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**International & European
Criminal Law Observatory**

ON CULTURAL ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY

MONTHLY WRAP AUGUST 2025

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

[UNESCO Director-General condemns the killing of journalists Anas Al-Sharif, Mohammed Qreiqeh, Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal, Moamen Aliwa, and Mohammed Al-Khaldi in Palestine](#)

On 11 August 2025, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay condemned the killing of six journalists in Gaza City: Anas Al-Sharif, Mohammed Qreiqeh, Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal, Moamen Aliwa, and Mohammed Al-Khaldi. The attack, which struck a media tent outside Al-Shifa Hospital, appears to be a deliberate targeting of journalists at work. Azoulay called for a thorough and transparent investigation, highlighting that targeting media professionals violates international humanitarian law and Security Council Resolution 2222 on the protection of journalists in conflict zones. Anas Al-Sharif and Mohammed Qreiqeh were correspondents for Al Jazeera, while Zaher, Noufal, and Aliwa served as camera operators. Mohammed Al-Khaldi worked as a freelance photojournalist. UNESCO reiterated its commitment to the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and Emphasized that journalists must be protected as civilians. The statement stressed the urgency of addressing impunity for attacks against the press.

[Afghanistan: Four years on, 2.2 million girls still banned from school](#)

On 14 August 2025, UNESCO warned that approximately **2.2 million Afghan girls** remain barred from attending secondary and higher education, four years after the Taliban's return to power. This figure includes nearly 400,000 additional girls excluded in the last year alone. Since 2021, Taliban decrees have aggressively rolled back female access to education and media, including a ban on women working in journalism, undermining two decades of progress when girls' school enrollment rates had soared to over 80%.

UNESCO emphasized that the denial of education is catastrophic for both individuals and Afghanistan's long-term development. In response, the organization is supporting community-based



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learning initiatives in over 2,600 villages, training more than 1,000 facilitators to teach literacy to some 57,000 young people, mostly girls. Media-based educational platforms like SOLAx (WhatsApp), local radio, and cable channels are reaching an estimated audience of 17 million Afghans.

UNESCO's Director-General called on the international community to maintain diplomatic pressure and demand the immediate, unconditional reopening of schools and universities to all Afghan girls. The message was clear: the right to education is non-negotiable, and abandoning this generation of girls equates to sacrificing the country's future.

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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)



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[UNHCR urges Pakistan to exempt Afghans with international protection needs from involuntary return](#)

On 5 August 2025, UNHCR called on the Government of Pakistan to urgently reconsider its approach toward Afghan refugees by exempting individuals with ongoing international protection needs from forced returns. The appeal came amid growing concerns about deportation practices affecting Afghan nationals who hold Proof of Registration (PoR) cards or other temporary documentation. UNHCR emphasized that specific groups—such as individuals enrolled in higher education, those married to Pakistani nationals, people with chronic health conditions, and other vulnerable populations—should not be subject to involuntary repatriation. UNHCR warned that large-scale returns without adequate safeguards could exacerbate the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, where the security context remains volatile and basic services are severely limited. The agency offered its support to the Pakistani authorities in developing fair and efficient procedures for identifying and protecting at-risk individuals. It also called for compliance with international law, including the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning individuals to situations where they may face serious harm.

[UNHCR urges Pakistan to exempt Afghans with international protection needs from involuntary return](#)

On **29 August 2025**, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi concluded a visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, urging the international community to step up support for refugees and internally displaced persons as they seek to return home. He highlighted that voluntary, safe, and dignified return represents the most sustainable solution and welcomed recent peace developments such as the Washington Agreement and the Doha process as promising foundations for regional stability. Grandi also underscored the need for tangible investments in communities to ensure that return is not only feasible but enduring.

A significant sign of progress came when **533 Rwandan refugees**, mostly women and children, voluntarily returned home from eastern DRC to Rwanda on **25 August 2025**. This movement followed commitments made at a high-level DRC–Rwanda–UNHCR meeting in Addis Ababa and was hailed as a critical confidence-building step.

In Kinshasa, Grandi met with President Félix Tshisekedi to discuss his agency's role in protecting refugees and facilitating returns, while in Kigali, he listened to returnees who described the struggles of rebuilding their lives amid recurrent violence. In Rwanda, he praised the country's inclusive approach to refugee protection and called on the international community to follow Rwanda's example by investing in durable solutions.



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

UN Syria Commission finds March coastal violence was widespread and systematic: outlines urgent steps to prevent future violations and restore public confidence

On 14 August 2025, the UN Syria Commission of Inquiry issued a comprehensive report concluding that the wave of violence in March along Syria's western coastal region was widespread and systematic. The investigation documented grave abuses including extrajudicial killings, torture, abductions, and looting, primarily targeting Alawite civilians. The acts were attributed to armed groups aligned with the interim government, including the Sultan Suleiman Shah Brigade, the Hamza Division, the 400th Division, and Ahrar al-Sham. While the report did not find direct evidence of centralized government planning, it emphasized that the nature and scope of the attacks indicate a high level of coordination and criminality. An estimated 1,400 civilians were killed, with many more displaced. Eyewitnesses reported door-to-door killings, the desecration of bodies, and deliberate efforts to instill fear in Alawite communities. The Commission urged the immediate launch of



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independent investigations, the prosecution of those responsible, and urgent reforms to protect minority groups and rebuild public trust in justice mechanisms during Syria's transition.

UN Human Rights Council panel to debate how racism undermines democracy

Between 22 and 26 August 2025, the UN Human Rights Council organized a high-level panel discussion titled "*How Racism Undermines Democracy*." Held in Geneva, the event brought international attention to how systemic racism and racial discrimination corrode democratic principles by undermining inclusive and safe participation in public affairs. Speakers from diverse regions and backgrounds presented both achievements and ongoing challenges, with a strong emphasis on marginalized racial and ethnic groups facing exclusion from political processes.

The panel was structured under the framework of HRC Resolution 53/21 and featured opening remarks by Deputy High Commissioner Nada Al-Nashif and Brazil's Minister of Racial Equality, Anielle Franco (via video statement). Panelists included representatives such as José Francisco Calí Tzay (Guatemala), Ibrahima Guissé (CERD member), Anastasia Crickley (Minority Rights Group Chair), and Tea Jaliashvili (OSCE), with the discussion chaired by Jürg Lauber, President of the Human Rights Council. A summary of the debate's outcomes is expected to be presented at the Council's 60th session in September 2025.

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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)

DRC: Türk appalled by attacks against civilians by Rwandan-backed M23 and other armed groups

On 6 August 2025, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk expressed deep alarm over ongoing attacks against civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, perpetrated by the Rwandan-backed M23 armed group and other militias. According to the Office of the High Commissioner, hundreds of civilians have been killed, injured, or displaced in recent months, with the violence intensifying in areas such as North Kivu and Ituri. Türk condemned reports of extrajudicial executions, sexual violence, destruction of homes, and looting of civilian property, describing the situation as one of the most severe humanitarian crises currently unfolding in Africa. He emphasized that the M23 offensive is not only causing mass displacement but is also obstructing access to food, water, healthcare, and other essential services for already vulnerable communities. The Commissioner urged all parties involved to immediately cease hostilities and uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law. He also called for the government of the DRC, regional actors, and the international community to ensure accountability for violations, support peace initiatives, and strengthen protection for civilians. Türk stressed that the ongoing violence risks becoming entrenched if impunity continues and if structural grievances—including marginalization, lack of services, and resource exploitation—are not addressed in a sustainable and inclusive manner.



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UN expert welcomes revised EU regulations against trade in instruments of torture, calls for a global treaty

On 5 August 2025, a UN human rights expert welcomed the European Union's adoption of revised regulations aimed at tightening restrictions on trade in goods that can be used for torture, capital punishment, or inhuman and degrading treatment. These include equipment such as electric shock batons, spiked restraints, stun guns, and chemicals used in executions. The updated EU framework prohibits not only the trade of such items but also the provision of technical assistance, training, and advertising related to them. The expert emphasized that this strengthened regulation represents a significant human rights milestone, reinforcing the idea that states have a duty to prevent complicity in torture or ill-treatment through commerce. He noted that companies should no longer be allowed to profit from pain and repression, and that these new rules set an example for ethical trade standards in the global market. The expert further urged the international community to pursue a global treaty that would ban the trade of torture-related equipment across all regions, warning that without a unified legal instrument, such goods may continue to circulate through loopholes and jurisdictions with weak controls. A treaty, he argued, would standardize legal definitions, expand cooperation among states, and ensure that perpetrators and enablers of torture face real consequences.

Türk: Israel's plan for complete military takeover of Gaza must be immediately halted

On 8 August 2025, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk expressed grave concern over Israel's declared intention to carry out a complete military takeover of Gaza City. He warned that such an operation would likely result in mass forced displacement, widespread destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, and the deepening of an already catastrophic humanitarian crisis. According to Türk, the planned offensive would directly undermine the International Court of Justice's provisional measures issued earlier in the year, which called on Israel to refrain from actions that could worsen the situation in Gaza or violate international law. Türk urged Israeli authorities to immediately halt any further military escalation and instead prioritize protection of civilians and unimpeded humanitarian access. He emphasized that the proposed offensive could amount to collective punishment, violate the principles of proportionality and distinction under international humanitarian law, and further jeopardize prospects for peace.

Gaza: UN experts appalled by murder of Al Jazeera correspondents in Israeli strike

On 10 August 2025, UN human rights experts expressed deep shock following the killing of several Al Jazeera journalists in an Israeli airstrike near al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. The victims included Anas



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al-Sharif, Mohammed Qreiqeh, Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal, Moamen Aliwa, and Mohammed Al-Khaldi. According to reports, the journalists were working in a clearly marked press area when the strike occurred. The experts described the attack as a grave violation of international humanitarian law, under which journalists are protected civilians. They stated that deliberate targeting of media workers may amount to a war crime and called for an independent and transparent investigation. The experts also emphasized the broader concern of a growing pattern of violence against Palestinian journalists and warned that such attacks seriously undermine press freedom, accountability, and the public's right to information in conflict zones.

Sudan: Türk outraged after RSF kills at least 57 civilians in El Fasher and Abu Shouk IDP camp

On 13 August 2025, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk expressed deep outrage after reports that Sudan's Rapid Support Forces had killed at least 57 civilians in and around El Fasher and the Abu Shouk IDP camp. Victims included women, children, and elderly individuals sheltering in community sites. The RSF reportedly raided the camp early in the morning, firing indiscriminately on makeshift shelters. Türk condemned the killings as gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, calling them absolutely unacceptable. He demanded prompt, independent investigations, accountability for perpetrators, protection for displaced populations, and unobstructed humanitarian access to provide vital assistance and care.

Afghanistan: International community must reject Taliban's violent and authoritarian rule, say UN experts –

On 14 August 2025, UN human rights experts called on the international community to reject the Taliban's violent and authoritarian rule in Afghanistan. They condemned the regime's escalating crackdown on dissent, including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, restrictions on women's rights, and suppression of civil liberties. Experts warned these actions are eroding basic freedoms and reversing years of progress, urging foreign governments, multilateral actors, and donors to maintain pressure through targeted sanctions, conditional aid, and sustained diplomatic engagement. The statement emphasized that recognizing or supporting a regime that systematically violates human rights carries significant risks, including legitimizing abuse and undermining regional stability. Experts further called for increased support to civil society, independent media, and human rights defenders who continue to document violations under dangerous conditions.



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Afghanistan: International community must reject Taliban's violent and authoritarian rule, say UN experts –

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The statement emphasized that recognizing or supporting a regime that systematically violates human rights carries significant risks, including legitimizing abuse and undermining regional stability. Experts further called for increased support to civil society, independent media, and human rights defenders who continue to document violations under dangerous conditions.

Belarus must end ill-treatment of prisoners convicted on terrorism and extremism charges, say UN experts

On 15 August 2025, UN human rights experts called on Belarusian authorities to urgently end the ill-treatment of prisoners convicted on terrorism and extremism charges. The statement highlighted concerns over three cases involving two women and one man, who were reportedly denied adequate medical care and subjected to inhumane treatment in custody, risking serious and potentially irreversible deterioration of their health. Experts urged a thorough and impartial investigation into



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these allegations and proposed possible mitigation measures, including the consideration of pardons or converting custodial sentences to non-custodial alternatives.

They also raised alarm that one of the inmates may have been prosecuted for expressing socio-political views, in violation of freedom of expression. The experts emphasized that Belarus's counter-terrorism and anti-extremism laws are being used to suppress civil and political rights without due process or effective legal remedies, and they reiterated prior opinions issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention calling for compliance with international human rights obligations.

Occupied Palestinian territory: Marwan Barghouthi, and human rights situation in Gaza

On **19 August 2025**, during a press briefing in Geneva, OHCHR spokesperson Alessandra Vellucci addressed footage showing Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir berating Palestinian political leader Marwan Barghouthi. The exchange, captured in widely circulated video recordings, involved verbal threats and demeaning language toward Barghouthi, who is currently serving multiple life sentences in Israeli custody.

Vellucci stated that this display could constitute “incitement by a public official,” raising serious concerns about the erosion of respect for due process and the dignity of detainees—values that are fundamental to human rights protection. The Human Rights Office reaffirmed that all individuals, including those convicted of serious crimes, are legally entitled to humane treatment and to the presumption of innocence under international standards.

The spokesperson underscored that political statements or intimidation by officials risk further deteriorating the climate around lawful detention and may impact broader norms of restraint and fairness in custody settings. OHCHR reminded authorities of their obligations under the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and called for investigations into any mistreatment of detainees.

A/HRC/60/CRP.2: Universal criminal jurisdiction in cases of enforced disappearance - Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

A/HRC/60/CRP.2 is a conference-room paper released on 20 August 2025 by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The report focuses on the use of universal criminal



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jurisdiction in cases of enforced disappearance and examines how states may prosecute such crimes even when they occur outside their territory and do not involve their nationals directly

The report finds that universal jurisdiction remains one of the few legal avenues available when domestic courts are unable or unwilling to act. However, most states still lack specific national legislation enabling prosecutions for enforced disappearance under universal jurisdiction. This creates legal uncertainty and significant practical challenges for victims seeking justice

The Working Group urges states to adopt clear legal frameworks, promote international cooperation among judicial authorities, and ensure that national courts and prosecutors are equipped to handle such complex transnational cases. The report will be discussed during the 60th session of the Human Rights Council and is intended to support the development of stronger international standards and accountability mechanisms in cases of disappearance.

[Evidence mounting about Russian tactics of sexual torture against Ukrainian civilians: UN expert](#)

On **21 August 2025**, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Jill Edwards, along with other experts, submitted a dossier documenting a growing number of allegations of sexual torture committed by Russian forces against Ukrainian civilians in occupied regions. The file includes claims from **ten individuals**, many of whom were detained or held at interrogation sites in areas under Russian military control. The documented methods allegedly include invasive and degrading sexual violence intended to degrade and terrorize victims.

The experts stressed that these revelations point to systematic and widespread abuse, calling on international bodies to thoroughly investigate the allegations. They underscored the urgency for Ukraine, third states, and global human rights mechanisms to ensure accountability and to deter future violations. The submission is expected to inform the work of the Human Rights Council and shape future policy and prosecution strategies for such violations.



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[Women lead search for victims of enforced disappearance in Colombia](#)

On 28 August 2025, OHCHR published a feature highlighting the critical role that women—mothers, daughters, wives, sisters, grandmothers—play in leading the search for victims of enforced disappearance in Colombia. Often working in grassroots networks with minimal institutional support, these women shoulder the emotional, physical, and social burden of seeking justice and truth amid an ongoing conflict.

The report notes that Colombia's official search mechanisms, such as the Unit for the Search of Persons Deemed Missing (UBPD), have documented over 111,000 disappearance cases. However, the actual number may be significantly higher, as suggested by Colombia's Truth Commission and Amnesty International.

These women face widespread harassment, stigmatization, threats, and even forced exile. Despite these dangers, their dedication endures. In response, the Colombian legislature passed Law 2364 in 2024, formally recognising and offering some protections to women searchers but implementation of this landmark legislation is still pending

[Iran: Call to halt increasing executions and impose moratorium on death penalty](#)

On 29 August 2025, the UN issued a press briefing calling on Iran to halt its increasing use of the death penalty and impose a moratorium on executions. According to the UN, at least **841 individuals** had been executed in Iran from the beginning of the year through 28 August. In July alone, there were **110 executions**, more than double the number recorded in the same month in 2024.

Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani described the surge in executions as part of a **systematic pattern of state intimidation**, emphasizing that ethnic minorities and Afghan nationals are disproportionately affected Reuters. At the same briefing, OHCHR noted that **11 individuals** were confirmed to be facing imminent execution six accused of armed rebellion and five related to the 2022 protest movement Reuters.

High Commissioner Volker Türk urged Iran to impose a moratorium on executions as a step toward the full abolition of the death penalty and to bring its practice in line with evolving international human rights standards .

IAEA



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[IAEA Launches New Outlook on Nuclear Power for Development in Africa at G20](#)

At the G20 gathering in South Africa, the IAEA unveiled its “*Outlook for Nuclear Energy in Africa*”—a vision of how nuclear power could help light homes, power industries, and drive prosperity across a continent where over 600 million people still lack reliable electricity. The report paints a hopeful yet determined picture: more than 20 African nations are now exploring nuclear power, with small modular reactors offering a flexible, resilient solution for communities both urban and remote. Africa’s vast uranium reserves, coupled with its young and rapidly growing population, present an unprecedented opportunity to leap forward in clean energy production, industrial growth, and scientific advancement. Projections show nuclear capacity could grow five- to ten-fold by 2050, but the path requires bold policies, strong financing, and shared commitment. From Egypt’s ambitious reactor projects to Ghana and Kenya’s careful preparations, the message is clear—nuclear power could be a cornerstone of Africa’s development, enabling a future that is not only powered, but empowered.

[Update 309 – IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine](#)

IAEA teams at Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant continue to confront daily reminders of risk, from explosions and drone strikes hitting nearby auxiliary buildings to artillery fire echoing alarmingly close to the site perimeter, underscoring the escalating threat to nuclear safety. Despite visible smoke and burnt trees stirring fear across the landscape, radiation levels remain stable—and no casualties have been reported—yet the shrapnel of conflict continues to strain critical services, including the fragile external power supply and cooling infrastructure.

[Update 311 – IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine](#)

On 22 August 2025, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi emphasized that the IAEA’s uninterrupted presence at Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has been indispensable in mitigating the risk of nuclear incidents. The team on-site continues to report almost daily military activity including explosions and drone incursions near the facility highlighting the urgent need for military restraint.

By 28 August, the IAEA had also received further updates concerning a newly constructed dam designed to isolate a cooling channel essential to the safety systems of the reactor units in cold



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shutdown. The channel's water level is maintained at roughly 14 metres about 2 metres above the pumps' operational threshold—and the IAEA is actively seeking access to inspect this critical contingency infrastructure.

ICAO

[ICAO, Universal Postal Union strengthen airmail security against rising threats](#)

ICAO and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) have elevated their longstanding collaboration with a formal **joint statement** to bolster international airmail security amid evolving threats. Recognizing increased risks—from improvised incendiary devices to sophisticated explosive threats they've committed to a **multi-layered, risk-based approach**, harmonizing ICAO's Annex 17 with UPU security standards S58/S59. The effort includes the adoption of advanced screening technologies (e.g., high-end X-ray and explosive detection systems), enhanced personnel training, and improved data visibility across the postal and aviation sectors. Supported by oversight through ICAO's Universal Security Audit Programme and UPU's certification framework, the initiative emphasizes proactive coordination to safeguard the integrity and resilience of global airmail and cargo systems.

[Asia-Pacific accelerates progress towards ICAO's safety, sustainability, and connectivity goals](#)

ICAO's 60th Asia-Pacific Conference brought 35 member states together to recommend to the organization's strategic goals of aviation safety, sustainability, and regional connectivity. Delegates emphasized the need to eliminate fatalities, achieve net-zero carbon emissions, and enhance access to air transport across the region. With air travel demand soaring especially in island and landlocked states that rely heavily on aviation, the conference underscored the importance of coordinated efforts in implementing digital infrastructure, sustainable aviation fuels, and more resilient operational frameworks.

IMO



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[Arab women in maritime finalize regional strategy to advance gender equality](#)

In Alexandria, more than 30 women from across the Arab world gathered under the AWIMA banner to shape a bold five-year strategy for gender equality in the maritime sector. Hosted by the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety and the IMO, with support from the World Maritime University, the workshop charted a vision for inclusive recruitment, leadership visibility, and targeted training. Delegates elected new leaders, adopted a constitution, and committed to dismantling barriers that have long kept women from maritime careers. As IMO's Louise Proctor affirmed, the goal is a safe, sustainable, and inclusive industry—one where women and men lead together with equal voice and impact.

[GloNoise Partnership on underwater noise extended to 2026](#)

The **GloNoise Partnership**, championing global efforts to curb underwater noise from shipping, has been extended through December 2026—an encouraging promise to our marine neighbors. In a collaborative spirit, delegates from countries including Argentina, Chile, India, and South Africa convened to review progress and reaffirm their commitment to protecting ocean life. From innovative hydroacoustic research in Argentina to sustainability workshops in Costa Rica, regional champions are stepping up to monitor aquatic soundscapes and drive change. This initiative doesn't just set policy, it puts purpose into action, offering marine environments and coastal communities a louder future of harmony and coexistence.

[Roadmap to establish National Maritime Information Sharing Centre in Kenya](#)

Against the vibrant backdrop of Mombasa's coast, a dedicated team from across Kenya's government immigration, coast guard, wildlife, ports, fisheries, customs, naval, and intelligence came together in late July. Supported by the IMO under the "Safe Seas for Africa" initiative, they crafted a clear and actionable roadmap to set up a **National Maritime Information Sharing Centre (NMISC)**. This future hub is not just a center it's a lifeline, empowering Kenya to weave together intelligence, enforce maritime safety, and protect its waters from piracy, illegal fishing, trafficking, and pollution. Coordinated regional cooperation isn't just strategic, it's essential for a safer, more sovereign maritime future.



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[“Maritime security is a shared responsibility”: IMO Secretary-General to UN Security Council](#)

In a powerful appeal to the United Nations Security Council, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez underscored that **maritime security is a collective responsibility**, calling for heightened vigilance and deeper cooperation among nations and global partners. He warned that the safety of seafarers and global shipping lanes is increasingly threatened—citing over 150 piracy and armed robbery incidents in 2024, alongside cyberattacks, trafficking, and Red Sea assaults—all of which jeopardize both lives and vital trade routes. Dominguez stressed that maritime law and shared norms cannot be treated as optional and insisted that “maritime security is not just technical—it is deeply human,” urging renewed multilateralism and preventive diplomacy to protect the seas and those who cross them.

[Caribbean authorities enhance search and rescue coordination](#)

Maritime authorities from across the Caribbean convened in Kingston, Jamaica, for a sub-regional workshop focused on strengthening search and rescue (SAR) mission coordination. Delivered through IMO’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programmed and hosted alongside the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, the workshop empowered senior personnel from Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres and Joint Rescue Coordination Centres with advanced planning, execution, and evaluation skills. In addition to honing emergency response techniques, the workshop fostered regional cooperation through shared learning and information exchange, reinforcing compliance with the SAR Convention and SOLAS obligations. Through this initiative, the Caribbean’s maritime community is enhancing its readiness to protect lives, respond to shipping incidents, and preserve marine environments. It reflects the IMO’s commitment to building resilient, collaborative SAR capabilities in regions where maritime safety is both a responsibility and a lifeline.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

[IOM Issues Legal Opinion on Mixed Migration and Non-Refoulement](#)

On **3 August 2025**, the International Organization for Migration released a formal legal opinion regarding the application of the non-refoulement principle amid mixed migration flows. This opinion clarifies that states must uphold protection standards even when migrants arrive irregularly, reaffirming protections under the 1951 Refugee Convention and customary international law. IOM



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emphasizes the need for procedural safeguards in national migration frameworks to guarantee fair status determination and prevent arbitrary returns to peril. The document also recommends creating independent oversight bodies to monitor return procedures, warning that persistent violations could result in proceedings before international human rights tribunals.

[IOM Clarifies Legal Standards for Assisted Returns and Human Rights Compliance](#)

On **11 August 2025**, the IOM issued a detailed interpretive statement outlining legal standards for assisted voluntary returns. It stresses that return decisions must be made with the migrant's informed consent, supported by access to independent legal advice, and that vulnerable individuals must receive special protection. The statement further advises states to establish post-return monitoring systems, noting that the absence of such safeguards could amount to constructive refoulement under international law. The IOM also urged governments to incorporate these safeguards into domestic legislation to ensure enforceability, warning that practices falling short of these standards may expose states to litigation before international human rights bodies. It emphasized that compliance is not merely a humanitarian gesture but a binding legal obligation rooted in multiple international treaties.

[Demands End to Impunity for Attacks Against Humanitarian Workers](#)

On 15 August 2025, the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered a powerful legal appeal addressing a major lapse in international humanitarian protection. He formally announced that, as of that date, 265 humanitarian workers had been killed, and at least 202 others had been wounded, kidnapped, detained, or arrested in the course of their missions. These were not abstract figures—they represented a systemic failure in the application and enforcement of international humanitarian and human rights law. In his address, the Director-General insisted that protecting humanitarian workers is not merely a matter of goodwill, but a binding legal obligation for all States under customary international and treaty-based norms. His condemnation of lingering impunity shifted the narrative away from sympathy to legal accountability, compelling member states to uphold their responsibilities. This explicit framing—from numbers to legal imperatives—served as a clarion call, highlighting deep disparities between legal commitments and real-world protections. The IOM, in emphasizing this, reinforced its dual role as a humanitarian actor and a normative guardian of human rights law.



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INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA (ITLOS)

[ITLOS Grants Provisional Measures Over Marine Protected Area Dispute](#)

On **5 August 2025**, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ordered provisional measures in a dispute concerning jurisdiction over a marine protected area. The Tribunal instructed both parties to suspend drilling and exploitation pending a final decision, invoking UNCLOS provisions on environmental protection. The order also set a precedent by emphasizing that precautionary measures apply equally in disputed zones, even before jurisdiction is conclusively determined. In its reasoning, the Tribunal highlighted the irreversibility of environmental harm and the obligation of states to act with prudence where legal rights are contested. It further noted that failure to comply with provisional measures could constitute a breach of UNCLOS, potentially giving rise to claims for reparation in the final judgment.

[ITLOS Delivers Judgment on Fisheries Sovereignty in EEZ Conflict](#)

On **14 August 2025**, ITLOS delivered judgment in a dispute over fisheries sovereignty within an Exclusive Economic Zone. The ruling reaffirmed the coastal state's exclusive rights under UNCLOS and rejected claims for unilateral enforcement by another state. In its reasoning, the Tribunal clarified that cooperative enforcement is a legal obligation, not merely a political choice, and violations could trigger dispute settlement proceedings under Part XV of UNCLOS. The judgment also underscored that persistent interference with a coastal state's lawful fisheries management could be deemed a violation of sovereign rights under Article 56 of UNCLOS. ITLOS advised that parties to similar disputes should prioritize negotiation and regional fisheries agreements to avoid escalation to compulsory judicial settlement.

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ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)

[OPCW Clarifies Standard of Proof for Chemical Agent Use Findings](#)

On **12 August 2025**, the OPCW's Office of Legal Affairs published guidance clarifying that "beyond reasonable doubt" remains the evidentiary threshold for formal findings of chemical agent use. The clarification underscores the necessity of procedural fairness in attribution processes and aims to safeguard the credibility of OPCW investigative outcomes before both political and judicial bodies. The guidance further recommended that investigative teams maintain rigorous chain-of-custody procedures and independent verification of laboratory results to meet this high evidentiary standard. It warned that lowering the threshold could undermine the admissibility of findings in related legal proceedings and weaken the enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

UNICRI (UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE)

[UNICRI Publishes Legal Framework for AI in Transnational Crime Prevention](#)



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On **4 August 2025**, UNICRI released a policy paper on the ethical and lawful use of AI in combating transnational crimes such as cyber-fraud and trafficking. The paper reviews existing international law, identifies implementation gaps, and proposes model legislation for states. It further calls for safeguards against algorithmic bias, warning that evidence obtained through flawed AI systems could be challenged before international courts. The report also recommends that states establish independent oversight bodies to audit AI-based law enforcement tools, ensuring compliance with due process and human rights obligations. UNICRI stressed that integrating such oversight into national legislation is essential to prevent miscarriages of justice and to maintain the admissibility of AI-generated evidence in both domestic and international proceedings.

[UNICRI Issues Model Legislation for Mutual Legal Assistance on Cybercrime](#)

On **13 August 2025**, UNICRI unveiled a model treaty designed to streamline cross-border cooperation on cybercrime cases. It details protocols for expedited evidence sharing, privacy protections, and jurisdictional clarity. The Institute also urges states to ratify existing UN conventions to ensure that mutual legal assistance requests are grounded in recognized international legal frameworks. The model treaty further proposes standardized digital evidence formats and secure transmission channels to prevent tampering, ensuring admissibility in court. UNICRI highlighted that adopting such provisions can reduce procedural delays, strengthen prosecutorial success in transnational cases, and reinforce trust among cooperating states.

CTBTO PREPARATORY COMMISSION

[Opening of WG-B 65 session with key legal-technical treaty verification work](#)

On **26 August 2025**, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) convened the **65th Session of Working Group B**, initiating a legally critical array of discussions to shape the verification regime of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Throughout subsequent days—spanning into early September—delegates engaged in legal-technical debates over monitoring mechanisms and inspection protocols essential to any future enforcement of the Treaty. These deliberations are at the heart of the CTBT's architecture, laying the legal foundations for compliance and accountability once the Treaty enters into force.

UNSC



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[As Russian Federation Continues Brutal Attacks against Ukraine, Senior Official, Briefing Security Council, Urges Dialogue, Immediate Ceasefire](#)

Briefing the Council, a senior UN official condemned the Russian Federation's intensified attacks, describing them as brutal and warning of their devastating impact on civilians and infrastructure. He urged an immediate ceasefire and a return to dialogue, framing both as essential to upholding the UN Charter and restoring respect for international humanitarian law. The briefing stressed the legal obligations of all parties to protect civilians, safeguard critical infrastructure, and ensure unhindered humanitarian access. While no formal outcome was adopted, the discussion reinforced core legal norms on civilian protection, conflict de-escalation, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

[Full, Permanent Ceasefire Only 'Path to Ending Ongoing Violence, Humanitarian Catastrophe in Gaza', Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council](#)

Briefing the Council, the UN Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza warned that only a "full and permanent ceasefire" could end the escalating violence and prevent further humanitarian collapse. He described the worsening conditions, including severe food insecurity and risk of famine, and stressed that without an immediate halt to hostilities, international humanitarian law obligations to protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access would continue to be breached. Council members voiced concern over the impact of the fighting on the civilian population and reiterated that any resolution to the conflict must preserve Gaza's role as part of a future Palestinian state, in line with relevant UN resolutions. No formal outcome was adopted, but the briefing reinforced legal norms on civilian protection and humanitarian access in armed conflict.

[Escalating Terrorism in West Africa, Sahel Hits Women Hardest, Speakers Tell Security Council](#)

In a briefing, Council members addressed the alarming rise in terrorism across West Africa's Sahel region, highlighting the disproportionate toll it takes on women—exacerbating gender-based violence, displacement, and socioeconomic marginalization. While the session produced no formal resolution, it served as a key normative moment in reinforcing member states' obligations under international law to protect civilians and uphold women's rights during armed conflict. The Council reaffirmed the applicability of international humanitarian law and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), urging strengthened legal measures and regional cooperation to tackle extremist threats and alleviate humanitarian pressure. This discussion underscores the Security Council's evolving engagement in the intersection of anti-terrorism, gender-responsive legal frameworks, and civilian protection.



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[Statement by the President of the Security Council](#)

In a presidential statement, the Council strongly condemned the recent outbreak of violence in Suwaida governorate, which killed civilians and displaced some 192,000 people. It demanded that all parties fully respect the ceasefire, protect civilians, and safeguard humanitarian and medical personnel, their equipment, and facilities, in line with international humanitarian law. The Council called for full, safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access, and stressed humane treatment for all persons, including the surrendered, wounded, and detained. It urged credible, swift, transparent, impartial, and comprehensive investigations to ensure accountability for all perpetrators, regardless of affiliation, welcoming the Syrian interim authorities' steps to verify individuals' backgrounds and their call for reconciliation. Reaffirming Syria's sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity, the Council urged all states to refrain from negative interference in the country's political, security, or economic transitions. It called for respect of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement and maintenance of calm, noted with concern the threat posed by ISIL and Al-Qaida and the presence of foreign terrorist fighters, and reiterated the need for Syrian compliance with counter-terrorism resolutions. The statement reaffirmed support for an inclusive, Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process in line with resolution 2254 and the efforts of the UN Special Envoy.

[In Presidential Statement, Security Council Condemns Violence against Civilians in Syria's Suwaida](#)

In a Presidential Statement, the Security Council strongly condemned the surge of violence in Suwaida governorate, Syria, notably the mass killings of civilians and widespread displacement since mid-July. The statement demanded strict adherence to international humanitarian law, calling on all parties to uphold ceasefire obligations, protect civilians regardless of ethnicity or religion, and facilitate full, safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access to affected areas. The Council reaffirmed Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the applicability of the 1974 Disengagement Agreement. It welcomed steps by Syrian interim authorities to investigate acts of violence and stressed that any credible inquiry must meet international standards of transparency, impartiality, and comprehensiveness. The statement also underscored the importance of counter-terrorism compliance, urging decisive action against ISIL and Al-Qaida threats consistent with Security Council resolutions, and affirmed support for an inclusive, Syrian-led political process under Resolution 2254 (2015).



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[In Emergency Security Council Session, UN Warns Israel's Gaza City Takeover Could Trigger 'Another Horrific Chapter' in Conflict](#)

The Security Council convened an emergency session to address Israel's plan to take over Gaza City—a move that UN officials warned could ignite “another horrific chapter” in the conflict. Speakers cautioned that such an expansion of military action threatens the lives of remaining hostages, exacerbates famine conditions, and undermines longstanding obligations under international law. The Council was reminded that Gaza must remain part of a future Palestinian state, in accordance with international legal norms. Delegations pressed for immediate cessation of escalatory operations and reaffirmed the legal imperatives of protecting civilians and preserving humanitarian access amid conflict.

[Safety of Maritime Sector Fundamental to Economic Stability, Sustainable Development, Livelihoods, Senior Official Tells Security Council](#)

In a high-level open debate chaired by Panama's President, the Council examined maritime security under the theme “*Prevention, innovation and international cooperation to address emerging challenges*”. Senior UN officials stressed that the safety of the maritime sector is fundamental to global economic stability, sustainable development, and millions of livelihoods, with the value of ocean-based economies projected to double by 2030. Speakers underscored the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related instruments in addressing piracy, illicit trafficking, illegal fishing, cyber-attacks on maritime infrastructure, and threats to freedom of navigation. Member states called for stronger cooperation, capacity-building, and technology sharing to ensure safe, secure, and environmentally sustainable seas. While the debate produced no formal outcome, it reinforced the Council's role in upholding international maritime law and provided a platform for building consensus on future action to counter evolving threats at sea.

[Situation in Yemen 'Deeply Fragile' amid Ongoing Regional Turmoil, Special Envoy Warns, Urging Security Council to Support De-Escalation Efforts towards National Ceasefire](#)

Briefing the Council, the UN Special Envoy warned that the situation in Yemen remains “deeply fragile” amid continued political deadlock and heightened regional tensions. He highlighted the role of the UN-facilitated Military Coordination Committee in sustaining de-escalation and addressing



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maritime security risks, noting its value as a structured mechanism grounded in international humanitarian law for managing incidents and safeguarding navigation in the Red Sea. Council members expressed concern over the humanitarian impact of the conflict, stressing the legal obligations of all parties under IHL to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, and uphold freedom of navigation. They reaffirmed support for an inclusive, Yemeni-led political process under relevant Council resolutions, urging all stakeholders to re-engage constructively in negotiations toward a sustainable peace agreement.

[Security Council rejects creation of rival government in Sudan](#)

The Council denounced the Rapid Support Forces' (RSF) unilateral declaration of a rival governing authority in areas under their control, calling it a serious threat to Sudan's unity and stability. Reaffirming its commitment to the country's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, the Council warned the move risks escalating the conflict with the Sudanese Armed Forces. It recalled resolution 2736 (2024), which demands that the RSF lift its siege of El Fasher, halt fighting, and de-escalate tensions in and around the North Darfur capital. Members voiced alarm at reports of a renewed RSF offensive this week in El Fasher, where famine and extreme food insecurity threaten to spread after more than a year under siege. The Council urged the RSF to allow full, safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access to the city, and expressed grave concern over recent attacks in Sudan's Kordofan region — reportedly by both sides — that have caused significant civilian casualties. It pressed all parties to protect civilians, humanitarian workers, and medical personnel in accordance with international humanitarian law, to cease hostilities, and to return to negotiations toward a permanent ceasefire and a civilian-led political transition. The Council condemned violations of the Jeddah Declaration and warned that external interference, including reports of foreign mercenary involvement, could further destabilize the region.

[Members of 1518 Sanctions Committee Meet with Iraqi Delegation](#)

Members of the Security Council's 1518 Sanctions Committee held consultations in New York with a senior Iraqi delegation led by Dr. Ammar Ibrahim, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank. Discussions focused on Iraq's ongoing management of frozen assets, cooperation with international partners, and steps toward enhancing financial transparency. The meeting reaffirmed the continuing relevance of Resolution 1518 (2003), which underpins the sanctions framework established in the aftermath of the 2003 conflict. Committee members welcomed Iraq's efforts to strengthen oversight



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and stressed the importance of ensuring compliance with international financial and legal standards. Although no new decision was taken, the dialogue underscored the Council's use of sanctions committees as legal mechanisms to maintain oversight while supporting Iraq's reintegration into the international financial system.

[Security Council Committee Pursuant to Resolution 2745 \(2024\) Holds Briefing to Member States in Connection with Final Report of Panel of Experts](#)

On 22 August, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), and 2253 (2015), which oversees sanctions targeting ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals and entities, approved an update to its consolidated sanctions list. The amendments concerned the modification of entries relating to individuals and groups subject to asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes. While highly technical in nature, these updates are central to maintaining the legal integrity and effectiveness of the UN's counter-terrorism architecture.

The listing and de-listing process is part of a legally binding sanctions regime imposed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, obligating all UN Member States to implement the measures domestically. By keeping the list accurate and up to date, the Committee ensures that sanctions remain targeted, credible, and proportionate, thereby balancing security imperatives with due process considerations. Transparency is reinforced by the Committee's publication of changes via official press releases, giving states and stakeholders clear notice of their obligations.

Although the Committee's decision did not create new policy, it demonstrated the Council's ongoing reliance on sanctions committees as practical enforcement mechanisms for international law. Regular updates not only align the regime with current intelligence and evolving threats, but also underscore the Council's commitment to combating terrorism within the framework of international legal norms. In this sense, even procedural changes carry substantial legal weight, reinforcing Member States' duty to apply binding restrictions and prevent terrorist financing, movement, and rearmament.

[Security Council ISIL \(Da'esh\) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Amends Five Entries on Its Sanctions List](#)

The Security Council's ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee announced updates to its consolidated list through press release SC/16155. The amendments adjusted identifying details of



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certain listed individuals and entities, ensuring that sanctions measures remain precise and enforceable. While at first glance administrative, these refinements are central to the credibility of the regime created under Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), and 2253 (2015).

The Council's counter-terrorism sanctions regime is one of its most expansive, with Member States legally obliged to implement asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes against designated actors. Technical updates like this serve several critical legal purposes. They guarantee that listings accurately reflect current intelligence, minimize the risk of misidentification, and preserve the principle of proportionality that underpins targeted sanctions. For states and financial institutions, such clarifications are essential to ensuring lawful enforcement at the domestic level and avoiding arbitrary restrictions.

Beyond enforcement, these adjustments also have diplomatic significance. They signal to Member States that the Council is attentive to due process concerns and willing to calibrate its measures rather than leaving them static. This responsiveness helps sustain political consensus around the regime, which relies on consistent cooperation across jurisdictions to be effective. By publicizing the changes transparently, the Committee reinforces its legitimacy and keeps the sanctions regime aligned with both legal standards and operational realities.

In effect, the 22 August update was less about introducing new measures than about maintaining the integrity of an existing legal framework a reminder that the Council's sanctions regimes are living instruments, constantly refined to remain enforceable, proportionate and respected within international law.

[Haiti Still 'Shamefully Overlooked and Woefully Underfunded', Secretary-General Warns Security Council, Urging Donors to Act Now Before Lifesaving Operations Stop](#)

Addressing the Security Council, the Secretary-General warned that Haiti remains "shamefully overlooked and woefully underfunded," urging Member States to confront the worsening humanitarian and security crisis. He underlined the international community's collective responsibility to act decisively, stressing that the Council should consider authorizing a UN-supported international force to stabilize the country and protect civilians. His appeal pointed to the Council's Chapter VII powers, highlighting that the authority to mandate such a deployment lies squarely within the Security Council's legal competence when international peace and security are at risk.



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The Secretary-General also placed Haiti's crisis within a wider normative framework, drawing attention to the protection of civilians, the safeguarding of democratic institutions, and the upholding of humanitarian principles as legal imperatives rather than optional policy goals. By calling on donors to address the acute funding shortfalls, he reinforced the idea that resource mobilization is not only a moral duty but a legal dimension of the Council's protection responsibilities, given that without adequate support, mandated operations risk becoming ineffective.

Although the statement itself did not result in a binding decision, it significantly shaped the Council's legal and political agenda. It re-framed Haiti's plight as a matter that goes beyond domestic turmoil, qualifying it as a situation of concern for international peace and security under the UN Charter. In doing so, the Secretary-General's intervention reaffirmed the Council's accountability to ensure that its existing mechanisms—whether through mandates, to protect vulnerable populations and restore stability.

UN

[Secretary-General's remarks to the Informal Meeting of the General Assembly Plenary on the UN80 Initiative](#)

In an informal plenary session, the Secretary-General outlined the UN80 Initiative, framing it as a strategic platform for reinforcing the General Assembly's role in upholding and advancing international law. He emphasized the Assembly's unique position under the UN Charter to articulate universal legal norms, foster compliance with treaty obligations, and address emerging gaps in global governance. The initiative's proposals included strengthening the Assembly's capacity to respond to transboundary challenges—such as maritime security, climate-related displacement, and digital governance—through resolutions and legal frameworks consistent with existing conventions and customary law. By situating the UN80 agenda within the broader framework of the rule of law, the briefing set the stage for the 80th session to serve as a forum for legal norm-building and multilateral consensus on complex global issues.

Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries [A/CONF.225/2025/L.2](#)



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Concluding the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Awaza, Turkmenistan, delegates adopted the final report of the session (A/CONF.225/2025/L.2), introduced by the rapporteur-general. The report captures the full record of the conference's proceedings, including plenary debates, thematic discussions, and the adoption of the Awaza Declaration. That declaration reaffirms the right of landlocked states to secure access to and from the sea, in accordance with international law, and calls for stronger transit, trade, and infrastructure agreements, enhanced regional cooperation, and capacity-building to overcome structural disadvantages. By adopting the report, the conference achieved its formal procedural closure, providing the authoritative legal and institutional record for monitoring implementation and guiding follow-up action by UN organs, member states, and development partners.

Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries [A/CONF.225/2025/4](#)

The Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Awaza, Turkmenistan, issued a procedural report (A/CONF.225/2025/4) that set out the official organizational arrangements for the session. The document recorded the composition of the conference's leadership, the allocation of agenda items among the plenary and working sessions, and the formal credentials of participating states, observer delegations, and intergovernmental organizations, in strict accordance with the General Assembly's rules of procedure. By validating the credentials of each delegation and confirming their full participation rights, the report ensured the legal integrity of the conference and safeguarded the legitimacy of its decisions. It also codified the procedural framework under which substantive deliberations would take place, enabling negotiations on priority issues such as transit rights, infrastructure cooperation, and trade facilitation—culminating in the adoption of the Awaza Declaration. The issuance of this report reinforced principles of transparency, adherence to UN accreditation protocols, and procedural fairness, while also signalling institutional readiness for the conference's final plenary and the formal adoption of its agreed outcomes.

[Preparatory Commission Considers Ocean Biodiversity Treaty's Clearing-House Mechanism, Secretariat](#)

The Preparatory Commission for the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty convened its second session at UN Headquarters. During the meeting, delegates focused on designing the legal and institutional framework essential for implementing the treaty's Clearing-House Mechanism a central information hub envisioned to facilitate transparency, stakeholder engagement, and open data sharing across



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countries. Discussions also touched on governance relationships with the Global Environment Facility, which will play a role in financing and technical support.

This work is pivotal to translating the treaty's aspirational goals into operational realities. By developing the mechanisms, decision-making rules, and financial structures, the Commission is laying the legal groundwork necessary for the Treaty to enter into force. The discussions advance the scope of institutional legitimacy, which will support future Conferences of the Parties (COPs), Scientific and Technical Bodies, and Secretariat functions under the UN framework.

[Preparatory Commission for High-Seas Treaty Continues Second Session](#)

The Preparatory Commission for the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty (BBNJ Agreement) continued its second session at UN Headquarters. Delegates worked on the institutional and legal framework required for the treaty's entry into force, with particular attention to decision-making rules, the structure of subsidiary bodies, and mechanisms for financing and capacity-building. Central to the discussions was how to operationalize the Clearing-House Mechanism, designed to enhance transparency and information-sharing among states, and how to establish linkages with the Global Environment Facility to secure predictable resources.

Although no final decisions were taken, the debates clarified the procedural modalities that will underpin the treaty's implementation. By defining institutional roles and setting out modalities for benefit-sharing, scientific cooperation, and technology transfer, the session advanced the legal foundation necessary for the BBNJ regime to function effectively. In doing so, the Commission reinforced key principles of international environmental law equity, transparency, and common but differentiated responsibilities ensuring that all states, including developing countries, will have the tools to participate meaningfully once the treaty enters into force.

[Palestinian Rights Committee to Meet for Briefing, Adopt Annual Report](#)

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held its 424th meeting to adopt its annual report (A/80/35) and receive a briefing on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Committee reaffirmed its mandate to uphold the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, independence, and sovereignty, and reiterated the legal inadmissibility of



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acquiring territory by force. Delegates also highlighted the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the urgent need for multilateral engagement to achieve a just and lasting peace in accordance with UN resolutions and international law.

The adoption of the report ensures the Committee's recommendations will be transmitted to the forthcoming 80th session of the General Assembly, keeping the Palestinian question firmly anchored on the UN agenda. While not legally binding, the report provides an authoritative reaffirmation of international legal principles notably the status of Jerusalem and the two-State solution framework and underscores the GA's role in maintaining attention to unresolved conflicts through law-based mechanisms.

EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (EPPO)

"Ambrosia" investigation: EPPO carries out searches in Cape Verde as part of a money laundering investigation

At the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) of Lisbon (Portugal), searches were carried out in Cape Verde, in relation to the possible laundering of money resulting from fraud related to the "Ambrosia Investigation" investigation. The EPPO had already indicted 30 suspects at the Lisbon Central Criminal Court for running a criminal network responsible for a €35 million VAT tax fraud, involving staple foods (in particular olive oil, cooking oil and sugar). House and company searches were carried out on the island of Sal (Cape Verde), in cooperation with the national authorities. One individual was formally singled out as a suspect and questioned. Assets were seized, including a building consisting of 21 apartments and two shops (with an estimated value of €2.7 million), as well as another property. In Cape Verde, the investigations were conducted by a prosecutor from the National Public Prosecutor's Office, with the support of the Sal Criminal Investigation Directorate of the Cape Verde Judicial Police. Era presente anche un funzionario di supporto al caso dell'EPPO. This action was made possible by the 2003 Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation between Portugal and Cape Verde, the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the 2005 Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed by the member States of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).



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COURT OF JUSTICE OF EUROPEAN UNION (CJEU)

[International protection: the designation of a third country as a ‘safe country of origin’ must be amenable to effective judicial review](#)

The Court of Justice clarified that under Directive 2013/32/EU, Member States can designate third countries as ‘safe countries of origin’ via legislative acts, but this designation must allow for effective judicial review. This means courts must be able to review whether the designation meets the Directive’s material conditions, particularly when asylum applications from nationals of those countries are rejected through accelerated border procedures.

In the Italian case involving Bangladesh, the Court noted that the Italian legislation from October 2024 does not specify the sources used to consider Bangladesh a safe country. The Court emphasized that these sources must be accessible to both applicants and courts to ensure effective judicial protection, and courts can also use their own reliable information while giving both parties a chance to comment.

Finally, until a new regulation replacing the Directive comes into force (from 12 June 2026), Member States cannot designate countries as safe if they do not meet the material conditions for some groups of people. The new regulation will allow designations with exceptions for identifiable categories but may be applied earlier if the EU decides so.

[Right to asylum: A Member State may not plead an unforeseeable influx of applicants for international protection in order to evade its obligation to cover asylum seekers’ basic needs](#)

The Court of Justice ruled that under the Reception Conditions Directive, Member States must provide asylum seekers with material reception conditions ensuring an adequate standard of living, including housing or financial support, covering basic needs and protecting their health.

In this case, Ireland’s failure to provide proper housing or sufficient support to the Afghan and Indian asylum seekers, even temporarily, was a serious breach of EU law triggering state liability. Although EU law allows for temporary derogations in cases of exceptional and justified mass influxes causing housing shortages, Member States must still meet the basic needs of asylum seekers to uphold human



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dignity. The Court rejected Ireland's defense that housing exhaustion due to the influx of third-country nationals after the Ukraine crisis exempted it from its obligations. The state cannot use such circumstances to avoid providing basic reception conditions or to deny compensation for the breach. Ireland was also not objectively prevented from fulfilling its obligations by alternative housing or providing financial aid.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

[International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union](#)

The EU honors those affected by intolerance, discrimination, and violence due to their religion or belief. Despite ongoing global conflicts and hate-driven violence threatening religious communities and sites, the EU strongly supports everyone's right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion without fear of persecution. It calls on all states to combat religious hatred and promote tolerance, diversity, and interfaith dialogue. The EU also funds projects to protect religious freedom and combat discrimination in Asia and Africa, aiming to create a world where all individuals can enjoy their rights peacefully and freely.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[GreenMED: Green Shipping Pathways Towards a Clean Energy Transition in the Mediterranean](#)

The GreenMED project, supported by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, unites partners from Greece, Spain, Cyprus, and Egypt to prepare the Mediterranean shipping industry for the energy transition. It features the Mediterranean Sustainable Shipping Observatory, which gathers data and promotes cleaner shipping solutions. Addressing high emissions in the dense and semi-enclosed Mediterranean is crucial for the EU's 2050 climate neutrality goals. The project supports environmental targets while improving air quality, creating jobs, and protecting marine ecosystems in coastal communities.

In its first year, the project focused on building the foundation for long-term change. This included: creating the first version of the Observatory's knowledge base, with data on ships, fuel use, emissions, ports and energy supply, analysing the energy demand from ships in the region, based on 30 million



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recorded vessel movements, identifying green fuel options and energy-saving technologies that can be applied in the Mediterranean, building a community of over 30 stakeholders across the region, from port authorities and shipping companies to researchers and energy providers.

[Global leaders unite for sustainable lifestyles and fair access to clean energy](#)

At the 16th Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting, global leaders launched the Declaration on Sustainable Lifestyles and Fairness, a major initiative to promote sustainable lifestyles and fair access to clean energy worldwide. Inspired by India's G20 presidency and the Lifestyle for Environment Mission (LiFE), and strongly supported by the European Commission, the declaration unites CEM member countries, partners, and stakeholders to ensure an equitable clean energy transition.

The declaration emphasizes involving all communities, especially vulnerable groups, youth, and women, and calls for collaboration among governments, civil society, and businesses to protect the planet for future generations.

It is structured around three main goals: policy leadership: Governments commit to introducing policies that promote sustainable living and equitable clean energy access, sharing best practices, and monitoring progress to encourage collective action, empowering individuals and communities: Focus on education and community engagement to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable lifestyles, empowering cities, social partners, youth, and women to adopt energy-saving habits. Transforming systems: Advocates systemic change to ensure sustainable resource use, making energy more accessible and affordable for all.

Signatories including the EU, China, India, and Norway will adapt their policies to these goals and engage in a global network to share effective solutions, increase transparency, and accelerate the worldwide adoption of sustainable behaviors.

[EU project Group Violence Intervention helps prevent violence and create safer communities in Sweden](#)

The Group Violence Intervention strategy, developed in the US in the 1990s to reduce serious violence like fatal shootings, builds on strong collaboration between police, local authorities, prison and probation services, and communities. It combines firm deterrence with offers of support for those willing to leave violent lifestyles.



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In Sweden, the strategy successfully reduced shootings, with a 25% monthly decrease in Malmö during a pilot project. Malmö and other cities like Örebro, Gothenburg, and Uppsala have incorporated the approach into their violence reduction efforts. While multiple factors contribute to declines in violence, Group Violence Intervention has proven effective and continues to expand in Sweden and other countries, supported by the EU to promote safer communities.

[EU invests €116 million in 13 projects to restore ocean and waters](#)

The latest EU Mission Ocean and Waters funding allocated €116 million to 13 projects aimed at protecting and restoring marine and freshwater environments across various European sea basins, including the Black Sea, Danube, Baltic, North, Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Arctic regions. These projects involve SMEs, research organizations, local authorities, schools, and businesses.

Key focus areas include preserving offshore marine protected areas, restoring migratory fish habitats, reducing fisheries' environmental impact, strengthening citizen science, mobilizing communities, and developing the European Digital Twin of the Ocean.

Notable projects are SEAMPHONI (marine biodiversity monitoring), DanubeLifelines and SWIM (restoring fish migration and habitats in the Danube and Black Sea), ECO-CATCH and MarineGuardian (fisheries impact reduction), CS-MACH1 (citizen science networking), and several initiatives empowering local communities to restore and conserve aquatic environments.

This investment supports the EU's priority under the European Ocean Pact to restore ocean and water health and ensure sustainability for future generations.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CRIMINAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION (EUROJUST)

[New operation against the criminal network transporting Syrian migrants to Germany: five arrests](#)

Eurojust supported the German and Dutch authorities in a coordinated action against an organised criminal group (COG) that trafficked mainly Syrian migrants to Germany. In a joint operation, five



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suspects were arrested in Germany, the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2021, at least 500 migrants have been transported irregularly via the so-called Balkan route. The network itself, however, boasts of much higher numbers of trafficked migrants and advertises these figures on social media. Proceeds from migrant smuggling are estimated to be at least €1.4 million. The arrested suspects are all Syrian citizens who organized the transport of migrants in vehicles by land from Greece to Germany. On average, they asked for a fee of 4,500 euros per person for irregular transport. The investigation into the GCO was supported by information obtained via a joint investigation team supported by Eurojust on a similar network, which led to 29 arrests between October and November last year. These investigations also made it possible to contact the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where three suspects were arrested. In both Germany and the Netherlands, a suspect was arrested. Members of the OCG Group have occasionally resorted to serious physical violence and have used cutting-edge communication tools. During the coordinated action, four locations were searched and numerous items of evidence seized, including smartphones used in smuggling activities, as well as various vehicles and small quantities of illicit drugs. Eurojust assisted the German and Dutch authorities in preparing the action day, including organising seven coordination meetings between all the authorities involved.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

[Anti-corruption body GRECO evaluates recent reforms in the Slovak Republic](#)

The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has published an ad hoc report on recent criminal law amendments and institutional reforms in the Slovak Republic. The report examines the legislative changes introduced by Act No. 40/2024, adopted through an accelerated procedure in February 2024, as well as the dissolution of the Special Prosecutor's Office and the reorganisation of the National Crime Agency. GRECO assessed issues such as the extensive use of fast-track procedures, shortened limitation periods, reduced penalties for corruption offences, and the impact on prosecutorial and police specialization, as well as judicial independence. While acknowledging the right of member states to reform their systems, GRECO stressed that reforms must comply with international anti-corruption standards. It issued six recommendations: limiting the use



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of accelerated procedures, ensuring adequate limitation periods and sanctions, promoting proportionate penalties, reinforcing specialization in corruption cases, and safeguarding judicial independence. Slovakia is expected to report back on implementation by 31 December 2026. The report was prepared under Rule 34, triggered when credible information suggests possible serious breaches of Council of Europe standards.

[Council of Europe urges Denmark to act on corruption safeguards](#)

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption body GRECO reported that Denmark has made insufficient progress in preventing corruption in government and law enforcement. Of the 14 recommendations issued in 2019, only two have been fully implemented, one partly, and 11 remain unaddressed, with no progress since December 2023. GRECO criticised Denmark for concentrating on criminal law provisions while neglecting broader integrity safeguards. It urged immediate action, particularly a code of conduct, integrity training, stricter lobbying and financial disclosure rules, and restrictions on post-office jobs for ministers and advisers. In the police, unresolved measures include limits on secondary employment, post-service reviews, financial interest declarations, and better awareness of reporting duties. GRECO concluded Denmark remains in "insufficient compliance" and requested a new progress report by 30 June 2026, while inviting the Council of Europe's Secretary General to inform Denmark's foreign minister of these shortcomings.

[New report on Germany's progress in anti-corruption measures regarding central government and law enforcement](#)

The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has published a report on Germany's implementation of recommendations from the 2020 Fifth Round Evaluation on preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments and law enforcement agencies. GRECO found that only four of 14 recommendations have been fully implemented, six partly, and four not at all. For top executive functions, progress includes an executive footprint, a broader Lobbying Register Act, and stronger post-employment restrictions, but shortcomings remain regarding integrity monitoring, systematic integrity briefings, public access to information, disclosure of meetings with lobbyists, conflict-of-interest rules, and financial declarations. In law enforcement, GRECO welcomed a new code of conduct for the Federal Police and the Whistleblower Protection Act, but urged stronger screening of recruits and stricter internal oversight. GRECO concluded that Germany remains in "insufficient compliance" and requested a new progress report by 31 March 2026.



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[Poland: GRECO evaluates progress in anti-corruption measures in central government, police and border guard](#)

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption body GRECO has issued a report on Poland's progress in implementing its 2019 recommendations on preventing corruption in central government and law enforcement. Of 21 recommendations, only three have been fully implemented, eight partly, and ten remain unimplemented. For top executive functions, progress includes guidelines on conduct, a gift policy, improved access-to-information oversight, and draft rules on lobbying and asset disclosure, but many issues persist, including post-employment restrictions, ancillary activity rules, integrity training, counselling, and asset reviews. In law enforcement, the Border Guard has adopted ethics rules and a gift policy, and whistleblower protection has entered into force, but counselling, transparent recruitment, proper vetting, dismissal procedures, and secondary activity regulation are still lacking. GRECO concludes that Poland remains in "insufficient compliance" and requests a progress report by 31 March 2026.

[New GRECO report on Romania's progress in anti-corruption measures for central government and law enforcement agencies](#)

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption body GRECO has published a follow-up report on Romania's implementation of the 2023 Fifth Round recommendations on preventing corruption in central government and law enforcement. Out of 26 recommendations, two have been fully implemented, 22 partly, and two remain unimplemented. Key progress includes the entry into force of Law No. 49/2025 establishing ethics norms for government members, a code of conduct for the Presidential administration, a gift register for the Presidency, and new tools for verifying asset disclosures. However, significant gaps remain: no ad hoc conflict-of-interest rules for top leaders, lack of disclosure by ministries, insufficient integrity checks, weak oversight of access-to-information, overuse of emergency ordinances, and absence of post-employment restrictions. In law enforcement, positive steps include integrity training, recruitment checks, a centralised portal, whistleblower protections, and transparency on donations by the gendarmerie. Yet concerns persist over merit-based appointments, job rotation, secondary activities, post-employment limits, conflict-of-interest rules, and gender representation. Romania must report back by 31 December 2026.



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[GRECO publishes report evaluating progress in anti-corruption measures in Spain](#)

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption body GRECO has urged Spain to intensify efforts to implement planned reforms to strengthen anti-corruption mechanisms in top executive functions of the central government and law enforcement (National Police and Guardia Civil). In a follow-up report, GRECO finds that of 19 recommendations from the Fifth Round Evaluation Report (2019), 16 have been partly implemented and three not implemented. Progress on high-level executive functions remains limited, with delays in adopting key legislation, integrity strategies, and training on the Code of Conduct. For law enforcement, the National Police has undertaken risk assessments and oversight, but lacks a specific anti-corruption strategy, while discretionary recruitment and incomplete disciplinary frameworks persist. The Guardia Civil has advanced with the SINTEGC Integrity System and the Professional Ethics Action Plan, but key initiatives like the Good Practices Protocol remain pending. Improvements in internal reporting and whistleblower protection are noted, yet disciplinary regimes remain insufficient. GRECO concludes Spain is not in sufficient compliance and requests a progress report by 30 June 2026, urging decisive action and tangible results.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)

[INTERPOL meeting advances fight against organized crime across Africa](#)

The INTERPOL African Regional Conference, held in Cape Town from 27–29 August, concluded with recommendations to strengthen police cooperation and combat transnational organized crime and terrorism. Delegates called for using INTERPOL's expertise against cybercrime, expanding intelligence exchange, reinforcing border controls, promoting the NEXUS secure messaging platform, and engaging in training to boost operational capacity. A new INTERPOL African Committee was created to set priorities and advise on crime prevention. Conference Chair Mohammed Dkhissi stressed the importance of giving frontline officers full access to INTERPOL's tools to achieve a safer Africa, essential for global security. Africa, home to nearly one third of INTERPOL's members and four of its six regional bureaus, plays a central role in international law enforcement. In 2024, African countries increased shared police records by 7% and query results on African data rose by almost 60%, underscoring the continent's growing contribution to global investigations.

[Asia-Pacific law enforcement experts gather to enhance efforts to recover illicit assets](#)



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A regional INTERPOL workshop held in Singapore (26–27 August 2025) highlighted the need for stronger cross-border cooperation and smarter use of tools to recover illicit assets. The event, co-organized with Singapore’s Ministry of Home Affairs and Police Force, gathered 21 participants from nine Asia-Pacific countries. Central to discussions was the new Silver Notice, launched in January 2025, which enables countries to identify, trace, and seize criminal assets more effectively and exchange information across borders. Covering 51 pilot countries, the tool complements mechanisms like I-GRIP to combat illicit finance. Experts stressed that depriving criminals of illegal proceeds is key to fighting organized crime, and emphasized global cooperation. Positive regional steps include ethics rules, donation transparency, recruitment checks, and whistleblower protections. Yet challenges persist: money laundering risks, complex financial structures, lack of post-employment restrictions, and insufficient integrity controls. Interactive exercises showcased best practices for using Silver Notices, alongside INTERPOL’s wider tools. GRECO (typo? keep as INTERPOL) urged member states to join efforts, with Singapore officials underlining the need for coordinated global responses.

[African authorities dismantle massive cybercrime and fraud networks, recover millions](#)

In Operation Serengeti 2.0 (June–August 2025), INTERPOL coordinated a major cybercrime crackdown across 18 African countries and the UK, arresting 1,209 suspects and targeting nearly 88,000 victims. Authorities dismantled 11,432 malicious infrastructures and recovered USD 97.4 million. Key operations included shutting down 25 illegal cryptocurrency mining centres in Angola, seizing 45 illicit power stations, and disrupting a large-scale online investment fraud in Zambia affecting 65,000 victims with USD 300 million in losses. Investigations also uncovered human trafficking networks and inheritance scams in Côte d’Ivoire, resulting in arrests and asset seizures. The operation was supported by private-sector partners providing intelligence, training, and guidance. Investigators received specialized workshops on open-source intelligence, cryptocurrency, and ransomware. Prevention efforts included collaboration with the International Cyber Offender Prevention Network (InterCOP). Operation Serengeti 2.0 demonstrated the importance of cross-border cooperation, intelligence sharing, and capacity-building to combat cybercrime and protect victims.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION (EUROPOL)



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[Spain dismantles criminal network smuggling migrants from Algeria to the EU](#)

Between 17–19 June 2025, the Spanish Guardia Civil, supported by Europol, dismantled a migrant smuggling network transporting people by boat from Algeria to Spain and other EU countries. The network, led by a Moroccan national with Algerian and Moroccan associates in Spain, used legitimate businesses and hawaladars to finance operations. The raids targeted 8 locations across Almería, Nijar, Tabernas, Espartinas, and Alicante, resulting in 14 arrests. Authorities seized 15 high-speed boats, hull molds, maritime and electronic equipment, firearms, fuel, and over EUR 68,000 in cash. The network was highly structured with separate cells handling vessel management, navigation, resources, and security. Migrants were charged up to EUR 7,000 for dangerous crossings. Europol facilitated intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and deployed an expert on-site to support real-time information exchange and analysis. The operation highlights the importance of cross-border cooperation and sophisticated investigative support in combating migrant smuggling.

[Internationally active Albanian organised crime network busted – 10 arrests](#)

Between 7–8 August 2025, Albanian authorities arrested 10 suspected members of an organised crime network involved in multi-tonne cocaine trafficking and money laundering. The operation, supported by Europol and coordinated with Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, followed the arrest of a key member in June 2025. Investigators seized substantial assets, including a hotel, villas, apartments, vehicles, company shares, and cash, as well as digital evidence from the Sky ECC encrypted communication platform. Analysis revealed the network's global scope, coordinating cocaine shipments from Latin America to EU ports like Hamburg and Rotterdam, with individual shipments generating over USD 40 million. The leader managed large-scale operations remotely via encrypted communications and had a prior 21-year prison sentence in Italy. Europol provided expertise, intelligence analysis, and on-site support in Tirana. Participating agencies included SPAK, Albanian State Police, Europol partners, and police authorities from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. The operation dismantled a high-risk criminal network and recovered assets across multiple European countries.

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY (FRONTEX)



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[Frontex Deputy Executive Director Aija Kalnaja discusses next steps to expand joint operations with Bosnia and Herzegovina First Deputy Speaker Kemal Ademović](#)

On the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on CFSP and CSDP in Copenhagen, First Deputy Speaker of the House of Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kemal Ademović, met with Aija Kalnaja, Deputy Executive Director of Frontex.

They discussed the EU–Bosnia and Herzegovina Status Agreement on operational activities by Frontex, signed on 11 June 2025. The Agreement allows Frontex Standing Corps officers with executive powers to be deployed under the command of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ms Kalnaja confirmed Frontex’s readiness to expand operations under the Agreement by the end of the year. Following a scoping visit in May and ongoing operational planning, the Agency plans to extend joint operations from two border-crossing points to additional points along all three borders starting early October.

The expanded operations will provide technical assistance and additional personnel to support border management, including detection of illegal crossings, and assist in the prevention and prosecution of cross-border crime.

This expansion strengthens cooperation between Frontex and Bosnian authorities and reinforces EU efforts to ensure border security and law enforcement in the region.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY (ENISA)

[ENISA to operate the EU Cybersecurity Reserve with EUR 36 million](#)

ENISA and the European Commission signed a contribution agreement entrusting ENISA with the administration and operation of the EU Cybersecurity Reserve, providing EUR 36 million over three years.

The EU Cybersecurity Reserve, foreseen in Article 14 of the EU Cyber Solidarity Act, consists of incident response services from trusted managed security service providers.

The Reserve will support Member States, EU Institutions, Bodies, Offices, Agencies, and DEP-associated third countries in responding to significant cybersecurity incidents.

ENISA will procure services, assess requests for support, and coordinate with the Commission and EU-CyCLONe to facilitate requests from eligible users.



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Services may also be converted into preparedness services for incident prevention and response if not used for actual incidents.

This project builds on ENISA's experience from the Cybersecurity Support Action and is designed to ensure effective and flexible use of Union funding.

The Reserve is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2025, aligning with the end of the ENISA Cybersecurity Support Action in 2026.

Managed Security Services providers will be certified under a European cybersecurity certification scheme, focusing initially on incident response services delivered through the Reserve.

The contribution agreement complements ENISA's annual budget of EUR 26.9 million for 2025 and ensures operational capacity to cybersecurity stakeholders across the EU.

AFRICAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

[Ado Shaibu and 5 others v. United Republic of Tanzania, application no. 046/2020](#)

In accordance with article 22 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights' on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights' and rule 9 of the Rules of Court, Judge Imani D. ABOUD, a national of Tanzania, did not hear the question. The application is filed against the United Republic of Tanzania, which became a party to the Charter on 21 October 1986 and to the Protocol on 10 February 2006. In addition, the respondent State, on 29 March 2010, deposited the Declaration prescribed under article 34 of the Protocol, through which it accepted the jurisdiction of the Court to receive petitions from individuals and non-governmental organizations. On 21 November 2019, the respondent State deposited with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission an instrument of withdrawal of its Declaration. The Court held that this withdrawal has no bearing on pending and new cases submitted before the withdrawal took effect, that is to say one year after its filing, which was on 22 November 2020.

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS



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[Judgment Vervele v. Greece - Legal remedy for length of proceedings inadequate in Greece, application no. 34012/20](#)

In the Chamber's ruling in the case of Vervele v. Greece, the European Court of Human Rights ruled, unanimously, that there was a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) of the Convention and a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy). The case concerned excessively lengthy civil proceedings which Ms. Vervele had instituted on 22 June 2001 against the Hippokrateio General Hospital in Athens, where she had worked as a cleaner, for non-payment of salary. On 27 February 2020 the Court of Cassation rejected her appeal on legal grounds, and the sentence was finalized and became available to the appellant on 9 April 2020. The Court held that the remedy in force was not effective as it did not allow the Greek courts to examine the overall duration of the proceedings and the interpretation of the criteria for assessing what constitutes a “reasonable” time limit and the recognition of just satisfaction were not in line with the standards established by the Court's case law. It also found that the duration in this case – 18 years, 9 months and 18 days in three cases – even excluding a delay not attributable to the authorities, had been excessive. Thus, although the Government argued that Ms. Vervele had not used the remedies available in Greece on the ground that she had not sought just satisfaction, it failed to show that she had been granted any effective remedy regarding the length of the proceedings. The Court therefore rejected the objection. In the end the Court held that Greece must pay the applicant EUR 11000 for non-pecuniary damages and EUR 240 for costs and costs.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

[Situation in Libya: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I unseals the arrest warrant for Mr Saif Suleiman Sneidel-](#)

The situation in Libya was referred to the ICC Prosecutor by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 1970 of 26 February 2011. On March 3, 2011, the Prosecutor's Office announced its decision to open an investigation into the situation in Libya. A further eight public arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court are still pending in the context of this situation. In addition,



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Khaled Mohamed Ali El Hishri, a Libyan national, was arrested on 16 July 2025 by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany pursuant to an arrest warrant issued under seal by Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC and is currently in the custody of the German authorities pending the conclusion of the national proceedings provided for in article 59 of the Rome Statute. On 8 August 2025, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I decided to declassify the arrest warrant issued initially on 10 November 2020 against Mr. Saif Suleiman Snejid. The Chamber has found substantial grounds to believe that he is responsible for war crimes of murder, torture and outrages on personal dignity, allegedly committed in Benghazi or surrounding areas, Libya, no later than 3 June 2016 until approximately 17 July 2017.

[The ICC strongly rejects new US sanctions against Judges and Deputy Prosecutors](#)

The International Criminal Court deplores the announcement of new designations of sanctions by the United States Administration against the judges of the International Criminal Court. These additional designations follow the previous designation of four other judges and the ICC Prosecutor, constitute an attack on the independence of an impartial judicial institution operating under mandate from 125 States Parties from all regions. They also constitute an affront against the States parties to the Court, the rules-based international order and, above all, millions of innocent victims around the world. As stated earlier by the President and the Judiciary of the ICC, as well as by the Presidency of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, the Court strongly supports its staff and victims of unimaginable atrocities. The International Criminal Court will continue to fulfil its mandate, undaunted, in strict conformity with its legal framework adopted by States parties and without regard to any restrictions, pressures or threats. The Court calls upon States parties and all those who share the values of humanity and the rule of law to provide firm and consistent support to the Court and its work carried out in the exclusive interest of victims of international crimes.



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