## NATIONS UNIES COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



## UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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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 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 9, 12, 14 and 15 of the concluding observations.

On 7 August 2009, the State party provided information on these paragraphs. At its 98<sup>th</sup> 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) is largely satisfactory.

The Committee also noted that the information provided was incomplete with regard to certain recommendations. I therefore seize this opportunity to request additional and more specific information from the State party, 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); and
  - (d) the reparation available to the victims of such violations.

His Excellency

Mr Peter GOODERHAM

Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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The State party is 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). Furthermore, the Committee will consider the information submitted in relation to the implementation of paragraph 12 of the concluding observations at its 99<sup>th</sup> session to be held in July 2010.

A Word electronic version of any additional information should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee (Ms Nathalie Prouvez, <a href="mailto:nprouvez@ohchr.org">nprouvez@ohchr.org</a>).

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