



EUROPEAN CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

DEAR FRIENDS, DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The last months of 2009 have been an intensive time for ECCHR: a couple of days ago we concluded the very well received international conference on terrorism lists which took place in Brussels. Organized by ECCHR, in association with the Free University Brussels, the conference was a resounding success. The editors of the German law journal "Kritische Justiz" were also our guests for a presentation in Berlin in October. Furthermore, together with other human rights organizations we are organizing a meeting of specialist lawyers involved in European-wide criminal proceedings against human rights perpetrators such as Pinochet, Rumsfeld and others in the beginning of November in Brussels. On November 18 and 19, we are further participating in a conference in Brussels on killings and abuses against women in Mexico and Guatemala. Our Argentinean cooperating attorney Rodolfo Yanzon will also visit us in Berlin, to prepare for ECCHR's monitoring of the upcoming trials against Argentinean dictators in Argentina in December. In our 'Business and Human Rights' program two cases of human rights abuses committed by transnational corporations will be presented to national and international institutions. We will provide you with updates about these cases at the time they are filed.

I would also like to bring your attention to one special event this autumn: On November 21, our office warming party will take place. From 4pm, we invite you to join our advisory board members Lotte Leicht, Michael Ratner, Monika Lüke, Reed Brody, Florian Jeßberger, and others, for a discussion of human rights litigation. At 7pm the exhibition "Not for sale" by Hady Sy (Paris/ Berlin) will be opened in the presence of the artist, followed by a great party. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our office warming and other upcoming events - you can find more information on our website, www.ecchr.eu.

This summer we continued our work of establishing our new infrastructure with the support of office designer Mario Lombardo. By moving from our old cramped offices to our new, bright, spacious converted factory floor in Berlin-Kreuzberg, we as an organization have occupied this new space both physically and metaphorically, and we feel confident that we have moved beyond our initial and sometimes difficult establishment stage. The new location provided us with an opportune time to rethink our recent achievements and more clearly define our future fields of work. We have also completely revised and restructured our website in the hope of creating a better overview of our work and in order to make our ongoing activities more visible. We would very much appreciate your feedback.

Two new colleagues joined us: Ms Claudia Müller-Hoff, attorney-at-law, now works as Project Director in the field of business and human rights, and Andreas Schüller supports the area of Universal Justice. To our colleague Dr Georgios

Sotiriadis we wish all the best for his future after one and a half years of a very successful collaboration with ECCHR. He has decided to focus on his very promising academic career at Bremen University.

You can support ECCHR by visiting our events, informing others about our projects, discussing issues with us and - of course - by donating to our work.

Wolfgang Kaleck

General Secretary

OUR WORK

UNIVERSAL JUSTICE

ECCHR-COMPLAINT AGAINST AUSTRIA

TORTURE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CHECHEN PRESIDENT KADYROV

The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, on June 25, 2009, submitted a formal communication to the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Prof. Manfred Nowak. In the communication, ECCHR accuses Austria of violating its duties under the Convention Against Torture for failing to investigate and act on accusations of torture leveled against President Kadyrov of the Russian Republic of Chechnya, who visited Austria in June of 2008.

[Read more...](#)

COUNTERTERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE ON TERRORISM LIST

EXCITING CONTROVERSIES AT BRUSSELS ECCHR-CONFERENCE ON TERRORISM LISTS

The one-day conference organized by the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) at Free University Brussels on 20 October 2009 attracted great interest. Lawyers of affected individuals and groups shared their practical experiences on listing procedures. One key conclusion was that the executive power excludes the judicial one in its listing acts, and in this way often disrespects fundamental procedural safeguards and rule of law standards.

[Read more...](#)

GROUND-BREAKING JUDGMENT ON EU-TERRORISM LISTS

THE SISON CASE

The EU Council's decision to put Philippine politician and publicist Professor Jose Maria Sison, who was living in exile in Holland, on an EU-"terrorism list" and to freeze his assets was annulled. The judgment, handed down by the Court of First Instance of the European Communities on 30 September 2009, will have ground-breaking implications for future work in this field.

[Read more...](#)

EL HASKI TORTURE CASE

ECCHR INTERVENE TO EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On the issue of the use of information obtained under torture, ECCHR in association with the British organization Redress, filed an amicus curiae brief to the European Court of Human Rights on 18 June 2009. In this case the Moroccan citizen El Haski complained against his conviction by Belgian authorities of alleged criminal acts of terrorism.

[Read more...](#)

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

ECCHR published a report on the multi-stakeholder consultation on transnational corporations and the right to food. This consultation of experts, including representatives of civil society and the economy, was convened by ECCHR under the auspices of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, by Olivier de Schutter on June 19 and 20, 2009 in Berlin.

[Read more...](#)

EVENTS

ECCHR EVENTS

12 NOVEMBER, 6PM, ECCHR-OFFICES

Visiting: the Argentinean human rights lawyer Rodolfo Yanzon

[Read more...](#)

19 NOVEMBER, 9AM TO 1PM, BRUSSELS (IN PREPARATION)

„Not one more dead ". Conference on killings of women in Mexico a.o. (Organized by Heinrich Boell Foundation, Brussels, ECCHR as co-host)

21 NOVEMBER, FROM 4PM, ECCHR-OFFICES

Discussion of ECCHR Advisory Board members on human rights litigation, exhibition opening "Not for sale" by Hady Sy and Office-warming party

3 DECEMBER, 6PM, ECCHR-OFFICE

The state immunity case at the International Court of Justice between Germany and Italy - The legal and historic meaning and problems of the case. An event in cooperation with the Berlin Republican Lawyers Association RAV. More soon at www.ecchr.eu

PARTICIPATION ON EVENTS

9-11 NOVEMBER, BRUSSELS

Universal Jurisdiction Trial Strategies: Focus on Victims & Witnesses (A conference organized by Redress and FIDH as well as an ECCHR-workshop on 9 November)

[Program...](#)

26 NOVEMBER, 6.30PM, TAGUNGSHAUS ALTE FEUERWACHE E.V., AXEL-SPRINGER-STR. 40/41, BERLIN

Mexiko 1969. Discussion between Nacha und Wolfgang Kaleck

[Program...](#)

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Ben Hayes: NeoConOpticon - The EU Security-Industrial Complex

[Read...](#)

Wolfgang Kaleck: From Pinochet to Rumsfeld: Universal Jurisdiction in Europe 1998-2008, in: Michigan Journal Of International Law, Volume 30, No.3, Spring 2009, 927-980.

[Read...](#)

Wolfgang Kaleck: Hope or Frustration? Spanish authorities once prosecuted human rights violators such as Chilean General Augusto Pinochet. Now, there are plans to again restrict such prosecutions to national territory, in: die tageszeitung, 15.08.2009

[Read the English version...](#)

DONATIONS

ECCHR is registered at Amtsgericht Charlottenburg and inscribed as non-profit association at the competent tax office. The Human Rights work of the ECCHR needs your support. Please help us in the legal fight against grave human rights violations and the legal analysis of such cases. The ECCHR is a member in the Human Rights Forum [Forum Menschenrechte]. Donations are tax deductible.

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