

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis on the withdrawal of the 42-day detention in the UK

Strasbourg, 14.10.2008 - The decision by the United Kingdom Government to drop the 42-day detention proposal is obviously sensible. It will allow the authorities to fight terrorism without undermining the freedoms protected by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Any successful anti-terrorist policy must include mechanisms for close international cooperation. Against this background, I should like to remind the UK Government that they have not yet ratified two Council of Europe Conventions which deal with the incitement for terrorism and the funding of terrorism. These are two vital areas of the campaign to stop terrorists before they are in position to do any actual harm. We have been waiting for more than three years for the UK to ratify these Conventions, and I urge the Government to ratify them without any further delay.

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