



**On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte**  
**A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights**  
**Issue 25 – April 2012**

*This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org). 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 2012, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 4 June to Marta Kasztelan, [kasztelan](mailto:kasztelan@business-humanrights.org) (at) [business-humanrights.org](http://business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline is 24 May.*

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## International

### 1. Human Rights Due Diligence Project: forthcoming survey & consultations

The International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR), the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ), and the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA), are pleased to announce the launch of the "Human Rights Due Diligence Project". This first-ever international coalition collaboration seeks to clarify and build consensus around the concept of human rights due diligence and to develop recommendations on how to embed this concept in domestic legislation and policies.

The "Human Rights Due Diligence Project", led by an Expert Team including Anita Ramasastry, Mark Taylor, Olivier de Schutter and Robert Thompson, will result in the research and release of a comprehensive report with recommendations that will empower advocates and campaigners from across the world with key policy options to build human rights due diligence into their national and regional contexts.

A survey methodology will be finalised and released in early April, 2012, and conference calls scheduled with our experts for interested academics, lawyers and advocates to learn more about the project will take place thereafter. Private consultations with leading experts in the field will be held in the EU in mid-April and the US in late June. The sum of these surveys and consultations will be a mapping of the contemporary due diligence requirements existing in numerous jurisdictions.

If you would like to know more about the "Human Rights Due Diligence Project", please visit us online at <http://accountabilityroundtable.org/campaigns/human-rights-due-diligence>

→ *Contributed by Amol Mehra, Coordinator, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable amol (at) accountabilityroundtable.org*

### 2. OECD Watch to update guide to OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

OECD Watch is preparing an updated practical guide for NGOs on how to interpret the new OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (which were themselves updated in 2011) and how to use the Guidelines' complaint mechanism. The guide, expected to be available online and in print in May, is intended to inform NGOs about the most important changes to the OECD Guidelines and provide concrete guidance on how to research, draft, submit and follow up on an OECD Guidelines complaint.

OECD Watch's new guide draws on the experiences and lessons learned from over 100 cases filed by NGOs over the past 10 years and is tailored to the needs and considerations of NGOs in the global South and North. OECD Watch will test-drive a draft version of the new guide at training seminars in Senegal and India.

→ *Contributed by Virginia Sandjojo, OECD Watch, virginia (at) oecdwatch.org*

### 3. UN seeking input on "General Comment on Child Rights and the Business Sector", deadline 20 April

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child ('the Committee') is producing a "General Comment on Child Rights and the Business Sector". A General Comment is a pronouncement of the Committee's interpretation of the content of human rights provisions on thematic issues in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In its ongoing drafting process for this General Comment, the Committee has prepared an [annotated outline](#) to guide its further deliberations. In addition to multi-stakeholder consultations that it will be undertaking during April and May, the Committee [welcomes inputs](#) on the draft General Comment based on its annotated outline. Submissions from interested organizations and individuals who have experience or information on **State party obligations** under the Convention in relation to the business sector would be particularly welcome. The deadline for these submissions is 20 April 2012.

The Committee has had a long-standing interest in how the activities and operations of business enterprises affect different aspects of children's lives, and can have both a positive and negative impact on States Parties' implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Protocols. The Committee recognises that business enterprises can be an essential driver for societies and economies to advance in ways which strengthen the realisation of child rights through, for example, employment generation, technological advances and investment. However, they can also cause, or contribute to, a wide range of violations of child rights.

In this context, the Committee has decided to produce a General Comment on Child Rights and Business that will

aim to provide States Parties with a framework for implementation of the Convention as a whole with regard to the business sector. It will include guidance on the measures of implementation that are required to: prevent and remedy violations of child rights by business actors, and ensure business enterprises carry out their responsibilities in the realisation of the rights of the child and encourage business to positively contribute to the realisation of these rights. The General Comment will be guided by the principles of the CRC throughout: the best interests of the child, the right to non-discrimination, the right to be heard and the right to life, survival and development.

→ *Contributed by the Secretariat for the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, CRC-Child-Rights-Business (at) ohchr.org*

#### **4. Forthcoming initiatives by Essex Business and Human Rights Project**

*Nigeria:* The EBHR (Essex Business and Human Rights Project, Univ. of Essex, UK) will be publishing a report on the Shell Oil group's international liabilities arising from its activities in the Niger Delta. The report focuses, inter alia, on the potential liabilities of the parent company and its predecessors. The report will be available on the EBHR website in the near future.

*UK:* The EBHR has been invited to assist with the planning of a series of meetings focused on the UK's implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – the "Ruggie" principles. The meetings are convened by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Arts and Humanities Research Board. A preliminary report will be published by the Foreign Office in June 2012.

*UK:* The EBHR is currently working with the Essex University Human Rights Clinic (consisting of LL/M/MA students) on submitting an *amicus curiae* brief in the *Anvil Mining* case pending before the Supreme Court of Canada.

*Brazil:* The EBHR has been working with the State Prosecutor's Office Rio de Janeiro, and University Juiz de Fora, on an analysis of the potential liabilities of members of the Thyssen-Krupp group of companies, arising out of the latter's construction and operation of a steel mill in the environs of Rio de Janeiro.

*Uganda:* EBHR, sponsored by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, has finished a training program in Kampala for members of the Ugandan Parliament. The work has focused on analysis of human rights/environment aspects of the new Petroleum Law currently going through Parliament. The EBHR has proposed amendments to the draft legislation to the Parliament's Natural Resources Committee.

More information can be found on the EBHR website: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ebhr>

→ *Contributed by Douglas Kerr, LLM student, University of Essex, dkerr (at) essex.ac.uk, and Sheldon Leader, Director, Essex Business and Human Rights Project, leader (at) essex.ac.uk*

#### **5. Online course on climate change: Risks and opportunities for the finance sector**

The next UNEP FI (United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative) Online Course on Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector will be held from 7-28 May. The course aims to equip financial institution executives with fundamental knowledge on a variety of aspects at the interface of private finance, climate change, and climate regulation, as well as to provide support for the development of effective responses.

[More information.](#)  
[Enrollment details.](#)

→ *Contributed by Alma Escobar, Assistant Training Coordinator, UNEP FI, ima.escobar (at) unep.org*

#### **6. Missions planned for 2012 – Business & Human Rights Resource Centre**

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is planning research missions to the following countries in 2012: Argentina, China (Beijing), Democratic Republic of Congo, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda and United Arab Emirates. The purpose of these missions is to meet local NGOs so we can help draw attention to their concerns, and companies so we can better highlight positive initiatives they are taking.

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

## **7. Rates at which companies respond to allegations – Business & Human Rights Resource Centre**

Since 2005, the Resource Centre has invited companies to respond to allegations of misconduct. We do this when there is no existing response by the company to the allegations. The process encourages companies to take steps to address concerns, and provides the public with both the allegations and the company's comments. So far we have sought responses over 1000 times, from over 500 companies based in 65 countries: the overall response rate is 75%. A record of these responses [is available here](#). During 2012, we will be indicating for each company its percentage response rate. For example a company that we had invited to respond to NGO concerns three times and only responded once would have a 33% response rate. We will highlight this in the company's section on our website, and elsewhere.

While this is not a reflection of a company's actual conduct, it is an important indicator of its openness to respond to human rights concerns being raised by civil society. We hope that this approach, which will be phased in throughout the year for all the companies from which we have sought responses, will encourage more non-responders to respond.

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

## **8. Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children – June issue**

In June the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will publish its second Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children. The purpose of the bulletin is to highlight recent developments and for organizations working in this field to spread the word about their forthcoming activities/reports. To sign up for the bulletin or to contribute an entry (under 200 words about an activity taking place after 18 June) please contact Annabel Short, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org). The deadline for contributions is 1 June.

The launch issue [is available here](#) in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. Regular news updates are available on our [Business & Children Portal](#).

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

## **Africa**

## **9. Course on “Human Rights and the Market Place”, Univ. of the Witwatersrand – Johannesburg, 4-15 Jun**

The [Mandela Institute of the School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand](#) in South Africa, is offering a certificate course on “[Human Rights and the Market Place](#)” as part of a three-week Winter Law School Programme. The course will be taught by way of 3-hour lectures during the period 4 to 15 June 2012 and aims to “assess the ways that human rights law has penetrated the market and begun to affect the behaviour of economic factors, including international financial institutions, multinational corporations, the UN and human rights activists”. The cost of the course is R7,000 and registration will close on 16 April 2012.

→ *For further information contact Danielle Simmons-Duarte, [mandela.institute \(at\) wits. ac.za](mailto:mandela.institute@wits.ac.za)*

## **10. Training on the Code of Ethics for Business in Kenya – Nairobi, 18-19 Apr 2012**

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), through the Global Compact Network Kenya, in collaboration with the Ethics Institute of South Africa, is holding a 2-day “Ethics Champion” training on 18 and 19 April 2012. The training is intended to capacitate designated company champions of the Code of Ethics on:

- How to implement the [Code of Ethics for Business in Kenya](#) in their company;
- Ethical issues in the workplace and ethical dilemmas; and
- How to manage ethics in a company.

Participants can be:

- Integrity/corruption prevention managers; human resource managers; risk managers; and/or any management function which is responsible for managing ethics/corruption prevention in the company.

Participants will gain the understanding of the importance of ethics management as well as the importance of

creating an ethical culture as a mechanism for preventing corruption. The training will enable participants to manage ethics more confidently and give them a framework for facilitating ethics conversations and training.

The Code of Ethics for Business in Kenya “is an initiative by the business community of Kenya to promote and enhance the ethics of business conduct in Kenya in line with the ten principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour standards, environment and anti-corruption.”

→ *Contributed by Geoffrey Korir, Global Compact Network Kenya / Kenya Association of Manufacturers, [geoffrey.korir \(at\) kam.co.ke](mailto:geoffrey.korir@kam.co.ke)*

### **11. OECD Watch seminar on OECD Guidelines – Dakar, 24-25 May**

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

Lumière Synergie pour le Développement, a Senegalese member of the OECD Watch network, will organise a regional capacity-building seminar for civil society organizations, 24-25 May in Dakar. About 20 participants from Benin, Liberia, Senegal and Tunisia, as well as experts from France, Netherlands and UK, are expected. The workshop’s focus will be a presentation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, a multilateral instrument that is unique in the CSR field. The seminar will provide an occasion to review past experience with the OECD Guidelines and the situation of corporate responsibility in Senegal and the sub-region. Participating organizations will be trained on the complaints mechanism for OECD Guidelines violations, which can be used against multinationals based in and/or operating in an OECD member country or other adhering country.

→ *Contributed by Aly Sagne, President of Lumière, Synergie pour le Développement, [syndev \(at\) orange.sn](mailto:syndev@orange.sn) / [lasagne \(at\) aim.com](mailto:lasagne@aim.com)*

## **Americas**

### **12. Study & forthcoming workshop on British companies, human & labour rights in Colombia**

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

The International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR), lawyers’ collective Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (CAJAR), and British public services workers’ trade union UNISON, have been working on a project to identify British companies operating in Colombia, and to assess their compliance with labour and human rights standards. In the last week of May ICTUR will host a workshop in London with participation of British businesses, unions, and NGOs, at which it will present the findings and recommendations of this study, and seek ways of bringing the parties together so as to improve the conditions for Colombian workers.

The study identified more than 55 companies, generating more than 9000 jobs, and observes that the UK is the second largest foreign investor in Colombia after the USA, with a share of 17 percent of total investment. The report finds low levels of unionisation and examines factors such as the virulent and systematic violence against trade unionists that has occurred in Colombia for decades. The study also reveals that many of those working for British multinationals or associated employers are contracted indirectly through so-called workers’ cooperatives, and examines how this atypical but widespread employment model takes workers outside of the standard labour law framework and effectively blocks them from exercising trade union rights. The research also outlines other serious human rights challenges, including cases of forced displacements, and examines the intersection of business activities with these serious and deep-rooted problems.

→ *Contributed by Miguel Puerto, International Centre for Trade Union Rights, [miguel \(at\) ictur.org](mailto:miguel@ictur.org)*

### **13. Colombia: “Emprender Paz 2012” Award is launched – call for entries**

The fifth version of the Colombian Award “Emprender Paz” (Enterprising Peace: the business’ beat) has been launched; aimed at companies that contribute to peace in Colombia through their business activities. Applications will be received until June 29. Each winner will be awarded with technical assistance to enhance the impact of its initiative. For five years “Emprender Paz” has highlighted the efforts made by micro, small, middle-sized and large business in developing sustainable opportunities for communities affected by conflict in the Colombian regions. The spirit of this initiative is to make visible and strengthen business experiences on peace-building so that others can replicate them.

Applications are open and free of charge. [More information in Spanish here.](#)

→ *Contributed by Emprender Paz, coordinacion (at) emprenderpaz.org*

#### **14. FIDH seminar on Corporate Accountability Strategies, Lima, 7-9 June**

FIDH along with its member organisation in Peru will hold an international seminar in Lima, between 7 and 9 June 2012, on Corporate Accountability Strategies. The seminar will gather FIDH member and partner organisations and legal experts from Latin America and other regions to share experiences on (successful) strategies to seek accountability for corporate-related human rights abuses. Two days of strategic discussions will be preceded by a one-day public conference on Business and Human Rights focusing on recent developments in the field. FIDH's [updated guide on corporate accountability mechanisms](#) will be presented.

→ *Contributed by Elin Wrzoncki, Head of Globalization and Human Rights Desk, FIDH, ewrzoncki (at) fidh.org*

#### **15. New documentary: Suarez Gold - Afro-Colombian miners defending their heritage": upcoming screenings**

*(For more information about this film, details of screenings and Q & A with Hollman Morris in London and Stockholm at the end of April 2012, contact [emma.eastwood \(at\) mrgmail.org](mailto:emma.eastwood@mrghmail.org)).*

Afro-Colombians have been carrying out small-scale gold mining in Colombia's Cauca region since emancipated slaves settled there in 1637. Today their descendants continue to chip away at the red earth in search of gold, seeing it not only as a means for earning a modest living, but also as an activity deeply linked to their ethnicity and culture.

Between 2002 and 2010, Colombia's Government gave out 7500 mining exploration titles to national and foreign companies eager to exploit the country's precious resources. In this beautifully-filmed documentary by Colombian filmmaker Hollman Morris (Nuremberg International Human Rights Award 2011, Human Rights Watch Annual Defender Award 2007), we hear of the Afro-Colombian community of La Toma's brave, and sometimes deadly, struggle to prevent the invasion of mining companies and defend their ancestral livelihoods at all costs.

[View a trailer of the film](#)

→ *Contributed by Emma Eastwood, Media Officer, Minority Rights, [emma.eastwood \(at\) mrgmail.org](mailto:emma.eastwood@mrghmail.org)*

### **Asia/Pacific**

#### **16. Conflict Risk Network forthcoming white paper on Burma**

United to End Genocide's Conflict Risk Network is preparing to release a white paper on the evolving business climate and risks of corporate operations in Burma. Geared toward institutional investors, shareholders and financial service providers, the white paper will identify specific industries, projects and corporate activities that can drive conflict and create or exacerbate an environment conducive to mass atrocities.

CRN analysts will provide an overview of Burma's current legal landscape, including laws and policies related to foreign investment, currency valuation and labour rights. The paper will update investors on Burma-related sanctions, the lobby for relaxation of sanctions, and potential developments in the coming months. It will also highlight investment benchmarks put forth by Burma's civil society and international trade unions designed to ensure that corporate actors fulfill their responsibility to respect human rights and take steps necessary to support peace and stability in conflict-affected areas of the country.

CRN plans to release the white paper in mid-April following Burma's by-elections. The paper will help inform forthcoming debates on Burma investment policies and sanctions during the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, as well as among the U.S. Congress and executive branch and among European policymakers.

→ *Contributed by Eryn Schornick, Conflict Risk Network, [eschornick \(at\) endgenocide.org](mailto:eschornick@endgenocide.org)*

#### **17. China: Forthcoming work on protection of employment rights of people with AIDS**

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from Chinese original]

The trend of AIDS is spreading in China, leading to an increased demand for the protection of AIDS-affected people in the workplace. However, lawyers' and law students' levels of understanding of AIDS-related issues is

insufficient. Since 2010, Zhengzhou City He'rbutong and the ILO Beijing Office have worked on the protection of rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. Forthcoming activities include:

AIDS Human Rights Defenders Network. Through training, seminars and other activities, AIDS community activists are mobilized to work on AIDS employment protection. There are also seminars for lawyers and judges. In 2012-2013, we will train more than 200 lawyers, judges and AIDS activists. We will also keep the network informed, with new materials and newsletters.

AIDS Relief Law Hotline will continue to provide legal advisory services to AIDS-affected people on equal employment and right to privacy, as well as legal aid services when necessary.

Zhengzhou City He'rbutong is committed to promoting civic education. Through collaboration with government and NGOs, we develop and promote best practices, build channels of communications, collaboration, and a marketing platform for public welfare products.

→ *Contributed by Chang Kun, Zhengzhou City He'rbutong, heerbutong2011 (at) hotmail.com*

### **18. Forthcoming Business and Human Rights Workshops – Melbourne**

These workshops, hosted by UN Association of Australia, build capacity to monitor and manage corporate human rights impacts and risks, and provide practical guidance on how to integrate human rights considerations into everyday business practices. Upon completion of the series, participants will have developed an understanding of the essential strategies and tools needed to develop and implement a corporate human rights policy and establish a human rights due diligence process in their own company/organisation. The first workshop, " Business and Human Rights: Introduction to the Guiding Principles", was held 29 March.

#### Further Workshop Sessions:

1. Corporate Human Rights Policy Development (3 May)
2. Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence: Assessment and integration of human rights impacts (21 June)
3. Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence: Tracking and communicating human rights performance (12 July)
4. Addressing adverse human rights impacts: Managing human rights related complaints, disputes and grievances (16 August)

More information and registration details available at: [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au)

→ *Contributed by Catherine Sutherland, United Nations Association of Australia (Victoria Division), catherine (at) unaavictoria.org.au*

## **Europe/Central Asia**

### **19. Frameworks for Change – The Tourism Industry and Human Rights: London, 29 May**

The Institute for Human Rights and Business and Tourism Concern are convening a multi-stakeholder roundtable to explore the challenges, risks and opportunities around integrating human rights into tourism development and management. Representatives from the tourism sector and other stakeholders will discuss how better alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights can guide the industry response to key challenges and deliver a more sustainable future.

→ *For further information, please contact Rachel Noble, rachel (at) tourismconcern.org.uk*

### **20. Stockholm Internet Forum on Internet Freedom, 18-19 April: Danish Institute to participate**

The Danish Institute for Human Rights is participating in the Stockholm Internet Forum on Internet Freedom for Global Development, 18-19 April 2012. The meeting is arranged by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which has facilitated dialogue with major corporations in the ICT sector on how their human rights commitment can be put into practice. The Stockholm Internet Forum is a follow-up to a roundtable held in Stockholm in November 2011. More information about the conference [is available here](#).

→ *Contact Rikke Frank Joergensen, rfj (at) humanrights.dk for further information regarding the Danish Institute's participation in the event*

## **21. Expert meeting on labour, environmental issues in solar photovoltaic industry, Amsterdam, 10 May**

“Good Solar”, an expert meeting on labour & environmental issues in the global solar photovoltaic industry, will be held on 10 May in Amsterdam. Organisers include SOMO, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, Interdisciplinary Cluster on Energy Systems, Equity and Vulnerability, and Edinburgh University.

Increasing the percentage of electricity generated through solar photovoltaic technologies in the global energy supply mix is crucial for the transition to a sustainable and equitable energy system. However, being truly sustainable means ensuring high social and environmental standards throughout the entire value chain. This expert meeting will bring together representatives of campaign groups, universities, trade unions and civil society organizations from North America, Europe and Asia to discuss the challenges of labour rights and environmental practices in the worldwide solar photovoltaic industry. The meeting will facilitate information exchange and explore possibilities for future collaboration and networking with the ultimate aim of ensuring that workers’ rights and the environment are respected throughout the solar PV value chain so that the solar PV industry can make a genuine contribution to sustainable development.

Participants will discuss the latest findings from the Silicon Valley Toxic Coalition’s Solar Scorecard Campaign which ranks major solar manufacturers on the basis of their commitment to recycling, supply chain monitoring, the eradication of toxics, and transparency. The meeting will explore the overlap between the challenges of corporate accountability, regulation and workers’ rights in the global electronics sector and those facing the solar photovoltaics industry. The meeting has three primary goals: 1) Exchange information about various elements of the global solar PV industry including major corporate players, production locations, supply chains, key social and environmental issues; 2) Identify tools (e.g. public campaigns, union organising, certification/labeling systems) that can be used to address key issues; and 3) Establish a platform for continued information exchange and future joint campaign actions and research.

→ *Contributed by Joseph Wilde-Ramsing, Senior Researcher, SOMO, [j.wilde \(at\) sono.nl](mailto:j.wilde@sono.nl)*

## **22. Child Labour Platform / UN Global Compact Labour Working Group meeting, Geneva, 17 April**

This one-day, multi-stakeholder, multi-sector meeting of the UN Global Compact Labour Working Group will introduce participants to approaches in tackling child labour and highlight opportunities for further collaboration. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the Child Labour Platform as a new workstream.

Companies and other stakeholders interested in joining the Child Labour Platform are kindly requested to register for the meeting with Benjamin Smith, ILO-IPEC: [smithb \(at\) ilo.org](mailto:smithb@ilo.org). Final deadline for registration: 6 April 2012.

The mandate of the Global Compact Labour Working Group is to:

- Raise the profile, relevance of, and respect for the four labour principles among UN Global Compact companies and networks;
- Help ensure a consistent approach is taken to the application and understanding of the four principles, drawing on ILO, ITUC, and IOE information and experience;
- Develop tools, information exchange, and forums for UN Global Compact companies’ engagement on the four labour principles.

→ *Contributed by Benjamin Smith, Senior Officer for Corporate Social Responsibility, ILO-IPEC, [smithb \(at\) ilo.org](mailto:smithb@ilo.org)*

## **Español**

### **23. Empresas Británicas en Colombia: Acciones para promover derechos humanos y derechos laborales.**

En la última semana de mayo de 2012, en la ciudad de Londres, ICTUR está programando un taller, con la presencia de empresarios británicos, para presentar las conclusiones y recomendaciones de un estudio adelantado por el Centro Internacional para los Derechos Sindicales (ICTUR por sus siglas en inglés) y el Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo (CAJAR), con el apoyo del Sindicato del Sector Público Británico (UNISON). La investigación buscó identificar las empresas británicas que operan en Colombia, analizando la aplicación de las normas laborales, y sus niveles de responsabilidad por violaciones a los derechos humanos.

El estudio identificó más de 55 empresas británicas operando en Colombia, que generan más de 9.000 puestos de trabajo, con una inversión por encima del 17 por ciento. La investigación encontró bajos niveles de

sindicalización, y examinó otros factores tales como las sistemáticas violaciones de derechos humanos y derechos sindicales que afectan al movimiento sindical desde hace décadas. El estudio también mostró que muchos de los trabajadores que laboran para estas empresas, o para sus empresas asociadas, están vinculados a través de las llamadas Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado (CTA), que niegan sus derechos laborales e impide su ejercicio sindical. La investigación pudo documentar niveles de incidencia de estas empresas en el desplazamiento forzado de personas y su relación con el conflicto interno. El evento pretende buscar caminos de acercamiento y mejoría para los trabajadores colombianos.

→ *Contribución de Miguel Puerto, Centro Internacional para los Derechos Sindicales, miguel (at) ictur.org*

#### **24. Seminario internacional sobre estrategias para denunciar la responsabilidad de empresas, Lima, 7-9 junio**

La FIDH junto con su organización miembro en Perú organizará un seminario internacional en Lima, entre el 7 y 9 de junio acerca de estrategias para denunciar la responsabilidad de empresas involucradas en violaciones de derechos humanos. Luego de una conferencia pública que durará un día y tendrá como objetivo presentar la guía de la FIDH "[Empresas y violaciones a los derechos humanos - una guía sobre mecanismos de denuncia para víctimas y ONG](#)", el seminario reunirá, durante 2 días, miembros y socios de la FIDH, expertos de las Américas y de otras regiones para intercambiar experiencias acerca de formas de denunciar (exitosamente) violaciones de derechos humanos cometidas en el marco de actividades de empresas.

→ *Contribución de Elin Wrzoncki, FIDH, ewrzoncki (at) fidh.org*

#### **25. Colombia: Inicia la convocatoria del Premio Emprender Paz 2012**

La 5ª versión del "Premio Emprender Paz: la apuesta empresarial", dirigido a organizaciones que desde su actividad empresarial contribuyan a la paz en Colombia, se ha iniciado. Hasta el 29 de junio estará abierta la convocatoria y cada ganador recibirá como premio una asistencia técnica para potenciar el impacto de su iniciativa. Durante 5 años Emprender Paz ha destacado el esfuerzo de micro, pequeñas, medianas y grandes empresas en el desarrollo de oportunidades sostenibles para comunidades que han sido afectadas por el conflicto en diversas regiones de Colombia. El espíritu de la iniciativa es visibilizar y fortalecer experiencias empresariales de construcción de paz para que otras organizaciones las repliquen.

La postulación a esta convocatoria es libre y no tiene costo alguno. [Consulte aquí.](#)

→ *Contribución de Emprender Paz: la apuesta empresarial, coordinacion (at) emprenderpaz.org*

### **Français**

#### **26. Séminaire international sur les stratégies pour responsabiliser les entreprises, FIDH, Lima, 7-9 juin**

La FIDH et son organisation membre au Pérou organiseront entre le 7 et le 9 juin 2012 à Lima un séminaire international sur les stratégies pour responsabiliser les entreprises impliquées dans des violations des droits de l'Homme. Après une conférence publique d'une journée qui s'intéressera aux développements récents en matière d'entreprises et droits de l'Homme où sera présenté le guide (mis à jour) de la FIDH [sur les mécanismes de recours existants pour des violations des droits de l'Homme impliquant des entreprises](#), le séminaire réunira pendant deux jours les organisations membres et partenaires de la FIDH et des experts d'Amérique latine et d'autres régions afin d'échanger leurs expériences quand aux stratégies (efficaces) pour renforcer la responsabilité des entreprises.

→ *Contribution d'Elin Wrzoncki, Responsable du bureau Mondialisation et droits de l'Homme, FIDH, ewrzoncki (at) fidh.org*

#### **27. Séminaire de OECD Watch sur les Principes Directeurs de l'OCDE - Dakar, 24-25 mai**

L'Association Lumière Synergie pour le Développement organise en partenariat avec le réseau international OECD Watch un séminaire régional de renforcement de capacités des organisations de la société civile (OSC) du 24-25 mai dans la capitale sénégalaise. Une vingtaine de participants venant du Bénin, du Libéria, de la Tunisie et du Sénégal ainsi que des experts de la France, de l'Angleterre et des Pays-Bas sont attendus à cet effet. L'atelier devrait se focaliser sur la présentation des Principes Directeurs de l'OCDE à l'intention des entreprises multinationales, un instrument juridique multilatéral unique dans le domaine de la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises (RSE). Le séminaire sera l'occasion de revisiter les expériences et le contexte du Sénégal et de la sous-région en matière de conduite responsable des entreprises et de former les OSC sur le mécanisme de

plainte en cas de violation de ces Principes par une multinationale appartenant et/ou opérant à partir d'un pays membre de l'OCDE.

→ *Contribution d'Aly Sagne, président de Lumière, Synergie pour le Développement, syndev (at) orange.sn / lasagne (at) aim.com*

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