 CLSF Latvijas Cilvēktiesību komiteja

FIDH Latvian Human Rights Committee

МФПЧ Латвийский комитет по правам человека

Reg. No. 40008010632, Dzirnavu Str. 102a-15, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia. Phone +371 26420477 [www.lhrc.lv](http://www.lhrc.lv) e-mail: [lhrc@lhrc.lv](mailto:lhrc@lhrc.lv)

November 6, 2019

To the Committee Against Torture

[cat@ohchr.org](mailto:cat@ohchr.org)

**Information from a civil society organisation**

**for the 68th session:**

**consideration of Latvia’s sixth state report**

We wish to bring to your attention two institutional problems which impede registration and investigation of possible cases of torture and ill-treatment in Latvia:

* The Medical Department responsible for prisons is a part of the Prisons Administration (under the ministry of justice).[[1]](#footnote-1)
* The Internal Security Bureau responsible for investigating crimes inside the State Police and several other law enforcement bodies is subordinated to the minister of interior[[2]](#footnote-2) – same as the State Police is.

These situations create inherent conflicts of interests, so we kindly suggest to the Committee to urge the government to make these bodies independent from relevant ministries. It might be done by placing the Internal Security Bureau under the Prosecutor-General, and the prisons’ Medical Department under the Ministry of Health.

Yours sincerely,

Aleksandrs Kuzmins

LHRC secretary-executive

1. <http://www.ievp.gov.lv/index.php/par-mums/ievp-strukturshema> (LV) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.idb.gov.lv/en/about_us> (EN) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)