



## A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A handbook on issues of transition  
from the Commission on Human Rights  
to the Human Rights Council



### Annex 3.1

#### Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

**Current mandate holder:** Manfred Nowak  
**Mandate started:** 1985

**Term of mandate holder:** 2004  
**Mandate up for renewal:** 2007

#### Areas of focus

- Examine the relationship between the term “torture” and “cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment” with a view to highlighting the differences and similarities between them;
- Examine issues related to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment such as legislative, administrative or judicial measures relating to torture; practices of extradition; jurisdiction on questions of torture; education and training of law enforcement personnel, medical personnel, public officials and other persons who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment; and the protection of victims and witnesses of torture;
- Receive [individual complaints](#) related to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- The legal framework includes the *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (the Convention against Torture) and the *Optional Protocol to the Convention*.

#### Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- Also submits annual reports to the General Assembly;
- Has produced [General Recommendations](#);
- Annually submits follow-up to recommendations to the Commission from his country visits.

#### Country visits

Argentina (1987)	East Timor (1999)	Mongolia (2005)	Rwanda (1994)
Azerbaijan (2000)	Georgia (2005)	Nepal (2005)	Spain (2003)
Brazil (2000)	Guatemala (1989)	Pakistan (1996)	Turkey (1988)
Cameroon (1999)	Honduras (1989)	Peru (1988)	Uruguay (1987)
Chile (1995)	Indonesia/East Timor (1991)	Philippines (1990)	Uzbekistan (2002)
China (2005)	Kenya (1999)	Romania (1999)	Venezuela (1996)
Colombia (1987, 1994)	Korea, Rep. (1988)	Russian Federation (1994)	Yugoslavia (1992)
Democratic Republic of Congo (1989)	Mexico (1997)		

### **Outstanding visit requests**

Algeria (1997)	India (1993)	Russian Federation (2000)
Afghanistan (2005)	Indonesia (1993)	Saudi Arabia (2005)
Belarus (2005)	Iran (2005)	Sri Lanka (2005)
Bolivia (2005)	Iraq (2005)	Syria (2005)
Cote d'Ivoire (2005)	Israel (2002)	Togo (2005)
Egypt (1996)	Jordan (2005)	Tunisia (1998)
Equatorial Guinea (2005)	Libya (2005)	Turkmenistan (2003)
Eritrea (2005)	Nigeria (2005)	United States of America (2004)
Ethiopia (2005)	Papua New Guinea (2006)	Yemen (2005)
Fiji (2006)	Paraguay (2005)	Zimbabwe (2005)

**Pending reports:** Annual report, Summary of cases transmitted to Governments and replies received, Follow-up country recommendations, Mission to Georgia, Mission to Mongolia, Mission to Nepal, Mission to China, Joint report concerning the human rights situation of detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility (E/CN.4/2006/6, Add.1-6, E/CN.4/2006/120).

### **Thematic research**

- The prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in the context of anti-terrorism measures; the situation of trade in and production of equipment that is specifically designed to inflict torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; reparation for victims of torture; and the prevention of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in psychiatric institutions (2003);
- The prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in the context of anti-terrorism measures; international and national mechanisms for visits to places of deprivation of liberty; corporal punishment of children (2002);
- Intimidation as a form of torture; enforced or involuntary disappearance as a form of torture; torture and discrimination against sexual minorities; torture and impunity; prevention and transparency (2001);
- Gender-specific forms of torture; torture and children; torture and human rights defenders; reparation for victims of torture; torture and poverty (2000);
- Gender-specific forms of torture; violation of the prohibition of torture against children; corporal punishment; incommunicado detention; torture of human rights defenders; questions of non-refoulement; question of impunity; compensation and rehabilitation of torture victims; ratification of or accession to the Convention Against Torture; manual on the effective investigation of torture; the International Criminal Court (1999);
- Corporal punishment (1998);
- Violation of the prohibition of torture against children (1996);
- Gender-specific forms of torture (1995);
- National standards; the role of medical personnel in the prohibition of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment; responsibility for violations (1989).

### **Communications (2005)**

- 291 letters of allegation sent to 70 Governments;
- 202 urgent appeals sent to 56 Governments.

