



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

9 October 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 eight periodic report of Norway, 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/NOR/CO/8, para. 33) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 14, 20 and 28 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 13 May 2019 providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/NOR/CO/8/Add.1) and to make the following comments:

Prolonged detention in police cells (para. 14)

The Committee appreciates the information provided by the State party with regard to the progress made in reducing the use of police custody cells for pretrial detention beyond the 48-hour limit stipulated in law. It further welcomes the introduction on 9 November 2018 of a new regulation on the use of police holding cells, which contains provisions intended to ease the strain caused by prolonged police custody and on the duty to seek alternatives to police detention of minors. However, the Committee regrets that the follow-up replies do not indicate whether the State party has taken any new specific measures to abolish the use of police detention cells beyond the 48-hour limit. Furthermore, while taking note of the renovations under way at Bergen police headquarters, the Committee regrets that the material conditions of detention continue to be substandard, as acknowledged by the State party in its follow-up replies (3/B1).

.../...

H. E. Mr. Hans Brattskar
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Mental health care for prisoners (para. 20)

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on the steps envisaged to improve mental health care for prisoners, including the construction of new hospitals and/or units for persons with serious mental health problems and the revision of the national guidelines for prison health care. Nevertheless, the follow-up report does not indicate whether the State party has considered abolishing the use of full isolation of persons with mental and psychosocial disabilities, in particular when their conditions would be exacerbated by the use of such measures (2/B2).

Situation in immigration detention facilities (para. 28)

While taking note of the information provided by the State party with regard to the regulations governing the treatment of individuals held in immigration detention, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the measures and procedures in place to ensure the practical application of procedural safeguards to prevent torture or ill-treatment and non-refoulement. Moreover, the Committee regrets that the State party has not provided information on the procedures in place for the timely identification of victims of torture among detained irregular migrants and asylum seekers (1/C).

Implementation plans (para. 33)

The Committee appreciates the additional information provided by the State Party on the implementation of the other recommendations contained in paragraphs 18, 22 and 24 of the concluding observations (B).

The Government of Norway 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 eight periodic report of Norway.

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