

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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GENEVE 10

9 May 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 follow-up to the examination of the third periodic report of Ireland.

At the end of its 93rd session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 25 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 11, 15 and 22 of the concluding observations.

Ireland's follow-up report was submitted on the 3rd of July 2009. The Committee noted that the information provided was largely satisfactory as a whole, although the information provided in relation to the implementation of paragraph 11 was considered partially incomplete. On 4 January 2010, a letter was sent to your Permanent Mission requesting additional information, in particular on:

- (a) how and how often terrorist acts have been investigated and prosecuted, including information on access to a lawyer in practice (paragraph 11);
- (b) the safeguards in place when relying on official assurances (paragraph 11);

.../...

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- (c) the mandate of, and the work carried out by, the Cabinet Committee on Aspects of International Human Rights in relation to monitoring traffic through Irish airports (paragraph 11).

During the 99th session of the Committee, held in Geneva in July 2010, the Committee noted that information sought by the Committee had not yet been provided. A letter of reminder was sent on the 28 September 2010.

On 21 December 2010, additional information was submitted on the referred paragraphs. At its 101st session, held in March 2011, the Committee noted that the answers provided on the mandate of the Cabinet Committee on Aspects of International Human Rights in relation to monitoring traffic through Irish airports (paragraph 11) was largely satisfactory.

Nonetheless, while taking note of the cooperativeness of the State party, the Committee considered that the information was incomplete with regard to the results of the activities developed by the Cabinet Committee (paragraph 11), and on the following issues:

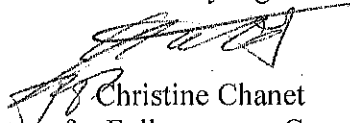
- (a) how and how often terrorist acts have been investigated and prosecuted, including information on the length of pre-trial detention and access to a lawyer in practice (paragraph 11);
- (b) the safeguards in place when relying on official assurances (concrete information is required on the safeguard measures taken to rely on official assurances) (paragraph 11).

Finally, the Human Rights Committee noted that its recommendation on the length of pre-trial detention (four months) has not been implemented (paragraph 11).

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)).

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the Irish 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