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REFERENCE: jmn/mm/fg/follow-up/CAT

17 February 2006

Mr. Ambassador,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for follow-up on Conclusions and Recommendations of the United Nations Committee against Torture, I refer to the examination of the fourth periodic report of Greece (CAT/C/61/Add.1) by this Committee, at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session, from 15 to 26 November 2004. At the end of that session, the Committee's Conclusions and Recommendations (CAT/C/CR/33/2) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. In paragraph 10 of those Conclusions and Recommendations, the Committee asked, pursuant to its rules of procedures, that Greece provide, within one year (by November 2005), further information regarding areas of particular concern identified by the Committee in paragraph 6 (e), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (m) (see extracts annexed).

The Committee has adopted a follow-up procedure to pursue issues that are serious, that can be accomplished by the State party in a one year period, and that are protective.

The information sought by the Committee has not been provided yet, although more than one year has elapsed from the transmittal of the Committee's Conclusions and Recommendations. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's responses on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming. Upon receipt of this information, the Committee will be able to assess whether further action is needed.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Greece on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this enquiry.

Accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Felice D. Gaer".

Felice D. Gaer  
Rapporteur for Follow-up on Conclusions and Recommendations  
Committee against Torture

H.E. Mr. Tassos Kriekoukis  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Greece  
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**CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES  
UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE CONVENTION**

**Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee against Torture**  
*(Extracts for follow-up)*

**GREECE**

(...)

**D. Recommendations**

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(...)

(e) Expedite the process of adopting a code of ethics and continue to consider modalities for amending interrogation rules and procedures, such as introducing audio or videotaping, with a view to preventing torture and ill-treatment;

(...)

(h) Inform the Committee about the possibilities of providing redress and compensation to victims of torture and their dependants;

(i) Ensure strict application of the new legislation on the use and possession of firearms, in particular by border guards;

(j) While continuing its long-term efforts to address overcrowding and poor conditions in prisons and other places of detention, including by building new prisons, consider additional alternative means of reducing the prison population as urgent measures to address the situation in places of detention;

(k) Ensure that all actions of public officials, in particular where the actions affect the Roma (such as evictions and relocations) or other marginalized groups, are conducted in a non-discriminatory fashion and that all officials are reminded that racist or discriminatory attitudes will not be permitted or tolerated;

(...)

(m) Review the modalities for protecting street children, in particular to ensure that those measures protect their rights. All decisions affecting children should, to the extent possible, be taken with due consideration for their views and concerns, with a view to finding an optimal, workable solution. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to prevent the recurrence of cases such as the Aghia Varvara children's institution. It should also ensure that a judicial investigation is carried out and provide the Committee with information on the outcome;

(...)

10. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year, information on its response to the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraph 6 (e), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (m) above.