

## Committee against Torture

### List of issues prior to submission of the seventh periodic report of Latvia\*

#### Specific information on the implementation of articles 1–16 of the Convention, including with regard to the Committee’s previous recommendations

##### Issues identified for follow-up in the previous concluding observations

1. In its previous concluding observations (para. 36),<sup>1</sup> the Committee requested the State party to provide further information on follow-up to the Committee’s recommendations, namely on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention, increasing the amounts of State compensation provided to each victim of torture or ill-treatment, and strengthening the effectiveness of complaints mechanisms for reporting cases of violence and providing adequate health care to persons in detention (paragraphs 19 (d), 35 (c) and 15 (d)). Noting that a reply concerning the information sought by the Committee was provided on 3 December 2020,<sup>2</sup> and with reference to the letter dated 29 March 2021 from the Committee’s rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, the Committee considers that the recommendations included in all above-mentioned paragraphs of the previous concluding observations have been partially implemented.

##### Articles 1 and 4

2. With reference to the Committee’s previous recommendations (paras. 6–9), please indicate any recent steps taken to include a definition of torture, which covers all the elements contained in article 1 of the Convention, under the State party’s legislation, including the ground of discrimination of any kind and an explicit mention of pain or suffering inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. Please further explain any steps taken to ensure that acts amounting to torture are punishable by appropriate penalties commensurate with their grave nature, in accordance with article 4 (2) of the Convention and that they are not subject to any statute of limitations.

##### Article 2<sup>3</sup>

3. In light of the previous concluding observations (paras. 10–11), please provide information about measures taken to strengthen the legal safeguards and ensure:

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its seventy-fifth session (31 October – 25 November 2022).

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers in parentheses refer to the previous concluding observations adopted by the Committee (CAT/C/LVA/CO/6).

<sup>2</sup> See CAT/C/LVA/FCO/6.

<sup>3</sup> The issues raised under article 2 could also touch on issues raised under other articles of the Convention, including article 16. As stated in paragraph 3 of the Committee’s general comment No. 2

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(a) That in practice all detainees are informed of the charges against them and about their rights, both orally and in writing, in a language that they understand, and certify that they have understood the information provided to them; that all detainees have their deprivations of liberty properly recorded in a national register at all stages, including their transfer to different facilities; that all detainees have the right to contact family members or any other persons of their choice from the outset of detention;

(b) That all detainees have prompt and confidential access to a lawyer without delay or to the State-funded legal aid and that the provision of legal aid is effective and of appropriate quality;<sup>4</sup>

(c) That all detainees have the right to request and receive an independent medical examination, free of charge, or by a doctor of their choice upon request;

(d) That audio and video recording of interviews is systematically used in relation to criminal investigations as a basic safeguard and as part of its efforts to prevent torture and ill-treatment and that such recordings are kept in centralized secure facilities;

(e) That detainees can challenge, at any time during their detention, the legality or necessity of the detention before a judge, including persons detained in centres for detained foreigners, and clarify the effective and accessible procedure in this regard. Please provide information on the number of cases, since the consideration of the State party's previous periodic report in 2019, in which detainees have challenged the legality of their detention or treatment before the courts, as well as the outcome of those cases, specifying in particular the number of cases in which the petitioner was released from detention;

(f) That the provision of legal safeguards by public officials is effectively monitored and public officials are subjected to disciplinary or criminal penalties for failing to provide fundamental legal safeguards to detained persons. Provide information on any such cases since 2019;

(g) That article 129 of the Criminal Law that foresees prosecution and punishment of a public official who causes harm to persons deprived of their liberty has been amended to reflect severity of their acts and that is commensurate with their gravity, as recommended by the Committee in its previous observations (para. 11(d)).

4. Further to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 18-19), the State party's follow-up replies,<sup>5</sup> and the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 10 December 2021, please provide information on the measures foreseen to ensure that the Prevention Division of the Office of the Ombudsperson, which has been entrusted with the function of the national preventive mechanism, has sufficient financial and human resources, operates with properly remunerated staff, and is able to carry out its mandate in an effective and independent manner. Please indicate whether it has unimpeded access to all places of deprivation of liberty, including to psychiatric institutions, social care homes, immigration detention facilities, transit and border zones and border-crossing checkpoints, and whether it can hold confidential private meetings with persons deprived of liberty in these places. Please provide information about the visits to places of deprivation of liberty conducted since its establishment, the outcome of those visits and recommendations communicated to the relevant authorities, as well as the steps undertaken by the State party to act upon those recommendations. Please indicate whether non-governmental organizations are allowed to regularly monitor all places of detention to complement the monitoring undertaken by the national preventive mechanism. Please provide statistical data, disaggregated by year and by

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(2007) on the implementation of article 2, the obligation to prevent torture in article 2 is wide-ranging. The obligations to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under article 16 (1) are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The obligation to prevent ill-treatment in practice overlaps with and is largely congruent with the obligation to prevent torture. In practice, the definitional threshold between ill-treatment and torture is often not clear. See also section V of the same general comment.

<sup>4</sup> CEDAW/C/LVA/CO/4-7, paras. 13-14.

<sup>5</sup> CAT/C/LVA/FCO/6, para. 19-21. See also letter dated 29 March 2021 from the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations.

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age group (minor or adult), sex and ethnic origin or nationality of the victim, on the number of complaints of torture and ill-treatment received by the Office of the Ombudsperson, in its capacity of the national human rights institution, since 2019 and on the outcome of those complaints.

5. Taking note of the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 26-27), please provide updated information on the legislative or other measures taken during the period under review to combat all forms of violence against women, especially those cases involving actions and omissions by State authorities or other entities that engage the international responsibility of the State party under the Convention. In this connection, please include information on the actions or measures foreseen under the National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Latvia for 2020-2025,<sup>6</sup> including any training programmes aimed at preventing and investigating gender-based violence, notably domestic violence for judges, lawyers, law enforcement officers, social workers, health-care professionals, and others who interact with victims. Please provide information on legislative and other measures adopted to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape as separate criminal offences.<sup>7</sup> Please indicate whether the State party foresees to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Please also provide updated information on the protection and support services available to victims of gender-based violence in the State party, including access to medical and legal services, State-funded social rehabilitation services, shelters and crisis centres. Please include statistical data, disaggregated by the age and ethnicity or nationality of the victims, on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences recorded in cases of gender-based violence, including against children, since the consideration of the State party's previous periodic report. Please include the number of restraining or separation orders for victims of domestic violence issued by the police and of temporary protection orders issued by the courts since the last periodic review in 2019.<sup>8</sup>

6. With reference to the Committee's previous recommendations (paras. 28-29), please provide information on effective measures to prevent trafficking in persons and to increase identification, protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking, including a properly functioning referral mechanism.<sup>9</sup> Please also provide information on:

(a) The steps taken to ensure the allocation of adequate resources and dedicated funding to the implementation of the National Action Plan against trafficking in human beings (2021-2023);

(b) Any other new law or measure that has been adopted to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, notably for the purpose of labour exploitation;

(c) Measures adopted to provide adequate assistance to victims of trafficking, including their effective access to information about services, legal representation and compensation and to ensure that non-custodial accommodation is provided, with full access to appropriate medical and psychosocial support, for potential victims of trafficking while identification processes are carried out;

(d) Measures taken to ensure adequate human and technical resources of the Police Unit for the Fight against Human Trafficking and to deliver specialized training on detecting and identifying signs of trafficking in human beings for law enforcement officers, judges, labour inspectors, social workers, health-care professionals and others who interact with victims;

(e) Comprehensive disaggregated data on the number of investigations of cases of trafficking, prosecutions and sentences handed down and on the provision of any redress to

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<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 14.

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 51-52.

<sup>8</sup> CEDAW/C/LVA/CO/4-7, paras. 23-24; A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 60; A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, paras. 54-56.

<sup>9</sup> CEDAW/C/LVA/CO/4-7, paras. 25-26; A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 8 and 44.

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victims since 2019 and explain reasons for suspension of a significant number of the sentences handed down in the trafficking cases.

### Article 3

7. In light of the Committee's previous recommendations (paras. 30-31), please provide updated information on current procedures and practices in the area of expulsion, refoulement and extradition, in particular guarantees in law and in practice of non-refoulement prior to a final asylum decision. Having regard to the adoption of the Order No. 518 on the Declaration of Emergency Situation of 13 October 2021, please explain measures adopted to ensure that such Order complies with the obligations under article 3 of the Convention. Please indicate the date foreseen to lift the state of emergency introduced by the Order. Furthermore, explain the guarantees and safeguards in place to ensure that all individuals under the State party's jurisdiction, including those in situations of unauthorized crossing of the border:<sup>10</sup>

(a) Receive appropriate and individual consideration of their application for international protection by the competent authorities, and that such applications can be subjected to a fair and impartial review by an independent decision-making mechanism on expulsion, return or extradition, with suspensive effect;

(b) Are not subjected to collective expulsions and pushbacks, including chain refoulement;

(c) Are not arbitrarily detained in accommodation centres for detained foreigners, notably at the border with Belarus, including in Ludza, Krāslava, Augšdaugava, and Daugavpils, have access to information about the international protection process in a language they understand, can seek such international protection in practice, have access to basic humanitarian aid and services, and enjoy adequate procedural safeguards, including access to legal assistance.

8. Please explain measures in place, including any regulations or guidance on the procedure, to ensure early and proactive identification and protection of persons in vulnerable situations, such as victims of torture, ill-treatment, gender-based violence or trafficking, regardless of their legal or migratory status, and to ensure that their specific needs are addressed in a timely manner, including their access to basic medical and humanitarian assistance. Please indicate any steps that have been taken to establish an effective referral mechanism between the State Border Guards and competent migration authorities at all border points to guarantee that the principle of non-refoulement is upheld. Furthermore, explain measures adopted to ensure a proper identification of statelessness and procedural legal safeguards afforded to stateless people.<sup>11</sup>

9. Please provide statistical information for the period under review, disaggregated by year and by the sex, country of origin or nationality and age group (minor or adult) of the victim, on the number of asylum applications registered and approved as well as other forms of subsidiary protection granted; the number of asylum seekers whose applications were granted because they had been tortured or ran the risk of being tortured if returned; the number of persons who were returned, extradited or expelled, indicating the grounds on which they were returned, extradited or expelled and providing a list of the countries of destination; and the number of appeals filed against expulsion decisions on the basis that the applicants could be in danger of being subjected to torture and ill-treatment in their countries of origin, and the results of those appeals. Furthermore, please indicate the number of returns, extraditions and expulsions carried out by the State party during the reporting period on the basis of diplomatic assurances or the equivalent thereof. Please also indicate the minimum content of any such assurances or guarantees and the measures that have been taken in such cases to avoid undermining the principle of *non-refoulement* and with regard to subsequent monitoring.

10. With reference to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 30 and 31(e)), please explain any additional legal, policy and practical steps taken to facilitate the

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<sup>10</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 68; A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 131.

<sup>11</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 75.

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naturalization and integration of non-citizens and progress made in eliminating the number of persons without nationality since the entry into force of the Law on the Discontinuation of Non-Citizen Status for Children in 2019. In addition, provide statistical data on the current number of non-citizens.

#### **Articles 5–9**

11. Please provide information on any new legislation or measures that have been adopted to implement article 5 of the Convention. Please inform the Committee of any extradition treaties concluded with other States parties and indicate whether the offences referred to in article 4 of the Convention are included as extraditable offences in such treaties. Please indicate what measures have been taken by the State party during the period under review to comply with its obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*). In particular, please provide information on cases in which the State party has agreed to extradite a person for torture or related offences since 2019. Please also indicate whether the State party has rejected, for any reason, the request of a State party for the extradition of an individual suspected of having committed torture and whether it has started prosecution proceedings against such an individual as a result.

#### **Article 10**

12. With reference to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 32–33), please provide information on the training programmes delivered since 2019,<sup>12</sup> indicating whether they are mandatory or optional, how often they are given and how many officials have already completed them in relation to the total number of such officials, in particular on the following:

(a) The provisions of the Convention and the absolute prohibition of torture, as well as rules, instructions and methods of interrogation, including non-coercive investigation techniques, for law enforcement personnel, security and prison personnel, judges, medical personnel, immigration and border control officers, and other persons, civilian as well as military, involved with custody, interrogation or the treatment of detainees;

(b) The Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials for law enforcement personnel;

(c) Detecting and documenting the physical and psychological sequelae of torture for all relevant personnel, in particular medical professionals and other public officials working with persons deprived of their liberty. Please indicate whether the programmes contain specific training with regard to the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol);

(d) Training on the treatment of persons in situations of vulnerability and on a trauma-informed, victim-centred approach to conducting trials, for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, lawyers, judges and others who interact with victims, in particular victims of gender-based violence,<sup>13</sup> and the public at large;

(e) Legislation and procedures to guarantee the principle of non-refoulement and on the arrangements for the identification of victims of torture, trafficking in persons and gender-based violence among asylum seekers, for immigration and border control officers, police and other public officials;

(f) The development and implementation of regular assessments of the effectiveness and impact of such training and educational programmes on the reduction of cases of torture and ill-treatment. Please provide information on the methodology used to assess the effectiveness of those programmes in reducing cases of torture and ill-treatment.

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<sup>12</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 71 and 89.

<sup>13</sup> CEDAW/C/LVA/CO/4-7, para. 23 (e).

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## Article 11

13. Please describe the procedures in place for ensuring compliance with article 11 of the Convention, and provide information on any interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices or arrangements for custody that may have been introduced since the consideration of the previous periodic report. Please indicate the frequency with which they are reviewed.

14. With regard to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 14-15), please indicate what steps have been taken since 2019 to improve material conditions in all places of detention, such as hygiene, sanitation, humidity, ventilation, and access to natural light in all places of detention, and notably in police detention facilities,<sup>14</sup> and to enhance provision of exercise in the open air. Please provide information on programmes of educational and recreational activities. Please inform the Committee whether the State party has considered or undertaken any steps to close detention facilities where conditions are particularly substandard, including the Griva section of Daugavgriva prison, which has the status of historic monument. Please provide update on any undertaken or ongoing prison infrastructure reform, including the construction of Liepaja prison. Please indicate what specific measures have been taken to prevent overcrowding and to establish non-custodial forms of detention in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders ("the Bangkok Rules"), as well as their impact.<sup>15</sup>

15. Further to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 12-13), please indicate legislative or any other measures adopted to ensure that detention in police detention facilities is used only for as brief period as possible and does not exceed period prescribed by law, that remand detainees are transferred to appropriate facilities and are always held separately from convicted prisoners, and that remand detainees and prisoners are not returned to police detention facilities for further investigation or court proceedings or for any other reason.

16. Bearing in mind the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 14-15), and the State party's follow-up replies,<sup>16</sup> please explain the measures taken to complete the recruitment for the open vacancies for medical practitioners at places of deprivation of liberty, and to increase the number of medical staff, including psychiatrists, and their remuneration. Please further indicate whether the State party had considered transferring the competence of penitentiary medical staff to the authority of the Ministry of Health. Please indicate whether protocols are in place to meet the needs of groups of prisoners with specific needs, including in terms of safety and security, as well as the prevention of the spread of and protection against COVID-19, notably persons with disabilities, persons with drug-related problems, older persons and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

17. Please provide information on any steps taken to bring its legislation on solitary confinement into line with international standards, such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). Please explain the guarantees in place to distinguish between administrative segregation and isolation on disciplinary grounds and to prohibit confining persons with behavioural problems for protection purposes for prolonged periods to solitary confinement.

18. Please provide information on steps taken to reduce and monitor inter-prisoner violence, and particularly to address the issue of self-governance or hierarchy of prisoners;<sup>17</sup> on the number of complaints that have been made or registered in such cases; and on investigations conducted as well as their outcome. Having regard to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 15 (d) and 24-25) and the State party's follow-up

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<sup>14</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 4.

<sup>15</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, paras. 69-70.

<sup>16</sup> CAT/C/LVA/FCO/6, paras. 9-18. See also letter dated 21 March 2021 from the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations; See also A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, paras. 72-74.

<sup>17</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 4.

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replies,<sup>18</sup> please provide statistical data regarding violent incidents and deaths in custody, including suicides, during the period under consideration, including in police custody, disaggregated by place of detention, sex, age, ethnic origin or nationality, and cause of death. Please indicate the way those deaths were investigated, the results of the investigations and the measures taken to prevent similar cases from occurring in the future. Please indicate whether relatives of the deceased persons received compensation in any of the cases. Please explain the steps taken by the State party to ensure the identification, monitoring and protection of vulnerable detainees at risk of suicide, and to provide them with appropriate assistance, including psychiatric care and other preventive measures.

19. With reference to the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 22-23), please provide information on the number of persons deprived of their liberty in psychiatric hospitals and other institutions for persons with psychosocial disabilities, including care homes. Please indicate any steps taken by the State party to ensure effective legal safeguards and access to effective remedy for all patients, whether they are hospitalized voluntarily or involuntarily, to guarantee that: a) their placement is monitored and subjected to periodic review; b) they are fully informed about the treatment to be prescribed to them and are given an opportunity to refuse the treatment or any other medical intervention; and c) that psychiatric hospitalization and treatment, and notable of children, is not used for punitive reasons or for any reasons other than medical ones. Please explain any steps taken to prevent the institutionalization of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and to increase the availability of community-based mental health services. Provide details on the implementation of the Plan of Improving Access to Mental Health Care 2019–2020. Please provide information on number of complaints submitted to the Health Inspectorate<sup>19</sup> concerning the legality of medical procedures and treatment methods, as well as the outcome of any such complaints. Lastly, provide data on complaints of torture and ill-treatment in psychiatric institutions and the results of the investigation of such allegations and outline the steps taken with respect to an independent investigation carried out in the possible criminal offences in the children's psychiatric hospital in Ainazi.

20. With regard to the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 30 (d)), please explain the efforts made by the State party to provide non-custodial accommodation for migrant children and migrant families with children, such as care arrangements and community-based programmes, and describe the type of establishment and regime applied to them, including the educational and recreational opportunities, in particular in detention centres for migrants,<sup>20</sup> as well as access to healthcare and psychological services. Please provide disaggregated data on the number of accompanied and unaccompanied children detained or accommodated in immigration detention centres since 2019.

21. Please provide information on steps taken to ensure that the material conditions in the detention centres for migrants meet the minimum international standards, in particular in Daugavpils, and that adequate healthcare and psychological services are provided to migrants in vulnerable situations in detention. Furthermore, indicate the steps taken to ensure that migrants stranded near the State party's border with Belarus in August 2021 and those held in the tent on the Latvian territory were not detained arbitrarily, were held in material and sanitary conditions compliant with the Convention and had access to basic amenities such as food, water, adequate medical care, and appropriate shelter. Please provide information on the average duration and maximum duration of those in migration detention, including in the tent at the border areas; explain efforts to implement alternatives to migration detention, including for pregnant women and nursing mothers; and provide annual data since 2019 on the percentage of cases in which alternatives to migration detention were applied.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> CAT/C/LVA/FCO/6, paras. 4-8. See also letter dated 29 March 2021 from the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations.

<sup>19</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 99.

<sup>20</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/2, para. 60.

<sup>21</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 132-136.

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## Articles 12 and 13

22. Further to the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 24-25), please provide updated statistical data, disaggregated by the sex, age and ethnicity or nationality of the victims, on complaints of acts of torture and ill-treatment recorded during the reporting period. Please include information on investigations, disciplinary and criminal proceedings and convictions and on the criminal and/or disciplinary sanctions applied. Please provide examples of relevant cases and judicial decisions. Please describe how the State party guarantees the confidentiality and independence of the system for receiving complaints of torture and ill-treatment, including in cases where victims are deprived of their liberty in all custodial settings and the follow-up to those complaints. Please explain what steps have been taken to ensure that there is no institutional or hierarchical relationship between the investigators of the Internal Security Bureau and Internal Control Bureau,<sup>22</sup> both of which are under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior, and the suspected perpetrators of such acts, in line with the Committee's previous recommendation (para. 25 (a)). Please indicate what mechanisms are in place to protect victims of torture and ill-treatment, members of their family, witnesses, and investigators against any form of intimidation or reprisal arising as a consequence of complaints submitted. Please indicate whether complainants and victims are duly informed of the progress and results of their complaint, and what judicial remedies are available to them should a prosecutor decide not to pursue a case.

23. Please indicate any concrete steps that have been taken to investigate promptly and thoroughly the accounts of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by State Border Guards, security forces and law enforcement to prevent persons crossing the border in an irregular way in the State party's territory adjacent to the border with Belarus, as well as the allegations of threats of violence to force the migrants agree to voluntary returns. Please also provide information on the outcome of such investigations and explain the appropriate avenues to allow victims to seek redress including adequate compensation.

## Article 14

24. Please provide information on redress and compensation measures, including the means of rehabilitation ordered by the courts or other State bodies and actually provided to the victims of torture and/or ill-treatment or their families since 2019. This should include the number of requests for compensation that have been made; the number granted; and the amounts ordered and actually provided, including compensation provided under the Law on State Compensation to Victims, the Criminal Procedure Law and the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance.<sup>23</sup> Please also provide information on any ongoing reparation programmes, including the treatment of trauma and other forms of rehabilitation, provided to victims of torture and ill-treatment, and on the material, human and budgetary resources allocated for their effective functioning.

## Article 15

25. Please provide data on the cases in which confessions obtained through torture have been declared inadmissible, and on the progress of any investigations into allegations of torture made in any previous cases and any criminal proceedings brought against public agents who extracted such confessions, including the punishment imposed.

## Article 16

26. Please provide information on steps taken to combat racially motivated violence and other hate crimes, including hate speech online.<sup>24</sup> Please provide data on reported and investigated instances of hate crimes based on racist, xenophobic, ethnic or sexual orientation or gender identity grounds since 2019, disaggregated by type of motive or basis of discrimination, and by the sex, gender, age group and ethnic origin or nationality of the victim. Please indicate whether the perpetrator was a public official. Please provide

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<sup>22</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, paras. 64-67; A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 35.

<sup>23</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, para. 58 and 77.

<sup>24</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, para. 7.

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information on results of such investigations. Please indicate whether the State party has taken any steps to condemn any form of discrimination and hate crime.<sup>25</sup>

### **Other issues**

27. Please provide updated information on the measures taken by the State party to respond to threats of terrorism. Please describe whether those measures have affected human rights safeguards in law and in practice and, if so, how they have affected them. Please also describe how the State party has ensured that those measures are compatible with all its obligations under international law, especially the Convention. Furthermore, please indicate what training is given to law enforcement officers in this area; the number of persons who have been convicted under legislation adopted to combat terrorism; the legal remedies and safeguards available in law and in practice to persons subjected to antiterrorism measures; and whether there have been complaints of the non-observance of national and international standards in applying measures to combat terrorism and, if so, what the outcome was.

28. Given that the prohibition of torture is absolute and cannot be derogated from, including within the framework of measures related to states of emergency and other exceptional circumstances, please provide information on any steps taken by the State party during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that its policies and actions comply with its obligations under the Convention. In addition, please specify the measures taken in relation to persons deprived of their liberty and in other situations of confinement, such as in homes for older persons, hospitals or institutions for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and institutions for juveniles.

### **General information on the human rights situation in the country, including new measures and developments relating to the implementation of the Convention**

29. Please provide detailed information on any other relevant legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention or the Committee's recommendations since the consideration of the State party's previous periodic report in 2019, including institutional developments, plans and programmes. Please indicate the resources allocated and provide statistical data. Please also provide any other information that the State party considers relevant.

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<sup>25</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3, paras. 26-27; A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1, paras. 32-42.