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Henning Melber: Deutsche Kolonialgeschichte als Gegenwart: Land und Entwicklung in Namibia

30 years after Independence, land distribution in Namibia is still marred by inequality and disparities in terms of ownership. The demands for restitution to indigenous communities remains largely unfulfilled. Land continues to be in ownership of few privileged, now including members of the new elite. This article presents an overview on the efforts so far to address the land issue as a leftover of the also German colonial era. The agenda of the bilateral negotiations with the Namibian government should therefore include a significant contribution to the redistribution of land.

Hannah Birkenkötter: Zum Verhältnis der Agenda 2030 für Nachhaltige Entwicklung und der internationalen Menschenrechte

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the United Nations' most important development agenda for the decade to come. Its mission to „Leave No One Behind“ resonates well with international agreements, in particular with international human rights norms. While the Millennium Development Goals were criticized for ignoring human rights standards, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were negotiated to be more closely aligned with international human rights. This contribution argues that this was achieved in part, but that implementation is lacking not least due to institutional congestion and a lack of connection between human rights monitoring and SDG monitoring. While there is substantive overlap between the SDGs and international human rights, institutional parallelism makes it difficult to use these overlaps meaningfully.

Jan Tobias Polak, Markus Kaltenborn, Annika Engelbert, Lea Smidt, Lena Taube, Martin Bruder: Menschenrechte in der Praxis der deutschen Entwicklungspolitik: Empirische Befunde und theoretische Einordnung

In bilateral development cooperation so-called human rights-based approaches (HRBA) were increasingly implemented since the 1990s as a means to systematically and comprehensively include human rights. This paper presents the results of an evaluation of the German HRBA. The evaluation comes to the conclusion that elements of the HRBA, which aim at supporting the human rights situation in partner countries, are only partially implemented in practice. After presenting results, the paper discusses possible further developments of the German HRBA by presenting recommendations from the evaluation as well as current human rights-related discourses.

Judith Schönsteiner: The Chilean Economic Constitution and Human Rights

This contribution gives an overview of Chile's economic constitution and its impact on social rights, within the context of Chile entering the process that will possibly lead to replacing the country's 1980 Constitution which lacks legitimacy due to its dictatorship origins and its incapacity to address structural inequality. The article argues that it is uncertain whether the Constitutional Convention will manage to overcome elite predominance and 'path dependency' in relation to Chile's economic system and reticence to providing strong social rights protection.

Sandra Cossart and Mathilde Silvestre: Four Years Later – the Impact and Potential of the French Law on the Duty of Vigilance

This article aims to provide an initial assessment of the first four years of application of the 2017 French Law on the Duty of Vigilance of parent and instructing companies, focusing on both the text of the law and its concrete implementation. Such an assessment should allow for an understanding of the extent to which the French legislation can serve as a model for other legislative attempts to improve access to justice and companies' accountability for their activities worldwide and their potential adverse human rights and environmental impacts.

Res Schuerch und Serge Biggoer: Neue menschenrechtliche Pflichten für Schweizer Unternehmen trotz Ablehnung der Konzernverantwortungsinitiative

On 29 November 2020, Switzerland voted on the popular initiative „For responsible businesses – protecting human rights and the environment”, also known as the „Responsible Business Initiative”. Despite the fact that a narrow majority of the people voted in favour of the initiative, it did not achieve the necessary majorities in the Swiss cantons. Unless a referendum is cast against it, a legislation amendment adopted by parliament will soon enter into force, obliging companies to carry out non-financial reporting and due diligence in the areas of conflict minerals and child labour.

Laura Duarte Reyes und Christian Schliemann-Radbruch: Transgenes Saatgut und Glyphosat in Lateinamerika: Wie weit reicht Bayers Verantwortung?

The significant increase in the exploitation of agricultural land and the cultivation of genetically modified crops (GM) in Latin America has been driven by the interests of big agribusiness corporations. This agrarian extractivist model has led to a high concentration of the market in the hands of a few large-scale economic actors that are currently determining the future of agricultural development in the region, at the expense of human rights and the environment. A driving force behind the large-scale cultivation of GM soy is the German based company Bayer, in particular after its merger with Monsanto in 2018. This article explores Bayer's human rights and environmental due diligence obligations and offers an analysis of Bayer's contribution to the violation of the rights to food and a healthy environment through the manufacture and distribution of GM soybeans and pesticides in Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay. As potential ways forward, the authors highlight, firstly, the obligation of both home and host States to regulate business activities to ensure agribusiness corporations live up to their human rights obligations. And secondly, the need for a transformation of Bayer's business model into one that ensures that present and future generations can enjoy the benefits of a healthy environment and have access to adequate food.

Borbála Juhász and Andrea Pető: „Kulturkampf“ in Hungary about reproductive rights: actors and agenda

This article is part of a larger study that discusses actors and the different NGOs dealing with reproductive rights in Hungary based on statistical data about the financial background of the organisations, interviews with actors and analysis of the legal background together with discourse analysis. The paper claims that the topic of reproductive rights is so diverse that it is almost impossible to find one actor that represents a coherent position, as would be theoretically expected in relation to such different fields. Based on analysing the collaboration between the different actors it further claims that heterogeneity also proves that traditional ideas about “left” and “right” and “progressive” and “conservative” need to be rethought.

Christina Meinecke und Adrian Haßler: Der Universal Human Rights Index als Wegweiser für die SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out to realise the human rights of all. In turn, the international human rights monitoring system offers a wealth of observations and action-oriented recommendations that can inform the development and implementation of sustainable development policies to “leave no one behind”. With the UHRI, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) offers a powerful tool to facilitate access to relevant reports issued by the human rights mechanisms through the lens of the SDGs.

Lucia Stehling und Sarah Glaab: Die Menschenrechtssituation von Menschen mit Behinderung in Zeiten der Corona-Pandemie – zwei Erfahrungsberichte

The following article examines the situation of persons with disabilities under the conditions of the corona pandemic. Two case studies, which portray personal experiences of persons with disabilities in the first half of 2020, will serve as a central reference point for the empirical analysis. Thereby its valuation focuses on the assessment of the human rights situation. In this respect, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the ideal of their full inclusion and participation in the community form the frame of reference for this article.