



Question of: Ending the Use of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of Prisoners

Submitted by: Kazakhstan

Co-submitted by: Bolivia, Cambodia, Frances, Iran, Kenya, Pakistan

The SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE,

Bearing in mind Article I of the United Nations Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which states that the definition of torture is “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted upon a person for such purposes as obtaining from him, or a third person, information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in, or incidental to lawful sanctions.”,

Fully aware that the victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment may suffer long-term consequences such as multiple physical and psychological problems,

Reaffirming that “no one shall be treated against their human rights and prisoners shall not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment”, stated in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Considering the Nelson Mandela Rules which state that “There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status”,

Expressing concern that some countries’ continuous use of torture, other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment is a serious violation of Human Rights,

Recognizing the essential role of the United Nations in the global effort to combat the use of torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, with a view to adopting and implementing new strategies to stop the violation of Human Rights in prisons,

Deeply concerned that victims of torture in prisons are not being brought to justice, a statement affirmed by Amnesty International,

1. Urges countries to create a fund supported by the UN in the following five years specifically for efficient longer-ranged impacts over the conditions in prisons, with the aims of:
 - a. Ensuring basic, decent conditions such as food, personal hygiene, and sleeping accommodations that respect all requirements of health needs, as they should not represent a reason of prisoners' decline, such as:
 - i. Providing the minimum necessary percentage of food nutrients for the prisoners, knowing that 45–65% of their daily calories must be from carbs, 20–35% from fats, and 10–35% from protein,
 - ii. Sanitary installation regarding prisoners' natural needs that must be proper and clean,
 - iii. Thoughtful selection of prisoners when allocating them into cells, taking into consideration possible disagreements and in accordance with the minimum needed conditions,
 - b. Using funding to create more space in prisons to reduce the rate of prisoners that are released every year due to the lack of capacity,
 - c. Building separate wings dedicated to different levels of offense;
2. Strongly encourages countries to support the OPCAT ("The Optional Protocol for the United Nations Convention") in order to:
 - a. Establish regular visits undertaken by specialized personnel that may only monitor the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, which will undoubtedly decrease the potential of using such disgracing measures,
 - b. Monitor the countries where the rules are not respected, while being able to apply the consequences of violating the following Human Rights:
 - i. Denying a prisoner medical attention, or providing inadequate medical attention or facilities,
 - ii. Holding prisoners in outdated prisons that are unsanitary or unsafe;
3. Calls for the implementation of programs that annually check the prisons' supervisors' mental health to ensure the following aspects:
 - a. Prevent the existence of guards who are not mentally stable and may not be able to comply with the rules of the prison or respect the rights of the prisoners,
 - b. Employ professional psychologists that can assess whether the jailers represent a danger to prisoners or not;
4. Emphasizes the need for constant monitoring in prisons by means such as but not limited to:
 - a. Using funds to purchase different technological equipment and recording facilities that must capture every wing of the prison to ensure constant surveillance of the actual prison conduct,

9. Encourages every member state to implement specific training courses for guards, in order to:
 - a. Make them conscious of their rights and duties,
 - b. Prepare them to face potentially dangerous individuals;

10. Decides to remain seized of the matter.