



REFERENCE: CAT/. Follow-up/CAT

20 August 2018

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture, I have the honor to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the fourth periodic report of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of the 56<sup>th</sup> session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/AZE/CO/4, para. 40) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 9, 11 and 13 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 8 December 2016 providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/AZE/CO/4/Add.1), and to make the following comments:

**Eradication of widespread torture and ill-treatment (para. 9)**

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party, including on the disciplinary proceedings against and sanctions imposed on prison personnel. However, it remains concerned at the lack of prosecutions and convictions in cases of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement and investigative officers, despite the large number of allegations in this regard (2/B2).

**Eradication of arbitrary imprisonment and ill-treatment of Human Rights Defenders (para. 11)**

The Committee appreciates the information provided by the State party, which, however, does not fully address its concerns and recommendations directly. In particular, the information submitted by the State party does not address its concerns

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His Excellency Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations Office and  
other International Organizations in Geneva



regarding the investigation of alleged cases of arbitrary arrest, denial of adequate medical treatment and torture or ill-treatment of human rights defenders (2/B2).

### **Fundamental legal safeguards (para. 13)**

While taking note of the information provided by the State party, the Committee regrets that it does not include the results of the monitoring activities conducted to ensure the compliance in practice with fundamental legal safeguards (2/B1).

### **Implementation plan (para. 40)**

The Committee regrets that the State party has not provided information about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations included in its concluding observations (C).

The Government of Azerbaijan is encouraged to provide additional information, if any, which may further contribute to the Committee's analysis of the progress made regarding the specific issues of concern. This additional information may be provided in any subsequent report by the State party pursuant to the Committee's request in its concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Azerbaijan.

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Azerbaijan on the implementation of the Convention.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Abdelwahab Hani  
Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations  
Committee against Torture