

OMCT-Europe Weekly Newsletter 2009-03

19-30.01.09

REGIONS:

AFRICA

- Comments by EU HR Javier SOLANA on the recent developments in the **East of RDC**:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/declarations/105526.pdf

- Council conclusions on **Zimbabwe**:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/105539.pdf
Conclusions du Conseil sur le Zimbabwe :
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/gena/105540.pdf

- EU tightens sanctions on **Zimbabwe** - 27.01.2009 - 09:15

EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Monday toughened up sanctions against President Robert Mugabe's regime in Zimbabwe, for the first time including EU-based companies that have dealings with the Harare government.
<http://euobserver.com/9/27479/?rk=1>

- Declaration on the adoption of the Charities and Societies Proclamation by the House of Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of **Ethiopia**:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/105541.pdf
Déclaration sur l'adoption de la loi sur les sociétés et associations caritatives par la chambre des représentants du peuple de la République démocratique fédérale d'Éthiopie :
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/105542.pdf

- Start of the Thomas Lubanga trial at the **ICC** in January 2009:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/105628.pdf

- Declaration on the **Africa Peer Review Mechanism** on the occasion of the meeting of the APR Forum (Heads of State and Government) in Addis Ababa on 28-29 January 2009:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/105578.pdf
Déclaration sur le Mécanisme africain d'évaluation par les pairs à l'occasion de la réunion de son forum à Addis-Abeba les 28 et 29 janvier 2009 :
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/105579.pdf

AMERICAS

- EU welcomes Obama's **Guantanamo** move - 21.01.2009 - 09:38

US President Barack Obama has requested the suspension of all military tribunals at Guantanamo Bay - a first step to closing the camp - within hours of being sworn in as the country's leader, with European countries expected to take in detainees.
<http://euobserver.com/9/27447/?rk=1>

- France keen for EU mission to **Guantanamo** - 26.01.2009 - 09:23

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France is pushing for an EU fact-finding mission to Guantanamo Bay and for the bloc to take in 60 of the inmates. EU foreign ministers were to discuss the issue on Monday.

<http://euobserver.com/9/27470/?rk=1>

- Referendum in **Bolivia**:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/105643.pdf

Référendum en Bolivie :

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/105645.pdf

ASIA

EUROPE (including EU)

- Pressure mounts for **EU** to take Guantanamo prisoners - 20.01.2009 - 09:24

European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pottering has become the latest high-ranking politician to call on EU states to take in prisoners from the US military base in Guantanamo, Cuba, once it is closed. EU states remain divided on the issue, however.

<http://euobserver.com/9/27438/?rk=1>

- Council of Europe anti-torture Committee publishes report on **Kosovo** :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/srb/2009-01-20-eng.htm>

Le Comité anti-torture du Conseil de l'Europe publie un rapport sur le Kosovo :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/srb/2009-01-20-fra.htm>

- Council of Europe anti-torture Committee publishes report on **Finland** :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/fin/2009-01-20-eng.htm>

Le Comité anti-torture du Conseil de l'Europe publie un rapport sur la Finlande :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/fin/2009-01-20-fra.htm>

- Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee publishes report on **Albania** :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/alb/2009-01-21-eng.htm>

Le Comité anti-torture du Conseil de l'Europe publie un rapport sur l'Albanie :

<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/alb/2009-01-21-fra.htm>

RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

- Murder highlights EU fears on **Russia** lawlessness - 21.01.2009 - 06:53

The Czech EU presidency on Tuesday voiced "deep concern" over the murder of a Russian human rights lawyer, amid EU fears that Russian local authorities are contributing to instability in North Caucasus.

<http://euobserver.com/9/27445/?rk=1>

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MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

- Summary of remarks to the press by EU HR Javier SOLANA, on the **Gaza** crisis:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/discours/105460.pdf

- Member states divided over condemning **Israeli attacks** on UN - 22.01.2009 - 09:23

EU member states are divided over whether to condemn Israel for its bombing of UN schools and other buildings during its 23-day war on Gaza.

<http://euobserver.com/9/27454/?rk=1>

- EU calls for **Palestinian** unity government - 26.01.2009 - 09:28

The European Union late on Sunday called for the divided Palestinian leadership to unite to support the opening of border crossings to allow humanitarian aid and other goods into the Gaza Strip.

<http://euobserver.com/9/27474/?rk=1>

-Council conclusions on the **Middle East** Peace Process:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/105545.pdf

Conclusions du Conseil sur le processus de paix au Proche-Orient :

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/gena/105546.pdf

- Change in tone on **Gaza** by EU aid chief - 27.01.2009 - 09:27

The European Union's humanitarian aid commissioner in a visit to Gaza attacked the occupied territory's leaders as "a terrorist movement" and denounced the Israeli invasion as "abominable".

<http://euobserver.com/9/27481/?rk=1>

- Execution of juvenile Molla Gol Hassan and mass execution in **Iran**:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/105550.pdf

Exécution du jeune Molla Gol Hassan et les exécutions de masse en Iran :

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/105551.pdf

- EU ministers drop **Iran group** from terror list - 26.01.2009 - 10:28

Iranian opposition group PMOI has won a seven-year battle to get off the EU's terrorism blacklist, in developments that could damage Europe's efforts to talk Tehran out of building a nuclear bomb.

<http://euobserver.com/9/27472/?rk=1>

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THEMATIC :

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS

- Publication of the Council of Europe: **International justice for children** (19/01/2009)
Children's rights have gained greater global visibility through the almost universal ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Treaty bodies for other international and regional instruments, which cover the rights of "everyone", including children, are giving increasing attention to children's rights. In the same vein, human rights mechanisms, including regional ones such as the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee of Social Rights and the Inter-American Commission and Court, have become more sensitive to children's rights. With this increasing visibility comes the recognition that children in every country of the world suffer widespread and often severe breaches of the full range of their rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural. In many cases, children do not have adequate or realistic remedies for breaches of their rights at national level. Seeking remedy through international and regional human rights mechanisms, though on the increase, is not well-developed. *International justice for children* discusses the principles of child-friendly justice at international level and examines monitoring mechanisms and current systems of admissibility, determining how easy or difficult it is for children to gain access to them. This publication also identifies the obstacles to be overcome and proposes concrete ways to remove them through specific recommendations to governments, international organisations and monitoring bodies. This work is a solid contribution to making international justice accessible, friendly and meaningful to children, thus ensuring that children's rights safeguarded by conventions are concrete and not just theoretical.

Author(s) :
ISBN : 978-92-871-6534-3
Format : 16 x 24
No. of pages : 154
Price : **25 €/ 50 \$**
+ 10% postage