



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

## ANTI-TERRORISM LEGISLATION

### CHINA—LEGISLATURE ADOPTS ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW

The Chinese Legislature has adopted an anti-money laundering law broadening the definition of money-laundering crimes to include accepting bribes, violating financial management regulations and financial fraud, according to an article published by [CHINA DAILY](#) on 13 October 2006. Under the new legislation financial and some non-financial institutions are required to maintain records on clients and transactions, report large and suspect transactions, and investigate suspect fund transfers. The law is expected to come into effect on January 1, 2007.

### PAKISTAN—ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED

The government is expected to enact an anti-money laundering law soon, paving the way for ratification of a UN convention to curb terrorist financing, according to an article published by [GULF NEWS](#) on 24 November 2006. The measure is aimed at curbing dubious financial transactions, and funding terrorist activities with checks. The draft law has been prepared by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) in consultation with the [National Accountability Bureau](#), [Federal Investigation Agency](#), and the [Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan](#). The legislation is expected to be passed by the Parliament soon.

### PHILIPPINES—SENATE AMENDS ANTI-TERROR BILL

The Senate has revised portions of anti terror bill to provide greater protections for those being investigated, according to an article published by [SUN STAR](#) on 16 November 2006. Under the amendments law enforcement powers would not be given to military officers, suspected terrorist would have the right to challenge the legality of any surveillance conducted with respect to him, the period for detention without judicial authorization of a terrorist suspect would be reduced from 15 days to 48 hours, and testimonial and documentary evidence to prosecute terror suspects would have be obtained in accordance with law. Establishment of an Anti-Terrorism Task Force is also part of proposal.

### UNITED KINGDOM—

- **ADVISORY GROUP ON TERRORISM AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORMED**

Due to an increase in alleged connections between charities and terrorism, the [National Council for Voluntary Organizations](#) (NCVO), the principal umbrella organization for the not-for-profit sector, has set up an advisory group on terrorism and the voluntary sector. Its purpose is to ensure that any government action is solidly based in fact and that the good name of charities in general is upheld, according to an NCVO [press release](#) on 20 October 2006. The group includes other UK national umbrella groups, lawyers, and Islamic and international voluntary bodies.



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

- **BOOK ASSESSING GOVERNMENT'S COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGISLATION AND POLICY RELEASED**

The Democratic Audit for the [Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust](#) has published a book entitled "[The Rules of the Game: Terrorism, Community and Human Rights](#)." The book critically examines the UK government's counter-terrorist strategy and legislation analyzing its effectiveness and impact on human rights and, in particular, on the lives and perceptions of young Muslims and Muslim communities in the UK. The report follows on from the 2005 briefing and scoping report entitled, "The Rules of the Game: the Government's Counter terrorism Laws and Strategy."

## **UNITED STATES—JUDGE STRIKES DOWN PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE TERRORIST GROUPS**

In a decision in a case brought by the Humanitarian Law Project ([Humanitarian Law Project v. U.S. Treasury](#)), a Los Angeles federal judge has ruled that key portions of a presidential order blocking financial assistance to terrorist groups are unconstitutional. According to an article published in the [WASHINGTON POST](#) on 29 November 2006, U.S. District Judge Audrey B. Collins found two provisions of an executive order signed 23 September 2001 to be unconstitutional because they were impermissibly vague. These provisions allow the president unilaterally to designate organizations as terrorist groups and broadly prohibit association with such groups. The ruling marks a victory for the Humanitarian Law Project, which seeks to provide support for the "lawful, nonviolent activities" of two groups designated terrorist organizations by the U.S. government: the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), also known as the Tamil Tigers, in Sri Lanka.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

### **GLOBAL—WORLD BANK ANTICORRUPTION STRATEGY MAY BRING CHANGES IN DISCLOSURE POLICY**

Adoption of a new anticorruption strategy at the World Bank may lead to changes in the Bank's disclosure policy, according to an article posted on [FREEDOMINFO IFTI WATCH](#). The article suggests changes could bring about improved transparency on proposed Bank projects and their implementation. A revised disclosure policy might also yield more information on supervision reviews, procurement, and financial management.

### **HONDURAS—TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION LAW PASSED**

Honduras Congress has approved the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law (Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública) on 23 November 2006. According to a news article published by [IFEX](#), one of the salient features of the new law is the establishment of a body called the National Institute for Access to Public Information with which will have as its mandate the guaranteeing of the implementation of the new law. The Institute will be headed by 3 commissioners and



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

it is intended to have operational, decision-making, and budgetary independence. Under the new law, the Obligated Institutions, including the three branches of the State, the municipalities, non-governmental organizations that spend public monies, private corporations, and foundations are required to publish the released information without being asked by the citizens. The new law will come into effect 20 days after its publication in the Official Gazette (Diario Oficial La Gaceta), but its application will only begin after a year in order to allow the institutions obliged to respect it to adapt their organizations and functioning to the law.

## **NIGERIA—FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL PASSED**

Nigeria's Senate has passed a Freedom of Information (FOI) bill granting the media and the general public the right to request information on government business from government agencies or from private bodies performing public functions, according to an article published by [INDEPENDENT ONLINE](#) on 17 November 2006. The lower house of Parliament passed the bill in December 2005.

## **NEPAL—RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL PREPARED**

The task force formed to draft a bill of right to information has submitted its draft to the government. According to an article in [KANTIPUR ONLINE](#), the draft bill recommends formation of an Information Commission. It would require public offices to make all information public except that which is detrimental to the public and to appoint an information officer or department to carry out the provisions of the bill. Public officials could not be punished for leaking information regarding corruption within their office. The draft awaits the approval of Council of Ministers. Once approved, it will be submitted to the Parliament for passage. Article XIX has published a [Memorandum on Nepal's Right to Information Bill – 2063 \(2006\)](#) analyzing its compliance with international standards.

## **PAKISTAN—CSOS ESTABLISH NETWORK TO MONITOR ELECTORAL PROCESS**

In order to restore public confidence in electoral process and ensure free and fair elections next year, civil society organizations in Pakistan have formed the "Free And Fair Election Network" (FAFEN). According to an article published by [DAWN](#), the monitoring work of FAFEN would not only be focused on the actual conduct of elections but also on various stages and processes before and after the elections including the ongoing process of voter registration in the country. FAFEN was officially launched on 21 November 2006.

## **FISCAL MATTERS**

### **BELGIUM—MOSQUES TO RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDS**

Mosques in Belgium will begin receiving government funding next year. Initially, seven mosques will receive funding as of 2007. In order to be eligible for the funding the mosques will have to meet certain requirements. According to a news article published by [ZAMAN ONLINE](#), imams of recognized mosques will receive salaries like



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

priests and rabbis do, and mosques will be eligible to receive additional money for repairs and restoration. Islam is one of six officially recognized religions in Belgium.

## **GLOBAL—IBP PUBLISHES GUIDE TO TAX WORK FOR NGOS**

The International Budget Project (IBP) has released “[A Guide to Tax Work for NGOs.](#)” The guide is intended to help demystify revenue policy issues and give civil society budget groups the tools they need to influence revenue policy. It is a comprehensive description of the basic principles of applied budget work, examples of useful resources, and best practices.

## **INDIA—PROPOSAL FOR A NEW LAW ON FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS APPROVED**

The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to replace the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act with new legislation entitled “Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill of 2006.” According to a news article published by [INDIAN CATHOLIC](#) on 11 November 2006, the proposed law prohibits several kinds of organizations, including those of political nature, associations or companies engaged in production or broadcast of news or current affair programs, from receiving monetary contributions from abroad. It also provides information of foreign contributions received through banking channels be shared with security agencies if the amounts exceeds a certain limit. The proposed law is [designed to strengthen the monitoring of receipt](#), utilization and accounting of foreign contributions by non-governmental organizations and religious institutions.

## **TURKEY—PRESIDENT VETOES FOUNDATION LAW**

Turkish President, Ahmet Necdet Sezer, has vetoed the Foundation Law that would have improved the property rights of non-Muslim religious minorities, according to an article published by [TURKISH DAILY NEWS](#). President Sezer sent the law back to Parliament for reconsideration of nine articles. As passed by Parliament, which is dominated by the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the bill fell short of European Union expectations. It affects Greek Orthodox, Syriac, and Armenian communities as well as other Christian minorities and Jews. The law is intended to allow properties confiscated by the state to be returned to religious minorities. Presidential vetoes can be overturned by the AKP dominated Parliament.

## **UNITED KINGDOM—NEW “COMPANIES ACT 2006” HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR CHARITABLE COMPANIES**

The new Companies Act 2006 became law on 8 November 2006. According to an article published by [ROLLITS](#), the Act has implications for charitable companies as well commercial ones. [Farrer & Co.](#) has briefly [summarized](#) the main provisions of the reforms that affect charities.



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

## UNITED STATES—

- **EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS BRANCH (EO) OF IRS ISSUES REPORT**  
The Exempt Organizations Branch has issued a report on EO's FY 2006 accomplishments and priorities for FY 2007, including the [FY 2007 EO Implementing Guidelines](#).
- **INVESTIGATION OF TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA)**  
On 5 October 2006 the Chair of the U. S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee [Bill Thomas, Questioned the NCAA's Tax-Exempt Status](#) in a letter he sent to the organization. The NCAA replied with a [25 page letter](#) detailing its position why tax exemption is warranted accompanied by extensive [appendices on why intercollegiate athletics warrant tax exemption](#). The considerable [press coverage](#) indicates the extent to which the payment of high salaries to coaches and perks available to players has brought the issue into the limelight. The [Senate Finance Committee](#) has now indicated that it will hold a hearing on the matter on 5 December 2006.
- **NEW IRS SUBSTANTIATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS FOR CHARITY**  
The IRS has provided rules for complying with the new substantiation requirements for contributions to charities via payroll deductions: the taxpayer must retain (1) a document furnished by the employer that shows the total amount withheld from the employee's pay for charity (e.g., a pay stub or Form W-2), and (2) the pledge card that shows the name of the charity. IR-2006-186, December 1, 2006, <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=164630,00.html>, Notice 2006-110 <<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-06-110.pdf>

## FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

### BAHRAIN—PM ISSUES DECREE BANNING STRIKES

Bahraini Prime Minister, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, has issued a decree banning strikes at important locations and facilities including civil defense sites, airports, seaports, hospitals, health centers, and pharmacies. According to an article published by [GULF DAILY NEWS](#), the ban also applies to telecommunications, electricity, water, bakeries, educational establishments, oil and gas facilities, and all means of transport involving people or merchandise.

### THAILAND—BAN ON GATHERINGS LIFTED

Thailand's National Legislative Assembly has passed a new law lifting the ban on gatherings of more than five people for political and other purposes in public places,



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

according to an article published by [ALL HEADLINE NEWS](#). Martial law and related restrictions on freedom of assembly and political activity were imposed after a bloodless military coup overthrew elected Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on 19 September 2006.

## **SINGAPORE—PROPOSED CHANGES IN PENAL CODE RESTRICT FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY**

As part of the penal code reform, the government has proposed tightening laws governing the Internet and public gatherings, according to an article published by [IFEX](#). Under the [proposed amendments](#), the government can take action against public gatherings without proving in court that the gathering intended to cause a disturbance. Currently, outdoor gatherings of more than four people require a police permit and the operation of unregistered associations is subject to criminal punishment. Internet users could face prison sentences or fines for defamation, making “statements that cause public mischief,” and “wounding” of racial or religious feelings. Public consultation on proposed reforms is open until 9 December 2006. The amendments will be submitted to the Parliament in early 2007.

## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

### **AZERBAIJAN—FIRST PRIVATE TV AND RADIO BROADCASTER CLOSED DOWN**

Azerbaijan's first private TV and radio broadcaster, ANS TV, has been closed down after the National TV and Radio Council (NTRC) of Azerbaijan decided not to extend its license, according to an article published by [NOTICIAS](#). The NTRC said it based its decision on “the regular violation of the provisions of the legislation, disregarding regular official warnings and fine sanctions made by the TV and Radio Council . . . .” The head of the OSCE Office in Baku said: “We are deeply concerned about the closure of a private television and radio broadcaster, which has always been considered by international observers as the most objective in the country.”

### **CHINA—GOVERNMENT DISMANTLES ITS DIGITAL BARRIERS AGAINST WIKIPEDIA**

After the government decided to dismantle its digital barriers against the service, Chinese Internet surfers once again have unfettered access to [Wikipedia](#), the popular free online encyclopedia, reports [NEWS FACTOR NETWORK](#), quoting Wikipedia founder, Jimmy Wales. It is important to note that Wikipedia will not censor its content as other Internet companies such as Yahoo Inc., Google Inc., and Microsoft Corp. have agreed to do. On the other hand, observers note that some barriers to the service still exist, with access to certain information remaining blocked.

### **COOK ISLANDS – DRAFT MEDIA LAW**

Article Nineteen has published a [Memorandum on the draft Media Bill for the Cook Islands](#). The Memorandum provides comments on the draft Cook Islands “Act to establish the Media Commission.” The draft is likely to be placed before the newly elected parliament in the 2006/2007 session.



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

## **INDIA—CABINET APPROVES POLICY ALLOWING NGOS TO OWN AND OPERATE RADIO STATIONS**

The Indian government has approved a new policy enabling NGOs to apply for community radio licenses, according to a news article published by [ONEWORLD SOUTH ASIA](#). Under the policy, licenses can be given to NGOs with at least three years social service to local communities that is willing to set up a Community Radio Station (CRS). Each CRS is required to serve a specific, well-defined local community and to broadcasting programs relevant to the educational, developmental, social, and cultural needs of the community. The policy comes years after the landmark Supreme Court judgment in 1995, which said that airwaves are public property and should be used for public good.

## **KAZAKHSTAN—NGOS AND MEDIA ADVOCACY GROUPS SUBMIT DRAFT MEDIA LAW**

Several NGOs and media advocacy groups have submitted a draft law to the lower house of the Parliament (Majlis). According to an article published by [IFEX](#), the proposed media law is designed to promote the right to receive and distribute information freely, prohibit any attempt to monopolize the media, and limit legal grounds for the suspension and closure of media outlets. It would also decriminalize insult and defamation charges.

## **MIDDLE EAST—AL JAZEERA ENGLISH GOES LIVE**

‘[Al Jazeera English](#),’ the new international news channel from the Qatar-based television network [Al Jazeera](#) has begun to broadcast from its main studios in Doha, Qatar, according to the [BBC](#). The channel aims to provide an alternative to the world news from Western channels like CNN and BBC. The channel began broadcasting to more than 80 million cable and satellite households across the globe.

## **FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF**

### **AZERBAIJAN—MAJLIS PREPARES NEW BILL ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

The Human Rights Standing Committee, the State Committee on Religious Structures, the Clerical Office of the Caucasus Moslems, and other stakeholders are working together on a new law on religious freedom in Azerbaijan, according to [BAKU TODAY](#). The bill is expected to be finalized shortly.

### **INDIA—ANTI CONVERSION BILL PROPOSED IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

A new bill seeking to ban forced conversion, has been proposed in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The state government will thoroughly review the anti-conversion bill proposed by Hindu nationalist factions, to determine whether such a bill should become law. According to an article published by [ASIANEWS](#), Indian churches have raised concerns over the adoption of any such bill and have defended the view that it



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

is “entirely up to the individual person to exercise his freedom of choice and conscience.”

## **INDONESIA—CIVIL REGISTRATION BILL UNDERMINES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

In response to growing protests, the House of Representatives and the government promised Thursday to revise the civil registration bill, which critics say discriminates against minority groups, according to an article published by [THE JAKARTA POST](#). Critics have slammed the legislation because it requires people to include their religion when registering, which they say will lead to discrimination against followers of traditional beliefs and undermines religious freedom. The government currently recognizes only six official religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism. The bill is due to be submitted in the Parliament on 7 December 2006.

## **NETHERLANDS—CABINET BACKS PROPOSAL TO BAN WOMEN’S TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC DRESS FOR SECURITY REASONS**

The Netherlands Cabinet has backed a proposal to legally ban the wearing of the [burqa](#) (a women Islamic form of dress) and other face-covering garments in public places such as schools, courts, public transportation, and the street, according to [BBC NEWS](#). The Muslim community has questioned the government's motives and alleges that such a policy betrays Dutch tradition of religious and ethnic toleration. An estimated 1 million of the 16 million people living in the Netherlands are Muslim. The ancestors of Dutch Muslims come from countries as diverse as Indonesia, Turkey, and Morocco.

## **SERBIA—RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS HAVING DIFFICULTIES REGISTERING AS ASSOCIATIONS**

[A report by Forum 18 on 28 November 2006](#) indicates that religious organizations in Serbia that do not conduct worship services have experienced difficulties in retaining their status as registered associations, with authorities attempting to force them to register as churches. Amid the legal confusion over their status, such associations have been prevented from gaining access to their own bank accounts or taking legal decisions.

## **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

### **PERU—CONGRESS DEBATES NEW LAW FOR NGOS**

On 2 November 2006, at its first reading, the Peruvian Congress voted in favor of a bill that would bring more than 3000 foreign and local development NGOs under the direct control of the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI), according to an article published by [LIVING IN PERU](#). Under the law NGOs will have to list and register their projects as well as their donors with the APCI, which will have the power to decide which organizations could receive or be denied donations according to the priorities it establishes and its own definition of the “public interest.” The new



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

law gives the government the capacity to control funds intended to promote free expression and investigative journalism in Peru, a part of which comes from independent media in the United States and Europe.

## UNITED KINGDOM—

- **CHARITIES BILL RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT**

The Charities Bill has received Royal assent and became the Charities Act on 8 November 2006, according to a [press release](#) by the Cabinet Office. The [Charities Act 2006](#) enables charities to administer themselves more efficiently and be more effective; improves the regulation of charity fundraising, and reduce regulation of the sector, especially for smaller charities; provides a clear definition of charity with an emphasis on public benefit; improves the Charity Commission's functions and powers as regulator, increases its accountability, and preserves its independence; and establishes a new Charity Tribunal, for appeals. Provisions in the Act will begin to come into force in early 2007. The implementation plan will soon be available from the [Office of the Third Sector](#), which was created in May 2006.

- **OFFICE OF THIRD SECTOR PUBLISHES RESPONSE TO BRC REPORT**

The Office of the Third Sector has published the [Government's response](#) to the Better Regulation Commission's (BRC) Report "[Better Regulation for Civil Society.](#)" The original Better Regulation Task Force Report, now the BRC, made 11 recommendations and identified 5 areas for further work. These recommendations were addressed to a wide range of Government Departments and agencies. The Government has fully or partly accepted almost all of the Report's 11 recommendations, and has agreed to take forward all of the areas for further work that were identified in the Report.

## MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

### ENGLAND AND WALES—NEW SPECIALIST CHARITY ACCOUNTING DIPLOMA LAUNCHED

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and the Cass Business School have launched a new qualification for charity finance professionals, according to schools' [press release](#). The ICAEW Diploma in Charity Accounting has been developed and designed specifically for accountants working in the charity sector and directly with charities, to help them enhance their skills and develop a deeper understanding of the knowledge required for top-level roles in charity accounting and financial management.



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

## **RUSSIA—INTRODUCES DRAFT RESOLUTION TO COUNTER RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA**

On 7 November 2006, Russia introduced in the United Nations General Assembly a draft resolution aimed at countering racism and xenophobia, according to an article in the [EURASIA DAILY MONITOR](#). A Russian diplomat at the UN said that Moscow's move was prompted by the tendencies in some unnamed countries to "glorify" the Waffen SS and declare the anniversary dates of their liberation from Nazism to be national days of mourning. While the Russia-sponsored document does not name any specific states, Latvia and Estonia are widely seen as the primary targets of Moscow's initiative. The Kremlin has long claimed that ethnic Russians, who make up more than a quarter of Estonia and Latvia's populations, are subjected to unfair treatment due to the Baltic countries' existing legislation that regulates citizenship and language issues, including the establishment of Russian-language schools.

## **SOUTH AFRICA—BOOK EXAMINING STATE OF DEMOCRACY LAUNCHED**

The [Media Institute of Southern Africa](#) (MISA) has published a new edition of the book entitled "[Outside the Ballot Box: Preconditions for Elections in Southern Africa](#)," according to MISA [press release](#) on 17 November 2006. The book examines the state of democratization in the region, including the impact that civil society has had on governance and accountability.

## **ZIMBABWE—GOVERNMENT VOWS TO CREATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

The government has announced its intentions to establish Human Rights Commission, according to an article in [VOA](#). During the "Peace Initiative" conference in Bulawayo, the Secretary for Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs informed the participating government officials, civic society leaders, church representatives, trade unions, and business leaders that the Commission will be a constitutionally mandated institution and independent from government. He also said that consultations with stakeholders are in process regarding the composition and structure of the commission.

## **RESOURCES**

### **ARTICLE 19—RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

- "[A checklist for the Implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa](#)" has recently been published by Article 19. The checklist is designed to analyze the extent to which countries have implemented African Union's "Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression." The checklist is also helpful in determining where countries are deficient in fulfilling the declaration's provisions.



# IJCSL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2006

- As part of a new series of defamation campaigning tools, Article 19 has released a “[Defamation ABC](#).” The publication, published in November 2006, provides a simple introduction to key concepts of defamation law.

## **GLOBAL—NON-GOVERNMENTAL & NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE BLOG**

The [Non-Governmental & Not-For-Profit Organizations Blog](#) is a part of the [Non-Governmental & Not-For-Profit Organizations Committee](#) of the Section of International Law, American Bar Association is regularly updated with member comments and posts highlighting various developments on the subject around the globe. A recent blog has been posted concerning the denial of registration to a Dutch NGO engaged in public interest litigation. This organization had, in the past, obtained two major judgments against the Russian government in the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of Chechen plaintiffs.

---

**IJCSL Newsletter** is a publication of the [International Center for Civil Society Law](#). Karla W. Simon, *Chairperson*; Leon E. Irish, *President*. © 2003 - 2006 by ICCSL. All rights reserved. The trademarks IJCSL and IJCSL Newsletter are owned by the International Center for Civil Society Law. Readers are encouraged to use the **IJCSL Newsletter** for all noncommercial purposes (including circulating it or excerpts from it to friends and colleagues) with full credit given to the source. To the extent that the **IJCSL Newsletter** includes links to other publications and news sources, ICCSL is only providing access to sources publicly available on the World Wide Web and is not responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in the linked sources. As a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of a legal enabling environment for civil society, ICCSL does not permit third parties to present its content with advertising, logos, mastheads, or other content unrelated to the ICCSL. For further information, please contact [kschwartz42@yahoo.com](mailto:kschwartz42@yahoo.com). Ms Nasira Razvi, who can be contacted at [nrazvi@law.gwu.edu](mailto:nrazvi@law.gwu.edu), is the *Editor* of the **IJCSL Newsletter**. To unsubscribe to the **IJCSL Newsletter**, please send a blank e-mail to Mr Kevin Schwartz, *Managing Editor*, at [kschwartz42@yahoo.com](mailto:kschwartz42@yahoo.com). All questions with regard to use of the email list should be addressed to ICCSL’s webmaster at [Sonya@dawnrising.org](mailto:Sonya@dawnrising.org).

**FAIR USE NOTICE.** This monthly digest contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. ICCSL makes such material available as part of its effort to advance understanding of civil society, democracy, human rights, social justice issues, etc. Because the material in this digest is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes, ICCSL believes that this constitutes a ‘fair use’ of any such copyrighted material as provided for in Title 17 USC, Section 107, the US Copyright Law.