

ODIHR Update

No. 7, 18 November 2015



ODIHR Guantanamo report identifies human rights violations, calls for swift closure



From left, Director Link, Omer Fisher and Lucile Sengler discussed the Office's report on the human rights situation of detainees at Guantanamo with participating States in Vienna on 12 November.

An ODIHR report issued last week called on the United States to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and to either bring the remaining detainees to trial or free them.

"As Director of ODIHR, I strongly welcome Obama's administration's intention to develop a concrete plan to close down the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay," said Michael Georg Link, Director of ODIHR. "No person should be subject to indefinite detention without trial. As one of the oldest democracies in the OSCE, the U.S. should lead by example, by making it crystal clear that everyone has the right to a fair trial. The detainees should either be charged or released."

The report, in providing a comprehensive analysis of the situation at Guantanamo, examines a broad range of human rights issues, identifies violations of OSCE commitments and other international human rights standards, and offers recommendations to address them.

"There is a clear need for full transparency and accountability in addressing the violations of the human rights of detainees, including torture, that have occurred at Guantanamo, and as part of the CIA rendition programme," said Omer Fisher, Deputy Head of ODIHR's Human Rights Department. "Detainees have a right to redress, including access to justice, to compensation, and to medical rehabilitation."

ODIHR's expert panel discusses safeguarding rights of migrants



Vladimir Cucic, Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, speaks to participants of ODIHR's expert meeting on the Migration crisis in the OSCE region in Warsaw on 12 November.

The emergency situation of refugees in Europe was the focus of an expert panel meeting, organized by ODIHR on 12 and 13 November 2015 in Warsaw.

The expert panel meeting covered safeguarding the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need, gathering 55 representatives from the border and asylum authorities of 13 OSCE participating states and IGO Experts.

"This meeting is part of ODIHR's comprehensive response to the current migration crisis in Europe," said Michael Georg Link, Director of ODIHR. "We assist OSCE participating States in identifying good practices and possible policy measures to improve the situation of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need crossing into OSCE participating States in line with relevant OSCE commitments."

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Director Link speaks at OSCE Security Days: In Pursuit of Peace and Security – How Gender Makes a Difference



Director Link listens as Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Principal Adviser on Gender and Security Council resolution 1325 of the European Union speaks at the OSCE Security Days event, Peace and Security: How Gender Makes a Difference in Vienna on 13 November 2015.

The importance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on women, peace and security, as a human rights document gaining even greater recognition, Michael Georg Link, ODIHR Director, said on 13 November at an OSCE Security Days event in Vienna.

“Developing and implementing UNSCR 1325 national action plans is important for fulfilling the women, peace and security agenda. If women are active partici-

pants in peace talks and peacebuilding initiatives, they are able to contribute to and influence existing agendas,” Director Link said. “The equal participation of both women and men in any decision-making process is crucial for sustainable peace and development.”

Participants at the event on gender in peace and security discussed the challenges of implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 and the tools and

strategies that can be employed to improve its effective application. The resolution, which marks its 50th anniversary this year, calls for the stronger participation of women in and a gender-sensitive approach to peacebuilding, the prevention of gender-based violence and the protection of the rights and needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Adviser on Combating Anti-Semitism

Location: Warsaw

Grade: P3

Closing date: 6 December 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Hate Crime Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Seconded

Closing date: 7 December 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

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