



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: CAT/Follow-up

18 December 2019

Excellency,

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

At the end of the 63rd session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/QAT/CO/3, para. 49) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 14, 24 and 38 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 14 October 2019 providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/QAT/CO/3/Add.1) and to make the following comments:

Fundamental legal safeguards (para. 14)

While taking note of the procedural guarantees enshrined in the State party's domestic legislation, the Committee regrets not having received detailed information on the measures taken to ensure compliance in practice with these fundamental legal safeguards. Moreover, the Committee is also concerned that there is still no provision guaranteeing that detained persons have the right to request and receive an independent medical examination from the outset of deprivation of liberty. It also regrets not having received any information regarding the measures taken to ensure that all detained persons are brought promptly before a judge (1/C).

.../...

H. E. Mr. Ali Khalfan Al-Mansouri
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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Prompt, thorough and impartial investigations (para. 24)

The Committee considers that the lack of complaints alleging torture or ill-treatment by public officials during the reporting period might be indicative of a problem with the State party's system of accountability. Moreover, regarding the removal of alleged perpetrators from public service, the State party should ensure that all suspected perpetrators belonging to law enforcement agencies, including prison staff, are suspended from duty immediately and for the duration of the investigation, particularly when there is a risk that they might otherwise be in a position to repeat the alleged act, commit reprisals against the alleged victim or obstruct the investigation (1/D).

Asylum and non-refoulement (para. 38)

While taking note of the enactment in 2018 of Law No. 11 governing political asylum, including on the grounds of risk of torture, ill-treatment, death penalty and corporal punishment, the Committee would appreciate receiving further clarifications on the standards of protection provided to asylum seekers and other individuals seeking international protection. It further regrets that the State party has not provided information on the measures taken to guarantee effective access to the procedure for determining refugee status (para. b); the recognition of procedural safeguards against refoulement, (para. c); or on whether the State party has considered ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (2/B2).

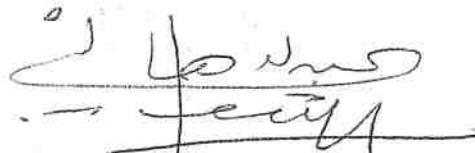
Implementation plans (para. 49)

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

The Government of Qatar is encouraged to provide additional information, if any, which may further contribute to the Committee's analysis of the progress made regarding the specific issues of concern. 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 third periodic report of Qatar.

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

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Abdelwahab Hani

Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Committee against Torture