

HRWG ica

human rights working group
international council on archives
groupe de travail sur les droits de l'homme
conseil international des archives

November 6 is International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, November 16 is the International Day of Tolerance, November 20 is Universal Children's Day, November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and November 29 is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

News of October 2011

Compiled by Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Chair, HRWG

The following is number twenty-three in a series of brief discussions of the Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the archival holdings that relate to them.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 22. *Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.*

India is embarking on a remarkable project: issuing an identification number to each of its 1.2 billion citizens. The project is designed to solve, among others, the problem of invisible persons; as an article on the project noted, “Hundreds of millions of Indians are barely visible to the state: they either have no I.D. at all or a weak form of it, issued by local authorities. Consequently, they can't easily open bank accounts or buy cell-phone SIM cards, and *they can't secure state services owed to them*” (emphasis added). It is exactly those state services that Articles 22 through 27 of the Declaration defines as human rights obligations of the state.

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/10/03/111003fa_fact_parker

The drafters designed Article 22 as an overarching introduction to economic, social and cultural rights, what the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe terms the “cornerstone” of this section of the Declaration. The debate over whether and how to include these rights in the Declaration was vigorously contested, according to the account in Johannes Morsink's history of the drafting process. Some delegates argued that political and civil rights had been recognized since the 18th century but the concept of social, economic and cultural right was a 19th century development and therefore needed to be emphasized by inclusion in the Declaration. Count Carton de Wiart, the Belgian delegate, took this position, for example,

saying that Article 22 “introduced new ideas, while the preceding articles revived ideas as expressed in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen of 1789 and in the American Bill of Rights.” Eleanor Roosevelt, the chair of the drafting committee and the widow of the U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, argued that the Declaration “should enunciate the rights of man and not the obligations of states.” Hernan Santa Cruz of Chile disagreed, saying, “As those [social] rights differed from all other rights in that they required positive action by the State before they could be enjoyed, it was quite proper to impose a definite obligation on the State in that regard.” The arguments for including these rights and for obliging states to take action to ensure them carried, and Article 22 was adopted. A guide to human rights issues developed by the Levin Institute at the State University of New York calls Article 22 “remarkable” because it (1) “holds that economic, social and cultural rights help create the background conditions necessary for the realization of human dignity, which Article 1 had established as the foundation for all human rights,” (2) “calls not only for national action to secure these rights but also for ‘international co-operation,’” and (3) “recognizes that countries have different capacities” to achieve the objectives of the Declaration. <http://www.humanrightseducation.info/hr-materials/the-universal-declaration-of-human-rights/220.html>; Morsink, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Origins, Drafting and Intent*, pp. 222-232; http://www.globalization101.org/issue_sub/humanrights/ideahumanrights/universal_declaration_of_human_rights

The rights outlined in Article 22 subsequently were incorporated in a number of international and regional human rights treaties. In 1966, the idea of the "the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance" was included as Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2007 adopted General Comment No. 19, “The right to social security.” It argues that every State must adopt “a national security strategy and plan of action to realize the right to social security” unless the State already has a “comprehensive social security system in place.” The national security strategy should “be based on the principles of accountability and transparency,” noting that “the independence of the judiciary and good governance are also essential to the effective implementation of all human rights.” Remarkably, given the signal importance of archives to the effective provision of the right to social security, the comment makes no mention of the need to maintain accurate records of the population, the beneficiaries and the government’s actions to provide social services. It is a stunning oversight. <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/403/97/PDF/G0840397.pdf?OpenElement>

Archives hold massive quantities of records relating to the rights defined in Article 22. Records of social services institutions including those that monitor labor conditions, census data, records of government bodies dealing with indigenous peoples and records of self-governing bodies of indigenous peoples, records of colonial administrations, legislative archives, non-governmental organizations—the list goes on and on. The records of international bodies, such as UNESCO, the High Commissioners for Refugees and Human Rights, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Intellectual Property Organization reflect the world-wide exercise of economic, social, and cultural rights. The international and regional banks have records of social security issues that arise in the context of lending programs, credit agreements, structural adjustment programs and similar projects. All employers should have records of their workers and the contributions both employers and

employees make to the social security system. And the relevant records are in all formats: databases with data on beneficiaries, photographs of living and working conditions, email that contains comments that denigrate a group, correspondence between a government and an international funder, all provide significant evidence. These are the records that combat invisibility.

Human Rights Working Group news. The Human Rights Working Group met on October 25 during the annual conference of the International Council on Archives. The members of the group applauded the efforts of Teresa Fallon and Aileen Cornelio on the directory project, began to refine the criteria for inclusion in the directory, and agreed that people should be encouraged to nominate institutions for inclusion in the directory. The group is seeking someone willing to translate the *HRWG News* into Spanish and a person or institution, such as a university archives course, to develop a basic bibliography on archives and human rights. Eva Halbrstatova of the Czech Republic presented a proposed project on using archives with school children to help them explore the post-World War II era. The Working Group agreed to name someone to the project's advisory board if the project is funded. The Group decided to hold an open meeting at the ICA Congress in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2012, but the Group will not itself propose any thematic session. The Group noted with pleasure that one of the keynote speakers will be Judge Baltazar Garzon of Spain, who is internationally known for his human rights investigations (the Working Group proposed his participation). Finally, Jens Boel reported that UNESCO will vote in the coming days on a resolution endorsing the Universal Declaration on Archives; the UNESCO resolution contains a paragraph on the right to know.

The organizers of the Brisbane Congress have extended until 31 January 2012 the period for submitting abstracts for papers to be presented at the Congress. The theme for the Congress is "A Climate of Change," and the website for the Congress program, with instructions for submitting session proposals, is <http://www.ica2012.com/program/>

On October 20 in Rabat, Morocco, the Office of UNESCO in Maghreb published *Vers un droit d'accès à l'information publique au Maroc - Etude comparative avec les normes et les meilleures pratiques dans le monde* by Perrine Canavaggio, conservateur général honoraire du patrimoine of France (and a founding member of the Human Rights Working Group), and Alexandra Balafrej, an expert in communication. This major work is an important reference for anyone looking at access to information issues. Congratulations to the authors!
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/news/droit_acces_informat ion_maroc.pdf

International news.

International courts. The judges at the International Criminal Court granted the prosecutor the right to open an investigation into the killings and rapes committed in Ivory Coast after the disputed presidential election in 2010. In September this year the new Ivorian government formed a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to look into the violence, which means that the truth-telling process and the legal process will run concurrently. This is the seventh formal case

opened by the ICC, all of them on crimes committed in Africa.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/03/international-criminal-court-ivory-coast>

Australia/Canada. An album that was published by the commander of the penal colony in Newcastle, Australia, from 1816 to 1818 was found and sold in Canada to the New South Wales State Library of Australia for nearly 2 million Canadian dollars. The ten original oil paintings pasted into the book are annotated with the names of the aborigines in the paintings, “a rare occurrence in the 1800s,” according to the report of the sale in the London (Ontario, Canada) *Free Press*. In addition, one annotation names “the first person tried and convicted under British law in the colony for killing an aborigine”: the killer was the deceased’s brother. The State Library called the album “a prime document about the settlement of Australia and is without a doubt the most significant pictorial artifact to have been made in colonial New South Wales during the 1810s.”

<http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2011/10/17/18838086.html#/news/london/2011/10/17/pf-18838206.html>

Czech/Russia. Documentary photographs of the 1968 uprising in Czechoslovakia known as Prague Spring are on exhibit for the first time in Russia. The photographs were taken by Josef Koudelka, who after the reforms failed went into exile and joined the Magnum Photo Agency. In addition to the photographs, the exhibition in Moscow includes “posters, propaganda leaflets and a film”, according to *RT.com*. <http://rt.com/art-and-culture/news/koudelka-personal-display-prague-spring-213/> A gallery of photographs by Koudelka is available on the Magnum website http://www.magnumphotos.com/Archive/C.aspx?VP=XSpecific_MAG.PhotographerDetail_VPage&l1=0&pid=2K7O3R135R3G&nm=Josef%20Koudelka

Germany/Russia. The Russian federal security service (FSB) announced that it will open its file on Adolf Hitler’s death and the disposal of his remains in order to refute claims in a new book that Hitler escaped from Berlin and lived in Buenos Aires until 1962, reports *Scotsman.com*. Part of Hitler’s skull was taken to Moscow and “now resides in the State Archive” and the rest of the skeletal remains were cremated, the FSB says.

http://www.scotsman.com/news/international/russians_open_secret_files_to_refute_claims_hitler_escaped_from_bunker_1_1921966

Germany/world. The records managed by the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, and the efforts made by the U.S. Holocaust Museum to make them available for research are profiled in a story in the *Ottawa Citizen*. The ITS was established after the Second World War to assist in reuniting families that had been separated during the war.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/secrets+Arolsen+Documents+housed+massive+Holocaust+archive+only+beginning+understood/5624350/story.html>

Iraq/United States. Twenty transcripts and documents from the Iraqi archives captured after the U.S. forces invaded Iraq in 2003 and taken to the U.S. were released in conjunction with a Washington conference on the Iran-Iraq War. The documents show Saddam Hussein boasting that Iraq had a chemical weapons arsenal that “exterminates by the thousands” and ordering the execution of a British journalist in 1990 and Iraqi pilots during the Iran-Iraq war, according to the *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/26/world/middleeast/archive-offers-rare->

[glimpse-inside-mind-of-saddam-hussein.html? r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/digital-archive) The documents are posted under “Iran/Iraq War” at <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/digital-archive>

Panama/United States. In an Op-Ed in the *Los Angeles Times*, Douglas Cox writes that the U.S. Army still has records it seized during the invasion of Panama in 1989. The records are “15,000 boxes of documents from [General Manuel] Noriega’s offices and the Panamanian Defense Forces. The documents included everything from letter and bank account statements to sensitive secret police files and intelligence reports.” Cox urges that the records be returned to Panama. <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/oct/05/opinion/la-oe-cox-noriega-20111005>

United States/World. In an important case that originated in an Australian lawsuit against a citizen of India in which the Australian lawyers sought access to the Indian citizen’s emails which were on a server in the U.S., the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the United States ruled that the protections of the U.S. Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 against “unrestricted disclosure of emails by an electronic communication service provider apply to non-U.S. nationals as well as to U.S. citizens,” reports *Legal Cloud Central Blog*. [http://www.ediscoverylaw.com/2011/10/articles/case-summaries/cloud-computing-case-clarifies-applicability-of-us-privacy-law-to-nonus-nationals/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+ediscoverylaw/kgates+\(Electronic+Discovery+Law\)&utm_content=Google+Reader](http://www.ediscoverylaw.com/2011/10/articles/case-summaries/cloud-computing-case-clarifies-applicability-of-us-privacy-law-to-nonus-nationals/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+ediscoverylaw/kgates+(Electronic+Discovery+Law)&utm_content=Google+Reader)

National news.

Canada. Records of the shotguns and rifles owned by Canadians would be destroyed under legislation introduced to scrap the long-gun registry, thereby preventing future provincial or federal governments from making use of the information. The Association of Canadian Archivists urged the government to reconsider, saying that using legislation to override the government’s regular practices of appraisal, retention and destruction “sets a very dangerous precedent.” <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/long-gun-records-to-be-killed-132600338.html>; <http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/11/01/destroying-gun-registry-records-a-terrible-precedent-archivists/>

Egypt. In a long feature article on “Egypt’s Unfinished Revolution,” the *Financial Times* quotes Mohamed ElBaradei, an Egyptian presidential contender and former head of the international Atomic Energy Agency, as saying about Egypt’s continuing security problems, “Maybe they [the army] don’t want to crack down on the police system. Are they holding files against each other?” <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/7ef64d68-002e-11e1-8441-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1camAiOiY>

Fiji. Fiji’s airline, Air Pacific, revealed that confidential documents were “accessed and removed without authorization by a suspended employee” including “individual pilot and flight attendant salaries, individual employee contracts, board material and other sensitive financial and commercial documents,” reported *fjivillage.com*. <http://www.fjivillage.com/?mod=story&id=121011d73c8559b9ced75622b65cd3>

Germany. The law barring former employees of the East German secret police (Stasi) from working in the Stasi archives was passed by the German parliament. For background, see the September 2011 issue of *HRWG News*. Thank you to Klaus Oldenhage for the update.

Prosecutors in Germany have reopened “hundreds of investigations of former Nazi death camp guards and others who might now be charged under a precedent set by the conviction of John Demjanjuk, a guard at the Sobibor camp in Poland in 1943,” *The Guardian* and other media report. The head of the German prosecutors’ office dedicated to investigating war crimes said his office was “pouring over its files.” The *International Herald Tribune* quoted the prosecutor as saying, “I hope that we can make it through all the files within a year.”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/05/germany-reopens-investigations-nazi-guards>

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

Guatemala. On 24 October seventeen Guatemalan organizations petitioned the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to include in the Commission’s recommendations to the government of Guatemala that the State must protect the security and integrity of the historical archives of the National Police; ensure that the police archives continue to be processed; protect the persons who work in the police archives and ensure that sufficient staff will be available to do the work there; adopt legislation to safeguard all State archives; and provide a right of access to the information in the control of the State, both in the police archives and in other public bodies. A video of the hearing before the Commission is found at

http://www.oas.org/OASPage/videosasf/2011/10/102411_1_S3.wmv

India. The government of Kerala in south India is now issuing marriage certificates and “encumbrance certificates” on line and plans to issue the “registration of Title Deed (Aadharam) and the Transfer of Registry (Pokkuvarvu) documents through the computerized system,” reports *The New Indian Express*. An estimated 50,000 document preparers and scribes will no longer be needed; one of the scribes is quoted as saying, “It is more than a century-old profession, which has got the highest legal sanctity for the protection of the right to property. I say this because the validity of any electronically-generated evidence in front of the judiciary is questioned while a written evidence is the most valid in court.” The news article did not include information on the arrangements for the protection and archival preservation of these vital records.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/title-deed-writing-will-become-a-thing-of-past/189277-60-116.html>

Israel. A contract worker from the Ministry of Labor and Welfare was charged with stealing the personal information of over 9 million Israelis from the Population Registry, the *Jerusalem Post* reports. The worker electronically copied identification numbers, full names, addresses, dates of birth, information on family connections and other information in order to sell it to a private buyer and provide it to a software designer, who uploaded it to the Internet and created a “website with detailed instruction explaining how to download and use the . . . program with Israeli citizens’ personal information.”

<http://www.jpost.com/NationalNews/Article.aspx?id=242957>

New Zealand. A Christchurch mental health organization asked police to investigate the circumstances that led to equipment and records disappearing from its demolished office. *Television New Zealand* reports that the organization’s manager was “most concerned” about missing “files and computer hard drives containing personal information.” The demolished

building held “at least” nine mental health agencies whose staff members were not permitted to retrieve any property after the earthquake; however, tenants “managed to stop” a truck that was hauling away rubble and “spent the next two days retrieving files from the rubbish.” A member of the demolition crew reported that “workers were told to throw files, many of which appeared to him to be in good order, in the rubbish.” <http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/health-records-missing-after-quake-4478522>

Pakistan. In Lahore, civil judges raided the homes of at least four court ahlmads, or record keepers, of various subordinate courts and confiscated over 5,000 case files from them, *The Express Tribune* reports. “Lawyers said that the ahlmads had probably been bribed to make unwanted documents disappear. The ahlmads said they had been forced to take the files home because there was nowhere else to keep them.” <http://tribune.com.pk/story/274329/lost-and-found-5000-court-files-found-in-staffers-homes/>

In sad legal proceedings, courts in Pakistan are routinely hearing enforced disappearance cases brought by relatives of the missing. The *Washington Post* reports that the High Court in Peshawar hears five such cases a day. A deputy attorney general who represents the government in around 1,000 disappearance cases each year said “he has little power beyond asking military authorities where a missing person is and reporting their answer to the court.” Court records will document the repeated attempts to gain information about the missing; one woman told the *Post* that she had been to “more than 30 court hearings, but her husband is still missing.” <http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/newsvIEWS/168093-pakistans-open-secret-the-missing.html>

Palestine. In a *New York Times* article titled “A State is Born in Palestine: How the U.N. was persuaded to alter the course of history,” the author focuses on the actions of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) in 1947. He writes, “For decades, Unscop’s classified documents were scattered in archives all over the world, and only recently have they been made available.” However, a quick check of a finding aid from the United Nations Archives shows 31 boxes of UNSCOP records in its holdings, which presumably are available under the UN’s 20 year rule for the release of documents. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/09/magazine/a-state-is-born-in-palestine.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all

Peru. September seems to have been a month for reopening cases (see reports on Germany, Poland, and Thailand). In Peru prosecutors are reopening investigations into evidence that thousands of women were forcibly sterilized during the decade of the 1990s when Alberto Fujimori was president. Human rights groups say that they have evidence of more than 2,000 cases of forced sterilization but the total may be much higher. A previous investigation into the cases died when the chief prosecutor at the time ruled that the 2,063 cases then registered alleging forced sterilization did not constitute “a severe violation of human rights and thus should be shelved under the statute of limitation,” according to the *Associated Press*. <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/10/28/2476486/peru-reopens-probe-of-forced-sterilizations.html>

Poland. The *Associated Press* also reports that Polish authorities reopened an investigation into World War II crimes committed at Auschwitz and its satellite camps. It is not clear whether the reopening was influenced by the conviction in Germany of John Demjanjuk (see Germany above). http://articles.boston.com/2011-10-28/news/30333505_1_nazi-hunter-nazi-crimes-nazi-war

Swaziland. In a rather draconian solution to a problem, the government has closed access to the Deeds Registry in order to curb theft. The *Times of Swaziland* quotes the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy as saying that police had evidence “that a total of seven (7) criminal cases concerning fraudulent sale of immovable property are investigated and that during investigation it transpired that the fraudsters obtained information from the Deeds Registry” (apparently documents were stolen). A regulation implementing the Deeds Registry Act provides, according to the Minister, “that the registrar shall have power to refuse access to any member of the public without assigning a reason for such refusal.” <http://www.times.co.sz/News/33410.html>

Thailand. In yet another review of court cases, the new government of Thailand announced it will review “hundreds of prosecutions since the 2006 military coup,” including “prosecutions of hundreds of protesters in Bangkok in recent years, corruption charges against former Prime Minister Thaksin Sinawatra and scores of people charged with defaming the royal family,” reports *VOANews.com*. <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/southeast/Thai-Government-Announces-Sweeping-Legal-Review-130346093.html>

United Kingdom. Last December the Dartford and Gravesham National Health Service Trust mistakenly destroyed 10,000 files, including some that contained “names and addresses of former patients and some staff, and a ‘limited amount’ of medical information about patients’ previous treatment,” *kentnews.co.uk* writes. Although some were treatment records, Trust officials claim that “the loss of the records does not pose a clinical risk to people affected by the incident.” http://www.kentnews.co.uk/home/nhs_trust_mistakenly_destroyed_10_000_files_1_1079025

More than 139,000 people signed an e-petition calling for the release of all records relating to the 1989 Hillsborough Disaster in which 96 Liverpool football fans died. The Prime Minister’s office said that all the relevant papers are in the hands of the Hillsborough Independent Panel, which “should decide when to pass on the official documents to the Hillsborough families and whether to publish them,” reports the *BBC*. The Panel was set up in 2009 “to consider ways of creating an archives of Hillsborough material and ensuring that as much information as possible was disclosed to the public.” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-15330776>

United States. In what could be a major change in access to court records, the Obama administration is proposing to amend a federal rule of criminal procedure that indefinitely closes the records of grand juries. Under the proposed amendment, transcripts of grand jury sessions that are at least 30 years old would be open if their disclosure would not affect any “still-living witness or investigative target,” and all grand jury materials “that are deemed historically significant and that are at least 75 years old” would be open at the National Archives without any court review. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/20/us/politics/administration-proposes-opening-up-more-historic-grand-jury-transcripts.html>; for the letter with the proposal, see <http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/2011/10/ag101811.pdf>

The *Scripps Howard News Service* reviewed files from the Social Security Administration's Death Master File and discovered 31,931 living Americans listed there. The Master File is a database containing the records of approximately 90 million deceased persons, including their social security numbers and names and dates of birth, and the database has been publicly available since 1980. The Scripps Howard investigative report estimates that more than 400,000 records on living people have been released since that time. The Social Security Administration says the problem is due to "keying errors" when entering data.

<http://projects.scrippsnews.com/magazine/grave-mistakes/toc/#>

Alaska. More than 100 recordings of people speaking Tlingit, some dating from the early 1900s, will be migrated to a digital format. They also will be audited by Tlingit speakers who will provide supplemental information to help place the information on the recordings in context. The recordings are held by the Sealaska Heritage Institute, which also will have an internship program permitting undergraduate students studying the Tlingit language at the University of Alaska Southeast to be involved in the project. <http://juneauempire.com/local/2011-10-20/shi-receives-grant-study-historic-tingit-recordings>

Connecticut. The electric utility United Illuminating was fined \$40,000 for failing to keep records of its storage and removal of toxic substances. In particular, the utility failed to track its handling of PCBs, which are persistent in the environment, are suspected carcinogens, and can cause liver problems and skin rashes. <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news20909.html>

Delaware. Three unencrypted computer backup tapes containing patient billing and employee payroll data were reported missing on September 8 from a Nemours facility in Wilmington, Delaware. Nemours operates a children's health system. <http://www.nemours.org/mediaroom/news/2011/missingtapes.html>

Georgia. A law firm had trouble keeping track of its records, which turned up in a newspaper recycling bin at the local newspaper. The files at the newspaper included phone and Social Security numbers of former clients of the law firm and information regarding the physical and sexual abuse of juveniles, the release of which is generally prohibited under state law. <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/6/article/57722/>

Kansas. A criminal case against a Planned Parenthood clinic was postponed when the Kansas State health department disclosed that it had destroyed copies of abortion reports needed as evidence, in accordance with a state regulation from 1997 that authorizes the department to destroy paper copies of an abortion record one year after the year in which the record was created. The charges against the clinic include allegations that it falsified documents that it was required by law to file with the state health department. <http://www.kansas.com/2011/10/24/2075001/planned-parenthood-case-in-kan.html>

Maryland. A Baltimore law firm lost a portable hard drive containing information about its cases, including medical records for 161 stent patients suing a cardiologist for alleged malpractice. The drive was lost by an employee of the firm while traveling on a local train. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-stent-hard-drive-20111010,0,599052.story>

Washington. A computer security expert who was arrested three years ago in Seattle and whose case was then dismissed successfully sued the city and obtained the police department's log of "every dashcam arrest video shot by Seattle patrol officers between July 2008 and August of this year." He now has created a website for the log to "allow arrested citizens and their attorneys to see whether there is any video from the dashboard cameras." He believes that some videos are lost and others concealed.

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/arrested_in_seattle_computer_security_expert_creates_searchable_website_of/

Zimbabwe. The head of the worldwide Anglican Church gave President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe a file documenting abuses against the church and its priests in Zimbabwe and the seizure of church property. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/11/world/africa/zimbabwe-anglican-raises-complaints.html>

Calls for papers, conferences, fellowships.

On November 11 and 12, the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin will host a conference "Sexuality and Slavery: Exposing the History of Enslaved People." The conference will "discuss the politics of constructing such histories; the archival and methodological challenges to this research; and the regional differences and similarities across the Americas through historical, legal, and feminist frameworks." The conference is free but attendees must register in advance at

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/SexualityandSlaveryConference/registration.php>

The London International Human Rights Congress 2011, "Immigration & Integration in an Age of Austerity: Challenges and Opportunities" will be held at The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, London, 22-25 November 2011. For further information, contact: info@culturaldiplomacy.org or see www.culturaldiplomacy.org

"Violence, Memory, and Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Conference" will be held 30 January-1 February 2012, at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. Confirmed speakers include Judge Baltazar Garzon and Alexander Hinton. Contributions from scholars and artists from across the disciplines and addressing any period in history are invited; the organizers hope to develop an edited volume drawn from conference presentations. A title and 250-word abstract of proposed papers should be sent to Dr. Elizabeth Bird ebird@usf.edu by 15 November 2011. For details of the conference, see <http://humanities-institute.usf.edu/events/memory/>

The University of California Davis's Human Rights Initiative invites submissions for the 2nd Annual Spring Human Rights Colloquium, "Contested Histories of Human Rights," to be held 9 March 2012 at the campus. The colloquium will focus on current debates about the history of human rights, their violation and protection, with particular emphasis of the perspective of the histories of Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Historians and scholars in other disciplines employing historical methodologies are invited to submit a 300-word abstract and brief CV to Keith David Watenpaugh, kwatenpaugh@ucdavis.edu by 1 December 2011. Funding

for travel may be available due to a generous grant of the UC Davis Academic Senate Committee on Research.

An international conference on “Human Rights and the Humanities” will be hosted by the American University of Beirut, 9-11 May 2012. The conference will focus on systemic issues and the globalization of human rights, with particular attention paid to the Middle East/North Africa region and Arab Spring. Send abstracts (maximum 300 words) or session proposals (maximum 500 words) and brief CV by 15 Nov 2011 to Alexander Hartwiger humanrightsandthehumanities@gmail.com

The conference “Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship” will be held 3-5 July 2012 at Mansfield College, Oxford, United Kingdom. Persons interested in presenting papers should contact ejgc11@inter-disciplinary.net and see www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/ethos/environmental-justice-and-global-citizenship/call-for-papers/

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