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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*

**Issue no. 180, December 2024**

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### Commentary

Happy New Year from the News Collectors and Translators of the SAHR Newsletter!

### SAHR News

– **SAHR 2025 Elections - for ICA/SAHR members**

The Section on Archives and Human Rights of the International Council on Archives will be running its 4 yearly elections in the course of 2025, to elect the members of its executive committee.

Working on the SAHR EC is demanding but very rewarding. If you have any questions about these elections, please contact the section's secretary: [deborahjenkins@protonmail.com](mailto:deborahjenkins@protonmail.com).

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Send your suggestions for news items or comments to [sahr-newsletter@ica.org](mailto:sahr-newsletter@ica.org).

## Events

Academia and Education: [CFP: Compelling Tensions in Library and Information Science. Library Trends special issue](#). Cheryl Oestreicher, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2024-12-12.

Academia and Education: [CFP: Critical Pedagogy Symposium: Decentering the West](#). Cheryl Oestreicher, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2024-12-02.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: [CFP: Item Not Found: Accounting for Loss in Libraries, Archives and Other Heritage and Memory Organizations](#). Cheryl Oestreicher, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2024-11-19.

*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 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](mailto:sahr-newsletter@ica.org). We'd love to have you! We're currently looking for collectors who can focus on Latin America, South America, Africa, Oceania and Asia to ensure a more global coverage.*

## News by topic

### Academia and Education

Worldwide: [CFP: Compelling Tensions in Library and Information Science, Library Trends special issue](#). The field of library and information science (LIS) has compelling tensions similar to those explored by Thomas Kuhn in the fields of science. Many of these tensions have been a part of the discipline and profession for a long time, and others have emerged in the digital age with the explosion of information and the ways to access, manipulate, and share that information. Cheryl Oestreicher, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2024-12-12.

Worldwide: [CFP: Critical Pedagogy Symposium: Decentering the West](#). This year's Symposium is inspired by the pedagogies and practices of those thinking about colonialism, imperialism, transnationalism, epistemic injustice, and other frameworks for Decentering the West. Cheryl Oestreicher, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2024-12-02.

### Access to Information

Canada: [Canada's Information Commissioners and Ombuds issue joint resolution calling for enhanced transparency in government operations](#). In a joint resolution, Canada's Information Commissioners and Ombuds from federal, provincial, and territorial jurisdictions are pressing their respective governments to prioritize transparency in the design and implementation of new systems, administrative processes, procedures, and governance models. This resolution reflects the need for a new standard in government operations and a collective commitment to fostering a culture of transparency and accountability across all levels of government in Canada. Information Commissioner of Canada, Information Commissioner of Canada, 2024-10-12.

### Children's Rights

Brazil: [Brazil Bans X from Using Children to Power Its AI](#). This week, Brazil's National Data Protection Authority banned the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, from using the personal data of its child users in Brazil to train its artificial intelligence (AI). Han, Hye Jung, Human Rights Watch, 2024-12-20.

### Colonialism

France/Senegal: [Sénégal: Thiaroye 1944, un long désir de vérité](#). Il y a 80 ans s'écrivait l'une des pages tragiques de l'histoire franco-africaine : l'armée française ouvrait le feu sur ses propres hommes, des tirailleurs regroupés dans le camp de Thiaroye au Sénégal. Quatre-vingts ans plus tard, une partie de ce qui s'est passé reste encore dans l'ombre. Les proches des disparus demandent une reconnaissance officielle de ce qui s'est passé et de l'innocence de leurs parents. Des historiens réclament un accès plus ouvert aux archives. Les autorités françaises, elles, marquent une nouvelle étape dans le processus de mémoire en reconnaissant qu'un massacre a bien eu lieu à Thiaroye, le 1er décembre 1944. Laurent Correau, RFI, 2024-12-01.

New Zealand: ['I claimed our data' – confronting the colonial archive is 'intense Aboriginal love' in action](#). Charmaine Papertalk Green sifts through the violent, traumatic colonial archive, to know more about her Old People. It's heartbreaking work, but a sliver of information can make a world of difference. Green, Charmaine Papertalk, The Conversation, 2024-10-10.

## Crimes Against Humanity

Belgium/Democratic Republic of the Congo: [Enfants métis du Congo : « La Belgique, enfin, accepte de regarder en face son passé colonial »](#). L'Etat belge a été condamné pour crimes contre l'humanité ce lundi, dans l'affaire des enfants métis du Congo. Cinq femmes ont obtenu gain de cause pour avoir été enlevées de force à leur famille. Colette Braeckman, Le Soir, 2024-12-02.

Nicaragua: [Nicaragua tortured at least 229 political prisoners, rights group says](#). At least 229 people detained in Nicaragua for political reasons have suffered various forms of torture and other "crimes against humanity" at the hands of the government over the past seven years, a human rights NGO said. Reuters, Reuters, 2024-12-10.

Nigeria: [Nigeria: Amnesty International petitions ICC judges to end Prosecutor's delaying of justice for atrocity crimes](#). Amnesty International today submitted a legal filing to the Pre-Trial Judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on behalf of several victims' networks, to request an end to the ICC Prosecutor's indefinite and unfathomable delay to the start of the court's investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Nigeria. Amnesty International, Amnesty International, 2024-12-02.

## Disability Rights

Tunisia: [Ensure digital transformation supports access to information for people with disabilities](#). On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, ARTICLE 19 underscores the right of people with disabilities to access information. Article 19, ARTICLE 19, 2024-12-03.

## Disinformation

Europe: [AI-based technologies for trustworthy solutions against disinformation - AI4TRUST](#). The AI4TRUST project aims to combat misinformation and disinformation in the EU by creating a trust-based environment that integrates the automated monitoring of social and news media with advanced AI-based technologies to enhance the work of human fact-checkers. Euractiv's Advocacy Lab, Euractiv, 2024-12-17.

Romania: [Commission opens TikTok investigation over Romanian presidential elections disinformation](#). The Commission could eventually fine TikTok up to 6% of its global worldwide turnover for failure to comply. Hartmann, Théophane, Euractiv, 2024-12-17.

Spain: [Spain introduces bill to combat online fake news](#). Minister calls bill demanding digital platforms publicly correct false information 'good news for democracy'. France-Presse, Agence, The Guardian, 2024-12-17.

United States of America: [Key US agency that fights foreign influence in jeopardy after funding snub](#). Global Engagement Center targeted by Republicans skeptical of alleged censoring of conservative viewpoints. Gedeon, Joseph, The Guardian, 2024-12-10.

## **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Africa: [Restore, destroy or leave to rot? Battle lines drawn over west Africa's architectural heritage](#). Uncompleted or abandoned buildings are a regular feature of the landscape. Now calls for restorations are increasing. Egbejule, Eromo, The Guardian, 2024-12-14.

Argentina: [Massive layoffs endanger dictatorship memorial sites, workers say](#). Paula Eugenia Donadio, a representative of state-workers union ATE, told the Herald that the layoffs endanger the functioning of dictatorship memorial sites run by the secretariat. The memorials are repurposed former clandestine detention centers that operated during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship. According to human rights organizations, these centers were instrumental in the forcible disappearance of over 30,000 people. Iglesia, Facundo, Buenos Aires Herald, 2024-12-27.

Syrian Arab Republic: [Can Syria's devastated cultural heritage be rebuilt?](#) As Syria's brutal almost 14-year civil war comes to an end, heritage experts are working to protect the remains of the country's battered cultural riches — and to reconstruct them. Stuart Braun, dw.com, 2024-12-19.

Worldwide: [CFP: Item Not Found: Accounting for Loss in Libraries, Archives and Other Heritage and Memory Organizations](#). Call for Book Chapter Proposals for Item Not Found: Accounting for Loss in Libraries, Archives and Other Heritage and Memory Organizations. Cheryl Oestreicher, Publishing in the Archives Profession, 2024-11-19.

## **Epidemic and Pandemic**

Worldwide: [WHO continues to urge China to share data five years after COVID-19](#). “We continue to call on China to share data and access so we can understand the origins of COVID-19,” WHO said. “This is a moral and scientific imperative. Without transparency, sharing, and cooperation among countries, the world cannot adequately prevent and prepare for future epidemics and pandemics.”. UN News, UN News, 2024-12-31.

## **Freedom of Expression**

El Salvador: [New Laws Threaten Free Expression, Privacy](#). El Salvador's recently approved cybersecurity and data protection laws contain sweeping provisions that threaten media freedom and privacy rights, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Watch, 2024-12-12.

Malaysia: [Online safety or censorship? Malaysia's parliament passes two contentious media bills](#). “These measures risk transforming Malaysia's digital spaces into stricter and highly regulated environments, stifling open discourse and innovation while entrenching state control over the internet.”. Mong Palatino, Global Voices, 2024-12-16.

Türkiye: [End Prosecutions Targeting Kurdish Language Activities in Türkiye](#). Rıfat Roni has spent more than a decade as an official court interpreter facilitating communication for Kurdish speakers in legal proceedings. This week, he found himself in the dock facing charges. Hugh Williamson, Human Rights Watch, 2024-12-20.

Worldwide: [The Fragile Balance: Leon Langdon on Free Speech and Combating Religious Hatred](#). Leon Langdon discusses Humanists International's advocacy at the UNHRC, focusing on

protecting freedom of expression, combating blasphemy laws, and addressing challenges to religious tolerance and minority rights. Jacobsen, Scott Douglas, International Policy Digest, 2024-12-16.

## **Freedom of Information**

Columbia/United States of America: [Colombia Asks U.S. to Declassify Records on 1985 Palace of Justice Case](#). Washington, D.C., December 6, 2024 - Yesterday, Colombian President Gustavo Petro announced that he has asked the United States to expedite the declassification of archival records on the 1985 Palace of Justice case. The request is an important step forward for human rights advocates seeking to clarify the motivations and actions of the M-19 insurgents who stormed the building on November 6, 1985, and the Colombian government's responsibility for those who died in the fire that tore through the seat of Colombia's judicial branch and for the disappearances that occurred in the aftermath. Michael Evans, National Security Archive, 2024-12-06.

North Korea: [A North Korean Voice That Kim Jong-un Would Like to Silence](#). Kim Seongmin, who fled to South Korea in the 1990s, broadcasts to his homeland twice a day, delivering the kind of information Pyongyang is trying hard to suppress. Sang-Hun, Choe, The New York Times, 2024-12-02.

Slovakia: [Slovak ombudsman and opposition to challenge information bill in Constitutional Court](#). The bill could lead to arbitrary decisions and inconsistent treatment of requests for information. Silenská, Natália, Euractiv, 2024-12-12.

Türkiye: [Mourning Turkey's Last Progressive Radio Station](#). Acik Radyo featured diverse voices, angering the Erdogan regime. Genc, Kaya, Foreign Policy, 2024-12-26.

United Kingdom: [A radical way to teach contested history](#). Helen Pidd visits Lancaster Royal grammar school to see the work of Parallel Histories, an education charity which helps young people make sense of contested history. Pidd, Helen, The Guardian, 2024-12-23.

United States of America: [Why speech could be a target for the anti-abortion movement in 2025](#). The anti-abortion movement is looking at ways to control information about how and where to obtain abortions. Sherman, Carter, The Guardian, 2024-12-27.

Vietnam: [Repeal Harmful Internet Laws](#). The Vietnamese government should repeal a draconian new decree tightening control of internet use and the 2018 Law on Cybersecurity. Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Watch, 2024-12-10.

## **Freedom of the Press**

Azerbaijan: [In Azerbaijan, authorities are again targeting journalists, in a new wave of arrests](#). The authorities in Baku insist none of the criticisms are true, instead accusing those critical of the regime of double standards, bias and meddling in the country's internal matters. Arzu Geybullayeva, Global Voices, 2024-12-18.

Columbia/United States of America: [US should declassify what it knows about deadly Colombian Supreme Court attack](#). Declassification diplomacy is one of US government's most distinctive foreign policy tools, and it should be deployed as often as possible. Lauren Harper, Freedom of the Press, 2024-12-11.

Serbia: [Authorities using spyware and Cellebrite forensic extraction tools to hack journalists and activists](#). Serbian authorities are using spyware and Cellebrite forensic extraction tools to hack journalists and activists in a surveillance campaign. Amnesty International, Amnesty International, 2024-12-16.

## **Genocide**

Cambodia: [Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot](#). Kampuchea démocratique (Cambodge) - 1978. Trois journalistes français sont invités par les Khmers rouges à réaliser une interview exclusive du chef du régime, Pol Pot. Le pays semble idéal. Mais derrière le village Potemkine, le régime des Khmers rouges décline et la guerre avec le Vietnam menace d'envahir le pays. Le régime cherche des coupables, menant en secret un génocide à grande échelle. Sous les yeux des journalistes, la belle image se fissure, révélant l'horreur. Leur voyage se transforme progressivement en cauchemar. Librement inspiré du récit de la journaliste Elizabeth Becker dans When The War Was Over. Panh, Rithy, 2024-12-12.

## **Government**

China: [A pro-China rapper blows whistle on Beijing's influencer network in Taiwan](#). Chen Po-yuan, an insider of a pro-China influencer network in Taiwan, publicly revealed the operation of mainland Chinese state agencies within the self-ruled region. Oiwan Lam, Global Voices, 2024-12-18.

Iraq: [The Measure of Time: Using Age Determination to Secure Identity and Civil Documentation](#). Four workstations in a corner office at the Nazal health centre in Fallujah are ready to receive their first applicants. A red ribbon and mint green signs are the only markings for this newly established age determination committee, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Iraq, and the Government of France. This committee will open doors to a new life for thousands of Iraqis in Fallujah, 65 km away from the capital, and offer critical services that were previously out of reach for families displaced by the conflict with Daesh. IOM, ReliefWeb, 2024-12-12.

Israel: [The Bibi Files review – tapes and testimony expose paranoia and petulance of Netanyahu family](#). Alexis Bloom's documentary, which shows the Israeli prime minister and his family under police interrogation over corruption charges, reveals their sense of entitlement. Bradshaw, Peter, The Guardian, 2024-12-11.

New Zealand: [Chief archivist apology to survivors of abuse in care](#). The Chief Archivist Anahera Morehu sincerely apologises on behalf of Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga Archives New Zealand (previously the National Archives) for failing to effectively monitor Government recordkeeping. New Zealand Archives, New Zealand Archives, 2024-11-20.

United Kingdom: [Disgruntled police in Northern Ireland responsible for IRA leaks after Good Friday agreement](#). Newly released Irish archives include leaks from UK government and RUC's attempts to undermine Sinn Féin. Booth, Robert, The Guardian, 2024-12-30.

United States of America: [Trump first-term inquiry into leakers led to invasive searches, report finds](#). Justice department says lawyers overreached in aiming to discover who was leaking classified information in 2017. Tait, Robert, The Guardian, 2024-12-10.



Worldwide: [\*\*A Billion Lives Off the Record: The Urgent Need for Legal Identity\*\*](#). Over one billion people worldwide lack legal identity, leaving them unable to access basic rights and services like healthcare, education, and voting. Baher Kamal, Inter Press Service, 2024-12-20.

## **Human Rights**

Sri Lanka: [\*\*Bringing Perpetrators of Gross Human Rights Violations to Task\*\*](#). The International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP), an independent NGO working since 2013 to protect and promote justice and accountability in Sri Lanka, has submitted more than 60 sanctions and visa ban requests against public and security officials to date as well as a series of universal jurisdiction cases. These have been sent to the governments of the US, UK, Australia, Canada and the EU as well as the UN. The submissions cover gross violations of human rights and significant corruption in respect of the army, navy, air force, police and intelligence officials, Tamil paramilitaries as well as civil servants including judges and former ministers, a press release from the organization said. Groundviews, Groundviews, 2024-12-12.

Worldwide: [\*\*General Assembly Adopts 47 Third Committee Resolutions, including Texts on Nazi Glorification, Children's Rights, Palestine Statehood\*\*](#). The General Assembly adopted 47 draft resolutions and one decision recommended by its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today, covering a wide range of issues, from countering violence against children and combating the glorification of Nazism to protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensuring the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. The draft on combating the glorification of Nazism contained in report A/79/456 elicited debate, triggering a recorded vote before its adoption. By the text, the Assembly expressed concern about the glorification of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS organization, including by erecting monuments and memorials and holding public demonstrations in the name of the glorification of the Nazi past. United Nations, UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, 2024-12-17.

## **Human Rights Defenders and Activists**

Laos: [\*\*States should ask "Where is Sombath?" at upcoming review of human rights record\*\*](#). On the 12-year anniversary of the unresolved enforced disappearance of Lao civil society leader Sombath Somphone, we, the undersigned civil society organizations and individuals worldwide, urge United Nations (UN) member states to express their concern over this continuing crime and to call for the prompt resolution of Sombath's case at the upcoming review of the human rights record of Laos. International Federation for Human Rights, International Federation for Human Rights, 2024-12-15.

Worldwide: [\*\*SOS-defenders platform: Expose arbitrary detention of human rights defenders worldwide\*\*](#). A collective of local, regional and international human rights organisations unveils SOS-Defenders, an action platform that exposes the alarming scale of arbitrary detention of human rights defenders worldwide. International Federation for Human Rights, International Federation for Human Rights, 2024-12-13.

## **Indigenous Matters**

United States of America: [\*\*Entre 1828 et 1970 | Plus de 3000 enfants morts dans des pensionnats autochtones\*\*](#). Au moins 3104 enfants autochtones sont morts dans des pensionnats aux États-Unis, arrachés à leur famille pour être assimilés de force. AFP, La Presse, 2024-12-22.



## Israel-Gaza Crisis

Israel/United States of America: [CIA Official Charged With Leaking Israeli Military Plans](#).

Documents posted on Telegram detailed Israeli weapons, munition, and troop movements ahead of its counterattack against Iran. Sharp, Alexandra, Foreign Policy, 2024-12-12.

Israel/Palestine (Permanent Observer to the United Nations): [Records Seized by Israel Show Hamas Presence in U.N. Schools](#).

While Israel asserts that the United Nations has tried to minimize the problem, the global organization says Israeli officials are waging an unfair campaign to discredit it. Becker, Jo; Rasgon, Adam, The New York Times, 2024-12-08.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the United Nations): [Archiving as resistance to genocide denial in Gaza](#). Law for Palestine members discuss their database of genocidal statements by leading Israeli figures and how it can help defend human rights. Kousta, Eleftheria, Waging Nonviolence, 2024-12-20.

Palestine (Permanent Observer to the United Nations): [A massive database of evidence, compiled by a historian, documents Israel's war crimes in Gaza](#). The report Dr. Mordechai has compiled online – "Bearing Witness to the Israel-Gaza War" – constitutes the most methodical and detailed documentation in Hebrew (there is also an English translation) of the war crimes that Israel is perpetrating in Gaza. It is a shocking indictment comprised of thousands of entries relating to the war, to the actions of the government, the media, the Israel Defense Forces and Israeli society in general. The English translation of the seventh, and to date latest version of the text, is 124 pages long and contains over 1,400 footnotes referencing thousands of sources, including eyewitness reports, video footage, investigatory materials, articles and photographs. Hasson, Nir, Haaretz, 2024-12-05.

## Migration

Bulgaria/Syrian Arab Republic: [Bulgaria trying to force out Syrian asylum seekers after fall of Assad](#). NGO finds Syrians subjected to interrogations and reportedly pressed into signing return documents. Tondo, Lorenzo; Kassam, Ashifa, The Guardian, 2024-12-18.

## Privacy

Kenya: [Kenyan money lending apps invade borrowers' privacy to recover debts](#). A report by the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) at Strathmore University revealed that most lending apps collect far more data than necessary. Cecilia Maundu, Global Voices, 2024-12-20.

United Kingdom: [Police unlawfully storing images of innocent people for facial recognition](#).

Privacy fears raised as report warns photographs of arrested people who are then released are being retained. Ungood-Thomas, Jon, The Observer, 2024-12-08.

## Racism

United States of America: [National Archives digitize cold cases of Black American murders](#). An Axios review of a new National Archives portal found just three digitized unsolved cases of lynchings, racial violence and murders of Black Americans, spawning several decades. The Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection portal is the federal agency's latest attempt to index civil rights violations and

provide a subject guide, part of an aim spelled out by law to bring justice to the victims in those cases. Russell Contreras, Axios, 2024-12-07.

## Spying

Europe: [Hungary spied on EU officials, Belgian media reports](#). A joint report alleges that Hungarian intelligence searched EU officials' hotel rooms, and stole data from laptops. Wallace, Nicholas, Euractiv, 2024-12-06.

Israel/Serbia: [Serbia used Israeli firm's tech to enable spy campaign, Amnesty says](#). According to Amnesty, Serbia received phone-cracking devices as part of a broader package of assistance designed to help Serbia meet the requirements for EU accession. Euractiv.com with Reuters, Euractiv, 2024-12-16.

United Kingdom: [Journalists who were unlawfully spied on have 'no doubt' UK reporters are still targeted](#). Belfast-based Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey won landmark victory that PSNI's surveillance was unlawful. Siddique, Haroon, The Guardian, 2024-12-23.

## Technology

Estonia: [Digital governance in the era of hybrid warfare, with Estonia's digital minister](#). In this episode, host Giada Santana is joined by Estonia's Justice and Digital Affairs Minister Liisa Pakosta to discuss Estonia's digital transformation and the challenges of securing a fully digital state in an era of escalating cyber warfare. Santana, Giada, Euractiv, 2024-12-16.

Europe: [Getting serious about AI rules: Lack of enforcement capacity puts EU at risk](#). In half a year, common EU rules start to apply to the most advanced AI models, crucial to supporting downstream industry and protecting citizens against systemic risks. The AI Office in the European Commission, however, is massively understaffed for the task, counting so far only around 85 staffers – out of which only around 30 team members are specifically tasked with the implementation of the AI Act. Voss, Axel, Euractiv, 2024-12-18.

United States of America: [Tech law in 2025: a look ahead at AI, privacy and social media regulation under the new Trump administration](#). The Trump administration has different interests and priorities than those of the Biden administration for regulating technology. For some issues like AI regulation, big changes are on tap. Lu, Sylvia, The Conversation, 2025-01-03.

Worldwide: [Accelerating humanitarian response: Inside MapAction's Automated Data Pipeline](#). In times of crisis, timely and accurate geospatial data is crucial for effective humanitarian response. This GIS Day 2024, we discuss a new project: an automated data pipeline to streamline the collection and preparation of essential geospatial datasets for emergencies. By replicating the data scramble process our GIS teams typically perform during emergencies, the MapAction Automated Data Pipeline aims to expedite the delivery of critical information to those who need it most. Evangelos Diakatos, Map Action, 2024-11-20.

Worldwide: [AI in War and Propaganda: Anna Mysyshyn on Disinformation, Democracy, and Digital Governance](#). Anna Mysyshyn explores the transformative role of AI in modern warfare and propaganda, highlighting its threats to democracy and strategies for resilience. Jacobsen, Scott Douglas, International Policy Digest, 2024-12-06.

Worldwide: [Humanity's fate can't be left to algorithms. UN chief tells Security Council](#). The UN Secretary-General on Thursday urged the Security Council to act decisively to establish international guardrails for artificial intelligence (AI), warning that delays could heighten risks to global peace and security. Vibhu Mishra, UN News, 2024-12-19.

Worldwide: [Security Council Debates Use of Artificial Intelligence in Conflicts, Hears Calls for UN Framework to Avoid Fragmented Governance](#). Rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) is outpacing human ability to govern it, even threatening human control over weapons systems, the United Nations chief warned during a Security Council briefing today, urging Member States to swiftly establish “international guard-rails” to ensure a safe, secure and inclusive AI future for all. “Artificial intelligence is not just reshaping our world — it is revolutionizing it,” underscored Secretary-General António Guterres. AI tools are identifying food insecurity and predicting displacements caused by extreme events and climate change, detecting and clearing landmines, and soon will be able to spot patterns of unrest before violence erupts. United Nations, UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, 2024-12-19.

Worldwide: [UNAIDS - partnerships for country led and country owned data system: A transformative approach](#). There is an urgent need to address inequities in global health practices, including how data are collected and used. In the case of HIV data, UNAIDS has consistently strived to strengthen partnerships with countries to support them in their data journeys, from collecting to using HIV data. UNAIDS, UNAIDS, 2024-12-23.

## **Ukraine War**

Ukraine: [Ukraine's death-defying art rescuers](#). When Putin invaded, a historian in Kyiv saw that Ukraine's cultural heritage was in danger. So he set out to save as much of it as he could. Higgins, Charlotte; Alexandrou, Nicola; Bury, Ellie, The Guardian, 2024-12-11.

## **War Crimes**

Liberia: [Liberian Warlord-Politician's Death and the Search for Justice](#). Liberia's Prince Y. Johnson, who rose to prominence first as a warlord and then politician, was implicated in serious abuses during the country's two civil wars between 1989 and 2003. Michelle Reyes Milk, Human Rights Watch, 2024-12-17.

Sudan: [How 'Trophy' Videos Link Paramilitary Commanders to War Crimes in Sudan](#). Visual evidence collected and analyzed over months by The New York Times identifies the commanders leading an opaque paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, as fighters under their watch commit atrocities across Sudan. Varghese, Sanjana; Reneau, Natalie; Koettl, Christoph; Byrd, Aaron; Walsh, Declan, The New York Times, 2024-12-31.

Sweden: [From Nuremberg to now: How a war crimes trial in Sweden is changing legal history](#). Prosecutors are using “universal jurisdiction” to hold companies to account for their operations overseas. Maxim, Julius, Politico, 2024-12-25.

Syria: [Syria's prison records vital for war crimes evidence](#). Fadl Abdulghani, head of the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), emphasized the importance of preserving prison and detention center archives in Syria to uncover the fate of detainees and identify those responsible for torture and other war crimes. Mahmut Geldi, Anadolu Agency, 2024-12-10.

Syrian Arab Republic: [35,000 registered missing in 13 years of conflict as ICRC helps families seek answers](#). In the past 13 years, the ICRC has registered 35,000 cases of people who have gone missing in Syria. This number reflects the requests of the families who approached the ICRC - we know that in reality the numbers are far greater. International Committee of the Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross, 2024-12-13.

Syrian Arab Republic: [Assad's Fall in Syria Renews Push for Justice on Crimes Committed by His Regime](#). It seems unlikely that deposed President Bashar al-Assad, who fled to Russia, will be forced to stand trial. That is not deterring activists who have worked for years to document his government's crimes. Bigg, Matthew Mpoke, The New York Times, 2024-12-12.

Syrian Arab Republic: [En Syrie, la bataille pour la préservation des preuves des crimes du régime Al-Assad](#). Plusieurs organisations demandent à la coalition de rebelles de ne pas détruire les preuves des crimes du régime. De les préserver dans l'espoir d'une justice future et pour aider aussi à la recherche des milliers de disparus dans les geôles des Al-Assad. Stéphanie Maupas, Le Monde, 2024-12-10.

Syrian Arab Republic: [En Syrie, la Croix-Rouge espère travailler avec les nouvelles autorités du pays sur la recherche des disparus](#). Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge n'avait pas accès aux lieux de détention gérés par les branches de sécurité du régime, qui pourraient être responsables de la mort de plusieurs centaines de milliers de Syriens. Hélène Sallon, Le Monde, 2024-12-21.

Syrian Arab Republic: [Preserve Evidence of Mass Atrocities](#). The transitional Syrian authorities should urgently take steps to secure and preserve evidence of atrocities committed under the government of former President Bashar al-Assad, including key government and intelligence documents as well as the sites of atrocities and mass graves. Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Watch, 2024-12-23.

Syrian Arab Republic: [Preuves de crimes de guerre en Syrie : "Nous avons 283 terabytes d'informations", explique un membre des Nations unies chargé de la collecte](#). Le chef des rebelles islamistes syriens a prévenu qu'il n'y aurait pas d'amnistie pour les personnes impliquées dans la torture des détenus. France Info, France Info, 2024-12-12.

Syrian Arab Republic: [Rights investigators call for protection of evidence, including mass grave sites](#). In a landmark mission to Syria, the UN probe into the most serious rights violations committed in the country since 2011 has called on caretaker authorities to take immediate measures to protect mass grave sites and preserve critical evidence. Vibhu Mishra, UN News, 2024-12-20.

Syrian Arab Republic: [Special Rapporteur on Torture documents Syrian violations for ICI case](#). There is a danger that important evidence of torture and other crimes is being lost in Syria, as families of missing people desperately seek news of their loved ones, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Jill Edwards warned today. OHCHR, OHCHR, 2024-12-19.

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