



International Human Rights e-Brief

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Bulletin Board

STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

Enter the AAAS Science & Human Rights Coalition

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate in the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition 2016 Student Essay Competition. This essay competition was created to inspire students to explore connections between human rights and science, engineering and the health professions. Students may write on any topic at the intersection of science and/or technology with human rights. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: 1) Undergraduate student and 2) Graduate student.

[Read me first](#)

PODCAST: WOMEN CONFRONT 'HONOR KILLING' IN PAKISTAN

Each year, throughout the world, thousands are murdered in so-called "honor killings" for bringing perceived shame onto their families for anything from infidelity to refusing an arranged marriage — or even being raped. The victims of these killings are predominately female, and because of legal loopholes and entrenched ideas about a woman's role in the family, the practice is especially prevalent in Pakistan.

At this year's Academy Awards, Pakistani-born director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short for her film *A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness*, which looks into the practice of "honor killing" through the story of a young woman who survived one. In this episode of the Asia Society Podcast, we hear from Obaid-Chinoy about why the crime persists, and how things might be starting to change. [Listen to the podcast](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS: Flight and Refuge – Perspectives from Interdisciplinary Peace Studies

The editors of the Journal of International Peace and Organization (“Die Friedens-Warte”) are pleased to invite abstracts and contributions for focus articles in the journal’s first issue of volume 91 (1-2/2016).

For several years now, various reports and judgments of national and international courts have served as indicators of how fragile any consensus on refugee policy is. The current influx of refugees, especially from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, seems to highlight suppressed problems so vehemently that talk of crises is ubiquitous: a crisis of the international community, a crisis of the European Union, a societal crisis in the host States or, as plain as it is truncated, “the refugee crisis”. The focus section of the Journal of International Peace and Organization’s upcoming issue wishes to approach this phenomenon from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Possible topics or aspects include, for example:

- International stability: lack of stability as the source and/or consequence of large refugee movements; role of international law (e.g. threat to international peace and security); other structural causes of migration and flight
- Safe places: political and legal perspectives on resettlement and deportation; non-refoulement; role of “safe” third countries; internally displaced persons
- Borders: conceptual role of (external) borders, especially of the European Union; implications of closing (internal) borders
- Crumbling solidarity: collapse of the Dublin system; decreasing trust within the European Union
- Integration of refugees: consequences for the societal and religious peace in the host State; various forms of integration; relationship to citizenship

Kindly send abstracts (max. 5,000 characters; format: .docx, .rtf or, ideally, .doc) in German or English to jtheilen@wsi.uni-kiel.de for a first appraisal. Abstracts should be submitted by **24 April 2016**. Manuscripts (max. 40,000 – 50,000 characters) should then follow by 24 July 2016.

For any further information or queries, please see our website <http://www.friedens-warte.de> and do not hesitate to contact us. The editors also accept general articles on any aspect of peace studies lying outside this issue’s focus. These may be sent to the above e-mail address at any time. A style guide can also be obtained from said e-mail address.

Human Rights News

2016 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Most of the movement in the World Press Freedom Index unveiled today by Reporters Without Borders is indicative of a climate of fear and tension combined with increasing control over newsrooms by governments and private-sector interests.

The 2016 World Press Freedom Index reflects the intensity of the attacks on journalistic freedom and independence by governments, ideologies and private-sector interests during the past year.

Seen as a benchmark throughout the world, the Index ranks 180 countries according to the freedom allowed journalists. It also includes indicators of the level of media freedom violations in each region. These show that Europe (with 19.8 points) still has the freest media, followed distantly by Africa (36.9), which for the first time overtook the Americas (37.1), a region where violence against journalists is on the rise. Asia (43.8) and Eastern Europe/Central Asia (48.4) follow, while North Africa/Middle East (50.8) is still the region where journalists are most subjected to constraints of every kind. [Read more](#)

CHIBOK GIRLS: TWO YEARS AFTER, WHERE ART THOU?

The 14th of this month will make it 730 days, 17,520 hours and 1,051,200 minutes that the Chibok girls would have been under captivity. It would be recalled that on the night of 14–15 April 2014, 276 female students were kidnapped from Government Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State.

Responsibility for the abduction was claimed by Boko Haram. Luckily, 57 of the schoolgirls managed to escape making 219 still missing. On October 17, 2014, hopes were raised that the 219 remaining girls might soon be released after the Nigerian army announced a truce between the insurgents and government forces.

The announcement coincided with the sixth-month anniversary of the girls' capture and followed a month of negotiations held in Saudi Arabia. However, the announcement was met with doubt (and later proved futile) as this was not the first time the government had claimed a breakthrough in negotiations with the insurgents.

In May last year, it was reported that the military had reclaimed most of the areas previously controlled by the insurgents, including many of the camps in the Sambisa forest where it was suspected the Chibok girls had been kept. Although many women had been freed, none of the Chibok girls were found. At one point, it was reported that some of the girls had been sold into slavery for N2, 000 and others forcibly married to the sect members. In January this year, the military were reported to have freed 1,000 women held captive by Boko Haram. [Read more](#)

CIA, TORTURE AND SECRECY

Victims' lawsuit is aided by landmark Senate report on agency's tactics

SPOKANE, Wash. — It's the type of legal case that usually gets tossed out once the government claims national security is at stake.

But something surprising happened in a federal courtroom here last week — a judge ruled that a potentially embarrassing lawsuit against the CIA could go forward. And even more surprising, the Justice Department agreed to go along.

This isn't to suggest the federal government is throwing in the towel in the suit filed by three alleged torture victims against two CIA psychologists. The government will continue to fight. But its approach to the case is different from similar suits in the past, and the shift can be traced in part to a landmark report on the CIA in 2014.

The report, partially released by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, exposed the dark depths of the U.S. rendition and torture programs overseas, including waterboarding, beatings, mind-bending experiments and rectal feedings intended to provoke reluctant detainees to talk. Committee Chairwoman Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) urged Americans not to let such history be "forgotten and grievous past mistakes to be repeated."

History, for example, like Suleiman Abdullah's. He is the lead plaintiff suing the psychologists.

The suit alleges that Abdullah, a Tanzanian fisherman abducted in 2003 by the CIA in Somalia, was beaten, hung by his arms, chained in stress positions for days, starved, deprived of sleep, and stuffed in a small box from time to time.

In 2008, he was released and given a document stating he posed no threat to the United States, the suit alleges. The American Civil Liberties Union thinks he may have been sold to the U.S. by a Somali warlord under a bounty system. [Read more](#)

CHINA: SIX RECENT SENTENCES HIGHLIGHT ONGOING ARBITRARY DETENTIONS, XI JINPING'S PERSECUTION OF DISSENT

Prison sentences issued by Chinese courts to six human right defenders on April 8 are reminders of ongoing arbitrary detentions and relentless persecution of dissent in China under Xi Jinping's rule. Courts in Guangdong and Hubei convicted the six activists of "inciting subversion of state power" and sentenced them to prison terms of between 18 months and four-and-a-half years. The convictions bring to 16 the total number of human rights defenders (HRDs) sentenced to prison who were first detained in two separate crackdowns in 2014. Two of the six recently sentenced activists were taken into custody around the 25-year anniversary of June Fourth, and the four others were detained for expressing support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

The progression of these cases follow a now-familiar pattern of persecution of detained human rights defenders in China, namely restricted access to legal counsel, unreasonably prolonged detention before being brought before a judge, alleged torture and inhumane treatment, and the use of a serious "endangering national security" crime to persecute HRDs for exercising free speech and peaceful assembly.

With last week's verdicts, 11 HRDs detained in the [clampdown](#) around the 2014 anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre, and five seized after they took to the streets to express [support](#) for the Hong Kong protests, have been issued prison sentences. Among others still in custody from those two crackdowns, two activists still await verdicts after being tried in 2015, while three others have been indicted but not yet brought to a trial, and another has been formally arrested (but not indicted), according to CHRD's records. [Read more](#)

THREE LESSONS FROM THE ICC'S KENYA DEBACLE

The collapse this week of the trial of two Kenyans at the International Criminal Court (ICC) has put the final nail in the coffin of a bid to investigate the horrific violence that erupted in Kenya after disputed elections in 2007, leaving more than 1,100 people dead and over 350,000 displaced.

Almost fifteen years after the ICC came into being, the decision to vacate charges against Kenya's vice president William Ruto and journalist Joshua Sang sends a sober message about the ICC's potential to end impunity for political violence.

The Kenya cases offered perhaps the paradigmatic example of why an international criminal court was created.

The refusal to initiate domestic prosecutions was not for want of proof.

The Waki Commission described more than 600 victims of sexual and gender based violence — the "tip of the iceberg" — who were treated at Nairobi Women's Hospital within 72 hours of their rape. More than a quarter, the Commission found, were raped by police officers. Nearly 40% of the victims knew their attackers and could have identified them if the police had carried out proper investigations. [Read more](#)

SCRAPPING OF VENEZUELAN AMNESTY LAW DISAPPOINTING

The scrapping by Venezuela's top court of an amnesty law that could have secured the release of jailed opposition activists was very disappointing as it could have been a step toward reconciliation, a U.N. human rights spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

The OPEC member is engulfed in a bitter political standoff that has worsened since the opposition coalition won control of the National Assembly in a December vote and vowed to seek President Nicolas Maduro's exit this year.

Maduro had vowed to veto the amnesty law, which his opponents had said could benefit high-profile government adversaries such as Leopoldo Lopez, who was arrested in 2014 on accusations that he helped spur a wave of demonstrations that killed more than 40 people.

"It's a very, very disappointing development," Ravina Shamdasani told a regular U.N. briefing in Geneva. "We would not like to believe that this is the end of the road. We would like to encourage all sides to explore further avenues for dialogue."

Shamdasani said the Venezuelan government had asked the U.N. for a legal analysis of the law, and this had shown it largely conformed to international standards.

"It was a great move towards dialogue and reconciliation," she said.

The supreme court ruled on Monday that the law violated the constitution by promoting impunity and giving amnesty for crimes that were not eligible to receive it.

The court has repeatedly backed Maduro in his disputes with the legislature following the opposition's blowout victory in December polls that gave it a two-thirds majority of seats. [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM: War Crimes Prosecution Watch, Volume 11 - Issue 3 – April 18, 2016

War Crimes Prosecution Watch is a bi-weekly e-newsletter that compiles official documents and articles from major news sources detailing and analyzing salient issues pertaining to the investigation and prosecution of war crimes throughout the world. [Read the Newsletter](#)

UNDEF Update

Please click below to see latest news for the UN Democracy Fund:

<http://www.un.org/democracyfund/sites/www.un.org.democracyfund/files/UU29MFinal.pdf>

Job, Fellowship, and Volunteer Postings

PROGRAM MANAGER

Posted: 4/25/16

Reports to: Site Manager
Division: Operations
Location: Pretoria, South Africa
Job Level: Level 2 Manager
Starting Salary: \$49,069 (per annum)
Status: Exempt

CWS RSC Africa

The Resettlement Support Center (CWS RSC Africa) operates a US refugee resettlement program in sub-Saharan Africa through a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of State/Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. CWS RSC Africa is responsible for the preparation of refugee case files for adjudication by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officers, as well as the out-processing and cultural orientation of all approved cases. CWS RSC Africa is administered by the Church World Service Immigration Refugee Program (CWS/IRP) and is based in Pretoria, South Africa.

Benefits

CWS Global and RSC Africa offer a total compensation package. The total compensation package includes a housing stipend, company life insurance, comprehensive health insurance, vision coverage, a non-participatory 5% retirement contribution, 22 vacation days a year, 3 personal days per calendar year, 1 day of sick leave per month, AD&D insurance, Bereavement leave, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and optional dental coverage. Due to the volume of applications that we receive, only those individuals shortlisted will be contacted. [For an Application and more info](#)

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH WAR CRIMES COURT IN UGANDA

The International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Court of Uganda urgently seeks 8 unpaid legal interns. The ICD was established to try alleged perpetrators of serious crimes committed during the armed conflict with Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda. The ICD will conduct outreach activities in the region from May 23-28, 2016. On July 18, 2016, the main trial of Colonel Thomas Kwoyelo, a former LRA commander, on 12 counts is scheduled to commence in Gulu, Uganda. The trial will run approximately one month in Gulu, then shift to the seat of the ICD in Kampala for the remaining two months. For further background, please see this ICTJ briefing paper of January 2015:

<https://www.ictj.org/publication/pursuing-accountability-serious-crimes-uganda>

The deadline is **May 3, 2016**

The ICD seeks 8 unpaid, full-time legal interns to start immediately: 2 legal interns in Chambers; 2 in the Office of the Prosecutor, 2 in the victims/witness unit of the Registry, and 2 in the communications and outreach unit of the Registry. To apply, please submit a cover letter explaining your motivation (400 words maximum), a CV, two reference letters, and scanned copies of university transcripts and degrees/diplomas. Please submit your application in one email to: Registrar in charge of Special Projects, ICD of the High Court of Uganda, via email: hnalukwago@judicature.go.ug

FALL/SPRING LEGAL INTERNSHIP (Washington, D.C.)

Earthrights International

Posted: 4/7/16

ERI's U.S. Fall and Spring Legal Interns are law students able to work at least 10-15 hours per week for a semester in ERI's Washington, DC, office. Legal interns provide legal research, writing, and program support for ERI activities all over the world. Law students may be J.D. or LL.M. students, but must have at least one year of U.S. legal training by the time of the internship.

ERI's U.S. legal team is currently counsel on several matters, including lawsuits against Chiquita for its funding of Colombian paramilitaries and against Union Carbide for environmental damage to communities in India. We also work on legal advocacy and quasi-legal mechanisms to obtain remedies for communities affected by environmental and human rights abuses.

Legal interns participate in various projects associated with these cases, including legal research and writing and assistance in all phases of litigation, as well as other legal work including development of new cases, monitoring and exploring developments in international human rights and environmental law, researching and utilizing other mechanisms of corporate accountability, and helping to coordinate with and assist other groups bringing domestic or international cases. Interns work directly under ERI's Legal Director and may provide legal support for other ERI programs, including its campaigns, educational programs, and human rights reporting.

[For more information](#)

INTERNATIONAL JOBS

Conservation Finance Specialist

Wildlife Conservation Society

Location: Bronx, NY, United States

Apply by: 30 Apr 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/jobdescription.aspx?job_id=72561

Regional Legal Officer

Alkarama Foundation

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Apply by: 01 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=73437

Rule of Law and Anticorruption Specialist

Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.

Location: Washington DC, United States

Apply by: 06 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/jobdescription.aspx?job_id=74310

Associate General Counsel

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

Location: New York, United States

Apply by: 07 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/jobdescription.aspx?job_id=73516

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) Manager - Maternity Cover

AWID

Location: Regional / Global

Apply by: 08 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=73964

Gulf Migrant's Rights Researcher

Amnesty International

Location: London, United Kingdom

Apply by: 09 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=73814

Executive Director

Amnesty International Canada

Location: Ottawa, Canada

Apply by: 11 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=73760

Intern

Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Apply by: 11 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=73722

Head of Humanitarian Funding

ActionAid UK

Location: London, United Kingdom

Apply by: 16 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/jobdescription.aspx?job_id=74338

Communications Intern

International Crisis Group

Location: Brussels, Belgium

Apply by: 22 May 2016

http://www.devnetjobs.org/jobdescription.aspx?job_id=74363

SOURCE: See more jobs at: <http://www.DevNetJobs.org> or by sending a blank email to:

developmentjobs-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH UNHCR

UNHCR employs some 9,000 staff from all over the world, mostly working in field locations where refugees and internally displaced people need our help most. They have a wide range of skills. Our staff provides live-saving aid and protection every day for millions of uprooted and stateless people around the world.

This is something that our staff takes great pride of, despite the many hardships they face while working in deep field operations, at times close to or within conflict areas. Our greatest reward is to know that our work has a major positive impact and brings hope to people uprooted by conflict and persecution.

Join the organization and help make a difference at a time when more people than ever need our help. UNHCR offers opportunities in a wide range of functional areas where you can achieve your professional goal to be a humanitarian.

For more information visit the "Careers" page at the UNHCR website: <http://unhcr.org/careers>

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTER – JOB POSTINGS

For additional job listings visit the Business and Human Rights Resource Center at: http://www.business-humanrights.org/Categories/Miscellaneous/Jobpostings?sort_on=effective

Educational Courses & Conferences

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM INTERNSHIP - FREE THE SLAVES

Washington, DC

Posted: 4/19/16

Free the Slaves (FTS) liberates slaves and changes the social, economic and political conditions that allow slavery to persist. We support community-driven interventions in partnership with local groups that help people to sustainable freedom and dismantle a region's system of slavery. We convince governments, international development organizations and businesses to implement key changes required for global eradication. We document and disseminate leading-edge practices to help the anti-slavery movement work more effectively. We raise awareness and promote action by opinion leaders, decision makers and the public. Free the Slaves is showing the world that ending slavery is possible.

Learn more: www.freetheslaves.net

Internship Program Description

The Free the Slaves internship program is a formal effort to develop and train future leaders of the anti-slavery movement. We seek to provide each participant with training and hands-on experience in various facets of anti-slavery work. The program operates out of the Washington, D.C. office of Free the Slaves on a semester system, with three sessions per year: spring (January to May), summer (June to August), and fall (September to December). Participants are expected to participate in an orientation session at the beginning of each semester.

Internships are unpaid but students are often able to arrange academic credit, as Free the Slaves internships often offer direct exposure to the workings of an international human rights organization, close supervision by FTS staff, interaction with other U.S. and international organizations and foreign and domestic government officials, and opportunities to attend lectures, trainings, and special events relating to federal and international anti-slavery advocacy. Students should check with their individual academic institutions for requirements.

Please apply immediately by submitting your application via this link: <http://smrtr.io/nI7evg> Applications will be considered on a rolling basis beginning several months before each new semester. Early applications are encouraged. [For more information](#)

SUMMER SHORT COURSES - May 22nd – June 9th , 2016

Center for Migration and Refugee Studies

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) at The American University in Cairo (AUC) is offering the following three short courses during the month of May and June 2016:

1. Mobilities and the Gendered Subject (May 22 - 26, 2016)
2. The Refugee and Migration Crisis in the Euro-Mediterranean Space: Context, Policies, and Human Consequences (May 29 – June 2 , 2016)
3. Palestinian Refugees Issues (June 5 - 9, 2016)

Requirements: These courses are offered for undergraduate and postgraduate students, and researchers as well as practitioners working with migrants and refugees. A minimum knowledge of displacement and migration terminologies and context is a requirement for participation in any of the three courses. All courses are conducted in English and no translation facilities are provided. Participants should have a very good command of the English language. Each course will run from 9 am till 5pm for five days. Interested applicants can apply for one course or for all the three courses.

Number of Participants: minimum of 12 in each course

NB: Non- Egyptian applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early in order to have enough time to obtain their visa.

Deadlines for submitting application for all courses: **30th of April, 2016**

[For more information](#)

2016 PROGRAM OF ADVANCED STUDIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is happy to announce its call for applications to the 2016 Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. This annual Program offers 19 courses in English and Spanish lectured by over 40 scholars of relevance in the field of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and gathers more than 150 participants from over 25 different countries and with different levels of professional experience. The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law provides through this Program the unique opportunity to learn and interact with judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Special Rapporteurs of United Nations, members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, experts from prominent NGO's and professors from all over the world. DEADLINE: **May 1, 2016**

The application form for this program is available at www.wcl.american.edu/hracademy. For more information please contact us at: hracademy@wcl.american.edu.

GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Job Type: Internship (Unpaid)

Location: Washington, DC

The Religious Freedom Center, a dynamic and growing department within the Newseum Institute, seeks highly intelligent, motivated, and collaborative students to join the next cohort of graduate research fellows.

Onsite research fellowships are available to graduate students who seek to receive credit from their college or university for conducting academic research at the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute in Washington, D.C. There are currently five fellowship tracks available to applicants:

1. Distance Education: For graduate students who want to conduct research on best practices for online education, including blended learning programs.
2. Higher Education Administration: For graduate students who want to conduct research on best practices in admissions, registration, finance, accreditation, and/or student development.
3. Law and Religion: For graduate students enrolled in law school or a legal studies program who want to conduct legal research on the historical developments of church/state relations in the United States or on contemporary legal issues concerning religion and American public life.
4. Religion and Human Rights: For graduate students enrolled in international affairs or political science programs who want to conduct legal research on the human right to freedom of religion or belief.
5. Religion and News Media: For graduate students enrolled in schools of journalism or communication who want to conduct research on best practices for reporting on religion in the United States and abroad.

[For more information](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- For the Fall 2016 semester: **June 15, 2016**
- For the Spring 2017 semester: **December 15, 2016**

Please download and complete the internship application form at <http://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/contact/jobs/>.

Reminder

The materials and information included in this listserv are provided as a service to you and do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the American Bar Association or the Section of International Law. We encourage subscribers to pass the information along to colleagues and other interested parties and to contribute press releases, news items, event listings, job vacancies and other appropriate information. To post a message email INTHUMRIGHTS@mail.abanet.org. For questions, suggestions or problems, contact Russell Kerr, russell@kerrlawfirm.com.

Thank you again for your interest and participation!

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