



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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29 August 2016

Excellency,

In our respective capacities as Chairperson of the Committee against Torture and Rapporteur of the Committee for Follow-up to Concluding Observations, we have the honor to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Latvia, in accordance with the Guidelines for Follow-Up to Concluding Observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of its 51st session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5, para. 28) requested the State Party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 9, 19 and 21 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow us to express appreciation for your letter of 10 February 2015, providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/LVA/CO/3-5/Add.1), and to make the following comments:

Fundamental legal safeguards (para. 9)

The Committee appreciates the extensive information provided by the State party but considers that it does not fully respond to the recommendation. The measures taken to ensure that these safeguards are afforded in practice have not been implemented. Please provide updated information to the Committee should any steps be taken to ensure that these rights are enjoyed in practice (2/B2).

Conditions of detention (para.19)

The Committee appreciates the thorough and extensive information provided by the State party, which relates directly to the recommendations. The Committee also considers that substantive steps have been taken to implement the recommendation (3/B1)

.../...

H.E. Mr. Janis Karklins
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Latvia
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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Use of restraints in prisons (para.21)

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and responds to the recommendation. It further considers that the recommendation has largely been implemented by the abolishment of routine handcuffing of life-sentenced prisoners, as well as by providing to prisoners of information about access to complaints mechanisms. The Committee regrets, however, that no information has been provided about the outcome of any complaints, and would appreciate receiving such information (3/A).

The Government of Latvia 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 combined third to fifth periodic report of Latvia.

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

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Jens Modvig
Chairperson
Committee against Torture

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