

NEW JUDGMENTS IN ARGENTINA

Two former members of the police forces in Argentina were sentenced to seven years in prison for altering the identity of a girl child who had been born in detention camps during the last Argentinean dictatorship. The child was daughter of two Uruguayan nationals detained in the Province of Buenos Aires.

DRC alleged torturer before Dutch tribunals

A former officer from the Democratic Republic of Congo went on trial last Wednesday in Rotterdam. Mr. Nzapali is charged with assault and rape allegedly committed in the former Zaire during the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko. The indicted person is known as “king of beasts“ The Trial is based on the Convention against Torture.

Peace-keeper killed in DRC

A South-African peace-keeper was killed this week in DRC, where the UN is helping to prepare the election in 2005. The mission is deployed since November 1999 and it has cost 27 lives until now.

Brazil withdraws gay rights resolution

Brazil finally withdrew the proposal on non-discrimination of gay rights before the UN Commission on Human Rights. The proposal had been previously criticized by some Arab countries.



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International Protection
Machstraße 8/1/2
1020 Wien
Phone 43 1 729 3776
Fax 1 240 248 7148

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EDITORIAL

No Trade-Off along Human Rights

The recent defense of China of the human rights record in that country can only deserve an observation: there is no trade off among human rights issues. The alleged good track concerning some rights can not justify the bad record concerning another group of rights.

The arguments of China lead to the traditional discussion: civil and political rights or economic, social and cultural rights. China appears to say: we prefer the last group.

We argue, as it was recognized by the international community in the Vienna Conference on Human Rights in 1993: all human rights should be respected, and human rights are indivisible, interdependent and universal. Trade offs are fake options, as human beings are complex. There is no enjoyment of a group without the other.

We know that historically the West has preferred to give priority to the “liberal rights” in relation to the “material” claims. However, both groups of rights (if the distinction among them exist), deserve respect because they guarantee different aspects of human dignity.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Security measures in Mexico violated human rights

The Mexican National Human Rights Commission has decided that the security measures implemented in the Mexican airports, fundamentally as to fight against terrorism, violate human rights. In particular, the Commission criticized the role played by US officers in the airports, performing actions that only Mexican officers could be authorized to perform.

Venezuela's referendum, before highest tribunal

The Supreme Court has received, in appeal, the case concerning the referendum as to finish the mandate of president Chavez. The Tribunal composed of 20 members should decide if the signatures accumulated (600.000 are necessary; 1,8 signatures were allegedly gathered) permit to call for this referendum.

Small Islands preoccupation about sewage

A report of the United Nations Environmental Programme has indicated the preoccupation for the accumulation of sewage in small island states, that do not dispose of the resources as to dispose of them.

Deronjic sentenced by the ICTY

Deronjic was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Trial Chamber II of the ICTY for persecutions committed in 1992 in the city of Glogova. Deronjic occupied public positions in the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Role of Traditional Medicine against AIDS

In a Conference entitled s Working Together with Traditional Health Practitioners in Health Care Delivery in South Africa a WHO Officer underlined the role of traditional medicines in the fight against AIDS and the normal indifference concerning traditional methods of care in such cases.

Sierra Leone waits for the UN

Sierra Leone is waiting for a new UN Mission. Half of the current UNAMSIL Mission would be pulled out at the end of 2004 but it would be replaced by a new mission with new tasks.

RENEWED VIOLENCE IN UZBEKISTAN

Clashes between security forces and suspected dissident fighters have taken place the last days in the Uzbek capital causing several deaths and explosions. Human Rights groups criticize severely the regime, but it counts with some powerful Western allies.

Seven New Countries are Members of NATO

Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia and the three Baltic countries are the new NATO Members. This extends East the borders of the Alliance.

BOSNIAN COURT ORDERS CITIES TO CHANGE NAMES

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has ordered seven cities to eliminate the prefix "Serb" to seven cities, because it would be offensive to Bosnian Croat and Moslems living in the region.

Afghanistan election, postponed. The elections in Afghanistan have been postponed until September. The UN pressure finally succeeded, as the organization evaluated that the security and logistics were impeding to perform the election act before September this year.

Serbia awards "compensation" (salaries, legal fees), to war crimes suspects been held before the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia. This includes Mr. Milosevic.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE CLASH AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL

After the failure of a proposed Resolution addressed to condemn the assassination of the leader of Hamas, Israel has severely criticized the Security Council for not discussing a condemn to the killing of civilians by terrorist acts.

New displacements in Kosovo: after renewed violence, new displacement of Serbs are reported in Kosovo.