

ICA HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP NEWS

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European Court of Human Rights. Employers can read personal email sent during work hours 2016-01

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United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Reports of violations in Turkey, Kurds and Syrian refugees 2016-05; report “Improving accountability and access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuse” 2016-05

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Lack of ID documents West Africa 2016-02; 65.3 million displaced, of which 41 million IDPs 2015-06

United Nations Human Rights Council. 3-person committee to investigate South Sudan 2016-03; 3-person Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan 2016-06; Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea said crimes against humanity, received letters campaigning against investigation, urges referral to Security Council 2016-06; resolution on human rights on the internet 2016-07

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World Health Organization. Trachoma mapping project with smartphones 2016-02; UN report says WHO needs reform and countries must follow rules on when to report disease outbreaks 2016-02; updated global database of air pollution 2016-05

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Biometric data. US Department of Defense (DoD) manual on procedures for collecting 2016-05

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Declassification. Open Government Partnership essay on opening Soviet archives 2016-03

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Forensic analysis. Report on unreliability of “feature-comparison methods” (hair, bite mark, firearms) 2016-09

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Torture. U.S. Department of Defense report on transfer of prisoners banned to countries likely to torture 2016-05; transcripts of Guantanamo hearings released, redacted 2016-06; judge orders U.S. preserve Senate report on CIA program 2016-12

War casualty data. Report on the methodological challenges of determining war casualties in Syria and Iraq, comparison of data from 12 groups 2016-04

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2016-09; France permits Shoah Memorial and Holocaust Museum to copy records relating to Nazi and collaborator crimes 2016-12

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Africa. African Truth and Reconciliation Commission Conference creates Pan-African Reconciliation Network 2016-11; Mo Ibrahim Foundation new data portal for statistics 2016-11

Algeria/France. Agreed to discuss return of archives, missing from war of independence, damages from atomic testing 2016-01; meeting in Algiers on same topics 2016-04; France provided 22 volumes copies diplomatic documents from war period 2016-06; Algeria says received copies of only 2% of French archives on Algeria

Algeria/International Committee of the Red Cross. ICRC to give Algeria copies of its records relating to its work 1955-1962 2016-11

Al-Qaeda/ United States. Release of more Bin-Laden documents, including will and structure of staff 2016-03

Argentina/Chile/Uruguay. Condor trial completed (commentary) 2016-05

Argentina/Vatican. Vatican to open archives on “Dirty War” when Argentina bishops agree 2016-03; Vatican and Argentine bishops say “finished cataloguing” 2016-10

Argentina/United States. Obama announces opening military and intelligence records on “Dirty War” 2016-03; U.S. released first tranche of records 2016-08; U.S. gave 500 pages declassified, show Condor targeted human rights groups 2016-12

Australia/Indonesia/United Kingdom/United States. International People’s Tribunal on the 1965 Crimes against Humanity in Indonesia said Australia, U.K., U.S. complicit 2016-07

Australia/Italy/United States. Arrest of Australian led Italy to arrest child pornography purveyors 2016-10

Australia/Nauru. Leaked reports (8000 pages) on terrible conditions in Australia’s detention camp on Nauru 2016-08

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Australia/United States. Objection to Ford Motor plans to ship Australian records to headquarters archives 2016-09; controversy over Ford archives continued 2016-10

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Belgium/France. Video found in the Belgium home of Paris attack suspect showed surveillance of Belgian nuclear official 2016-02

Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia. Croatia upheld conviction Scorpions member 2016-03

Bosnia/Kosovo. Coalition for RECOM documented 600 places of detention during 1992-95 war 2016-12

Bosnia/Netherlands. Appeal of ruling that Dutch peacekeepers failed to protect Bosnians after fall of Srebrenica 2016-10

Bosnia/Serbia. Suit against Ratko Adzic of Serbia for crimes against non-Serbs in Ilijas, Bosnia 2016-05; Bosnian court failed to provide Serbian court relevant documents for trial 2016-06

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Canada/Japan. Forced repatriation after WWII 2016-04

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Chile/United States. Chile closes case of disappeared man, missing near Colonia Dignidad, U.S. documents suggest military killed in 1984 2016-03; U.S. CIA documents say Pinochet ordered assassination of Letelier and Moffitt 2016-09; Chile to file extradition request for 2 implicated in Letelier case 2016-12

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Colombia/United States. Suit against Chiquita for facilitating torture can proceed 2016-06; lenient treatment of Colombian paramilitaries tried in drug cases in US 2016-09

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Croatia/Serbia. Vukovar “false Serbs” eliminated, script and Serbian language eliminated in town 2016-08

Cuba/United States. NGO urges U.S. to declassify intelligence records on man who bombed Cubana airplane in 1976 2016-10

Czech Republic/Russia/Ukraine. Ukraine consolidating SSR period police agency records, exchanging archives copies with Czech Republic

Dominican Republic/Haiti. Report on stateless people pushed into Haiti, lack of documentation for Haitians so cannot vote 2016-11

Egypt/Finland/Germany/Italy. Companies selling surveillance equipment to Egypt 2016-02

Europe. German report not finding many rightful owners of Gurlitt art trove 2016-01

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France/Gabon. Birth certificate of Gabon president Ali Bongo contested 2016-02

France/Germany. France opening secret service archives from WWII, including seized German records, held by defense archives 2016-03

France/Libya/NATO/United Kingdom. U.K. report that NATO intervention in Libya 2011 “not informed by accurate intelligence” 2016-09

France/Rwanda. Mitterrand archives relating to Rwanda mostly closed 2016-04

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Germany/Israel. Zionist Archive has 3-page deposition of medical experiments at Dachau 2016-01

Germany/Netherlands. Suit against Dutch archives on workers at WWII Vught concentration camp 2016-05

Germany/Switzerland. Gurlitt art collection legally donated to Bern art museum 2016-12

Germany/United Kingdom. U.K. opened applications of U.K. nationals to Anglo-German Nazi Persecution Compensation body 1964-65 2016-03

Guatemala/United States. Call for opening U.S. records on 18 ex-military leaders on trial in Guatemala 2016-01

Iceland/United States. Issue of whether U.S. brought nuclear weapons to Iceland 2016-10

India/7 countries. Ask for Chandra Bose records 2016-03

India/Japan. Japan declassified records on death of Chandra Bose 2016-10

India/United Kingdom. U.K. Foreign Office removed files from National Archives, said to relate to Golden Temple assault in 1984 2016-11

India/United States. U.S. art dealer arrested selling stolen art from India 2016-12

Indonesia/United States. NGO urges U.S. to open archives on 1965-66 Indonesia massacres 2016-04

Iraq/Kuwait. Iraq Defense Ministry offer rewards for information on missing Kuwait national archives 2016-12

Iraq/Syria/United States. U.S. says air strikes killed 64 civilians in Iraq in Syria in last year 2016-11

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Iraq/United States. U.S. government contractor CACI sued over actions at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq 2016-10

Ireland/United Kingdom. Ireland demand U.K. police and security records on Dublin-Monaghan bombings 1974 2016-05

Ireland/United Kingdom/Northern Ireland. Ireland demand release of 1986 Stalker report on fatal shootings by Royal Ulster Constabulary 1982 2016-12

Islamic State/ISIL. Use of Twitter and Telegram images to determine use of children as suicide bombers 2016-02; Yazidi woman said registered by photo and number as property 2016-03; digital archives of portraits of network of fighters in Europe 2016-04; many ISIL documents and data recovered by Syrian forces 2016-07; Southeast Asia IS activity includes Malay language newspaper, perhaps province 2016-07; use of apps to sell women and girls especially Yazidis 2016-07; calls for UN to establish formal investigative commission 2016-07; "heritage snuff" video shows desecration of mummies 2016-07; video of children shooting prisoners 2016-08; Commission for International Justice and Accountability says enough information on sex-slaves to try IS leaders for crimes against humanity 2016-09; Club de Madrid analysis of IS videos 2016-09; media output 2016-10; documents seized show IS regulations for behavior, dealing with female captives, plots to attack Europe, seizure of IS notary archives 2016-11; U.S. filed case to recover stolen antiquities 2016-12

Israel/Palestine. Academic says Israel reclassified records relating to Palestinian expulsion 2016-02; video of Israeli soldier shooting unarmed Palestinian on ground, B'Tselem controversy 2016-03; Israel using unnecessary force when arresting children 2016-04; Mitrokhin document

in U.K. archives on Mahmoud Abbas and USSR 2016-09; title to lands around West Bank settlement Amona 2016-09; Akevot Institute releasing copies of records related to Israeli-Palestine conflict 2016-09

Israel/Rwanda. Supreme Court ruled records of Israel arms sales to Rwanda during 1994 genocide remain closed 2016-04

Israel/Yemen. Records of missing Yemeni children 2016-10; Israel declassified 400,000 documents relating to Yemeni children 2016-11; Israel released 200,000 documents on Yemeni child adoptions 2016-12

Japan/Russia. Japan call for joint investigation into documents taken from Manchuria WWII including Japanese Army records 2016-12

Jordan/Syria. Jordan issuing work permits Syrian refugees, accepting UNHCR cards 2016-06

Korea, North and South. South Korea created archives to hold documentation on human rights in North Korea 2016-09

Korea/United States. Records of Korean National Association in California to be copied and sent to Korea 2016-02

Kosovo/Serbia. Trial in absentia video key 2016-02; Kosovo asks for Serbia to open archives to find mass graves 2016-02; film on Kosovo war 1999, filmmakers difficulty getting Serbian records 2016-05

Malaysia/Netherlands/Russia/Ukraine. Report of shoot down of Malaysia plane over Ukraine says “irrefutable evidence” 2016-09

Mexico/Spain. Mexican family sues Spain over Franco execution and missing person 2016-01

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North Korea/Poland. North Koreans working in forced labor in Poland 2016-05

Panama/United States. Panama investigation U.S. invasion of 1989 to determine death 2016-07

Peru/United Kingdom [error in *News* said United States not UK]. Peruvians allege Xstrata Tintaya had Peruvian police collusion, email controversy and discovery process 2016-07

Philippines/United States. FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) filed for U.S. FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) records on U.S. role in 2015-01-35 operation in Bangsamoro that killed at least 70 people 2016-01

Russia/Ukraine. Ukrainian pilot convicted, forged letter ended hunger strike 2016-03; pilot release 2016-05; opening Soviet KGB archives cautioned 2016-05; use of KGB-Ukraine files 2016-07; house arrest of Ukrainian library director in Moscow extended 2016-08

Russia/United Kingdom. Report published on poisoning of Litvinenko in U.K. 2016-01

Saudi Arabia/United States. U.S. former senator urges release of 28 pages of Senate report on 9/11 attacks, allegation Saudi facilitated attacks 2016-05; Saudi foreign minister urges release of 28 pages 2016-06; pages released 2016-07

Serbia/Slovenia. Serbia gave Slovenia 43 original treaties from former Yugoslav archives 2016-12

South Asia. Database on missing children 2016-02

Spain/United States. 4 hydrogen bombs fell at Palmares in 1966, fallout 2016-06

Syria/United States. U.S. congress passed act to preserve international cultural property, special clause on Syria 2016-05

United Kingdom/Northern Ireland/United States. New subpoena to Boston College for taped interviews on IRA 2016-04; lawyers demand full documents on why police want access 2016-06; Ivor Bell ordered to stand trial based on tapes 2016-07

West Africa. Use of cell phone videos when law enforcement officers abuse authority 2016-09

National news.

Afghanistan. Civilian casualties record level for 7th year in a row 2016-02; video of police dragging man behind truck 2016-03; “virginity exams” 2016-03

Argentina. Catholic bishops working to declassify records on “Dirty War” era 2016-03; article reviewing declassification of Argentine, Vatican and U.S. records related to coup and forced disappearances 2016-07

Australia. Australian Society of Archivists on proposals for records on Out of Home care for children 2016-04; controversy over holding census names and address data for 4 years 2016-04; records of St. Albans Anglican boys home found for use by Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2016-06; creating historical DNA database of residents before 1945 2016-06; 18% Aboriginal children do not have birth certificates 2016-07; Royal Commission issues recordkeeping guidance, Catholic Bishop says he destroyed records on pedophile priest 2016-09

Bahrain. Government dissolves country’s main opposition group 2016-06

Bangladesh. Garment sector worker safety still inadequate 2016-04; International Crimes Tribunal trial (commentary) 2016-05; kneecapping and maiming in prisons 2016-09

Belgium. Arson at national forensic crime laboratory destroys files 2016-08

Bolivia. Declassifying diplomatic documents 1966-1979 2016-11

Bosnia. Bosnia-Herzegovina entity to create commission to determine compensation for wartime rape victims 2016-04; EU urged Bosnia publish 2013 census results 2016-05; court in Prijedor destroyed investigation file on Croat family murdered 2016-05; census data released 2016-06; UN said should expedite verification data in Central Records of Missing Persons 2016-10; Republika Srpska referendum on national day 2016-10

Brazil. Ministry of Labor fined companies using slave labor 2016-02; photographer released photos of Yanomami from 1980s (taken for immunization records for people without names) 2016-04; Brazil urged to speed program of land titling 2016-05; indigenous group on border with Paraguay ordered to leave although land demarcated by FUNAI 2016-06; residents of Rio favelas lack land titles, link to drug trade 2016-06; land deal cancelled because of fraud in title, titling slow in Amazon with multiplicity of registries, Google and local group mapping Rio favelas 2016-07

Bulgaria. Information on former security service agents publicly available 2016-01; half of communist-era records of Military Intelligence personnel were destroyed at beginning of transition 2016-08

Burkina Faso. Forced marriage illegal only if “state-registered” marriage 2016-04; government drafting new constitution 2016-06

Burundi. OHCHR documented cases of security forces gang-raping, using satellite images to find mass graves 2016-01; UN investigation says witness list of persons to be killed and satellite imagery on mass graves 2016-09

Cameroon. Registration plan for births and vital statistics 2016-12

Canada. Transport Canada refuses to release information on safety Canadian railways 2016-01; man asks reopening of residential school compensation case 2016-03; records of Independent Assessment Process (IAP) not government records and can be destroyed court ruled 2016-04; pass regime records destroyed in the past 2016-04; British Columbia judge said cases in which the person not convicted of a crime would not be online but would be available when visiting court registry 2016-04; Library and Archives Canada and National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation agreement, Truth and Reconciliation Commission says not all records available and urges preservation of IAP records 2016-05; government appeal to Supreme Court on records of IAP 2016-06; RCMP retaining Stingray cell phone data on private citizens for past 10 years 2016-06; Human Rights Watch on water crisis in First Nations communities 2016-06; children of “Sixties Scoop” cannot find birth records 2016-09; Supreme Court will hear appeal on whether records of IAP are government records 2016-10; Canada security service cannot maintain indefinitely phone logs and email trails but has “vastly increased” access to federal data 2016-11; RCMP gave reporters access to 10 case files to show need for more authority to gain and use digital evidence 2016-11; minister “weighing views” on whether security service should be allowed to retain electronic records on people who were not under investigation 2016-12; RCMP secret surveillance program on subversives in 1950s 2016-12

Central African Republic. Satellite imagery and interviews show destroyed camp for displaced people and UN failure to stop attack, new court with mandate to investigate 2016-11

Chile. National Monuments Council orders preservation of records of Colonia Dignidad 2016-06; Chamber of Deputies refused bill to allow investigators access to truth commission records, activists create petition 2016-09

China. Leak of images of naked women taken as loan guarantees 2016-12

Colombia. 5 ELN leaders investigated for 16,000 crimes 2016-05; FARC and government ceasefire and disarmament signed 2016-06; National Centre of Historical Remembrance to store digital copy with swisspeace for safekeeping; land restitution claims only half processed due to difficulties with legal title 2016-08; peace accord with FARC approved, sets up three transitional justice bodies 2016-11

Cote d’Ivoire. Drafting new constitution to eliminate requirement that president’s parents be natural-born Ivorians 2016-06

Cyprus. Will use ICRC records to find missing persons from 1974 2016-02; UN Secretary General says Committee on Missing Persons to have access to records UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus 2016-06

Czech Republic. Some records of StB (former secret police) to be available electronically, researchers must physically visit archives to register for password 2016-03

Egypt. Forcibly closed human rights organization 2016-02; 7420 civilians tried by military courts since October 2014 in mass trials 2016-04; historian cites difficulty of doing research at national archives 2016-08; HRW says medical files and photos show cruel and inhuman

treatment in Scorpion prison 2016-09; lawsuit against two cement companies for environmental damages 2016-10

El Salvador. Investigation of killings at El Mozote, still uncertain control of Tutela Legal archives 2016-03; amnesty law overturned, investigation and prosecution now possible 2016-07; gangs terrorizing country “mafias of the poor” 2016-11

Ethiopia. Opposition party leader charged with terrorist act for Facebook posting, 20 university students charged based on video and their list of demands 2016-05; HRW says excessive force in Oromia protests, give families information on persons detained by government 2016-06; Soil Information System data need preservation 2016-06, 2016-09; “disgruntled worker” posted records of 112,000 police 2016-06; State of Emergency Inquiry Board issued names, reasons for arrest of over 11,000 people since October 8, locations of detention camps 2016-11

France. Children removed from La Reunion and resettled in France trying to connect to biological parents 2016-03; genealogical private enterprise using records of civil estate for profit 2016-12; government will join 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 on protection of cultural property in armed conflicts 2016-12

Gabon. ICC opening investigation on post-election violence 2016-09

Georgia. Sex tapes released 2016-03

Germany. Boys’ choir Regensburg sexual abuse 2016-01; trial of Auschwitz guard based on Nazi records 2016-02; government to overturn homosexuality convictions 2016-05; investigator forwards 8 cases of Nazi crimes to prosecutor, says in 10 years investigation will become documentation center 2016-08; digital recreation of Auschwitz-Birkenau camp 2016-10; Volkswagen fired one historian but appointed another historian to “clarify” its role during military dictatorship in Brazil 2016-11

Guatemala. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) report asks ethnicity included in official records and private security forces effectively controlled 2016-03; congressman on trial, police records show was part of “white van unit” 2016-04; CICIG and UNICEF report on sex trafficking, used AG records 2016-06; 8 military officers to be tried for crimes 1981-1987 based on documentation, 2 others released based on their documents 2016-06; 3 men broke into Impunity Watch offices apparently searching for documents on a case against 4 military officers 2016-06; Cargill obtained promise from REPSE subcontractor to prevent future violence 2016-06; Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation records 2016-07; case against Lucas Garcia for Molina Theissen disappearance and torture to go forward 2016-10

Guinea. Plan to have center control traffic of phone companies 2016-02; support for Provisional National Commission for Reconciliation’s call for truth commission 2016-08; NGOs demanding suspension of involuntary resettlement for gold mine 2016-09

Haiti. Report on environmental risks goldmining 2016-01; Doctors Without Borders says cholera death toll too low because inadequate data 2016-03; commission says documentation shows presidential vote invalid, recommends new vote 2016-05

Honduras. Death of two environmental activists, death threats from electricity company documented by Catholic priest, IACHR “precautionary measures” 2016-03; case files show police chief suspects in assassination of antidrug officials 2009 and 2011, Organization of American States anticorruption commission to take up Berta Caceres’ death 2016-04; former soldier says 2 units given hit lists that included Caceres’ name 2016-06; Netherlands bank

investigation of hydroelectric project that led to Caceres death 2016-09; court case file on assassination of Caceres stolen during carjacking 2016-10

India. Department archives Jammu and Kashmir no “regular” accessions since 1947, police keeping their own archives 2016-01, 2016-04, 2016-08; Prime Minister visited National Archives to declassify Subhas Chandra Bose records, family wants government to ask other countries for copies of related records 2016-01; police destroyed records pertinent to Hashimpura massacre of 1987 while the trial was pending 2016-02; computerizing land record finds records missing, hard to read 2016-02; release of tranche of Bose records shows destruction of records 2016-04; Maharashtra police had records for less than a quarter of the missing children found in first quarter of the year (12,000 children) 2016-04; mysterious fire burns files related to land acquisition 2016-05; 3 UN Special Rapporteurs call on India to repeal Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, used against NGOs, leaks to press 2016-06; postcards tracking migrant children return to school 2016-07; registration of land in Telangana 2016-07; 2/3 of civil lawsuits relate to land and property, many over 5 years old 2016-08; fast-track courts to prosecute crimes against women have long delays, records not digitized 2016-08; Mumbai slum clusters surveyed to identify people eligible for rehabilitation and map areas for redevelopment 2016-08; victims not reporting acid attacks to police so police statistics wrong 2016-09; flood map with satellite and rainfall and water data for flood information in Bihar 2016-09; authority to verify land titles in Rajasthan cities, satellite use to see illegal mining, claims filed under Forest Rights Act, drop in anti-trafficking cases 2016-11; honor killings undercounted 2016-12

Indonesia. Report on treatment of mentally disabled 2016-03; president ordered government to gather information on mass graves from 1965-66, government asking NGOs for their research data 2016-04; human rights in Papua not improving NGO data shows 2016-04; NGO gives government list of mass grave sites 2016-05; information commission said investigative report of murder of human rights activist public information, government said can’t find report 2016-10; right to be forgotten enacted 2016-11

Iran. Police deploying 7000 citizens to photo violations of “Islamic moral code” 2016-04; son of Ayatollah Montazeri released audio tape of the Ayatollah’s objections to executions, confirms identities of people carrying out executions 2016-08; Montazeri sentenced to 21 years in prison and defrocked 2016-11; marriages between Iranian women and Afghan men since 2001 declared invalid, children stateless 2016-12

Iraq. Czech scholars documenting destroyed sites in Mosul 2016-03; NGOs say minority communities disappearing, call for mapping and data-gathering 2016-07; parliament passed General Amnesty Law, court records needed to implement 2016-08; OHCHR said Islamic State using human shields near Mosul 2016-10 and massacres around city 2016-10; texts hidden in Christian monastery saved 2016-12

Ireland. Symphysiotomy claims records to be destroyed unless claimants ask for return, protests 2016-03

Israel. NGO Breaking the Silence collect testimonies of soldiers in West Bank and Gaza 2016-01; prime minister instructed security forces to investigate Breaking the Silence, claim it published classified information 2016-03; military censor will review all digitized archival documents before they are put online, paper records closed and researcher can ask for digitization 2016-04; controversy over archives policies and government declassification 2016-05; Defense Ministry release testimonies and other items on 6 Day War 2016-06; new law

requires NGOs to report overseas government donations making up more than 50% budget 2016-07; Akevot wins prize for report on policies of national archives 2016-12

Italy. Released records related to fascist and Nazi war crimes of WWII 2016-02

Ivory Coast. UN documented rape cases and minimal punishment 2016-07

Japan. Wrong information on student's records leads to suicide 2016-03; government survey says 1/3 working women sexually harassed on the job 2016-03; court refused request to have Google remove records of fraud case 2016-11

Jordan. Report on Syrian refugees documentation problems 2016-11

Kenya. Half of internally displaced persons experienced or witnessed human trafficking 2016-03; Mombasa High Court ruled forced anal exams constitutional 2016-06; access to information bill 2015 signed 2016-09

Kosovo. Veterans want speedy review of decision not to register individuals as veterans 2016-02; 46,000 registered as veterans, prosecutor investigating fraudulent claims 2016-06; more tapes released from 2011, show threat to parliamentary speaker 2016-08

Latvia. Commission to Study KGB Materials does not have access to all records 2016-03

Lebanon. International Center for Transitional Justice recommendations for commission on missing 2016-01

Macedonia. President pardoned all politicians facing criminal investigations including wiretapping and taping case 2016-04; lustration cases annulled 2016-07; indictments in wiretapping case and against secret police destruction of related documents 2016-09; cases at European Court of Human Rights from persons named in lustration process 2016-10; illegal wiretaps case continued, data destroyed 2016-10; investigating current and former secret service members for illegal wiretapping of nearly 6000 persons 2016-11

Mali. Truth commission starting work, using NGO documentation 2016-04

Mexico. IACHR panel not getting access to information and video of Iguala (Ayotzinapa) student disappearance 2016-02; FOIA appeals panel ordered release of indictment on Mexican Army execution of 11 people who surrendered 2016-03; government commission said 600,000 sexual violence cases between 2010 and 2015 in 16 Mexican states; woman reporter posts video of her assault 2016-03; IACHR final report on Ayotzinapa students, show video, huge police criminal investigation file 2016-04; video showing torture of woman, discrepancy between complaints of torture and convictions for it 2016-04; report on killings by military forces and impunity 2016-06; parents found son killed because his ID card in records of state prosecutor 2016-06; National Human Rights Commission report says Federal police executed at least 22 people at a ranch, autopsies "sloppy and incomplete" 2016-08; more than 100 NGOs documented 68 cases of corporate abuse to present to UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights 2016-08; migrants not getting protection, statistics from refugee agency and NGOs 2016-09; judge investigating drug cartels shot, on video 2016-10; internal investigation of handling of Iguala (Ayotzinapa) student disappearance said key evidence obtained by torture, refused to release report of review 2016-12

Moldova. Election rolls inaccurate, dead eligible to vote 2016-09

Montenegro. Opposition says must open secret files from the Communist era and the 1990s 2016-05

Morocco. Moroccan Truth Commission needs a place to preserve its archives 2016-11

Mozambique. Armed men raided health facilities, in one burned patient records 2016-08

Myanmar. Reports on rape and murder of 2 Kachin Christian teachers in 2015 2016-01; land titling at heart of civil war 2016-02; government says returning seized lands to previous owners a top priority 2016-05; national verification cards distributed in 3 townships, one village refuses because do not state ethnicity and religion, state established committee to look at immigration and citizenship in Rakhine state, OHCHR report on human rights violations against Rohingya 2016-06; general told court that a court martial underway for soldier who killed villagers and did not follow rules 2016-07; return of land taken by military hampered by lack of documentation 2016-08; 9 member panel headed by Kofi Annan to recommend how to stop human rights abuses in Rakhine State 2016-08; internal Correctional Department records show dire conditions and corruption at prison labor camps 2016-09; parliament removed requirement to report overnight guests unless stay for one month 2016-09; satellite imagery and “thermal anomaly data” on destruction of Rohingya villages 2016-11; farmer pushed off land in Karen State, land titling issues 2016-11

Nepal. TRC says not getting records from government 2016-01; TRC and commission on disappeared say will take complaints from victims in April, civil society formed group to discuss unofficial truth-telling 2016-03; truth commission and commission on disappeared getting large numbers of complaints from victims 2016-04; police and army ask for but refused access to complaints to TRC 2016-05; victims afraid to file complaints because of threats, 6 families file complaint against former prime minister, period for filing complaints extended 2016-06; 2 commission received over 60,000 cases before close of registration, truth commission putting some cases on hold 2016-08

Netherlands. Amsterdam accidentally destroyed WWII leasehold files of Jewish residents 2016-10

New Zealand. Veterans worry re digitizing and destroying records 2016-02

Nigeria. Army established office of human rights re fight against Boko Haram 2016-02; Boko Haram released video of some missing Chibok girls 2016-08

North Korea. Satellite imagery suggests nuclear facility reactivated 2016-06

Oman. Writer held by police for 20 days for Facebook post calling on government to reveal burial sites of rebels executed during Dhofar rebellion 1962-1976 2016-04, 2016-06

Pakistan. Ahmadis discrimination 2016-01; Punjab police digitizing records from all 720 police stations 2016-04; critical report hospital attack, said persons entering country should be photographed and “thumb impressed” 2016-12; Punjab land records digitized, help stop corruption 2016-12

Palestine. Gaza Bar Association raid by auditors, resolved but worry because bar verifies documents in Gaza 2016-03

Peru. ICTJ files brief supporting more than one compensation award to a family 2016-05; national law on search for disappeared required National Registry of Disappeared Persons 2016-06; prosecutor ruled that forced sterilizations of 1990s were not state policy, congressman says health ministry set goals and deadlines for the practices 2016-08; Accomarca massacre convictions, 6 year trial, 250 court sessions, huge records 2016-09; appeal against decision to

close case on forced sterilization 2016-12; national plan to search for missing persons 1980-2000 2016-12

Philippines. Mayor, officials, land owner charged over fire in factory, permits in violation of codes 2016-03; dispersed records of Presidents 2016-04; police killings jump 10-fold 2016-08; statistics on killings since President Duterte took over, hitman says he was not on official city personnel records 2016-09; Commission on Human Rights to investigate Duterte claim to have killed 3 persons 2016-12

Poland. Lech Walesa file released, among files seized at the house of the last Communist interior minister 2016-02

Qatar. Abuse of migrant workers building FIFA World Cup complex 2016-04

Romania. Reopening inquiry into death during the 1989 protests 2016-04; law passed giving priority to restitution claims of Holocaust survivors and communal property claims 2016-05; indictments of former president and senior officials for 1990 violence in Bucharest 2016-12

Russia. Rejected petition signed by 60,000 to open archives of Soviet era secret police and spy agencies 2016-01; deporting Circassians 2016-01; archivist denoted over Panfilov records release 2016-03; conversation between Putin and Artizov, archives coming back under the direct control of the presidency, reducing retention of personal information to 50 years 2016-04; article on 5 historians and problems getting access to archives 2016-07; archivist said documents on people killed during Soviet era now summarized for requesters who are not provided originals 2016-12; new Information Security Doctrine adopted 2016-12

Russia/Chechnya. Chechen leader posted video showing leader of opposition in Russia in a gunman's crosshairs 2016-02

Saudi Arabia. All telecoms subscribers must register fingerprints with government 2016-01; clerics must give brides a copy of marriage contract 2016-05

Serbia. Buildings to be returned to Jewish organizations 2016-02; army and police obstructing public access to information about the 1990s war 2016-04; court ordered Humanitarian Law Center to pay compensation to chief of Serbian Army for report documented by ICTY, Serbian military, and other records 2016-04; Humanitarian Law Center report complains of restrictions to public access to court documents and banning video in court 2016-06; court of appeal said Humanitarian Law Center published "untrue factual allegations in its Ljubisa Dikovic File" and ordered them to pay damages to him 2016-10; allegations information planted in case of 1999 murder of journalist 2016-10; Humanitarian Law Center complaint on ethnic cleansing in village of Lovas in Croatia, 1991, have order 2016-11

South Africa. Incomplete and lost records of arbitration proceedings 2016-01; Uthukela district college scholarships to virgins 2016-01; minister warns of danger to archives at universities, students ask removal of materials 2016-02; tenants threatened with eviction denied records 2016-03; Helen Suzman Foundation raided after taking stands against government, Supreme Court said should have arrested Bashir of Sudan when visited South Africa 2016-03; mobile claims offices collecting legal claims for land confiscated during apartheid 2016-04; SAHA got copy of TRC victims database 2016-04; Medecins sans Frontieres report high rate of sexual violence Rustenburg, police records inaccurate 2016-08; publication on environmental and health risks in gold mining 2016-10; exhibit on Project Coast chemical and biological warfare program 2016-11

South Korea. Ministry of Justice creating archives of North Korean human rights violations, will have records of information collected from defectors 2016-04; Samsung successfully pressures government not to release information to worker on chemical exposures in workplace, cite trade secrets 2016-08; adopted children seeking birth parents find obstacles including falsified adoption records 2016-08

South Sudan. President and VP want no international tribunal, as agreed in peace August 2015, advocates dismayed 2016-06; HRW urged UN make public findings 2 UN investigations in February 2016 attack on UN camp 2016-06; UN mission documented rape cases 2016-07; UNHCR documents civilian deaths and sexual violence during July fighting 2016-08; article on establishing national archives 2016-11; UN not collecting death toll 2016-12

Spain. Catalan archives giving back documents seized during Civil War 2016-07

Sri Lanka. UN Special Rapporteur says torture a common practice 2016-05; government to issue “certificates of absence” so families can prove deaths and get inheritances 2016-06; General said army has record of individuals moving across front-line at end of war, has not yet produced list 2016-07; ICRC said registered 16,000 persons as missing 2016-07; new government database on disasters 2016-08; UN Committee on Torture says torture common, better records practices in police and judicial systems needed 2016-12

Sudan. Amnesty International interviews and satellite images of 30 likely chemical attacks and 171 villages destroyed in Darfur 2016-09

Switzerland. Archives of children “forcibly placed in institutions” 1800-1980 2016-12

Syria. 18 human rights groups state demands for negotiating parties 2016-02; NGO report on Syria deaths 2016-02; NGO calls for documenting ceasefire 2016-03; article on collecting documents in Syria to tie Assad regime to mass torture and killings 2016-04; Amnesty International report on deaths in Syrian custody since 2011 2016-08; Idlib Antiquities Center documenting sale and smuggling of artifacts 2016-10; Syrian Network for Human Right annual report on violations against women’s rights 2016-11; nearly 17,000 civilians killed in 2016 2016-12; The Syrian Archive database of video footage on war atrocities 2016-12; article on law on war crimes says evidence available for future prosecutions 2016-12

Taiwan. Apartment building collapse in earthquake, records lacking 2016-02; letters from victims of White Terror 2016-02; calls for declassification, new archives law relating to records of White Terror, views of president-elect 2016-03; government announces truth commission and presidential apology to indigenous people 2016-05

Tanzania. Program to issue titles to 65,500 farmers, civil rights groups worried re individualization of land and use for getting bank loans 2016-06; drones to map land and issue 300,000 title deeds 2016-09

Thailand. Backlog 4.25 million land possession document approvals in government 2016-10

Tunisia. Truth commission has access to presidential archives 2016-02; photos of court records in disarray 2016-03; Tunisian Torture Prevention Organization received 250 complaints in 2015 2016-05; 65,000 complaints received by truth commission, sent cases re state officials to Interior Ministry who rejected them 2016-06; interview with president of truth commission 2016-07; truth commission says Ministry of Interior not giving access to its archives 2016-11

Turkey. Will issue work permits for Syrian refugees after 6 months residence 2016-01; academics jailed, dismissed, suspended, one had computer hard drive taken by police because signed petition to resume peace talks with Kurdish group PKK 2016-04; International Crisis

Group (ICG) published “casualty infographic” of one year Kurdish/government conflict 2016-07; government closed 29 publishing houses and seized all materials 2016-08

Uganda. Lawsuit between palm oil company, government, tenant farmers over land title 2016-06

Ukraine. OHCHR said both sides committed acts near to war crimes 2016-07

United Kingdom. Asbestos firm kept dossiers in 1980s on “subversives” and accused them of being communists 2016-01; courts not keeping transcripts or audio records of most criminal cases 2016-01; woman denied access to file on mother’s murderer on privacy grounds 2016-01; companies must report gender pay gap 2016-02; rape from on-line dating rose 2016-02; police won’t give report to Green party member on destruction of records on her 2016-02; plans to privatize Land Registry controversial 2016-04, abandoned 2016-09; intelligence agencies secretly collecting bulk personal data since late 1990s 2016-04; police deleted fingerprints and DNA samples of repeat teenage offenders and 810 terrorism suspects 2016-05; reports of 5700 new case of female genital mutilation (FGM) in last year 2016-07; Home Office doctors gave experimental drugs to children in state care 2016-08; increase in prosecution of domestic abuse, rape and sexual offenses including “revenge porn” 2016-09; record of slavery crimes and trafficking released, poor crimes records 2016-10; archivist appointed to assemble and describe records relating to 1984 Battle of Orgreave miners’ strike 2016-10; bill proposed to pardon men convicted under abolished sexual offence laws 2016-10; hate crimes increase said due to “perception-based reporting” 2016-11; files on miners’ strike to be sent to national archives 2016-12; inspection report on sexual abuse charges against police 2016-12

United Kingdom/Northern Ireland. Police Service ordered to release files to family of man murdered by loyalists in 1997 2016-01; Victims Commission said must deal with national security as reason not to release information 2016-04; Kingsmill massacre 11,000 classified documents sought for inquiry 2016-09

United Kingdom/Scotland. Scottish football league may use facial recognition software on crowds at games 2016-01

United States. National Security Council records ruled not covered by FOI and do not have to release records relating to drone strikes 2016-01; report on Project SHAD says veterans no adverse health 2016-01; charges against two persons who made false Planned Parenthood video 2016-01; death certificates show majority of heroin deaths are of white adults 2016-01; Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires medical records released within 30 days of request; DoD taking over storage of records of Federal background checks from Office of Personnel Management 2016-01; “beware” software estimates a person’s potential for violence, FBI is pooling local databases 2016-01; Chemawa Indian School deaths in unmarked graves 2016-01;

Senate report on torture by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), public demand that the National Archives declare copies of report held by Federal agencies as agency records reachable through FOIA 2016-02; CIA false internal memos 2016-02; lack of access to records hampers study of Gulf War syndrome 2016-02;

Navy veterans must find evidence of exposure to Agent Orange, Institute of Health database on Agent Orange and future documentation of service 2016-03; one in six times an FOIA request in 2015 was answered as no records found 2016-03;

CIA withdrew proposal to destroy emails of all but 22 employees 2016-04; Appeals court said government can withhold information about the details of drone strikes 2016-04; Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) shredding claims documents without authorization 2016-04; DoD not pursuing sexual assault cases that civilian prosecutors refuse 2016-04; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives digitizing records from closed gun stores 2016-04; police officer doing the shooting not publicly identified in one in five police killings 2016-04; Chicago police records show racism, task force recommendation on when to release audio and video of police “critical incidents” 2016-04;

Senate 2014 report on CIA controversy, FOIA and Federal Records act definition 2016-05; Government Accounting Office report on poor data on worker injuries in meat and poultry industry 2016-05; check of recidivism algorithm against records showed bias and poor results 2016-05; New England court cases show 67 private schools in New England with more than 200 students sexually abuse last 25 years 2016-05;

VA decisions on Agent Orange conditions not solely on science, politics 2016-06; hate crimes not consistently reported to FBI 2016-06; LGBTQ and HIV-affected hate crimes tracked by NGO 2016-06; report on police officers arrested 2016-06; government watch lists growing, 7 lists in 4 agencies 2016-06; law students help Crow tribe write wills, clarify land ownership 2016-06; Lakota nation urging truth commission on US Indian boarding schools 2016-06; land dispute between Wichita and Caddo nations over land ownership and cemetery location 2016-06; Georgetown University to decide how to atone for 1838 sale of slaves 2016-06; home building industry campaign against fire sprinklers in new homes 2016-06;

project to catalog reasons state agencies give for rejecting public records requests 2016-07; articles on physician sexual misconduct disciplinary action 2016-07; resolving complaints to the U.S. government on breaches of patient privacy 2016-07; rules requiring oil, natural gas or minerals extraction companies to disclose payments to governments 2016-07;

DoD collecting data on “identity activities” 2016-08; California judge ordered release of FBI records on use of Stingray surveillance device 2016-08; Justice Department proposed better tracking killings by police officers 2016-08; FOIA lawsuit for release of records of task force reviews of 242 detainees at Guantanamo Bay military prison 2016-08;

sugar industry records show manipulation of research and resulting dietary recommendations 2016-09; FBI federal crime data released, violent crimes up and property crimes down 2016-09; judge released government requests for District of Columbia telephone and internet activity in 2012 2016-09; Environmental Protection Agency files from open and close lead cases were in recycling 2016-09;

San Francisco police report says poor records 2016-10; FBI said to have facial images of half the population 2016-10; open data projects to fight against police misconduct 2016-10; study of gun violence using many data sources 2016-10; pilots who flew planes that transported Agent Orange eligible for benefits 2016-10; mental health problem of troops stationed at Guantanamo Bay prison 2016-10; CIA released final volume on official history of Bay of Pigs invasion 2016-10;

CIA released names of two psychologists who designed interrogation protocols 2016-11; court said link of person to email address must be proved with content and context 2016-11; FBI data on hate crimes 2016-11; records at Guantanamo Bay prison so heavily classified that it hampers medical care 2016-11;

children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have birth defects 2016-12; insurance companies 19th century sold insurance on slaves 2016-12; deaths caused by mental and substance abuse disorders nearly doubled in 30 years; superbug related deaths in healthcare facilities increased 62% from 2003 to 2014 2016-12; Federal government closed National Security Entry-Exit Registration System of men from Muslim countries 2016-12

United States/California. Parents organization gets access to public school student records, special master 2016-02; PG&E company lost 12 years of gas-line repair records 2016-02; new court software malfunctions: wrong arrests, detention, register as sex offenders 2016-12

United States/Delaware. Archivist found list of last slave owners 1865 2016-05

United States/Illinois. Controversy over destruction of files on police misconduct 2016-01; 80% of dashcam videos have no sound 2016-01; review of police street files shows defense attorneys did not get all information 2016-02; release of audio and video and database on open investigations of police shootings and use of force 2016-06; court orders Chicago make public every police department disciplinary file 1967 to present 2016-07

United States/Maryland. U.S. Justice Department report on discrimination against black residents by Baltimore police 2016-08; rent courts have “unclear, insufficient or incomplete” records 2016-09

United States/Michigan. Flint lead in water crisis discovered using electronic health records 2016-01; records relating to Flint water lines computerized, data lacking 2016-02

United States/Mississippi. Social workers at foster children facilities shredding documents to reduce case load 2016-01

United States/Missouri. Federal judge orders lawyers for Michael Brown family to get grand jury information 2016-06

United States/New York. Hospital sued for allowing filming of operations without patient’s consent 2016-04; use of big data to manage city 2016-05; archivists discover police surveillance records 1960s and 1970s 2016-06; New York City police department Inspector General report said department broke rules governing intelligence-gathering after the attacks on 9/11 and targeted Muslims 2016-08

United States/Pennsylvania. Catholic diocese sexual abuse, records used by state attorney general after search warrant and grand jury found 40 years of abuse 2016-03

United States/Washington. Catholic Archdiocese published list of 77 clergy who were child-sex abusers but did not release the files 2016-01; state to pay sanctions for permitting expert witnesses to destroy documents relation to lethal mudslide 2016-10

Uruguay. Information stolen from NGO collecting data about the disappeared 1973-1985 and excavating unmarked graves 2016-04

Venezuela. Impediments put in way of confirming right number of signatures on petition for presidential recall, fingerprints required 2016-06

Zimbabwe. NGO in Australia called on Zimbabwe’s National Peace and Reconciliation Commission to address forced disappearances but says government did not keep records of the disappearances 2016-08