INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES ARCHIVES

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SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
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ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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How it Began

In the years after the ICA's Human Rights Working Group start at the ICA annual meeting in Cape Town, some archivists in leading roles worried that the new group would push ICA into taking public positions on issues that would oppose the interests of the organizations of which their archives was a subordinate part. National archivists were particularly concerned, and the tensions were noticeable by the time ICA's annual meeting in Malta arrived in November 2009. I took over as chair of the Working Group at that meeting, and I knew I needed to calm the unrest. So, during my talk at the business meeting, I promised the assembled archivists that the Working Group would not focus solely on governments but would look at the entire range of the world's human rights practices.

I thought that one way to show the enormous variety of human rights issues was to present them in a monthly newsletter available to everyone. And I thought it would be useful to examine the Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and see how they related to archives and archival practices. I wrote and released the first News in December 2009--a brief two pages but it was launched!

Trudy Huskamp Peterson

200 Newsletters

Since its first real appearance in December 2009, 200 issues of the Newsletter have been prepared and distributed, first by the ICA Working Group and, since 2019, by the Section on Archives and Human Rights.

Flipping through this material (available at the ICA website: https://www.ica.org/ica-network/professional-sections/sahr/sahr-newsletters) will give you an extraordinary sense of debates, dramas, discoveries, tragedies and small miracles over the years. These newsletters are key to understanding societal developments in the field of archives and human rights over these

17 years. You can follow the increasingly difficult struggles for democracy and international law as well as the bright spots from numerous accountability activities, often originating in civil society organizations fighting against impunity.

One characteristic of the Newsletter, from its beginnings to now, is how it has always striven to be universal, by following developments, initiatives and events all over the world. If you look at the issues from 2010, you will already find stories from India, Kenya, Canada, Guatemala, Morocco, the United Kingdom and many other countries. The Newsletter still has this universal ambition, and increasingly so. Initially, the Newsletter was in English only, but over the years French and Spanish versions were also created.

Another characteristic is its sobriety. The Newsletter is fact-based. In form and content, in selection criteria and in methodology, it reflects and remains true to its ambition of being a trustworthy tool for truth and justice.

The Newsletter has also consistently reached out to and included professions other than archivists and records managers. It features stories involving artists, documentary filmmakers, journalists (of course), forensic experts, political scientists, historians, jurists and many other professions. This is a dimension that is likely to become even more prominent in the future.

The fight against impunity is at the heart of the mission and raison d'être of ICA/SAHR and its Newsletter. Today, in these closing months of 2026, the international courts, in particular the International Criminal Court (ICC), are under scathing attack from some governments, notably those of the United States and Russia. Defending and strengthening international justice in its work to hold accountable those guilty of the worst crimes that humanity can suffer is more important than ever. In this context, the Newsletter has a modest but valuable part to play in the universal quest for justice.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone involved in making the Newsletter possible: Trudy Huskamp Peterson for her outstanding pioneering work as editor over many years, and Amanda Leinberger and her team, who continue this indispensable work with dedication and professionalism.

Jens Boel
Chair, ICA/SAHR

About the Newsletter

The SAHR Newsletter summaries of reports, news, updates, action alerts, media coverage, upcoming events, ongoing projects, reports from programs, resources, reviews of publications and information related to human rights issues from around the world.

Participation

Would you like to volunteer? We're currently looking for news collectors who can focus on South America or Asia to ensure a more global coverage - but everyone is welcome.

Would you like to promote your event (conference, webinar, exhibition, etc.) to an international audience? Ensure that you are sending event listings at least 6 weeks in advance of your event.

Access and Reuse

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

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News by topic

Archives & Archival Collections

Bangladesh: **Symposium on Visual Investigations: Best Practice in Collaboration and Community-led Approaches – Data Design and Analysis for Human Rights Audiovisual Archives – Airwars and Bangladesh Protest Archive**. In early 2026, WITNESS, in collaboration with Airwars, initiated five workshop sessions, led by Clive Vella (Data Manager, Airwars) to train a core team within the Bangladesh Protest Archive (BPA) in the designing of their datasets. This training was delivered using Airwars' methodology, developed through its extensive experience documenting civilian harm and structuring open source evidence for investigations, while building on the BPA's collection of textual and audiovisual documentation from the 2024 Bangladesh protests. Clive Vella; Shoeb Abdullah; Kartika Pratiwi, Opinio Juris, 2026-08-31.

China / Japan: **Archival materials on victims of Japanese military sexual slavery donated in Nanjing**. A collection of historical materials documenting survivors of the Japanese military's wartime sexual slavery system was donated on Friday to the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders. CGTN News, 2026-08-14.

India: **"Satluj" - When the State Bans Memory, The River Becomes the Archive**. Guha and Subaltern Studies argued that elite history writes out the peasant, the worker, the ordinary. Khalra was that subaltern: not a general, not a minister, a bank manager. Without a film, his archive becomes a footnote. With the film banned, the erasure doubles. Hannah Arendt warned that totalitarianism's most effective weapon is not violence alone but the destruction of memory. Make people forget the sequence, and you can rewrite the meaning. 'Satluj' resists that. It insists memory is a civic act. Uttan Bandyopadhyay, Countercurrents, 2026-08-24.

India: **The rush to delete the digital archive of resistance**. When fact checkers reconstructed the events of July 20 Chalo Sansad march they relied on hundreds of user-generated videos with different timestamps and vantage points. Additionally, international coverage of the movement drew heavily on footage captured by the protestors themselves. This marked a profound shift in who gets to write history. ढिंगरा, Simran Dhingra सिमरन, Forward Press, 2026-08-21.

Israel / Palestine: **A Palestinian Village Destroyed in 1953 Is Being Rebuilt in VR**. Using oral histories, archival photographs and British maps, Palestinian diaspora architect Tony Ghannam is reconstructing Kafr Bir'im as it existed before its residents were displaced in 1948. Elkahlaoui, Hajar, WIRED Middle East, 2026-08-11.

Senegal: **How FIDA Funding Helped Strengthen Archival Risk Management in Senegal**. Public archives are essential to preserving a nation's memory, supporting accountability and safeguarding cultural heritage. Yet without effective protection measures, they remain vulnerable to physical deterioration, disasters, cyber threats. Almeras, Clemence, ICA, 2026-07-31.

South Korea: **South Korea to re-examine 310,000 missing person cases after fake record scandal**. Renewed scrutiny comes after police officer accused of falsifying records in order to close the cases of people who were later found dead. Rashid, Raphael, The Guardian, 2026-08-28.

Taiwan: **When intelligence archives become political evidence**. Taiwan's been opening its intelligence archives – with lamentable results. The opening of the records, which began in February 2026, has damaged the reputations of people named in the declassified files. Huang, Ivan I.-Wei, The Strategist, 2026-08-16.

United Kingdom: **'The problem of poor record keeping in children's homes - and what to do about it'**. Writing daily logs on children in residential care is a key part of the job, but too often neglected, says David Jones. David Jones, Community Care, 2026-08-20.

United States of America: **'Art tells the truth': New coffee table book becomes an archive of ICE protest art**. A Stillwater woman began archiving the art that emerged during the federal immigration enforcement surge. Months later, the collection has grown into something much larger. Besst, Anika, MPR News, 2026-08-14.

United States of America: **Meet the army of amateur archivists racing to save US history in national parks**. Save Our Signs aims to document every sign in the more than 400 national parks and historic sites across the country before the Trump administration removes them. Qin, Amy; Pessoa, Flávio; Pessoa, Amy Qin with graphics by Flávio, The Guardian, 2026-08-07.

Armed Conflict

Bosnia and Herzegovina: **Bosnia's Vijecnica keeps Sarajevo memory alive 34 years after fire**. Located in Bosnia-Herzegovina's capital Sarajevo and considered one of the city's most prominent symbols, the historical Vijecnica Library continues to serve as the city’s memory 34 years after it was burned in an attack by Serb forces on Aug. 25, 1992. Daily Sabah, 2026-08-25.

Ukraine: **Odesa : UNESCO condemns renewed attack on World Heritage property**. In the context of the escalation of the war in Ukraine following the invasion by the Russian Federation, UNESCO condemns the reported attack on Odesa on 9 August 2026. UNESCO, 2026-08-15.

Worldwide: **Ukrainian cathedrals, Gaza’s archives, Iranian squares – modern war is systematically erasing human history**. It is not enough now for war to kill, it must eradicate a people’s cherished and precious heritage too. Jenkins, Simon, The Guardian, 2026-08-13.

Atrocity Crimes

China / Japan: **New archives on notorious Unit 731 reveal Japanese military’s cover-up of biological warfare**. Newly released wartime records from the Hailar branch of Japan's notorious Unit 731 reveal how the Japanese military disguised biological warfare personnel as conventional infantry troops to conceal secret operations, including human experimentation. Global Times, 2026-08-13.

Germany: **I Found My Husband’s Grandfather in the Holocaust Archives. I Was Wrong**. What one mistaken identification taught me about documents, survivor testimony, and the limits of the historical record. Brill, Janet Bond, Times of Israel, 2026-08-11.

Iraq / Syria: **The anatomy of erasure: Indigenous Assyrian women and forgotten genocide**. Indigenous Assyrian women were erased three times: first as Assyrians, then through sexual violence, finally by history itself. The machinery that made them disappear is still running. Global Voices, 2026-08-05.

Israel / Lebanon: **Deadly Israeli attack on journalist Amal Khalil must be investigated as a war crime**. An Israeli attack that killed Lebanese journalist Amal Khalil and seriously wounded camerawoman Zeinab Faraj in south Lebanon on 22 April 2026 was a direct attack on civilians which should be investigated as a war crime, said Amnesty International today. Amnesty International, 2026-08-06.

Israel / Palestine: **How public health research supports accountability for Israeli war crimes in Gaza**. As a team of public health researchers, we have been documenting the interconnected set of Israeli actions used to dismantle the Gaza Strip's health system since October 2023. Our research contributes to an important body of evidence – built on the foundations of the work and testimonies of Palestinians on the ground – for future justice, accountability, and restitution, including in the case brought by South Africa to the International Court of Justice charging Israel with the crime of genocide. Yara Asi, David Mills, Bram Wispelwey, Osama Tanous, and Weeam Hammoudeh, The New Humanitarian, 2026-08-13.

Russian Federation / Ukraine: **Ukraine Charges 11 Russians Over War Crimes Against Cultural Heritage**. Ancient artifacts from occupied Crimea reportedly entered Russia's museum system after excavations damaged a site dating back to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The Office of the Prosecutor General has announced suspicions against 11 members of the Russian armed forces in cases involving the damage. Mezha, 2026-08-17.

Worldwide: **The ear witness: Turner-winner Lawrence Abu Hamdan and his 'sound evidence' exposés of human rights abuses**. From killings in Gaza to the alleged use of a sonic weapon on a vigil in Belgrade, the Lebanese-British artist reveals how his work for activist group Earshot is inseparable from his art. Higgins, Charlotte, The Guardian, 2026-08-25.

Colonialism, Indigenous Rights & Decolonization

Australia: **Australia's 'pioneer' colonists profited from slavery. That truth must be acknowledged**. The veil is slowly being lifted on the forced or coerced migration – 'blackbirding' – of Pacific Islanders for labour. The statue of Robert Towns was vandalised in 2020 – the hands daubed in red paint to symbolise blood. I'd never endorse the vandalisation of public property. I'd far prefer to see an additional plaque placed permanently on or near such a statue dedicated to telling the terrible truth about Towns. Daley, Paul, The Guardian, 2026-08-15.

Australia: **First Nations peoples are often undercounted in Australia's census – here's why that is a problem**. Australia's census has a complicated history with Indigenous peoples. One major issue is an ongoing undercount of First Nations people. O'Dea, Birri; Cutler, Chesley; Meston, Troy, The Conversation, 2026-08-10.

Australia: **Indigenous Governance of Data Held by Organisations: How to Operationalise Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles in Australia**. In Australia, the Maiam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles were developed and published in 2018 and as a result, there is a growing body of academic and policy relevant literature on Indigenous Data Sovereignty. There are increasing calls from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their organisations, governments, statistical agencies and universities for practical guidance on how to operationalise Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles through Indigenous Data Governance within data systems controlled outside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations. Sedran-Price, Cassandra, Data Science Journal, 2026-08-20.

Belgium / Democratic Republic of Congo / United States of America: **Une start-up soutenue par Jeff Bezos veut s'approprier des archives coloniales pour trouver du lithium au Congo**. À l'africamuseum de Tervuren, en Belgique, des archives géologiques héritées du Congo belge attisent les convoitises de kobold métaux, une start-up minière étasunienne dopée à l'IA et soutenue par des milliardaires de la tech. Eitanite Bellaïche et Stéphane Dubromel, Reporterre, 2026-08-04.

India: **'Languages and cultures are surviving, and will continue to survive': Interview with Juang-language writer Kshetrabasi Juanga**. An Indian educator is documenting his vulnerable Indigenous language on YouTube. He hopes his videos "will create an invaluable resource for the entire humankind." The OpenSpeaks Archives is developing a process for Wikimedians to cite oral knowledge from Indigenous and other low-resourced language communities, including nearly 20 language communities from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This process includes audio-visual documentation, creating technological and educational resources, and community capacity building. Panigrahi, Subhashish, Global Voices, 2026-08-20.

India / Pakistan / United Kingdom: **Punjabi Soldiers Who Fought for Britain in World War I Are Recognized for First Time**. Nearly 10,000 Punjabi soldiers who died in World War I have been added to casualty records for the first time. Sands, Leo, The New York Times, 2026-08-08.

Namibia / South Africa: **L'Afrique du Sud restitue à la Namibie plus de 80 dépouilles de l'apartheid et de la colonisation**. L'Afrique du Sud a restitué à la Namibie les dépouilles de plus de 80 personnes décédées sous l'apartheid et pendant la période coloniale. Une cérémonie s'est déroulée mercredi 19 août 2026 au Cap, avant le retour des restes vers leur terre natale. Une opération souhaitée par Windhoek, capitale politique de la Namibie, qui pousse pour ce type de restitutions, à travers le monde, depuis de nombreuses années et qui s'inscrit également dans le programme de justice réparatrice récemment lancé par l'Afrique du Sud. Claire Bargelès, RFI, 2026-08-20.

Senegal: **The long fight to return the 'Ségou treasure,' a spoil of colonization**. The Sufi spiritual leader El Hadj Omar Tall, who counted hundreds of thousands of followers, was a 19th-century scholar and anti-colonialist fighter. France's adoption of a law on the restitution of stolen cultural property could allow his descendants to recover his manuscripts, jewelry, and valuable possessions. Kane, Coumba, Le Monde, 2026-08-12.

Worldwide: **23 août : Une journée internationale pour se souvenir de la traite négrière et de son abolition**. C'est aujourd'hui la Journée internationale du souvenir de la traite négrière et de son abolition. Instaurée par l'UNESCO, elle commémore l'insurrection des esclaves de Saint-Domingue en août 1791 ; un acte clé qui a mené à l'abolition de la traite transatlantique. Olivier Lancien, Guadeloupe La 1ère, 2026-08-23.

Worldwide: **Data Do's and Don'ts: A Primer on Indigenous Data Sovereignty**. Guidebook by Jane Anderson and Vanessa Smith: "…outlines data types, legal and governance foundations, provenance, collection & consent, storage infrastructure & access, use & reuse, attribution & accountability, and common misconceptions…". Anderson, Jane; Smith, Vanessa, NSF Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science, 1905-07-18.

Worldwide: **UN committee presents legal case for broad slavery reparations**. The document, which was approved last week but only published on Monday, is expected to provide a powerful new tool supporting reparations claims. Countries are legally obliged to provide broad reparations for harms resulting from both direct and indirect involvement in the transatlantic African slave trade. Gavin Blackburn, euronews, 2026-08-31.

Human Rights Defenders and Activists

Australia: **Testimony as a target: how witnesses at the antisemitism royal commission are being abused online**. New research looking at more than 1,300 posts directed toward witnesses reveals vitriolic abuse. Royal commissions need updating for the digital age. Roose, Josh, The Conversation, 2026-08-11.

Bolivia: **Bolivia's NGO Registry Threatens Human Rights Work**. Bolivia's government published two decrees in early August that threaten the right to freedom of association and the work of human rights defenders. Sofia Pasquini, Human Rights Watch, 2026-08-26.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: **Bosnian Serb Police Questioning Of Srebrenica Staff Triggers Bipartisan Warning From US Lawmakers**. A bipartisan group of US lawmakers is seeking action, including possible sanctions, against Bosnian Serb officials after police began questioning staff at Bosnia's Srebrenica Memorial Center following the publication of a new report showing a marked jump in cases of genocide denial. Augustinovic-Stojak, Marija, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 2026-08-14.

China: **The Guardian view on the Tiananmen vigil convictions: Hong Kong too has been silenced. Others should speak out**. Two activists who organised commemorations of the bloody crackdown on China's 1989 pro-democracy protests now face jail. Remembering is not a crime. The Guardian, 2026-08-24.

United States of America: **Rights Groups Sue Trump Administration Over Targeting ICC**. Four human rights groups (the American Friends Service Committee, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Human Rights Watch, and the Open Society Institute) filed a lawsuit in US federal court challenging the Trump administration's sanctions against ICC prosecutors and judges, a UN human rights expert, and three Palestinian human rights groups. Human Rights Watch, 2026-08-11.

Information Rights & Media Freedom

Afghanistan: **Inside the Taliban's War on Afghan Journalism**. The Taliban has transformed Afghanistan into an information prison where censorship, surveillance and punishment have replaced independent journalism. Austin, Patrick, International Policy Digest, 2026-08-15.

Burkina Faso: **Accusé d'avoir mis en place une «milice numérique» contre la presse, le gouvernement répond à RSF**. Au Burkina Faso, le ministre de la communication répond à Reporters sans frontières. Ce lundi 3 août, à l'occasion d'une cérémonie de montée des couleurs, Pingdwende Gilbert Ouedraogo a rendu hommage à un groupe charge d'agir sur les réseaux sociaux pour le compte du gouvernement : le bir-c, pour « bataillon d'intervention rapide - communication ». RFI, 2026-08-04.

China: **'Dismaying' Tiananmen convictions part of campaign to erase Chinese history**. Responding to the convictions of activists who organized Tiananmen vigils in Hong Kong: "This dismaying verdict underlines how Hong Kong's National Security Law is being used to punish people for peacefully remembering one of the darkest chapters in recent Chinese history. Amnesty International, 2026-08-21.

China: **China's Information Control Could Hamper Flood Rescue Efforts in Tibet**. Videos of the disaster, which tore through the border area between Tibet and Nepal, have been removed from social media by China's censors. Kuo, Lily, The New York Times, 2026-08-27.

Europe / Morocco: **Ceuta: claves para entender el laberinto de una crisis migratoria permanente**. A 31 de julio de 2026, Ceuta afronta un episodio fronterizo de una magnitud sin precedentes. Las primeras estimaciones de las fuerzas de seguridad sitúan por encima de 40 000 el número de personas que habría entrado en la ciudad durante unas 24 horas. Algunas fuentes elevaron provisionalmente la cifra a 49 000, aunque todavía no existe un recuento oficial

consolidado y esa estimación fue retirada de la página del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional sin explicación pública. Belloso, María López, The Conversation, 2026-07-31.

France / Israel / Palestine: **Cisjordanie occupée : des journalistes de l'Agence France-Presse attaqués par des colons israéliens**. Les journalistes s'étaient rendus dans un village près de Bethléem pour rencontrer des militants israéliens organisant des visites solidaires auprès de Palestiniens harcelés par des colons israéliens qui ont récemment bloqué une route dans la région. Une enquête policière a été ouverte. Le Monde, 2026-08-25.

Iran: **Iran seeks to criminalise all contact with foreign media in 'chilling' crackdown**. As photojournalist sentenced to 15 years, rights groups warn law would turn civic engagement into security crime. Parent, Deepa, The Guardian, 2026-08-26.

Israel / United States of America: **Why Can't the UN Say 'Yahav Lichner'?**. "For your eyes only. Do not forward," Lichner wrote on Feb. 20, 2015, to Ron Prosor, Israel's envoy to the UN at the time, and Ronny Leshno-Yaar, another Israeli diplomat, in an email sent from Lichner's personal account. Lichner was leaking a UN report that he described as a "classified internal summary" of upcoming meetings in Washington involving Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, then the UN high commissioner for human rights. Banjo, Damilola, PassBlue, 2026-08-09.

United States of America: **How Do We Track Terminations of Federal Data?**. As federal data policy nerds, the question we get asked all the time is "How much data has the current administration terminated?". Denice Ross & Chris Dick, Federation of American Scientists, 2026-08-10.

United States of America: **Trump 2.0 has deleted or altered nearly 400 US datasets, endangering public health, education and more**. Health data appears to be most affected by administration's attempt to wipe findings that don't align with its priorities, tracker shows. Qin, Amy; Pessoa, Flávio, The Guardian, 2026-08-18.

United States of America: **Trump's justice department has found a new way for presidents to avoid accountability**. A recent memo claiming executive privilege over communications with private advisers invites corruption. Finkelstein, Claire, The Guardian, 2026-08-25.

Migration, Displacement & Trafficking

France: **"La plus belle réparation de l'histoire" : comment ce mémorial compte sur une nouvelle exposition pour faire œuvre de devoir de mémoire**. Inauguré en 2015 sur les vestiges d'un ancien camp d'internement dans les Pyrénées-Orientales, le Mémorial de Rivesaltes célèbre sa première décennie en dévoilant une muséographie repensée. À travers des dispositifs immersifs et des archives personnelles, cette refonte offre un éclairage humain sur le drame des populations jugées indésirables par la France au fil du XXe siècle. Lucas Rodriguez, France 3 Occitanie, 2026-08-17.

Policing, Detention & State Violence

Israel / Palestine: **Numéros tracés sur le corps de détenus palestiniens : l'armée israélienne reconnaît la "gravité" des faits**. L'armée israélienne a affirmé mardi que des "leçons ont été tirées" après les critiques qui ont visé des soldats qui avaient inscrit des numéros sur le front de détenus palestiniens arrêtés lors d'un raid mené en Cisjordanie occupée. Paul, Michel, France Inter, 2026-08-20.

Privacy & Data Protection

Australia: **Health insurers access full medical records in 'aggressive' audits**. Hospitals and allied health providers are concerned that insurers are asking providers for their patients' full clinical history. Alison Branley, ABC News, 2026-08-11.

United Kingdom / United States of America: **Apple launches legal challenge against UK government demand to access data**. The Home Office has made a fresh request for 'back door' access to encrypted iCloud data belonging to British users. Hall, Rachel, The Guardian, 2026-08-03.

Worldwide: **'Never Speak About It': Leaked Audit Reveals the UN's Palantir Problem**. The United Nations' World Food Programme is finalizing a five-year renewal of its contract with US data software firm Palantir despite "key privacy concerns" raised in a leaked 2025 internal audit. The audit, seen by PassBlue and FRANCE 24, reveals UN misgivings about allowing Palantir to process data for the world's largest humanitarian supply chain. The World Food Programme (WFP) manages one of the biggest biometric databases in the world. Its SCOPE system contains information on millions of people, many of them beneficiaries of global humanitarian aid. Masurier, Jessica Le, PassBlue, 2026-08-07.

Surveillance & Monitoring

Argentina: **Unchecked deployment of AI-driven surveillance reinforces a techno-authoritarian infrastructure of social control**. The expanded use of surveillance technologies in Argentina during the first two years of the Javier Milei's administration has served to expand states surveillance capabilities, profiling and reprisals in the country, creating a chilling effect on rights to privacy and freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. Amnesty International, 2026-08-19.

China: **How China Keeps Tabs on Foreigners**. An unsecured police dashboard was a rare window into how the authorities track foreigners by collecting and aggregating vast amounts of private data. Kuo, Lily; Wu, Pei-Lin, The New York Times, 2026-08-02.

Mexico: **Archives of the PRI's 'Political Police' Reveal Its 'Tradition' of Spying**. Contralínea's serial report on Mexico's secret-police files shows the PRI spied on Sheinbaum from age 6, her mother (branded a 'communist'), and AMLO from his start in politics, among a vast range of targets. Flores, Nancy, Mexico Solidarity Media, 2026-08-09.

United Kingdom: **Prosecutors consider charges against officers involved in spycops scandal**. More than 100 undercover officers spied on tens of thousands of mainly leftwing activists over decades. Evans, Rob, The Guardian, 2026-08-30.

United States of America: **'They walk among us.' The White House's Aliens page and the dehumanisation of undocumented migrants**. Last May, the Trump administration launched a website designed to track down and arrest undocumented migrants across the United States. Playing on the ambiguity of the term 'aliens', the online platform portrays Washington's anti-immigration policy as a system combining science-fiction entertainment with large-scale surveillance. A linguistic analysis of this website highlights a digital process of dehumanising undocumented migrants, who are portrayed as hidden threats that need to be flushed out and deported. Aklalouch, Fatima-Zahra, The Conversation, 2026-08-05.

United States of America: **« Ils sont parmi nous » : la nouvelle plateforme de la Maison-Blanche et la déshumanisation des sans-papiers**. En mai dernier, l'administration Trump a mis en ligne un site permettant de repérer et d'arrêter les sans-papiers sur le territoire national. Jouant de l'ambiguïté du terme éponyme aliens, cette plateforme traduit la politique anti-immigration de Washington en un dispositif mêlant divertissement de science-fiction et surveillance à grande échelle. L'analyse linguistique de ce site met en évidence un procédé numérique de déshumanisation des sans-papiers, présentés comme des menaces dissimulées qu'il conviendrait de débusquer et d'expulser. Aklalouch, Fatima-Zahra, The Conversation, 2026-08-03.

United States of America: **Flock Safety tries to curb police abuse of its surveillance cameras after scandals**. CEO announces steps after reports that system is used to target immigrants or people seeking out-of-state abortions. Bhuiyan, Johana, The Guardian, 2026-08-13.

United States of America: **Rest assured, the new CDC director thinks 'abortion surveillance' is essential**. An exchange between Dr Erica Schwartz and Senator Josh Hawley during her confirmation hearing is alarming. Mahdawi, Arwa, The Guardian, 2026-08-08.

United States of America: **US conducted 'mass spying campaign' against leftwing groups and anti-ICE protesters, records reveal**. DHS sent undercover agents to meetings and infiltrated chats of groups opposing Trump's immigration crackdown. Levin, Sam; Leingang, Rachel, The Guardian, 2026-08-13.

Technology

Worldwide: **The Great Forgetting: How AI Is Quietly Erasing the Human Archive—and What Comes After**. The scariest AI story of 2026 isn't job loss. It's the "cognitive precariat": employed, productive, and hollowed out. Matthew, HackerNoon, 2026-08-16.

Transitional Justice

Colombia: **El terremoto de Colombia pone en riesgo la memoria del conflicto armado enterrada en los cementerios**. La Unidad de Búsqueda ha recuperado dos esqueletos y nueve bolsas con ropa militar en el pueblo de Roldanillo. Hay al menos otras cinco necrópolis afectadas por el sismo del 10 de agosto. Castillo, Cindy Morales, El País América Colombia, 2026-08-20.

Democratic Republic of Congo: **Congolese Ombudsman: Restoration of historical truth is essential for justice and reconciliation**. Ensuring victims' access to truth and justice is essential for building a reconciliation process on solid foundations. Victims must have access to the truth. If truth and justice are ensured, this creates a sound basis for reconciliation, making it possible to prevent the repetition of further injustices. AZERTAC, 2026-08-21.

Democratic Republic of Congo / Uganda: **Frivao : l'indemnisation collective au service des détournements?**. Au-delà des indemnisations individuelles, le Fonds Frivao pour les victimes doit également servir à des réparations collectives. Mais à Kisangani, on s'interroge sur l'usage de ces fonds parfois volatilisés ou sans réalité sur le terrain. Qui doit décider la part des fonds à allouer aux indemnisations individuelles et collectives dans le cadre des mécanismes de réparations pour les victimes des atrocités commises par l'Ouganda en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) ? […] Sur le papier, c'est le Fonds spécial de répartition de l'indemnisation aux victimes des activités illicites de l'Ouganda en RDC (Frivao) qui gère l'enveloppe. Mais la réalité semble tout autre. Claude Sengenya, JusticeInfo.net, 2026-07-30.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: **Au Mémorial du Genocost, Félix Tshisekedi annonce un musée national et une politique de mémoire renforcée**. La République démocratique du Congo tente de ne pas oublier les victimes de ses guerres de ces trois dernières décennies dans l'Est du pays. Des conflits qui font des millions de morts au fil des ans. Les autorités parlent du GENOCOST, le génocide pour des gains économiques, et cherchent une reconnaissance internationale. Comme c'est le cas depuis 3 ans, la journée a été célébrée hier à Kinshasa. Le président Félix Tshisekedi a présidé la cérémonie officielle au Mémorial du Genocost et a – une nouvelle fois – dénoncé l'agression du Rwanda et de l'AFC/M23, tout en réaffirmant l'engagement de l'État en faveur de la vérité, de la justice et des réparations. Pascal Mulegwa, RFI, 2026-08-03.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: **What is Genocost? Understanding Congo's new language of remembrance and justice**. On August 2, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) commemorates Genocost Day, a national day of remembrance dedicated to the millions of victims of the violence that has affected the country since the outbreak of the First Congo War in 1996. First promoted by Congolese civil society in 2013, the commemoration was officially established under Congolese law in December 2022. The term Genocost may be unfamiliar to many people outside Central Africa. Yet in the DRC, it has become an increasingly powerful symbol of collective memory and a rallying cry for justice. Combining the words "genocide" and "cost", it seeks to draw attention to the human suffering associated with decades of armed conflicts, while highlighting the role played by the exploitation of natural resources in sustaining violence. Maia, Catherine; Garrido, Rui, The Conversation, 2026-08-01.

Poland / Ukraine: **En Volhynie, dans l'ouest de l'Ukraine, la difficile réconciliation des mémoires polonaise et ukrainienne autour des charniers de la seconde guerre mondiale**. Dans les anciens villages de Wola Ostrowiecka et d'Ostrowki, dans l'ouest de l'Ukraine, archéologues et historiens exhument des corps de civils polonais massacrés par des nationalistes ukrainiens en 1943. Plus de quatre-vingts ans après, ce douloureux passé continue de peser sur les relations diplomatiques entre Kiev et Varsovie. Bienvenu, Hélène, Le Monde, 2026-08-21.

Spain: **La huella de la muerte: el duelo prolongado de la Guerra Civil y el franquismo**. Gracias a ese enorme esfuerzo historiográfico conocemos con bastante precisión cómo se ejerció la violencia y cuáles fueron sus consecuencias políticas y sociales. Sin embargo, una pregunta permanecía casi intacta: ¿qué ocurre psicológicamente con las familias cuando una pérdida nunca puede cerrarse? Responder a esta cuestión exige mirar el pasado desde un lugar diferente. Castiñeira, Francisco Jorge Leira; Ríos, Raquel Martín, The Conversation, 2026-08-20.

Sri Lanka: **Addressing Past and Ongoing Human Rights Abuses in Sri Lanka**. Today is International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. Sri Lanka has one of the world's highest rates of enforced disappearances, numbering in the tens of thousands, including those who disappeared during the 1980s JVP insurgency and during and after the civil war between the government and the LTTE.. Groundviews, 2026-08-30.

Worldwide: **Corte Penal Internacional: las nuevas sanciones de Estados Unidos son un ataque flagrante contra su independencia**. El organismo alerta que el propio orden jurídico internacional está en riesgo cuando se amenaza a jueces por aplicar la ley. El responsable de velar por los derechos fundamentales reitera su llamado a los Estados para que salgan en defensa de las instituciones encargadas proteger los derechos humanos y el Estado de derecho. UN News, 2026-08-19.

Worldwide: **Vérité, justice, réparations : les clés d'une paix durable**. À l'heure où les conflits se multiplient, où les libertés reculent et où les inégalités se creusent, le Haut-Commissaire des

Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, Volker Türk, appelle à replacer les droits humains au cœur de la justice transitionnelle. En ouverture de l'Université d'été internationale de Sarajevo, il a estimé que sans vérité, justice et lutte contre l'impunité, « il n'y aura ni paix durable ni réconciliation ». Pour le chef des droits de l'homme de l'ONU, la paix ne peut se limiter à un cessez-le-feu ou à un accord politique. Elle exige de reconnaître les violations commises, de rendre justice aux victimes et de restaurer la confiance dans les institutions. UN News, 2026-08-07.

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Colonialism, Indigenous Rights & Decolonization: **Data Do's and Don'ts: A Primer on Indigenous Data Sovereignty**. Anderson, Jane; Smith, Vanessa, NSF Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science, 1905-07-18.

Colonialism, Indigenous Rights & Decolonization: **UN committee presents legal case for broad slavery reparations**. Gavin Blackburn, euronews, 2026-08-31.

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