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Human Rights Watch Concerns and Recommendations on France

Submitted to the UN Committee Against Torture in advance of its Review of France

March 2010

This memorandum provides an overview of Human Rights Watch’s concerns and recommendations on France, submitted to the United Nations Committee Against Torture (“the Committee”) in advance of its upcoming review of France. We hope it will inform the Committee’s consideration of the French government’s (“the government”) compliance with the International Convention against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (“the Convention”). Our comments are focused primarily on counterterrorism measures that the government has introduced which we believe breach Convention standards. For fuller analyses, please see Human Rights Watch reports *Preempting Justice: Counterterrorism Laws and Procedures in France* and *France* (available at www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/07/01/preempting-justice); *In the Name of Prevention: Insufficient Safeguards in National Security Removals* (available at www.hrw.org/en/reports/2007/06/05/name-prevention); and *Submission to the Léger Committee on criminal justice reform* (available at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/06/09/human-rights-watch-submission-leger-commission-reform-france-s-criminal-procedure-an>).

Insufficient safeguards in national security removals (Convention articles 3 and 15)

Lack of an automatic in-country appeal

Since 2001, France has forcibly removed dozens of foreign nationals accused of links to terrorism and extremism, through administrative “ministerial expulsion orders” and through judicially-authorized criminal deportations following conviction and