Beat: Politics

LEGISLATION JULY 2015 GIVES GOVERNMENT SWEEPING POWERS FOR DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE

BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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USPA NEWS - France suffered deadly attacks in January and November 2015, the latter prompting a nationwide state of emergency reinforced and extended by parliament until the end of February 2016. Government powers to conduct searches without a warrant and to place people under house arrest...

France suffered deadly attacks in January and November 2015, the latter prompting a nationwide state of emergency reinforced and extended by parliament until the end of February 2016. Government powers to conduct searches without a warrant and to place people under house arrest arrest without a judicial approval undermine the rights to liberty, freedom of movement and freedoms of expression and association.

The government failed to pursue necessary reforms to counter abusive identity checks, including ethnic profiling. Migrant Roma living in informal camps are forcibly evicted. Reports of Islamophobic and anti-Semitic attacks increased. Migrants and asylum seekers in Calais face police abuse. Counterterrorism measures introduced in November 2014 infringe disproportionately the rights to free movement and to free expression. Further new legislation from July 2015 gives the government sweeping powers for digital surveillance without adequate safeguards against abuse.

Source : Human Rights Watch

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