



# statewatch

working for civil liberties in Europe since 1991

## Free access to two unique resources on civil liberties in Europe

Press Release, 16 December 2010

Statewatch is pleased to announce free access to of its specialist civil liberties websites.  
Full access to these resources was previously only available to paid subscribers

### 1. The Statewatch database

– 27,000 articles on civil liberties in Europe dating back 20 years...

The screenshot shows the Statewatch website's search interface. At the top, the 'statewatch' logo is displayed in white on a green background, with the tagline 'monitoring the state and civil liberties in Europe' and navigation links for 'Latest news', 'Search home', and 'Features library'. Below the logo is a magnifying glass icon over a map of Europe. To the left of the search form, a text box states: 'This database is updated weekly and contains all the material from the **Statewatch bulletin** (since 1991), **Statewatch news online** (since 2000) and our archives. Current contents: 26968 records.' The search form itself is titled 'Search Statewatch database' and includes several dropdown menus: 'search fields' (set to 'title+source+fulltext'), 'max no. of results' (set to '100'), 'results per page' (set to '10'), 'display of results' (set to 'title+source+introtext'), and 'type of search' (set to 'all of the words'). There is a text input field for 'search for' and two buttons: 'Search' and 'Clear'. Below the form, there are links for 'Advanced search (limit search to specific areas/categories)' and 'Statewatch database help'.

The Statewatch database contains all articles, features and new material published in the *Statewatch Journal* (since 1991, formerly Statewatch Bulletin), everything from *Statewatch News Online* (since 2000), and our historical archives (dating back to the mid 1970s). It now contains 27,000 individual records.

This database is a unique record of the struggle for civil liberties in Europe over the past 20 years and provides an essential tool for students, journalists, academics, lawyers and community activists. The collection includes a wealth of material on civil rights, policing, prisons, immigration and asylum, racism, counter-terrorism (from Northern Ireland to the 'war on terror'), secrecy and transparency, and EU justice and home affairs policy.

Please spread the word.

<http://database.statewatch.org>

## 2. The SEMDOC website

### - Statewatch European Monitoring Centre on EU Justice and Home Affairs policy



The screenshot shows the SEMDOC website interface. On the left, there is a dark green sidebar with a search bar, a 'Latest' section with links to legislative updates and subscribers' login, a 'Legislative observatory' section with a list of topics including migration, Schengen Convention, and criminal law, and an 'Agenda & key texts' section with links to decision-making, treaty provisions, and JHA links. The main content area on the right has a light green header with the SEMDOC logo and a breadcrumb trail. Below this, the title 'Statewatch European Monitoring & Documentation Centre on Justice and Home Affairs in the EU' is displayed. A welcome message follows, stating that Statewatch has been monitoring EU Justice and Home Affairs policy since 1991. A paragraph explains the website's launch in February 2008, replacing a previous site from 2000. A section titled 'Legislative observatory - latest updates' lists several key documents with their last edit dates, such as 'List of countries subject to visa requirement' and 'Right to information on criminal proceedings'.

SEMDOC was launched in 1997 to monitor and document the development and implementation of EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) policy and encourage critical research and debate. The JHA field includes migration, asylum, border control, visa policy, the 'Schengen' Convention, civil law cooperation, policing and criminal law.

The SEMDOC website includes a "legislative observatory" which has covered every single adopted and proposed measure in the JHA field since the Amsterdam Treaty entered into force in 2001. The observatory details the positions of the EU Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament, with links to all relevant full-text documentation. More than 700 specific measures have now been documented.

SEMDOC also contains all relevant international treaties and EU case-law on justice and home affairs matters, along with a wealth of information about the decision-making process, legislative agenda and key treaty provisions.

The SEMDOC website is the most comprehensive independent resource on EU JHA policy in Europe.

<http://www.statewatch.org/semDOC>

Statewatch is funded by

