COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

Seventy-eighth session 30 October – 24 November 2023

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE CONVENTION

Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture

(Extracts for follow-up of CAT/C/KIR/CO/1)

KIRIBATI

(...)

C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

(...)

Incorporation of Convention obligations into domestic law

(...)

7. The Committee urges the State party to incorporate into its national legislation a definition of the crime of torture that is in line with article 1 of the Convention and to adopt other legislation to ensure compliance with all of the Convention's substantive requirements, including the requirement to make the crime of torture punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account its grave nature. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that there are no mitigating circumstances or any other exceptions, including non-applicability of statutes of limitation, to the absolute prohibition against torture.

(...)

Monitoring of detention facilities

(...)

- 25. The State party should:
- (a) Establish an effective, independent national system to monitor and inspect all places of deprivation of liberty and follow up on the outcome of such systematic monitoring;
- (b) Ensure that monitoring bodies, including non-governmental organizations, with a mandate to visit places of deprivation of liberty are able to carry out independent, unhindered and unannounced inspection visits to all places of deprivation of liberty in the country and to speak confidentially to all detained persons;
- (c) Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

(...)

Training

(...)

29. The State party should:

- (a) Develop mandatory initial and in-service training programmes to ensure that all public officials, in particular law enforcement officers and prison staff, are acquainted with the provisions of the Convention, especially the absolute prohibition of torture, and that they are made fully aware that violations will not be tolerated and will be investigated and that those responsible will be prosecuted and, if convicted, appropriately punished;
- (b) Ensure that all relevant staff, including judges, prosecutors and medical personnel, are specifically trained to identify cases of torture and ill-treatment, in accordance with the revised version of the Istanbul Protocol;
- (c) Develop and apply a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of educational and training programmes in reducing the number of cases of torture and ill-treatment and in ensuring the identification, documentation and investigation of such acts and the prosecution of those responsible.

(...)

Follow-up procedure

32. The Committee requests the State party to provide, by 24 November 2024, information on follow-up to the Committee's recommendations on the incorporation of Convention obligations into domestic law, monitoring of detention facilities and training (see paras 7, 25 and 29 above). In that context, the State party is invited to inform the Committee about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations in the concluding observations.

(...)