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## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2014



NEWSLETTER

[WWW.IJRCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.IJRCENTER.ORG)

We are pleased to share our news and updates with you, the International Justice Resource Center's supporters, partners, and online visitors. Read on for the details of IJRC's new resources and recent activity. As always, we invite you to [share your suggestions](#) with us.

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## NEW RESOURCES ON "SPECIAL PROCEDURES"

The Online Resource Hub now features new, expanded explanations of the United Nations Human Rights Council's thematic special procedures, independent experts appointed to monitor and report on specific human rights topics. These experts' mandates are not tied to any particular treaty and extend to all 193 United Nations Member States. Learn more about the special procedures and each of the **38 mandates** on the [Special Procedures](#) page.

[Learn More](#)



## WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING MATERIALS

Video recordings, a summary report, and other materials from *Protecting Women's Rights: International Law & Advocacy* are now available online. At the training, distinguished practitioners discussed landmark cases and campaigns and analyzed the human rights standards and mechanisms available to challenge violence and discrimination against women and to protect women's sexual and reproductive rights. **Videos** of each of the six sessions can be viewed or downloaded on IJRC's [Vimeo page](#). Visit the public [Dropbox folder](#) to access the [summary report](#), **background materials**, agenda, speaker bios, and other information. And, read our **recap** on [six key takeaways](#)



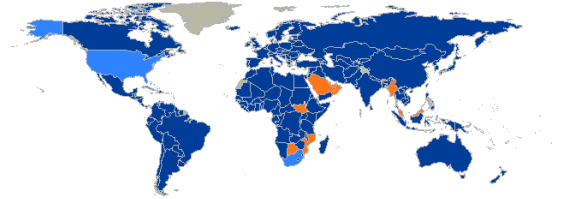
## NEW FELLOWS JOIN IJRC

IJRC has been pleased to welcome two young lawyers to the IJRC team this summer. Laura Shoaps (left) has rejoined IJRC after completing the California Bar Exam. Sarah Frost (right) joined IJRC in June after completing her LL.M. in international human rights law at the University of Notre Dame. As law fellows, Laura and Sarah are involved in several projects that are integral to IJRC's mission of informing, advising, and training human rights defenders worldwide.

[Meet the Team](#)

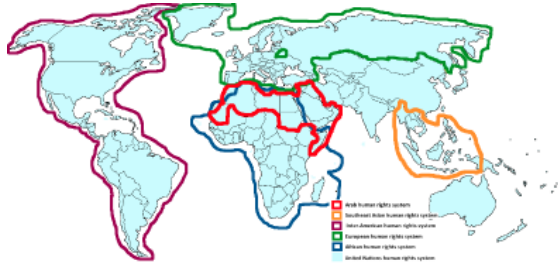
shared by the speakers.

[Watch the Videos](#)



## NEW THEMATIC RESEARCH GUIDES ON EDUCATION AND ESCR

New additions to the Online Resource Hub include two thematic research guides, on [Education](#) and on [Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#). These guides take a global look at the **international standards, jurisprudence, common violations, and enforcement mechanisms** relevant to the human right to education and to the cluster of human rights referred to as "economic, social and cultural rights." Visit the [Thematic Research Guides](#) page to see these and



## EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

Our pages on the European Court of Human Rights, European Committee of Social Rights, and Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights have all been **recently updated and revised** to provide more, timely information on these human rights mechanisms for readers. These mechanisms make up one of the three principal [regional human rights systems](#). Visit the [European Human Rights Bodies](#) page to learn more.

[Visit the Online Resource Hub](#)

other guides.

[Read the New Guides](#)



## REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS

The IJRC News Room has covered many of the significant recent developments at the regional human rights bodies, including landmark decisions, new reports, and new members.

In **Africa**, the African Union made headlines when it amended the African Court of Justice and Human Rights' Statute to [extend immunity](#) to high-level officials accused of **crimes against humanity** and other serious international



## DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

This summer, the United Nations human rights bodies have been engaged in various activities, including developing new standards and reviewing current State practices.

In July, the UN **Human Rights Council** took the first step toward a treaty on transnational corporations' human rights obligations by creating a working group to prepare a draft document.

The UN Human Rights Council also established a commission of inquiry to investigate violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law committed in the **occupied Palestinian territories**.

As **Navi Pillay** ended her time as UN

crimes. Meanwhile, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held a session in Angola, issued an important resolution **condemning violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons**, and three new judges were elected to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In the Americas, the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** released a new report on freedom of expression and the internet, welcomed Mexico's steps to transfer jurisdiction over some human rights abuses from the military to the civilian justice system while criticizing its treatment of migrants, published a new style of post-session report containing **detailed information on the status of petitions**, and held its first hearings outside of Washington, D.C. in seven years. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights held two sessions, during which it considered several pending cases and one advisory opinion request.

**In Europe**, the European Convention on Violence against Women entered into force in August. In recent months, the European Court of Human Rights

High Commissioner for Human Rights, advocates sought to learn more about her successor, [Prince Zeid](#), who assumes the office this month.

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted [general comments](#) on equal recognition before the law and accessibility, two components of **ending discrimination against people with disabilities**.

The [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) reviewed the United States, Peru, Iraq, Estonia, El Salvador, and Cameroon with regard to their policies and practices concerning **racial discrimination**.

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** reviewed Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom, India, Indonesia, and St. Lucia regarding their fulfillment of [children's human rights](#).

The Human Rights Council's [Advisory Committee](#) discussed the role of conflict, **corruption**, sport, local government, and other issues at its 13th Session.

published **important judgments** concerning [France's "burqa ban,"](#) Poland's role in the CIA's [extraordinary rendition of terrorism suspects](#), Finland's restriction on recognizing the [gender identity of trans individuals](#), and the procedural requirements of [plea bargains](#) in criminal proceedings. The tribunal also released **new factsheets** on its [landmark cases](#).

In **Southeast Asia**, the [ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights](#) again faced skepticism as it began to review its terms of reference.

Visit the News Room for timely updates on international law and human rights around the world.

[Visit the News Room](#)

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The [Human Rights Committee and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) also held sessions recently, in which they reviewed a number of States and made progress on **three general comments**.

The **international days** focused on [Refugees](#) and [Enforced Disappearances](#) drew attention to the plight of millions around the world and to recent efforts to advance accountability.

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## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW UPDATES

At the **International Criminal Court**, the Office of the Prosecutor issued a new [policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes](#).

The **Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia** (ECCC), also known as the "Khmer Rouge Tribunal," [convicted two former Khmer Rouge leaders](#) of crimes against humanity and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

[Read more on International Criminal Law](#)

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IJRC's ability to inform, advise, and train human rights defenders around the world depends on the generosity of individuals like you.

If you appreciate what we do, please consider donating today. **Thank you!**

**Support IJRC!**



**WE'VE MOVED!**

The International Justice Resource Center has new offices in downtown San Francisco. You can now find us at:

39 Drumm Street  
San Francisco, California 94111  
USA

**Contact IJRC**



What tools or resources would you like to see on the IJRC website?

Let us know by email.

Thanks!

