



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: Follow-up/CAT

6 November 2020

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur a.i. for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee against Torture, and with reference to the letter dated 9 October 2019 addressed to you by the Committee's former Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations, Mr. Abdelwahab Hani, I have the honour to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the fifth periodic report of Belarus, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of its 63rd session, held from 23 April to 18 May 2018, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission (CAT/C/BLR/CO/5). In paragraph 60 of those concluding observations, the Committee requested, pursuant to its rules of procedure, that the State party provide within one year further information on follow-up to the recommendations on: fundamental legal safeguards (para. 8); effective investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment (para. 16); and, the situation of human rights defenders (para. 47). It also invited the State party to provide information about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations included in its concluding observations (see extracts annexed).

The State party has not provided the information sought by the Committee although more than two year have elapsed from the transmittal of the concluding observations. Therefore I should urge you to provide, at your earliest convenience, a clarification as to the current status of your Government's responses to these matters, as well as an explicit indication of when the information requested will be forthcoming. An electronic version of the reply should be sent in Word format to the Secretariat of the Committee against Torture (cat@ohchr.org).

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H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
E-mail: belarus.geneva@mfa.gov.by

I hereby request a meeting with you, Mr. Ambassador, or an official representative of Belarus you might wish to designate, to receive the above-referenced information. Prudence calls that this meeting be arranged by way of videoconference in view of the restrictions imposed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. I look forward to the Permanent's Mission response concerning a mutually convenient time for the meeting. In regard to scheduling such a meeting, please contact Mr. Patrice Gillibert, Secretary of the Committee against Torture (pgillibert@ohchr.org, tel. +41 22 91 793 32).

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Belarus on the implementation of the Convention.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



p.p.

Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov
Rapporteur a.i. for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Committee against Torture