



NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2022

Human rights are under immense pressure globally. In the face of the multiple crises of our time, ECCHR remains committed to the struggle for human rights and climate justice, a struggle whose scope is now documented in our [2021 Annual Report](#). We would be delighted if you could take the time to read through this new publication, highlighting our accomplishments of the last year – accomplishments that would not have been possible without your support, for which we sincerely thank you once again.

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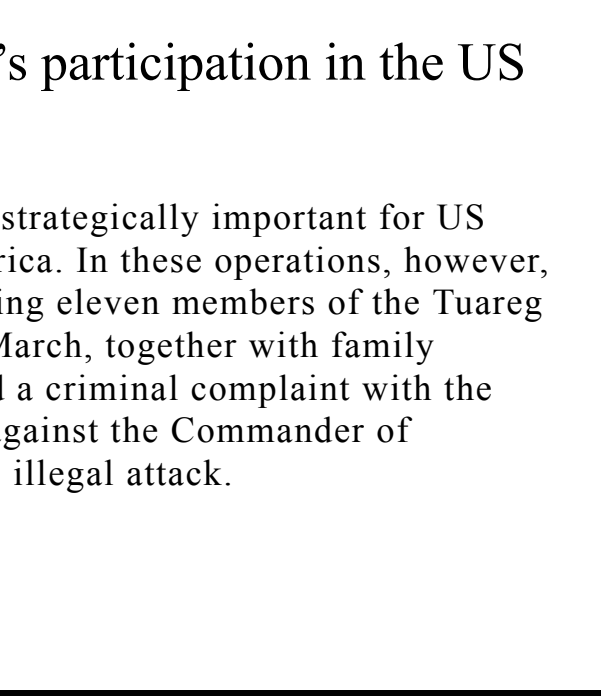
PUBLICATION



Hot off the press: ECCHR’s 2021 Annual Report is out

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NEWS



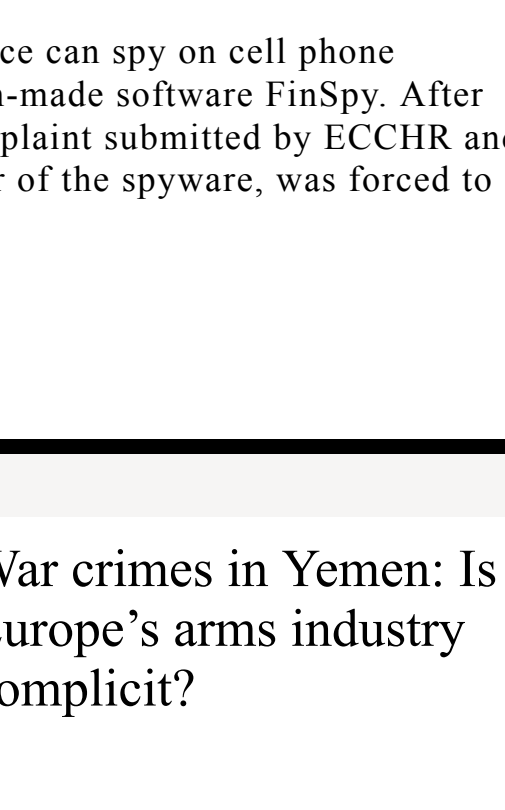
Idomeni: Setback for refugees and migrants at Europe’s borders

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DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS!

Our new Annual Report documents what we accomplished with your help in 2021. Would you like to continue supporting us?

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INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Military base in Sicily: Italy’s participation in the US drone program

The Italian military base Sigonella is strategically important for US drone warfare operations in North Africa. In these operations, however, civilians are repeatedly killed, including eleven members of the Tuareg community in Libya in 2018. On 31 March, together with family members of the victims, we submitted a criminal complaint with the Syracuse Public Prosecutor’s Office against the Commander of Sigonella, who allegedly knew of this illegal attack.

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Addressing crimes against international law: Proceedings on Gambia have begun in Germany

When a country is governed by an authoritarian regime, civil society is almost always placed under immense pressure. This was also the case in Gambia from 1994 until 2017 during the rule of Yahya Jammeh. His armed security forces generated an atmosphere of fear, in which critical voices were systematically intimidated. An alleged perpetrator is now facing trial in Germany, the proceedings of which began on 25 April at the Celle Higher Regional Court. ECCHR is supporting international partners.

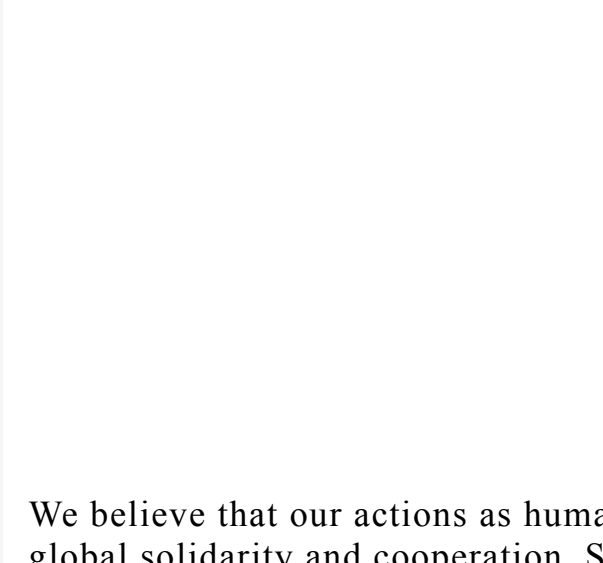
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BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

After investigations: Munich software company FinFisher is dissolved

With only a few clicks, the Turkish police can spy on cell phone communications – thanks to the German-made software FinSpy. After investigations following a criminal complaint submitted by ECCHR and its partners, FinFisher, the manufacturer of the spyware, was forced to file for bankruptcy.

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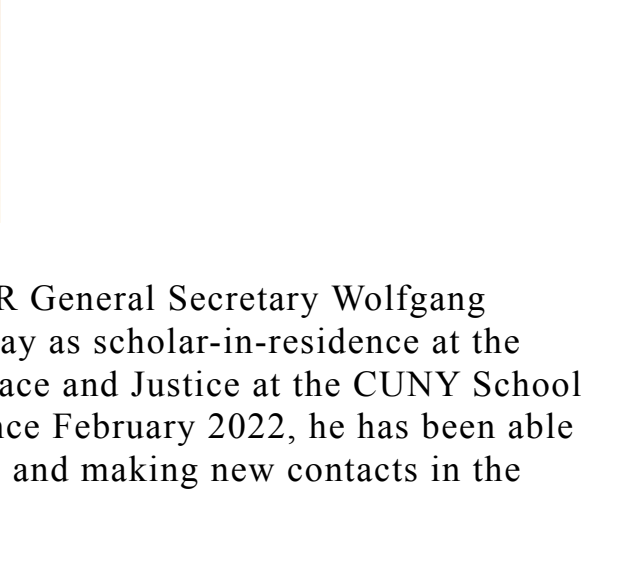
War crimes in Yemen: Is Europe’s arms industry complicit?

26 March marks the 7th anniversary of the beginning of the massive air offensive in Yemen launched by the military coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Many of the airstrikes since 2015 – which may also potentially be considered war crimes – would not have been possible without European armaments. On this anniversary, we demanded that the International Criminal Court finally open investigative proceedings into the companies involved, including Leonardo and Rheinmetall.

Arms remnant, found after an airstrike in Yemen © Mwatana

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#yesEUcan: New campaign for a robust supply chain law at EU level



Very few European corporations adopt adequate measures to protect human rights and the environment within their extended supply chain networks. The EU is currently working on a supply chain act that will obligate companies to uphold their commitments to human rights standards. Germany must also become actively engaged in this process in order to ensure that the resulting law is effective.

Campaign logo © Initiative Lieferkettengesetz

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MIGRATION



ECtHR condones mass pushback: Refugees cannot exercise their right to have rights

In March 2016, a group of more than 1,500 refugees left the Greek refugee camp of Idomeni and set off for North Macedonia in search of safety. A few kilometers beyond the border, they were intercepted, loaded into vans, and forced by armed officials back into Greece through holes in the border fence. At no time were they given the opportunity to apply for asylum in North Macedonia. On 5 April, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that this mass pushback does not violate the European Convention on Human Rights – a decision which further erodes the protections for refugees at European borders.

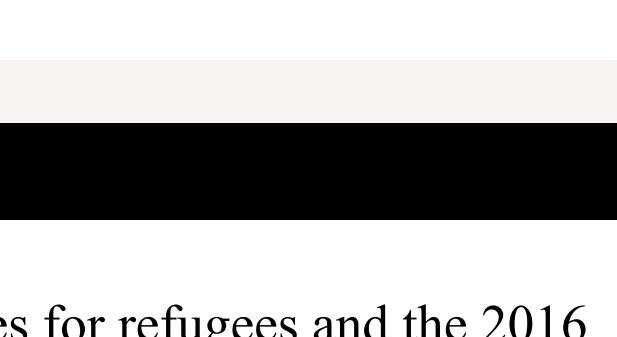
Greek-North Macedonian border near Idomeni © ECCHR/Vera Wriedt

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ECCHR

Our successes and challenges in 2021: The new ECCHR Annual Report is here



We believe that our actions as human rights lawyers must be guided by global solidarity and cooperation. Since the founding of our organization, we have cultivated many valuable partnerships all over the world, while standing together with those whose rights have been violated. In our efforts, we have collectively succeeded in making significant strides towards greater justice, which we would like to share with you in our Annual Report. Artist Aida Silvestri allowed us to reproduce some of her pieces in the magazine.

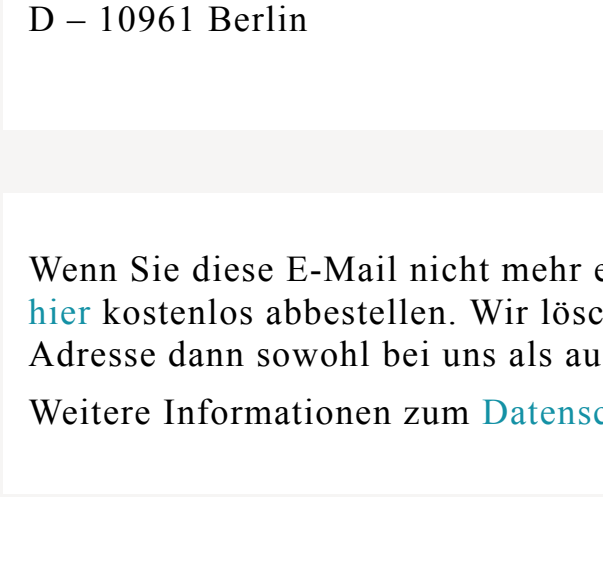
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New roles: Staff developments at ECCHR

Since January, long-time Operations Manager [Albert Koncsek](#) has taken over the position of Head of Finances & Operations. Together with newly appointed Legal Director [Miriam Saage-Maaß](#) and General Secretary [Wolfgang Kaleck](#), he now serves on the Executive Board. Since 01 April, Saage-Maaß’s role as head of the Business and Human Rights program has been taken over by [Cannelle Lavite](#) and [Christian Schliemann-Radbruch](#) in a dual function arrangement.

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Catching up: Wolfgang Kaleck in New York

Due to the Corona pandemic, ECCHR General Secretary Wolfgang Kaleck had to prematurely end his stay as scholar-in-residence at the Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice at the CUNY School of Law in New York in 2020. But since February 2022, he has been able to participate in academic exchanges and making new contacts in the US.

Wolfgang Kaleck at our Alumni* Reunion November 2021 © Mohamed Badarne

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DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS!

Together with our global network, we enforce human rights and make injustice visible. In court and society.

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EVENTS

Rabiye Kurnaz gegen George W. Bush

CINEMA TOUR
IN VARIOUS GERMAN CITIES

A film about law and arbitrary power. A film about people who rise above themselves: Murat is gone. Imprisoned in the US prison camp Guantánamo, Rabiye Kurnaz, a Bremen housewife and loving mother, no longer understands the world. She goes to the police, informs the authorities and nearly succumbs to her sense of powerlessness. Until she finds Bernhard Doeke. The reserved, level-headed human rights lawyer and the Turkish mother – they now fight side by side for Murat’s release. The film was directed by Andreas Dresen and written by Laila Stieler.

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Klima, Sicherheit und Menschenrechte

PANEL DISCUSSION
30 APRIL 2022
6 PM
TAZ.LAB

Opposing injustice with justice – this is the explicit aim and daily pursuit of ECCHR. Political scientist Michael Werz has devoted many years to researching how the climate crisis and the politics of climate change and, in extreme cases, contribute to state collapse,” he says. Miriam Saage-Maaß (ECCHR) and Michael Werz will engage in a discussion on climate, security and human rights that will be moderated by Barbara Junge (taz editor-in-chief).

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PAST EVENTS

The shutdown of legal routes for refugees and the 2016 “March of Hope”

Panel discussion with Zoran Drangovski (Macedonian Young Lawyers Association), Marta Görczyńska (Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights) and Hanaa Hakiki (ECCHR)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Beyond human control: The impact of the drone war on civilians

Discussion with Khalil Dewan (Stoke White Investigations), Emran Feroz (journalist and author), John Goetz (NDR) and Chantal Meloni (ECCHR)

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PUBLICATIONS

ECCHR

2021 Annual Report

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ECCHR/TRIAL International/Civitas Maxima/CJA/FIDH/REDRESS

Universal Jurisdiction Annual Review 2022

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ECCHR

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