UN launches ‘Nelson Mandela Rules’ on improving treatment of prisoners

7 October - The United Nations today launched the Revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, dubbed the ‘Nelson Mandela Rules,’ which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed as “a great step forward” but also drew attention to three areas that could be strengthened from a human rights perspective.

“The Secretary-General welcomes the revised rules and progress made,” said Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, who represented the UN chief at the high-level presentation at UN Headquarters of the revised Rules, named after the late South African President who spent years in prison. South Africa also chaired the Expert group in the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules.

“He notes the critical importance of protecting the human rights of all persons deprived of their liberty as one of the most vulnerable groups of individuals who risk abuse and ill-treatment,” Mr. Šimonović told those attending the event convened by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of South Africa.

The senior human rights official highlighted as “important advances” the right to health of persons deprived of their liberty so that prisoners enjoy the same standard of health care as in the community and for continuity of treatment and care.

“This provision is very important because the risk of transmission of HIV and other infectious diseases is much higher in prisons than in the general population,” he said, adding that the new health rules also provide an absolute prohibition on torture and ill-treatment of prisoners.

Mr. Šimonović also welcomed the revised rules because they have “much more” specific provisions on solitary confinement, notably by defining solitary confinement as the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact; restricting the scope for application of solitary confinement; and defining prolonged solitary
confinement as solitary confinement in excess of 15 days.

In addition, he noted the new rules provide for the first time guidance on intrusive searches, including strip and body cavity searches, and require the prison director to report, without delay, any custodial death, disappearance or serious injury and conduct a prompt, impartial and effective investigations into the circumstances and causes of such cases.

Mr. Šimonović, however, highlighted three areas where the revised rules could be strengthened from a human rights perspective.

“The first concerns the prohibition of discrimination,” he said, adding that he is “disappointed that sexual orientation and gender identity were not explicitly recognized as grounds for discrimination, given their recognition by most human rights treaty bodies.”

“There is substantial evidence of violence and mistreatment directed against gay, lesbian and transgender prisoners,” he said.

He also raised his concern over some of the language that is “at odds with terminology used by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” and the recognition that some countries may legitimately imprison persons for debt,” in direct contradiction with article 11 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. Šimonović expressed his sincere hope that the ‘Mandela rules’ will continue to be a work in progress, evolving over time to afford greater protection to detainees.

“That is what Mr. Mandela would have expected from us,” he said.

In his remarks, UN General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft also recalled the spirit of Mr. Mandela, noting that the late leader emphasized: “It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”

For his part, Mr. Lykketoft said that too often, in the past, nations have failed to protect the human rights of prisoners. Too often, the driving principle behind prisoner treatment has been to see these individuals as entirely separate from our communities and our societies. “Hidden from our gaze, and indeed sometimes before our very eyes, prisoners have suffered abuse and mistreatment.”

“After five years of consultations and negotiations, today we stand on the threshold of a shift away from such an outlook and a move towards a new standard for prison administration,” he said, explaining that the ‘Mandela Rules’ contain crucial revisions to the 60-year-old international standards on treatment of prisoners.

They outline that there shall be no discrimination; that the religious beliefs and moral precepts of prisoners shall be respected; and that legal representation and protection are mandated in regard to vulnerable groups within the prison populations.

“The crucial challenge for member states will be to translate these rules into a reality and to increase cooperation both within and outside the UN system to improve the lives of prisoners throughout the world,” said Mr. Lykketoft.

In his remarks, Oh Joon, the President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), said it is important to note that the revised Rules are part of much wider attempts to break the cycles of prison terms and recidivism.

Re-offending and a life of crime are often handed down from one generation to another, exacerbating poverty and marginalization in societies. Greater human rights, enhanced education, improved chances of rehabilitation can break these dangerous cycles.

“The Revised Standard Minimum Rules represent a significant progress in the treatment of prisoners. Our goal now is to translate these rules into a daily reality for prisoners everywhere,” he said, emphasizing that ECOSOC stands ready to work
together in sending a clear message that the “high walls of prisons are not a bar to access to justice, and most importantly, to human rights.”

**UN chief condemns killing of peacekeeper in Central African Republic**

7 October - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned today the killing of a ‘blue helmet’ from the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which occurred yesterday in the capital, Bangui.

“The Secretary-General deplores, in the strongest terms, attacks against United Nations peacekeepers and calls for swift action to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice,” said a statement issued by a UN spokesperson. “He reiterates his call for all armed groups to end the fighting and lay down their weapons.”

A MINUSCA convoy travelling from Damara to Ngerengou came under fire by an unknown group of armed elements. The MINUSCA military escort, which was composed of a Burundian infantry company, returned fire. During the exchange, one peacekeeper was killed and another was injured, explained the statement.

“The Secretary-General reiterates the commitment of the United Nations to support the Central African authorities in their fight against criminality and putting an end to impunity, in line with MINUSCA's mandate,” added the spokesperson.

The Secretary-General also offered his condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and people of Burundi.

The CAR capital has remained tense after the sudden outbreak of violence that began on 26 September, leaving 42 people dead and 414 injured and driving more than 37,000 people from their homes to seek refuge with host families and in 32 displacement sites in the city, according to the UN.

**Houthis reaffirm acceptance of Security Council resolution aimed at ending violence in Yemen – UN**

7 October - The United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, has welcomed the latest statements by the Houthis reaffirming their acceptance of a UN Security Council resolution aimed at ending the country’s months-long conflict, the Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today.

“This is an important step,” Stéphane Dujarric told reporters at the regular press briefing at UN Headquarters, as resolution 2216, other Security Council resolutions, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and the Outcomes of the National Dialogue have been at the core of the UN-led peace process.

In the resolution, adopted by a vote of 14 in favour to none against, with Russia abstaining, the Council demands that the Houthis withdraw from all areas seized during the latest conflict, relinquish arms seized from military and security institutions, cease all actions falling exclusively within the authority of the legitimate Yemeni Government and fully implement previous Council resolutions.

The text also calls on all Yemeni parties, in particular the Houthis, to abide by the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue conference, and the relevant Security Council resolutions and to resume and accelerate inclusive UN-brokered negotiations, including on issues relating to governance, “to continue the political transition in order to reach a consensus solution.”

These pillars will remain the basis for peace talks, which the Special Envoy has been working towards, added Mr. Dujarric,
noting that Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed believes that the Government of Yemen, the Houthis and their allies should accept the invitation to join peace talks on this basis.

The Houthis also reiterated their commitment to the seven Muscat Principles that they had previously conveyed.

**On International Walk to School Day, UN envoy urges action to make roads safe for children**

7 October - Marking International Walk to School Day, Jean Todt, the United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety, has is calling for urgent action to halt road deaths and traffic accidents, which, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), kill some 500 children a day.

Mr. Todt’s strong call to action also herald’s the release of a short film by the Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA), where Mr. Todt also serves as President, which is designed to promote children’s road safety across the world. FIA joined forces with renowned filmmaker Luc Besson to produce the hard-hitting film, which is now available online.

“Road traffic crashes are today the number one killer of children aged 15-29. And without urgent action, they will soon be the number one killer of those aged between 5-14,” said Mr. Todt.

“We must do everything in our power to halt this scourge and this film can act as a rallying call,” he added.

World Health Organization (WHO) figures show that 500 children are killed each day in road crashes globally. In a bid to raise awareness of this road safety crisis Mr. Todt turned to renowned filmmaker Mr. Besson to deliver a potent visual message highlighting the dangers facing children around the world.

The film, Save Kids Lives, shows the risks children face every day, whether through the lack of safe infrastructure in the townships of South Africa or as a result of heavy traffic on a major European city.

The film was released in support of the #SaveKidsLives campaign which was launched during the third UN Road Safety Week from 4-10 May 2015. Through the film, Mr. Todt also urges people to sign the petition on ‘Child Declaration for Road Safety’ which aims to reach 1,000,000 signatures.

The International Walk to School Day is an initiative launched to raise awareness of the need to protect some of societies’ most vulnerable road users.

**DR Congo: political tensions ‘running high’ ahead of 2016 elections, UN officials warn**

7 October - The top United Nations official in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) told the UN Security Council today that he cannot say with certainty whether the progress attained in the country is sustainable, or whether violence will erupt again and reverse what has been achieved so far.

“The political situation in the DRC is increasingly marked by the electoral process [and] political tensions are running high ahead of the 2016 presidential and legislative polls,” said Martin Kobler, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the country, who was joined today by UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Said Djinnit.

“The conduct of peaceful, timely and credible elections in November 2016 would send a clear message to the world that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a nation that respects its Constitution, a nation keen
on a peaceful transition of power, a nation that will consolidate peace,” Mr. Kobler continued, highlighting elements from the latest report of the Secretary-General.

To ensure transparent and inclusive elections, he appealed to the Government of the DRC to immediately address open questions related to the sequencing of the electoral calendar, its budget, and updating the voter registry to include eligible individuals who turned 18 since the last election in 2011.

On the issue of human rights in the country, Mr. Kobler said more than 2,200 violations affecting 5,400 victims have taken place this year so far. “Half of these abuses were still committed by State agents. Despite repeated calls, there has been limited progress in bringing senior perpetrators to justice,” he stated.

Meanwhile, he informed the Security Council that, in some parts of eastern DRC, refugees are gradually returning home but the population remains “wary of a fragile peace that still needs to be consolidated.” He recalled that when he first arrived in the Congo in August 2013, Goma was recovering from a takeover by the M23 rebel group – but after two years, the situation had changed.

“In August 2015, I flew into a newly-renovated airport in Goma with a major international airline,” explained Mr. Kobler, who is also head of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO).

“The slow return of investors is a sure sign of improving stability and security in the city. In some islands of stability in the East, the state has demonstrated its ability to enhance the presence of the army and police, while a justice system is being established and basic services delivered.”

Although the M23 is now defeated, Mr. Kobler underlined that military success alone is not durable. “M23 ex-combatants still sojourn in camps in Rwanda and Uganda. All efforts of reintegration on the basis of the Nairobi Declaration [2013 agreement ending hostilities] have not succeeded thus far. This is a time bomb that must be urgently defused.”

In addition, he informed the Security Council that the Ugandan armed rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) have also been weakened, and highlighted that the “brave combat of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces have resulted in the gradual return of 80,000 refugees since early 2014.

“Further West in the Beni area, however, the population continues to experience the anguish of armed conflict. The 440 terror victims in one year alone speak a clear language. The ADF is far from being defeated,” he reported, adding that one victim is too many.

Regarding the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a group mainly composed of remnant Rwandan Hutu rebels, Mr. Kobler said their existence “remains one of the most important hindrance to peace in Eastern DRC.” He welcomed the criminal convictions and long prison terms recently handed down against two FDLR leaders by a court in Germany.

“The only efficient solutions to address the security situation are joint MONUSCO-FARDC operations,” he insisted. “In my last briefing to you, I urged [DRC] President Kabila to give the green light for joint operations. Unfortunately, the green light has not yet been given. I again call on the President to instruct the FARDC to resume cooperation which produced so many positive results in the past.”

Turning to the gradual drawdown and exit of MONUSCO from the DRC, Mr. Kobler insisted that the UNs’ commitment to the population remains steadfast, and that the Mission “cannot, and must not, exit hastily.”

Meanwhile, in light of recent allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel within some of the Organization’s peace operations, Mr. Kobler echoed the United Nations Secretary-General’s zero-tolerance policy, underlining that prevention and accountability “should become engrained in the modus operandi.”

He also voiced “deep concern” about the degradation of the environment and the deforestation of the Congolese rainforest, noting that “the DRC’s natural resources are a blessing.”
This was Martin Kobler’s last briefing to the 15-member body in this capacity, as the end of his term as Special Representative of the Secretary General in the DRC is nearing.

In his remarks, Mr. Djinnit expressed concern about tensions related to the electoral process, as well as the persistence of armed groups in the eastern DRC and acts of violence they commit against particular populations.

“These negative forces and perpetuate tensions and maintain a climate of mistrust in the region. Neutralization remains undoubtedly a need for the DRC as part of its efforts to consolidate State authority throughout the country and ensure the safety of citizens and their property,” Mr. Djinnit explained.

While he praised the operations conducted by the FARDC against the armed groups in country’s restive eastern region, he stressed that such operations benefit from being strengthened by the full support of MONUSCO and its intervention brigade, calling for a resumption of joint operations between FARDC and MONUSCO against all armed groups.

**Top UN refugee official calls for renewed international focus on Afghanistan**

7 October - The United Nations’ most senior refugee official is appealing to the international community to refocus its attention on Afghanistan, warning that it would be dangerous to ignore the country, and praised Iran and Pakistan for hosting so many Afghan refugees.

“We are here because we want the international community to refocus on a situation that is no longer getting the attention it deserves, and because we believe that to ignore Afghanistan would be a dangerous mistake, regardless of the urgency and scale of other, newer crises,” the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, told members of the UN refugee agency’s Executive Committee during a meeting on the Afghan refugee situation.

“UNHCR (the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) has a special relationship with Afghanistan, and with the two countries that have taken in 95 per cent of Afghan refugees – the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan,” he noted.

The gathering focused on how to create the conditions necessary for Afghan refugees to go home and reintegrate to regions where security allows.

“Reaching over six million people at its peak, this is the biggest refugee situation UNHCR has ever dealt with, as well as the biggest voluntary repatriation operation in our history, with over 5.8 million returnees since 2002,” he said, adding that after more than 35 years and with 2.6 million registered refugees remaining in 70 countries, “Afghans are also the world’s largest protracted refugee population.”

In a pre-recorded video message to the meeting, Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani thanked UNHCR for the decades of engagement with Afghan refugees. He also thanked Pakistan and Iran for opening their borders and still hosting millions of Afghans.

“My duty calls to prevent the production of more displaced people and refugees. I hope our efforts here will contribute significantly [to that end],” he said.

President Ghani also echoed the High Commissioner’s own concern over possible international neglect. “The problem of refugees is a global one. They cannot be placed on an island and forgotten,” he warned.

Mr. Guterres said that – although the situation in Afghanistan “remains very challenging, as recent events in Kunduz have shown” – the new Afghan National Unity Government of President Ghani had committed to making durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons a top national priority.
According to UNHCR, the meeting in Geneva was attended by some 800 participants, representing 131 Member States, several UN and international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

A number of guests from key donor states, UN and NGO partners, as well as Afghan civil society reportedly voiced support for efforts to find durable solutions for the many Afghans still in exile.

Meanwhile, Mr. Guterres stressed that advances in finding durable solutions would only be possible if the international community provided “significantly more support” to these efforts than has so far been the case.

“Most notably, the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, developed by the governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan with UNHCR, is the main vehicle for furthering these efforts and needs to be supported more decisively, in particular by development actors,” he stated.

The UN official pointed out that the number of internally displaced persons now stood at nearly one million and that Afghans continued to leave the country to file new asylum applications elsewhere.

Nevertheless, he emphasized that nearly 54,000 refugees had returned to Afghanistan in 2015, almost as many as the combined total for the previous two years. “It is precisely because times are difficult that it is so important to support Afghanistan now,” the High Commissioner said.

“The Afghan Government’s initiative for an Enhanced Voluntary Return and Reintegration Package for each returnee family merits particular attention, as it will provide increased support to refugee reintegration in the initial phase following their return home.”

Speaking about the situation in Europe this year, where he said half a million boat arrivals had overwhelmed capacities in many of the affected countries, he noted: “One cannot even begin to imagine the kind of pressure the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan were facing with over six million Afghan refugees at the time.”

In conclusion, Mr. Guterres said the current meeting was born from the “recognition that effective and sustainable return to Afghanistan is fundamentally important in the effort to stabilize the entire region” and urged international solidarity to make this happen.

**Ban welcomes election of chief of UN-backed climate panel ahead of Paris conference**

7 October - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the election of Lee Hoesung of the Republic of Korea as Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Mr. Hoesung will guide the Panel’s work of assessing the science related to climate change.

“He looks forward to the IPCC’s new leadership at this critical moment when governments are preparing for the global climate change conference in Paris later this year, and extends his congratulations to Mr. Lee,” said a statement issued yesterday by his spokesperson in New York.

Mr. Ban also reaffirmed his support for the crucial role played by the IPCC in supplying decision-makers and the public with the world’s most authoritative scientific understanding of climate change, including its impacts as well as solutions.

The IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report, released last November, provides the most comprehensive assessment of climate change ever undertaken.

“It adds to the overwhelming evidence that human activity is disrupting the climate, and warns that we risk severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts, should present emission trends continue. The IPCC’s report also shows us that we have a variety of
options to limit climate change and help build a safer, more sustainable world now and into the future,” said the statement.

**Rice genetics placed in global data pool to help develop sustainable crops – UN agency**

7 October - The genome sequences of thousands of rice varieties have been placed with a United Nations-backed treaty on plant genetics by the world’s leading rice research institute to help boost plans to set up a global data exchange for crop genetic resources, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) Treaty made the announcement this week at a meeting for the plant treaty, which is being hosted by FAO in Rome this week.

“The genetic information that IRRI is making available to us, and the public at large, is a hugely generous and significant show of support to our endeavours to make all relevant information on genetic resources on plant crops available for future food security,” Shakeel Bhatti, the Secretary of the International Treaty, said in a press release.

“To have so much information on rice, which after all is the basic food for half the world's population, placed at the fingertips of everyone is a major step in securing food security for future generations,” he added.

FAO noted that “the need to develop crop varieties that are both more productive, less environmentally damaging and also shock tolerant” is crucial to development, particularly because of the growing global population and the agricultural shocks caused by climate change.

During the Rome treaty meeting, participants will discuss how to create one global information system on plant genetic resources, including information on how to access genetic material and seed samples from existing gene banks.

“We can’t expect every programme, every gene bank in the world to re-design their databases to match some international standard,” said Director General of IRRI Robert Zeigler, “what we need is inter-operability, to create portals where everyone's databases can talk to another. This is what the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be.”

**Ban welcomes US decision on early release of 6,000 prisoners**

7 October - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed today the decision by the United States Government to release 6,000 inmates from federal penitentiaries in an effort to ease overcrowding in prisons and provide a degree of redress for persons who received disproportionately long sentences for non-violent drug-related offences.

“...We also welcomes proposals that aim to consider early release of additional prisoners who are serving sentences disproportionate to their crimes, many of which are drug-related,” the statement further noted.

The Secretary-General also noted that States should only apply deprivation of liberty as a measure of last resort and only after alternatives have been duly considered.
“Consideration needs to be given to alternatives to criminalization and incarceration of people who use drugs, with an increased focus on public health, prevention, treatment and care,” he added in the statement.

UN rights expert welcomes steps taken to combat torture in Ghana, but says more remains to be done

7 October - A United Nations expert on torture today urged the Government of Ghana to step up its effort to implement recommendations issued after a mission to the country in November 2013, when deep concerns about the situation of overcrowding in prisons and other rights violations were voiced.

“I welcome the steps taken by the Government of Ghana in its fight against torture and other ill-treatment in the country, but much remains to be done,” UN Special Rapporteur on torture Juan E. Méndez said in a press release at the end of a four-day follow-up visit to the country.

According to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), he assessed critical issues in the criminal justice system, including conditions of detention, as well as mental health-care practices, in particular the treatment and living conditions of persons held in psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps.

“I am concerned that instances of torture and ill-treatment continue to occur with some frequency during the apprehension, arrest, and interrogation stages by police and intelligence services,” he said. “I received troubling reports of forced confessions, despite the existence of legal guarantees intended to protect persons upon arrest and in police custody.”

He added that of particular concern is the lacking sense of due diligence and urgency by oversight mechanisms such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice – as well as courts and prosecutors – to tackle the issue with “prompt, impartial, and effective investigations into all allegations of mistreatment.”

Mr. Méndez said that without proper complaint mechanisms and public awareness campaigns, “no real change is possible.”

“The right to counsel also needs to be made truly effective in all criminal cases by the expansion and effective implementation of the Legal Aid Scheme or the establishment of a Public Defenders’ Office,” the expert also stressed.

Meanwhile, the Special Rapporteur noted no significant improvements with regard to the still severe overcrowding in some detention centres, inadequate nutrition, a shortage of water, poor sanitation and health-care, and a lack of medicines, despite positive steps taken by the Government to accelerate the management of cases.

“I am encouraged by the projects and measures being implemented by the Government,” he said. “In particular, the ‘Justice for All’ programme with its travelling court has been able to partially clear up the backlog of remand cases in various regions. I welcome the establishment of a high court on the premises of Nsawam Medium Security Prison as a pilot project that aims to speed up appeals, thereby reducing the number of detainees.”

In addition, he said a further step forward are the new guidelines on sentencing, which despite not being binding on judges will, if implemented across all regions, contribute to a more consistent approach to sentencing and more reasonable use of discretion by judges.

“The introduction of statutory provisions for non-custodial measures would also assist in reducing overcrowding in prisons and facilitate the reintegration into society,” Mr Méndez stated. “I call upon Ghana to swiftly ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture to ensure regular monitoring of places of detention, which is essential to guaranteeing the rights of inmates.”

On the issue of mental health care, the Special Rapporteur noted that while current practices were similar to those observed during his last visit, progress is being made in the implementation of the Mental Health Act and associated programmes established by its managing Mental Health Authority.
“Initial steps have been taken to decentralize mental health care. Setting up visiting committees in the regions needs to be followed up by the passage of the Act’s Legislative Instrument, sufficient allocation of funds to its programmes, and actual changes of treatment and living conditions of mentally ill patients on the ground,” he urged.

Mr Méndez also stressed that private institutions treating mentally ill patients, such as prayer camps, must also be regulated and monitored by these programmes. “I saw patients chained onto walls and forced to fast in a prayer camp,” the rights expert said. “These practices are frankly unacceptable and constitute torture, and the State of Ghana can no longer close its eyes to these practices.”

In the understanding that these are cultural practices and that families approach prayer camps voluntarily, the expert said he agrees with the State’s approach to use persuasion and engagement to monitor and enforce existing law and regulation and to obtain cooperation under the guidance and supervision of science-based, appropriately trained mental health professionals.

“The reference to culture and tradition cannot be invoked to justify harmful practices to individuals,” he warned.

Independent experts, or Special Rapporteurs, are appointed by the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a country situation or a specific human rights theme. The positions are honorary and the experts are not UN staff, nor are they paid for their work.

The Special Rapporteur will present a follow-up report to the Human Rights Council in March 2016.