

entering a marriage.¹ It came into force on 1 September.

In August, the organization “Alliance for Family” delivered a petition signed by 400,000 people to the President demanding a referendum that would ban any other form of partnership than a union between a man and a woman from being defined as “marriage”. They also demanded to ban adoptions by same-sex couples, to deny legal recognition to any kind of partnership other than a “marriage between one man and one woman” and to prevent schools from providing mandatory sexuality education or information on ethical issues such as euthanasia, if the pupil or parent did not consent to such classes. In September, the President requested the Constitutional Court to review the constitutionality of a referendum on the issues raised by the petition. The Court ruled in October, that, with the exception of the question on the legal recognition of different forms of “partnership”, all the other questions were constitutional. In November, the President set the date for the referendum for February 2015.

TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

Slovakia continued to return individuals to countries where they would risk torture and other ill-treatment.

In July, Slovakia extradited Anzor Chentiev, an ethnic Chechen, to the Russian Federation where he was wanted in connection with various terrorism-related offences. Anzor Chentiev had been fighting against extradition for nine years. The Ministry of Justice approved the extradition despite the risk that he would be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment on his return and the fact that Anzor Chentiev had reapplied for asylum in Slovakia on 3 June.²

In August, the Supreme Court rejected Aslan Yandiev’s appeal against the decision of the Regional Court in Trnava allowing his extradition to the Russian Federation, where he was accused of membership of an armed group. The Court was satisfied that

the assurances provided by the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation in February 2011 were “specific and reliable”. His extradition had previously been blocked by the European Court of Human Rights as well as the Slovak Constitutional Court on the grounds that it would expose Aslan Yandiev to the risk of torture and other ill-treatment and that his asylum application in Slovakia was pending.

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1. Slovakia: The constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman is discriminatory (EUR 72/001/2014)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR72/001/2014/en
 2. Slovakia: Further information: Anzor Chentiev extradited to Russia (EUR 72/005/2014)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR72/005/2014/en

SLOVENIA

Republic of Slovenia

Head of state: **Borut Pahor**

Head of government: **Miro Cerar (replaced Alenka Bratušek in September)**

The authorities failed to restore the status of people whose permanent residency was unlawfully revoked in 1992 or provide them with adequate compensation, perpetuating the longstanding violation of their rights. Discrimination against Roma remained widespread.

DISCRIMINATION - THE “ERASED”

Despite some positive measures, the authorities failed to guarantee the rights of some former permanent residents of Slovenia originating from other former Yugoslav republics, known as the “erased”, whose legal status was unlawfully revoked in 1992.

The 2010 Legal Status Act, which offered an avenue for the erased to restore their

legal status, expired in July 2013. About 12,000 of the 25,671 “erased” had had their status restored by this date. In December 2013, legislation was adopted creating a compensation scheme for those whose status had been regulated. The scheme provided €50 for each month spent without legal status.

On 12 March 2014 the European Court of Human Rights, in *Kurić and Others v. Slovenia*, ordered Slovenia to pay the applicants between €30,000 and €70,000 for pecuniary damages. The judgment followed a ruling by the Grand Chamber in 2012, which established that the right to respect for private and family life, the right to effective legal remedy and the right to be free from discrimination had been violated, and ordered the payment of non-pecuniary damages also. These sums were far greater than the sums payable to recipients of compensation under the December 2013 scheme.

DISCRIMINATION - ROMA

Despite a number of initiatives in recent years to improve the situation of the approximately 10,000 Roma in Slovenia, the majority continued to face discrimination and social exclusion. Most lived in isolated, segregated settlements, lacking security of tenure and access to basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation and public transport. Widespread discrimination prevented Roma families from buying or renting housing outside of mainly Roma-populated areas, and they continued to face obstacles, including prejudice, in accessing social housing. Discrimination against Roma in the labour market remained commonplace and unemployment levels among Roma were extremely high.

State institutions created to combat and consider complaints of discrimination, such as the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Advocate of the Principle of Equality, had weak mandates and remained poorly resourced. The office of the Advocate of the

Principle of Equality had just one employee: the Advocate himself.

Throughout the year approximately 250 Roma living in the Škocjan-Dobruška vas settlement remained at risk of forced eviction. The settlement, part of which was designated for the development of an industrial zone in 2013, had been home to the Roma families for many years. Following public pressure and the intervention of the national authorities and Roma civil society, the municipality agreed in August 2014 to relocate two Roma families at imminent risk of forced eviction as development work commenced. However, no further plans were consulted with residents who remained at risk of losing their homes.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The trial of journalist Anuška Delić for publishing classified information began in October and was ongoing by the end of the year. The charges related to articles she published alleging links between members of the Slovenian Democratic Party and the far-right group Blood and Honour. The Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency (SOVA) claimed subsequently that some of the information in her reports had been leaked from its files. The Slovenian criminal code does not provide for a public interest defence.

SOMALIA

Federal Republic of Somalia

Head of state: **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud**

Head of government: **Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed**

Head of Somaliland Republic: **Ahmed Mohamed Mahamoud Silyano**

Armed conflict continued between pro-government forces, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Islamist armed group al-Shabaab in southern and central Somalia. Pro-