NATIONS UNIES HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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21 November 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to the examination of the fifth periodic report of Croatia, at the Committee's 97th session, held in November 2009.

As you know, in paragraph 21 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, 10 and 17 of the concluding observations.

A reply of the State party was received on 17 January 2011.

After examining the reply of the State party, the Committee sent a letter dated 9 May 2011, requesting additional information, and advising the State party that the recommendation on the prevention of intimidation and attacks on journalists had not been implemented in so far as no information was provided to that regard (paragraph 17).

On 1 July 2011, a new follow-up reply of the State party was received by the Committee. During the 103rd session of the Committee, held in October 2011 in Geneva, the Committee considered that the answer provided was largely satisfactory on paragraph 10 (c), and that the follow-up procedure had come to an end to that regard.

Nonetheless, the Committee considered that additional information should be provided by the State party on the following issues:

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- The remedies that were provided to the victims of discrimination and of physical and verbal attacks against minorities (paragraph 5).
- The range of war crimes committed from 1991 to 1995, with the information grouped according to type of war crime, irrespective of the ethnicity of the persons involved (paragraph 10 (a)).
- Updated information in its next periodic report on the activities of the specialised war crimes chambers (number of cases received, number of investigations opened, decisions adopted) (paragraph 10 (b)).

The Committee also regretted that the State party still had not provided information on the public condemnation of instances of intimidation and attacks against journalists (paragraph 17), and that the corresponding recommendation had therefore not been implemented.

Therefore, I write to request that the above-mentioned additional information be submitted to the Committee at Your Government's earliest convenience.

The next session of the Human Rights Committee will take place in March 2012. If the State party wishes the referred information to be examined on this occasion, a Word electronic version of the reply should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee by 20 January 2012 (Kate Fox (kfox@ohchr.org) and Albane Prophette-Pallasco (aprophette@ohchr.org)).

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

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

Christine Chanet

Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations Human Rights Committee