Judicial and Similar Proceedings

1. Hämäläinen v. Finland (ECHR July 16, 2014)
<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/fra-press/pages/search.aspx?i=001-145768>

On July 16, 2014, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) ruled in *Hämäläinen v. Finland* that it was not a human rights violation to require a transsexual to change her marriage to a registered partnership as a precondition to legally changing her gender from male to female. The Court held that there was "no violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights; that there was no need to examine the case under Article 12 (right to marry) of the Convention; and, that there had been no violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Articles 8 and 12." In its decision, the Court reiterated that the Convention "cannot be interpreted as imposing an obligation on Contracting States to grant same-sex couples access to marriage" and that if the applicant's claim were accepted, it "would in practice lead to a situation in which two persons of the same sex could be married to each other."

2. Yukos Universal Limited (Isle of Man) v. The Russian Federation (PCA July 18, 2014)
<http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1599>

On July 18, 2014, arbitral tribunals established under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ruled in three arbitrations that the Russian Federation must pay $50 billion for expropriating the assets of OAO Yukos Oil Company (Yukos). The arbitral tribunals "unanimously held that the Russian Federation had taken measures with the effect equivalent to an expropriation of Claimants' investments in Yukos and thus had breached Article 13(1) of the Energy Charter Treaty." The ruling was in relation to "decisions made under President Vladimir Putin's rule during his first term as president to nationalise Yukos" and the arbitral tribunals determined "Russian authorities had subjected Yukos to politically-motivated attacks."

3. Case 002/01 Judgement (ECCC August 7, 2014)
<http://www.eccc.gov.kh/en/document/court/case-00201-judgement>

On August 7, 2014, the Trial Chamber of the UN-backed Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the Court) found Nuon Chea and Kieu Samphan, leaders of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime, guilty of crimes against humanity committed between April 1975 and December 1977 and sentenced them to life in prison. The Court found that both Nuon Chea and Kieu Samphan "were, through their participation in the joint criminal enterprise, found to have committed the crimes against humanity of murder, political persecution and other inhumane acts [. . .]; political persecution and other inhumane acts [. . .]; and murder and extermination through executions of Khmer Republic officials at Tuol Po Chrey." In referencing the victims of the crimes, the Court also "endorsed the implementation of 11 reparation projects that have been designed to appropriately acknowledge the harm suffered by Civil Parties as a result of the commission of the crimes at issue."

Resolutions, Declarations, and Other Documents

1. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age (OHCHR July 18, 2014)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session27/Documents/A.HRC.27.37_en.pdf>

On July 18, 2014, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report entitled "The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age." The report concludes, *inter alia*, that "[i]nternational human rights law provides a clear and universal framework for the promotion and protection of the right to privacy, including in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance, the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data." It also finds, *inter alia*, a "disturbing lack of governmental transparency associated with surveillance policies, laws and practices, which hinders any effort to assess their coherence with international human rights law and to ensure accountability." In December 2013, the UN General Assembly

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had requested UNHCHR "to submit a report on the protection and promotion of the right to privacy in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance and/or the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data, including on a mass scale."

2. UN Resolution 2166 (UN Security Council July 21, 2014)
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2166(2014)>

On July 21, 2014, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2166 in response to the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 in Ukraine on July 17, 2014. Condemning "in the strongest terms the downing of" the flight, the resolution "[r]eaffirm[s] the rules of international law that prohibit acts of violence that pose a threat to the safety of international civil aviation," and "[d]emands that those responsible for this incident be held to account and that all States cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability." As such, the Security Council "demands that the armed groups in control of the crash site and the surrounding area refrain from any actions that may compromise the integrity of the crash site . . . and immediately provide safe, secure, full and unrestricted access to the site and surrounding area for the appropriate investigating authorities."

3. Human Rights of Migrants and Other Persons in the Context of Human Mobility in Mexico (IACHR August 18, 2014)
<http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/migrants/docs/pdf/Report-Migrants-Mexico-2013.pdf>

On August 18, 2014, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights published a report titled "Human Rights of Migrants and Other Persons in the Context of Human Mobility in Mexico." The report's purpose is to "assess the human rights situation of the international and domestic migrants in the context of human mobility in Mexico and to make recommendations to ensure that the migration and immigration policies, laws and practices in the United Mexican States . . . comport with the international human rights obligations it has undertaken to protect migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, victims of human trafficking and the internally displaced persons." According to the report, "[a]t the present time, the extreme vulnerability of migrants and other persons to the heightened risks of human mobility in Mexico is one of worse human tragedies in the region, involving large-scale and systematic human rights violations."

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