

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Fax: (+41 22) 917 90 08
Telephone: (+41 22) 917 79719
Internet: www.ohchr.org
E-mail: aprophette@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211

GENEVE 10

9 May 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on 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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

At the end of its 93rd session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 21 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 9, 14 and 16 of the concluding observations.

On 18 August 2008, the State party provided information on these paragraphs. At its 94th session, held in October 2008, the Committee noted that the information provided was incomplete. On 10 December 2008, my predecessor wrote to your Permanent Mission requesting additional information from the State party on the above mentioned paragraphs.

On the 20 November 2010, information was provided by the State party, which was analyzed by the Committee during its 101st session, held in March 2011.

The Committee noted that the answers provided were largely satisfactory on the following issues:

.../...

H. E. Mr. Peter GOODERHAM
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Fax: 022 918 23 33

- (a) the allegations of delays of the public inquiry into the death of Billy Wright (paragraph 9);
- (b) the level of independence of the public inquiries from the Government (paragraph 9);
- (c) the measures adopted to ensure that all allegations concerning suspicious deaths, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment inflicted by its personnel in detention facilities in Afghanistan and Iraq are investigated promptly and independently, and that those responsible are prosecuted and punished (paragraph 14).

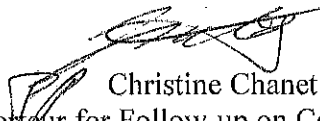
While taking note of the cooperativeness of the State party, the Committee considered that the information was incomplete with regard to certain recommendations. I therefore wish to request additional and more specific information on the following issues:

- (a) the progress made in the establishment of the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) announced in Parliament on 1 March 2010, to investigate allegations of abuse by members of the UK armed forces in Iraq relating to events alleged to have occurred between March 2003 and July 2009 (paragraph 14);
- (b) the reparation available to victims of suspicious deaths, torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment inflicted by employees of the State party in detention facilities in Afghanistan and Iraq (paragraph 14);
- (c) the decisions of the Belfast courts on the legality of the use of extended detention without charge against terrorist suspects (paragraph 15).

Therefore, I write to request that the above-mentioned additional information be submitted to the Committee at Your Government's earliest convenience. A Word electronic version of the reply should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Albane Prophette-Pallasco, (aprophette@ohchr.org)).

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the implementation of the Covenant.

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



Christine Chanet
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations
Human Rights Committee