

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE CONVENTION**

Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture
(Extracts for follow-up of CAT/C/LBN/CO/1)

LEBANON

(...)

C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

(...)

Definition and criminalization of torture

(...)

13. In line with its obligations under the Convention, as recommended by the Committee in its inquiry (see A/69/44, annex XIII, para. 38 (b)), and in line with the commitment the State party made during the universal periodic review in November 2015 (see A/HRC/31/5, paras. 132.34-132.36 and A/HRC/31/5/Add.1), the State party should define torture in full conformity with article 1 of the Convention, and ensure that such offences are punishable by appropriate penalties that take into account their grave nature, in accordance with article 4 (2) of the Convention. It should also establish that there is no statute of limitations for the offence of torture.

(...)

Fundamental legal safeguards

(...)

17. The State party should:

(a) **Ensure that all detainees are afforded, in law and in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of their detention, including the rights to confidential access to a lawyer, particularly during investigation and questioning, to have the assistance of an interpreter if necessary, to be brought before a judge within the time prescribed by law, and to request and receive an independent medical examination. All medical examinations of detainees should be conducted out of hearing and, whenever security allows, out of sight of law enforcement officers;**

(b) **Make audio and video recording of interrogations of all persons questioned a standard procedure, keep the recordings in secure facilities and make them available to investigators, detainees and lawyers;**

(c) Consider introducing a comprehensive criminal legal aid system, free of charge for those who do not have sufficient means to pay for legal representation.

(...)

National human rights institution and national preventive mechanism

(...)

29. The Committee urges the State party to complete the selection process for the appointment of the members of the National Commission for Human Rights in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The State party should ensure that the Commission effectively fulfils its mandate as a national preventive mechanism, with a dedicated structure and adequate resources for that purpose. It should also guarantee that the national preventive mechanism is granted access to all places of detention and is able to carry out unannounced visits, in accordance with its mandate and the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention and in keeping with the guidelines on national preventive mechanisms issued by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (CAT/OP/12/5).

(...)

Internal prison complaint mechanisms

(...)

43. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation under the inquiry procedure (see A/69/44, annex XIII, para. 38 (o)) that the State party establish a fully independent complaint mechanism with the authority to investigate promptly, impartially and effectively all reported allegations of and complaints about acts of torture and ill-treatment.

Follow-up procedure

60. The Committee requests the State party to provide, by 12 May 2018, information on follow-up to the Committee's recommendations on the definition and criminalization of torture, fundamental legal safeguards, the national human rights institution and the national preventive mechanism, and the internal prison complaint system (see paras. 13, 17, 29 and 43 above). In that context, the State party is invited to inform the Committee about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations in the concluding observations.

(...)