22 countries: 139 people killed, 102 wounded, and 76 kidnapped, four of whom were killed, *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported. South Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan and the Central African Republic (where attacks trebled in the past year) accounted for 2/3 of 158 major incidents, and “there has been a “marked rise in the number of victims who worked for national rather than international aid agencies.” <http://news.trust.org/item/20180813174157-3uh9q/>; <https://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/>

Business records. A U.S. jury determined that the weedkiller “Roundup” manufactured by Monsanto, an American unit of the German conglomerate Bayer, caused a terminally ill man’s cancer and awarded him \$289 million in damages. The man’s lawyer said the case was won because “we were finally able to show the jury the secret, internal Monsanto documents proving that Monsanto has known for decades that . . . Roundup could cause cancer,” the *Guardian* reported. The company plans to appeal. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/aug/10/monsanto-trial-cancer-dewayne-johnson-ruling>

Four days after that verdict was announced, the Environmental Working Group, a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization, released a report of the tests it did on 45 samples of breakfast foods

made from oats grown in U.S. fields sprayed with herbicides, and found elevated levels of glyphosate in 31 of them (glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup). In 2015 the World Health Organization declared it a “probable carcinogen.” <https://www.ewg.org/childrenshealth/glyphosateincereal/#.W4wvBveLodU> And in Brazil, using samples of breast milk obtained from the maternity ward of a regional hospital, a researcher found that 83.4% of the samples contained glyphosate or aminomethylphosphonic acid, *telesur* reported. https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Brazil-Poisonous-Agrotoxin-Found-Over-80-of-Breast-Milk-Samples-in-Urucui-20180809-0008.html?utm_source=planisys&utm_medium=NewsletterIngles&utm_campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm_content=8

Colombia’s chief prosecutor announced charges against 14 former executives of the Chiquita brand bananas firm for using “death squads to increase profits,” wrote *Colombia Reports*. Banking records provide the evidence of payments, and the prosecution possesses “hundreds of testimonies and pieces of evidence.” <https://colombiareports.com/terror-for-profit-colombia-charges-14-former-chiquita-executives/>

Climate change. A study by researchers at Harvard University’s School of Public Health found that “rising levels of carbon dioxide from human activity are making staple crops such as rice and wheat less nutritious and could result in 175 million people becoming zinc deficient and 122 million people becoming protein deficient by 2050.” Looking at 151 countries, they built their projection on “detailed age- and sex-specific food supply datasets to improve estimates of the impacts across 225 different foods.” <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/climate-change-less-nutritious-food/>

Medical records. To look at “the trade-off between optimizing flight patterns and human health,” researchers at two U.S. universities studied the automated aircraft flight patterns into and out of LaGuardia Airport in New York City since 2012 and used local government measurements of the average day and night levels of noise over the communities living near the airport, Bureau of Transportation Statistics records, an 2016 air traffic report, and documents obtained through the freedom of information act. They noted that “high levels of exposure to aircraft noise has been linked to development of serious physical and mental health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and anxiety.” They found that “despite increases in efficiency, flight automation systems without a careful assessment of noise might generate flight paths over densely populated areas and cause serious health conditions for the overflown communities.” <http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/15/8/1753/htm#app1-ijerph-15-01753>

An opinion piece in *The Lancet* discussed “the politics of global health numbers” in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It explained that there are “many methods of measuring health outcomes, and most depend on some basic civil registration and vital statistics provided by the states.” Global health data depends on “facts that originate from, and are embedded in, social and political structures. One important statistic is the total population count. The capacity and the ability of the state to count its population and have the count accepted as a fact are not straightforward.” It argued “there is a trade-off between precision and relevance,” and “if we acknowledge that statistical capacity is a limited resource, we need to think long and hard about trade-offs in data provision.” [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31700-8/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31700-8/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email)

PNAS published a study of the “impact of exposure to air pollution on cognitive performance.” The researchers used “cognitive test scores” from the 2010 and 2014 China Family Panel studies, “a nationally representative survey of Chinese families and individuals” in 162 counties that used a standardized test on mathematics and word-recognition for people older than the age of 10. They compared this with the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection’s air pollution index for the dates of the tests and weather data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They found that “polluted air may impede cognitive ability as people become older, especially for men and the less educated. The damage on the aging brain by air pollution likely imposes substantial health and economic costs.” <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/08/21/1809474115>

JAMA published an analysis of global deaths from firearms. The researchers used “a combination of de-identified aggregated data from vital registration, verbal autopsy, census and survey data, and police records” in 195 countries and territories from 1990 to 2016. They estimated that 251,000 people died of firearms injuries in 2016, with half the deaths occurring in 6 countries in the Americas: Brazil, the U.S., Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala. 64% were homicides, 27% were suicides, and 9% were accidental injuries. The number is up from 1990 (209,000) but down as a % of global population (“annualized decrease of 0.9%”). <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2698492>

[utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=f6cc09a85d-MR_COPY_08&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-f6cc09a85d-149736437](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31437-5/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email)

The Lancet published a study of the impact of armed conflict in Africa on child mortality. The primary data came from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program Georeferenced Events Dataset that has tracked conflict events since 1946, including information from “news sources, non-governmental organization reports, case studies, truth commission reports, historical archives and other,” which the researchers combined with information from demographic and health surveys done in African countries from 1995 to 2015 that include child mortality data. Unsurprisingly, they found “a large and significant increase in the probability of dying before reaching age 1 year from nearby armed conflict;” however, and more startling, they found “evidence of increased mortality risk from an armed conflict up to 100 km away, and for 8 years after conflicts.” [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31437-5/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31437-5/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email)

Technology. *Wired* reported that a consultant for a security firm analyzed five police body cameras from five different companies and found that all of them “had security issues that could allow an attacker to track their location or manipulate the software they run.” He said he could “connect to the cameras, log in, view media, modify media, make changes to the file structures” to the collected video evidence. https://www.wired.com/story/police-body-camera-vulnerabilities/?CNDID=53684912&mbid=nl_081318_daily_list3_p4

Researchers at the University of Warwick, U.K., tracked all 3,355 anti-refugee attacks in 4,466 German municipalities from 1 January 2015 to 13 February 2017. They found, after massive statistical reviews of a wide variety of social factors from a dozen data sources, that where per-person Facebook use rose above the national average, attacks on refugees increased and “right-wing anti-refugee sentiment on Facebook predicts violent crimes against refugees in municipalities with higher social media usage.” This confirms the report of the UN to Mission to Myanmar, which said, “Facebook has been a useful instrument for those seeking to spread hate.” Facebook then removed 18 accounts and 52 pages associated with Myanmar military. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3082972; <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/MyanmarFFM/Pages/ReportoftheMyanmarFFM.aspx>

World War II. Poland purchased an archives from a “private owner in Israel,” *swissinfo* reported, that contains documents on the wartime effort by four Polish diplomats and two representatives of Jewish organizations, all living in Switzerland, to issue to Jews phony passports from Latin American countries that could be used to help them escape wartime Europe. https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/holocaust_poland-obtains-archives-of-bern-diplomats--efforts-to-save-jews/44312012

“How Three Nazi SS soldiers got to New York: Lying on Visa Papers,” the *New York Times* headline read. They entered the U.S. shortly after World War II, and it wasn’t until early 1990s that U.S. law enforcement authorities figured out who the men really were “after finding the cache of Nazi records” in Prague, Czech Republic, that indicated they had served in the SS. Two of the men died before being deported; the final man, Jakiw Palij, was deported from the U.S. to Germany in August. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/23/nyregion/nazis-queens-holocaust-deportation.html>

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Balkans. The Serbian government expanded both the mandate of the Commission for Investigating Killings of Journalists to include the murders and disappearance of media workers in all Balkan countries during the wars of the 1990s and the membership to include representatives of the Serbian war crime prosecutor’s office and the Serbian Interior Ministry’s department for war crimes, *BIRN* reported. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbian-commission-to-help-solve-wartime-journalists-killing-08-02-2018?utm_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm_campaign=002f923355-BI_DAILY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4027db42dc-002f923355-319725265

Bangladesh/Myanmar. Rohingya refugees in the camps have been recovering video footage of atrocities from cell phones that appeared to be severely damaged, the *New York Times* reported, and published a “video op-ed” with “shocking footage that Rohingya refugees have gathered, documenting the genocide occurring in Myanmar.” Thanks to Patrick Pierce for Myanmar media links. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/27/opinion/capturing-their-genocide-on-their-cellphones.html>; <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/27/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-genocide.html>

Cameroon/Serbia. Amnesty International said it obtained a video of Cameroonian soldiers, some armed with weapons made in Serbia, “burning structures which are likely to be homes and then killing 12 people” in a village in the far north of the country. Amnesty said it used “advanced digital analysis tools” to confirm that the video, shot prior to May 2016, apparently by a member of the security forces, “corroborates previous accounts of extrajudicial executions which the Cameroonian authorities have denied,” *BIRN* reported. For background, see *HRWG News* 2018-07.

http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbian-arms-spotted-at-another-massacre-in-cameroon-08-10-2018?utm_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm_campaign=6d64a28445-BI_DAILY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4027db42dc-6d64a28445-319725265

Caribbean former colonies/United Kingdom. The U.K. Home Office announced that after a “detailed analysis” of almost 12,000 immigration cases, a total of 164 “Windrush generation” people from the Caribbean may have been wrongly removed or detained and in 18 cases the “department is most likely to have acted wrongfully,” the *Guardian* reported. For background see *HRWG News* 2018-04.

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/aug/21/sajid-javid-says-sorry-for-18-windrush-removals-or-detentions?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Guardian+Today+-+Collection&utm_term=283969&subid=22849866&CMP=GT_collection

China/Japan. *Mainichi Shimbun* surveyed all 47 prefectures of Japan to try to find records of interviews with some 86,000 Japanese settlers in the former Manchuria region of northeastern China and Inner Mongolia that were conducted in 1950 by the prefecture governments under the instruction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Japan sent approximately 270,000 farmers to settle its puppet state of Manchukuo in northeastern China from 1932 through 1945.) Thirteen prefectures said the interviews could not be found and Nagasaki said the records had been discarded. A professor specializing in the history of the settlers said the records “should not be left to prefectural departments. The documents should be kept permanently at public archives.” <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180826/p2a/00m/0na/006000c>

China/North Korea/Russia. C4ADS, a U.S. nongovernmental organization, issued a report on the use of North Korean forced labor overseas, particularly in China and Russia. Basing the report on “corporate registry documents, official labor statistics, tax filings and trade records,” C4ADS said this approach “illustrates the effectiveness of using open source data to map and expose North Korea’s overseas labor networks.” It found that “North Korean overseas forced labor is both a proliferation finance and a human rights issue,” with the North Korean government dispatching citizens abroad to work in forced labor conditions in order “to generate foreign currency, acquire sensitive technologies, and access the international financial and trade systems.” <https://www.c4reports.org/dispatched/>

Colombia/Peru/Venezuela. Colombia and Peru agreed “to build a joint database to share information and better address the flood of Venezuelan immigrants” *Colombia Reports* wrote. It will “better document details about the refugees’ locations, health, education and what services they have accessed.” <https://colombiareports.com/colombia-and-peru-to-build-joint-database-on-fleeing-venezuelans/>

Iraq/United Kingdom/United States. The Middle East Research and Information Project, a U.S. nongovernmental organization, published a very helpful overview: “Preservation or Plunder? The ISIS Files and a History of Heritage Removal in Iraq.” <https://www.merip.org/mero/mero050818>

Israel/Yemen. Israel’s Justice Minister “instructed the Israel State Archives to release some 300,000 unpublished files relating to the children of Yemenite immigrants, whose disappearance after their arrival in Israel over a half century ago has been at the center of a lingering controversy,” *Times of Israel* reported. The Minister “also instructed the Israel Defense Forces to release any relevant statistics it has about the Yemenite children, on condition that they do not impact the privacy of individuals,” and she called on “the Women’s International Zionist Organization and the Hadassah organization to release relevant archives they have on the matter.” In July, Israel passed a law to “allow families who came to Israel from Yemen . . . to find out whether children they claim were kidnapped from them were in fact put up for adoption.” <http://www.timesofisrael.com/state-told-to-release-300000-unpublished-files-on-missing-yemenite-children/>

Liberia/United States. In July, Liberian Thomas Woewiyu was convicted in a U.S. Federal Court for lying about his role in Liberia’s civil war (“allegations of torture, targeted ethnic killings, and the conscription of child soldiers”) on his 2006 U.S. citizenship application, *The Inquirer* reported.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania/philadelphia/roman-catholic-nuns-woewiyu-jucontee-thomas-liberia-civil-war-adorers-of-the-blood-of-christ-kolmer-muttra-mueller-mcguire-philadelphia-christopher-vambo-mosquito-charles-taylor-20180716.html>

Middle East war. By using the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, the nongovernmental organization National Security Archive obtained Central Intelligence Administration (CIA) cables, most of which were written or authorized by Gina Haspel, the current CIA director. They include descriptions of “graphic acts of deliberate physical torture” when Haspel was chief of a CIA site in Thailand in 2002 and of the work of the CIA contract psychologists who designed interrogation tactics. The Archive’s director “first identified the Haspel cables from a footnote . . . in the Senate Intelligence Committee torture report declassified in 2014.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2017-08.

<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/foia-intelligence-torture-archive/2018-08-10/gina-haspel-cia-torture-cables-declassified>

The leader of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, released a video calling on Muslims everywhere to unite in jihad, while the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, released an audio message, “the first such recording to emerge in almost a year,” reported the *Associated Press*.

<https://apnews.com/ab08a07b46b046118ddac0c9a6537350>

Morocco/Spain. A professor at the University of Algiers told a Polisario Front and Sahrawi conference that “the archives of the Spanish colonization of Western Sahara testify ‘irrefutably’ that the Saharawis were the master of their territory” and “certify” that they “had the right to dispose of themselves,” reported *L’Expression*. Western Sahara was a Spanish colony until it was annexed by Morocco in 1975. “Since then it has been the subject of a long-running territorial dispute between Morocco and its indigenous Saharawi people, led by the Polisario Front. A 16-year-long insurgency ended with a UN-brokered truce in 1991 and the promise of a referendum on independence which has yet to take place,” *BBC* explained.

http://www.lexpressiondz.com/autres/de_quoi_jme_mele/298099-des-archives-temoignent-que-le-sahara-occidental-n-est-pas-marocain.html ; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14115273>

Saudi Arabia/United Arab Emirates/Yemen. The Group of Regional and International Eminent Experts on Yemen issued its report on the period from September 2014 to June 2018. They concluded that individuals in all parties to the conflict (the Government of Yemen and its coalition, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and the de facto authorities) have committed acts that may amount to international crimes. The Group had “significant security, logistical and administrative constraints” as it tried to gather information, including “no responses” from the governments of the coalition to the Group’s written requests for specific information. Using other documentation and photographs, videos and satellite images, the Group developed “information linking alleged perpetrators to specific violations or patterns of violations” and sent a list of those persons to the High Commissioner on a “strictly confidential basis.” Among the Group’s recommendations are that “all parties to the conflict” should “document all unofficial detention centres and transfer detainees to official detention facilities” and “create a national register for missing persons and inform families of the whereabouts of all detainees.”

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23479&LangID=E>

South Sudan/Uganda. Recordkeeping problems are impeding reunions of South Sudan refugee families who are in Uganda, the *New York Times* reported. “The tracing challenges are exacerbated by the lack of access to a centralized database of refugees in Uganda. A combination of confusion and corruption during refugee registrations, in the early months of the crisis, produced incomplete or erroneous records. Some refugees were registered more than once; others, not at all. Names were misspelled. Some records do not list a specific location within the camps, which sprawl for nearly 100 square miles.” Uganda now is “carrying out biometric registration.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/09/world/africa/south-sudan-refugee-children-uganda.html>

National news.

Australia. “On October 15, every user of Australia’s health system will have a centralized electronic health record unless they specifically choose to opt out by that date. Proponents say the move will save lives whereas critics say that the data can never be completely secure,” *The Lancet* reported.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31726-4/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31726-4/fulltext?dgcid=raven_jbs_etoc_email)

The State of Victoria passed a law “to expunge historical criminal records given to Aboriginal children who were removed from their families,” reported *NITV News*. In Victoria it was standard practice until

1989 to open a police record on a child removed from a family. <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2018/08/24/victoria-acts-remove-criminal-records-stolen-generations>.

Bosnia. The National Assembly of Republika Srpska (RS) “annulled a report on the 1995 Srebrenica massacres and ordered the Serb-dominated entity’s government to draw up a new one,” *BIRN* reported. The report, written in 2004, acknowledged that Bosnian Serb forces killed thousands from Srebrenica in July 1995, but the RS president argued that it contained “false data” and did not include crimes against Serbs. The new report is to discuss Srebrenica 1992-1995, including “the suffering of Serbs in and around Srebrenica.” <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/bosnian-serb-mps-annul-report-acknowledging-srebrenica-08-14-2018>

Brazil. The *Guardian* reported on data from the Brazilian Forum of Public Security, a nongovernmental network that includes security officials: the murder rate was 30.8 per 100,000 people or 175 deaths per day (the highest ever); police officers killed 5,144 (14 per day); there were 221,238 cases of domestic violence in 2017 (606 cases per day). The National Council of Justice said that there are “significant delay in processing of femicides in the justice system, which at the end of 2017 had a backlog of 10,786 cases,” reported *telesur*. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/09/brazil-sets-new-record-for-homicides-63880-deaths?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=GU+Today+main+NEW+H+categories&utm_term=283142&subid=22849866&CMP=EMCNEWEML661912; https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Brazil-Violence-Against-Women-Spikes-606-Cases-Daily-20180811-0004.html?utm_source=planisys&utm_medium=NewsletterIngles&utm_campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm_content=9

Canada. Privacy commissioners were busy in August. The commissioner in the province of Saskatchewan recommended that “a doctor who altered an electronic record of a dead patient’s visit 8 times after the patient’s death do a better job at keeping medical records,” *CBC News* reported. The doctor is being sued by the dead man’s daughter, alleging the doctor was negligent in her treatment of the man. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/privacy-commissioner-recommendations-1.4785933> Canada’s national privacy commissioner and the commissioner in Alberta opened investigations into Cadillac Fairview, a real estate company that owns, among other properties, shopping centers. The company is using “facial recognition technology in mall digital directories,” and the commissioners are examining whether the company is collecting and using personal information without consent and not in compliance with Canada’s private sector privacy law. https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-news/news-and-announcements/2018/an_180803/

Chile. Three Mapuche men are appealing their conviction for murdering two people by setting fire to their house in 2013. Their attorneys “presented audio recordings along with evidence which was omitted from the original trial,” and the “Chilean police watchdog La Tercera confirmed in May that military police forged evidence on which they based accusation of terrorism against Mapuche activists,” *telesur* reported. https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Chile-Mapuche-to-Appeal-Life-Sentence-in-Luchsinger-Mackay-Case-20180822-0005.html?utm_source=planisys&utm_medium=NewsletterIngles&utm_campaign=NewsletterIngles&utm_content=12

China. During a two-day review of China’s policies, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern over the treatment of Uighur people in Xinjiang, citing reports that “re-education” camps may hold some millions of people and that authorities are using mass surveillance and confiscating travel documents. The Network of China Human Rights Defenders, a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization, said, “According to Chinese government data, criminal arrests in Xinjiang accounted for an alarming 21% of all arrests in China in 2017, though the population in the [province] is only about 1.5% of China’s total, based on the [2010 Census](#).” And at a court in Kazakhstan, an ethnic Kazakh woman who is a Chinese national was charged with entering the country illegally; she said she left China’s Xinjiang province “without proper papers after being forced to work at a camp where around 2,500 ethnic Kazakhs were being held for indoctrination,” the *Washington Post* reported. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/new-evidence-emerges-that-china-is-forcing-muslims-into-reeducation-camps/2018/08/10/1d6d2f64-8dce-11e8-9b0d-749fb254bc3d_story.html?utm_term=.4f0392093acc; <https://www.nchr.org/2018/08/china-massive-numbers-of-uyghurs-other-ethnic-minorities-forced-into-re-education-programs/>; <https://www.nchr.org/2018/07/criminal-arrests-in-xinjiang-account-for-21-of-chinas-total-in-2017/>; https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/CHN/CERD_C_CHN_CO_14-17_32237_E.pdf (see item 40)

Democratic Republic of Congo. In another example of the importance of preserving evidence obtained by journalists, *VICE News* reporter Nick Turse was in the DRC from February to April and interviewed more than 300 people: “Through my interviews with witnesses and survivors, I corroborated attacks on 31 villages. Community leaders, local journalists, human rights activists, and internally displaced persons . . . provided information on nearly 62 more massacres that fit the pattern of attacks.” https://news.vice.com/en_us/article/7xq45a/a-slaughter-in-silence-democratic-republic-of-the-congo

Finland. The Supreme Administrative Court ruled that a man convicted of murder “has a right to privacy,” Google must remove the man’s information from its search engine data, and removing his information does not “infringe on the public’s right to information on important persons,” *YLE* reported. https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/finnish_court_issues_precedent_right_to_be_forgotten_decision_for_google_to_remove_data/10358108

France. A court in the city of Metz ruled that under French law “a will can only be valid if it has been written by hand, dated and signed.” It ruled against a man’s text message before his suicide that changed his will to say his mother should get a share of his estate instead of his wife, *BBC News* reported. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45228513>

Guatemala. The tenuous situation of the Historical Archive of the National Police continued, with several organizations issuing statements and the UN Development Program in Guatemala issuing a press release on its aim in making changes in the Archive’s structure. More than 450 individuals and institutions have signed a petition calling for answers from the Government and the UN on the actions. The staff members have contracts only through September 30, making a quick resolution imperative. <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/news/guatemala/2018-08-13/guatemala-police-archive-under-threat>

Guatemala’s president announced that he will not agree to extend the mandate of the UN’s International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), which has assisted the Attorney General’s office on “its most complicated cases involving government-related corruption and organized crime,” *InSight Crime* reported. While the president said CICIG will have until September 2019 to “transfer technical capacities to the Guatemalan state institutions,” the visas of CICIG staff are expiring now and the director, Ivan Velasquez, is out of the country and has been denied re-entry. Securing the records of CICIG from disappearance or destruction is an urgent matter. <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/analysis/guatemala-president-announces-end-cicig-mandate/>

Honduras. The first trial related to the 2016 murder of environmental activist Berta Caceres is to open on September 10, “but prosecutors admitted on August 14 that they had not analyzed key evidence they seized during multiple arrests two months after the crime. The court . . . ordered prosecutors to provide an analysis of this evidence to lawyers representing Ms. Caceres family by August 29,” *America Magazine* reported, adding, “It will be difficult to show the link between who ordered the killing and who carried it out without evidence such as the cell phones and computers that prosecutors have in their possession.” <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/08/28/trial-murder-honduran-activist-berta-caceres-set-begin-despite>

India. On July 30 the “final draft of the National Register of Citizens was released in Assam” which potentially excluded 4 million people from citizenship. Hoping to prove citizenship, “scores of visitors from Assam are looking for the names of earlier generations in the electoral rolls from 1952 to 1971” maintained by the State Archives in Kolkata, reported *The Hindu*. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kolkatas-200-year-old-archives-to-the-rescue-of-nrc-hit-residents/article24584350.ece>

Ireland. In July 2017 the UN Committee Against Torture said the government might not have fully investigated all the archives that would shed light on the abuse in Magdalene laundries. The Government issued its response in August 2018, the *Irish Examiner* reported, repeating there is no “credible evidence of systematic torture or criminal abuse being committed in the Magdalene laundries,” it “has no intention of setting up a formal State inquiry into the Magdalene laundries,” and it has “no power to access any religious records.” For background see *HRWG News* 2017-08. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/campaigners-frustrated-as-state-wont-open-up-magdalene-archives-862428.html>

Japan. According to *The Mainichi*, “The National Archives of Japan [asked] 39 ministries and agencies about the content of some 200,000 official documents in fiscal 2016 and 2017 because the documents’ titles were vague and it was impossible to judge whether they should be preserved. Some government officials say the titles . . . were deliberately obscured in a bid to prevent the general public from making requests to the government to disclose the documents under the freedom-of-information system.” <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180806/p2a/00m/0na/030000c>

Tokyo Medical University admitted that since at least 2006 it deliberately altered entrance examination scores “to restrict the number of female students and ensure more men became doctors,” the *Guardian*

reported. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/08/tokyo-medical-school-admits-changing-results-to-exclude-women?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=GU+Today+main+NEW+H+categories&utm_term=282957&subid=22849866&CMP=EMCNEWEML661912

Kosovo. In 2016 the state prosecution office began “collecting information about potential errors in the verification process of former Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas” (registration provides access to benefits). The prosecutor announced on August 16 that evidence “proves that 19,000 war veterans have illegally taken benefits,” *BIRN* reported. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-head-prosecutor-denounces-around-19-000-illegal-war-veterans--08-16-2018?utm_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm_campaign=a09d64e2de-BI_DAILY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4027db42dc-a09d64e2de-319725265

Macedonia. In the ongoing trial of former Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and other former government officials charged with “masterminding electoral fraud in 2013,” the Special Prosecutor said “it had amassed a total of 1,063 wiretapped conversations between officials as evidence,” all but 7 of which (those with private conversations) may be played in court, the judge ruled. In addition to the wiretaps, the prosecutor “has submitted 5,910 pieces material evidence and proposed 191 witnesses.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2016-04 and 09. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/macedonia-s-election-fraud-trial-to-see-thousand-unreleased-wiretaps-08-16-2018?utm_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm_campaign=a09d64e2de-BI_DAILY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4027db42dc-a09d64e2de-319725265

On September 30 Macedonians will vote on whether to change the country’s name to the Republic of North Macedonia. The NGO Civil-Center for Freedom warns that the electoral roll contains “fictive voters,” pointing out that for a country of just over 2 million people, an electoral roll of 1.8 million voters is “non-purified,” *BIRN* reported. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/old-electoral-roll-problems-plague-macedonia-referendum-08-15-2018?utm_source=Balkan+Insight+Newsletters&utm_campaign=43b5ae22c4-BI_DAILY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4027db42dc-43b5ae22c4-319725265

Myanmar. The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar issued its report, based on “a vast amount of primary information,” including 875 interviews, satellite images and “authenticated” documents, photographs, and videos. It found “gross human rights violations and abuses committed in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States,” many of which “undoubtedly amount to the gravest crimes under international law.” It urged the Security Council to refer the “situation” to the International Criminal Court (Myanmar is not a party) or create an *ad hoc* international criminal tribunal. Until that occurs, the Mission said the UN “should create an independent, impartial mechanism to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations” and “to prepare files to facilitate and expedite fair and independent criminal proceedings.” Further, the High Commissioner for Human Rights should be requested to enhance “monitoring, documentation, analysis and public reporting on the human rights situation” and the Human Rights Council should establish a second fact-finding mission for a limited period. Finally, it said, “as a matter of urgency” there “must be a comprehensive independent inquiry into the United Nations’ involvement in Myanmar since 2011.” <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/MyanmarFFM/Pages/ReportoftheMyanmarFFM.aspx>

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), a nongovernmental organization based in the U.S., interviewed “and conducted forensic examinations of 22 survivors—men, women, and children—of the Chut Pyin massacre. The injuries PHR doctors documented . . . serve as clear medical evidence to corroborate the survivors’ accounts.” PHR said that “based on the forensic examinations and the consistent and detailed testimony, as well as corroborating information from additional credible sources,” it believes Myanmar authorities should be investigated for crimes against humanity. <https://rohingya.phr.org/resources/chutpyin/>

The Myanmar Army published a book on the Rohingya crisis. *Reuters* investigated and found that three of the eight historical photographs contained in the book were faked: “The book purports they were taken in the western state of Rakhine,” when in fact one was taken in Bangladesh in 1971, another was of Rwandans fleeing into Tanzania in 1996, and a third, whose caption says it shows “Bengalis” entering Myanmar, actually shows Rohingya and Bangladeshis leaving Myanmar in 2015. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/31/myanmar-army-fakes-photos-and-history-in-sinister-rewrite-of-rohingya-crisis?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Guardian+Today+-+Collection&utm_term=284548&subid=22849866&CMP=GT_collection

Nepal. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Nepal Red Cross Society published their annual list of missing persons, which this year contains the names of 1,333 persons still missing from the 1996-2006 internal armed conflict. The ICRC “reminded all the stakeholders,

including the Government of Nepal, of their obligation to provide information to the families,” *The Himalayan Times* reported. <https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/government-urged-to-provide-info-about-missing-persons/>

Nicaragua. In June the government invited the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to send a team to investigate the civil unrest that has been ravaging the country since April. In a report on August 28, the team said it had documented human rights violations including “disproportionate use of force by the police that sometimes resulted in extrajudicial killings; enforced disappearances; obstructions to access to medical care; widespread arbitrary or illegal detentions; prevalent ill-treatment and instances of torture and sexual violence in detention centres; violations of freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression, including the criminalization of social leaders, human rights defenders, journalists and protesters considered critical of the Government.” It based its findings on interviews and “available official documentation, including public statements, reports from different sources, videos, photos, and media (including social media).” The team was expelled from the country two days after the report was released. Securing the records of temporary teams is an important responsibility for the parent organizations. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NI/HumanRightsViolationsNicaraguaApr_Aug2018_EN.pdf; <https://www.yahoo.com/news/un-human-rights-mission-departs-nicaragua-213303711.html>

Russia. A Russian blogger entered an abandoned police station and migration service building where she found “cubic meters of documents abandoned in this building: applications with copies of various certificates, boxes with Muscovites’ IDs and passports, criminal and misdemeanor case files, juvenile delinquents’ records, officers’ personnel files, and more.” She shared photos of the abandoned site on social media and with *Meduza*. “Police have now removed the documents.” <https://meduza.io/en/feature/2018/08/17/russian-blogger-uncovers-a-treasure-trove-of-police-records-at-an-abandoned-station-in-moscow>

Seychelles. The National Assembly passed a bill to create a Committee on Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity “to provide the public with the opportunity to settle past political divisions and grievances that began with the 1977 coup d’etat.” <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/9531/Seychelles+approves+first+Committee+on+Truth+%2C+Reconciliation+and+National+Unity>

United Kingdom. The Crown Prosecution Service said 239 “suspects” were charged “with modern slavery offences over the past year,” 27% more than last year, and 185 people were convicted, reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. “The average time to complete a slavery prosecution has doubled to almost three years since 2015.” <http://news.trust.org/item/20180809000100-13419/>

Data from the Home Office, obtained under the freedom of information act, showed that some people have been “waiting more than 20 years for decisions on their asylum claims,” the *Guardian* reported. In 2017, 75% of the decisions were made within 6 months of application; of the initial refusals that were appealed last year 35% were overturned. The problem with delayed decisions is that “asylum seekers are not allowed to work while they wait for a decision on their claim,” with the government providing minimal housing and allowance. https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/aug/17/revealed-asylum-seekers-20-year-wait-for-home-office-ruling?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Guardian+Today+-+Collection&utm_term=283685&subid=22849866&CMP=GT_collection

United Kingdom/Northern Ireland. The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said PSNI has “about 45 million pieces of paper” as well as “three legacy IT systems that don’t talk to each other, which are not entirely searchable,” the *Belfast Telegraph* reported. He said he understood the “frustration for families still waiting for answers” about the Troubles-related deaths of their relatives, but there is an “existing current piecemeal and entirely inadequate quagmire that is the process that currently exists for dealing with the past, or not dealing with the past.” <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/police-swamped-by-45-northern-ireland-million-legacy-papers-37194504.html>

United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report on the relationship between occupation and drug and opioid use in the United States between 2007 and 2012. Using mortality data on persons over 18 years of age in 21 states that report to the National Occupational Mortality Surveillance system and include information on “the decedent’s usual industry and occupation,” researchers found the occupation with the highest mortality was the construction industry, followed by extraction industries (mining, oil, and gas), and health care practitioners. CDC also released a preliminary estimate of the deaths in 2017 due to drug overdoses, based on death records

from state vital registration offices, showing that about 72,000 U.S. residents died by overdoses, a rise of nearly 10% over 2016. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6733a3.htm?s_cid=mm6733a3_w&utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=e9abdbf880-MR_COPY_08&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-e9abdbf880-149736437; <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>; https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/08/15/fentanyl-use-drove-drug-overdose-deaths-record-high-cdc-estimates/?utm_term=.8af535ba0d82

The CDC also released a report on access to health care for adults with disabilities related to hearing, vision, cognition, mobility, self-care and independent living. A 2016 survey by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services showed that one in four U.S. adults reported some type of disability. Among persons 18-44, cognitive disability was most prevalent (10.6%), while mobility disability was highest among those 45-64 and over 65. Disability is more often found among women, American Indians/Alaska Natives, adults with incomes below the Federal poverty level, and persons in the U.S. South. The researchers used four measures to determine care needs: having insurance coverage, having a health care provider, receiving routine health check-ups in the past year, and “having an unmet health care need because of cost”. Among persons over 65 years, the primary problem identified was lack of care because of cost. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6732a3.htm?s_cid=mm6732a3_w&utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=959588f71f-MR_COPY_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-959588f71f-149736437

The number of cases of progressive massive fibrosis, a seriously debilitating lung disease, “among U.S. coal miners has risen during the past two decades, even as the number of coal miners has declined,” researchers found by using data collected by the U.S. Department of Labor from 1970 to 2016 under the Federal Black Lung Program, *Eurasia Review* reported. [http://www.eurasiareview.com/17082018-coal-miners-at-growing-risk-of-developing-debilitating-deadly-lung-fibrosis/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29](http://www.eurasiareview.com/17082018-coal-miners-at-growing-risk-of-developing-debilitating-deadly-lung-fibrosis/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29;);

The Society of American Archivists’ Council adopted “Protocols for Native American Archival Materials.” <http://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-council-endorsement-of-protocols-for-native-american-archival-materials>

Economists at three universities gathered data from the General Social Survey, “a biennial nationally representative survey measuring Americans’ beliefs on a wide variety of subjects,” to determine the prevalence of sexist beliefs. They reported that “sexism is highest in the Southeast and least extreme in New England and the West,” with Arkansas the most sexist state and New Hampshire the least, the *Washington Post* reported. Although it has been known that sexism lowers women’s wages, the researchers found that “sexism where she was born, which we call background sexism, affects a woman’s outcomes even after she is an adult living in another market through the influence of norms that she internalized during her formative years.” https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/08/21/most-sexist-places-america/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6fdd9d753592&wpisrc=nl_rainbow&wpm=1

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) proposal to destroy some records related to its detainee operations, including records of complaints of sexual and physical abuse by ICE employees, is still unresolved. A guest columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* called the proposal “troubling for a number of reasons, one being the National Archives’ nasty habit of rubber-stamping document destruction plans like this one.” He urged the National Archives to turn down even a revised proposal, arguing that the records are “official confirmation of the reports of advocacy groups, the news media and others about the deplorable conditions faced by migrant detainees.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2017-08. https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/columnists/ice-wants-to-hit-the-delete-key/article_0dd76216-2592-55cb-a0d0-e99801b587a4.html

The *Washington Post* broke the story of people denied passports or having their passports revoked even with an official birth certificate saying the person was born in the U.S. and is, therefore, a U.S. citizen. “The government alleges that from the 1950s through the 1990s, some midwives and physicians along the Texas-Mexico border provided U.S. birth certificates to babies who were actually born in Mexico.” The American Civil Liberties Union believed that a 2009 settlement to litigation over these birth certificates had settled the question, but the Trump Administration has “formed a denaturalization task force that tries to identify people who might have lied on decades-old citizenship applications” and “appears to be taking aim at a broad group of Americans along the stretch of border” between the U.S. and Mexico. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-is-denying-passports-to-americans-along-the-border-throwing-their-citizenship-into-question/2018/08/29/1d630e84-a0da-11e8-a3dd-2a1991f075d5_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.2b8568115844

STAT published a feature article on the hunt for the genes linked to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neuromuscular disease that causes progressive paralysis. Research on Ancestry.com pieced together “a 250-page digital family tree, with around 6,700 names, eight generations, two intertwined families, and a lot of ALS.” Now, with blood samples from many of the family members, researchers have identified “some of the more common ALS-causing mutations,” as well as a genetic “error” and are looking for successful gene therapy treatments. https://www.statnews.com/2018/08/05/appalachian-odyssey-hunting-for-als-genes/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=2c97966ee4-MR_COPY_08&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-2c97966ee4-149736437

A grand jury in Pennsylvania issued a report revealing that more than 300 Catholic priests abused more than 1000 children over seven decades and the Catholic hierarchy covered up the abuse. The grand jury “subpoenaed and reviewed half a million pages of internal diocesan documents” to arrive at their scathing report. <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4756977-40th-Statewide-Investigating-Grand-Jury-Interim.html>

United States/Puerto Rico. Researchers at two universities used vital statistics records to calculate death counts in Puerto Rico from January 2010 through December 2017, before and after Hurricane Maria hit in September 2017. They estimated that there were 1,139 hurricane-related deaths, *Eurasia Review* reported. However, researchers at another university, using records for all deaths occurring from September 2017-February 2018 provided by the Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Records division of the Puerto Rico Department of Health, estimated 2,975 deaths from September 2017 through February 2018. These are far beyond the original post-hurricane estimate of 64 deaths.

http://www.eurasiareview.com/03082018-higher-death-toll-from-hurricane-maria-than-previously-thought/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29;https://publichealth.gwu.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/projects/PRstudy/Acertainment%20of%20the%20Estimated%20Excess%20Mortality%20from%20Hurricane%20Maria%20in%20Puerto%20Rico.pdf

Yemen. A “major fire” destroyed the Awqaf Ministry archives (the ministry in charge of religious “endowments” or properties). The government blamed Houthi rebels, saying the fire “was likely caused by the Houthis to destroy documents on the Awqaf’s properties and allow the militias to seize these properties,” *Asharq Al-Awsat* reported. <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1373886/yemeni-government-condemns-houthis-burning-awqaf-ministry-archive>

Publications.

The Sedona Conference announced a public comment period through October 10 for “The Sedona Conference Principles and Commentary of Defensible Disposition.” <https://thesedonaconference.org/publication/The%20Sedona%20Conference%20Principles%20and%20Commentary%20on%20Defensible%20Disposition?>

UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. *Integrated Geospatial Information Framework: A Strategic Guide to Develop and Strengthen National Geospatial Information Management.* <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/documents/Part%201-IGIF-Overarching-Strategic-Framework-24July2018.pdf>

American Association for the Advancement of Science. *Geospatial Evidence in International Human Rights Litigation.* <https://mcprodaas.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/reports/Geospatial%20Evidence%20in%20International%20Human%20Rights%20Litigation.pdf?82fMnrKB1Y92OEsgMEIWhFIhOW80cFQo>

Global Witness. *Finding the Missing Millions* (handbook on using data from oil, gas and mining projects in investigations). <https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/campaigns/oil-gas-and-mining/finding-missing-millions/>

Swisspeace. *Atrocity’s Archives: The Role of Archives in Transitional Justice and Conclusions: International Conference on Archives and Human Rights: An Agenda to Strengthen Democracy.* http://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Media/Publications/Journals_Articles/atrocitys_archives_guidance_note-23july18.pdf ; http://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Media/Publications/Journals_Articles/Conclusions_International_Conference_EN.pdf

Good read: *Nature.* “Evaluating the replicability of social science experiments in *Nature* and *Science* between 2010 and 2015.” <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-018-0399-z>

Please share news with us! trudy@trudypeterson.com

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