



E-BULLETIN ON COUNTER-TERRORISM & HUMAN RIGHTS

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AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Sudan: Six Darfur rebels sentenced to death by hanging for “terrorism”

On 20 March, a Sudanese court sentenced six members of the Darfur rebel group Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) to death by hanging. A seventh was sentenced to ten years of imprisonment. All seven were convicted on terrorism-related charges. The spokesperson of the Justice and Equality Movement protested at the sentencing, arguing that the seven should be treated as “prisoners of war” under international humanitarian law, and called on the international community to ensure that the punishment is not carried out. Several members of JEM had been sentenced to receive the death penalty in recent years, but most of them were pardoned by President Al-Bashir, who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes under international law committed in the Darfur conflict.

[Press Article](#)

Syria: UN Human Rights Council condemns human rights crimes against civilians

On 23 March, the UN Human Rights Council, in a resolution approved with 41 votes in favour, three against and two abstentions, condemned the “sharply escalating widespread, systematic and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms”, the “attacks against civilians”, the “extensive violations of children’s rights”, sexual violence and the “deliberate destruction of hospitals and clinics, the obstruction and denial of medical assistance to the injured and sick, and the raids and killing of wounded protesters in both public and private hospitals”, committed by the Syrian authorities. The Human Rights Council stressed that “the widespread and systematic use of violence against Syrian civilians is contrary to international criminal law and requires that perpetrators be brought to justice”. It is estimated by UN sources that more than 8,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed and tens of thousands displaced since the beginning of the civil conflict one year ago, in a crackdown which President Bashar al-Assad alleges to be against “terrorists” or people influenced by “foreign terrorists”.

[Resolution](#)

[HCHR Statement](#)

[UN Statement](#)

[UN Report](#)

[NGO Report](#)

[NGO Letter](#)

[NGOs Statement](#)

[Press Article](#)

Egypt: Arrest of purported Al-Qaeda leader turns out to be a case of mistaken identity

On 29 February, the Egyptian authorities arrested Mohammed Ibrahim Makkawi at the Cairo international airport, under the misperception that he was Saif al-Adel, a former Al-Qaeda senior member. The arrest, announced in several national and international media sources, was prompted by the association of Makkawi’s name with Saif al-Adel in the US FBI most-wanted persons list. Mohammed Ibrahim Makkawi had travelled from Pakistan to Egypt with the purpose to clear his name and live in his country. On 1 March, it was reported that, after the mistake was cleared up, Mr Makkawi had been released by the Egyptian authorities.

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

[Press Article 3](#)

Algeria: Death sentences delivered in terrorism trials *in absentia*

On 13 March, a criminal court in Algiers convicted *in absentia* and sentenced to death Abdelmalek Droukdel, also known as Abou Mossab Abdelwadoud, the alleged head of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI), and another eight persons on the charges of murder, membership of a terrorist organisation and using explosives for three bomb attacks in the capital Algiers in April 2007, which killed 22 and wounded more than 200 people. On the previous day, another criminal court in Bouria also convicted Abdelmalek Droukdel and three other persons to death *in absentia* after having found them guilty, on charges of terrorism, murder and carrying out massacres.

[Press Article \(E\)](#)

[Press Article \(F\)](#)

Bahrain: Report shows flagrant denial of fair trial in civilian and military courts

On 28 February, Human Rights Watch published a report, *No Justice in Bahrain: Unfair Trials in Military and Civilian Courts*, which illustrates what the report concludes is a systematic lack of respect of fair trial guarantees in trials before military and civilian courts, since the beginning of the state of emergency in March 2011 and, after its expiration, until October 2011. The report, which also highlights a high profile terrorism trial against opposition members and human rights defenders, found violations of international human rights law including denial of defendants' right to counsel and to present a defence, and failure to investigate credible allegations of torture and ill-treatment during interrogation.

Report

Israel/Palestine: Woman in hunger strike to protest at continuous administrative detention

On 14 March, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Richard Falk, expressed his concern at the life-threatening situation of Hana Shalabi, a Palestinian woman held in administrative detention. She has been on hunger strike since her arrest on 16 February. Amnesty International and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights also expressed concern at her situation. The Special Rapporteur has alleged that she has been subjected to ill-treatment. Hana Shalabi was freed last year, after 25 months of administrative detention, in the prisoner swap involving Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. She is suspected of membership of the Islamic Jihad, but her family maintains that she has left the group. Reportedly, more than 300 Palestinians are currently under administrative detention, without charge, in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, including 21 Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

SR Statement

NGO Statement 1

NGO Statement 2

Press Article

AMERICAS

USA: Attorney General explains legal grounds of targeted killing policy

On 5 March, US Attorney General, Eric Holder, defended the lawfulness of the administration's targeted killing programme in a speech delivered at the Northwestern University School of Law. The Attorney General justified the practice as permitted under the international law of armed conflict and explained the legal grounds on which action is taken: "First, the U.S. government has determined, after a thorough and careful review, that the individual poses an imminent threat of violent attack against the United States; second, capture is not feasible; and third, the operation would be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable law of war principles." He also rejected the argument that judicial scrutiny is required before deciding a targeted killing, as the "Constitution guarantees due process, not judicial process". In his speech, the Attorney General defended the Administration's position to maintain discretion on whether to use civilian courts or military commissions to try "terrorist" suspects on a case-by-case basis.

Speech

NGO Statement

Press Article

USA: Attorney General extends time to hold data of non-terrorism suspects

On 23 March, US Attorney General, Eric Holder, issued the *Guidelines for Access, Retention, Use and Dissemination by the National Counterterrorism Center and Other Agencies of Information in Datasets Containing Non-Terrorism Information*. These Guidelines govern the already established power of this agency to gather and keep data of US citizens, even if they are not under any suspicion of terrorism, in the attempt to search for "terrorism information". Reportedly, the Guidelines extend from 180 days to five years the time in

which these agencies can collect and retain records on U.S. citizens and residents, even where those people have no suspected ties to terrorism.

[Guidelines](#)

[NGO Statement](#)

[Press Article](#)

USA: UN Special Rapporteur finds Bradley Manning's solitary confinement violated his rights

On 29 February, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Méndez, announced the conclusion his annual report to the UN Human Rights Council that the solitary confinement of private Bradley Manning for eleven months constituted a violation of his right to physical and psychological integrity as well as of his presumption of innocence. Bradley Manning had been held in solitary confinement for twenty-three hours a day following his arrest in May 2010 in Iraq, and continuing after his transfer to the brig at Marine Corps Base Quantico, for a total of eleven months.

[Report \(Case USA 20/2010\)](#)

[Press Article](#)

USA: Woman beaten and called "terrorist" dies in hospital

On 24 March, Shaima Alawadi, a 32-old woman of Iraqi origin, died in a hospital in California, after she had been beaten up on 21 March and left unconscious in her house, in El Cajon, northeast of downtown San Diego, with a note saying "go back to your country, you terrorist". The woman had reportedly been beaten on the head repeatedly with a tire iron. The family had received a previous threat a month before, but did not report it to the authorities, apparently in light of the persistent hate incidents to which the Islamic community is subject. The El Cajon Iraqi community is the second largest in the USA, with around 40,000 people.

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

[Press Article 3](#)

USA: President's order limits military indefinite imprisonment of terrorism suspects

On 28 February, President Barack Obama issued a presidential policy directive on the implementation of the *National Defense Authorisation Act* (NDAA), passed into law last 31 December. The NDAA allows for the indefinite imprisonment of terrorism suspects, detained anywhere in the world, without charge or trial, with the result that suspects could be held for years, possibly for life, without being criminally charged. The policy directive waives military detention in seven situations, including when such detention would impede counterterrorism cooperation or discourage an individual from cooperating or admitting guilt; when a foreign government would not extradite a suspect if the United States intends to place the suspect in military custody; when a suspect is a legal permanent resident arrested for actions in the United States; and when an individual has been arrested by state or local law enforcement. Furthermore, outside of these situations, the transfer to military custody will require the approval of the attorney general, chairman of the joint chiefs, director of national intelligence, and the secretaries of the State, Defense, and Homeland Security departments.

[Directive](#)

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

USA: Court asked to open up CIA drones programme files

On 15 March, the American Civil Liberties Union filed an appeal against a federal District Court's summary judgment denying their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) action aimed at forcing the CIA to reveal records about the CIA's use of drones to carry out targeted killings around the world. The ACLU maintains that they are entitled to the disclosure of information under the Act, since the CIA targeted killing programme is not a secret as it has been admitted by the President and the CIA Director and more recently by

the Attorney General, who briefly explained its legal grounds. Nine national and international NGOs, including the ICJ, have filed a third party intervention arguing for disclosure of the information.

[Appeal Brief](#)

[Amicus Brief](#)

[NGO Statement 1](#)

[NGO Statement 2](#)

ASIA - PACIFIC

China: New legislation institutes secret “residential” confinement of security suspects

On 14 March, the Eleventh National People’s Congress passed into law a wide reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure. A provision writing into law the practice of “secret detention” for up to six months of “suspects” was dropped, and now it will be required families to be informed of the whereabouts of detainees within 24 hours from the time of arrest. However, the Congress passed a provision instituting the possibility for the police to hold suspects accused of “national security”, “terrorism” or “bribery” offences, in “residential surveillance” far from home for up to six months, including in secret locations.

[Draft Law \(Chinese\)](#)

[NGO Statement \(E\)](#)

[Press Article 1 \(E\)](#)

[Press Article 2 \(E\)](#)

China: Four Uighurs, mistaken for terrorist suspects, killed in raid

On 9 March, Chinese law enforcement officers shot dead of Xinjiang four inhabitants of Uighur ethnicity in an anti-terrorism raid, only to admit later on 13 March that the people killed were wrongfully linked to a failed terrorist attack. The raid came after the arrest of Tohti Ibrahim, after a bomb exploded in his house. Reportedly, the four people killed in the raid, which occurred in their farmhouse, were holding knives, and axes and boxing gloves were present in the surroundings, from which police officers inferred that they might have planned to engage in “terrorist” or “extremist” activities.

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

[Press Article 3](#)

[Press Article 4](#)

Pakistan: Supreme Court asks ISI for whereabouts of “disappeared” and to account for detention deaths

In two hearings, on 1 and 16 March, the Supreme Court of Pakistan addressed the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency and the Military Intelligence (MI) to produce reports on the situation and whereabouts of seven people suspected of terrorist activities who have allegedly been subjected to enforced disappearance by these two state agencies. There were originally eleven applicants in the case, but the two agencies declared that four of them had died while in custody. The Court, which criticized the lack of any credible explanation by the State agencies, ordered them to report how they had died and about their treatment in custody.

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

[Press Article 3](#)

[Press Article 4](#)

Pakistan: Parliamentary Committee demands stop to drones in Pakistan

On 20 March, the Parliamentary Committee on National Security of the National Assembly of Pakistan called on the Government of Pakistan to ensure that the United States ceases drone attacks inside the country’s borders and also to ensure that the activities of private contractors operating in the country be transparent and subject to Pakistani law. The Committee observed that drone attacks are counterproductive and contribute to radicalizing the local population and to creating support for terrorism. The Committee also called on the Government to request apologies from the United States for the attack at a border post with Afghanistan in which NATO/ISAF forces killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Several US lawmakers have rejected the call of the Pakistani parliamentary committee.

[Report](#)

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

Afghanistan: Report reveals torture of prisoners transferred by US to Afghan prisons

On 17 March, the Open Society Institute and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission issued a report in which they stated that they had found credible evidence that torture was practiced in nine NDS facilities and several Afghan National Police (ANP) facilities “including beatings, suspension from the ceiling, electric shocks, threatened or actual sexual abuse, and other forms of mental and physical abuse, which were routinely used to obtain confessions or other information.” The report also alleged that some U.S.-transferred detainees have been subjected to torture by Afghan officials, and that at least ten cases have been recorded between May 2010 and January 2012.

[Report](#)

[Press Article](#)

Sri Lanka: UN Human Rights Council demands accountability for human rights violations in LTTE war

On 22 March, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution with 24 votes in favour, 15 against and 8 abstentions, in which it noted that the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission of Sri Lanka, a commission of inquiry appointed by Sri Lankan President Rajapaksa in May 2010 after the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009, did not adequately address serious allegations of violations of international law. The Council requested the Sri Lankan Government to present an action plan on steps to be taken to address these alleged violations of international law.

[Resolution](#)

[UN Statement](#)

[NGO Statement 1](#)

[NGO Statement 2](#)

Australia: Independent counter-terrorism monitor publishes first report

On 19 March, the Government tabled in Parliament the first annual report of the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM), Mr Bret Walker SC. The report, although it does not put forward any recommendations, outlines general policy considerations related to Australia’s counter-terrorism and national security legislation, includes questions on the effectiveness and human rights compliance of the existing counter-terrorism legislation, and provides a provisional agenda for the 2012 work of the Independent Monitor.

[Report](#)

EUROPE & COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

UK: Expellees may use *in camera* witness to establish risk of torture

On 7 March, the Supreme Court ruled that the Special Immigration Appeals Commission had the power to issue orders admitting *in camera* evidence from a witness requested by a group of Algerians who are challenging their transfer to their home country for reasons of national security. The applicants, reportedly terrorism suspects, allege that they risk being subject to torture or ill-treatment at the hands of Algerian intelligence if sent back, and that a key witness to establish the risk will give evidence in court only after the assurance that his details and deposition will not be referred to anyone else but the court and the parties, out of fear of reprisals against him. The Court rejected the argument of the Home Secretary that the order would have impeded her in communicating to third countries terrorism information and alerts obtained through the witness, if the need arose.

[Judgment](#)

[Press Article](#)

UK: Person convicted for dissemination of terrorist publication for uploading videos

On 22 February, the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) upheld the conviction of Mohammed Gul on five counts of dissemination of terrorist publications under section 2 of the *Terrorism Act 2006*. The Central Criminal Court had convicted him for having uploaded videos on the Internet showing attacks on soldiers of the Coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan by insurgents, which it characterised as terrorist activities. The Court

held that international law did not impede the characterisation by the State of these attacks as terrorism and that the trial judge did not err in instructing the jury in this direction. In *obiter dicta*, the Court recognised, after the Special Tribunal on Lebanon's Appeals Chamber judgment, that there is an internationally recognised definition of terrorism as a crime in times of peace.

Judgment

UK: Foreign Ministry sued for complicity in Pakistan's drone killing

On 12 March, the law firm Leigh Day and Co. and the NGO Reprieve sued the Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, William Hague, for alleged complicity in the killing of a man in Pakistan by an unmanned drone, in the context of the CIA targeted killing programme. The lawsuit is brought on behalf of Noor Khan, son of the victim, Malik Daud Khan, who was killed together with another 40 people while presiding at a Jirga – or council of elders – in North West Pakistan on 17 March 2011. The applicant challenged the lawfulness of the alleged provision of “locational intelligence” to the US authorities by the UK General Communications Headquarters (“GCHQ”), an agency under the Secretary of State.

Law Firm Statement

Press Article

UK: Independent reviewer publishes report on new control orders

On 26 March, the UK Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, David Anderson Q.C., published a report on the operation of control orders under the *Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005*. In the report, the Reviewer details the situation of control orders in 2011, the last year of their being in force. David Anderson recommends in the report that the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs), which were substituted for control orders in early 2012, be used only as a last resort, where it is not possible to prosecute, deport or use less intrusive measures in respect of individuals considered to pose a terrorism-related risk.

Report

Reviewer Statement

France: President announces internet “terrorism” offence after terrorist attacks

On 22 March, in the wake of the killing by the RAID security forces of terrorist suspect Mohamed Merah after a 32 hours siege of his apartment, President Nicolas Sarkozy announced that within two weeks legislation would be put forward to impose criminal liability on any person who has accessed a website containing material apologising for terrorism or that call for hatred and violence. He further indicated that offences would be added to the criminal code sanctioning the travel abroad for the purpose of indoctrination into extremist ideologies and the fostering of extremist ideas and terrorism in the country. Mohamed Merah was the self-confessed perpetrator of the killing of three French soldiers and three children and a Rabbi in a Jewish school in the week preceding the raid. The Chief of the French Interior intelligence services said that Merah “radicalised” while in prison and that his profile was unusual in the counter-terrorism landscape.

NGO Statement 1 (E)

NGO Statement 2 (E)

Interview (F)

Press Article 1 (E)

Press Article 2 (E)

Spain: UN Special Rapporteur alerted on attempts to influence judiciary in counter-terrorism cases

On 19 January, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights sent a communication to the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Gabriela Knaul, requesting her to open an investigation into the alleged pressures of senior officers of the previous Spanish administration on the judicial authorities to influence the investigations in three cases to which the NGOs are parties. The three cases involve accusations of torture against several

US officers for arbitrary detention and interrogation at the Guantanamo detention facility; of complicity in torture against six US senior officers for designing and legally justifying interrogation measures amounting to torture; and of the unlawful killing of José Couso Permuy, a Spanish cameraman killed in Baghdad. The NGOs rely on US cables released by Wikileaks, which reportedly show that US administration officials, in cooperation with Spanish ones, sought “to interfere in or otherwise improperly influence the Spanish judicial process in an attempt to prejudice” in these cases.

NGOs Submission

Ireland: Supreme Court finds search warrant without judicial approval unconstitutional

On 23 February, the Supreme Court ruled that a provision of the *Offences against the State Act 1939* granting the police power to issue search warrants without judicial authorisation is contrary to the Constitution and, in particular, to the right to inviolability of the home under Article 40 of the Constitution. The provision, included in section 29.1 of the Act, allowed a police officer not below the rank of superintendent to issue such a search warrant for certain offences, to a police officer not below the rank of sergeant, and was applicable in counter-terrorism situations. The ruling was delivered in the case of Ali Charaf Damache, an Algerian man who was arrested as a suspect in an alleged conspiracy to murder Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks over his drawing of the prophet Muhammad.

Judgment

Press Article

Poland: Former intelligence chief charged for complicity in CIA secret detention

On 27 March, the newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* revealed that in January 2012, the former head of the Polish intelligence agency, Zbigniew Siemiatkowski, had been charged with violating international law by “unlawfully depriving prisoners of their liberty,” in connection with the detention and interrogation of “high value detainees” in a secret detention centre in Poland by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The secret detention centre is believed to have temporarily hosted the three “high value detainees” who have been documented to have been subject to waterboarding, an interrogation practice amounting to torture: Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, and Abu Zubaydah. The CIA declined to comment on the news and Zbigniew Siemiatkowski stated that he refused to answer questions by the prosecutor and will refuse to answer questions during the investigations and in court.

Press Article (E)

Press Article (Polish)

Turkey: Human rights defender put on trial for terrorism after three acquittals

On 7 March, the Twelfth Chamber of the Istanbul High Criminal Court began the re-trial of Pinar Selek, a Turkish writer and human rights defender currently living in exile in Strasbourg (France). She is charged under allegation that she caused a bomb to explode in Istanbul’s Egyptian bazaar on 9 July 1998 and as a member of a terrorist organisation for that purpose, charges on which she had been already acquitted three times. The only accuser withdrew his statement in the first trial and the police had since the start attributed the explosion to a gas leak. She was reportedly subject to more than two years of arbitrary detention and torture during interrogations. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders of the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) and of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) has dispatched an international observer to follow the trial and protested at the persecution of Pinar Selek.

NGO Statement (E)

Case History (F)

Press Article (F)

Russian Federation: Terrorism suspect missing after arrest

On 17 March, news reports raised the suspicion that Sirozhiddin Matkarimov, an Uzbek citizen arrested on 5 March by the Russian special forces on suspicion of terrorism and murder, was missing. Fears have been expressed that he may have been subjected to enforced disappearance. Reportedly, after the announcement of the arrest by the

authorities, no contacts could be established with him and no news was available on his whereabouts. According to the Russian authorities, Sirozhiddin Matkarimov was on an international wanted list and is accused by the Uzbek authorities of being a member of a terrorist group. He is also accused of killing his wife.

[Press Article 1](#)

[Press Article 2](#)

Russian Federation: European Court finds enforced disappearance in counter-terrorism operation

On 28 February, the European Court of Human Rights found that the Russian authorities had violated Abdula Edilov's right to life, by subjecting him to enforced disappearance and by failing to conduct effective investigations. It also found a violation of his right to liberty, because of his enforced disappearance carried out by State agents on 26 August 2001 in an unacknowledged security operation, and after which the Court found that Abdula Edilov must be presumed dead. The Court also found a violation of the prohibition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment for the suffering of his mother caused by the enforced disappearance of her son, and a breach of the right to an effective remedy. Abdula Edilov had participated in illegal armed groups during the first round of hostilities in the Chechen Republic, but was then granted amnesty and did not take part in the second round of hostilities which started in 1999.

[Judgment](#)

Belarus: Two persons executed after unfair conviction for "terrorist" attack

On 17 March, news media reported that the executions had been carried out against Dzmitry Kanavalau and Uladzslau Kavalyou, convicted last 30 November for the explosion in the Minsk metro on 11 April 2011 which killed 15 people. President Lukashenko had refused to pardon them on 14 March. Official notice of the execution was communicated at least to the mother of Uladzslau Kavalyou on 16 March. The executions sparked wide protests from international human rights advocates and foreign governments, after a trial that did not meet international fair trial standards amid uninvestigated claims that the two men's "confessions" were obtained under ill-treatment and that the right to defence and a fair trial were not guaranteed to them. The UN Human Rights Committee deplored the executions, which were carried out despite the issuance of interim measures for the case of the two victims which was pending before this UN body.

[Execution Communication \(R\)](#)

[HRC Statement \(E\)](#)

[NGO Statement 1 \(E\)](#)

[NGO Statement 2 \(E\)](#)

[Press Article 1 \(R\)](#)

[Press Article 2 \(R\)](#)

UNITED NATIONS & REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

UN: Human Rights Council passes resolution on counter-terrorism and human rights

On 19 March, the UN Human Rights Council adopted without a vote a resolution on the *Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*. In the resolution, the Council reiterated the States' obligation to "ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism complies with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law". Furthermore, in relation to the UN terrorism sanctioning regime, the Council stressed the "need to continue to ensure that fair and clear procedures under the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime are strengthened in order to enhance their efficiency and transparency".

[Resolution](#)

EU: Parliament Committee accepts US-EU data transfer agreement

On 27 March, the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE) of the European Parliament approved with 31 votes in favour, 23 against and one abstention a

new agreement with the US authorities for the transfer of Passenger Name Records (PNR). The purpose of the agreement is to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorism and serious transnational crimes. According to the terms, the PNR data will be retained by US authorities for up to five years and be depersonalized after six months. After this period, they would be put in a “dormant database” for up to ten years. Sensitive data could be used only in exceptional circumstances when a person’s life is at risk. EU citizens will have a right to administrative and judicial redress in the US and to access their own PNR data and ask for rectification, and possibly erasure, to the Department of Homeland Security. The Committee’s Rapporteur, Sophie In’T Veld (ALDE, NL) said that the agreement passed in part under threat by the US authorities to deny free VISAs to EU citizens in case the agreement were not adopted.

[Agreement](#)

[LIBE Statement](#)

IACHR: Anti-terrorism laws threatens human rights defenders, finds Inter-American Commission

On 6 March, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights published its second report on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas. In the report, the Commission observed that the proliferation of “anti-terrorism” laws in some countries of the region had the effect of criminalising indigenous community leaders in the fight for ancestral territories. It also found that private groups and paramilitary groups target human rights defenders singling them out as belonging to groups of guerrillas or terrorists. The Commission also recalled that it is not legitimate to use security or anti-terrorism legislation to suppress activities aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights.

[Report](#)

[IACHR Statement](#)

Financial Action Task Force: NGOs publish critical report on fight against terrorism financing and respect for human rights

In March 2012, the Transnational Institute and Statewatch published a report, *Counter-terrorism, ‘policy laundering’ and the FATF - legalising surveillance, regulating civil society*, which examines the global framework for countering terrorist financing developed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other international law enforcement bodies. The report “argues that a lack of democratic control, oversight and accountability of the FATF has allowed for regulations that circumvent concerns about human rights, proportionality and effectiveness.”

[Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

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