

Written and compiled by Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Chair, HRWG

### Commentary.

Watch beheadings? Yes, if you follow jihadi social media. View murder and maiming? Yes, if you tap into a social media feed from a Mexican drug cartel. Surely intelligence agencies around the world are downloading, analyzing and preserving these horrible images, which—along with the rest of the agency files--will one day become part of the nation's archives.

But what of the perpetrators? Are they preserving their videos? Do they keep archives? Given the size of the major jihadi groups and drug cartels and the finances they control, they must have archives somewhere.

Evidence for recordkeeping by anti-state groups comes from captured records, primarily electronic, for example:

\*a laptop used by the FARC guerilla group in Colombia (captured by the Colombian military in a 2008 raid) <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/10/world/americas/10venezuela.html? r=0;>

\*a laptop of Al-Qaeda in Iraq's Abu Al-Zarqawi, (seized by U.S. forces in 2005) <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0427/p03s01-woiq.html;>

\*a laptop of an Indonesian militant said to be behind the bombings of hotels in Bali and Jakarta, showing links between Indonesian groups and Al Qaeda (captured in 2009) <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/18/world/asia/18indo.html? r=0;>

\*laptops, hard drives, computer disks, [thumb drives](#) and DVDs captured during the U.S. raid on Osama bin Laden's residence, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/bin-laden-phone-numbers-help-spin-intel-web/> and

\*a laptop of an ISIS rebel that contained 35,347 files (captured by a Syria rebel group in 2014) [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/08/28/found\\_the\\_islamic\\_state\\_terror\\_laptop\\_of\\_doom\\_bubonic\\_plague\\_weapons\\_of\\_mass\\_destruction\\_exclusive](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/08/28/found_the_islamic_state_terror_laptop_of_doom_bubonic_plague_weapons_of_mass_destruction_exclusive)

Paper documents also have been recovered, including in the raid on Osama bin Laden's residence. Some of the most notable items were found in May 2013 by the *Associated Press* "in a building occupied by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb in Timbuktu." At the end of December 2013 *AP* published an article on the documents, headlined "Al-Qaida meticulously records every expense, like 60 cents for cake": "The accounting system on display in the documents . . . is a mirror image of what researchers have discovered in other parts of the world where al-Qaida operates." The documents "also include corporate workshop schedules, salary spreadsheets, philanthropy budgets, job applications, public relations advice and letters from the equivalent of a human resources division," leading the *AP* to conclude that al-Qaida "is attempting to behave like a multinational corporation." [http://storify.com/AP\\_CorpComm/ap-exclusive-the-al-qaida-papers](http://storify.com/AP_CorpComm/ap-exclusive-the-al-qaida-papers)

Like any organization that does not operate exclusively by face to face contact, these violent organizations engage in actions and transactions over time and space. Although the exact contents of most of the computer records are known only to intelligence agencies, experts say they contain financial information, orders from central commanders to operational units, lists of unit members and coordination between groups. Somewhere a computer must hold the items uploaded to internet sites. For groups selling drugs or crude oil on the black market, a computer somewhere controlled by the finance officer must have records of these massive cash revenues and the expenditures on arms and living expenses (at least for the leaders) and, of course, computers and communications equipment. So yes, they create records and maintain them while needed for current business.

But do they preserve them? That we don't know, and we won't until one day a the records of a demobilized or disarmed or defeated group are made available for access by researchers other than

intelligence officers. Until then we will know only what has been obtained by reporters or what intelligence agencies tell us. And that, surely, is a partial picture of the records of anti-state groups.

**News of the Human Rights Working Group.** The Human Rights Working Group will hold an open meeting on Sunday, October 12, at 9 AM in Room 2 at the International Council on Archives conference in Girona, Spain. Topics to be discussed include the draft “Basic Principles on the Role of Archivists in Support of Human Rights,” a standard agreement on copying archives and exporting copies, business archives and human rights, and reports of non-ICA projects involving archives and human rights.

An open forum on the “Basic Principles” will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 12:50 in Room 7. This is an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the document with Giulia Barrera and Trudy Peterson.

### **International news.**

**International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.** The *New York Times* profiled Witness B-129 in the trial of Slobodan Milosevic. Her face and voice were electronically altered when she testified in 2003, but “a technician mistakenly released portions of her real voice, and it was broadcast live in Serbia. Soon after she returned home, someone tried to kill her.” She is now living under international protection with a new identity, but she says “helping the court has ruined my life.”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/16/world/europe/war-crimes-yugoslavia-serbia-slobodan-milosevic-hague.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/16/world/europe/war-crimes-yugoslavia-serbia-slobodan-milosevic-hague.html?_r=0)

Former Bosnian Serb president Radovan Karadzic filed a motion to “accept new evidence from a US Army cable alleging that only Bosniak troops attacked UN peacekeepers,” *BIRN* reported.

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/new-evidence-proposed-at-hague-trials>

**United Nations.** According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), “135 million children under the age of five in Asia and the Pacific have not had their births registered and 9 out of 10 people in the region live in countries with unreliable death statistics, leaving records incomplete and governments at a loss to plan for the current and future needs of their populations,” reported *Eurasia Review*. Speaking at a regional ESCAP meeting, the chair of the ESCAP committee on statistics said, “Our shared vision is that of babies in Asia and the Pacific born in an environment which assures them of recognition of their legal identity and all the dignity and benefits that this recognition brings with it.” [http://www.eurasiareview.com/31082014-135-million-children-age-five-asia-pacific-havent-births-registered/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29](http://www.eurasiareview.com/31082014-135-million-children-age-five-asia-pacific-havent-births-registered/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eurasiareview%2FVsnE+%28Eurasia+Review%29)

### **World/general news.**

**Business and human rights (1).** The New America Foundation, a Washington, D.C., non-governmental organization, published a survey of recent news items reporting “powerful, Western spy technology reaching the hands of human rights-abusing, repressive regimes.” This includes surveillance technology and “commercial network injection tools used to infect hardware and allow remote surveillance or control,” giving governments the ability to maintain records on persons whom they consider opponents.

[http://oti.newamerica.net/blogposts/2014/summer\\_of\\_surveillance\\_revelations\\_highlights\\_spread\\_of\\_spy\\_tech\\_to\\_repressive\\_regi\\_1](http://oti.newamerica.net/blogposts/2014/summer_of_surveillance_revelations_highlights_spread_of_spy_tech_to_repressive_regi_1)

**Business and human rights (2).** The National Truth Commission in Brazil allowed *Reuters* to review documents providing evidence that businesses during the military dictatorship in Brazil “secretly helped the military identify suspected ‘subversives’ and union activists on their payrolls.” Both foreign and Brazilian companies are said to be involved, including Volkswagen, Ford Motor Company, Toyota Motor,

Mercedes-Benz, and Rapistan (a U.S.-based, Luxembourg-owned manufacturer of conveyor belts). And in Argentina a criminal case has been filed against “three former Ford executives who allegedly gave names, home addresses and pictures of workers to Argentine security forces during that country’s dictatorship. Some of those workers were jailed and tortured.” <http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/brazil-dictatorship-companies/>

Business and human rights (3). FinFisher is a German surveillance technology company. Internal documents posted (leaked) to the internet show that it “helped Bahrain install spyware on 77 computers, including those belonging to human rights lawyers and a now-jailed opposition leader, between 2010 and 2012—a period that includes Bahrain’s crackdown on pro-democracy protesters,” reported *The Intercept*. At the time of the sale, FinFisher was owned by the United Kingdom’s Gamma Group. <https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2014/08/07/leaked-files-german-spy-company-helped-bahrain-track-arab-spring-protesters/>

Photos of abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan. A U.S. Federal district court judge in New York City, ruling in a case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, ordered the government to show why each of the more than 2000 photos taken at various military facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan should not be released. The photos are said to be a mix of snapshots by soldiers and photos by military investigators documenting allegations of abuse. For a report of case, see <http://thehill.com/policy/international/216163-judge-may-release-more-abu-ghraib-photos>; for the judge’s order, see [https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/assets/torture\\_foia\\_photos\\_ruling.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/assets/torture_foia_photos_ruling.pdf)

Terrorist Identities database. *The Intercept*, an online magazine, published U.S. government “briefing materials about accomplishment in 2013 by the Directorate of Terrorist Identities, a component of the National Counterterrorism Center,” reported the *New York Times*. The statistics show that “about 20,800 United States citizens and permanent residents are included in a federal government database of people suspected of having links to terrorism,” and as of June 2013 over one million names of people living in countries around the world were in the TIDE (Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment) database. The National Counterterrorism Center is part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. After the briefing material was published, U.S. military personnel were warned not to read *The Intercept* because it might contain classified information. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/us/secret-papers-describe-size-of-terror-lists-kept-by-us.html>; for the briefing document, see <https://firstlook.org/theintercept/document/2014/08/05/directorate-terrorist-identities-dti-strategic-accomplishments-2013/>; for the warning, see <https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2014/08/20/u-s-military-bans-the-intercept/>

Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda published a magazine with a guide to making a car bomb “complete with step-by-step photographs,” reported *MailOnline*. It also provided “examples of targets” from trains to casinos in Las Vegas to department stores and holiday locations. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2737067/Go-Las-Vegas-Al-Qaeda-magazine-tells-wannabe-terrorists-step-step-instructions-make-car-bomb-kitchen-Mom.html> The Middle East Media Research Institute monitors and preserves such jihadi publications and videos; see <http://www.memrijtm.org/>

Photo identification (1). The International Center of Photography and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum announced a joint project to make available photographer Roman Vishniac’s legacy of thousands of photographs, most importantly those from the years immediately before and after World War II. From 1935 to 1938 Vishniac “was commissioned by the Paris office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the world’s largest Jewish relief organization, to photograph impoverished communities in Central and Eastern Europe.” Unfortunately, many of the captions of the photographs do not include the names of the subjects of the photos. The project will post the images in hopes that members of the public can help identify the people and places depicted, some of which are likely to be the last surviving images of them. <http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/overview/photo-archives/vishniac-collection/photo-gallery>

Photo identification (2). In a similar story, George Eastman House, a museum of film and photography, holds a major body of photographs and manuscript materials from Lewis Hine, an important photographer in the U.S. during the first four decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Hine took many photographs of immigrants and of laborers, including children, and like Vishniac, Hine “did not record the identity of the subjects he photographed,” reported an Eastman House blogger. Now, however, the person in one of the most widely known immigrant photographs, whose negative envelope read “Syrian Jewish immigrant” and whose print’s caption read “Armenian Jew Emigrant,” has been identified by relatives of the man and by the photo

of him on a May 6, 1926, “Document of Identity to an Applicant who cannot obtain a National Passport.” He was actually a Jew born in Yemen whose parents moved to Palestine, from where he immigrated to the United States. <http://blog.eastmanhouse.org/2014/08/27/what-does-identity-mean/>

## **Bilateral and multilateral news.**

Australia/Czech Republic/Russia/United Kingdom. In July Churchill College Archives released the papers of Vasili Mitrokhin, a Soviet KGB archivist who after the Soviet Union dissolved gave the United Kingdom’s intelligence service thousands of documents he had copied from KGB archives. As reporters work through the newly-released material, from Australia the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that a former federal Labor Member of Parliament was “listed as an informant of the Soviet intelligence service” and from the Czech Republic *ceskenoviny* wrote that “Soviet leaders did not trust Czechoslovak politicians following the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact troops’ invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968” and so the KGB “kept voluminous records” on Czech communist party leaders. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/agent-albert-mp-listed-as-secret-kgb-informant-in-russian-archives-20140810-102jtm.html> ; <http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/zpravy/kgb-watched-czechoslovak-communist-party-s-leaders-archive/1111788>

Bosnia/Croatia/Montenegro/Serbia. The leaders of Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia signed a “Declaration on the Role of the State in Addressing the Issue of Persons Missing as a Consequence of Armed Conflict and Human Rights Abuses.” The International Commission on Missing Persons, which brokered the agreement, said the Declaration “seeks to ensure that the rights of family members of the missing are upheld at all times, and that survivors and civil society alike have access to information regarding the fate and to a proper investigation; as well as to the truth and justice.” <http://www.ic-mp.org/press-releases/bosnia-and-herzegovina-croatia-montenegro-and-serbia-sign-icmps-declaration-on-missing-persons/>

Croatia/Serbia. *BIRN* published a story on persons whose family members were killed during the 1995 Croatian assault in the Kajina region of today’s Croatia. It featured a Serbian woman whose husband was captured by Croatian forces and whose body has never been found, noting “the fighters who captured her husband and filmed his murder still remain unknown, despite the fact that the video was handed over to Croatian state prosecutors.” [http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-long-dark-shadow-of-croatia-s-victorious-campaign?utm\\_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=7f35a3ee4b-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_561b9a25c3-7f35a3ee4b-311109073](http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-long-dark-shadow-of-croatia-s-victorious-campaign?utm_source=Balkan+Transitional+Justice+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=7f35a3ee4b-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_561b9a25c3-7f35a3ee4b-311109073)

Egypt/Qatar. Former Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi is being investigated on charges of leaking classified documents to Qatar while he was president, reported *Middle East Monitor*. A “judicial source” said that an investigation found that the “secretary of the presidency smuggled these documents from the state’s safe to a Muslim Brotherhood office in order to send them to the intelligence service of a foreign state which supports the organisation’s international schemes to undermine Egypt’s security and stability.” <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/africa/13777-court-investigates-morsi-over-charges-of-leaking-classified-documents-to-qatar>

Germany/Poland/Sweden. Sweden’s Lund University holds interviews with survivors of the World War II Nazi concentration camp at Ravensbruck who were given asylum in Sweden. Of the 21,000 persons brought to Sweden, nearly 1000 were Polish-speaking Jewish women, and the Swedish government paid a lecturer at Lund University to interview them, which resulted in 20,000 pages of notes from more than 500 interviews. The university is now translating and digitizing the interviews and related materials, reported the *Jewish Journal*. [http://www.jewishjournal.com/los\\_angeles/article/swedish\\_university\\_to\\_archive\\_ravensbrueck\\_survivors\\_stories](http://www.jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/article/swedish_university_to_archive_ravensbrueck_survivors_stories)

Japan/Russia/Ukraine. During the Russian revolutions (1917-1919) thousands of Russians fled eastward, ending up in the area of Harbin in northeast China. When Japan occupied Harbin in 1931, many Russians fled back to the Soviet Union. Stalin’s secret police then investigated the refugees “on charges of having spied for Japan,” and Memorial, a Russian non-governmental organization, says that nearly 31,000 “Harbinites” were later shot. According to *BBC News*, a court in Moscow recently denied a researcher’s request to have access to a KGB document on the investigation of “Japan’s efforts to recruit right-wing Russian emigres as spies;” however, Ukraine’s SBU security service had a copy of the KGB document and released it. <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-28604779>



## National news.

Brazil. “The education department of Sao Paulo state requires female prospective teachers to undergo a pap smear in order to prove they are free of a variety of cancers or to present a doctor’s statement verifying they have not been sexually active,” reported the *Associated Press*. Assuming these reports go into the teachers’ personnel files, the personnel files will need exceptional security. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/anger-brazil-obstetrics-tests-jobseekers>

Canada. A court ordered that the transcripts of testimony and evidence given by 38,000 survivors of Indian residential schools during the Independent Assessment Process (a compensation program) should be destroyed 15 years after the end of the process unless a survivor decides to give his or her file to an archives.

[http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/08/07/judge\\_orders\\_destruction\\_of\\_residential\\_school\\_documents\\_after\\_15year\\_holding\\_period.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2014/08/07/judge_orders_destruction_of_residential_school_documents_after_15year_holding_period.html)

The federal government’s Communication Security Establishment Canada will not disclose “how long it can hold onto Canadians’ communications,” reported *The Globe and Mail*, which obtained a redacted copy of the CSEC’s records retention schedule. The schedule “suggests that retention periods can differ depending on which of the SCEC’s three mandates is engaged to intercept communications – foreign intelligence, cyber defence, or in helping other federal agencies. Retention periods are also governed by whether CSEC intercepts full communications or just ‘metadata’ traffic, whether the underlying information is considered ‘essential’—and especially whether a known ‘private communication’ of a Canadian has been caught.” <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/csec-wont-say-how-long-it-keeps-canadians-private-data/article19910556/>

In May 1990 Clayton Miller, age 17, died after police raided a drinking party where he was present. Ever since, his parents have sought answers to what happened, and in May 2010 they filed a federal access to information request for the records of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on the case. Although they have received five compact discs “filled with mostly redacted information” on the case from the RCMP, the federal Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada now says “all” RCMP documents on the case through the year 2000 have been destroyed, reported *The Chronicle Herald*. The parents are unconvinced. <http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1233370-destruction-of-files-in-clayton-miller-s-1990-death-questioned>

Egypt. Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report of its “detailed examination of the planning and execution of the dispersal of the protest at Rab’a al-Adawiya Square, where from July 3 to August 14 [2013] tens of thousands of largely peaceful Morsy supporters, including women and children, held an open-ended sit-in demanding Marsy’s reinstatement.” HRW used satellite photographs to estimate the number of demonstrators and interviewed witnesses, leading to an estimate that “it is likely that more than 1000 were killed.” HRW documented 817 deaths but it believes “additional bodies [were] taken directly to hospitals and morgues without accurate record or known identity.” <http://www.hrw.org/print/reports/2014/08/12/all-according-plan>

Germany. After prosecutors completed their investigation of Stefan Mappus, Minister President of Baden-Württemberg from 2010 to 2011, they gave the Central State Archives in Stuttgart all Mappus’s emails from his computer server at the State Chancellery. Mappus sued, arguing that emails of a personal nature were included and demanded deletion of all his emails. On 30 July the High Administrative Court confirmed the judgment of the Administrative Court of Karlsruhe: giving the emails to the archives was in accordance with the Archival Law of Baden Württemberg and therefore lawful. Emails of a personal nature will be deleted. The ruling emphasized that the task of the archives is to document state administrative action. Thanks to Bernhard Post for the news. For the judgment, see: [http://lrbw.juris.de/cgi-bin/laender\\_rechtsprechung/document.py?Gericht=bw&GerichtAuswahl=VGH+Baden-W%FCrttemberg&Art=en&Datum=2014&nr=18406&pos=1&anz=100](http://lrbw.juris.de/cgi-bin/laender_rechtsprechung/document.py?Gericht=bw&GerichtAuswahl=VGH+Baden-W%FCrttemberg&Art=en&Datum=2014&nr=18406&pos=1&anz=100)

Guinea-Bissau. The database containing information on the country's 13,000 civil servants was stolen, just as the government prepared to cut the numbers of civil servants, reported the International Crisis Group. [http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/CrisisWatch/2014/cw133.pdf?utm\\_source=cw133email&utm\\_medium=full&utm\\_campaign=cw](http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/CrisisWatch/2014/cw133.pdf?utm_source=cw133email&utm_medium=full&utm_campaign=cw)

India. "India's women face a new menace: Video," reported the *Washington Post*. According to a member of the National Commission for Women, "More and more women are reporting that men are recording the act of rape with their smart-phones, and they are using these recordings to threaten women into silence. In many cases, they actually upload the rape video or circulate it among friends on WhatsApp. The woman is raped not just once, but again and again when people view the video." [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/video-recordings-of-gang-ropes-on-rise-in-india-in-effort-to-shame-silence-the-victim/2014/08/13/41d8be42-3360-4081-9ff0-dee2df54f629\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/video-recordings-of-gang-ropes-on-rise-in-india-in-effort-to-shame-silence-the-victim/2014/08/13/41d8be42-3360-4081-9ff0-dee2df54f629_story.html)

A new book published in India, *Public Secrets of Law: Rape Trials in India*, "presents ethnographic accounts of real rape trials," wrote a book reviewer in *The Hindu*. "The official transcripts of a trial are not verbatim accounts but contain what is dictated by the presiding judge. Thus, the violence of what is actually spoken and practiced in the court room is sanitized from the official records. . . .Second, policemen on duty paraphrase FIRs [First information Reports] or dictate what must be written in them. Thus, in the guise of using correct legal language and form, complaints are often diluted or falsified." <http://www.thehindu.com/books/books-reviews/public-secrets-of-law-book-review/article6281104.ece>

Iran. Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report, "Locked Up in Karaj : Spotlight on Political Prisoners in One Iranian City," based on a review of 189 cases, including "the charges the faced, details of their trials before revolutionary courts, and information from lawyers, prisoners' families and others." HRW "asked the head of the Iranian judiciary" for information on 175 cases, but the judiciary "has not responded." HRW concluded that in 63 cases, the persons were convicted "because they exercised fundamental rights such as free speech and rights to peaceful assembly or association," while in "dozens" of other cases "egregious due process violations" may have "tainted the judicial process." <http://www.hrw.org/print/news/2014/08/18/iran-dozens-unlawfully-held-city-s-prisons>

Iraq. The Iraqi Human Rights Ministry said it has "begun keeping a formal record of civilians and military members abducted" by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) "or missing since the group overran Mosul in June," reported *eurasiareview*. The Ministry asks the family of a missing person to fill out a data form on him or her which the Ministry spokesman said will be entered "into an integrated database that will help it prepare an international document detailing ISIL's crimes against Iraqis." <http://www.eurasiareview.com/12082014-iraq-investigates-isil-abductions-missing-people/>

The Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) in the U.S. state of Minnesota has extensive digitization projects in the Middle East, including in Syria and Iraq. According to a blog posting by the HMML, staff from the Centre Numerique des Manuscrits Orientaux in Qaraqosh, Iraq, fled to Erbil in the face of the advance by ISIS in early August. The Centre was founded by a priest of the Dominican Priory of Mosul, and the staff "managed to bring the manuscripts and archives of the Dominican Priory with them to Erbil. They were also able to take the manuscripts of the Chaldean Patriarchate in Baghdad." <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/hugoye-list/conversations/messages/6610; for information on HMML, see http://www.hmml.org/>

Kenya. Human Rights Watch "documented at least 10 cases of killings, 10 cases of enforced disappearances, and 11 cases of mis-statement or harassment of terrorism suspects in which there is strong evidence" of the involvement of Kenya's Anti-Terrorism Police Unit. In addition to interviews, Human Rights Watch used court files to document the cases. In one case, the police said the person who was killed was part of a terrorist group that had thrown a grenade into a mosque in 2012, killing 6 people; however, court records show that he was in prison at the time of the mosque attack. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/18/kenya-killings-disappearances-anti-terror-police>

Lithuania. A law that came into force in July grants persons who saved Jews during World War II the "status of participants in freedom fight, subsequently making them eligible for a state pension," reported *Baltic News Service*. In the first month and a half, 72 individuals completed the application and submitted supporting documents. <http://en.delfi.lt/lithuania/society/over-70-savers-of-jews-apply-for-freedom-fighter-status-in-lithuania.d?id=65578268>

New Zealand. After someone broke into a locked room in a city owned “quake-damaged car park” where 50,000 files were stored, documents containing personal information were “blowing around Christchurch streets,” reported *stuff.co.nz*, adding “most of the documents were old parking infringement notices but some had personal medical information and bankruptcy details attached to them.” <http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/10358233/Council-probe-over-missing-files>

Russia. *Transitions Online* reported that the Russian government in August “banned the anonymous use of Wi-Fi in public,” requiring users to “register with their full names, confirmed by an ID before logging on in parks, restaurants, and other public places.” Another law requires “all online companies operating in Russia to store user information in Russia for six months and, beginning September 2016, to turn over the data to the authorities upon request.” <http://www.tol.org/client/article/24419-more-floods-in-the-balkans-tension-in-transdniester.html>

Saudi Arabia. The *Saudi Gazette*, quoting a newspaper in Mecca, reported that a new law “bans Saudi men from marrying women from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Chad and Burma” and requires men to be over 25 years of age “to be able to apply [to a government committee] for a permit to marry a foreigner.” A recently divorced man “has to wait six months before applying” for the permit, but if he is married and wishes to take a foreign woman as an additional wife “he has to present proof that his first wife has cancer, is barren or crippled by a disability.” The police chief in Mecca told a daily newspaper that “marriage requests for foreign nationals are processed through official procedures under very strict terms.” [http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20140812214389&mkt\\_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRohsqzNZKXonjHpfSx96uUkXrHr08Yy0EZ5VunJEUWY2YMCTMJ0aPyQA gobGp515FEKS7nYU bZ1t6MJWA%3D%3D](http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20140812214389&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRohsqzNZKXonjHpfSx96uUkXrHr08Yy0EZ5VunJEUWY2YMCTMJ0aPyQA gobGp515FEKS7nYU bZ1t6MJWA%3D%3D)

South Sudan. In a report based on interviews with more than 400 persons and “a series of satellite imagery” between December 2013 and April 2014, Human Rights Watch said “both government and opposition forces and their allies committed extraordinary acts of cruelty that amount to war crimes” and in some cases “the actions amounted to potential crimes against humanity.” <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/08/08/south-sudan-massacres-unlawful-killings-pillage>

Sri Lanka. Also using satellite images, the American Association for the Advancement of Science said that there are “many new housing-like structures and development in a military zone in the northern part of the country,” and although “thousands” of Sri Lankans remain refugees without adequate housing there has been “no significant increase in civic facilities despite government claims that it has seized the land for public use.” <http://www.aaas.org/news/sri-lanka-images-military-zone-reveal-no-significant-increase-public-facilities-aaas-reports>

United Arab Emirates. The Ministry of the Interior “granted Emirati citizenship” to 106 sons of Emirati women and foreign fathers. The sons were given “citizenship and family books,” reported *Gulf News*. Traditionally Emirati citizenship is passed through males only; the law was changed in 2013 to make it possible for person of foreign fathers to apply for citizenship. [http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/government/citizenship-granted-to-106-sons-of-emirati-women-1.1376440?mkt\\_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRouuq3BZKXonjHpfSx96uUkXrHr08Yy0EZ5VunJEUWY2YMERMt0aPyQA gobGp515FEKS7nYU bZ1t6MJWA%3D%3D](http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/government/citizenship-granted-to-106-sons-of-emirati-women-1.1376440?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRouuq3BZKXonjHpfSx96uUkXrHr08Yy0EZ5VunJEUWY2YMERMt0aPyQA gobGp515FEKS7nYU bZ1t6MJWA%3D%3D)

United Kingdom. The Independent Jersey Care Inquiry was told that the records of children in Jersey’s care system were destroyed in the 1990s to “make space” with “brief summary sheets left in their place,” reported *BBC News*. The current head of children’s services said “People trying to trace personal files had faced difficulties.” <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-jersey-28587268>

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (1997-2013) in Rotherham, a city in South Yorkshire, published its report, based on “reading a wide range of minutes, reports and case files” and interviews with “over a hundred people, either individually or in groups.” The Inquiry concluded that a “conservative estimate is that approximately 1400 children were sexually exploited over the full Inquiry period, from 1997 to 2013.” *The Telegraph* reported that in 2002 “top ranking staff” of the city of Rotherham order a “raid” to “delete and remove case files and evidence” and “wipe computer records detailing the scale and severity” of the child exploitation in the city. For the report of the Inquiry, see [http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent\\_inquiry\\_cse\\_in\\_rotherham](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent_inquiry_cse_in_rotherham);

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11062758/Scandal-hit-Rotherham-deleted-abuse-files.html>

United States. A new study showed that veterans who had “persistent post-traumatic stress a decade or more after serving in the Vietnam War have shown surprisingly little improvement since then, and a large percentage have died,” reported the *New York Times*. The study was a follow-up to the 1992 National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study in which 2,348 veterans were surveyed; the researchers, clearly using the records of the earlier survey, “tracked down nearly 80 percent of the original group, had them fill out questionnaires and participate in phone interviews . . . and performed intensive, hours-long clinical interviews on 400 of the veterans.” Records at the U.S. National Archives have been extensively used by veterans to prove that they have war-related trauma. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/08/us/combat-stress-found-to-persist-since-vietnam.html>

Veterans who change their gender and their names after leaving military service want the Defense Department to change their names on the official military service form. The Defense Department refuses, a spokesman told *NBCNewYork*, “based on the Service’s interest in maintaining the accuracy of its historical records.” The American Civil Liberties Union, which supports the veterans, argued that to “have their military service acknowledged, the veterans have to explain to every doctor, banker or potential employer that they changed genders,” forcing them to “out themselves.” One of the veterans suggested that the Defense Department “keep the old record for historical purposes but seal it and give her a new document to use in public life.” <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/transgender-military-us-army-change-records-change-name-269592841.html>

Obstetricians and medical facilities can no longer display baby photos because the federal privacy law considers baby photos “a type of protected health information, no less than a medical chart, birth date or Social Security number” unless the parents provide the doctor with written authorization for the posting, reported the *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/nyregion/baby-pictures-at-doctors-cute-sure-but-illegal.html>

A data breach at Community Health Systems allowed hackers access to the Social Security numbers of 5.4 million patients “along with an array of personal information that included patient names, addresses and phone numbers,” reported *Venture Beat News*. <http://venturebeat.com/2014/08/25/community-health-systems-breach-could-cost-up-to-150-million/>

Although not as large as the Community Health Systems breach, a cyber attack “at a firm that performs background checks for U.S. government employees compromised data of at least 25,000 workers, including some undercover investigators,” *Reuters* reported, adding, “Files on background checks contain highly sensitive data that foreign intelligence agencies could attempt to exploit to intimidate government workers with access to classified information.” <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/23/us-usa-security-contractor-cyberattack-idUSKBN0GM1TZ20140823>

United States/California. Although in May the Los Angeles School District said it shredded two decades worth of child abuse records in 2008 (an estimated 2000 cases), now the school district says it has found some of the records. According to a report by *NBC4 News*, after the discovery the school district filed a motion in a court case related to the abuse, asking the judge “to clarify whether the recently discovered documents can be destroyed” because the district believes that California’s Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act “does not permit it to retain the reports.” For background, see *HRWG News* 2014-05. <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/LAUSD-Uncovers-Child-Abuse-Records-271475941.html>

Also in Los Angeles, the police department’s inspector general said he would “launch a broad inquiry into the accuracy of the agency’s crime statistics” after the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the police “had misclassified nearly 1,200 violent crimes as minor offenses during the 12 months ending September 30, 2012.” Nearly all mis-identified crimes were aggravated assaults, said *The Times*. The way a crime is classified affects how it is investigated and prosecuted. <http://www.latimes.com/local/crime/la-me-beck-crime-stats-20140812-story.html>

United States/New York. A professor writing a book on the Young Lords, a late 1960s militant group in New York, was told by the New York City Police Department that it had no relevant records and by the city archives that it did not “contain any documents related to the Young Lords,” reported the *New York Times*. The professor—who obtained copies of police reports “from a collection at Hunter College”—is



now suing the city, asking a judge to order the police to find and turn over the material she had requested. Her lawyer said, “If the documents have been destroyed, that’s a tremendous loss and something New Yorkers deserve to know.” <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/12/nyregion/police-files-on-radicals-at-the-center-of-a-lawsuit.html? r=0>

United States/Oregon. *Oregonlive* reported, “The health care records of Oregon's 14,600 inmates choke prison infirmaries across the state, and the files of at least 40,000 former prisoners crowd nearly a mile of shelf space in a Salem warehouse. It's a paper colossus that potentially obstructs delivery of care, poses greater risks of medical errors and sometimes leaves the whereabouts of medical charts unknown for as long as a day. With files spread across 14 prisons, it's also impossible for officials to search for trends that might improve inmate health.” [http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/08/black\\_hole\\_in\\_oregon\\_prisons\\_p.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/08/black_hole_in_oregon_prisons_p.html)

Venezuela. The government announced that it is introducing a compulsory “biometric card” for food purchases. President Nicolas Maduro said the system will “function in all distribution and retail systems, public and private,” reported *The Guardian*. He gave no details of what part of government will keep the records of the biometric data, but called it “a perfect anti-fraud system” based on fingerprint scanning technology. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/21/biometric-venezuela-food-shortages-smuggling-fingerprints>

### **Publications.**

The *Annual Report 2014* of the Network of Concerned Historians (NCH) is now available in a print-friendly version (pdf) at <http://www.concernedhistorians.org/content/ar.html>. The 117 page report contains news “about the domain where history and human rights intersect, especially about the censorship of history and the persecution of historians, archivists, and archaeologists around the globe, as reported by various human rights organizations and other sources. It mainly covers events and developments of 2013 and 2014.” Congratulations to Antoon de Baets for producing this report for 20 years.

The South African History Archive (SAHA) posted “Opening the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] Archive: a SAHA case study.” [http://www.archivalplatform.org/blog/entry/opening\\_the](http://www.archivalplatform.org/blog/entry/opening_the)

The American Political Science Association Human Rights Section gave its 2014 Best Book Award to Jo Becker of Human Rights Watch for [Campaigning for Justice: Human Rights Advocacy in Practice](#).

**Please share news with us!** [trudy@trudypeterson.com](mailto:trudy@trudypeterson.com) or [j.boel@UNESCO.org](mailto:j.boel@UNESCO.org).

**To subscribe to the Newsletter, enter the required information on the form that you will find on this URL:** [http://www.unesco.org/archives/hrgnews/hrg3\\_042010.php](http://www.unesco.org/archives/hrgnews/hrg3_042010.php)

**Previous issues of the Newsletter are online at** <http://www.ica.org/12315/hrwg-newsletter/list-of-hrwg-newsletters.html> and <http://128.121.10.98/coe/main.jsp?smd=2&nid=569829>