COALITION CALENDAR

April 30: Student Essay Competition
Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to explore the connections between human rights and science, engineering and the health professions. Students may write on any topic at the intersection of science and/or technology with human rights. The deadline is April 30.

June 2: Call for Nominations: Human Rights Innovators
As part of its tenth anniversary celebration, the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition will recognize outstanding examples of human rights projects that have effectively incorporated science and technology as integral to the achievement of their goals. The Selection Committee invites nominations that exemplify the Coalition's values: collaboration, evidence-based advocacy, innovation, and positive impact on human rights.

October 23-25: Science and Human Rights Conference
The Coalition's tenth anniversary conference will be held in Washington, DC, at AAAS Headquarters. Registration information will be available soon. **Please note that the only Coalition meeting in 2019 will be the conference in October.** This allows us to undertake a larger variety of activities with member organizations and to make the October meeting a more ambitious event.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

May 21: Webinar: Save the Children's Approach to Blending Science and Human Rights
Save the date to join the Coalition's Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations project team, led by Oliver Moles, for its second webinar of 2019. In this webinar, Christopher Ying, Senior Specialist, Senior Specialist, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) and Research at the non-profit Save the Children, will present on Save the Children's flagship youth employment program, Skills to Success, which has collaborated with economists, psychometricians, software engineers and statisticians on a number of research and digital innovation projects, such as the development of a mobile app to encourage young girls in Indonesia and Vietnam to practice their public speaking skills.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

June 1: Call for Papers: Human and Non-human Migration
The *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* invites contributions on human and non-human migration for its next issue. Submissions for this issue should be sent by June 1, 2019.

June 11-14: RightsCon 2019
RightsCon, an annual conference that brings together business leaders, policy makers, general counsels, government representatives, technologists, and human rights defenders to address pressing issues at the intersection of human rights and digital technology, will be held June 11–14, 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia.

July 1: Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program
The Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and Harvard Medical School Department of Global and Continuing Education accredit an exciting six-month certificate program in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery. The program begins with first two week in Italy and with six months online. Applications are due July 1.

Fellowship: Postdoctoral Research Associate - Medicines for All Institute Fellow (Virginia Commonwealth University)

The Medicines for All Institute (M4ALL) at Virginia Commonwealth University is seeking Fellows to support the development and management of current and planned programs at the intersection of chemistry, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the medicine value chain.

CALL FOR INPUT

May 17: Digital Technology, Social Protection and Human Rights

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, is preparing a thematic report to the UN General Assembly on the human rights impacts, especially on those living in poverty, of the introduction of digital technologies in the implementation of national social protection systems. The report will be presented to the General Assembly in New York in October 2019. Respondents should submit comments by May 17 and are requested to limit their comments to a maximum of 2,500 words.

May 31: Request for Information: Public Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade

The Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) is seeking expert and stakeholder insights on responsible minerals challenges and opportunities—tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold—in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa. The deadline for input is May 31.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Delinking the "Human" from Human Rights: Artificial Intelligence and Transhumanism

An op-ed in *OpenGlobal Rights* examines the "human" component in human rights in light of new technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI). The article explains that some scholars argue that it may be beneficial to expand human rights to incorporate the non-human machine, and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights could possibly extend to some sentient non-humans. While acknowledging the value in these views in shaping the debate around AI and human rights, the article raises some fundamental questions that lead to a view that instead of limiting a human-centered rights discourse to fit enhanced humans and sentient machines into the category of human, it may be appropriate to delink the "human" from human rights.

Amazon Shareholders to Vote on Proposal to Ban Sale of Facial Recognition Tech to Governments

Shareholders of the tech giant Amazon will vote in May on a proposal to ban the sale of their facial recognition technology, Rekognition, to governments. A group of industry and academic artificial intelligence researchers sent an open letter to Amazon last month, urging the company to stop selling its facial recognition technology to law enforcement due to the technology's higher error rates for identifying dark-skinned and female individuals. The company's board of directors opposes the proposal, stating that in the two years since Rekognition went to market, it has never received a complaint about the product violating rights or being sold to repressive governments. Shareholders will also vote on another proposal to have a third party study the privacy and human rights implications of Amazon's facial recognition technology.

Trump Administration Passes on Making UN Racism Committee Nomination

The Trump administration will not nominate anyone to serve on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. A US State Department official said the White House intervened to prevent the expected renomination of human rights lawyer, Gay McDougall, originally chosen by former President Barack Obama. The White House did not provide an explanation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Argentina: Bodies of 600 Disappeared Wait to Be Identified

A recent article in the *Washington Post* examines the work of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, an independent group of scientists who developed their expertise identifying victims of the 1976-1983 military junta and have since helped unravel human rights atrocities in more than 50 countries. Since 1984, the group has recovered the bodies of more than 1,400 disappeared people and identified 795 of them. Currently, the genetic profiles of approximately 600 remains that are unidentified do not match any of the samples in the team's database. The group has launched a campaign urging more relatives of the disappeared to provide blood samples to help identify the remaining bodies and allow them proper burials.

ECHR: Cancellation of Passports of Turkish Academics Raises Human Rights Concerns

Several human rights groups, including the Turkey Litigation Support Project, Amnesty International, ARTICLE 19, and PEN International, have submitted an intervention before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) concerning the cancellation of passports of three academics from Turkey. The groups maintain that in retaliation for signing a petition calling for peace in southeast Turkey known as the "Academics for Peace" petition, the three scholars were dismissed from their jobs, had their passports cancelled, and were banned from public service under Turkey's state of emergency legislation.

Science Article Highlights Role of Scientists in Assisting Displaced Haitian Farmers

A recent article in *Scienc*e describes a case from the AAAS On-call Scientists initiative, which provided hydrological and watershed expertise to Haitian farmers that were displaced by the construction of an industrial park. To understand the results of water-quality tests provided to the farmers, Accountability Counsel, a human rights organization advising the farm collective, reached out to AAAS. With the expertise provided, in December 2018, the collective and Haitian authorities reached an agreement that calls on the government and the development bank to provide access to new land and educational, employment, and business opportunities for the displaced farmers and their families.

Human Rights Group Calls for Release of Detained and Disappeared Uyghur Intellectuals

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) has identified that at least 386 Uyghur intellectuals have been detained and disappeared since early 2017, in what it asserts is a campaign of ethno-religious repression carried out by the Chinese government in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, home to the Uyghur people, an ethnic minority in China. The UHRP is calling for their immediate release in a new report, *Detained and Disappeared: Intellectuals Under Assault in the Uyghur Homeland*.

Digital Evidence Opens Doors to Human Rights Probes

A recent article describes how journalists, activists and academics have been developing the skills to conduct investigations based on open source digital data but which further examines how additional forensic training is required to use such information in legal and human rights probes. The article describes such training by the Digital Verification Corps of Amnesty International, which seeds investigation techniques worldwide through a network of volunteer students from human rights centers at six universities. It also highlights the work of other investigative organizations, such as Bellingcat, or academic centers, such as Berkeley's Human Rights Center.

Egypt: Attacks on Academic Freedom Require Global Response

Scholars at Risk (SAR) and the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression in Egypt (AFTE) have filed a joint submission with the United Nations' Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to highlight attacks and pressures on higher education in Egypt. Drawing on data collected by SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and AFTE between October 2014 and March 2019, the submission addresses legal pressures on the university space, as well as arrests, violence (including killings), restrictions on travel, and administrative and

disciplinary actions targeting members of higher education. SAR and AFTE are urging UN member states to call on Egyptian authorities to reaffirm their commitment to academic freedom by considering a set of recommendations. These include repealing laws limiting university autonomy; unconditionally releasing scholars and students imprisoned for non-violent free expression; conducting investigations into violent attacks on scholars; ending policies that restrict scholars' travel; and endorsing the Principles of State Responsibility to Protect Higher Education from Attack, which was developed by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, a group of international organizations including SAR, Human Rights Watch, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, among others.

Human Rights Approaches in Addressing Ecological Challenges Examined

A recent op-ed in *OpenGlobalRights* by David R. Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and Associate Professor, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia, asserts the importance of using human rights-based approaches in addressing climate change and resulting environmental pressures. The article highlights two promising rights-based approaches: (1) global recognition of the human right to a healthy and sustainable environment and (2) an extension of rights beyond humans to other species, ecosystems, and nature itself.

OSCE Conference Examines Use of Technology to Combat HumanTrafficking

Earlier this month, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a security-oriented intergovernmental organization, held the *OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference*, to examine how technology can be developed, harmonized and deployed to help combat all forms of human trafficking. The OSCE Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons is a global platform that lays the foundation for policy action on emerging issues and trends in trafficking to examine the challenges and opportunities across the OSCE region. The meeting highlighted contemporary approaches and promising practices to use technology to support victims and break the cycle of human trafficking.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

A Roadmap for Transformational Justice within the Energy System

A recent article in the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* asserts that activists, policy-makers, and scholars engaged in the work of climate and energy justice must adopt a framework focused on the greater social and economic inclusion of people of color and low-income communities in a renewable energy transition.

IEEE Releases Report on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)'s Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems, which was formed to provide stakeholders involved in the design and development of autonomous and intelligent systems with ethical considerations so that these technologies are advanced for the benefit of humanity, has launched *Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems, First Edition*, a crowd-sourced global treatise regarding the ethics of autonomous and intelligent systems. The report may be downloaded here.

Physicians for Human Rights Issues Report on Sudan's Attacks on Protesters, Physicians

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has issued a new report that has found that the government of Sudan used unnecessary and disproportionate force against its citizens, illegally attacked medical responders and facilities, and tortured detainees. The report is based on on-the-ground reporting in Sudan and uses open-source investigation methodologies for verification. PHR is calling on the government of Sudan to immediately cease attacks on medical personnel, release detainees being held without charge or trial for exercising their fundamental rights and ethical obligations, ensure basic protections for medical facilities, seek accountability for members of the government and security forces who have perpetrated these crimes, and

demand justice for the victims. Additionally, PHR calls on UN member states, regional bodies, and the international medical community to press the government of Sudan to stop the violent suppression of the dissent, to respect the ethical obligations of doctors and the sanctity of health facilities, and to hold the government of Sudan accountable for its human rights violations.

Report Examines Research Tools for the Human Right to Water

The Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy at the Northeastern University School of Law in Boston has issued *A Guide to Using Freedom of Information Laws to Understand Rising Water Rates* to examine what communities are doing to address water affordability. The report is based on research from 12 municipalities in Massachusetts and identifies key research elements, including municipal water-rate calculations, water-bill assistance policies, non-payment processes, relevant city ordinances, and consumer demographic data.

Study Documents Violence in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar

The *Lancet Planetary Health,* a scientific journal focused on policy action for planetary health, published the findings of a quantitative survey conducted by Physicians for Human Rights that documented the scale and scope of attacks against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar in August 2017, which led more than 720,000 people to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The survey interviewed 604 leaders from 590 Rohingya hamlets, covering roughly 91,000 households and 900,000 people in the northern Rakhine state. The survey showed that 88% of respondents reported incidents of violence, and 87% identified Myanmar military forces as the perpetrators in their communities.

PEOPLE

Jeff Toney Named Visiting Professor and Scholar at MIT

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Kean University and Sigma Xi representative to the Coalition, Jeff Toney was named a visiting professor and scholar in linguistics and philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the summer of 2019. In addition to giving several invited lectures and taking part in seminars, reading groups and colloquia, Toney will also be conducting research for the development of a book on the late philosopher, Thomas S. Kuhn.