

ODIHR Update

No. 2, 22 April 2015



Security, access and sufficient resources must be assured for observers of Ukraine local elections



Director Link examining a ballot box at a polling Kyiv station during the parliamentary elections in October.

The observation of local elections in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the state of implementation of human dimension commitments across the OSCE region were two main focuses of a meeting between ODIHR Director Michael Georg Link and members of the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons on European Security as a Common Project on 27 March in Vienna.

The Director stated that clear conditions would have to be in place for ODIHR to deploy a mission to observe the local elections, as called for in the package of measures agreed in Minsk in February. These are a secure environment in which observers are able to

operate unhindered, unrestricted, unarmed and unannounced, and with full access to all locations and stages of the process; the guarantee of adequate financial and human resources, including those necessary to guarantee the security of the mission; a clear definition of what the voting population for the elections will be; and others.

Director Link also touched on the future of the OSCE's human dimension of security, including the possibility of introducing a geographically balanced "Implementation Review Mechanism" to monitor each year the implementation of human dimension commitments.

SHDM on freedoms of association and assembly



Hina Jilani, advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and former UN representative on Human Rights Defenders, speaking at the meeting in Vienna.

Hina Jilani, while delivering the keynote address in Vienna on 16 April at the first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2015 on the freedoms of association and assembly, stressed in her comments that there has been a noticeable recent rise in the number and range of laws infringing on these rights.

"In many cases, these new laws have provided the state with the means to crack down on anyone critical of governmental action. In a few cases, they have been used by governments to put an end to human rights activities through legal action," Jilani told participants.

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Director Link makes first South Caucasus visit in ODIHR post



The Director speaking with a farmer living on the other side of the newly installed barbed wire in Khurvaleti.

Michael Georg Link paid a visit to the South Caucasus from 6 to 9 April, making his first trip as ODIHR Director to Georgia and Azerbaijan.

In Georgia, Director Link met with the Foreign Minister and with the Ministers of Justice and for IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees in Georgia, as well as senior Members of Parliament, including from the Georgian OSCE PA Delegation. He heard strong expressions of apprecia-

tion for and satisfaction with the report on the trial monitoring by ODIHR focusing on 14 criminal cases against senior officials of the previous government in Georgia.

The Director also visited the Tserovani IDP Settlement and the occupation line in Khurvaleti to inspect barbed wire recently erected there.

While in Baku, Director Link was able to meet with the Foreign Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, who is also

Minister for Refugees and IDPs. He also met with the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission, the Ombudswoman and the Head of the Azerbaijani OSCE PA Delegation, as well as with civil society representatives. Among topics deliberated were the upcoming parliamentary elections and other areas for possible cooperation. While visiting two settlements in Baku the human rights situation for refugees and IDPs was intensively discussed.

Latest recruitment notices at ODIHR

Rule of Law Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: Secondment

Closing date: 5 May 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Associate Documents and Records Management Officer

Location: Warsaw

Grade: P2

Closing date: 4 May 2015

[Full details](#) on OSCE website

Upcoming Election Needs Assessment Missions*

Croatia – 5-8 May

Switzerland – 8-12 June

*The determination of whether to carry out observation activities and, if so, in what formats will be determined based on the recommendations in the missions' reports.

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