NATIONS UNIES HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Téléfax: (41-22) 917 90 29 Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE Téléx: 41 29 62 Téléphone: (41-22) Internet www.ohchr.org E-mail: nprouvez@ohchr.org



Address: Palais des Nations CH-1211 GENEVE 10

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28 September 2010

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 examination of the sixth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at the Committee's 93rd session, held in July 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 31 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested that further information be provided within one year on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 9, 12, 14 and 15 of the concluding observations.

Follow-up information was received by the Committee on 7 August 2009 and considered at its 98th session, held in March 2010. The Committee noted that the information provided with regard to the application of the Covenant to all individuals who are subject to its jurisdiction or control, as well as with regard to the measures adopted to prevent serious violations of the Covenant rights by the State party's personnel in detention facilities in Afghanistan and Iraq, including adequate training and clear guidance (paragraph 14) was largely satisfactory. The Committee noted, however, that the information provided was incomplete with regard to certain recommendations and requested additional and more specific information in particular on:

- (a) the allegations of delays of the public inquiry to examine 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);
- (d) the reparation available to the victims of such violations (paragraph 14).

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was also invited to keep the Committee informed of the decisions to be rendered by Belfast courts on the legality of the use of extended detention without charge against terrorist suspects (paragraph 15).

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

As indicated in my letter of 26 April 2010, the Committee decided to consider the information submitted in relation to the implementation of paragraph 12 of the concluding observations at its 99th session to be held in July 2010. Furthermore, it considered that the information provided on 7 August 2009 in relation to the implementation of paragraph 12 of the concluding observations was in part insufficient, and that the recommendations included in this paragraph have not been implemented. Therefore, the Committee decided to request additional and more specific information on the adoption by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of clear and transparent procedures allowing review by adequate judicial mechanism before individuals, including persons suspected of terrorism, are deported, as well as effective means to monitor the fate of the affected individuals.

During its 99th session, the Committee also noted that the additional information requested regarding recommendations included in paragraphs 9, 14 and 15 of the concluding observations had not yet been received.

A Word electronic version of any additional information should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (M. Anganile Mwenifumbo, amwenifumbo@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.

Abdelfattah Amor

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