



## News Digest May 2015

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**News Digest:** Statewatch provides a daily listing of news links (162 entries in May 2015)



News in Brief (30-31.5.15)

**[Boycott after Muslim woman claims discrimination on flight](#)** (Channel 4 News, link): *"Muslim chaplain Tahera Ahmad claims she faced discrimination and verbal abuse while she was on board a United Airlines flight on Friday."*

**[How the Human Rights Act escaped the Tory axe - David Cameron convinced voters with his pledge to scrap European human rights laws and bring in a British Bill of Rights but he could not persuade his own MPs](#)** (Daily Telegraph, link)

GERMANY: **[Heimliche SMS - NRW-Polizei zapft zehntausende Handys an](#)** [Secret SMS - NRW police taps into thousands Phones] (WAZ, link)

UK: **[Tim Berners-Lee urges Britain to fight 'snooper's charter' - Inventor of world wide web also advised developing world to 'just say no' to Facebook's Internet.org scheme](#)** (Guardian, link): *"Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the world wide web, has urged Britons to fight the government's plans to extend the country's surveillance powers, and act as a worldwide leader for promoting good governance on the web. Berners-Lee said Britain had "lost the moral leadership" on privacy and surveillance, following the revelations of the former National Security Agency contractor, Edward Snowden."*

GERMANY-NSA: **[New details about the joint NSA-BND operation Eikonal](#)** (Techdirt, link): *"This weblog first reported about the joint NSA-BND operation Eikonal on October 15, 2014, but meanwhile interesting new details became available from the hearings of the German parliamentary inquiry, and from recent disclosures by a politician from Austria. Under operation Eikonal, the NSA cooperated with the German foreign intelligence service BND for access to transit cables from Deutsche Telekom in Frankfurt"*

SNOWDEN: **[Here's the Best Stuff from Edward Snowden's Reddit "Ask Me Anything"](#)** (Mother Jones, link)

UK: **[Broadcasters attack Theresa May's plan to vet TV programmes for extremism - Industry figures say powers proposed by home secretary for Ofcom to approve content prior to transmission are 'completely impractical' and 'difficult to justify'](#)** (Guardian, link): *"[Ofcom] all of its regulatory powers are post-transmission. May's plan, revealed in a pre-election document outlining an extremism strategy for a "stronger Britain", would give Ofcom the power to approve programmes before transmission, a fundamental shift."*

[Despite Dutch protection, Azer is still trapped by INTERPOL](#) (Fair Trials, link): "Azer Samadov, a former Azerbaijani political refugee who currently has Dutch citizenship, has been subject to an INTERPOL arrest warrant since 2009."



News in Brief (29.5.15)

[European Commission: Take Swift Action Against Attacks on Core EU Values in Spain!](#) (Liberties.eu, link)

[Britain 'protected state-sponsored serial killers' on both sides during Irish Troubles, BBC documentary claims](#) (Independent, link) and [link to Video](#)

[Inside NSA, Officials Privately Criticize "Collect It All" Surveillance](#) (The Intercept, link): ""The problem is that when you collect it all, when you monitor everyone, you understand nothing." – Edward Snowden"

EU: ['Nerds, techies and lobbyists' - The Commission this week will unveil an overhaul of the extensive system of expert groups](#) (Politico, link)

[Marauders Map: the Chrome app that stalks Facebook Messenger users - Privacy concerns over app that allows you to pinpoint location of anyone who is part of same messaging thread, and track them via time stamps](#) (Guardian, link)

UK: [Fury after primary pupils are asked to complete radicalisation-seeking surveys - Parents complain after London council circulates questionnaire among year 6 pupils in schools with large Muslim intakes](#) (Guardian, link)

EU-USA: [MEPs give passing vote to TTIP](#) (euractiv, link): "The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade has given its go-ahead to the European Commission on the EU-US trade agreement, conceding that a controversial arbitration clause, albeit reformed, needs to remain part of the deal." and [Parliament Committee adopts a disappointing position on TTIP](#) (EDRI, link)

[Spare Rib goes digital: 21 years of radical feminist magazine put online](#) (Guardian, link) and see [Journal Archives](#) (link)

GERMANY: [Draft law could restrict protection of confidential sources, information in the public interest](#) (IFEX, link)

USA: [State Law Enforcement Body Camera Policies](#) (EPIC, link)



News in Brief (28.5.15)

[Philip Zimmermann: king of encryption reveals his fears for privacy -The creator of PGP has moved his mobile-encryption firm Silent Circle to Switzerland to be free of US mass surveillance. Here he explains why](#) (Guardian, link): ""Every dystopian society has excessive surveillance, but now we see even western democracies like the US and England moving that way," he warns. "We have to roll this back. People who are not suspected of committing crimes should not have information collected and stored in a database. We don't want to become like North Korea."

[Poland elects right-wing president who criticized predecessor's apologies to Jews](#) (Times of Israel, link)

[The 43rd European Regional Conference of Interpol started in Bucharest](#) (link) and [INTERPOL Europe meeting develops regional collaboration against transnational crime](#) (pdf)

[INTERPOL training in Ghana aims to strengthen regional police capacity in border management](#) (Interpol, link) See also: [EU: Millions of euros for new police databases in West Africa](#) (Statewatch database)

[German court gives Yemeni man permission to continue case against Government over role in US drone strikes](#) (Reprieve, link)

European Defence Agency: [EDA Chief Executive briefs European Parliament](#) (link) and see: [INTERVENTION BY EDA CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE](#) (pdf)

UK: [Hundreds sign up for Yarl's Wood protest calling for an end to detention](#) (Bradford Today, link)

[Lawyers denied access to case file – LEAP Survey Report](#) (Fair Trials, link) and [Legal Experts Advisory Panel: Survey Report: Access to the Case File](#) (pdf)

[Lithuania's spy officially charged](#) (New Europe, link): "The President neither confirmed nor denied the possibility of a swap "

[Sanctions being finalised to crack down on disruptive TDs](#) (Irish Times, link): "Tough new sanctions on TDs who behave in a disorderly and disruptive way in the Dáil chamber are close to being finalised."



News in Brief (27.5.15)

[British tourists complain that impoverished boat migrants are making holidays 'awkward' in Kos](#) (Independent, link)

EU: MED-CRISIS: [Frontex expands its Joint Operation Triton](#) (Frontex, link): "Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri signed the amended operational plan of the Joint Operation Triton, expanding its operational area and bringing in a number of additional experts, vessels and aircraft. The operational area will be extended to 138 NM south of Sicily. During the peak summer season, Triton will deploy 3 airplanes, 6 Offshore Patrol Vessels, 12 patrol boats, 2 helicopters, 9 debriefing and 6 screening teams."

[Libya PM 'escapes assassination attempt' in Tobruk](#) (BBC News, link): "Libyan Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni says he has survived an assassination attempt by gunmen who attacked his car in the city of Tobruk.....A government spokesman said the prime minister escaped unharmed but one of his bodyguards was wounded. Libya has been in turmoil since Muammar Gaddafi was ousted from power in 2011. Mr al-Thinni is trying to run the country from Tobruk after being expelled from the capital, Tripoli, by militias in 2014. His power has been challenged by the establishment of another body in Tripoli that claims to be the legitimate government."

[Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey Move to Jointly Tackle Migration](#) (Novinite, link): "Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, facing a surge in illegal migration, have signed an agreement to set up a joint contact centre for border and customs control, the Interior Ministry in Sofia announced on Monday. The joint contact center will start functioning on Bulgarian territory at Kapitan Andreevo crossing at the border with Turkey. The agreement needs parliamentary approval in Greece and Turkey to take effect, while in Bulgaria it only has to be endorsed by the government." [Agreement](#) (Bulgarian, link)

[Commission promises cash for taking migrants - Under the proposal, member states would get a payment of €6,000 for each asylum-seeker coming from Italy or Greece](#) (Politico, link)

UK: [Government delays Human Rights Act repeal amid opposition from senior Tories](#) (Independent, link): "Today's Queen's Speech will not include full legislation to replace the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights in this session of parliament, it has emerged."

GERMANY-NSA: [Aktenvermerk bringt Merkel in Bedrängnis](#) (SZ.de, link): "Süddeutsche Zeitung reports that the German chancellor knew in August 2013, at the peak of the NSA espionage affair and amid the national elections, that the US might not offer Germany a so-called "no-spy treaty" nevertheless the government announced that such an agreement would come. It never did."

EP: [What if your shopping was delivered by drones?](#) (pdf) and see: [USA: H.R. 1646, the Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act](#) (link)

CANADA: [The Governance of Telecommunications Surveillance](#) (Telecom Transparency Project, link)



News in Brief (26.5.15)

EU: [Net neutrality faces unwilling Council negotiators](#) (euractiv, link): "A European Council communication sent to the Parliament Friday (22 May) shows that it hasn't budged on net neutrality legislation. The Council is pushing back against the Parliament's earlier move towards net neutrality rules that would prevent telecommunications companies from giving some internet traffic special treatment."

[German based FBI informer who runs fake WikiLeaks sites loses case to censor his photo](#) (link)

LONDON: [Thousands expected at anti-Tory protests as Queen opens parliament - Demonstrators to gather at Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square, part of wave of planned protests since Conservatives' election win](#) (Guardian, link)

[UK data watchdog: Massive fines won't keep data safe - We should be able to use threats though](#) (The Register, link)

EU: [Net neutrality – is the European Parliament ready to accept complete failure?](#) (EDRI, link): "After an overwhelming vote in favour of net neutrality by the European Parliament in April 2014, this position in favour of free speech, competition and innovation is now in danger."

[New Finnish Government Raises NATO Stakes](#) (Politico, link): "In a move that is certain to further irritate Moscow, Finland's new center-right coalition has included the option of applying for NATO membership "at any time" in its government formation Joint Policy Position statement.... In a move that is certain to further irritate Moscow, Finland's new center-right coalition has included the option of applying for NATO membership "at any time" in its government formation Joint Policy Position statement."

[Spain, Poland and Greece: shudders in Europe's political foundations](#) (Channel 4 News, link)

[The second job you don't know you have - How self-checkouts, ATMs and airport check-ins are changing our economy](#) (Politico, link): "Young people are 17 percent of the global population but 40 percent of the unemployed."

[Edward Snowden: NSA reform in the US is only the beginning - In an exclusive interview from Moscow, Snowden cautions that more needs to be done to curb NSA surveillance two years after his disclosures](#) (Guardian, link)



News in Brief (25.5.15)

[Justice for Deepan - Born in Canada but currently STATELESS](#) (link)

EU: [Migration plans and UK top the bill this week](#) (euobserver, link)

UK: [Family of handcuffed student urge inquiry into deaths in police custody - Relatives of Kingsley Burrell say concern over issue is reaching boiling point, after 87 such deaths in England and Wales since 2010](#) (Guardian, link)



News in Brief (23-24-5-15)

UK: [Jihadi threat requires move into 'private space' of UK Muslims, says police chief - Exclusive: Britain's most senior Muslim officer says potency of Islamist propaganda means some five-year-olds believe Christmas is forbidden](#) (Guardian, link): "Islamist propaganda is so potent it is influencing children as young as five and should be countered with intensified monitoring to detect the earliest signs of anti-western sentiment, Britain's most senior Muslim police chief has warned."

GLOBAL ECONOMY: [Borders are closing and banks are in retreat. Is globalisation dead? In the days before the Great Recession, the liberalisation of world trade seemed a certainty: now fears over 'hot](#)

[money' and migration have changed the mood](#) (Observer, link) "Obama has made it clear that a major rationale for the TPP is not promoting shared prosperity – the idealistic motivation that lay behind the birth of the Doha round – but creating a political and economic counterweight to the might of China".

[Apple and Google Just Attended a Confidential Spy Summit in a Remote English Mansion](#) (The Intercept, link): "At an 18th-century mansion in England's countryside last week, current and former spy chiefs from seven countries faced off with representatives from tech giants Apple and Google to discuss government surveillance in the aftermath of Edward Snowden's leaks. The three-day conference, which took place behind closed doors and under strict rules about confidentiality, was aimed at debating the line between privacy and security." See: [Ditchley Foundation: Conference Note](#) (pdf)

EU: DP REGULATION: [No Food, No Drink, No Water: EU Ministers Agree on One-Stop Shop, Plan June Lock-In](#) (Privacy Tracker, link): "EU ministers dramatically agreed to hold a marathon meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council in June in order to finalize their version of the EU General Data Protection Regulation, having earlier reached agreement on the regulatory one-stop shop and the principles underpinning the regulation. Agreement in June would then allow trilogue discussions between the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the European Commission to commence in the summer"

[How we're fighting back against the UK surveillance state—and winning](#) (Ars Technica, link)

UK: ['The police didn't see Deen as a victim despite blood pouring out of his head' - Deen Taiwo's ordeal at the hands of racists is being made into a documentary in an innovative attempt to improve police responses to hate crimes](#) (Observer, link)

UK: Human Rights Act: [If Michael Gove listens to Daniel Hannan's honeyed polemic on Human Rights he really will get into a muddle](#) (Barrister Blogger, link)

EU: Commission Drones policy: Question: [European legislation on drones](#) (EP, link) and [Answer given by Ms Bulc on behalf of the Commission](#) (EP, link) See: Commission Communication: [A new era for aviation: Opening the aviation market to the civil use of remotely piloted aircraft systems in a safe and sustainable manner](#) (pdf)

UK: [David Cameron backs plans for Ofcom to block 'extremist messages' on TV - PM appears to support Theresa May's proposals despite business secretary Sajid Javid's statement that measures would amount to 'state censorship'](#) (Guardian, link)

UK: [CCTV cameras secretly being switched off by cash-strapped councils](#) (Independent, link): "Tony Porter, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, told *The Independent* that a rising number of local authorities in England and Wales were shutting down CCTV networks to cope with the Government's austerity cuts, raising the prospect of a "postcode lottery" for crime detection."



News in Brief (22.5.15)

[Scotland Office memorandum leak: Cabinet Office inquiry statement](#) (Cabinet Office, link) and see: [Lib Dem Alistair Carmichael admits responsibility for anti-Sturgeon leak](#) (Guardian, link) - He is currently the only Scottish MP representing the Liberal Democrat Party in the House of Commons.

[Senate Expected to Act on NSA Collection of Phone Records](#) (New York Times, link): "The fate of the bulk collection of American phone records by the National Security Agency is now before the Senate, in what is increasingly looking like a game of legislative chicken. The Senate is expected to decide Friday what to do with the oft-debated measure. If the Senate doesn't act, the laws authorizing the programs will expire June 1"

[Quiz: Just how Kafkaesque is the court that oversees NSA spying?](#) (Washington Post, link)

[Migrants in Tunisia: Detained and Deported - In the past few months, we witnessed the attempt to strengthen the project of European borders' externalization.](#) (storiemigranti.org, link)

[Europe and "Whistleblowers" : still a bumpy road...](#) (EASFJ, link)

[Refugees to Sweden left in six-month limbo](#) (The Local, link): "Asylum seekers arriving in Sweden are now likely to face a wait of up to six-months before they can have their cases heard, as migration officers struggle to cope with the workload."

[Saving Macedonia: The European People's Party has repeatedly shielded the Balkan country's corrupt and undemocratic government](#) (Politico, link)

UK: [Conservative manifesto plan to reduce immigration is an 'aim' not a promise, says Theresa May](#) (Independent, link) and [Deport First, Appeal Later: Cameron Hardens Stance in New Immigration Bill](#) (sputnik, link)



News in Brief (21.5.15)

[Save William McNeilly, Trident whistleblower](#) (COURAGE, link)

[European Roma Institute launches online consultation](#) (CoE link)

[Brussels scrambles to salvage troubled migration plan](#) (Politico, link): "Commission president's chief aide, Martin Selmayr, is on a mission to EU capitals to save 'Juncker's baby.'"

GERMANY: [Cyberattacke auf Bundestag: Abgeordnete fühlen sich nach Hackerangriff alleingelassen](#) (Spiegel Online, link): "MPs and their assistants fear that their confidential data might be compromised after a big hack by unknown attackers. Now they complain that there is almost no information shared by the administration about what happened and how they can protect themselves better. Some MPs say they have "a bad feeling," and some already stopped "sharing confidential informations via email."

UK: [Cameron's immigration bill to include crackdown on illegal foreign workers - David Cameron to promise bill in Queen's speech that will make 'Britain a less attractive place to come and work illegally'](#) (Guardian, link) and see: [What are the Member States doing regarding sanctions on employers of irregularly staying third country nationals?](#) (EU Law Analysis, link). New UK rules on seizing wages of irregular migrants will contradict EU Directive (which UK opted out of).

EU: [Don't Endanger Lives at Sea or Deny Protection](#) (HRW, link): "Migrants intercepted by EU vessels in the Mediterranean, including those participating in EUNAVFOR Med, should be taken to safe ports in the EU, where those asking for protection or indicating a fear of return should undergo asylum screening. Under no circumstances should the EU transfer boat migrants to the Libyan coast guard or disembark them in Libya, where they have no possibility of seeking asylum and where they risk being detained in appalling and abusive conditions and being harmed by the violence that is pervasive across the country"

[Americans do not like NSA spying and want to reform the Patriot Act, new poll reveals](#) (link)



News in Brief (20.5.15)

[Migration: We need legal and save ways to enter Europe- Not the army](#) (YouTube, link) Ska Keller MEP

[No Borders protesters perform die-in at London St Pancras - video](#) (Guardian, link)

[EU plan for migrant quotas hits rocks after France and Spain object - French president François Hollande says quotas are 'out of the question' 24 hours after Spanish foreign minister flatly rejects proposal](#) (Guardian, link)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: [Ansip denies 'rumours' of encryption backdoors in EU's digital plan](#) (euractiv, link): "European Commission Vice-President Andrus Ansip, in charge of the Digital Single Market, rejected suggestions on Tuesday (19 May) that the European executive was planning workarounds to crack encryption technologies, which ensure secure communications on the Internet."

LONDON: [Police officer found guilty of assaulting student at tuition fees protest - PC Andrew Ott faces jail after breaking front tooth of William Horner with riot shield during 2010 demonstration in London](#) (Guardian, link)

[Outrage in Portugal over police beating of man in front of his children - Video footage of Jose Magalhaes being struck by police at Benfica football match has put family at centre of national scandal over alleged police brutality](#) (Guardian, link)

CIA: [Mission Unstoppable: From drone strikes to prison torture, the CIA has been pulling the strings of U.S. Foreign Policy since 9/11. And if history is a guide, the agency will be calling the shots in the Middle East for years to come.](#) (FP, link)

[UK Government Counter-Terrorism Bill Would Criminalize Speech, Political Activity](#) (GlobalReach, link)

[Passenger Name Records and data protection issues: busting some myths](#) (Media Poicy Project, LSE, link)



News in Brief (19.5.15)

[The new tech changing airport security](#) (BBC Future, link)

GERMANY: [NDR reports Hanover federal police tortured migrants](#) (DW, link): "German public radio has reported that federal police in the northern state of Lower Saxony are accused of attacking migrants in their custody for entertainment. Prosecutors are investigating the case. "

[What happens to democracy in a cashless society?](#) (Open Democracy, link): "New technology is transforming the way we pay for everything, but at what cost?"

[Libya says EU boat-sinking operation 'not humane'](#) (euobserver, link)

[Denmark plans to collect all passenger data](#) (The Local, link): "While the European parliament continues to wrestle with the privacy repercussions of a proposal on collecting passenger data, Denmark plans to move ahead with its own domestic plan. The Danish government plans to give the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) the ability to collect passenger data on all flights in and out of Denmark. PET would be given access to passengers' names, passport information, travel patterns and travelling companions."

CoE: [Ministers to green-light new legal measures against foreign terrorist fighters](#) (link)

EP: [Launch of the Historical Archives of the European Parliament website](#) (link)

UK: [Majority of whistleblowers left without legal representation](#) (Law Society Gazette, link)

[EU ministers back Mediterranean naval mission, reject migrant quotas](#) (euractiv, link): "European Union foreign and defence ministers agreed on a naval mission on Monday (18 May) to target gangs smuggling migrants from Libya. But parts of a broader plan to deal with the influx began to unravel in a row over national quotas for housing asylum seekers."

And see: [Italian coastguards: military action will not solve Mediterranean migrant crisis](#) (Guardian, link): "The Italian coastguards leading migrant rescue missions in the southern Mediterranean have voiced concern about the EU's migration strategy, arguing that military operations will not stop migration to Europe and calling instead for European navies to prioritise search-and-rescue missions. Speaking on Monday before EU defence and foreign ministers agreed to launch military operations against Libyan smugglers, coastguard captain Paolo Cafaro said a military campaign would not eradicate the root causes of the Mediterranean crisis...."

Cafaro also questioned whether European navies would be able to target smugglers' boats before they are used for migration missions, due to both the absence of a blessing from Libya's official government and the UN, as well the complexities of the smuggling process. Smuggling boats are often simply fishing boats bought in the days prior to a trip, and kept in civilian harbours until the night of their departure."



News in Brief (18.5.15)

[NSA surveillance opposed by American voters from all parties, poll finds - Poll taken as key aspect of Patriot Act is set to expire finds opposition to government surveillance across partisan, ideological, age and gender divides](#) (Guardian, link)

[French police cleared over teenagers' deaths that sparked riots - Two officers acquitted of failing to help boys who died in electricity substation in 2005, prompting fears of renewed unrest in France](#) (Guardian, link)

[Angela Merkel under pressure to reveal extent of German help for US spying - German chancellor called on to divulge a list of targets, including the IP addresses of individual computers, tracked on behalf of the NSA](#) (Guardian, link)

[Spain's Gag Law: spectre of an authoritarian past](#) (Equal Times, link)

[Smart cities: Haven for tech geeks or hacker paradise?](#) (Extremetech, link)

[The Killing of Osama bin Laden](#) (London Review of Books, link)

[Lack of trust takes sting out of EU measures - Anglia Ruskin academic co-authors study on counter-terrorism law and policy](#) (link) Press release about the book that came out of the [SECILE:project](#)

SPAIN: OSINT: [Indra y Accenture pugnan por diseñar el sistema que buscará sospechosos en las redes sociales](#) (eldiario.es, link). Spain has assigned 1.6M euros to the creation of a system to track social media and store nicknames, comments and metadata. The system will explicitly not delete any of the compiled data. The goal is to create a database of threatening profiles based on their social and demographic info

EU: [Drone rules hover into view - European Commission package is expected to address safety, security, privacy and noise pollution](#) (Politico, link) See: [Concept of Operations for Drones - A risk based approach to regulation of unmanned aircraft](#) (pdf)

VIDEO: [10 points to really end the deaths of migrants at sea](#) (YouTube, link)

[GCHQ's Rainbow Lights: Exploiting Social Issues for Militarism and Imperialism](#) (Intercept, link)

UK: [Police warn big budget cuts will lead to 'paramilitary' force - Steve White, chair of the Police Federation, says service is 'on its knees', and predicts end of policing by consent and move towards more violent style](#) (Guardian, link): "Steve White, chair of the Police Federation, said his 123,000 members, from police constables to inspectors, fear a move towards a more violent style of policing as they try to keep law and order with even fewer officers than now. White told the Guardian that more cuts would be devastating: "You get a style of policing where the first options are teargas, rubber bullets and water cannon, which are the last options in the UK." White said cuts would see the bedrock principle of British law enforcement, policing by consent, ripped apart."



News in Brief (16-17.5.15)

UK: [Royal Navy investigates Trident whistle-blower William McNeilly who claims nuclear programme is a 'disaster waiting to happen'](#) (Independent on Sunday, link) and [Navy probes leaked Trident safety claims](#) (BBC News, link)

[A.T. v Luxembourg: the start of the EU-ECHR story on criminal defence rights](#) (EU Law Analysis, link): "The applicant, A.T. was questioned by police following surrender under a European Arrest Warrant ('EAW') (as to the cross-border aspect, see the post-script). On arrival, he demanded a lawyer. Police gave information (it is unclear what) which led him to accept to be questioned without one. He denied the offences. He was then questioned again before the investigating judge, with a lawyer present but (a) without having had the chance to talk with that lawyer beforehand and (b) without the lawyer having had sight of the case file prior to that questioning; again, he denied the offences."

[WATCH: How the CIA Helped Make “Zero Dark Thirty”](#) (PBS, link)

[EU to open shelters in Niger in bid to keep illegal migrants out of Europe - Faced with increasing migratory pressures and human trafficking, the EU unveils plans to stem growing tide of illegal migration](#)

(The Observer, link): "Neither the nature of these programmes, nor their size, nor the key issue of funding has been decided. European funds could be mobilised, the source said."

EU: MED CRISIS: [Small boats, choppy seas - A plan to deal with the boat people is ambitious, but the outcome will be woefully inadequate](#) (Economist, link): "The bigger problem is that, until the EU works out how to end war and poverty, no proposal can match the scale of the problem... With delicious timing this week the commission also published a sobering demographic forecast. By 2060, it said, the EU's population will be in absolute decline. There will be just two workers for every man or woman over 65, compared to four today. If Europeans want to continue to fund the generous health care and pensions they have awarded themselves, then in the absence of a hitherto concealed fondness for procreation they will have to attract more workers from abroad."

USA-NSA: [Former NSA Lawyer Says Keeping Bulk Collection Secret Was a Mistake](#) (The Intercept, link): "The Bush administration's decision to keep bulk collection of domestic phone records a secret was a strategic mistake, former NSA Inspector General Joel Brenner told his former colleagues on Friday."



News in Brief (15.5.15)

EU: [Non-refoulement, push-backs and the EU response to irregular migration](#) (EPRS, link)

[NATO moves closer to EU, Sweden, Finland](#) (euractiv, link): "NATO will look at increasing cooperation with the European Union and its non-EU members Finland and Sweden through information-sharing and more military exercises, the alliance said on Thursday (14 May), a move likely to cause concern in Moscow."

[EU Asylum Policy: In Search of Solidarity and Access to Protection](#) (EASFJ, link)

[Euro-sceptic David Davis could oppose government on human rights reform - Tory MP's comments show growing backbench rebellion over plan that could lead to withdrawal from European court of human rights](#)

(Guardian, link): "The Conservative MP David Davis, a prominent Euro-sceptic, has threatened to oppose government proposals that could lead to the UK withdrawing from the European court of human rights. Davis's reported comments are a sign of growing rebellion on the Tory backbenches as the complexity and political difficulties involved in seceding from the judicial authority of the Strasbourg court become increasingly apparent to the government."

UK: [Young prisoner AJ Cracknell found dead in his cell in HMP Rochester](#) (Kent Online, link): "A young man was found dead in his cell in HMP Rochester this week, the prison service has announced today. The inmate, named as AJ Cracknell, was 25 years old. On Tuesday at around 2pm prison officers entered his cell and found him to be unresponsive."

UK: [‘Systemic failures’ of prison service contributed to death of killer Simon Hall in Norfolk jail, inquest hears](#) (Eastern Daily Press, link)

[There is a threat to British values - the British government - The government's plans are among the greatest threats to our freedoms, spreading intolerance in the name of tolerance](#) by Caroline Lucas MP (New Statesman, link)

[Defence budgets in Europe: downturn or U-turn?](#) (ISS, link to pdf)



News in Brief (14.5.15)

LONDON: [Challenging state and corporate impunity: Is accountability possible?](#) (Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, link): "Speakers include: Tony Bunyan (Statewatch) – What is the role of researchers in supporting movements for state accountability?, Suresh Grover (The Monitoring Group), Deborah Hargreaves (High Pay Centre) – How do we challenge corporate abuses of power when this power is increasingly concentrated in elites? Ewa Jasiewicz (Fuel Poverty Action) – How do we work for state and corporate

accountability under conditions of austerity? Will McMahon (Centre for Crime and Justice Studies) and David Whyte (University of Liverpool) – Linking academic research to social movements."

[EU removes 6 people from its Al-Qaida Sanctions Listing](#) (European Sanctions, link)

[CAMPAIGN LAUNCH: May 2015: Cover Up! to Defend Your Privacy](#) (Netpol, link): "Help us raise £2500 to pay for 500 face coverings to distribute to protesters"

GERMANY: [Berlin police powers strengthened](#) (WSWS, link): "The changes agreed in late March to Berlin's "General Security and Public Order Act" (ASOG), strengthen the powers of the police and undermine fundamental civil liberties. They are another step on the government's road to a police state."

[Belgium Starts Unannounced Home Visits to Fight Social Benefit Fraud](#) (Liberties.eu, link): "To fight social benefit fraud, the Belgian government has announced that it will begin unannounced home inspections of jobseekers and use energy usage data to target suspicious homes."

[UN experts: Secretive trade agreements threaten human rights](#) (IFEX, link)

[Campaigning to Save our Human Rights Act](#) (LIBERTY, link)

UK: [Cameron faces Tory backbench rebellion over plans to scrap the Human Rights Act](#) (Independent, link)

: "current Tory proposals, that would allow the UK Parliament to opt out of rulings by the ECHR that it disagreed with, would be incompatible with its obligations under Convention of Human Rights. This could even lead to Britain's expulsion from the organisation it helped found in the wake of the Second World War."

[A.T. v Luxembourg: European Court of Human Rights follows EU law on access to lawyer](#) (Fair Trials, link): "The European Court of Human Rights has given judgment in A.T. v Luxembourg, and it is the first time one of the Roadmap Directives has been relied upon in the interpretation of the ECHR. These Directives set minimum standards regarding access to a lawyer, the waiver of the right to a lawyer and remedies when that right is infringed."

[Policeman accused of framing student at tuition fee riot](#) (Channel 4 News, link): "PC Andrew Ott, who hit student William Horner with his riot shield, was recorded saying after the incident "he's going to have to have done something, coz I've put his tooth out".

[Google wins first "right to be forgotten" case in Finland](#) (YLE, link): "Internet and search giant Google has prevailed in a case involving a private individual looking to remove information about himself from search engine results. The case marks the first time the EU's controversial new "right to be forgotten" rule has been tested in Finland."



News in Brief (13.5.15)

UK: [The Government's Plans for Union Ballots Will Make Legal Strikes Close to Impossible](#) (Huffington Post, link): Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary

UK: [Mediterranean migrant crisis: May wants some people returned](#) (BBC News, link): "Economic migrants rescued from the Mediterranean while trying to reach Europe should be returned home, Home Secretary Theresa May has suggested." Is someone fleeing from poverty an "economic" migrant?

UK: [New laws to target radicalisation](#) (BBC News, link): "David Cameron is to set out a string of new powers to tackle radicalisation, saying the UK has been a "passively tolerant society" for too long."

UK: [Theresa May to revive her 'snooper's charter' now Lib Dem brakes are off - Election results were barely in when the home secretary indicated the Tories will increase state surveillance powers, to the alarm of privacy campaigners](#) (Guardian, link)

UK: [Michael Gove to proceed with Tories' plans to scrap human rights act - Newly appointed justice secretary to follow through with pledge which would remove European court of human rights' leverage over UK's supreme court](#) (Guardian, link) See: [Protecting Human Rights in the UK: The Conservatives' Proposals for changing Britain's Human Rights Laws](#) (pdf)

[EU member states fail to display solidarity over Mediterranean](#) (EP, link)

[Opt-outs to poke holes in EU migration policy](#) (euobserver, link)

[The Commission's new EU Migration Strategy: Waiting for the Great Leap Forward](#) (EU Law Analysis, link)

[INFOGRAPHIC: The facts about asylum seekers in Europe](#) (euractiv, link)

GREECE: [UN urgently called the Greek government to implement anti-racism measures to address issues of hate speech and verbal abuse against vulnerable people](#) (New Europe, link): "UN Special Rapporteur also underlined the need for the creation of an independent body investigating police violence "



News in Brief (12.5.15)

NORTHERN IRELAND: [Chief Commissioner Responds to Human Rights Proposals](#) (NIHRC, link): "the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has commented: "It is deeply concerning that after 17 years of improving lives and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable in society that a newly elected Government should be indicating its intent to repeal the Human Rights Act. This is even more worrying during a time of austerity."

SCOTLAND: [SACC Statement on the death of Sheku Bayoh](#) (Scotland Against Criminalising Communities, link): "The death of Sheku Ahmed Tejan Bayoh while in police custody in Kirkcaldy on 3 May appears to have disturbing similarities to the deaths of black people at the hands of police in England and the USA. What happens next will be a litmus test for Scotland's legal and political institutions and for Scottish civil society."

IRELAND: [Plan to give Ireland share of refugees 'acceptable'](#) (Irish Examiner, link)

FRANCE: Police violence in Calais: [Calais Violences Policières vs Cazeneuve mai 2015 HD](#) (YouTube, link)

[Frequently Asked Questions on IP and TPP Investor State Dispute Settlement \(ISDS\)](#) (Infojustice.org, link)

EU-UK: [Home secretary hardens refusal to accept EU resettlement programme - British refugee organisations criticise Theresa May's decision to take no responsibility for refugees or migrants caught up in Mediterranean boat crisis](#) (Guardian, link)

USA: [NSA Ruling Is a Victory for Privacy](#) (TIME, link)

EU: [Controversial French Surveillance Regulation Should Re-ignite EU Debate on Surveillance Reform](#) (CDT, link)



News in Brief (11.05.15)

EU: [Police disrupt organised criminal group smuggling people from Africa to the EU](#) (Europol press release, link)

[France's Far-Right Family Implodes as National Front Founder Jean-Marie Le Pen Disowns His Daughter](#) (Vice News, link)

GERMANY-USA: [Documents: BND/NSA relationship; EU agreement which Germany flouts](#) (UndercoverInfo, link)

NETHERLANDS: [Dutch receive slightly more refugee requests than EU average](#) (Expatica, link)

SPAIN: [X-ray scan at Spanish border finds child stashed inside suitcase](#) (The Guardian, link)

SWEDEN: [Assange appeal rejected by Sweden's supreme court](#) (The Guardian, link)

UK: [Manchester council bans homeless people from using library](#) (The Guardian, link)

USA: [FBI admits to using surveillance planes above Baltimore protests](#) (RT, link)



News in Brief (7.5.15)

FRANCE: [Surveillance - FIDH and LDH challenge the decision of the Prosecution not to hold an inquiry](#) (FIDH, link): *"Today FIDH and LDH filed a request with the Paris General Prosecutor for an administrative review of the 13 April decision to refuse opening an inquiry following a complaint lodged in December 2014 against French intelligence services for illegal surveillance."*

CYPRUS: [Conditions in Cyprus for refugees 'still a far cry from EU standards'](#) (Cyprus Mail, link): *"Around 65 per cent of people applying for asylum in Cyprus are granted subsidiary protection but conditions for refugees are 'still a far cry from EU standards', according to a new report."*

[Migrants rescued after 12 days at sea; EU eyes seizing boats](#) (WRAL, link)

['Everyday racism' weaves its way into welcoming Germany](#) (DW, link): *"While the PEGIDA movement has lost much of its steam, a spate of attacks on asylum seekers' homes across Germany reveals a worrying trend. Is a greater police presence the answer to creating a more open society? "*

[Direct Provision system for asylum seekers 'not fit for purpose'](#) (Breaking News.ie, link): *"A new report into Direct Provision in Ireland has found it is 'not fit for purpose' and residents are being 'failed'. The Public Service Oversight Committee is publishing the full report later, following a series of interviews with residents and staff at the centres in Galway, Foynes, Mosney and Clondalkin."*

[Turkish student sentenced for re-tweeting satirical news](#) (EDRI, link): *"Meral Tutcali, a student in Anadolu University, was sentenced by the provincial court of Adana to one year in jail for 'insulting a public official', after she re-tweeted Zaytung's article, which reported satirically that former Adana governor Huseyin Avni Cos declared his autonomy. The article included an illustration showing the Governor in a military vehicle, surrounded by guards. The picture was taken during a national holiday during which it's customary for governors to appear in such parades. Tutcali's house was raided twice by police for her retweet."*

[EU-UAE visa waiver takes effect from May 7 - The UAE is the first Arab country to be granted this facility](#) (Gulf News, link)

GERMANY: [Four Held In German Right-Wing Extremist Raids - Prosecutors say the "Old School Society" group was planning to attack asylum-seeker housing, mosques and Islamic extremists](#) (Sky News, link)

[Deaths at Sea: 'No more excuses'!](#) (EHRN, link): *"Amid public shock and anger at the tragic death of more than 900 people including refugees fleeing war and persecution in Syria, Eritrea, Somalia and Libya, the EU Council held an "emergency" summit on April 23rd. Following a moment of silence to mourn these preventable deaths, EU leaders went back to business as usual."*

[Libya Coastguard Intercepts 500 Illegal Immigrants](#) (Outlook, link)

[What it means when we call people illegal](#) (LACUNA, link): *"More than 60 years ago European leaders gathered to sign the European Convention on Human Rights; a landmark international treaty born out of the horrors of the Second World War, and championed by the then British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. The Convention declares that human rights are "the foundation of peace and justice in the world" and that they are 'universal' – they apply to everyone."*

[UN calls for suspension of TTIP talks over fears of human rights abuses - UN lawyer says tactics used by multinationals in courts outside of public jurisdiction would undermine democracy and law](#) (Guardian, link)

[Navy Robots Test the Limits of Autonomy](#) (New York Times, link)

[Garda actions towards homeless man 'justified'](#) (Irish Examiner, link): "A Garda Ombudsman report into the filmed arrest of a homeless man by a garda last March found the force used appeared to be "justified, lawful and proportionate".



News in Brief (6.5.15)

[France passes new surveillance law in wake of Charlie Hebdo attack - Controversial new bill that allows intelligence agencies to tap phones and emails without judicial permission sparks protests from civil liberties groups](#) (Guardian, link) and see: [France debates proposed surveillance laws amidst civil society opposition](#) (Statewatch)

[European Court of Justice to advise on legality of web links to unpublished content](#) (electronista, link)

EU: MED CRISIS: [Russia to oppose EU sinking of migrant smuggler boats](#) (euobserver, link): "Russia has indicated it will block UN approval of EU plans to sink migrant smugglers' boats, but says the disagreement isn't linked to Ukraine. Vladimr Chizhov, its EU ambassador, told press in Brussels on Tuesday (5 May) that "apprehending human traffickers and arresting these vessels is one thing, but destroying them would be going too far"."

EU: JUSTICIA: [Procedural Rights](#) (link): "The most up-to-date and relevant documents, press releases, academic comment, legislation, and case-law is collated and organised here in this fully-searchable central storage space. Here you can get an overall sense of the information available in the area of procedural rights or quickly find a specific document." and see: [Snapshot](#) (link)



News in Brief (4.5.15)

[Revealed: refugees at Dungavel paid just £1 an hour for work in detention centre](#) (HeraldScotland, link)

[Europe's journalists face growing climate of fear](#) (Xindex, link): "Journalists and media workers continue to confront relentless pressure as they do their jobs, according to a survey of the verified incidents reported to Index on Censorship's Mapping Media Freedom project."

[Pressure on Central Europe to Take More Asylum-Seekers](#) (BalkanInsight, link): "Newer EU member states likely to face pressure to share the asylum burden, which is weighing on Germany on Sweden."

[Congressman with computer science degree: Encryption back-doors are 'technologically stupid'](#) (Washington Post, link): "law enforcement officials to urge Congress to mandate that companies create a way for them to access encrypted content. But encryption experts say building such back-doors would fundamentally undermine the security of people who rely on those products because it could create new vulnerabilities and give hackers a new target to attack."



News in Brief (2-3.5.15)

• UK: [Open letter condemns legal aid cuts, calls on new government to restore justice - More than 100 judges, peers, lawyers and doctors write open letter to the Guardian calling on new government to prevent 'widespread miscarriages of justice'](#) (Guardian, link)

• [From laws to trade agreements – The uncertain future of the EU's privacy framework](#) (link)

• [The Returns Directive and the Expulsion of Migrants in an Irregular Situation in Spain](#) (EU Law Analysis, link)

• EU: [Case C-192/15, Rease – secretly spied on, medical data leaked, and left unprotected by the Dutch regulator](#) (EU Law Radar, link)

- [African migrants lost at sea recalled](#) (Irish News, link): " he countless migrants who died trying to escape poverty and persecution in Africa have been remembered in Dublin. A wreath was laid for the countless mothers, fathers and children who have died after risking their lives on what have been dubbed modern day 'coffin ships'... Their desperate flight and the many tragic deaths have been likened to the harsh experiences of the Irish people who died in coffin ships on the Atlantic, trying to escape the Great Famine of the 1840s."
- UK: [Action taken against hundreds of police officers for misconduct -Hundreds of misconduct notices have been served to police officers in the forces that cover Shropshire and Mid Wales, new figures reveal today](#). (Shropshire Star, link) and see: [Over 3,000 police officers being investigated for alleged assault - and almost all of them are still on the beat](#) (Independent, link)



News in Brief (1.5.15)

- [Is Gladio still alive in Turkey?](#) (Todays Zaman, link): "A recent decision by a public prosecutor's office to drop a five-year case investigating top-secret documents found at a Turkish military headquarters has revived suspicions that now-defunct Gladio-type illegal structures from the Cold War years within NATO might still be alive in this member of the alliance."
- [Forgot your password? The SME Intrinsic-ID proposes a device fingerprint to authenticate your access](#) (COM Digital Agenda, link)
- HUNGARY-EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: [Statement by the President after phone conversation with Prime Minister Orban](#) (EP, link)
- [Juncker on Germany's BND scandal: 'It is very difficult to keep secret services under control'](#) (euractiv, link): "ermany's intelligence agency, the BND, spied on French officials and the EU's headquarters on behalf of US intelligence, German media reported Thursday (30 April). Asked to comment, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said that it is very difficult to keep secret services under control."
- [LSE takes legal action to evict occupying student protesters - London students took over university room in March to protest against tuition fees and privatisation, with support from Russell Brand](#) (Guardian, link)

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