



International Human Rights e-Brief

June 13, 2016 / Issue No. 617

With nearly 400,000 judges, lawyers and associate members across the globe, the American Bar Association (ABA) is the world's largest voluntary professional membership organization and speaks with a powerful voice for human rights and a just rule of law. The ABA's [Section of International Law](#), its [International Human Rights Committee](#), and the ABA [Center for Human Rights](#) monitor international covenants, advocate for human rights lawyers and advocates persecuted for their work, investigate human rights abuses, and provide education about human rights issues. For past issues, click [here](#). To subscribe to the ABA-SIL/CHR Human Rights E-Brief, click [here](#). Non-ABA members wishing to subscribe should email Russell Kerr, Editor, at russell@kerrlawfirm.com.

- [Bulletin Board](#)
- [Human Rights News](#)
- [Job, Fellowship, and Volunteer Postings](#)
- [Educational Courses & Conferences](#)
- [IHRC Website \(Official\)](#)
- [IHRC Blog](#)
- [IHRC Instagram](#)
- [IHRC Gmail](#)
- [IHRC Facebook](#)
- [IHRC LinkedIn](#)
- [IHRC Slideshare](#)
- [IHRC Twitter](#)

Bulletin Board

THE CLARION: THE IHRC JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS – VOLUME ONE, ISSUE ONE

The inaugural issue of the inaugural volume of The Clarion: The IHRC Journal of Human Rights is now available [The Clarion 1:1](#). We welcome any comments, feedback or ideas for future discussions/themes/follow-on projects at ihrcpubs@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all of the authors and committee members who contributed to this project from its inception. We hope that the journal provides an arena for committee members and other authors to discuss relevant issues and to make broader links between their work and Human Rights. Feel free to share this Journal as widely as you can.

The next topic is Human Rights and Children, for which we are currently accepting abstracts or expressions of interest (see The Clarion page 21). [Call for Papers \(Children and Human Rights\)](#) The Publications Vice-Chairs, Luke Wilson and John Mbaku, are ready and willing to discuss ideas for articles and to help develop/incubate ideas from interested authors.

BOOKMARKS - A manual for combating hate speech online through human rights education (Revised edition) (2016-05-26)

This revised edition of Bookmarks has been revised in order to include more information and activities about the [Guide to Human Rights for Internet Users](#), updated information about the [No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign](#) and practical proposals of workshops to combat hate speech in both formal and non-formal education context.

The work of the Council of Europe for democracy is strongly based on education: education in schools, and education as a lifelong learning process of practising democracy, such as in non-formal learning activities. Human rights education and education for democratic citizenship form an integral part of what we have to secure to make democracy sustainable.

Bookmarks is published to support the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign of the Council of Europe for human rights online. Bookmarks is useful for educators wanting to address hate speech online from a human rights perspective, both inside and outside the formal education system. The manual is designed for working with learners aged 13 to 18 but the activities can be adapted to other age ranges. [Learn more](#).

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](#)

NEW INTERACTIVE PLATFORM: Tracks construction companies' action on migrant-worker rights in the Gulf

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is inviting 100 construction companies operating in Qatar and/or the UAE to respond to a [set of questions](#) about their approach to migrant-worker rights. Of the 47 companies we have contacted to date, 10 companies have submitted full responses, 5 have issued general statements, and 10 have declined to respond. We have not received any responses from the remaining 22 companies.

[Our new interactive platform](#) enables users to:

- [find out](#) which companies are reporting on their human rights impacts in the Gulf, and which are failing to do so
- [explore](#) company responses by question: issues covered include recruitment, wages, passport retention, accommodation, health & safety & more
- [compare](#) what policies and processes companies have in place to protect migrant workers from labour abuses
- [access](#) resources on migrant workers in the Gulf including reports, legal frameworks, and company guidance
- [stay up-to-date](#) on the latest news and company responses
- [get involved](#): send us resources, commentaries and reactions for inclusion on the platform

[Learn more](#).

Human Rights News

46 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING AS SLAVES, LATEST GLOBAL INDEX REVEALS

An Australian human rights group, founded by billionaire business magnate [Andrew Forrest](#) and backed by Hollywood actor Russell Crowe, has released research estimating that almost 46 million people are living as slaves.

The [2016 global slavery index](#), funded by Forrest's [Walk Free Foundation](#), says 45.8 million people are trapped [in some form of slavery](#).

The report ranks incidences of slavery in 167 countries, with India having the highest number of slaves while North Korea has the highest percentage of slaves per capita. This year's estimates are nearly 30% higher than in the previous report, which estimated 35.8 million people living in slavery in 2014.

Forrest says the rise is partially due to more accurate methodology but he also believes the number of people trapped in slavery is increasing year on year.

"It is time to draw a line and say, no more," he said. "This isn't Aids or malaria, it is a man-made problem that can be solved, and it's time to take real action to free the world from slavery once and for all."

The index was launched in 2013 after Bill Gates, another billionaire philanthropist, challenged Forrest to quantify the scale of modern slavery. [Read more.](#)

UN: VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN IN CONFLICT ROSE IN 2015

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed shock at the escalating recruitment and killing of children in conflicts last year — especially in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia and South Sudan.

The U.N. chief's annual report on children and armed conflict released Thursday said the scale and increasing severity of grave violations included continuing large-scale abduction of children and aerial attacks by some governments and international coalitions which killed and maimed many youngsters.

Ban called on all parties to conflicts to immediately end violations against children and take measures to prevent the recruitment, killing, abduction and sexual abuse of children caught in conflicts.

He warned that combatants who violate children's rights "will find themselves under scrutiny by the United Nations" and stressed that accountability remains a key priority.

The U.N. Security Council took the first major step to prevent the victimization of young people in war zones in 2005 by approving a resolution to identify governments and armed groups that recruit child soldiers. In 2009, the council voted to name and shame countries and insurgent groups engaged in conflicts that lead to children being killed, maimed and raped. Last June, the council voted unanimously to name and shame governments and armed groups that abduct children.

Thursday's report names nine government security forces and 51 armed groups that committed grave violations against children last year. [Read more.](#)

A \$1-MILLION SHORTFALL IS THREATENING HELP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS

A U.S.-backed commission that helps provide justice for victims of human rights abuses in the Americas is in danger of collapse because of a severe cash crunch.

Advocates say some donor governments may be happy to see the Washington-based Inter-American Commission on Human Rights falter because it has harshly criticized them.

Hearings and fact-finding trips have been canceled for the rest of the year and nearly half the 78 staff members will be laid off this summer if the commission can't make up an immediate \$1-million shortfall, officials said.

As a result, pending investigations -- including those looking into allegations of rapes of indigenous women by the military in Central America and the disappearance and suspected murder of college students in Mexico -- could collapse.

Created in 1959, the seven-member panel has investigated thousands of complaints of torture, executions and other abuses of labor leaders, gay activists, environmentalists, journalists and others, especially under authoritarian regimes in Central and South America. [Read more.](#)

US APPEALS COURT DECLINES TO HEAR LAWSUIT AGAINST UNION CARBIDE FOR WATER POLLUTION IN BHOPAL, INDIA

On 24 May 2016, a United States court ruled that a lawsuit against Union Carbide filed by local communities may not proceed despite strong evidence the company's chemical plant continues to cause water pollution in Bhopal, India. The plaintiffs disagree with the court's ruling and plan to file a petition for rehearing. On December 2, 1984, poisonous gas from the Bhopal plant enveloped nearby communities, killing thousands. The water pollution here is unrelated to the Gas Disaster, but has been leaching from the same plant ever since it was shut down afterward. Marco Simons, ERI's General Counsel, added, "These families have been living with Union Carbide's pollution for decades. This lawsuit is only one of the many efforts, in India and the United States, to obtain justice and a cleanup for the people of Bhopal, and we remain committed to that work." Plaintiffs plan to file a petition for rehearing. [Read more.](#)

US JUDGE ALLOWS COLOMBIAN VICTIMS OF PARAMILITARY KILLINGS TO MOVE FORWARD AGAINST FORMER CHIQUITA EXECUTIVES

Executives at Chiquita Brands International Inc., the banana label owner that pleaded guilty in 2007 to making payments to Colombian paramilitary groups, must face U.S. lawsuits claiming they played a role in torture, a judge ruled.

Relatives of Colombian victims can pursue claims under the Torture Victim Protection Act...The plaintiffs claim Chiquita paid \$1.7 million from 1995 to 2004 to the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia, which murdered supporters of anti-government guerilla groups.

In a victory for accountability for corporate crimes, families of those murdered by Colombian paramilitary death squads can proceed with a U.S. federal lawsuit against former Chiquita executives. Yesterday, Judge Kenneth Marra of the Southern District of Florida ruled that, according to the plaintiffs' allegations, "profits took priority over basic human welfare" in the banana company executives' decision to finance the illegal death squads, despite knowing that this would advance the paramilitaries' murderous campaign...The class-action lawsuit, *Doe v. Chiquita*, alleges that over the course of several years, Chiquita and its executives – including former CEOs, General Counsels and General Managers – made or approved illegal payments to the AUC which totaled approximately \$1.7 million, all the while knowing full well that they were funding a designated terrorist organization. [Read more.](#)

CHAD'S EX-RULER CONVICTED OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Chad's ex-ruler Hissene Habre has been convicted of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life in prison at a landmark trial in Senegal.

The judge convicted him of rape, sexual slavery and ordering killings during his rule from 1982 to 1990. Victims and families of those killed cheered and embraced each other in the courtroom after the verdict was given. It was the first time an African Union-backed court had tried a former ruler for human rights abuses.

Habre, who received strong backing from the US while in power, has been given 15 days to appeal. Survivors from the Habre era welcomed the verdict.

"This is a historic day for Chad and for Africa. It is the first time that an African head of state has been found guilty in another African country," Yamasoum Konar, a representative of one of the victims' groups, told the BBC. "This will be a lesson to other dictators in Africa," he added. [Read more.](#)

MALIAN JIHADI TO PLEAD GUILTY IN ICC CULTURAL DESTRUCTION TRIAL

A Malian jihadi will seek forgiveness from his people for [attacking the world heritage site of Timbuktu](#) when he pleads guilty at an unprecedented case before an international war crimes court, according to his lawyer.

Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi will become the first person to admit to war crimes charges before the international criminal court (ICC) based in The Hague at a joint hearing and sentencing due to be held in the coming months.

He stands accused of jointly ordering or carrying out the destruction of nine mausoleums and a section of Timbuktu's famous Sidi Yahia mosque, a Unesco world heritage site dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries.

Mahdi is the first jihadi suspect to appear before the ICC and the first person to be solely charged with war crimes for an attack on a global cultural monument. [Read more](#).

39 OF 44 ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE IN UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS ARE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

[UNITED NATIONS](#), May 17 (Xinhua) -- Thirty-nine of the 44 allegations involve uniformed personnel in the UN peacekeepers in the Central African Republic and other countries, such as Haiti, South Sudan and Cote d'Ivoire, a UN spokesman said here on Tuesday.

For 2016, the number of allegations recorded so far in peacekeeping and special political missions is 44, of which 29 have been reported in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA); and seven in the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO); two in UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH); and one allegation in each of the following missions: UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), said the spokesman.

The UN has set up a Trust Fund for victim assistance last March, and the first pledge to that fund has been made by Norway in the amount of 125,000 U.S. dollars, and the UN encourages others to contribute as well, he said. [Read more](#).

NEWS FROM: War Crimes Prosecution Watch, Volume 11 - Issue 6 – May 30, 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](#)

Job, Fellowship, and Volunteer Postings

INTERNATIONAL JOBS

Consultancy-Writer/Editor Stories of Social Collaboration

UNICEF

Location: New York, United States

Apply by: 17 Jun 2016

[More info](#)

Child Marriage Prevention and Response Consultant

UNHCR

Location: Home Based, Jordan

Apply by: 18 Jun 2016

[More info](#)

Caseworker

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Apply by: 30 Jun 2016

[More info](#)

SOURCE: See more jobs at: <http://www.DevNetJobs.org> or by sending a blank email to: developmentjobs-subscribe@yahoogroups.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 life-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

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!

FAIR USE NOTICE: This weekly digest contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of environmental, political, human rights, economic, democracy, scientific, and social justice issues, etc. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material in this digest is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. For more information go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>.