NATIONS UNIES COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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26 April 2010

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 sixth periodic report of Ukraine, at the Committee's 88th session, held in October 2006. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in the final paragraph 20 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Ukraine to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of particular concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 7, 11, 14 and 16 of its concluding observations.

On 19 May 2008, the State party provided information on these paragraphs. During its 94th session, held in October 2008, the Committee noted that the information provided was incomplete and requested additional information from the State party with regard to the implementation of a number of recommendations. On 28 August 2009, the State party provided additional information on these paragraphs.

At its 98th session, held in March 2010, the Committee noted that the information provided with regard to the improvement of the status of the hygienic facilities for detainees and prisoners and on their access to adequate food (paragraph 11) as well as the recommendations with regard to the claims for restitution of Muslim religious property (paragraph 16) is largely satisfactory.

It also noted, however, that the recommendations to establish an independent police complaints mechanism and to make the videotaping of interrogations of criminal suspect obligatory (paragraph 7) have not been implemented.

Son Excellence M. Mykola MAIMESKUL Permanent representative of the Ukraine to the United Nations Office at Geneva Fax: 022 734 38 01 Furthermore, the Committee noted that the information provided was incomplete with regard to certain recommendations and I therefore seize this opportunity to request additional information from the State party, in particular on:

- (a) whether any of the cases of deaths in custody listed in paragraph 7 of the concluding observations have been resolved;
- (b) the current situation of prison overcrowding, including statistical data, and any further measures that have been adopted to address this issue (paragraph 11);
- (c) alternative sanctions available in order to reduce the prison population, as well as statistics on their application (paragraph 11);
- (d) the steps taken to ensure the protection of freedom of expression and opinion in practice, including further information on the proceedings referred to in paragraph 14 of the concluding observations; and
- (e) the remedies available to victims of violence and discrimination based on ethnic, religious, or linguistic grounds (paragraph 16).

A Word electronic version of any additional information should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Ms Nathalie Prouvez, nprouvez@ohchr.org).

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

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

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