



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

Issue 26 - June 2012

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 September 2012, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 7 September to Marta Kasztelan: [kasztelan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:kasztelan@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 24 August.

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International

1. Consultation on sector-specific guidance on human rights impacts - deadline 30 Jun

As part of developing guidance implementing the corporate responsibility to respect human rights under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB) and [Shift](#) have posted for public comment three sector-specific discussion papers as part of the project’s multistakeholder consultation process. The discussion papers on the employment & recruitment agencies, ICT, and oil & gas sectors outline the key human rights impacts, contextual factors, and process challenges reported by stakeholders in research under the project to date. The purpose of the discussion papers is to stimulate further stakeholder engagement and dialogue on the issues raised as part of the project’s ongoing research and analysis process. The discussion papers do not represent fixed conclusions on the part of the Shift and IHRB Project Team, but instead highlight a number of key issues for further exploration and enquiry as part of the development of the forthcoming sector guidance that will be the final output for the project.

→ *Contributed by Haley St. Dennis, Institute for Human Rights and Business, [haley.st.dennis \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:haley.st.dennis@ihrb.org)*

2. Report on minorities & indigenous peoples to focus on rights to land, natural resources

On 28 June [Minority Rights Group](#) will issue its annual flagship publication, *State of the World’s Minorities and Indigenous Peoples*. The 2012 edition will focus on rights to land and natural resources. As natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce across the world, governments and companies are rushing to secure and exploit these resources with increasing urgency. But while activities like logging and dams, oil, gas or mineral extraction, coastal tourism, conservation parks and large-scale agriculture have been successful in generating vast revenues, they have not benefitted all communities equally and have had devastating consequences for the lives of many and the environment.

This publication will provide one of the first comprehensive global surveys of injustices suffered by minority and indigenous communities with regard to natural resources. It will include ground-breaking analysis from leading experts in the field and first-hand testimonies of communities who are being adversely affected by developments on their lands, and the strategies they are using to secure their right to development.

For news of this, and all of MRG’s publications, please visit our [website](#). You can also [subscribe to MRG's publications](#).

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

3. Call for input - draft charter for administration of Intl. Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers

The Temporary Steering Committee of the [International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers](#) (ICoC) is actively seeking wider input, particularly from civil society and the private sector clients of private security companies, on a proposed draft charter to govern administration of the code. This initiative, convened by the Swiss Government, establishes principles for the provision of private security services in complex environments, rooted in international human rights and humanitarian law.

Following the closing of the official comment period on 31 March, the Temporary Steering Committee (TSC) concluded that further outreach is appropriate to address concerns raised, in several key areas:

- the value of the ICoC as a multi-stakeholder initiative, and how best to ensure the requisite independence necessary for overall credibility;
- the role of the Board and a proposed Plenary and the balance of decision-making authority among the stakeholders;
- how to incorporate the views of non-state clients of private security companies;
- how the development of national standards may inform the governance mechanism's role in certifying company adoption of policies and procedures to implement the ICoC;
- the proposed in-field performance assessment function and how to ensure its value and credibility relative to certification and other functions; and
- the governance mechanism's approach to third-party complaints, relative to signatory company procedures.

The additional comment period will close on 9 July. Comments may be sent to [T.Haueter \(at\) dcac.ch](mailto:T.Haueter@dcac.ch).

→ *Contributed by Meg Roggensack, Human Rights First, [RoggensackM \(at\) humanrightsfirst.org](mailto:RoggensackM@humanrightsfirst.org)*

4. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child - update on General Comment on child rights & business

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is producing a "General Comment on Child Rights and the Business Sector". The General Comment will be a pronouncement of the Committee's interpretation of the framework required by States Parties for implementation of the Convention as a whole with regard to the business sector. It will include guidance to States on the implementation measures 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 Committee issued a call for submissions on an annotated outline of the General Comment in March 2012 and is currently considering submissions received by it. The draft of the General Comment will form the basis for a second call for submissions that will be issued on 25 June. Submissions on this from all stakeholders are welcomed; the deadline for submissions will be 10 August.

The Committee has conducted two multi-stakeholder consultations in Argentina (with MERCOSUR States and civil society) and India in March and April 2012 respectively. Further consultations will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24 August and at the International Symposium on Child Rights, 14-17 October, in Sion, Switzerland.

Further information on this is available via email at [CRC-Child-Rights-Business \(at\) ohchr.org](mailto:CRC-Child-Rights-Business@ohchr.org), and on the Committee's website: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/callsubmissionsCRC_BusinessSector.htm

→ *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](mailto:CRC-Child-Rights-Business@ohchr.org)*

5. New UNICEF practical handbook for companies re their impact on children's rights

Corporate actions to safeguard any aspect of children's rights must be undertaken in a holistic way where companies address material issues in the workplace, marketplace and community. This is the key message that accompanies [UNICEF's](#) release on 12 June of a new pilot Workbook for businesses, *Children are Everyone's Business: A practical handbook to help companies understand and address their impact on children's rights*, which sets out a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing business impacts on children's rights.

The Workbook helps businesses to take action to demonstrate their respect and support for children's rights. Each chapter provides guidance to companies on how to minimise or prevent harmful impacts on children as well

as methods to enhance positive impacts in the workplace, marketplace and community. Each chapter also includes short case studies and links to additional resources that provide deeper insight depending on the company's specific operating context.

The Workbook builds upon the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which established global standards for company practices regarding their responsibility to respect the human rights of every person. It is also aligned with the Children's Rights and Business Principles, released in March by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact, and Save the Children.

The Workbook fills a significant gap in existing literature on business and children's rights. The Workbook is being released as a pilot publication as part of ongoing efforts to collect and integrate user input. UNICEF welcomes recommendations and feedback and invites companies to share case studies demonstrating their commitment to the business and children's rights agenda.

With the Workbook, companies now have a practical framework for understanding and assessing their footprint on children's rights, and recommendations for making substantive changes in their behaviour as it relates to children. UNICEF encourages companies and relevant stakeholders, including civil society and governments, to use the Workbook to deliver real and lasting changes to children around the world.

The complete workbook can be downloaded from 12 June at UNICEF's website: www.unicef.org/csr.

→ *Contributed by Ida Hyllested, UNICEF, [ihyllested \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:ihyllested@unicef.org)*

6. Public comment period for GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines - opens late June

The second Public Comment Period for G4 – the [Global Reporting Initiative](#) (GRI)'s fourth generation of Sustainability Reporting Guidelines – opens in late June. The 90-day comment period enables everyone with an interest in organizational transparency and accountability to have their say on the new draft content of G4.

GRI provides a comprehensive sustainability reporting framework that is widely used around the world. The Guidelines feature Performance Indicators covering a variety of sustainability topics, including human rights.

As part of GRI's due process for content development, public comment is indispensable for creating sustainability reporting guidance that meets, or even exceeds, the needs of information users.

One of GRI's goals for G4 is harmonisation: to connect its guidance with that of others to reduce the chance of new burdens being created for reporters. The United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework and Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights have been a key reference for the Working Groups developing G4's content. As well as informing human rights content in the GRI Guidelines, The framework has inspired other updates.

GRI invites feedback on the new content proposed for G4. To have your say from late June onwards, visit www.globalreporting.org.

→ *Contributed by Lucy Goodchild, Manager, Press & Communications, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), [Goodchild \(at\) GlobalReporting.org](mailto:Goodchild@GlobalReporting.org)*

7. Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum, 15-18 Jun

The [United Nations Global Compact](#) will organise the "[Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum: Innovation and Collaboration for the Future We Want](#)", 15-18 June in Rio de Janeiro. Held in cooperation with the Rio+20 Secretariat, the UN System and the Global Compact Local Network Brazil in the days leading up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the Forum's objective is to bring greater scale and quality to corporate sustainability practices. As a showcase for innovation and collaboration, the Forum is designed to be a launching ground for widespread action. As well as including dedicated sessions on business and human rights, women's empowerment, children's rights and indigenous peoples' rights, efforts have been undertaken to weave business and human rights themes into many other sessions on other topics. Over 2000 participants are expected at the Forum, representing business as well as investors, governments, local authorities, civil society and UN entities.

For more information, visit: www.compact4rio.org or email [rio2012 \(at\) unglobalcompact.org](mailto:rio2012@unglobalcompact.org).

→ *Contributed by Lauren Gula, UN Global Compact, [gulal \(at\) unglobalcompact.org](mailto:gulal@unglobalcompact.org)*

8. UN Global Compact, UNICEF and Save the Children event - Rio de Janeiro, 17 Jun

On 17 June, the UN Global Compact, UNICEF and Save the Children will host “Children and Business: Making the Connection for Sustainability” at the United Nations Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum in Rio de Janeiro.

Moderated by Jo Cofino, Executive Editor of the *Guardian*, this session will provide an opportunity for business leaders and other stakeholders to explore how their decisions can maximise the positive impacts and minimise the negative impacts on children. The session will provide the child rights and business perspective into the broader sustainability agenda.

In addition, a number of regional/national launches have been planned to help raise awareness and encourage implementation of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles at the local level. The next confirmed event will take place in Panama, 19 July.

→ *Contributed by Anita Househam, Policy and Legal Adviser, UN Global Compact, [househam \(at\) un.org](mailto:househam@un.org)*

9. Conflict Risk Network developing case studies on ICT sector practices in conflict-affected areas

[United to End Genocide’s Conflict Risk Network](#) has convened partners and allies to explore due diligence standards for corporate actors in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in conflict settings. The network is currently developing case studies highlighting recent instances where ICT products and/or services have been used in conflict-affected areas in ways that allowed the state to commit human rights abuses, and identifying the corporations implicated in these instances. The case studies are expected to be available in late 2012.

The potential positive and negative roles of the ICT sector are heightened in conflict-affected areas. ICT products and services can support free expression and association, but can also be used to infringe upon private citizens’ access to information and their right to freedom of association and expression – which creates an environment conducive to government-sponsored repression, at times through force and violence.

In 2011, the Conflict Risk Network called on corporations providing products and services in the ICT sector in conflict-affected areas of Sudan, Syria and Libya to address their responsibility to respect human rights. This spring, the network highlighted ICT as a high-risk sector in an investor-oriented briefing paper on Burma, [Not Open for Business](#).

→ *Please contact Eryn Schornick ([eschornick \(at\) endgenocide.org](mailto:eschornick@endgenocide.org)) for more information, or to suggest possible cases*

10. FairPensions to launch 2 new projects on human trafficking

[FairPensions](#) is continuing its investor work on the issue of human trafficking through two new projects. Engagement will take place to encourage UK and Irish listed airline companies to take action to combat human trafficking.

FairPensions is also working with UK and international organizations including the New York-based investor coalition ICCR to promote the development by leading sporting bodies (such as IOC, FIFA and NFL) of minimum standards incorporating human trafficking prevention for sponsors of major sporting events such as the World Cup, Olympic Games and Super Bowl.

If you would like to know more about or join the groups working with FairPensions please contact Louise Rouse.

→ *Contributed by Louise Rouse, Director of Engagement, FairPensions, [Louise.rouse \(at\) fairpensions.org.uk](mailto:Louise.rouse@fairpensions.org.uk)*

11. Alonovo.com to rate companies on their fair labour, social responsibility & other performance

We at [alonovo.com](#) are working to guide the flow of money toward businesses that are evolving to embrace a triple bottom line – people, planet and profit. Our volunteers are presently identifying trusted streams of data about businesses (including B Corp., Green America, Social Accountability International and other special designations) and will be providing easy-to-understand grades with respect to environment, resource conservation, fair labour, political lobbying and social responsibility. We are integrating, aggregating and normalising the data, with complete source attribution for transparency. We are working to have the first set of data and grades launched at the end of October.

The data attributes we are tracking are workforce stability, diversity and health/safety; executive pay ratios; fair labour practices; toxics, wastes and emissions; resource conservation; societal value; ethics, transparency and accountability; lobbying; supply chain selectivity; legal issues; tax fairness; and animal cruelty. Knowledgeable users may weight their data thus personalising their experience.

By providing consumers and institutional procurement with trusted, comprehensive and readily accessible grades, we will have positive impact upon the sales, growth and equity value of companies that are balancing sustainability and profit. While we are US-based we recognise that the supply and distribution chain is global and want our efforts to improve the quality and dignity of life everywhere.

→ *Contributed by George Polisner, alonovo.com, [george.polisner \(at\) alonovo.com](mailto:george.polisner@alonovo.com)*

12. Recruitment: Human Rights Officer to work with UN Working Group on business & human rights

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is seeking a Human Rights Officer to assist the UN Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. For further information, click [here](#) (click the link a second time if you cannot access the announcement on the first attempt).

→ *Contributed by Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

13. Annual Corporate Legal Accountability Briefing

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will produce its first annual briefing on corporate legal accountability. This briefing will probably be launched by the end of June via our free Weekly Updates; if you are not signed up for the Updates and would like to do so, [you may sign up here](#).

→ *Contributed by Sif Thorgeirsson, Manager, Corporate Legal Accountability Project, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)*

14. Forthcoming missions - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is planning research missions to the following countries: Sri Lanka (June), Argentina (June), Uganda (June), Malawi (July), Mexico (probably September), Egypt or United Arab Emirates (probably September), China – Beijing (later in the year). The purpose of these missions is to meet local NGOs so that we can help draw attention to their concerns; and to meet companies to explain how we seek responses from firms when concerns are raised by civil society, and how we highlight positive initiatives by business.

→ *Contributed by Marta Kasztelan, Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [kasztelan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:kasztelan@business-humanrights.org)*

Africa

15. Report on multinationals operating in West & Central Francophone Africa

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

The Civil Society Organization for Francophone Africa (Organisation de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone, OSCAF), coordinated by Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD) and in partnership with [SOMO](#), has launched a pilot research programme on a group of companies operating in West and Central Francophone Africa. As part of the "Trade, Investments, CSR and Aid Effectiveness" programme, this research focusses on six transnational corporations: Areva, Bank of Africa, Bolloré, MTN, Nestlé and Société Générale. The research aims to:

- Understand the internal & external organization of companies, their economic sphere of influence, their supply chain (links with local companies, goods produced for local markets and for export, etc.), their political sphere of influence (relations between headquarters and subsidiaries, decision-making, level of responsibility, etc.)
- See to what extent the rights of communities, employees and other stakeholders are respected or violated
- Set up concrete actions to limit abuses and negative impacts on stakeholders and the environment

The report will be published in August.

→ For more information, contact Aurélien C. Atidegla, President of GRAPAD and Coordinator of OSCAF, [acaurelien \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:acaurelien@hotmail.com) or [grapad_adm \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:grapad_adm@yahoo.fr)

16. Seminar on due diligence in the mining sector in Central Africa - Brussels, 13 Jun

On 13 June the [International Peace Information Service](#) will co-host a seminar on due diligence, with [Egmont](#), Royaume de Belgique and Belgian Natural Resources Network (RBRN) in Brussels. The Seminar will focus on the mining sector in Central Africa, with a particular focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo. The seminar will address governance of the sector, current implementation of due diligence, and debate surrounding the complexity of intervention and “doing the right thing” in the context of resource extraction in a governance-weak and conflict-affected country.

For more details please see: http://ipisresearch.be/dbpdfs/Invitation_Seminar_DD_13.06.2012.pdf

→ Contributed by Gabriella Was, International Peace Information Service, [gabriella.wass \(at\) ipisresearch.be](mailto:gabriella.wass@ipisresearch.be)

17. Report on payments to authorities by mining companies in Katanga, Dem. Rep. of Congo

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

[Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits Humains](#) plans to publish in early July a report on payments made by mining companies to national and provincial fiscal authorities, as well as to certain state-owned enterprises that are currently transitioning to being commercial enterprises. This report covers the period of 2010-11 and Katanga Province. Its aims are, among others, to:

- contribute to greater awareness of the payments made by mining companies and collected by the government at the national and provincial levels, by making the revenues from mining in Katanga Province available to civil society; and
- contribute to improved civil society participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

The report will cover mining royalties, concession payments, provincial taxes on mineral concentrates, and provincial taxes for rehabilitation of urban road and sanitation infrastructure. It will compare public data published by the national Ministry of Finance and information gathered in the field. The report's conclusions include that there are enormous gaps between the amounts declared by the national Finance Ministry and the statistics released by the fiscal authorities and other state agencies.

→ Contributed by Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, Executive Director, Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits Humains, [emmanuelumpula \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:emmanuelumpula@yahoo.fr)

18. Resource Centre recruitment of regional researcher based in South Africa

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is currently recruiting an Anglophone Southern & Western Africa Researcher & Representative, based in South Africa, to work 21 hours per week. The closing date is 3 July. Applicants must have excellent English language skills, the right to work in South Africa at the time of application, and previous NGO experience. Further information is [here](#). Please consider forwarding the job announcement to contacts who may be interested.

→ Contributed by Danielle McMullan, Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [mcmullan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:mcmullan@business-humanrights.org)

Americas

19. Consultation on impact of mineral taxation on human rights (São Paulo, 14 Jun) & related report

The [International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute \(IBAHRI\)](#) invites regional stakeholders to participate in a consultation meeting on the impact of transnational crimes and mineral taxation on the realisation of economic and social rights in Latin America.

The meeting will take place on 14 June in São Paulo, followed by the [15th Transnational Crime Conference](#), organised by the IBA Criminal Law Section and IBA Latin American Regional Forum.

Who should attend: tax, mining and extractive industry lawyers; representatives from revenue authorities, fiscal administration institutions and mining companies; international and regional non-governmental organizations.

Topics to be discussed include: mineral taxation and transfer pricing regimes in the region, secrecy jurisdictions and international tax evasion, transparency and information exchange, as well as good practices and recommendations for improving remedies within the region. [See the meeting agenda here.](#)

During the course of 2012 the [IBAHRI Task Force](#) will produce an innovative report, to be released in 2013, analysing the links between illicit financial flows, poverty and human rights. Consultation meetings are central to informing the Task Force and participants to the consultation meetings may be acknowledged in the final report, should they wish to be.

→ Contributed by Louise Ball, Human Rights Institute Communications Administrator, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), [louise.ball \(at\) int-bar.org](mailto:louise.ball@int-bar.org)

20. Workshop on human rights management by business - Bogotá, 12-13 Jun

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

The [Local Network of the UN Global Compact in Colombia](#) will offer this Seminar-Workshop to facilitate understanding of human rights in organizational management. Companies are called upon to respect and support human rights within their sphere of influence; doing so can become a way to be competitive, manage risk, commit to sustainability, and build trust with relevant stakeholders. The workshop aims to:

- Deepen participants' understanding of human rights and the impacts of business activity, as well as business & human rights as a competitive factor within current markets
- Introduce practical elements to integrate human rights management in line with the Global Compact model
- Understand the strategic importance of relating to stakeholders in human rights terms and acquire practical tools to develop effective relationships with them
- Strengthen capacity to submit Communication on Progress reports as well as reports under the Global Reporting Initiative framework

Profile of participants: people responsible for or interested in learning about human rights management within companies and in reporting by companies.

→ Contributed by Martha Cuéllar, Local Network of the UN Global Compact in Colombia, [martha.cuellar \(at\) pactoglobal-colombia.org](mailto:martha.cuellar@pactoglobal-colombia.org)

21. Course on “Alternatives to Extractivism and Transitions Towards Post-extractivism in Peru”

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

The fifth edition of the “National Course on Alternatives to Extractivism and Transitions towards Post-extractivism in Peru” will take place 19-21 June in Lima. [editor's note: The Center for International Policy defines “extractivism” as “the centering of economies around the export of raw materials, such as minerals, fossil fuels and agricultural commodities”.]

Organised by the [Peruvian Network for Globalisation with Equity \(Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad\)](#) and the [Latin American Centre for Social Ecology \(Centro Latinoamericano de Ecología Social\)](#), based in Uruguay, this edition of the course will explore alternatives to extractivism and current development strategies in South America. It will particularly emphasise the problems of extractivism, climate change and land; international and national experts will present.

→ Further information: <http://www.redge.org.pe>, e-mail: [cursosredge \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cursosredge@gmail.com)

→ Contributed by Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad, tel.: +51-1-433-6610 - anexo 122.

22. Call for papers: “Human Rights & Development” - deadline 15 Jul

[Conectas Human Rights](#) (Brazil), [DeJusticia](#) (Colombia) and São Paulo Law School of the [Getúlio Vargas Foundation](#) (Brazil) invite all interested authors to submit articles for the *Sur* journal special issue (to be published second half of 2012), which will address “Human Rights and Development: Ideas and Strategies for the 21st

Century.” *Sur - International Journal on Human Rights* is published twice a year and distributed free of charge to approximately 2400 readers in over 100 countries. It is published in English, Portuguese and Spanish, and can be fully accessed online at www.surjournal.org.

While the economic availability of funds is a necessary condition to ensure universal access to basic rights such as health and education, it cannot be said that development (conventionally understood as economic growth) necessarily translates into improved access to these rights. *Sur* invites authors to address in their work the following questions: what are the concepts of development and human rights that uphold the dominant ideas and practices in the field of development? What conceptual frameworks and practical initiatives are necessary in order to promote a different balance between development and access to human rights? How can individual rights be reconciled with the growing evidence of environmental limits to consumption? What is the role of the private sector in this? What adjustments to the concepts of economics and human rights are necessary in light of these limits? How can civil society contribute in an innovative way to promote human rights in this context?

→ *Contributed by Conectas Human Rights. Send articles to: [artigo.sur \(at\) conectas.org](mailto:artigo.sur@conectas.org). More details: <http://www.surjournal.org/eng/call15.php>*

23. Forthcoming Business & Human Rights Resource Centre mission to Argentina

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will undertake its first research mission focusing on corporate legal accountability, to Argentina in the last week of June. Sif Thorgeirsson, Corporate Legal Accountability Project Manager, and Amanda Romero, Latin America Researcher, will meet local lawyers and NGOs to learn more about lawsuits brought in Argentina against companies for alleged human rights abuses. Much of the information they gather will be added to the Centre’s [Corporate Legal Accountability Portal](#), which provides concise profiles of lawsuits. During this mission, the Resource Centre will co-host a panel discussion in Buenos Aires with CELS (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales) on access to remedy for corporate human rights abuses in Argentina; Sif and Amanda will provide an international overview of human rights lawsuits against companies. They will also meet with business organizations and/or bar associations to introduce the Centre’s Corporate Legal Accountability Portal, and to discuss how to ensure that companies are aware of the legal risks of failing to respect human rights.

→ *Contributed by Sif Thorgeirsson, Corporate Legal Accountability Project Manager, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)*

Asia/Pacific

24. Forthcoming workshops on business & human rights in Myanmar

With the partial lifting of European and US sanctions on Myanmar, companies from Europe and USA are actively exploring investments in Myanmar. While the changes in Myanmar are welcome, human rights concerns remain. The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) and the [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) are working together to stress the importance of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for companies considering operations in Myanmar. The UN Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles by consensus last year; they apply to all companies in all contexts. IHRB and DIHR will work with companies, governments and civil society – international, regional, and local – to initiate a process that ensures that companies respect human rights. Towards that end, IHRB will be working with partners, including the British Council, and will plan workshops in Myanmar and the region, to highlight specific concerns regarding investments in Myanmar. It will work towards a collaborative approach to ensure that renewed economic activity in Myanmar does not undermine human rights protection.

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Programme Support Manager (Natural Resources), Institute for Human Rights & Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org)*

25. Summer Institute: "Business & Human Rights" - Singapore, 16-26 Jul

The [5th annual Summer Institute in International Humanitarian Law & Human Rights](#) will take place at [Singapore Management University](#) from 16 to 26 July. This year’s course is the first to host representatives of the UN Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, which has recently published its first official report. Puvan Selvanathan, who serves as both Asia representative and Working Group Chair, will shed light on the new UN mechanism’s practical scope and engage with participants on how to maximise the mechanism’s impact in the region. The Summer Institute will also bring together leading organizations, such as the Institute for Human Rights and Business and EarthRights International, who will discuss the findings of recently launched reports focussing on corporate responsibility within the region.

The Summer Institute faculty includes distinguished practitioners and experts from the region and beyond, including Rafendi Djamin, Indonesia Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights; Ong Keng Yong, Singapore's High Commissioner to Malaysia; and Mark Hodge of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights.

The Summer Institute is organised by the University of California-Berkeley War Crimes Studies Center and the East-West Center in partnership with the Singapore Management University School of Law, the University of Zurich Competence Center for Human Rights, the International Institute for Child Rights and Development, and the Human Rights Resource Centre for ASEAN.

The deadline for receipt of application materials was 31 May; if you are interested in applying please contact Cynthia Morel by email at [cynthia \(at\) accessjusticeasia.org](mailto:cynthia (at) accessjusticeasia.org) as soon as possible. For further information, please visit <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/research/asian-international-justice-initiative/summer-institute> or <http://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/content.php?pid=241288&sid=1991723>

→ *Contributed by Cynthia Morel, Special Advisor to the Asian Peace-building & Rule of Law Programme, Singapore Management Univ. School of Law, [cynthia \(at\) accessjusticeasia.org](mailto:cynthia (at) accessjusticeasia.org)*

26. India: Anti-child labour day, launch of campaign for stronger regulation of child labour - Delhi, 12 Jun

With the approach of World Day Against Child Labour, 12 June, [CRY](#) (Child Rights and You), an Indian NGO that works to ensure a lasting change in the lives of underprivileged children, will organise a series of events to raise awareness and garner support for the fight against child labour in the country.

The organization's Anti-Child Labour Day activities will begin with the launch of "The Treat Right Project" – a month-long campaign for stronger regulation of child labour in India. CRY will partner with select child labour-free restaurants in Bengaluru and Delhi to spread the message of keeping child labour out of the hospitality industry.

Even though the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 2006 makes it illegal for children to work in hotels and *dhabas* (local restaurants), instances of child labour in the hospitality sector continue to be quite high. The Treat Right Project is an attempt to garner support from the hospitality sector, and from individuals and companies, to actively say "No" to child labour.

In addition to the Treat Right Project, CRY volunteers will be conducting enrolment drives in areas of Bengaluru and Mumbai, while volunteers in Delhi will stage a theatre performance on the issue of child labour. Each initiative is designed to create awareness about child labour and encourage children to go to school and not to work.

CRY invites individuals and corporate entities to join them in the fight against child labour. Please contact your nearest CRY Office for details.

→ *Contributed by Inka Dama, Child Rights and You, [inka.dama \(at\) crymail.org](mailto:inka.dama (at) crymail.org)*

27. Labour rights training for factory management & workers - across China Jun-Nov

[ICO Consulting](#) is planning to carry out a series of training workshops in China June-November 2012 after assessing the needs of factory management and workers in 2011. The project's basic objective is to help factories with challenges they face and seek to find sustainable solutions to improve working conditions and to build better business. The workshops are to focus on 6 topics and to be held in 8 cities where factories that produce for export are concentrated: Shenzhen and Guangzhou (Guangdong province), Ningbo and Hangzhou (Zhejiang province), Xiamen (Fujian province), Nanjing (Jiangsu province), Qingdao (Shandong province); and Shanghai. Participants in the training workshops are suppliers' and/or factories' senior managers and/or relevant staff. The trainers and presenters are all senior experts in relevant fields.

The organization implementing the training workshops is ICO Consulting Co, a social enterprise registered in Hong Kong and Shenzhen. ICO Consulting is affiliated with the Institute of Contemporary Observation (ICO), a not-for-profit civil society think tank and action group committed to defending labour rights and promoting social justice.

For further information, please visit: http://www.ico-china.org/ICO_fyt_training_programme_EN.htm

For the Chinese language version of this announcement, see item 32 below.

→ *Contributed by Institute of Contemporary Observation*

28. Seminar: Human rights in the information & communications technology sector - Seoul, 27-29 Jun

Since 1997, the Informal [Asia-Europe Meeting](#) (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights has brought together government officials and civil society members from across Asia and Europe to discuss important themes in relation to human rights. The 12th Seminar in the series, taking place 27-29 June in Seoul, will address “Human Rights and Information and Communication Technology”. It will be of particular interest to those working in the fields of data protection and privacy, as well as on digital divide and access issues. More information is available at <http://www.asef.org/index.php/projects/themes/human-rights/2443-12th-human-rights>.

The 11th Seminar in the series took place in Prague, Czech Republic, November 2011, and addressed “National and International Human Rights Mechanisms”. The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is proud to announce the release of the Seminar Report, which compiles the findings of the four working group discussions on various aspects of human rights governance at national and regional levels. The report is of relevance to stakeholders from all sectors, from government, the judiciary, and human rights institutions to academics, civil society groups and business leaders. The Seminar Report, along with a supporting Background Paper and Seminar Key Messages, can be accessed through the ASEF web site: <http://www.asef.org/index.php/projects/themes/human-rights/1989-11th-human-rights>.

→ *Please direct enquiries to Chris Massey, [christopher.massey \(at\) asef.org](mailto:christopher.massey@asef.org)*

Europe/Central Asia

29. New report on eradication of Uzbek cotton produced with forced child labour from supply chains

[Responsible Sourcing Network](#) invites apparel firms to join over 60 apparel industry leaders to say “No” to forced child labour in the cotton sector of Uzbekistan. A new report traces the journey of Uzbek cotton produced with forced child labour to help brands and retailers eradicate it from their supply chains. The information is also presented in a series of webinars for corporate social responsibility, sourcing, and design professionals. The tentative date for the next webinar, “From the Field: Travels of Uzbek Cotton Through the Value Chain”, is 25 July. For further information, see <http://www.asyousow.org/news/2012Q2/forced-child-labor.shtml>.

→ *Contributed by Valentina Gurney, Responsible Sourcing Network, [valentina \(at\) sourcingnetwork.org](mailto:valentina@sourcingnetwork.org)*

Seminar on due diligence in the mining sector in Central Africa - Brussels, 13 Jun

See item 16 above.

Middle East/North Africa

30. Al-Haq “Annexation Wall: Ten Years Too Long” campaign to focus on private sector responsibilities

[Al-Haq](#) is currently organising a month-long campaign entitled “Annexation Wall: Ten Years Too Long” marking the 10th anniversary since the beginning of the construction of the Annexation Wall. The campaign will be launched on 9 June and will end on 9 July, the eighth anniversary of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on “The Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. Throughout the campaign, Al-Haq aims to draw public attention to Israel’s persistent violation of its obligations under international law and to stress the responsibility of the international community in failing to uphold its legal obligations, as enshrined in customary law.

The campaign will conclude with a seminar on 9 July. Particular attention will be paid to the implementation of measures aimed at regulating the activity of private corporations in order to hold them accountable for their involvement in the construction of the Annexation Wall and its impacts.

During the campaign, Al-Haq will produce four short videos telling the stories of Palestinians whose daily lives have been affected by the Wall and will organise photo exhibitions on the Wall in East Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramallah. Throughout the month, Al-Haq’s website will feature regular updates and information on the campaign.

→ *Contributed by Alessandro Tonutti, Al-Haq, [alessandro.alhaq \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:alessandro.alhaq@gmail.com)*

31. Lebanon: BLC Bank to launch website dedicated to women's economic empowerment

"We Initiative" powered by [BLC Bank](#) is preparing the official launch of We-Initiative.com, a website dedicated to women's economic empowerment. It is characterised by its independent content as an interactive platform for social communication, allowing business opportunities to materialise, the exchange of ideas and experiences between women, and the suggestion of adequate solutions for the professional and practical problems women face. This platform (www.we-initiative.com) will also showcase the experiences of businesswomen and will honor them through the BLC Bank WIN Award for Women Entrepreneurs. It is the first banking annual prize in Lebanon handed to the best project run by a woman, under the supervision of an independent jury team. In another practical step, a first round of training sessions is planned for early June, covering topics in various fields to allow women to enhance their personal and professional development.

→ Contributed by Karyl Akilian, Head of Women in Business Section, BLC Bank, [Karyl.Akilian \(at\) blcbank.com](mailto:Karyl.Akilian@blcbank.com)

中文

32. 2012 年工厂可持续发展培训计划

[艾珂顾问](#) (以下简称ICO) 计划于2012年6月到11月间在广东的广州、深圳, 福建的厦门, 浙江的杭州、宁波, 江苏的南京, 山东的青岛, 以及上海8个城市举办6个主题的工厂培训会。该培训的主题是根据2011年ICO对中国沿海地区300多家工厂的管理层与工人所进行的需求调查而确定, 其目的是协助出口加工型工厂克服他们所面临的各种挑战, 以寻求改善工作条件的可持续解决之道。培训会的参加者包括工厂和供应商的高层管理人员, 以及企业社会责任/法律/环境/员工关系事务的负责人。而培训师则是来自相关领域的资深专家。

该系列培训会的执行机构艾珂顾问公司 (以下简称ICO) 是在香港和深圳两地注册的社会企业, 附属于深圳当代社会观察研究所, 一个专注于解决供应链的劳工与企业社会责任问题的专业机构。

如需详情, 请登陆: http://www.ico-china.org/ICO_fty_training_programme_CN.htm

→ 信息由深圳当代社会观察研究所提供

Español

33. Gestión de los derechos humanos en las empresas - Bogotá, 12 y 13 de junio

La Red Local del [Pacto Global en Colombia](#), con el interés de facilitar la comprensión de los derechos humanos y la gestión en las organizaciones, ofrece este Seminario Taller. Las empresas están llamadas a ser actores que respetan y apoyan los derechos humanos en su ámbito de influencia y se convierte en factor de competitividad, de gestión del riesgo, de compromiso con la sostenibilidad y construcción de confianza con los grupos de interés de las organizaciones. Los objetivos del taller son:

- Profundizar la comprensión de los participantes acerca de los derechos humanos; la incidencia de la actividad empresarial en su respeto y promoción y de su dimensión como factor de competitividad en el contexto de los mercados actuales.
- Presentar elementos prácticos para la integración de la gestión de los derechos humanos, alineada al modelo del Pacto Global.
- Comprender la importancia estratégica del relacionamiento con los grupos de interés en materia de derechos humanos y adquirir capacidades prácticas para desarrollar un proceso de relacionamiento eficaz.
- Fortalecer las capacidades para desarrollar el Informe de Avance (Communication on Progress -"COP"), y los informes del Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) alineados con los Principios de derechos humanos del Pacto Global.

Perfil de los asistentes: Personas encargadas o interesados en aprender sobre la gestión de los derechos humanos en las organizaciones y en la construcción de informes de progreso.

→ *Contribución de Martha Cuéllar, Pacto Global Colombia, [martha.cuellar \(at\) pactoglobal-colombia.org](mailto:martha.cuellar@pactoglobal-colombia.org)*

34. Curso: “Alternativas al Extractivismo y Transiciones Hacia el Postextractivismo en el Perú”

Del martes 19 al jueves 21 de junio se llevará a cabo en Lima, Perú, la quinta edición del Curso Nacional Alternativas al Extractivismo y Transiciones Hacia el Postextractivismo en el Perú, de la [Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad](#) de Perú y el [Centro Latinoamericano de Ecología Social](#) de Uruguay.

Esta edición del curso servirá para explorar alternativas al extractivismo y de desarrollo a las estrategias actuales en América del Sur, además, pondrá especial énfasis en la problemática del extractivismo, el cambio climático y la tierra con la participación de expertos internacionales y nacionales como docentes.

→ *Más informaciones: <http://www.redge.org.pe>*

→ *Contribución de Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad, tel.: +51-1-433-6610 - anexo 122, e-mail: [cursosredge \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cursosredge@gmail.com)*

35. Convocatoria para artículos sobre “Derechos Humanos y Desarrollo” - fecha límite: 15 de julio

[Conectas Derechos Humanos](#) (Brasil), [DeJusticia](#) (Colombia) y la Escola de Direito da [Fundação Getulio Vargas](#) (Brasil) invita a autores interesados a presentar artículos para la Edición Especial de la Revista *Sur* (No. 17, segundo semestre de 2012) que versará sobre: “Derechos Humanos y Desarrollo: Ideas y Estrategias para el siglo XXI.” *Sur – Revista Internacional de Derechos Humanos* es publicada dos veces por año y distribuida gratuitamente para aproximadamente 2.400 lectores en más de 100 países.

Si bien la disponibilidad de recursos económicos es una condición necesaria para garantizar el acceso universal a derechos básicos como salud y educación, no es posible afirmar que el desarrollo (entendido convencionalmente como crecimiento económico) se traduzca necesariamente en una mejora en el acceso a estos derechos. En este sentido, parece necesario que el movimiento de derechos humanos sustituya el crecimiento económico como parámetro de desarrollo por la idea de acceso a derechos. Además, este cambio llevaría a la discusión sobre la justiciabilidad de derechos económicos y sobre la estructura de los sistemas legal y judicial para tratar esta cuestión. ¿Cuáles son las concepciones de desarrollo y derechos humanos que pautan las ideas y prácticas en el campo de desarrollo? ¿Cuál es el papel del sector privado en ello? ¿Qué herramientas conceptuales e iniciativas prácticas son necesarias para promover un nuevo equilibrio entre el desarrollo y el acceso a derechos humanos? ¿Cómo la sociedad civil puede contribuir de forma novedosa para promover los derechos humanos en este contexto?

→ *Contribución de Conectas. Para enviar los artículos: [artigo.sur \(at\) conectas.org](mailto:artigo.sur@conectas.org) y mayores detalles: <http://www.surjournal.org/esp/call15.php>*

36. Próxima misión a la Argentina del Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos

El Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH) llevará a cabo su primera misión de investigación enfocada en la responsabilidad legal empresarial en Argentina en la última semana de junio. Sif Thorgeirsson, Coordinadora del Proyecto de Responsabilidad Legal Empresarial, y Amanda Romero, Representante e Investigadora para Latinoamérica y el Caribe, se reunirán con abogados y ONGs para saber más sobre las demandas contra empresas por abusos de derechos humanos en Argentina. La mayoría de la información recopilada será añadida a nuestro portal sobre [Responsabilidad Legal Empresarial](#), que proporciona resúmenes concisos de demandas judiciales. Durante esta misión, el CIEDH coorganizará un panel conjuntamente con el Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), en Buenos Aires, sobre acceso a remedios jurídicos relativos a abusos de derechos humanos por empresas en Argentina. Sif y Amanda darán un panorama internacional sobre las demandas judiciales contra empresas por asuntos de derechos humanos. Ellas también se reunirán con organizaciones empresariales y/o asociaciones de abogados para presentar nuestro portal de Responsabilidad Legal Empresarial, y para discutir cómo asegurar que las empresas estén conscientes de los riesgos jurídicos que enfrentan al no respetar los derechos humanos.

→ *Contribuido por Sif Thorgeirsson, Coordinadora de Proyecto sobre Responsabilidad Legal Corporativa, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)*

Français

37. Rapport de recherche sur les multinationales dans l'Afrique francophone de l'Ouest et du Centre

La dynamique des Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone (OSCAF) coordonnée par le Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD), en partenariat avec la [Fondation SOMO](#) basée aux Pays Bas, a démarré un programme pilote de recherche sur quelques entreprises multinationales présentes dans plusieurs pays francophones d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre. Ces recherches qui s'inscrivent dans le cadre des activités du programme CIRSE (commerce, investissement, responsabilité sociétale des entreprises et efficacité de l'aide) portent sur six sociétés transnationales à savoir Areva, Bank Of Africa, Bolloré, MTN, Nestlé, Société Générale et visent les objectifs suivants :

- Comprendre l'organisation interne ainsi que les relations externes des entreprises : leur sphère d'influence économique, la chaîne des approvisionnements, (quels liens avec les entreprises locales, quelles productions pour le marché local et pour l'exportation,...), leur sphère d'influence politique (relation entre le siège et les filiales, les prises de décisions, les niveaux de responsabilité, etc.)
- Apprécier la mesure dans laquelle les droits de la population, des employés et des autres parties prenantes sont respectés ou violés
- Déterminer les actions concrètes à mener pour limiter les abus ou violations ainsi que les effets négatifs dont sont victimes les parties prenantes et leur environnement

Le rapport sera publié en août.

Pour toutes informations complémentaires, s'adresser au GRAPAD.

→ *Contribution d'Aurélien Atidegla, Agronome socio-économiste, Président du Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD), [grapad_adm \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:grapad_adm(at)yahoo.fr)*

38. Rapport sur les paiements aux autorités par les sociétés minières en Katanga, Rép. dém. du Congo

[L'Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits Humains \(ACIDH\)](#) projette de rendre public, début juillet, son rapport sur les paiements effectués par les entreprises minières en général auprès des régies financières nationales et provinciales, mais aussi auprès de certaines entreprises étatiques en cours de transformation pour devenir des entreprises commerciales. Ce rapport qui porte sur la période allant de 2010 à 2011 et qui ne concerne que la province du Katanga, poursuit entre autres objectifs :

- contribuer à l'amélioration des connaissances des recettes payées par les entreprises minières et perçues par le gouvernement au niveau central et provincial, en mettant à la disposition de la société civile des informations sur les recettes du secteur minier dans la province du Katanga ;
- contribuer à l'amélioration de la qualité de participation de la société civile à l'Initiative pour la Transparence dans les Industries Extractives (ITIE).

Le rapport couvre la redevance minière, le pas de porte, la taxe provinciale sur les concentrés et la taxe provinciale d'intervention en matière de réhabilitation des infrastructures urbaines de voirie et drainage ainsi que des routes d'intérêt provincial. Il compare les données publiées par le ministère national des finances et les informations récoltées sur terrain. Il existe d'énormes écarts entre les déclarations du ministère national des finances et les notes de début lancées par les régies financières et certains services de l'Etat, conclut le rapport.

→ *Contribution d'Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, Directeur exécutif, Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits Humains, [emmanuelumpula \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:emmanuelumpula(at)yahoo.fr)*

39. Nouveautés du Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme : missions, briefings, recrutement

Missions : Le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme prévoit de mener des missions dans les pays suivants : Sri Lanka (en juin), Argentine (en juin), Ouganda (en juin), Malawi (en juillet), Mexique (probablement en Septembre), Egypte ou Emirats arabes unis (probablement en septembre), Chine – Beijing (plus tard dans l'année). Le Centre lancera également bientôt une vidéo courte qui fera le compte-rendu de sa mission en République démocratique du Congo en avril-mai. L'objectif de ces missions est de rencontrer des ONG locales pour les aider à mieux attirer l'attention internationale sur leurs inquiétudes, et de rencontrer des

entreprises pour expliquer notre processus d'inviter les sociétés à répondre aux inquiétudes de la société civile et comment nous soulignons les initiatives positives qu'elles entreprennent.

Contact : Greg Regaignon, Directeur de recherche, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)

Briefings : En juin, le Centre publiera son premier briefing annuel sur la responsabilité juridique des entreprises. Ce briefing sera annoncé dans notre bulletin d'Actualité Hebdomadaire.

Contact : Sif Thorgeirsson, Chef de projet – Responsabilité juridique des entreprises, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)

Le Centre publiera prochainement son premier briefing régional sur l'Afrique francophone. Il publiera son deuxième briefing annuel sur l'Afrique anglophone plus tard dans l'année. Le premier briefing sur l'Afrique anglophone est disponible [ici](#).

Contact : Greg Regaignon, Directeur de la recherche, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)

Recrutement : Le Centre recrute actuellement un Chercheur & représentant pour l'Afrique Australe et de l'Ouest (anglophone). Le poste est basé en Afrique du Sud; il est de 21 heures par semaine. La date limite pour envoyer les demandes est le 3 juillet. Les candidats doivent avoir une maîtrise excellente de l'anglais, le droit de travailler en Afrique du Sud, et de l'expérience d'avoir travaillé dans une ONG. Plus d'informations sont disponibles [ici](#). Veuillez bien penser à signaler ce recrutement à vos contacts qui pourraient s'y intéresser.

Contact : Danielle McMullan, Chercheuse, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, [mcmullan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:mcmullan@business-humanrights.org)

→ *Contribution du Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme*

On the Horizon is published by the team at [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#):

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