
ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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Written and compiled by

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Amanda Leinberger (Editor), Andreas Nef (Technical Lead)

Commentary

As conflicts arise around the world, so does the need for documentation and preservation of evidence for future accountability measures. We see that across several conflicts:

Palestine:

- [Palestine as provenance: archiving against genocide from Gaza to South Lebanon](#): How can we archive against genocide in Gaza and its extension elsewhere in Palestine and surrounding countries like Lebanon in this urgent moment while avoiding the pitfalls of white guilt and paternalistic benevolence?

Sudan:

- [Filming What Survives](#): Made just as Sudan descended into war, 'Khartoum' captures the beauty, pain, and humanity of a city shaken by violence—and the filmmakers who became refugees alongside their subjects.
- [Documenting War Crimes in Sudan Begins Now](#): Stopping ongoing violence in conflict zones is urgent, but with today's technology, so is gathering evidence.

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Send your suggestions for news items or comments to sahr-newsletter@ica.org.

Ukraine:

- [EBU launches Ukraine Archive with 30,000 verified digital stories](#): Journalists can access a treasure trove of trusted, audio and video war-time reporting
- [Holding Russia Accountable for Crimes in Ukraine](#): Evidence linking Russia's coordinated short-range drone attacks in southern Ukraine being linked to crimes against humanity.

Looking to the past:

- [Nuremberg trial records made available online after painstaking 25-year project](#): A fully digitised collection of the records of the Nuremberg trials is being launched online to mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the groundbreaking legal effort to bring Nazi leaders to justice.

SAHR News

Perrine Canavaggio spoke at the Women's Assembly organized in Istanbul by the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances, on "[Archives et droit à la vérité, à la justice et à la mémoire](#)". At the end of the Conference a Declaration was adopted by the participants which mentions the archives.

Find us on [LinkedIn](#)! SAHR has started a LinkedIn presence to promote our activity and relevant ICA activities and link to our online resources.

Events

- [CFP: Seeking Oral Historians for Bloomsbury's Trans Studies Book Series](#). Oral historians are warmly invited to write books for Trans Studies, a book series published by Bloomsbury Academic. We seek books that give voice to previously unrecognized transgender and nonbinary people and issues, with a special emphasis on topics not well documented in written literature, but for which there are oral archives that allow the recovery of previously forgotten histories. We also welcome books that explore already well-recognized transgender and nonbinary topics that can be examined in greater depth through oral histories. Cheryl, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2025-10-28.

Would you like to promote your event (conference, webinar, exhibition, etc.) to an international audience? Please submit information, including title, description, date(s) and URL to sahr-newsletter@ica.org for upcoming publication.

Editor's Note

The newsletters and items are added to the Section's "Rights and Records Knowledge Base", available at <https://rightsandrecords.ica.org>.

If you would like to volunteer as a news collector, please send an email to sahr-newsletter@ica.org. We'd love to have you! We're currently looking for collectors who can focus on Latin America, South America, Africa, Oceania and Asia to ensure a more global coverage.

News by topic

Armed Conflict

Europe: [**Nuremberg trial records made available online after painstaking 25-year project**](#).

Launch of digitisation project marks 80th anniversary of start of legal effort to bring Nazi leaders to justice. Connolly, Kate, The Guardian, 2025-11-20.

Europe: [**The powerlessness of the ICRC during the Nazi period**](#). How and why the Red Cross failed in the face of humanitarian crimes against the civilian population. Arolsen Archives, 2025-10-27.

Israel: [**YouTube Quietly Erased More Than 700 Videos Documenting Israeli Human Rights Violations**](#). The tech giant deleted the accounts of three prominent Palestinian human rights groups — a capitulation to Trump sanctions. Valdez, Nikita Mazurov, Jonah, The Intercept, 2025-11-04.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [**Palestine as provenance: archiving against genocide from Gaza to South Lebanon \(Jabal Amil\)**](#). How can we archive against genocide in Gaza and its extension elsewhere in Palestine and surrounding countries like Lebanon in this urgent moment while avoiding the pitfalls of white guilt and paternalistic benevolence? How can we draw on models and practices of mutual aid and solidarity between Lebanon and Palestine to articulate a robust decolonial archival praxis? Ghaddar, J. J., Archival Science, 2025-06-13.

Sudan: [**Filming what survives**](#). Made just as Sudan descended into war, 'Khartoum' captures the beauty, pain, and humanity of a city shaken by violence—and the filmmakers who became refugees alongside their subjects. Ibrahim Snoopy; Phil Cox, Africa is a Country, 2020-11-18.

Ukraine: [**EBU launches Ukraine Archive with 30,000 verified digital stories**](#). Journalists can access a treasure trove of trusted audio and video war-time reporting. Jacob Granger, Journalism UK, 2025-11-19.

Censorship

Israel: [**Censorship crusade: Israel targets platforms and online archives to 'rewrite Gaza'**](#). From YouTube to X, Wikipedia, and TikTok, Zionists are capturing all means of communication to erase the evidence of its genocide, reshape the historical record, and censor those critical of it. Pacific Media Watch, Asia Pacific Report, 2025-11-07.

Türkiye: [**Erasing the archives: How authoritarian regimes wage war on memory**](#). Turkey's authoritarian leader, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has accused his strongest political rival, İstanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, of "spying for the British" — a claim that many observers see as part of a broader campaign to silence dissent. At the same time the government has seized one of the country's few remaining independent broadcasters, TELE1, and immediately disabled access to its digital archive and YouTube channel — a symbolic act of erasing collective memory. Turkish Minute, 2025-11-06.

United Kingdom: [**AI firm wins high court ruling after photo agency's copyright claim**](#). Ruling in case brought by Getty Images against Stability AI is seen as a blow to copyright owners. Booth, Robert, The Guardian, 2025-11-04.

Colonialism

Nigeria/United Kingdom: [Protesters target major new Nigerian museum embroiled in looted artefacts row](#). Protest at Mowaa comes amid dispute over ownership of Benin bronzes looted by British colonial forces. Egbejule, Eromo, The Guardian, 2025-11-10.

Corruption

United States of America: [US ethics officials removed for inquiring into improper access of mortgage files](#). Fannie Mae officers were investigating whether Trump ally inappropriately accessed mortgage details of federal officials. Levine, Sam, The Guardian, 2025-11-12.

Decolonization

Morocco/Western Sahara: [Borderline ambiguity: How Google Maps removes disputed Western Sahara border for Morocco users](#). The tech giant has released a statement acknowledging the use of different border displays between Western Sahara and Morocco. Agence France-Presse, The Guardian, 2025-11-12.

Detention

Syrian Arab Republic: [Launch of the Syria Prisons Museum at the National Museum in Damascus](#). The Syria Prisons Museum seeks to uncover and document the crimes and violations committed in Syria's prisons, and to preserve the collective memory of those places. Drawing on live testimonies from former prisoners, the project also relies on documents, photographs, and physical evidence carefully examined and analyzed by the team, in addition to field imaging and 3-D scanning of prisons and detention centers. Prisons Museum, 2025-09-25.

Disinformation

United States of America: [White nationalist talking points and racial pseudoscience: welcome to Elon Musk's Grokipedia](#). World's richest person wanted to 'purge' propaganda from Wikipedia, so he created a compendium of racist disinformation. Wilson, Jason, The Guardian, 2025-11-17.

Worldwide: [A toolbox to deal with misinformation in disaster risk management](#). Misinformation significantly challenges disaster risk management by increasing risks and complicating response efforts. Rosa Vicari, The Living Library, 1900-01-00.

Worldwide: [Russian Disinformation Comes to Mexico, Seeking to Rupture U.S. Ties](#). A U.S. government cable said that Kremlin-run outlets had scaled up their efforts across Latin America, seeking to turn people against the United States and garner support for Russia. Abi-Habib, Maria, The New York Times, 2025-11-24.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

East Asia: [President Lai hails National Archives as unifying force for Taiwan](#). President Lai Ching-te (賴清德) said Monday that the newly launched National Archives will offer the public a deeper, unifying understanding of the endeavors of Taiwan's democracy pioneers. Focus Taiwan - CNA English News, 2025-11-17.

Europe: [**We're a bit jealous of Kneecap': how Europe's minority tongues are facing the digital future**](#). What does it mean to lose a language, and what does it take to save it? Those were the big questions being asked in Barcelona recently. Burgen, Stephen, The Guardian, 2025-11-26.

France: [**For its 40th anniversary, RSF transfers its archives to specialist history centre La Contemporaine to aid research**](#). To celebrate its 40th anniversary, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is transferring its archives to La Contemporaine, a library, archive and museum of 20th and 21st century history, based in a suburb to the west of Paris. The archives, which have been amassed over forty years, will enable researchers from around the world to study the history of both RSF and press freedom in the years to come. RSF, 2025-11-13.

Israel/United States of America: [**Secret Harvard archive preserves Israeli publications 'in case Israel ceases to exist'**](#). Haaretz says hidden facility at Harvard stores Israel's cultural and scientific output as safeguard against potential national collapse - Anadolu Ajansi. Zein Khalil and Mohammad Sio, Anadolu Ajansi, 2025-11-06.

South Africa: [**Futures Past Brings Southern African Archives To Life Through Immersive Storytelling**](#). Six institutions, six powerful histories, and a call to artists to reimagine heritage with immersive arts. africa.com, 2025-10-24.

Southern Asia: [**Archiveros ciudadanos del sur de Asia confrontan marginación digital de culturas y lenguas orales · Global Voices en Español**](#). Para contrarrestarlo, muchos archiveros ciudadanos graban videos de culturas orales y los publican en Wikimedia Commons. Luego los transcriben para lograr mayor accesibilidad, los vinculan a plataformas de conocimiento abierto, como Wikisource y Wikipedia, y redactan entradas en blogs sobre el trabajo. Todo forma parte del proyecto Impulsar la cultura oral indica de los proyectos de Wikimedia, que apoya y guía a archiveros de 14 comunidades lingüísticas del sur de Asia. Amrit Sufi, Global Voices, 2025-11-21.

Southern Asia: [**How citizen archivists in South Asia confront the online marginalization of oral cultures and languages**](#). Citizen archivists are preserving South Asia's oral traditions — folk songs, riddles, and histories — by recording, uploading, and transcribing them on Wikimedia platforms, challenging text-centric knowledge systems and reviving marginalized voices. Amrit Sufi, Global Voices, 2025-11-21.

United Kingdom: [**Black Archives Day on 29 November 2025**](#). Join us in celebrating and contributing to the living power of Black archival memory, activism, and cultural transformation. British Library, 2025-11-29.

United States of America: [**A Massive Archiving Effort at National Parks**](#). This week we have a conversation between Sam and two of the leaders of the independent volunteer archiving project Save Our Signs, an effort to archive national park signs and monument placards. Samantha Cole, 2025-11-10.

Worldwide: [**Documenting Peoplehood: Archives as Resources for UNPO Members' Fundamental Rights**](#). Archives have long been used as evidence in humanitarian and legal contexts. But, for unrepresented communities they play an even broader role, acting as proof of peoplehood, tools of cultural preservation and foundations for self-determination. , Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, 2025-11-04.

Environment

Worldwide: [**Google plans to put datacentres in space to meet demand for AI**](#). US technology company's engineers want to exploit solar power and the falling cost of rocket launches. Booth, Robert, The Guardian, 2025-11-04.

Freedom of Information

Russian Federation: [**Bookstores on Edge as Kremlin Sets Sights on Policing Books**](#). Restrictions on publishers and sellers have grown more severe. Volumes are being pulled from shelves or redacted like secret documents, but bookstores remain important sources of community. Petersburg, Nanna Heitmann Reporting from the many bookstores of St; Russia, The New York Times, 2025-11-05.

Worldwide: [**The Wayback Machine's snapshots of news homepages plummet after a "breakdown" in archiving projects**](#). Between May and October 2025, homepage snapshots fell by 87% across 100 news publications. Andrew Deck and Hanaa' Tameez, Nieman Lab, 2025-10-21.

Government

Kenya: [**"Hide Records at Your own Peril," Government Warns Record Managers**](#). Head of Public Service Felix Koskei has warned records managers against unprofessional conduct, including hiding or misplacing files, saying such actions undermine public trust and taint the image of the profession and government institutions. Mbungu Harrison & Mwakwaya Raymond, The Coast Media Group, 2025-11-04.

United States of America: [**US to demand countries share data on 'pathogens with epidemic potential' in return for health aid**](#). Draft template seen by the Guardian has no reference to countries receiving benefits for sharing information, such as guaranteed access to medicines developed as a result. Lay, Kat, The Guardian, 2025-11-08.

Human Rights

Afghanistan/United Kingdom: [**Taliban used discarded UK kit to track down Afghans who worked with west, inquiry hears**](#). Whistleblower tells Afghan leak inquiry those affected were told to move and change phone numbers to protect themselves. Eleni Courea, The Guardian, 2025-11-28.

El Salvador: [**Kaya Suraci Researches Human Rights Abuses in El Salvador**](#). "When a spreadsheet of documents mentioning his name became a video call with his family, this work researching atrocities from 40 years in the past gave me new insight into the power of human rights research.". Marcos, Andrea, Center for Human Rights, 2025-10-28.

Indigenous Matters

Americas: [**A database could help revive the Arapaho language before its last speakers are gone**](#). Many Native American languages only have a few native speakers left. Cowell, Andrew, The Conversation, 2025-11-26.

Canada: [**Vatican to Return Indigenous Cultural Items to Canada Taken a Century Ago**](#). Dozen of pieces used in a 1925 exhibition, including a whale-hunting kayak, will be returned to Canada early

next month. Povoledo, Elisabetta; City, Ian Austen Elisabetta Povoledo reported from Vatican, The New York Times, 2025-11-15.

Oceania: [**'Reframes history': fears Māori knowledge diluted in plan to revise New Zealand curriculum**](#). Minister rejects claims Māori history is being sidelined in rewrite which includes cutting some references to the Treaty of Waitangi. Duff, Michelle, The Guardian, 2025-11-14.

Worldwide: [**Indigenous Knowledge Holders Want to Be Acknowledged**](#). Generational lived experiences are key to confronting and living with a changing climate, say Indigenous knowledge holders. Dhakal, Tanka, Inter Press Service, 2025-11-12.

Worldwide: [**Integrating Local, Indigenous, and Traditional Knowledge into Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilience**](#). integrating Local, Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge into formal Early Warning Systems can significantly enhance their reach, relevance, and effectiveness. This knowledge is sustained by community structures including elders and practitioners who steward knowledge, social mechanisms that transmit it (storytelling, ceremony, apprenticeship), and local forums that apply it (customary rules, committees, communal assemblies). Start Network, 2025-11-06.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Kazakhstan: [**Human rights groups slam Kazakhstan's LGBT propaganda law**](#). International human rights organizations have condemned proposed amendments in Kazakhstan that would ban the "propaganda of nontraditional sexual orientation.". Искаков, Ерлан, Kursiv Media Kazakhstan, 2025-11-12.

Worldwide: [**Platform Afterlife: How Archives Keep Queer Cinema Alive**](#). When access is care—on bodies, voice, and the quiet power of memory. Ahmadi, Darius, Medium, 2025-11-17.

Police Violence

Brazil: [**Data & Justice: Mapping police violence in Rio's Favela da Maré**](#). Data analysis can serve as a potent tool to hold law enforcement accountable. Aline Galdino de Oliveira & André Galdino de Oliveira & Aristênio Gomes dos Santos, OpenGlobalRights, 2025-11-19.

Moldova/Romania: [**25 years since the opening of the Securitate archives**](#). The event will bring together historians and archival specialists from Romania and Moldova, as well as representatives of the key institutions that managed the Securitate files after 1990. A panel discussion will explore the role of archives in rebuilding a democratic society, and a special session will analyze the ethical and legal controversies surrounding the disclosure of the Securitate files. Foundation Office Romania, 2025-11-25.

United States of America: [**Amnesty International, S.T.O.P. Lawsuit Reveals NYPD Surveillance Abuses**](#). Records obtained by Amnesty International and S.T.O.P. reveal concerning surveillance abuses against protesters and communities of color, including the frequent use of rights-violating facial recognition technology. Amnesty International, 2025-11-13.

Privacy

Brazil/Europe: [**Privacy watchdog gives Commission green-light for EU-Brazil data transfers**](#). But the European Data Protection Board does recommend the EU's executive clarifies law enforcement and national security exemptions. Claudio Moreau, Euractiv, 2025-11-05.

Europe: [**Commission defends changing scope of personal data in GDPR privacy law**](#). The Commission says its Digital Omnibus aims to codify recent rulings of the Court of Justice but privacy experts point to other interpretations of case law. Claudio Moreau, Euractiv, 2025-11-24.

Europe: [**European Commission accused of 'massive rollback' of digital protections**](#). Proposed changes to AI Act would make it easier for tech firms to use personal data to train models without consent. Rankin, Jennifer, The Guardian, 2025-11-19.

Reparation

Columbia/United States of America: [**EE. UU. logra reducir tareas de Misión de ONU en Colombia y arremete contra Petro y dice que esperará al próximo gobierno**](#). Se decidieron suprimir dos funciones clave de su mandato: la verificación del cumplimiento de las sentencias restaurativas de la Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz (JEP) y el seguimiento al capítulo étnico del Acuerdo de Paz de 2016. Redacción Colombia, EL ESPECTADOR, 2025-10-31.

Spying

United States of America: [**The FBI spied on a Signal group chat of immigration activists, records reveal**](#). Agency accessed private conversations of New York 'courtwatch' group that was observing public hearings. Levin, Sam, The Guardian, 2025-11-21.

Technology

Europe: [**Commission plans sweeping cuts to tech laws to pave the way for AI**](#). The digital simplification package is being framed as a playbook for growing European AI, as commissioners aim to steer out of political pushback over privacy rule cuts. Claudio Moreau, Euractiv, 2025-11-19.

India: [**'It's hell for us here': Mumbai families suffer as datacentres keep the city hooked on coal**](#). As Mumbai sees increased energy demand from new datacenters, particularly from Amazon, the filthiest neighbourhood in one of India's largest cities must keep its major coal plants. Barratt, Luke; Rehman, Atika, The Guardian, 2025-11-24.

Spain: [**Archives in times of war and algorithms: who will guard the memory?**](#). Barcelona hosts more than 2,000 professionals from 110 countries to discuss the present and future of archives. Marimon, Sílvia, Ara in English, 2025-10-25.

Worldwide: [**Unesco adopts global standards on 'wild west' field of neurotechnology**](#). The standards define a new category of data, "neural data", and suggest guidelines governing its protection. A list of more than 100 recommendations ranges from rights-based concerns to addressing scenarios that are – at least for now – science fiction. Down, Aisha, The Guardian, 2025-11-06.

War Crimes

Europe: [**Nuremberg trial records made available online after painstaking 25-year project**](#).

Launch of digitisation project marks 80th anniversary of start of legal effort to bring Nazi leaders to justice. Connolly, Kate, The Guardian, 2025-11-20.

Italy: [**Milan prosecutors investigate alleged 'sniper tourism' during Bosnian war**](#). Groups from Italy and elsewhere alleged to have paid Serb soldiers to shoot Sarajevo residents during siege. The investigation originated from a legal complaint submitted by Ezio Gavazzeni, a Milan-based writer who gathered evidence on the allegations, as well as a report sent to the prosecutors by the former mayor of Sarajevo, Benjamina Karić. Giuffrida, Angela; Willsher, Kim, The Guardian, 2025-11-11.

Russian Federation/Ukraine: [**Vrinda Grover on Holding Russia Accountable for Crimes in Ukraine**](#). Vrinda Grover details evidence of Russian war crimes in Ukraine and the UN's pursuit of accountability through victim-centered justice. Jacobsen, Scott Douglas, International Policy Digest, 2025-11-13.

Sudan: [**Blue Shield Appeal for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Sudan**](#). The International Council on Archives expresses its full support for the Blue Shield's urgent appeal to protect Sudan's cultural heritage amid ongoing conflict. Historic sites, archives, and sacred spaces are at risk, and ICA joins the call for all parties to uphold international law and safeguard the cultural memory of affected communities. Almeras, Clemence, ICA, 2025-11-25.

Sudan: [**Documenting War Crimes in Sudan Begins Now**](#). Stopping ongoing violence in conflict zones is urgent, but with today's technology, so is gathering evidence. Janine di Giovanni, Foreign Policy, 2025-11-21.

Worldwide: [**Harvard Law releases digitized Nuremberg Trials archive on 80th anniversary**](#). Harvard's collection of Nuremberg Trials documents is the second most-complete outside of the U.S. National Archives, according to the law school's library. The library received most of its collection in 1949 after the final trial, then added documents over the years through donations from trial participants. Karen Sloan, Reuters, 2025-11-20.

News by country/region

International News

Americas

Indigenous Matters: [**A database could help revive the Arapaho language before its last speakers are gone**](#). Cowell, Andrew, The Conversation, 2025-11-26.

East Asia

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: [**President Lai hails National Archives as unifying force for Taiwan**](#). Focus Taiwan - CNA English News, 2025-11-17.

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Privacy: [**Commission defends changing scope of personal data in GDPR privacy law**](#). Claudio Moreau, Euractiv, 2025-11-24.

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War Crimes: [Harvard Law releases digitized Nuremberg Trials archive on 80th anniversary](#). Karen Sloan, Reuters, 2025-11-20.

National News

Afghanistan

Human Rights: [Taliban used discarded UK kit to track down Afghans who worked with west, inquiry hears](#). Eleni Courea, The Guardian, 2025-11-28.

Brazil

Police Violence: [Data & Justice: Mapping police violence in Rio's Favela da Maré](#). Aline Galdino de Oliveira & André Galdino de Oliveira & Aristênio Gomes dos Santos, OpenGlobalRights, 2025-11-19.

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El Salvador

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France

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: [For its 40th anniversary, RSF transfers its archives to specialist history centre La Contemporaine to aid research](#). RSF, 2025-11-13.

India

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Israel

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Censorship: [Censorship crusade: Israel targets platforms and online archives to 'rewrite Gaza'](#). Pacific Media Watch, Asia Pacific Report, 2025-11-07.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: [Secret Harvard archive preserves Israeli publications 'in case Israel ceases to exist'](#). Zein Khalil and Mohammad Sio, Anadolu Ajansı, 2025-11-06.

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Police Violence: [25 years since the opening of the Securitate archives](#). Foundation Office Romania, 2025-11-25.

Morocco

Decolonization: [Borderline ambiguity: How Google Maps removes disputed Western Sahara border for Morocco users](#). Agence France-Presse, The Guardian, 2025-11-12.

Nigeria

Colonialism: [**Protesters target major new Nigerian museum embroiled in looted artefacts row.**](#) Egbejule, Eromo, The Guardian, 2025-11-10.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN)

Armed Conflict: [**Palestine as provenance: archiving against genocide from Gaza to South Lebanon \(Jabal Amil\)**](#). Ghaddar, J. J., Archival Science, 2025-06-13.

Romania

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Russian Federation

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War Crimes: [**Vrinda Grover on Holding Russia Accountable for Crimes in Ukraine**](#). Jacobsen, Scott Douglas, International Policy Digest, 2025-11-13.

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Colonialism: [Protesters target major new Nigerian museum embroiled in looted artefacts row](#). Egbejule, Eromo, The Guardian, 2025-11-10.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: [Black Archives Day on 29 November 2025](#). British Library, 2025-11-29.

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