



# BCHR

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2015  
N°4

MORE THAN 40 EXPERTS WILL ATTEND  
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE!



# The BCHR Network

The BCHR Network is pleased to present the BCHR Newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the network and its members. The main purpose of this newsletter is to a) share information about the work of the network and its members to a wider audience, and b) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the network members themselves and with other interested parties.

- Click [here](#) to learn more about the BCHR Network.
- Click [here](#) for a complete list of the BCHR Network members.

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# Network Announcements

We are glad to announce that more than 40 experts will be participating at the conference to be held on the 19th of November in Geneva.

Increasing attention is being paid to the ways in which business interacts with violence conflict. The exploitation and trade of natural resources in conflict affected areas, the privatisation of security and the international arms trade are just three examples of the ways in which business can be involved in armed conflict.

The **Network on Business Conflict and Human Rights (BCHR)** is aimed at facilitating reflection upon the causes, dynamics and consequences of business involvement in armed conflict, as well as upon existing or potential responses to it from a transdisciplinary perspective. The network seeks to strengthen the ties between researchers working on these issues from a variety of disciplines, as well as between researchers civil society organisations and practitioners world-wide.

This fourth international conference will take place in Geneva on the 19th of November 2015. It is based on the three previous conferences organised by the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) in Barcelona and London, which gathered a wide range of academics and NGOs and other practitioners particularly concerned with business, human rights and conflict. The fourth conference takes place in cooperation with DCAF and besides discussing the latest developments, it will formally set up the Network.

Preliminary list of attendees, [here](#).

Preliminary list of Network members, [here](#).

If you have not done it yet , please register [here](#) in order to confirm your attendance.

Click [here](#) to know more about the network.

## Other announcements

### A. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, CALL FOR PAPERS

- **China: Public Consultation for Due Diligence Guidelines for Mineral Supply Chain Begins**

**Deadline: 31 October 2015**

A month-long public consultation for draft Chinese due diligence guidelines for responsible mineral supply chains kicks off this week, aimed at ensuring Chinese companies can identify and mitigate risks of them contributing to conflict, serious human rights abuses and misconduct around the world. Members of industry, academia, civil society and government in China and abroad are encouraged to participate.

[Learn more](#)

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### B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **Srmining 2015: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Social Responsibility in Mining**

**Date: 4-6 November 2015**

Place: Antofagasta, Chile. Enjoy Antofagasta Del Desierto Hotel, Avenida Angamos 01455.

Organized by: Srmining

This conference aims to show the importance of the social license to operate in the mining industry. The event will discuss about solutions to complex social issues, identifying emerging trends, sharing case studies of community relations practice.

[Learn more](#)

- **Modern Slavery: Putting Effective Due Diligence in Place**

**Date: 4 November 2015**

Place: Friend's House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Organized by: Twentyfifty Ltd

This course is aimed at representatives of businesses that are impacted by the Modern Slavery Act. It will enable

participants to understand: Ways to assess risks of modern slavery in their own operations and in their supply chains, appropriate decision making and the application and limitations of existing tools for on-going due diligence.

[Learn more](#)

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## • E-learning course: Business and Human Rights

**Date: 4 November 2015**

Organized by: The global human rights education and training centre and the Human Rights Centre of the UN-mandated University for Peace

The e-learning course will critically examine this business-human rights nexus with a particular focus on case studies from around the world. Several questions such as the human rights obligations of businesses, the manner in which human rights are affected by businesses including during armed conflicts, the specific linkages with the right to environment and labour rights and the ever elusive solution for accountability will be examined.

[Learn more](#)

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## • The Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights in the Agri-Food Sector: A Potential Tool to Feed the Planet?

**Date: 6 November 2015**

Organized by: Caiazza & Partners

Place: Caiazza & Partners, Milan, Italy

The workshop thus aims to provide an opportunity for discussion to the main actors potentially involved - namely companies, business associations, civil society and academia - with regard to the challenges posed by the application of the Guiding Principles in the agri-food industry, especially focusing on the Human Rights Due Diligence process and the implementation of sustainable working conditions in food supply chain.

[Learn more](#)

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## • UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework: Putting the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into Practice

**Date: 12 November 2015**

Place: Konfederacja Lewiatan, ul. Zbyszka Cybulskiego 3, 00-727 Warszawa

Organized by: Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business and Shift

The aim of the workshop is to enable companies to improve their human rights reporting and risk management processes by improving participants understanding of the implications for business of the

Human Rights and Business agenda, familiarizing business enterprises operating in Poland with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[Learn more](#)

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## • 2015 UN Forum on Business & Human Rights

**Date: 16–18 November 2015**

Place: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Organized by: United Nations

The United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights is a space for representatives and practitioners from civil society, business, government, international organizations and affected stakeholders to take stock of challenges and discuss ways to move forward on putting into practice the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – a global standard for preventing and addressing adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activity.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Multistakeholder consultation in Geneva on 19–20 November 2015

**Date: 19–20 November 2015**

Organized by: UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

Place: Palais des Nations, Room XXI

OHCHR invites stakeholders to register for its upcoming consultations on the OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project in Geneva on 19–20 November 2015, to follow immediately after the 2015 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights. The aim of this consultation is to discuss emerging findings from OHCHR's research in relation to the Accountability and Remedy Project, and to gather stakeholder inputs and perspectives.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Supply Chain Management in light of the UNGPs

**Date: 26 November 2015**

Place: Rentemestervej 80, Copenhagen NV- Denmark

Organized by: Global CSR

The aim of this workshop is to give participants the knowledge and tools to incorporate the UNGPs' efficient and productive approach to responsible supply chain management (RSCM) in their company. Participants will gain the needed tools to develop an updated human rights policy commitment that can be extended to suppliers and business partners.

[Learn more](#)

## C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

### • In Support of Disinvestment Legislation

**Authors:** Pax for Peace

Legislation banning investments in cluster munitions provides guidance and direction for financial institutions. This is the core finding of PAX's latest case study on banning investments in cluster munitions producers. The report shows that it is not only possible to install disinvestment legislation, but that financial institutions largely think such a ban is a good idea. In the Netherlands, disinvestment legislation has provided clarity and guidance to the financial sector.



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/oa1saaq>

[Learn more](#)

### • Chains of Abuse: The Case of Diamonds from the Central African Republic and the Global Diamond Supply Chain

**Authors:** Amnesty International

The report documents several abuses in the diamond sector, including child labor and tax abuse. Based on interviews with miners and traders, the report details how armed groups profit from the diamond trade. It also documents the inspection gaps in diamond trading centres that make it possible for blood diamonds to be traded and sold globally.



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/ocmpxg5>

[Learn more](#)

### • South Observatory of Petroleum (Observatorio Petrolero del Sur)

**Authors:** Observatorio Petrolero Sur

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Observatorio Petrolero Sur highlights the environmental and social impacts caused by the extractive operation in the south of Latin America. This report also tackles the advances of fracking in Africa and its consequences. (in Spanish)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/oa49kwhx>

[Learn more](#)



## • Oil and Water? The Impact of Oil on Livelihoods in Uganda

**Authors:** International Alert

International Alert launched a photo essay that highlights the feelings, thoughts and views of local communities across the lake Albert in Uganda, this photo essays suggests ways in which the oil and fishing sectors could peacefully coexist.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/q9d45rt>

## • Hidden Subcontracting in the Garment Industry

**Authors:** SOMO

In this document SOMO focuses on hidden subcontracting in the garment industry. It offers buying companies a set of recommendations to minimise the risk of unauthorised subcontracting and to ensure that production is taking place under decent working conditions.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/nbw64ja>

## • The Bottom Line: UK Corporate Abuse Overseas

**Authors:** CORE

CORE's report brings together ten recent case studies of serious abuses linked to UK corporations' international operations. Issues range from the appropriation of indigenous lands, the callous destruction of natural habitats, and corporate complicity in the violation of a litany of civil and political rights.

[Learn more](#)

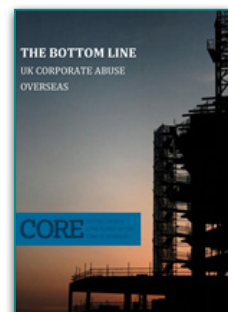


Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/ofc6c6p>

## • Experts' Background Report on Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Natural Resources Benefitting Organized Criminal Groups and Recommendations on MONUSCO's Role in Fostering Stability and Peace in Eastern DR Congo

**Authors:** UNEP, MONUSCO, and OSESG

The report examines the role of transnational environmental crime as one of several key factors fuelling the protracted conflict cycle in eastern Democratic of Congo (DRC).

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/tpa83vry>

## • Engaging the Private Sector to End Human Trafficking: A New Resource Guide for NGO

**Authors:** La Strada International and SOMO

The guide aims to provide NGOs with knowledge and tools to engage the private sector in their work by providing a wide selection of background materials, ranging from facts and figures to strategic advice.

[Learn more](#)

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## • 5 Steps Towards Managing the Human Rights Impacts of your Business

**Authors:** Twentyfifty & German Global Compact Network

This guide sets out a simple and thorough process for any company, but particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, to get started with identifying its potential human rights impacts on those people directly affected by its activities.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/nwhnbxv>

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## • Toolkit to Prevent and Handle Social Conflicts Related with the Use of Natural Resources (Caja de herramientas sectoriales para la institucionalización del diálogo y la prevención y gestión de conflictos sociales vinculados al uso de recursos naturales) (in Spanish)

The toolkit gathers 285 instruments (norms, protocols, guides, amongst others) elaborated by institutions and entities from the Peruvian Government. The aim of the toolkit is to strength the dialogue capabilities of the national and local authorities in order to avoid the conflict derived from the use of natural resources.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <http://tinyurl.com/qf6u9at>

# International News

## • **Tracing Colombia's Gold from Savage Jungles to Swiss Watches**

**Date:** 1 September 2015

**Source:** Colombia Reports

Colombia's gold is almost exclusively exported to the United States and Switzerland. This gold is mined both legally and illegally, then sold to exporters in Medellin before being sent to North America and Europe.

[Learn more](#)

## • **Ex-Official Says Forced Labour Built Canada Mine in Eritrea Test Case**

**Date:** 17 September 2015

**Source:** Thomson Reuters Foundation

Hundreds of men drafted into Eritrea's army were used as forced labour to build a Canadian company's copper-gold mine in central Eritrea, according to a former construction official, in a case testing the global responsibility of foreign firms to workers.

[Learn more](#)

## • **Summary of European Parliament Seminar Discussing Need for Binding Treaty on Business & Human Rights**

**Date:** 25 September 2015

**Source:** European Coalition for Corporate Justice

The debate began with an analysis of the Treaty's role and the impact it could have on the lives of those whose rights have been infringed on by irresponsible companies. Participants then discussed the relationship between the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights and an UN legally binding instrument.

[Learn more](#)

## • **UK Investigators Drag Their Feet Over Scandal-Hit Oil Company**

**Date:** 30 September 2015

**Source:** Global Witness

Last month it was revealed that the UK's Serious Fraud Office would investigate a British oil company that had been making payments to officials in a highly unstable African country.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Police, Army and Personnel from the Ecuadorian Company: Ecuacorriente S.A are Evicting Indigenous Communities from their Territory**

**Date:** 30 September 2015

**Source:** Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos

According to Comunidad Amazónica de Acción Social “Cordillera del Cóndor Mirador” (Cascomi) members of the armed forces of Ecuador with the presence of personnel of Ecuacorriente S.A are causing social and environmental negative impacts towards the communities who live in the Chinchipe province. (in Spanish)

[Learn more](#)

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- **Peruvian Civil Society Organizations with the Support of the Human Rights Clinic of Columbia University, ask the World Bank to leave Conga Project**

**Date:** 3 October 2015

**Source:** Servicios en Comunicación Intercultural

Peruvian Civil Society Organizations with the Support of the Human Rights Clinic of Columbia University asked the World Bank to stop its financial support to the Peruvian mining project Conga. The mentioned actors argued that the project represents serious risks for human rights and the environment. (in Spanish)

[Learn more](#)

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- **Urabeños Shut Down Gran Colombia Gold Operations After Killing Mining Leader**

**Date:** 4 October 2015

**Source:** Colombia Reports

Neo-paramilitary group “Los Urabeños” has effectively shut down gold mines owned by Canadian mining company Gran Colombia Gold in the north of the country after killing one miner and threatening more than 1,500 others.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Angolan Fishing Community Asks Chevron For Oil Spill Compensation**

**Date:** 5 October 2015

**Source:** Corp Watch

Some 500 Angolan fisherfolk have demanded compensation from Chevron after an oil spill polluted the Mandarin and Mpuela shoreline in Cabinda on September, close to the California company’s drilling operations.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Deaths of Four Anti-Mining Protesters a Catastrophic Consequence of**

## Peru's Weakened Environmental Safeguards, Warns Global Witness

**Date:** 5 October 2015

**Source:** Global Witness

The recent police killings of four anti-mining protesters in Peru highlights the problems caused by the country's weakening of environmental safeguards and its dangerous crackdown on civil society.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Colombian Peace Process Requires Involvement of Companies

**Date:** 5 October 2015

**Source:** Pax for Peace

PAX tackled the issue of the agreement on transitional justice (between the FARC and Colombia) that was announced the last week of September, with a particular emphasis on truth finding and reconciliation and the role companies in the mentioned process.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Norway Announces Launch of National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

**Date:** 10 October 2015

**Source:** Government of Norway

As part of the work of Norway to intensify its efforts to promote human rights, the Government is launched the national action plan to follow up the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[Learn more](#)

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## • Community Resistance Defeats Canadian Mining Project in Nicaragua

**Date:** 13 October 2015

**Source:** Beacon Reader

Communities in northern Nicaragua have won a long, hard-fought battle against a Canadian mining company's plans to open a gold mine. After years of protests and local resistance, the Nicaraguan government nixed the project.

[Learn more](#)

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## • OECD Holds FIFA Responsible for Qatari World Cup-related Labour Conditions

**Date:** 17 October

**Source:** Huffington Post

Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) concluded that FIFA is responsible for the upholding of the human and labour rights of workers employed in Qatar on 2022 World Cup-related projects. The OECD stated that FIFA had failed to conduct due diligence, lacked a human rights policy.

[Learn more](#)

## Blogs and Opinions

**Article by:** ELM Sustainability Partners LLC

### **Three More Letters to Add to Your Conflict Minerals Lexicon – FBI**

Elm Sustainability Partners LLC brought a brief summary of the outcome of the Thomson Reuters Governance and Risk Seminar that discussed the enforcement of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and its relation to conflict minerals, human rights abuses and human trafficking.

[Learn more](#)

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**Article by:** James G. Stewart

### **The Argor Heraeus Decision on Corporate Pillage of Gold**

This blog brings a legal assessment of a Swiss federal prosecutor who declined to prosecute a company named Argor Heraeus for pillaging Congolese Gold.

[Learn more](#)

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**Article by:** Michelle Mark

### **Canadian Mining Human Rights Abuses: What Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party Win Could Mean For Latin America**

Trudeau's Liberal party has expressed support for ensuring that Canadian mining, oil and gas corporations act according to international human rights standards. Prime Minister-elect Justin Trudeau and his party has called for the creation of an independent ombudsman office to oversee Canadian companies operating abroad and investigate complaints made by indigenous communities.

[Learn more](#)

# Campaigns

**Stop Explosive Investments:** <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org>



The campaign aims to ask parliamentarians to legislate in order to prohibit investment in cluster munition producers. Additionally aims to pressure financial institutions in order to disinvest from cluster munitions producers.

[Learn more](#)

**Publish What You Pay:** <http://www.publishwhatyoupay.org>



The campaign urges companies to declare the payments they make to governments in return for oil, gas and mining contracts. This enables citizens to ask whether their government has used the money going into state coffers wisely and fairly.

[Learn more](#)

**The Network of DRC (Xarxa d'Entitats per la República Democràtica del Congo):**  
<http://www.entitatscongo.blogspot.com>

Is a coalition of Spanish organizations, activists and researchers with the aim of promoting the construction of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and visualizing the armed conflict and its consequences in Spain and beyond, in constant contact with various actors of the Congolese civil society.

[Learn more](#)

## About our Network

The Network will bring together researchers, practitioners and NGO members from various fields with the aim of researching and analysing the role of business in conflict situations reducing the human and people's rights violations and any other negative social and environmental impact as well as other adverse consequences. It will also look at the potential role of companies in relation to peace building.

The Network will reflect upon the causes, dynamics and consequences of business involvement in armed conflicts and systematic state repression, as well as upon existing or potential responses to such involvements in light of the responsibilities of all concerned actors and ongoing international and local efforts to develop and apply appropriate initiatives and guidelines.

**Visit: <http://www.networkbchr.org/>**

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## Sharing and posting materials

We very much welcome your comments and suggestions for how the BCHR newsletter can better serve the network's needs and interests as well as those of its members. We kindly invite you to share this newsletter with academics, NGO and practitioners that might be interested in its content.

If you are interested in contributing to future editions of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at [maria.prandi@networkbchr.org](mailto:maria.prandi@networkbchr.org).

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