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**Commentary.** *This month's commentary is written by Giulia Barrera of Italy, the incoming chair of the HRWG, who closely followed the development of the European Union's policy on the right to be forgotten.*

A convicted neo-Fascist terrorist, who in the 1970s and 1980s had been responsible of serious terrorist acts, including murder, and had completed his term in prison in 2009, petitioned the Italian Data Protection Authority (DPA) to order Google to remove some URLs and search predictions that associated his name to his past terrorist activity. He claimed they damaged his new professional and personal life. The DPA rejected his petition on two grounds: (a) as indicated by the Working Party of the European Union (EU) Data Protection Authorities, as a general rule the most serious crimes should not be considered for de-listing from search engines (Guidelines on the implementation of the Court of Justice of the European Union judgment on “Google Spain and Inc v. Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (AEPD) and Mario Costeja González” c-131/121) [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/article-29/documentation/opinion-recommendation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/article-29/documentation/opinion-recommendation/index_en.htm)); and (b) the information on his terrorist activities concerns historical events for which there is a prevailing public interest to know. <http://www.garanteprivacy.it/web/guest/home/docweb/-/docweb-display/docweb/5176031#1>

### **The new European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

On 4 May, the *Official Journal of the European Union* published the new *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC*. [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ITA&toc=OJ:L:2016:119:TOC](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ITA&toc=OJ:L:2016:119:TOC). The “regulations” are the most direct form of EU laws; they must be applied in their entirety across the EU. This new EU GDPR will have an impact worldwide, since it applies not only to the processing of personal data taking place within the EU but also to the processing by a controller or processor not established in the Union of personal data of persons who are in the Union.

The text of the regulation is the product of four years of lively debates within the EU, in which archivists actively participated. The first draft, produced by the EU Commission, did not include derogations (exceptions) aimed at making it possible to process personal data for archival purposes. If the first draft had been approved as such, it would have placed formidable obstacles to performing basic archival functions.

The European Archives Group (a working group created by the EU Commission that comprises representatives from the national archives of all EU countries) voiced archivists' concerns in meetings with the EU DPA, the Irish DPA and the Italian DPA, and drafted proposals for amendments. The national archivists of the EU countries contacted their respective DPAs and asked them to support derogations in favor of archives. The French Association of Archivists (AAF) initiated an online petition that received the support of the Section of Professional Associations of the International Council on Archives. This intense lobbying activity bore fruit: most of archivists' suggestions were accepted.

The GDPR applies only to living persons. It provides for a general rule that personal data can be “kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed;” however, institutions are allowed to keep data longer “for archiving purposes in the public interest” (Article 5). Article 17 provides for the *Right to erasure* (‘*right to be forgotten*’), which does not apply when the processing of personal data is necessary “for archiving purposes in the public interest.”

Further derogations in favor of archives are listed in Article 89 *Safeguards and derogations relating to processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes*. Of special relevance for archivists are recitals 156 and 158 for Article 89 (recitals set out the reasons for the contents of the articles of an act), which explain the thrust of derogations in favor of archives and state that “Member States should also be authorised to provide for the further processing of personal data for archiving purposes, for example with a view to providing specific information related to the political behaviour under former totalitarian state regimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, in particular the Holocaust, or war crimes.”

*Thanks to the dedicated, effective work of the archivists of the EU, the final GDPR is a workable regulation that protects the archival programs in EU nations. Vigilance will be required to ensure that governments understand the archival provisions it contains.*

**News of the Human Rights Working Group.** The HRWG will meet at the Seoul Congress of the ICA on Tuesday morning, September 6. The exact time and place will be announced later. Everyone is welcome to attend; this is an open meeting.

The “Basic Principles on the Role of Archivists in Support of Human Rights” will be reconsidered by the Programme Commission of ICA at the Seoul meeting. A program session on the “Principles” will be held on Thursday, September 8, at 11:45 a.m., and the “Principles” will be discussed at the meeting of the Forum of National Archivists.

Another session proposed by the HRWG, “Safe havens for archives at risk,” will be held on Friday, September 9, at 11:45. Many other sessions in the program relate to human rights and archives and will be of great interest to the readers of this newsletter.

### **International news.**

**African Extraordinary Chambers.** Chad’s former dictator Hissene Habre appealed against his conviction by the Africa Extraordinary Chambers for crimes against humanity and war crimes. Archival evidence played a major role in his conviction. For background, see *HRWG News* 2016-01 and 05.

<http://news.trust.org/item/20160611171654-hpwpt/>

**European Union.** The European Parliament adopted a regulation to abolish the need to have a stamp and other “red tape” to prove that a “public document” issued in one European Union country is valid in another EU country. This covers such documents as certificates of birth, marriage and death.

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/174828/EU+Cuts+Red+Tape+on+Authenticity+of+Public+Documents>

**International Criminal Court (ICC).** Former Congolese vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba appealed his conviction by the ICC. For background and records issues in the case, see *HRWG News* 2016-03.

<http://www.ijmonitor.org/2016/06/bemba-given-18-year-jail-sentence-at-icc/videos>.

The deputy director of the Africa division of Human Rights Watch testified at the trial of Bosco Ntaganda, who is on trial for murder, rape, pillaging and the use of child soldiers in the Congo war between 2002 and 2004. Illustrating the importance of the records of the international NGO, the court admitted as evidence “prior recorded testimony, reports she researched and authored, as well as associated documents,” reported *International Justice Monitor*. These included 12 photographs she had taken, notes during her interviews with Ntaganda and his fellow rebel Thomas Lubanga, and related videos. <http://www.ijmonitor.org/2016/06/human-rights-watch-official-testifies-in-ntagandas-icc-trial/>

**International Organization for Migration (IOM).** IOM issued a report on the identification and tracing of dead and missing migrants. It estimates that “5,400 migrants died or were recorded as missing in 2015” and during 2016 another 3,400 have died, “over 80 percent of those attempting to reach Europe by sea.” It recommends the establishment of international and regional databases to help identify the dead and to begin

“a global programme of research to better understand how to support families and improve identification mechanisms.” The section on registration and identification has useful information on the current records systems used by governments to record the missing and identify migrants. <https://www.iom.int/news/fatal-journeys-vol-2-new-global-report-iom>

United Nations. The independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic issued a report, “They Came to Destroy: ISIS Crimes Against the Yazidis,” which declared that ISIS “is committing genocide against Yazidis.” The Commission said its findings “are based on interviews with survivors, religious leaders, smugglers, activists, lawyers, medical personnel, and journalists, as well as extensive documentary material, which corroborate information gathered by the Commission.” The documentary material “includes hundreds of statements, photographs, satellite images, and reports, as well as the factual findings” of the fact-finding mission of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Significantly, it said, “Where the Commission was able to determine provenance, materials disseminated by the terrorist group and/or its individual members have also formed part of this analysis.” <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20113&LangID=E>

United Nations Human Rights Council. The president of the Human Rights Council announced the appointment of three members of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. The Commissioners are to provide guidance to the government on “transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation issues and will engage with international and regional mechanisms to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses.” Not only will the Commissioners be creating records of their work for the UN system, but the information they obtain will be important to the history of the people of South Sudan. In an unrelated development, UNESCO is working with South Sudan to develop an archives law, which should be a factor considered by the Commissioners. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20097&LangID=E>

The Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea reported to the Human Rights Council that crimes against humanity have occurred. The Commissioners recommended that the Security Council refer the situation in Eritrea to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for consideration. In addition to witness testimony, the Commission received about 45,000 letters and petitions, most of which were critical of its investigation; all but 8 were sent by Eritreans outside their country in what the commissioners believe were the result of “an organized government campaign to attempt to discredit the inquiry.” The Commissioners wrote, “Almost all witnesses and victims feared reprisals by the Eritrean authorities, either against themselves or their family members in Eritrea. For this reason, all information gathered by the commission during its investigations is confidential.” This confidentiality will be the responsibility of the High Commissioner’s archives after the Commission of Inquiry finishes its work. For the report, see A/HRC/32/47 at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session32/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression submitted a report which “marks the beginning of a series of studies of issues at the intersection of State regulation, the private sector and freedom of expression in a digital age.” <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomOpinion/Pages/PrivateSectorinthedigitalage.aspx>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR released its annual *Global Trends* report for 2015, which estimated that 65.3 million people remained forcibly displaced from their homes by war and persecution, the majority of whom—nearly 41 million—are displaced within their own countries. The data in the report came from governments, partner agencies and UNHCR’s own reporting. <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>

UNESCO. At a meeting convened by UNESCO and Germany, Syrian and international experts assessed damage to cultural heritage sites in Syria, discussed methodologies, and agreed on emergency measures to safeguard Syria’s heritage. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1505>

## World/general news.

Business records. Five years have passed since the United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*. The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC), a U.K.-based nongovernmental organization, reviewed the five years and outlined “some of the key advances and set-backs, and broader challenges and opportunities.” <https://business-humanrights.org/en/ungps-at-5>

A coalition of over 80 investors, with \$4.8 trillion in assets under management, pledged support for the creation of the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark, the world’s “first wide-scale benchmark for companies’ human rights policies, processes and practices,” reported BHRRC. It would be interesting to know how many of the 80 have robust corporate archives to support this work. If anyone is interested in this as a project, please let the HRWG know. <https://business-humanrights.org/en/48-trillion-investor-coalition-announces-support-for-world%E2%80%99s-first-business-human-rights-benchmark-0>

Know the Chain, a project of the foundation Humanity United, released its “first benchmark findings on the efforts of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) companies to mitigate forced labor in their supply chains.” Of the 20 companies reviewed, the average score was 39 out of a possible 100, based on “commitment and governance, traceability and risk assessment, purchasing practices, recruitment, monitoring” and “worker voice” including “ensuring the right to freedom of association.” HP Inc. rated the highest. The rankings were based on “information available on each company’s own website, as well as additional public disclosure that companies provided in response to engagement questions.” [https://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/KTC\\_ICT\\_press\\_release\\_Jun\\_22\\_2016.pdf](https://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/KTC_ICT_press_release_Jun_22_2016.pdf)

“Microsoft scientists, in an article published . . . in the *Journal of Oncology Practice*, demonstrated that by analyzing large samples of search engine queries, they may, in some cases, be able to identify internet users who are suffering from pancreatic cancer, even before they have received a diagnosis of the disease,” reported an essay in *recode.net*. The authors also noted that Facebook “published an important paper that provides a detailed overview of the company’s research review process” including the steps “taken by the company to review its internal research work” and that the Center for Democracy and Technology published a report “describing the internal research ethics process at Fitbet.” <http://www.recode.net/2016/6/14/11923286/facebook-emotional-contagion-controversy-data-research-review-policy-ethics>

A man was convicted of organizing the import of 5 tons of cocaine into the United Kingdom—while he was in jail. The scheme involved a Yahoo account that various parties could log into, and Yahoo provided U.K. authorities with “over 6 months worth of erased communications” even though “in its law enforcement guide Yahoo says it ‘is not able to search for or produce deleted emails.’” Yahoo says it could recover the emails “because of the company’s ‘auto-save’ feature.” The man’s lawyers have filed “discovery orders with Yahoo . . . in an attempt to get more information about how the allegedly deleted emails were recovered; including documentation on how Yahoo Mail works and [to] arrange depositions of Yahoo employees,” reported *Motherboard*. <http://motherboard.vice.com/read/how-deleted-yahoo-emails-led-to-a-20-year-drug-trafficking-conviction>

The family of a woman killed in November’s terror attacks in Paris has “sued Twitter Inc, Google and Facebook Inc, claiming the social media companies provide ‘material support’ to the militant group Islamic State,” *Reuters* reported. <http://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jun/16/family-california-student-killed-paris-attacks-sue-google-facebook-twitter>

German prosecutors said “they were investigating whether a Volkswagen manager encouraged employees to destroy or remove documents last year, shortly before the [U.S.] Environmental Protection Agency publicly accused the carmaker of illegally manipulating emissions tests in the United States,” reported the *New York Times*. At the end of June, Volkswagen agreed to settle the case in the United States with a fine of \$15 billion. For background, see *HRWG News* 2016-01 and 02. [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/10/business/international/vw-manager-in-germany-is-said-to-have-pushed-for-removing-evidence.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/10/business/international/vw-manager-in-germany-is-said-to-have-pushed-for-removing-evidence.html?_r=0)

Environment. Global Witness, a nongovernmental organization, published a new report on murders of environmental activists. It says that 185 environmental activists were killed in 16 countries in 2015, a 59% increase over 2014. Nearly 40 percent of the victims were from indigenous groups, with the killings presumably were linked to the demands for natural resources that are found in the lands of these peoples.

Global Witness has been compiling data on arrest and conviction rates of the perpetrators, and it says the vast majority of them escape justice. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/reports/dangerous-ground/>  
<http://news.trust.org/item/20160615230438-8abeg/>

Privacy. An academic team from universities in the U.S. and Brazil analyzed “more than 280 links to British news articles that Google had removed from online search results after individuals had successfully petitioned for the information to be taken down,” reported the *New York Times*. Of the 283 articles analyzed, the team “was able to identify 80 people’s names within 103 articles.”  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/04/technology/europe-right-to-be-forgotten-privacy-academics.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/04/technology/europe-right-to-be-forgotten-privacy-academics.html?_r=0)

Torture. In response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, the U.S. government released heavily redacted transcripts of military hearings of prisoners at the prison in Guantanamo Bay before a Combatant Status Review Tribunal. The hearings were held to establish whether the prisoners had been properly classified as “enemy combatants” subject to indefinite wartime detention. The interviewees described being tortured in the Central Intelligence Agency’s “black-site” prisons in various countries. <https://www.aclu.org/news/guantanamo-transcripts-give-firsthand-accounts-cia-torture>

### **Bilateral and multilateral news.**

Algeria/France. The French ambassador in Algeria gave the National Archives of Algeria 22 volumes of copies of diplomatic documents from France covering the period 1954-1962 relating to events during the war in Algeria. <http://french.cri.cn/621/2016/06/22/702s483449.htm>

Bosnia/Serbia. “The trial in Belgrade of Novak Djukic—convicted earlier in Sarajevo of ordering a deadly artillery strike on Tuzla in Bosnia—is on hold after the Bosnian court failed to provide Serbia with the requested case material,” reported *BIRN*. [http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/fugative-general-trial-postponed-indefinitely-06-14-2016?utm\\_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter+-+NEW&utm\\_campaign=a4511f9b80-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a1d9e93e97-a4511f9b80-319755321](http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/fugative-general-trial-postponed-indefinitely-06-14-2016?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter+-+NEW&utm_campaign=a4511f9b80-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a1d9e93e97-a4511f9b80-319755321)

Colombia/United States. A U.S. federal judge ruled that relatives of victims of torture in Colombia can sue Chiquita Brands International Inc. for playing a role in the torture of their family members, reported *Bloomberg News*. “The plaintiffs claim Chiquita paid \$1.7 million from 1995 to 2004 to the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia, which murdered supporters of anti-government guerilla groups.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2013-04 and 09. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-06-02/chiquita-executives-must-face-claims-over-colombian-torture>

Jordan/Syria. Jordan’s Labor Ministry said 11,500 work permits have been issued to Syrians since April, reported *Jordan Times*. The High Commissioner for Refugees said that Jordanian authorities now are allowing Syrian refugees “to use UNHCR-issued asylum-seeker cards and Jordanian Ministry of Interior identity cards to obtain work permits. This is important since previously only a passport or proof of legal entry into the country was sufficient to get a work permit, and most Syrian refugees lack such documents, precluding them from working legally,” reported *Jordan Times*. Jordan’s government estimates that there are 1.3 million Syrians in Jordan. <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/11500-syrians-issued-work-permits-%E2%80%94ministry>

Middle East/Russia/United Kingdom/United States. *Politico* published an article on the post-World War II plans of the U.S. and the U.K. to deny Russia access to oil fields in the Middle East, by destroying the oil facilities if necessary. A shocking 1955 U.K. report “endorsed by Britain’s Joint Chief of Staff” said “the most complete method of destroying oil installations would be by nuclear bombardment.” And a British memorandum to Britain’s Joint Chiefs of Staff after a meeting of U.K. and U.S. officials in early 1956 said that in the “near future, the only feasible means of oil denial [in Iran] would be American nuclear action.” <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/06/oil-denial-policy-cia-middle-east-cold-war-united-states-britain-soviet-union-213983>

Saudi Arabia/United States. The call to release the still classified 28 pages of the report of the U.S. Congressional Joint Inquiry into the terrorist attacks in the United States on 9/11 gained support from the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia (for background see *HRWG News* 2016-05). The pages are said to contain information on the possible role of Saudi Arabian government officials in facilitating the attackers. The

foreign minister said, “There is no there there,” and added that his government could not “respond to blank pages,” reported the *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/18/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-sept11-classified-28-pages.html>

Spain/United States. As if the story of the U.K. and U.S. contemplating the use of nuclear weapons in Middle Eastern oil fields was not enough, the *New York Times* published two long articles on the 1966 crash of a “fully loaded B-52 bomber” off the Spanish coast that resulted in four hydrogen bombs landing near the Spanish village of Palomares. U.S. military personnel were sent to clean up the spilled radioactive material, and the Air Force “has long resisted disclosing the radioactive contamination” suffered by them and providing full health care coverage and disability compensation. Spain’s nuclear agency says “the results of the medical checks [on the 1700 residents of Palomares] do not show high levels of plutonium contamination and that the frequency of cancer around Palomares is similar to that in other towns.” However, a Spanish scientist who, “after struggling to get access to the relevant data,” published a study in 2005 showing higher incidences of cancer, concluded that the small sample size did not allow correlation between cancer and residence in the Palomares locality. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/20/us/decades-later-sickness-among-airmen-after-a-hydrogen-bomb-accident.html>; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/21/world/europe/spain-palomares-hydrogen-bombs.html>

United Kingdom/Northern Ireland/United States. The case on access to the oral interviews with former members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that are held by Boston College continued. Lawyers for one of the “main researchers” (who conducted the interviews and was himself a former IRA member) were given a “heavily redacted” copy of the document that lists the reasons why the police and prosecutor want access to the tapes, but the lawyers argued that they want to see the entire document, reported the *BBC*. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-36470051>

## National news.

Australia. The archivist at the University of Newcastle told the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that the archives has “a large number” of records from the St Albans Anglican boys’ home, which is “set to be the focus of a case study.” Earlier a retired police detective said no records of the home existed. The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle told *ABC* it also retained some historical records from the home. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-10/st-albans-boys-home-records-held-university/7500152>

Australia is creating its first historical DNA database at the Centre for Ancient DNA at Adelaide University, reported *The Sydney Morning Herald*. “The DNA database would prove a vital tool for any number of projects, including identifying unrecovered war dead and even solving decades-old missing person cases.” An estimated 25,000 Australian servicemen missing in action have yet to be recovered and identified; two mass graves of World War II casualties were discovered this year on Papua New Guinea. Anyone “alive and resident in Australia before 1945 or people descended from people alive and resident in 1945” is encouraged to provide DNA. [http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/scientists-want-a-piece-of-you-to-help-solve-a-mystery-or-two-20160602-gp9whc.html?utm\\_source=OxiMailing&utm\\_medium=e-mail&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%2BJune%2B2016](http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/scientists-want-a-piece-of-you-to-help-solve-a-mystery-or-two-20160602-gp9whc.html?utm_source=OxiMailing&utm_medium=e-mail&utm_campaign=Newsletter%2BJune%2B2016)

Bahrain Bahrain. Human Rights Watch reported that the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs made a request to the judiciary to dissolve Al Wifaq, “the country’s main opposition group.” The court then issued a ruling to “close its headquarters, seize its funds, and suspend its activities.” It is likely that the authorities also seized its records. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/06/16/bahrain-order-dissolve-key-opposition-group>

Bosnia. The State Statistical Agency released the results of the 2013 census over the objections of the Republika Srpska, which disputes its validity (for background, see *HRWG News* 2016-05). It shows a 20% decline in population, with an increase in the Bosniak percentage (now slightly over 50% of the total) and slight decreases in Serb and Croat populations, reported *intellinews*. <http://www.intellinews.com/bosnia-and-herzegovina-announces-long-delayed-2013-census-results-101051/>

Brazil. Two land disputes made headlines in June. In one, an indigenous community in southwestern Brazil received a judicial order to leave agricultural land bordering Paraguay. Farmers say they are rightful owners of the land, but the country’s National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), a government entity, had demarcated nearly 10,000 hectares of the territory for the indigenous group. Amnesty International told

*Thomson Reuters Foundation* that the indigenous group “never received formal title to that land;” consequently, “because the indigenous group does not have a formal title, plantation owners were able to register ownership of the land with a local official.” <http://news.trust.org/item/20160614151901-s8ft/> In the second, in the favelas of Rio “people often lack formal documents to prove they own their ramshackle homes,” reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. More than 20% of Rio residents live in favelas. According to Brazil’s Public Security Institute (ISP), a government entity, Rio averages 11 murders per day; in Rio state 645 people were killed by police last year and more than 100 have been killed by Rio police so far this year. “Even though there is no official data linking a lack of official property titles in Rio’s poor communities to violence and police killings, many of those killed by police are young men from favelas who are said to be linked to the drug trade.” The director of the Latin America program at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization, said, “It’s much easier for criminals or drug gangs to occupy areas where residents don’t have official, legal (land) rights.” <http://trust.org/item/20160613104717-r12sx/>

**Burkina Faso.** The government created a 92-member committee to draft a new constitution within 60 days, reported *Africatime.com*. The committee will likely draft, share and revise on computers, and archivists will have to make sure that the track of the important revisions is preserved electronically. [http://en.africatime.com/burkina\\_faso/articles/burkina-faso-forms-team-rewrite-new-constitution](http://en.africatime.com/burkina_faso/articles/burkina-faso-forms-team-rewrite-new-constitution)

**Canada.** The federal government appealed to the Supreme Court the decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal on the legal status of the documents created during the Independent Assessment Process, which determined compensation for persons who are survivors of the residential school system (for background, see *HRWG News* 2016-04). *The Star* reported that the submission to the Supreme Court said, “The significant issue at stake is the proper balance between protection of and respect for individual privacy and confidentiality and the public interest in the necessary preservation of government records identified . . . as having historical and archival value.” <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/06/18/residential-school-abuse-victims-fight-for-their-testimony.html>

*Open Media*, quoting *Motherboard*, reported that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police “has been indefinitely retaining the private data of innocent Canadians swept up through its use of Stingray cell phone surveillance devices over the past ten years.” <https://openmedia.org/en/press/rcmp-revealed-be-indefinitely-retaining-private-data-innocent-canadians-swept-through>

Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report, “Make it Safe: Canada’s Obligation to End the First Nations Water Crisis.” It said, “Tainted water and broken water systems in First Nation communities in Ontario are jeopardizing health, burdening parents and caregivers, and exacerbating problems.” HRW said it conducted a survey of 99 households in five First Nations communities in Ontario, conducted 111 interviews, and analyzed data from government sources on water and wastewater assets, budget allocations, and water advisories. “In total, Human Rights Watch compiled government data for 191 water systems among 137 communities belonging to 133 distinct First Nations in Ontario.” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/06/07/canada-water-crisis-puts-first-nations-families-risk>

**Chile.** The National Monuments Council announced its determination that the archives of Colonia Dignidad are to be preserved as “national heritage,” *Deutsche Welle* reported. “Colonia Dignidad’s documents spelling out the torture and other abuses that happened in the cult are important in investigating crimes of the Chilean military dictatorship, the National Monuments Council said while announcing its decision to preserve the archive.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2016-04. <http://www.dw.com/en/chile-to-preserve-colonia-dignidad-cult-archive/a-19351898>

**Colombia.** On June 23 the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed an accord on bilateral ceasefire and FARC disarmament. Documenting the disarmament of each FARC member and preserving the documentation in an archives is a necessary part of the peace process. For a look at the steps ahead for Colombia see [https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/peace-colombia-closer-ever?mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiT0dRME5qRm1OeJIsTkRBNSIsInQiOiJYUGtDWjJcLzB2Y3FORXJBXXhmd3NzQVdZbDdFbzI0WTVNdZHTDlVmwRjZDhYYUd1a20yeFZLMDIwbU9KXC9TZFR5N2xQQkMyMnNDVERcL0VCSHc4V2JMSWhUR0hmeVJYQXVTZHG1SWJXWEIGVT0ifQ%3D%3D](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/peace-colombia-closer-ever?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT0dRME5qRm1OeJIsTkRBNSIsInQiOiJYUGtDWjJcLzB2Y3FORXJBXXhmd3NzQVdZbDdFbzI0WTVNdZHTDlVmwRjZDhYYUd1a20yeFZLMDIwbU9KXC9TZFR5N2xQQkMyMnNDVERcL0VCSHc4V2JMSWhUR0hmeVJYQXVTZHG1SWJXWEIGVT0ifQ%3D%3D)

Cote d'Ivoire. President Alassane Ouattara appointed a 10-member panel to draft a new constitution. Ouattara had pledged during his presidential campaign for re-election last year to eliminate the constitutional requirement that “presidential candidates must prove both their parents are natural-born Ivorians. They must also have never claimed citizenship of another country,” reported *Reuters*. The requirement, which meant that archival evidence was needed, was a precipitating cause of the 2002-2003 civil war and riots in 2010. <http://www.constitutionnet.org/news/cote-divoire-draft-new-constitution-nationality-clause-and-vice-presidency-focus>

Cyprus. During his meeting with the members of the Committee on the Missing Persons (CMP), UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced that the archives of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus will be made available to the CMP “so as to expedite and render more effective the effort for the ascertainment of the fate of the missing persons” a statement by the Cypriot president said. <http://www.parikiaki.com/2016/06/president-of-cyprus-welcomes-decision-to-put-un-archives-at-the-disposal-of-cmp/>

Ethiopia. Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported, “State security forces in Ethiopia have used excessive and lethal force against largely peaceful protests that have swept through Oromia, the country’s largest region, since November 2015.” The protests began over the government’s Master Plan that was likely to displace farmers, “many of whom have been displaced for development projects over the past decade.” The government cancelled the Master Plan, but the unrest continued. HRW interviewed individuals for the report and “consulted court documents, photos, videos and various secondary material, including academic articles and reports from nongovernmental organizations and information collected by other credible experts and independent human rights investigators.” Among the recommendations to the government on enforced disappearances is to “promptly report to families the name, location and other pertinent information of all individuals taken into custody.” <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/06/16/such-brutal-crackdown/killings-and-arrests-response-ethiopia-omero-protests>

In an essay distributed by the *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, the leader of the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency wrote that in 2012 the Agency “began the Ethiopian Soil Information System (EthioSIS) project. A first-of-its-kind initiative in Africa, EthioSIS uses remote sensing satellite technology and extensive soil sampling to provide high-resolution soil fertility mapping. . . . The enormous soil analysis data generated, together with satellite imagery, are now being used to create the first country-specific digital soil fertility atlas in Africa.” With an estimated 80% of Africa’s population engaged in agriculture, preserving the soil data used to improve crop yields and prevent hunger is a crucial responsibility of the Ethiopian archives system. <http://news.trust.org/item/20160617071005-vwa8o/>

France. A “disgruntled worker” at Mutuelle Generale de la Police, an organization that provides extra health and other insurance benefits for police, uploaded to Google Drive the personal details of 112,000 French police officers, including their postal addresses, reported *BBC*. Given the recent attacks on police in France and elsewhere, a spokesman for the police union called the incident “extremely worrying.” <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36645519>

Guatemala. The United Nations Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and UNICEF issued a report on sex trafficking. The organizations found that 33 people each day “become entrapped in sex trafficking rings in Guatemala” and nearly 60% of them are children (Guatemala’s population is about 16 million). They estimate that the sex industry is worth \$1.6 billion a year, or 2.7% of Guatemala’s gross domestic product. The report includes a section on the methodology used to reach the conclusions. Along with interviews and reviews of reports from international organizations, CICIG and UNICEF entered into a formal agreement with Guatemala’s Attorney General and Head of the Prosecution “to gain access to information and follow several sexual trafficking cases” being prosecuted. They also made “a quantitative analysis of human trafficking and sexual exploitation complaints filed and recorded on the IT Case Management System of the Attorney-General’s Office.” [http://www.cicig.org/uploads/documents/2016/Trata\\_Ing\\_978\\_9929\\_40\\_829\\_6.pdf](http://www.cicig.org/uploads/documents/2016/Trata_Ing_978_9929_40_829_6.pdf); <http://news.trust.org/item/20160608174551-b9630/>

A court in Guatemala found sufficient evidence to proceed to try eight of ten retired military officers on charges of “criminal responsibility for numerous cases of enforced disappearances, torture, sexual violence, and extrajudicial execution carried out between 1981 and 1987 in Military Zone 21,” reported *International Justice Monitor*. The judge said her ruling is based on evidence presented by the plaintiffs:



“documents detailing the chain of custody of the forensic evidence, and the forensic and genetic reports” of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala, “declarations presented by survivors and the relatives of the victims as well as the documents confirming the existence of the victims and their relationships with their kin,” and “all of the expert reports offered by the plaintiffs, the pre-recorded testimonies of two protected witnesses, and the personnel files of the defendants.” The court released two other accused officers, in part because they “presented documentation stating that they were engaged in military study abroad” at the time of the disappearance of which they were charged. <http://www.ijmonitor.org/2016/06/eight-military-officers-to-stand-trial-in-creompaz-grave-crimes-case/>

On the afternoon of June 21, three armed men broke into the Guatemala offices of Impunity Watch, a nongovernmental organization based in The Netherlands. They apparently were searching for specific documents, perhaps related to an ongoing court case against four military officers accused of crimes against humanity, aggravated assault, and enforced disappearance. One of the lawyers at Impunity Watch worked on the case. <http://www.impunitywatch.org/html/index.php?alinead=280>

The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre reported that “Cargill, one of the largest purchasers of palm oil from Guatemala, published a statement requiring REPSA, the Guatemalan company allegedly responsible for the massive environmental contamination of the Pasión River in northern Guatemala, to take a series of actions to prevent future violence. That same day, REPSA published a ‘Policy on Non Violence and Intimidation.’” In the future the corporate archives of both institutions should hold the records of adherence to these promises. <https://business-humanrights.org/en/guatemala-cargill-repsa-acknowledge-need-to-prevent-abuses-related-to-toxic-spill-of-palm-oil-other-companies-yet-to-respond?dateorder=datedesc>

Honduras. “Berta Caceres, the murdered environmental campaigner, appeared on a hitlist distributed to US-trained special forces units of the Honduran military months before her death, a former soldier has claimed,” reported *The Guardian*. “Lists featuring the names and photographs of dozens of social and environmental activists were given to two elite units, with orders to eliminate each target.” <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/21/berta-caceres-name-honduran-military-hitlist-former-soldier>

India. Three United Nations Special Rapporteurs called on the government of India to repeal the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), which requires civil society organizations to be accredited by the government in order to receive foreign funding. They said they were “alarmed that FCRA provisions are being used more and more to silence organisations involved in advocating civil, political, economic, social, environmental or cultural priorities, which may differ from those backed by the government.” The government recently suspended for six months the nongovernmental organization Lawyers Collective, although it had provided “detailed evidence” to prove that “all foreign contributions were spent and accounted for in line with FCRA.” The Rapporteurs also expressed “concern” that the application of FCRA had “procedural irregularities,” including “repeatedly leaked information to the press of suspension notices against the Lawyers Collective months before those were formally served to the NGO.” <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20112&LangID=E>

Israel. The IDF Archives in the Defense Ministry released the testimonies of four generals recorded after the 1967 Six Day War, as well as “information on fliers dropped from a plane by Unit 640, which was responsible for psychological warfare,” reported the *Jerusalem Post*. <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Defense-Ministry-releases-new-Six-Day-War-testimonies-by-IDF-generals-455985>

Kenya. The Mombasa High Court “ruled that forced anal examinations and forced HIV and Hepatitis B tests of men suspected of homosexual conduct are constitutional, the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC) and Human Rights Watch said today,” reported *All Africa*. The groups said that “the deeply disappointing ruling would allow the government to continue these abusive practices and to use the test results as ‘evidence’ in criminal prosecutions for consensual same-sex conduct.” <http://allafrica.com/stories/201606170219.html>

Kosovo. In 2012 the government began a “verification drive” to determine who were former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army in 1998-1999. The government reported that 46,230 individuals have claimed veteran status, thereby eligible for a pension, reported *BIRN*. After the war, the International Organization for Migration “registered over 25,000.” The nearly double new registration led the State Prosecution to

announce that it is “collecting information about potential errors in the verification process” by individuals who gave “false testimonies” or presented “fictitious and false documents.”

[http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-prosecution-probes-suspicious-kla-veterans-list-06-24-2016?utm\\_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter+-+NEW&utm\\_campaign=997b8338ff-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a1d9e93e97-997b8338ff-319755321](http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-prosecution-probes-suspicious-kla-veterans-list-06-24-2016?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter+-+NEW&utm_campaign=997b8338ff-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a1d9e93e97-997b8338ff-319755321)

**Mexico.** The Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) published a report, “Undeniable Atrocities: Confronting Crimes Against Humanity in Mexico.” With the assistance of five Mexican nongovernmental organizations, OSJI analyzed government data. Data from the Defense Ministry showed that between 2007 and 2013, despite “widespread killings” attributed to military forces, “only 29 military investigations for killings perpetrated by members of the military were undertaken, with no resulting convictions.” The report says, “Widely cited government data on disappearances are unreliable,” but the researchers estimate there have been roughly 580,000 kidnappings between 2007 and the end of 2014; however, as of February 2015 “government data points to a mere 313 federal investigations and 13 convictions proving government complicity in the crime of enforced disappearance.” It was not until August 2015 that the first soldier was convicted. Further disheartening, “Out of thousands of complaints of torture and ill-treatment from 2007 through 2015, official figures have recorded only six convictions for torture at the federal level.”

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/press-releases/atrocity-crimes-mexico-demand-extraordinary-response>

In an article on the OSJI report, the *New York Times* interviewed the parents of a son who was kidnapped by a criminal gang and later killed when the Mexican Army raided the ranch where he was held prisoner. “It was only through a case file number that appeared on an army document 10 months after their son disappeared that they found his body. Tucked into the archives at the state prosecutor’s office was their son’s government ID, which had been found at the ranch.” [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/06/world/americas/mexico-violence-killings-torture.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/06/world/americas/mexico-violence-killings-torture.html?_r=0)

**Myanmar.** The government began distributing “national verification cards” in three townships to Muslims who are without citizenship cards (the cards will enable the cardholders to apply for citizenship). However, wrote *The Irrawaddy*, “the Rohingya Muslim residents of Tarle village have refused to accept National Verification Certificates (NVCs) being handed out because the bearer’s ethnicity and religion is not stated on the cards.” <http://www.irrawaddy.com/burma/rohingya-reject-new-citizenship-verification-cards.html> This follows the government’s announcement that it established a Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine state, which includes an “Immigration and Citizenship Scrutinising Working Committee.” <http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/government-forms-committee-implement-peace-stability-development-rakhine-state> Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report on “human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, particularly the recent incidents of trafficking and forced displacement of Rohingya Muslims.” <http://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/report-united-nations-high-commissioner-human-rights-situation-human-rights-rohingya>

**Nepal.** Nepal’s two transitional justice bodies have been taking complaints from victims of human rights abuses (for background, see *HRWG News* 2016-05). Some 47,000 complaints have been filed, but conflict victims in one district said they have not filed complaints because of “threats from their perpetrator,” reported *Govinda KC*. Six families filed a joint complaint against former prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, charging him with “mobilizing Royal Nepal Army to kill rebel CPN-Maoist cadres at Ansrang-1 of Panchthar even after a truce for peace talks,” reported the *Himalayan Post*. The deadline for filing complaints has been extended to mid-July. <http://admin.myrepublica.com/society/story/43872/conflict-victims-say-they-did-not-lobby-complaints-at-the-trc-due-to-threats.html>; [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/former-nepal-pm-deuba-charged-with-human-rights-violation-116061700591\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/former-nepal-pm-deuba-charged-with-human-rights-violation-116061700591_1.html)

**North Korea.** In a news briefing, the International Atomic Energy Agency said that North Korea’s Yongbyon nuclear facility appeared to be reactivated, based on satellite imagery it has analyzed, reported *IHS Jane’s Defence Weekly*. <http://www.janes.com/article/61023/north-korea-s-yongbyon-nuclear-site-likely-reactivated-iaea-says>

**Oman.** Omani writer and intellectual Abdullah Habib was arrested on 15 April and released on 4 May without charges being brought against him, reported PEN International, a nongovernmental organization. “It is thought that his arrest was in connection with a Facebook post he wrote calling for the Omani government to reveal the burial sites of rebels killed during the Dhofar rebellion in the 1960s and 1970s.” [http://www.concernedhistorians.org/content\\_files/file/CA/83f1.pdf](http://www.concernedhistorians.org/content_files/file/CA/83f1.pdf)

Peru. The Congress approved the “Law on the Search of Disappeared Persons” (those who disappeared during the internal armed conflict between 1980 and 2000). It requires the government to establish a National Registry of Disappeared Persons. <http://www.andina.com.pe/ingles/noticia-un-experts-welcome-peru%E2%80%99s-newly-adopted-law-on-search-of-disappeared-persons-615333.aspx>

Serbia. The Humanitarian Law Center, a Belgrade nongovernmental organization, issued a report, “Transitional Justice in Serbia in the period from 2013 to 2015.” It says “Serbia made no significant progress in establishing transitional justice processes concerning the ex-Yugoslavia wars in the Nineties,” reported *BIRN*. The report highlights the problem of the “stringent restrictions with regard to public attendance at trials and public access to court documents” and the banning of video recording during the trials. Among the report’s recommendations is to introduce “a policy of screening the wartime backgrounds of candidates for security-sector jobs and political office,” a task that would involve deep use of institutional archives. [http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/izvestaj\\_o\\_TP\\_2013-2015\\_eng.pdf](http://www.hlc-rdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/izvestaj_o_TP_2013-2015_eng.pdf)  
[http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-lacks-political-support-for-establishing-transitional-justice-progress-hlc-says-06-22-2016?utm\\_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter+-+NEW&utm\\_campaign=2f457f9467-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a1d9e93e97-2f457f9467-319755321](http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-lacks-political-support-for-establishing-transitional-justice-progress-hlc-says-06-22-2016?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter+-+NEW&utm_campaign=2f457f9467-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a1d9e93e97-2f457f9467-319755321)

South Sudan. In an editorial published in the *New York Times*, the president and vice president argued that plans for an international tribunal for South Sudan should be dropped and replaced by a commission that could grant immunity from prosecution. (Under the terms of a peace agreement signed in August 2015, the African Union is to set up a court to prosecute offenses committed during the South Sudanese civil war.) *Thomson Reuters Foundation* reported that “experts and advocates” responded to the suggestion with “dismay,” with an official of Human Rights Watch saying, “Their proposal to scrap trials is a self-serving attempt to evade justice.” <http://news.trust.org/item/20160608222020-6sa4l/>

Human Rights Watch called on the United Nations to “make public the findings of two UN investigations into the February 2016 attack on civilians in a UN camp in South Sudan and act on their recommendations.” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/06/22/un-act-south-sudan-investigations>

Sri Lanka. The government will issue “certificates of absence” to families of those still missing from the 37-year civil war, reported *AFP*. The foreign ministry said the government has received “over 65,000 complaints of missing persons” since 1994; under current law “families cannot access the property, bank accounts or inheritances left by the missing relatives unless they can conclusively prove they are dead.” The certificates are to solve that problem. <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world/sri-lanka-to-recognise-around-65-000-people-missing-since-civil-war-as-dead/story-z9fUgfnEEiT74RXUmisHwK.html>

Tanzania. In 2004 Tanzania launched a nationwide program “to identify property and business assets in the informal sector . . . and turn them into legally held entities. Since then, thousands of farms have been surveyed and land titles issued to farmers,” reported *Thomson Reuters Foundation*. With titles farmers can use the land as an asset for a bank loan. Tanzania has surveyed 110,331 farms in 208 villages and 65,500 customary land titles have been issued. The program includes an educational component for farmers, both men and women, but some “civil society groups . . . question its emphasis on the individualization of land ownership and the use of registered land rights to obtain credit.” <http://place.trust.org/i/?id=a2b57fed-359c-4c6a-be1d-8d5fe3c6ce0a>

Tunisia. Between December 2014 and 15 June 2016 the Truth and Dignity Commission “registered about 65,000 complaints of violations of human rights,” reported *AFP*. The president of the commission said that the cases that related to abuses by state officials “who are still active have been sent to the Interior Ministry but were rejected to date.” This means the records of abuse allegations are part of two sets of government archives: those of the Commission and those of the Ministry. According to *AFP*, the Commission “has full access to state archives.” <http://www.africanews.com/2016/06/19/tunisian-commission-receives-1000s-of-human-rights-complaints/>

Uganda. An ongoing lawsuit involves the palm oil company Bidco Africa, the government, and farmers whose land is now part of the palm oil plantation. According to *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, “The farmer’s case is one of many conflicts over land in the East African country, which lacks a nationwide tenure system, making it difficult to prove ownership. Many people live and work on land for generations

but without official titles or documentation they cannot prove tenure.” The company says the Ugandan government was “solely responsible for acquiring land for the project,” and the government says that the government purchased 8,500 hectares of land “mostly from local landlords,” and the dispute is “a matter between tenants and the private landowner.” Uganda legislation “stipulates that a person earns squatter’s rights on land if they have occupied it for 10 years or more. If a landlord comes to reclaim the land, the squatter occupants must be compensated at the current value of the land.” <http://news.trust.org/item/20160619230412-covwi/>

United States. Internal documents from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, obtained by *ProPublica* and *The Virginian-Pilot*, suggest that factors other than scientific evidence are influencing what conditions are added to the official list of Agent Orange-related conditions, which in turn enables the veterans with those conditions to obtain benefits. [https://www.propublica.org/article/on-agent-orange-va-weighs-politics-and-cost-along-with-science?utm\\_source=pardot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dailynewsletter](https://www.propublica.org/article/on-agent-orange-va-weighs-politics-and-cost-along-with-science?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter)

The U.S. Department of Justice defines hate crime as “the violence of intolerance and bigotry, intended to hurt and intimidate someone because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, religious, sexual orientation or disability.” Law enforcement agencies across the country are asked to report hate crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) but are not required to do so. The *Associated Press* “examined FBI hate crime reports for the years 2009 through 2014 and matched those against lists of every city and county law enforcement agency in each state, obtained separately from all 50 states.” It found that “about 17 percent of all city and county law enforcement agencies nationwide” have “not submitted a single hate crime report for the FBI’s annual crime tally during the past six years.” Advocates as well as the FBI told the *AP* that better reporting “would not only increase awareness but also boost efforts to combat such crimes with more resources for law enforcement training and community outreach.”

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/8247a1d2f76b4baea2a121186dedf768/ap-patchy-reporting-undercuts-national-hate-crimes-count>

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a nongovernmental organization, issued “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-affected Hate Violence 2016.” It analyzed “the experiences of 1253 survivors of hate violence that were reported to 13 NCAVP member programs in 2015.” The analysis showed that “people of color and transgender and gender nonconforming people made up the majority of victims of LGBTQ and HIV-affected related hate violence.” Twenty-four homicides were reported, but the most common types of hate violence were verbal harassment, discrimination, physical violence, and threats or intimidation. NCAVP found that the majority of survivors reported that the hate violence came from “someone who was known to them” and almost half of the incidents occurred “in either a private residence or a workplace.” The reporting form that the organization uses to document the details of the survivors and the violence is included as an annex.

[http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp\\_hvreport\\_2015\\_final.pdf](http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp_hvreport_2015_final.pdf)

Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, researchers at Bowling Green State University studied “the prevalence of police officers arrested across the country and how law enforcement agencies discipline officers who are arrested and how officer arrests might correlate with other forms of misconduct,” reported the *Washington Post*. The study looked at state and local agencies between 2005 and 2011 (it did not include federal law enforcement), and found about 1100 police officers were arrested each year. (In 2012 there were about 750,000 sworn state and local officers.) To gather cases, the researchers used “Google news alerts that send a message whenever an item on the Internet contains specific search terms.” And they “checked each arrested officer’s name in the federal court database to see whether they had ever been named as a defendant in a federal civil right suit” and found that 22% had been.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/true-crime/wp/2016/06/22/study-finds-1100-police-officers-per-year-or-3-per-day-are-arrested-nationwide/>

The *Washington Post* reported that the government’s terrorist “watch lists” have grown “exponentially since the 9/11 attacks” and have “triggered widespread concern among civil liberties groups.” “At least seven overlapping watch lists” are maintained by “at least four federal agencies.”

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/amid-gun-scrutiny-government-s-growing-watch-lists-are-in-sharper-focus-1.415233>

Ownership of land in Native American reservations is notoriously complex, reflecting relations with non-native settlers, “territory wars with the U.S. government, disputes over gold, coal and oil, and treaties signed and cast aside,” *Thomson Reuters Foundation* summarized. A group of Colorado law students has a

Tribal Wills Project to help people of the Crow nation write wills, and to do that the tribal members are bringing to the project all the documentation they have on land ownership. The law students are helping them sort out ownership and inheritance rights. <http://news.trust.org/item/20160610120314-m52yz/>

The Lakota People's Law Project (the Lakota are a Native American nation) launched a campaign to establish a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of the Indian Boarding School Policy, and to work toward healing and addressing the issues facing Indian country today," reported *PRWEB*. "More than 100,000 children were forcibly removed from their families and distributed among the 460 Bureau of Indian Affairs operated schools by 1960." The U.S. National Archives holds massive records of the schools. <http://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/16/06/p8128463/a-call-for-truth-and-reconciliation-in-the-united-states>

*Nondoc.com* published three articles on an ongoing land dispute between the Wichita and Caddo Native American nations in western Oklahoma. The location of the cemetery used by the Riverside Indian School is uncertain, but it is believed to be at the top of a hill adjacent to the former school. Below the hill, the Wichita are building a museum; however, the Caddo claim that the Wichita don't own the land and that additional remains are buried there; they have filed suit to stop the construction. A fire at the school may have destroyed the grave records, and the Caddo say the records of the archeological study that the Wichita had completed before beginning construction have been denied to them. <https://nondoc.com/2016/06/20/lack-of-records-confounds-school-cemetery-history/>

In 1838 Georgetown University sold 272 slaves to finance the university. Following his receipt of the report by a committee the university established last year to study what should be done to atone for the sale, the university's president said the university will make a "vigorous and wide-ranging effort to make amends." The *Washington Post* reported that the president said "Georgetown has access to significant archival material about the 272 slaves" and "that will shape the university's response." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/06/23/georgetown-president-is-seeking-to-make-amends-for-1838-slave-sale/>

In a long article on the battle by the home building industry to "block plans to require fire sprinklers in new homes," *ProPublica* reported that the industry has blocked efforts to make sprinkler systems mandatory "in at least 25 states." For 7 of the states *ProPublica* used "data compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration, country records and information from the real estate website Zillow" and identified 37 fires that caused injuries, including two deaths, in homes built without sprinklers since 2009. Although a 2013 review by the National Fire Protection Association "found the death rate in homes with sprinklers was 82% lower," *ProPublica* quoted the head of the National Association of Home Builders, a lobbying organization for the industry, as saying, "I don't see the cost effectiveness being there for fire sprinklers." [https://www.propublica.org/article/fire-fight-the-homebuilding-industry-war-on-sprinklers?utm\\_source=pardot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dailynewsletter](https://www.propublica.org/article/fire-fight-the-homebuilding-industry-war-on-sprinklers?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter)

United States/Illinois. Chicago's Independent Police Review Authority released records related to more than 100 open investigations of police shootings and use of force, including audio and video clips posted to a searchable database, reported *The Verge*. <http://www.theverge.com/2016/6/3/11853042/chicago-police-shooting-database>

United States/Missouri. A Federal judge ordered prosecutors to give lawyers for the family of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, a copy of the unredacted transcripts of grand jury proceedings, "unredacted transcripts of witness interviews, written statements obtained by St. Louis County police, audio-record transcripts and autopsy and scene photographs not previously disclosed," reported the *Associated Press*. The case against the police officer who shot Brown was dismissed by the grand jury; now the family is bringing a "wrongful death" lawsuit against the city, the former police chief, and the policeman. The lawyers are ordered not to make the information public. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/judge-release-grand-jury-material-michael-browns-family-195143859.html>

United States/New York. During a "routine inventory" of a warehouse, "archivists found 520 brown boxes of decades-old files, believed to be the largest trove of New York Police Department surveillance records" from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s, reported the *New York Times*. "The boxes, according to a written index, contain extensive files about the Black Panthers, the Nation of Islam and the Young Lords, as well

as public demonstrations and civil unrest. Files on individuals are also among the documents; at least 15 boxes primarily contain photographs.” [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/17/nyregion/old-new-york-police-surveillance-is-found-forcing-big-brother-out-of-hiding.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/17/nyregion/old-new-york-police-surveillance-is-found-forcing-big-brother-out-of-hiding.html?_r=1)

Venezuela. In a series of moves the National Electoral Council invalidated “almost one third of [the] signatures presented” by the opposition in May “in support of [a] presidential recall referendum,” the International Crisis Group, a nongovernmental organization, reported. After that, some 1.3 million signatures remained, which is almost seven times the number required to move forward. Then the Council said signatories must “validate” their signatures by returning to voter registration places for fingerprinting by their signatures, which the Council said it would “submit for forensic examination” (apparently to compare with fingerprints on file with the government). The “small number (300) of fingerprinting machines, many in remote locations” meant that “most” people were unable to complete the validation. Meanwhile, the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela filed a petition with the Supreme Court asking “for investigation into alleged fraud in [the] signature collection process, in [an] apparent bid to halt [the] process altogether.” <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/crisiswatch/crisiswatch-database.aspx?CountryIDs=%7b93F4E941-B697-4999-B216-0EBA51C3B15C%7d>

## **Publications.**

The Catalan Association of Archivists and Records Managers announced that its project DUAMaps (Maps of adoptions of Universal Declaration on Archives in Catalonia) makes visible the more than one hundred adoptions to the Universal Declaration on Archives since 2013 in Catalonia: 82 municipalities, 9 private companies, 3 professional associations, 2 provincial councils, 5 universities, 5 district councils and the Parliament of Catalonia. At the ICA Congress in Seoul an expert group will discuss this project. <http://arxiv.com/index.php/recursos/duamaps>

Colombia’s National Center of Historical Memory, Direction for the Archives of Human Rights, posted online the presentations from the seminar "Archivos para la paz: Elementos para una política pública" (Archives for Peace: elements for a public policy) at <http://www.centrodehistoriamemoria.gov.co/descargas/informes2016/memorias-seminario-archivo/archivos-para-la-paz-memorias-de-seminario.pdf>. Its Virtual Archive of Human Rights and Historical Memory is available at <http://www.archivodelosddhh.gov.co>.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* published a long article on the disclosure by the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the archives removed from Kenya at the end of the colonial period, the controversy over them, and their importance for writing history. <http://chronicle.com/article/A-Historians-Day-in-Court/236656>

The blog of the *Journal of the History of Ideas* published a critical essay, “Shame, memory and the politics of the archive.” <http://jhiblog.org/2016/05/04/shame-memory-and-the-politics-of-the-archive/>

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