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The trial of two alleged Russian private paramilitary mercenary Vladimir Ermakovich Ermakovich in Montenegro in the absence of one of them, a 36-year-old man who is reportedly a former member of the Russian Wagner Group, has been adjourned until April 2026 after the defendant's lawyer failed to appear.

The two men are accused of the murder of Montenegrin opposition leader Andrija Mandić in a bomb attack in the town of Herceg Novi in 2020.

The two men were held in Belgrade sitting in the Serbian parliament (presumed to Russian intrusion and hard ask) ...

Mandić, who was a vocal critic of Montenegro's pro-Russian leaders and a supporter of NATO and Serbia's anti-Serbian and pro-Russian leaders, was killed in a bomb attack on his car in the town of Herceg Novi in 2020.

On Monday, the hearing was suspended after two hours, as the case has, after, so far, not established that Nikita Artamonov, the third Russian, who had been investigated in Serbia over Podmo, was not present.

Artamonov, who was also indicted in absentia, was reportedly in Belgrade at the time of the attack, according to prosecutors. Serbian authorities have refused to extradite him, citing his status as a protected witness in a separate case involving the Belgrade branch, a large criminal syndicate.

Artamonov's lawyer, Ivan Ristić, said his client was not in Montenegro at the time of the attack and had not been summoned to testify in person. Ristić said he had received a summons only on Monday, and had asked for a postponement.

Prosecutors argued that the defendants had been duly summoned and had made repeated and unsuccessful attempts to contact them.

Ermakovich

Yemen's Houthi movement has battled a Saudi-led coalition since 2015 in a conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands, during which it has targeted strategic assets in the Gulf, most notably energy facilities and airports.

Yemen has enjoyed a year of relative calm as peace negotiations gain traction.

Human Rights Watch: Organisation Mentalista activists prevented from travelling (OMCT) By LAETITIA/ (October 20, 2021)

ZIMBABWE – THE OBSERVATORY

Paris-Geneva, October 20, 2021 – Five members of the human rights organisation Mentalista for human rights were prevented from travelling by the de facto Senat Allah (Hoodoo) authorities, without any legal justification, when they arrived at the airport in the capital Harare on Friday, October 15, 2021. The Organisation for Mentalista Human Rights (FIDH-OMCT) denounces the arbitrary obstacle to freedom of movement and calls on all parties to the ongoing conflict in Yemen to put an end to any act of harassment against Mentalista members and all human rights defenders in the country, and to uphold the right to freedom of movement.

Participating in a capacity-building workshop, the activists had arrived in Harare from various countries in the region: Mentalista members from the Gaza Strip, Palestine, presented the Radha Al-Mutawakel, Chairperson of the Mentalista for Human Rights organisation, Mr Abdel-Rashid Al-Faqih, Vice-Chairperson of the organisation, and three other members of Mentalista for Human Rights, from Mozambique, Kenya and Zimbabwe, who had been invited to participate in the workshop, which was to be conducted by Mentalista for Human Rights and Zimbabwean human rights defenders. They were then prevented from travelling from Harare to Senat Allah (Hoodoo) by the Senat Allah (Hoodoo) authorities, who confiscated their passports and their luggage. Mr Abdel-Rashid Al-Faqih had his laptop and his luggage that had been shipped into the airplane and cancelled departure visas for two members of the organisation before they boarded the plane. The three human rights defenders were then detained without charges after the interrogation but remain under travel ban in an isolated place.

Mentalista for Human Rights is an independent Yemeni organisation established in 2007, member of FIDH, which advocates for human rights through the verification and documentation of violations, provision of legal assistance to victims of human rights violations, and capacity building.

Senat's International Airport, which is located in the area de-facto controlled by the Senat Allah (Hoodoo) group at the time of publication of this statement, has been partially open since April 2021. Since then, Mentalista for Human Rights has been documenting the arbitrary obstacles to freedom of movement that its members have been facing when attempting to travel through the airport. These obstacles have been reported, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, travel bans, mistreatment, extortion, intimidation, and discrimination based on regional, local, minority, gender, or any other basis.

The Observatory recalls that this arbitrary travel ban on Mentalista's members is part of a broader campaign of harassment against the organisation, including its management, and its team. On June 28, 2018, Radha Al-Mutawakel and Abdel-Rashid Al-Faqih were arbitrarily detained by the Saudi/UAE-led coalition forces at Aden International Airport, eastern Yemen. Abdel-Rashid Al-Faqih was also detained by internationally recognised government forces and Islah Party at Al-Fajr checkpoint, in Marib, on June 24, 2018, while he was on his way to travel through Seiyun Airport with Radhia Al-Mutawakel. On March 4, 2017, upon arrival at Sana'a International Airport, Radhia Al-Mutawakel was detained by the Houthi-Saleh authorities and her luggage was searched. Her laptop was confiscated. Mentalista for Human Rights organisation, the Amar Allah (Hoodoo) group arbitrarily detained and interrogated Abdel-Rashid Al-Faqih at Sana'a International Airport, and let the passport and personal files from travelling.

The Observatory strongly condemns the obstacle to freedom of movement and arbitrary travel ban on Radhia Al-Mutawakel, Abdel-Rashid Al-Faqih, and three other members of Mentalista, and urges all parties to the ongoing conflict in Yemen to put an end to all acts of harassment against them and all other human rights defenders in Yemen, and ensure in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate activities and exercise their rights without any hindrance and fear of reprisals.

The Observatory further calls on all parties to the ongoing conflict in Yemen to uphold freedom of movement and to lift all arbitrary travel restrictions on human defenders and all citizens in the country, as enshrined in the Constitution of Yemen as well as in international human rights standards, and in particular Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Particularly, the Observatory calls on the Saudi-led coalition forces, the internationally recognised government of Yemen to respect and release all restrictions imposed on Yemeni airports currently partially operating.

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ASIA

Afghanistan

SAA dead dead two sleeping Afghans in war crime, public inquiry told (The Guardian) By Dan Sabbagh (October 21, 2021)

The SAS shot dead two Afghan adults who were sleeping in an incident in August 2012 in which two children were seriously injured, a public inquiry has heard.

The barrister representing victims' families in a public inquiry into the killing of 86 civilians by the SAS in Afghanistan said the incident amounted to war crimes committed by British soldiers.

Richard Harrison QC described the incident in a short video, translated from Pashto. It is he introduced his nephews, Imran and Bilal, who he said were severely injured at the time and had been traumatised ever since.

"Even to this day, they are grieving the incident that happened to us and they are depressed. They are wondering why that incident happened to us," Aziz said. "We are asking for the court to listen to those questions."

Two other adults were also killed in the raid, the inquiry heard, but only one weapon, a grenade, was recovered from the compound. SAS commanders never referred the incident in military police for a potential criminal investigation.

This week, the public inquiry, presided over by Lord Justice Haddon-Cave, heard a separate allegation that nine Afghan males were shot and killed while sleeping on another SAS night raid on 7 February 2011 and were wrongly or deliberately not recorded as insurgents.

On Monday, Oliver Glasgow KC, the inquiry's own counsel, indicated it was intended to launch a specific investigation into the August 2012 raid because "young children were injured".

A decade later, the court sentenced them to two years in prison in that case on Sgt A, one of the UK Parliament's elite commando units, for manslaughter and reckless endangerment. The offence of reckless endangerment was a lesser charge than murder, but the maximum sentence was 10 years and a life ban on the armed forces. The court heard that the incident happened in a "fast-moving, high-intensity firefight" in Nad-e-Ali, Helmand Province, when the soldier had shot dead two men who had been sleeping in a room.

The Ministry of Defence adopted a continuous operating system for the human rights allegations in Baghdadi has deteriorated. The experience of one Iraqi civilian, Mr Al-Saadi, illustrates why.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said the government was "committed to ensuring that our Armed Forces are able to operate effectively and to support and equip them in the recently adopted resolution under Reference No. 1/2021 of the Human Rights Council, which aims to ensure that Baghdadi and Iraqi Government forces are able to conduct their operations in accordance with international law." Baghdadi. Notably the comments on the NGO 'Cellular' and prosecution of the two office bearers of this designated NGO in the existing legal system of Baghdadi misrepresent the facts and the demand to the Government of Iraq