

Press Release

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United Kingdom: the Committee of Ministers' third interim resolution concerning actions of security forces in Northern Ireland

Strasbourg, 25.03.2009 – In a third interim resolution adopted last week, the Committee of Ministers assessed the United Kingdom's compliance with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the lack of effective investigations into deaths in Northern Ireland in which security forces were involved (violations of Article 2 – right to life in cases of *Jordan*, *McKerr*, *Kelly and others*, *Shanaghan*, *McShane* and *Finucane*).

The Committee examined the measures taken by the United Kingdom since the adoption of the second interim resolution in June 2007 and concluded that the issue relating to the concrete results obtained in the investigation of historical cases by the Historical Enquiries Team and the Police Ombudsman can now be closed. In particular, the Committee noted that the Historical Enquiries Team has the structure and capacity to allow it to finalise its work. The Committee also decided, in light of the assurances given by the United Kingdom, to close the examination of the issue relating to the failure by the United Kingdom to comply with its obligation under Article 34 of the Convention on the right of individual petition.

The Committee will continue its examination of the issue regarding the response of the United Kingdom to the Police Ombudsman's Five-Year Review report.

In the cases of *Jordan*, *Kelly and Others*, *McKerr* and *Shanaghan*, the Committee noted with concern that progress with regard to the ongoing investigations has been limited. Therefore, it strongly urged the United Kingdom to take all necessary measures with a view to bringing to an end the ongoing investigations while bearing in mind the findings of the European Court in these cases.

In the cases of *McShane* and *Finucane*, the Committee noted the progress in the investigatory steps taken and decided to close the examination of these cases with respect to individual measures.

[Link to the Interim Resolution CM/ResDH\(2009\)44](#)

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Under the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court's judgments require the adoption by the respondent states, under the Committee of Ministers' supervision, of all measures necessary to grant the applicants appropriate redress and to prevent new similar violations in the future.

Further information on the execution of judgments by member states, including the Committee of Ministers' annual report for 2007 on its supervision of judgments – are available at www.coe.int/t/cm/home_en.asp and www.coe.int/Human_rights/execution.

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