

Human Rights Crises during COVID-19 <i>Planned Weekly Topics (subject to change, a little or a lot!)</i>		
Date:	Topic	Possible speakers, subject to change
Week 1 May 18 - 24	Introductions, Foundations, Definitions Addressing the questions: What is a crisis? A global crisis? A complex crisis? A disaster? A natural disaster? Does a crisis automatically include or lead to human right abuses?	
Week 2 May 25 - 31	Crises and Responses We look at various types of global crises and the intersection with human rights abuses, and global efforts to alleviate, or not. How does the international community address massive human right abuses in areas of crisis due to conflict, rising authoritarianism, or natural disaster?	Rawya Rageh is a Senior Crisis Adviser at Amnesty International, who documents and investigates war crimes and human rights abuses in situations of emergencies. Previously, she worked as a journalist with the Associated Press and Al Jazeera English, covering the Middle East and Africa.
Week 3 June 1 - 7	Pandemic as Crisis Is a pandemic a “natural disaster”? How does existing conflict or humanitarian crisis impact the reaction to the pandemic? What is the role of the global humanitarian community? Governments? UN organizations?	Anjali Bhardwaj, is an Indian social activist working on issues of transparency and accountability. She has spoken extensively on vulnerable populations with the pandemic. She is a co-convenor of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI).
Week 4 June 8 - 14	Reactions and Risks How various nation-states have responded to the pandemic crisis. Why does it vary so much? What policies seem to protect human rights and which do not? What would a rights-respecting response look like?	Nina Lakhani, author of <i>Who Killed Berta Caceres? Dams, Death Squads, and an Indigenous Defender's Battle for the Planet</i>. Now based in NYC, reporting for the <i>Guardian</i> , she worked in Mexico and Central America for several years.
Week 5 June 15 - 21	Vulnerable populations These groups are often seen as more susceptible to human rights abuse: women and girls; children; refugees; internally displaced persons; stateless persons; national minorities; indigenous peoples; migrant workers; disabled persons; elderly persons; HIV positive persons and AIDS victims; Roma/Gypsies; and lesbian, gay and transgender people. Do these peoples suffer more in this pandemic than others? More under an authoritarian government?	Sherizaan Minwalla, is a human rights attorney based in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. She is an expert in gender-based violence and protection; access to justice for survivors of gender-violence and human trafficking; and the intersection between gender persecution and immigration, asylum, and refugee law.

<p>Week 6 June 22 – 28</p>	<p>Media Control & Disinformation Freedom of expression also has been a casualty of the pandemic. Disinformation is false information <i>with the intent</i> to deceive the public. Some governments have used censorship, arrests and new, repressive laws to control public narratives about the crisis, avoid transparency and curtail opposition movements. Often used for political gain, media control also often increases in time of crisis. How might control and disinformation now interfere with not just the safety and security of various populations but their human rights?</p>	<p>Dave Cuillier, professor at University of Arizona School of Journalism, Expert on freedom of information; author of the <i>Art of Access, Strategies for Acquiring Public Records</i>.</p>
<p>Week 7 June 29 – July 3</p>	<p>Addressing Disinformation In February 2020, the WHO raised concerns about an “infodemic” caused by a flood of false and misleading information about COVID-19. What has the global response been to misinformation and purposeful disinformation?</p>	<p>Saoussen Ben Cheikh, is based in London and works at Internews a non-profit organization working to empower local media around the world. Works on projects in Tunisia and Yemen. Formerly with Médecins Sans Frontières.</p>