



Téléfax: (41-22) 917 90 29
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléc: 41 29 62
Téléphone: (41-22)
Internet www.ohchr.org
E-mail: nprouvez@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: NP

19 October 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 third periodic report of the Russian Federation at the Committee's 97th session, held in October 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 30 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 13, 14, 16 and 17 of the concluding observations.

On 22 October 2010, follow-up information on the referred paragraphs was received. At its 102nd session held in July 2011, the Committee took note of the collaboration of the State party and analysed the information provided.

The Committee considered that the answer provided was incomplete with regard to certain recommendations. I therefore wish to request additional and more specific information on the following issues:

- The number of cases of threats, violent assaults and murders of journalists and human rights defenders in the State party covering the period between 2003 and 2009, and their treatment by the judicial authorities (para. 16, al. c);
- the actions taken to identify the persons who planned the assassination of Anna Politkovskaïa following the detention in October 2007 of the person who committed the crime (para. 16);
- the measures taken to verify and guarantee the content of the information contained in the diplomatic assurances, as well as the number of cases in which the review of the decision of deportation was required; and the decisions taken in these cases (para. 17).

His Excellency Mr. Valery Loshchinin
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Fax: +41 22 734 40 44

The Committee noted that no information was provided on some of its recommendations which have therefore not been implemented:

- The measures taken to guarantee the thorough and independent investigation into all allegations of involvement of members of Russian forces and other armed groups under their control in violations of human rights in South Ossetia (para. 13);
- the measures taken to put an end to enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment and abuse committed or instigated by law enforcement officials in Chechnya and other parts of the North Caucasus (para. 14, al. *a*);
- the suspension or reassignment of the State agents who have allegedly committed or instigated human rights violations during the process of investigation (para. 14, al. *b*);
- the sanctions adopted against the perpetrators of the crimes and the remedies, including redress, actually available to the victims (para. 14, al. *c*);
- the measures taken, in law and in practice, to protect victims and their families, as well as their lawyers and judges, whose lives are under threat due to their professional activities (para. 14, al. *d*);
- Human rights violations committed by State agents against the civilian population in Chechnya and other parts of the North Caucasus – disaggregated by type of crime -, investigations launched, convictions and penalties including those by military courts (para. 14, al. *e*);
- Measures taken to provide effective protection to journalists and human rights defenders whose lives and security are under threat due to their professional activities (par. 16, al. *a*), and to guarantee the effective, thorough, independent, and impartial investigation of threats, violent assaults and murders of journalists and human rights defenders (par. 16, al. *b*)

The Committee also requires the State party to provide additional information on the circumstances in which, according to the follow-up report, three alleged perpetrators of crimes were killed in the course of special operations carried out by law enforcement agencies (para. 16, al. *c*).

Therefore, I write to request that the above-mentioned additional information be submitted to the Committee at Your Government's earliest convenience. A "Word" electronic version of the reply should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Albane Prophette-Pallasco (aprophette@ohchr.org), and Kate Fox (kfox@ohchr.org)).

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of the Russian Federation 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