Beat: Politics

Council of Europe anti-torture committee

Anti-torture committee

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USPA NEWS - In its annual report, published today, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) urges all Council of Europe member states to ratify a UN treaty.

And establish independent national bodies to monitor the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), which entered into force in 2006, establishes an independent UN monitoring body and obliges States Parties to create independent national monitoring structures to combat torture and other forms of ill-treatment, by means of regular visits to places of deprivation of liberty.

So far, 31 Council of Europe member states have ratified this protocol and 26 of them have set up or designated the so-called “national preventive mechanisms“ (NPMs).

“Monitoring mechanisms at national level can intervene frequently and rapidly, and so are able to make an enormous contribution to the prevention of ill-treatment. That is why it is essential that independent structures of this kind are set up without delay in all countries. They will also be a valuable source of information for the CPT and can bolster the monitoring work the Committee is doing, in particular by following up the implementation of its recommendations“, said LÉ™tif Hüseynov, CPT president.

“In some of the CPT visits, we have identified that NPMs which have already been established lack the resources to carry out their tasks effectively. States should ensure these bodies are equipped with adequate human and material resources and enjoy full access to any place of deprivation of liberty, without any restrictions“, he added.

In its monitoring work, the CPT is closely cooperating with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) and the NPMs set up to date.

The CPT´s annual report contains information on the 18 visits it carried out between August 2011 and July 2012 and comments on some of the Committee´s visit reports which have recently been made public.

Contact: Jaime Rodríguez, mob. +33 (0) 6 89 99 50 42

Council of Europe Directorate of Communications
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60
Fax:+33 (0)3 88 41 39 11
pressunit@coe.int
www.coe.int

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:
United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com