
ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

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SAHR News

What does justice look like in archives?

From 8–12 June 2026, the global archival community came together for [International Archives Week 2026 \(#IAW2026\)](#) around the theme: #ArchivesForJustice: Rights, Memory & Futures.

Chosen through a global consultation with archivists, records managers, and cultural heritage professionals worldwide, this theme reflects something many of us already know from experience: archives are not passive storage spaces. They help shape accountability, preserve memory, support rights, and influence the futures we build.

Wherever you work — in archives, records management, libraries, government, academia, community initiatives, or cultural heritage — your perspective matters.

International Archives Week is built collectively, through thousands of local and global contributions. Whether your participation is large or small, your voice helps shape the conversation.

[**TAKO Seminar: Protecting Palestinian Cultural Heritage**](#)

Palestinian cultural heritage, Palestinian museums with their collections, and archives, are under exceptional pressure—yet they remain vital spaces for maintaining identity, memory, and resistance. The three expert presentations at our annual spring seminar offered an overview of how the museum sector, built and intangible cultural heritage, and archives function amid occupation, destruction, and

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resource scarcity —and what kinds of innovative, community-driven, and international solutions Palestinian professionals are developing to safeguard them.

The Museum Documentation and Collections Collaboration Network *TAKO* organized this hybrid event in collaboration with ICOMOS Palestine, the Archival Community Palestine (ACP) Task Force, and ICOM Palestine as a starting point for discussion and an opportunity for peer-learning with our Palestinian colleagues.

Events and Calls for Proposal

CFP: Mapping Post-Truth across Disciplines. “Post-truth,” broadly understood, denotes a general erosion of mutually shared reality, resulting in what some term an “epistemic crisis.” Such an ostensible epistemic crisis ranges in degree from the outright negation of commonly understood truth to a shift in how we categorically define, measure, or use truth. The University of Memphis Post-Truth Collective invites 250-word (max) abstract proposals for the Mapping Post-Truth across Disciplines Conference, to be held at the University of Memphis on October 29-30th, 2026. Proposals due 30 June 2026.

CFP: Oral History Review: Conflict Oral History: Ukraine, Palestine...& Elsewhere. While the focus on current events in the oral history field remains controversial, (contemporary) crisis oral history continues to grow. However, violent contemporary crises—from invasions and wars to the plight of refugees—often reflect decades if not centuries’-old conflicts and are therefore also historical. How can oral historians ethically engage in current conflict zones or with refugees? Is it too soon to do so? What are the costs of not documenting now? What is the long history of each country or region and how does that history inform peoples’ identity? Submissions are due by July 2026.

CFP: Printing History Themed Issue: Printing Across Borders. Printing History 39 will spotlight print practices that engage critically with the theme of borders and border crossings. The topic can be approached literally and/or conceptually. We are particularly interested in articles that challenge, upend, or otherwise interrogate notions of national identity, imagined communities, and borderlands.

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.

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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

Algeria/France: [French Historian Criticizes The Programmed Closure Of Colonial Archives Pertaining To Algeria](#). French historian, Gilles Manceron, stated that the French Ministry of Armed Forces should review its policy regarding the management of its archives, and estimated that the continuation of the current situation is no longer justified from all political and legal aspects, as it contradicts the most basic fundamentals of human rights and the values upon which French democracy was built. Mohamed Meslem, Echorouk Online, 2026-05-04.

Bangladesh: [Meta removes Bangladeshi community archivists' pages through false copyright claims](#). Coordinated false copyright claims targeted Bangladeshi archivists, journalists, and activists, exploiting Meta's reporting system to remove evidence of abuses, disrupt documentation efforts, and undermine accountability linked to July 2024 uprising. Shoeb A, Global Voices, 2026-05-06.

Brazil: [The seed guardian of Brazil's Caatinga](#). In Minas Gerais, Brazil, a catingueiro shares his home with the memory of his ancestors and generations of plant varieties. Trigo, O. Joio E. O., Global Voices, 2026-05-31.

China/United States of America: [Li Rui Archives Win Landmark US Court Ruling Against CCP Efforts to Reclaim Diaries](#). On March 31, 2026, a U.S. federal district court in California issued a landmark ruling, concluding one of the most significant transnational legal battles between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and an American academic institution. The court declared that the private archives of Li Rui, —a veteran CCP insider and one-time secretary to Mao Zedong—will remain permanently at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, where they will stay freely accessible to the public. Chen Jing, Vision Times, 2026-05-05.

Europe: [From Schuman's post-war declaration to the EU today, the Historical Archives unpack how Europe came together](#). The construction of Europe after WWII sought to promote political and economic cooperation among European nations. The Historical Archives of the European Union in Florence are a testimony to this. Schlenker, Dieter, The Conversation, 2026-05-05.

Germany: [Nazi database takes Germans on personal journey into their families' dark pasts](#). Die Zeit's online database of individuals' Nazi membership is prompting a reckoning as people uncover ties to regime. Cole, Deborah, The Guardian, 2026-05-04.

Germany: [SPYING – PROCESSING – COMBATTING: The Methods and Documents of the Stasi in Leipzig](#). The exhibition shows how the Stasi collected, managed, analysed, and utilised information. Case studies of victims and perpetrators, supplemented by documents, photos, films, and artefacts from the archive, bring to life the nearly 40-year history of the Stasi in Leipzig. They show how the Stasi used every means at its disposal to secure the dictatorship of the GDR's ruling party, the SED. The permanent exhibition opened in April 2026. The Federal Archives, 2026-05-01.

Israel/Jordan/Palestine: [UNRWA secretly rescued Nakba archive from Gaza amid Israeli bombardment, transferred it to Jordan](#). UNRWA secretly moved millions of Nakba-era Palestinian refugee records from Gaza and Jerusalem amid fears they could be lost in war. The New Arab, 2026-05-16.

Nepal: [Archiving Nepal's medicinal plants and Indigenous knowledge for future generations.](#)

Sanjib Chaudhary, a Nepalese writer and archivist, documents healers' medicinal plant knowledge in audio and video, ensuring future generations access Indigenous ecological wisdom rooted in community consent and reusable media. Panigrahi, Subhashish, Global Voices, 2026-05-10.

Palestine: [Archives interrupted: vintage photos show Gaza 'we no longer know'.](#) Djeghalian survived the Armenian genocide of 1915 – a term strongly denied by Turkey – then settled in Gaza, opening the city's first ever photo studio in 1944. He refused to leave, despite the recurring conflicts hitting the small territory wedged between Egypt and what became Israel in 1948, spending four decades capturing images of the Palestinian society that had adopted him. RFI, 2026-05-22.

Palestine: [The secret mission to rescue the UN's vital Palestinian refugee archive.](#) Millions of documents chronicling generations of trauma saved from Gaza and East Jerusalem in 10-month Unrwa operation. Burke, Jason, The Guardian, 2026-05-14.

Russian Federation/Ukraine: [Ukraine demands Russia open Soviet-era archives on NKVD crimes.](#) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has called on the international community to condemn the crimes of the Soviet regime and demanded that Russia open its archives and release documents related to crimes committed by the Soviet secret police agency, the NKVD. Ukrinform, 2026-05-17.

South Korea: [Victims' Memorial Calls for National Violence Archive.](#) The victims' group 'Committee for the Investigation of Truth on Forced Conscription, Brainwashing, and Guidance Operations,' which hosted the memorial event, proposed establishing a 'National Violence Archive' at the current site of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art to address state human rights violations. Yang In-seong, The Chosun Daily, 2026-05-02.

United Kingdom: ['Live and let live': Northern Ireland historian uncovers surprising era of tolerance of gay men.](#) Public records and private papers reveal compassion and tacit acceptance before 'moral panic' took hold in the 1950s and 1960s. Carroll, Rory, The Guardian, 2026-05-03.

United States of America: [An Epstein 'reading room' is showing 3.5m printed-out files. Why does it feel like a troll?](#) A New York exhibit of more than 3,000 volumes bills itself as 'an exercise in radical transparency' – and a bid for attention. Wong, Julia Carrie, The Guardian, 2026-05-20.

United States of America: [Why data sleuths are archiving the Jeffrey Epstein files: 'We want to provide some clarity'.](#) Tommy Carstensen oversees one of the most sophisticated archives of Epstein materials, while Tristan Lee's database provides searches of faces who appear in the files. Craig, Sean, The Guardian, 2026-05-19.

Uruguay: [Uruguay Faces Mass Protests Over Hidden Dictatorship Archives.](#) Thousands of people marched in Montevideo and other cities across Uruguay on Wednesday, demanding the full declassification of military archives related to 205 people who disappeared during the civic-military dictatorship. The Sri Lanka Guardian, 2026-05-21.

Worldwide: [The Humanitarian Archive Emergency.](#) The humanitarian sector is losing its memory. Funding cuts, closures, and the slow decay of digital infrastructure are all destroying archives, datasets, and records. A new global research initiative wants to find out how much has already gone and what can still be saved. Philip Proudfoot, Helene Juillard, Bertrand Taithe, Elrha, 2026-05-08.

Worldwide: [There is now a digital archive trying to preserve human memory itself](#). Around the world, projects are building what could be described as a kind of “library of memories.” Not a single place, but a growing network of archives designed to preserve human experience itself. Oral histories, photographs, personal narratives – collected and stored so they can be accessed long after the people who shared them are gone. MSN, 2026-04-30.

Armed Conflict

Russian Federation/Ukraine: [‘We could hear the roof collapsing’: how Russian missiles devastated Kyiv’s cultural sites](#). Russia’s recent assault killed two people, injured 90 more and significantly damaged many of the capital’s museums. Higgins, Charlotte; Kochetova, Julia; Matveichuk, Mariana, The Guardian, 2026-05-30.

Ukraine: [How War is Rewriting the Rules of Journalism in Ukraine](#). A Ukrainian journalist in Kharkiv describes how war, drones, and Russian disinformation are reshaping journalism into a profession defined as much by survival as by truth. Scott Douglas Jacobsen; Volodymyr Pavlov, International Policy Digest, 2026-05-24.

Worldwide: [When wars destroy heritage, women lose more than monuments](#). As conflict continues in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran and elsewhere, the cost is being recorded not only in deaths and displacement, but also in ruined libraries, mosques, churches, museums, archives and historic neighbourhoods. For women in war zones, heritage sites can go beyond worship and history. They are places of gendered socialising. Isakhan, Benjamin; Childs, Eleanor, The Conversation, 2026-05-25.

Atrocity Crimes

Myanmar: [“Skeletons and Skulls Scattered Everywhere”](#). Omar Ahmod risked his safety to return to Hoyyar Siri a few months after the massacre, located the sites where he had seen civilians gunned down, and took videos and photographs of human remains. These images were analyzed by forensics experts who, in some cases, identified gunshot injuries to the skulls of victims. Ürgen, Ekin, Human Rights Watch, 2026-05-18.

Ukraine: [Ukraine’s War Crimes Courts Face a Grim Arithmetic Problem](#). Ukraine’s war-crimes justice system is functioning under fire but remains overwhelmed, with legal accountability lagging far behind the scale and systemic nature of atrocities. With more than 203,000 registered war crimes but only a fraction reaching court, there are structural bottlenecks, limits of in absentia prosecutions, and underused legal frameworks for crimes against humanity. There are also risks of exposing victims through fragmented public data. Jacobsen, Scott Douglas, International Policy Digest, 2026-05-14.

Colonialism, Indigenous Rights & Decolonization

Australia: [Relational futures: Indigenous sovereignty and the governance of artificial intelligence](#). This report presents findings from the Relational Futures project, an Indigenous led study examining how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are encountering and responding to AI, including generative systems, automated decision-making tools, and AI companions. Carlson, Bronwyn; Worrell, Tamika, 1905-07-18.

Israel/Palestine: ['Dangerous colonial occupation': Israel's digital West Bank land register](#). A controversial Israeli plan to digitally register property ownership in the occupied West Bank is a “dangerous colonial occupation step that represents a direct assault on the historical and legal rights of the Palestinian people to their land and property”, the Palestinian Land Authority has said. Al Jazeera, 2026-05-29.

Netherlands: [Dutch Government Expands Caribbean Cooperation on Colonial Archives and Digital Heritage](#). The Dutch government says it will intensify cooperation with Curaçao and the other Caribbean parts of the Kingdom to improve access to colonial archives and strengthen digital heritage infrastructure. The announcement is part of a new Dutch policy response addressing how the Netherlands intends to manage archives and documentary collections connected to the colonial past. According to the document, the Netherlands recognizes that colonial archives are not only Dutch historical records but also part of the shared history of Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Indonesia, and other formerly colonized regions. Curaçao Chronicle, 2026-05-28.

Democracy & Governance

Australia: [FOI failures exposed](#). Federal agencies are failing to deliver on freedom of information requests, a new report reveals. The three agencies investigated by the Australian National Audit Office did not meet their obligations “to take reasonable steps to assist applicants make FOI requests and to then find the requested documents,” says the report. Kelly, Christopher, Government News, 2026-05-21.

China: [Human rights concerns abound over China's 'state secrets' regulation in the Uyghur region](#). China's state secrecy framework, updated in 2024, extends the definition of “state secrets” to political, economic, technological, and social information considered relevant to national stability. In the Uyghur region, this expansive approach to secrecy becomes especially significant because issues connected to everyday life — including religious practices, cultural expression, communication patterns, and other forms of social behavior — increasingly fall within the scope of security governance and information control. Asiye Abdulahad, Global Voices, 2026-05-18.

United States of America: ['Apartheid in the US': Arizona's secretary of state fights Trump's plot to amass a 'master list' of voters](#). Database could be used to regulate opponents, from 'shutting off bank accounts' to healthcare, official warns. Pilkington, Ed, The Guardian, 2026-05-03.

United States of America: [White House proposes NDAs for federal workers to crack down on leaks to journalists](#). OPM releases a draft NDA designed for federal agencies to use with new and existing employees. Sainato, Michael, The Guardian, 2026-05-26.

Economic & Social Rights

Australia: [Apology for 'appalling' display of autopsy body parts without consent](#). A formal apology is given in Tasmania's parliament for the past practice of taking human specimens from autopsies and displaying them in a museum without the knowledge of family members. Adam Holmes, ABC News, 2026-05-19.

Australia: [Rodda Museum Apology](#). The Tasmanian Government and the Tasmanian Parliament unreservedly apologises to all individuals and families affected by the human organs and tissue

samples stolen by forensic and hospital pathologists employed by the Department of Health and provided to the Rodda Museum. Premier of Tasmania, 2026-05-19.

Israel/Palestine: [The Civil Commission's Report on Oct 7th Sexual Violence - Silenced NO More.](#) The most comprehensive investigation to date into the sexual atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7 and during hostage captivity. Based on a uniquely constructed war crimes archive and a two-year independent investigation, the report concludes that Hamas and its collaborators systematically used sexual and gender-based violence as a central component of the attacks and captivity. The Civil Commission, 2026-05.

United Kingdom: ['A Pyramid of Hate': Why Racial and Religious Attacks Are Rising in Britain.](#) Islamophobic, antisemitic and racist crimes are being fueled by online disinformation, global instability and divisive political rhetoric, experts say. Dearden, Lizzie, The New York Times, 2026-05-22.

United States of America: [New York hospital system receives subpoena over trans youth healthcare.](#) Request is one of the justice department's latest attempts to track and regulate gender-affirming care for minors. Hellmann, Melissa, The Guardian, 2026-05-12.

Worldwide: [Data Gaps are Hiding the Most Excluded Children.](#) When education data fails, the children most likely to be excluded are not just the ones out of school. There are also those who are completely missing from the systems meant to find them. This is why data gaps are not simply a technical issue, they are a structural driver of exclusion. If a child is not in the dataset, they are less likely to appear in social protection programmes that could have kept them enrolled. Ansari, Noor Muhammad, Inter Press Service, 2026-05-07.

Environment

United States of America: [Trump cuts to weather data could make forecasts less reliable, warn experts.](#) Use of AI is a valuable tool for weather prediction but only when it's trained with ample data, experts say. Noor, Dharna, The Guardian, 2026-05-18.

Worldwide: [Constructing a New Knowledge Infrastructure.](#) An environmental knowledge commons could support evidence-based policymaking, but it will require long-term coordination across the many communities monitoring pollution and local conditions. Lloyd, Jay, Issues in Science and Technology, 2026-05-06.

Epidemic and Pandemic

Worldwide: [World 'unprepared' for next pandemic as countries fail to agree on sharing information, tests and vaccines.](#) Finalisation of pact governing global response to disease outbreaks delayed as talks on how to share benefits stall. Lay, Kat, The Guardian, 2026-05-05.

Human Rights Defenders and Activists

Indonesia: [Military silences dissent with disinformation campaigns branding activists and journalists 'foreign agents'.](#) 'Building up Imaginary Enemies' reveals a growing pattern in which Indonesian authorities – including the military – deploy online disinformation to target journalists, activists, academics and protesters in retaliation for their legitimate activism and expression.

Meanwhile, tech giants Meta, TikTok, X and YouTube have allowed harmful disinformation to remain online. Amnesty International, 2026-05-19.

Zambia: [Zambia cancels world's largest human rights and tech summit days before start](#). Government blocks RightsCon 2026 conference saying it did not 'align with national values'. Choat, Isabel, The Guardian, 2026-05-02.

Information Rights & Media Freedom

Australia: [Albanese's department among those blocking 80% of FoI requests, scathing report finds](#). Report finds culture of 'resistance and delay' in the Australian parliament with more than 60% of requests having longer response times than mandated 30-day deadline. McIlroy, Tom, The Guardian, 2026-05-20.

Bangladesh: [Authorities must immediately drop ICT charges against journalists for carrying out their work](#). Responding to the charges brought against detained journalists by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), reportedly in relation to a 'misleading' report on the deadly crackdown on protesters in Bangladesh, "Freedom of expression extends to information which some may find offensive, shocking or disturbing. Respect for this right is essential to ensuring healthy public discourse in a rights respecting society. Journalists must not be targeted for opinions which are disagreeable, or their perceived links to political parties.". Amnesty International, 2026-05-21.

Burkina Faso: [Burkina Faso's Junta Escalates Attack on Information](#). The military authorities in Burkina Faso are tightening their grip on what people can see, hear, and know. Ilaria Allegrozzi, Human Rights Watch, 2026-05-06.

China/Iran: [Iran Is Aiming To Use Chinese Technology To Permanently Throttle Internet Access](#). A senior Iranian official says Tehran has imported Chinese equipment to support a "permanent" internet shutdown, as the country's unprecedented blackout enters its third month. Experts say Iran's censorship model is cheaper than the Chinese version and easier to replicate for other states. Sharifi, Kian, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 2026-05-25.

Europe: [How New EU Access to Documents Rules Can Reduce Transparency and Shield Big Tech](#). After a series of high-profile court defeats, the European Commission has tightened internal rules and guidance governing access to documents. Civil society warns that the combined effect is to limit practical access to documents in areas such as competition enforcement, mergers and digital regulation, where transparency is vital to public scrutiny. Privacy International, 2026-05-28.

Haiti: [Gang-controlled streets, shuttered newsrooms: How violence is eroding Haiti's media](#). Journalists working in Haiti are under constant threat of death or injury from rapidly expanding criminal gangs, as they continue to report news and information which they hope will help keep fellow citizens safe. Daniel Dickinson, UN News, 2026-05-01.

Hungary/Russian Federation: [Why were Russian disinformation, government propaganda and AI-generated campaigning ineffective in Hungarian elections 2026?](#). In Hungary, AI fakes were more of an irritating factor, Russian disinformation did not reach the public, and EU regulations on transparency worked by forcing platforms to ban political ads. Global Voices, 2026-05-15.

Iran: [After 88 Days Offline, Iran's Digital Blackout Ends, But Restrictions Persist](#). After 88 days of a near-total Internet blackout, Iranians are slowly reconnecting, but to the same heavily censored, regulated network they had before. Sharifi, Kian, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 2026-05-27.

Nigeria: [Underfunding the Freedom of Information budget undermines Nigerians' access to information](#). The Nigerian Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to information, and the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2011 reinforces this right. Yet it remains theoretical. Despite the legal guarantees of the FOI Act, a report by Media Rights Agenda reveals almost noncompliance across public institutions. This noncompliance reflects a deeper freedom crisis. Ayomide Eweje, Businessday NG, 2026-05-28.

Russian Federation/Ukraine: [Kremlin-Backed Disinformation Unit Tied To Zelenskyy Dubai Apartment Hoax](#). Leaked documents examined by Schemes link a debunked report that claimed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy bought a \$3.2 million apartment in Dubai for his mother to a Kremlin-backed disinformation outfit hit with sanctions by the US, the EU, and the UK. Andrushko, Serhiy; Myroniuk, Anna; Schemes, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 2026-05-30.

United States of America: [Report shows banned non-fiction books doubled over last school year in US](#). New PEN America report analysed 3,743 unique titles removed from libraries and classrooms and found books about activism and social movements were targeted. Lee, Benjamin, The Guardian, 2026-05-07.

United States of America: [The Trump administration is deleting government data. From infant deaths to hunger, here are five ways it's hurting Americans](#). This information was used to understand the problems Americans face. The consequences of its erasure, experts warn, could affect generations to come. Qin, Amy; Pessoa, Flávio; Pessoa, graphics by Flávio, The Guardian, 2026-05-07.

United States of America: [Trump's justice department scrubs its website of news releases about January 6 defendants](#). Department of Justice acknowledges removal of information about criminal cases related to 2021 US Capitol rioters. The Guardian, 2026-05-23.

United States of America: [Why are journalists being subjected to search warrants in the US?](#) The Department of Justice's blatant disregard for the constitution and attempt to hide the law is disturbing. Caitlin Vogus, The Guardian, 2026-05-29.

Worldwide: [How Anonymous Wikipedia Editors Influence Global Narratives](#). An investigation examines how anonymous Wikipedia editing may have reshaped public perceptions of Al Jazeera, influencing search engines, AI systems, and narratives surrounding Qatar's state-funded media network. Toby Dershowitz; Ashley Rindsberg, The Cipher Brief, 2026-05-28.

Worldwide: [New Guidance Note on Generative AI Implications for Freedom of Expression](#). Generative AI presents growing risks for freedom of expression and democratic processes, including with regards to the fragmentation of the information space through hyper-personalised experiences, and the lack of transparency, accuracy, repeatability, reliability, and the potential for bias and manipulation, of AI-generated content. The Guidance Note addresses these issues looking into the specific impact on the right to freedom of expression, enshrined in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Freedom of Expression, 2025-12-04.

Worldwide: [Wikipedia's War Problem is Everyone's Problem](#). A Ukrainian Wikipedian explains how war, disinformation, and dwindling contributors are testing Wikipedia's ability to maintain truth in real time. Jacobsen, Scott Douglas, International Policy Digest, 2026-05-21.

Migration, Displacement & Trafficking

Malaysia: [New Refugee Registration System Raises Concerns](#). The Malaysian government began a refugee registration system in January 2026 that has raised protection, rights, and privacy concerns for the hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers in the country. Human Rights Watch, 2026-05-04.

United States of America: [Trump orders US banks to take a closer look at clients' citizenship in new immigration enforcement move](#). President Donald Trump signed an executive order that requires banks to take a closer look at the citizenship of their customers, a new measure in his administration's push to clamp down on people living in the country illegally. Since banks have never collected any information about their customers' citizenship or immigration status, there are no reliable public figures on how much risk these customers pose. Jamaica Gleaner, 2026-05-20.

Privacy & Data Protection

Canada: ['Truly terrifying': Alberta voter data breach raises fears for Canada's electoral integrity](#). Debates over secession overshadowed by revelations separatist-linked group gained access to list of electors. Cecco, Leyland, The Guardian, 2026-05-11.

Canada: [Alberta voter data leaked as separatists file signatures for independence vote](#). Authorities investigate leak of 2.9 million voters' details, adding to turmoil over push for independence referendum. Cecco, Leyland, The Guardian, 2026-05-05.

Georgia: [Georgia's New Database Raises Serious Rights Concerns](#). Georgia's new centralized health database law took effect on May 1, creating serious risks of privacy violations and discrimination, and potentially deterring people from seeking health care and mental health services. Giorgi Gogia, Human Rights Watch, 2026-05-05.

United Kingdom: [NHS trust sacks staff who illegally accessed records of Nottingham attack victims](#). Nottingham University hospitals trust says 11 members of staff dismissed and 14 others given written warnings. Weaver, Matthew, The Guardian, 2026-05-21.

United Kingdom: [Palantir's access to identifiable NHS England patient data is 'dangerous', MPs say](#). Health service has given US tech firm 'unlimited access' to certain data to build integrated platform, according to reports. Booth, Robert, The Guardian, 2026-05-11.

Worldwide: [The Commodification of Sensitive Open Data](#). Governments enable corporations to treat personal data as raw material for commercial extraction. But if sensitive open data has economic value, we should recognize the economic rights of the people from whom it is collected. Christopher Graziul and Cheryl M. Danton, Katina Magazine, 2026-04-23.

Worldwide: [The form asked my permission to share my health data. Then it wouldn't let me say no](#). Dark patterns force patients to share their data with big healthcare networks, even when the privacy form they're signing explicitly says they can opt-out. Records sharing between unaffiliated

providers through these networks can benefit patients, but it can also harm patients. There's not much patients can do to limit the risks of their data being available across networks, except by aggressively pursuing opt-outs when providers offer them. Turns out, that can be pretty hard to do. Rosenblat, Alex, The Markup, 2026-05-27.

Worldwide: [The Guardian view on facial recognition technology: mistaken identities are a political issue](#). Once again, digital tools are running ahead of regulators. Civil liberties must not be sacrificed to policing. The Guardian, 2026-05-07.

Worldwide: [Upload government papers to go online? That may be our new terrifying future](#). Requirement to upload documents for the purpose of 'age verification' is coming to platforms near you. Aliya Bhatia, The Guardian, 2026-05-12.

Surveillance & Monitoring

Russian Federation: [Russia's top secret spy school teaching hacking and election meddling](#). Documents obtained by journalists show the role of 'Department 4' within a Moscow University in training operatives for the military. Sauer, Pjotr; Walker, Shaun, The Guardian, 2026-05-07.

United States of America: [Access Now urges the Ninth Circuit to protect encryption from NSO's spyware](#). Access Now and ten other civil society organizations filed an amicus brief calling to protect encryption from NSO Group's Pegasus spyware and to keep a permanent injunction forbidding NSO from ever targeting WhatsApp or its customers' devices ever again. Access Now, 2026-05-21.

Technology

Kenya: [From blooms to bytes: Will Kenya's data center boom repeat the 'Greenhouse Effect'?](#). The promise of a digital future may come at the same heavy cost to human rights and environmental justice as the floral exports that preceded it. Global Voices, 2026-05-08.

United Kingdom: [Google developers significantly misstate carbon emissions of proposed UK datacentres](#). Developers working for Google have significantly misstated how much carbon two proposed AI datacentres will contribute to the UK's total emissions in planning documents reviewed by the Guardian. These apparent misstatements are another example of a pile-up of faulty calculations surrounding AI development and its environmental footprint in the UK. Last month, the Guardian reported on a large gap between the government's plan to decarbonise the economy and its roadmap for AI computing. Down, Aisha; Bharadia, Priya, The Guardian, 2026-05-09.

Worldwide: [Enormous data pipelines powering major generative AI systems are rooted in mass invasions of privacy by design](#). Companies are extracting vast troves of online data through unlawful web scraping to build their generative artificial intelligence (AI) products in a way that is enabling a mass invasion of privacy, making these systems unlawful by design. Amnesty International, 2026-05-28.

Worldwide: [Secretary-General Observance Message Urges Investment in Safe, Universal Digital Infrastructure to Strengthen Resilience in Connected World](#). On World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the world recognize digital technologies as lifelines — connecting people to safety, services and one another. When disaster strikes, networks carry early warnings, enable first responders and keep clinics, classrooms

and public services up and running. Digital infrastructure is an essential public good, so let us build it to withstand the crises ahead. When digital lifelines are universal and safe, every community can prepare, respond and recover. UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, 2026-05-12.

News by country/region

International News

Europe

Archives & Archival Collections: [From Schuman's post-war declaration to the EU today, the Historical Archives unpack how Europe came together](#). Schlenker, Dieter, The Conversation, 2026-05-05.

Information Rights & Media Freedom: [How New EU Access to Documents Rules Can Reduce Transparency and Shield Big Tech](#). Privacy International, 2026-05-28.

Worldwide

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Archives & Archival Collections: [There is now a digital archive trying to preserve human memory itself](#). MSN, 2026-04-30.

Armed Conflict: [When wars destroy heritage, women lose more than monuments](#). Isakhan, Benjamin; Childs, Eleanor, The Conversation, 2026-05-25.

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