



Wikinews

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WHAT
HAPPENED
TO

“ALL LIVES
MATTER”?

DIVERSITY
IS
OUR
STRENGTH

No Wall

Homophobia in Sports - Reevaluation of US ground operations - Medical diagnostic chip
Philipp Lahm - US Federal Judge blocks executive order - Frank Lampard
Etienne Tshisekedi - Wesley So wins TATA Steel Chess

UK Parliamentary report: homophobia in sport worse than racism

According to a report produced by the Culture, Media and Sport select committee of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom on Friday, February 10, 2017, discrimination against homosexuality is now a worse problem in sports than racism and sports governing bodies have failed to effectively respond to the problem.

The wide-ranging report from the select committee was sparked in part by controversy around comments by professional boxer Tyson Fury that the Committee's report described as "violently homophobic". The subsequent inclusion of Fury on a shortlist for the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year Award was, according to the report, "symptomatic of homophobia not being taken seriously enough" and "an example of how homophobic abuse is allowed to pass unchallenged too often".

The report praised the inclusion of 44 lesbian, gay or bisexual athletes in the team sent by the United Kingdom to the 2016 Olympics in Rio, as well as the visibility of a number of top openly gay athletes including diver Tom Daley and Welsh international rugby player Gareth Thomas, but noted sport still lags behind wider society in acceptance, visibility and respect afforded to lesbian, gay and bisexual people. The authors of the report cited numerous examples of discrimination across different sports including the controversy around Tyson Fury's comments; comments by boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, with subsequent termination of a sponsorship contract Pacquiao had with Nike; verbal abuse faced by British race walker Tom Bosworth; alleged discriminatory comments by Russian Olympic athlete Yelena Isinbayeva; and the "extensive homophobic backlash" faced by the now-retired basketball player John Amaechi when he came out as the first openly gay player in the NBA.

Discrimination is responsible, according to the report, for many lesbian, gay and bisexual people dropping out of

participation in sporting activity. The report cited a study, "Out on the Fields", which found 30% of gay men surveyed said they had been discouraged from pursuing sport due to experiences from physical education classes in school. The report recommended sports governing bodies "extend their work in schools explicitly to address the problem of homophobia", and warned the exclusion of lesbian, gay and bisexual people has negative effects for both the individuals concerned and for the sports which potentially miss out on talent when players do not feel they are made welcome.

The report recommended football clubs need to apply a zero-tolerance policy on anti-homosexual abuse from fans and issue "immediate bans" of one to two years. The report called on corporate sponsors to make it clear to players they won't risk losing sponsorship deals if they come out, citing as a positive change the reform to sponsorship contracts by Adidas. The report also cited the need for visible campaigns against anti-homosexual discrimination in sports to parallel earlier efforts to fight against racism, such as the Kick It Out and Show Racism the Red Card campaigns, and urged sports governing bodies make a sustained commitment to such campaigns.

Yemen requests reevaluation of U.S. ground operations on its soil following raid

The official government of Yemen issued a statement on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, requesting a reevaluation the role of the United States in antiterrorism ground operations on its soil, in response to a January 29 raid by United States SEAL Team Six that killed several Yemeni citizens.

An earlier report alleged Yemeni officials told the White House their government had withdrawn its permission for U.S. ground ops, but later Yemeni statements have asked for a "reassessment" of the role of the U.S. in

local antiterrorist activities. "We have not withdrawn our permission for the United States to carry out special operations ground missions. However, we made clear our reservations about the last operation," one Yemeni official told *Reuters* of a meeting between the U.S. ambassador and Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The Yemeni government's remarks stressed consultation before operations. Wednesday's official government statement from the Yemeni embassy in Washington, D.C. read: "The government of Yemen reiterates its firm position that any counter-terrorism operations carried out in Yemen should continue to be in consultation with Yemeni Authorities and have precautionary measures to prevent civilian casualties. Yemen believes that terrorism is a global menace that has no borders, religion or nationality; one that only a collective and well-coordinated response can address."

"Currently, we have not been ordered to stop conducting any operations nor have been directed to halt any operational planning," said Major Josh Jaques, a spokesperson for U.S. Central Command responsible for the Middle East.

Although there have been many U.S. drone strikes in Yemen in the past few years, the U.S. has publicly acknowledged only one previous ground raid. Last month's operation was approved by U.S. President Donald Trump after planning under his predecessor President Obama. According to CBS, the SEAL team approached an Al-Qaeda compound in Bayda province but became pinned down and called in an air strike for assistance. Fatalities included U.S. Navy SEAL, William Owens. According to the Pentagon, the raid killed more than a dozen members of Al-Qaeda, and, according to medics on the scene, several civilians. These included amongst others, accordingly to various reports, a three-month-old baby, a pregnant woman, and an eight-year-old girl whose U.S.-born father was a religious leader killed in 2011 after allegedly organising attacks against the U.S. A US\$72 million medevac (medical evacuation) aircraft was also destroyed. One U.S. military official remarked, "almost everything went wrong."

"It was highly successful. It achieved the purpose it was going to get, [save] the loss of life that we suffered and the injuries that occurred," announced White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer.

US officials said the goal of the raid was to gather intelligence — reportedly, laptops and other electronics that might contain useful intelligence about Al-Qaeda. One U.S. military official said the raid also targeted Al-Qaeda leader Qassim al-Rimi.

Yemen is in the second year of a civil war between Houthi rebels and its internationally recognised government, which made the statement on Wednesday. Extremist groups have used the war to establish Yemeni strongholds. Yemen is also one of the seven Muslim-majority nations named in President Trump's January 27 executive order forbidding travel to the United States.

In another political complication, the raid killed an Al-Qaeda commander Abdulraoof al-Dhahab, a Yemeni government ally against the Houthi. "It was wrong to kill him and the children [...] he fought the Houthis and did not have any thought of launching attacks abroad. If the government allowed this to happen, it was a mistake," said one al-Bayda tribal leader.

Scientists say new medical diagnostic chip can sort cells anywhere with an inkjet

On Monday, February 6, 2017, scientists from the Stanford University School of Medicine announced the invention of a new diagnostic tool that can sort cells by type: a tiny printable chip that can be manufactured using standard inkjet printers for possibly about one U.S. cent each. Lead researchers say this may bring early detection of cancer, tuberculosis, HIV and malaria to patients in low-income countries, where the survival rates for illnesses such as breast cancer can be half those of richer countries.



Most labs on chips, like this microfluidics chip, require time and expert staff to manufacture.

Image: National Institute of Standards and Technology. (CC0 1.0/Public Domain)

Existing methods tend to identify cell types using fluorescent or magnetic labels, which take time to attach, but this platform uses the phenomenon of dielectrophoresis: because different kinds of cells have different levels of receptivity to electrical fields, a trait called polarizability, when an electric potential gradient is activated around the chip, different cells are pulled in different directions at different speeds. This allows doctors to diagnose cancer by determining the number of tumour cells in a patient's blood sample. Different chips can be printed to diagnose different diseases.

Physically, the scientists say, the system has two parts. Cells are held in a clear microfluidic chamber made of silicone. The chip itself is an electronic strip that can be printed onto flexible polyester. Most lab-on-a-chip devices must be manufactured by professional staff in specialised facilities called clean rooms and can take weeks, but the chip component of this system can be made almost anywhere in as little as twenty minutes. The chips cost approximately one U.S. cent to produce (US\$0.01) and can be reused. For comparison, a standard flow cytometry machine can cost US\$100,000 to purchase.

"Enabling early detection of diseases is one of the greatest opportunities we have for developing effective treatments," said lead author and electrical engineer Dr Rahim Esfandyarpour. "Maybe \$1 in the U.S. doesn't count that much, but somewhere in the developing world, it's a lot of money."

Senior author Dr Ron Davis of the Stanford University Genome Technology Center compared this invention to that of low-cost genome sequencing, which helped lead to personalised medicine.

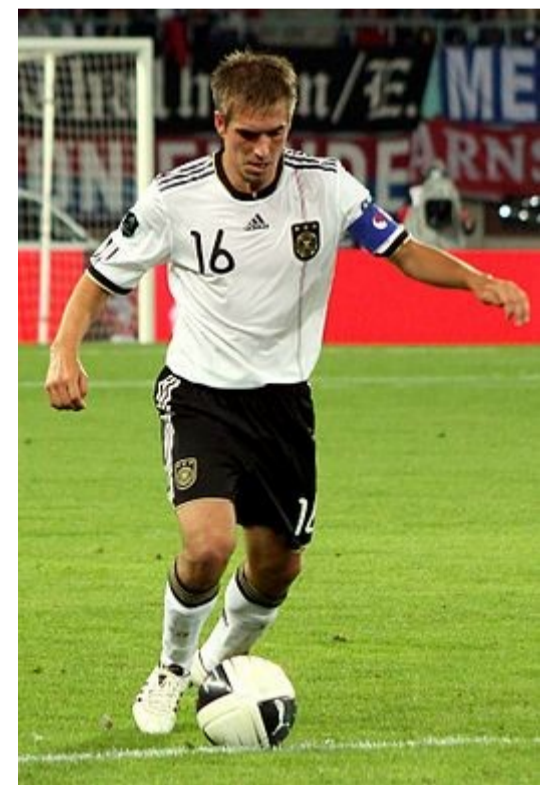
The findings appeared in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on Monday.

World Cup winner Philipp Lahm to hang up his boots

On Tuesday, February 7, 2017, German ex-football captain and 2014 FIFA World Cup winner Philipp Lahm announced he will retire as a football player at the end of this season. Lahm's current contract is to expire in 2018.

"I have told the club officials that at the end of the season I'm going to stop playing football [Ich habe den Verantwortlichen Bescheid gesagt, dass ich am Ende der Saison aufhören werde Fußball zu spielen]", the 33-year-old defender said. Lahm also declined to fill FC Bayern's sporting director vacancy; "I decided for myself that now is not the right time to join FC Bayern. [habe ich für mich entschlossen, dass jetzt nicht der richtige Zeitpunkt ist, beim FC Bayern einzusteigen.]" Matthias Sammer, left the post in July.

Philipp Lahm has been at Munich since the age of eleven. Lahm has played 501 matches in the Bavarian colours, the latest a 1–0 win over VfL Wolfsburg. The Bayern Munich captain lifted the Bundesliga title on seven occasions with the current defending champions Bayern.



File photo of Philipp Lahm, 2011. Image: Steindy. (CC BY-SA 2.5)

Lahm played 113 international matches for *Die Mannschaft*, and guided Germany to the World Cup victory in Brazil. Apart from the World Cup gold medal and seven league titles, Lahm has also won the UEFA Champions League in 2013 against Bayern's arch rivals Borussia Dortmund 2–1 at the Wembley Stadium, six DFB-Pokal and a FIFA Club World Cup trophy.

Lahm retired internationally in 2014 after the successful World Cup tournament.

Travel to U.S. resumes after federal judge blocks executive order

In response to a lawsuit filed by Washington State attorney Bob Ferguson in Seattle, U.S. federal judge James Robart on Saturday ordered the suspension of a January 27 executive order issued by U.S. President Donald J. Trump suspending entry to the U.S. by refugees and individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries. The Department of Homeland Security complied with the judge's ruling but the Department of Justice also requested an emergency stay so that enforcement of the executive order could resume. That stay was rejected early yesterday morning.

Judge Robart ruled against the order on the grounds that there was no evidence it was "to protect the U.S. from individuals" described in the executive order. This follows the temporary suspension of this order issued a week earlier by another federal judge, Ann Donnelly, though while Donnelly's stay focused on preventing the deportation of travelers who had already reached the U.S. or were at that time en route, under Robart's ruling, approximately 60,000 revoked visas are to be returned to the people to whom they had been issued, not all of whom had already left for the U.S. People whose visas were physically taken away must apply for replacements. Yesterday, several Middle Eastern airlines had already begun to board passengers, and refugee flights were expected to resume today. Representatives from the U.S. State

Department said officials would coordinate replacement travel plans for refugees over the next few weeks and that the difficulty many of them face travelling from camps to airports may cause some delay.

The Department of Homeland Security issued a statement saying they would comply with the order while the Department of Justice requested an emergency stay of the judge's ruling. The appeal was filed on Saturday night with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which declined to overturn Robart's decision, stating "Appellants' request for an immediate administrative stay pending full consideration of the emergency motion for a stay pending appeal is denied." The appellants, the Trump administration and Justice Department, were asked to file a counter-response promptly. The matter could ultimately go to the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Trump was more direct. "What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?" he said via Twitter. "The judge opens up our country to potential terrorists and others that do not have our best interests at heart. Bad people are very happy!" In another Tweet, he referred to Robart as a "so-called judge" and expressed confidence the ruling would be overturned. He also claimed, "Interesting that certain Middle-Eastern countries agree with the ban. They know if certain people are allowed in it's death & destruction!" Judge Robart acquired his post under Republican president George W. Bush and was confirmed by a strong majority vote in the U.S. Senate. Washington Attorney General Ferguson, who said his actions were non-partisan, has filed lawsuits against Democratic president Barack Obama.

Executive order 13769, named "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," suspended the entry of all refugees for 120 days, of all Syrian refugees indefinitely, and forbade the entry of any individual from seven Muslim-majority countries, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Syria. It was met with protests and with lawsuits in several U.S. states, including the one ruled upon by Judge Robart. This lawsuit claimed that the executive order

targeted Muslims in a manner that violated the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Speaker of the House, Republican Paul Ryan, expressly disagreed: "This is not a Muslim ban. If it were, I would be against it," he said. Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York said the president's criticism of Judge Robart might affect the confirmation process for his recent Supreme Court nominee, Neil M. Gorsuch. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat on the Senate Judiciary committee, said Trump's "hostility toward the rule of law is not just embarrassing, it is dangerous" and questioned whether Trump was trying to "precipitate a constitutional crisis." Other politicians, such as Republicans John McCain and Lindsay Graham, expressed concern this order could create tension with Muslim-majority countries that currently enjoy good relations with the U.S., such as Jordan.

Others reacted specifically to Trump's vehemence toward Robart. "It's hard for the president to demand that courts respect his inherent authority when he is disrespecting the inherent authority of the judiciary. That certainly tends to poison the well for litigation," said law Professor Jonathan Turley of George Washington University. Vice President Mike Pence pointed out President Trump is already known for not pulling his verbal punches. "I think the American people are very accustomed to this president speaking his mind and speaking very straight with them," he said.

Events from the last week on Wikinews

Frank Lampard announces retirement from football

On Thursday, February 2, 2017, former English midfielder Frank Lampard announced retirement from football via Instagram, finishing a 21-year professional football career.

Lampard said, "After 21 incredible years, I have decided that now is the right time to finish my career as a professional footballer. [...] at 38 I feel now is the time to begin the next chapter in my life."

The 38-year-old midfielder made his debut in the mid-1990s and played for West Ham before he joined London-based football club Chelsea F.C. in 2001. Spending thirteen seasons with *The Blues*, Lampard scored 211 goals in all competitions for Chelsea, a club record, in nearly 650 appearances for the club. Lampard won three Premier League titles, four FA Cups, two Football League Cups, and one each of UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League.



Frank Lampard, from file, 2014.
Image: Ultraslansi. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Lampard spent one season with Manchester City F.C. before moving to Major League Soccer club New York City Football Club. Lampard played 29 matches with the New York club scoring fifteen goals. Lampard has scored goals against 39 different Premier League clubs.

Lampard won 106 international caps for England, scoring 29 goals and featuring in three FIFA World Cups — 2006, 2010 and 2014 — before retiring from the national team in 2014. He made his international debut in 1999 against Belgium.

Lampard said he is to study for coaching qualifications. Lampard wore a blue coloured jersey for most of his career.

DR Congo opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi dies

Etienne Tshisekedi, leader of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s opposition Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDSP), has died, according to an announcement on

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, by the party. He was 84.



Tshisekedi's supporters during his 2011 election campaign.
Image: Vote Tshisekedi Presidential Campaign.

(CC BY-SA 2.0)

Tshisekedi was in Brussels, Belgium for medical treatment. He recently spent two years there for health issues, returning in July to Kinshasa. He went back to Brussels last week.

Tshisekedi was due to oversee a power-sharing deal aimed at ending political stalemate with President Joseph Kabila. Kabila is due to stand down under the deal, brokered by the Catholic Church. Kabila's most recent electoral victory is disputed, with international observers alleging election fraud and Tshisekedi supporters calling him the "elected president".

A founding UDSP member, Tshisekedi helped found the party when elections scheduled in the 1980s failed to materialise. At that point the nation was ruled by Mobutu Sese Seko; Seko appointed Tshisekedi his Prime Minister four times but they quarrelled and Tshisekedi only managed to stay in the role for months at a time.

Since then, he led the opposition to Joseph Kabila's father Laurent, who became President in 1997 after leading a rebellion. His son, President from 2001, was declared winner of the 2011 election with Tshisekedi declared runner-up. Tshisekedi was exiled to Kasai under Kabila sr. Locals nicknamed him the Sphinx of Limete, a reference to the longevity of the mythical sphinx and the Kinshasa district in which he made his home.

Albert Moleka, who was Tshisekedi's chief of staff for the 2011 presidential election, told Reuters "A baobab [tree] has fallen [...] The baobab protects you from the rain and the sun [...] people like that can't be replaced." UDSP said their leader was in Brussels for a checkup following his earlier treatment.

The government has promised a state funeral.

Wesley So wins TATA Steel Chess

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, Filipino-US chess grandmaster Wesley So won this year's Tata Steel Chess Tournament, held in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, securing 9.0 points out of thirteen. Following closely in second place was current World Champion Magnus Carlsen with 8.0 points.

Wesley So won five games and drew the remaining eight. A player gets a point for each win, half a point for a draw and no points for a loss. He is currently on a 56 lossless game streak.

In the final round, Wesley So was paired against Russian grandmaster Ian Nepomniachtchi. Wesley So captured a central pawn which was expected to be recaptured to equalise material but wasn't. Soon, his opponent unexpectedly castled offering a pawn sacrifice which was accepted. Despite being ahead in material his opponent threatened to capture his queen. However, he was able to defend using his extra central pawn and prevent counter-play forcing the Russian to resign.



Nepomniachtchi castles offering a pawn sacrifice.
Image: Lichess. (GNU GPLv3)

He won last year's Grand Chess Tour by winning the Sinquefeld Cup and London Chess Classic and coming second in the Leuven Grand Chess Tour.

Magnus Carlsen won four, tied eight and lost a game against Richárd Rapport. In the last round, he faced his rival and contender for the World Chess Championship of the last year, Russian Sergey Karjakin. In the game, Karjakin provoked Carlsen to sacrifice his knight on which grandmaster Fabiano Caruana tweeted, "Karjakin must be in a very

charitable mood". He quickly sacrificed his knight pinning Karjakin's knight to his queen. Despite being a piece down he gained an advantageous position. Karjakin defended his position extremely well, as grandmaster Alejandro Ramírez said, "He can commit the most despicable errors and then show world-class toughness from the next second!". The defence worked and a draw was agreed upon.

The tournament is organised in a round-robin format where each player plays a game against all other players. The tournament is scheduled to run its 80th edition next year in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.

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