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Dear Sirs,

I have a very urgent request and wondered if you could possibly help me? Article 5 (1) (e) of the European Convention on Human Rights allows for the lawful detention of people of unsound mind.

Can you please clarify for me what the definition of 'unsound mind' under this Article actually is? Are there standard guidelines for this definition, a very definitive description, or is this open to interpretation varying by country? And most importantly, when the Convention on Human Rights was drafted, what was the basis of 'unsound mind' then, and has it ever changed?

I feel that there should really be a much more definite and clearer term, because it would be quite possible of course for Governments to misuse their powers in order to detain people under this Article.

I for one, was persecuted and forcefully detained because of my 'New Age' beliefs, - what is the position of the Council of Europe with regards to these beliefs? Is it acceptable that persecution and forced detention of people with different cultural and religious beliefs can be lawful, if the word 'unsound mind' is attached to them? Where does that leave the fundamental freedom of Article 9 – freedom thought, conscience and religion?

I would appreciate very much if you could respond to my queries at the earliest opportunity.

Thanking you in advance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Susanne Kellner-Johnson', written over the typed name.

Susanne Kellner-Johnson