

Written and compiled by Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Chair, HRWG

Commentary.

In September 2014 a U.S. woman and her Canadian husband filed a “spousal sponsorship application for her immigration to Canada” with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. They submitted a 532 page package of documents, including “6 pages of wedding receipts, 18 pages of congratulatory wedding cards, 30 pages of wedding photos, 21 pages of plane tickets, 39 pages of emails, 29 pages of cards and love letters, 57 pages of Facebook history, 36 pages of Skype and FaceTime records, and 137 pages of iMessage chat logs,” reported the *Hamilton Spectator*. However, in May 2015 Canadian “immigration officials requested additional proof their marriage is legitimate.” <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/5692350-proof-of-love-for-immigration-canada-532-page-report-isn-t-enough/>

At first glance, the package this couple submitted seems extraordinarily complete. But a second look shows that the couple did not submit a copy of either a marriage license (a document giving a couple permission to wed) or a marriage certificate (a document attesting to the completion of the civil contract of marriage). While Immigration Canada, following press inquiry, made a determination in the case (the nature of the decision was not known when the press wrote the story), if this couple had provided a legal document showing their marriage in New York State, it surely would have made their case easier.

For much of human history and in parts of the world today, marriage was and is a contractual arrangement between families, clans or even political entities, rather than a contract between two individuals. And while many of the countries that were British colonies, such as Canada, recognize common law marriage (that is, a couple that lives together in an arrangement like marriage but has not had an actual marriage ceremony or obtained legal documents), documentation of the relationship is ever more important in today’s legally-bound world. Why? One measure is the rights and benefits that accrue to the married couple. For example, in 2004 the U.S. Government Accounting Office examined the United States Code to determine the federal rights, responsibilities, and privileges that were provided to married couples. The study identified a minimum of 1,138 statutes in which marital status was a factor. On the state and federal levels, these rights, privileges, and obligations affect areas including family law, taxation, health care law, probate, torts, government benefits and programs, private sector benefits, labor law, real estate, bankruptcy, immigration, and criminal law. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04353r.pdf> Another matter is divorce. As lawyers point out, a usual contract between two persons can be broken by the action of either of the parties; however, in a marriage with a contract that involves a third party (the state or the religious authority that certifies the marriage), that third party also must participate in dissolution of the contract. One legal document (the divorce decree) cancels another legal document (the marriage certificate).

The statutes that privilege married persons are a major factor in the push to legalize same sex marriage. In May Ireland approved a constitutional amendment saying “marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.” In June the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a “fundamental right to marry” can no longer be denied because the partners are of the same sex. These actions affirm Article 16 on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says in part 1, “Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.”

So whether the record of marriage is in a government archives, an archives of a faith-based body, or in a tribal archives, whether it is a record of a marriage between a man and woman, a man and a man, or a

woman and a woman, it is a record of true significance for the human rights of the persons whose names appear on it. Vital records, in every sense of the word.

News of the Human Rights Working Group. The Human Rights Working Group will meet at 8 A.M. on Saturday, September 26, at the National Archives of Iceland. The meeting is open and everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda for the meeting will be included in the August *HRWG News*.

International news.

International Committee of the Red Cross. On June 15 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) opened its archives for the period 1966-1975. The records cover the Nigeria-Biafra War (1967-1970), the Vietnam War (1964-1975), the military junta in Greece (1967-1974), the coup against President Salvador Allende in Chile (1973), the ICRC's work in South Africa during Nelson Mandela's detention, the Cyprus conflict, and the wars of independence in Mozambique and Angola. An estimated 97% of all files are open; the remainder will be closed for 20 more years. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-archives-be-opened>

United Nations. The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict issued its report. It found "substantial information pointing to the possible commission of war crimes by both Israel and Palestinian armed groups." The Commission and its staff members "conducted more than 280 interviews with victims and witnesses and received more than 500 written submissions and other documentation from a wide range of sources, including eyewitnesses, affidavits, medical reports, expert weapons analyses, satellite imagery, video film footage and other photographic evidence from incident sites and injury documentation, as well as written submissions, including expert legal opinions. It reviewed information publicly available, including that on official websites of the Government of Israel." For overall fatality numbers, the Commission used the figures obtained by the UN Population Cluster, which also are based on a variety of sources. The Commission says it "hopes to eventually make public as much of the material received as confidentiality permits." A few days before the UN report, the government of Israel released its own report on the Gaza war. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ColGazaConflict/Pages/ReportColGaza.aspx#report>; http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/15/world/middleeast/israel-foreign-ministry-report-gaza-palestinians-hamas.html?_r=0

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances issued a report on forced disappearances in Peru. It said that Peru has a "great deal" of work to do to achieve justice for the atrocities that occurred during the internal armed conflict of the 1980s and 1990s. The head of the Group said that the families of the disappeared are "profoundly frustrated" by the obstacles and difficulties they have had to get information from the government to clarify what has happened to their family members. <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Peru-Needs-Justice-for-Forced-Disappearances-UN-Says-20150611-0018.html> ; <http://www.ohchr.org/SP/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16065&LangID=S>

The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) issued a report saying it has "found evidence of widespread human rights abuses allegedly committed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and associated armed groups during the recent escalation of fighting" in the greater Upper Nile region. After interviewing 115 victims and eyewitnesses and reviewing satellite images and photographs, UNMISS said SPLA and associated militias carried out a campaign against the local population that killed civilians, looted and destroyed villages, displaced over 100,000 people, and abducted and sexually abused women and girls "some of whom were reportedly burnt alive in their dwellings." The UNMISS records will go to the UN Archives in New York. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Final%20version%20Flash%20Human%20Rights%20Report%20on%20the%20Escalation%20of%20Fighting%20in%20Greater%20Upper%20Nile.pdf>

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Human Rights Council in 2014 established a commission of inquiry on human rights in Eritrea. It found that "systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been and are being committed in Eritrea under the authority of the Government." The commission interviewed more than 550 witnesses and received 160 written submissions, but said a "challenge faced by the commission in the completion of its work was the absence of reliable data,

including statistical information, in such areas as demographics, development, the economy and the legal system.” Perhaps in recognition of its finding that potential witnesses, even those residing outside Eritrea, were “afraid to testify, even on a confidential basis, because they assumed there were still being clandestinely monitored by the authorities and therefore feared for their safety and for family members back in Eritrea,” the Commission’s report included this unusual paragraph: “In accordance with established United Nations procedures, all information collected by the commission is stored in the official United Nations archive system and all interviews are classified as strictly confidential. Information will not be shared with any State, entity or individual without the explicit and informed consent of each witness concerned. This includes sharing with other section of OHCHR, United Nations human rights mechanisms, any international judicial mechanisms, any judicial mechanisms of other States, and any government authorities, in particular the Government of Eritrea.”

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ColEritrea/Pages/ReportColEritrea.aspx>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In its annual *Global Trends Report* UNHCR said “wars, conflict and persecution have forced more people than at any other time since records began to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere.” UNHCR statistics show that “worldwide displacement was at the highest level ever recorded”--59.5 million people--and “globally, one in every 122 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum.” Commenting on Syria, the report said, “1.55 million Syrian refugees were newly registered and granted temporary protection during the year, mainly in neighboring countries, while an additional 96,100 were granted international protection on an individual basis.” <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

World/general news.

ISIS records. Using “information harvested from the laptops, cellphones and other materials” taken during a U.S. raid in eastern Syria, U.S. intelligence agencies “have extracted valuable information about the Islamic State’s leadership structure, financial operations and security measures,” reported the *New York Times*. The “four to seven terabytes of data” include information about the distribution of revenue from oil production: half goes to ISIS general operating budget, a quarter to oil-field production facilities and a quarter to salaries for the oil field workers. Quoting unnamed “officials” the *Times* reported, chillingly, that “these workers, once thought possibly to be conscripted locals, are now believed to be salaried Islamic State employees, thus making them legitimate targets.” <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/09/world/middleeast/us-raid-in-syria-uncovers-details-on-isis-leadership-and-finances.html? r=0>

Medical records. “In a novel data-mining project,” reported the *Washington Post*, “researchers combed through more than 16 million electronic records of 2.9 million patients in two separate databases” and “found that people who take proton pump inhibitors, which suppress the release of stomach acid, are 16 to 21 percent more likely to suffer a heart attack.” Proton pump inhibitors, which include the trade names Nexium, Prilosec and Prevacid, are “among the most widely used drugs in the world” with an estimated 133 million prescriptions for them written worldwide each year for an estimated \$13 billion in sales. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2015/06/10/common-heartburn-medications-linked-to-greater-risk-of-heart-attack/>

App for evidence. The International Bar Association (IBA) launched a mobile phone app “EyeWitness to Atrocities” which is “designed based on the rules of evidence in international, regional and national courts,” reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. The IBA noted that mobile phone footage of human rights abuses, so often posted to social media, has been impossible to verify or lacks the information necessary to be used as evidence in court. This app records “the user’s location, date and time, and nearby Wi-Fi networks to verify that the footage has not been edited or manipulated, before sending it to a database monitored by a team of legal experts.” The submitter can decide whether to be named or anonymous when submitting the footage. “Once the video is submitted, it is stored in a virtual evidence locker, where it can only be accessed by legal experts who analyse the footage and identify the appropriate authorities to pursue criminal charges, according to the IBA.” http://www.trust.org/item/20150607230113-vsdqn/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+Digest+100615&utm_content=Weekly+Digest+100615+CID_158015b5538e8fcb17818f1b16ef4a8&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=Smartphone-wielding%20civilians%20to%20combat%20war%20crimes%20with%20an%20app

Bilateral and multilateral news.

Australia/United States. The Australian Information Commissioner ruled that the Prime Minister's Department must release "sensitive emails, file notes and records of conversations between former prime minister John Howard and his ministers and the former United States president George Bush and other US officials" relating to the repatriation and plea deal for former Guantanamo Bay detainee David Hicks. Hicks was captured in Afghanistan in 2001, taken to the Guantanamo Bay prison by the United States, and held for five-and-a-half years before making a plea bargain and returning to Australia. The Commissioner said that the prime minister's "excuse that it had to 'consult foreign governments' was not valid," reported the *Sydney Morning Herald*. That may be the most important part of the decision, because the practice of consulting friendly foreign governments and generally closing materials if that government objects to release has been a cornerstone of access policy in many governments. <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/prime-ministers-office-forced-to-hand-over-sensitive-documents-on-david-hicks-20150620-ghqkw1>

China/Japan. *China News Service* announced that "a batch of document papers in Japanese about 'comfort women' were recently unearthed in Northeast China." The documents, discovered in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces, have been transferred to the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region "as the cases depicted in the documents took place in the region." For background, see *HRWG News* 2014-01, 03. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/926815.shtml>

Cyprus/Turkey. Relatives of persons who disappeared in 1974 during the fighting following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus made an appeal to "the Turkish army to release all information regarding the fate of their beloved ones," wrote the *Greek Reporter*. <http://greece.greekreporter.com/2015/05/31/relatives-of-missing-persons-in-cyprus-turkish-army-must-open-its-archives/>

Dominican Republic/Haiti. In 2013 the Constitutional Tribunal in the Dominican Republic ruled that persons born of parents who were in the Dominican Republic as undocumented migrants were not citizens. A program to legalize the Haitians living illegally in the Dominican Republic ended on June 17, and Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report on June 30, based on research between February and May 2015, which said HRW "documented over 60 cases in which Dominicans of Haitian descent were arbitrarily detained, and in some instances forcibly removed to Haiti, despite having proper Dominican documentation." HRW "also verified hundreds of cases in which Dominicans of Haitian descent are still unable to exercise full rights as Dominican citizens," including the inability to register children at birth, enroll in school and college, participate in the formal economy, and travel around the country without risk of expulsion. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/06/30/dominican-republic-thousands-risk-expulsion-haiti>

Europe. A group of leading financial institutions formed the European Bankers Alliance and agreed to share data with Europol (the European Union's policing agency) to help identify persons engaged in human trafficking and "more effectively bring them to justice," reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. http://www.trust.org/item/20150609123650-dh91k?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+Digest+100615&utm_content=Weekly+Digest+100615+CID_158015b5538e8fcb17818f1b16ef4a8&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=European%20banks%20join%20drive%20to%20combat%20human%20trafficking%20using%20data

Ireland/United Kingdom. The National Archives of Ireland is making available on line the records of the "Chief Secretary's Office, Crime Branch: Movement of Extremists" from 1915 to April 29, 1916, four days before the Easter Rising, a revolt against British rule over Ireland. The records show the Dublin Metropolitan Police monitoring people believed to be pro-independence activists, reported the *Irish Examiner*. <http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/national-archives-release-secret-police-files-from-lead-up-to-easter-rising-679621.html>

Israel/Palestine. Palestine submitted to the International Criminal Court its first set of documents providing evidence of alleged Israeli war crimes, *Reuters* and others reported. "Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki said he had submitted dossiers on the Gaza conflict, Israeli settlements on occupied land where

Palestinians seek a state, and treatment of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.”

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/25/us-israel-palestinians-icc-idUSKBNOP51XA20150625>

Palestine/Turkey. Turkey opened the Ottoman land registry archives to Palestinian litigants, reported the *Daily Sabah*. The head of Turks Abroad and Related Communities Directorate of the Prime Ministry said the Directorate “will scan the archives for all documents related to Palestine and hand over copies of requested documents to Palestinian litigants in relevant cases. The agency will also check the Ottoman archives in other countries for documents related to Palestine. The agency will also support independent studies on Palestinian history and set up a library of historical documents.” The Directorate announced that documents concerning Palestine in the Ottoman archives will be translated into Turkish, English and Arabic, reported *TRT*. <http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2015/06/23/ottoman-archives-to-help-palestinians-reclaim-lands>; <http://www.trt.net.tr/francais/culturedivertissement/2015/06/04/la-turquie-ouvre-ses-archives-ottomanes-pour-la-palestine-245808> Copies of the Ottoman land registries of Palestine are in the UN Archives in New York and have been made available to a number of governments and organizations; see <http://www.pij.org/documents/refugeeslandrecords.pdf>

Saudi Arabia/United States. A document recently posted by Wikileaks revealed that in 2011 the son of Osama bin Laden asked the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia to provide him with his father’s death certificate. The Embassy replied that there is no death certificate, which is “consistent with regular practice for individuals killed in the course of military operations,” but that there is a process to request a court order “which could act as proof of death,” reported the *Washington Post*. <http://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-washington-post1047/20150620/281651073744992/TextView>

Serbia/United States. In 1999 three brothers from the United States who were fighting with a branch of the Kosovo Liberation Army were arrested by Serbian police and eventually executed by “unknown persons,” *BIRN* wrote in a long summary of the status of the case. When the Prime Minister of Serbia made an official visit to the United States in June, Serbia announced that “a new special commission . . . will be formed to resolve the murder.” An attorney for the brothers’ family said “the evidence his team has gathered, the evidence of the Serbian courts and an FBI [U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation] investigation into the killings has linked a top special police general” to the killings. Recent Wikileaks documents also shed some light on the case, but the director of Belgrade’s Humanitarian Law Center pointed out that many of the crimes of the special police operations group “remain unpunished, because the documents of the units are still classified as secret.” http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-under-pressure-over-us-albanians-murders?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=17792ad8e1-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_561b9a25c3-17792ad8e1-311109073

National news.

Argentina. The *International Justice Tribune* reported that the opening of a memorial museum at ESMA, the former naval academy which operated as a “clandestine detention center and maternity ward” during the 1976-1983 dictatorship, “reignite[d]” a debate over national memorials. “For fear of removing forensic traces of victims not yet identified, ESMA survivors have long opposed any changes to the building’s interior” which remains intact. Furthermore, “survivors have also opposed the display of photographs of those once illegally held in the building, worrying it might transport victims back to that era.” www.justicetribune.com

Canada. The big news of June was the release of the report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with its many recommendations on archives. Thanks to Sharon LaRade we have the text relating to archives and the responses from the Canadian Council of Archives and the Association of Canadian Archives to the Commission’s report. They are found in the annex to this issue.

A judge ordered the Federal Government to search for additional records from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police “for details relating to abuse at Bishop Holden,” a residential school at Moose Factory, Ontario, that allegedly was the scene of severe child abuse in the 1960s and is the subject of current litigation. Previously the government searched “only records kept by Libraries and Archives Canada and Indian Affairs,” reported *The Star*. For background, see *HRWG News* 2015-05. <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/06/05/wider-document-search-ordered-in-residential-school-abuse-case.html>

The Federal Government plans to “increase its collection of biometric data from visitors to Canada,” reported *CBC News*, which was told that visitors will have to provide digital photos and fingerprints and pay \$85 to “cover the cost of data collection.” Currently biometric data is collected from nationals of 29 countries and one territory, but by 2018-19 it will expand to “about 150 more countries” and will collect data on 2.9 million people per year. Canada’s privacy commission warned the government to think carefully about the management of this information. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/biometric-data-collection-evolves-and-expands-in-canada-1.3100872>

The long fight over access to the records of the former long-gun registry continued. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) “delivered an external hard drive containing a complete set of Quebec long-gun registry records to the Federal Court, in compliance with an emergency court order” requested by the Information Commissioner, reported *The Canadian Press*. The court then referred the case to a three-judge Divisional Court panel. *CBC News* reported that “cabinet ministers, government officials and senior RCMP figures applied ‘a lot of pressure’ on RCMP agents to accelerate the destruction of long-gun registry records, despite active access to information requests and written assurance from the public safety minister that records would be kept, investigators working for the information commissioner allege in court documents.” <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/long-gun-registry-records-destroyed-by-rcmp-under-a-lot-of-pressure-from-ottawa-1.3113990>; http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2015/06/23/federal-court-seals-quebec_n_7646328.html; http://www.ci-oic.gc.ca/eng/les-grands-titres_top-stories_13.aspx

Colombia. The government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) guerillas, which are in peace negotiations in Havana, Cuba, announced that they have agreed to create a truth commission to “investigate the violations of human rights and international law that have taken place” during the half century of conflict, reported *teleSUR*. The information obtained by the commission “will not be admissible as evidence in criminal procedures,” and the commission will only start “after the signature of a peace agreement and once the FARC hands over its weapons.” The commission will have 11 members, who will have a six month preparation period and a three year period to complete their report. <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Colombian-Government-and-FARC-Agree-Truth-Commission-20150604-0046.html>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report saying “extensive previously unpublished evidence implicates many Colombian army generals and colonels in widespread and systematic extrajudicial killings of civilians between 2002 and 2008.” HRW said it based the report on “prosecutor’s office data; criminal case files; witness testimony, much of it previously unpublished; judicially ordered recordings of retired Lt. Col. Robinson Gonzalez del Rio’s phone conversations made by justice authorities after his arrest for false positives [killings of civilians identified as guerillas]; and interviews with prosecutors, witnesses, victims’ families, and their lawyers, among other sources.” These records assembled by HRW could be a useful source for the truth commission. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/06/24/colombia-top-brass-linked-extrajudicial-executions>

Democratic Republic of Congo. Global Witness, a nongovernmental organization “which advocates transparency in mining, logging and energy,” obtained documents, including checks and receipts, showing that a Congolese Army officer received “tens of thousands of dollars” in payments from SOCO International, the oil company that is prospecting for oil in Virunga, the oldest national park in Africa. The officer “has been accused of leading a brutal campaign against those objecting to the company’s oil exploration,” reported the *New York Times*. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/10/world/africa/soco-oil-company-paid-large-sums-to-officer-in-congo-activists-say.html?_r=0

Ecuador. For more than two decades, plaintiffs from the Amazon regions of Ecuador and Peru have been suing the giant oil company Chevron and its predecessor Texaco for contamination of the environment in the Amazon, what the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a nongovernmental organization, says “many believe to be one of the gravest environmental human rights abuses of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.” In 2011 a judge in Ecuador ordered Chevron to pay \$9.5 billion to clean up contamination, which Chevron continues to contest in court. One of Chevron’s claims was that the judge’s ruling was “ghostwritten” by representatives of the plaintiffs; however, a forensic analysis of the computer hard drives of the judge and his assistants showed that the decision was written by them. *MintPress News* reports that a Chevron whistleblower gave to Amazon Watch, a nongovernmental organization, several “internal company videos

documenting Chevron's efforts to hide contamination during the trial. All were titled 'pre-inspection' with date and places of the former oil production sites" where judicial site inspections would occur.

http://www.eurasiareview.com/07062015-david-and-goliath-in-the-amazon-oped/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29;
[http://www.mintpressnews.com/chevron-whistleblower-leaks-tapes-showing-intentional-oil-spill-coverup/204839/;](http://www.mintpressnews.com/chevron-whistleblower-leaks-tapes-showing-intentional-oil-spill-coverup/204839/) for the forensic report, see <http://chevrontoxico.com/assets/docs/2014-11-07-racich-report.pdf>

Egypt. Poor services in Egypt's public hospitals were documented on a Facebook page where "a large number of doctors and citizens" posted "hundreds of pictures of different hospitals." *Al-Monitor* reported that "roughly 170,000 doctors are participating in the campaign, taking pictures at hospitals and showing them to the public to promote reform for the health care system." In addition, "reports prepared by unknown parties with information provided mainly by the Accountability State Authority, the Administrative Control Authority and the Administrative Prosecution Authority" show "managerial corruption at hospitals, including surrounding the purchase of heart stents at the National Heart Institute."

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/egypt-hospitals-negligence-nursing-reforms.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=70cc4e579d-June_30_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-70cc4e579d-93088897

Honduras. The Supreme Court of Honduras ordered the arrest of the vice president of Congress and 15 other people to prevent them from leaving the country. The vice president and her family own the company AstroPharma, which prosecutors say sold drugs of "questionable quality and with inflated prices," reported *teleSUR*. The charges against the group include "misuse of documents and fraud in the sale of medicines to the Honduran Institute of Social Security and the Ministry of Health." *Honduras News* added, "Eleven cases have been identified in which it appears women died after taking defective drugs."

[http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Honduras-Court-Issues-Arrest-Order-for-Congress-Vice-President-20150701-0002.html;](http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Honduras-Court-Issues-Arrest-Order-for-Congress-Vice-President-20150701-0002.html)
<http://www.hondurasnews.com/vice-president-of-the-honduras-congress-charged-with-fraud/>

India. The government launched a "Lost and Found" website "to help families trace the tens of thousands of children in the country who go missing every year—often abducted for forced labour or sexual exploitation—and are never found," reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. The portal allows "parents to register details of missing children and citizens to report sightings." Archival appraisal of this important new government website will be necessary.

http://www.trust.org/item/20150603101429-xe7sz/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly+Digest+30615&utm_content=Weekly+Digest+30615+CID_77e1933eac4bf5c1e1fba3b2e17f55d0&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=India%20launches%20Lost%20and%20Found%20website%20to%20find%20missing%20children

The CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) told the Kerala High Court "that it could not trace additional records or old files regarding Sister Abhaya murder case from the office of the Sub Division Magistrate, Kottayam," reported *The New Indian Express*. The case involves an allegation that the former superintendent of police destroyed evidence relating to the death without handing it over to the CBI. "In a case with no eye-witnesses or any other pieces of evidence, the destruction of material evidence assumes great significance, especially since the CBI had concluded that Abhaya's death was due to homicide."

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/Records-Old-Files-in-Abhaya-Case-Could-Not-Be-Traced-CBI-Tells-HC/2015/06/16/article2868648.ece>

Iraq. *Al-Monitor* reported that because "one can often tell a person's religious affiliation from his or her name, many Iraqis, Shiites and Sunnis alike, have changed them when they move to an area where they are in the minority." A lawyer explained that to change a name legally "one must submit an application to the courts, including an explanation for the desired change. An announcement of the change must then be published in newspapers, after which the procedures to register the new name for citizenship and ID purposes can be completed." That very public process means that anyone who wishes to check on a person's previous name could do so. An author told *Al-Monitor*, "Some people were forced to forge IDs and get two names, one to be used in Shiite areas and another to be used in Sunni areas."

http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/iraq-sectarian-killing-name-changing.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=c8bd59a4d0-WR_June_20_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-c8bd59a4d0-93088897

Japan. The national pension system computer was hacked and 1.25 million cases of personal data were leaked, reported *The Japan Times*. <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/06/01/national/crime-legal/japan-pension-system-hacked-1-25-million-cases-personal-data-leaked/>

Lebanon. The Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, a nongovernmental organization, announced it will open a center for “forensic science and rehabilitation” at the Justice Palace in Tripoli, reported *The Daily Star*. The Center plans to meet with every new detainee in Tripoli and “with consent from prisoners, lawyers, doctors and psychologists will collect forensic evidence of torture and offer physical and psychological care.” The Center will follow the Istanbul Protocol for investigating and documenting torture; then if the detainees “wish to charge their captors with torture” they can “present the collected evidence to court.” The director of Restart said they will also use the information gathered to “map which [detention centers] torture the most.” <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2015/Jun-27/303995-new-forensic-center-to-document-torture.ashx>

Macedonia. Macedonia is in political crisis over revelations of wiretapping by the government and the controversial decisions by its lustration commission (for background, see below and *HRWG News* 2015-05). In the context of “High Level Accession Dialogue” with Macedonia over the prospect of joining the European Union, the European Commission issued a set of “urgent reform priorities” for Macedonia. Among the many recommendations are those relating to records: “develop a track record on the overall length of [judicial] proceedings, with special focus on ‘old cases’;” remove the “practical and technical capability” of the Security and Counterintelligence Service to “capture communications directly”; “reinforce” the data security and storage capacities of intelligence and law enforcement agencies and train their staff members on “data protection, fundamental rights, professional ethics and integrity”; establish a “central register” of elected and appointed officials to improve “scrutiny of conflict of interest and assets”; have the Lustration Commission use “stronger safeguards” to protect the “identity of subjects until final court decisions”; and conduct an “audit of the Voters’ List” to ensure the “accuracy and completeness of voter data.” http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/news-files/20150619_urgent_reform_priorities.pdf

Independent experts for the European Commission investigated the illegal recording of 670,000 conversations from more than 20,000 telephone numbers and determined that “the national security service, acting on orders from Macedonia’s . . . government was behind the wiretapping scandal,” reported the *New York Times*. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/world/europe/macedonia-government-is-blamed-for-wiretapping-scandal.html?_r=0

Mexico. A long article in the *New Yorker* describes the evidence assembled about the disappearance of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Normal School last December (the Mexican government considers the students dead and the perpetrators arrested; the public is not convinced). A Mexican journalist learned that the surviving students had given their mobile phones to the state prosecutors “in the first days after their companions disappeared,” and when the journalist asked for them the officials “turned the phones over to her.” She also “gained access to the case files of state and federal prosecutors and investigators and to the depositions of witnesses and the confessions of those arrested.” With a colleague, she analyzed 27 of the confessions and “found wildly contradicting and irreconcilable versions of what occurred that night, and much evidence—from the prisoners’ medical reports and from the accounts of relatives who had spoken [to] those imprisoned—that these confessions had been extracted by often severe torture.” <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-missing-forty-three-the-governments-case-collapses>; for the journalists’ report, see http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/14/disappeared-students-mexico_n_7574652.html?utm_hp_ref=world&ir=WorldPost

Myanmar. The government began issuing new green ID cards to Rakhine Muslims (Rohingya) to replace the cancelled white ID cards the Rohingya were required to turn in by the end of May. The card does not identify the holder as “Bengali” or list his or her religion, a positive step. With the green card a person can apply for citizenship, but must “produce the necessary documents,” an immigration officer told *Radio Free Asia*. It is not clear what documentation will be required; in the past the white card holders applying for citizenship had to “show proof of a long family history in Rakhine state.” <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/officials-issue-green-cards-to-muslims-in-rakhine-state-06152015145915.html>

The Network for Human Rights Documentation Burma, a nongovernmental organization, issued a report calling on the government to “come clean about its role” in past human rights violations, reported *The*

Myanmar Times. The Network “collected the data under 17 headings, including war crimes, probable killing, torture, forced labour and other abuses since 2004,” said a program officer. The Network “hopes the government will see the benefit of acknowledging the truth of past atrocities, through something like a truth commission.” <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/15001-rights-group-calls-for-truth-commission.html>

Peru. The state prosecutor ordered the reopening of a criminal investigation into the government’s mid-1990s program of forced sterilizations on an estimated 350,000 women and 25,000 men. This is a reversal of a decision in February 2014 when the state prosecutor said there was not enough evidence to go on with the investigation. More than 2000 women have given “statements to Peruvian and international rights groups and prosecutors saying they underwent sterilization without consenting to it or being informed of what would happen,” reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, and “the women who did sign consent forms in Spanish before undergoing the operation often did not know what they were agreeing to because they were illiterate and spoke only Quechua, rights groups say.” The prosecutor promised that the new inquiry “would be widened to include new oral statements from other alleged victims of forced sterilization in other parts of Peru.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2014-02. <http://www.trust.org/item/20150603174608-uyv4e/?source=leadCarousel>

Philippines. The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said that almost two million biometric files of voters given to Comelec from election officers in cities and municipalities were found to be corrupted. In most cases the electoral district can simply send a new computer file to Comelac, but in over 1700 cases there is no backup file in the local office so person will have to return to re-register, reported the *SunStar*. <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/manila/news/2015/06/27/2m-voters-biometric-records-corrupted-415551>

Russia. The offices of the Committee Against Torture, a human rights advocacy group in Grozny, the capital of the Russian region of Chechnya, were vandalized and “computers, other equipment and records in the office were destroyed,” reported the *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/04/world/europe/chechnya-ramzan-kadyrov-committee-against-torture.html>

Serbia. Four men are on trial, accused of killing a Serbian journalist in April 1999. One of them, the former head of Serbian state security, testified that the journalist “was systematically monitored by security officers from 1996 onwards” and his telephone was tapped “even after he was shot dead” to “see if we could get information that could lead to the perpetrator,” *BIRN* reported. Another defendant, the former chief of the Belgrade Security Service, testified that the surveillance “was organized by a security service department dealing with terrorism and extremist activities.” Security service records would be useful to the prosecution, if it could obtain them. http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbian-journalist-monitored-three-years-before-murdered?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=1c6cdf38d-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_561b9a25c3-1c6cdf38d-311109073

The Humanitarian Law Center (HLC), a nongovernmental organization in Belgrade, issued a press release opposing the decision of the President of the Higher Court in Belgrade that prohibited HLC from “recording the public announcement of the first instance judgment in the Beli Manastir case, without offering valid reasons for such a decision.” The case involves three former policemen from Beli Manastir, Croatia, who were convicted of killing non-Serb civilians, inhumane treatment, illegal imprisonment, intimidation, violation of bodily integrity and torture during the war in Croatia. HLC noted, “However, for more than 12 years of prosecution of war crimes in Serbia, the public has not had an opportunity to see a single testimony provided by the victims, perpetrators or witnesses of war crimes who have participated in these cases, or the announcement of a judgment. Unlike in Serbia, war crimes trials in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia are regularly recorded and broadcast on public information networks.” <http://www.hlc-rdc.org/?p=29250&lang=de>

HLC “filed a misdemeanor charge against the Minister of Defence . . . because of the unlawful labeling of the archive of the 37th Yugoslav Army Motorized Brigade (37th VJ MtBr) with the highest level of secrecy of data.” HLC asserts that the classification is “intended to make it impossible to clarify all of the circumstances relating to the killing of the Kosovo Albanians whose bodies were found in the Rudnica mass grave.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2014-03 and 11. <http://www.hlc-rdc.org/?p=29345&lang=de>

South Africa. The South African History Archive (SAHA), a nongovernmental organization, filed court papers “seeking a final order compelling the Department of Justice and Correctional Service . . . to grant public access to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Victims database.” *The New Age* reported that in the six years since the then-Minister of Justice decided that SAHA could be granted access, three versions have been provided, all “materially incomplete.” http://www.thenewage.co.za/161572-1007-53-SAHAs_case_to_gain_access_to_TRC_victims_database_goes_to_court

Spain. The Minister of Defense rejected a petition “to declassify official records dated between 1931 and 1968,” reported *El Pais*. The Defense Minister said, “We will not declassify documents whose content we are ignorant about because the government is not going to take risks on state security issues.” The government said the material in question is about 10,000 “folders and documents” and the government does not have the “technical means and personnel” and “does not consider it a priority” to undertake a declassification review. http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/06/24/inenglish/1435137628_738266.html

Spain’s lower house “gave final approval to a law offering citizenship to descendants of Sephardi Jews,” reported *El Pais*. Applications will be electronic, with the applicant required to pass courses on Spanish language and history, hire a Spanish notary to complete the application, and be vetted by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain. The General Directorate of Registrars and Notaries will oversee the process for the government. This should create an entirely new body of records for the national archives to appraise and manage. http://politica.elpais.com/politica/2015/06/11/actualidad/1434012238_482341.html;

Syria. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based nongovernmental organization, said it had “documented 3,027 executions by the Islamic State in Syria since June 29, 2014,” reported *Agence France Presse*, and “at least 8,000 ISIS militants have been killed in battles and U.S.-led air strikes.” <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/06/28/>

Turkey. *Al-Monitor* reported on the death toll of Kurdish people who have been fighting against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. An estimated 500 have died, 300 of whose bodies have been given to families and 200 buried without identification. The Mesopotamia Association to Assist Families, a nongovernmental organization that assists families in collecting the coffins of the deceased, told *Al-Monitor*, “The postmortem is done for the prosecutor’s death registry needs but the state doesn’t give autopsy support to determine identities.” http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/turkey-syria-getting-killed-fighting-islamic-state.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=e2509b0a11-June_02_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-e2509b0a11-93088897

“Armenians in Turkey who opted to live as Muslims to avoid mistreatment are recovering their true identities in collective baptisms,” *Al-Monitor* reported. A woman said she will change her identity “and write Christian in the column for religion. My 63-year-old mother will also alter her identity and inscribe Christian on her ID card.” An interesting contrast to the Rohingya in Myanmar who now do not have to list religion on their new ID cards. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/turkey-armenians-disguised-muslims-recover-true-identity.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=e2509b0a11-June_02_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-e2509b0a11-93088897

In May the Turkish Ministry of Health sent a letter to family doctors with the instruction: “The medical record files of patients with schizophrenia, paranoid disorders, psychotic disorders and bipolar disorders should be filled in and dispatched” to the Ministry. Four Turkish medical associations issued a joint statement on June 5, saying that sharing medical records without patient consent was unacceptable and called for new legislation to regulate how the Ministry is allowed to collect, process and share medical records. The Turkish Medical Association said that “police had sought the personal information of psychiatric patients” through the Health Ministry’s electronic records system and called the circulation of psychiatric information “extremely dangerous,” reported *Al-Monitor*. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/06/turkey-government-want-know-all-about-psychiatric-patient.html?utm_source=Al-Monitor+Newsletter+%5BEnglish%5D&utm_campaign=1152e55389-June_22_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_28264b27a0-1152e55389-93088897

United Kingdom. For almost 200 years, the attic of a solicitor’s office in Burwash held “a list of nearly 900 illegitimate children born to women in East Sussex between 1793 and 1834.” The list is now in the

county archives. A member of the East Sussex County Council told the *Hastings and St. Leonards Observer*, “These records, which are being made publicly available for the first time, give the father’s name too, so could provide a missing link for people researching their family history.”

<http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/local/lost-records-are-found-1-6800976>

United States. *The Guardian* made public “sections of a previously classified CIA document” obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union under the Freedom of Information Act, that says the agency’s director has authority to “approve, modify, or disapprove all proposals pertaining to human subject research” and that research on human subjects requires the “subject’s informed consent.” *The Guardian* asked experts to assess the document; they said the “presence of medical personnel during brutal interrogations of men like Abu Zubaydah . . . was difficult to reconcile with both the CIA’s internal requirement of ‘informed consent’ on human experimentation subjects and responsible medical practices.”

http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/15/cia-torture-human-experimentation-doctors?CMP=ema_565

“Four years ago, the V.A. [Veterans’ Administration] began building a database to try to pinpoint high-risk veterans using national electronic health records for the millions of individuals in the V.A. system. It was designed to search for patterns in existing records using 381 variables, including medications, diagnoses, age, sex and a history of suicide attempts,” reported the *New York Times*. Now researchers at the V.A., using a computer algorithm against the data, were “able to predict small sub-groups with suicide rates up to 80 times higher than V.A. patients as a whole.” The hope is to use the data to predict suicide risk among veterans and intervene with “suicide prevention protocols.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/12/us/database-may-help-identify-veterans-likely-to-commit-suicide.html?_r=0

United States/Maine. The Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued its report. It investigated why so many Wabanaki children ended up in child welfare; it found that “in the last 13 years, it has been 5.1 times more likely that a Native child would enter care than a non-Native child” and “once in foster care, it appears that Native children are less likely to be adopted than children overall, and more likely to enter permanency guardianship.” The Commission said there was “a web of interconnected causes, including the presence of institutional racism in state systems and the public; the effects of historical trauma; and a long history of contested sovereignties and jurisdictions between the state and the tribes.” And it concluded that its findings “can be viewed as evidence of cultural genocide.” The Commission “gathered statements from individuals and people who spoke jointly”; used records of Indian Affairs and the State Child and Family Services held in the Maine State Archives; used state-generated documents, Federal documents, and documents from Maine governors’ task forces and working groups and state legislative committees; and assembled statistics from all those sources.

http://www.mainewabanakitrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MaineWabanaki-StateTRC-Report_061415a-opt.pdf

United States/Texas. Once again showing the power of cellphone videos, images taken at a swimming pool party in a suburb of Dallas showed a police officer waving his gun at teenage participants and subduing a young girl by putting her face down on the ground and putting his knee on her back. The girl was African-American, the officer was white. He was suspended.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/Officer-suspended-after-video-shows-violent-6312510.php>

Publications. Oxford University Press published *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust* by Lisa Moses Leff. It is the story of Zosa Szajkowski, a Polish-born historian living in the U.S. who joined the U.S. Army during World War II and during and after the war began stealing documents and memorabilia, especially about the Nazi era and French Jewry. He committed suicide in 1978; his “personal archive” is at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and other institutions own “material once in possession of Mr. Szajkowski,” reported the *New York Times*. The Seminary’s head librarian said that if “legitimate owners” of the stolen goods did emerge, the Seminary would “create the finest quality digitization of it” and return the material.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/12/arts/design/the-man-who-stole-nazi-era-history-from-the-streets.html?_r=0

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Annex

The Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Residential Schools released its summary report June 2, 2015. http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Exec_Summary_2015_06_25_web_o.pdf; http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_French.pdf

The section relating to Museums and Archives contains recommendations (#67-78) that relate to archives:

67) We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations.

67. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral de fournir des fonds à l'Association des musées canadiens pour entreprendre, en collaboration avec les peuples autochtones, un examen national des politiques et des pratiques exemplaires des musées, et ce, dans le but de déterminer le degré de conformité avec la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones et de formuler des recommandations connexes.

68) We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.

68. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral, en collaboration avec les peuples autochtones et l'Association des musées canadiens, de souligner le 150^e anniversaire de la Confédération canadienne en 2017 en établissant un programme de financement national pour les projets de commémoration sur le thème de la réconciliation.

69) We call upon Library and Archives Canada to:

- i. Fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joinet-Orentlicher Principles, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools.
- ii. Ensure that its record holdings related to residential schools are accessible to the public.
- iii. Commit more resources to its public education materials and programming on residential schools.

69. Nous demandons à Bibliothèque et Archives Canada : i. d'adopter et de mettre en œuvre de façon intégrale la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones et les « Principes Joinet/Orentlicher » des Nations Unies, plus particulièrement en ce qui touche le droit inaliénable des peuples autochtones de connaître la vérité sur les violations des droits de la personne commises à leur endroit dans les pensionnats et sur les raisons pour lesquelles une telle situation s'est produite; ii. de veiller à ce que les fonds documentaires liés aux pensionnats soient accessibles au public; iii. d'affecter plus de ressources à l'élaboration de matériel pédagogique et de programmes de sensibilisation du public sur les pensionnats.

70) We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices to:

- i. Determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Joinet-Orentlicher Principles, as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools.
- ii. Produce a report with recommendations for full implementation of these international mechanisms as a reconciliation framework for Canadian archives.

70. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral de fournir des fonds à l'Association des

archivistes canadiens pour entreprendre, en collaboration avec les peuples autochtones, un examen national des politiques et des pratiques exemplaires en matière d'archives, et ce, afin de : i. déterminer le degré de conformité avec la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones et les « Principes Joinet/ Orentlicher » des Nations Unies en ce qui touche le droit inaliénable des peuples autochtones de connaître la vérité sur les violations des droits de la personne commises à leur endroit dans les pensionnats et sur les raisons pour lesquelles une telle situation s'est produite; ii. produire un rapport assorti de recommandations en vue de la mise en œuvre complète de ces instruments internationaux en tant que cadre de réconciliation en ce qui a trait aux archives canadiennes. Enfants disparus et renseignements sur l'inhumation

71) We call upon all chief coroners and provincial vital statistics agencies that have not provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada their records on the deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential school authorities to make these documents available to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

71. Nous demandons à tous les coroners en chef et les bureaux de l'état civil de chaque province et territoire qui n'ont pas fourni à la Commission de vérité et réconciliation leurs dossiers sur le décès d'enfants autochtones dont les autorités des pensionnats avaient la garde de mettre ces documents à la disposition du Centre national pour la vérité et réconciliation.

72) We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

72. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral de mettre suffisamment de ressources à la disposition du Centre national pour la vérité et réconciliation pour lui permettre de tenir à jour le registre national de décès des élèves de pensionnats établi par la Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada.

73) We call upon the federal government to work with churches, Aboriginal communities, and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including, where possible, plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children.

73. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral de travailler de concert avec l'Église, les collectivités autochtones et les anciens élèves des pensionnats afin d'établir et de tenir à jour un registre en ligne des cimetières de ces pensionnats, et, dans la mesure du possible, de tracer des cartes montrant l'emplacement où reposent les élèves décédés.

74) We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.

74. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral de travailler avec l'Église et les dirigeants communautaires autochtones pour informer les familles des enfants qui sont décédés dans les pensionnats du lieu de sépulture de ces enfants, pour répondre au souhait de ces familles de tenir des cérémonies et des événements commémoratifs appropriés et pour procéder, sur demande, à la réinhumation des enfants dans leurs collectivités d'origine.

75) We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

75. Nous demandons au gouvernement fédéral de collaborer avec les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux de même qu'avec les administrations municipales, l'Église, les collectivités autochtones, les anciens élèves des pensionnats et les propriétaires fonciers actuels pour élaborer et mettre en œuvre des stratégies et des procédures qui permettront de repérer, de documenter, d'entretenir, de commémorer et de protéger les cimetières des pensionnats ou d'autres sites où des enfants qui fréquentaient ces pensionnats ont été inhumés. Le tout doit englober la tenue de cérémonies et d'événements commémoratifs appropriés pour honorer la mémoire des enfants décédés.

76) We call upon the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating, and protecting residential school cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles: i. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies. ii. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the development of such strategies. 408 • Truth & Reconciliation Commission iii. Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site.

76. Nous demandons aux parties concernées par le travail de documentation, d'entretien, de commémoration, et de protection des cimetières des pensionnats d'adopter des stratégies en conformité avec les principes suivants : i. la collectivité autochtone la plus touchée doit diriger l'élaboration de ces stratégies; ii. de l'information doit être demandée aux survivants des pensionnats et aux autres détenteurs de connaissances dans le cadre de l'élaboration de ces stratégies; Appels à l'action | 11 iii. les protocoles autochtones doivent être respectés avant que toute inspection technique ou enquête potentiellement envahissante puisse être effectuée sur les lieux d'un cimetière.

77) We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

77. Nous demandons aux bureaux d'archives provinciaux, territoriaux, municipaux et communautaires de travailler en collaboration avec le Centre national pour la vérité et réconciliation afin de trouver et de recueillir des copies de tous les documents qui se rapportent à l'histoire et aux séquelles des pensionnats, et de fournir ces documents au Centre national pour la vérité et réconciliation.

78) We call upon the Government of Canada to commit to making a funding contribution of \$10 million over seven years to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, plus an additional amount to assist communities to research and produce histories of their own residential school experience and their involvement in truth, healing, and reconciliation.

78. Nous demandons au gouvernement du Canada de s'engager à fournir une contribution financière de dix millions de dollars sur sept ans au Centre national pour la vérité et réconciliation ainsi qu'un montant supplémentaire pour aider les collectivités à faire de la recherche afin de produire des récits sur leur propre expérience des pensionnats et sur leur participation aux démarches associées à la vérité, à la guérison et à la réconciliation.

Archival community responses to calls by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Statement by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) upon the occasion of the public release of "Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada" June 2015:

To honour the survivors of the residential schools, the Canadian Council of Archives acknowledges the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report following six years of information gathering by the Commission.

CCA supports the purpose and welcomes the perspective of the report. The 94 recommendations include a number of imperatives for government and members of the Canadian Archival System. Due recognition, representation, and dialogue are all components of the democratic archival mission.

As representatives of our institutions of public memory, we wish to fulfill our responsibility in the vital work of reconciliation. CCA and its members are committed to the archival mission of preserving and making accessible records and information that constitute the evidence of the many chapters in Canadian history. Since its establishment in 1985, CCA, its committees, and its over 800 institutional members have worked collaboratively within the Canadian Archival System to establish standards and best practices to support provision of access and preservation of archival materials for Canadians.

CCA would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the survivors and witnesses who provided testimony to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to acknowledge the archives and archivists who participated in reconciliation process, and to thank the members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for their tireless work on behalf of the victims of the Residential Schools.

On behalf of the CCA Board of Directors

Lara Wilson

Chair /

Canadian Council of Archives

http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/CCASTatement_TRCreport_EN.pdf

Déclaration du Conseil canadien des archives (CCA) à l'occasion de la publication du rapport final de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation : « Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future » Juin 2015

Afin d'honorer les survivants des pensionnats indiens, le Conseil canadien des archives confirme la publication du rapport final de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation, après six années de collecte d'informations.

Le CCA appuie l'objectif du rapport et en accueille favorablement la perspective. Les 94 recommandations du rapport comprennent un certain nombre d'impératifs pour le gouvernement et les membres du Système archivistique canadien. La reconnaissance, la représentation et le dialogue sont toutes des composantes d'une mission archivistique démocratique.

En tant que représentants de nos institutions de la mémoire publique, nous voulons assumer notre responsabilité dans le travail essentiel de réconciliation. Le CCA et ses membres sont déterminés à poursuivre la mission des archives visant à préserver et à rendre accessibles les informations et documents qui constituent la preuve des nombreux chapitres de l'histoire canadienne.

Le CCA aimerait profiter de cette occasion pour rendre hommage aux survivants et aux témoins qui ont partagé leurs témoignages devant la Commission de vérité et réconciliation, reconnaître les archivistes qui ont participé au processus de réconciliation, et remercier les membres de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation pour leur travail inlassable au nom des victimes des pensionnats indiens.

Lara Wilson

Présidente

Conseil canadien des archives

Association of Canadian Archivists

On behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists, I am writing to express our appreciation for the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and all its many participants over the years and also to recognize the significance of the Commission's final report with its 94 recommendations.

Established in 1975, the Association of Canadian Archivists is a national not-for-profit organization representing over 600 archivists in Canada. With headquarters in Ottawa, the ACA's mandate is to provide the archival profession leadership and to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of Canada's archival heritage. To that end we appreciate the acknowledgement of museums' and archives' roles in working towards social justice for Aboriginal peoples. The ACA Board will be discussing the report, in particular how to address recommendation 70, during our upcoming meetings at our annual conference being held in Regina, June 11-13, 2015.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Harvey
President, Association of Canadian Archivists