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1. Libya: Jail sentence of Libyan editor a blow to free expression (MDE 19/010/2014)  
[www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE19/010/2014/en/fceae73d-bc0e-49e5-8b19-b08f74d4057b/mde190102014en.pdf](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE19/010/2014/en/fceae73d-bc0e-49e5-8b19-b08f74d4057b/mde190102014en.pdf)

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# LITHUANIA

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## Republic of Lithuania

Head of state: **Dalia Grybauskaitė**

Head of government: **Algirdas Butkevičius**

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**In February, the Prosecutor General opened an investigation into allegations that a Saudi Arabian national had been subjected to illegal rendition to Lithuania by the US CIA with the help of Lithuanian intelligence officials. A law, which aimed at “protecting minors” against detrimental public information, resulted in violations of the right to freedom of expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people.**

## COUNTER-TERROR AND SECURITY

In January, the Vilnius Regional Court ruled that the Lithuanian Prosecutor General’s refusal to launch a pre-trial investigation into allegations that Saudi Arabian national Mustafa al-Hawsawi had been illegally transferred to and detained in a CIA detention centre at Antaviliai, near Vilnius, had been “groundless”. Legal representatives for Mustafa al-Hawsawi had complained that he was tortured and subjected to enforced disappearance in Lithuania between 2004 and September 2006. In February, the Prosecutor General opened a pre-trial investigation focusing on Mustafa al-Hawsawi’s alleged illegal transfer to Lithuania.

The Prosecutor General had previously refused to investigate similar allegations by lawyers for Palestinian Zayn al- Abidin

Muhammad Husayn ( known as Abu Zubaydah ) . Abu Zubaydah’s case against Lithuania was pending before the European Court of Human Rights at the end of the year . Both Mustafa al- Hawsawi and Abu Zubaydah remained held at Guantánamo Bay.

In May, the UN Committee against Torture urged the government to complete the investigation into Mustafa al-Hawsawi’s alleged rendition in a timely and transparent manner. In the aftermath of the release in December of a US Senate report on CIA secret detention that contained references to “detention site violet”, widely believed to have been located in Lithuania, it was reported that the Lithuanian authorities were seeking additional information from the USA to determine whether detainees had been held and tortured in Lithuania. Information in the Senate report regarding “detention site violet” conformed with a 2009 Lithuanian parliamentary inquiry that had concluded that the CIA had established two secret sites in Lithuania.

## RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PEOPLE

In May, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics concluded a book of fairy tales, which included stories of same-sex relationships, opposed “traditional family values”, as protected by the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effects of Public Information. The book’s distribution was stopped.

In September, the Office of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics found a video promoting tolerance towards LGBTI people and portraying same-sex families violated the Law on the Protection of Minors.

Transgender people continued to be denied access to legal gender recognition because of legislative gaps. Two proposals were pending before the parliament: one aimed at banning legal gender recognition, the other at allowing transgender people to seek legal recognition

of their gender under certain compulsory conditions, including reassignment surgery.

# MACEDONIA

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**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Head of state: **Gjorge Ivanov**

Head of government: **Nikola Gruevski**

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**Human rights were increasingly curtailed. Relations between the Macedonian and ethnic Albanian populations were marred by violent protests. New details emerged about the rendition of a CIA detainee with the complicity of Macedonia.**

## BACKGROUND

The ruling party, Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity, remained in power following parliamentary elections in May, which were not recognized by the main opposition party. Freedom of expression was increasingly curtailed. The authorities exercised excessive influence over the police and judiciary. While the European Commission again recommended that talks on EU accession should start, in December the EU Council of Ministers for the sixth time deferred the decision.

Relations between Macedonians and ethnic Albanians remained precarious. In May, the arrest of an ethnic Albanian student, suspected of killing a Macedonian student, triggered two days of inter-ethnic rioting in the Gorce Petrov municipality of Skopje, the capital.

On 30 June, six ethnic Albanians were convicted - two in their absence - of murder defined as "terrorism" for the killing of five ethnic Macedonians near Lake Smilkovci in April 2012, and sentenced to life imprisonment; one defendant was acquitted.

On 4 July, thousands of Albanians marched into the centre of Skopje, saying "We are not terrorists". The peaceful demonstration escalated outside the High Court with riot police using excessive force against protesters, including rubber bullets, tear gas, stun grenades and water cannons. On 6 July, further protests took place. In the predominantly Albanian cities of Tetovo and Gostivar, police used tear gas and stun grenades. Six men were sentenced to three years' imprisonment for "participation in a crowd to commit a crime".

## CRIMES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

Impunity continued for war crimes and crimes against humanity which occurred during the 2001 internal armed conflict. No measures were taken to locate the bodies of 13 persons still missing after the armed conflict.

## COUNTER-TERROR AND SECURITY

The December release of a US Senate report on CIA secret detention operations included confirmation that former detainee Khaled el-Masri's 2003 apprehension by the Macedonian authorities was a case of mistaken identity and the CIA took measures to cover up the incident. The European Court of Human Rights ruled in a 2013 landmark judgment that Macedonia was liable for Khaled el-Masri's incommunicado detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, for his transfer out of Macedonia to locations where the German national suffered other serious violations of his human rights, and for the failure to carry out an effective investigation.

At the end of the year, the authorities had failed to submit to the Committee of Ministers an action plan, overdue since October 2013, to implement the Court's judgment.

## TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

Allegations against police officials continued, including disproportionately against Roma. In May, two Roma minors, wrongly suspected of stealing a purse, were beaten by members