

**A**fter 17 years of publication, the *Global Rights Report* has expanded and evolved, its main edition now becoming international, thanks to its publication in English. The Report focuses on human rights and on the fight against impunity, and is born from the collaboration with the Association Against Impunity and for Transitional Justice (AITJ), which promotes it.

Human rights and impunity are a central issue today, insofar as the crisis of multilateralism and the spread of nationalism and populism are causing the progressive erosion of democracy and its institutions, and the weakening of international law and its instruments, leading to dangerous imbalances at a global level.

As a result, and we witness this tragic fact every day, there has been a proliferation of war crimes, territorial and maritime aggressions, systematic violations of fundamental human rights, an increasingly generalised and unjustified repression of citizens and of entire communities, most often carried out amidst the powerlessness of supranational institutions.

We are also witnessing other crimes that violate and compromise different spheres of equally fundamental rights, which affect communities and not only individuals, such as environmental, economic and social rights. These are systemic crimes that nobody feels responsible for, but that are the consequence of precise political, economic and governmental choices.

The year 2020, marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, has been characterised by a significant erosion of rights and freedoms; the social and economic condition of millions of citizens in many parts of the world has worsened, highlighting how vulnerable the democratic system is.

The need to implement profound changes and to radically reverse the course is now more urgent and must be affirmed strongly, creating greater social awareness and public responsibility.

The Report on the State of Impunity in the World is a contribution in this vital direction for people and for the entire planet to achieve justice and build global rights.

*Preface by Pier Antonio Panzeri and Maria Arena*

*Introduction by Sergio Segio*

*Contributions by José Miguel Arrugaeta, Dimitris Avramopoulos, Anthony Bellanger, Gonzalo Berron, Emma Bonino, Brid Brennan, Susanna Camusso, Orsola Casagrande, Roberto Ciccarelli, Gabriella Citroni, Badran Çiya Kurd, Massimo Congiu, Brian Currin, Carla Del Ponte, Kamel Jendoubi, Barbara Lochbihler, Denis Mukwege, Abdelkarim Omar, Margaret Owen, Nicola Pedde, Susanna Ronconi, Enrique Santiago Romero, Alberto Zoratti*



€ 22,000



Report on global rights THE STATE OF IMPUNITY IN THE WORLD 2020 MILIEU



Report on global rights

# THE STATE OF IMPUNITY IN THE WORLD 2020

The virus against rights

*promoted by*

Association Against Impunity and for Transitional Justice

*edited by*

Associazione Società INformazione Onlus



MILIEU EDIZIONI

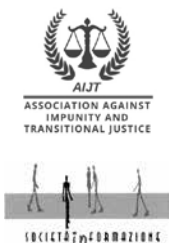




Report on global rights

THE STATE  
OF IMPUNITY  
IN THE WORLD  
2020

The virus against rights



*promoted by*

Association Against Impunity  
and for Transitional Justice

*edited by*

Associazione Società INformazione Onlus

**Association Against Impunity and for Transitional Justice (AITJ)**

Rue Ducale, 41 • Brussels BE - 1000 • Tel. +32 27810823

Website: <http://www.fightimpunity.net> • e-mail: [info@fightimpunity.net](mailto:info@fightimpunity.net)

**Associazione Società INformazione - ONLUS**

via Tognazzi 15 C • 20128 Milan - Italy • tel.+39 0236599270

e-mail: [societainformazione@dirittiglobali.it](mailto:societainformazione@dirittiglobali.it) • Websites: <https://www.dirittiglobali.it>

<https://www.globalrights.info> • e-mail: [info@dirittiglobali.it](mailto:info@dirittiglobali.it)

**Edited by**

*Sergio Segio*

**Contributions by**

*Maria Arena, José Miguel Arrugaeta, Dimitris Avramopoulos, Anthony Bellanger, Gonzalo Berron, Emma Bonino, Brid Brennan, Susanna Camusso, Orsola Casagrande, Roberto Ciccarelli, Gabriella Citroni, Badran Çiya Kurd, Massimo Congiu, Brian Currin, Carla Del Ponte, Kamel Jendoubi, Barbara Lochbihler, Denis Mukwege, Abdelkarim Omar, Margaret Owen, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Nicola Pedde, Susanna Ronconi, Enrique Santiago Romero, Sergio Segio, Alberto Zoratti*

**Collaborators**

*Massimo Franchi, Francesco Giorgi, Boris Guevara, Riccardo Moschetti, Tanja Nijmeijer, Yado Ozun*

**Translation**

Riccardo Antonucci, Emma Catherine Gainsforth, Sarah Gainsforth

**Cover picture**

The cover picture, by Boris Guevara, depicts: Mario Paciolla, *Santiago Maldonado, Ebru Timtik, Giulio Regeni, George Floyd, Zara Alvarez, Daphne Caruana, Anna Politkovskaia, Lyra McKee, Marielle Franco, Jamal Khashoggi, Cristina Bautista*, victims of crimes that are still unpunished.

**The Report, produced by the Associazione Società INformazione ONLUS, is promoted by the Association Against Impunity and for Transitional Justice (AITJ).**

© Copyright by Associazione Società INformazione 2020

Milieu edizioni, Milan, Italy

*Graphic design*

Antonella Lupi

*Layout*

Piergiorgio Caserini

Printed by: Geca – San Giuliano Milanese (Mi)

## List of Contents

PREFACE | *Pier Antonio Panzeri*

- **Stopping the Attack on Rights and Contrasting Impunity** 11

PREFACE | *Maria Arena*

- **Fighting the Economic Crimes of Unbridled Capitalism** 13

INTRODUCTION | *Sergio Segio*

- **Against the Law of the Strongest** 15

1. Global rights vs. impunity. 2. The social pyramid in the context of an unequal pandemic 3. Shortages in healthcare and social eugenics 4. Disaster capitalism and the case of Haiti 5. The pandemic shock prepares us for a dystopian future 6. The seeds of violence. Police and impunity 7. The movement to abolish prisons and the police force 8. Top-down racism 9. Superpowers to 'do good', the pandemic as an opportunity 10. Demographic genocide. Big brands and labour camps in China 11. Big Pharma, big profits 12. Technical tests for 'clean capitalism' 13. The debt bubble: a finance in favour of biodiversity 14. The pyramid of finance and the rights of peoples 15. The control of space and the colonisation of Mars 16. The world's midnight approaches amid attacks on multilateralism 17. Covid-19 and human rights 18. Covid-19 and wars 19. Humanitarian emergency and war crimes in Yemen 20. State crimes. The Soleimani and Khashoggi murders 21. Geopolitics, technology and human rights 22. Lawyers under attack: defending the defenders 23. The massacre of environmental and human rights defenders  
Reference list

## INTERNATIONAL | **The World After the Pandemic, a Future to Be Understood and Still to Be Written**

63

*Orsola Casagrande and José Miguel Arrugaeta*

1. State of emergency and 'qualified immunity' of the police 2. The open wounds of Latin America 2.1. The fight against impunity for today's crimes 2.2. Santiago Maldonado, first desaparecido after the end of the dictatorship 2.3. Chile: The Mapuche struggle between impunity and indifference 2.4. Brazil is in free fall towards dictatorship 2.5. Impunity in Mexico is far from being defeated 2.6. Ayotzinapa: breaking the veil of impunity 2.7. Colombia: death in times of peace 2.8. The pandemic and its economic consequences

in Latin America **3**. United Nations, human rights and the pandemic **3.1**. Coronavirus, surveillance and privacy **4**. The coronavirus has not brought an end to wars or to the sales of weapons **4.1**. More and more weapons are sold to war-ravaged Yemen **4.2**. The fury of the virus and the madness of war **4.3**. Erdoğan tramples on rights and dreams of a new Ottoman Empire **5**. Women's bodies, a new battleground in Turkey **5.1**. Violence against women and Covid-19 **6**. Coronavirus, press freedom, impunity **6.1**. The Khashoggi case: zero accountability, total impunity **7**. The denied rights of detainees and deaths in prisons **7.1**. Prisoners die also in Egyptian prisons **7.2**. Truth and justice for Giulio Regeni **8**. Turkish expansionism and the silence of the international community **9**. The never-ending exodus and Turkish blackmail to Europe **9.1**. The Libyan chessboard **9.2**. Africa: land of conquest and impunity **9.3**. The (new) conquest of the Sahel **9.4**. Open wounds from Mali to Rwanda **9.5**. Sudan is committed to working with the International Criminal Court **9.6**. The Gambia, the forgotten horrors of a dictatorship **10**. Donald Trump against the International Criminal Court **10.1**. Afghanistan, 2020, the war continues **10.2**. Myanmar and crimes against the Rohingya minority **10.3**. Palestine and Trump's 'Deal of the Century'. **10.4**. Trump's electoral budget **10.5**. The clash between the United States and China **11**. Keywords: Accountability; Black Lives Matter; Crimes against humanity; Genocide; Impunity; International Court of Justice; International Criminal Court; Permanent Peoples' Tribunal; Transitional Justice; War Crime  
Reference list

## **ENVIRONMENT | Going Back to the Past After the Pandemic**

117

*Alberto Zoratti*

**1**. A world in transition **2**. The relentless pace of climate change **3**. Climate and the right to health **4**. COP25: from Santiago to Madrid **5**. Madrid 2019: the COP of failure **6**. Climate and air quality **7**. Rethinking the energy system **8**. The development of alternative energies sources **9**. Closing the economic circle **10**. Agriculture and climate **11**. Reforestation and deforestation **12**. The Amazon rainforest: The lungs of the planet are on fire **13**. Ecocide and ethnocide in the Amazon **14**. A treaty that does not respect the environment **15**. Bolsonaro's war against the Amazon and indigenous communities **16**. Illegal slaughterhouses and interests in the Amazon **17**. The unpunished assassination of rights and land defenders **18**. The United Nations for the protection of rights and environment defenders **19**. Businesses and human rights: responsibility and impunity **20**. Keywords: Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights; Circular economy; Conference of the Parties; EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement; Extractivism; Food sovereignty; Free Trade Agreement; Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; Human Rights Defenders; Investment Court System; Investor-to-State Dispute Settlement; Landgrabbing; Paris Agreement; Sustainable development; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Watergrabbing  
Reference list

*Susanna Ronconi*

**1.** Covid-19 and rights **1.1.** Risks linked to the emergency. The case of Hungary **1.2.** From words to deeds, the lesson learnt from AIDS. The benefits of respect of human rights **2.** Health. A right that intersects all rights **2.1.** Does the right to health have feet of clay? **2.2.** The legal obligations of states **3.** Does the law serve health (and accountability)? **4.** Sustainable Development Goals 2030: little progress, and before Covid-19... **4.1.** The determinant of poverty **4.2.** Access to services and medicines. Universal un-coverage **5.** Big Pharma. A never ending story **5.1.** We mustn't forget. TRIPS, the case of AIDS in South Africa **5.2.** From Ebola to Covid-19, the missing vaccine **5.3.** Health is for everyone. Movements and NGOs for an accessible vaccine **5.4.** High prices. What really determines the cost of drugs? **5.5.** Brief and illuminating history of Sofosbuvir **5.6.** Patents, TRIPS and prices, Italy and South Africa lay their cards on the table **5.7.** They earn, states spend, citizens get no treatment **5.8.** About taxes (and coronavirus) **5.9.** Less research and 'ever-green patenting' **5.10.** Research in Europe. The lack of accountability **5.11.** What must be done to foster public health research **6.** The ultimate frontier, Big Data for Big Pharma **7.** Unequal rights. Covid-19 and women **7.1.** The pandemic and women's health **7.2.** Before Covid-19. Reproductive health and women's rights **7.3.** Contraception remains a difficult battleground **7.4.** Europe's contraception deficit **7.5.** Contraception and young people, an ideological battleground **7.6.** Fundamentalist movements in Europe and women's bodies **7.7.** Forced sterilisation and mutilation **7.8.** Millions of violated bodies. Female genital mutilation **7.9.** Female genital mutilation. What States are supposed to do **7.10.** Violence against women. A pandemic within a pandemic **7.11.** Public accountability and good practices against violence during lockdowns **7.12.** Gender violence before the pandemic. Lack of data and impunity **7.13.** The Istanbul Convention and its enemies **7.14.** From Istanbul to Strasbourg. The European Court and the *Talpis v. Italy* case **7.15.** Sexual violence as a war crime. Transitional justice and impunity **7.16.** From Congo to Iraq, a search for justice **8.** Keywords: AROPE (At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion); Big Pharma; Ever-green patenting; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); Gender Gap; Gender violence; Health; Health determinants; Health inequalities; Intrinsic therapeutic value; Public Private Partnerships; Reproductive health; Social responsibility for health; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); Universal Health Coverage

Reference list

*Roberto Ciccarelli*

**1.** 'The Great Lockdown': the stroke of the global economy **2.** The impact on healthcare systems **3.** The impact on racial and ethnic injustices **4.** The impact on workers **5.** The spread of the virus in workplaces **6.** Best practices: mutual aid networks **7.** Gig workers **8.** The protection of Uber and Lyft

workers **9**. Protection against unemployment, precariousness, poverty **10**. The impact on financial markets **11**. Monetary policies **12**. Fiscal policies **13**. The letters of the recession: V, U, W, L **14**. The crisis of the World Health Organisation **15**. The impact on the environment **16**. The impact on the air transport industry **17**. The impact on tourism **18**. The Airbnb case **19**. The impact on the automotive industry **20**. The impact on large-scale distribution **21**. The impact on agriculture **22**. Impunity in Latin America **23**. The impact on e-commerce and digital services **24**. The case of Amazon **25**. Video conferencing, surveillance, advertising **26**. The winners of the crisis (so far) **27**. Systemic crime and justice strategies **28**. Disaster capitalism **29**. Keywords: Disaster capitalism; Economic crimes; Fiscal policies; Lockdown; Recession; Recovery; Shock doctrine; Systemic crimes  
Reference list

- The Global Fight Against Enforced Disappearances and the Contribution of the UN Committee Against Enforced Disappearance** 251

*Barbara Lochbihler*

**1**. Forced disappearances in Mexico **2**. Forced disappearances in Iraq **3**. Kidnappings of children in East Timor **4**. Disappeared migrants **5**. The Committee against Enforced Disappearance **6**. Challenges ahead - limitations of the Committee's work **7**. Conclusion  
Reference list

251
- The Broken Promise: Putting an End to Enforced Disappearance** 258

*Gabriella Citroni*

**1**. Enforced disappearance of migrants **2**. International law **3**. Enforced disappearance and gender violence **4**. UN Resolutions **5**. Rulings on enforced disappearance **6**. The Statute of the International Criminal Court and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights **7**. The Convention **8**. The international community's failure to respond **9**. The right to truth and justice of family members  
Reference list

258
- The Eradication of Impunity and Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War and Terror** 266

*Denis Mukwege*

266
- The International Tribunal of Daesh Members and the World's Strategic Challenges** 271

*Badran Çiya Kurd e Abdelkarim Omar*

271
- Peace Processes and Transitional Justice, the Potential for a Shared Future** 274

*Brian Currin*

274





- **To Make International Justice Work What Is Needed Is Political Will** 279  
*Carla Del Ponte*
- **Colombia's Peace Deal and Its Difficult Implementation** 284  
*Enrique Santiago Romero*  
 1. Structural impunity and state crimes in Colombia 2. The unilateral changes introduced by the State 3. The problem of autonomy from civil jurisdiction 4. The conditions which make amnesty imperfect 5. The right to political participation 6. Observations of the International Criminal Court
- **Journalism: A Risky Profession, Bastion of Democracy and Freedom** 291  
*Anthony Bellanger*  
 1. The Charter of Ethics for Journalists 2. Copyright and European rules 3. The price for freedom of the press is very high 4. Journalists die also in Europe 5. A first victory in the battle against impunity in the Philippines 6. The Federation of Journalists' commitment against impunity 7. Covid-19 and information
- **The Challenges for Europe in Times of Covid-19 and Migration** 297  
*Dimitris Avramopoulos*
- **The Importance of the Battle Against Impunity and Respect for Human Rights** 302  
*Emma Bonino*
- **Iran: With the Crisis of Rohani's Neo-Pragmatism, Conservatives Have Increased Their Power** 306  
*Nicola Pedde*  
 1. Conservatives return to power 2. The role of the Assembly of Experts 3. The position of the Supreme Leader and the revival of an anti-Zionist narrative
- **A Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights to End the Impunity of Transnational Corporations** 314  
*Brid Brennan and Gonzalo Berrón*
- **Towards a Europe Able to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change and Social Justice** 324  
*Susanna Camusso*
- **The Authoritarian Shift in the Countries of the Visegrád Group** 328  
*Massimo Congiu*  
 1. The course of the V4 Group 2. Orbán: Homeland, Church and Family 3. European funds and the reception of migrants 4. The case of Ján Kuciak 5. Respect for the rule of law 6. The Sargentini Report 7. A divided electorate and society



- **Women's Body: The New Battlefield** 335  
*Margaret Owen*

- **Yemen, A Devastated Country Where Impunity Has Become Endemic** 339  
*Kamel Jendoubi*

**INFOGRAPHIC** 348

- Patrick Zaki and many other arbitrarily arrested people in Egypt
- Truth for Giulio Regeni
- Democracy à la Turca: The constant repression of the elected HDP deputies and local administrators
- Rojava. Women's bodies, new battlefield for Turkey and ISIS
- Journalists in prison in Turkey
- Nadia and Lamiya, survivors of the Yazidi genocide
- Human rights activists killed in Iraq
- Freedom for Loujain and all Saudi activists in prison
- Raif Badawi and other activists in prison in Saudi Arabia
- Gaza strip, the world's biggest jail
- Repression of Palestinian children and the case of Mahmoud Nawajaa
- Human rights in Iran
- Disappeared Baluchi and rights violations in Pakistan
- Saharawi, the forgotten people
- Rohingya, the forgotten crisis
- Zara Alvarez and the other activists killed in the Philippines
- Writers in Chinese prisons
- Protests in Hong Kong
- Defending freedom of expression in Russia
- Democracy and human rights in Belarus
- Justice for Santiago Maldonado
- Mapuche: the struggle to exist
- The repression of Mapuche political prisoners
- Human rights defenders and former guerrillas killed in Colombia
- Justice for Mario Paciolla
- Cristina Bautista. Defending the indigenous population
- Justice for Marielle Franco
- Bolsonaro. The story of a president accused of genocide
- Multinationals and deforestation
- Steven Donziger: defending the defenders
- The persecution of Julian Assange
- Violence against women
- Social health determinants
- Access to healthcare and universal health coverage
- Women's reproductive health
- Child marriage
- Human rights defenders killed
- Council of Europe: Attacks to freedom of Information and impunity

- Violations of workers' rights

Infographics reference list

**The sponsoring organizations**  
**The authors**

399

405

