

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TURKEY – ADD.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- How far has proceeded the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment? How is currently ensured independent monitoring of conditions in detention and prison facilities and what complaint mechanisms are in place for victims of torture or ill-treatment?
- What human rights education and training is provided to members of the police, military, prison and detention staff and judiciary? Does it include any specific focus on protection of rights of women, children and persons of minority ethnicity or sexual orientation or gender identity?
- How is ensured accountability of the police, military or prison and detention staff for any violations of human rights and thorough and independent investigation of such cases?
- What measures has the Government taken in the area of ensuring compliance of its national legislation with the principle of non-discrimination, in particular with regard to legislative provisions discriminatory towards women or persons of minority ethnicity or sexual orientation or gender identity? Is there any concrete plan for revision of discriminatory legal provisions and adopting of comprehensive antidiscrimination legal framework?
- What protection and support is available to victims or possible victims of domestic violence and honour crimes, can they use protection of a network of shelters? Or is prepared establishment of such facilities? Does the Government use any awareness raising campaigns to uproot societal acceptability of discrimination and violence against women?

GERMANY

- In Your National Report (A/HRC/WG.6/8/TUR/1, page 2) You have highlighted comprehensive efforts to amend the Constitution and the Penal Code in order to better safeguard human rights, and in particular to fight torture. According to the compilation by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/8/TUR/2, page 7), at the same time CAT noted with concern allegations that torture is still widespread, sentences against offenders are rare and often not commensurate with the gravity of the crime.

Germany would like to know, how the Government of Turkey has responded to these concerns and what is currently been undertaken to definitely eradicate torture and to reduce impunity for human rights violations?

- The UNCT noted in its reports (A/HRC/WG.6/8/TUR/2 para 39 on page 8) noted that Turkey has committed to end child labour by 2014.

Germany commends the Government of Turkey on this target setting and would like to know which policy measures are being undertaken already to fight exploitation of children?

- CEDAW noted with concern (A/HRC/WG.6/8/TUR/2 page 6, para 24) that some provisions of the Penal and Civil Codes continue to discriminate against women and girls.

Germany would like to know what concrete steps of legislations are currently under way in this area and how the Government of Turkey is improving the situation of women and girls with regard to violence?

SWEDEN

- Sweden welcomes the efforts made by the Turkish government to improve the situation in prisons, including through its prison reform program. However, reports indicate that solitary confinement and small group isolation remain a problem across the prison system, while on occasion access by inmates to appropriate medical care is not provided. Amnesty International has recorded cases of children being held within a prison regime that does not differ significantly from that applied to adults, and which notably does not make provisions for children to continue their education. Allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are sometimes not subject to effective and impartial investigations.

Could the government of Turkey elaborate on what plans it has to further address the situation in prisons, as well as possible improvements in the area of juvenile justice?

- Credible reports indicate that refugees and asylum-seekers who may be in need of protection are detained in Foreigners' Guest Houses for reasons not compatible with international law and are not given access to procedural rights applicable to all persons in detention, including access to a lawyer and to have the legality of their detention reviewed by a competent judicial authority.

Could the government of Turkey please inform us of any initiatives to address concerns raised regarding the situation for refugees and asylum-seekers, toward ensuring full respect in accordance with Turkey's obligations under international human rights and refugee law for the right of all persons to seek asylum as well as for the enjoyment of other rights of persons seeking asylum?
