COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

Sixty-eighth session

11 November – 6 December 2019

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/BFA/CO/2)

BURKINA FASO

(...)

C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

(...)

Actions of non-State armed groups

(...)

- 18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2007) on the implementation of article 2 by States parties, in which it established that States bear international responsibility for the acts and omissions of their officials and others, including agents, private contractors, and others acting in official capacity or acting on behalf of the State, in conjunction with the State, under its direction or control, or otherwise under colour of law, the Committee urges the State party to:
- (a) Stop delegating the sovereign prerogatives that are exclusively incumbent upon it, or otherwise encouraging or supporting non-State armed groups to carry out missions to maintain security;

(...)

Conditions of detention

(...)

- 22. The Committee urges the State party to quickly finalize the investigation opened on 15 July 2019 by the chief prosecutor in the Ouagadougou *Tribunal de grande instance* (court of major jurisdiction) so as to determine responsibilities and prosecute and punish those responsible for the deaths of the 11 persons detained by the anti-drug unit. Recalling the recommendation it made in its previous concluding observations (para. 19), the Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to bring the conditions of detention at all places of deprivation of liberty into line, in practice, with the Nelson Mandela Rules, in particular, to:
- (a) Allocate a sufficient budget to the prison reform policy and improve material conditions of detention, ensuring that detainees have access to adequate and sufficient food, adequate health care and decent sanitary conditions;

(...)

National mechanism for the prevention of torture

(...)

26. The State party should speed up the establishment of the national preventive mechanism and ensure that it has a prevention mandate that is in line with the Optional Protocol and has the necessary independence, staff, resources and budget to effectively carry out its mandate.

(...)

Follow-up procedure

29. The Committee requests the State party to provide it, by 6 December 2020 at the latest, with information on its follow-up to the Committee's recommendations concerning the Koglweogo, conditions of detention and the national preventive mechanism (see paras. 18 (a), 22 (a) and 26, above). In that context, the State party is invited to inform the Committee about the measures it is planning to take, within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations in the concluding observations.

(...)