

Issues' Analysis

-Torture- **Session 1-5**

Introduction

Torture is an issue that is raised frequently within the context of the Universal Periodic Review. Out of over 5000 recommendations in total over 5 sessions, 461 recommendations focussed on the issue of torture.¹ In total, 176 advance questions concerned the issue of torture.

In order to facilitate further analysis of this issue, a division has been made between those recommendations and questions that address torture in general, those that concern ratification of the Convention against Torture or its Optional Protocol, and those that concern the various treaty bodies and special procedures.²

Torture

This category contains all recommendations and questions related to matters of substance concerning torture. Out of all 461 recommendations on torture, 211 recommendations focussed on such substantive issues. Out of the advance questions, 78 questions concerned such substantive issues. A wide variety of issues is covered in both questions and recommendations. Some relate to legal matters, such as the implementation of CAT or the amendment of national laws. Others focus on the enforcement, focussing on effective criminal procedures and impartial investigations. Prevention is also mentioned in several recommendations. Finally, recommendations also address specific issues. In particular, many recommendations focussed on the issue of female genital mutilation. Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Mexico and Jordan received the most recommendations in this category.

Ratification of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol

This category contains all recommendations and questions related to ratification of the CAT and OP-CAT. Out of 461 recommendations on torture, 181 recommendations concerned the ratification of these instruments. Furthermore, 82 advance questions were posed on the issue of ratification. In general, the recommendations encourage the State under Review to become a party. Calls for ratification of the Optional Protocol are particularly common. Uzbekistan and Cameroon received the most recommendations in this category.

Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures

This category contains all recommendations and questions related to the various treaty bodies and special procedures. Out of 461 recommendations on torture, 69 concerned the treaty bodies and special procedures. Furthermore, 16 advance questions concerned treaty bodies and special procedures. Most commonly, recommendations call for implementation of recommendations made by these institutions, submission of reports to the Committee against Torture, or full cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Torture. The Russian Federation and Uzbekistan received the most recommendations in this category.

Top 5 countries making recommendations on this issue

1. Czech Republic (61 recommendations)

¹ For more detailed data, see the table.

² Incidentally, regional treaty bodies may also be included in this last category.

2. Mexico (38 recommendations)
United Kingdom (28 recommendations)
4. Denmark (31 recommendations)
5. Canada (25 recommendations)

Top 6 States under Review receiving recommendations on this issue

1. Uzbekistan (31 recommendations)
2. Jordan (21 recommendations)
3. Nigeria (15 recommendations)
4. Burkina Faso (14 recommendations)
Cameroon (14 recommendations)
Mexico (14 recommendations)

Top 5 countries posing advance written questions on this issue

1. Denmark (43 questions)
2. United Kingdom (35 questions)
3. Czech Republic (34 questions)
4. Sweden (21 questions)
5. Netherlands (15 questions)

Top 6 States under Review receiving advance written questions on this issue

1. Viet Nam (8 questions)
2. Indonesia (7 questions)
Bangladesh (7 questions)
China (7 questions)
Jordan (7 questions)
Macedonia (7 questions)