



PAT
FINUCANE
CENTRE (/)

Q SEARCH[HUMAN RIGHTS \(/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS\)](#) ▼[TRUTH RECOVERY \(/TRUTH-RECOVERY\)](#) ▼[PROJECTS \(/PROJECTS\)](#) ▼[ABOUT \(/ABOUT\)](#) ▼[DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS \(/DECLASSIFIED-DOCUMENTS\)](#) ▼

European Convention on Human Rights

European Convention on Human Rights

The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, better known as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), was drafted by the Council of Ministers in November 1950 and came into force in 1953. It was drafted as a way of ensuring the horrors and abuses of world war two were never repeated by outlining fundamental rights and freedoms that would be respected and enjoyed by all citizens equally.

Section one of the ECHR contains the articles relating to rights and freedoms, including

- Art. 2) the right to life;
- Art. 3) the prohibition on torture and inhuman or degrading treatment;
- Art. 4) the prohibition of slavery and forced labour;
- Art. 5) the right to liberty and security;
- Art. 6) the right to a fair trial;
- Art. 7) no punishment without law;
- Art. 8) the right to respect for private and family life;
- Art. 9) Freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- Art. 10) freedom of assembly;
- Art. 11) freedom of assembly and association;
- Art. 12) right to marry;
- Art. 13) right to an effective remedy;
- Art. 14) Prohibition of discrimination.



The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), based in Strasbourg, was established in 1959 as the international court to adjudicate and implement the convention. Individuals or states can petition the court alleging violations of the rights protected in the convention. The ECtHR has made a number of important judgements concerning the conflict in this jurisdiction, including the failure of the state to properly investigate deaths involving state actors (the 'procedural obligation' enshrined in Art. 2).

In 1978 the Strasbourg court ruled on the first inter-state case brought by the Irish government against the British government alleging torture, inhuman and degrading treatment against 14 internees in 1971 known as "the hooded men." The ECtHR held that the treatment was inhuman and degrading, but stopped short of constituting torture¹. Declassified government documents found by the PFC and RTE suggest that important evidence was

withheld from the ECtHR, and has resulted in the Irish government asking the court in 2014 to revise the original judgement and find that the treatment did, in fact, amount to torture. The ECtHR has not yet ruled on whether this application is admissible.

1. [http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{\"itemid\":\[\"001-57506\"\]}](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{\)

Latest Articles

In the matter of an application by Geraldine Finucane for Judicial Review (Northern Ireland)

Supreme Court UK | 27 February 2019

Background to the Supreme Court case along with links to the hearings.

[READ MORE \(/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/MATTER-APPLICATION-GERALDINE-FINUCANE-JUDICIAL-REVIEW-NORTHERN\)](/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/MATTER-APPLICATION-GERALDINE-FINUCANE-JUDICIAL-REVIEW-NORTHERN)

PFC submission to Committee of Ministers

| 14 February 2019

The Committee of Ministers meet this week (12th - 14th March 2019) to examine the implementation of judgements & decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. In advance of this meeting, PFC provided a written submission to the Committee outlining our concerns regarding the ongoing failure of the...

[READ MORE \(/ECHR/PFC-SUBMISSION-COMMITTEE-MINISTERS\)](/ECHR/PFC-SUBMISSION-COMMITTEE-MINISTERS)

PFC submission to Committee of Ministers re McKerr & ors v UK

21 Sept 2017 | 21 September 2017

Below is the PFC's recent submission to the Committee of Ministers concerning the McKerr group of cases. We have also attached the statement by the Irish Government to the CoM and their response issued today. Copies of other useful documents can be found on the Council of Europe website and the deci...

[READ MORE \(/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/PFC-SUBMISSION-COMMITTEE-MINISTERS-RE-MCKERR-ORS-V-UK\)](/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/PFC-SUBMISSION-COMMITTEE-MINISTERS-RE-MCKERR-ORS-V-UK)

British Lies to European Court Paved Way for Global Use of Torture

Tom Griffin/Open Democracy | 25 July 2017

When the European Court ruled that detainees in Northern Ireland were NOT tortured but only subjected to "inhuman and degrading" treatment, it gave the green light to other regimes worldwide. New evidence shows the court's ruling was based on false evidence - yet people are still being tortured toda...

[READ MORE \(/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/BRITISH-LIES-EUROPEAN-COURT-PAVED-WAY-GLOBAL-USE-TORTURE\)](/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/BRITISH-LIES-EUROPEAN-COURT-PAVED-WAY-GLOBAL-USE-TORTURE)

Event to Mark International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

| 23 June 2017

26th June marks the International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture. The PFC, along with our colleagues in CAJ, Amnesty International and Matrix Chambers marked the day by outlining evidence of torture carried out by the RUC and British Army during the 1970's in the north of Ireland at an eve...

[READ MORE \(/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/EVENT-MARK-INTERNATIONAL-DAY-SUPPORT-VICTIMS-TORTURE\)](/EUROPEAN-CONVENTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS/EVENT-MARK-INTERNATIONAL-DAY-SUPPORT-VICTIMS-TORTURE)

READ MORE ARTICLES ON EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (/ARCHIVE?SEARCH_API_FULLTEXT=&GLOBAL[0]=TYPE%3AARTICLE&GLOBAL[1]=CATEGORY%3AEUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS)

Declassified Documents

The "Hooded Men"- Irish State case

In 1978 the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) held that the British government had violated Article 3 of the European Commission on Human Rights in their treatment of 14 men in 1971. These "Hooded Men" had been selected for 5 techniques of "Deep Interrogation" - white noise, wall standing/ stress positions, sleep deprivation, bread and water diet, and hooding....

[READ MORE \(/DECLASSIFIED-DOCUMENTS/HOODED-MEN-IRISH-STATE-CASE\)](/DECLASSIFIED-DOCUMENTS/HOODED-MEN-IRISH-STATE-CASE)

1974 Memo

Note of a meeting in the Northern Ireland Office on 13 November 1974 including officials from various ministries, the Attorney General's Office and the Treasury Solicitor's Office. The 'Counsel' referred to in the document is almost certainly the legal counsel representing the British Government at the European court case taken by the Irish Government in respect of multiple violations of...

[READ MORE \(/DECLASSIFIED-DOCUMENTS/1974-MEMO\)](/DECLASSIFIED-DOCUMENTS/1974-MEMO)


READ MORE DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ON EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (/ARCHIVE?FULLTEXT=&GLOBAL[0]=TYPE%3ADECLASSIFIED_DOCUMENT&GLOBAL[1]=CATEGORY%3AEUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS)



The Pat Finucane Centre is registered as a Company limited by Guarantee and is a registered charity, reference NIC 100720.

info@patfinucanecentre.org (<mailto:info@patfinucanecentre.org>)

Copyright (/about/copyright) | © 2017 by the Pat Finucane Centre

 (<https://www.facebook.com/patfinucane.centre>)  (<https://www.twitter.com/FinucaneCentre>)