

COI Update Vol. 139

This document provides an update of UK Country Guidance case law, UK Home Office publications between 16 December 2016 and 9 January 2017 and developments in refugee producing countries (focusing on those which generate the most asylum seekers in the UK) between 1 January and 9 January 2017.

Ctrl + click the hyperlinked text to access the documents

Legal Update

No UK Country Guidance cases were promulgated in the reporting period.

UK Home Office Publications Update

Bangladesh

UK Home Office, [Country Information and Policy Note, Bangladesh: Sexual orientation and gender identity](#), 23 December

The Gambia

UK Home Office, [Country Information and Policy Note, Gambia: Female genital mutilation](#), 15 December 2016

Ghana

UK Home Office, [Country Information and Policy Note, Ghana: Female genital mutilation](#), 15 December 2016

Country News and Publications

Global

International Crisis Group commentary, [10 Conflicts to Watch in 2017](#), 9 January 2017

Afghanistan

Radio Free Europe, [Gunmen Kill 13 Miners In Northern Afghanistan](#), 6 January 2017

Human Rights Watch commentary, [Three Important Lessons Behind the Recent News Emerging from Afghanistan](#), 3 January 2017

Radio Free Europe, [Afghan Police Officer Killed In Bomb Blast](#), 2 January 2017

Albania

Radio Free Europe, [Albanian Political Parties Demand Language Equality In Macedonia](#), 7 January 2017

Burma/Myanmar

OHCHR press release, [Myanmar: UN rights expert launches new official visit to assess recent developments in the country](#), 6 January 2017

Human Rights Watch dispatches, [What Happens Off-Camera in Burma?](#), 4 January 2017
IRIN News, [The roots and risks of Myanmar's new Rohingya insurgency](#), 3 January 2017

China

International Federation for Human Rights urgent appeal, [China: Incommunicado detention of human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong](#), 9 January 2017
Radio Free Asia, [Court in China's Guizhou Jails Protestant Pastor on Spying Charges](#), 6 January 2017
Amnesty International campaigns, [China: Further Information: Lawyer Held Incommunicado At Risk Of Torture: Jiang Tianyong](#), 5 January 2017
Radio Free Asia, Officials, [Police Descend on Beijing NGO as New Law Takes Effect](#), 2 January 2017

China-Tibet

Radio Free Asia, [Tibetans in China Defy Warnings, Support The Kalachakra](#), 6 January 2017
Radio Free Asia, [Thousands of Tibetans Forced Back to China Ahead of Buddhist Gathering](#), 4 January 2017
Radio Free Asia, [Tibetans Beaten, Detained For Coming Late to Meeting](#), 3 January 2017

China-Xinjiang

Radio Free Asia, [Uyghur Government Workers Ordered Not to Identify on Forms as Muslim](#), 4 January 2017

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

OHCHR press briefing, [Press briefing notes on the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), 6 January 2017

Egypt

Amnesty International campaigns, [Egypt: Further Information: Shawkan's Trial Adjourned To 17 January](#), 5 January 2017
International Federation for Human Rights urgent appeal, [Egypt: Ongoing judicial harassment against Mozn Hassan, Nazra for Feminist Studies, Mohamed Zarea and the Arab Penal Reform Organization](#), 2 January 2017

Gambia

Amnesty International news, [Gambia: Arrests, media closures as deadline nears](#), 5 January 2017

Iran

OHCHR press release, [Iran: "Prisoners of conscience at risk of dying after prolonged hunger strike" – UN expert warns](#), 9 January 2017
Amnesty International campaigns, [Hunger-Striking Activist in Poor Health in Evin](#), 6 January 2017
Amnesty International news, [Iran's authorities endangering life of critically ill imprisoned activist by refusing hospital transfer](#), 4 January 2017
Amnesty International research, [Iran's Authorities Must Stop Toying with Life of Activist on Hunger Strike](#), 3 January 2017

Iraq

Radio Free Europe, [Baghdad Struck By Two Bomb Attacks](#), 8 January 2017
Human Rights Watch commentary, [Integrating Iraqi Fighting Forces Is Not Enough](#), 6 January 2017
Amnesty International report, [Iraq: Turning a Blind Eye: The Arming of the Popular Mobilization Units](#), 5 January 2017
Human Rights Watch commentary, [Stop Recruiting Child Soldiers in Iraq](#), 4 January 2017
Human Rights Watch dispatches, [Kurdish Officials Shut Down Group Aiding Yezidis](#), 3 January 2017

Amnesty International news, [Iraq: IS bombings in Baghdad demonstrate an appalling disregard for civilian life](#), 3 January 2017

Radio Free Europe, [Attack On Iraqi Police Station Kills Three](#), 3 January 2017

Radio Free Europe, [Blast In Baghdad's Sadr City Kills At Least 35](#), 2 January 2017

Israel/OPT

Amnesty International news, [Conviction of Israeli soldier must pave the way for justice for unlawful killings](#), 4 January 2017

Human Rights Watch news, [Israel/Palestine: Some Officials Backing 'Shoot-to-Kill'](#), 2 January 2017

Libya

UN News Centre, [Libya: Amid threat of renewed conflict, UN envoy urges restraint](#), 4 January 2017

UN News Centre, [UN health agency fills gap in HIV treatment for patients in Libya](#), 3 January 2017

Nigeria

Amnesty International news, [Nigeria: 1000 days since Chibok girls abduction, government must redouble efforts to secure freedom of all abductees](#), 8 January 2017

North Korea

Human Rights Watch news, [North Korea: Celebrations Hide Human Rights Violations](#), 5 January 2017

Pakistan

Radio Free Europe, [Five Wounded In Gun Attack In Pakistan](#), 6 January 2017

Russia

Amnesty International campaigns, [Russian Federation: Journalist Threatened By Chechen Official: Grigory Shvedov](#), 9 January 2017

Radio Free Europe, [Russian Police Briefly Detain Six Supporters Of Jailed Activist](#), 4 January 2017

Somalia

UNHCR news, ['Growing hopelessness' grips 'forgotten' Somali refugees, warns UNHCR](#), 9 January 2017

Syria

Radio Free Europe, [Fuel Truck Blast Kills Dozens In Syrian Town Near Turkish Border](#), 7 January 2017

UN News Centre, [Syrian refugees in Lebanon face economic hardship and food shortages – joint UN agency study](#), 6 January 2017

Radio Free Europe, [Deadly Car Bombing Hits Government-Held Town In Syria](#), 5 January 2017

Turkey

Radio Free Europe, [Dozens Killed At Istanbul Nightclub On New Year's Day](#), 1 January 2017

Vietnam

Radio Free Asia, [Vietnamese Dissident Attorney's House Vandalized by Thugs](#), 6 January 2017

Zimbabwe

IRIN News, [More than a buzzword? Resilience to climate change in Zimbabwe](#), 6 January 2017

[Sources consulted: Amnesty International; European Asylum Support Office; Human Rights Watch; Institute for War and Peace Reporting; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC); International Crisis Group; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR); IRIN; Radio Free Asia news, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; UN Agencies, Committees, Special Rapporteurs and news]