



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: CAT/Follow-up

6 December 2019

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 sixth periodic report of the Czech Republic, in accordance with the Guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of the 63rd session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/CZE/CO/6, para. 40) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 15, 27 and 33 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 28 June 2019 providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/CZE/CO/6/Add.1) and to make the following comments:

Strip-searches in detention centres (para. 15)

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on the existing legal framework and procedures regarding the conduct of strip searches in detention centres and related training activities for law enforcement officials. However, it regrets that the State party's follow-up replies do not include the results of the monitoring activities conducted to ensure compliance in practice with regulations or whether any sanctions have been imposed in case they are not complied with (2/B2).

.../...

H. E. Mr. Petr Gajdušek
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Hate crimes against minority groups, including Roma and Muslims (para. 27)

While taking note of the information submitted by the State party on its legislation and policies relating to hate crimes, the Committee regrets not having received detailed statistical data on the number of investigations of alleged threats and attacks against minority groups, including Roma and Muslim communities, and on the prosecutions, convictions and sentences handed down for this type of crime. It also takes note of the information provided on the training activities for law enforcement officials and public prosecutors and the multiple ongoing awareness-raising campaigns (2/B1).

Treatment of persons in psychiatric institutions (para. 33)

The Committee appreciates the update provided by the State party about the ongoing efforts to implement the Psychiatric Care Reform Strategy, and the information included in the follow-up replies concerning national provisions on the use of restraints on psychiatric patients and on people who benefit from social care services. While noting that the Social Services Act prohibits the use of so-called cage or net beds on all types of social services users, the Committee regrets that they continue to be used as a tool for managing patients in psychiatric institutions. In this regard, it reiterates its recommendation that the use of cage beds in psychiatric institutions should be strictly prohibited, and that the State party should put an end to this practice. Lastly, the Committee regrets not having received detailed statistical data on the number of prosecutions, convictions and sentences handed down in cases of ill-treatment of persons with mental and psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions (2/B2).

Implementation plans (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 Czech Republic 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 sixth periodic report of the Czech Republic.

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