

# RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DANISH EU PRESIDENCY

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## **PURSuing AN AMBITIOUS EU HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY**

With the European Union busy completing its external relations human rights policy review, this is a key moment for the EU's foreign relations. Having a sound human rights strategy is fundamental to meaningful external relations and is essential if the EU is to reverse the downward trend in its human rights activity since the close of the Swedish presidency.

The EU and its member states continue to have a key role to play in working towards global compliance with universal human rights obligations. Events in the Middle East and North Africa during 2011 have demonstrated the inadequacies of the current EU human rights policy, including its failure to address human rights abuses consistently and provide a coherent response to the needs of local civil society. The EU must speak out on human rights violations and abuses, whenever and wherever they occur. Promoting and ensuring respect for human rights must be an integral component of all the EU's external policies, including trade, development and all other areas.

The EU needs an ambitious strategy which clearly commits all players, whether member states, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Parliament or the Commission, to the same goals and introduces transparent measures which hold them all to account for applying the strategy. It should spell out how it will ensure the mainstreaming of human rights into all policy areas and how success is measured. The strategy should also prescribe how the EU makes best use of its human rights expertise embodied in the institutions and member states, and stipulate that genuine partnership with civil society is not confined to funding programmes. Discussion of human rights must also be regularly scheduled in meetings of foreign ministers and the Political & Security Committee.

And last but not least, no EU human rights strategy can be complete without describing how the EU will address the glaring gap between its external human rights initiatives and its lack of willingness to establish an effective mechanism for internal human rights scrutiny. Member states have to start engaging with each other purposefully on human rights violations committed in EU countries. This is necessary not only in and of itself, but also as a means of counteracting the increasingly visible decline of the EU's credibility externally.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Given Denmark's role in initiating the current review of the EU's human rights policy, we look to the Danish presidency to take the lead with member states and the EEAS, agreeing a strategy which tangibly commits them all to a joint project, and to ensure that the strategy's implementation is prompt, ambitious and realistic.

## GOVERNING THE ARMS TRADE

The 2011 protests across the Middle East and North Africa have focused attention on many regional governments' appalling human rights records, and have shown that the bulk of weapons, munitions and other equipment used against protesters was sold and supplied to these governments by EU countries, Russia and the USA.

This clearly demonstrates that current controls on arms transfers are not working. The year 2012 presents two major opportunities for the EU to address these failures, at EU level through the review of its Common Position, and globally through negotiation of an Arms Trade Treaty.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- During its planned review of the 2008 Common Position on Arms Exports, the EU and member states must rigorously review their policy and practices on implementation of arms-licensing criteria, including their use of the 'User Guide' on best practice, and make a commitment to learn from the many ill-judged decisions to permit arms supplies which have been used for serious violations across the world.
- The final preparatory committee for the Arms Trade Treaty will take place in February, with the treaty-drafting conference likely in July. We call on the Danish presidency, alongside the European External Action Service, to display principled leadership to ensure a strong and politically credible treaty, with comprehensive scope, covering all kinds of arms transfers and legal parameters based on full respect for relevant principles of international law. The EU and member states must advocate inclusion of the 'golden rule' to prevent arms transfers where there is a substantial risk of their being used for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

## MAKING COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE

The European Commission's new corporate social responsibility strategy released in October 2011 lacks the necessary clout to set up adequate guidance and measures to protect people and communities from human rights abuses committed by some EU-domiciled companies operating abroad. The Danish presidency should fill this leadership gap to ensure that the EU and member states make a strong commitment to fulfilling their duty to protect.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- We ask the presidency to persuade the Commission and Council to implement the UN Framework for Business & Human Rights effectively, starting by filling the legal human rights protection gaps identified by the Edinburgh study.
- The presidency should also press the Council of the EU to ensure that non-financial reporting is mandatory, includes due diligence findings and measures taken to mitigate negative impact on human rights, and ensures that communities affected by business operations have access to relevant information.

## **PURSUING GOVERNMENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE UNDER ‘COUNTER-TERRORISM’ POLICY**

Recent years have seen growing evidence of the complicity of European countries in violations, including unlawful transfer, enforced disappearances, torture and secret detentions, committed as part of the CIA renditions and secret detention programmes. But countries have failed to establish truly independent and effective investigations to ensure accountability and reparation for victims, and equally important, to establish safeguards to ensure such violations cannot recur in EU member states.

Lithuania, Poland and Romania are particular causes for concern on secret detention in EU countries. Lithuania has halted criminal prosecution despite acknowledging it hosted two secret CIA prisons. Poland’s criminal investigation has not been proceeding satisfactorily. Romania has failed to initiate a genuine investigation into credible allegations of a secret CIA prison on its territory.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The Danish presidency must engage the EU to ensure that member states are properly accountable for their contribution to CIA rendition and secret detention programmes. State secrecy should not justify denying justice to victims of torture and enforced disappearances.
- Like many other EU countries, including Finland, there are allegations that Denmark was involved in rendition flights. Independent and thorough investigations in all countries are vital to fully understanding events, and learning from them, to avoid future transgressions. Reforms such as improved transparency measures and parliamentary control should be considered in this light.
- The European Parliament’s forthcoming report, following up its 2007 accountability report on European complicity, provides a perfect opportunity for a joint effort by EU institutions. We expect the Danish presidency to show leadership by immediately initiating an independent, impartial, thorough, and effective investigation in Denmark, and fully supporting the European Parliament’s efforts.

## **FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION**

For the past three years, the Commission’s constructive proposal for an equality directive to help fill gaps in existing EU anti-discrimination standards on age, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation has been stuck at the EU Council. But the persistence of widespread discrimination, on all grounds, remains one of Europe’s most pressing human rights concerns. Discrimination against Muslims is just one example of this worrying trend towards increasing discrimination in EU countries.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- The Danish presidency must revive Council work on the equality directive. The presidency needs to seek solutions to the current political deadlock by ensuring that new EU standards effectively contribute to increased protection against discrimination in the EU.

## RESPECTING ROMA RIGHTS

Roma are one of Europe's largest and most disadvantaged minorities. On average Roma have lower incomes, worse health, poorer housing, lower literacy rates and higher level of unemployment than the rest of the population. This is a result of widespread and often systematic discrimination and violations of their human rights taking place in a number of EU countries. The EU must give the highest priority to combating and preventing discrimination, marginalisation and violence against Roma.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The presidency should lead the Council in taking a clear stand against anti-Gypsyism and should support fellow member states in the fight against racism and confront peers when hate-speech and anti-Gypsyism are used for political ends.
- The Commission and member states intend to respond to the crisis of discrimination against Roma people and their exclusion with the EU Frameworks for National Roma Integration Strategies. To be effective, strategies must be implemented at national and local level. The presidency should lead member states in prioritising the implementation of those strategies.

## TREATING MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS FAIRLY

As the 2012 deadline for completing the Common European Asylum System approaches, the Danish presidency comes at a crucial time to ensure progress on the remaining recast asylum proposals. There is a pressing need in Europe to tackle the systematic and widespread practice of detaining migrants and asylum seekers for immigration purposes, sometimes in inhuman conditions. A special effort must be made to end the detention of children.

Relationships with countries of origin and transit of migrants and asylum-seekers must be based on true partnership and the protection of human rights. It is time for the EU to show vigorous support for North African countries by engaging in refugee resettlement, and providing humanitarian assistance to countries hosting refugees.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- We ask the Danish presidency to drive progress on the new EU asylum procedures and reception conditions directives, ensuring all member states apply equivalent standards of treatment and procedures, which are gender-sensitive and in full accordance with human rights standards. Discussions on reforming Dublin II must ensure asylum-seekers' human rights are central to the process.
- The presidency should help reverse widespread use of immigration detention by EU countries by facilitating the adoption of a regulatory framework in the new Reception Conditions Directive in line with international human rights standards and precluding detention of minors.
- The presidency must work for swift agreement on the EU's resettlement programme and ensure cooperation on migration with non-EU countries is based on true partnership, solidarity, equal responsibility-sharing and full respect for migrants and asylum seekers' human rights.

## PROTECTING WOMEN IN THE EU

It is vital for the EU's human rights credibility to ensure that women's rights are protected as robustly within the EU as they are by the Union's external policy elsewhere in the world.

Denmark should seize the unique opportunity of holding the EU presidency to demonstrate political leadership and use its leverage on women's rights to press other EU countries to deliver on their promises to make EU territory free from violence against women.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Women's rights should again be a core EU priority, by respecting the EU's promise to create a strategy on violence against women, including female genital mutilation. This would be based on creating a framework to prevent violence against women.
- The Danish presidency should encourage member states to collect data on all forms of violence against women by setting up the promised Observatory on Gender Based Violence, which has yet to be created.
- By taking the lead in ensuring that the Council of Europe Convention on Violence Against Women & Domestic Violence is signed and ratified by the EU and member states, including by Denmark itself.

## EU'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights offers an excellent opportunity for the EU to install a robust internal mechanism to tackle human rights shortcomings and set up the necessary domestic remedies to address EU institutions' responsibility for human rights violations. Follow-up on the Council's commitment to implement the Charter of Fundamental Rights provides another opportunity to develop an effective internal EU legal order which protects and promotes human rights in the EU.

The European Court of Human Rights remains the cornerstone of human rights protection in Europe. The EU and its member states need to protect the Court's independence and integrity and the right of individual petition in the framework of the current discussions on Reform of the Court.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- We look to the presidency to press energetically for EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), ensuring that the people whose human rights are at issue in this process are kept at the heart of the debate, negotiations are transparent and seek to strengthen the ECHR system's capacity to protect human rights in Europe.
- The Danish presidency must remind EU countries of the European Court of Human Rights' importance and should not allow the reform process to be used to limit the Court's mandate to assess compliance with the Convention. The EU and member states should oppose proposals for imposing fees on applicants, adding other admissibility criteria, or allowing for simplified amendment procedures to those dispositions which guarantee the Court's independence and authority. Respect for the role of the Court in protecting human rights under the Convention, and for its independence and authority, must serve as guiding principles for any current or future reform of the Court.

## ENLARGING THE EU

The EU plays a crucial role in pressing for human rights progress in countries applying for EU membership. To ensure all new member states fully respect human rights standards, a vital part of the accession process must focus on promoting and monitoring their implementation. The EU must stress the importance of complying with human rights standards as a prerequisite to membership which is independent of any other considerations.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- As Croatian accession to the EU draws closer, the EU must monitor more robustly the country's progress in dealing with human rights violations committed during the 1991-95 war. The pre-accession monitoring mechanism is an essential tool to ensure Croatia addresses the issue of war crimes impunity. EU countries should fully support the steps and conditions the Commission has laid down for Croatia's accession, and confirm that Croatia carries them all out. This responsible approach will set an important precedent for other western Balkan countries which seek to join the Union.
- The EU should proceed with all current and future negotiations, especially with Turkey, constructively, maximising the potential to improve the human rights situation in the country concerned. This should include work on LGBT, minority rights and freedom of expression.

## IMPLEMENTING EU GUIDELINES

With human rights country strategies now forming the basis for the EU human rights approach to given countries, the EU must continue implementing its commitments under all human rights guidelines and remain alert to changes on the ground which may require priority changes. The EU must seek to raise individual cases in the most appropriate way, in consultation with those concerned.

The EU must continue to work with human rights defenders, particularly at national level. To do this, all EU delegations and member state embassies must adhere to specific minimum standards of engagement with human rights defenders. EU representations in non-EU countries in the same region should increase cooperation, to improve access to EU support and assistance for human rights defenders in need.

Renewed impetus is also required to put into practice the EU guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law (EU IHL Guidelines). Awareness and implementation of these is markedly lower compared with the other guidelines, and the EU must devote more resources, effort and political will to adopting effective and tangible measures to meet its commitments under the EU IHL Guidelines.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Amnesty International hopes to see progress on tangible support for human rights defenders who need to be temporarily relocated for security or other reasons. Such assistance, e.g. a shelter city network, must be flexible and able to respond rapidly to human rights defenders' relocation requests, given the imminent dangers they may face.
- Following the EU-NGO human rights forum in December 2011, the EU must boost its efforts to implement the EU IHL Guidelines, particularly by ensuring IHL is taken into account in crisis-management operations, and by taking an active role in fighting impunity and ensuring individual responsibility.

# TEN CASES OF PEOPLE UNDER THREAT



Around the world people are suffering the consequences of having their human rights violated. Amnesty International calls on the Danish presidency to ensure the EU's active engagement in these cases by:

- Raising the plight of the people concerned at every opportunity and pressing for tangible progress.
- Working with all EU embassies and delegations in each country to achieve positive change for those concerned.
- Acting locally and in national capitals under the EU human rights guidelines.



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## **JIGME GYATSO PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE, TIBET, CHINA**

A Tibetan prisoner of conscience and former monk is believed to be seriously ill following torture and ill-treatment in Qushui prison, Lhasa, in China's Tibet Autonomous Region. He was detained in 1996 for supporting Tibetan independence and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment as a 'counter-revolutionary ringleader'. He has been isolated, denied visitors for several months, tortured and otherwise ill-treated many times. In 1998, he was among prisoners in Drapchi prison who shouted pro-Dalai Lama slogans, prompting a violent response by prison staff, which resulted in nine dead. During that incident, Jigme Gyatso was beaten. In 2004, he was beaten again for having shouted pro-Dalai Lama slogans and given an additional three-year sentence for 'inciting separatism'. In November 2005, he met the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture during his visit to China, and was reportedly subsequently held in isolation, then put in hospital for several weeks. The Special Rapporteur has appealed for Jigme Gyatso's release. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has said his detention is arbitrary and violates his rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. He is due to be released in 2014.

**The Danish presidency must call for Jigme Gyatso's immediate and unconditional release and urge the authorities to ensure freedom of expression for all. In line with the EU torture guidelines, the Danish presidency must urge the Chinese authorities to follow Chinese and international law and end impunity for officials who commit torture and other ill-treatment.**



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## **OPPOSITION FIGURES POSSIBLE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE, BAHRAIN**

On 28 September, a military appeal court in Bahrain upheld the sentences of 14 opposition figures, all civilians, who led and participated in anti-government demonstration in February and March 2011. Through their lawyers they have lodged an appeal before the civilian Court of Cassation by November their appeal before the Court of Cassation had still not been heard. Among the 14 defendants in court, seven were sentenced to life imprisonment, four to fifteen years, two to five years and one to two years. The charges against the 14 included 'setting up terror groups to topple the royal regime and change the constitution'. The defendants denied the charges and alleged they were tortured in prison to force them to confess. No investigation into allegations of torture is known to have taken place.

**The Danish presidency must demand an independent investigation into allegations that some of the detainees were tortured or otherwise ill-treated in detention, and bring to justice anyone responsible for torture.**



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## **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (NGO) STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, ETHIOPIA**

A repressive new law is crippling the work of the Ethiopian NGO, the Human Rights Council (HRCO), which monitors human rights violations in Ethiopia, hindering its work, including its support for victims. The Ethiopian authorities have long been hostile to human rights work. HRCO staff have been threatened, attacked and arrested. The new law has intensified this threatening climate.

The law, passed in 2009, prohibits organisations which receive over ten per cent of their funding from foreign

sources from working on human rights issues. A Charities & Societies Agency (CSA) was also established, with broad discretionary powers over NGOs, including government surveillance and direct involvement in their management and operations, which could place victims of violations at further risk.

In 2009 the CSA ordered four banks where HRCO held its funds to freeze HRCO's accounts. HRCO was told it could not continue operating with funds previously collected from abroad, a retroactive application of the law to funds received before the law was passed. This has cost HRCO about US\$566,000 in frozen funds, money it had saved throughout its 20-year existence.

HRCO appealed against the freezing of funds to the Federal High Court, which on 26 October 2011 upheld the Agency's decision. HRCO's accounts remain frozen.

**We urge the EU to raise concerns with the Ethiopian Government over diminishing space for HRCO and other human rights organisations in Ethiopia, inter alia by raising the issue through the dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. We urge the Danish presidency to bring about an EU statement on HRCO and the need to amend the Charities & Societies Proclamation.**



## **ABD AL-RAHIM AL-NASHIRI & ABU ZUBAYDAH COUNTER-TERRORISM, POLAND AND LITHUANIA**

A 2004 internal CIA report says Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri was subjected to 'waterboarding' (mock drowning), stress positions, and was threatened with a gun while in secret CIA detention. In 2010 George W. Bush admitted in his memoirs that he authorised Abu Zubaydah's secret detention and waterboarding. Both men are currently detained at Guantánamo Bay. A Polish prosecutor has granted them 'victim' status under the continuing investigation into the alleged presence of a secret CIA prison at Stare Kiejkuty, Poland. Lithuania's failure to investigate its role in the CIA secret detention programme has forced Abu Zubaydah to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights. Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri also has a case filed with the European Court of Human Rights for alleged mistreatment during detention at a secret prison in Poland. Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri is due to be tried by a US military commission and might face the death penalty if convicted.

**The presidency should robustly reject impunity and support all efforts to conduct full, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of European complicity in the US-led rendition and secret detention programmes. The presidency should commit itself to intervening on behalf of these two men with the US and European governments.**



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## CHOUCHA CAMP RIGHTS OF REFUGEES, TUNISIA

Around 3,700 refugees mainly from Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan are stranded and living precariously in the Tunisian Choucha camp near the Libyan border. These people have been displaced once again, this time by the conflict in Libya. Resettlement is their only possible lifeline. The UNHCR has appealed to countries which have the capacity to accept substantial numbers of people within a reasonable period. EU countries have done little so far to alleviate matters. Few have offered to resettle refugees, and then only in modest numbers. It is essential for EU countries to become more active by joining multilateral efforts and sharing responsibility for refugees forced out of Libya. Refugees in Choucha camp must be resettled urgently.

**The Danish presidency should ensure that EU countries urgently respond to the UNHCR's appeal for an emergency resettlement initiative by offering or increasing resettlement places for refugees forced out of Libya.**



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## CHRISTI CHERAMIE SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE AS A CHILD, LOUISIANA, USA

In 1994, at the age of 16, Christi Cheramie was sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of release. She is now 33. She was convicted of second-degree murder in the killing of her fiancé's great aunt, which she maintains he carried out. She pleaded guilty just before her trial in an adult court, fearing she might be sentenced to death if the trial proceeded. Her plea prevents her from directly appealing against her conviction or sentence.

A psychiatrist who saw Christi Cheramie before her trial said she was a 'depressed, dependent, and insecure' 16-year-old who 'seems to have been fearful of crossing' her fiancé. Her childhood was marked by sexual abuse. At 13 she was put into a psychiatric clinic after attempting suicide.

In 2001, Christi Cheramie sought to withdraw her guilty plea, saying she had not understood the proceedings at the time or what pleading guilty to second-degree murder really meant. Her request was denied.

More than 2,500 people are serving life imprisonment without the possibility of release in the USA for crimes committed when they were younger than 18 years old.

**In line with the EU Guidelines on the Rights of the Child, the Danish presidency should press for the development of prevention mechanisms, particularly child-friendly juvenile justice systems, by urging the enactment of federal and state laws which retroactively eliminate sentences of life without parole for any crime committed by somebody under eighteen. The president should also urge the Governor of Louisiana to grant clemency to Christi Cheramie.**



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## FATIMA HUSSEIN BADI DEATH PENALTY, YEMEN

Fatima Hussein Badi faces the death penalty, first imposed in 2001 when she was convicted of murdering her husband following an unfair trial. She was reportedly questioned about his death for five hours at night without a lawyer present, and was threatened with rape in the presence of her brother, Abdullah. To save her, he apparently confessed to murdering her husband, and was executed in 2005. In 2003, the supreme court found that Fatima had not taken part in her husband's killing, but had helped hide his body. Her sentence was consequently reduced to four years' imprisonment. However, the court reimposed the death sentence in 2004 following the president's intervention. Fatima's lawyer has appealed to the president for clemency, but she remains at risk of imminent execution.

**In line with the EU Death Penalty Guidelines, the presidency should demand that everybody in Yemen who is sentenced to death, including Fatima Hussein Badi, has their sentence commuted urgently, as the first stage in abolishing the death penalty.**



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Joshua Tree Photography

## **FAMILIES IN CLUJ-NAPOCA FORCED EVICTION, ROMANIA**

On 17 December 2010, 76 families (356 people) were forcibly evicted by local authorities from the centre of Cluj-Napoca in violation of international human rights obligations. There had been no consultation with those affected and no feasible alternatives to eviction were explored. Those evicted were not given any written or detailed notification with sufficient notice and the community was not given the opportunity to challenge the eviction. Forty families were re-housed in sub-standard modular housing on the city's outskirts, close to the municipal dump and a former chemical waste dump. It does not comply with international or Romanian standards on adequacy of housing, particularly in relation to location, habitability and availability of services, facilities and infrastructure. Thirty-six families were left without alternative housing. Some were allowed to build improvised shelters in the area next to the modular houses, while those with no money for construction materials were left homeless. Justice is lacking for all the families, as no remedy was made available to them.

**The Danish presidency should call on the Romanian authorities to ensure that victims of forced evictions have access to an effective remedy, including access to justice and reparations. Romania should amend its housing law to prohibit forced evictions, include safeguards which must be complied with before any eviction is carried out, and to bring the law into line with international and regional standards on the right to adequate housing.**



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## **MILAN LEVAR ACCOUNTABILITY, CROATIA**

Milan Levar was killed by a bomb under his car in Gospić, in Croatia in August 2000. More than 11 years later, this crime's perpetrator has not been brought to justice. Levar was killed because he publicly campaigned for justice for victims of crimes committed during the 1991-95 war in Croatia. He volunteered for the Croatian Army in 1991.

According to reports, in 1992 he was ordered to round up Croatian Serbs for execution and refused. After the war, he was questioned as a potential witness by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague in 1997 and 1998 in connection with war crimes committed around Gospić. He also helped collect evidence and find other witnesses whom the Tribunal then interviewed. He was killed before he could testify.

**As Croatia's accession date is drawing closer, the presidency should use every opportunity to urge the Croatian Government to ensure that those responsible for Milan Levar's murder are brought to justice. The presidency should ensure that pre-accession monitoring includes following up the investigation of allegations against current high-ranking officials who may have been involved in the commission of war crimes.**



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## **YAKOV STROGAN TORTURE, UKRAINE**

Yakov Strogan was detained by police in Kharkiv in August 2010 following an argument with a neighbour. He was allegedly taken to a wood, beaten and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment by the police. He was then held incommunicado for four days. His wife, Anna Strogan, said the police introduced her to a lawyer who offered to secure his release for US\$10,000. She refused to pay. Yakov Strogan was released after four days, and complained about his treatment. In October the regional prosecutor refused to open a criminal investigation, claiming there was 'no evidence of a crime'. Yakov Strogan then took part in a press conference and publicised his complaint to the parliamentary ombudsman and others. He was detained again in December, beaten by the police and charged with attempted murder. The Kharkiv Human Rights Group believes his re-arrest is in retaliation for his complaint.

**In line with the EU Guidelines on Torture, we call on the presidency to appeal for his immediate release and demand that the allegations of ill-treatment are investigated swiftly by the authorities.**

In this document, Amnesty International presents specific recommendations on human rights policy for the Danish presidency to deliver during its six-month term as President of the Council of the European Union (January-July 2012). Amnesty International will then assess the presidency's progress after three months and at its conclusion. We also invite the Danish presidency to monitor its own progress in following the recommendations. Human rights work is about real people. Taking action on individuals is a tangible way of putting into practice the EU's commitment to protecting human rights. We ask the Danish presidency to intervene on behalf of ten people or communities who have suffered, or are currently suffering, human rights violations, thereby demonstrating the EU's commitment to defending human rights throughout the world.

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**Cover picture:** Helsinki, Finland, 28 May 2011. The 50th birthday of Amnesty International was celebrated in an event called "Tänään olen vapaa" (Today I Am Free). Hundreds of balloons were released to symbolize demands for justice and freedom. © Katja Tähjä  
**Page 8 picture:** Choucha Refugee Camp, Tunisia, June 2011. A woman and children stand in the shade of an olive tree. The majority of residents in Choucha camp are refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and the Ivory Coast who had been living or travelling in Libya when conflict broke out. They are 'double' refugees, displaced once from their homes and then again from Libya. © Amnesty International