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Onderwerp: War's Crimes, Horrors, and Uncertainties

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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

July 10, 2014

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A Day in Luhansk: War's Crimes, Horrors & Uncertainties



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The ugliness of war makes getting at the truth no easy matter. In the fighting in eastern Ukraine, the pro-Ukraine media is blaming all abuses on anti-Kiev insurgents and pro-Russia media is demonizing Ukrainian government forces. The intense information war, with the media and social networks spewing all sorts of horrific myths and falsehoods, has buried rather than clarified the truth in a calculated attempt to prove that this side is righteous and that side is evil.

So, if you want to find out what really happened, you need to be there, speak in detail to witnesses, carefully document casualties and destruction, examine shell entry points and fragments. When we read news reports about alleged civilian casualties from the July 2 aerial strikes in the Luhansk region of southeastern Ukraine, about 15 kilometers away from the Russian border, we hit the road straight away.

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[In the DR Congo, Army and UN Failed to Stop Massacre](#)

The Congolese army and UN peacekeepers left civilians in Mutarule to be slaughtered even though they got desperate calls for help when the attack began. Both the army and the peacekeepers need to determine what went wrong and make sure such atrocities don't happen again on their watch.

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[Palestine/Israel: Indiscriminate Palestinian Rocket Attacks](#)

Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel appear to be indiscriminate or targeted at civilian population centers, which are war crimes, while Israeli attacks targeting homes may amount to prohibited collective punishment.

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[US Should Explain Surveillance on Civil Liberties Group](#)

The US government should thoroughly explain why it placed five American Muslim leaders, including the head of a prominent Muslim civil liberties group, under electronic surveillance.

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TWEET of the WEEK



Routine activities as lawyer or jorno in #Kazakhstan shldn't come @ the cost of one's liberty, @hrw's @MihraRittmann: <http://ow.ly/z0OLH>
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