



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe 17 – 21 August 2015

European Court of Human Rights

[One in three cases lost by Britain at the European Court of Human Rights are brought by terrorists, prisoners or criminals](#)

18/08 – Daily Mail UK

Almost one in three cases Britain has lost at the European Court of Human Rights were won by terrorists, prisoners or convicted criminals, it was revealed today. Murderers, IRA gunmen and suspects linked to Islamist terror groups like Al Qaeda are among the 94 claimants to have won 297 cases against the UK in Strasbourg since 1975.

[Slovenia Top in ECHR Report by Human Rights Violation Rate](#)

18/08 – The Slovenia Times

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has established human rights violations in 304 cases against Slovenia so far, which is the highest rate per capita among all 47 Council of Europe countries. A report providing the court's statistics for 1959-2014 shows that the ECHR received more than 8,400 cases against Slovenia, judging in 323 of the cases and finding at least one violation in 304 cases

['Hooded man' Kevin Hannaway released on bail by Dublin court](#)

17/08 – BBC News

Kevin Hannaway and four others were arrested on 8 August as part of an operation targeting dissident republican activity in Dublin. Mr Hannaway, 67, from Colin Mill in Belfast was charged on 10 August with assisting the IRA. They are seeking revision of a 1978 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, which said their treatment was "inhuman and degrading" but not torture. Mr Hannaway, along with his co-accused, were each granted bail at the non-jury court, on a number of conditions.



Russia

[Russia dismisses Western criticism over sentenced Estonian policeman](#)

20/08 - Reuters

Russia on Thursday dismissed Western criticism over the sentencing of an Estonian police officer to 15 years in prison for espionage, a case that adds to tensions in Moscow's strained ties with the West.

[Russia jails Estonian intelligence officer Tallinn says was abducted over border](#)

19/08 – The Guardian

Estonian officials say Kohver was abducted on Estonian territory during an audacious cross-border raid by Russia's FSB security service involving radio-jamming equipment and smoke grenades. "The abduction of Eston Kohver from the territory of the Republic of Estonia by the FSB on 5 September and his unlawful detainment in Russia thereafter constitute a blatant breach of international law," the Estonian foreign minister, Marina Kaljurand, said in a statement.

[Russia jails Estonian officer despite EU appeals](#)

19/08 – EU Observer

Eston Kohver, a 44-year old Estonian security officer, is to spend the next 15 years of his life in prison as part of Russia's broader campaign to intimidate its neighbours. The court verdict comes despite a joint protocol, signed by Estonian and Russian border guards, which details the footprints of people crossing from Russia into Estonia and then returning to Russia at the site and time of the abduction, as well as the impact craters of stun grenades, and the signs of a violent struggle.

[Russia is using jailed Ukrainian pilot as a pawn in its game with the west](#)

20/08 – The Guardian

Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko was captured by separatists in the east of the country in June last year. The Moscow-backed militia battalion Zarya handed her over to Russian special services, to use her as a propaganda tool against the new government in Kiev.

[Savchenko lawyer: 'It's getting more and more absurd'](#)

16/08 – Deutsche Welle

Ukrainian army pilot Nadezhda Savchenko has been in prison in Russia since 2014. She stands accused of murdering two Russian journalists. Her lawyer Ilya Novikov talked to DW about her trial.



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Malta

[Malta withdraws court request as EU steams ahead on sports betting law](#)

18/08 – Malta Today

Malta withdraws request for ECJ's opinion on Council of Europe sports manipulation convention, as European Council steams ahead with legislative proposal. Malta has requested the withdrawal of its request for opinion filed with the Court of Justice of the EU on 8 July, 2014, with regard to the compatibility of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions with the EU Treaties. The reason that Malta had submitted the request was to obtain an opinion on whether the definition of "illegal sports betting" was consistent with the objectives of the Treaty.

Croatia

[European Commission confident Croatia will honour minority rights](#)

20/08 – Dalje.com

The European Commission said on Thursday that bilingual signs and minority languages were in the jurisdiction of European Union member states, but was confident that Croatia would honour national and international commitments on the protection of national minorities.

Slovakia

[Council of Europe condemns turning migrants away on religious grounds](#)

20/08 – VidaLatina, San Diego

Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland said on Thursday that the refusal to receive migrants based on their religion is "blatant discrimination." Jagland's remarks came in response to the statement of Slovak Interior Ministry spokesman Ivan Netik, who told BBC that his country would only host Christian migrants within the European Commission, or EC, initiative.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Sarajevo Regional Forum to debate exhibition, co-production](#)

17/08 – Screen Daily

The European Film Forum, which Sarajevo Film Festival's Regional Forum will host on Aug 20-21, is to discuss whether public funding of co-productions has a future in the digital borderless world and the story behind the creative new ways that southeast Europe is tackling the challenges in cinema exhibition. Now in its 7th year, the Regional Forum includes: the European Film Forum - an initiative from the European Commission - on August 20-21; and the Council of Europe conference on gender equality, which took place on August 14.