



Commission on Human Rights

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Resolution 15 (2006)

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 12th meeting, on 10 August 2006

The Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming the purpose of principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in 1948, the ICCPR in 1967, and the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993,

Bearing in mind the differences of opinion on interpretation of the Geneva Conventions and the application of international conventions and other Human Rights documents,

Determined to foster clear interpretation for the purpose of clarifying the definitions of international conventions and to eliminate potentially existing loopholes within international law,

Underlining the importance of clear guidelines on appropriate definitions on the wording of international conventions to meet the requirements of progressive development in the light of the current needs of the international community,

Welcomes the decision by the US Supreme Court to give legal status to detainees in US military forces in accordance with the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War,

1. *Urges* all Member States to ratify without reservations the Human Rights Conventions, especially the First Protocol of the ICCPR and the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment;

2. *Calls upon* all governments to comply with the recommendations of international bodies and experts on the prevention of torture and other ill- treatment;

3. *Stresses* the relevance of democratic consolidation, strengthening of the civil society, education, economic sustainable development in the consolidation of the Human Rights all around the world;

4. *Reemphasizes* the need of governments to implement human rights courses in primary and secondary schools in order to raise human rights consciousness in young people, as well as workshops to the general population promoted by the NGOs, human rights defenders and professional bodies;

5. *Encourages* countries all around the world to accept and collaborate with the NGOs in their countries; respect and support of the NGOs as actors in charge of the control and monitoring of the implementation of the human rights standards, collaborating tightly with official institutions;

6. *Requests* all states to include adequate education and information measures in the training of organs of state in order to raise awareness as demanded by the CAT in its article 10;

7. *Suggests* the creation of an International Year against Torture to mobilize the public opinion to this important issue as well as an International Day against Torture;

8. *Condemns* all arbitrary misinterpretations of Human Rights and recommends to the General Assembly to consider the strengthening of the competences of the International Law Commission to prepare drafts for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Conventions in force, by

- a) clarifying the definitions of wording used in conventions,
- b) supporting the State Parties with a framework for interpretation,
- c) issuing guidelines of application of international law;

9. *Asks* the Secretary General to review Human Rights related conventions and declarations, giving special precedence to the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in regard to human rights loopholes and, if necessary, put forward for revision to the relevant body, as well as to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis;

10. *Urges* Member States to recognize the authority of and cooperate with UN rapporteurs and all UN bodies in order to

- a) ensure access to places of detention of any kind for inspections regarding the compliance of their treatment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all internationally agreed upon Human Rights standards,
- b) grant access to trial-related information regarding persons under detention for a time exceeding one year;

11. *Calls* upon all governments to ensure that all prisoners are brought before its judicial authority without delay after being taken into custody as well as to grant them access to relatives, lawyers and doctors without delay and regularly thereafter;

12. *Requests* all states to promote

- a) elimination of corruption within the state organs, detention camps and prisons,
- b) the termination of impunity for police and security agents,
- c) improvement of prison conditions, such as sanitation,
- d) protection of witnesses during trials,

e) raising awareness and sharing experience on past violations;

13. Calls upon all states to guarantee medical assistance for victims of torture and rehabilitation measures as defined by CAT;

14. Urges the immediate closure of all illegal detention camps worldwide and *calls upon* governments to ensure that prisoners are held only in officially recognized places of detention;

15. Encourages governments to refrain from detention as a method of hindrance to the exercise of civil rights of any kind according to the ICCPR, especially mentioning the right of free assembly and the right of free expression.