



BCHR

Newsletter

August 2018
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The BCHR Network

The BCHR Network is pleased to present the BCHR Update Newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the network and its members. The main purpose of this newsletter is to a) share information about the work of the network and its members to a wider audience, and b) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the network members themselves and with other interested parties.

- Click [here](#) to learn more about the BCHR Network
- Click [here](#) for a complete list of the BCHR Network members

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Network Announcements

SAVE THE DATE: 29th of November in Geneva.

Our next annual conference will take place on Thursday **29 November 2018** at **WMO**, Geneva. We are bringing together experts from the academia, practitioners, international organisations and NGOs to discuss how business interact with human rights in contexts of conflict. New researches and projects are reshaping this field of work and new trends are forcing us to rethink about new standing points for reflection and action.

The event will revolve around the presentation of outstanding experts in the fields of transitional justice and occupied territories, among other topics. Join us for a day of insights, learning, discussions and networking. The Network annual conference provides an authoritative platform for debate in an open, critical and interdisciplinary manner.

Preliminary program, [here](#).

Registrations are open for all, [here](#).

Date: Thursday, 29 November, 2018 - 09:00 to 16:30

Location: WMO, 7bis, avenue de la Paix,
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Organised by: ICIP with the support of DCAF.

More information: Maria Prandi, maria.prandi@networkbchr.org

Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

• Business and Human Rights: Managing Risks, Pushing Innovation

Date: 10-12 September

Place: Manchester

The course is led by Alliance Manchester Business School's Business and Human Rights Catalyst, one of the first human rights projects to be hosted within a business school. It aims, through world-leading research and policy recommendations, to have a real impact on the rights of some of the most vulnerable people in society, promoting inter-disciplinary discussions between academics, policy setters and businesses on the role of the private sector in relation to fundamental rights.

[Learn more](#)

• Business and Human Rights Master Course

Date: From September 14th to November 11th

Place: Bergen, Norway

This course provides a better appreciation of the nature of human rights violations that can be linked to corporate activity, regardless of corporate intent. The course does this by examining the ethical and legal standards, duties, and expectations of companies.

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• The Human Rights Opportunity

Author: Shift

Shift's "The Human Rights Opportunity" offers 15 practical examples of how companies and multi-stakeholder initiatives are aiming to address human rights impacts and, at the same time, are showing great promise in delivering significant contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Image from: <https://www.shiftproject.org/sdgs>

[Learn more](#)

• Midcourse Manoeuvres: Community Strategies and Remedies for Natural Resource Conflicts in India

Author: Centre for Policy Research (CPR) – Namati Environmental Justice Program

This study is an attempt to understand the lived experience of people affected by land use change and related conflicts. Equally, if not more importantly, this research seeks to analyse what affected people do when such conflicts arise. What are the strategies they adopt and what kinds of remedies do they seek?

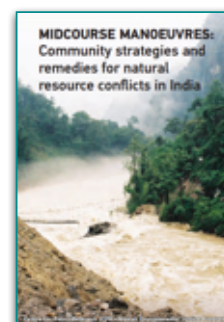


Image from: <https://tinyurl.com/y8nmz8rh>

[Learn more](#)

International News

• Indigenous Federation to GeoPark: Peru Project a Big Risk

Date: July 26th

Source: Amazon Watch

A federation of indigenous communities deep in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest affirmed its rejection of planned oil operations in its ancestral territory ahead of Friday's annual shareholder meeting of GeoPark (GPRK). The Chile-based oil company currently holds a license to explore in Peru's Block 64, which overlaps a significant part of Achuar ancestral territory in the Pastaza River Basin. The federation, known as FENAP, also accuses GeoPark of fomenting conflict among indigenous communities in the area.

[Learn more](#)

• Britain's Lloyds Bank to Stop Financing New Coal Plants, Thermal Coal Mines

Date: August 2nd

Source: The Economic Times

The new policy brings Lloyds in line with peers Royal Bank of Scotland and HSBC, which both announced similar changes earlier this year as lenders update their approach amid growing concerns about coal's impact on the environment.

[Learn more](#)

• Guatemalan Indigenous Communities File Complaint for Dams' Damages

Date: August 6th

Source: AIDA Americas

Affected communities have called on the Inter-American Development Bank to withdraw funding for the Pojom II and San Andrés dams for failure to comply with its operational policies. The mega-projects have damaged water sources and harmed the livelihoods of local indigenous people, particularly women.

[Learn more](#)

• Syrian Women Face Heat, Harassment While Picking Jordan's Crops

Date: August 9th

Source: Al-Monitor

Many women who fled the war in Syria have found themselves working to survive with their entire families in Jordan's fields. Director of the Jordanian nongovernmental organization Tamkeen Linda al-Kalash told Al-Monitor that around 20,000 Syrians, mainly women, work between Mafrq and the Jordan Valley.

[Learn more](#)

• Dutch Banking Sector Agreement Partners Publish Annual Report with New Analysis of Cocoa Sector

Date: August 9th

Source: IRBC Agreements

The coalition that concluded the Dutch Banking Sector Agreement on International Responsible Business Conduct Regarding Human Rights has published its first annual report. The report includes two new analyses, one concerning the global cocoa value chain and the other describing how the Agreement parties and adhering banks can use their influence to prevent and reduce human rights violations.

[Learn more](#)

• Oil Discoveries in Turkana Still to Fuel women's Emancipation

Date: August 9th

Source: The East African

Turkana is a vast dry, remote county in northwest Kenya, home to around 1.5 million nomadic livestock keepers. The discovery of commercially viable oil deposits six years ago brought with it great expectations of economic transformation of the historically marginalised area.

[Learn more](#)

• Chevron Defeats Terrorism Liability Lawsuit

Date: August 14th

Source: Courthouse News Service

A Federal judge on Tuesday struck down a lawsuit claiming Chevron funded deadly acts of terrorism through its illegal oil payments to former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Despite presenting "compelling evidence" that Chevron paid illegal kickbacks for cheap oil, the plaintiffs did not show a "direct connection" between those payments and acts of terrorism, U.S. District Judge James Donato concluded in his ruling Tuesday.

[Learn more](#)

• **Marked for Demolition? Ugandans on Pipeline Route Fear Land Loss**

Date: August 15th

Source: This is Place

The government is set to take about half of the land in the area to build the world's longest electrically heated oil pipeline from northwest Uganda to Tanzania, leaving locals worried. The government is set to take about half of the land, which feeds children.

[Learn more](#)

• **NGO Coalition Boycotts Prior Consultation Process For Proposed Lao Dam**

Date: August 24th

Source: Radio Free Asia

A coalition of NGOs and community-based groups dedicated to raising public awareness about the risks associated with dams on the Mekong River said Friday that it will boycott the prior consultation process for the proposed Pak Lay hydropower project in Laos.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Surya Deva

Managing States' "Fatal Attraction" to International Investment Agreements

In an era of investment-driven development, almost all states are constantly looking to create an environment conducive to attracting foreign investment. Offering tax breaks, establishing special economic zones, and negotiating international investment agreements (IIAs) are some of strategies invoked by states. IIAs can affect the landscape of business respect for human rights in diverse ways. They can constrain the legal or policy space available to states to regulate the conduct of corporate investors. IIAs also create an asymmetry between rights and obligations of corporate investors vis-à-vis states. Moreover, IIAs can have both direct and indirect impact on affected communities' right to seek effective remedies against corporate investors.

[Learn more](#)

Article by: Dalia Palombo

Parent Company Liability for Human Rights Abuses in the UK? We Need Clarity

The liability of parent companies for the extraterritorial human rights abuses committed by their subsidiaries has increasingly become a critical topic for both corporate and human rights litigators. The absence of national and international laws comprehensively addressing this issue created a space for creative arguments for and against holding parent companies of multinational groups incorporated in home States accountable for the human rights abuses committed by their subsidiaries in host States.

[Learn more](#)

About our Network

The Network brings together researchers, practitioners and NGO members from various fields with the aim of researching and analysing the role of business in conflict situations reducing the human and people's rights violations and any other negative social and environmental impact as well as other adverse consequences. It also looks at the potential role of companies in relation to peace building.

The Network reflects upon the causes, dynamics and consequences of business involvement in armed conflicts and systematic state repression, as well as upon existing or potential responses to such involvements in light of the responsibilities of all concerned actors and ongoing international and local efforts to develop and apply appropriate initiatives and guidelines.

Visit: <http://www.networkbchr.org/>

Sharing and posting materials

We very much welcome your comments and suggestions for how the BCHR newsletter can better serve the network's needs and interests as well as those of its members. We kindly invite you to share this newsletter with academics, NGO and practitioners that might be interested in its content.

If you are interested in contributing to future editions of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at maria.prandi@networkbchr.org.
