

**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/PAN/CO/4)*

**PANAMA**

(...)

**C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations**

(...)

**Fundamental legal safeguards**

(...)

**11. The State party should take effective measures to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are afforded, in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty, in conformity with international standards, including the right to prompt access to and private consultation with a lawyer, particularly during the investigation and interrogation stages, and the right to request and promptly receive a medical examination by a qualified professional after admission to a place of detention, and to have access to an independent physician upon request.**

(...)

**Deaths in custody**

(...)

**21. The Committee urges the State party to investigate the entry and smuggling of firearms into prisons and to take appropriate preventive measures. The State party should ensure that all deaths in custody are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially and that autopsies are carried out where appropriate. It should also investigate whether prison officials and members of the police are in any way responsible for such deaths and, if so, punish the guilty parties and provide the victims' family members with adequate redress.**

(...)

**National mechanism for the prevention of torture**

(...)

**27. The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Complete the process of selecting and appointing the leadership and staff of the national preventive mechanism;**

(b) **Provide the necessary resources for the functioning of the national preventive mechanism, in conformity with article 18 (3) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention;**

(c) **Ensure that the national preventive mechanism enjoys financial and operational autonomy in the performance of functions (see the guidelines on national preventive mechanisms (CAT/OP/12/5), para. 12);**

(d) **Ensure the follow-up and effective implementation of recommendations issued by the national preventive mechanism as a result of its monitoring activities (see CAT/OP/12/5, paras. 13 and 38);**

(e) **Adopt the implementing regulations of Act No. 6, in accordance with article 44 of that Act.**

(...)

#### **Follow-up procedure**

**50. The Committee requests the State party to provide, by 11 August 2018, information on the follow-up given to the Committee's recommendations on fundamental legal safeguards, deaths in custody and the national mechanism for the prevention of torture (see paras. 11, 21 and 27 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.**

(...)

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