



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: CAT/Follow-up

20 August 2018

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

At the end of the 59th session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/ARM/CO/4, para. 47) requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 8, 21 and 34 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to express appreciation for your letter of 22 December 2017 providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/ARM/CO/4/Add.1) and to make the following comments:

Statute of limitations, amnesty and pardon (para. 8)

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on the envisaged legislative amendments. Nevertheless, it regrets that the State party still maintains the statute of limitations in respect of the crime of torture, which may result in impunity for the perpetrators of such acts. The Committee is also concerned at the possibility of granting pardon and amnesty to perpetrators of torture (2/B2).

Excessive use of force during demonstrations (para. 21)

While welcoming the thorough and extensive information provided by the State party on the ongoing criminal and disciplinary proceedings regarding cases of excessive

.../...

H. E. Mr. Charles Aznavour
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Armenia
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Email: mission.armenia@bluewin.ch



use of force by the police, the Committee remains concerned at the absence of convictions in this regard. It also welcomes the State party's cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe on specific training courses on crowd control and the use of force by police in the context of assemblies and mass disturbances. However, the Committee notes that only a limited number of law enforcement officers have benefited from these trainings (3/B2).

Deaths in custody, including suicides (para. 34)

The Committee appreciates the thorough and extensive information provided by the State party regarding the measures taken to improve healthcare in prisons. It regrets, however, the absence of information on the implementation of prison suicide prevention strategies. In this regard, the Committee takes note of the decline in the number of deaths in custody in 2017, including suicides, but reiterates that the State party should ensure the prompt, effective and impartial investigation of all such cases. Lastly, the Committee regrets that no information was provided on the possibility for relatives of the deceased to commission independent autopsies (2/B2).

Implementation plan (para. 47)

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 Armenia 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 fourth periodic report of Armenia.

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