

Erik Strand
Medøveien 57,
3145 Tjøme
fampo@hotmail.com

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street.
London.
WC1X 0DW, UK

Tjøme, the 8th of April 2008.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NORWAY.

Quite contrary to the picture of the mainstream media, Norway is a country haunted by severe corruption and violation of human rights. The Norwegian Human Rights Organization Fampo, *Folkeaksjonen mot maktmisbruk, politistat og overgrepskultur - (People's Action Against Abuse of Power, Police State and Violation Culture)*, is constantly struggling against various forms of abuse of power in Norway. You may please read about the situation in Norway here:

<http://home.no.net/fampo> - in English here: <http://home.no.net/fampo/infoenglish.pdf>.

Human rights violations can be documented in several sectors of the Norwegian society. Norway is *the* Western European country with the relatively biggest amount of people being coercively hospitalized. In the year of 1997, as many as 9,651 Norwegians were subject to coercive hospitalization. The Psychiatric Control Commissions endorsed 49 cases of complaints on coercive hospitalization that year. This number is even exceeded by the number of Control Commissions of the same year (1997) - which was 57.

This should illustrate the lack of judicial security!

Not only statistics, but also many evident and provable cases show up a notorious system of abuse of power, gravely detrimental to ordinary citizen's judicial security. In the year of 2005 Mr. Dag Hiåsen, the chairman of Fampo, worked with a specific case of a woman who was coercively hospitalized in a mental asylum. The woman emphasized that she had no confidence in the lawyer that the Control Commission had appointed for her.

Contrary to her wish, the lawyer who was picked out by the Control Commission to "represent" her, no way took care of her demands, and notoriously decided her complaints. This was also done in spite of (or because of) that she insisted upon to be taken care of, and represented by, Fampo's chairman Dag Hiåsen. According to Norwegian Law any organization of interest is allowed to represent anybody of its members legally.

During a period of some months in the year 2000, a local newspaper called "*Bygdeposten*" published several articles about abuse of power in Norway, for example cases of groundless psychiatric hospitalizations. Fampo provided the necessary documentation. In the autumn the same year, the editor of the paper was sacked. Due to that she sued the owner of the paper for excluding her without legal reason.

In the report *Ytringsfrihetens pris i Det skjulte Norge* (“The Price of Freedom of Speech in the Hidden Norway”), which can be read at <http://home.no.net/fampo/ytringsfriheten.pdf>, Hiåsen documents a judicial murder with grave consequences. Both courts that handled the case violated Norwegian law when they endorsed the dismissal. As a result there is today no influential newspaper in Norway committed to uncovering the kind of abuse of power that Fampo documents.

Witch Hunting Process.

The case of Atle Johan Løvaas may illustrate the harassment that Norwegian citizens may be subject to. Mr. Løvaas is a Physiotherapist, an Acupuncturist, and a Clinical Homeopat. Several patients have confirmed that he was able to help them when they were given up by school medicine.

Løvaas has during the last four to five years been a victim of a very harsh and severe witch hunting process from the side of the Norwegian media and health officials. Documentation is found on Fampo’s website:

<http://home.no.net/fampo/ajl.html>
<http://home.no.net/fampo/bt.html>
and <http://home.no.net/fampo/riksadvokaten.html>

Løvaas was the first one to be prosecuted for alleged violations of a new law on alternative medicine. On the 3rd of May 2005 after media exposure lasting for years, the police entered his practice and ransacked his files and took him, in front of all his waiting patients, out the doors and smashed him into jail, like a criminal.

He had never ever hurt any patients in his life. But the police and health officials started calling up 62 of his patients, after copying up their journals. The health officials acted as investigators in the case, and Løvaas did not get the chance to explain himself to the police. Phoning up his patients, neglecting anyone speaking positively about Løvaas, the investigators ended up with a few patients with improvable (and unlikely) descriptions of what Løvaas should have told his patients (see <http://home.no.net/fampo/loevaas.pdf> for a detailed argument).

In the City Court of Bergen, he was ridiculed and convicted for having treated whopping cough (pertussis bacteria) and yellow staphylococcus, and other “severe and dangerous diseases” - which only medical doctors were supposed and allowed to treat. For this Crime against Humanity he was charged to pay a small fee.

The Civil Prosecutor was not satisfied with the verdict, and appealed to High Court, where he lost totally. Verdict: Løvaas was acquitted for every point indicted against him. But the Civil Prosecutor wanted to see more blood, and he appealed to The Supreme Court in Oslo. There the case ended up like a tragicomedy.

The members of the Supreme Court had to state lack of formal competence from the prosecuting side. Consequently the “whole case”, including both verdicts, were to be nullified. The comedy or tragedy ended up with the result that Løvaas now per se is neither accused for any crime nor acquitted for any verdict.

After the decision in Supreme Court, “*Bergens Tidende*” (BT) of April the 15th, published an article with the headline “*Police Blunder Revealed*” - where the First Prosecutor in Hordaland County, Walther Wangberg, smeared out lies totally detrimental to the interest and reputation of Løvaas, telling the readers that Løvaas must have been committing crimes anyway.

This - *after* the Supreme Court had nullified the verdicts. Here Wangberg gave the impression that Løvaas was a criminal, even though no verdict existed against him.

“*Bergens Tidende*” cited Wangberg that the verdicts against Løvaas were nullified in Supreme Court. How could Løvaas, who was totally acquitted in High Court, have any verdict against him?

Such false accusations are very severe for an official of his caliber to go out with, and may bring him according to Norwegian Law behind the bars for years. Wangberg even concluded with some audacities that he now hoped that Løvaas might have learned a lesson from this.

Both in advance of the Statement from the Supreme Court and afterwards Dag Hiåsen wrote about the case on behalf of Løvaas. Officially representing Løvaas, Hiåsen wrote an 18 page’s letter to the top level of our judicial pyramid, the General Attorney of State (Riksadvokaten), and demanded charges against both the newspaper BT and Walther Wangberg.

This hot potato of a letter, the General Attorney very soon handled over to the so called “*Special Unit for Police Affairs*” (“*Spesialenheten for Politisaker*”). Among ordinary citizens this unit is recognized as what in Norway is called a *Goat-Keeping-the-Sack-of-Hey-Unit*, since it has a shelving and postponing percentage of 99.6!

Here the other day, the *Special Unit for Police Affairs* called upon Løvaas, asking him to show up in their office, for a meeting. This was done without at all asking or telling him, to bring along Dag Hiåsen, who is representing him, a clear break with the guidelines the Special Unit shall follow.

Until this date the slander against Løvaas has been the only version presented to BTs readers. This regional newspaper has declined to publish a commentary from Hiåsen, even though he pointed out that the newspaper could be held accountable for a break with Norwegian penal code. As for the “*Special Unit for Police Affairs*” they have still only contacted Løvaas, not his representative, who has written the letter and provided legal documentation.

In his book “*Oppgjør*”, Oddmund Hammerstad, former secretary in the Ministry of Defence, wrote the following concerning those who dare to disclose shady conditions: “*Everyone who tries, gets the entire “package” of disinformation, rumors, discrediting and threats. The more one knows, the more powerful the elements in the “package” become.*” And in the book “*Historien om Gardermoen - et nasjonalt bedrageri*” (The story about Gardermoen - a national scam) former journalist in Brennpunkt (program in Norwegian Broadcasting) Ebbe Ording, described some “packages” Jan Wiborg and others were given. On what Norwegian citizens who expressed their critical opinion on the choice of Gardermoen as new national airport, Ording wrote: “The methods seem to be so extreme that they had problems with believing that this could happen in Norway.” Fampo’s chairman Dag Hiåsen is one of those who get a “full package” - as a consequence of his work, documentation of sundry arrangements against Norwegian citizens.

Fampo is able to provide solid documentations for severe harassments going on against lots of ordinary citizens in Norway. Citizens whose only "crime" has been to disclose severe abuse of power, committed by several Norwegian Authority Officials.

We therefore pledge Amnesty International to help us revealing the Norwegian Nightmare.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Erik Strand.
Boarding member of the
Human Rights Organization
Fampo.

Attachment: Printout of "Information in English" at Fampo's website.
[Can be read at <http://home.no.net/fampo/savedversion.pdf>]