



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

Issue 35 – April 2014

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://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 June 2014, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 6 June to Sam Whannel: [whannel \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:whannel@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 26 May.

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International

1. Expert workshop on National Action Plans - 8 May; UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, 1-3 Dec

The UN Working Group on business and human rights will hold a multi-stakeholder expert workshop in Geneva on 8 May (by invitation only) to discuss the essential elements of State national action plans in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The discussions will inform the Working Group's forthcoming guidance on national action plans. The workshop is an invitation-only event due to space and resource constraints. A summary of the discussions will be made publicly available.

The Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 3 December 2014. More information will be made available via:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/ForumonBusinessandHumanRights.aspx>

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

2. Remediation & grievance mechanisms: workshop in May; manual on effective factory-level mechanisms

Upcoming Shift Business Learning Program Workshop on remediation and grievance mechanisms: [Shift's](#) next workshop, with members of its Business Learning Program, will focus on remediation in the corporate responsibility to respect. It will be held at the Harvard Kennedy School in May. To date, much attention has focused on grievance mechanisms, which can be a critical component in processes for remediation. However, meeting the responsibility to respect involves going beyond grievance mechanisms to consider all the different aspects of a company's internal “eco-system” for providing remedy, as well as the external grievance mechanism “landscape” that the company sits within. It also means looking both at community and consumer-facing contexts, as well as tiered approaches to remediation in supply chains. Shift's next workshop will examine these and other issues related to remediation by companies and will produce an anonymised public report of the discussion. As with all reports from our Business Learning series, it will be available on our website:

<http://www.shiftproject.org/program/business-learning>

Supporting ILO's Better Work programme on manual for effective factory-level grievance mechanisms: In collaboration with Better Work staff, Shift recently led capacity-building workshops with the program's Enterprise Advisors in Indonesia (also including representatives from Vietnam, Cambodia and Lesotho) and in Jordan on the potential role that grievance mechanisms can play in preventing and addressing human rights harms to workers. This work is informing the development of a publicly available manual for Enterprise Advisors to integrate guidance on effective grievance mechanisms into the support that Better Work provides to factories. The manual will also be informed by the perspectives of trade union representatives on the key issues involved. For more, see: <http://www.shiftproject.org/project/supporting-effective-factory-level-grievance-mechanisms-better-work-program>

For further information, please contact Rachel Davis at [rachel.davis \(at\) shiftproject.org](mailto:rachel.davis@shiftproject.org).

→ *Contributed by Rachel Davis, Managing Director, Shift, [rachel.davis \(at\) shiftproject.org](mailto:rachel.davis@shiftproject.org)*

3. Summit on business action to tackle trafficking & forced labour in supply chains - London, 11 Apr

Human trafficking and forced labour in global supply chains are major concerns and key challenges for businesses and governments around the world. The efforts of companies to combat trafficking and forced labour

are under increased scrutiny by governments and wider civil society; whilst for investors and business analysts the issue is becoming an increasingly important indicator in assessing profitability and risk.

Supported by *The Guardian*, Humanity United and the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#), “Business leadership to tackle trafficking and forced labour in supply chains: responsibility, respect and rights” is a one-day conference designed to demonstrate the engagement by key companies and other stakeholders around this important agenda. It aims to allow corporations and investors to understand, and build the business case for, effective management of risks related to human trafficking and forced labour throughout multinational supply chains.

Using a series of examples and case studies presented by both the private sector and civil society organizations, the audience will be given extensive access to the nature and scope of the problems of forced labour and trafficking in supply chains, and to some of the innovative practices being developed to combat them. Business and investors from across the spectrum will be represented ranging from primary producers such as the fishing industry and agriculture through to the apparel industry, food & beverage, electronics and other areas of manufacturing.

For more information visit: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-supply-chains-summit>

→ *Contributed by Neill Wilkins, Programme Support Manager, The Institute For Human Rights And Business, [neill.wilkins \(at\) institutehrb.org](mailto:neill.wilkins@institutehrb.org)*

4. Forthcoming regional briefings on business & human rights, and missions

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is planning forthcoming briefings in the coming months on Eastern Africa, South Asia, Eastern Europe & Central Asia (in English & Russian), Western Europe, Greater China (in Chinese & English) and Southeast Asia. The Resource Centre has recently published:

- a regional briefing paper on Francophone Africa (in [English](#) and [French](#)) – see all the Resource Centre’s regional briefings [here](#);
- a briefing note on [information & communication technology firms and human rights](#); and
- op-eds on the Sochi Olympics, business and human rights in the [Guardian](#) and the [Kyiv Post](#).

The Resource Centre is planning research missions in the coming months to: Brazil, China, Egypt (see [item 29](#) below), Liberia, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. The Resource Centre’s recent mission to Guinea led to its publication of an [op-ed on AllAfrica.com](#) ([English version here](#)).

→ *Contributed by Greg Regaignon, Research Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)*

5. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website upgrade - May launch planned

The Resource Centre is embarking on a major redesign of its website with UK-based IT firm Fat Beehive. Internal website testing is underway, and the new site is due to be launched publicly in May. 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

6. Kenya Human Rights Commission report on impacts of LAPSSET transport corridor - May

The [Kenya Human Rights Commission](#)’s launch of “*It’s the Oil, Stupid! Forgotten in the Scramble and Partition of the Lamu: The case of the Awer and the Fisherfolk*” will take place on 27 May in Lamu, Kenya. The study provides an in-depth view of the status of economic and social rights of communities in Lamu and assesses the social and environmental impact of the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) Project, which is Africa’s biggest infrastructural project yet, on the host community of Lamu. The Report offers a range of recommendations to various stakeholders that would ensure that the project is undertaken in a sustainable manner, including integration of human rights concerns.

KHRC is a non-governmental organization in Kenya, established in 1992 with a mandate to work towards “A human rights state and society” and outlines its mission as being to “foster human rights, democratic values, human dignity and social justice”. This vision and mission are driven by the goal of enhancing human rights-centred governance at all levels.

For more information contact Sylvia Kithinji at [skithinji \(at\) khrc.or.ke](mailto:skithinji@khrc.or.ke)

→ *Contributed by Sylvia Kithinji, Programme Officer-Corporate Accountability, Kenya Human Rights Commission*

7. Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil & Gas to launch report to help shape oil & gas management

As Kenya embarks on a process of fast-tracking oil production, it is critical that civil society is able to identify key priority areas to be addressed by the Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas and other civic organizations. To this end the Platform shall be launching its “Agenda Setting Report” that will seek to shape public debate on how Kenya’s oil and gas reserves should be exploited.

The report will; provide a comprehensive overview of the state of relevant policies, legislation and institutions related to the exploration and production of oil and gas and articulate key demands to national government to be made by the Platform and act as a baseline for the Platform’s future advocacy work.

The Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas was established in February 2013. It seeks to bring together civil society organizations and networks working around oil and gas resource management including issues of environment, land and livelihoods to share common advocacy priorities and to coordinate our diverse and collective views to effectively influence government policies and legislation.

For more information contact Charles Wanguhu, Platform Coordinator, Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas, [charleswanguhu \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:charleswanguhu@gmail.com)

→ *Contributed by Charles Wanguhu, Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas*

8. Centre for Mining Policy Alternatives to lobby for mining law reform in Malawi

The Centre for Mining Policy Alternatives (Cempa) is an emerging Malawian NGO with focus on promoting responsible and fair extractive mining in Malawi by championing urgent and progressive reforms to the obsolete mining law and by facilitating the formulation of responsive and people-based policies in the emerging extractive mining industry in Malawi.

With Malawi set to go to the polls to elect a new president and parliament in May this year, Cempa is embarking on a campaign to obtain formal commitments from all key political parties that once in power, they will urgently champion immediate law reforms to align the domestic legal framework:

- to modern standards and principles of social justice, and
- to modern-day demands and standards for the mining industry, especially in relation to issues of food security, cultural and ecological preservation, and water pollution.

Cempa will be grateful for any technical guidance to this project. Please direct all enquiries to [cempamalawi \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:cempamalawi@yahoo.com), telephone +265 8 88 874 157 or +265 9 99 5 306 60.

→ *Contributed by Mapemphero Mtawa Manda, Acting Executive Director, Cempa*

9. Launch of Ethiopian Coalition for Corporate Accountability - July

Ethiopian civil society organizations have coordinated the approaching launch of the Ethiopian Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ECCA). The event will be held in late July 2014 and hosted by human rights organizations from across the country. This will be the first in a series of dialogues on land and the natural resource sector in Ethiopia.

The ECCA is expected to collaborate with the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability in which members will work together to address human rights abuses they face in their work supporting African communities and individuals who are impacted daily by the work of both multi-national and domestic corporations.

The ECCA will also be releasing series of papers on community engagement and natural resource utilization. The organization will continue its outreach to all stakeholders around relevant issues in East Africa region particularly land grabbing.

→ Contributed by Teklemariam Berhane, Human Rights Council-Ethiopia, [tekleaau12 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:tekleaau12@gmail.com)

10. Regional seminar on Montreux Document relating to private security companies - Dakar, 3-5 Jun

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

[DCAF](#) (the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces), in collaboration with the Swiss Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Centre for Advance Studies in Defence and Security (Centre des hautes études de défense et de sécurité, Dakar), is organising a regional seminar on the Montreux Document, aiming at the governments of sub-Saharan Africa. It will be held in Dakar from 3-5 June. The goal of the seminar is to raise governments' awareness of the importance of this document and of the implementation of effective regulations of private security companies. The seminar also aims to create partnerships between governments and other actors interested in this issue, in order to spread the word about the Montreux Document initiative, and ensure its future implementation. The first two days of the seminar are intended for governments, while the third day is reserved for a workshop where NGOs will be able to debate relevant issues and discuss concrete cases.

For additional details, contact Anna Marie Burdzy, Research Assistant, DCAF, [a.burdzy \(at\) dcaf.ch](mailto:a.burdzy@dcaf.ch)

→ Contributed by Anna Marie Burdzy, DCAF

11. Public Interest Law Gathering - Johannesburg, 24-26 Jul

The Fourth Annual [Public Interest Law Gathering \(PILG\)](#) will be held 24-26 July at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Law, Johannesburg. The session topics are not yet finalized but will include topics related to business & human rights. In 2013 the PILG included panels on free, prior & informed consent and corporate obligations in respect of human rights, as well as case studies on extractive industries

PILG 2014 is organised by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS), Lawyers for Human Rights, Legal Resources Centre, ProBono.Org, Section27, the Socio-economic Rights Institute of South Africa, the Southern Africa Litigation Centre, Students for Law and Social Justice and the University of the Witwatersrand, School of Law.

→ Contributed by Asma Ooni, CALS, [asma.ooni \(at\) wits.ac.za](mailto:asma.ooni@wits.ac.za)

Forthcoming regional briefings on business & human rights, and missions

See [item 4](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Africa section because it mentions a planned briefing by the Resource Centre on Eastern Africa, and planned missions to Liberia, Sierra Leone & Tanzania.

Americas

12. Training course for companies on human rights - Buenos Aires, June

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

In June the Legal & Compliance area of [CEADS](#) (Argentinean Business Council for Sustainable Development) will conduct the second edition of its training course on business and human rights aimed exclusively at member companies. The workshop will include teaching and discussion with civil society representatives. The objective will be to provide participants with a better understanding of current human rights issues related to business. The workshop will also help participants to identify and create strategies within their organizations to face sensitive human rights situations and processes. Continuing with training activities, during the second semester CEADS will also host the first edition of its in-depth workshop on business and human rights, aimed mostly at participants in the first workshop in order to deepen their knowledge and share practical experiences.

→ Contributed by Maria Jose Alzari, Legal & Compliance Coordinator, CEADS, [mjalzari \(at\) ceads.org.ar](mailto:mjalzari@ceads.org.ar)

13. “Diploma on Business & Human Rights” - Bogotá, May-August

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

The Faculties of Finance, Government and International Relations, and of [Business Administration at Universidad Externado de Colombia](#), Bogotá, in agreement with the UN Global Compact Colombia Network, is offering a “Diploma on Business & Human Rights”. The course will provide participants with knowledge about human rights and help them identify business strategies for management and improvement of environmental, social and economic performance. The course is aimed at business-people, managers, area directors, consultants, public servants and professionals in general. It is a 90-hour course that runs 23 May-29 August; classes are on Fridays (8 am-5 pm) and Saturdays (8 am-12 noon). Registrations open until 9 May. More information is provided [here](#).

→ Contributed by Alexandra Chávez, Continued Education, Universidad Externado de Colombia, [alexandra.chaves \(at\) uexternado.edu.co](mailto:alexandra.chaves@uexternado.edu.co)

14. Course on transitions from and alternatives to extractive industries - Lima, 20-22 May

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

The [Peruvian Network for an Equal Globalisation \(RedGE\)](#) and the Latin American [Centre of Social Ecology \(CLAES\)](#) of Uruguay announce the seventh edition of their intensive course to explore alternatives for development in Peru and South America. Given the fact that the Conferences of the Parties in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20) will take place in the same city this year, this course will emphasise climate change. The course will cover, among others, the following issues:

- Transitions: Alternative development and alternatives to development
- Transitions from extractive industry-led development and the creation of alternative scenarios
- Past and future of climate change in Peru and South America

Candidates should submit the registration form by Monday 21 April, at 5 pm.

→ Contributed by: Peruvian Network for an Equal Globalisation (Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad – RedGE), [cursosredge \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cursosredge@gmail.com)

Remediation & grievance mechanisms: workshop in May

See [item 2](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Americas section because the workshop will take place in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

Forthcoming regional briefings on business & human rights, and missions

See [item 4](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Americas section because it mentions a planned mission by the Resource Centre to Brazil, focusing on corporate legal accountability.

Asia/Pacific

15. Cambodian Center for Human Rights expanding its Business and Human Rights Project

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) is expanding its Business and Human Rights (BHR) Project to incorporate engagement and advocacy with companies involved in land conflicts, in addition to engagement and advocacy with garment factories and companies purchasing from the garment industry in Cambodia. This revamped BHR Project will focus on targeted advocacy with companies, factories and brands most closely related to where human rights abuses are taking place: companies holding economic land concessions that have had particularly drastic impacts on communities, factories where strikes and working conditions are particularly problematic, and brands related to those factories that are failing to adhere to human rights principles.

The BHR Project will be grounded in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and advocacy activities will be focused on ensuring that the business sector actors with which the BHR Project engages

incorporate and respect the Guiding Principles – as well as international and domestic laws and human rights standards – in their everyday operations.

For further details, please visit: business.sithi.org

→ *Contributed by Piseth Duch, Project Coordinator, Cambodian Center for Human Rights*

16. Asia-Pacific dialogue on national implementation of business & human rights - Delhi, 11-12 Apr

The [International Corporate Accountability Roundtable \(ICAR\)](#) and the [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) are undertaking consultations with local experts and key stakeholders in various regions around the world to gain valuable inputs into their joint National Action Plans (NAPs) Project. The NAPs Project is developing a comprehensive Toolkit to support national development and evaluation of State-level measures to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Inputs from consultation participants will feed into the final results of the Project, which will be released in June 2014.

As part of these ongoing regional consultations, the NAPs Project has initiated the Asia-Pacific Dialogue on National Implementation of Business and Human Rights Frameworks, to take place in Delhi, India, on 11-12 April.

This multi-stakeholder event will bring together over 50 participants from across the Asia-Pacific region. The overall objective of the event is to reflect on and share experiences and progress to date on States' implementation of the Guiding Principles, including through the development of NAPs on business and human rights.

For the full programme of the Dialogue, including the list of participants and agenda, please visit the [official NAPs Project webpage](#), hosted by the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre.

→ *Contributed by Sara Blackwell, Legal and Policy Associate, ICAR, [sara \(at\) accountabilityroundtable.org](mailto:sara(at)accountabilityroundtable.org)*

17. Film on the challenge China's migrant parents endure to balance work & family

Every year, many of China's 262 million migrant workers leave their factories and travel across the country to visit their families back home. For the world's manufacturers, post-holiday no-shows are an increasingly frustrating part of China's labour market; with upwards of 30% of workers not returning to the factory after the holiday. The trend reflects rising expectations among China's workers, who are seeking more support from their employers in their struggle to balance their responsibilities to work and family. CCR CSR's latest research, "They are also parents", discovered that 46% of migrant parents quit their jobs to take better care of their children and that 38% make frequent errors due to family concerns. CCR CSR, together with the filmmaker Stephy Chung, produced a six-minute short film to show the real people behind the research. The video will be released on [CCR CSR's website](#) in mid-April.

For more information contact [josefin.bennet-fredriksson \(at\) ccrcsr.com](mailto:josefin.bennet-fredriksson(at)ccrcsr.com)

→ *Contributed by Josefin Bennet, Business Developer, CCR CSR, [josefin.bennet-fredriksson \(at\) ccrcsr.com](mailto:josefin.bennet-fredriksson(at)ccrcsr.com)*

18. Myanmar Center for Responsible Business launching transparency project

The Myanmar Center for Responsible Business (MCRB) is implementing a project called "[Pwint Thit Sa, or Transparency in Myanmar Enterprises \(TiME\)](#)" with the objective of encouraging improved transparency by large Myanmar businesses in the areas of anti-corruption, organizational transparency, human rights, health, safety and the environment.

The project will rate over 50 major companies on the basis of their published information, and the study will be repeated in 2015. MCRB will also work with those companies who are interested in improving their performance in these areas, and bringing it in line with international standards.

→ *Contributed by Win Kyaw, Project Manager, Transparency in Myanmar Enterprises, [wkyaw \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:wkyaw(at)gmail.com)*

19. New Japan, Korea & Pacific Islands Researcher on business & human rights to start in June

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre recently announced the appointment of Saul Takahashi as its first Japan, Korea and Pacific Islands Researcher & Representative, based in Tokyo. Saul's work will help rapidly escalate transparency and accountability of companies' human rights impacts. The need is great: Japan and

Korea have enormously influential businesses – both at home and overseas. The Pacific Islands have natural resources that have too often become a focus for human rights abuse. Saul will build connections with local NGOs, companies, investors, journalists and government officials – including those already active on business and human rights. He will highlight under-reported cases and concerns, and seek company responses to alleged abuses. He will begin working with the Resource Centre in June.

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

Forthcoming regional briefings on business & human rights, and missions

See [item 4](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Asia section because it mentions planned briefings by the Resource Centre on Greater China, South Asia and Southeast Asia, and planned missions to China and Myanmar.

“One year after Rana Plaza: ending modern slavery” - evening programme in Paris, 16 Apr

See [item 22](#) below, in the Europe/Central Asia section. We include reference to this entry here in the Asia section because the event relates to the Rana Plaza disaster and the garment sector in Bangladesh.

Europe/Central Asia

20. Guidance being developed around business & human rights issues of interest to legal profession

The Law Society of England and Wales [recently launched a report](#) from its practitioners advisory group established to consult the legal sector on issues around business and human rights. The report focussed on three areas of interest to the profession: establishing the business case; conduct and regulation; and guidance, education and training. The Law Society will now look at further consultation with key sections of its membership before developing guidance around each area.

As a starting point the Law Society’s work focussed on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In line with other sectors that are increasingly developing specific guidance on the UNGPs – an approach endorsed by the UK Government’s National Action Plan – the Law Society looked at how as a representative body it can best assist members of the profession to consider their implications both in the advice they provide, and in law firms’ roles as business enterprises themselves.

For copies of the report and information about further consultations, please contact [sarah.smith \(at\) lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:sarah.smith@lawsociety.org.uk) or [anna.prag \(at\) lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:anna.prag@lawsociety.org.uk).

→ *Contributed by Anna Prag, Law Society of England & Wales*

21. Essex Transitional Justice Network & Essex Business & Human Rights Project Summer School 2014

Building on the strong expertise at University of Essex on transitional justice and corporate accountability, the [Essex Transitional Justice Network](#), together with the [Essex Business and Human Rights Project](#) (EBHR), will be running its 3rd Transitional Justice Summer School between 18–21 September. The theme of this year’s Summer School will be “Settling Accounts: The Role of Businesses in Societies Emerging from Conflict and Authoritarian Rule”.

The summer school will consider the role of businesses in societies emerging from conflict and authoritarian rule, including different issues of corporate accountability that might arise in these contexts and mechanisms to address it. Experts in both corporate accountability and transitional justice will discuss specific topics such as project lending; debt and financial complicity, as well as litigation and advocacy strategies in relation to transitional justice.

Further details of the ETJN Summer School are at: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/tjn/>.

→ *Contributed by Dr. Clara Sandoval, Director, Essex Transitional Justice Network, csando (at) essex.ac.uk*

22. “One year after Rana Plaza: ending modern slavery” - evening programme in Paris, 16 Apr

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

On 24 April 2013, the collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory building on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, cost 1133 people their lives. The Group for the Social Responsibility of Multinationals (Cercle pour la Responsabilité Sociale des Multinationales) is organising an evening of discussion on “One year after Rana Plaza: ending modern slavery”, with three members of the French Parliament who have authored a bill on the duty of care of parent companies for their subsidiaries and of companies for their supply chains. It will take place in Paris on 16 April 2014.

The evening will be moderated by Guillaume Duval, editor-in-chief of Alternatives Économiques, with the participation of:

- Sara Hossain, Advocate of the Bar of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh; specialist in commercial and human rights law
- William Bourdon, member of the Paris Bar, Chair of Sherpa (NGO)
- Geneviève Garrigos, Chair of Amnesty International France
- Antoine Lyon-Caen, Professor of Law at University of Paris-X Nanterre et Director of Studies at EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences)
- Anne Gintzburger, journalist, producer & director of the film "Les damnées du low cost"
- Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Other NGOs and trade unions active on these issues will also be represented.

Registration is required. To register or for more information, contact [cercleRSM \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cercleRSM@gmail.com). The full announcement is available at <http://www.asso-sherpa.org/16-avril-2014-apres-la-tragedie-du-rana-plaza-en-finir-avec-les-esclavages-modernes>

→ Contributed by Antonio Mangarella, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, [a.mangarella \(at\) ccfd.asso.fr](mailto:a.mangarella@ccfd.asso.fr)

23. Lecture on “Corporate Crimes and the ICC” at summer school in Galway, Ireland - 19 Jun

The annual [International Criminal Court Summer School](#) at the National University of Ireland (Galway) will take place on 16-20 June. I will be teaching a class on Thursday 19 June on [“Corporate Crimes and the International Criminal Court”](#).

The Summer School consists of five days of intensive lectures given by leading specialists on the subject. The summer school is attended by legal professionals, academics, postgraduate students and NGOs. Participants are provided with a detailed working knowledge of the establishment of the Court, its structures and operations, and the applicable law. Lectures also speak to related issues in international criminal law, including: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the crime of aggression, universal jurisdiction, immunities, and the role of victims. This year they also have a lecture specifically on Africa and the ICC.

→ Contributed by Nadia Bernaz, Middlesex University School of Law, [N.Bernaz \(at\) mdx.ac.uk](mailto:N.Bernaz@mdx.ac.uk)

24. Workshop on obstacles to access to judicial remedy and UN Guiding Principles - Brussels, April

Three years after the United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, great obstacles remain regarding the functioning of the Third Pillar of this framework: access to remedies for human rights violations by transnational business – in particular access to judicial remedies. Despite continued, widespread allegations of corporate misbehaviour, very few grievances make it to court. In light of this situation, and of the reluctance by most governments to address remedies for victims, the [European Coalition for Corporate Justice \(ECCJ\)](#) is organising a workshop on access to judicial remedy, in April in Brussels (registration has now ended).

Accompanied by experts in the field, we will:

- present and discuss the findings of the a joint report by ECCJ, the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable, and the Corporate Responsibility (CORE) coalition, as well as Amnesty International’s conclusions on obstacles to access to judicial remedy and recommendations to overcome them;
- present the various initiatives – in the EU and internationally – meant to tackle the access to justice problem; and

- attempt to align the efforts of the various organizations present, and bring out possible common priorities.

The outcome of this event will be available on ECCJ's website: <http://www.corporatejustice.org/>

→ *Contributed by Andres Arce Indacochea, andres (at) corporatejustice.org*

25. Event re trade in conflict minerals - Berlin, 15 May; action on human rights in trade agreements

Event re European proposal for a responsible trading strategy for minerals from conflict zones: Following the proposal for a draft regulation on conflict minerals by the European Commission on 5 March, the [German Institute for Human Rights](#) is organising an event in Berlin on 15 May. The aim of this event is to set forth the debate on a domestic level and to make the subject more accessible to German policy makers. The conference will bring together different stakeholders in Germany and Europe.

Recent publication & forthcoming action on human rights in trade agreements: "A Model Human Rights Clause for the EU's International Trade Agreements" by Lorand Bartels, was recently published (in English and in German). This study, commissioned jointly by the German Institute for Human Rights and MISEREOR:

- focusses on the state's duty to protect human rights, and how the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights can best be implemented in the current international legal context;
- analyses the limitations of the human rights clause in EU Trade Agreements and discusses possible reforms; and
- concludes with concrete recommendations for how to minimise negative human rights impacts.

We intend to promote and pursue the proposals in national and European political processes over the coming months.

Other recent publications:

- "Menschenrechtliche Risikostandards im System der Außenwirtschaftsförderung" (Human Rights Standards in the Foreign Trade System – available in German only):
 - documents the conference co-organised by the German Institute for Human Rights, OECD and the Humboldt Viadrina School of Governance (Berlin, 11 November 2013)
 - reports on the implementation of the OECD Officially Supported Export Credits and Environmental and Social Due Diligence (Common Approaches) and the UN Guidelines for Business and Human Rights; and
 - includes recommendations by National Human Rights Institutions in Europe for revision of the Common Approaches (recommendations available in English as well as German).
- "Austerity and Human Rights in Europe" documents the Institute's conference series held in Berlin and Brussels on 12-13 June 2013, and explores the cutbacks on civil, political, but also economic, social and cultural rights in Spain, Greece and Ireland, as a result of austerity measures (available in English only).

Please contact us if you wish to receive these publications.

→ *Contributed by Deniz Utlü, Policy Advisor (Business and Human Rights), German Institute for Human Rights, utlu (at) institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de*

26. "Human Rights Explained" workshop - Copenhagen, June

On 12-13 June, GLOBAL CSR hosts an intensive two-day workshop designed for CSR practitioners who wish to develop further capacity on human rights. The workshop equips participants to work with human rights in a business context.

Throughout two full days, participants will explore the content of each right from the International Bill of Human Rights and identify their function in practice in a business context. Participants thereby develop their capacity to apply a rights-based approach that is fully aligned with the UN Guiding Principles in their business activities. Participants work with a human rights self-assessment tool enabling them to carry out a preliminary identification of their business' potential and actual adverse human rights impacts during the workshop. The workshop is facilitated with a mix of presentations, discussions and group work.

For further information and registration please contact CSR Adviser, Sine Gyruup, at [sg \(at\) global-csr.com](mailto:sg@global-csr.com), or read more about the workshop here: http://www.global-csr.com/fileadmin/Kursus/PDF/14_flyer_HURI_2001.pdf

→ Contributed by Sine Gyruup, GLOBAL CSR, [sg \(at\) global-csr.com](mailto:sg@global-csr.com)

27. Traidcraft campaign on poor labour practices in European supermarket supply chains

Europe's biggest supermarkets are bullying the people who pick, pack and grow our food. Campaigners are calling on Commissioner Michel Barnier, the man with the power to rein in the retailers, to support strong European rules for supermarkets:

http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/get_involved/campaign/supermarkets/action_on_supermarkets

[Traidcraft](#) is campaigning for European Internal Market Commissioner Barnier to set up a tough enforcement mechanism to stop retailers forcing abusive purchasing practices onto suppliers. As part of a coalition of European international development and consumer organizations and trade unions, we are calling for new rules to tackle "unfair trading practices". Pressure down the supply chain has led to short-term contracts, forced overtime, and low and unpredictable incomes for workers and farmers. These abusive practices undermine attempts to improve human rights in the supply chain. Despite many of these practices being illegal, a climate of fear operates, with suppliers worried about losing orders if they complain. More than 43,000 European citizens and Latin American plantation workers have already called on Commissioner Barnier to close the enforcement gap.

30 April will mark the one-year anniversary of the European Commission closing its Green Paper consultation on unfair trading practices in the retail sector. Despite the problem being clearly recognised in the food sector and the EC recognising that member states have gaps in enforcement, the development of a credible, tough enforcement approach by the EC to stop the profitable application of these practices onto suppliers worldwide is apparently being impeded. An announcement on the EC's next steps is expected in May 2014, but has already delayed since autumn 2013.

→ Contributed by Fiona Gooch, Senior Policy Advisor, Traidcraft, [fionag \(at\) traidcraft.co.uk](mailto:fionag@traidcraft.co.uk)

Expert workshop on National Action Plans - 8 May; UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, 1-3 Dec

See [item 1](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Europe/Central Asia section because the events will take place in Geneva.

Summit on business action to tackle trafficking & forced labour in supply chains - London, 11 Apr

See [item 3](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Europe/Central Asia section because the summit will take place in London.

Forthcoming regional briefings on business & human rights, and missions

See [item 4](#) above, in the International section. We include reference to this entry here in the Europe/Central Asia section because it refers to planned briefings by the Resource Centre on Eastern Europe & Central Asia, and on Western Europe.

Middle East/North Africa

28. Campaign to exclude Mekorot from public contracts over concerns about use of Palestinian water

Civic groups in Palestine and abroad are calling for more public scrutiny and pressure on governments and municipal authorities to exclude Israel's state-owned water company Mekorot from contracts. Concerns have been raised about its exploitation of water resources in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, for the benefit of illegal settlements. Campaigners are concerned that Mekorot's use of these resources deprives Palestinians of the right to water. Civil groups are calling on public authorities to follow the example of [Vitens, the largest water supplier in the Netherlands](#), which ended a contract with Mekorot in occupied East Jerusalem over concerns about violations of international law. Campaigns have been established in Argentina, Greece, Italy and Portugal, with more to follow in other countries.

Since 2005, Mekorot has carried out a [process of international expansion](#). Benefitting from the global trend of privatisation, Mekorot has signed contracts in [Argentina, Cyprus, India, Uganda and the US](#), as well as in Brazil, [Greece](#), Italy and Portugal. [PENGON/Friends of the Earth Palestine](#), the [Palestinian BDS \(Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions\) National Committee](#) and the [Land Defense Coalition](#) launched the public campaign for accountability of Mekorot under international humanitarian and human rights law with a week of public awareness-

raising between 22 March (World Water Day) and 30 March (Palestinian Land Day). Background information, including fact files and legal studies, are provided on the campaign website: www.stopmekorot.org

→ Contributed by Ingrid Jaradat Gassner, [info \(at\) civiccolation-jerusalem.org](mailto:info@civiccolation-jerusalem.org)

29. Habi Centre hosting Egyptian civil society discussion on business and human rights - Cairo, 5-7 May

The Habi Centre for Environmental Rights and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre are organising a meeting that will gather active Egyptian civil society organizations (CSOs), activists, and bloggers to explore the interest and current level of involvement by civil society in business and human rights issues in Egypt. The issues relevant to the Egyptian context include:

- Industrial plants' pollution and impact on local communities – including repression of protests
- Internet and telecommunications freedom
- Women in the workplace
- Freedom of association
- Child labour

The meeting will take place 5-7 May at Habi Centre's offices. It will be part of Business & Human Rights Resource Centre's planned mission to Egypt.

For more information please contact [fazah \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:fazah@business-humanrights.org)

→ Contributed by Rania Fazah, Middle East Research, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [fazah \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:fazah@business-humanrights.org)

Español

30. Taller “Empresa y derechos humanos: Una visión actual con enfoque empresarial” - Buenos Aires, junio

La temática de los Derechos Humanos y Empresa viene a plantear grandes y renovados desafíos para el sector empresario que hacen no sólo a la estrategia de la empresa sino también a su diaria gestión. En razón de ello, el CEADS (Consejo Empresario Argentino para el Desarrollo Sostenible), desde el área de Legal & Compliance, llevará a cabo la segunda edición del Taller de Capacitación sobre DDHH y Empresa, dirigido exclusivamente a empresas miembro, que se desarrollará en el mes de junio. Como en la edición anterior, el Taller será dictado junto con representantes de la sociedad civil. El objetivo de brindar a los participantes los conocimientos necesarios para que comprendan los elementos constitutivos de la visión actual de los derechos humanos respecto de las empresas, con la finalidad que puedan identificar y generar estrategias al interior de su organización respecto a situaciones y procesos sensibles a los derechos humanos. Continuando con las acciones de capacitación, en el segundo semestre se realizará la primera edición del Taller de Profundización en DDHH y Empresa dirigidos principalmente a los asistentes del primer taller con la finalidad de profundizar conocimientos y compartir experiencias prácticas.

→ Contribución de Maria Jose Alzari, Coordinadora Legal & Compliance, Ceads: [mjalzari \(at\) ceads.org.ar](mailto:mjalzari@ceads.org.ar)

31. Programa “Diplomado Empresa y Derechos Humanos” - Bogotá, de mayo a agosto

Las facultades de [Finanzas, Gobierno y Relaciones Internacionales](#) y [Administración de Empresas de la Universidad Externado de Colombia](#), en convenio con la Red del Pacto Global de las Naciones Unidas, ofrecen el “Diplomado Empresas y Derechos Humanos”, con el objetivo de brindar conocimientos constitutivos de los derechos humanos e identificar estrategias al interior de las organizaciones que promuevan control y mejoramiento de los desempeños económicos, sociales y ambientales en ellas. Dirigido a empresarios, gerentes, directores de área, consultores, funcionarios y profesionales en general. 90 horas, inicio el 23 de mayo al 29 de agosto, viernes y sábado (viernes 8 am a 5 pm y sábado de 8 am a 12 m). Inscripciones abiertas hasta el 9 de mayo. Más información [aquí](#).

→ Contribución de Alexandra Chávez, Educación Continuada, Universidad Externado de Colombia, [alexandra.chaves \(at\) uexternado.edu.co](mailto:alexandra.chaves@uexternado.edu.co)

32. Curso nacional sobre transiciones y alternativas al extractivismo: Una mirada desde el cambio climático - Lima, mayo

La [Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad – RedGE](#) y el [Centro Latino Americano de Ecología Social – CLAES](#) de Uruguay, anunciamos la séptima edición del curso intensivo para explorar alternativas de desarrollo en el Perú y América del Sur. Dado que este año se realizará en Lima – Perú la Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático, COP 20, en esta edición se pondrá especial énfasis en el cambio climático. El curso cubrirá, entre otros, los siguientes temas:

- Transiciones. Desarrollos alternativos y alternativas al desarrollo. Transiciones post extractivistas. El concepto de transiciones y la elaboración de escenarios alternativos.
- Insustentabilidad del desarrollo: ejemplos, impactos, límites de la energía, etc.
- Cambio climático como límite al desarrollo. Cambio climático y Transiciones. Presente y futuro del cambio climático en Perú y América del Sur.

Los postulantes deberán enviar la ficha de postulación hasta el lunes 21 de abril a las 5 pm

→ *Contribución de: Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad – RedGE: [cursosredge \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cursosredge(at)gmail.com)*

Français

33. Séminaire régional sur le Document de Montreux au sujet des entreprises de sécurité privées - Dakar, 3-5 juin

[Le Centre pour le contrôle démocratique des forces armées \(DCAF, Genève, Suisse\)](#), en collaboration avec la Suisse, le Comité internationale de la croix rouge (CICR) et le Centre des hautes études de défense et de sécurité (CHEDS, Dakar-Sénégal), organise à Dakar du 3 au 5 juin un séminaire régional sur le Document de Montreux à l'intention des Etats de l'Afrique subsaharienne. Le but du séminaire est de sensibiliser les gouvernements sur l'importance de ce document et sur la mise en œuvre d'une réglementation efficace des entreprises de sécurité privées. Le séminaire permettra également d'initier un partenariat avec les gouvernements et tous les autres acteurs qui s'intéressent à la thématique afin de vulgariser l'initiative du Document de Montreux et s'assurer de sa mise en œuvre plus tard. Les deux premiers jours du séminaire sont destinés aux Etats alors que le troisième jour sera réservé à un atelier où les ONG pourront débattre de la question et discuter de cas pratiques.

Pour plus de détails, contacter Anna Marie Burdzy, Assistante de recherche, DCAF, [a.burdzy \(at\) dcaf.ch](mailto:a.burdzy(at)dcaf.ch).

→ *Contribution d'Anna Marie Burdzy, DCAF*

34. Un an après la tragédie du Rana Plaza, en finir avec les esclavages modernes - Paris, 16 avril

Le 24 avril 2013, l'effondrement de l'usine textile Rana Plaza dans la banlieue de Dacca, Bangladesh, coûtait la vie à 1133 personnes. Le Cercle pour la Responsabilité Sociale des Multinationales organise, le 16 avril 2014 à Paris, une soirée d'échanges et de mobilisation sur le thème « Un an après la tragédie du Rana Plaza, en finir avec les esclavages modernes », avec les trois députés auteurs de la proposition de loi relative au devoir de vigilance des sociétés mères et des entreprises donneuses d'ordre.

La soirée sera animée par Guillaume Duval, rédacteur en chef d'Alternatives Économiques, en présence de :

- Sara Hossain, Avocate à la Cour Suprême du Bangladesh, spécialisée en droit commercial et dans la défense des droits humains
- William Bourdon, avocat au Barreau de Paris, Président de Sherpa
- Geneviève Garrigos, Présidente d'Amnesty International France
- Antoine Lyon-Caen, Professeur de droit à l'Université Paris-X Nanterre et directeur d'études à l'EHESS (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)
- Anne Gintzburger, Journaliste, productrice et réalisatrice du film « Les damnées du low cost
- Olivier De Schutter, Rapporteur spécial des Nations Unies sur le droit à l'alimentation

D'autres ONG et des syndicats actifs dans ce domaine seront également représentés.

Inscription obligatoire. Pour s'inscrire ou pour plus d'infos, contactez [cercleRSM \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cercleRSM@gmail.com). L'annonce intégrale et disponible à <http://www.asso-sherpa.org/16-avril-2014-apres-la-tragedie-du-rana-plaza-en-finir-avec-les-esclavages-modernes>

→ *Contribution d'Antonio Manganella, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, a.manganella (at) ccfd.asso.fr*

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