



- **“Preventive” migration plans: more of the same**
- **Frontex: another deportation record broken**
- **Global call to stop facial recognition surveillance**

And: EU gears up for renewed migrant smuggling crackdown; Council of the EU approves crisis Regulation; Spanish Presidency enthusiastic to continue migration cooperation with Niger; AI Act and the rule of law.

Welcome to the latest edition of Statewatch News, with important reports and statements on EU migration law and policy, the activities of Frontex, facial recognition, and the AI Act.

There is still over a week to apply for our Communications Worker role – you can find all the information you need [here](#).

You can also find out Director, Chris Jones, [quoted in the Morning Star](#) on the news of a huge increase in the use of facial recognition technology by British police forces: “We should also be asking who those people [targeted by facial recognition] are most likely to be. The Casey Review confirmed that the Metropolitan Police are institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic, while Avon and Somerset’s own chief constable has admitted her force is institutionally racist.”

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## **Spanish Presidency’s call for “a preventive model” for migration: more of the same**

A discussion paper circulated on 26 September by the Spanish Presidency proposes a switch in the external dimension of migration from “a reactive to a preventive model”. In reality it appears that this is little more than doubling down on existing plans. The paper was circulated to inform discussion at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting last week.

Full story [here](#).

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## **Frontex: deportations at record high in first half of 2023**

The European Union's border agency, Frontex, facilitated the deportation of nearly 18,000 individuals from EU territory during the first half of 2023, marking an unprecedented peak. This surge in removals, executed through both scheduled flights and “voluntary” return procedures, demonstrates a 60% upswing in deportations compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

Full story [here](#).

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## Global call to stop facial recognition surveillance

Facial recognition and other forms of biometric surveillance pose huge dangers for rights and freedoms in public space. They make it possible for pervasive tracking of individuals' movements and activities; are used to infer or monitor emotions and alleged "suspicious behaviours"; and have been responsible for wrongful arrests and convictions, and the suppression of protests. The dangers they pose are so significant that a coalition of more than 110 civil society organisations (including Statewatch) and 60 eminent individuals are making a simple demand to governments: stop using facial recognition for the surveillance of publicly-accessible spaces and for the surveillance of people in migration or asylum contexts.

Full statement [here](#).

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## Contents

Spanish Presidency's call for "a preventive model" for migration: more of the same .....	4
EU gears up for renewed crackdown on migrant smuggling.....	4
Frontex: deportations at record high in first half of 2023.....	4
Tracking the Pact: Derogations all round in Council's latest crisis Regulation edit.....	4
After the Niger coup, Spanish Council Presidency asks: "How can we continue cooperation on migration and border management?" .....	4
Civil society calls on legislators to ensure the AI Act upholds the rule of law .....	5
Global call to stop facial recognition surveillance .....	5
New material.....	6
Asylum, immigration and borders .....	6
Civil liberties .....	13
Law .....	15
Military.....	16
Policing .....	16
Privacy and data protection .....	18
Racism and discrimination.....	18
Surveillance.....	19

## News

05 October

### [Spanish Presidency's call for "a preventive model" for migration: more of the same](#)

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5 October

### [EU gears up for renewed crackdown on migrant smuggling](#)

At the Schengen Council meeting on 19 October, ministers will discuss how to ramp up the EU's repressive measures against migrant smuggling and decide on "actions, commitments and sustainable solutions." A draft paper from the Spanish Council Presidency gives an indication of the plans that are in the works.

5 October

### [Frontex: deportations at record high in first half of 2023](#)

The European Union's border agency, Frontex, facilitated the deportation of nearly 18,000 individuals from EU territory during the first half of 2023, marking an unprecedented peak. This surge in removals, executed through both scheduled flights and "voluntary" return procedures, demonstrates a 60% upswing in deportations compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

29 September

### [Tracking the Pact: Derogations all round in Council's latest crisis Regulation edit](#)

Of the five legislative proposals in the EU's Pact on Migration and Asylum, there is only one for which the Council has not so far adopted a negotiating position: the crisis and force majeure Regulation. The main purpose of the law is to set out derogations from other measures in the Pact, which are all due to be approved by next spring. The latest version of the text (published here) was up for discussion yesterday at the Justice and Home Affairs Council, which failed to reach agreement on it. Another attempt will reportedly be made on Monday.

28 September

### [After the Niger coup, Spanish Council Presidency asks: "How can we continue cooperation on migration and border management?"](#)

Earlier this month, an article published by Statewatch questioned how long it would be before the EU's cooperation on security and migration with Niger - which was halted after the coup at the end of July - was restarted. A document circulated by the Spanish Presidency of the Council on 8 September suggests that, despite the EU condemning the coup "in the strongest terms," there is enthusiasm to get joint projects going again.

27 September 2023

**[Civil society calls on legislators to ensure the AI Act upholds the rule of law](#)**

In another warning on the dangers posed by the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act, more than 60 organisations (including Statewatch) are calling on EU legislators to ensure that the text upholds the rule of law. An open letter calls: for fundamental rights impact assessments for all high-risk AI systems; to ensure that systems used for national security purposes fall under the Act; and to ensure that AI developers cannot exempt themselves from the Act. "As the EU navigates the complexities of the digital age, it is of the utmost importance that we do not lose sight of our core values," says the letter.

26 September 2023

**[Global call to stop facial recognition surveillance](#)**

Facial recognition and other forms of biometric surveillance pose huge dangers for rights and freedoms in public space. They make it possible for pervasive tracking of individuals' movements and activities; are used to infer or monitor emotions and alleged "suspicious behaviours"; and have been responsible for wrongful arrests and convictions, and the suppression of protests. The dangers they pose are so significant that a coalition of more than 110 civil society organisations (including Statewatch) and 60 eminent individuals are making a simple demand to governments: stop using facial recognition for the surveillance of publicly-accessible spaces and for the surveillance of people in migration or asylum contexts.

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## New material

[Asylum and immigration](#)

[Civil liberties](#)

[Law](#)

[Military](#)

[Policing](#)

[Privacy and data protection](#)

[Racism and discrimination](#)

[Surveillance](#)

### Asylum, immigration and borders

Amnesty, 4 October

EU: [New migration agreement 'dangerous and disproportionate'](#)

“Today’s agreement would allow EU member states to delay registration of asylum seekers, channel far greater numbers of people through second-rate border asylum procedures, and expand detention at the border. Amnesty International has documented the significant human rights abuses that result from these policies – including the use of arbitrary detention and denial of access to asylum in Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania since 2021.”

EUobserver, 4 October

[Migration: Let us put the 'pull factor' myth finally to rest](#)

“Whenever I hear the term 'pull factor', a sigh escapes my lips. Unfortunately, this occurs several times a day at the moment, given the term's inflationary use in the many polarised, if not to say hysterical, debates over migration.”

Times of Malta, 4 October

[Watch: Charles Michel has questions about some migration NGOs](#)

“The role of some NGOs operating in the field of migration needs to be addressed, the president of the European Council Charles Michel has told Times of Malta.

“I feel that we must address all the questions, including the difficult questions. And to be honest with you, I feel there is a growing debate about the role played by some of the NGOs,” Michel said in an interview.”

European Parliament, 3 October

EU: [Substitute impact assessment: Proposal for a regulation addressing situations of instrumentalisation in the field of migration and asylum](#)

“This substitute impact assessment of the European Commission's proposal for a regulation addressing situations of instrumentalisation in the field of migration and asylum was requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) in the absence of a European Commission impact assessment accompanying the proposal. This

substitute IA reviews the problem identified by the Commission and the objectives of the instrumentalisation proposal. It studies the proposal's relationship with the EU Treaties, existing EU border, migration and asylum acquis and the legislative proposals in the 2016 common European asylum system (CEAS) reform and those under the 2020 new pact on migration and asylum.”

Irish Times, 3 October

[Sally Hayden: Visa discrimination thwarts African journalists and weakens democracy](#)

“BBC Africa Eye executive producer Daniel Adamson walked on to the stage. “I know we’re not supposed to make speeches but I really want to say that the person who should be here tonight [is] Yusuf Anka, a Nigerian reporter who risked his life to tell the story. He was invited to come ... and the Swedish embassy in Nairobi refused him a visa,” Adamson said, to audible disappointment from the crowd. “It’s Yusuf who should be here.””

The Border Chronicle, 3 October

[The Elon Musk Circus Comes to Eagle Pass, Texas](#)

“Elon Musk is trying to rebrand X, formerly known as Twitter, as a platform for “citizen journalists.” In this effort, he went to Eagle Pass, Texas, last Thursday to promote the app’s livestream video feature. In one of his two livestreams, he said he had come to Eagle Pass to “get the real story” and meet with “major officials and law enforcement responsible for the border.””

France 24, 3 October

[Tunisia's Saied rejects EU financial aid, casting doubt on immigration deal](#)

“Saied's move could undermine the "strategic partnership" from July that includes measures on combating human traffickers and tightening borders, and which came during a sharp increase in boats heading to Europe from the North African nation.”

The Independent, 2 October

[Three-quarters of small boat arrivals would be granted asylum, study suggests](#)

“Three-quarters of people who have crossed the Channel on small boats this year would be recognised as refugees if their application had been processed, analysis of Government figures suggests.”

El Diario, 2 October

Spain: [Traducir las entrevistas de asilo por teléfono lleva a la indefensión: la historia de gambiano al que España negó la protección](#)

Translating asylum interviews over the phone leads to helplessness: the story of Gambian denied protection by Spain.

The Guardian, 1 October

UK: [Refugee activist's house in Home Office raid for 'unknown illegal persons'](#)

"A prominent refugee campaigner has demanded an explanation from the Home Office and Northumbria police after immigration enforcement officers raided his home without a warrant."

Are You Syrious?, 1 October

[Hello, I need food: What the media isn't telling you about Greece.](#)

"From the Aegean islands to the Evros border to the streets of Greek cities, throughout the fires and the floods, both new arrivals and people who have been in the country for years are struggling to find enough to eat and drink, are being unlawfully detained and are worried about the health of themselves and their families. The new camps built with millions of Euros from the EU are over or nearing capacity. Families are again sleeping on city streets. And the government and the media are stone cold silent."

El País, 1 October

Spain: [La llegada de marroquíes a las costas andaluzas cuestiona el control de Rabat ante la emigración de sus nacionales](#)

The arrival of Moroccans on Andalusian coasts puts Rabat's control over emigration into question. People from the Rif, who contest the Moroccan regime, are arriving by boat in Almeria. Frontex sounds the alarm over the phenomenon, marked by the use of drug boats and the violence of the traffickers.

The Guardian, 29 September

['Difficult, time-consuming and painful': Nihiloxica on the 'hell' of touring the UK](#)

"After enduring endless issues with UK visas and passports, Nihiloxica – whose members are based in Uganda, Britain and the Netherlands – have funnelled all their frustration into new album Source of Denial. "We wanted to create the sense of being in the endless, bureaucratic hell of attempting to travel to a foreign country that deems itself superior to where you're from," they announced ahead of its release."

Focsiv, 29 September

[Il rafforzamento dell'esternalizzazione delle migrazioni](#)

Strengthening the externalisation of migration policies is the one point of agreement at the EU JHA Council, while the Italian government "irresponsibly" blames Germany for funding sea rescue NGOs.

Matthias Monroy, 28 September

[Italy's Foreign Minister in Berlin: Sea rescue becomes a top priority](#)

"The German Foreign Office has finally allocated funds for civilian sea rescue. This is causing attacks on the chancellor. Italy's foreign minister is coming to Berlin on Thursday."

Matthias Monroy, 27 September

[Human rights violations: German Federal Police equips Coast Guard in Tunisia](#)

“The German Ministry of the Interior gives indications that border troops from Tunisia are using German equipment for their crimes in the Mediterranean. Organisations report stolen engines and drowned refugees. These troops received dozens of engines, inflatable boats and training from Germany.”

Jeune Afrique, 26 September

[Suspension des visas étudiants vers la France : quel impact au Mali, au Niger et au Burkina Faso?](#)

“La France a annoncé la suspension des visas étudiants pour les ressortissants du Niger, du Mali et du Burkina Faso. Plusieurs milliers de personnes sont concernées par cette mesure de rétorsion très critiquée.”

Brussels Times, 26 September

[Tunisian President denies entry to another EU delegation](#)

“A second EU delegation has been denied entry into Tunisia, this time from the European Commission, the Tunisian Presidency announced in a press release on Tuesday.”

InfoMigrants, 26 September

[Poland to conduct migrant searches at Slovakian border](#)

“PM Mateusz Morawiecki says measures will combat illegal migration from Slovakia, which has arrested 27,000 migrants so far this year. Poland says it doesn't want to be accused of having porous borders.”

El País, 26 September

Spain: [El Defensor del Pueblo cuestiona a Frontex por sus interrogatorios a los migrantes recién llegados en patera](#)

Spanish ombudsman criticises post-disembarkation interviews by Frontex without suitable human rights safeguards, legal support and info.

See: [Questioning the interviewers: Frontex's covert interrogations at the Spanish southern border](#)

The Guardian, 25 September

[Tamil refugees on Diego Garcia win fight against forcible return to Sri Lanka](#)

“A group of Tamil asylum seekers stranded on a tiny British territory in the Indian Ocean have won their fight against being forcibly returned to Sri Lanka after a government climbdown.”

PACE, 25 September

[The theme of migration and asylum in the election campaign and the consequences on the welcoming and rights of migrants](#) (pdf)

“This report proposes to capitalise on and to strengthen the instruments and programmes introduced by the Council of Europe and its partners over many years to support the staging of a responsible, democratic debate on what has become a major political theme.”

Domani, 22 September

Italy: [Migranti, il governo chiede 5mila euro ai richiedenti asilo per evitare i Cpr](#)

Migrants, the government asks asylum seekers for 5,000 euros to avoid CPRs (migrant detention centres) as a "guarantee". Article includes the text of the decree.

Domani, 22 September

Italy: ["Sedati, senza diritti, con i vermi nel cibo». Le denunce sul vero volto dei Cpr](#)

“Sedated, without rights, with worms in their food”. Complaints about the reality of CPRs (detention centres) where nine people have died in the last three years.

Presenza, 22 September

Italy: [Che cosa succede al processo contro Mimmo Lucano? Al processo d'appello, la parola alla difesa](#)

What's happening at the trial against Mimmo Lucano? At the appeal, the defence speaks  
Lawyers Daqua and Pisapia ask the court to correct a "macroscopic error".

EU Law Analysis, 22 September

[The EU General Court's judgment in the case of WS and Others v Frontex: human rights violations at EU external borders going unpunished](#)

“On the 6th of September, the EU General Court dismissed a claim filed by a Syrian family who alleged to have suffered material and non-material damages – consisting in feelings of anguish, fear and suffering – at the hands of Frontex on the occasion of a return operation jointly carried out by the EU agency and the Hellenic Republic on the 20th of October 2016.”

Council of Europe, 22 September

[Hungary: Gravely concerned over pushbacks of asylum seekers, the Committee of Ministers urges authorities to terminate this practice without further delay](#)

“Following a review of the execution of a group of judgments from the European Court of Human Rights related to violations of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) related to asylum seeking, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has called on the Hungarian authorities to submit an action plan by June next year.”

Al Jazeera, 22 September

[EU to start releasing money to Tunisia under migration pact](#)

“The European Union is to start releasing money to Tunisia under a pact aimed at stemming irregular migration from the country, the European Commission has said.

A first payment of 127 million euros (\$135m) will be disbursed “in the coming days”, commission spokesperson Ana Pisonero said.”

Frontex, 21 September

[Management Board Decision 32/2023 adopting the composition of the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights](#)

“The following six (6) civil society organisations are invited to participate in the Forum following the public call for expression of interest:

- a. Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe – CCBE
- b. Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe – CCME
- c. Global Campus of Human Rights
- d. Jesuit Refugee Service – JRS
- e. Rule of Law Institute Foundation
- f. Save the Children Europe”

Identities, 21 September

[The emotional governance of immigration controls](#)

“Emotions produce the borders between the self and other. They are also constitutive of national border practices and politics. This article considers the ‘affective governance’ of the UK’s immigration system, arguing that an emotional register that is both splenetic and indifferent is evident across migration policy, decision-making, and operational practice. It draws on 15-years of research on immigration administration, detention, and judicial spaces to explore the circulation and management of emotion by immigration practitioners. It argues that four emotions (anger, disgust, suspicion, fear) dominate across spaces, scales, and actors. Simultaneously, migrants’ purported emotions and affective lives are met with disinterest and disbelief, their emotional displays are ignored or punished, and immigration practitioners engage in their own emotional detachment. The article argues that by examining the emotional government of immigration systems, we can interrogate the role of affect in techniques of subjectification and the creation of deportable and disposable Others.”

Verfassungsblog, 21 September

[Migrant Instrumentalisation: Facts and Fictions](#)

“This post will demonstrate why the ‘instrumentalisation of migration’ is an overly simplified and generalised term that does not capture the complexities of the situation on the ground. Its adoption into EU asylum law thus threatens both to undermine legal certainty and bear far-reaching consequences for the Rule of Law in the EU.”

SER, 21 September

Spain: [Voces críticas ante Frontex en Navarra: "Hay un relato para criminalizar el derecho a migrar"](#)

Criticism against Frontex in Navarra: "A tale is told to criminalise the right to migrate", Cadena SER talks to critics as Management Board met in Pamplona.

ECRE and PICUM, 19 September

EU: [Revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework – Key Recommendations on Migration and Asylum](#)

"This week, ECRE and PICUM have published a joint policy note on the proposed revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2021 – 2027, with key recommendations on migration and asylum and an overview table."

The New Arab, 19 September

[After Saudi border killings, Germany's police training comes under scrutiny](#)

"Not only have German companies long exported technological products to Saudi Arabia to police its border with Yemen after receiving the authorisation of the German government, but the German Federal Police has also been training Saudi border guards for more than a decade."

ECDPM, 11 September

[What does the regime change in Niger mean for migration cooperation with the EU?](#)

"In the last decade, Niger became a key ally for Western countries, especially in cooperation on counter-terrorism, migration and development. The coup that took place in Niger on 26 July – but also responses from Western partners with the suspension of aid and security cooperation – will have significant implications for this cooperation with Niger and the Sahel more widely. Given the importance of migration cooperation with Niger as a key interest of the EU, this brief examines the implications of the coup on migration cooperation between the European Union (EU) and its member states and Niger. It analyses what the change in government may mean for EU policymakers, especially for the externalisation of EU migration policies in Niger."

The Border Chronicle, 31 August

[Hidden Humanitarian Emergency: A Search and Rescue on the World's Most Dangerous Border](#)

"Crew members on the humanitarian ship Sea Eye 4 give an on-the-ground account of rescuing 114 migrants on the European border, and their detainment by Italian authorities."

European Journal of Migration and Law, 30 August

[Rule of Law Challenges of 'Algorithmic Discretion' & Automation in EU Border Control: A Case Study of ETIAS Through the Lens of Legality](#)

“The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will profile visa- exempt third-country nationals using a screening rules algorithm to make automated predictive risk assessments. By using the screening rules algorithm as a case study, this article analyses if the ETIAS Regulation, and the legal safeguards it establishes for the decision-making process, comply with formal and substantive legality requirements as defined by the Venice Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union. Three legality challenges are identified: [1] The regulatory design of ETIAS raises issues in relation to the foreseeability, clarity and accessibility of law, as well as insufficient limits to discretion. [2] The ETIAS screening rules algorithm represents a development towards a new form of arbitrariness through ‘algorithmic discretion’. [3] The safeguard of manual (human) processing in case of a ‘hit’ is not a panacea for the identified legality challenges.”

Anafe, 26 July 2023

France: [Punaises de lit dans la zone d'attente de Roissy, l'Anafé exerce son droit de retrait](#)

Bed bugs in the waiting area of Roissy (airport), ANAFÉ exercises its right to withdraw due to bed bug infestation that is not being addressed adequately.

Gisti, June

[Mourir. Puis disparaître?](#)

Humiliating people and causing their death has become a regular occurrence caused by the exercise of power to exclude by states in the migration policy field, but now there are additional efforts to make these deaths "disappear".

## **Civil liberties**

The Bristol Cable, 3 October

UK: [Community standoff with council over eviction threat of beloved Kuumba Centre in St Pauls](#)

““When I moved to Bristol to be with my family, this was the first place I went to,” recalls Jenny\*, a member of the St Paul’s community in her early 20’s. “I was welcomed by people of my age, my parents’ age, and my grandparents’ age – it’s like I could meet anyone here.””

International Press Institute, 27 September

[Murdered, surveilled and sued: decisive action needed to protect journalists and salvage press freedom in Greece](#)

“Greek journalism is under sustained threat from the impact of the surveillance scandal “Predatorgate”, the unresolved killing of a reporter, abusive legal action and economic and political pressures. Following a mission to Athens, IPI today joins seven international organisations in calling on the Government and Prime Minister to show political courage and urgently take specific measures aimed at improving the climate for independent journalism and salvaging press freedom.”

European Partnership for Democracy, 27 September

**[Open letter to Members of the European Parliament calling for the absolute prohibition of spyware against journalists](#)**

“Journalism in Europe is under threat. Surveillance and other intimidation tactics are limiting journalistic reporting and restricting the public’s access to a plurality of trustworthy and independent reporting. The PEGA Committee (Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware) demonstrated how Member States have bypassed established legal safeguards to put journalists under intrusive surveillance. Current legal protections are de facto completely ineffective.”

And see: **[Will the European Parliament walk the talk and protect journalists?](#)**

Human Rights Watch, 25 September

**[Polish Volunteer Detained for Aiding Migrants](#)**

“Polish authorities have hit a new low in their assault on civil society when they arrested and charged a 48-year-old humanitarian aid worker on September 7 for helping migrants and asylum seekers stranded at the Poland-Belarus border as a result of unlawful, and often violent, pushbacks by both countries.”

Council of Europe, 21 September

**[Bosnia and Herzegovina: the authorities of Republika Srpska should refrain from further restricting the rights of NGOs](#)**

“The Commissioner stresses that the Draft Law which establishes a separate legal regime for NGOs that receive any form of foreign funding or other assistance of foreign origin raises several human rights concerns, as also noted in the joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR on the Draft Law from June 2023. The Commissioner emphasises that “the legitimate aim of increasing the transparency of the work of NGOs should not be sought through disproportionate or discriminatory means, to the detriment of the effective enjoyment of human rights and freedoms”.”

Atlatszo, 21 September

**[Surveillance States: Monitoring of Journalists Goes Unchecked in Central, South-East Europe](#)**

“Using new spyware technology as well as bugs and wiretaps, authorities in various Central and South-East European countries continue to monitor reporters and their sources, journalists who have been under surveillance told BIRN. Átlátszó has contributed to the compilation with interviews in Hungary.”

Committee to Protect Journalists, 20 September

**[French intelligence agents search home, detain journalist Ariane Lavrilleux over leaks investigation](#)**

“Berlin, September 20, 2023—France’s domestic intelligence agency should immediately release freelance journalist Ariane Lavrilleux from custody, drop all criminal investigations against her, and refrain from questioning her about her sources, the Committee to Protect Journalists said on Wednesday.”

See: **[La journaliste d’investigation Ariane Lavrilleux présentée à un juge des libertés et de la détention](#)**

Freedom House, Freedom on the Net 2023

**[The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence](#)**

“Global internet freedom declined for the 13th consecutive year. Digital repression intensified in Iran, home to this year’s worst decline, as authorities shut down internet service, blocked WhatsApp and Instagram, and increased surveillance in a bid to quell antigovernment protests. Myanmar came close to dislodging China as the world’s worst environment for internet freedom, a title the latter country retained for the ninth consecutive year. Conditions worsened in the Philippines as outgoing president Rodrigo Duterte used an antiterrorism law to block news sites that had been critical of his administration. Costa Rica’s status as a champion of internet freedom has been imperiled after the election of a president whose campaign manager hired online trolls to harass several of the country’s largest media outlets.”

## **Law**

Irish Legal News, 26 September

**[Law Society: Criminal legal aid must be restored in Budget 2024](#)**

“In a statement published below in full, the Council of the Law Society of Ireland calls on government ministers to accept the “irrefutable” case for restoration of criminal legal aid fees in the 2024 budget.”

ECHR, 26 September

**[Türkiye must address systemic problem of convictions for terrorism offences based decisively on accused’s use of the ByLock messaging application](#)** (pdf)

“In today’s Grand Chamber judgment in the case of Yüksel Yalçınkaya v. Türkiye (application no. 15669/20) the European Court of Human Rights held: by 11 votes to 6, that there had been a violation of Article 7 (no punishment without law) of the European Convention on Human Rights; by 16 votes to 1, that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention; unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 11 (freedom of assembly and association) of the Convention.”

Verfassungsblog, 22 September

EU: [A Leap Towards Federalisation?](#)

“The reform’s proposals would lead to three main changes: a recalibration of the EU’s institutional balance with a strengthening of the Parliament and the Commission and the marginalisation of the European Council, a widening of the Union’s competences to core policy areas, and stronger EU supervision of national policies.”

See: [DRAFT REPORT on proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties](#) (2022/2051(INL))

## **Military**

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, 4 October

[Open Letter: UK Government must ensure that meaningful human control is maintained in the use of force and support the resolution on autonomous weapons systems](#)

“As States get set to vote on the resolution on autonomous weapons systems (AWS), human rights organisations in the UK are calling on the Foreign Secretary to urgently and effectively safeguard against the serious risks posed by AWS by supporting the resolution.”

## **Policing**

Matthias Monroy, 4 October

[Complaint against water cannons: German police use excessive force against Dutch climate protest](#)

“A district court in the Netherlands is hearing a lawsuit filed by Extinction Rebellion against the use of foreign water cannons. These are alleged to have targeted the heads of demonstrators.”

The Guardian, 3 October

[UK campaign group chief says Poland deported him at France’s request](#)

“The UK director of the campaign group Cage has claimed he has been deported from Poland at the behest of French authorities because he criticised Emmanuel Macron’s government for Islamophobia.”

Wired, 2 October

[Predictive Policing Software Terrible At Predicting Crimes](#)

“Crime predictions generated for the police department in Plainfield, New Jersey, rarely lined up with reported crimes, an analysis by The Markup has found, adding new context to the debate over the efficacy of crime prediction software.”

EUobserver, 2 October

[Frontex shared personal data of NGO staff with Europol six times](#)

“The EU’s border force Frontex shared the personal data of NGO staff with police in at least six cases, after collecting the information during debriefing interviews with asylum seekers as part of an anti-smuggling operation.”

Declassified UK, 2 October

**[UK police targeted me because I told the truth about Turkey's attacks on the Kurds](#)**

"An independent journalist who writes about Kurdish issues was detained at Luton airport by police under the Terrorism Act. He believes the UK police are acting at the behest of Turkey's authoritarian state – a major recipient of British arms."

RTL Today, 29 September

**[New treaty expands cross-border police powers](#)**

"Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are set to improve their cross-border law enforcement capabilities with the signing of a new Benelux treaty on police cooperation."

BBC News, 28 September

UK: **[Police officers widely misusing body-worn cameras](#)**

"Police officers are switching off their body-worn cameras when force is used, as well as deleting footage and sharing videos on WhatsApp."

A BBC investigation has uncovered more than 150 reports of camera misuse by forces in England and Wales - described as "shocking" by a leading officer."

Morning Star, 26 September

UK: **[Surge in police use of facial recognition sparks concerns over wrongful targeting](#)**

"BRITISH police have ramped up their use of facial recognition tech in the last year, fuelling concerns about the wrongful targeting of innocent individuals."

A recent investigation by the i newspaper and Liberty has revealed a staggering 330 per cent surge in retrospective facial recognition searches in 2022."

BBC News, 25 September

**[Metropolitan Police: MoD offers military support after armed officers turn in weapons](#)**

"More than 100 officers have turned in permits allowing them to carry weapons, a source told the BBC. There are more than 2,500 armed officers in the Met."

Police said the action was being taken after an officer was charged with the murder of unarmed Chris Kaba, 24."

And see: **[INQUEST responds to Met and Home Secretary comments on police accountability](#)**

BIRN, 25 September

**['Who Benefits?' Inside the EU's Fight over Scanning for Child Sex Content](#)**

"An investigation uncovers a web of influence in the powerful coalition aligned behind the European Commission's proposal to scan for child sexual abuse material online, a proposal leading experts say puts rights at risk and will introduce new vulnerabilities by undermining encryption."

And see: **[Europol Sought Unlimited Data Access in Online Child Sexual Abuse Regulation](#)**

Télérama, 25 September

France: ["Affaire du 8 décembre": quinze ans après Tarnac, l'antiterrorisme encore à la dérive face à l'ultragauche?](#)

From 3 October, 7 people will appear before a Paris court accused of terrorist association in a case reliant on use of certain messaging systems.

BBC News, 24 September

[Swansea woman quizzed under terror laws after holiday](#)

"A woman returning from a family holiday in Portugal said she was detained at an airport for about four hours under counter terrorism legislation."

## Privacy and data protection

EDPS, 27 September

[EDPB adopts Guidelines on data transfers subject to appropriate safeguards under the Law Enforcement Directive](#)

"During its latest plenary, the EDPB adopted Guidelines on Art. 37 of the Law Enforcement Directive (LED). These Guidelines aim to provide practical guidance on the application of Art. 37 LED concerning transfers of personal data by competent authorities of EU countries to third country authorities or international organisations, competent in the field of law enforcement. In particular, these Guidelines aim to provide clarity on the legal standard for appropriate safeguards that competent authorities need to apply pursuant to Art.37(1)(a) and (b) LED and, accordingly, on the relevant factors for the assessment of whether such safeguards exist."

UK government, 21 September

[UK-US data bridge: explainer](#)

"Adequacy regulations have been laid in Parliament today (21 September 2023) to give effect to this decision. UK businesses and organisations will be able to make use of this data bridge to safely and securely transfer personal data to certified organisations in the US, once the regulations come into force from the 12 October."

## Racism and discrimination

The Guardian, 30 September

UK: [Most people prosecuted under joint enterprise from minority ethnic background](#)

"More than half of people prosecuted under joint enterprise are from minority ethnic backgrounds and black people are 16 times more likely than white people to be prosecuted, according to data from the Crown Prosecution Service."

## Surveillance

Matthias Monroy, 4 October

### [\*\*Europe's drone agency: Frontex paves the way for military drones in domestic airspace\*\*](#)

“Large drones in Europe are only allowed to fly in restricted airspaces, and until now this has also applied to the military. Operations by the EU border agency Frontex are changing that. With maritime drones, a new dimension of militarisation follows.”

The Guardian, 30 September

### [\*\*Revealed: UK government keeping files on education critics' social media activity\*\*](#)

“The Department for Education (DfE) is keeping files monitoring the social media activity of some of the country's leading educational experts, the Observer can reveal.

At least nine experts have uncovered files held on them, some as long as 60 pages. One individual even discovered the department had compiled an Excel spreadsheet in which officials had detailed who she interacted with.”

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