



Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Committee against Torture

Guidelines on third-party submissions under article 22 of the Convention*

1. Pursuant to rule 118 bis of the Committee's rules of procedure, at any time after the receipt of a communication and before a determination on the merits has been reached, the Committee may request, as it deems appropriate, submissions from other United Nations organs, bodies, specialized agencies and procedures and other independent sources, including regional human rights mechanisms, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, other relevant specialized institutions, State agencies and offices, and academics, that may assist in the examination of the communication.
2. The procedure for third-party submissions is the following:
 - (a) The Committee may, on its own initiative, request third-party submissions from individuals and entities with relevant expertise, focusing on specific issues that the Committee deems relevant. When making a request for such submissions, the Committee may make available on its website information about the communication in question, the question or questions about which it is requesting submissions, and the types of individuals or entities from which it would like to receive submissions;
 - (b) Authorized third-party submissions made in response to the Committee's request must be submitted in writing, in one of the official languages of the Committee (preferably that used by the State). They must be addressed to the Committee through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights within one month of the request by the Committee and must not exceed 5,000 words;
 - (c) The Committee will not provide to third parties access to the case file pending before it;
 - (d) The Committee will not provide third parties with the identity of the author or authors of a communication or provide them with the contact details of the complainant or complainants. Third parties will not be considered parties to the communication in question;
 - (e) The Committee may also request the third party not to disclose any information contained in its submission while the communication is pending before the Committee;
 - (f) If the Committee accepts the submission, it will forward it to the parties to the communication, who will be entitled to submit written observations and comments in reply, including with regard to the relevance of the submission, within a period determined by the Committee;
 - (g) The third-party submissions and observations by the concerned parties thereon may be considered in the Committee's deliberations and its decisions.

* Adopted by the Committee during its seventy-sixth session (17 April–12 May 2023).

