## OMCT-Europe Weekly Newsletter 2008-37 15-22.12.08

## **REGIONS:**

**AFRICA** 

#### **AMERICAS**

- Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union following the violent death of Mr Edwin Legarda, husband of Ms Aida Quilcué, an indigenous rights activist (**Columbia**): <a href="http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/104930.pdf">http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/104930.pdf</a> Colombie: mort de M. Edwin Legarda:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/104931.pdf

#### **ASIA**

- Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU Welcoming the Entry into Force of the **ASEAN Charter**:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/104734.pdf
Déclaration de la Présidence au nom de l'UE saluant l'entrée en vigueur de la Charte de l'ASEAN :

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/104735.pdf

« L'Union européenne partage les valeurs et principes communs des États de l'ASEAN
qu'énonce la Charte, en particulier la promotion de la démocratie et des droits de l'Homme.

Elle salue l'institution d'un mécanisme de promotion et de protection des droits de
l'Homme. »

- Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU: Charter 2008 and the **arrest of human rights campaigners**:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/104787.pdf

#### **EUROPE** (including EU)

- Council of Europe anti-torture Committee holds high-level talks in **Kosovo**: <a href="http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/srb/2008-12-15-eng.htm">http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/srb/2008-12-15-eng.htm</a>
  Entretiens à haut niveau du Comité anti-torture du Conseil de l'Europe au Kosovo <a href="http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/srb/2008-12-15-fra.htm">http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/srb/2008-12-15-fra.htm</a>
- EU HR Javier SOLANA welcomes the decision by the **Belarusian** authorities to register the "For Freedom" movement:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/declarations/104820.p} \\ \underline{\text{df}}$ 

#### **RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA**

- Déclaration de la Présidence au nom de l'UE sur des **cas individuels ouzbeks**: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/104784.pdf

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- Council of Europe anti-torture Committee visits **Azerbaijan**: <a href="http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/aze/2008-12-16-eng.htm">http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/aze/2008-12-16-eng.htm</a>
Visite du Comité anti-torture du Conseil de l'Europe en Azerbaïdjan: <a href="http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/aze/2008-12-16-fra.htm">http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/aze/2008-12-16-fra.htm</a>

- Déclaration de la présidence du Conseil de l'Union européenne - **Géorgie** / processus de Genève (17 et 18 decembre) :

http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/fr/accueil/activites/PFUE/lang/fr/evenementsJournalistes?categorie=PFUE TYPE DOC FOND

- Déclaration de la présidence du Conseil de l'Union européenne au sujet de la fermeture de la mission de l'OSCE en **Géorgie** :

http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/fr/accueil/activites/PFUE/lang/fr/evenementsJournalistes?categorie=PFUE\_TYPE\_DOC\_FOND

#### MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

- Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the repeated violations of human rights in **Iran**:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/104943.pdf Iran - violations répétées des droits de l'Homme :

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/104944.pdf

- Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the continued detention of Mr Michel Kilo and Mr Mahmoud Issa:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/104968.pdf Déclaration sur le maintien en détention des MM. Michel Kilo et Mahmoud Issa: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/cfsp/104969.pdf

- Déclaration de la présidence du Conseil de l'Union Européenne concernant la fermeture des locaux du « Cercle des défenseurs des droits de l'Homme » en **Iran** : <a href="http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/fr/accueil/activites/PFUE/lang/fr/evenementsJournalistes?ca">http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/fr/accueil/activites/PFUE/lang/fr/evenementsJournalistes?ca</a> tegorie=PFUE TYPE DOC FOND

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### **THEMATIC:**

#### **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

### **EU/UN REFORM**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- The European Policy Centre has published a paper by Rosa Balfour entitled "UN Declaration of Human Rights at 60: what role for EU foreign policy?".

Although she believes that the EU has worked hard to integrate Human Rights issues into its external policies the author thinks that there is still work to be done for example in terms of the **fight against torture** and to develop a common culture of Human Rights between Member States.

http://www.epc.eu/TEWN/pdf/645856722\_UN%20Declaration%20of%20Human%20Rights%20at%2060.pdf

- European Parliament awards Chinese dissident human rights prize - 17.12.2008 - 17:42

The jailed Chinese dissident Hu Jia has been awarded the European Parliament's top human rights award - granted since 1988 to those who stand up for fundamental freedoms - with a symbolic empty chair in the middle of the Strasbourg chamber due to his imprisonment. <a href="http://euobserver.com/9/27311/?rk=1">http://euobserver.com/9/27311/?rk=1</a>

- EU moves towards  $\boldsymbol{mandatory\ lobbyists\ register}$  - 17.12.2008 - 10:00

The EU's commission and parliament formed a joint working group on Tuesday aimed at drawing up a proposal to create a common register for lobbyists.

With over 15,000 EU lobbyists the institutions have received harsh criticism from NGOs regarding the influence of big business on the EU executive when drafting legislation. http://euobserver.com/9/27310/?rk=1