

SICO 2006 - Summary in English

The decision was made in 2006 to continue the work of the Special International Crimes Office, which is gratifying. The Office was established in 2002 for operation until 31 May 2006.

During the year, the investigation of two cases led to two people being detained in custody, one suspected of killing his wife in Pakistan in 1998, and the other suspected of having participated in genocide in Rwanda in 1994. Both cases were still being processed at the end of 2006.

The methodical collection and processing of information about conditions in the countries where punishable offences are alleged to have been committed has generally improved the basis for investigation.

Changes in procedure have provided new ways of preventing Denmark from becoming a safe haven for people who have committed serious crimes abroad. Electronic searches of a huge volume of material enabled the Special International Crimes Office to select about 15 people for a more detailed examination of whether there is a basis for initiating an investigation. It has not yet been possible to obtain statutory authority for a systematic review of cases concerning asylum seekers and others who come to Denmark under the rules for receiving foreigners.

The number of cases received from the Immigration authorities and other sources was somewhat lower in 2006 than in previous years. This is presumably tied to the dramatic fall in the number of people seeking asylum plus the fact that people seeking asylum now know that their circumstances will be closely scrutinized if they disclose on their application for asylum that they have committed crimes in their own country.

An investigation in Denmark concerning a former Iraqi army commander showed that there were grounds to indict him for abuses against the Kurds in Iraq in 1987-1988. However, he left Denmark in 2003, but the Iraqi Special Tribunal has now brought an indictment against him.

The goal is for the Special International Crimes Office to determine within 12 months whether there are grounds to prosecute or whether the investigation should be discontinued. Twenty-five cases were decided in 2006, and the goal met in 20 of them.