



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

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29 August 2016

Excellency,

In our respective capacities as Chairperson of the Committee against Torture and Rapporteur of the Committee for Follow-up to Concluding Observations, we have the honor to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the fourth periodic report of Cyprus, in accordance with the Guidelines for Follow-Up to Concluding Observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of its 52nd session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/CYP/CO/4, para. 26) requested the State Party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 7(d), 11(a), 17(c) and 19 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow us to express appreciation for your letter of 20 May 2015, providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/CYP/CO/4/Add.1), and to make the following comments:

Fundamental legal safeguards (para. 7)

While the Committee appreciates the extensive information provided by the State party, including the steps taken to train law enforcement officers about fundamental legal safeguards for the prevention of torture, it considers that this information does not address the recommendation directly, i.e. to monitor the compliance with fundamental legal safeguards. Therefore, the Committee considers that this recommendation has not been implemented and encourages the State party to take steps to do so (2/C).

Identification of victims of torture during the refugee determination process (para. 11)

The Committee appreciates the thorough information provided by the State party, and considers that its recommendation is implemented *de jure*. In order to assess the implementation of the guidelines in practice, the Committee would appreciate receiving statistical information on the number and percentage of victims of torture identified among asylum seekers through the described mechanisms, as well as, a description of the special services provided to them (2/B2).

.../...

H.E. Mr. Andreas Ignatiou
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic Cyprus
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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Detention of undocumented immigrants (para.17)

The Committee considers that the recommendation is implemented *de jure*. In order to assess its implementation in practice, it would appreciate receiving statistics with regard to the number and percentage of detained asylum seekers, disaggregated by the legal status of the refugee determination case, as well as the number of appeals filed with the Supreme Court, including their outcome, and the number of cases of appeal where legal aid has been granted (2/B2).


Detention of unaccompanied children and families (para. 19)

The Committee appreciates the thorough information provided by the State party and considers that the recommendation is implemented *de jure*. However, the Committee would appreciate receiving additional information regarding accommodation facilities for asylum seeking minors, including unaccompanied minors and those arriving with their parents (2/B2).

The Government of Cyprus is encouraged to provide additional information, if any, which may further contribute to the Committee's analysis of the progress made regarding the specific issues of concern. This additional information may be provided in any subsequent report by the State party pursuant to the Committee's request in its concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Cyprus.

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

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.


Jens Modvig
Chairperson
Committee against Torture

Abdelwahab Hani
Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Committee against Torture

