

Report on visit to Croatia

from 25 to 29 April 2016

Transitional justice and social cohesion

- » Enactment of the law which provides for reparation for the victims of wartime crimes of sexual violence
- » Steps taken to ensure adequate conditions for the return of displaced persons
- » Strengthening of the legislative & institutional framework to fight against hate crime



- » Recent regression of inter-state co-operation on war time crime prosecution in the region
- » Impunity for certain serious human rights violations
- » Low number of wartime crime prosecutions of senior and mid-level officials in national courts
- » Difficulty for returnees belonging to national minorities to fully enjoy their economic, social, cultural and linguistic rights
- » More than 2 800 persons, including Roma without permanent or temporary residence, remain stateless or at risk of statelessness
- » Rise in manifestations of ethnic intolerance and hate crime

Immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- » Humanitarian approach in dealing with recent migrant entries
- » Upcoming training plans targeting asylum & immigration judges
- » Commitment to accept more than 1 600 refugees under the EU refugee relocation & resettlement schemes



- » Draft Aliens Law provisions criminalising social & humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants
- » Lack of asylum and immigration expertise among administrative judges
- » Obliging migrant detainees subject to deportation to pay for their accommodation & removal
- » Many obstacles to migrant integration

Freedom of the media

- » Efforts made in recent years to create a sound legal framework and to adopt a media strategy



- » Defamation remains a criminal offence
- » Acts of violence which affect journalists' freedom of expression
- » Abrupt & numerous staff changes in public service media & allegations of censorship
- » Measures undermining independence of public broadcaster and of electronic broadcaster regulator
- » Abolition of state subsidies to non-profit media