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## ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

*Winner of the Premio Internacional Derechos Humanos 2020 de la Asociación pro Derechos Humanos de España*

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### Commentary

The importance of archival transparency and disclosure is critical in the realms of accountability and historical integrity. Instances across various geographies and political landscapes underscore a broader concern: the access to and protection of sensitive historical data that underpins our common understanding of past events and governmental actions. This issue is prominently illustrated by the [situation in Ethiopia](#), where governmental assertions of resolved accountability for wartime atrocities starkly expose a shortfall in political commitment to genuine justice and transparent governance. Similarly, the first-time public release of [documents from the Dien Bien Phu Campaign and the 1954 Geneva Conference](#) marks a significant moment in historical transparency, offering new insights into pivotal events that have shaped global geopolitical narratives.

The challenges of maintaining transparency are further highlighted by procedural failings, such as the [inadvertent omission of key communications in a freedom of information request](#)—a mistake attributed to human error but which raises questions about the robustness of systems intended to safeguard public access to governmental correspondence. This incident reflects a broader issue where transparency is not only about making information available but also ensuring the reliability and integrity of the processes that govern access to this information. On a related front, the [legal](#)

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[pursuit by ProPublica to secure greater public access to military court proceedings](#) and records underscores a proactive approach towards dismantling barriers to transparency in military justice systems, an area traditionally shrouded in opacity.

Furthermore, the uncovering of a [suppressed report detailing allegations of corruption in a British-Saudi arms deal](#) within a public archive exemplifies the critical role that accessible archives play in unveiling governmental misconduct and enforcing accountability. Such revelations are essential for fostering an informed public discourse and ensuring that entities, both governmental and corporate, are held accountable for their actions. The [resistance to the Reclosure Policy at the National Archives](#) of the United Kingdom, which has seen thousands of previously accessible documents withdrawn from public view, represents a significant setback for researchers and the general public alike, complicating efforts to scrutinise past actions and policies.

These incidents collectively underscore the pressing need for rigorous standards in archival transparency. They reveal a complex interplay between access to archives, the pursuit of historical truth, and the broader implications for justice and transparency in governance. As such, these cases serve as a clarion call for ongoing vigilance and advocacy to ensure that archives remain accessible and that their contents are not obscured by bureaucratic barriers or political considerations. The struggle for open access and transparency is not merely administrative but fundamentally tied to the principles of democratic accountability and the public's right to know.

## SAHR News

- SAHR has published a [note of concern about the measures adopted by the Argentinian government in respect of the archives of the ministry of defense](#). The statement, drafted by SAHR, was endorsed and signed by the president of ICA.

## Events

Canada: [Exhibition | Lost Liberties: The War Measures Act](#). [Diefenbaker Canada Centre | University of Saskatchewan], 2024-04-03, Diefenbaker Canada Centre | University of Saskatchewan, [Civil Rights]

France: [Exhibition | La loi sur l'IVG - 1974 - Le discours de Simone Veil](#). [France, Archives nationales], 2024-04-26, Archives Nationales, [Women's Rights]

*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](mailto:sahr-newsletter@ica.org) for upcoming publication.*

## Editor's Note

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

## News by heading

### Academia and Education

[La liberté académique en déclin dans le monde, selon un groupe d'experts](#). Seule une personne sur trois vit dans un pays garantissant l'indépendance de la recherche et des universités, selon un indice annuel qui s'alarme d'un déclin de la liberté académique dans le monde, particulièrement marqué en Russie, en Chine et en Inde. [Kisbenebek, Attila], 2024-04-04, Science et Avenir, [Worldwide]

### Business

[Beyond profit: Enforcing human rights in business](#). In an increasingly globalised world, where multinational corporations wield unprecedented influence, the need for robust mechanisms to hold businesses accountable for human rights abuses has never been more pressing. The ethical responsibilities of businesses extend far beyond profit margins and shareholder interests [Sanchez Amor, Nacho; Wolters, Lara], 2024-04-08, ET Observer, [Worldwide]

### Children's Rights

[10 Years After Chibok, Schoolchildren Still at Risk](#). Ten years after the abduction of over 200 schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigerian authorities have failed to put in place and sustain crucial measures to provide a secure learning environment for every child. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-04-11, Human Rights Watch, [Nigeria]

### Civil Rights

[Exhibition | Lost Liberties: The War Measures Act](#). "Lost Liberties: The War Measures Act" is exploring the suspension of civil liberties in Canada during the First World War, the Second World War, and the 1970 October Crisis, Lost Liberties — The War Measures Act sheds new light on the enduring impact of the Act on Canada and its people. | On display until June 22, 2024 | Diefenbaker Canada Center in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada [Diefenbaker Canada Centre | University of Saskatchewan], 2024-04-03, Diefenbaker Canada Centre | University of Saskatchewan, [Canada]

### Climate Change

['Historic' European Court of Human Rights ruling backs Swiss women in climate change case](#). In a landmark decision, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled that climate change violates the right to respect for one's private and family life. [Frost, Rosie], 2024-04-09, Euronews, [Europe]

[Big oil privately acknowledged efforts to downplay climate crisis, joint committee investigation finds](#). Internal documents revealed by committee show companies lobbied against climate laws they publicly claimed to support. [Noor, Dharna], 2024-04-30, The Guardian, [United States of America]

[RIM month to focus on records management, climate change](#). The Jamaica Archives and Records Department (JARD) is observing Records and Information Management (RIM) month in April, with a focus on increasing awareness about the importance of accurate records management in providing

holistic solutions to the impact of climate-change. [Jamaica Gleaner], 2024-04-06, Jamaica Gleaner, [Jamaica]

## **Corruption**

### **[Al-Yamamah arms deal report comes to light ending anti-corruption campaigners' battle.](#)**

Inquiry by National Audit Office into British-Saudi arms contract reveals evidence of MoD deception over bribery allegations. A suppressed official report on alleged corruption in a giant British-Saudi arms contract has been discovered in a public archive. [Pegg, David; Evans, Rob], 2024-03-24, The Guardian, [United Kingdom]

### **[South Africans tasted the fruits of freedom and then corruption snatched them away – podcast.](#)**

The second episode of What happened to Nelson Mandela's South Africa?, a three-part podcast series on The Conversation Weekly. Featuring interviews with Mashupye Maserumule and Michael Sachs. [Ware, Gemma; Leshilo, Thabo], 2024-04-18, [South Africa]

## **Crimes Against Humanity**

**[A chance for Africa to counter the pitfalls of international criminal justice?.](#)** Since its inception, the project of international criminal justice has been marked by a striking indifference to the long historical record of atrocities perpetrated by the Western world against people of the Global South, and Africa in particular. [Hendrickse, Melissa], 2024-04-22, Amnesty International, [Worldwide]

**[Amnesty International calls for human rights bodies to investigate killings of civilians by the Ethiopian National Defense Forces \(ENDF\) in Merawi town, on 29 January, as war crimes of murder and extrajudicial executions.](#)** Claims by the Ethiopian government that accountability has already been achieved for crimes committed in the war in northern Ethiopia demonstrate lack of political commitment to genuine justice and accountability. [Amnesty International], 2024-04-12, Amnesty International, [Ethiopia]

**[Liberia senate votes to establish war crimes court.](#)** The court will investigate crimes against humanity committed during the African country's two civil wars between 1989 and 2003 [Bondo, Dounard], 2024-04-15, The Guardian, [Liberia]

**[Mass death, torture and other violations against people detained in aftermath of Islamic State defeat – new report.](#)** People detained following the territorial defeat of the Islamic State (IS) armed group are facing systematic violations and dying in large numbers due to inhumane conditions in north-east Syria, Amnesty International said in a new report. [Amnesty International], 2024-04-17, Amnesty International, [Syrian Arab Republic]

## **Decolonization**

### **[Bangladesh Film Archive, Getty Images sign MoU to preserve footage on Liberation War.](#)**

**[Bangabandhu.](#)** The Bangladesh Film Archive, under the information ministry, and Getty Images, a visual media company of the US, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collect and preserve footage on the Liberation War and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman [Dhaka UNB], 2024-04-08, The Daily Star, [Bangladesh]

[Postmemory and the Partition of India: Learning to Remember | SpringerLink](#). The book, examines the memories of the Partition of India in 1947; uses ethnographic and oral history methods to make meaning of the impact of partition events; argues for particular consideration of women, who were especially vulnerable to suffering during and after partition [Kapila, Shichi], 2024-04, [India]

## **Destruction of Documents**

[A New Chapter for Irish Historians' 'Saddest Book'](#). A globe-spanning research project has turned the catalog of a public archive destroyed in Ireland's civil war into a model for reconstruction. [O'Loughlin, Ed], 2024-04-01, The New York Times, [Ireland]

[Bolt lobbying revelations: Estonia official says human error behind missing correspondence.](#)

The omission of emails from the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs to Bolt and other mobility tech firms, demanded in a freedom of information (FOI) request, was due to human error. [Bourgyer-Gonse, Théo], 2024-04-26, www.euractiv.com, [Estonia]

[En Haïti, des gangs armés vandalisent des bâtiments culturels et éducatifs.](#)

Des gangs armés ont pris d'assaut mercredi la Bibliothèque nationale d'Haïti, située dans la capitale Port-au-Prince, a fait savoir à l'AFP son directeur, une nouvelle illustration de la spirale de violences dans ce pays des Caraïbes. [AFP], 2024-04-03, Challenges, [Haïti]

[Milei ajusta, Petri despide y los genocidas festejan.](#) Un exjefe del Ejército y un ex empleado de la Embajada de EEUU liquidaron el área de Defensa que analizaba archivos para los juicios de lesa humanidad. En esta entrevista, los documentos en peligro, la sombra de Villaruel y el festejo por los despidos: "Lo ven como una oportunidad". [Canal Abierto], 2024-04, [Argentina]

[Presentan Amparo Por El Desmantelamiento Del Archivo Del Ministerio De Defensa |](#)

[Provincia de Buenos Aires.](#) La subsecretaría de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la provincia de Buenos Aires presentó una acción de amparo con solicitud de medida cautelar para evitar el desmantelamiento del equipo de Análisis Documental del Ministerio de Defensa de la Nación. [Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires], 2024-04-11, Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, [Argentina]

## **Detention**

[Le poids des photos, le choc des mots : regard sur les dix missions de détention du CICR en Algérie \(1955-1962\).](#)

Le CICR dispose d'un fonds d'archives photographiques se rapportant à ses missions de détention durant la guerre d'Algérie. Elles témoignent du fait que le Comité International de la Croix-Rouge (CICR) a déployé dix missions de visite en détention entre 1955 et 1962, suivies d'une dernière mission spéciale en 1963 consacrée à la visite aux supplétifs de l'armée française emprisonnés et à la recherche d'Européens disparus [Parrinello, Lucie], 2024-02-22, Cross-Files | ICRC Archives, audiovisual and library, [Algeria]

## **Disability Rights**

[Could the U.S. force treatment on mentally ill people \(again\)?](#). Sixty years ago, America began closing mental hospitals. A growing chorus is blaming that for the crisis of mentally ill folks living on our streets. [Rosalsky, Greg], 2024-04-16, NPR, [United States of America]

## Disinformation

### [How gendered disinformation on social media harms Kenyan women seeking political office.](#)

"Women often don't sue because they don't actually know that the law can protect them ... because of the stigma around it, and the fact that people have normalised cyberbullying ..." [Linda Ngari], 2024-04-25, Global Voices, [Kenya]

### [How the Maduro government pays to promote propaganda and disinformation in Venezuela.](#)

The official propaganda of the government of Nicolás Maduro spreads thanks to the work of citizens who receive payments from the government to promote trends on social media [ProBox], 2024-04-10, Global Voices, [Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of]

[Russia's Disinformation Campaign About the Moscow Terror Attack May Be Working.](#) As far-fetched as it may seem to those in the West, the Kremlin's claim that the recent terrorist attack on a Moscow concert hall was orchestrated by Ukraine and Western powers may be convincing to many Russians. For the U.S. to address and combat these claims, it is important to understand how they are framed amid broadly propagated themes, and how these could influence their potential appeal to large swaths of the Russian public. [Bauer, Ryan], 2024-04-11, Rand, [Russian Federation]

## Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

['I wanted to end my life': 'Bookseller of Kabul' rebuilds destroyed business.](#) Shah Muhammad Rais was devastated when Taliban destroyed his shop, but now he is sending books to Afghanistan via the internet. [Taylor, Diane], 2024-04-03, The Guardian, [Afghanistan]

[Explosive Weapons' Dire Impact on Cultural Heritage.](#) The bombing and shelling of cities and towns during armed conflict has devastating consequences for cultural heritage and civilians. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-04-18, Human Rights Watch, [Worldwide]

[Resettlement as a Human Rights Issue: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing.](#) Amnesty International welcomes the call for inputs by the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living, and on the Right to Non-discrimination in this Context, to inform his report to the General Assembly in October 2024, and for developing international guiding principles for resettlement. [Amnesty International], 2024-04-05, [Worldwide]

[Surge of interest in Ethiopian culture boosts case for return of treasures.](#) Poet who is curating country's first Venice Biennale pavilion says 'part of the heart' of the country was looted and is being held in museums. [Bakare, Lanre], 2024-04-03, The Guardian, [Ethiopia]

### [UNESCO Regional Office Supports Sudan in Assessing Conflict's Impacts on Cultural Heritage.](#)

UNESCO's Regional Office for Egypt and Sudan, in collaboration with Sudan's National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM), the French Archaeological Mission to Sudan (SFDAS), and the Polish Cultural Center, convened a crucial two-day workshop in Cairo from April 16-17, 2024. The workshop, titled "Update of Crisis Response, Risk Mitigation, and First Aid for Sudan's Heritage," aimed to devise strategies to protect Sudan's cultural heritage, imperiled by the prolonged conflict in the region. [UNESCO], 2024-04-18, UNESCO News, [Sudan]

## **Elections and electoral processes**

['Fake news' legislation risks doing more harm than good amid a record number of elections in 2024.](#) Vague definitions and heavy penalties mean that legislation could be used to stifle a free press. [Jens, Samuel], 2024-04-02, The Conversation, [Worldwide]

[Une histoire du conflit politique.](#) Qui vote pour qui et pour quoi ? Comment se répartissent les votes et les richesses en France depuis deux siècles ? Les auteurs rendent disponibles toutes leurs données à <https://www.unehistoireduconflitpolitique.fr/telecharger.html> [Cagé, Julia; Piketty, Thomas], 2023-12, [France]

## **Freedom of Expression**

[Le Conseil de l'Europe veut lutter contre les poursuites-bâillons.](#) Le Conseil de l'Europe a exhorté vendredi ses 46 États membres à « lutter contre les poursuites abusives visant à réduire au silence les journalistes et autres observateurs critiques de la vie publique », dans un communiqué du Comité des ministres. [Euractiv France; AFP], 2024-04-05, Euractiv France, [Europe]

## **Freedom of Information**

[A ProPublica Lawsuit Over Military Court Access Moves Forward.](#) A federal judge ruled in March that ProPublica's lawsuit against the secretary of defense should move forward, as the news organization seeks to increase public access to the military's court proceedings and records. ProPublica sued in 2022, claiming the Pentagon has failed to issue rules ensuring that the services comply with a law that was supposed to make the military justice system more transparent. [Megan Rose], 2024-04-03, ProPublica, [United States of America]

[Meta and Google accused of restricting reproductive health information.](#) Report claims posts on abortion and contraception have been deleted while misinformation on the feeds of social media users in Africa, Latin America and Asia has not been tackled [Strzyżyńska, Weronika], 2024-03-27, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

## **Genocide**

[2,200 "génocidaires" being released in 2024, who are they?](#) Thirty years after the 1994 genocide, thousands of convicted men and women have already been released from prison. Others, like Emmanuel Ruzigana, are on the point of being released after serving their sentences. The government estimates that, putting completed sentences and pardons together, 2,200 "génocidaires" - as they are known in Rwanda - could be released in 2024. Who are they and how are they preparing? [Sehene Ruvugiro, Emmanuel], 2024-04-02, JustiveInfo.net, [Rwanda]

[Genocide Archives Released.](#) Human Rights Watch announced that it is releasing a series of archives highlighting the extraordinary efforts of human rights defenders in Rwanda and abroad, to warn about the planned 1994 genocide and attempt to stop the killings. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-04-02, Human Rights Watch, [Rwanda]

[Génocide au Rwanda : comment relever le défi de la mémoire ? - Le débat.](#) Trente ans après le génocide des Tutsis au Rwanda, comment relever le défi de la mémoire ? Les invités du débat sont: Laurent Larcher, Journaliste à La Croix, chargé de l'Afrique; Christophe Boisbouvier, Directeur adjoint

de RFI, chargé de l'Afrique; Jeanne Allaire Kayigirwa, Vice-présidente de l'association Ibuka France [Antoine, Stéphanie], 2024-04-04, [Rwanda]

**[Génocide des Tutsis au Rwanda: «Une centaine de génocidaires sont installés en France».](#)**

Trente ans après le début du génocide des Tutsis au Rwanda, les autorités françaises avancent à petit pas vers une reconnaissance du rôle de Paris à l'époque et promettent des procès. Des dizaines et des dizaines de bourreaux ont trouvé refuge en France, dont Agathe Habyarimana, la veuve de l'ancien président rwandais, soupçonnée d'être impliquée dans le génocide de 1994. [Cantener, Anne], 2024-04-08, [Rwanda]

**[Guatemala ex-general on trial accused of genocide.](#)** A former general accused of ordering the murder of more than 1,200 indigenous Ixil Maya people during Guatemala's civil war has gone on trial. [Rocha, Leonardo; Vock, Ido], 2024-04-06, BBC News, [Guatemala]

**[NGO seeks a probe into the deaths of two French officers slain in Rwanda genocide.](#)** A non-governmental organisation on Monday sought answers over the deaths of two French officers killed in the early days of the 1994 Rwanda genocide, a legal complaint seen by AFP showed. [France 24], 2024-04-08, France 24, [Rwanda]

**[Rwanda marks 30 years since genocide that horrified the world.](#)** Rwanda has begun 100 days of commemorations to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1994 genocide, in which 800,000 people, most of them from the Tutsi ethnic group, were massacred by Hutu militias. [Cheman, Melissa], 2024-04-07, RFI, [Rwanda]

**[Rwanda remembers genocide 30 years on in ceremony.](#)** World leaders around the world have marked the anniversary of the genocide of the Tutsi ethnic minority. Charles Michel, the President of the European Council, admitted responsibility, a kind of complicity on the part of the international community - which remained motionless, closed its eyes - in this dark moment in human history. [Euronews], 2024-04-07, Euronews, [Rwanda]

**[Srebrenica Genocide Must Be Condemned, Denial Banned, 2 Members Of Bosnian Presidency Tell UN.](#)** The 1995 genocide in Srebrenica must be globally condemned, support for victims must be expressed, and denial of genocide and glorification of war criminals be banned to prevent future similar tragedies, two members of the tripartite presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina told a UN session on April 19. [RFE/RL's Balkan Service], 2024-04-19, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, [Bosnia and Herzegovina]

## **Government**

**[50 years ago, the Carnation Revolution ended Portugal's dictatorship in one night.](#)** On April 25, 1974, the Portuguese military overthrew Antonio de Oliveira Salazar's authoritarian regime. Fifty years later, participants and witnesses tell Le Monde about those few hours during which the old world gave way to the new. [Réroille, Raphaëlle], 2024-04-25, Le Monde.fr, [Portugal]

**[Denuncia internacional contra Luis Petri por obstaculizar las investigaciones sobre los crímenes de la dictadura | Desmanteló los equipos que analizaban archivos en las FFAA.](#)** La presentación fue hecha por la legisladora Victoria Montenegro ante el relator de Naciones Unidas Fabián Salvioli. [Bertoia, Luciana], 2024-04-05, PAGINA12, [Argentina]



[Javier Milei desmantela un área clave que aporta pruebas en juicios por los crímenes de la dictadura argentina.](#) El Ministerio de Defensa despidió a la mayoría de los trabajadores de un archivo de memoria con miles de documentos clave para los procesos que continúan hasta hoy [Olmos, Clara], 2024-04-14, EL PAÍS Argentina, [Argentina]

[Otra denuncia internacional contra Luis Petri por obstaculizar las investigaciones por crímenes de la dictadura | Presentación de Victoria Montenegro ante la CIDH.](#) La legisladora porteña informó que Defensa echó a los expertos que analizaban los archivos de las FFAA para contribuir con las causas de lesa y pidió la intervención del organismo regional. Ya había formulado una denuncia similar ante Naciones Unidas. [Bertoia, Luciana], 2024-04-17, PAGINA12, [Argentina]

[Polémica en Defensa: Luis Petri echó a un equipo que investigaba archivos de la dictadura, al que acusó de "perseguir" a los militares.](#) Hubo diez despidos en el grupo creado en 2010, que hacía informes a pedido de la Justicia. Para el ministro, era un "grupo parajudicial de persecución" a las Fuerzas Armadas. El caso genera controversias en la Justicia. [Braslavsky, Guido], 2024-04-12, Clarín, [Argentina]

## **Human Rights**

[World Press Photo 2024 – global winners.](#) The global winners in the World Press Photo annual competition have been announced, with Mohammed Salem winning world press photo of the year. The winning photographs in the World Press Photo 2024 competition are selected representations of the human adventure. Photographers have endeavoured to capture striking images, often linked to human rights issues such as women's rights, children's rights, migration, civil rights, decolonization, indigenous matters, wars and the impact of climate change. [Fidler, Matt], 2024-04-18, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

## **Human Rights Defenders and Activists**

[Amnesty International launches book 'Images of Rebellion', a testament to civil resistance.](#) Amnesty International has published the book Images of Rebellion, an extraordinary visual compilation that chronicles and celebrates the defiant spirit of civil resistance in Cuba. The book contains a poignant selection of the more than 21,000 letters and drawings sent to Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, Cuban artist and prisoner of conscience, in a global outpouring of support. [Amnesty International], 2024-04-05, [Cuba]

[Biden Says U.S. Is Considering Dropping Its Case Against Assange.](#) The WikiLeaks founder has been held in London as he has battled extradition to the United States on charges related to his publication of classified documents. [Green, Erica L.], 2024-04-10, The New York Times, [United States of America]

[Defend Rights - Memria x Norwegian Human Rights Fund Archive.](#) All people have a legacy that deserves to be preserved. In other words, we believe it is an essential human right to be able to preserve your legacy. A single story from someone who cares can inspire others to leave the world a better place. [Sienkiewicz, Emily], 2024-04-10, Permanent.org, [Norway]

[Memory and Identity of Afro-Brazilian Archives.](#) A project to preserve Afro-Brazilian memory through archives containing documents of Afro-Brazilian activism (1964 - 1990s) [Modern Endangered Archives Program], 2024-04, UCLA Library, [Brazil]

[\*\*Riz Ahmed's Defiance: how the visceral racism of 70s Britain gave way to a new era of identity politics.\*\*](#) A candid documentary tells how a generation of activists from Asian communities confronted prejudice [Malik, Kenan], 2024-04-14, The Observer, [United Kingdom]

[\*\*The Scholar Who Rewrote Black Brazilian History.\*\*](#) Beatriz Nascimento's groundbreaking research defied dominant White Brazilian academic narratives, instead emphasizing Black political agency. [Amin, Lakshmi Rivera; Bittencourt, Ela], 2024-04-18, Hyperallergic, [Brazil]

## **Human Trafficking**

[\*\*Slavery Was Crucial for the Development of Capitalism.\*\*](#) Historian Robin Blackburn has completed a trilogy of books that provide a comprehensive Marxist account of slavery in the New World. He spoke to Jacobin about the intimate links between the slave systems in the Americas and the origins of capitalism. [Blackburn, Robin; Dowling, Owen], 2024-04-10, Jacobin, [Americas]

## **Indigenous Matters**

[\*\*Friday essay: 'too many Aboriginal babies' – Australia's secret history of Aboriginal population control in the 1960s.\*\*](#) Aboriginal women faced covert government family-planning programs, designed ostensibly to promote "choice", but ultimately to curb their fertility. For decades, Indigenous communities have spoken of the coercive practices of officials and medical experts around birth control and sterilisation, and how they experienced them. Now historians are finding evidence of these practices in the government's own records from as recently as the 1960s and '70s. [Rademaker, Julia; Troy, Jakelin; Hurst, Julia], 2024-04-11, The Conversation, [Australia]

### [\*\*Piloting Reparative Description and Metadata in SNAC via the Indigenous Description Group.\*\*](#)

Archivists have recognized the need to rethink how indigenous knowledge can be better represented, not only to heal previous harms but also to make information more accessible and usable for communities. The Indigenous Description Group, founded in Spring 2023 within the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) cooperative, represents one effort to do this work in a pan-institutional and collaborative way. [Bull, Ia], 2024-04-02, Descriptive Notes, [United States of America]

### [\*\*The Respectful Terminology Platform Project Receives Prestigious Grant from the Mellon Foundation.\*\*](#)

The Respectful Terminology Platform Project (RTPP), an Indigenous-led initiative under the NIKLA-ANCLA umbrella, is honoured to announce that the project has been awarded a two-year grant for a total of \$1.4M USD from the Mellon Foundation. [Price, Gary], 2024-04-10, Library Journal infoDOCKET, [Northern America]

### [\*\*Tribal Nations Receive \\$411,000 to Document Impact of Federal Indian Boarding School Era.\*\*](#)

Fourteen tribal nations, tribal schools and colleges, and state organizations will initiate community projects to capture, preserve, and educate about the impact of the Federal Indian Boarding School era, thanks to \$411,000 in funding announced by the National Endowment for the Humanities [Kunze, Jenna], 2024-04-11, Native News Online, [United States of America]

[\*\*Why Indigenous people are fighting for data sovereignty.\*\*](#) Indigenous data sovereignty means that communities have control over their own information, researcher says. That's why it's important that Indigenous communities gather their own data, in their own way, says Echo-Hawk, who is a citizen of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. This is Indigenous data sovereignty. "As individual nations ... we

have the ability to govern our own data. That means how it is gathered, how it is analyzed and how it is shared," Echo-Hawk told Unreserved host Rosanna Deerchild. [Beaulne-Stuebing, Laura], 2024-03-31, [Northern America]

## **Internally Displaced Persons**

[Journalist says a 'land grab' in Tanzania is forcing the Maasai off their land.](#) Journalist Stephanie McCrummen says foreign interests are acquiring territory in Northern Tanzania, effectively displacing indigenous cattle-herders from their traditional grazing lands. Transcription available [Davies, Dave], 2024-04-11, [Tanzania, United Republic of]

## **Israel-Gaza Crisis**

['The machine did it coldly': Israel used AI to identify 37,000 Hamas targets.](#) Israeli intelligence sources reveal use of 'Lavender' system in Gaza war and claim permission given to kill civilians in pursuit of low-ranking militants [McKernan, Bethan; Davies, Harry], 2024-04-03, The Guardian, [Israel]

[IDF colonel discusses 'data science magic powder' for locating terrorists.](#) Video of official from Unit 8200 in February 2023 raises questions about Israel's denials of use of AI in Gaza [Davies, Harry; McKernan, Bethan], 2024-04-11, The Guardian, [Israel]

[Israel has yet to provide evidence of Unrwa staff terrorist links. Colonna report says.](#) Review finds government yet to substantiate claims UN relief agency staff have ties to Hamas or Islamic Jihad [Borger, Julian], 2024-04-22, The Guardian, [Israel]

[Protests Over Gaza Intensify at American Art Museums.](#) A protest at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco led to the resignation of its leader and to a monthlong closure of its galleries. The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts event was among the most dramatic in a series of demonstrations about the Israel-Hamas war that have rocked the cultural sector in recent months with protests, withdrawals and other calls for boycotts. [Small, Zachary; Tracy, Marc], 2024-04-02, The New York Times, [United States of America]

[UN body calls for Israel to be held accountable for possible war crimes.](#) Human rights council adopts resolution as Israel opens new routes into Gaza after Biden-Netanyahu phone call [Wintour, Patrick], 2024-04-05, The Guardian, [Israel]

## **LGBTQ+ Rights**

[Documentary captures journalist's gender transition while embedded with Taliban.](#) A new documentary now available on Amazon Prime and AppleTV offers an in-depth look at the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. "Transition" follows Australian filmmaker Jordan Bryon as he undergoes a gender transition while embedded with a Taliban unit. Bryon and co-director Monica Villamizar spoke with Amna Nawaz about this turning point in Afghanistan. [Teresa Cebrián Aranda; Amna Nawaz], 2024-04-04, [Afghanistan]

[Explore the focus on community archives: Discover Brasil's strategy to preserve historical memory while addressing inequalities.](#) A cooperation agreement between the National Archives of Brasil and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will enhance the country's archival

policy and support the efforts of community archives serving socioeconomically vulnerable groups. This policy aims to guarantee access to memory rights and the tools necessary for documenting the diverse experiences of black, indigenous, rural, favela-dwelling, and LGBTQIAP+ communities. [G20 Brazil 2024], 2024-04-02, G20 Brazil 2024, [Brazil]

[\*\*Fais un homme de toi : thérapies de conversion.\*\*](#) Une thérapie de conversion vise à modifier l'orientation sexuelle ou l'identité de genre d'une personne. Ces pratiques souvent cruelles sont interdites au Canada depuis 2022. Près de 100 000 personnes au pays en auraient subi, mais leur réalité demeure méconnue. Jocelyn Lebeau recueille des témoignages de gens qui ont survécu à ces "traitements". Il se tourne aussi vers des spécialistes pour comprendre comment l'intolérance et les croyances peuvent amener des personnes LGBTQ+ à se détester au point de vouloir correspondre aux stéréotypes du "vrai homme" et de la "vraie femme". Podcast de 7 épisodes totalisant 4h 38 m [Lebeau, Jocelyn], 2024-04, [Canada]

[\*\*How a digital archive is preserving Canada's history of LGBTQ+ activism.\*\*](#) The Lesbian and Gay Liberation in Canada (LGLC) project aims to learn from the activism of the past and how the movement evolved over time by making archives of LGBTQ+ and feminist organising accessible digitally. [Dangoisse, Pascale; Crompton, Constance; Schwartz, Michelle], 2024-04-29, The Conversation, [Canada]

[\*\*The Queer Museum | Radical Inclusion and Western Museology.\*\*](#) The Queer Museum examines how relationships between institutions and LGBTQ+ communities function and how they help to define queer museum practice. [Robenalt, Erica], 2024-04-08, [Worldwide]

## **Medical Records**

[\*\*European Health Data Space clears the last hurdle in Parliament.\*\*](#) The European Parliament adopted on Wednesday (24 April) the European Health Data Space Regulation, a key step for Europe's digital healthcare that should facilitate access to cross-border medical data. [Feore, Catherine], 2024-04-24, www.euractiv.com, [Europe]

[\*\*Revealed: UK government was warned of infected blood risks in 1970s.\*\*](#) Documents show officials were told blood plasma harvested from US convicts was contaminated with viruses [Ungoed-Thomas, Jon; McKie, Robin], 2024-04-27, The Observer, [United Kingdom]

[\*\*Texas hospital halts liver and kidney transplants amid claims doctor denied patients organs.\*\*](#) Doctor who helmed abdominal transplant program reportedly manipulated records to make patients ineligible to receive livers [Chao-Fong, Léonie], 2024-04-12, The Guardian, [United States of America]

[\*\*UK swapped to fatal US blood products to save money, minutes suggest.\*\*](#) Exclusive: contaminated blood campaigners say internal 1976 Immuno AG document proves British government negligence [Boffey, Daniel], 2024-04-14, The Guardian, [United Kingdom]

## **Migration**

[\*\*IOM and CRAF'd Partner to Enhance Data-Driven Responses to Displacement.\*\*](#) The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd) are proud to announce a new partnership to enhance the understanding of internal displacement and enable data-driven action to save lives and deliver solutions. The partnership will deliver a first-of-its-kind global

dataset offering comparable, sub-national mobility data drawing on DTM operations around the world. [IOM], 2024-04-23, International Organization for Migration, [Worldwide]

## Privacy

[Between privacy and border control: Tech in the Migration Pact.](#) Last week, the EU Parliament voted to pass amendments to Eurodac, previously a fingerprints database, along with a new Migration Pact to boost border security. [Gkritsi, Eliza], 2024-04-19, www.euractiv.com, [Europe]

[EU data protection body says Meta's 'pay or OK' model is not OK.](#) The European Data Protection Board opposed Meta's controversial "pay or okay" business model in an opinion published on Wednesday (17 April), saying this binary approach was not compliant with the EU's data privacy rules. [Tar, Julia], 2024-04-17, www.euractiv.com, [Europe]

[Google to destroy browsing data to settle consumer privacy lawsuit.](#) Users alleged that Google's analytics, cookies and apps let the Alphabet unit improperly track people who set Google's Chrome browser to "Incognito" mode and other browsers to "private" browsing mode. They said this turned Google into an "unaccountable trove of information" by letting it learn about their friends, favorite foods, hobbies, shopping habits, and the "most intimate and potentially embarrassing things" they hunt for online. [Stempel, Jonathan], 2024-04-02, Zawya.com, [United States of America]

[Tories planned to make millions from members' data with 'True Blue' app.](#) Exclusive: senior party officials worked on commercial venture that would allow brands to sell products to supporters [Burgis, Tom; Dyer, Henry], 2024-04-04, The Guardian, [United Kingdom]

## Protests and Demonstrations

[New short film highlights devastating impact less-lethal weapons are having on protesters globally.](#) Amnesty International is launching a powerful film showing the devastating impact less-lethal weapons are having on protesters globally, with many suffering life-long injuries and permanent disabilities. The new film, which features Leidy Cadena who was blinded by police in 2021 during a protest which was part of the National Strikes in Colombia, shows the devastating impact such weapons can have. [Amnesty International], 2024-04-03, [Worldwide]

[Un nouveau court-métrage met en lumière l'impact dévastateur des armes à létalité réduite sur les manifestant·e·s à travers le monde.](#) Les armes à létalité réduite sont à l'origine de milliers de blessures à travers le monde, ainsi que des dizaines de décès. Amnesty International sort un court-métrage percutant qui montre l'impact dévastateur qu'ont les armes à létalité réduite sur les manifestant·e·s à travers le monde, beaucoup souffrant de lésions à vie et de handicaps permanents. Ce nouveau film présente l'histoire de Leidy Cadena, qui a perdu un œil à cause de la police en 2021 au cours d'une manifestation s'inscrivant dans le cadre des Grèves nationales en Colombie. Il montre l'impact dévastateur de ce type d'armes. [Amnesty international], 2024-04-03, [Worldwide]

## Racism

[How 'white' fragility perpetuates anti-Black racism in Arab societies.](#) In recent years, controversies have erupted in the Arab world over negative portrayals of Black people. Arabic television shows have frequently ridiculed Black people with lighter skinned actors regularly appearing in blackface. [Al-Azraki, Amir], 2024-04-10, The Conversation, [Worldwide]

[Memorializing the Romani past: “We exist, respect our humanity”](#). Coordinated by UN Human Rights, the Romani Memory Map for the Americas is a crowd-sourced initiative to recognize and honour sites of memory of the Romani community in the Americas, from the United States to Argentina. The project builds on efforts to strengthen Roma rights and inclusion, advance public memory of Roma people and history, and combat anti-gypsyism, the specific form of racism facing Roma. [OHCHR], 2024-04-08, OHCHR, [Northern America]

[Racism, harassment and discrimination takes a terrible toll on ethnic minority NHS staff](#).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a time filled with uncertainty and fear, ethnically minoritised NHS staff have not only had to contend with the virus but also a workplace fraught with inequalities. [Rhead, Rebecca], 2024-04-03, The Conversation, [United Kingdom]

## Reconciliation

[Reconciliation made in Rwanda](#). At least 800,000 people were massacred in 100 days, between April and July 1994. Since then, the national justice system has tried over a million people. The time for retribution has passed. And Rwandans have had to relearn how to “live together”. Our correspondent asked some of them what this “reconciliation” means for them. [Sehene Ruvugiro, Emmanuel], 2024-04-05, JustiveInfo.net, [Rwanda]

## Sexual Violence

[Can AI image generators be policed to prevent explicit deepfakes of children?](#). As one of the largest ‘training’ datasets has been found to contain child sexual abuse material, can bans on creating such imagery be feasible? [Hern, Alex], 2024-04-22, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

[Enfants nés du viol : l'héritage dévastateur de la violence sexuelle dans le Rwanda de l'après-génocide](#). Le génocide rwandais de 1994 a laissé des traces indélébiles. Les enfants nés de violences sexuelles et les mères ont fait preuve d'une immense force pour surmonter leur histoire de violence. [Denov, Myriam], 2024-04-03, The Conversation, [Rwanda]

[Police serve search warrant on New Orleans archdiocese in child sex abuse case](#). A judge approved the warrant in investigation to determine if church hierarchy illegally covered up systemic child molestation [Vargas, Ramon Antonio], 2024-04-25, The Guardian, [United States of America]

## Spying

[MEP Krahn accessed ‘sensitive’ documents, EU Parliament trade committee chair says](#). Charges of spying and corruption spark call for internal parliamentary probe. [Camille Gijs, Eddy Wax and Lennart Pfahler], 2024-04-27, POLITICO, [Europe]

## Technology

[Cyber-attack targets UN server](#). Data extortion attack targets a UN server: A cyber-attack on a server used by the United Nations Development Programme has exposed personal information belonging to past and current personnel, the agency said. UNDP said it learned of the attack on 27 March: “This was a data-extortion threat actor that identified themselves on the dark web,” a spokesperson said in an emailed statement. [Irwin Loy], 2024-04-17, The New Humanitarian, [Worldwide]

[\*\*Digital Security Increasingly Relies on AI. But That Tech Isn't as Secure as We Think\*\*](#). In the digital age, trade-offs—like displaying our faces and fingerprints—are all but required to function in society. But the technology charged with securing our information and protecting against theft, fraud, and other potential harms doesn't always work. [Yeung, Douglas], 2024-04-23, [Worldwide]

[\*\*How the dung queen of Dublin was swept from history\*\*](#). AI to be used by researchers to scour documents for information on women omitted from chronicles written by men about men [Carroll, Rory], 2024-04-10, The Guardian, [Ireland]

[\*\*U.N. AI Resolution Passes Vote\*\*](#). The resolution, which followed more than three months of negotiations among dozens of countries, calls on U.N. member states to ensure "safe, secure, and trustworthy AI systems" that are developed responsibly and respect human rights and international law. [Rishi Iyengar], 2024-03-21, Foreign Policy, [Worldwide]

[\*\*Your Brain Waves Are Up for Sale. A New Law Wants to Change That\*\*](#). In a first, a Colorado law extends privacy rights to the neural data increasingly coveted by technology companies. [Moens, Jonathan], 2024-04-17, The New York Times, [United States of America]

## **Torture**

[\*\*Abu Ghraib Torture Case Finally Goes to Trial\*\*](#). Twenty years have passed since the media broke the story that US forces and the CIA were torturing "war on terror" detainees at Abu Ghraib and other US-run prisons in Iraq. But for the men who were tortured, it feels like only yesterday. [Sanbar, Sarah], 2024-04-15, Human Rights Watch, [Iraq]

## **Transparency**

[\*\*"Access under review": Freedom of Information, Data Protection, and the Disappearing Archive\*\*](#). While many historians will be familiar with the limitations of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) when trying to obtain access to closed records at the National Archives (TNA), few will be aware that since 2012 thousands of previously open documents have been removed from public access under TNA's Reclosure Policy. [McLean, Alioson], 2024-03-30, History and Policy, [United Kingdom]

[\*\*Breakthrough for transparency: Court ruling exposes misconduct\*\*](#). In a landmark legal battle, Independent Media's successful appeal against the State Security Minister's interim interdict reveals a victory not only for press freedom but also for transparency and accountability in governance. [IOL Reporter], 2024-04-07, IOL, [South Africa]

[\*\*Valuable documents about Dien Bien Phu Campaign unveiled\*\*](#). A number of original documents and records about the Dien Bien Phu Campaign and the 1954 Geneva Conference were made public for the first time and recently introduced to the public. [VietnamPlus], 2024-04-09, VietnamPlus, [Viet Nam]

## **Women's Rights**

[\*\*Dawn Landes's new album reimagines feminist folk songs from 1800 to 1970\*\*](#). The singer-songwriter Dawn Landes album, The Liberated Woman's Songbook, inspired by a 1971 book of the same name that chronicles the women's liberation movement through a collection of songs from the

1800s to early 1970. Landes talks about the power of music as a tool for activism, finding solace and inspiration through the voices of women throughout American history, and why these songs still serve as a map for survival today. [Shlanger, Talia; Landes, Dawn], 2024-04-09, [Worldwide]

[Exhibition | La loi sur l'IVG - 1974 - Le discours de Simone Veil](#). L'exposition invite le visiteur à découvrir le manuscrit original du discours et sa version dactylographiée, annotée de la main de Simone Veil. À travers ces deux ensembles de feuillets et les documents qui les accompagnent, émerge un moment décisif du combat pour la conquête des droits des femmes | Jusqu'au 2 septembre 2024 | Archives nationales - Paris [France, Archives nationales], 2024-04-26, Archives Nationales, [France]

[Projet Archives des Femmes, Mali](#). Amongst the recent and historical socio-political turmoil in Mali, women have worked to create a more just and equitable society. The personal collections of movement leaders document the work of women across Mali from the 1950's onward. [Modern Endangered Archives Program], 2024-04, UCLA Library, [Mali]

## World War II

[Archives agreement between Israel and Ukraine may shed light on Holocaust in country](#). Both countries will open their state archives to experts and nationals in a process that may facilitate Ukrainian Jews' efforts to make Aliyah [Eichner, Itamar], 2024-04-11, Ynetnews, [Israel/Ukraine]

[English Nazi collaborators may have aided recapture of 'great escape' PoWs](#). Document discovered by National Archives shows claim made after the war by recaptured RAF officer, but historians are sceptical [Addley, Esther], 2024-03-21, The Guardian, [United Kingdom]

[Polish war graves in Germany documented](#). The Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation has information on 1,200 cemeteries or memorial sites where the remains of Polish citizens rest. [S.A, Telewizja Polska], 2024-03-30, TVP World, [Western Europe]

[WWII: In the footsteps of the African Resistance fighters who fell in the Battle of Vercors](#). Thousands of German soldiers moved in on southeastern France's Vercors Plateau in July 1944 in a bid to crush a regional uprising led by a rural French Resistance group. Over 100 Resistance fighters... [GORMEZANO, David], 2024-04-17, France 24, [France]



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Americas: [Slavery Was Crucial for the Development of Capitalism](#). [Blackburn, Robin; Dowling, Owen], 2024-04-10, Jacobin, [Human Trafficking]

Europe: [‘Historic’ European Court of Human Rights ruling backs Swiss women in climate change case](#). [Frost, Rosie], 2024-04-09, Euronews, [Climate Change]

Europe: [Between privacy and border control: Tech in the Migration Pact](#). [Gkritsi, Eliza], 2024-04-19, www.euractiv.com, [Privacy]

Europe: [EU data protection body says Meta's 'pay or OK' model is not OK](#). [Tar, Julia], 2024-04-17, www.euractiv.com, [Privacy]

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Europe: [MEP Kraah accessed ‘sensitive’ documents, EU Parliament trade committee chair says](#). [Camille Gijs, Eddy Wax and Lennart Pfahler], 2024-04-27, POLITICO, [Spying]

Northern America: [Memorializing the Romani past: “We exist, respect our humanity”](#). [OHCHR], 2024-04-08, OHCHR, [Racism]

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Western Europe: [Polish war graves in Germany documented](#). [S.A, Telewizja Polska], 2024-03-30, TVP World, [World War II]

Worldwide: [‘Fake news’ legislation risks doing more harm than good amid a record number of elections in 2024](#). [Jens, Samuel], 2024-04-02, The Conversation, [Elections and electoral processes]

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Worldwide: [Dawn Landes's new album reimagines feminist folk songs from 1800 to 1970](#). [Shlanger, Talia; Landes, Dawn], 2024-04-09, [Women's Rights]

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Worldwide: [Meta and Google accused of restricting reproductive health information](#). [Strzyżyńska, Weronika], 2024-03-27, The Guardian, [Freedom of Information]

Worldwide: [New short film highlights devastating impact less-lethal weapons are having on protesters globally](#). [Amnesty International], 2024-04-03, [Protests and Demonstrations]

Worldwide: [Resettlement as a Human Rights Issue: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing](#). [Amnesty International], 2024-04-05, [Economic, Social and Cultural Rights]

Worldwide: [The Queer Museum | Radical Inclusion and Western Museology](#). [Robenalt, Erica], 2024-04-08, [LGBTQ+ Rights]

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Afghanistan: ['I wanted to end my life': 'Bookseller of Kabul' rebuilds destroyed business](#). [Taylor, Diane], 2024-04-03, The Guardian, [Economic, Social and Cultural Rights]

Afghanistan: [Documentary captures journalist's gender transition while embedded with Taliban](#). [Teresa Cebrián Aranda; Amna Nawaz], 2024-04-04, [LGBTQ+ Rights]

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