



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

PREVENTION OF TORTURE

10-11th April 2014
Hofburg, Vienna

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during OSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on OSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below are organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Thursday, 10 April	
<i>Title: Torturers at Large: Lack of Accountability and Justice Denied</i> <i>Convenor: Eurasia Democracy Initiative</i> <i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i> <i>Venue: Room 201</i> <i>Language: Russian, English</i>	
Friday, 11 April	Friday, 11 April
<i>Title: Combating torture and abolishing the death penalty in the OSCE region</i> <i>Convenor: The European Union, Norway, Andorra and Serbia</i> <i>Time: 8.30– 10.00</i> <i>Venue: Ratsaal</i> <i>Language: English</i>	<i>Title: Ill – treatment and torture in Armenia’s closed institutions</i> <i>Convenor: Open Society Foundations – Armenia , Armenian Helsinki Committee and Helsinki Citizen’s Assembly -Vanadzor</i> <i>Time: 12.30 – 14-00</i> <i>Venue: Ratsaal</i> <i>Language: Russian, English</i>

**OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS
as submitted by the organizers**

Thursday, 10 April

Time: 13.00 – 15.00
Venue: Room 201
Title: Torturers at Large: Lack of Accountability and Justice Denied
Convenor: Eurasia Democracy Initiative
Language: Russian, English

Summary: The absence of accountability for perpetrators of torture remains probably the most serious impediment to eradicating this scourge in the OSCE area and around the world. In various OSCE member states, state-sanctioned torturers routinely enjoy full protection of the authorities, while others flee and then exploit the legal system in the country of their asylum in order to avoid responsibility and deny justice to their victims.

We have the pleasure of inviting you to come hear torture victims share stories of their continuing (and so far unsuccessful) struggle to obtain justice in various EU jurisdictions. They will be joined by anti-torture activists and an expert on international law.

Refreshments will be provided

Friday, 11 April

Time: 8.30 – 10.00
Venue: Ratsaal
Title: Combating torture and abolishing the death penalty in the OSCE region.
Convenor: The European Union, Norway, Andorra and Serbia
Language: English

Summary: Does a state violate international commitments relating to the right to life and the prohibition of torture, when it continues to apply the death penalty? Is it possible to impose the death penalty without causing severe physical pain or suffering? Is the death penalty respectful of the inherent dignity of the human person? In view of the evolving debate on the death penalty, is there a need to update our OSCE commitments on this topic? These are some of the questions that the panel of civil society actors and representatives of international organizations, including the UN special rapporteur will address.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 12.30 – 14.00
Venue: Ratsaal
Title: Ill-treatment and torture in Armenia's closed institutions.
Convenor: Open Society Foundations – Armenia, Armenian Helsinki Committee and Helsinki Citizen's Assembly - Vanadzor
Language: Russian, English

Summary: The event will focus on discussing the realities of ill-treatment and torture in Armenia with a particular focus on closed institutions: police, penitentiary, army, and psychiatric institutions. The speakers will present findings from their monitoring reports, assessing the legislative and procedural safeguards against torture and ill-treatment and the progress in eradicating torture in Armenia. Reports of monitoring of human rights situations in these institutions will also be presented during the meeting.

Both speakers have substantively contributed to the establishment and development of the Civil Society Monitoring Board over Penitentiary Institutions in Armenia. They will evaluate the impact and effectiveness of civil society monitoring efforts on improvement of the human rights situation in detention and will speak of the challenges for human rights defenders in identifying and detecting torture.

Also, the success of Armenia's implementation of international obligations will be discussed during the session.

Refreshments will be provided