
ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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Commentary

During the past 30 years six temporary international criminal tribunals were established: the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. All of these, except the Kosovo court, have closed or are closing. All have created massive bodies of records which are important to future understandings of the conflicts and the development of international justice. Additionally, these records are integral parts of the national history of the countries concerned, reflecting the struggles endured by local populations. Proper preservation of this information is crucial for memorialization processes and ensuring that future generations can learn from these historical Events.

Yet the future of the records of these courts is uncertain. Four (Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, Lebanon, and Kosovo) are stored in various spaces in The Hague; the Rwanda court records are in Arusha, Tanzania, and the Cambodian records are in Phnom Penh. No long-term archival solution is in place. While the UN archives is the obvious place for archival custody, the UN in New York has no facility constructed to house complex archives, a small staff, and little experience in handling the records of courts, prosecutors, and investigators which have continuing legal demands. In recent years, again without a long-term archival solution, the UN has created new institutions tasked to collect information, like the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria and the OHCHR Accountability Project for Sri Lanka to support ongoing and future justice processes.

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A durable solution to the preservation of and access to these records is urgently needed. As professional archivists and lawyers dealing with past violations of human rights and humanitarian law, only with a firm, and sustainable administration of the archives can we ensure their availability to support the future right to justice for those deeply affected by the conflicts. The management of these records, whatever the creating entity, should have a common preservation and access framework to make the preservation and management of these records both effective and cost efficient. This is a responsibility that the international community, which created these bodies, must undertake.

The International Council on Archives and swisspeace, a Swiss NGO, arranged a side event on the issue at the Human Rights Council meeting in September 2024. A panel, chaired by ICA President Josée Kirps and including UN archivist Stephen Haufek, discussed need for a framework mechanism for the records of the temporary international criminal courts and, possibly, the institutions that have been tasked to collect information in anticipation of future justice initiatives. Archivist Trudy Peterson, speaking for the panelists, called upon UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk to establish a working group to develop a robust solution to this looming, serious international problem (see the recording of the session at <https://www.ica.org/key-insights-from-the-un-side-event-on-preserving-and-accessing-records-of-temporary-international-criminal-courts/>). At the time of this writing, no response had been received. Archivists with contacts in their foreign ministries are encouraged to inform their officials of this initiative and support the establishment of a working group. The preservation of these significant court records deserves attention.

Trudy Peterson

SAHR News

- The [Programme Commission \(PCOM\)](#) is responsible for the professional and technical programme of the ICA; coordinating the activities of [Regional Branches](#), [Professional Sections](#) and [Expert Groups](#); and the professional content of ICA international congresses and conferences. ICA offers funding through PCOM or the [International Fund for Archival Development \(FIDA\)](#) – please [follow this link](#) to find out about projects more suitable for FIDA funding. PCOM will consider funding applications for projects to a total of 5 000€. Funded projects can be onsite or online events, projects resulting in the development and publication of a resource, and/or advocacy activities. The project duration cannot exceed one calendar year, from January to December. More information can be found here: <https://www.ica.org/programme-commission/pcom-call-for-projects-2025/>
- On October 1st, the section’s First Tuesday Talk on “Human rights, archives and archivists in Argentina: reflections on the practice of archival ethics by Mariana Nazar, vice chair of the ICA Section on Archives and Human Rights” was arranged. Watch out for the recording to be published on the respective [YouTube playlist](#).

Events

Civil Rights: [Exhibition | Activist New York](#). Museum of the City of New York, 2024-09-01.

Human Rights Defenders and Activists: [Exhibition | Alanis Obomsawin. The Children Have to Hear Another Story](#). MAC Montreal, 2024-09-29.

Human Rights Defenders and Activists: [Exposition | Alanis Alanis Obomsawin. Les enfants doivent entendre une autre histoire](#). MAC Montréal, 2024-09-28.

Human Rights Defenders and Activists: [Exhibition | Changing the Face of Democracy. Shirley Chisholm at 100](#). Museum of the City of New York, 2024-09-01.

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 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

Children's Rights

Afghanistan: [A child bride won the right to divorce - now the Taliban say it doesn't count](#). The Taliban have been revisiting rulings made under the US-backed government, overturning thousands of cases. Durrani, Mamoon; Khamoosh, Kawoon, BBC News, 2024-09-28.

Australia: [Australia Commits to Protecting Children's Privacy Online](#). The Australian government committed to developing the country's first data protection law for children. Hye Jung Han, Human Rights Watch, 2024-09-11.

Civil Rights

Mexico/United States of America: [Mexican American Civil Rights Museum making big moves](#). The nation's first Mexican American civil rights museum will be in San Antonio and appropriately on the West Side. Ayala, Elaine, San Antonio Express-News, 2024-09-18.

United States of America: [Exhibition | Activist New York](#). York City from the 17th century right up to the present. In a town renowned for its in-your-face persona, New Yorkers have banded together on issues as diverse as civil rights, wages, sexual orientation, and religious freedom. Using artifacts, photographs, audio and visual presentations, as well as interactive components that seek to tell the story of activism in the five boroughs past and present, Activist New York presents the passions and conflicts that underlie the city's history of agitation. Permanent Exhibition. Museum of the City of New York, Museum of the City of New York, 2024-09-01.

Climate Change

Mexico: [Mexico's datacentre industry is booming – but are more drought and blackouts the price communities must pay?](#). Many fear the arrival of tech giants such as Amazon and Google in the state of Querétaro will place too much of a strain on scarce water and electricity resources. Graham, Thomas, The Guardian, 2024-09-25.

United States of America: [OpenAI's data hunger raises privacy concerns](#). Last month, OpenAI came out against a yet-to-be enacted Californian law that aims to set basic safety standards for developers of large artificial intelligence (AI) models. Uri Gal, Jamaica Gleaner, 2024-09-23.

Colonialism

South Africa: [Colonialism and apartheid stripped black South Africans of land and labour rights – the effects are still felt today](#). Corrective policies should be implemented as part of a holistic, long-term strategy to address historical injustices and create a more equitable South African society. Staden, Marthinus van, The Conversation, 2024-09-23.

Crimes Against Humanity

Burkina Faso: [New evidence shows atrocities committed by army in Burkina Faso](#). New documents verified by FRANCE 24 illustrate the scale of the atrocities committed by the Burkina Faso

army on February 25, 2024. In April, the NGO Human Rights Watch reported the massacre of 223 civilians,... France 24, France 24, 2024-05-17.

Sudan: [Sudan war: Rights probe demands wider arms embargo to end 'rampant' abuse](#). Top human rights investigators into Sudan's brutal war called on Friday for a country-wide arms embargo as they recounted harrowing testimony of victims of horrific sexual attacks whose bodies are treated as a "theatre of operation" by fighters acting with total impunity. |. UN News, UN News, 2024-09-06.

Death Penalty

United States of America: [Oklahoma man executed by lethal injection despite conflicting evidence](#). Emmanuel Littlejohn will be executed for role in 1992 shooting, which would be state's third execution this year. Marcos, Coral Murphy, The Guardian, 2024-09-26.

Detention

Jamaica: [Detained defendants demand system for accessing electronic exhibits](#). Calls are being made by defence lawyers for the authorities to move swiftly to put plans in place for accused persons in custody or prison to have access to the exhibits from the prosecution, which are being disclosed electronically. Jamaica Gleaner, Jamaica Gleaner, 2024-08-23.

United States of America: ['The Sing Sing Files' chronicles a journalist's work to free the wrongfully convicted](#). For decades, producer Dan Slepian has spearheaded documentaries, podcasts and investigative reports for Dateline NBC. In 2002, a chance conversation propelled him to start probing wrongful convictions, work that led to a Pulitzer Prize-winning podcast 20 years later. Slepian joined Amna Nawaz to discuss his new book, "The Sing Sing Files," and why the issue continues to fuel his work. Amna Nawaz, None, 2024-09-12.

United States of America: [Archive of violence](#). In this Q&A with Prism, the Texas After Violence Project's executive director Gabriel Solis discusses the power of community archives. Uyeda, Ray Levy, Prism, 2024-09-17.

Disinformation

Botswana: [Journalists in Southern Africa launch united front against disinformation and misinformation](#). The Federation of African Journalists (FAJ), the Pan-African organisation of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), has officially launched a comprehensive regional initiative to combat the escalating threat of disinformation and misinformation across Southern Africa. This journalist-led campaign is aimed at preserving the integrity of journalism, restoring public trust in the news media and positioning journalists as vital conduits for media and information literacy. ReliefWeb, ReliefWeb, 2024-09-14.

Germany: [A Nazi magazine regularly published manipulated photos and misinformation, long before the age of AI](#). The Nazis routinely shared altered photos in their official publication, the Illustrierter Beobachter, causing readers to question what was real or fake. Magilow, Daniel H., The Conversation, 2024-09-12.

Ghana: [President Akufo-Addo Challenges Ghanaian Journalists To Combat Disinformation Ahead Of 2024 Elections](#). President Akufo-Addo Challenges Ghanaian Journalists To Combat Disinformation Ahead Of 2024 Elections. Africa Press Release, Zawya.com, 2024-09-29.

Jamaica: [Digital literacy essential for navigating misinformation and disinformation, says professor](#). In an era where information is viewed as a very valuable commodity, Professor Christopher Charles is asserting that digital literacy is essential for individuals to be able to distinguish between what's false and what's accurate. Asha Wilks, Jamaica Gleaner, 2024-09-21.

Spain: [Spanish premier seeks international leadership role against 'fake news'](#). Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez wants to make the fight against disinformation a priority with a plan for "democratic renewal", though the country's conservative opposition has blasted it as an attempt to censor critical media. Euractiv.com with AFP, www.euractiv.com, 2024-09-24.

United States: [X's AI chatbot spread voter misinformation – and election officials fought back](#). When the Grok tool gave false information, a collection of election officials sprang into action to tamp it down. Leingang, Rachel, The Guardian, 2024-09-12.

Worldwide: [Disinformation May Thrive as Transparency Deteriorates Across Social Media](#). What can be done to confront disinformation in an environment where content moderation is increasingly viewed as overly partisan and social media transparency has declined? Educating the public on disinformation tactics could help, though concerns about politicization persist. Rinderknecht, R. Gordon, Rand, 2024-09-17.

Worldwide: [TikTok and WHO Join Efforts to Combat Misinformation](#). Today's digital age is centered around TikTok, the short-form social media platform that hosts around 1 billion global users. Sensationalized or reductive videos often get the most engagement with young audiences, leading to the spread of misinformation on a global level. On September 26, the World Health Programme (WHO) and TikTok announced a year-long collaboration. Oritro Karim, Inter Press Service, 2024-09-30.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Americas: [Hundreds of artworks by mainly Black Brazilian artists are returning home](#). Pieces from sculptures to costumes are donated to Bahia after being in US and Canada's museums for 30 years. Rogero, Tiago, The Guardian, 2024-09-05.

Sudan: [Tens of thousands of artefacts looted from Sudan museum](#). Thefts at Khartoum's National Museum, one of most important in Africa, took place in region controlled by Rapid Support Forces group. Salih, Zeinab Mohammed, The Guardian, 2024-09-09.

Elections

Iran/United States of America: [Iran sent hacked Trump documents to Biden campaign, FBI says](#). Officials say there is no indication Biden campaign responded to the emails, which offered information stolen from Trump campaign. Associated Press, The Guardian, 2024-09-19.

Freedom of Expression

Philippines: [‘Truth deserves to be seen’: Artists decry film censorship in the Philippines](#). Two Philippine films were given X-ratings, and therefore banned from airing in theaters, angering cinephiles and free-speech activists alike. None, Global Voices, 2024-09-19.

United States of America: [NCAC 50th Anniversary: Standing Shoulder to Shoulder with Woodhull](#). Since its founding in 2003, Woodhull Freedom Foundation has been an unwavering champion of free speech, recognizing it as the cornerstone of our fundamental human right to sexual freedom. As a human rights organization, we have consistently stood at the forefront of the battle against censorship, particularly in defense of sexual expression, which has long been a primary target of free speech opponents. Comms, NCAC, National Coalition Against Censorship, 2024-09-11.

Worldwide: [Media Freedom as a Fundamental Freedom and a Human Right: Protecting Journalists and Their Access to Conflict Areas](#). In light of ongoing wars and rising geopolitical tensions, defending and protecting media freedom is more crucial than ever. As an integral part of the right to freedom of expression and access to information, media freedom can be fundamental even to the safety and survival of civilians in armed conflicts. Schmidt, Annie, International Peace Institute, 2024-09-26.

Freedom of Information

Iraq/Kurdistan: [UNITAD Delivers Processed Information to Kurdistan Regional Government](#). This information, received from judicial and non-judicial authorities in the Kurdistan Region in support of the UNITAD mandate, was enhanced by the Team through categorization and tagging, and analyzed for legal review. It represents an important step forward towards facilitating the rapid identification and handling of information that may be relevant to investigations when used in conjunction with appropriate e-discovery software and remains critical for accountability efforts in Iraq and beyond. United Nations Iraq, United Nations Iraq, 2024-08-25.

Jamaica: [Government working to re-establish ATI tribunal](#). Information Minister Dr Dana Morris Dixon says the Government is in the process of appointing a new Access to Information (ATI) tribunal. The tribunal created under the ATI Act to handle appeals when Jamaicans are denied information by government agencies or public bodies has been inactive since February. Jamaica Gleaner, Jamaica Gleaner, 2024-09-18.

Freedom of the Press

Argentina: [Un décret présidentiel rognant l'accès à l'information publique suscite l'inquiétude](#). Les médias, l'opposition et la société civile ont exprimé mercredi leurs inquiétudes concernant un décret pris par le président ultralibéral argentin Javier Milei sur l'accès à l'information officielle, y voyant une « régression » en matière de transparence et de liberté de la presse. Agence France Presse, La Presse, 2024-09-04.

Russian Federation: [Judge who sentenced Evan Gershkovich says trial did not look at evidence](#). Neither prosecution nor defence requested material evidence be looked at in trial of US journalist, judge says. France-Presse, Agence, The Guardian, 2024-09-27.

Genocide

Iraq: [Racing the Clock to Document ISIS Genocide of Iraq's Yazidis](#). For years, a U.N. team has painstakingly exhumed mass graves, but now the Iraqi government is ordering it to leave. Many sites remain unexamined. Sampson, Eve, The New York Times, 2024-09-05.

Human Rights

Argentina: [This archive team brought dozens of dictatorship criminals to trial. Now it's gone](#). Archivists attached to the Defense Ministry's Compiling and Analysis Team have been disbanded by Defense Minister Luis Petri. In response to accusations of taking "exorbitant attributions" over the archive and "violating the division of powers", the archivists have stated that an institutionally denialist government wants the past to stay buried and to stop trials for crimes against humanity. Jaureguy, Martina; Iricibar, Valen, Buenos Aires Herald, 2024-09-01.

Philippines: [Archiving Martial Law](#). Amidst attempts by the current Marcos administration to recast the excesses of the Martial law era, the preservation work of the Ateneo Martial Law Museum and Library (AMLML), the Rizal Library and other partners is vital to advancing a deeper understanding of the troubling events during the 1970s and 1980s. Simangan, Julia Tyrone E.; Uy, Julia, The Guidon, 2024-09-22.

Human Rights Defenders and Activists

Canada: [30 years of Indigenous resistance with Ellen Gabriel | 'Colonial-rooted poverty will not be solved by more colonial solutions'](#). Thirty-four years ago, Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel was thrust into the spotlight when she was chosen as the spokesperson for the Kanién'kehá:ka (Mohawk) communities of Kanehsatà:ke and Kahnawà:ke, as they resisted the planned expansion of a golf course on into their sacred lands and burial ground. In the decades since the 78-day standoff ended, Gabriel has remained a steadfast defender of Indigenous homelands and an advocate for Indigenous Rights and sovereignty, particularly the rights of women. Cyca, Michelle, The Narwhal, 2024-09-27.

Canada: [Exhibition | Alanis Obomsawin. The Children Have to Hear Another Story](#). The exhibition is dedicated to the work of Abenaki documentary filmmaker, activist, and singer Alanis Obomsawin who first emerged as an artist and Indigenous rights activist. Until January 26th 2025. MAC Montreal, MAC Montreal, 2024-09-29.

Canada: [Exposition | Alanis Alanis Obomsawin. Les enfants doivent entendre une autre histoire](#). Cette exposition inédite est consacrée à l'œuvre de la documentariste, activiste et chanteuse abénakise Alanis Obomsawin qui s'est fait connaître du public en tant qu'artiste et militante des droits autochtones. Jusqu'au 26 janvier 2025. MAC Montréal, MAC Montréal, 2024-09-28.

Czech Republic/Slovakia: [Through the lens of Czech-British photographer Liba Taylor: The power of photography](#). "People don't just sit and wait for aid, but when there's no condition to survive, they don't have another choice" explains documentary photographer Liba Taylor, famous for documenting human resilience to adversity. Elmira Lyapina, Global Voices, 2024-08-26.

Tunisia: [Former Head of Truth Commission Arbitrarily Detained](#). Sihem Bensedrine has been under investigation since February 2023 under charges of "fraud", "forgery" and "abuse of official capacity" following a complaint about the alleged falsification of the chapter about corruption in the

banking sector in the IVD final report. Sihem Bensedrine pre-trial detention is arbitrary because it is based solely on the peaceful exercise of her human rights. The detention also falls short of international standards of fairness. Her prosecution appears to be a reprisal for her work exposing human rights violations as head of the IVD. Amnesty International, Amnesty International, 2024-08-30.

United States of America: [Exhibition | Changing the Face of Democracy. Shirley Chisholm at 100](#). Explore the life and legacy of barrier-breaking Brooklyn-born politician Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to US Congress. Through July 20, 2025. Museum of the City of New York, Museum of the City of New York, 2024-09-01.

Human Trafficking

Republic of Korea: [South Korean Truth Commission Says it Found More Evidence of Forced Adoptions in the 1980s](#). A South Korean commission found evidence that women were pressured into giving away their infants for foreign adoptions after giving birth at government-funded facilities where thousands of people were confined and enslaved from the 1960s to the 1980s. The Associated Press, Newsmax.com, 2024-09-09.

United States of America: [Remarkable Documents Lay Bare New York's History of Slavery](#). A newly digitized set of records reveals the plight and bravery of enslaved people in the North. Eastman, Carolyn, Smithsonian Magazine, 2024-09.

Indigenous Matters

Canada: [Fouiller dans les archives pour la vérité et l'humanité de chaque survivant de pensionnat | Le destin tragique des victimes de pensionnats pour Autochtones](#). À la tête des archives du Centre national pour la vérité et la réconciliation (CNVR), Raymond Frogner essaie de dénicher tous les documents et les données possibles sur les pensionnats pour Autochtones afin de les analyser minutieusement. Une investigation de longue haleine pour redonner une voix à ceux qui ont été réduits au silence. Josselin, Marie-Laure, Radio-Canada, 2024-09-29.

Canada: [The Innu have lived in eastern Canada for thousands of years, yet their rights to this land are increasingly threatened by the question: who is Indigenous?](#). Concerns over false claims of Indigenous heritage – whether for professional, financial or other reasons – appear to be growing around the world. High-profile claims that have been challenged include people from music, politics and academia. Samson, Colin, The Conversation, 2024-09-13.

Canada: [What Lies Beneath Canada's Former Indigenous School Sites Fuels a Debate](#). Despite possible evidence of hundreds of graves at former schools for Indigenous children, challenges in making a clear conclusion have given rise to skeptics. Austen, Ian; Bracken, Amber, The New York Times, 2024-09-20.

New Zealand: [Seen abroad as a leader on Indigenous rights, New Zealand enters a divisive new era](#). As New Zealand celebrates its annual Māori language week in the third week of September, the government is ramping up initiatives to remove recognition of Indigenous people and language from public policy and law. Grahama-McLay, Charlotte, ICT News, 2024-09-21.

Oceania: [Aaron Smale: The need to know](#). Aaron Smale has been writing about Māori children in state care since 2016, winning multiple journalism awards along the way. In this kōrero, he tells Dale about his own experience of being adopted and raised outside his natural whānau, and how his need to know about his birth family and identity has influenced his journalism. Husband, Dale, E-Tangata, 2024-09-14.

United States of America: [This Obscure Army Office Is Blocking Repatriation of Native Children's Remains](#). The Office of Army Cemeteries is blocking the return of remains of children who died at the infamous Carlisle school. Pember, Mary Annette, Truthout, 2024-08-31.

Vanuatu: ['Weather magic' and wind lore: the push to preserve ancient knowledge in Vanuatu](#). 'Talking dictionaries' among the tools used by researchers to document languages and record Indigenous environmental knowledge. Letman, Jon, The Guardian, 2024-09-06.

Internet and Social Media

Worldwide: [Depuis l'acquisition par Elon Musk, X a suspendu plus de 5 millions de comptes](#). Bien que Musk ait vanté une approche plus ouverte et axée sur la liberté d'expression, les données montrent une augmentation notable du nombre de comptes suspendus et de contenus supprimés pour violation des règles. Fleureau, Guillaume, Siècle digital, 2024-09-26.

Israel-Gaza Crisis

Israel/Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [Gaza publishes identities of 34,344 Palestinians killed in war with Israel](#). Document runs to 649 pages and includes 169 babies born after the Hamas attacks of 7 October. Graham-Harrison, Emma, The Guardian, 2024-09-17.

Israel/Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [The spread of misinformation & disinformation continues to be used as a weapon in the war in #Gaza](#). As part of its campaign to undermine & discredit @UNRWA, the Government of Israel has been buying ads on @Google to block users from giving donations to the Agency + undertake a defamation campaign. Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA, 2024-09-01.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): ['Moving in the Dark': Hamas Documents Show Tunnel Battle Strategy](#). Hamas leaders spent years developing an underground warfare plan. Records from the battlefield show the group's preparations, including blast doors to protect against Israeli bombs and soldiers. Goldman, Adam; Bergman, Ronen; Odenheimer, Natan, The New York Times, 2024-09-02.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [Satellite Imagery Shows Vast Destruction in Rafah](#). Based on historical imagery from Google Earth, it is possible to see that the largely residential area was built more than a decade ago. But most buildings were demolished between July 18 and August 4 2024, after the IDF arrived. Godin, Jake, bellinccat, 2024-08-27.

Medical Records

Poland: [Former PiS minister charged with abuse of office for disclosing patient records](#). Adam Niedzielski, the health minister in the previous conservative PiS (ECR) government, has been charged

with abuse of office for publishing a patient's private medical information. Krzysztozek, Aleksandra, www.euractiv.com, 2024-09-26.

United States of America: [California Passes Law Protecting Consumer Brain Data](#). The state extended its current personal privacy law to include the neural data increasingly coveted by technology companies. Moens, Jonathan, *The New York Times*, 2024-09-29.

Migration

Europe: [Frontex Strengthens Cooperation with UNHCR for Enhanced Border Management](#).

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, signed an agreement today to strengthen collaboration on border management and humanitarian protection across Europe. The two organisations agreed to exchange information and expertise to promote and support effective border management. Frontex, *Frontex*, 2024-09-17.

United States of America: [Civil rights groups sue Saugus Public Schools over records related to allegedly illegal admissions policy](#). The lawsuit asks the court to force the district to turn over school committee emails and texts related to the admissions policy in response to a public records request they submitted in May. Staff, Deanna Pan *Globe*, *BostonGlobe.com*, 2024-09-18.

Police Violence

United States of America: [The NYPD Is Tossing Out Hundreds of Misconduct Cases — Including Stop-and-Frisks — Without Even Looking at Them](#). The department has killed more than 400 cases of alleged misconduct this year that an oversight board had investigated and substantiated. It's part of a lax attitude toward discipline under the current police commissioner, Edward Caban, critics say. Umansky, Eric, *ProPublica*, 2024-09-11.

Privacy

India: [India's Star Health sues Telegram after hacker uses app's chatbots to leak data](#). Star in the notice described the incident as "illegal hacking and unauthorized accessing of the confidential, sensitive" information. Kalra, Munsif Vengattil and Aditya, *Zawya.com*, 2024-09-26.

Ireland: [Irish data protection watchdog probes Google's processing of personal data for AI training](#). The Irish Data Protection Commission (DPC) launched a cross-border inquiry into Google's compliance with privacy laws in processing EU citizen's data for its artificial intelligence (AI) model PaLM 2, according to a Thursday (12 September) press release. Wold, Jacob Wulff, www.euractiv.com, 2024-09-12.

Netherlands: [Dutch data protection watchdog hits Clearview AI with €30.5 million fine for misusing facial recognition data](#). The Dutch Data Protection Authority (DPA) fined Clearview AI €30.5 million on Tuesday (3 September), for illegally building a database with over 30 billion photos. Tar, Julia, www.euractiv.com, 2024-09-03.

Niger: [New Terrorism Database Threatens Rights](#). A new Niger government ordinance creating a database of people suspected of terrorism undermines fundamental rights enshrined in national and international law. Human Rights Watch, *Human Rights Watch*, 2024-09-30.

United States of America: [Social media and online video firms are conducting 'vast surveillance' on users, FTC finds](#). Agency accuses Meta, Google, TikTok and other companies of sharing troves of user information with third-parties. Bhuiyan, Johana, The Guardian, 2024-09-19.

Reconciliation

Canada: [Reconciliation Toolkit for Non-Indigenous Archives in Canada](#). The CCA Archives Advisory Services Working Group (AASWG) has compiled this resource for non-Indigenous archival institutions in Canada working with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and their documentary heritage. Canadian Council on Archives Archives Advisory Services Working Group, Archives Canada, 2024-09-01.

Religious Archives

France: [More allegations of sexual abuse made against French priest Abbé Pierre](#). Catholic church says it will open its records on the once-revered Emmaüs founder, who died in 2007. Willsher, Kim, The Guardian, 2024-09-13.

Reparation

Barbados: [Anglican group launches £7m project in Barbados to atone for slavery atrocities](#). An Anglican church group is to launch a £7m reconciliation project in Barbados to atone for the atrocities of transatlantic slavery and compensate descendants of enslaved people. Funds will help communities living on the Codrington estate, which was home to two sugar plantations. Duncan, Natricia, the Guardian, 2024-09-06.

Sexual Violence

France: [French church unlocks archives early on priest accused of sexual abuse](#). Amid accusations of sexual abuse against late priest Abbé Pierre, France's Catholic church has decided to open its archives on the once venerated figure decades earlier than planned. RFI, RFI, 2024-09-12.

Ireland: [2,395 allegations of abuse at religious schools - inquiry](#). The scoping inquiry into allegations of abuse at schools run by religious orders has found that there were 2,395 allegations of sexual abuse in respect of 308 schools recorded by the religious orders that ran those schools. The inquiry has recommended that the Government consider a redress scheme for survivors of historical sexual abuse in day and boarding schools. Conneely, Ailbhe, RTE, 2024-09-03.

Spying

United States of America: [Family of Ethel Rosenberg say US document proves she was no Soviet spy](#). Sons whose mother was executed with her husband Julius in 1953 say newly released document proves innocence. Helmore, Edward, The Guardian, 2024-09-10.

Transparency

South Africa: [End to fight over Zondo archives in sight](#). There is an ongoing spat between the department of justice and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) concerning the fate of the materials put together and archived as part of the extensive work done during the Zondo state capture commission at a cost of over R1bn to the taxpayer. Paul Hoffman, BusinessLIVE, 2024-09-30.

United States of America: [Exercising your right to public records](#). Public records are a cornerstone of government transparency and accountability. The Freedom of Information Act enshrines the public's right to access government records. MuckRock helps journalists, researchers and other civic-minded people file requests and ensure this transparency. MuckRock offers a guide on how to access public records and how to bring these government documents to the public. Kauffman, Kelly, MuckRock, 2024-09-17.

Ukraine War

Portugal/Russian Federation: [Lisbon to appeal fine imposed for sharing data of anti-Putin activists with Russia](#). Lisbon City Council will appeal a €1 million fine imposed on the municipality for sharing personal data on Russian anti-Putin activists with Moscow, the city council confirmed to Lusa on Tuesday. Carreiro, Rosa, www.euractiv.com, 2024-09-04.

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