



International Union of Tenants
Association Internationale des Locataires

European Court of Human Rights: Satellite dish is a Human Right! Swedish Union of Tenants wins against the Kingdom of Sweden, which is fined 10,000 Euro

Strasbourg France, December 16, 2008

The European Court of Human Rights found that the Kingdom of Sweden violated Article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and Sweden is fined 10,000 Euro.

Article 10 guarantees the right to information. The applicants, two Swedish nationals, Mr Adnan Khurshid Mustafa and Mrs Weldan Tarzibachi, filed the complaint in December 2005. They were represented by lawyers from the Swedish Union of Tenants.

Three years ago Mr Adnan Khurshid Mustafa was court ordered to evict his flat in Rinkeby, a suburb of Stockholm, on the grounds that he had put up and installed a satellite dish on the housing façade. The landlord argued that the dish could fall down and harm passers-by. The landlord also argued that the dish made his property ugly.

The verdict is of great importance to many immigrants in Sweden, and elsewhere in Europe, as many immigrants prefer to mount their own satellite dishes on housing facades, as pay channels and cable often do not provide them with their preferred TV channels.

The verdict will be final after three months or if the verdict is not appealed against.



Rinkeby, Stockholm