



On the Horizon ▪ A l’Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights

Issue 34 - February 2014

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org) for those working in this field. It presents contributions from a number of experts & organizations, and is designed to keep all of us informed of future initiatives.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early April 2014, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 7 April to Eniko Horvath: [horvath \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:horvath@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 28 March.

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International

1. UN Working Group open invitation to consultation on National Action Plans - 20 Feb

As part of its [seventh session](#), the UN Working Group on business & human rights is holding an open consultation on "The strategic elements of National Action Plans in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights". The consultation will take place on Thurs, 20 Feb, 3-6pm at Room XVIII, Palais des Nations in Geneva. The [concept note](#) provides further details on the consultation.

All participants that do not have a UN Palais des Nations badge must fill out the [registration form](#) and send it at the latest by Tuesday, 18 Feb to [registrationwgbusiness \(at\) ohchr.org](mailto:registrationwgbusiness@ohchr.org) or by fax to: +41 22 917 9008

The consultation is open to all stakeholders. Those who are unable to attend may submit their input in writing to: [wg-business \(at\) ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org). If you would like to listen to the consultation, you may do so by dialing +41 22 917 0901 on 20 Feb at 3pm (Central European Time). When prompted for the conference room number, type "18" and select the desired audio channel. Please check the [Working Group website](#) in case there has been a change in the conference room number.

→ *Contributed by Secretariat of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [wg-business \(at\) ohchr.org](mailto:wg-business@ohchr.org)*

2. Essex Business and Human Rights Project - forthcoming activities

The [Essex Business and Human Rights Project \(EBHR\)](#) has several upcoming events for its Speaker Series. For this series experts are invited to give a lecture on a topic related to business & human rights. The talks are all held at the University of Essex. If you would like more information about upcoming events please contact [eacouss \(at\) essex.ac.uk](mailto:eacouss@essex.ac.uk)

EBHR, working with [Global Witness](#), has proposed several amendments to the proposed Minerals Law of Afghanistan. Work is continuing on further elements of this project.

EBHR is planning a roundtable discussion on current developments and lessons to be learned from the human rights issues raised of concern to oil companies operating in the Niger Delta. This is a follow-up from the published report which is available on: www.essex.ac.uk/ebhr/news/. Further details regarding this conference will follow.

For the past months EBHR has worked on corporate responsibility issues raised by the projected Phulbari coal mine in Bangladesh and on the human rights implications of the new Liberian Petroleum Law. The results of this work will be published on the above website in due course.

→ *Contributed by Johanna Hoekstra, Essex Business and Human Rights Project, [jhoeks \(at\) essex.ac.uk](mailto:jhoeks@essex.ac.uk)*

3. Forthcoming publications by Measuring Business & Human Rights project

[Measuring Business & Human Rights](#) is a research project that aims to advance the capacity of both business managers and external corporate stakeholders to assess and compare the extent to which companies meet their responsibility to respect human rights. In particular, the project will offer practical solutions to the most daunting normative, methodological, practical and political challenges related to the production of business and human rights indicators, ratings and benchmarks. The project is led by Ann Sofie Cloots (University of Cambridge), Charline Daelman (KU Leuven), Damiano de Felice (London School of Economics) and Irene Pietropaoli (Middlesex University), with a dedicated page hosted by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. In view of the proliferation of business and human rights indicators, the project has just released a [comprehensive list of existing initiatives using business and human rights indicators](#), including: management tools; reporting frameworks; sustainability indexes, sustainability standards and certification schemes; human rights impact assessment tools; and ethical ratings and rankings. The project will then publish a number of “initiative cards”, outlining methodology, strengths and weaknesses of a representative set of initiatives. The objective is to enhance transparency and trigger public discussion on how corporate respect for human rights is measured. The project will soon also launch a blog hosted by LSE.

→ *Contributed by Ann Sofie Cloots (University of Cambridge), Charline Daelman (KU Leuven), Damiano de Felice (London School of Economics) and Irene Pietropaoli (Middlesex University)*

4. Reporting and Assurance Frameworks Initiative (RAFI) - next steps

Reports from the expert consultations held in London, New York and Jakarta as part of the [Reporting and Assurance Frameworks Initiative](#) were issued in January. In the next few weeks, the RAFI project team will issue a set of key “take-aways” from those consultations and some suggested next steps for moving the project forward. This will be followed in March by some suggestions for the overall shape of a reporting framework, based on feedback to date, and as a starting point for further consultation and discussion with all stakeholders. The project team continues to welcome all feedback and suggestions on the project's evolution.

For further information about the project, please contact Anna Triponel: [anna.triponel \(at\) shiftproject.org](mailto:anna.triponel@shiftproject.org).

→ *Contributed by Shift and Mazars*

5. Expert meeting on UNGPs' effectiveness criteria for access to remedies - The Hague, 3-4 Apr

By invitation only

In the context of enhancing access to effective remedy in the field of business and human rights, [ACCESS Facility](#) will organize an expert meeting to improve the alignment of a variety of mechanisms with the effectiveness criteria of Principle 31 of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the subsequent OECD criteria. The meeting aims to raise awareness and understanding of how to address key challenges and needs that operators and users of a variety of non-judicial grievance mechanisms face in the process of implementing these criteria.

The expert meeting will be co-organized by ACCESS Facility and the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, in cooperation with the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct and hosted by The Hague Institute for Global Justice. [Read more here.](#)

→ *Contributed by Francis Camstra, ACCESS Facility, [fcamstra \(at\) accessfacility.org](mailto:fcamstra@accessfacility.org)*

6. Panel on role of lawyers in redressing harm through intl. complaint mechanisms - New York, 2 Apr

This forthcoming panel on the role of lawyers in international accountability mechanisms is sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of International Law, [International Human Rights Committee](#). It will take place at 3:45pm on 2 April in New York City.

Each year, billions of dollars flow from international financial institutions and multinational corporations to promote development. However, some development projects ultimately harm the communities they were designed to serve. In the past two decades, over a dozen complaint offices have been created to provide redress to victims harmed by internationally-financed development projects. These complaint offices were created to hold corporate and institutional actors accountable for financing projects that violate human rights and offer a forum for dispute resolution. In the wake of the US Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Kiobel v. Shell*, these accountability offices are becoming more prominent, though the role of lawyers within these complaint systems is largely unexplored.

This panel explores the development of the field from the perspective of lawyers for affected communities, lawyers for corporations that have engaged in dispute resolution with communities, lawyers who work as staff at complaint offices, and academics.

Further information available [here](#).

→ *Contributed by Natalie Bridgeman Fields, Accountability Counsel, natalie (at) accountabilitycounsel.org*

7. RightsCon conference on technology sector & human rights - San Francisco, 3-5 Mar

This 3-5 March at Mission Bay Conference Center in San Francisco, Access is bringing the [RightsCon](#) summit back to Silicon Valley, where human rights experts, investors, corporate leaders, engineers, activists, and government representatives from around the world work to advance solutions to human rights challenges by concentrating on the possibilities within the technology sector.

The conference will kick off on Monday, 3 March with interactive programming and an array of satellite events. Tuesday and Wednesday will see the conference enter full swing. Plan for attendance for all three days.

Further information including how to attend is on the RightsCon website: www.rightscon.org

→ *Contributed by Peter Micek, Policy Counsel, Access: peter (at) accessnow.org*

8. International Bar Association's Global Insight magazine

The [International Bar Association](#)'s flagship magazine, [IBA Global Insight](#), will be publishing its next edition online and in print in early February.

The edition includes an exclusive interview with Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, which deals with CSR, anti-corruption efforts and other issues. It also includes stories on the growing Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon; efforts to tackle mass financial fraud following the Madoff scandal; the fight against ambush marketing and ticket touts in the countdown to the World Cup in Brazil; and an interview with George Bizos, lawyer and close friend of Nelson Mandela.

IBA Global Insight is published six times a year and includes articles on all areas of law, business and human rights. For print issues, visit the [IBA shop](#) or contact editor (at) int-bar.org. The print edition is also available to purchase by [subscription](#).

→ *Contributed by Rebecca Lowe, Senior Reporter, International Bar Association, rebecca.lowe (at) int-bar.org*

9. African Middle East Employee Relations Group meetings - Spain, 11 Jun; South Africa, November

[AMEERG](#) (African Middle East Employee Relations Group), part of the [BEERG](#) (Brussels European Employee Relations Group) network, was founded in early 2013 to provide a forum for multinational companies to discuss and exchange experiences on employment law and employee relations issues in the Middle East and African regions. Learning from one another about best practices and policies helps member companies avoid making mistakes in cultural and legal regimes that are very different from their home regimes.

Following several meetings in Europe in 2013 it has just held its first program on the Middle East, in Dubai, at which current developments across North Africa and the Middle East were discussed.

A similar meeting on developments in Africa, south of the Sahara, will be held in South Africa in November 2014. A further meeting is scheduled for Sitges, Barcelona, on Wednesday, 11 June. The agenda for that meeting is currently being finalised.

If you would like to be kept informed of AMEERG activities, send an email to: [info \(at\) beerg.com](mailto:info@beerg.com) and we will add you to our electronic mailing list.

→ *Contributed by Tom Hayes, Brussels European Employee Relations Group, [info \(at\) beerg.com](mailto:info@beerg.com)*

10. New sections on Business & Human Rights Resource Centre's Corporate Legal Accountability Portal

The Corporate Legal Accountability project has launched a new section on the key issue of [barriers to access to remedies](#), and will soon launch a separate section on extraterritoriality – issues around the exercise of jurisdiction by courts over claims based on human rights abuses in other countries. The aim of these sections is to draw attention to these crucial issues in corporate legal accountability, by highlighting key reports, commentaries and cases where barriers to remedy and extraterritoriality are discussed, and where such barriers or the lack of extraterritorial jurisdiction has frustrated attempts by victims of abuse to secure justice. We would be happy to receive materials on both issues to post on our [Corporate Legal Accountability Portal](#).

→ *Contributed by Elodie Aba, Legal Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [aba \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:aba@business-humanrights.org)*

11. Forthcoming briefing note on technology firms & human rights - March

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will launch a briefing note on technology companies and human rights, to coincide with the "RightsCon" conference being held in San Francisco from 3-5 March. The briefing will highlight examples of technology companies that are taking proactive steps on human rights, and those that are lagging behind. It will focus on four areas:

- broadening access to the internet;
- combating censorship;
- respecting privacy; and
- avoiding repression of human rights defenders.

The briefing will point to guidance by a range of respected organizations in this field: making it clear that there is no excuse *not* to be a tech leader on human rights.

→ *Contributed by Annabel Short, Programme Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org)*

12. Panel on Access to Justice and Extractive Industries - London, 13 Mar

[EJOLT](#) and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre are organising a panel discussion with international legal and industry experts on environmental justice, human rights, minerals and mining. Panellists will include Aidan Davy, International Council for Mining and Minerals (ICMM); Pablo Fajardo, Amazon Defense Coalition; Richard Meeran, Leigh Day; Jake White, Friends of the Earth.

More information [here](#).

→ *Contributed by Mauricio Lazala, Deputy Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [lazala \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:lazala@business-humanrights.org)*

13. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website upgrade

The Resource Centre is embarking on a major redesign of its website with UK-based IT firm Fat Beehive. Internal website testing will start in February and the new site is due to be launched publicly in April. Our aim is to create a more user-friendly platform, with a more intuitive search function, greater social media integration, more audio-visual materials, navigation in seven different languages, and other innovations.

→ *Please email any feedback you may have on the new website after its launch to Mauricio Lazala, Deputy Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [lazala \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:lazala@business-humanrights.org)*

Africa

14. "Nairobi Process: A Pact for Responsible Business" - briefing papers & other actions

The Nairobi Process: A Pact for Responsible Business is a joint initiative of the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. Since its launch in 2013, the Nairobi Process has developed dialogue and joint action involving governments, business and civil society to ensure human rights due diligence in Kenya's emerging oil and gas sector. In February 2014, Nairobi Process partners are facilitating discussions with a range of government representatives in Kenya to encourage broad political support for the initiative in addition to outreach with participating companies and civil society representatives. The Nairobi Process team will also be releasing in February a series of briefing papers for companies taking part in the initiative on topics including: security and human rights, operating responsibly in high risk and unstable environments, community engagement and local content. IHRB will also continue its outreach to all stakeholders around relevant issues in the East African region such as responsible business practices in the context of land and water. For further information, please see: www.ihrb.org/about/programmes/nairobi-process.html

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Institute for Human Rights and Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org)*

15. Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil & Gas Dialogue - Nairobi, 11 Feb

The Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas will be holding its inaugural dialogue on oil and gas on 11 February in Nairobi. This shall be the first in a series of dialogues on the oil and gas sector in Kenya.

The platform is a nascent network looking to bring a collective civil society voice into the developing field of oil and gas in the country. Established in February 2013, the platform is comprised of organizations working in the human rights, conflict, environment and development sectors. The platform seeks to inform and advocate for policies that will help manage expectations, minimise impact and maximise the benefits of the new oil and gas finds in the country.

The first dialogue will focus on community engagement and disclosure regimes in the oil and gas sector. The dialogue will include presentations by two experts in the field. The presentations will lead to interaction with partners present on issues arising in the sector. The dialogue is targeted at individuals working in the broader extractive sector and will contribute to forging a common advocacy agenda for civil society in the sector.

For more information contact Charles Wanguhu, [charleswanguhu \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:charleswanguhu@gmail.com)

→ *Contributed by Charles Wanguhu, Coordinator, Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas, [charleswanguhu \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:charleswanguhu@gmail.com)*

16. Event on tackling conflict minerals in Dem. Rep. of Congo - Geneva, March

The war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has produced a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. The Eastern region faces conflicts that have caused killings of civilians and other massive human rights abuses. These crimes are still being committed by various armed groups. The cycle of violence and lack of security is multi-factorial. Illegal involvement of armed groups in exploitation and trade of natural resources has been acknowledged and documented. A recent UN Security Council report on the *Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the DRC* denounced the "systematic and systemic" exploitation of natural resources that are then sold on to international markets. Lack of transparency in mineral supply chains is a key factor in the destabilisation of DRC. The country has become a focus for private sector-led initiatives to improve certification and traceability.

In May, DRC will come under the scrutiny of the UN Universal Period Review (UPR) mechanism. This will create momentum to discuss effective measures regarding conflict minerals in this devastated region. [Franciscans International](#), EURAC and other NGOs will organise a side event on 20 March (to be confirmed) during the 25th session of the UN Human Rights Council to contribute to these talks. The panel will include a high-ranking representative of the European Commission Directorate-General for Trade, the President of the DRC Bishops' Commission on Natural Resources, testimonies from local communities, and delegates from countries involved.

For further information contact: Francesca Restifo, [f.restifo \(at\) fiop.org](mailto:f.restifo@fiop.org)

→ *Contributed by Francesca Restifo, Franciscans International, [f.restifo \(at\) fiop.org](mailto:f.restifo@fiop.org)*

17. Update on Pillars in Practice project on implementing UN Guiding Principles in Zimbabwe

The [Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association](#) (ZELA) is implementing the “Pillars in Practice” project with the objective of encouraging government, civil society organizations, trade unions and business to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The project is being implemented in partnership with Social Accountability International and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

The next phase of the project in Zimbabwe is to select one exceptional example of a company that is implementing the UNGPs to present as a case study at our next multi-stakeholder discussion forum in March. The case study will be placed online to download from the website of the project partner and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. ZELA has approached a number of companies in Zimbabwe for the exercise.

→ *Contributed by Mutuso Dhliwayo, Executive Director, Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, [mutusod \(at\) yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mutusod@yahoo.co.uk)*

18. Upcoming proxy votes at Franklin Resources, Goldman Sachs on genocide-free investing in Sudan

Despite extensive publicity about many years of the Sudan Government's genocidal attacks against its people, millions of Americans, through their financial institutions, are unknowingly and inadvertently investing in companies that fund these extreme human rights abuses. Although federal law prevents most US companies from operating in Sudan, large US financial institutions like JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs, Franklin Resources and many others are major investors in the Chinese, Indian, and Malaysian oil companies that help to fund the Sudanese regime.

During the 2014 proxy season, [Investors Against Genocide](#)'s genocide-free investing shareholder proposal will be on the ballot at the Franklin Resources annual meeting in March and at the Goldman Sachs meeting in May. The proposal requests “that the Board institute transparent procedures to avoid holding or recommending investments in companies that, in management's judgment, substantially contribute to genocide or crimes against humanity, the most egregious violations of human rights”.

For more information on these votes and on ways to support genocide-free investing please visit www.investorsagainstgenocide.org.

→ *Contributed by Susan Morgan, Investors Against Genocide, [info \(at\) investorsagainstgenocide.org](mailto:info@investorsagainstgenocide.org)*

19. Africa book launch of Human Rights Obligations of Business - Johannesburg, 19 Mar

The African book launch of *Human Rights Obligations of Business: Beyond the Corporate Responsibility to Respect?* (edited by Surya Deva and David Bilchitz, Cambridge University Press, 2013) will take place on Wednesday, 19 March at the Constitutional Court of South Africa (see www.uj.ac.za/SAIFAC for further information from 15 February). The relationship between business and human rights in Africa and the possibilities and limitations of the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework and Guiding Principles will be the focus of discussion. The international launch of the book took place on 2 December with a high-profile event at the [UN Library](#) in Geneva.

The book includes a wide range of chapters that subject the UN Framework and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to critical scrutiny. It also considers ways in which the relationship between business and human rights should develop in the future. The book has already provoked much debate (see the discussion at www.business-humanrights.org/Links/Repository/1024028, including a commentary by Prof. John Ruggie) with controversial issues including the value and breadth of the consensus achieved at the United Nations; the legal status of obligations of business in relation to human rights; the extent of the obligations of business; the value of extraterritorial obligations in this area; and the strength and weaknesses of the “remedy” pillar of the UN Framework and Guiding Principles.

A discount flyer for the book is available at www.l4bb.org.

→ *Contributed by David Bilchitz, Professor of Law, University of Johannesburg, [davidb \(at\) saifac.org.za](mailto:davidb@saifac.org.za)*

20. Forthcoming regional briefings on business & human rights in Francophone Africa, Eastern Africa

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will shortly issue its first regional briefing on Francophone Africa, in French and in English. Later this year, it will issue its first briefing on Eastern Africa. The briefings will highlight reports from a range of sources about how businesses have impacted human rights, positively and negatively, in this region over recent years. Our regional briefing on Anglophone Africa from February 2011 is available [here](#), along with other regional briefings.

→ *Contributed by Aliou Diouf, Francophone Africa Researcher & Representative, [diouf \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:diouf@business-humanrights.org), and Joseph Kibugu, Eastern Africa Researcher & Representative, [kibugu \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:kibugu@business-humanrights.org), Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*

21. Mission to Guinea focused on mining industry & human rights - February

Aliou Diouf, Francophone Africa Researcher, and Gregory Regaignon, Research Director, will conduct a research mission to Guinea in February, meeting with local NGOs, companies, government officials and others. It will focus on the impact of mining companies on local communities' health and livelihoods; violence related to mining operations; questions over transparent and equitable payments to governments by mining firms; and positive initiatives by companies.

→ *Contributed by Aliou Diouf, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [diouf \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:diouf@business-humanrights.org)*

Essex Business and Human Rights Project - forthcoming activities

See item 2 above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Africa section because the activities refer to oil companies operating in the Niger Delta and the Liberian Petroleum Law.

African Middle East Employee Relations Group meetings

See item 9 above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Africa section because one of the meetings will take place in South Africa.

Americas

22. Complaint raises issue of US Govt. role in company's abuses in Liberia - agency commits to review

On 22 January, hundreds of Liberians, with the assistance of [Accountability Counsel](#) and [Green Advocates International](#), [filed a complaint](#) before a US federal agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation ("OPIC"). The complaint demands accountability for OPIC's funding of a biomass project that, according to the complaint, caused serious human rights, labour and environmental abuses, including sexual abuse by company employees of local women.

The complaint was accompanied by the publication of a detailed report, *Fueling Human Rights Disasters*, documenting the harm resulting from the federal agency's due diligence failures and [policy violations](#), and the launch of a [public campaign](#).

Just two days later, OPIC [committed for the first time to conducting an independent review](#) of the impacts of its investment in this biomass project in Liberia. However, OPIC has not yet announced what the independent review will look like, nor has the agency taken responsibility for the harm it caused.

Continued public pressure is needed to ensure that OPIC's review of the project is meaningful and leads to remedy for those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the impacts of this project. More information and regular updates about the case are available on Accountability Counsel's [website](#), and further updates will be posted there.

→ *Contributed by Sarah Singh, Accountability Counsel, [sarah \(at\) accountabilitycounsel.org](mailto:sarah@accountabilitycounsel.org)*

23. Ideas for Peace Foundation (FIP) business & human rights events - Bogotá, Feb-Apr

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from Spanish original]

[Fundación Ideas para la Paz - FIP](#) (Ideas for Peace Foundation), an organization that has worked in the field of business & human rights and business & peace-building for many years, will present its most important initiatives in this field through a series of events in Bogotá, Colombia:

- On 27 February, FIP will launch implementation guides for the *Ethical Commitments of Swiss Companies in Colombia*, as a result of work by a group of Swiss companies, with support from the Swiss Government through its Embassy in Colombia.
- On 11 March, the main outcomes of a joint four-year initiative by ANDI (National Business Association of Colombia), NIR (International Council of Swedish Industries), and FIP will be presented to define an agenda on peace-building from a corporate perspective.
- On March 27, Colombian Guides on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (*Guías Colombia en Derechos Humanos y DIH*), a multi-stakeholder initiative led by FIP and supported by the Swiss Government through its Embassy in Colombia, will launch two guides: one on land issues and the other on labour issues. The guides are a result of broad discussions with the business, government and civil society sectors.
- In April, FIP, the Presidential Programme on Human Rights & International Humanitarian Law, and the Inspector General's Office will present outcomes of their work on implementing the UN Framework on business & human rights, with the support of the British Government through its Embassy in Bogotá.

→ Contributed by *Ángela Rivas, Fundación Ideas para la Paz, FIP, arivas (at) ideaspaz.org*

24. Study on the extractive sector's human rights impacts on Mapuche peoples in Argentina & Chile

In 2014, the [Chilean Citizens' Observatory](#) is planning to undertake a *Study on the human rights impacts of extractive and other companies on the territory of the Mapuche peoples*. It is a joint project with the Observatory of Indigenous People's Human Rights of Argentina that works alongside the Mapuche peoples and other indigenous groups in Patagonia. The initiative will be funded by International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and seeks to make the impacts of extractive industries and other related companies visible. It will focus on companies that operate on lands traditionally occupied by Mapuche indigenous peoples in Chile and Argentina, and that have negative impacts on the human rights of these peoples. The project also seeks to promote legal, political and cultural transformations that could contribute to the effective protection of indigenous peoples' rights affected by these companies. The idea to develop this study comes from the systematic human rights abuses that oil, mining and timber companies have caused these indigenous peoples in recent years on both sides of the Andean range, including territorial eviction, absence of processes of free, prior and informed consent and consultation which are recognised in international instruments and to which Chile and Argentina are signatories, as well as the lack of compensation for harms.

→ Contributed by *José Aylwin, Observatorio Ciudadano: jose.aylwin (at) gmail.com*

25. Online course: "Socio-Environmental conflict analysis, management and resolution specialist"

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from Spanish original]

Registration for the "Socio-environmental conflict analysis, management and resolution specialist" online course is open between 27 January and 14 February. This diploma is one of the responses by Peru's [Pontifical Catholic University](#) to the array of needs and issues that our country faces, some of which relate to social conflicts regarding mining, energy and hydrocarbon activities – conflicts that have increased dramatically in recent years. In some cases, conflicts have escalated to violence, causing negative impacts on social stability, governance, economic development and viability of investment projects. Confronting these conflicts requires trained actors who can actively and peacefully participate in prevention and management of socio-environmental conflicts, using a multidisciplinary approach. The diploma is aimed at CEOs; managers, supervisors and professionals responsible for community relations, external affairs, social development, institutional communication; public servants at the national, regional and local levels; community leaders and representatives and professionals linked to social and environmental issues, corporate social responsibility and sustainable development projects. The course will run from 4 March to 31 October.

For more information, see [here](#).

→ Contributed by *Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (Centro de Análisis y Resolución de Conflictos), consensus (at) pucp.edu.pe*

Panel on role of lawyers in redressing harm through intl. complaint mechanisms - New York, 2 Apr

See item 6 above, in the International section. We include reference to this panel here in the Americas section because it will take place in New York.

RightsCon conference on technology sector & human rights - San Francisco, 3-5 Mar

See item 7 above, in the International section. We include reference to this panel here in the Americas section because it will take place in San Francisco.

Upcoming proxy votes at Franklin Resources, Goldman Sachs on genocide-free investing

See item 18 above, in the Africa section. We include reference to these proxy votes here in the Americas section because the shareholder votes will take place in USA.

Asia/Pacific

26. Business & human rights in Japan: forthcoming reports, events, invitation to join multi-stakeholder group

[Caux Round Table Japan](#) has organised the Nippon CSR Consortium – a multi-stakeholder platform to raise awareness and promote activities on business and human rights in Japan. It is currently working on a report “Human Rights Issues by Sector”, to be published at the end of February.

2014 activities will start in June-July and we welcome NGOs/non-profit organizations and companies (especially Tokyo branches) to join this platform. If you would like more information on our last activities, please visit www.crt-japan.jp/EN/files/human_rights_due_dilligence/intro.html or contact info (at) crt-japan.jp.

On 18 March from 3:30-5:30pm in Tokyo, Caux Round Table Japan will host a seminar on “A success factor to achieve the best Games in Tokyo ‘Sustainability’”. The details will be shortly announced on our website: www.crt-japan.jp/EN/files/2020_Olympics_and_Paralympics/intro.html.

Caux Round Table Japan is also planning on holding a “Conference on Business and Human Rights” in September and a pre-conference on 14 March. More information will be announced on our website.

→ *Contributed by Hiroshi Ishida, Caux Round Table, [hiroshi_ishida \(at\) crt-japan.jp](mailto:hiroshi_ishida@cert-japan.jp)*

27. ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council - research on occupational safety & health

The [ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council](#) (ASETUC) recently published its research studies on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in three sectors, namely: *OSH Guidelines for the Retail Industry*, *OSH in the Healthcare/Hospital Sector of Four ASEAN Member Countries*; and *Social Dialogue on OSH Education and Skills Development in the Philippines Construction Industry*. The publications – which range from a practical OSH guideline that could be easily adopted by the employers, and a compilation of existing OSH laws in the ASEAN Member Countries, to examples of good practices of OSH cooperation – are valuable resources for trade unions, enterprises, decision makers and other stakeholders in the ASEAN sphere.

ASETUC will distribute and discuss the manuals at the 5th Regional Tripartite Social Dialogue in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 15-16 April. The Regional Tripartite Social Dialogue is our annual event where trade unions, governments and employer associations come together to initiate social dialogue in the ASEAN sphere.

Established in 2007, ASETUC aims to initiate social dialogue with governments and employers to secure decent work amidst ASEAN economic integration. OSH is a strategic issue to initiate dialogue with employers since workers’ health and safety benefits both workers’ wellbeing, and companies by enabling sustainable business and leading to higher productivity. For more information on the publications please contact [marina.christina \(at\) asetuc.org](mailto:marina.christina@asetuc.org). [Click here](#) for more information on ASETUC.

→ *Contributed by Marina Christina, ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council, [marina.christina \(at\) asetuc.org](mailto:marina.christina@asetuc.org)*

28. Launch of report on migrant workers’ & families’ well-being in China - Hong Kong, 19 Feb

[Centre for Child-Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility \(CCR CSR\)](#) will launch “They are also parents”, a report on Chinese migrant workers’ and their families’ well-being, in Hong Kong on 19 February, from 1:00-4:00pm.

Around 90 million children in China are currently affected as a result of their parents migrating for work, and the challenges for family well-being are often directly related to company problems with operations, management and staff turnover. Among China's migrant parents, 38% make frequent mistakes as a result of worrying about their children. 80% of migrant workers with left-behind children feel inadequate as parents, and experience frequent anxiety and guilt as a result of family separation and failure to provide for their children's well-being and education.

How can businesses support and maintain a stable workforce? The report launch will share key findings of the study and provide opportunity for an informed conversation between government, business and community stakeholders.

A large part of today's workforce is composed of migrant parents, or young workers planning to start a family. Their concerns and related support system should form an integral part of any company's CSR and human resources strategy.

For event details contact Josefin Bennet Fredriksson at [josefin.bennet-fredriksson \(at\) ccrcsr.com](mailto:josefin.bennet-fredriksson@ccrcsr.com)

→ *Contributed by Josefin Bennet Fredriksson, CCR CSR*

29. New researcher on business & human rights for Japan, Korea, Mongolia & Pacific Islands

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is currently recruiting a researcher and representative, to be based in Tokyo or Seoul, to cover Japan, North and South Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands countries. Once appointed, the new researcher will look forward to meeting with and hearing from NGOs, companies and others about companies' local impacts within the region, and to engaging with companies based in the region about their global impacts.

→ *Contributed by Annabel Short, Programme Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org)*

Essex Business and Human Rights Project - forthcoming activities

See item 2 above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Asia section because it refers to work on the proposed Minerals Law of Afghanistan and the planned Phulbari coal mine in Bangladesh.

Europe/Central Asia

30. Expert meeting on enhancing regulation & strengthening accountability of ICT firms - Brussels, March

The [Amesys case](#) and other similar cases have raised questions on the role of ICT (information and communications technology) companies intercepting communications and/or providing products and services in authoritarian regimes, enabling monitoring, surveillance and censorship of communications. There is a need for further reflection on the human rights responsibilities of these companies and on policy and regulatory measures needed for greater accountability and prevention of future human rights violations.

On the basis of a discussion paper prepared by [FIDH](#) on the human rights responsibilities of ICT companies including policy proposals, FIDH plans to organise an expert meeting in Brussels in March 2014. The meeting will bring together known experts and NGOs working on regulation of ICT companies and related accountability issues.

This closed meeting will be followed by an open dialogue session with Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission and Council, and stakeholders, with a view to triggering a debate on the necessity of regulating the activities of communication surveillance companies, based on existing initiatives at the EU level.

FIDH will publish a public position paper outlining the conclusions of this meeting and options for regulation.

→ *Contributed by Geneviève Paul, Head of Globalisation and Human Rights Desk, FIDH, [gpaul \(at\) fidh.org](mailto:gpaul@fidh.org)*

31. New project on access to justice in the EU for victims of business-related human rights abuses

Victims of human rights abuses by business operating abroad require full and effective access to judicial remedies. The [EU Access to Justice Project](#) aims to address the barriers to judicial remedies in the European

Union (EU). Throughout 2014, Association Sherpa, CORE Coalition, the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights, the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ), and Frank Bold will organise a series of high-level roundtable conferences in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and at the EU level in which policy-makers, legal professionals, and NGOs will discuss access to justice in the EU and identify efforts to implement the third pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. A set of recommended actions will explore activities to reform existing EU and domestic law. The project will also disseminate the findings of "[The Third Pillar: Access to Judicial Remedies for Human Rights Violations by Transnational Business](#)", a report launched in December 2013 by the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR), CORE Coalition, and ECCJ. The report shows that, two years from the endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles, States are failing to ensure that victims of corporate abuses have access to effective judicial remedies.

For more information, contact Virginie Rouas at [virginie.rouas \(at\) frankbold.org](mailto:virginie.rouas@frankbold.org)

→ *Contributed by Virginie Rouas, Frank Bold*

32. Forthcoming release of survey on corporate activity to address forced labour in Uzbek cotton sector

[Responsible Sourcing Network \(RSN\)](#) will be releasing a report and hosting a webinar on Thursday, 20 February with survey results of practices by the apparel industry to ensure its supply chains do not include cotton produced with forced labour from Uzbekistan.

Nowhere is forced labour in cotton production more apparent than in Uzbekistan, where every autumn the Uzbek Government sends the country's youth, teachers, and civil servants to work in the fields. Corporations have a responsibility to conduct due diligence that ensures human rights are respected, even if they have not contributed directly to the violations.

RSN's cotton survey offers a snapshot of what the overall apparel industry is doing and is not doing to keep its supply chains slavery-free. Points were awarded for 11 questions and a final ranking is included of the 49 companies surveyed.

The accompanying webinar will be held at 10am US Pacific time/1pm US Eastern time on Thursday 20 February. More details available at www.sourcingnetwork.org.

[RSN's Cotton Program](#) aims to eliminate the most egregious human rights abuses at the field level of apparel supply chains. [RSN's Company Pledge](#) against forced labour in the cotton sector of Uzbekistan has garnered 141 signatories.

→ *Contributed by Karen Runde, Program Associate, Responsible Sourcing Network, karen (at) sourcingnetwork.org*

33. Coaching course on business and human rights - Munich, 9-10 Apr

Registration is now open for the next business and human rights coaching organised by the [German Global Compact Network](#) and led by [twentyfifty](#). The two-day course provides hands-on information for companies on how to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The objectives of the coaching are to raise awareness of the relevance of human rights for companies, identify and assess specific corporate risks associated with human rights, and introduce tools for assessing impacts and strategy development. Telephone needs-assessments will be conducted with all participants prior to the course to tailor the program to their individual learning needs. It is open for companies worldwide, whether they are participants in the UN Global Compact or not. To register for this course please send an email to [globalcompact \(at\) giz.de](mailto:globalcompact@giz.de)

More information (in German): www.globalcompact.de/termin/2014-04-09-unternehmenscoaching-menschenrechte-achten-aber-wie

→ *Contributed by German Global Compact Network, globalcompact (at) giz.de*

34. CSR Compliance Lab assesses organizations against UN Guiding Principles - London & Copenhagen, March

Leading international experts in corporate social responsibility at [Global CSR](#)'s corporate social responsibility Compliance Lab will guide participants through the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, enabling them to align existing CSR activities with international standards for social compliance developed by the UN, OECD and the EU.

They will learn by doing with the unique opportunity to self-assess their organization's current approach to CSR against the minimum expectations on respecting human rights, developing their capacity and equipping them to implement and comply with current international expectations on business and human rights.

Upon participation they will be able to deliver a strategic CSR roadmap for implementation to management and adequately guide their organizations in efforts to secure the social license to operate.

- Join CSR Compliance Lab in London: 2 full days, 31 Mar-1 Apr: <http://global-csr.com/courses/csr-compliance-lab-uk/>
- Join CSR Compliance Lab in Copenhagen: 5 half days commencing 14 Mar: <http://global-csr.com/courses/csr-compliance-lab/>

For further information about CSR Compliance Lab and to secure a spot today, contact Sidsel Lundtang on [sl \(at\) global-csr.com](mailto:sl@global-csr.com) or +45 22 19 90 06.

→ *Contributed by Signe Andreasen, Global CSR, [sa \(at\) global-csr.com](mailto:sa@global-csr.com)*

UN Working Group open invitation to consultation on National Action Plans - 20 Feb

See item 1 above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Europe section because the open consultation will take place in Geneva.

Expert meeting on UNGPs' effectiveness criteria for access to remedies - The Hague, 3-4 Apr

See item 5 above, in the International section. We include reference to this panel here in the Europe section because it will take place in The Hague.

African Middle East Employee Relations Group meetings

See item 9 above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Europe section because one of the meetings will take place in Spain.

Panel on Access to Justice and Extractive Industries - London, 13 Mar

See item 12 above, in the International section. We include reference to this panel here in the Europe section because it will take place in London.

Event on tackling conflict minerals in Dem. Rep. of Congo - Mar

See item 16 above, in the Africa section. We include reference to this side event here in the Europe section because it will take place in Geneva.

Middle East/North Africa

35. 2nd regional conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Middle East - Jordan, 20-21 Apr

On 20-21 April, [The Protection Project](http://www.protectionproject.org) at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, in cooperation with Jerash University, will host the second regional conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Middle East. The event will be hosted by the University of Jerash, in Jerash, Jordan. The conference will bring together private sector representatives, law professors, and representatives from NGOs and other elements of civil society to discuss a broad array of topics related to CSR in the Middle East including: 1) How academia and corporations can partner to advance the CSR agenda in the Middle East; 2) Global governance and corporate liability: The crisis of multinational enterprises; 3) Self-regulation, codes of conduct and voluntary compliance; 4) Recognition and enforcement of internationally recognised labour rights: Reconciling the interests of management and workers; 5) The role of governments in business: Regulatory rules of foreign direct investment, privatisation, and free and fair competition; 6) Fighting corporate greed and combating corruption; 7) Illicit business practices, including: Child labour, forced labour and labour trafficking; 8) "Protect, Respect and Remedy": Human rights and the social responsibility of business; and 9) The future of CSR and responsible investment.

For more information regarding the event, to RSVP and to donate as an individual or corporate sponsor, please go to: <http://www.protectionproject.org/events/?ee=36>

→ Contributed by Elaine Panter, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced international Studies, [epanter2 \(at\) jhu.edu](mailto:epanter2@jhu.edu)

36. Petition calling on NBC to refrain from filming in occupied E. Jerusalem due to human rights concerns

The [Civic National Commission on Jerusalem](#) will launch a public petition to the US media network NBC and seek a meeting with NBC management, in order to obtain formal confirmation that the company will respect human rights and international humanitarian law in occupied East Jerusalem, and not engage in any film project anywhere in occupied East Jerusalem that will give legitimacy to the illegal Israeli annexation, settlements, demolition of Palestinian homes and forcible displacement of Palestinians. These actions follow earlier letters to NBC and public statements explaining Palestinian [concerns](#).

NBC has [denied](#) plans to film in one particular site, i.e. the “City of David National Park” in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, part of the illegal Israeli [settlements](#) in the heart of Palestinian communities near the Old City. It has, however, remained silent on the request for a principled commitment applicable to all of occupied East Jerusalem and all illegal Israeli settlements there.

Civic National Commission on Jerusalem is a consortium of Palestinian institutions and US-based civil society, including the US Campaign to End the Occupation and the Jewish Voice for Peace

→ Contributed by Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, [info \(at\) civiccoalition-jerusalem.org](mailto:info@civiccoalition-jerusalem.org)

African Middle East Employee Relations Group meetings

See item 9 above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Middle East & North Africa section because the group focuses on issues in the Middle East & North Africa region, among others.

Español

37. Eventos sobre empresas y derechos humanos Fundación Ideas para la Paz - Bogotá, feb.-abril

La [Fundación Ideas para la Paz](#) (FIP), que desde hace varios años trabaja en el campo de empresas y derechos humanos y empresas y construcción de paz, mostrará los avances más importantes en esta materia a través de una serie de eventos en Bogotá:

- El 27 de febrero se lanzarán las Guías para la implementación del *Compromiso Ético de las Empresas Suizas en Colombia*, resultado del trabajo de un grupo de empresas suizas, con el apoyo del gobierno de Suiza a través de su embajada en Bogotá.
- El 11 de marzo, se darán a conocer los principales resultados del trabajo conjunto de cuatro años con la ANDI (Asociación Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia), NIR (Consejo Internacional de Industria Sueca) y la FIP para definir una agenda de construcción paz desde el sector empresarial.
- El 27 de marzo, Guías Colombia en Derechos Humanos y DIH (una iniciativa multi-actor liderada por la FIP y apoyada por el gobierno de Suiza a través de su embajada en Bogotá) lanzará dos Guías: una, sobre tierras y otra, sobre asuntos laborales, resultado de discusiones amplias con el sector empresarial, gobierno y sociedad civil.
- En abril, se presentarán los resultados del trabajo de la FIP con el Programa Presidencial de DDHH y DIH y la Procuraduría General de la Nación para la implementación del Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos, con el apoyo del gobierno británico a través de su embajada en Bogotá.

→ Contribución de Ángela Rivas, Fundación Ideas para la Paz, FIP, [arivas \(at\) ideaspaz.org](mailto:arivas@ideaspaz.org)

38. Estudio de impacto en derechos humanos de las empresas extractivas y otras en territorio del pueblo mapuche - Argentina y Chile

Para el 2014, el [Observatorio Ciudadano de Chile](#) tiene previsto desarrollar un *Estudio de Impacto en Derechos Humanos de las empresas extractivas y otras empresas relacionadas en territorio del pueblo mapuche*. Se trata de una propuesta a ser desarrollada en conjunto al Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de los Pueblos Indígenas de Argentina, que trabaja junto al pueblo mapuche y otros pueblos indígenas de la Patagonia.

La iniciativa, que sería respaldada por el Grupo Internacional de Trabajo sobre Asuntos Indígenas (IWGIA), pretende visibilizar los impactos que las empresas extractivas y otras empresas relacionadas, presentes en el

territorio de ocupación tradicional mapuche en Chile y Argentina están generando en los derechos humanos de este pueblo, así como promover las transformaciones jurídicas, políticas y culturales que puedan contribuir a proteger de manera más efectiva sus derechos frente a las actividades que estas empresas desarrollan. La motivación para desarrollar este estudio surge de las sistemáticas violaciones a derechos humanos de pueblos indígenas que la industria petrolera, minera y forestal han generado en los últimos años a ambos lados de los Andes, las que incluyen el desplazamiento territorial, la ausencia de procesos de consulta y consentimiento previo, libre e informado reconocidos en instrumentos internacionales de derechos humanos suscritos por Chile y Argentina, y la ausencia de compensación por los daños causados.

→ *Contribución de José Aylwin, Observatorio Ciudadano: jose.aylwin (at) gmail.com*

39. Modalidad virtual: “Especialización en Análisis, Gestión y Resolución de Conflictos Socio-ambientales”

Inscripciones: del 27 de enero del 2014 al 14 de febrero del 2014. La diplomatura de especialización en “Análisis, Gestión y Resolución de Conflictos Socio-ambientales” es una de las respuestas que la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú da ante la innumerable cantidad de necesidades y problemas que tiene nuestro país. Parte de los cuales son los conflictos sociales derivados de las actividades mineras, energéticas y de hidrocarburos, los cuales han aumentado notablemente en los últimos tiempos. En algunos casos, los conflictos han escalado a niveles de violencia, ocasionando impactos negativos en la estabilidad social, la gobernabilidad, el desarrollo económico y la viabilidad de los proyectos de inversión. Para hacer frente a estos conflictos, se requiere contar con actores capacitados que participen activamente y con espíritu de paz en los procesos de prevención y gestión de conflictos socio-ambientales, desde un enfoque multidisciplinario. Dirigido a: Directores, gerentes, superintendentes y profesionales responsables de relaciones comunitarias, asuntos externos, desarrollo social, comunicación institucional; funcionarios del gobierno central, regional y local; líderes y dirigentes comunales; y profesionales vinculados con los temas sociales, ambientales, de responsabilidad social y proyectos de desarrollo sostenible. Periodo de clases: del 4 de marzo al 31 de octubre.

Más información [aquí](#).

→ *Contribución de Centro de Análisis y Resolución de Conflictos, consensos (at) pucp.edu.pe*

Français

40. Réunion d'experts sur un renforcement de réglementation & responsabilité des entreprises TIC - Bruxelles, mars

L'[affaire Amesys](#) et d'autres cas similaires ont amené à s'interroger sur le rôle des entreprises TIC (Technologies de l'information et de la communication) qui interceptent les communications et/ou fournissent des produits ou services à des régimes autoritaires, et qui facilitent le contrôle, la surveillance et la censure des communications. Une réflexion plus approfondie sur les responsabilités de ces entreprises en matière de droits humains est essentielle, tout comme sur les politiques et les mesures réglementaires nécessaires pour assurer la responsabilité des entreprises et la prévention de futures violations des droits humains.

Sur la base d'un document de travail préparé par la [FIDH](#) sur les responsabilités des entreprises du secteur TIC en matière de droits humains - et qui contient notamment des propositions de mesures législatives - la FIDH organisera un colloque d'experts en mars à Bruxelles. La réunion rassemblera des experts et des ONG travaillant sur ces questions.

Cette réunion à huis clos sera suivie d'une session de dialogue ouvert réunissant des députés européens, des représentants de la Commission européenne et du Conseil de l'UE ainsi que différentes parties prenantes, en vue de susciter un débat sur la nécessité de réglementer les activités des sociétés de surveillance des communications, s'appuyant notamment sur des initiatives déjà existantes au niveau de l'UE.

La FIDH publiera par la suite une note de position exposant les conclusions de cette réunion ainsi que des pistes en matière de réglementation.

→ *Contribution de Geneviève Paul, Responsable du bureau Mondialisation, FIDH, gpaul (at) fidh.org*

41. Minerais de conflit en RDC : Événement parallèle lors de la session du Conseil des droits de l'homme

[Traduction non officielle en français par le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme du texte original en anglais]

La guerre en RDC a entraîné une crise humanitaire catastrophique. L'Est du pays a subi des conflits qui ont causé de nombreuses victimes parmi les civils et des violations massives des droits de l'homme. Ces crimes continuent d'être commis par divers groupes armés. Le cycle de la violence et le manque de sécurité sont dus à de nombreux facteurs. L'implication des groupes armés dans l'exploitation et le commerce illégal des ressources naturelles sont connus et documentés. Un récent rapport du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies sur *L'exploitation illégale des ressources naturelles en RDC* dénonce l'exploitation « systématique et systémique » des ressources naturelles qui sont ensuite vendues sur le marché international. Le manque de transparence dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement en minerais est un facteur clé dans la déstabilisation de la RDC. Le pays est devenu le centre d'intérêt pour le secteur privé qui a lancé des initiatives novatrices visant à améliorer la certification et la traçabilité.

En mai, la RDC va passer l'Examen Périodique Universel (EPU) ; ce sera ainsi l'occasion de discuter de mesures effectives relatives aux minerais de conflit dans cette région dévastée. [Franciscans International](#), EURAC et d'autres ONG vont organiser un événement parallèle le 20 mars (à être confirmé) lors de la 25^e session du Conseil des droits de l'homme pour contribuer à ces discussions. Le panel comprendra un représentant de haut niveau de la Direction générale du commerce de la Commission européenne, le président de la Commission épiscopale pour les ressources naturelles de la RDC, des témoignages de communautés locales et des délégués des pays concernés.

Pour plus d'informations, contactez : Francesca Restifo, [f.restifo \(at\) fiop.org](mailto:f.restifo@fiop.org)

→ *Contribution de Francesca Restifo, Franciscans International, [f.restifo \(at\) fiop.org](mailto:f.restifo@fiop.org)*

42. Briefings sur l'Afrique francophone et l'Afrique de l'Est : mission en Guinée

Le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme publiera bientôt son premier briefing sur l'Afrique francophone en français et en anglais. Il publiera également son premier briefing sur l'Afrique de l'Est plus tard dans l'année (seulement en anglais). Ces briefings sur les impacts positifs et négatifs des entreprises sur les droits de l'homme dans les deux régions en se basant sur de nombreux documents divers et variés. Notre briefing sur l'Afrique anglophone, qui date de 2011, est disponible [ici](#), ainsi que nos autres briefings régionaux.

Aussi, Aliou Diouf, Chercheur & représentant pour l'Afrique francophone du Centre de Ressources, et Gregory Regaignon, Directeur de recherche du Centre, effectueront une mission de recherche en Guinée, où ils rencontreront les ONG locales, des représentants d'entreprises, des cadres de l'administration, et d'autres parties prenantes. La mission se concentrera essentiellement sur les impacts des entreprises minières sur la santé et les conditions socio-économiques des communautés riveraines, les violences liées à l'exploitation minière, la question de la gestion transparente et équitable des revenus versés au gouvernement par les entreprises minières, et enfin les initiatives positives des entreprises.

→ *Contribution d'Aliou Diouf, Chercheur et Représentant pour l'Afrique francophone, [diouf \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:diouf@business-humanrights.org), et Joseph Kibugu, Chercheur & représentant pour l'Afrique de l'Est, [kibugu \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:kibugu@business-humanrights.org), Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme*

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