



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

Submitted by: Syrian Arab Republic

Co-submitted by: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Luxembourg

The SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE,

Acknowledging that the use of torture and other cruel treatment and punishment of prisoners still exists in over 141 countries,

Bearing in mind that torture is not and should not be used as routine in police stations and behind closed doors,

Noting that torture is the cheapest form of investigation,

Aware of the fact that torture can be implemented in many different ways, whether they be physical or psychological, as mentioned in Goal 3 of the UN's sustainable development program which emphasized the equal importance of both mental and physical well being,

Emphasising that 95% of victims of torture were not political prisoners, but simply people who at the time were in broken-down political systems,

Deeply regretting that the pain and suffering experienced by a torture survivor will continue to stay with them for years,

1. Urges the ending of torture as an investigative tool and implementing due process rights in the multiple countries that do not have laws against torture by:
 - a. Making sure these countries pass new laws regarding the issue,
 - b. Giving survivors and those affected the means to tell and share their experiences, such as, but not limited to, local radio stations, social media platforms, books and television channels;

2. Encourages campaigning for the adoption and implementation of measures to protect people from torture and bring the perpetrators to justice by:
 - a. Implementing fines or even detention for police officers and other perpetrators of such behaviour, who knowingly and willingly inflict such torture upon others,
 - b. Making independent checks on detention centers on a monthly basis, monitored by workers from either a trusted local NGO or experts acquired from organizations, such as, but not limited to, CVT or UNCAT,
 - c. Having interviews with detainees,
 - d. Monitoring interrogations by having lawyers present during interrogations and doing background checks on police officers present during interrogations,
 - e. Having doctors examine detainees regularly,
 - f. Making sure confessions obtained by torture are not used as evidence in courtrooms;

3. Strongly supports prompt access to lawyers and counsels during the early stages of an investigation, to ensure:
 - a. All of the offenders rights are maintained,
 - b. The safety of the offender,
 - c. The offender has a lawyer present during investigations,
 - d. The offender has someone they can speak freely to about any problems they may experience prior to their conviction such as feeling unsafe, being mistreated in any way shape of form or failing to maintain the offender's civil rights;

4. Calls upon all Member States to join organizations such as ICET (the International Coalition to End Torture), UNCAT (United Nations Convention Against Torture), and OPCAT (The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) to work together in order to end torture as we know it in a united manner, making sure everyone participating has the means to achieve the common goal by:
 - a. Establishing a system of regular visits undertaken by independent international and national bodies to areas where people are deprived of their liberty in order to:
 - i. Prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners,
 - ii. Find the problem and resolve it in the fastest and safest way possible,
 - b. Setting up a visiting body for the prevention of torture (commonly referred to as the National Preventive Mechanism, NPM) in line with the requirements of the Protocol, and to cooperate with the UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture,
 - c. Creating and signing a document which will offer the best practices of interrogation of suspects as well as intervening witnesses and victims, which will be based on the model of presumption of innocence and stress that the objective of a criminal investigation be establishing truth based on evidence, in order to prevent not only torture but also other forms of coercion and mistreatment,
 - d. Develop tools to support states to establish independent and effective monitoring mechanisms, and to strengthen the capacity of such mechanisms to fulfil this role effectively,
 - e. Affirming the need for the United Nations to financially support anti-torture campaigns, as mentioned previously, thus ensuring that the human rights of every prisoner are respected;

5. Also urges the providing of training for civil society organisations, members of monitoring bodies, police officers, prison staff and relevant ministries on standards of human rights and criminal justice and international good practice, provided by experts from several of the NGOs mentioned previously;

6. Also calls upon the nations which have succeeded in abolishing these acts almost completely to share with other states the means by which they have done so, in hopes of helping them achieve a similar goal.