
ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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Events

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

Editor's Note

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

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

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

News by topic

Academia and Education

Worldwide: [Digitization of general archives -our FAQ](#). The ICRC archives have decided to entrust an external provider with the digitization of its fonds. In consultation with this provider, it has been decided that the digitization work could not be carried out at the ICRC's premises in Geneva. Various series of archives will therefore be sent to our service provider for digitization. As... Cross-Files | ICRC Archives, audiovisual and library, 2026-01-14.

Corruption

Israel: [Israeli Police Question Top Netanyahu Aide Over Leaked Document Case](#). Tzachi Braverman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chief of staff, was detained for questioning on Sunday over accusations that he sought to impede an investigation. Kershner, Isabel, The New York Times, 2026-01-11.

Crimes Against Humanity

Columbia: [Bank Evidence for Future Prosecutions](#). During the worst years of Colombia's conflict, human rights groups kept databases and archives of abuses. That's where we are now. Adam Isacson, 2026-01-14.

Sudan: [Sudan civil war: 'Half of my friends were killed' in el-Obeid school shelling](#). Twins whose classmates were killed by shelling say their deaths have made them determined to finish their studies. Mohamed Osman, Mohamed, BBC, 2026-01-24.

Syria: [Accountability Lacking for Sweida Abuses](#). Syrian government forces and local Bedouin and Druze armed groups are responsible for grave abuses during clashes in Syria's southern Sweida governorate in July 2025. Human Rights Watch, 2026-01-15.

Disability Rights

Worldwide: [The Beauty of the Archives for the Disability Rights Movement](#). On Saturday, Jan. 10, the Positive Exposure Gallery presented the Disability Rights Archive. Samantha Greenaway, Her Campus, 2026-01-23.

Disinformation

United Kingdom: [Tim Davie says BBC will stay on X to try to stem 'flood' of global misinformation](#). Director general says BBC needs to reach young audiences online amid pressure to leave Elon Musk-owned site. Savage, Michael, The Guardian, 2026-01-08.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Canada/United States of America: [Canadian officials say US health institutions no longer dependable for accurate information](#). Misinformation from the Trump administration is cited as fuelling Canadians' concerns over childhood vaccinations. Bowden, Olivia, The Guardian, 2026-01-04.

United States of America: [Genetic Data From Over 20,000 U.S. Children Misused for 'Race Science'](#). Genetic researchers were seeking children for an ambitious, federally funded project to track brain development — a study that they told families could yield invaluable discoveries about DNA's impact on behavior and disease. They also promised that the children's sensitive data would be closely guarded. The scientists did not keep it safe. Mike McIntire, The New York Times, 2026-01-24.

United States of America: [Smithsonian Exhibition Showcases Hidden Archives of Historically Black Colleges](#). New exhibit reveals how HBCUs have served as stewards of African American history and culture for generations. Chera Watson, The EDU Ledger, 2026-01-23.

Worldwide: [From paper files to digital access: the digital transformation of the ICRC Archives](#). . Cross-Files | ICRC Archives, audiovisual and library, 2026-01-21.

Worldwide: [The League of Nations archives go online, reopening history to the world](#). In 2022, a major digitisation effort reached completion: the entire archive of the League of Nations was placed online. Long mainly consulted by western scholars, the collection is now open to historians worldwide — a shift that could gradually reshape how the institution is studied and understood. Bussard, Stephane, Geneva Solutions, 2026-01-09.

Elections

United States of America: [FBI's Search of Georgia Election Center Is "Dangerous," Experts Warn](#). The search warrant, which sought 2020 election ballots, tabulator tapes, digital data and voter rolls from Fulton County, marked what experts described as a significant escalation in President Donald Trump's breaking of democratic norms. Fifield, Doug Bock Clark and Jen, ProPublica, 2026-01-29.

Environment

Worldwide: ['Just an unbelievable amount of pollution': how big a threat is AI to the climate?](#). Defenders say AI can do good to fight the climate crisis. But spiralling energy and water costs leave experts worried. Niranjana, Ajit, The Guardian, 2026-01-03.

Freedom of Expression

China: [Dissident Who Daringly Documented Uyghurs' Repression Wins Asylum](#). Heng Guan, a Chinese national, will not be released immediately, as Homeland Security said it was reserving the right to appeal. Qin, Amy, The New York Times, 2026-01-28.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [Inside the Doctors Without Borders Clinics That Israel Is Closing in Gaza](#). The aid group has refused to comply with new Israeli rules restricting speech and demanding information on staff. Patients are stunned. "I need this place," says one. Shbair, Bilal; Halbfinger, David M.; Boxerman, Aaron; Alghorra, Saher, The New York Times, 2026-01-17.

Freedom of Information

Iran: [Iran appears to ease internet blackout as cost of shutdown mounts](#). Experts say uneven connectivity suggests regime is throttling and filtering data as losses said to hit \$36m a day. Down, Aisha, The Guardian, 2026-01-28.

Uganda: [Uganda Cuts Internet Days Before Presidential Election](#). The authorities say the decision was made to prevent the spread of misinformation as President Yoweri Museveni seeks his seventh term in office. Bigg, Matthew Mpoke; Blanshe, Musinguzi, The New York Times, 2026-01-13.

United States of America: [Philadelphia sues US government for removal of slavery-related exhibit](#). Display at President's House site, residence to George Washington, had information on people enslaved by him. Dunbar, Marina, The Guardian, 2026-01-23.

Freedom of the Press

United States of America: [Pentagon contractor indicted over alleged leak tied to raided Washington Post reporter](#). Worker illegally provided classified information 'related to national defense' to journalist, justice department says. Luscombe, Richard, The Guardian, 2026-01-23.

Government

Togo: [Togo : L'ANC exige la déclassification des archives françaises sur l'assassinat de Sylvanus Olympio](#). Le 13 janvier 2026, à l'occasion du 63^e anniversaire de la disparition du premier président du Togo indépendant, l'Alliance Nationale pour le Changement (ANC) a officiellement sollicité l'ouverture des dossiers secrets conservés par Paris. Hessoun, Charly, La Nouvelle Tribune, 2026-01-14.

Indigenous Matters

Canada: [Crown-Indigenous Relations Ministry ordered to release files on children's graves](#). The Federal Information Commissioner has asked the Crown-Indigenous Relations Ministry to release files on purported Indian children graves. Toronto Sun, 2026-01-15.

United States of America: [Puyallup Family Data Reclamation Project](#). By centering tribal authority and Indigenous data sovereignty, the project will create a tribally governed digital archive, facilitate community validation sessions, and lay the groundwork for future educational and public engagement initiatives defined by the Puyallup people. Center for Human Rights, 2026-01-01.

Medical Records

Australia: [Katherine may have 700 half-siblings. She's trying to find them to pass on medical advice](#). Hundreds of people have accessed South Australia's Donor Conception Register in its first year, lifting decades of secrecy surrounding anonymous donations — an outcome that has prompted calls from a leading advocate for similar moves at national level. Merrit, Rachael, ABC News, 2026-01-04.

Privacy

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [MSF will not share staff information about its colleagues in Palestine with Israeli authorities](#). Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) will not share a list of its Palestinian and international staff with Israeli authorities as part of the registration process to work in Gaza and the West Bank. This decision comes after many months of unsuccessful engagement with Israeli authorities, and in the absence of securing

assurances to ensure the safety of our staff and the independent management of our operations. Doctors Without Borders, 2026-01-30.

United States of America: [Doge improperly shared sensitive social security data, DOJ court filing reveals](#). Trump administration acknowledges that Elon Musk's cost-cutting operation accessed Americans' sensitive data. Gedeon, Joseph, The Guardian, 2026-01-21.

United States of America: [New tool allows Californians to request data brokers to delete personal details](#). State seeks to give residents greater control over their personal data and have fewer messages forced upon them. Robins-Early, Nick, The Guardian, 2026-01-05.

United States of America: [Personal information of 4,500 ICE and Border Patrol agents leaked online](#). ICE List website says it was leaked information about federal agents after shooting of Renee Good in Minneapolis. Mike Bedigan, The Independent, 2026-01-14.

Worldwide: [Women filmed in secret for social media content - then harassed online](#). So-called manfluencers wearing smart glasses approach women and then post videos to TikTok and Instagram. Stazicker, Molly, BBC, 2026-01-24.

Spying

Israel/Jordan/Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [Jordan used Israeli firm's phone-cracking tool to surveil pro-Gaza activists, report finds](#). Researchers find with high confidence that security officials used Cellebrite to extract data from activists' phones. Kirchgaessner, Stephanie, The Guardian, 2026-01-22.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN)/United Arab Emirates: [United Arab Emirates plans to bankroll first 'planned community' in south Gaza](#). Exclusive: Blueprints describe a 'case study' community where residents submit biometric data to gain entry. Brown, Cate, The Guardian, 2026-01-23.

Technology

Africa: [Africa CDC Establishes Central Data Repository to Strengthen Public Health Surveillance](#). . Africa CDC, 2026-01-27.

Australia: [Albanese says the social media ban is working, but it is too early to say if it has been successful](#). As the UK government faces pressure to follow suit, evidence on whether the ban is working is still a while away. Taylor, Josh, The Guardian, 2026-01-16.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN): [Web hosting company deletes archive of 300+ murdered Gaza journalists' work](#). Namecheap revoked the domain of a digital memorial honouring the victims of Israel's targeted murder of journalists in Gaza. Skwawkbox, Canary, 2026-01-03.

United Kingdom: [AI systems could use Met Office and National Archives data under UK plans](#). Ministers plan to license content from institutions such as National History Museum and National Library of Scotland. Milmo, Dan, The Guardian, 2026-01-26.

Transparency

United States of America: [FBI takes over case of ICE agent killing US woman and cuts Minnesota's access to evidence](#). Minneapolis remains on edge, with several protests planned after shooting of Renee Nicole Good. Leingang, Rachel; Luscombe, Richard; Gedeon, Joseph; Campbell, Lucy, The Guardian, 2026-01-08.

War Crimes

Worldwide: [The Enduring Fight for Justice for Victims in War](#). The Enduring Fight for Justice for Victims in War: Our Q/A With an Expert - PassBlue. Bassas, Arthur, Pass Blue, 2026-01-11.

Women's Rights

South Korea: [Gyeonggi Province Publishes "Comprehensive White Paper on the Human Rights Archive of Camp Town Women"](#). This white paper is the result of a comprehensive summary of the entire process of the "Ordinance on the Protection, Support, and Remembrance of Victims of Women in Gyeonggi-do," which was carried out from April to December last year. Lee Young-kyu, Asia Economy, 2026-01-08.

World War II

Germany: [When Records Bear Witness. Survivors of the Shoah Give Testimony through Compensation Proceedings Files](#). I live in Munich and after being laid off in 2015 I was looking for something useful to do. Which is why I came across the "Archiv der Münchner Arbeiterbewegung e. V.". During my first visit there in 2015, the archivist gave me the choice between helping with an exhibition on trade unions and Read More. Müller, Steffen, Document Blog, 2026-01-15.

Russia: [Poland hindered Soviet efforts to prevent WWII, claims head of Russian state archives](#). The head of Russia's Federal Archive Agency, a body subordinate to President Vladimir Putin, has claimed that historical documents show how Poland hindered efforts by the Soviet Union to prevent the outbreak of World War Two, which began with Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland. Tilles, Daniel, Notes From Poland, 2026-01-17.

News by country/region

International News

Africa

Technology: [Africa CDC Establishes Central Data Repository to Strengthen Public Health Surveillance](#). Africa CDC, 2026-01-27.

Worldwide

Academia and Education: [Digitization of general archives -our FAQ](#). Cross-Files | ICRC Archives, audiovisual and library, 2026-01-14.

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Environment: ['Just an unbelievable amount of pollution': how big a threat is AI to the climate?](#). Niranjana, Ajit, The Guardian, 2026-01-03.

Privacy: [Women filmed in secret for social media content - then harassed online](#). Stazicker, Molly, BBC, 2026-01-24.

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National News

Australia

Medical Records: [Katherine may have 700 half-siblings. She's trying to find them to pass on medical advice](#). Merritt, Rachael, ABC News, 2026-01-04.

Technology: [Albanese says the social media ban is working. but it is too early to say if it has been successful](#). Taylor, Josh, The Guardian, 2026-01-16.

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Spying: [Jordan used Israeli firm's phone-cracking tool to surveil pro-Gaza activists, report finds](#). Kirchgaessner, Stephanie, The Guardian, 2026-01-22.

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Elections: [FBI's Search of Georgia Election Center Is "Dangerous," Experts Warn](#). Fifield, Doug Bock Clark and Jen, ProPublica, 2026-01-29.

Freedom of Information: [Philadelphia sues US government for removal of slavery-related exhibit](#). Dunbar, Marina, The Guardian, 2026-01-23.

Freedom of the Press: [Pentagon contractor indicted over alleged leak tied to raided Washington Post reporter](#). Luscombe, Richard, The Guardian, 2026-01-23.

Indigenous Matters: [Puyallup Family Data Reclamation Project](#). Center for Human Rights, 2026-01-01.

Privacy: [Doge improperly shared sensitive social security data, DOJ court filing reveals](#). Gedeon, Joseph, The Guardian, 2026-01-21.

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