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REFERENCE: cc/jmnf/jg/follow-up/CAT

12 November 2009

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for follow-up on Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee against Torture, I refer to the examination of the third periodic report of Iceland (CAT/C/ISL/3) by this Committee, at its 40<sup>th</sup> session, from 28 April - 16 May 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's Concluding Observations (CAT/C/ISL/CO/3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. In paragraph 20 of those Concluding Observations, the Committee asked, pursuant to its rules of procedures, that Iceland provide, within one year (by May 2009) further information regarding areas of particular concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 9, 14 and 15 (see extracts annexed).

The Committee has adopted a follow-up procedure to pursue issues that are serious, that can be accomplished by the State party in a one year period, and that are protective.

The information sought by the Committee has not been provided yet, although more than one year has elapsed from the transmittal of the Committee's Concluding Observations. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's responses on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming. Upon receipt of this information, the Committee will be able to assess whether further action is needed.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Iceland on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this enquiry.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felice D. Gaer'.

Felice D. Gaer

Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations  
Committee against Torture

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**CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES  
UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF THE CONVENTION**

**Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture**  
*(Extracts for follow-up of CAT/C/ISL/CO/3)*

**ICELAND**

(...)

**C. Principal subjects concerns and recommendations**

(...)

**Solitary confinement**

9. The Committee is concerned about the reported cases of frequent and excessive use of solitary confinement for persons in custody (art. 11).

**The State party should investigate promptly the issue of excessive use of solitary confinement and adopt effective measures to prevent such practice.**

(...)

**Trafficking in human beings**

14. The Committee notes the developments in the legal and policy frameworks with respect to trafficking in human beings, in particular the new draft bill currently under consideration by the Parliament and the preparations for a national plan of action against trafficking in human beings.

The Committee is, however, concerned at the fact that incidents of trafficking both through and inside the country have been reported and that the State party does not have a system to monitor and assess the extent and impact of or to address this phenomenon effectively (arts. 2 and 16).

**The State party should ensure that the plan of action receives adequate financial support for its implementation, and establish a coordinated government-wide programme for data collection, monitoring of the actual situation and providing adequate measures to prevent trafficking in persons and assistance to victims. The State party should also adopt specific training and sensitization programmes for law enforcement personnel and border guards, and public awareness-raising campaigns revealing the current situation of trafficking in human beings in the country.**

### **Violence against women and children**

15. The Committee notes the recent developments in the national legislative and policy framework on measures to address violence against women and children and domestic violence, in particular the amendments providing for greater punishment when violence has occurred within the family, restraining orders and the expansion of the term of rape. The Committee is of the view that more emphasis could be given to adequate medical and legal services and assistance to victims of violence against women and domestic violence, and to addressing attitudes and opinions in society (arts. 4 and 16).

**The State party should continue its efforts to address domestic violence through legislative and policy measures and ensure that the part of the Plan of Action 2006 to 2011 covering protection and assistance to victims receives sufficient funding and the human resources necessary for its implementation. The State party is encouraged to develop national public information campaigns and stimulate broader public discussions in order to address attitudes and stereotypes leading to violence against women further. The State party should provide further detailed information with respect to the assistance and services available for victims in its next periodic report.**

(...)

20. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year, information on its responses to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 14 and 15 above.

(...)

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