



REFERENCE:KF/fup-113

13 April 2015

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the first periodic report of Mauritania.

At the end of its 109th session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 26 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 5, 15, 17 and 19 of the concluding observations.

On 24 October 2014, the Committee received the reply of the State party. At its 113th session, held from 16 March to 2 April 2015, the Committee analysed this information and adopted the following decisions:

- Paragraph 5: **[B2]**: The Committee requires updated information on:
 - (a) the publication of the Acts ratifying the human rights treaties and conventions, as well as the texts of these instruments, in official journals;
 - (b) measures taken to raise judges', lawyers' and prosecutors' awareness of the Covenant, including any seminars and trainings carried out; and
 - (c) cases where provisions of the Covenant have been invoked directly before the courts.
- Paragraph 14: **(i)[C1]**: On the need to adopt a definition of and clearly criminalize torture, the Committee notes that the State party did not implement the recommendation. The Committee requires updated information on the adoption of the draft law on the prevention and fight against torture and whether this draft law is in conformity with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and relevant international standards. The Committee reiterates its recommendation.

Her Excellency
Ms. Salka Mint Bilal Yamar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Fax: 022 906 18 41



(ii)[C2]: Concerning the investigations of acts of torture, ill-treatment or excessive use of force, the need to bring alleged perpetrators to justice and to sentence them to penalties commensurate with the seriousness of their acts, the Committee notes that this recommendation has not been implemented. The committee reiterates its recommendation.

(iii)[B2]: With respect to the training of law enforcement personnel, the Committee requires additional information on trainings carried out and their frequency.

(iv)[B1]: On the need to guarantee regular access to all places of deprivation of liberty, the Committee requires information on the conditions imposed on NGOs willing to conduct visits to places of detention.

(v)[B2]: Concerning the establishment of the national preventive mechanism, the Committee requires information on the adoption of the draft law and whether it is functioning.

- Paragraph 17: **(i)[C1]:** Concerning the effective remedies for victims of slavery and investigations and prosecutions of those responsible, the Committee requires information on:

- (a) the outcome of the 26 cases related to slavery judged by courts since 2012;
- (b) the number of prosecutions, convictions and sanctions imposed on persons involved in the crime of slavery in the last 3 years;
- (c) the establishment of the Special Court on slavery; and
- (d) the number of cases on slavery pending before courts and measures taken to expedite the hearings of pending cases.

(ii)[B1]: The Committee welcomes the adoption of a road map for the eradication of slavery and requests information on its implementation.

(iii)[B1]: The Committee welcomes the awareness campaigns organized by the regional labour inspectorates but requires additional information on awareness campaigns aimed at the general public, including in rural areas.

- Paragraph 19: **(i)[B2]:** The Committee requires updated statistics on the number of prison facilities in the State party and the capacity and number of inmates held therein.

(ii)[B2]: The Committee requires information on the concrete measures taken to improve conditions of detention after the adoption of the Committee's concluding observations in October 2013.

The next follow-up report of the Human Rights Committee will be adopted in July 2015. If the State party wishes the information referred to be taken into account on that occasion, the reply should be sent in Word electronic version to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee by **1 May 2015** (Kate Fox: kfox@ohchr.org and Fernanda Santana: fsantana@ohchr.org).



The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the Mauritanian authorities on the implementation of the Covenant.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Salvioli'.

Fabián Omar Salvioli
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Human Rights Committee