



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: CAT/Follow-up

29 March 2021

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur a.i. for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Latvia, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of its 68th session held from 11 November to 6 December 2019, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/LVA/CO/6, para. 36) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 15 (d), 19 (d) and 35 (c) of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 3 December 2020 providing your Government's response to the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/LVA/FCO/6) and to make the following comments:

Conditions of detention (para. 15 (d) of the Committee's concluding observations)

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party with regard to existing prison complaints mechanisms, but regrets that the follow-up replies did not indicate whether the State party has taken new specific measures to strengthen their effectiveness. As to the information provided by the State party concerning health care in places of deprivation of liberty, it welcomes the allocation of additional funds for the purchase of medicines and medical supplies for prison dispensaries, the decrease in the number of complaints on health care, as well as the steps taken to ensure sufficient numbers of medical staff in all places of detention. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets not having received any information regarding the measures taken by the State party to ensure the independence of the health-care staff in places of detention by transferring the competence of prison medical staff to the authority of the Ministry of Health (3/B1).

.../...

H. E. Mr. Bahtijors Hasans
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Independent monitoring of places of detention (para. 19 (d) of the Committee's concluding observations)

The Committee takes note of the existence of a draft law providing for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and encourages the State party to expedite its adoption (3/B1).

Redress including compensation and rehabilitation (para. 35 (c) of the Committee's concluding observations)

While taking note of the information facilitated by the State party regarding redress for victims of crime, including the changes introduced by the recent amendments to the Law on the State Compensation to Victims, the Committee encourages the State party to continue its efforts aimed at appropriately increasing the amounts of monetary compensation provided to each victim of torture or ill-treatment (3/B2).

Implementation plans (para. 36 of the Committee's concluding observations)

Lastly, the Committee regrets that the State party has not provided information about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, the recommendations included in its concluding observations (C).

The Government of Latvia is encouraged to provide additional information, if there is any, which would further contribute to the Committee's analysis of the progress made regarding the specific issues of concern cited above. This additional information may be provided in any subsequent report by the State party pursuant to the Committee's request in its concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Latvia or other future periodic reports.

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Latvia on the implementation of the Convention.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

p.p.



Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov
Rapporteur a.i. for follow-up to concluding observations
Committee against Torture