

Annexure C

Department of International Agreements and
International Litigation
Ministry of Justice

13 July 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Israel's fourth periodic report to the Committee against Torture

As a coalition of 14 Israeli, Palestinian and International Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), including our organisation, the United Against Torture (UAT) coalition is writing to the Department of International Agreements and International Litigation, in the Ministry of Justice, as the body responsible for compiling Israel's fourth periodic report to the UN Committee against Torture, dated 2 November 2006 ("the report").

As a coalition of organisations specifically devoted to combating the use of torture in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we wish to seek clarification on a number of issues raised in the report.

Israel Police

1. The first entry in Table 1 in paragraph 38 refers to "Total complaints of unlawful use of force by police officers investigated". Could you please provide data for the relevant period of the total number of complaints received, not just those investigated. Could you also indicate the percentage that is Palestinian and those that are Israeli citizens?
2. In paragraph 119 of the report it is stated that "Serious efforts are being undertaken to eliminate any form of such abuse" by the police. Could you please specify the efforts that are being undertaken particularly in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territories?
3. Paragraphs 135 to 137 of the report refer to "educational programs aimed towards incorporating ... promotion of human rights". Could you please specify what training members of the police force receive in provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Convention) and how many hours of such training each police officer receives per annum?

Shabak – General Security Service

1. In paragraph 42 of the report it is stated that “according to ISA rules of operation, the Investigator functions independently”. Could you please provide us with a copy of the ISA rules of operation or inform us where a copy might be obtained?
2. In paragraph 46 of the report it is stated that a number of “examinations” were “initiated” by the investigator. Could you please specify, by reference to each year, how many complaints were made against the ISA and indicate whether the complainants were Palestinian or Israeli citizens?
3. In the four cases out of 386 (see paragraph 46) that resulted in disciplinary measures, were criminal charges filed?
4. In reference to paragraph 47(a) of the report, could you please specify the inappropriate behavior referred to?
5. In reference to paragraphs 47(b), (c), (d) and (e) of the report, could you please specify the nature of the “complaints”?
6. In reference to paragraph 116 of the report, could you please identify the “permissible investigation methods” referred to?
7. In reference to paragraph 117 of the report, could you please provide us with a copy of the “ISA rules and procedures” which, it is stated, “are fully in accordance with the provisions of the Convention”?
8. In reference to paragraph 123 of the report, could you please clarify whether the “thousands of investigations” were as a result of complaints, and if so, identify the number of complaints.
9. In reference to paragraph 125 of the report, could you please clarify whether any criminal charges have been filed against an ISA officer?
10. In reference to paragraph 138 of the report, could you please specify what training the ISA receive in provisions of the Convention and how many hours of such training each ISA officer receives per annum?

Israel Defence Forces (IDF)

1. In reference to paragraph 48 of the report, could you please define what you mean by “maltreatment”?
2. In reference to paragraph 48 of the report, could you please specify the number of complaints that have been received by the IDF since Israel’s previous report, broken down by year?

3. In reference to paragraph 140 of the report, could you please identify the particular practices which the IDF are trained are prohibited under the Convention?

Israel Prisons Service (IPS)

1. In reference to paragraph 130 of the report, could you please specify how many complaints of use of force were made against the IPS since the previous report, and identify the percentage of complainants who are Palestinian and those who are Israeli citizens.
2. In reference to paragraph 144 of the report, could you please specify what training IPS officers receive in provisions of the Convention and how many hours of such training each IPS officer receives per annum?

We look forward to receiving your earliest response and thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Fatma Alajou, Advocate