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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 33rd session on 22 to 23 November 2004.

Noting that the information sought by the committee has been provided on 14 March, 2006, I am grateful for your Government's responses on the matter submitted (CAT/C/CR/33/2). Nevertheless, from the analysis of the information, I would appreciate clarification as to the following concerns and recommendations, where sufficient information has not been provided with regard to the implementation of the Convention in Greece.

Thank you for the information on advancements in the code of ethical conduct for police officers, and the procedural steps in place to ensure the investigation and enforcement of complaints of torture and other violations of human dignity (CAT/C/GRC/CO/4/Add.1). We would appreciate receiving a copy of the Officer's Committee report noted in paragraph 19 of your response, and information on specific steps taken to implement the Officer's Committee's findings.

We also request further information on the effective implementation of procedural rules for police misconduct noted in paragraphs 4 through 15 of your Government's latest response. Specifically, we would appreciate further information on amendments to the rules of police interrogation, including constructive steps being taken to implement audio or videotaping of police interviews.

Additionally, please provide specific information on the number of cases of police misconduct brought to the attention of the Police Directorates, as mentioned in paragraphs 6-8 of your response. With regard to the findings of the investigations, please clarify whether they were resolved using administrative or criminal procedures, and describe the punishments received by officers discovered to be in violation of their code of ethical conduct. What specific measures were taken by your Government to strictly apply new legislation on the use and possession of firearms, in particular by border guards? Information on any investigations of reported firearms abuses and the outcomes of these inquiries would be appreciated.

H.E. M. Francisco Verros
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The Committee has also requested information on steps taken by your Government to provide redress and compensation to victims of torture and abuse. However, your Government's latest response makes no mention of any steps taken toward this end. We would appreciate any information on specific actions taken by your government to provide redress to these victims. Also absent from your Government's response to our last inquiry is information detailing any plans to address the overcrowding of prisons and other places of detention; as well as constructive steps in place, or under consideration, to reduce the prison population through alternative means. Please provide detailed information on the measures taken to alleviate the problem of overcrowding in prisons and detention centres.

The Committee is pleased to learn of the determination of the Ministry of Public Order and the Hellenic Police Headquarters to curb any xenophobia or racism within the police force, as mentioned in paragraph 20 of your response. We would appreciate further information on the complaints mechanisms in place for individuals who have been victims of xenophobic and racially motivated violence or discrimination. Specifically, the Committee is interested in information regarding how illegal, irregular and improper behaviour of police officers is brought to light.

With regards to recommendation 6(m), the Committee is pleased to learn of the establishment of the Aghia Varvara Foundation for teenage girls, noted in paragraph 18 of your response. Please also provide information regarding the accessibility of Aghia Varvara and other, if any, similar services, including information on how such services are made known to the public. Regarding stepped-up police patrols in sensitive areas mentioned in paragraph 17(a), we would like to see what protocols police must follow once these patrols come across street children, and what measures provide for adequate care for these children.

Thank you for the information in 17(b) about the efforts to integrate foreigners into the fabric of Greek society through passage of the Law of Aliens. This committee would appreciate a copy of the relevant law, as we have reviewed Law 2910/2001 - "Entry and Stay of Aliens in Greek Territory" - and understand Article 66(d) to confer stay permits only to undocumented aliens who apply within one year of passage of the law (i.e. April 2001). Also, please provide the Committee with the procedures for protecting and/or integrating undocumented aliens who either did not apply for stay permits within the allotted time-frame, or arrived on Greece's shores subsequent to April 2002.

Upon receipt of this additional information, the committee will be able to assess whether further information is still needed. The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Greece on the implementation of the Convention, and, in this context, receiving clarification to our enquiry as well as follow-up on our enquiry.

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



Felice Gaer
Rapporteur for Follow-up on Conclusions and Recommendations
Committee Against Torture