

CITIZENS VOICES



Volume 8
May - August 2017

**STILL
WE
RISE**



CONTENTS

6. CRW Human Rights Overview (May - August 2017)

Athanasia Zagorianou

10. Transgender Rights

Melissa Griffiths

14. Human Trafficking

Nnenda Chinda

16. The Duties of States to Ensure the Right to Education under the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights

Zelalem Shiferaw Woldemichael

22. #I_Love_Human_being..

Sarfaraz Ahmed Sangi

24. Forced to Remain Pregnant: The Unenviable Position of Irish Women

Dervla Potter

28. Teaching Beginners and Strugglers on the Move: Ten Weeks with Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Higher Education

Rumana Hashem

34. Free and Open Internet:

The Never-Ending Battle for Net Neutrality

Miguel Rodriguez Glaudemans

38. Dead Bodies as Material Witnesses to Atrocity

Alexandra Funk

42. From Freedom to Destruction

Nadine Easby

46. The abysmal state of India's juvenile correctional facilities

Dev Tyagi

48. On The Shelf

CRW Team

52. Cartoons

Aseem Trivedi

64. CRW's Research Presented In The University of London

CRW Team

68. Rohingya: The Silenced Word in Myanmar

Indre Anskaityte



EDITORIAL

Dr. Zoi Aliozi

CRW S/G

The world – according to some – has never been a safer place for humankind. The advocates of that view did not take into account the fact that some of the most powerful world leaders are dangerous due to their incompetence to rule in accordance to international law and the basic rules of diplomacy (To better understand my point, see: Trump, and Kim Jong Un's statements, August 2017). Nevertheless, human rights are violated every minute of the day all around the world. From the North to the South, East to the West and vice versa, governments are abusing their constitutional mandates by not respecting the rule of law, and the basic rights of their citizens. What our governments are doing in simple terms, is that they are breaking the law; the human rights law in particular. Human rights law seeks to provide protection to citizens globally, but civil society has an essential role to play when law fails to restore justice. At CRW we believe that civil society's role is crucial in mobilizing the people, and fuelling positive social change by raising awareness of injustices, while keeping governments accountable.

As I write these lines, we collaborate and work in a number of campaigns, support human rights workers all around the world, are developing our online reach and tools, we work on human rights collections of data, and academic human rights research for activists and advocacy.

Our work is based on new technologies, and as such, we aspire into creating new tools and ways for human rights advocacy and activism. For example,

imagine if 'big data' tools are incorporated in human rights monitoring, if we could follow the progress of human rights internationally, in every region, and country. If we could produce reliable findings just by pushing a button! Big data is 'extremely large data sets that may be analysed computationally to reveal patterns, trends, and associations, especially relating to human behaviour and interactions.' (See: https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/big_data)

"From the North to the South, East to the West and vice versa, governments are abusing their constitutional mandates by not respecting the rule of law, and the basic rights of their citizens."

The world is filled with information, and since the establishment of the INTERNET we're creating more information than ever before. Information is power, and when it comes to human rights advocacy, information is the A and Z of effective and reliable work. It is remarkable to consider that 90% of all information in the world was created in the prior two years (Report by SINTEF, 2013). This amazing amount

of data creation (data, which is another term for information) is doubling every 1.5 years (See: <http://www.datamation.com/applications/big-data->



[analytics-overview.html](#)) because of the Internet. It is incredible, that in 2015 "every minute we were liking 4.2 million things on Facebook, uploading 300 hours of video to YouTube, and sending 350,000 tweets." (See: <https://www.domo.com/blog/data-never-sleeps-3-0/>)

Everything we do is generating data like never before, and lots of data is exactly what machines need in order to learn to learn. Human beings have proven over and over again that they cannot be trusted to protect the ones in need. Some argue that what humans have in common is greed rather than our need to belong or be loved. It is true that we tend to focus on our differences, rather than similarities, which fuels further the far-right movements all around the globe. My point, to make the long story short, is that recently we have witnessed the introduction of digital technologies in the justice process. There are trends about robot

lawyers, judges, and algorithms to reduce verdicts. Imagine if a robot judge could use big data technology in order to go through all the existing precedent globally, review all the law, and come up with all possible alternative verdicts in a split second. Imagine if human rights monitoring, and human rights justice could employ such technologies, where governments could be held accountable through real data, and could be provided with all possible reports, and memorandums, guidelines, and plans of action for this well debated "progressive realization" of human rights.

This is just a glimpse of the projects and ideas we are working on. Furthermore, the demand for innovative but reliable human rights activist scholarship, has led us into academia. This June, we were invited by the University of London's Human Rights Consortium to present our research on human rights digital advocacy. For the last few months myself and Mrs. Athanasia Zagorianou, have been working on a research topic as part of our engagement with CRW's goals and vision. Our research is becoming an academic paper and is titled: "THE ACTIVIST SCHOLAR AND COLLABORATION WITH NGOS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS".



You can find the abstract by following this link: <http://citizensrw.org/index.php/guest/newsStoryDetails/64>

We have been invited by the Human Rights Consortium of the University of London, to present and discuss with academics and activist scholars alike, our research and CRWs work in London, UK. The conference was themed: "ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS: New challenges", and you can find the program and other information about the conference by following this link: <http://hrc.sas.ac.uk/events/hrrn-annual-conference>

Please let us know what you think, drop us an email in case you have any ideas to share, or suggestions. Your feedback, support and input are always valued and warmly welcomed!

CRW aims into monitoring the development of human rights. For this reason, we are using new technologies, by creating Online platforms, where the collection, analysis and availability of data and findings, will be available to all citizens with Online access. We have been designing a mobile App, keeping contact with our supporters/activists and human rights defenders on social media, with our main aim to raise awareness on human rights violations and help in the fight for positive social change. You are all welcome to join us, from whichever post you see fit, and contribute to our innovative work. We need your help. Human rights require teams of people working for the same cause of justice, in order to flourish and be realized.

Right now we need researchers, copy writers, web developers, coders, graphic designers, marketing strategists, campaigners, journalists, lawyers, academics, and activists from all walks of life, to join forces with us in order to be more effective. Register in our website and become our activist today.

Thank you very much in advance!

In solidarity,

Dr. Zoi Aliozi

JOIN US!

We need your support and help!

OUR VOICES UNITED BECOME STRONGER

Citizens Rights Watch

- Want to become our human rights activist?
Sign up in our website www.citizensrw.org
- Want to write an article for our next newsletter?
Email us at newsletter@citizensrw.org
- Want to initiate a campaign?
Contact us at info@citizensrw.org
- Want to apply for an internship?
Apply at internships@citizensrw.org
- Are you an NGO and want to collaborate with us?
Contact us at zoi@citizensrw.org



CRW HUMAN RIGHTS OVERVIEW (MAY - AUGUST 2017)

Athanasia Zagorianou

CRW researcher & content editor of "Citizens Voices"

Cholera Crisis in Yemen

Since 2015, Yemen has been enduring the plights of civil war. With the country lacking infrastructure, medical facilities and suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition for the past two years, Yemen is now facing a cholera outbreak that so far has cost thousands of lives. In a joint statement in June, WHO and UNICEF said that "the rapidly spreading cholera outbreak [...] has exceeded 200,000 suspected cases, increasing at an average of 5,000 a day" calling it the "worst cholera outbreak in the world" while in July, WHO noted that the situation will get worse during the rainy season (UN News Centre, 2017, July 21). This August, Auke Lootsma, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Country Director urged the international community to enhance their efforts and noted that "Yemeni people are enduring incredible hardship, with 70 per cent of the population – some 20 million people – in need of humanitarian assistance."



Additionally, some 400,000 cases of cholera recorded in the past few months have resulted in 1,900 deaths." (UN News Centre, 2017, August 1).



Steve Gumaer

Myanmar: Rohingya People

After years of persecution and oppression Rohingyas are again in the centre of global attention due to the enormous violations against their rights by the government of Myanmar. Ms Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Myanmar's Foreign Minister and State Counsellor who has been criticised for her silence over the issue and for failing to protect Rohingyas, rejected UN's investigation on allegations of crimes by security forces against Rohingya Muslims.

"I am not sure quite what you mean by saying that we have not been concerned at all with regards to

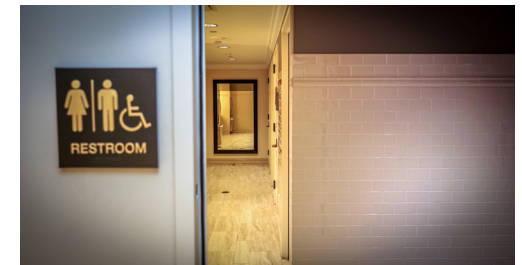
the allegations of atrocities that have taken place in the Rakhine [...] We have been investigating them and have been taking action" said Aung San Suu Kyi this June.

During her last visit in Myanmar the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee, stated that "there have been numerous reports of killings, torture, even the use of human shields by the armed forces, allegedly in some cases accompanied by threats of further violence if incidents are reported," noting her surprise over Governmental efforts to reduce her activities in the country (UN News Centre, 2017, July 24).

Texas Bathroom Bill

Although the introduction and discussions around this very controversial and discriminatory bill known as Texas Bathroom Bill first came into the light in January, the issue was brought back by Governor Greg Abbott who called a 30 days special session on 6th of June. This special session's agenda, which will last until 18th of August, includes issues such as the Bathroom Bill, anti-abortion measures and others. Based on this Bill students attending public high schools in Texas would require to visit restrooms in accordance with their biological sex as is stated in their birth certificate. The bill that will restrict transgender people from accessing the restroom has been highly criticised, raising serious concerns

over LGBTQ rights. So far, Joe Straus, Texas House Speaker has expressed his opposition to this horrendous bill stating "I try to encourage cooperation. I try to encourage bipartisanship. I know that's not a very fashionable thing today".



Ted Eytan

China: Human Rights Activist Liu Xiaobo Dies.

The prominent democracy activist Liu Xiaobo who was sentenced for 11 years in prison for participating in the writing of a manifesto entitled Charter 08 that was calling for human rights and political reforms in China and released in 2008, passed away this July.

The colossus human rights activist and figure who won the Nobel Prize in 2010 while in prison – and was unable to receive his award due to China's negative and restrictive reactions that followed – was suffering from terminal liver cancer and according to reports had been granted medical parole. Xiaobo's treatment and death has been treated with extreme secrecy raising suspicions and questions over the course of his treatment with many wondering whether his death could be overturned if he received treatment in an earlier stage of the cancer. The international community was shocked by Xiaobo's death who fought relentlessly for human rights. "[China] bears a heavy responsibility for his premature death [...] Liu Xiaobo will remain a powerful symbol for all who fight for freedom, democracy and a better world" stated Ms. Reiss-Andersen, Chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee (Buckley, 2017, NYT)

Sources

"Aung San Suu Kyi rejects UN inquiry into crimes against Rohingya" (2017) The Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/03/aung-san-suu-kyi-rejects-un-inquiry-into-crimes-against-rohingya>

"Back from visit to Myanmar, independent UN rights expert says situation 'worsening'" (2017, July 24) UN News Centre. Available at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57240&Kw1=myanmar&Kw2=&Kw3=#.WYMCktPyuRs>

"In Myanmar, UN refugee chief calls for solutions to displacement and exclusion" (2017, July 6) UN News Centre. Available at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57129&Kw1=myanmar&Kw2=&Kw3=#.WYMCINPyuRs>

"Statement from UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake and WHO Director-General Margaret Chan on the cholera outbreak in Yemen as suspected cases exceed 200,000". UNICEF. 24 June 2017.

Buckley (2017) "Liu Xiaobo, Chinese Dissident Who Won Nobel While Jailed, Dies at 61" The New York Times. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/13/world/asia/liu-xiaobo-dead.html>

Dart (2017) "Transgender 'bathroom bill' leaves Texas Christians deeply divided" The Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/aug/06/transgender-bathroom-bill-texas-christians-lgbt-rights>

Deadly combination of cholera, hunger and conflict pushes Yemen to 'edge of a cliff' – senior UN official. (2017, August 1). UN News Centre. Available at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57294#.WYMEItPyuRs>

Grinberg (2017) "Texas special legislative session: What's on the agenda" CNN. Available at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/06/politics/texas-special-legislative-session/index.html>

Oppenheim (2017) "Liu Xiaobo dead: Jailed Chinese opposition activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner dies aged 61" Independent Available at:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/liu-xiaobo-dead-jailed-china-opposition-activist-dies-died-nobel-peace-prize-winner-age-cancer-a7839431.html>

Philpott (2017) "The Bathroom Bill Is Stalled In The Texas House. And That's Just What Joe Straus Wants." KUTNews

Rainy season worsens cholera crisis in Yemen; UN agencies deliver clean water, food (2017, July 21). UN News Centre. Available at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57231#.WYMEKtPyuRs>

Sui (2017) "LiuXiaobo: Censored by China, supporters take to social media" BBC News. Available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-40656483>

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Melissa Griffiths

Melissa Griffiths is a transgender female who lives in Melbourne and last month was featured in an interview with Thrive Global. She is chairperson of a new foundation she is creating to help transgender people and educate employers on gender identity. She is a person who believes in rights for all transgender people in Australia as well as gay marriage. There is still a long way to go to improve rights for transgender people with regards to have their name and gender match on documents issued by government departments in some states in Australia.

Ireland seems to be more progressive than Australia with regards to rights for people in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex (LGBTQI) community. It is great that Ireland has legalised gay marriage. Melissa hopes that one day that Australia will follow its lead. For Australia to be more progressive we need to have leaders who are prepared to make tough decisions and think outside the box.

Melissa knows that many transgender people in Australia only live part time outside work for fear of losing their jobs, to friends, to family or partner. This is sad because it means that they will never live a full life as they should as a transgender person who is open and able to live a more fulfilling life. If we are able to create a more open society where transgender people were able to be themselves then a lot more of our community would live full time.

It is interesting to see how people react to us in society, some good, some bad. Melissa feels that there is apprehension towards transgender people because of a lack of understanding or ignorance around gender identity. We are just people who have a gender identity which is different to that which was assigned to us at birth. Our gender identity may be male or female and we feel trapped in our bodies which are different to our identity which we know we are and want to live as.

We live in a world in which we are a minority and which is ever changing. If we can focus for a moment on the value that transgender people can bring to the world would be a huge step forward. As it stands transgender people such as transgender females are instead quite often portrayed as men in dresses and this creates a shift in society and the way it perceives us. To be treated as a person who has values would lend itself well to improving our rights and would call around the world for better human rights and protection.

There seems to be a continued reluctance by many corporations around the globe to even tackle the issues around transgender rights let alone issues in the workplace. It is still a new thing for many countries and corporations to deal with. If we could as a society encourage our governments around the world which do not yet fully embrace or recognise or have legislated around transgender rights then maybe we could see some changes moving forward.



Darren Johnson



Melissa has found throughout her journey that any discrimination she faces is based on society's perception of transgender people that we are gullible or their for the taking, to be ripped off. It is rather disappointing especially as a transgender female that businesses think we are vulnerable or ignorant. So we have to stand up for our rights and not be taken for a ride. A final comment on this is that hairdressers with their interesting pricing seem to be the worst at this though to be fair Melissa suspects that this is widespread and not isolated to transgender people alone.

The fact that in Australia we have state governments and territory governments with different legislation around transgender people and our rights does not help our cause for better human rights. To complicate things the Federal Government in Australia is different again in its legislation around transgender people which treats us better however there still a way to go.

If we could only have the same legislation in every state, territory and at a Federal level this would

make thing a a lot easier for transgender people. There would have to be good legislation around this which protects us and gives us the right to change our name and gender without the need for any surgery. Also the ability to change both in a no fuss and inexpensive way which would enhance our basic human rights as transgender people.

In the end the only way the world will change with regards to transgender rights is if we all make a stand and point of raising awareness. If we all did this then maybe things would start to change.

Finally by sharing her story in interview with Thrive Global and online on Facebook she has found that people have reached out to her. It has also helped to raise more awareness about transgender people in Australia. Some people have said that she's the first transgender person they have known and is great to meet one. Others in her community have reached out to her for help or just to chat from within Australia and from overseas with their own issues or in relation to child of theirs or family member or themselves. She has

been amazed and humbled by the overwhelming positive response and reaction from people to her story she has shared and ongoing posts around this online in social media.

"In the end the only way the world will change with regards to transgender rights is if we all make a stand and point of raising awareness. If we all did this then maybe things would start to change."

If in the end if we all did was share our stories in an honest and positive way then we might live in a better world. Also politicians and governments might start to listen to us all as a collective and not treat some sectors of society like transgender people as aliens or some sort of contagious disease. Then we would all have an equal say in how the world should be run and better human rights for all not just transgender people. This could led in turn to a world where transgender people are more easily accepted and understood by the majority of society and in Australia a more inclusive and diverse society than it currently is.



You can find Melissa on [LinkedIn](#).



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Nnenda Chinda

The stark reality of the trafficking of women from developing and under-developed countries that takes place in some of Europe's major cities is one that is frightening at best and hopeless at worst. If there was ever a time when the international community ought to be vehemently vociferous about modern day slavery it is now, as day by day, the numbers rise in their thousands.

The case of the trafficking cartel that exists between Nigeria and Italy, intricately orchestrated as it is, is a particular one, due to the very high numbers of women and girls that depart from the West African country to make the arduous journey to Italy. Lured abroad with false promises, these women are convinced that a better life awaits them on arrival in Italy; they are sold dreams of a prosperous future. They embark on the perilous journey, often lasting days, weeks, months, from Nigeria to Libya to Italy, in the hope of a better future, succumbing to rape, torture, stabbings on the way. The reality they then face upon arrival to Europe, mainly Italy, is a jarring and unexpected one for them. Upon arrival, they have to pay off huge debts that can total up to €40,000 for the journey, food, clothes and accommodation. Consequently, they are deterred from going to the police as this means risking deportation and shattering any dreams of a better life in Europe.

According to a [Guardian article](#), one in two prostitutes in Italy today is Nigerian, and the trade between those countries has been going on for over thirty years, with workers initially migrating

to Italy as vegetable pickers. Soon after, realising a more lucrative way out of the stagnant and the stifling state of affairs back home, selling women became the trade of choice for a way out of misery.

Madeleine Albright [famously quotes](#) that “there is a special place in hell for women who do not help other women.” This is the case for these so-called “madams” or sponsors, but more accurately, women who enslave other women. However, the greater pain is that a lot of these women are even sold by their families, brainwashed into believing the well being of the family rests in their hands and are scorned if they fail to fulfil their duty. As such they carry the cross and burden of family expectation.

According to the [International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#), since the trade between Nigerian and Italy started in the 1980s of an estimated 30,000 women have been trafficked from Nigeria into prostitution. This trade was largely controlled by Nigerian gangs who took advantage of the lack of opportunities and a failing education system, amongst other things. The mechanics behind the way these women are bought into false hopes is more intricate than one might imagine. Indeed, trafficking gangs are wont to use a combination of superstition (juju) and the false hope of finding employment once settled in the country of destination. They are made to swear an oath that they believe is binding, so as not let any harm befall them or their families. With the power of superstition so gripping, these women are at the mercy of their traffickers, who gain psychological control over them.



Ira Gelb

Moreover, efforts have been made to ensure these women are kept in reception centres so as not to fall into the hands of traffickers. However, these efforts have proved a zero sum game, as traffickers, under the guise of helpers, use these centres as pick-up points. Once these women have been given appropriate documents it is not long before they [go missing](#) and fall into the wrong hands. In short, these centres are being used as grocery stores, where the goods to be bought and consumed are vulnerable women.

It is seldom the case that when any of the women are able to escape, they can shed light on the realities of the plight these women go through, and in turn, discourage other women from embarking on the journey, as well as provide women with condoms and provide information on STDs. One inspiring case is that of [Princess Okokon](#), an ex-prostitute, who, together with her now husband and ex-client, have founded an [online platform and NGO](#) which serves to give back to the community,

help women who have been victims of sex-trafficking and provide psychological and sexual health assistance to victims.

Princess' story is an inspirational one no doubt, but it speaks volumes on the amount of work that is needed to be done in our communities worldwide. Both the lack of education and the economic empowerment of women are the root causes of why the large majority of these women decided to leave their countries. It cannot be stressed enough that when a woman is empowered, the whole community, and country by extension, is also empowered.



THE DUTIES OF STATES TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Zelalem Shiferaw Woldemichael

Lecturer of law, Jimma University, Ethiopia



The right to education is among the most essential fundamental human rights recognized internationally. It has been considered by the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (herein after the CESCR) as a means and an end in itself. It is an end in itself because education is indispensable to the preservation and enhancement of the inherent dignity of the human person.¹

It is also a means to an end due to the fact that it is inextricably linked to the realization of other economic, social and cultural rights. This is because education provides individuals (societies) with the skills and capabilities necessary to bring about improvements in living conditions that will impact positively on the access of individuals to and the enjoyment of other socio-economic rights.²

Interestingly, the right to education is recognized under the prominent international human rights instruments. To state some of the most important ones: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) have guaranteed it in their respective provisions. Even if the above mentioned instruments safeguard the right to education, however, the most detailed account of it is stipulated under the ICESCR. This instrument, under Articles 13 and 14 have enshrined it in an elaborate manner.

Critical scrutiny into the provisions of the ICESCR propels us to draw a conclusion that states are the primary duty bearers of the rights guaranteed under it.³ The nature and scope of state parties' obligation, on the other hand, is construed to have domestic and international aspects. The CESCR has pointed out that the right to education, like all human rights, imposes three types or levels of obligations: the obligation to respect, protect and fulfil.⁴ This article briefly discusses such duties which States assume under the ICESCR.

i. The Duty to Respect

The obligation to respect essentially is a negative obligation requiring a government and its organs to refrain from impeding an individual's access to a right.⁵ The CESCR in relation to the right to education has underscored that the obligation to respect requires state parties to avoid measures that hinder or prevent the enjoyment of the right to education.⁶ This explanation of the committee, therefore, warrants us to deduce that the duty to respect entails an obligation on states not to interfere into the enjoyment of the right to education guaranteed under the convention. Accordingly, the duty to respect can be elaborated in terms of the right to education to include, for instance, the duty to refrain from imposing fees for attending primary education. Moreover, failure to provide the funding necessary to maintain State schools has been dubbed as violation of the obligation to respect.⁷

Perhaps, critical examination into the provisions of the ICESCR also helps us to infer the existence of the obligation to respect in relation to some aspects of the right to education.

Article 13(3) of the convention, for example, orders state parties to respect the liberty of parents and (when applicable, legal guardians) to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the state.⁸ Hence, the existence of the obligation to respect is clearly indicated in this provision. Ostensibly, one may also allege the existence of the duty to respect the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions under the ICESCR. Such educational institutions established privately, however, has to be subject to the educational aim and objectives enshrined under the ICESCR and that such schools meet the educational standard set or approved by the state.⁹

ii. The Duty to Protect

The duty to protect as stated by the CESCR requires state parties to take measures that prevent third parties from interfering with the enjoyment of the right.¹⁰ Accordingly, it has been maintained that failure of the state to prevent parents, employers and other third parties from stopping girls attending school, failure to protect individuals from discrimination in private educational institutions and failure of the State to regulate recognition of private educational institutions and diplomas has been labeled as instances of violation of the duty to protect.¹¹

iii. The Duty to Fulfill

The obligation to fulfill requires States to take steps to facilitate individuals and communities in enjoying the right and, when an individual or group is unable to realize the right themselves, to provide the means by which to enjoy that specific right.¹² The CESCR has explained that the obligation to fulfill (facilitate) requires states to take positive measures that enable and assist individuals and communities to enjoy the right to education.¹³ In dealing with the duty to fulfill, it is worthy to realize that the degree of obligation imposed on states to fulfill is not the same for all levels of education. Article 13 of the ICESCR

puts different obligations in respect of primary education, secondary education, higher education and fundamental education. The convention has demanded an elevated level of obligation in respect of primary education. Unlike the rest, the convention under Article 13(2) orders states to make primary education compulsory and available free to all. What is more, Article 14 gives mission to states parties to work out and adopt a detailed plan of action within two years for the progressive implementation of the provision of compulsory and free primary education at the time of becoming party to the treaty. This strong demand by the convention is a stark example of the existence of immense emphasis on primary education.

Indeed, the CESCR has remarked that the obligation to provide primary education for all is an immediate duty of all state parties.¹⁴

In other words, the duty in relation to providing primary education is not tolerated to be realized progressively; rather, it is a duty having an immediate effect. The duty, however, is different in so far as the CRC is observed. Regrettably, the CRC has inserted the notion of progressive realization in relation to the fulfillment of primary education. Under Article 28(1) it provides:

'State parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular (a) make primary education compulsory and available free to all'

As it can be observed from the above provision, states are expected to fulfill the right to primary education progressively. Seen in light of the special significance of primary education to children, this provision appears to pay little attention and affords lesser entitlement to children as compared to the ICESCR. The ICESCR interestingly has enshrined better protection in this regard. As considered earlier, the duty to fulfill primary education under the ICESCR has an immediate effect.



In relation to secondary education, the ICESCR requires it to be generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means.¹⁵ Higher education is also made to be generally accessible to all but on the basis of capacity.¹⁶ Fundamental education, a type of education which is given for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education is stipulated to be encouraged or intensified.¹⁷ The convention is silent as to the availability or accessibility of this type of education. The provision merely emphasizes the importance of encouraging or intensifying it. Nevertheless, the CESCR has noted that it should be made available and accessible for all who haven't received or completed the whole period of their primary education.¹⁸

At this critical point, of course, it is important to come to grips with the fact that the element of free education is brought not only for primary education. As noted earlier, the ICESCR in relation to secondary and higher education provides that the state is required to provide

them freely in a progressive manner. Of course, a significant difference with primary education in relation to this is the period expected of states within which to make them free. In so far as primary education is concerned, unlike the other levels of education, states are not tolerated to introduce it freely in a progressive manner.¹⁹

The CESCR has elaborated on the duties to protect, respect and fulfill the different levels of education in tandem with the features of education, i.e., availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability. According to the explanation by the CESCR, availability demands the existence of functioning educational institutions and programmes in sufficient quantity within the jurisdiction of the State party.²⁰ By accessibility, the committee meant that educational institutions and programmes have to be accessible to everyone, without discrimination, within the jurisdiction of the state party.²¹ Acceptability requires that the



form and substance of education, including curricula and teaching methods, have to be acceptable (e.g. relevant, culturally appropriate and of good quality) to students and, in appropriate cases, parents; this is subject to the educational objectives required by the convention.²² In dealing with adaptability, the committee held that education has to be flexible in order that it can adapt to the needs of changing societies and communities and respond to the needs of students within their diverse social and cultural settings.²³

"The duty to protect requires state parties to take appropriate measures that prevent third parties from interfering with the enjoyment of the right to education. This, among others, includes investigation of violations to identify those responsible, to impose the appropriate penalty and to ensure the victims adequate compensation."

Hence, the CESCR underscored that states owe the obligation to respect, protect and fulfill each of the essential features of education, i.e., availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability in relation to the different levels of education (primary, secondary, higher and fundamental education).²⁴

Conclusion

As the CESCR identified, States are enjoined under the ICESCR to respect, protect and fulfill the right to education. The duty to respect mandates states to refrain from encroaching upon the free enjoyment of the right to education. The state, for example, is required to refrain from interfering with the freedoms set forth under Article (3) and (4) of the ICESCR.

The duty to protect requires state parties to take appropriate measures that prevent third parties from interfering with the enjoyment of the right to education. This, among others, includes investigation of violations to identify those responsible, to impose the appropriate penalty and to ensure the victims adequate compensation.

The duty to fulfill has been noted to impose an obligation on states parties to take positive measures

that enable and assist individuals and communities to enjoy the right to education. While elaborating on this duty, it has been underscored that the ICESCR imposes a greater degree of obligation pertaining to the fulfillment of primary education. Primary education is expected to be made available compulsorily and freely. Indeed, the CESCR has pointed out that such duty in relation to primary education has an immediate effect.

References

1. Malcolm Langford and Aoife Nolan, Litigating Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Legal Practitioners Dossier, (Economic Social and Cultural Rights Litigation Programme-Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE),2006),p.106
2. *ibid*
3. This is not just to argue that states are the only duty bearers of the rights guaranteed under the ICESCR .Rather, it is intended to demonstrate that the instrument puts a primary focus on states to enforce the rights enshrined under it. See for example, Article 2 and specific rights listed under Part III of it.
4. *ibid*, para.37
5. Malcolm Langford and Aoife Nolan, *supra* note 1,p.27
6. The Right to Education, *Supra* note 19, para.46
7. Gina Bekker, The Right to Education in the South African Constitution: An Introduction (Pretoria; Centre for Human Rights, 2000), p. 14.
8. The term 'standard' under this provision are meant to refer to issues relating to admission, curricula and the recognition of certificates and these standards are in turn required to conform with the educational aims and objectives, see The Right to Education, *supra* note 19,para 29.Regarding educational aim and objectives stated under Article 13(1) of the ICESCR, one may point out that the provision do not explicitly mention whether it applies to public or private or both. More, formal and non formal types of education are not indicated to conform to such aim and objectives. Nevertheless, since the provision simply says education, it can be reasonably deduced that it applies to public and private as well as in

non-formal and formal education. The CESCR under General Comment 13, *supra* note 19, para 4 has echoed such stance.

9. Article 13(4) of the ICESCR.

10. The Right to Education, *Supra* note 19,para.46

11. Fons Coomans, In Search of the Core Content of the Right to Education' in D. Brand and S. Russell (eds.), Exploring the Core Content of Socio-Economic Rights: South African and International Perspectives (Pretoria: Pretoria Book House, 2002), pp. 159182, at p. 162.

12. Malcolm Langford and Aoife Nolan, *supra* note 1,p.30

13. The Right to Education, *Supra* note 19,para.46

14. *ibid*, para 51

15. Article 13(2)(b) of the ICESCR

16. Article 13(2)(c) of the ICESCR

17. Article 13(2) (d) of the ICESCR

18. The Right to Education, *supra* note 19 ,Para.21

19. Article 13(2)(a) of the ICESCR provides primary education to be compulsory and available free to all. No requirement of progressive introduction of free primary education.

20. The Right to Education, *Supra* note 19,para.6

21. *ibid*

22. *ibid*

23. *ibid*

24. *ibid*, para.50





#I_LOVE_HUMAN_BEING...

Sarfaraz Ahmed Sangi

This world is very beautiful, & colourful if we view it with beautiful eyes. Look beautiful land around us, where everything is available to make us happy! Look beautiful flowers, gardens, flowing fresh water of rivers, beautiful vast forests, high trees, beautiful lakes, deep oceans, delicious foods, beautiful birds & animals, beautiful high sky with shining stars, moon and sun, charming air, charming dawn and dusk & countless things are existing here to make us happy! And the bigger blessing among all is our life .

And furthermore world developing day by day to become more beautiful and bringing alot of happinesses, but, though having all these blessings so near to us we fail to find and feel the beauty and happiness, as if we have forgotten all .. This is because of many problems which have occurred unfortunately, and have become headache for us in our beautiful world, as human Rights violation, poverty, joblessness, ignorance, terrorism etc slot of many problems.. Some people only count the problems and mourn about it, but some move a step forward to solve these problems, so instead of counting the problems let's move a step ahead to make this world better & more beautiful! ..

Let's spread the love , peace & spread education, health, prosperity and let's make friendship & good relations with true love, respect & due care.

Let's move ahead with sincerity, tolerance & honesty to make our society better place.

Let's defeat hatred, selfishness & enmities.

Let's own the simplicity, sincerity & honesty, & do everything with tireless hardworking.

Let's make others happy & become the reason of smile on the faces of others.

Life is too short and will end very fast, & we shall not be here more, but good deeds will always be remembered, so let's do something better for the people living now and for those who will live here after us.

This beautiful world requires good people, let's be good & help the helpless people & other deserving people, let's serve the human being, let's spread the love & peace..

Love for all, peace for all, education for all.. Let's love human being without any distinction.

Contribution from our facebook page.

FORCED TO REMAIN PREGNANT: THE UNENVIABLE POSITION OF IRISH WOMEN

Dervla Potter

The realities of Ireland's abortion laws have led recently to further criticism by the UN on Ireland's treatment of pregnant women who wish to have abortions.

In the last couple of weeks, several news stories have hit Ireland's press that have further confirmed the violation of women's reproductive and health rights and the measures that women living in Ireland are forced to take because their government refuses to acknowledge their rights as human beings. Abortion is currently an illegal, criminal offence in the country, except in the case of strict limitations such as fatal foetal abnormality or risk to the mother's life. The UN has criticised Ireland once again for its abortion legislation, deeming it as a violation of the rights of women who are forced to travel abroad to access the service. In one recent case that was published this month, the Irish government in its submission to the UN Human Rights Committee denied the UN criticism that there was any cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or discrimination in their legislation that refused access to an abortion to Siobhán Whelan when her pregnancy was deemed "incompatible with life".

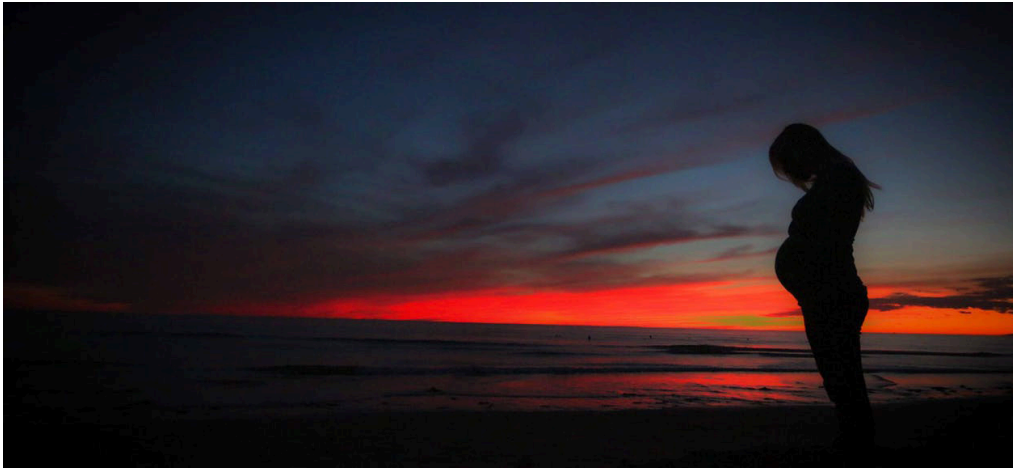
Ms Whelan was forced to travel to the UK to access basic reproductive rights that are not afforded to women in Ireland. This is the second time the committee has found against Ireland in a case taken by a woman who was denied access to

abortion services following a diagnosis of fatal foetal impairment. Last year, the Government agreed to pay Amanda Mellet €30,000 compensation after the UN body found her rights had been violated. Speaking about her case she said, "my hope was to help bring about a change in our laws so that when faced with the tragic news of a fatal foetal impairment women would have a choice to end the pregnancy in Ireland and not be forced to carry the

pregnancy to term or to travel out of our country to access health care services like I had to." By refusing her access to abortion services and forcing her to travel to the UK for medical assistance, Ireland violated her rights to privacy, discriminated against her based on her gender, and subjected her to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in contravention of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



Forcing women to travel to the UK or other European countries and criminalising abortion is a blatant violation of the basic reproductive rights that cause further physical, mental and emotional anguish of already vulnerable women that are fearful of the repercussions that their actions might have. Harrowing reports emerged in June of the logistics of aborting a foetus in another country and returning to Ireland in the following days. Each of the nearly 12 women a day that travel from Ireland wishes to receive the care they need in their own hospitals with their own doctors and with the support of their families. However, they are forced to return to hotels, airports or ferry ports instead of their own beds and are unable to grieve properly, fearful of the ever-present gazes of strangers. On their journey home, how are they supposed to explain the package that they carry with the grief, guilt and shame that Ireland's regressive dystopian laws enforce on them? The logistics of travelling abroad for abortions means that to return the aborted foetus to Ireland for burial, parents are required to open the coffin every two hours to place icepacks around their baby's remains to keep them cool, or have the remains couriered home at significant expense, like a home delivery. There is no respect to either parents or foetus in that.



Forcing women to leave their country and forcing those who cannot travel abroad for their own reasons to remain pregnant against their will are both forms of torture and cruel punishment that have no place in a society where over 80 percent of the population support repealing the amendment to the constitution that protects the life of the unborn and has little regard for the mother's safety or health. In the case stated above brought by Amanda Mellet, the UN found that Ireland was obliged to pay compensation to her because of the "chilling effect" that the laws have on healthcare and the "negative experiences" the complainant went through having been forced to travel abroad. In their report, the UN Human Rights Commission found that Ms. Mellet experienced differential treatment due to her socio-economic circumstances which constituted discrimination. In their final report where they noted Ireland as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the committee concluded that "the State Party should amend its laws on voluntary termination of pregnancy, including if necessary its Constitution, to ensure compliance with the Covenant, including effective, timely and accessible procedures for pregnancy termination in Ireland". When Ireland failed to respond in the 180-day timeframe, Amnesty International Ireland's executive director Colm O'Gorman said that Ireland is undermining a system of international law it was part of

creating by failing to adhere to the UN Human Rights Commission.

In answering the questions of Ireland's delay to respond to this issue or accept the ruling of the committee the Irish government argues that this issue is a "profound moral question" that requires "a nuanced and proportionate approach". However, activists on behalf of the Pro-Choice, Pro-Abortion campaigns have argued that the government has its fingers in its ears and has accused them of using delaying tactics. Such delaying tactics have come in the form of a public convention, or Citizens Assembly where abortion was discussed among several other issues. The Assembly discussed many aspects of the abortion debate such as the right to have an abortion in the case of rape or incest after national statistics from Rape Crisis Centres showed that approximately 197 women and girls who attended their centres in 2013 were pregnant because of rape and 25% of these went on to terminate their pregnancy by travelling abroad or illegally taking abortion pills in Ireland. Currently Ireland has the second most restrictive abortion laws in the European Union. Abortion in Malta is banned in all circumstances and women residing there face similar obstacles while trying to access basic reproductive and crisis care.

Along with the 11 and a half women that depart Ireland daily, three Irish women a day order abortion pills online. In 2014, 1017 abortion pills were seized by Irish customs, doubling on the year before. Anonymity is incredibly important to the brave women who decide to have an abortion as any person who procures an abortion, or anyone who assists a woman to procure an abortion in Ireland outside the confines of the current legislation in the country, can be criminalised and imprisoned for up to 14 years. A study produced this July showed that there was a decrease in the number of women who would consider travelling abroad, with those women more likely to opt for pills that have been hailed as "safe and highly effective". The British Medical Journal's (BMJ) report found that abortion pills were safe to use and were generally as successful as terminations carried out through the health service. Awareness of these home abortion pills are growing in Ireland, and really kicked off after the "Bus 4 Repeal" travelled to various locations and universities around the country to raise awareness about "my body my choice" on the run up to International Women's Day. The report was welcomed by ROSA (for Reproductive Rights, against Oppression, Sexism and Austerity), a group that is on the frontline of the repeal campaigns.

The BMJ study surveyed Irish women who had obtained the pills through an online consultation clinic, Women on the Web. The Netherlands-based service provides an online consultation with a licensed doctor for people seeking abortion pills. They specifically consult with people who are less than 10 weeks pregnant and live in countries where abortion is restricted. It stated that there were reported rates of successful medical abortion were "comparable with protocols in clinics". ROSA Spokesperson Rita Harold commented that the pills were essential in providing women with safe access to abortion and were often the only affordable option for Irish Citizens.

Irish women who order pills from Women on the Web have them shipped to an address outside of Ireland, as taking abortion pills is illegal and incoming prescription medications are seized by customs. According to Women on the Web, most

women use an address in Northern Ireland and travel to physically collect the pills. However, this is still not an ideal situation.

Linda Kavanagh, spokesperson for Abortion Rights Campaign spoke about the positive findings, but also mentioned there was still a way to go. She said: "Women have always tried to end pregnancies and in the past, that has been through unsafe means and in other parts of the world it is through unsafe means. 43,000 women a year die due to unsafe abortions. That's an epidemic, you know. If that was another type of medical issue I think it would be made a bigger deal of. So, we're lucky that we live in a time where what is available to us is safe."

Campaigns to change Ireland's abortion laws have united in aims under a large umbrella organisation and their efficacy can be seen clearly across the country. Abortion Rights Campaign is one spoke of this umbrella who approach repealing the 8th amendment from many angles including national and international lobbying, communication education, (which is key to any campaign), stigma busting and effective media campaigns. So far progress has gone from slow and periodic to overwhelming support and consistent, so while the short-term goal is repealing this restrictive amendment, the goal is to make abortion free, safe and legal in Ireland.

Ireland is an unforgiving country that does not respect half of its population, and leaves them frightened, labelled criminals and surrounded by stigma and shame. The public discourse is fraught. Pregnancy is becoming a life sentence enforced by a government that is too wrapped up in its own ignorance of the changing times, and struggling to come to terms with the skeletons its own closet has produced. While a referendum looks like it's on the cards, we can be sure that more time will be wasted before women can be granted safety and protection and dignity.



TEACHING BEGINNERS AND STRUGGLERS ON THE MOVE: TEN WEEKS WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Rumana Hashem

Academic tutor on OLIVE and researcher at the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London, UK.

This article draws on experience of teaching and working with asylum seekers and refugees in higher education in the UK. Drawing on lessons learnt from an Open Learning Initiative for asylum seekers and refugees at the University of East London, it argues that the immigration policy of Britain is xenophobic which violates refugee's right to education, simultaneously denying their right to citizenship. The paper demonstrates how educators' hands are chained by bigoted policies that deny the right to education and citizenship of individuals who do not belong to British state. We are taught that one does not have the right to learn, and be educated unless they are citizens in the UK. The article asks when will these racialised policies be changed? Will Britain overcome xenophobia ever?

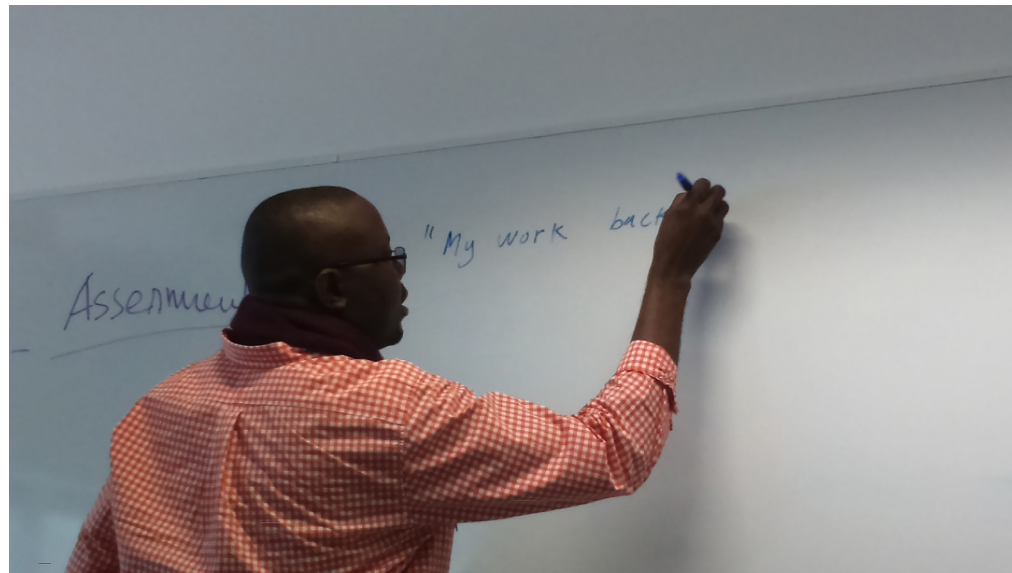
The first term of our Erasmus plus funded [Open Learning Initiative](#) programme at the University of East London has just ended this month. Open Learning Initiative (OLIVE) is an innovative educational programme for asylum seekers and refugees, and the [first of its kind](#) in Britain run by the University of East London (UEL) in conjunction with European partners, including the Central European University, University of Vienna, and the European Network Against Racism, enabling refugees to access higher education. The course is free for all and is offered in a series of 10 weeks. As an earlier article by Dr Aura Lounasmaa

and Paul Dudman has discussed on [Citizens Rights Watch](#), the first term of OLIVE begun on 29 April which has ended on 1 July 2017. The second term will begin in October, and the series will run through summer 2018. The core ethos of the OLIVE programme is, as Lounasmaa and Dudman have described, the “overriding conviction that university and higher education should be open to everyone, facilitating access to education beyond

borders, and incorporating people who do not have full or any citizenship rights” (CRW 7, Online).

As an academic tutor on the course, I had the opportunity to engage directly with students on a weekly basis. The experience of teaching and engagement with OLIVE students has been truly illuminating. The cohort of students for whom I was responsible for were the Intermediate 1

group (UEL OLIVE Course, Online). The level was determined by English language efficiency of the students. Some of these students were beginners who could spell their names but did not know the meaning of words such as ‘lecture’ and ‘assessment’. This is despite the fact that many of them have either completed higher education or were in the process of completing their higher education studies at the time of their departure from their home country. Some of them came only six months ago by boat from Syria and Iran, where they never spoke in English, while others were from Algeria, Congo, India, Nigeria, Sudan and Sri Lanka. English language efficiency of the later group of students is better in relation to those who came from the war-torn Middle East. Almost all of our participants on OLIVE were keen to continue their studies and to develop and enhance their skills, in terms of both language and IT skills, and hoped to use the course as a possible ‘gateway’ to future higher education opportunities.



Many of my students, except three, at Intermediate level 1 have obtained first degree, and some hold Masters in fields namely Business Administration, Information Technology, Personnel Management, Software Development and Wireless Communications prior to their journey to the UK. Nonetheless, they did not have access to higher education in the UK before UEL had invited students to take education through participating in OLIVE. Despite varied level of education and English language proficiency, all of them have undergone identical experiences of the incredible uncertainty of the UK asylum process. The bigoted treatment of UK Home Office, underpinned by a racially prejudiced immigration policy, has subsequently left many of these students so vulnerable for months that many of them were unable to focus on course work. One, Ahammad, for example told me in our first tutorial that: "I will have no place to live from the day after tomorrow. Yesterday they [the refugee home] told that I will be kicked off the Home if I didn't leave in three days. It is because my asylum was granted two days ago and I must find a place to move out now".

Apparently the positive news of a grant of asylum became a dilemma for Ahammad who moved in the UK from Sudan in late 2014. Ahammad has a Masters degree in Wireless Communication and has four years of work experience in telecom companies, communication and networking. But he has now been offered a day labourer job in building construction by the Job Centre Plus in Ilford. Rehana from Sri Lanka has a similar problem as she has recently been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. She was a sixth form college teacher in Information Technology in Sri Lanka. She could not find a job in the UK until she has obtained a higher education certificate from a UK university. Both of their resident permits, therefore, came with a massive challenge of finding a job and housing in the city of displacement and migrants in London.

Teaching on the course for us, accordingly, was a pretty challenging job. The mixed cohort of students – some of whom were beginners and some post-graduate strugglers – have come from a diverse background and held different experience from home through their journey. On the first day

of OLIVE, Snafa, a mother of three adult children and a wife of a Muslim businessman who moved to the UK in 2015 for safety by leaving her whole family behind told: "I was an established business entrepreneur in my homeland. I hold an MBA. I am OK with spoken English. I wish to learn English accent". This is, indeed, a challenge for an academic tutor who herself is a non-native English speaker. How could I teach her British-English accent? But Snafa's ask is not irrational. In the context of Britain, it seems increasingly key to adopt the 'accent'. As Snafa well said: "You will not be accepted otherwise. They don't get what I ask for. They say that they cannot understand my English". Although this is an attitude problem of native English speakers in some parts of England, such as Oxfordshire where Snafa lived, it has made her life extremely difficult. Snafa is currently undergoing asylum process but she does not know if she can remake home in Britain.

The discussion of hostility towards refugees from outside Europe continued throughout the course. Everyone has a story either of cruelty and border control, or humiliation, linguistic bigotry, prejudice of British accent, British values and chauvinism in Europe. We were overtaken by the discussion on refugee rights, migration "crisis", the differential experiences of refugees and European migrants, and more political issues in terms of housing and healthcare which refugees are faced with in their country of host. Remaking home seems nearly impossible in the current situation yet our students as refugees are struggling.

"Everyone has a story either of cruelty and border control, or humiliation, linguistic bigotry, prejudice of British accent, British values and chauvinism in Europe."

"But we must move on. It is a journey to move forward. Never to walk back or give in", said Avijit from Sri Lanka. Everyone agreed with him in the

classroom. Singhalese origin Avijit had moved to the UK in 2013, and sought asylum with his wife and two children as the Sri Lankan government failed to ensure their safety. He lives in London, and had been waiting for asylum for four years. His English is at intermediate level 2 but he moved into my tutorial with beginners and intermediate 1 for what he has described as "better orientation and sense of belonging with South Asian migrant teacher and mates". He was progressing well throughout and worked closely with his three other South Asian mates in the class. He chose to submit an assignment on media representation and body politics in the neo-liberal and post-feminist era. In the last tutorial, Avijit told that he is positive that life would move on and he would persevere even after OLIVE.

But has life moved on for Avijit? The unexpected refusal of his application for asylum came right on the farewell day of OLIVE – before he got a chance to present his final course work, thereby disallowing him to obtain the certificate of attendance to the course. We didn't get a chance to say good bye to Avijit. Neither his class mates nor tutors saw Avijit on the last day of the term. Avijit is not the only one who was denied the right to obtain his well-deserved certificate. There were two other students at Intermediate 1 and 2 levels who were denied right to leave and faced with further unfair treatment by immigration policy of the UKBA.

It was on the fourth week when Jesson was detained by Home Office agents overnight for what they called his failure to produce "legal paper" documents. His fault is that he was married in Sudan, which the Home Office was not aware of. Our colleague and a refugee studies Professor at UEL, Philip Marfleet, went to visit Jesson in the Verne, Dorset removal centre in Dorset. We wanted to find out how we could support his case as he was our student. But our capacity is limited.



As educators working under the hostile policy of immigration in the UK we could do little to help asylum seekers. Jesson did not get much legal help from us other than solidarity and shared empathy of migrant and immigrant tutors on the course.

We are taught that one does not have the right to learn, and be educated unless they are citizens in the UK. The end of first term of OLIVE left us with questions: when will these racialised policies be changed? Will Britain overcome xenophobia ever?



Another student, Muntashir, from India received a refusal of his application two weeks prior to the end of the course. Like Avijit, Muntashir and his wife applied for asylum in the UK as they faced religious persecution in India in 2013. He was devastated by the outcome of his appeal. He is now going to re-appeal, challenging the UKBA's disputable decision. His latest email reads "I do not have enough to pay high fees to my solicitor. I do not know how to fight my case without a barrister. Is there any organisation that can help me to find a barrister at reasonable fees?"

Author's Bio: Dr Rumana Hashem is an academic tutor on OLIVE and a researcher at the Centre for Migration, Refugees and Belonging at the University of East London, UK.

Email: rowshonrumana@gmail.com.

Note: Pseudonyms are used in order to ensure anonymity of participants on the course.

These are the moments when both staff and students on OLIVE were found in vulnerability. Although we wanted to help students, give education and to share knowledge with asylum seekers and refugees, we are disallowed to do so. Our hands are chained by bigoted policies that deny the right to education and citizenship of individuals who do not belong to British state.

FREE AND OPEN INTERNET: THE NEVER ENDING BATTLE FOR NET NEUTRALITY

Miguel Rodriguez Glaudemans

What is Net Neutrality?

The basic concept of Net Neutrality is that “All and every piece of data and information which travels through the internet is equal and travels fairly, without any kind of impact or interference of any kind of group, public or private institution, company, network, trademark, website, application, program, and other related parties, towards themselves or other of the aforementioned third parties.”

A non-technical explanation of what Net Neutrality means is that the internet should not be manipulated in favor of either private or government instances to weigh in for their own or third party's interests.

How is the internet manipulated?

The internet of the average consumer may be manipulated by both governmental or private institutions. Even although it is definitely scarier that government meddles with the internet to control what people read, do, use or exploit, this falls a bit more in the MASS SURVEILLANCE category. Currently we are facing risk due to new regulations which will impact in favor of Internet Service Providers (“ISPs”). These are the companies



we pay that provide internet connections. Nowadays the ISPs are still controlled by regulations, particularly those of the FCC, which interprets the internet to be a utility. Therefore, the service's speeds, costs, and the overall quality of the internet was not easy to manipulate for the ISPs,

but now there is a new set of proposed rules which will enable ISPs to prioritize and manipulate the speed and accessibility to parts of the internet.

Care to give an example?

For example, if a particular set of ISP users in a particular geographic location use a lot of YouTube™ and the ISP partly owns a company which directly competes with YouTube™, such ISP may cause the website and connection to YouTube™ to lag, to be slow, or to lower its quality. The unhappy users would then seek alternatives, benefiting the ISP's interests. Also, the same ISP may require from YouTube™ a special “access” fee for YouTube™ to keep being as accessible or to keep its speed. As the ISP is the intermediary between the websites and companies on the internet and its consumers and users, they will have control over what data is privileged. So this is negative in many ways, because users will just follow on to places which are more accessible and have higher speeds. Additionally, and this is already been set out in the market and named as “perks” they may try to convince their users not to use YouTube™ because when the users enter their website they do not use up their mobile data, or they are granted privileged speed for using a particular website or app.



Does it only affect online streaming or are there other examples?

The above mentioned was just a made-up example of what may happen, but perhaps if one were to set one's mind where this happens not only with the streaming of online videos, but extends to searches, email services, and online news, one can perhaps foresee the danger of letting the ISPs meddle with our access privileges. For example, VERIZON™, a known ISP in the United States, has bought Yahoo!™, which is among other things, a online news service, email server, and search engine. If VERIZON™ decided that users of Google™ would have limited bandwidth speed when they accessed the site, or if their email service were inaccessible most of the time, they may consider changing to a different provider of those services. If Yahoo!™ happened to offer a great “perk” offer their website access for VERIZON™ users at 3 times the normal speed, including email services and all other of their features, most users would very probably move to Yahoo!™.

Does the abolition of NET NEUTRALITY principles only affect ISP users?

Not at all. The scenario is even more dire for Startup Companies, which are trying to make their way into the market. Without deep pockets to pay for privileges their websites, web or mobile applications or cloud services might not make it if they are not usable by the users. Even more, if they offer an alternative or an improvement over current services ran directly or indirectly by ISPs.

Also, some services such as NETFLIX™ and SPOTIFY™ may endure having to pay important sums of money to ISPs to keep the speed of their users' access to their Apps and Websites. So they would either have to increase the prices of their services or, more probably, be unable to keep offering their services.



How does this affect Human Rights?

In the last decade, the Internet has played an important role in the reporting of Human Rights transgression, and for vulnerable groups to organize, such as LGTB activists and minorities. If the access to the internet is limited to certain websites, Human Rights activists and victims may have a harder time to draw attention to certain issues, in particular if the reporting affects the best interest of companies or governments. Last year a non-binding resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council construed that the access to Internet was key for the protection of human rights and freedom of expression, and that Governments should make their citizens able to access the internet for all of their needs.

Thus, it is only natural that we at CRW worry about NET NEUTRALITY and all the related principles and concepts that keep the internet open and free.

"Last year a non-binding resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council construed that the access to Internet was key for the protection of human rights and freedom of expression, and that Governments should make their citizens able to access the internet for all of their needs."

For more information and/or action on this topic you may visit:

<https://www.eff.org/es/issues/net-neutrality>

<https://www.savetheinternet.com/net-neutrality-what-you-need-know-now>

<https://www.battleforthenet.com/>

Lets all make an effort to preserve an open and free internet for all!

DEAD BODIES AS MATERIAL WITNESSES TO ATROCITY

Alexandra Funk

Washington D.C.-based NGO working on human rights and criminal justice reform.
MSc in Human Rights with Distinction from the London School of Economics and Political Science,

Forensic anthropology is used in the human rights fields as a means of investigating state crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity. The discovery and excavation of mass graves allows investigators to determine the acts to which the interned bones bore witness. This information then becomes central to any human rights investigation. Bones, in other words, act in the world as [material evidence](#) that is able to reveal valuable information surrounding the perpetration of modernity's most atrocious and systematic crimes.

Where egregious violations of human rights have occurred, state perpetrators have often concealed dead bodies and then pursued a systematic policy of denying any wrongdoing. However, the accumulation and discovery of mass graves have repeatedly acted to undermine such cover-ups, serving as physical, substantial, and undeniable testament to atrocity. This pattern occurs widely, and can be seen from [Argentina's Dirty War](#) to the wars of the former [Yugoslavia](#) and the [Rwandan Genocide](#). Dead bodies have the power to articulate a physical historical account, bringing to light in the present actions taken upon them in the past.

In human rights investigations, forensic anthropologists excavate mass graves in order to [draw conclusions](#) regarding the facts of those found inside. Their responsibilities include locating mass graves; determining what findings within the graves constitute evidence; reading indicators of trauma

on bones; drawing conclusions from the bodies; identifying the bones; and, if possible, returning the remains to families or friends.

To identify what bones can tell us about state atrocities, investigators [must determine](#) the circumstances in which the crimes took place in addition to the identities of the individuals to which the bones belonged. Dead bodies are witnesses to

their own violent deaths. The manner and cause of death can be inferred from the markings, or trauma indicators, that are left on the skeletons of people who met violent ends. Through the identification of wounding patterns and skeletal trauma, forensic anthropologists [may be able to determine cause of death](#), such as whether a person died from a gunshot wound, from torture, or from blunt force trauma.

Dead bodies also speak to the identity of a victim. The exhumation of bones, for example, can [make clear the collective and personal identities](#) of their owners. Forensic anthropologists can sometimes identify the characteristics of a skeleton that can then lead to such an identification, including their age, sex, and even whether they were left-handed or right-handed. Another means of identifying dead bodies is by comparing them to existing medical records, including dental charts and previous surgeries and injuries. Furthermore, objects in graves, such as personal items and bullet fragments, can assist in the identification process.

Using Mass Graves to Construct Narratives, Hold States Accountable, and Address Collective Suffering

Dead bodies carry information that can be shared with courts and as well as with the families and friends of victims. This is vitally important because when the state commits acts of violence against its own citizens, contested stories arise about those abuses from both the state and its victims.



Mario Modesto Mata

The state seeks to protect its legitimacy and maintain political and social control, which often means it will deny instances of torture, enforced disappearances, and other rights violations. In the assiduous evaluation of human remains, however, newly revealed mass graves can lead to evidence that [settles disputed perspectives](#) or confirms previously claimed narratives put forward by survivors and their families.

The evidence contained within mass graves can also provide information that can work to hold states accountable for their actions. Forensic anthropologists' findings about the circumstances of deaths and the identities of victims pressure states to admit their participation in the commission of human rights violations. With the rise of international investigations, tribunals, and other international criminal justice processes, this unique information can also be utilized in national and international justice pursuits.



Finally, dead bodies articulate information about the identities of victims, which can address collective sufferings within a state. During and after mass state crimes, relatives and friends of victims are often left without answers. For example, in cases of enforced disappearances, many must suffer without knowing if their loved ones are alive or dead. Identification of bodies can provide much needed answers, initiate the processes of mourning, and potentially provide closure. By listening to the stories bones tell, the claims about state actions made by victims' families and friends [may be verified](#). Giving names to the nameless is a way to restore dignity and personhood to lives once lived.

"The state seeks to protect its legitimacy and maintain political and social control, which often means it will deny instances of torture, enforced disappearances, and other rights violations."

Bones Operate in Political and Social Contexts

Despite the value of forensic evidence in the investigation of human rights abuses and mass graves, the assumption that those who excavate such sites are objective observers must be debunked. While dead bodies can play a pivotal role in revealing or confirming accounts about state crimes, [they still exist](#) within political and socially constructed contexts that are imbued with subjectivity. Dead bodies were once living people, with their own multifaceted experiences and narratives; in their deaths, however, these experiences can be interpreted differently by various interested parties. Human rights organizations, criminal defense lawyers, prosecutors, and other interested bystanders may analyze the same human remains and draw different conclusions, and these stakeholders should recognize and critically reflect upon the political and social contexts in which they work.

Conclusion

The material nature of bones allows them to transcend time, bearing witness to actions that took place many years ago. Dead bodies can force states to acknowledge and admit their involvement in forced disappearances, torture, illegal detainment, and extrajudicial killings, among other egregious human rights violations. The excavation and identifications of mass graves can also deliver answers to relatives and friends, potentially provide closure, and articulate the stories of lives once lived. However, bones alone do not finalize truths about egregious human rights violations, and they instead should be viewed as additional tools to be used in constructing or confirming an atrocity's narrative.

The discovery, excavation, and identification of mass graves occupy a unique opportunity in the human rights field to dismantle states' repeated denial of their human rights violations. Dead bodies can act as articulate witnesses, and it behooves human rights activists, lawyers, and investigators to listen to the stories they tell.

Alexandra Funk works for a Washington D.C.-based NGO working on human rights and criminal justice reform. She holds an MSc in Human Rights with Distinction from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a BA in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of Louisville. You can find her on Twitter [@alfunk](#).

FROM FREEDOM TO DESTRUCTION

Nadine Easby

War and Conflict student at the University of Kent, focusing on human rights.

In 2003, American and UK forces came together for a joint-invasion of Iraq, under the premise of 'disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, ending Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and freeing the Iraqi people'.¹ However, this article will argue that both governments have exceptionally failed in fulfilling the basic duties towards civilians of Iraq as in accordance with the UN Convention on Human Rights. Forces have destroyed hospitals and schools, bombed densely populated civilian areas and destroyed water purification systems, leaving the Iraqi population extremely vulnerable. A UN report released in 2011 consolidates this argument, stating that 'Widespread poverty, economic stagnation, lack of opportunities, environmental degradation and an absence of basic services, constitute 'silent' human rights violations that affect large sectors of the population'.²

Article 26 of the Human Rights Act concludes that 'everyone has a right to education.. education shall be free...[and] shall be equally accessible to all..shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms'.³ The Iraq War however, a key tenet of the War on Terror, has massively undermined this right in terms of education for Iraqi children. The UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child states that governments have a responsibility assess the health and educational systems, taking all necessary steps to ensure that the minimum standards set by the Convention in these areas are being met⁴, however statistics released by the Ministry of Education in

2006 indicated that only 30% of the 3.5 million students were attending schools, in comparison to before the US invasion in which school attendance was nearly 100%.⁵

'Widespread poverty, economic stagnation, lack of opportunities, environmental degradation and an absence of basic services, constitute 'silent' human rights violations that affect large sectors of the population'.

One of the main reasons for this is that they do not fulfil the minimum standards to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students. 63% of schools do not have chlorine testing for drinking water⁶, putting children at risk for waterborne diseases, and the security situation is so bleak that students are afraid to go to school due to insurgent group threats, with international bodies assessing that 90% of children are suffering from learning difficulties due to the atmosphere of fear that they are living in⁷. In 2010, a UNICEF report quoted female students referring to their schools as 'unwelcoming, unpleasant, dirty, poorly maintained with filthy lavatories and no drinking water'⁸. As well as undermining the human right of the 'right to education', it also undermines Article 6 of the UNICEF rights of children, the 'right of life, the right to survive and develop healthily'.⁹



Article 26 states all children have the right to a primary education, which should be free, however the destruction and closing of schools/universities, together with the displacement of well needed teachers who have been killed or forced to leave Iraq by the policies and practices of the War on Terror e.g. the Iraq War, has resulted

in a major deprivation of schooling for children and young people, who have lost many future life opportunities and valuable educational skills.



Even when children do attend school, over 80% of the buildings require reconstruction, and over 4,600 are in need of major repair. US forces entered Iraq in the aim of protecting human rights and freeing the Iraqi people, however evidence clearly shows that the War on Terror has undermined the very fabric of the democratic rights they pride themselves on.

"It can be concluded that the policies and practices of the War on Terror undoubtedly failed to create the promised freedom and democratic peace, instead generating mass poverty, illness, and destruction across the whole of Iraq."

Poverty due to economic collapse and corruption has caused acute malnutrition among Iraqi children, with Oxfam in 2007 reporting that up to eight million Iraqis required immediate emergency aid, with nearly half the population living in "absolute poverty"¹⁰. In addition to the difficulties caused by security issues and poorly maintained schools, children's cognitive development is also affected by poor nutrition. After the 2003 Iraq War, acute malnutrition among children skyrocketed, due to widespread food shortages and a lack of drinking water from bombings and various sanctions placed on the country. A study by Iraq's Health Ministry in 2005 concluded that around 400,000 children are 'suffering from "wasting," a condition characterized by chronic diarrhea and dangerous deficiencies'¹¹, 50% are severely malnourished, and one in ten children suffer from a chronic disease. Disability has risen dramatically due to the policies of indiscriminate bombings, with a reported one million cripples and disabled individuals, all without access to an adequate health system.

Due to a decade of debilitating sanctions, the Iraqi health system has all but collapsed. Through a combination of war damage, post invasion raids, too many patients and a lack of supplies, Iraq's health care system has 'regressed considerably, moving further away from the tipping point (and) is currently incapable of providing adequate basic health care to the majority of the population'¹², a study conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies contended. The fact that 'up to 75 per cent of Iraq's doctors, pharmacists and nurses have left their jobs'¹³ since the invasion does not help the situation, especially combined with an excessive amount of patients with a variety of serious injuries and health problems.

The lack of a adequate health system results in '70% of critically injured patients dying in emergency and intensive care units due to a shortage of competent staff and a lack of drugs and equipment'¹⁴. This clearly undermines the basic human rights of Iraqi citizens such as Article 21: the 'right to equal access to public services'¹⁵, and Article 25 : the 'right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including medical care, (and) the right to security in the event of sickness'¹⁶. In terms of mental health, the system is non-existing, which is terrifying considering '30% of Iraqi children are suffering from psychological problems'¹⁷ such as PTSD, nightmares, depression and severe anxiety due to military invasions and terrorist attacks. The lack of water supply in turn has affected Iraq's agricultural lands, creating massive food shortages of fruits, vegetables, rice and meat needed in order to not become malnourished, as well as causing national droughts. Therefore, taking all of the above into account; it can be concluded that the policies and practices of the War on Terror undoubtedly failed to create the promised freedom and democratic peace, instead generating mass poverty, illness, and destruction across the whole of Iraq.

References

1. White House Archives, 'President Discusses Beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom', (2003), Available from: <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030322.html>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
2. Kentane, B. (2013), 'The Children of Iraq: "Was the Price Worth It?", BRussells Tribunal and Global Research, February 19, 2013, Available from: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-children-of-iraq-was-the-price-worth-it/30760>, [Accessed 13/11/16]
3. United Nations, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', Available from: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
4. Unicef, 'UN Convention on Child Rights', Available from: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
5. Al-Azzawi, Dr N. (2010), 'Violations of Iraqi Children Rights under the American Occupation', BRussells and Global Research Tribunal, Available from: <http://www.brussellstribunal.org/pdf/IraqiChildrenSuffering2010.pdf>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
6. Kentane, B. (2013), 'The Children of Iraq: "Was the Price Worth It?", BRussells Tribunal and Global Research, February 19, 2013, Available from: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-children-of-iraq-was-the-price-worth-it/30760>, [Accessed 13/11/16]
7. Kentane, B. (2013), 'The Children of Iraq: "Was the Price Worth It?", BRussells Tribunal and Global Research, February 19, 2013, Available from: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-children-of-iraq-was-the-price-worth-it/30760>, [Accessed 13/11/16]
8. Kentane, B. (2013), 'The Children of Iraq: "Was the Price Worth It?", BRussells Tribunal and Global Research, February 19, 2013, Available from: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-children-of-iraq-was-the-price-worth-it/30760>, [Accessed 13/11/16]
9. Unicef, 'UN Convention on Child Rights', Available from: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
10. Oxfam, (2003), 'Rising to the Humanitarian Challenge in Iraq', The NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI), Available from: <https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/Rising%20to%20the%20humanitarian%20challenge%20in%20Iraq.pdf>, [Accessed at 16/11/16]
11. Hassan, G. (2005) 'Iraq's Children: Choir of Despair', Centre for Global Research, Available at: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/iraq-s-children-choir-of-despair/822>, [Accessed 14/11/12]
12. Barton, F, Crocker B. (2004) 'Progress or Peril? Measuring Iraq's Reconstruction', Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Available at: <http://www.mafhoum.com/press7/215E19.pdf>, [Accessed 15/11/16]
13. Dougherty, B, Ghareeb, E. (2013) 'Historical Dictionary of Iraq', pp.259, Scarecrow Press.
14. Meyer, B. (2007) 'Iraq Healthcare and Humanitarian Reports', Available at: http://vcnv.org/files/Health_Humanitarian_June2008.pdf, [Accessed 15/11/16]
15. United Nations, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', Available from: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
16. United Nations, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', Available from: <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>, [Accessed on 15/11/16]
17. Alwan, A. (2004) 'Health In Iraq', Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation, Available at: http://www.who.int/hac/crises/irq/background/Iraq_Health_in_Iraq_second_edition.pdf?ua=1, [Accessed on 16/11/16]

THE ABYSMAL STATE OF INDIA'S JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Dev Tyagi

Chief Point Maker – www.caughtatpoint.com

It is time for the Department of Women & Child Welfare to rise up and face the burning crisis in India. This cannot be ignored, nor be avoided or concealed or under the myopic lens of India's economic progress, which gathers so many headlines.

Not all is right about the state and affairs of India's Juvenile Correctional facilities. Tasked with an aim to help rehabilitate, reinvigorate and stabilize hundreds and thousands of despicable Indian youth (no shortage, since India is a youth country), the correctional facilities are only hampering the convalescing state of young lives that are comatose-hampered with financial and behavioral anomalies.

Consider this true story: When he was 16 years old- he molested his 11 year adopted sister. Released after six months and now at 27, he's in jail again! Committing rape, a crime he frequently victimized her sister with, terrible is the word that describes Rahul's mental state. But what is wrong with this juvenile offender and several hundreds of regular offenders who lurk in the dark confinement of correction centers in India that are otherwise tasked to help these youngsters recuperate?

Condition of India's correctional facilities is abysmal with crimes running rife, where instead of 'safeguarding', and 'protecting' juveniles in corner with the law, the centers are themselves pushing the convalescing towards hell. We present you some burning facts that cry aloud for sense to prevail:

1. Are shelter homes really sheltering?

The condition of juveniles in Indian correctional facilities is dismal and utterly deplorable. Whether you speak of Rajasthan or Gurgaon in Haryana, most kids, especially girls have been rescued having run away from correctional facilities on account of utter ignorance and shabby personal treatment.

2. Abusing the abused!

Charged with recuperating troubled minds, many juvenile care and correctional facilities are hell holes that bleed with duplicity and an utter lack of regard for a child's safety. At Ashiyana Home for boys (Alipur), a 12 year old HIV-positive boy was sexually abused? Is anyone listening?

3. A dismal state of affairs

In many correctional facilities, instead of tending to the emotional needs of those in need, children are beaten up with sticks and subjected to humiliation. The condition is rampant in many Delhi facilities, at the heart of India.

4. Centers where crimes run amok and molestation is rampant

A minor girl sexually abused inside a juvenile care center in outer Delhi! This isn't an emotionally draining tabloid headline, but a blight on the face of a country that prides itself on celebrating women and women power. The victim was ill-treated regularly at a Childcare home in Samaypur Badli.

5. When the protector is himself the offender!

Just what is India's problem with its own North Eastern residents? Of the 51 children recently rescued from a Jaipur based correctional facility, several of whom were young girls, two 17 year olds from Nagaland accused the care taker of repeatedly sexually assaulting them. This cannot be any more heart-breaking.

6. Preying on innocent young lives

Subjecting several 8-15 year old girls to repetitive molestation, caretaker-cum-cook at Suparna Ka Aangan in Gurgaon was imprisoned indefinitely! Is this how a correctional facility is supposed to take care of its children?

7. Held captive, treated like prison inmates, pets are domesticated better!

Events that were reported from Bal Kunj at Yamunangar, Haryana are humiliatingly hurtful. Girls were stripped and subjected to regular caning by their own caretaker. The Haryana govt. was swift to order a probe into the matter courtesy Haryana State Council for State Welfare. In fact, conditions were so bad that a mentally disturbed girl ran away only to being gang-raped by youths nearby the facility. Could it get any worse?

8. Shelters where child labor and ill-treatment run rampant unabashedly

A recent report surveyed the environs of Apna Ghar shelter home at Rohtak, Haryana. A surprise visit by an NGO found several incidences where the facility's own inmates were tortured, beaten and forced into child labor, rigorously. In fact, some girls were forced into immoral activities. Finally, the blithe on the face of correctional facilities was sealed in 2012.

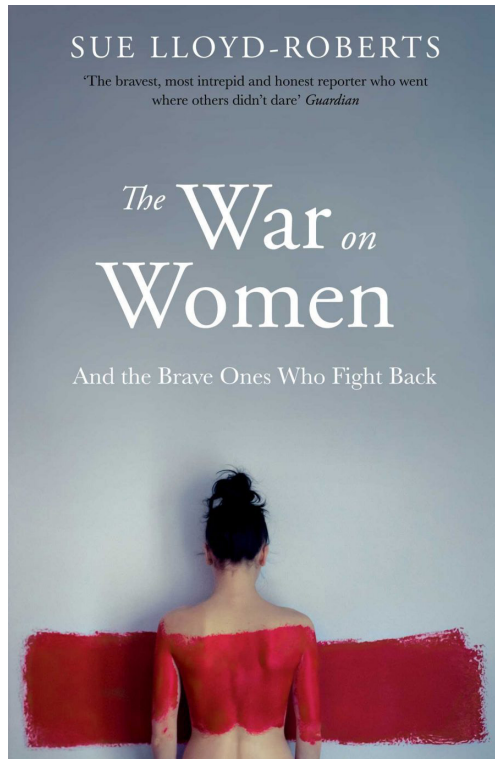
9. Cleaning, sweeping and doing all menial jobs instead of receiving care that they so deserve

One particular case of girls' sexual exploitation was so unbecoming and severe that they had to be shifted on multiple occasions from one center to the other, first transferred from the Drone Foundation in Gurgaon to Naaz Foundation in Delhi. When no relief came, they had to be again shifted for purposes of safety to Apna Ghar in Rohtak which was anything but safe for those youngsters.

Most correctional facilities, in Delhi and elsewhere in near about areas, out of utter disregard for children and owing to the severe carelessness of the state governments dwell in abysmal conditions, especially when it comes to nutrition, the basic a child can be fed. Stale food, tasteless meals and food often infested with fungus is what is served to children.

ON THE SHELF

Five books you should definitely consider before summer ends!



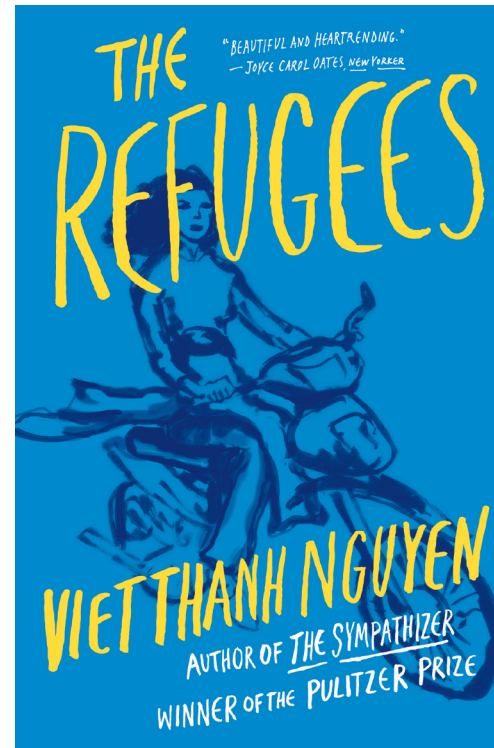
The War on Women (And the Brave Ones Who Fight Back)

Sue Lloyd Roberts

From the UK's first female video-journalist comes the stories of multiple women who have showed their incredible determination to fight back when

they have been oppressed. Covering women's stories from Dublin to Kashmir, Lloyd Roberts shows the strength of a woman's conviction through her investigations of baby laundry's in Dublin to forced marriage, the gender pay gap and from rape as a weapon of war. During her 40-year-long career she witnessed the worst atrocities inflicted on women across the world. But in observing first-hand the war on the female race she also documented their incredible determination to fight back. She gives voice to women who would have otherwise gone unheard, such as her encounter with Maimouna, the woman responsible for taking over her mother's role as the village female circumciser in The Gambia and provides a platform for the 11-year-old Minima, who was married off in Jaipur at the age of six. Sue has examined humankind's history and takes us on a journey to analyse the state of women's lives today. Most importantly she acts as a mouthpiece for the brave ones; the ones who challenge wrongdoing; the ones who show courage no matter how afraid they are; the ones who are combatting violence across the globe; the ones who are fighting back.

Sadly, Sue passed away in 2015 just as her book was finished. This book is a small testament to the incredible work that she achieved and through it these women's voices are still being heard.

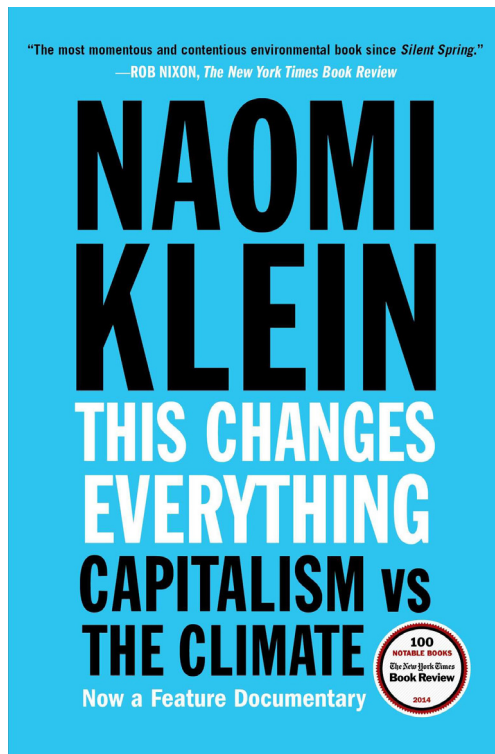


The Refugees

Viet Thanh Nguyen

From the author of *The Sympathizer*, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction comes this collection of perfectly formed stories, exploring questions of immigration, identity, love and family. Viet Thanh Nguyen gives voice to lives led between

two worlds, the adopted homeland and the country of birth. The stories are a captivating testament to the dreams and hardships of immigration, especially culture shock shown in the account of a young Vietnamese refugee who comes to live with two gay men in San Francisco. With a poignant dedication: "For all refugees, everywhere", *The Refugees* shows the daily struggles of everyday people who have adopted a new life in a new country and allows us to see their aspirations, fall backs and the relationships they form. Beautifully written with sharp observations, this collection of short stories hits home the desires for self-fulfilment that defines our lives.



This Changes Everything

Naomi Klein

Libby Blanchard from the Huffington Post named it “A book that changes our understanding of the world”. The most important book yet from the author of the international bestseller *The Shock Doctrine*, a brilliant explanation of why the climate crisis challenges us to abandon the core “free market” ideology of our time, restructure the global economy, and remake our political systems. Klein argues that climate change isn’t just another issue to be neatly filed between taxes and health care. It’s an alarm that calls us to fix an economic system that is already failing us in many ways. Klein meticulously builds the case for how massively reducing our greenhouse emissions is our best chance to simultaneously reduce gaping inequalities, re-imagine our broken democracies, and rebuild our gutted local economies. And she documents the inspiring movements that have already begun this process: communities that are

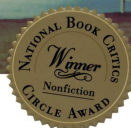
not just refusing to be sites of further fossil fuel extraction but are building the next, regeneration-based economies right now.

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER AND EDITORS' CHOICE

We wish to inform you
that tomorrow we
will be killed with our
families

STORIES FROM RWANDA

Philip Gourevitch



"A staggeringly good book... Gourevitch's beautiful writing drives you deep into Rwanda, his brilliant reportage tells you everything that can be seen from an event beyond imagining or explaining.... He drives you, in fact, right up against the limits of what a book can do."
—TOM ENGELHARDT, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

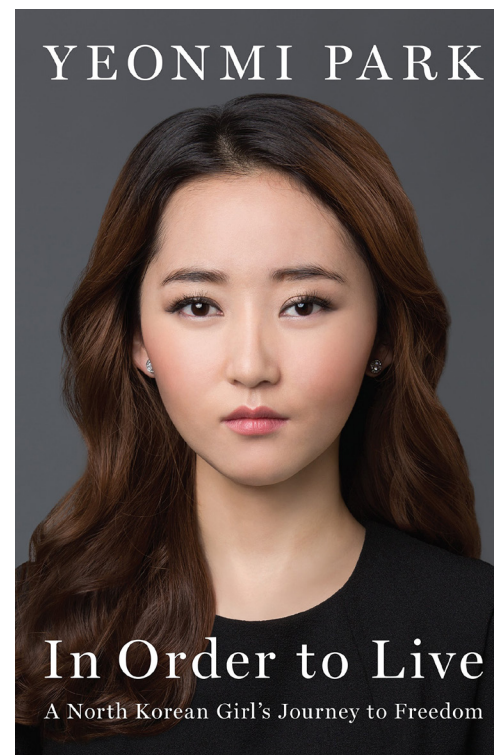
We wish to inform you that tomorrow we
will be killed with our families

Philip Gourevitch

In April of 1994, the government of Rwanda called on everyone in the Hutu majority to kill everyone in the Tutsi minority. Over the next three months, 800,000 Tutsis were murdered in the most unambiguous case of genocide since Hitler's war against the Jews. Philip Gourevitch's, an NY times journalist, haunting work is an anatomy of the killings in Rwanda, a vivid history of the genocide's background, and an unforgettable account of what it means to survive in its aftermath. The title comes from an April 15, 1994, letter written to Pastor Elizaphan Ntakirutimana, president of

the Seventh-Day Adventist Church's operations in western Rwanda, by several Adventist pastors who had taken refuge with other Tutsis in an Adventist hospital in the locality of Mugenero in Kibuye.

The book describes Gourevitch's travels in Rwanda after the Rwandan Genocide, in which he interviews survivors and gathers information. Gourevitch retells survivors' stories, and reflects on the meaning of the genocide.



To live

Yeonmi Park

Human rights activist Park, who fled North Korea with her mother in 2007 at age 13 and eventually made it to South Korea two years later after a harrowing ordeal, recognized that to be "completely free," she had to confront the truth of her past. It is an ugly, shameful story of being

sold with her mother into slave marriages by Chinese brokers, and although she at first tried to hide the painful details when blending into South Korean society, she realized how her survival story could inspire others. Moreover, her sister had also escaped earlier and had vanished into China for years, prompting the author to go public with her story in the hope of finding her sister. She writes frankly that North Korean Women in China are treated as “merchandise” by the people traffickers. She writes “In North Korean society, for a woman to admit these kinds of things, it’s the end of the world. Our tradition is purity, virginity – for a woman, that is everything.” Aged thirteen, when famine and her father’s imprisonment made life unbearable, Park and her family made the incredibly dangerous decision to escape North Korea, crossing the frozen Yalu river only to end in the hands of merciless traffickers.

Park tells her astonishing story with bravery, dignity and even humour. To live is a testament to the endurance of the human spirit and an exploration of the risks we are willing to take for freedom.



CARTOONS

Aseem Trivedi

Mahmoud Abou Zeid "#Shawkan" is a contributor to publications such as Time Magazine, Die Zeit, BILD, Media Group, and online photo agency, Demotix. Shawkan has been jailed for more than 1000 Days; his ongoing incarceration is considered unlawful by several lawyers and human rights defendants as the maximum pre-trial detention in Egyptian is two years. Photojournalist Shawkan, was once again denied justice by the Egyptian government. Shawkan has been detained without a trial since August 14, 2013, when he was arrested with a French Photojournalist and an American journalist while covering the Rabaa Massacre.

The other journalists were released within hours of their arrest but Shawkan has been detained without a trial for more than three years. He was scheduled for trial on October 8th, 2016. But again there was no justice.

He is facing trumped-up charges as a result of his journalistic work. He is a prisoner of conscience and risks the death penalty if convicted.

Black & White publishes these ten cartoons as a protest to his unlawful detention and demand the immediate release of Shawkan.

Aseem Trivedi is a political cartoonist and free speech activist. His website was blocked and he was arrested for his anti corruption cartoons in 2012. He seeks to support writers, artists and others facing injustice, tries to create awareness and mobilize social media users to participate in campaigns demanding the end of injustice. You can contact him about the cases you think should be supported through his cartoons and see more of his work at his website, <http://www.bandw.in/p/about.html>

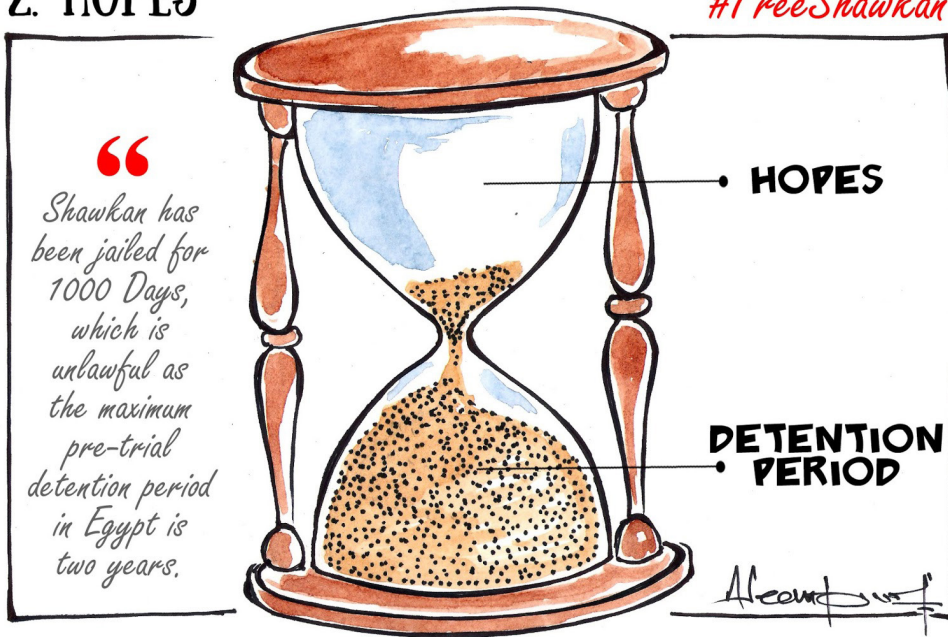
1. TERRORISM

#FreeShawkan



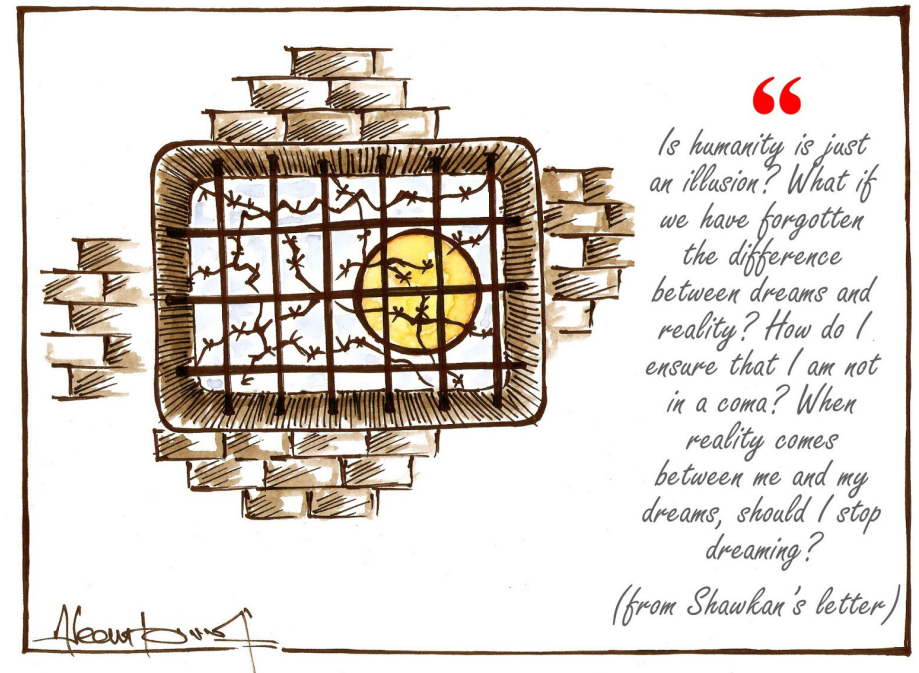
2. HOPE

#FreeShawkan



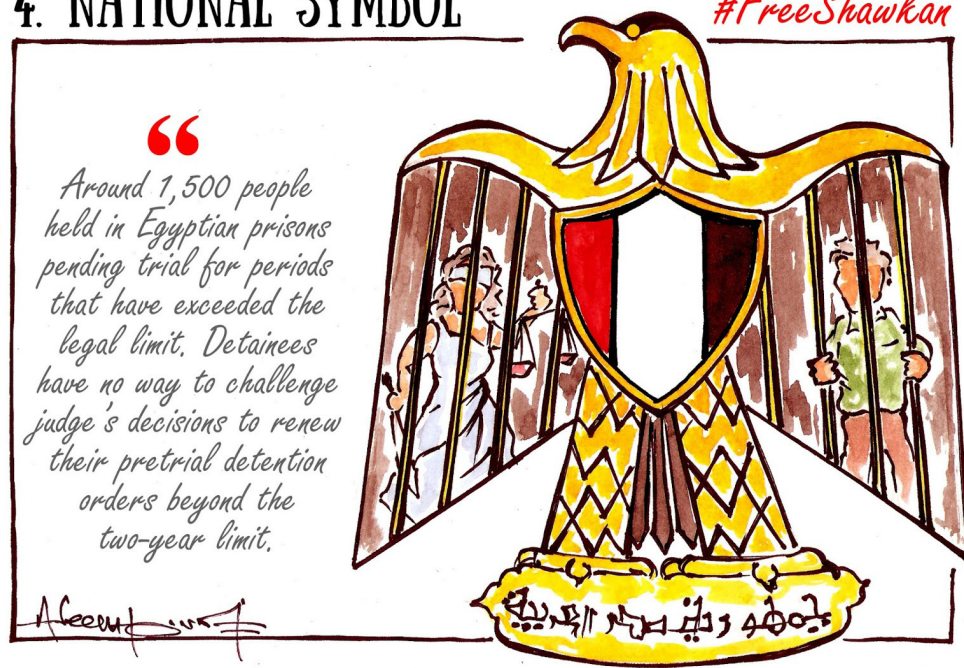
3. DREAMS AND REALITY

#FreeShawkan



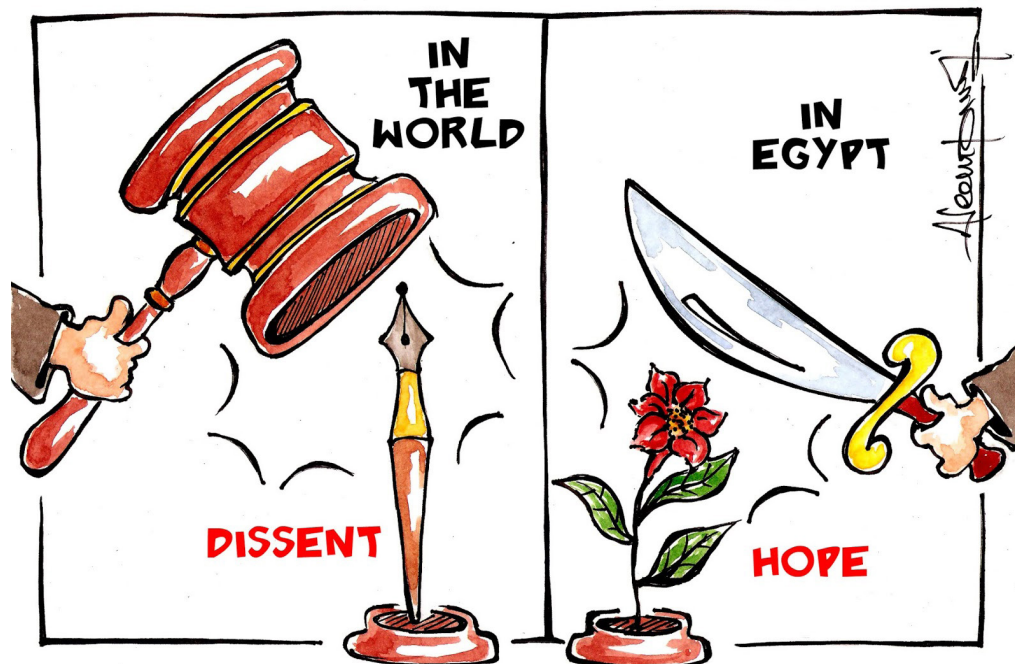
4. NATIONAL SYMBOL

#FreeShawkan



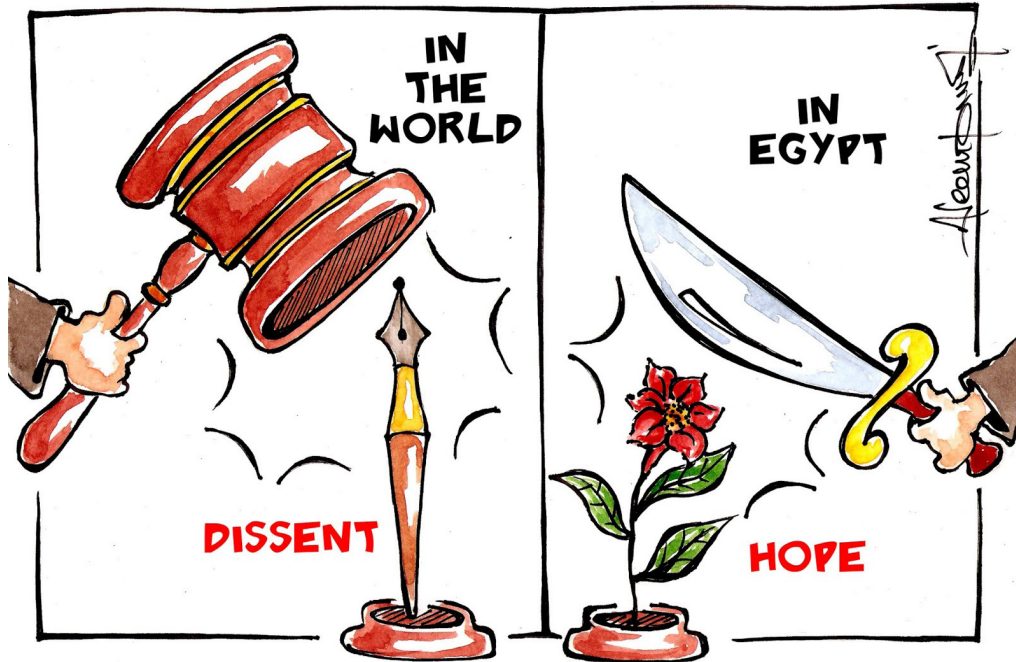
5. CENSORSHIP

#FreeShawkan



5. CENSORSHIP

#FreeShawkan



6. JAILED

#FreeShawkan



7. CEMETRY

#FreeShawkan



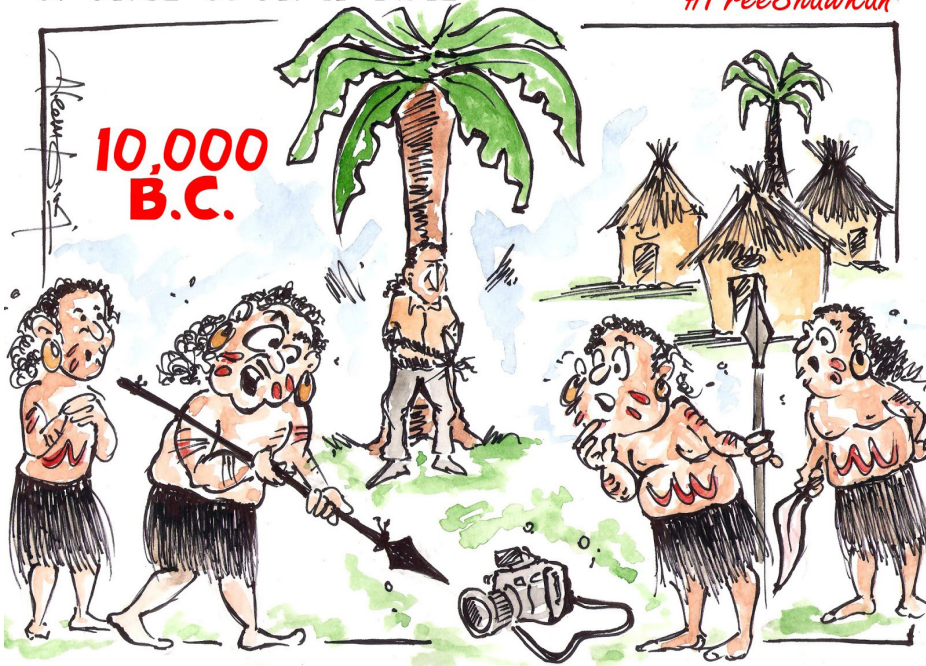
8. HAPPY BIRTH DAY

#FreeShawkan



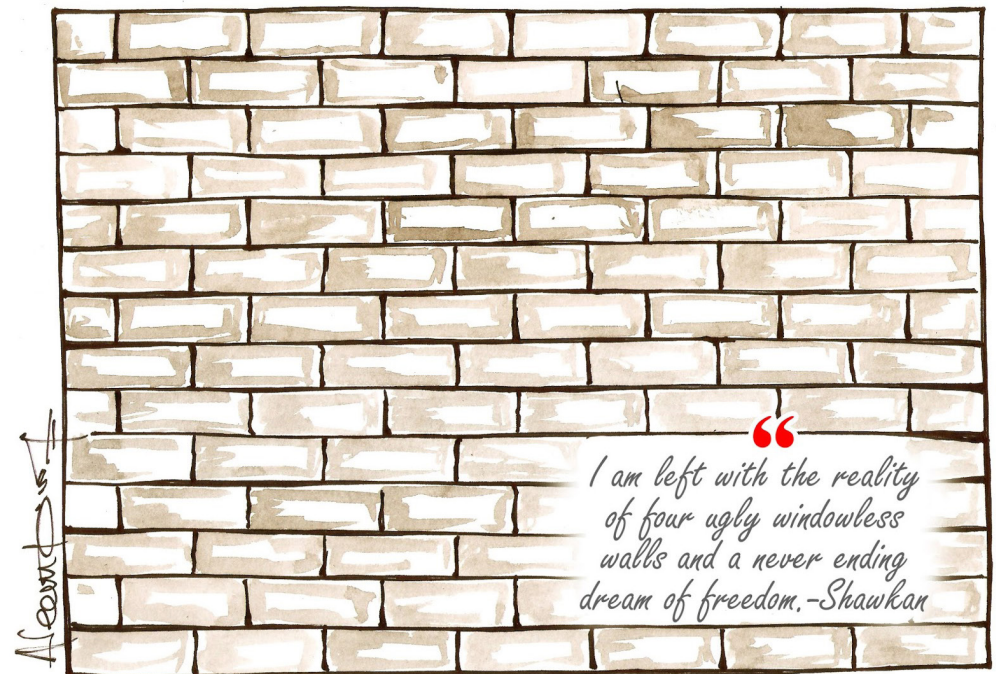
9. ONCE UPON A TIME

#FreeShawkan



10. THE WALLS

#FreeShawkan



CRW'S RESEARCH PRESENTED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CRW Team

We were invited by the Human Rights Consortium of the University of London, to present and discuss our research and CRW's work at the end of June in London UK.

The conference was themed: ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS: New challenges".

You can find the program and other information about the conference by following this link: <http://hrc.sas.ac.uk/events/hrrn-annual-conference>

For the last few months Dr. Zoi Aliozi and Mrs. Athanasia Zagorianou have been working on a human rights research topic as part of their engagement with CRW's goals and vision. Our intention is to contribute in academia and the world of education, since we believe that human rights education has an integral role to play in developing new tools and skills for human rights work.

CRW's research projects are aspiring to reach different audiences and toward this direction our research is becoming an academic paper titled: "THE ACTIVIST SCHOLAR AND COLLABORATION WITH NGOs AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS".

Please find attached the abstract of our research.

Thank you!



In solidarity,
CRW team



ACTIVIST SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS: NEW CHALLENGES

28 June 2017, Senate House, London.

Working title of research paper:

The Activist-Scholar and collaboration with NGOs and social movements

By Dr. Zoi Aliozi and Ms Athanasia Zagorianou. CITIZENS RIGHTS WATCH.

ABSTRACT

In the proposed paper, we intent to elaborate on the challenges faced by activist-scholars in our work within civil society. We will deal with these challenges through a holistic spectrum, in an attempt to tackle the main problematics that block the reach of our research's findings and the value of the knowledge produced through these methodological trends. Our focus will rest on digital activism, and scholarship produced specifically for online advocacy. In this new era, where the interconnectedness of internet allows for quick and direct communication, as well as dissemination of information and knowledge, we intent to assess the validity of this line of work, and highlight the dangers as well as elaborate on the critical arguments for and against such scholarship by the traditional academia. We will deal with the knowledge produced by human rights activists in grassroots movements and NGOs and will assess the reasons of why these findings are not fully acknowledged. We aspire into reflecting on these challenges for human rights education, including the relationship between knowledge production on human rights and eradication of human rights violations and the role of the scholar in bringing social change. Our work is based on the fact that scholars from every field have a duty to advocate for human rights, in the Chomskian philosophical sense, and the duty on intellectuals to contribute in positive social change.

Our paper intends to deal with questions deriving from these areas:

- Dangers and pitfalls of activist scholarship
- Methods for conducting activist research
- Ethical dilemmas
- Key contemporary issues & security in digital human rights advocacy

Keywords:

Law, Philosophy, human rights, human rights education, activism, digital scholarship, NGOs.



Dr. Aliozi (c) 2017



ROHINGYA: THE SILENCED WORD IN MYANMAR

Indre Anskaityte

Award-winning Lithuanian journalist with the focus on conflicts and human rights abuses in the Middle East, and developing countries. Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Management Studies.



Steve Gumaer

Rohingya: The Silenced Word in Myanmar

It is early morning in Sittwe, the capital of the Rakhine state in Myanmar. Everything looks like in an ordinary Burmese city: old and noisy vehicles, street food, Buddhist temples, and endless sunny sky. This is the image that the city would like to

show to its visitors and to the rest of the world. Nobody wants to talk about the sectarian violence that burst in 2012, leading to massive displacement of thousands of ethnic Rohingya people.

I was preparing to visit one of the IDP camps, where Rohingya people were moved after the

violence erupted. It was not easy to obtain an official permission to enter the camp but after a few days of waiting I could finally visit the camp, located at the edge of Sittwe. After passing two checkpoints, the gates to the camp opened to me and my interpreter and we entered the community. In that moment, I couldn't shake off the feeling that I was in a ghetto. All territory was fenced; all entrances were guarded. After driving for a few minutes, we stopped at one of the wooden houses, where Momo and Abbas met us. We quickly walked into the house because men were afraid the guards would notice them talking to foreign media.

Burned Freedom

"Before 2012 we lived in the village near by Sittwe. One day the Buddhist monks and police came to our village and burned our houses. We didn't have where to go, so we all gathered in the school yard. After 30 minutes police arrived and told us to move into the camp", - remembers Abbas.

Since that time Abbas, who was a law student back then, has lived in the IDP camp, built specifically for Rohingya people. Around 10 thousand people, living in this camp, do not have access to medicine, education, work or a simple food store. The World Food Programme supports Rohingya with rice every month; meanwhile, all other products have to be purchased through a black market.

Before the violence started in the Rakhine state, Momo's family lived a considerably wealthy life. The man lost his own property in fire but his mother succeeded to take some money from her house before the fire seized everything. Today, the family can survive from these savings. They can buy some food in a black market, and to bribe guards in emergency situations, usually when their children get seriously ill and need to see a doctor or get some medicine in Sittwe.

However, many families cannot afford to pay around 30 dollars for guards or to eat sufficiently. Constant illnesses and malnutrition are the main factors that can cause epidemic diseases, which would be disastrous for a heavy packed IDP camp, where some families live in sheds of a few square meters.

No Choice but Escape

During the time of my stay in Sittwe, the local army clashed with Rohingya fighters, who according to the media, started striking the border areas with Bangladesh, seeking to flee to a neighboring Muslim country.



Foreign media reported about cruel actions of the local army, including rapes of Rohingya women but the Rakhine state officials denied these accusations. Local Rakhine people told me that remaining Rohingya groups attack them, seeking to burn their villages and conquest their land. I wanted to visit Rohingya villages, where officials claim the attacks come from. However, when I tried to reach one of the villages, I was stopped by police and denied the entrance.

More than a million Rohingya face the government persecutions since 70's but the last few years are the most dramatic for the community. Around 150 thousand Rohingya are still in IDP camps in the Rakhine state. Thousands try to escape Myanmar for a better life in Bangladesh, but many of them end up in hands of human traffickers and are solved into work slavery.

Miscalculated Hopes

Understanding the development of the intractable conflict between Buddhist Rakhine people and Muslim Rohingya community is not an easy task. The discrimination of Rohingya people started in 1982, after the Constitutional changes were implemented. All residents of Myanmar (Burma) were asked to change their National Registration Cards to new Identity Cards. Even though Rohingya group was officially listed among other 130 ethnic groups of Myanmar before 1982, they received Temporary Registration Cards after the reform, denouncing their citizenship status.

After the political victory of Aung San Suu Kyi's National Democratic League in 2015 Parliamentary elections, many leaders of the Western World believed that the human rights situation in Myanmar would improve. However, Aung San Suu Kyi, who is the Nobel Peace Prize winner, has not visited the most problematic Rakhine state, and has not clearly addressed the Rohingya problem yet. The Western World miscalculated Aung San Suu Kyi's abilities to end human rights abuses in Myanmar. Due to the army's pressure she had to give up her democratic values, which were so praised by the Western World, and which helped her to win the elections.



Erasing Identity

The complicated conflict in the Rakhine state often can be understood as a conflict of different religions. Religious intolerance has been widely promoted by the Buddhist monks political organization "Ma Ba Tha", which has had an influence on Myanmar's politics and even on Aung San Suu Kyi, as she was criticised harshly of being "too friendly to Muslims". However, in the wake of violent attacks not only in the Rakhine state but also in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, the top Buddhist authority, the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, stated that no organization would be allowed to operate under the name "Ma Ba Tha" from this July. This was certainly a positive step in this conflict. It will allow Aung San Suu Kyi to take more serious and brave actions in the Rakhine state, even though she will still face a lot of pressure from the highest Burmese army officials.

"That showed me how clearly the government seeks to erase Rohingya name from Myanmar and obliterate their unique identity. No group can exist without being acknowledged fully."

During my stay in Myanmar, I was advised not to use Rohingya name while talking with locals and government officials, but rather to call them Muslims instead. That showed me how clearly the government seeks to erase Rohingya name from Myanmar and obliterate their unique identity. No group can exist without being acknowledged fully. If a peace agreement is signed one day, it would be necessary to include reassurance that the Rohingya name would not be forgotten and would be clearly inscribed in the papers.

EDITING TEAM AND AUTHORS

Athanasia Zagorianou

Dr Zoi Aliozi

Melissa Griffiths

Nnenda Chinda

Zelalem Shiferaw Woldemichael

Sarfaraz Ahmed Sangi

Dervla Potter

Rumana Hashem

Miguel Rodriguez Glaudemans

Alexandra Funk

Nadine Easby

Dev Tyagi

Aseem Trivedi

Indre Anskaityte

Design by Alex Holroyd (www.alexholroyd.co.uk)

Write an article on a human rights issue and email it to us at:
newsletter@citizensrw.org

CITIZENS RIGHTS PARTNERS

We support & collaborate with the following NGOs, and we are open to collaborations with any human rights organization.

In solidarity!

