



REFERENCE: 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 seventh periodic report of Ecuador, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of the 59th session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/ECU/CO/7, para. 57) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 32, 38 and 48 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 5 January 2018, providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/ECU/CO/7/Add.1), and to make the following comments:

Allegations of torture and ill-treatment in prison (para. 32)

The Committee appreciates the detailed information provided by the State party about the ongoing criminal proceedings against 42 individuals who are alleged to have committed abuses against inmates in the Sierra Sur Turi prison. However, the Committee regrets that no *ex-officio* investigations have been carried out into the cases of alleged ill-treatment of minors held in centres for adolescent offenders in Quito, Machala and Ambato (3/B1).

Victims and witness protection (para. 38)

While welcoming the protection and assistance programmes available to victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings, the Committee notes with concern that no

.../...

His Excellency Mr. Luis Gallegos
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador
to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva
E-mail: onuginebra@mrmree.gob.ec



specific information has been included on measures taken by the State party to guarantee the protection of members of the national network of forensic experts. With regard to the murder of forensic doctor Mr. Ramirez-Herrera, the Committee regrets the delays in the investigation of this crime, which has lasted several years. In this connection, the Committee takes note of and appreciates the request made by the Attorney General's Office to open an inquiry into the conduct of the prosecutors responsible for this case (2/B2).

Abuse and sexual violence against minors in schools (para. 48)

The Committee is grateful for the extensive information provided by the State party concerning the measures taken to prevent and eliminate abuse and sexual violence against minors in schools. According to the information received, there has been a rapid increase in the number of complaints received between 2015 and 2017 (714), as compared with the 343 complaints received during the period 2012-2014. The Committee regrets that the State party's follow-up information does not include comprehensive statistical data on the number of complaints investigated, as well as on the number of prosecutions and convictions in such cases (2/B2).

Implementation plan (para. 57)

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 Ecuador 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 seventh periodic report of Ecuador.

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Ecuador 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