



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to 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 Latvia.

At the end of its 110<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 23 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 15, 19 and 20 of the concluding observations.

On 4 November 2015, the Committee received the reply of the State party. At its 117<sup>th</sup> session, held in July 2016, the Committee analysed this information and adopted the following decisions:

- Paragraph 15: (a)[B2]: The Committee takes note of information provided by the State party, including Regulation No. 283, adopted in June 2015, to reduce the use of restraints, but requests data on the frequency of cases in which restraints are used and the criteria applied. The Committee also requests clarification regarding the measures taken, after the adoption of the Committee's concluding observations to guarantee safeguards to inmates, in accordance with Article 10 of the Covenant.
- (b)[B2]: The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding renovation of police and youth detention facilities and prisons. It requests specific information on the measures taken, following the adoption of the concluding observations, to improve space and material facilities, including the nature of the renovations and the number of detention spaces affected.
- (c)[C1]: The Committee regrets the absence of information on measures taken to increase the number of supervisory staff and requests that such information be provided.

His Excellency  
Mr. Janis Karklins  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
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- Paragraph 19: (a)[B1]: The Committee welcomes the legislative amendments and development of strategies to combat racially motivated crimes. It requests, however, information on the impact of these measures and on measures taken to counter the use of racist discourse in politics.  

(b)[B2]: The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the implementation of Article 78 of the Criminal Law, but requests additional statistical data on: the number of complaints of racially motivated crimes, prosecutions, sentences and reparations granted since the adoption of the concluding observations, as well as information about the motives of such crimes and measures taken to facilitate reporting of such crimes.

(c)[B2]: While the Committee welcomes the amendment of Article 150 of the Criminal Law, it regrets that the State party has not explicitly defined incitement to violence on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity as a criminal offence. The Committee requests information on the application of Article 150 to crimes committed on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, and reiterates its recommendation.
- Paragraph 20: [B2]: The Committee welcomes the information provided on language and professional development courses, teaching and learning materials. The Committee notes the initiative of the Latvian Language Agency to provide both teachers and students with various materials for those teaching and learning Latvian at a beginner's level, but requires information on steps taken since the last concluding observations in this regard, including the number of persons trained pursuant to each of the referenced programs. The Committee also requires information on measures taken to support the teaching of minority languages, since the last concluding observations in this regard. The Committee reiterates its recommendations.

The Committee would appreciate it if the information referred be forwarded to the Secretariat **by 1 November 2016**. The reply should be sent in Word electronic version to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Kate Fox: [kfox@ohchr.org](mailto:kfox@ohchr.org)). The information will then be scheduled for consideration at a future session.

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

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

Sarah Cleveland  
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations  
Human Rights Committee