



Newsletter N°1 | January-April 2015

About Citizens Rights Watch:

Citizens Rights Watch is the first world, independent, Non Profit, Non-Governmental organization dedicated to monitor worldwide governments, and watch their efforts to provide, facilitate, enhance, protect, and maintain citizens' rights. By focusing international attention where citizens' rights are ignored or digested.

CRW gives voice to citizens demands for basic human rights, & monitors governments efforts to bring benefits justice to citizens around the world.

Citizens Rights Watch plans to press for citizens' rights around the world.

JOIN OUR FIGHTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL!

**APPLY for an internship:
Send us your CV & a
cover letter & take action**



Eleanor Roosevelt and United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Spanish.

How CRW Works?

Citizens Rights Watch is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization comprised by professional volunteers from around the globe. Its volunteers include politicians, experts, lawyers, journalists, and academics of diverse backgrounds and nationalities. We utilize the tools and online power of new technologies, in order to raise human rights awareness, and advocate for human rights by lending our voices to citizens that their voices have been silenced.

PHILOSOPHY:

Citizens Rights Watch promotes, supports, and work as an effective tool to protect Human Rights as stated in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. CRW follows and monitors the worldwide countries' officials who are responsible for protecting these rights.

Vision:

Monitor governments' compliance to THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS with focus on Economic and Social rights of every UN member state's citizen. Contribute to the progressive realization of human rights for all, everywhere & forever!

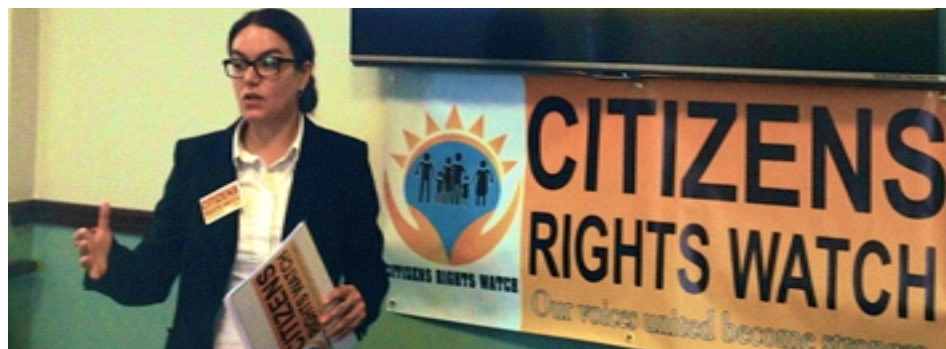
Mission:

To encourage and drive ruling authorities in the world to focus on their citizens rights – Provide a platform where citizens can raise their voices and demand their rights – By raising human rights awareness and utilizing the online powers of new technologies.

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A letter from our Secretary General



Citizens Rights Watch was born after some friends met online and took action for human rights. We are based all around the world, and we may have different backgrounds but we all share a deep respect for basic human rights, and a profound incapacity to tolerate injustices however, wherever and whenever they are manifested.

So, to put it in simple terms, only in the last 100 of years women were allowed to vote, people of different skin tone to live as equals, and depenalized sexual orientation! These examples, though, are not the universal norms. There are countries in our world, that do not view women as equal to men, imprison their citizens for loving another human being which happens to be of the same sex, that rule through terror, that instead of empowering their citizens by protecting basic citizen's rights, they violate their dignity and their own humanity. One day, the color of our skin will hold no more significance than the color of our eyes. The love we bring into this world will not be judged, but celebrated. Feminism will not have any utility, because patriarchal ideas will have taken their place next to harmful theories like nazism. We will be living in harmony and respect to mother Nature instead of debating climate change with climate deniers funded by oil companies.

The art of living, as explained by philosophers is all about Happiness! Is said that we share this common goal: Happiness! This is what we have in common, just in virtue of being human. Yet, this seemingly simple one word goal pre-supposes the enjoyment of basic human rights, like freedom to move, to work, to housing, to health, to love, food, water and even clean air, just to mention a few!

We must stop waiting for change to be brought by others, and become the change we want to see! We ruled the art of killing, with detrimental effects, now its time to open our eyes and focus on the art of living – a virtuous life, of respect for others, tolerance, freedom, dignity and human rights.

Internet gives us the unprecedented power to share a message, and unite millions around the world, without censorship, or distribution companies in between this process! One voice can become millions of voices and a whisper can become a scream; an intolerable scream in the ears of governments and politicians around the globe! Democracy's power is in the hands of the peoples, and this is not a citizen's right...but a citizen's duty to act, for what is right and fair!

Join us, we need your support and help!

Thank you!!!

Dr. Zoi Aliozi

Secretary-General of Citizens Rights Watch

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Work with us:

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Campaign Coordinator for
Citizens Rights Watch.
(Voluntary (6/12 months).

Citizens Rights Watch is a new human rights INGO, working to end human rights abuses. We are still in the process of building up our frame of workings, and we need campaign coordinators, for our online campaigns. This is a voluntary position that can be 6 months or 1 year long, depending on our agreement.

The campaigns that we work on initiating are the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Counter-terrorism; | 8. LGBTI; |
| 2. Enforced disappearances; | 9. Women; |
| 3. Police brutality; | 10. Children; |
| 4. Individuals in danger; | 11. Fair trial; |
| 5. Human Trafficking; | 12. Acid attacks; |
| 6. Torture; | 13. Palestine; |
| 7. Refugees; | 14. Climate justice; |



Position Objective:

Coordinate work with activists, celebrities, and the media in order to bring attention to human rights issues throughout globe. This position requires online access, IT skills, human rights knowledge, experience in activism, good communication skills, team-worker.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a position or an internship with CRW, please send your CV, and a letter of interest, describing your motivation, and what you could bring to the organization: at zoi@citizensrw.org



HUMAN RIGHTS

Internet Neutrality

By Miguel A. Rodriguez G.
CRW Researcher

Citizens' Rights Watch is all about fighting for the rights of people around the globe. We also aim to cover the rights which are rising parallel to the development of new technologies. So, we would like to inform you about some basic concepts by trying to explain what Internet Neutrality, or more commonly Net Neutrality, is all about.

Net Neutrality is an ideology, currently a principle, which defends the right of all internet users to freely navigate through the internet network, without any limitation whatsoever from any internet provider or other intermediaries and proxy servers which make internet connections possible.



Now, of course, if you are used to the internet as much as everybody else, and you are currently unaware of the implications of this principle, as you have been surfing the net without any apparent restrictions, then one could argue that this principle is as important to your well-being as many other basic human rights.

So, the internet is a set of servers networked together. Internet Service Providers (at times also other parties) make it possible for us, the users, to go online through our computers, mobiles, and other devices. The servers and the networks are mainly based in the United States of America, which is officially the birthplace of what we came to know as Internet. Even as Internet Governance is being promoted as a borderless concept, it is perhaps unrealistic to deny the influence of USA on the internet as a network, both legally and administratively. One of the main regulators of the Net in the USA is the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). This organization is partly formed of Cable and Internet companies lobbyists. These companies are just like other business all about profit. So, they planned to make the internet even more profitable by for example limiting our access from certain places, or enhancing access to others. They would plan to divide and restrict access to parts of the internet. Commercially, it was criticized by users as being a pay-to-play scheme.

Net Neutrality is important because it makes the internet a growing phenomenon, neutral, not sided, slightly commercial, and free from interference. Internet as we know it, is a true weapon of expression for every user. In our everyday lives, we are already very much influenced on what we read, which posts we click on, and what we re-post! The marketing teams of companies are working over-night to make sure to

direct the public. Marketing is all about creating new needs to the consumers, without any respect to our rights to privacy, and this is not a secret to anyone. We must not allow these colossal companies to turn internet into a monopoly only for their profit!

Business-wise, a startup would never have a chance to compete against monsters such as Google or Facebook. Eventually, the big companies would offer the whole set of services, at their price and on their terms and conditions. Take it or leave it, kind of thing, but not before they make sure we are all hooked to their products.

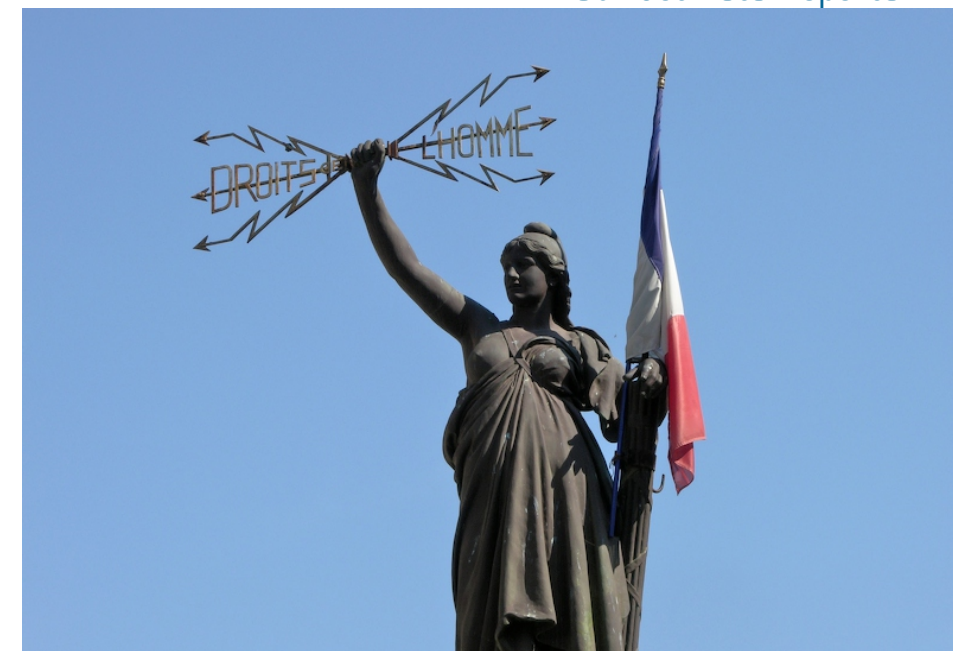
From a Human Rights perspective, Net Neutrality would affect the freedom of expression, and even organizations like ours, since we are mainly function by utilizing online tools and the possibility to connect without any cost.

Their media would be limited to whatever big monopolies desire. Voices would remain unheard, especially if it affected the image of a company in any way. Blogging would be out of the question, so freedom of speech would be greatly harmed. Imagine one news or media company you particularly dislike. Now imagine this company making a deal with your internet service provider, and them having the exclusive right to your area, or even, to your city or country.

The internet must remain open. Net Neutrality is to be preserved. It is the intention of CRW to advocate for Internet Neutrality and free online access to all, everywhere and forever! We hope, that now that you are aware of its importance, you are too.

El Salvador: Let Women Decide About their Body Rights

By Athanasia Zagorianou
CRW Researcher, February 2015.



Since 1998, abortion has been prohibited in El Salvador, resulting in the death and imprisonment of many women. Under no circumstance, even rape, incest and when a woman carries a severely deformed fetus or her life is in great risk, does she have the right to terminate her pregnancy and she faces the risk to be in prison.

Article 133 of the Penal Law 1998 states:

"Whosoever induces an abortion with the woman's consent, or a woman who induces her own abortion or consents to have another person perform an abortion on her, shall be sentenced to two to eight years in prison."

Women who have been suspected for abortion, even if they have miscarried, have been convicted of aggravated homicide facing up to 50 years of imprisonment.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO):

"[Such] legal restrictions lead many women to seek services in other countries, or from unskilled providers or under unhygienic conditions, exposing them to a significant risk of death or disability. The maternal mortality ratio per 100.000 live births due to unsafe abortion is generally higher in countries with major restrictions and lower in countries where abortion is available on request or under broad conditions" (WHO, 2012, p.23).

Carmen Guadalupe Vasquez Aldana, who got pregnant after she was raped at age 18, was sentenced to 30

years of imprisonment in El Salvador after she miscarried. In February 2008, she was convicted of aggravated homicide, even though she had repeatedly supported that she lost her child due to medical complications. On April 1, 2014 the Citizen Group for the Decriminalization of Abortion (La Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto) requested pardons for Guadalupe and 16 other women.

On 21 January 2015, Guadalupe was granted pardon by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador for the first time. Guadalupe is one case among 16 more women facing up to 40 years of imprisonment under similar circumstances while waiting for a pardon.

CITIZENS RIGHTS WATCH (CRW) welcomes the decision in Guadalupe's case which notes a significant step forward against the Salvadorian repressive Anti-Abortion laws!

However, we claim that there are still many women who are already in jail or face conviction under similar charges.

We urge the release of all the women who have been convicted under charges of abortion and aggravated homicide and call for the respect of women's rights!

We ask for decriminalization of abortion in all cases!

Most importantly, we call the public to raise their voices with us and chant "LET WOMEN DECIDE ABOUT THEIR BODY RIGHTS".

Children's Rights are Human Rights

By Athanasia Zagorianou
CRW Researcher

Children from all around the world face fundamental infringements of their rights on a daily basis. In many cases, a society's strong cultural and religious doctrines, weak economy and extreme political views contribute to the aggravation of children's rights violations.

In our effort to protect children globally and support their rights, CITIZENS RIGHTS WATCH (CRW) underlines some of the most core violations against children, informs the public about their legal protection by human rights laws and asks for the respect of children's rights.

Key facts

Nowadays, concerns on the violations of children rights are culminated and underline the irreversibly catastrophic consequences on a child's right to life, physical and mental health, education, and dignity.

Child maltreatment and violence, neglect, death, famine, ill treatment in juvenile detention centers, forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation, early marriage; female genital mutilation (FGM) and the use of children in military are some of the most central violations that children are daily subjected to.

The number of children involved into exploitation and abuse situations is getting higher day by day. According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF's) report "On average, about 6 in 10 children worldwide (almost 1 billion) between the ages of 2 and 14 are subjected to physical (corporal) punishment by their caregivers on a regular basis" (UNICEF, 2014, 166) "More than 130 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where FGM/C is concentrated." (UNICEF, 2014) Globally, one out of 4 women has been married before her 18th birthday (UNICEF, 2014). ILO has noted that 168 million children are victims of child labor and out of them 85 million work under risk for their health and life (ILO- (IPEC), 2013, p.3).

Human Rights Laws

The first serious necessity to strengthen human rights and enhance child protection came after the atrocities of the Second World War (WWII) and its disastrous consequences (Detric S, 1999 p.13). Even though attempts to protect children globally have been conducted by the League of Nations back in 1924 through the adoption of the Geneva Declaration, the International legal protection on children's rights formally came into light with the adoption of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of the Child (UNDCR) in 1952 (Detric S, 1999 p.13-14).



However, the first actual effort for the protection of children's rights and their recognition as human rights within the frame of International Human Rights Law was introduced by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989 which came into force in 1990 (Todres J, et al, 2006 & Unicef, 2013, p.13). The Convention has been ratified by 193 countries except for the United States and Somalia (United Nations Treaty Collection Database). UNCRC and its three protocols have been recognized internationally as the most important legal binding documents on the protection and promotion of children's rights.

Conclusion

Even though, growing up in a safe and healthy environment is a given for many children in the world, for many of them it is still just an elusive dream. In 2015, CRW promises to put all its efforts into improving children's rights and strengthening child protection!

Citizens' Rights in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

By Helen Mitchell
CRW Researcher

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (or North Korea, as it popularly known) is one of the most closed and secretive nations in the world.

In February 2014, the United Nations published the findings of its commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Due to the DPRK's secrecy and refusal to cooperate with international human rights agencies, it is extremely difficult to gain an accurate picture of daily life for the citizens living within its borders. Most of the information that is available is anecdotal evidence taken from the personal testimonies of DPRK refugees who escaped the regime, and from health workers and organizations working with DPRK citizens.

However, the testimonies of thousands of DPRK refugees point to a darker reality. According to the U.N., the DPRK's political system is "based on a single party led by a single Supreme Leader, an elaborate guiding ideology and a centrally planned economy". The Central Intelligence Agency describes it as a "communist state governed by a one-man dictatorship."

The DPRK is a totalitarian state that controls every aspect of its citizens' lives. The most powerful and intrusive method of population control is a class based system called songbun. According to song bun, the population

is divided into three main classes according to their perceived loyalty to their leader Kim Jongun and the State. These classes are called the core class, the wavering class and the hostile class. Children are automatically put into the same songbun as their parents, and it is impossible to move up in the system. Due to the secrecy of the regime, it is difficult to obtain accurate demographic figures. Although the accuracy of this figure cannot be verified, it does correspond with estimates from other sources. The Index of Economic Freedom describes it as "the world's most repressed economy". The country's main resources are coal, lead, tungsten, zinc, graphite, magnesite, iron ore, copper, gold, pyrites, salt, fluorspar, hydropower, and its major industries are machine building, electric power, chemicals, mining, metallurgy, textiles, food processing and tourism.

The U.N. commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concluded its 2014 report with these sobering words: Systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been and are being committed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its institutions and officials. In many instances, the violations of human rights found by the commission constitute crimes against humanity. The gravity, scale and nature of these violations reveal a State that does not have any parallel in the contemporary world.

Despite the high ideals laid out in the country's constitution, the practical reality is that citizens of the DPRK are afforded no rights whatsoever. The basic requirements for survival such as food, housing, healthcare and salaried work are systematically denied to large sections of the population. Citizens have no control over their own lives, and even their private thoughts and beliefs are punishable. DPRK nationals are subject to arbitrary arrest and detention, and it is estimated that approximately 200,000 are currently detained in concentration camps across the country. Since it is illegal to leave the country, the whole of the DPRK effectively functions as an enormous prison.

The DPRK is the most closed and secretive nation in the world, carefully stage managing the areas that visitors are allowed to see, and hiding most of the country from sight. It refuses to cooperate with any international human rights agency. The regime is deeply fearful of foreign influence, and does not allow its citizens any access to information from beyond its borders. The DPRK citizens who have risked their lives to escape from the regime and have been fortunate enough to succeed testify to the horrors of life beyond the world's gaze, and the silent screams of the world's most repressed population.

However, there are still many unanswered questions, and much that remains unknown about life within this totalitarian dictatorship. It will only be when the regime finally opens its doors to the world, either due to economic or political collapse, or due to international pressure, that it will truly be known what has been happening inside the country during these years. When that happens, it is likely that a picture will emerge even more horrifying than the one we have at present.

QATAR AND ITS PROBLEMS AS A FUTURE FIFAWORLD CUP HOST

By Miguel A. Rodriguez G.
CRW Researcher

The FIFA World Cup ("FWC") has proven to be the most popular sports event in the world. The FWC, like the Olympic Games, takes place every 4 years in a different hosting country. So, when the new hosting countries were voted and announced back in 2010 by FIFA, the news was taken with some surprise by both the media and football fans. The hosting countries for the years 2018 and 2022 were (are) Russia and Qatar respectively.

In Qatar, LGBT (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals) rights are constantly and in the most harmful way violated. Homosexuality is considered and codified as a crime and is punishable by law. Similarly, in Russia LGBT groups/individuals also face violations of their rights. Testimonies reveal that LGBT groups and individuals have been a subject of numerous human rights abuses by the authorities. Groups and organizations fighting for LGBT rights have stood against Qatar's as well as Russia's decision to host the FWC in 2022 and 2018 respectively. In 2010, during an interview, FIFA's chairman Joseph Blatter, laughingly advised the gay community (which would attend the World Cup in 2022) to refrain from having sexual activity during their stay in Qatar. However, he later explained that homosexuals could freely attend the matches without any problem. In response, pro-LGBT groups criticized Blatter's statements and asked for his resignation or apology. Some days later, Blatter apologized for being

offensive. Since FIFA has supported a zero-tolerance policy against discrimination; it therefore comes as a surprise when they decided to appoint Qatar and Russia the next FWCs hosts. Some steps forward regarding the issue were taken through Blatter's decision to create the FIFA's Anti-Discrimination Task Force, responsible for preventing any kind of discrimination during football events, and guarantee fairness and equality among players. It also aims to help national football associations to take measures and to standardize antidiscrimination policies throughout its members around the globe. Even so, LGBT groups demand FIFA to change the 2022 FIFA World Cup host for a more human rights friendly country, pressuring FIFA to make a clear statement on the issue and change its conditions over the 2018 FWC in Russia.

KALAFATHE SPONSORSHIP SYSTEM:

Besides the LGBT issues, FIFA has many reasons to rethink its choice about Qatar; One of these reasons is Kalafa. Kalafa is a sponsor system for foreign labor workers, which has been compared to modern slavery. For example, an employer in Qatar, usually a construction company, plays a main role in their employees' civil rights. The workforce of Qatar is about 1.2 million foreign workers, who are mostly from India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Under the Kalafa sponsorship system, workers need their employees' authorization in order to keep working, as well to stay in the country legally or in cases they wish to leave the country. They work under a contract with them, and some workers have their passports taken away. This makes it very easy for companies to blackmail their so-called "temporary workers". While as it is reported, some of them have to wait for months for their well-earned paychecks.

RECENT ABDUCTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

The problem of Qatar with its human rights related policies and global image was deepened with the sudden disappearance of two UK based human rights activists, who were investigating the workforce situation in Qatar. On August 30 (2014) Krishna Upadhyaya, 52, and Ghimire Gundev, 36 reportedly vanished, and detained by the Qatari government on September 7th. They were freed on September 9th and were permitted to leave Qatar in the next 9 days. With the 2022 FWC approaching, the image and credibility of Qatar keeps being affected to the worst by this sort of cases.

The need to introduce mechanisms for the progressive realization of basic human rights is evident. Until then, CRW will keep on reporting on human rights violations, whenever, wherever and by whomever are committed.

What did 2014 leave behind?

By Athanasia Zagorianou
CRW Researcher

We review and inform you about some of the worst human rights violations of 2014 that need our attention in 2015!

Nigeria: Boko Haram Crisis

Boko Haram, the terrorist group which attracted global attention in 2014 after the kidnapping of 276 Chibok girls in Northeastern Nigeria, continues its violent attacks by kidnapping, slaughtering and spreading terror. In response to the girls' abduction, the United Nations Security Council included the militant group to its "list of Al-Qaida associates subject to financial sanctions and an arms embargo" (UN News Centre, 2014). Until

now, military forces and the government have been unable to confront the Boko Haram crisis, with the latest news revealing that the group has expanded its terrorist operations into neighboring countries such as Cameroon.

Syria: Death Toll Rising

2014 marked the worst and deadliest year in Syrian recent history. In 2014, more than 76,000 civilians were killed including approximately 3,000 children, noted the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Entering the fifth year of war, the Syrian conflict which has been described by the UN as "the worst humanitarian crisis in nearly 20 years" has left behind thousands of deaths and millions of displaced people. Since 2011, the Syrian people have been subjected to numerous human rights violations including attacks with chemical weapons, forced displacement, sexual violence, public executions and torture. According to the UN, the number of people killed during the Syrian civil war exceeds 200,000, while out of 22 million that is the total Syrian population almost half is in great need of humanitarian aid. The rise of terrorist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) which has established itself as a central Syrian opposition force has played its own destructive role. ISIL, that has conquered territories in both Syria and Iraq, has committed heinous human rights violations including sexual violence, mass executions-beheadings, recruitment of children-soldiers and others.



equal access to citizenship and end the violence against them and other Muslims in the region. The government did not welcome the resolution stating that the country "does not accept the existence of a Rohingya minority". According to Yanghee Lee, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, after her latest visit in the country this year, "the situation has remained [dire] in Rakhine state [...] [with Rohingyas claiming] that they had only two options: stay and die or leave by boat".

South Sudan: Food Crisis

South Sudan faces the devastating consequences of its latest internal conflict between the government and opposition rebel forces that began in 2013, leading to widespread starvation, unlawful killings and violence across the country. The lack of sanitation and clean water that have been plaguing the country has led to a major food crisis, bringing the country on the edge of famine. UNICEF notes that "at least 229,000 children are estimated to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition" while based on UN OCHA's 2015 report "1.5 million people are severely food insecure even at the height of harvest season. [In] 2015, the number will

Myanmar/Burma: Rohingyas' Right to Citizenship

The Rohingya people face the government's denial for citizenship since the enforcement of the 1982 Citizenship Law. Victims of constant discrimination, abuses and violent prosecutions, the Rohingyas have been described by the UN as "one of the world's most prosecuted minorities", facing abuses sizing to genocide and crimes against humanity. In 2013, a UN resolution adopted by the UNGA's 3rd Human Rights Committee urged Myanmar to give the stateless Rohingya minority

rise to 2.5 million”.

Pakistan: Peshawar School Massacre

On December 2014, gunmen of the terrorist group Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attacked a school in the northwestern city of Peshawar killing 145 people including 132 students. The attack marked one of the deadliest attacks since the 2007 Karachi bombing attack and received international condemnation. The UN expressed its support to the government's fight against terrorism asking for justice to be served.

Palestine/Israel: Gaza War

On 8 July 2014, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched the military operation “Operation Protective Edge” in the Hamas-governed Gaza Strip after Hamas' rocket fire attacks on Israeli cities. According to UN OCHA's estimations, the war which ended after 50 days with the enforcement of a ceasefire agreement in August 2014 resulted in the death of “2,205 Palestinians including at least 1,483 civilians, of whom 521 [were] children [...] [and] 71 Israelis including 66 soldiers, a security coordinator and four civilians”.

North Korea: Human Rights Record under the Rule of Kim Jong-un

Starvation, arbitrary arrests, detentions, public executions and torture are only a sample of the human rights violations that have occurred against citizens under the rule of Kim Jong-un, North Korea's supreme leader. In 2014, based on the report of United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights, the government was accused for the constant violations of human rights, holding Kim Jong-un responsible for human rights atrocities that constitute crimes against humanity and recommending his referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Mexico: Enforced Disappearances

On 26 September 2014, 43 students went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico. The students, who were travelling to Iguala to hold a protest, were intercepted by police officers involved with a local criminal group, Guerreros Unidos. According to the UN, six people were killed by the police, another 17 people were injured and “43 students were then taken into custody”. The 43 students' enforced disappearance is only one incident among many others that have occurred in the country. Official estimates suggest that since 2007 the number of people went missing/disappeared reaches 25.000. During this year, the UNs' Committee on Enforced Disappearances claimed that “the information received [...] shows a context of generalized disappearances in a great part of the country, many of which could qualify as



enforced disappearances”.

Europe: Mediterranean Crisis

In 2014, hundreds of asylum seekers and refugees drowned in the sea trying to reach Europe. Based on IOM's 2014 report “Fatal Journeys Tracking Lives Lost during Migration”, “the large majority of deaths in 2014 occurred in the Mediterranean, accounting for an estimated 75 per cent (3,072) of all deaths this year, making it the deadliest sea in the world for migrants.” Many of these immigrants are coming from countries that are in a state of conflict or countries where human rights abuses are widespread such as Eritrea, Syria and Palestine. According to UNHCR “over 170 people have died at sea trying to reach Europe so far this year, including those who lost their lives in waters off Greece, Libya, Italy and in international waters”. In response, in 2015 the UN asked the EU “for a robust search-and-rescue operation in the Mediterranean Sea as part of a number of “bold and innovative” solutions to prevent more refugees and migrants losing their lives at sea.” (As cited in UN News Centre, 2015)

Citizens Rights Watch on Climate Change & Human Rights

January 2015

Dr. Zoi Aliozi gave a talk in the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights about the human rights violations and dangers rising from climate change. She presented the concerns of human rights defenders all around the world, and explained that climate change is undermining the fulfillment of a number of internationally protected human rights, like the: rights to health and life; rights to food, water, shelter and property; rights associated with livelihood and culture; with migration and resettlement; and with personal security in the event of conflict. As she highlighted, the worst effects of climate change are likely to be felt by those individuals and groups whose rights protections are already insufficient. She listed these risks and advocated for their consideration. In summary she raised questions such as: What are the human rights repercussions of climate change, and how



the extensive organization of international human rights law and knowledge, conveys to that phenomenon? Where does international human rights law overlap with or provoke duties under the embryonic climate regime? Where should climate change strategies challenge human rights essentials?

Dr. Aliozi concluded her presentation, by highlighting that climate change interrupts the realization of fundamental human rights.

“The times of emergency arrived, and no compromises are allowed, in the sense that now is the time to put to practice the social order that the drafters of the Universal Declaration envisaged. We cannot turn a blind eye in the commands of inter-generational justice and the rights of the future generations, and these rights cannot be ensured without safeguarding a habitable environment and a healthy planet, is as simple as that. We need to act now!”



Other Articles & Reports

by Citizens Rights Watch,
at www.citizensrw.org



Syria on the Edge!, By Athanasia Zagorianou, 31/03/2015

<http://www.citizensrw.org/newsdetails.php?id=02e74f10e0327ad868d138f2b4fdd6f0>

Iran: Rouhani's Broken Human Rights Promises, Athanasia Zagorianou, 16/03/2015
<http://www.citizensrw.org/newsdetails.php?id=4e732ced3463d06de0ca9a15b6153677>

UN Report Reveals Widespread Torture in Mexico. Athanasia Zagorianou, 11/03/2015.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/newsdetails.php?id=8e296a067a37563370ded05f5a3bf3ec>

Norway and the Paradox of Gender Equality, Miguel Rodriguez, 08/03/2015.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/crwreport.php?id=a684ecccc76fc522773286a895bc8436>

International Women's Day: "Make It Happen", Athanasia Zagorianou, 07/03/2015.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/newsdetails.php?id=1ff1de774005f8da13f42943881c655f>

The Assassination of Boris Nemtsov, Miguel Rodriguez, 03/03/2015.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/newsdetails.php?id=37693cfc748049e45d87b8c7d8b9aacd>

The Two Faces of Human Rights in Morocco, Miguel Rodriguez, 12/01/2015.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/crwreport.php?id=d82c8d1619ad8176d665453cfb2e55f0>

The 43 of Ayotzinapa, Miguel Rodriguez, 04/12/2014.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/crwreport.php?id=9a1158154dfa42caddbd0694a4e9bdc8>

PRESS RELEASE, Dr. Zoi Aliozi, 07/11/2014.
<http://www.citizensrw.org/newsdetails.php?id=6f4922f45568161a8cdf4ad2299f6d23>

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