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REFERENCE: jmn/dd/fg/follow-up/CAT

14 May 2009

Dear Mr. Storella,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture for the United States I addressed, after the examination of the second periodic report of the United States in observance of article 19 of the Convention Against Torture, a letter dated 8 August 2008, on the information provided by your Government (CAT/C/USA/CO/2/Add.1) related to specific recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations (CAT/C/USA/CO/2). In this regard, the Committee thanks the State party for its continuous availability and contribution to this procedure.

Regarding issues that were part of such recommendations, the Committee is aware of the recent adoption of a number of initiatives and legal measures relevant to the implementation of these recommendations. Such measures refer to the application of the absolute prohibition of torture, and cruel inhuman or degrading treatment, and its prevention and eradication by the Government of the United States. These initiatives and measures are also related to the protection of basic rights and guarantees affected by previous different measures adopted with regard to State security, especially on issues concerning terrorism.

The Committee would welcome information regarding the initiatives and legal measures mentioned above, including any other measures that have been adopted by the State party related to the investigation and prosecution of acts of torture and cruel inhuman or degrading treatment according to the Convention.

The Committee considers that the implementation of the Convention and its follow-up procedure would highly benefit from this information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Mariño', written over a horizontal line.

Fernando Mariño  
Rapporteur for follow-up on Concluding Observations  
for the United States of America  
Committee against Torture

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