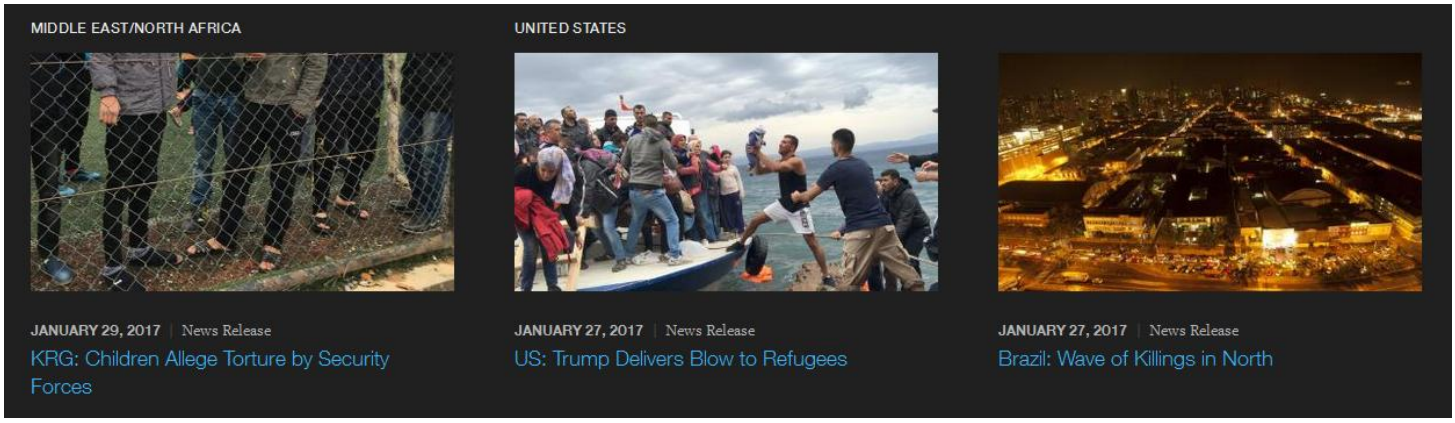
Spotlight on Human Rights - February 2017

Human Rights Watch (https://www.hrw.org)

Human Rights Watch(HRW) was formally created in 1988. Predecessor "Watch" groups, addressing abuses in Soviet Bloc countries, Central America and elsewhere, date back to 1975. Today, with a staff of 400, HRW has 21 offices in the U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, Australia and the Middle East. HRW conducts regular, systematic investigations of human rights abuses around the world. At any given time they are actively researching, reporting, and advocating for change in more than 90 countries. Among its key missions is to inform United Nations officials and member states about human rights issues and to influence related UN policies. HRW is one of the strongest and most reliable advocates for a very broad range of human rights. Their research and insights in at least 14 major topic areas is relied upon globally by human rights activists and government officials concerned with justice. Each year they publish a World Report assessing human rights progress around the globe, including the United States. The 2017 report's theme is "Demagogues Threaten Human Rights"https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/01/12/world-report-2017-demagogues-threaten-human-rights. Anyone interested can receive a weekly newsletter and other information from Human Rights Watch via their website.

Human Rights Watch has won the 2008 **United Nations Prize for Human Rights**, in recognition of the vital role played by the human rights movement in trying to end abuses.