

## PLATFORM "FORTRESS EUROPE?"

### CIRCULAR LETTER NO.5

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Editor:

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### US POLICE CHIEFS ATTACK INTERPOL

**According to a report from New York in the Independent, "Interpol is squirming under the spotlight after chiefs of police accused it of withholding information about a Palestinian guerilla chief's visit to France this year".**

The National association of Chiefs of Police (Nacop) said on Monday (2 March) that Interpol, which has its headquarters in France, knew that Georges Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, planned to enter the country for medical treatment, but the organisation failed to notify the proper authorities. Nacop also said that Interpol had admitted it did not have a file on Mr Habash, even though the PFLP has been blamed for terrorist attacks, including the 1976 hijacking of an Air France jet. Dr Habash's visit touched off one of the worst scandals to afflict the present French government.

The head of Nacop, Gerald Arenberg, said Interpol's failure showed "it is a liability to effective law enforcement and a threat to the safety and privacy of citizens around the world". Nacop, which has 11'000 members and is influential in defining US law-enforcement policies, has lobbied Congress to halt all US contributions to Interpol.

Interpol responded yesterday (4 March) by accusing Nacop of "ignorance"..."Interpol's files only contain information of a criminal nature sent by member states", Yves Barbot, the president of the organisation, said. "None of the 158 member countries, including the US, had sent such documents concerning Habash..."

Interpol... has always taken to an extreme its own rule that it should avoid all involvement in politics. However, it recently began using more modern equipment after criticism that it was ineffective in the fight against drug-smuggling, money-laundering and terrorism.

The US attack touched a raw nerve with Interpol by saying the European Community was so mistrustful of the organisation that it had set up its own police co-ordinating force, Europol. Moves to eliminate internal borders in Europe and the upheavals in the continent have forced Interpol, founded in 1923, to make a hurried readjustment.

But it is a small organisation, with an annual budget of £8.7m and only about 90 police officers among its 280-member staff. Its secretary general since 1985 has been a straight-talking former Scotland Yard (i.e. from London's police force) officer, Raymond Kendall.

In recent interviews [any information on these interviews is welcome] Mr Kendall has spoken of how Interpol has evaded its own ban on investigating politically motivated crimes by distinguishing between a crime and its motive. More complicated, he said, are cases of state-sponsored terrorism".

Quoted from The Independent, 4.3.92

### AUSTRIA

### THE NEW SECURITY POLICE LAW: AUSTRIA'S "PRE HOC" HARMONIZATION WITH SCHENGEN POLICIES?

**Four important bills in the domains of security police, asylum, compulsory domicile registration and the right of residence indicate a turningpoint for the political climate in the alpine republic: More order and control, more "security" and a stronger hand of the executive on the one hand, less liberality, transparency and democracy on the other. Is this Austria's way to qualify for EC-membership?**

**In Circular Letter No.3 we commented the asylum bill (p.3: New, restrictive law threatens right to asylum). Here follows a critical synopsis on the security police law.**

The "Federal law on the organization of security administration and the exercise of security policing" (SPG) was voted on October 2, 1991 by the Austrian parliament. It replaces regulations on police powers and organization, some of which date back to as far as the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1850 and for the first time introduces the principle of some form of legal and parliamentary control on the activities of the political police, the Stapo (Staatspolizei).

A series of revelations and scandals involving police and Stapo in recent

years had heightened public awareness and criticism of police misbehaviour and are one explanation for the relatively speedy introduction of the new law.

The Stapo's role in two spectacular cases of economic crime (the "Lucona" and the "Noricum" cases) involving senior government officials and politicians and embarrassing reports by Amnesty International by the Commission for the prevention of torture of the Council of Europe on cases of grave ill-treatment by Austrian policemen. Moreover, revelations on extensive political surveillance of citizens by the Stapo had caused widespread indignation: Indeed, 775 officials were spying on citizens in their chief occupation with an estimated annual budget of one billion Austrian Schillings. The Interior ministry itself acknowledged the existence of 59'000 Stapo files. "Mothers against nuclear threats" and citizens protesting against the setting-up of a waste deposit in their neighbourhood were among the "political suspects" detected by the Stapo. In the sarcastic Austrian vernacular the Stapo was soon called the "Alpine Stasi" (after the former East German state security).

### **Improvements**

Indeed, the SPG brings some improvements with regard to civil liberties and fundamental rights in a formerly extra-legal domain. Thus the stipulation of the ultima ratio principle - the interference in individual liberties only as a last mean - and the principle of proportionate action provide a minimum of protection against police arbitrariness. Moreover, an independent instance of complaint has been created and data protection regulations have been extended to certain domains of non computerized data processing.

But the most significant progress can be found in the ban for the Stapo to collect discretionary data on persons in a purely preventive manner.

### **Spongy legal language opens the door to abuse**

Unfortunately the inclusion of these principles is very much reduced to hollow declarations of intent through the introduction of a series of paragraphs which undermine the above-named guarantees by dangerously vague definitions of the terms employed.

Thus the following rights of the concerned are embodied in

30, alinea 1:

- the right to be informed, upon request, on cause and purpose of a police intervention;
- the right to obtain the service number of the intervening police official(s);
- the right to call in a person of confidence;
- the right to utter facts of importance with regard to the official act and to demand for their establishment.

But all this is at once jeopardized through alinea 2 of the same paragraph which bluntly states that "this does not apply, when the carrying out of the task would thereby be put at a risk". Thus it is precisely the official, vis-à-vis whom these rights are meant to provide protection, who decides if they shall be applied or not to the particular case. Thus, what has been clearly regulated in the first alinea, is left to discretionary decision in the second.

In a first draft of alinea 2 it still said: "...would thereby be **prevented**" (and not "put at a risk"). This little modification shows that the numerous "elastic" regulations in the SPG are not due to sloppy formulation work but rather to deliberate action of the legislator.

With the regulation on "security checks" new spheres of difficult to control activities of the Stapo are created. According to

55 al.2 the security police must screen persons "when the person concerned is assigned for a task, within which it will exercise administrative authority of command and coercion or have decisive influence on the realization of other acts of administration or other important administrative decisions, and when a particular public law corporation demands it".

According to

53 and following the police may already collect and process data, when it believes that it thus serves the "prevention of probable dangerous attacks against life, health, morality, liberty, property or environment" or the maintenance of "public order" at the occasion of a "particular event". Thus, such police surveillance is neither limited to the verifiable preparation of concrete serious crimes nor to the circle of persons actually engendering the alleged "dangerous attack" (attack punishable by penal law). In combined application with

30 al.2 this facilitates vast covert surveillance operations against non-suspects. The mere formulation of

53 and following is strongly reminiscent of article 99 al.3 of Schengen II.

What is "public order"? The SPG furnishes generations of European jurists who have desperately meditated on the possible meaning of this term with a simple and easy to apply definition:  
According to

27 "public order" is nothing else than "order in public places". The latter are, quite obviously, places "which can be acceded to by a cercle of persons not defined in advance".

According to

53 the police may investigate personal data, when a "cercle of persons not defined in advance" accedes to a "public place" at a "particular event". Anybody who "disturbs public order without justification by particularly reckless behaviour" can be sentenced to up to two weeks of imprisonment.

Another provision says that personal data may be collected only, when this is "essential" for carrying out a task. Not even an attempt is made to define this term.

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training and adaptation of professional standards, housing problem

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anything  
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the  
traditional  
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the  
Interior  
minister.  
Nonetheless  
the  
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the regulation of immigration by a law on residence was produced u

nder the leadership of the Interior Minister. Thus, we are experi

encing the transition from policing as a compensation for lack of

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ong time the conflicts described above are not home made any more

Everything that happens in Austria, ordinarily happens elsewhere

sooner or later, in Germany or France, in Italy or in Britain.

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symptomatical phenomena. The most important project in this domain

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for publication in the Circular)

AUSTRIA

TO JOIN SCHENGEN

INITIATIVE

ATY

BEFORE

ACCEDING

TO

EC-MEMBERSHIP

The EC

advocates the extensi

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on  
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its  
external  
border  
policies  
and  
in  
particular  
Schengen  
II

to Australia as soon as is possible. Not long ago the Schengen stat

ess unambiguously excluded the possibility for non-EC estates to jo

in the treaty.

Today,

Brussels seems

to have reversed its

position

n :  
"We have another view of this. One simply has to make intergov

ernmental treaties - The discussions with the Viennese interior minister

ministry on harmonization of criminal investigation, the combat against

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pplications have reached such a stage, that we can practise what

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astonishing case of creating far reaching political facts without

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group,  
Madeleine  
Petrovich  
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sed as problematic by the government" and she deplores that the p

arliament is never informed on the negotiations:

"The level of in

formation of the parliament amounts to what is said by the media"

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base of the Australian alien police. The creation of the new database

ses is connected with the planned law on residence which introduce

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Medical examination and criminal identification are compulsory

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uce such measures," Franz Löschnak, the interior minister, said.

According to Löschner, an estimated 500,000 foreigners living in

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apte'd" criminal information system. The Interior minister has fur

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of  
Austria,  
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Romania

on  
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introduction  
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makes  
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possible  
for

Austria  
to send back undocumented aliens to Hungary and Romania.

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Source:

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**BELGIUM**

**MASS  
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BRUSSELS**

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for more "tolerance" in Brussels, on March

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big success, the impulse is given to what the organizers call a "

new movement". The aim is to set up a long-lasting campaign cause

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" h a n d i n h a n d - 9 4 " i n v i e w o f t h e European and local elections .

Patria

Klinckhamers

source:

Belgian

newspapers,

23·3·92

UNITED

KINGDOM

VOLUNTARY

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CARDS

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POLICE

Senior

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citizens should carry identity cards to help the police control crime

immigration if current border controls best

combat

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immigration

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controls

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immigration

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ween Britain and other European states are relaxed. But in a sign

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Home

Affairs

committee

that

"voluntary"

cards

could

be introduced

even before controls

were eased -

Ron Hatfi

eld, chief

constable o

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West

Midlands

force,  
said

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British

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rearguard  
action,' he  
said that the  
police had  
become  
convinced

by arguments that a voluntary system could be put in place. The

cards,

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voluntary,

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effectively

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LUM SEEKERS TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES GOVERNMENTS The British gover

ment's widely criticised Asylum Bill was (temporarily?) dropped,

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rnment problems with Asylum law", Circular No. 4; "UNHCR says Brit

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refugees" is already in force: fines for airlines who bring passe

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000 per passenger and evidence is now emerging that UK immigration

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Some airlines argue that the name is insufficient evidence and w

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little say in which airline they take. "If you want to fly you, say

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Peyman  
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Iranian  
Association,  
"you  
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Iran

Airline requirements for currency - And if you need

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to do it, because before you can leave, they spend up to a week ch

cking the details

against their

records."

Source:

New Statesman

&  
Society,  
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92

**SPAIN**

**DATA**

**PROTECTION**

**SCANDAL**

**EIGHT**

**Spanish**  
**b**

businessmen and officials in the labour ministry have been arrested

stated on charge of illegal trafficking in the personal details of

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Spaniards,  
more than

half the total

population.

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experts say, can easily be tapped into with the right equipment.

Several provincial savings banks, and at least two of the counter

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selections tailored to their clients' needs - included in the info

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tlemen". Some details were leaked from government departments, in

cluding the Treasury, the ministry of Work and Social Security an

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ught from banks, which had not erased the information they contain

needed, provided information about account balances and monthly salary.

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while details on motor vehicles were obtained by missusing pr

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all records, love affairs and even sexual preferences. Fears over

the abuse of personal freedom have been further stoked by a new I

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identity document and to enter homes without a warrant.

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iting their deportation. The court stated that the Interior minis

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rior in "transit zone".

Indeed, the risk for a new attempt to legalize the practice of

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GERMANY

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LABOUR COURT

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**ON PROCEDURES AGAINST STASI-SUSPECTS:  
DISMISSAL OF THE HUMBOLDT U**

UNIVERSITY'S

VICE-CHANCELLOR

HEINRICH

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and research was unlawful and

Mr Fink

must be reappointed.

The ve

rdict constitutes a reversal of previous jurisdiction and a first

important victory in the vice-chancellor's fight for fair procedure

ures in dealing with alleged Stasi - collaboration. It furthermore

highlights the importance of common European intervention for the

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for Science and research, Prof. -

Manfred Erhardt, after the Gauck -

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tate security, the Stasi, had leaked information allegedly indicating a

ting Stasi involvement of Mr Fink to the press. The "Fink case" - I e

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Classification of Germany: Inquisition procedures versus fair trial

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The presiding judge  
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Bernd Kiesling deci

are derived from his oral motivation of the decision, that the incriminatio

ng documents presented by the Gauck administration lacked argument

tative force, as they merely consisted of reports by officers of

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Vice-chancellor - The election is to take place on June 6. It had

earlier been scheduled for November 92, but been postponed by th

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**ROMANIA**

**TWO**

**MINORITIES**

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the  
German  
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ordining to Waffen-schmidt, the German minority, a factor of equilibrium

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countries  
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with a  
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past"  
of so

cultural, economical and cultural development is facing "serious problems"

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tion could be observed concerning the German minority's emigration

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rated when faced with expropriation, imprisonment and deportation

, which led to a gradual decrease of the community in Romania. But

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government  
of  
chancellor  
Helmut  
Koh

In 1991 emigration declined considerably, with "only" 32,000 e

migrants

(in

Germany,

general

enthusiasm

for

"bringing home"

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resent, about 100,000 Germans remain in Romania. I would like to

point out that there is equal treatment for all Romanian citizens

" , said Mr Waffenschmidt . " I was also assured that the government

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Germans  
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communist countries is based on two principles: on one hand, t

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mains open for them in special situations. The F.R.G. assistance f

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stitutions, schools, kindergartens, farms, enterprises, and a wide

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assure the existence of the German community in Romania.

Source:

România

libera,

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- - and

**gypsies**

The

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the

"iron

curt

ain"  
provoked  
a massive  
flux  
of gypsies  
towards  
Western  
Europe.  
A

particular  
large number  
came from  
Romania  
and first arrived  
in

Vienna.  
From  
there,  
they  
spread  
mainly  
to  
Germany,  
Italy  
and  
Fra

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After the the

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Romania

- Source:

Tinerromâ

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**YUGOSLAVIA**

**URGENT**

**APP**

EAL  
FROM  
THE  
DEMOCRATIC  
FORUM

RIJEKA/FIUME

We are addressing you

with  
an  
urgent  
request  
to  
assist  
us  
in  
protecting  
a  
member  
of  
our

Committee for human Rights, Rade Rapaić from Rijeka, Dremovski p

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his  
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(wife,  
teenage  
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and  
an adult  
daughter  
with  
her

husband  
and  
a  
child).  
On  
3  
April,  
Rade  
rapaics  
fifteen  
year  
old

daughter Jelena almost lost an eye at school, when classmates, p

robably influenced by their parents verbally abused her and then

tried to stone her, thereby injuring her in close vicinity of an

eye - some pupils then " suggested " she complained to Helsinki Watch .

In the Rapacic family's neighborhood fifteen houses have been bombed

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intervene directly with President Franjo Tudjman and with the m

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A f f a i r s , I v a n V e k i c .

W e f e e l v e r y m u c h o b l i g

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persecuted  
for political  
and "ethnic"  
reasons - Dismissals  
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implications from job, withdrawals of pensions and even citizen

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broad,  
- by temporarily hiding particularly endangered persons o

outside the country, by lobbying for tolerance and the protection

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human resources  
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Parliament, authorities of their countries, all with the aim of i

intervening rapidly in particular cases of threats against members

of  
the Committee  
of  
Human Rights.

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Rijeka - A group of provocateurs entered the hall where the sympos

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international conventions concerning human rights protection. A

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rights protection.  
We are aware that this is only a drop in the o

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hreat. This appeal of ours is in no way an exaggeration, but just

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Interventions in favour of Rade Rapaić should be

addressed  
to:  
Mr.  
Franjo  
Tudjman

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Helsinki

Watch has

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of detainees, arbitrary arrests and disappearances, destruction

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