



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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29 August 2016

Excellency,

In our respective capacities as Chairperson of the Committee against Torture and Rapporteur of the Committee for Follow-up to Concluding Observations, we have the honor to refer to the follow-up to the examination of the third periodic report of Belgium, in accordance with the Guidelines for Follow-Up to Concluding Observations (CAT/C/55/3).

At the end of its 51<sup>st</sup> session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. The Committee's concluding observations (CAT/C/BEL/CO/3, para. 30) requested the State Party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 11 to 14 of the concluding observations.

On behalf of the Committee, allow us to express appreciation for your letter of 21 November 2014, providing your Government's response on the above-mentioned paragraphs (CAT/C/BEL/CO/3/Add.1), and to make the following comments:

Fundamental legal safeguards (para. 11)

The Committee appreciates the information provided by the State party but considers that it does not fully address the recommendation included in the concluding observations. Thus, the requested measures to ensure that fundamental legal safeguards are afforded in practice have not been implemented (2/D).

Register of persons in police custody (para.12)

The Committee considers that the information provided relates directly to the recommendation and that initial steps have been taken to establish a central register, as recommended (3/B2).

Use of force by law enforcement officials and immediate, thorough and impartial investigations (para. 13)

The Committee appreciates the extensive and thorough information provided by the State party, which includes statistical data, and considers that substantive steps have been taken to implement the recommendations put forward by the Committee (3/B1).

.../...

H.E. Mr. Bertrand de Crombrugghe  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Belgium  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
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Complaints mechanisms in prisons and closed centres (para. 14)

The Committee appreciates the information provided by the State party but considers that this recommendation has not yet been implemented. Please provide updated information to the Committee should any steps be taken to implement the provisions regarding complaints mechanisms in practice (3/C).

The Government of Belgium 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 third periodic report of Belgium.

The Committee looks forward to a continued constructive dialogue with the authorities of Belgium on the implementation of the Convention.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Jens Modvig  
Chairperson  
Committee against Torture

Abdelwahab Hani  
Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations  
Committee against Torture