

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CZECH REPUBLIC

BELARUS

Alleged participation in the CIA illegal detention and transportation of prisoners

Many indications from various sources, including the 2010 Joint Study on global practices in relation to secret detention in the context of countering terrorism (document A/HRC/13/42) presented at the 13th session of the UN Human Rights Council, stated that the Czech Republic was among the EU countries integrated into the CIA secret detention programme.

On 13 December 2005 Dick Marty, investigating illegal CIA activity in Europe on behalf of the Council of Europe, reported evidence that "individuals had been abducted and transferred to other countries without respect for any legal standards". Marty's report declared that it was "highly unlikely that European governments, or at least their intelligence services, were unaware" of the CIA kidnapping of a "hundred" persons on European territory and their subsequent rendition to countries where they may be tortured. In the context of rendition flights the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) expressed its concern that the Czech Republic has accepted diplomatic assurances in relation to extraditions of persons from its territory to States where those persons would be in danger of being subjected to torture. CAT also expressed its concern about a lack of the Czech authorities to provide the information concerning the number and type of diplomatic assurances received since 2004 and the countries involved".

Several human rights NGOs also noted a decided lack of will on the part of the EU members to carry out an inquiry and to ensure accountability. The 2010 Joint Study gives self-explanatory conclusions on the issue of secret detention. In particular, it says that "International law clearly prohibits secret detention that violates a number of human rights and humanitarian law norms that may not be derogated from under any circumstances. If secret detention constitutes enforced disappearances and is widely or systematically practiced, it may even amount to a crime against humanity.

- **What steps have been taken to conduct transparent, thorough, credible and objective investigation of the alleged involvement of the Czech authorities in the CIA's rendition and secret detention programmes?**
- **How do the Czech authorities collaborate with the UN Special Procedures and when will the latter be allowed to visit the country with the view to investigate the matter fully and in conformity with international standards?**
- **Do the Czech authorities intend to afford victims of illegal transfers, secret detention, torture and ill-treatment effective redress to which they are entitled under international law?**

DENMARK

- According to the latest polls Czechs consider the coexistence with Romanise very problematic. However, this could be based on indirect experience. Does the Czech Republic plan to introduce any projects which would prepare people and especially youth for the diversity of society and the existence of minorities?
- Does the Czech Republic plan to incorporate representatives of national minorities into army or security forces (police) to be able to deal better with for example civil disorders?

NETHERLANDS

- Could the Czech Republic elaborate on plans to take additional measures to tackle hate crimes, including the collection of data on these crimes and ensuring thorough prosecution?
- The Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has stated some concern on the weak inspection mandate of the Gender Equality Unit (under the Government Commissioner for Human Rights), and the lack of power of the Government Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men(A/HRC/WG.6/14/CZE/2, para 9). CEDAW also stated concern on the low number of lawsuits for sex discrimination filed, due to the apparent difficulty of providing proof of incidents of sex discrimination. Could the Czech Republic comment on these concerns?
- Several outstanding concerns on the position of Roma in Czech society are well-documented in the reports before the Council. Could the Czech Republic elaborate on regional cooperation to promote measures to resolve these issues?

NORWAY

- The Czech Ombudsman's office recently issued a report regarding inclusive education ("Survey of the Public defender of Rights into the Ethnic Composition of Pupils of Former Special Schools") with recommendations both to the Czech Government and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. What is the status with regard to the Report's recommendations, and what follow-up is envisaged?
- Could you please elaborate on the status of the National Plan of Action for Inclusive Education, NAIPE? How will the follow-up of the plan be financed?

- An increasing wave of racially motivated manifestations, including demonstrations, marches and rallies organized by ethnic Czechs against Roma, have reportedly taken place in recent time. Some of these manifestations have turned violent, in particular in the Sluknov area. Media coverage of issues related to the Roma minority, and comments by politicians has reportedly had a racist or xenophobic tone. What measures are planned or have been taken by the Czech authorities in order to reduce tensions between the majority population and the Roma population?
- Could you please elaborate on the status of the law providing for alternative child care (vetoed by President Klaus in September 2012) and the National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child?
- The National Report describes measures to be taken in order to ensure the protection of children's rights and their needs in a natural or foster family setting (ref. para 40 to 43). What actions are planned to secure the effectiveness of these measures? Will the number of children in institutional versus foster family care be monitored? How will the necessary help be provided to the children and their families?

SLOVENIA

- How does the Government intend to tackle the issue of violence against women, children and the elderly?

SPAIN

- ¿Qué repercusiones está teniendo la disminución del presupuesto del Ministerio de Justicia en las condiciones de reclusión de las cárceles checas? ¿Qué medidas podrían tomarse para mejorar el sistema penitenciario, frenando así el rápido deterioro de las condiciones de los reclusos en las cárceles de la República Checa?
- ¿Qué medidas ha tomado el Gobierno checo para fomentar la integración social de los extranjeros en las comunidades en que viven?