**Besieged in Syria - life in utter misery**
A UN human rights analysis looks at the impact on civilians of sieges imposed by Syrian Government forces, pro-Government militias and armed opposition groups. An estimated 240,000 people are living under sieges in Syria.

**Ukraine**
UN Human Rights chief Pillay calls on all parties in Ukraine to exercise maximum restraint after 22 people were killed during violent clashes in Kiev between riot police and protesters.

**DPRK: Pillay calls for urgent action**
UN Human Rights chief Navi Pillay calls for urgent action on “historic” DPRK report: “Its findings suggest that crimes against humanity of an unimaginable scale continue to be committed.”

**Crimes against humanity / North Korea**
The UN Commission of Inquiry on the DPRK has documented in great detail a wide array of crimes against humanity that have been committed and continue to take place in the country, and called for a referral to the ICC.

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**Boy, 4, Found Wandering Desert in Jordan**

**Story by Alexander Marquardt at ABC News on 2/17/14**

In the middle of the vast, rocky desert, a little boy, separated from his family, looked to be wandering alone, carrying all his worldly possessions in a plastic bag half his height, United Nations officials said.

The stark, heart-breaking photo shows the boy, 4-year-old Marwan, being met by blue-vest United Nations aid workers. It was captured by Andrew Harper, the United Nations Refugee Agency’s coordinator in Jordan, who posted it on Twitter before it shot around the Internet on Monday. Though the photo makes it look like he was all alone, he had been separated from a larger group in what Harper called “the chaos of the mass refugee [crossing].”

Marwan had just crossed Syria’s southern desert border on Sunday into northern Jordan, joining the ranks of the almost 600,000 Syrian refugees registered with the U.N. who have fled to Jordan to escape the almost three-year war in Syria that has now left more than 140,000 dead. After the picture was taken, Marwan was reunited with his mother, Harper said.

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A photo tweeted on Feb 17, 2014, by UNHCR representative Andrew Harper with the caption, "UN staff found 4 year-old Marwan crossing desert alone after being separated from family fleeing Syria."

UNHCR/Twitter
EVENTS

Human Rights Program Hot Chocolate Social Hour
Dedicated to the memory of Nelson Mandela
When: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 @ 4:15-5:30 p.m.
Where: 70 Vernon Street

*These countless human beings, both inside and outside our country, had the nobility of spirit to stand in the path of tyranny and injustice, without seeking selfish gain.*

_Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Address (10 Dec. 1993)_

R.S.V.P by Friday, February 7, 2014
to teresita.romero@trincoll.edu

SAVE THE DATE!

"State Capacity and Human Rights: Examining the Tools of Repression."
by Professor Benjamin Carbonetti

When: Tuesday, April 15, 2014
Time: 4:30 pm

Details are forthcoming!

Amnesty International: Trinity College Chapter
Meetings held on Mondays at 8:30 pm in the Community Service Office

Stop the Raids
Meetings held on Thursdays at 8:00 pm in the Community Service Office

STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE: Changes are coming to the Human Rights Fellowships. We are in the process of working on this, and will let you know when it is up and running.
Ever wonder where to go for resources online? Wonder no more!! These outside resources are available offer insightful information that can help in your Human Rights undergraduate career!! Don’t be shy! Click and take a peek!

The University of Connecticut’s Human Rights Institutes provides the following resources for use:
1. Human Rights Data Sets: CIRI Human Rights Data; SERF Index; Comparative Welfare Entitlements Data Set/External Human Rights Data Set
2. Key Human Rights Documents, including access to the Minnesota Human Rights Library and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
3. UCONN Journal of Human Rights
4. The Romano Archives—Digital Photograph Collection and Lectures

To learn more, visit the UCONN Human Rights Institute

The University of Columbia provides a website on the “Dialogues on Historical Justice and Memory Research Network.” The Dialogues on Historical Justice and Memory Research Network provides a platform for researchers and activists working on issues of historical dialogue, historical and transitional justice, and public and social memory. The website provides information and resources to encourage innovative interdisciplinary, transnational and comparative research.

The University also houses the “Guantánamo Public Memory Project.” The Guantánamo Public Memory Project seeks to build public awareness of the long history of the US naval station at Guantánamo, Bay, Cuba, and foster dialogue on the future of this place and the policies it shapes.

To learn more, visit Columbia University

The University of Stamford offers podcasts and videos on human rights issues. Some of these include: “Human Rights Defenders on the Front Line: Voices from the Congo,” “How is Obama doing on Human Rights,” “Panel Discussion about Proposition 35 (the CASE Act) on Human Trafficking in California.”

To learn more, visit University of Stamford

Barnard University provides access to the Columbia University Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research, which houses “…archives of organizations and individuals who have played significant roles in human rights advocacy, education and research.”

To learn more, visit Barnard University

This is a small list of resources. There are many more out there, and you should seek them out to help in furthering your studies in Human Rights

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**FOR MAJORS**

**IMPORTANT INFO**

**Major Requirements**

The individually tailored, interdisciplinary major in human rights studies consists of three core courses, two specialized electives, five general electives, and a senior thesis or project. No more than two courses may be double-counted towards another major or minor. Students must earn a minimum of C- in any given course to receive credit for the major. Declaration forms and instructions are available from the Human Rights Program director.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Senior project or thesis (one or two credits)—Majors must complete a one-credit senior project or thesis (HRST 497) or, to qualify for honors, a two-credit thesis/project. To receive honors in the major, students must earn at least an A- on the thesis and an A- average for all courses counted toward the major.

Please visit: Human Rights Major Requirements

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**FOR MINORS**

**IMPORTANT INFO**

**Minor Requirements**

The human rights minor provides an interdisciplinary overview of the key questions and concerns shaping the study of human rights. Students explore the complexities underlying civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, both in theory and practice. Drawing on a variety of perspectives and cases from around the world, including the United States, courses equip students to think comparatively and critically about a wide range of human rights issues. The minor consists of five courses (one introductory course, two core courses, two electives), and an integrating exercise. Courses must be drawn from at least three different disciplines, and students must earn a minimum of C- in any given course to receive credit for the minor.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Academic internship (1 credit) — The integrating exercise consists of a human rights internship, including an academic component. For detailed instructions, please contact the Human Rights Program director.

Please visit: Human Rights Minor Requirements
We discovered that peace at any price is no peace at all. We discovered that life at any price has no value whatever; that life is nothing without the privileges, the prides, the rights, the joys which make it worth living, and also worth giving. And we also discovered that there is something more hideous, more atrocious than war or than death; and that is to live in fear. Nelson Mandela

Some Present Human Rights Issues

- **Children**: By 1990, international awareness of the commercial sexual exploitation and the sale of children had grown to such a level that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by resolution 1990/68, mandating the Special Rapporteur to investigate the exploitation of children around the world.
  
  **Universal Day of the Child**: November 20

- **Climate Change**: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2007) reports and other studies document how global warming will affect, and already is affecting, the basic elements of life for millions of people around the world. Effects include an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, droughts, increasing water shortages, and the spread of tropical and vector born diseases.
  
  **International Day of Climate Action**: October 24

- **Democracy**: Democracy is one of the universal core values and principles of the United Nations. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage are essential elements of democracy.
  
  **International Day of Democracy**: September 15

- **Disability**: Persons with disabilities are still often 'invisible' in society, either segregated or simply ignored as passive objects of charity. They are denied their rights to be included in the general school system, to be employed, to live independently in the community, to move freely, to vote, to participate in sport and cultural activities, to enjoy social protection, to live in an accessible built and technological environment, to access justice, to enjoy freedom to choose medical treatments and to enter freely into legal commitments such as buying and selling property.
  
  **International Day of People with Disability**: December 3

- **Globalization**: Globalization and continuing rapid technological advances offer unprecedented opportunities for social and economic development. At the same time, they continue to present serious challenges, including widespread financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition.

- **Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity**: Deeply-embedded homophobic and transphobic attitudes, often combined with a lack of adequate legal protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, expose many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of all ages and in all regions of the world to egregious violations of their human rights. They are discriminated against in the labour market, in schools and in hospitals, mistreated and disowned by their own families. They are singled out for physical attack – beaten, sexually assaulted, tortured and killed. And in some 76 countries, discriminatory laws criminalize private, consensual same-sex relationships – exposing individuals to the risk of arrest, prosecution, imprisonment — even, in at least five countries, the death penalty.
  
  **LGBT History Month**: October

- **Slavery**: The mandate on contemporary forms of slavery includes but is not limited to issues such as: debt bondage, serfdom, forced labour, child slavery, sexual slavery, forced or early marriages and the sale of wives. As a legally permitted labour system, traditional slavery has been abolished everywhere, but it has not been completely stamped out. There are still reports of slave markets. Even when abolished, slavery leaves traces. It can persist as a state of mind- among victims and their descendants and among the inheritors of those who practised it – long after it has formally ended.
  
  **International Day for Abolition of Slavery**: December 2

- **Water and Sanitation**: Having access to safe drinking water and sanitation is central to living a life in dignity and upholding human rights. Yet billions of people still do not enjoy these fundamental rights. The rights to water and sanitation require that these are available, accessible, safe, acceptable and affordable for all without discrimination. The rights to water and sanitation further require an explicit focus on the most disadvantaged and marginalized, as well as an emphasis on participation, empowerment, accountability and transparency.
  
  **World Water Day**: March 22

- **Women**: Strongly condemning all acts of violence against women and girls...called...for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State, and emphasized the duty of Governments to refrain from engaging in violence against women and to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women and to take appropriate and effective action concerning acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by armed groups or warring factions, and to provide access to just and effective remedies and specialized, including medical, assistance to victims.
  
  **International Women’s Day**: March 8