



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

On behalf of the Committee against Torture, I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic for its note of 20 February 2012 concerning the Committee's request for a special report pursuant to article 19, paragraph 1, *in fine*, of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

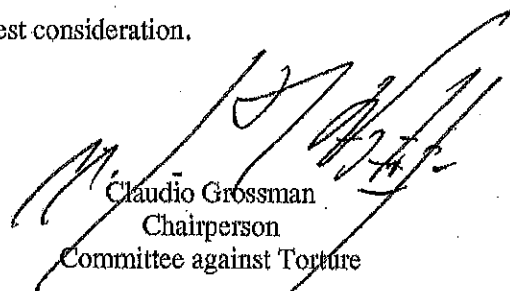
From this response, the Committee acknowledges that the Syrian Arab Republic is committed to continue its cooperation with the Committee in accordance with its international obligations. However, it regrets that the Syrian Arab Republic did not submit the report requested by the established deadline, nor provide specific information regarding any measures taken on the effective implementation of the State party's obligations under the Convention.

The Committee recalls that, under article 19, paragraph 1, *in fine*, of the Convention, "(...) States Parties shall submit supplementary reports every four years on any new measures taken and such other reports as the Committee may request". Therefore this request made by the Committee, through my letter of 23 November 2011, falls directly under its mandate, pursuant article 19 of the Convention, and is legitimate.

This request is not made under article 20 of the Convention, as indicated in the note, nor for the purpose of an investigation or inquiry, considering that the Committee is well aware that the Syrian Arab Republic has not recognised the competence of the Committee provided for in this article. Therefore, despite that fact, the obligations of the Syrian Arab Republic under article 19 remain in full.

In light of the above, the Committee expects to receive, as soon as possible, the requested report, as an opportunity for the State party to provide its views on the information mentioned in my letter of 23 November 2011, in order to examine it during its 48th session. The Committee would be also be grateful to receive the names and titles of the representatives that Your Excellency's Government will designate for the interactive dialogue with the Committee scheduled for 16 and 18 May 2012.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Claudio Grossman
Chairperson
Committee against Torture

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