



**Convention against Torture  
and Other Cruel, Inhuman  
or Degrading Treatment  
or Punishment**

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**Committee against Torture**  
**Fifty-third session**

**Summary record of the 1257th meeting**

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 6 November 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chairperson:* Mr. Grossman

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*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention** (continued)

*Sixth periodic report of Ukraine* (continued) (CAT/C/UKR/6; CAT/C/UKR/Q/6)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Ukraine took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Ms. Sugak** (Ukraine), after recalling the definition of torture set out in article 127 of the Criminal Code, the punishment imposed for torture and the aggravating circumstances that might be taken into consideration, said that, pursuant to the Act on the procedure for compensation for damage caused to a citizen by unlawful acts of bodies of inquiry or preliminary investigation, the procurator's office or the courts, a victim of a breach of the Convention was entitled to compensation and that, under article 87 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, evidence obtained as the result of a violation of the rights and freedoms protected by the Constitution, domestic legislation and the international instruments to which Ukraine was a party was deemed inadmissible in judicial proceedings.
3. In 2013, the Ministry of Internal Affairs had received 1,031 complaints from individuals claiming violation of their rights and freedoms by law-enforcement officials and in 194 cases they had shown evidence of having suffered aggravated assault. Following an examination of the complaints, 45 law-enforcement officials had undergone disciplinary proceedings and 6 had been dismissed. Criminal prosecutions had been instituted in 210 cases and five police officers had been charged with torture. In 2014, the internal security department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs had received 1,047 complaints from individuals for violation of their rights and freedoms. Criminal prosecutions had been instituted in 104 cases, 61 of which had related to allegations of aggravated assault, while 120 law-enforcement officials had undergone disciplinary proceedings, as a result of which 18 had been dismissed. In 2014, a former police officer had been convicted of acts of torture committed in 2011.
4. In 2014, the Ministry of Internal Affairs had received 85,200 complaints of domestic violence and, over the first eight months of 2014, about 400 of them had given rise to criminal proceedings. More than 54,700 formal warnings had been issued to senior officials and about 4,500 second warnings had been given to repeat offenders. In implementation of the Prevention of Family Violence Act, 460 persons had been taken into shelters specializing in the reintegration of victims and about 360 persons had been placed in emergency reception centres for victims of abusive spouses.
5. **Ms. Sevostianova** (Ukraine) said, with regard to the action taken following the two judgements by the European Court of Human Rights in the *Yuriy Illarionovich Shchokin v. Ukraine* case, that €30,000 had been paid to the applicant by way of compensation in October 2014. The investigation continued, since one of the alleged perpetrators of the violence that had led to the death of the applicant's son had fled to the Russian Federation, where he was in hiding. As for the *Melnik v. Ukraine* case, in which the applicant's conditions of detention and the fact that he had not received treatment for his tuberculosis during his detention had been considered inhuman and degrading treatment, the authorities had paid the applicant €10,500 compensation. The Government had adopted a programme to combat tuberculosis for the period 2007–2011, which had been extended to 2016. Moreover, a law amending legislation on the anti-tuberculosis programme had been adopted and funds had been allocated in implementation of its provisions to provide prison medical services with basic materials. Rooms had been adapted in eight specialized establishments to provide care for 84 detainees with tuberculosis.

6. **Mr. Yovenko** (Ukraine) said that the new Code of Criminal Procedure adopted in 2012 contained a precise definition of the time and circumstances of an arrest, which made it possible to prevent abuse and provided that the name and time of arrival of a person taken to a police station must be registered. The police were also required to inform such persons of their rights in a language that they understood, to provide access to a doctor, if they so wished, and to allow them to notify their relations of their detention. In 2013, the National Migration Service had drawn up a list of approved translators on whose services the police could call in case of need. The new Code of Criminal Procedure also provided that the legality of the detention of suspects arrested by the police was monitored by an examining magistrate. If the magistrate found that suspects' rights had been violated, he or she ordered their immediate release. If a suspect made allegations of violence or if the magistrate found that the suspect showed signs of ill-treatment, he or she notified the competent authorities immediately and ordered that the suspect should be examined by a doctor and measures taken to guarantee his or her safety. If a suspect did not have a lawyer but wished to be represented in court, or if an examining magistrate considered it necessary for the suspect to have a defence lawyer, measures were taken to assign one to him or her. The maximum period of police custody was 72 hours, but a suspect had to be brought before an examining magistrate within 60 hours. The reason for the 12-hour time difference was that it took account of the time that the suspect's counsel might need to reach the police station and enabled the examining magistrate to take cognizance of the case.

7. Over the first nine months of 2014, 9,630 persons had been detained, of whom 2,041 had been released. In 22 cases, a suspect had been released because he or she had not been brought before an examining magistrate within 60 hours or, in 17 cases, because he or she had not been informed of the grounds for his or her arrest within the time limit laid down. All cells in remand prisons were provided with an emergency telephone line, which detainees could use 24 hours a day to report any violation of their rights, including any ill-treatment. Guards did not have the right to open detainees' correspondence. The premises in which persons who had been arrested were held on their arrival at a police station, and all cells, exercise yards and premises of establishments where preliminary inquiries were carried out, were equipped with video surveillance cameras.

8. Under the Administrative Code, the maximum length of administrative detention was 3 hours and the legality of such detention could be contested before the relevant administrative body, the procurator or a judge. Administrative detention was no longer authorized in connection with criminal cases. After the pro-European demonstrations that had begun in November 2013 in Independence Square in Kyiv (the Euromaidan movement), the Ministry of Internal Affairs had taken steps to ensure that law-enforcement personnel received clear instructions on the means that they were permitted to use to contain disorder during demonstrations. Following each arrest, the police had to state the means used to apprehend the person concerned, who then underwent an examination in order to determine whether he or she had been subjected to violence. Lastly, law-enforcement personnel were given regular human rights training, including the principles to be followed in the course of an arrest.

9. **Ms. Sevostianova** (Ukraine) said that there were 27 free legal aid centres in the country, which meant that the whole of Ukraine was covered, with the exception of the regions that had recently become autonomous and the areas occupied by the Russian Federation. Persons wishing to reach the centre by telephone could do so 24 hours a day on a special number and, as a rule, a lawyer was provided for them within 2 hours.

10. **Mr. Yovenko** (Ukraine) said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs took the question of attacks on journalists very seriously and that 27 inquiries had been opened into such violence committed at the demonstrations held in Independence Square between November 2013 and February 2014. As for the beating given to the journalist Tetiana Chornovol, he

said that all the suspects had been identified and charged and that the case had recently been brought before a court. Ten other criminal investigations had also been opened into attacks on journalists during the demonstrations. In 2014, about 400 criminal cases relating to offences committed against journalists had been opened. In about 200 cases the perpetrator had not been identified, but, in 23 cases, those responsible had been prosecuted. In 88 per cent of the cases that had come before the courts, however, it had been shown that the offences had not actually been connected with the victim's profession.

11. In the Skoropadsky case, which concerned the beating of a journalist in August 2007, the authorities had not deemed it useful to open a criminal investigation into the victim's complaints. Their decision had gone through three appeals, which had been dismissed. As for the Gongadze case, which related to the killing of a journalist, the actual perpetrators had already been tried and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, but, in January 2013, a court had ruled that the former chief of police, Olexi Pukach, had also been guilty of the murder. That ruling had not yet been executed because it was currently under appeal. The former Ukrainian President, Leonid Kuchma, had also been questioned over the case, but, in December 2011, the proceedings had been terminated. However, the instigators of the murder had been identified and inquiries were continuing. As for the case of Melnichinko and Levchenko, an internal inquiry had been opened and footage from surveillance cameras had been seized. The inquiry showed that the persons concerned, who had been drunk when the incident occurred, had hit out at police and had therefore been arrested and charged with violence against the representative of a public authority. The Public Prosecution Service had, nonetheless, instituted proceedings for abuse of power against the police officers concerned, but in the end the case had been dropped. Mr. Melnichenko and Mr. Levchenko had ultimately been sentenced to administrative penalties.

12. **Ms. Sevostianova** (Ukraine) said that the new bill on the judicial system and the status of judges, which had been drawn up in order to implement a number of recommendations by the Council of Europe, aimed to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, to improve the functioning of the courts and to combat corruption within the justice system. It also provided for the introduction of a new procedure for selecting judges, which would be implemented with the participation of representatives of civil society. One third of judges and 70 per cent of the staff of judicial bodies were women. The Constitution provided that international instruments to which Ukraine was a party took precedence over domestic law and that their provisions were directly applicable.

13. **Ms. Sugak** (Ukraine) said that the Act on refugees and persons requiring subsidiary and temporary protection had been adopted in 2012 with a view to bringing domestic legislation into line with European standards and international law. Under article 3 of the Act, asylum seekers could not be returned to a country where their lives or freedom were threatened or where they risked being persecuted on the grounds of race, religion or ethnicity, among other grounds, or because they belonged to a sexual minority. Centres for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers were run by the State Migration Service. The children were provided with medical and psychological care, according to need. Operation Migrant, the aim of which was to tackle illegal immigration, was still in place. In September 2014, a plan on the implementation of legislation relating to migrants had been adopted, one of its provisions being to raise awareness among State Migration Service staff participating in the Operation about the rights of foreigners and stateless persons. The State Migration Service was the body with the authority to grant refugee status or subsidiary protection. In 2013, it had considered over 1,903 asylum requests, granted refugee status to 75 persons and extended subsidiary protection to 141 persons. As of 1 October 2014, 77 persons had received refugee status and 153 subsidiary protection.

14. **Mr. Iltiai** (Ukraine) said that, according to the statistics available in October 2014, the prison population had fallen by half, thanks to the adoption of various measures,

including the more frequent use of bail, the adoption and implementation of a new amnesty law and the decriminalization of some offences. The medical care of prisoners was provided by 22 hospitals, 10 tuberculosis treatment centres, 146 medical centres, 59 detoxification centres and 21 units specializing in the treatment of infectious diseases. On average, 3,500 prisoners had been treated in such establishments and, as of 1 October 2014, 13,940 prisoners had been treated there since the start of the year. Although the number of cases of tuberculosis in prisons had fallen by 75 per cent over the past 15 years, the problem persisted and HIV/AIDS remained a significant cause of mortality among detainees. As of 1 October 2014, prison hospitals held 3,081 prisoners with tuberculosis and 4,368 who were HIV/positive or had full-blown AIDS, of whom 1,825 received antiretroviral treatment. Among other measures aimed at reducing the tuberculosis mortality rate, a cooperation agreement had been reached between the prison services and the association Ukraine Development in order to improve the prevention of tuberculosis and provide better access to appropriate care. There was compulsory screening for tuberculosis every year. Screening for HIV/AIDS, on the other hand, was carried out on request, with the result that the disease was sometimes diagnosed too late for effective treatment.

15. The armed rebel groups had committed innumerable abuses against State representatives in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Prisons had been the target of particularly violent attacks and the staff of those of such establishments that had fallen into rebel hands had been subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, in the form of aggravated assault and simulated executions. As for suicide in prison, 54 cases had been recorded since the beginning of 2014, as against 70 over the same period in 2013. The Government was aware that detention conditions left much to be desired and that efforts to improve them should be redoubled. The Office of the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights had, to date, conducted visits of inspection in a third of detention centres and penal establishments and had submitted its conclusions to the competent authorities for consideration and follow-up. About 170 detainees in a penal colony in the Luhansk region that had come under artillery fire from rebel groups had been evacuated without injury, but many other prisoners still remained to be evacuated from the occupied areas. Violations against minors in the Dubno penal colony had been the subject of an inquiry, as a result of which the director of the colony had been dismissed and the local authorities punished. It had been an isolated incident and would not occur again.

16. **Ms. Sugak** (Ukraine) said that, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, a minor suspected of an offence could be interrogated only in the presence of his or her parents, legal guardians, a psychologist or a doctor. On 10 October 2013, Parliament had adopted a law defining the conditions for probation for children. Juveniles deprived of liberty were provided with continuous psychological follow-up. Only juveniles suspected of particularly serious offences could be remanded in custody. The Office of the Procurator-General and other State bodies were currently engaged in drawing up a strategic framework for a juvenile justice system.

17. **Ms. Sevostianova** (Ukraine) said that article 24 of the Constitution prohibited privileges or restrictions on rights on the basis of race, colour, political or religious convictions, sex, ethnic or social origin, financial status, place of residence, language or any other consideration. The Act on the principles of preventing and combating discrimination in Ukraine defined as constituting discrimination restrictions or privileges having the effect of preventing the recognition or realization of any person's rights and freedoms on equal terms. It made a distinction between direct discrimination, indirect discrimination and incitement to discrimination. The Act also provided for the mandatory review of all draft legislation with a view to ensuring that the proposed text did not contain provisions of a discriminatory nature. A person who considered him or herself to be a victim of

discrimination could lodge a complaint with the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights or bring it direct before the courts.

18. Various legislative and institutional measures had been adopted in 2014 to improve understanding between national and ethnic minorities and strengthen the protection of their rights. The post of specialist mediator on minority issues had been created and a council had been set up to define public policy with a view to promoting the harmonious coexistence of the various communities. The council had held its first conference in August 2014. An inquiry had been opened into the incidents that had taken place in Kyiv in May 2012 in the run-up to the first gay pride march in Ukraine, which had ended with Mr. Sheremetev, one of the organizers of the march, being charged with hooliganism. The trial was currently in progress. Since the beginning of 2014, three investigations into acts of discrimination based on race, ethnicity or religious convictions had resulted in prosecutions.

19. Since the illegal annexation of the Crimea by the Russian Federation, there had been a constant increase in flagrant human rights violations in that part of the country. Several hundred prisoners had sent an open letter to the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights to request transfer from the Crimea to the Ukrainian mainland, but the Russian authorities had flatly opposed such a transfer. Some of the prisoners concerned had been due to be released in 2014 under the Ukrainian Amnesty Act and their continued detention was thus in breach of Ukrainian law. The Russian authorities had also ignored the Government's request that judicial proceedings under way at the time of the annexation of the Crimea should be transferred to Kyiv so that they could continue under Ukrainian law. Moreover, a large number of prisoners had found that the acts of which they had been convicted had been reclassified under Russian law, which provided for heavier penalties, and risked being transferred to the Russian Federation to serve their sentences.

20. The Government considered the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk to be terrorist organizations that threatened the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Emergency measures had been taken to deal with the threat and a centre for the coordination of counter-terrorist operations had been set up. A map of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions indicating the areas controlled by Ukrainian forces and the areas where counter-terrorist operations were taking place was updated every day and put up on the website of the National Security and Defence Council. A large number of people had been abducted or taken hostage in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkov regions; the situation was being closely monitored by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Between 1 April and 18 August 2014, there had been 1,026 cases of abduction or hostage-taking. The official figure was over 2,500, but the real figure was probably much higher. Nadezhda Savchenko, a pilot in the Ukrainian army, was currently being held in the Russian Federation on false charges and her fate was a matter for concern. Lastly, a complaint had been lodged against the Russian Federation with the European Court of Human Rights on the subject of the abduction of Ukrainian orphans who had been illegally transferred to Russian territory.

21. **The Chairperson**, speaking as Country Rapporteur, asked what sentences had been handed down in the five trials held under article 127 (Torture) of the Criminal Code, which the delegation had said had resulted in convictions. As for domestic violence, the disproportion between the conviction rate, which, at 0.5 per cent, was extremely low, and the very high number of cases reported (about 85,000) gave rise to the question of whether complaints received the requisite attention from the competent authorities. Nonetheless, further details of the punishments imposed and the articles of the Criminal Code applied in the rare cases where there had been a conviction would be useful. Several NGOs had reported that the requirements of due process were often flouted, for example when an official register indicated that a detention started later than it actually had. He requested the delegation to comment on such reports and tell the Committee how many complaints from prisoners had been recorded and how they had been followed up. It should also say whether

measures had been taken to ensure that persons displaced to the interior of the country as a result of the recent events obtained compensation.

22. He took note of the statistics on the proportion of women working in the judicial system but asked how many women judges there were, including judges of the Supreme Court. He wondered whether measures had been taken, or were under consideration, to ensure the participation of Roma in developing and implementing policies to tackle discrimination against them and whether the State party planned to include sexual orientation expressly among the grounds on which discrimination was prohibited by law. He also wished to know how many people had been convicted of torture since the submission of the State party's previous report and how many victims of torture had obtained compensation in accordance with article 14 of the Convention.

23. The laws on vagrancy were worded vaguely, so their potential scope of application was too wide. He asked the delegation whether the State party intended to remedy the problem. He also asked whether medical personnel working with prisoners received training in the Istanbul Protocol and whether they applied it. Lastly, he wondered how effective it was to use the statistical form P described in paragraphs 169 and 170 of the report rather than to collect statistical data listing separately offences and complaints relating to acts of torture and ill-treatment. He would be glad to hear the delegation's comments in that regard.

24. **Mr. Modvig** said that all detainees should be given a full medical examination at the time of their arrest, at which they would be screened for HIV and other diseases, such as hepatitis, so that any suicide risks could be identified and cases of torture and ill-treatment brought to light. There should be general guidelines governing such examinations, one of which should be that all doctors and nurses taking part should be trained in the Istanbul Protocol and that information and data gathered in the process should be subjected to thorough analysis.

25. **Mr. Domah** asked whether the autonomy of the judiciary mentioned by the delegation meant that the judiciary had its own budget. If so, there was a risk that it would be given a budget that was either too small, which would prevent its functioning properly, or too big, which could leave it indebted to the executive. He also wished to know who was responsible for the College of Magistrates.

26. **Ms. Belmir** welcomed the reforms to the justice system instituted by the State party. It was to be hoped that the Supreme Council of Justice and the Public Prosecution Service would not put pressure on judges, as had been the case in the past, and that decisions on the deportation of foreign nationals would not be taken by law-enforcement officials. She also noted with satisfaction the provisions adopted on the juvenile justice system and expressed the hope that the system would operate in conformity with the relevant international standards. Lastly, she said she was concerned that there seemed to be no end in sight to the problem of the excessive use of force by the police and prison staff. She hoped that the delegation would comment on all those points.

27. **Ms. Gaer** said that the delegation had not replied to a number of questions, such as the progress of the inquiry into the snipers in Kyiv, the establishment of responsibility for the fatal shooting of a number of persons in Mariupol in May 2014, the violations committed by the Azov and Aidar battalions and the mass graves found in Donetsk and Slovyansk. She requested the delegation to provide the information requested and also to tell the Committee whether inquiries had been conducted into the 812 persons who, according to a report from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, had been abducted or detained by armed groups.

28. **Mr. Zhang Kening** asked for further details on the reasons why the tuberculosis mortality rate was still high in prisons. He also asked about the status of the 200 prisoners

held in the Crimea, who would reportedly be given Russian passports. That would raise a number of legal questions, including the issue of whether they would maintain their status as prisoners or would be retried.

29. **Ms. Sevostianova** (Ukraine) said that all prisoners in the Crimea would have the offences of which they had been found guilty recategorized in accordance with Russian law, which constituted a breach of international law. The events that had occurred over the past year would all be the subject of inquiries, beginning with the incidents that had taken place during the demonstrations in Independence Square. In addition to the inquiries currently being conducted by the procurator's office, Ukraine was cooperating with the Council of Europe International Advisory Panel on Ukraine, which had the mandate of investigating all the facts relating to the crimes committed during that period, including the events of 2 May 2014 at the Trades Union House in Odessa. The Ministry of Internal Affairs had also opened an inquiry into the events, which had left 48 persons dead. The inquiry was in its final stage and, once it had been completed, the files would be handed over to the courts. Generally speaking, anyone could inform the authorities of an offence, including any offence committed in the Crimea or areas where counter-terrorist operations had been conducted, and any violation would result in an investigation. The number of cases of torture identified in Ukraine was very low. The authorities would collate the data on the number of convictions and the kind of punishments incurred for such offences and would include them in the next report of Ukraine.

30. Donetsk airport was controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces, which were fighting hard to hold their ground under constant fire from terrorists. The town of Debaltseva, although also under the control of the Ukrainian army, it was not able to avoid attacks that led to tragedies like the one that had occurred the previous evening, when a school had been targeted and two children had been killed and four others seriously injured. As for the civilians and military personnel who had been taken prisoner by the terrorists at the tragic battle of Ilovaisk, reports indicated that they had been tortured and put to forced labour. The authorities were trying to get them released in a prisoner exchange. Persons in the areas controlled by Ukraine who had suffered harm — at the hands not of Ukrainian State officials but of armed groups involved in counter-terrorist operations — received social benefits by way of compensation. It would not, however, be practical to provide such benefits for persons in combat areas, since the terrorists systematically stole them. The number of people displaced to the interior of the country continued to grow. Many of them were lodged in sanatoriums and, with the approach of winter, the Government was engaged in settling persons who had not found shelter in places provided with heating. Persons who had resettled in another part of the country were entitled to assistance. To date, 27,000 people had requested such assistance, and in 23,800 cases it had been granted.

31. A person admitted to a place of deprivation of liberty was required to undergo screening for tuberculosis but not for HIV. The authorities would think about ways of remedying the problem of HIV transmission in places of detention without infringing the right to a private life. The representation of women in State bodies was growing, as shown by the fact that, following the latest parliamentary election, 30 per cent of seats in parliament were held by women. The Government would provide the Committee with fuller written information on the matter.

32. **Mr. Yovenko** (Ukraine) said that the authorities were taking every possible measure to deal with tuberculosis in places of detention, where it spread rapidly, particularly in those that were overcrowded. In addition to the screening that they underwent upon arrival, prisoners received food and appropriate medical care. Moreover, 18 of the 42 detention centres had been renovated in order to prevent the spread of tuberculosis. Such measures had resulted in a fourfold reduction in the prevalence of tuberculosis and the Government



hoped to improve the situation further, although currently the main problem was the lack of resources available to improve prison structures further.

33. **Mr. Iltiai** (Ukraine) said that law-enforcement officials and prison staff were sometimes required to use special measures or means, not as punishment but to defend or protect themselves. The use of such measures was regulated, but it was true that problems arose. The Government intended to remedy the situation and would take care that they were used as little as possible and only where appropriate. Alternatives to detention had been put in place and the number of conditional releases was growing, with the result that the occupancy rate of detention centres had fallen. As for the question of respecting fundamental safeguards at the time of arrest or taking into custody, he said that a person taken in for questioning had to be immediately notified of the availability of secondary legal aid services and given the opportunity to take a lawyer. The person was also examined by a doctor, if he or she so requested or showed signs of bodily injury. Persons placed in detention were entitled to inform their family or the person of their choice. The observance by police of fundamental rights and procedures was subject to internal controls and monitoring by the procurator. Over the first eight months of 2014, 40,000 checks had been carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and any suspicion of an offence had given rise to an investigation.

34. **Ms. Sugak** (Ukraine) said that complaints of domestic violence that had come before the courts had resulted in a warning in 1 per cent of cases, fines in 52.9 per cent of cases, sentences of corrective labour in 20 per cent of cases and administrative detention in 1 per cent of cases.

35. **Ms. Sevostianova** (Ukraine) said that the judiciary had a budget set by the Ministry of Finance. Basically, the Government sought to ensure that judges were sufficiently well paid that they were not tempted to take bribes. The College of Magistrates came under the Higher Commission on Qualifications.

36. Three mass graves had been discovered in Slovyansk, following the town's liberation. It had been determined that the graves dated from the period during which the town had been under the control of the terrorists. Autopsies had been carried out and 12 victims identified to date. The Government could not comment on the facts until the investigation was complete. As for the Azov and Aidar battalions, the former had initially formed part of the Southern Operational Command but was currently under the Ukrainian Security Service, while the latter, which had been a militia battalion intended to protect the population, had been reconfigured in September 2014 to form a regiment of 150 men answering to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and directly participating in counter-terrorist operations.

37. The delegation wished, in conclusion, to emphasize that, following the tragic events in Independence Square, where individuals had sacrificed their lives to defend the right of Ukrainians to live in a State that respected human rights, the Government was in cooperation with the relevant international bodies, engaged in carrying out all the reforms necessary to ensure that such rights could be enjoyed. The Committee could rest assured that, in the hybrid war situation currently obtaining in the country, the Government would not tolerate a single act of torture.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*