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Commentary.

Point. Tap. Tap again to send. Photography has come a long way from the days of glass plates and darkrooms smelling of developer chemicals. This month photographs are central to a quite astonishing number of events. Add to this the videos uploaded to YouTube that seem to document human rights abuses, and we encountered a relentless flood of images.

Certainly the biggest photo-related story in January was the report from a panel of experts who examined a sample of some 55,000 images of the dead in Syria (see Syria item below). The report not only provides the legal perspective on the possible use of these images but also provides a good primer on the forensic examination of electronic photographic images to see whether they have been altered (the experts concluded that they had not). Photographs of dead bodies featured in a number of other reports. British Pathe released footage and still images its photographers took of executions during conflicts across the world. Photos of U.S. Marines in Fallujah, Iraq, apparently burning bodies led to the opening of an official investigation. And an Afghan government commission investigating deaths from an airstrike on 15 January handed out a dossier that included a photograph, purportedly of the funeral for civilians killed in that attack but actually taken at a funeral in 2009 and distributed at that time by the media.

Photographs of dead bodies were not the only stories in January. The family of a young boy executed in the U.S. State of South Carolina 70 years ago used photographs as part of the argument to reopen the case against him. The usual U.S. practice of making public the photographs of those arrested (“mug shots”) was called into question by legislators in the U.S. State of Georgia who argued that the arrest images should be restricted until a person is proven guilty, a position that is hotly contested by the Georgia Press Association. And a technology story reported that researchers have discovered that by using high-resolution photos of victims of crime they can look at the reflections in the subject’s eyes and see the images of perpetrators and bystanders.

An essay published in the *New York Times*, written by a professor at New York University, raises important questions about photographs taken by perpetrators. She calls the Syrian photographs “bewildering” and asks, “Wouldn’t such a government want to hide its crimes rather than record them?” http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/28/opinion/advertisements-for-death.html?_r=0 But archivists know that governments and non-governmental groups and individuals regularly document their violent activities, including arrests, deaths, and harm to people. What archivists have to do is make sure that these images—gruesome as they always are, voluminous as they often are—are preserved and protected. In the short term these images are legal evidence; in the long term they are evidence of how we treat each other and the continuous struggle for the right to be human. When such images should be made available and to whom is a separate question, but it cannot even be raised unless archives preserve the images in the first place.

International news.

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)/Montenegro. Montenegro’s refugee association announced it will sue the government before the European court of Human Rights “because refugees have been left in a legal limbo without proper papers for over a decade or even longer,” *BIRN* reported. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/montenegro-refugees-to-sue-state-in->

strasbourg?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=fedbc97ba6-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_561b9a25c3-fedbc97ba6-311109073

International Court of Justice. The Court ruled on the maritime boundary between Peru and Chile, relying on a 1954 Special Maritime Frontier Zone Agreement signed by Chile and Peru. The document, the court said, “cemented” a “tacit agreement.” <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/137/17928.pdf>

International Criminal Court. The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and the Public Interest Lawyers Birmingham UK presented a “communication” (dossier) to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court requesting action with respect to the abuse and mistreatment of Iraqi detainees by U.K. military forces. Titled “The Responsibility of the Officials of the United Kingdom for War Crimes Involving Systematic Detainee Abuse in Iraq from 2003-2008,” it “compiles testimonies from over 400 Iraqis.” The records held by these two NGOs need to be protected. <http://rt.com/news/uk-politicians-accused-warcrimes-469/>; for a link to an anonymized copy of the dossier, see <http://www.ecchr.de/index.php/united-kingdom.html>

Lawyers for the Muslim Brotherhood lodged complaints with the International Criminal Court against the government of Egypt, reported *The Telegraph*. One of the lawyers told the press that they have “verified 1,120 killings since the coup in July last year.” The records supporting that statistic must be securely preserved. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/egypt/10552278/Egypt-regime-accused-of-crimes-against-humanity-over-coup-crackdown.html>

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. In a report “Reassessing Progress in the Development and Implementation of the Legal and Policy Framework for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons” in Kosovo, the OSCE Kosovo Mission said that Kosovo authorities have “no accurate data about how many asylum-seekers have been sent back from the West or whether they are being treated properly.” It recommended that the Kosovo government take immediate steps to create, manage and use accurate records. Ultimately these records should become part of the holdings of the national archives. <https://www.osce.org/kosovo/110147>

Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon opened its proceedings, even though the accused have not been arrested and turned over to the court. The *Washington Post* reported, “Prosecutors say they have built an intricate case that uses cellphone records to tie the four men . . . directly to the attack and subsequent coverup.” Other media said records from as many as 50 cellphones were involved. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-trial-of-men-accused-of-rafiq-al-hariris-death-a-rare-hope-for-justice/2014/01/15/47da0ba2-7e22-11e3-97d3-b9925ce2c57b_story.html

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee, a panel of 18 experts, held a hearing on how the Vatican handled “decades of reports on clergy sexual abuse,” reported the *New York Times*, adding, “The Center for Constitutional Rights, based in New York and representing victims of abuse, submitted reams of documents and victims’ testimony as evidence that the Vatican had allowed abusers to remain in ministry and shuttled them to different locations without informing law enforcement officials or local parishes.” See also United States/*Illinois* below. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/17/world/europe/un-sex-abuse-panel-questions-vatican-officials.html?_r=0

World/general news.

Electronic surveillance. New reports on the collection of electronic surveillance data by security agencies continued to flood all media. One important story detailed the U.S. and U.K. efforts to obtain information from smartphone apps, such as the Angry Birds game, according to “dozens of classified documents” from Edward Snowden. The *Guardian* reported that the information that could be obtained includes “home country, current location (through geolocation), age, gender, zip code, marital status—options included ‘single’, ‘married’, ‘divorced’, ‘swinger’ and more—income, ethnicity, sexual orientation, education level,

and number of children.” <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/27/nsa-gchq-smartphone-app-angry-birds-personal-data> In Canada, *CBC News* reported that “Canada’s electronic spy agency used information from the free internet service at a major Canadian airport to track the wireless devices of thousands of ordinary airline passengers for days after they left the terminal.” <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/csec-used-airport-wi-fi-to-track-canadian-travellers-edward-snowden-documents-1.2517881>

British Pathe films of executions. In late December the *Daily Mail* reported that British Pathe, a multimedia resource center, released “harrowing archive footage of executions during conflicts across the world.” The footage dates from as early as 1911 during the Italo-Turkish War and to as late as an execution in Cuba in 1959. Pathe stated that the footage was not originally shown to the public “but went straight to archive,” and “although these films of execution may make for shocking viewing, they still provide a raw, unedited account of events from a certain time.” <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2510614/Death-row-wartime-British-Pathe-releases-harrowing-archive-footage-executions-conflicts-world.html>

Using photographs to find images of perpetrators. Two scholars reported in the journal *PLOS One* that “by zooming in on high-resolution face photographs, we were able to recover images of unseen bystanders from reflections in the subject’s eyes. . . . [F]or crimes in which the victims are photographed (e.g. hostage taking, child sex abuse), reflections in the eyes of the photographic subject could help to identify perpetrators.” For a report of the research, see <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-the-eye-of-the-beholder-20131226,0,3872290.story#axzz2qnECUBpJ>

Nazi stolen art. A reporter in France had some success tracing owners of art stolen by the Nazis using “online family trees and Auschwitz death records, digital databases in Israel for Holocaust victims and the photo catalog of the Bibliotheque Nationale,” reported the *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/02/arts/design/a-reporter-in-france-helps-to-return-art-taken-by-the-nazis.html?ref=doreencarvajal&r=0>

Serbia and the start of World War I. The national archives of Serbia “unveiled” a copy of a letter written by the Austrian governor of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the minister of finance of Austria-Hungary on May 28, 1913, which the archives said had been “kept until now from the public eye as it confronted the ‘desired, fabricated, unscientific picture of the pre-history of World War I,’ which blamed Serbia for the conflict,” reported *BIRN*. The original of the letter is lost but was published in Sarajevo in 1928 and the interpretation of it is controversial. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-washes-away-wwi-guilt>

Private security firms. An essay in the *Washington Post* by the president of the non-government organization International Justice Mission pointed out the massive transformation of policing from governments to private entities that serve those able to pay for it leaves poor people without protection of the law. The private security industry in India employs four times the people of the entire Indian police force, the World Bank in 2009 found about the same ratio in Kenya, and “the largest employer in all of Africa is a private security firm, Group4Securicor, and in Guatemala, private security forces outnumber public police 7 to 1.” Given what archivists know about the importance of police records in human rights cases, we must worry about the preservation of records of these security corporations. http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-poor-deserve-equal-protection-by-the-law/2014/01/26/e2f40a8a-8556-11e3-bbe5-6a2a3141e3a9_story.html

Measuring hunger. A new report by the World Bank, “The Challenge of Measuring Hunger,” shows that depending on the method used to measure hunger, there are in great differences in how many people are believed to be hungry. This in turn affects what programs governments should undertake to meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015. The Bank’s researchers used seven different methods to calculate hunger in Tanzania and found that, depending on the method used, “the proportion of undernourished people varies greatly: ranging from 19% when the personal diary [having people write down each day what they ate] is used to 72% when the estimates come from an HGES [household consumption expenditure survey] that relies on a 14 day recall with a long list of food items.

That would constitute a difference of 24 million people in a country like Tanzania.” Protecting food survey data, both in the country and in organizations such as the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, is important.

http://econ.worldbank.org/external/default/main?pagePK=64165259&piPK=64165421&theSitePK=469382&menuPK=64166093&entityID=000158349_20140102101759

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Afghanistan/United States. An Afghan government commission investigating the death of civilians killed in a January 15 airstrike handed out a dossier “of grisly photographs and video clips,” reported the *New York Times*. One of the photos had actually been taken at a funeral in a different village in 2009 and distributed by Agence France-Presse and Getty Images, leading reporters and officials to doubt other information provided by the commission. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/27/world/asia/afghan-villagers-brought-to-back-airstrike-report.html?ref=todayspaper>

Al-Qaeda. In May 2013 the *Associated Press* recovered documents “left in a building occupied by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb in Timbuktu,” and published information from them (see *HRWG News* 2013-05). At the end of December *AP* published another article, headlined “Al-Qaida meticulously records every expense, like 60 cents for cake”: “The accounting system on display in the documents . . . is a mirror image of what researchers have discovered in other parts of the world where al-Qaida operates.” The documents “also include corporate workshop schedules, salary spreadsheets, philanthropy budgets, job applications, public relations advice and letters from the equivalent of a human resources division,” leading the *AP* to conclude that al-Qaida “is attempting to behave like a multinational corporation.” http://storify.com/AP_CorpComm/ap-exclusive-the-al-qaida-papers

China/Japan. Jilin is a province in the far northeast of China bordering on North Korea. The Jilin provincial archives opened captured Japanese records dated from 1931 to 1945, including “100,000 books of Japanese wartime documents” and “over 70 audiovisual archives.” According to two reports by Xinhua, the records “show in detail Japanese troops’ activities in building ‘bacteria forces’ in its colonial regions and using human beings for experiments to develop biological weapons.” One report on “comfort women” (women forced to provide sexual services to Japanese soldiers) says that in the Nanjing area “one comfort woman would serve between 71 and 267 Japanese soldiers in a 10-day period.” <http://english.cri.cn/6909/2014/01/09/2702s807368.htm>; <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/836825.shtml>

Correction: China/Hong Kong/United Kingdom. The 2013-12 issue of *HRWG News* had an item about the a letter to the editor of the *South China Morning Post* explaining that records were not destroyed when the British left Hong Kong. Don Brech, the letter writer, wrote to *HRWG News* asking for the following correction to the story: “The reference to the newspaper report to which I was referring is not correct. An article in the *South China Morning Post* a week or so before I wrote my letter had talked about the mass destruction of records in some former British colonies but did not say anything about Hong Kong. Because this might have led readers to think that the same had occurred in Hong Kong, I wrote to set the record straight, saying that there had been no destruction of records prior to the handover of Hong Kong to China. The other purpose of my letter was to contrast the non-destruction of government records at the end of British colonial government in Hong Kong with the mass destruction of government records that recently took place at the hands of the present government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and to urge the enactment of an archives law. Clearly I could not have done this had the British colonial government undertaken a similar large-scale destruction of records.” Apologies to Mr. Brech.

Europe. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27), the *New York Times* published an article on the “vast toll of Jews killed away from death camps,” saying that this “Holocaust by bullets” is becoming clearer “as historians sift through often sketchy and incomplete records that became available after the collapse of the Soviet Union.” <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/28/world/europe/a-light-on-a-vast-toll-of-jews-killed-away-from-the-death-camps.html>

France/Rwanda. A Rwandan woman and her French husband created the Collective of Civil Plaintiffs for Rwanda to identify Rwandans now living in France whom they suspect participated in Rwanda's genocide. "They have gathered information through the Internet and archival research and personal interviews on former prefects, magistrates and doctors," the *New York Times* reported. The records of the Collective need to be protected. <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?i=15611&a=73950>

France/Turkey. In January 2013 three Kurdish women were killed in an office of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Paris. A party member named Omer Gurney was arrested for the crime. Now an audio recording of a conversation between Gurney and two men who seem to be from Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) in which they discuss strategies for the attack has been posted on the Internet along with a memo alleging to be from the MIT that says it has engaged a person for an "attack/sabotage/assassination" of PKK "targets" in France. *Al-Monitor* reported that MIT denied having anything to do with the murders and "an internal administrative investigation has been launched over the allegations." http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/01/turkey-military-mit-kurds-murder-paris-activists.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=eb6937b2e0-January_9_20141_8_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-eb6937b2e0-93088897

Germany/United Kingdom. In yet another revelation from the archives of the Stasi (the secret police of the former East Germany), an historian for the archives published a report saying that the U.K. "imported goods from East Germany on a large scale" that were "produced by East German prisoners incarcerated for their political beliefs." The report also says that "in one of the factories the communist regime of the GDR forced prisoners to donate blood which was then sold on to the Bavarian Red Cross," reported *The Guardian*. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/15/uk-profited-east-german-forced-labour-stasi-report>

Guatemala/United States. The Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights published a report on the Alianza factory in Guatemala after an "investigator with a Guatemalan workers' rights organization obtained a trove of rarely-seen internal factory records, including paystubs, rate sheets, and design specifications from a range of well-known American clothing brands" such as Wal-Mart, JCPenney and Kohl's, reported *ABC News*. Analysis of the 217 documents, all of which are available on line with the report, shows that Alianza, which now has gone out of business, attempted "to prevent workers from collecting overtime pay, health care benefits and pensions" and workers from the former company were "allegedly deprived of more than \$6 million in wages and benefits."

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/factory-wal-mart-jcpenney-goods-shortchanged-guatemalan-workers/story?id=21635735&singlePage=true>; for the report

<http://www.globallabourrights.org/reports/document/1401-AlianzaGuatemala.pdf>

India/United Kingdom. Following the regular opening of thirty-year-old U.K. records on January 1, a researcher who writes a "Stop Deportations" blog about immigration policy, found two documents from 1984 that suggest British special forces helped to draw up a plan to attack the Golden Temple at Amritsar in June 1984, an attack that killed hundreds of people. The blogger posted images of the records; the U.K. government announced that it would open an investigation.

<http://stopdeportations.wordpress.com/2014/01/13/revealed-sas-advised-1984-amritsar-raid/>;

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-25723875>

Iraq/United States. The social website *TMZ.com* published a report and eight photos that appear to show U.S. Marines burning the bodies of dead Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004. Following the publication, the U.S. military said is investigating "the veracity of these photos, circumstances involved, and if possible, the identities of the service members involved."

<http://www.tMZ.com/2014/01/15/iraq-soldier-bodies-on-fire-marines-investigation-military-photos/>;

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/01/marines-investigate-images-of-burning-iraqi-insurgent-bodies-posted-by-tMZ/>

Pakistan/United States. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, a non-governmental organization in London, published a Pakistani government document with data on 330 U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan since 2006 which killed over 2000 people. The data comes from “information filed to the FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas] Secretariat each evening by local Political Agents—senior officials in the field.” <http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2014/01/29/leaked-official-document-records-330-drone-strikes-in-pakistan/>

Poland/Russia. *Catholic World News* reported that “newly released documents from the archives of Poland’s former Communist regime” show that the Soviet KGB and the Polish secret police cooperated in “a campaign to destroy the reputation of the late Archbishop Ignacy Tokarczuk,” who was the chaplain of the Solidarity movement. <http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=20253>

United Kingdom/Former Colonies. The controversy continued over the archives that the Foreign Office failed to turn over to the National Archives, with academics from the British Academy publishing an open letter calling upon the Foreign Secretary to declassify the files. *The Guardian* reported that some historians are considering “legal action” to force the Foreign Office to release the records; some of the records “are thought to contain information about England’s involvement in slavery” and a scholar told the paper that it is possible that these records “might provide background information for people seeking financial compensation for the manner in which their ancestors were treated.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2013-10. <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/jan/13/foreign-office-secret-files-national-archive-historians-legal-action>; <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/jan/20/slave-trade-papers-illegal-foreign-office-cache>; <http://www.cherwell.org/news/oxford/2014/01/30/oxford-historians-angry-at-foreign-office-archive>; for the open letter <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jan/22/vital-access-records-britains-colonial-past>

United Kingdom/Northern Ireland/United States. Another long-running controversy, that of access to oral histories of participants in Northern Ireland’s “Troubles,” was featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. For background, see *HRWG News* 2013-06, 07 and 08. http://chronicle.com/article/Secrets-from-Belfast/144059/?cid=wb&utm_source=wb&utm_medium=en

National news.

Canada. A court ruled that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission could have access to “thousands of documents” from St. Anne’s residential school in Fort Albany, Ontario, including records “related to a 1992-1996 Ontario Provincial Police investigation that resulted in convictions of several staff members,” the *Toronto Star* reported. The court placed a temporary seal on evidence given in court. For background, see *HRWG News* 2013-12.

http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/01/20/ottawa_pushes_for_st_annes_documents_to_stay_secret.html

The Saskatchewan privacy commissioner released a report on privacy in medical records, saying that between “late 2012” and July 2013, 10 “health trustees” faxed to the wrong place medical information on roughly 1000 people. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/transgender-person-s-medical-records-faxed-to-school-1.2498886> For the report see: <http://www.oipc.sk.ca/Reports/Investigation%20Report%20H-2014-001.pdf>

The health minister in the province of Alberta announced that a laptop “with the unencrypted personal health information of over 620,000 Albertans was stolen last September” including names, dates of birth, provincial health card numbers, billing codes and diagnostic codes. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/laptop-stolen-with-health-information-of-620-000-albertans-1.2507161>

China. Ilham Tohti, an advocate for China’s Uighur minority, was arrested and his apartment raided, with “security agents” taking “documents, computers and cellphones,” reported the *New York Times*. <http://www.oipc.sk.ca/Reports/Investigation%20Report%20H-2014-001.pdf>

China's Ministry of Land and Resources announced that the government "will create a central registry bureau for real estate information," reported *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*. This bureau will have an important archives; controversy has already emerged over access to the information to be held by the registry. <http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-china-leases-farmland/25114812.html>

France. In an article published in the *Revue Defense nationale*, the director general of external security (DGSE) underscored the importance of information and the advantage the service gets from its archivists and documentalists. <http://www.archimag.com>

Georgia. A video anonymously posted on YouTube apparently shows the interior minister on 5 May 2009 telling the head of the ministry's special operative department, "I want two men; I need two corpses. Bring me these two corpses, that's it. Bonus is high." The state prosecutor's office has launched an investigation of whether this comment is related to the killing of a former army officer suspected of plotting a mutiny. <http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=26896>

Guatemala. The trial and conviction of former head of state Efraim Rios Montt, which has been entangled in legal proceedings ever since the case began, has now been appealed to the Constitutional Court. For a good explanation of this extremely complex case, see <http://www.riosmontt-trial.org/2014/01/guatemala-justice-update-january-2014-rios-montt-trial-faces-continued-challenges-as-guatemala-selects-new-slate-of-judges-and-attorney-general/>

Hungary. The deputy leader of the governing party said the Socialist party must turn over its archives from the 1944-1989 period to the Hungarian National Archives, reported *MTI*. The archives are currently held in the Institute of Political History created by the Socialist party. A commentator on the article wrote, "They should publish them all online before they hand them over. Once they are in the hands of the Hungarian State Archives, they'll never be seen again." <http://www.politics.hu/20140112/kdnp-calls-on-socialists-to-hand-over-communist-era-files/>

Ireland. The *Irish Times* reported that in the wake of the Oscar-nominated film "Philomena," Philomena Lee launched The Philomena Project which is lobbying the Irish government to release what they believe to be 60,000 secret adoption files that will assist in family reunification. <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/government-urged-to-release-secret-adoption-files-1.1665404>

Israel. Although Ariel Sharon was in a coma for eight years before he died in January, he retained official documents at his farm, including "classified material from both his military and civilian posts," reported the *Times of Israel*. Now the Defense Ministry is trying to recover the records from Sharon's sons. Given the controversial human rights actions in which Sharon played a role, it is essential that these public records be turned over to the national archives. <http://www.timesofisrael.com/defense-ministry-explores-seizure-of-sharon-documents/>

Macedonia. The outgoing chair of the controversial lustration commission said that in its first five years the commission "combed over 29,000 personal files and discovered some 130 Communist collaborators and people who issued surveillance orders for ideological reasons," adding that in the next five years it will "check the remaining 20,000 files that are stored in the state archives and in other institutions," *BIRN* reported. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/macedonian-collaborator-hunt-reaches-middle-point?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6395932289-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_561b9a25c3-6395932289-311109073

Nicaragua. Nicaragua's congress enacted a law on the powers of the military, which includes allowing "the army to help draft laws governing the country's national records, computer databases and telecommunications spectrum," the *New York Times* reported. <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2014/01/29/world/americas/ap-lt-nicaragua-politics.html?ref=world&r=1>

Pakistan. The National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) "expressed its displeasure over the destruction of the relevant record of certain ministries," with one member saying that "setting ablaze the record was a 'culture' in Karachi, where the record of Karachi Press Trust (KPT) was burnt thrice," reported *Business Recorder*. PAC also noted the destruction of records in Rawalpindi and Capital City, and a member said law enforcement agencies must carry out investigations "in incidents where records were torched." <http://www.brecorder.com/business-a-economy/189/1144061/>

Philippines. The government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed a peace agreement, creating an autonomous region in the south and a plan for disarmament and revenue sharing. The photo accompanying the press stories shows the two parties exchanging signed copies of the agreement; the government's copy should go to the national archives; where will MILF have its archives? <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-25896408>

Russia. A video posted on YouTube showed a group of young men burning a Russian translation of the Quran, a man with a bruised face being forced to repeat, "I renounce Allah," and "subtitles linking the Quran burning to the suicide bombing in the city of Volgograd," *RIA Novosti* reported. Police arrested a man suspected of involvement. <http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140109/186368138/Moscow-Police-Hunt-Quran-Burners.html>;
<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140115/186562008/Moscow-Police-Detain-Suspect-in-Quran-Burning.html>

Memorial, the important Russian human rights and history organization, marked its 25th anniversary, and *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* noted it "has amassed an exhaustive archive of Soviet records and documents that have become an invaluable resource to historians." <http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-memorial-anniversary/25246894.html>

Rwanda. Twenty years ago on January 11 the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Rwanda sent a cable to the UN in New York warning of an "anti-Tutsi extermination plot." No action was taken and the genocide began on April 6. The director of the Rwanda documentation and oral history project for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the nongovernmental National Security Archive published an essay in the *New York Times* calling on governments to open their records on the Rwanda genocide: "Records that could shed light on whether it could have been prevented are still classified in Washington, New York, Paris, Brussels, Geneva, Arusha and Kigali—unavailable to the public despite pledges by international leaders to fully investigate the tragedy. In order to draw the correct lessons from history, we must first establish all the facts." http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/10/opinion/the-shroud-over-rwandas-nightmare.html?_r=2; for information on the project, see <http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB452/>

The U.K.'s Aegis Trust, the USC Shoah Foundation and the University of Texas from the U.S., and the Institute of War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the Netherlands are cooperating with Rwanda's National Commission for the Fight against Genocide to "collect and archive remains of Genocide victims," reported *New Times*. <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?i=15611&a=73950>

South Korea. The theft of data from three major credit card companies, including names, phone and social security numbers, email and residential addresses, salaries, monthly card use, and credit-rating information from as many as 100 million credit cards and accounts, may have affected 15 million people, *Reuters* reported. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/21/us-korea-cards-idUSBREA0K05120140121>

Spain. The last Republican leader of Spain, Juan Negrin, took 150,000 records with him when he went into exile in France in 1939. Now the records have been brought to the Juan Negrin Foundation in Las Palmas, with copies deposited at the French National Archives and Spain's Documentary Center for Historical Memory in Salamanca. According to Negrin's biographer, the records include "practically intact, material from the President's Office, the Treasury Ministry and the Defense Ministry." Given the still unanswered questions about the Spanish civil war, the opening of these records (which will be controlled by the

Foundation) could provide important information on human rights matters.

http://elpais.com/elpais/2013/12/26/inenglish/1388070929_144060.html

Syria. Some 55,000 photographs, nearly 30,000 of which were taken and smuggled out of Syria by a Syrian police photographer of detainees who were killed, were reviewed by an inquiry team of three lawyers (two former chief prosecutors of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the former lead prosecutor of the Slobodan Milosevic case at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia) and three forensic specialists. Based on a sample of the photographs, the panel concluded that the photographs provided “clear evidence, capable of being believed by a tribunal of fact in a court of law, of systematic torture and killing of detained persons by the agent of the Syrian government. Such evidence would support findings of crimes against humanity against the current Syrian regime. Such evidence could also support findings of war crimes against the current Syrian regime.” The report includes details of the photographic and documentation process; it is not clear where the images are currently maintained and what the chain of custody is. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/20/evidence-industrial-scale-killing-syria-war-crimes> includes a link to the report; for a view from Turkey, see http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/politics/2014/01/syria-torture-claims-photos-scheme-geneva-ii.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=7640220ef5-January_9_2014+1_8_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-7640220ef5-93088897#

Turkey. In December 2011 the Turkish military bombed the village of Uludere and killed 34 Kurdish civilians. In January Turkey’s military court decided not to prosecute the persons involved because “the order for the operation came directly from the chief of the General Staff,” reported *Al-Monitor*. The court said it was “unfortunate” that the intelligence was bad in this case but “previous incidents and intelligence reports prove” that the village was a transit route for Kurdistan Workers Party guerillas. Military archives were evidence. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/01/turkey-kurds-react-court-decision-roboski-bombing.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=026ebd317b-January_9_2014+1_8_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-026ebd317b-93088897

United Kingdom. The trial over the “phone-hacking” by former staff members of the *News of the World* heard testimony from the archivist at News International (the parent corporation), reported *The Drum* blog. The testimony focused on the archival records of retrieval of documents for Rebekah Brooks, one of the defendants. <http://www.thedrum.com/opinion/2014/01/06/archivist-pa-and-boxes>

United Kingdom/Scotland. Between 2009 and 2013 there were 806 incidents of “data loss, leaks or Data Protection Act breaches in Scotland’s health boards,” reported *STV*. <http://news.stv.tv/scotland/258774-more-than-800-incidents-of-data-loss-in-nhs-health-boards/>

United States. Section 1071 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2014, passed at the end of December 2013, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish a “Conflict Records Research Center,” which is to create “a digital research database, including translations, and to facilitate research and analysis of records captured from countries, organizations, and individuals, now or once hostile to the United States, with rigid adherence to academic freedom and integrity.” Further, the Center, “consistent with the protection of national security information, personally identifiable information, and intelligence sources and methods” is to make “a significant portion of these records available to researchers as quickly and responsibly as possible while taking into account the integrity of the academic process and risks to innocents or third parties.” The term “captured records” is defined as a “document, audio file, video file, or other material captured during combat operations from countries, organizations, or individuals, now or once hostile to the United States.” The law makes no mention of the fate of the original captured records. <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th/house-bill/3304/text>

Two former National Archives employees pleaded guilty in federal court to “dumping, destroying or misfiling at least 1,800” documents from federal employee records at the National Personnel Records Center.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/records-workers-dumped-destroyed-or-lost-veterans-documents/article_69f33526-d29c-55ce-902e-60628a414bb9.html

Through the Freedom of Information process, the *Washington Post* obtained from the Defense Department 30 partially redacted reports of misconduct investigations involving generals and admirals, including sexual harassment and other ethical violations. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/military-brass-behaving-badly-files-detail-a-spate-of-misconduct-dogging-armed-forces/2014/01/26/4d06c770-843d-11e3-bbe5-6a2a3141e3a9_story.html

In 1971 the FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, was burglarized and thousands of files were stolen. Some of the documents were sent to a reporter for the *Washington Post* which published them. One of the items—a simple document routing slip—led to the discovery of a major spying operation against U.S. citizens known as COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) which then led to congressional hearings and major changes at the Bureau. The FBI never found the burglars. Now seven people have admitted committing the burglary; the time limit for prosecution has expired so they cannot be prosecuted. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/band-of-activists-who-burglarized-fbi-office-in-1971-come-forward/2014/01/07/898d9e0c-77b4-11e3-8963-b4b654bcc9b2_story.html

The *Washington Post* featured the project at the Smithsonian's National Anthropological Archives to preserve languages spoken by few persons or with no remaining native speakers. http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/smithsonian-archives-preserve-lost-and-dying-languages/2014/01/17/2a2c3218-74a1-11e3-8b3f-b1666705ca3b_story.html

United States/Georgia. The Georgia legislature is considering changing the state's Open Records Act to restrict from public disclosure arrest records and mug shots (photographs taken at the time of arrest). A state senator supporting the change said he hopes this “will help convicted criminals integrate back into society,” reported *WJBF.com*, but a publisher warned that the changes “would allow law enforcement agencies to arrest people in secret.” <http://www.wjbf.com/story/24486447/controversy-surrounding-mugshots-on-internet>

United States/Illinois. The Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago released more than 6000 documents from personnel files on 30 priests accused of sexual abuse, *NBC Chicago* reported. <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/catholic-church-chicago-priest-abuse-files-241175371.html>

United States/South Carolina. In 1944 a 14-year-old black boy was executed for killing two white girls. His family now is seeking to clear his name, and a South Carolina court held two days of hearings on their request for a new trial or a voided verdict. According to the *New York Times*, the judge heard “aggressive inquiries about the limits of memory, an especially important issue because many of the records in the case were destroyed.” Photographs and a “large map” were available. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/23/us/family-of-s-carolina-boy-put-to-death-seeks-exoneration-70-years-later.html?_r=0

Publications

Human Rights Watch released its *2014 World Report*. <http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/essays/rights-struggles-of-2013>

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the *Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland* research group updated its e-Dossier containing documents from the Swiss Federal Archives on Switzerland's role in issues surrounding asylum policy during World War II. <http://www.dodis.ch/de/>

The Future of Privacy Forum released a publication, “Big Data and Privacy: Making Ends Meet.” <http://www.futureofprivacy.org/wp-content/uploads/Big-Data-and-Privacy-Paper-Collection.pdf>

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