



Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Meeting of the States parties

Ninth meeting

Geneva, 20 October 2022

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Election, in accordance with articles 7 and 9 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, of 13 members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2022

Election of 13 members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with articles 7 and 9 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the ninth meeting of the States parties to the Optional Protocol will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 20 October 2022, for the purpose of electing 13 members of the Subcommittee from a list of persons nominated by States parties (sect. II), to replace those whose terms of office will expire on 31 December 2022 (sect. I). Twelve members will continue to serve on the Subcommittee until 31 December 2024 (sect. III).
2. In addition, in compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the current situation with respect to the composition of the Subcommittee, reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution, gender representation and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members, is contained in sections I and III of the present document; the biographical data, including in respect of professional background, of current members can be found on the web page of the Subcommittee.¹
3. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 68/268, the General Assembly encouraged States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.

¹ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2022/9th-meeting-states-parties-2022-elections>.



I. Members of the Subcommittee whose terms expire on 31 December 2022

4. The professional backgrounds, legal systems and further biographical data of the members may be found on the web page of the Subcommittee, under “Membership”, by clicking on the name of the individual members.²

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Patricia Arias	Chile	1 January 2019
Vasiliki Artinopoulou	Greece	2 March 2021
Carmen Comas-Mata Mira	Spain	1 January 2019
Marija Definis-Gojanovic	Croatia	1 January 2015
Hamet Saloum Diakhate	Senegal	1 January 2019
Roberto Michel Fehér Pérez	Uruguay	1 January 2015
Suzanne Jabbour	Lebanon	1 January 2019
Gnambi Garba Kodjo	Togo	1 January 2015
Nika Kvaratskhelia	Georgia	1 January 2019
Catherine Paulet	France	1 January 2015
María Luisa Romero	Panama	1 January 2019
Nora Sveaass	Norway	1 January 2015
Juan Pablo Vegas	Peru	1 January 2019

II. Persons nominated by States parties

5. In accordance with the procedure set out in article 6 (3) of the Optional Protocol, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 18 May 2022, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of 12 members of the Subcommittee by 18 August 2022. All the curricula vitae received by that deadline, as provided by the States parties concerned, are included in the present document (see annex). Addenda to the present note will be issued for nominations received after the deadline.

6. Pursuant to article 6 (3) of the Optional Protocol, listed below, in alphabetical order, are the names of the persons nominated for election to the Subcommittee, and the States parties that nominated them.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Uju Roselyn Chiemeka Agomoh	Nigeria
Veniamin Alayev	Kazakhstan
Vasiliki Artinopoulou ^a	Greece
Carmen Comas-Mata Mira ^a	Spain
Hamet Saloum Diakhate ^a	Senegal
Suzanne Jabbour ^a	Lebanon

² See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/spt/membership>.

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Julia Kozma	Austria
Nika Kvaratskhelia ^a	Georgia
Bibata Nebie Ouedraogo	Burkina Faso
Ohini Kwao Didi Sanvee	Togo
Andrew Christoffel Nissen	South Africa
Elīna Šteinerte	Latvia
Anica Tomsic	Croatia
Juan Pablo Vegas ^a	Peru
Mushegh Yekmalyan	Armenia
Victor Zaharia ^b	Moldova

^a Current member.

^b Former member.

III. Members who will continue to serve on the Subcommittee until 31 December 2024

7. The professional backgrounds, legal systems and further biographical data of the members may be found on the web page of the Subcommittee entitled “Membership”, by clicking on the name of the individual members.³

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Massimiliano Bagolini	Italy	1 January 2021
Marie Brasholt	Denmark	1 January 2021
Maria Andrea Casamento	Argentina	9 June 2021
Jakub Julian Czepek	Poland	1 January 2021
Satyabhooshun Gupt Domah	Mauritius	1 January 2017
Hamida Dridi	Tunisia	1 January 2021
Marco Feoli Villalobos	Costa Rica	1 January 2021
Daniel Fink	Switzerland	1 January 2017
Marina Langfeldt	Germany	8 January 2020
Aisha Shujune Muhammad	Maldives	1 January 2021
Abdallah Ounnir	Morocco	1 January 2017
Zdenka Perović	Montenegro	1 January 2017

³ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/spt/membership>.

Annex

Curricula vitae of candidates*

Uju Roselyn Chiemeka AGOMOH (Nigeria)

Date and place of birth:

29 August 1969 (OKIGWE, NIGERIA).

Working languages:

English

Professional background:

Human Rights Advocate, Legal Practitioner. Criminologist, Clinical Psychologist, Lecturer & Researcher

Educational background:

B.Sc Psychology (University of Jos, Nigeria); LLB (Law) University of London (Queen Mary & Westfield, United Kingdom; BL (Nigeria); M.Sc Clinical Psychology (University of Lagos, Nigeria); M.Sc Sociology: Deviant Behaviour) – University of Ibadan, Nigeria); M. Phil Criminology (University of Cambridge), United Kingdom; PhD Criminology & Prisons Studies (University of Ibadan, Nigeria)

Current position/function:

Executive Director, Prisoners' Rehabilitation And Welfare Action (PRAWA) – Carrying out the following: Programme design, implementation, coordination and oversight; legislative/policy development and advocacy; provision of technical expertise/advice to relevant stakeholders; monitoring visits to prisons and other places of detention; human rights training/capacity building; Research; Management oversight/governance functions in consultation with the Board

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Conducting visits to prison and other detention centers (have conducted assessments visits/monitoring activities in over 150 prisons in over 25 countries); Development of Operational Guidance Notes, Policy Brief and Advisory Notes to relevant government agencies, development partners and civil society organizations; training and capacity building on torture prevention, rehabilitation of torture victims, and on other related human rights issues and correctional best practices; Assessment of conditions of detention, interviewing of torture victims, detainees, prison inmates, ex-inmates, and other vulnerable persons; Report writing; Production of relevant resource materials on torture prevention, rehabilitation of torture victims and on other related human rights issues; Sensitization on the need to comply with the OPCAT, and other related human rights instruments; Advocacy for the establishment and strengthening of the NPMs and on related issues

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Agomoh U (2008), 'Protecting the Human Rights of People with Mental Health Disabilities in African Prisons', (Chapter 16, pages 267–292), In: Viviane Saleh – Hanna, *Colonial Systems of Control: Criminal Justice in Nigeria*, Les Presses del' Universite D' Ottawa: Ottawa; Agomoh U (1997), 'Deaths In Custody; What Lessons?: An Overview of the Nigerian Situation', In: *Deaths of Offenders: The Hidden Side of Justice*, Waterside Press:

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

London (<http://www.watersidepress.co.uk/infodoo.html>);
<http://www.unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/13thcongress/14>

(28 June 2022) <https://guardian.ng/features/law/prawa-tasks-government-on-compliance-with-UN-torture-law>

(9 July 2022) <https://prnigeria.com/2021/12/17/prawa-urges-implement-law/>

(2 July 2022) <http://www.blueprint.ng/days-against-torture-prawa-seeks-end-to-degrading-treatment>

(18 August 2022) http://www.youtu.be.com/watch?v=OR6Y_cA4xvg

Veniamin ALAYEV (Kazakhstan)

Date and place of birth:

October 9, 1979. Almaty, Kazakhstan

Working languages:

Russian, English, Kazakh

Professional background:

Motivated professional with 10+ years of experience in the field of human rights of persons with disabilities in Kazakhstan. Legal analysis and advice, capacity-building of representative organisations

Educational background:

Almaty Management University, Master of business administration, GPA 3.56. The best graduate of 2013

2002 Almaty State University named after Abay, Almaty

Financial and economic, Accounting and audit

Alumni of International Empower Exchange Program, USA; Alumni of ADA Inclusive Education program, Minnesota University, USA

Current position/function:

- Chairman of the PA “Commission on the Rights of People with Disabilities named after Kairat Imanaliev”

- Conducting research, flash mobs, round tables, advocacy campaigns aimed at improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; - Assistance in employment, education of citizens with special needs

- Legal advice, assistance in the elimination of legal illiteracy. - Work in social networks aimed at providing access to information about existing social protection programs for people with disabilities

Main professional activities:

Currently, I am actively engaged in legislative activities. As part of the working groups of the Parliament, we have made changes to more than 50 legislative acts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For the past three years, I have been the leader of the Financial Inclusion project, which aims to make financial services accessible to people with disabilities. At the same time, I am actively engaged in research activities in the aspect of the participation of people with disabilities in public and political life. I am the creator and admin of the Facebook group “Disability in Kazakhstan”, which has more than 5,000 subscribers. In 2019, on my initiative, the Coalition of Human Rights Defenders of People with Disabilities of Kazakhstan was created, it includes 35 members from different regions of the country. Also in 2019, I was an independent speaker at the High Level Political Forum in New York

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Currently, I am the Chairman of the Board of the Support Center for People with Mental Disabilities. Previously, for two years he was a member of the National Preventive Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in Kazakhstan. Within the framework of the mandate, together with a group of experts, I visited prisons, closed institutions for the prevention of torture. Co-author of the Alternative (Shadow) report on the situation of people with disabilities in Kazakhstan

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

<https://rus.azattyq.org/a/o-pravah-lyudey-s-invalidnostyu-i-borbe-za-nih/31110131.html>
<https://informburo.kz/interview/veniamin-alaev-pravozashhitnik-o-finansovoi-inklyuzii-repressivnosti-kvot-i-statuse-invalidov-v-kazaxstane>

Research conducted by our organization:

<https://crpd.kz/category/obrazovanie/issledovaniya/>

Vasiliki ARTINOPOULOU (Greece)**Date and place of birth:**

19/04/1963 Patra, Greece

Working languages:

English (fluently), French (basic), Greek (native)

Professional background:

Full Professor in Criminology, Panteion University, Sociology Department, Athens, Greece

Educational background:

Doctoral Diploma (Dr) in Criminology

MA in Criminology

BA in Sociology

Diploma in Pedagogics

Current position/function:

- Member of the [Subcommittee on Prevention of Tortures, United Nations, Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner](#) (2020–2022)

- Director of the *Restorative Justice & Mediation Lab* (Panteion University)

- Director of the *Institute on Crime & Criminal Justice* (European Public Law Organization, EPLO), 4. Head of the ‘Central Penitentiary Scientific Council’, Greek Ministry for Citizen Protection (2019–2022)

Main professional activities:

- Academic & Research activities in the field of victims’ rights, criminal justice system, restorative justice, penitentiary system, and crime prevention policies (Panteion University of Athens, Greece)

- Director of the International [Institute on Crime & Criminal Justice](#) in the Inter-Governmental International Organisation, the European Public Law Organisation (EPLO)

- Independent Expert of the DG Justice, European Commission (2016–)

- Member of Core Management Committee of the COST Action ‘Cultures of Victimology: understanding processes of victimization across Europe’ (COV-E) CA 18121 (2019–2023)

- Advisor/ consultant in policy making bodies at national and international level

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Member of the Delegation of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Tortures (SPT) in country visits (Bulgaria 2021, Lebanon 2022) and drafting the country reports

SPT Country Rapporteur for Italy, Malta, Czech Republic, Norway, and Lichtenstein

Long Term Coordinator- Consultant in the Council of Europe, Project ‘*Strengthening prison Healthcare in Greece*’ (2020–21)

Senior Researcher in the EU project ‘*Standing up against hate in the EU*’ CERV-2021-EQUAL (2022–2024)

Senior Researcher in the EU project ‘*European Prison Observatory. Prison De-Radicalization Strategies, Programmes and Risk Assessment Tools in Europe*’ (2017–2019)

Head of the 'Central Penitentiary Scientific Council' (Greek Ministry of Citizens Protection, 2019–2022)

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Artinopoulou, V. & Kamarakis, Ev. (2019) *Prison Conditions in Greece, 2nd Edition*, Antigone Edizioni, Rome

(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IAaM1XILwQ3rhlOzV3X9_327_-8KTWIm/view)

Artinopoulou, V., Koufouli, A. and Michael, I (2018) *Towards a victim-centered police response- Training manual*, Published by European Public Law Organization (EPLO), Athens, Greece

Gavrielides Th & **Artinopoulou, V** (2016) (eds) *Reconstructing Restorative Justice Philosophy*. Routledge

Carmen COMAS-MATA MIRA (Spain)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth:

Madrid, 29 April 1971

Working languages:

Spanish (native language), English and French. Passive knowledge of Italian and Portuguese

Professional background:

- Director of international relations for the Ombudsman of Spain
- Formerly director of the cabinet of the first deputy and later that of the Ombudsman. Responsible for coordinating work with representatives of areas such as defence and internal affairs, justice and domestic violence, immigration and the economy and finance
- Participated in the preparation of the body's reports for its accreditation and re-accreditation as a national human rights institution with A status vis-à-vis the United Nations (Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions)
- Served as head of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture; under my leadership, the mechanism began operating, staff members received training and more than 400 visits to places of detention were carried out
- Appointed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation as an expert to help bring about the ratification by Peru of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Regarding work in the field, visited places of deprivation of liberty in Spain and Spanish prisoners abroad and, as a result, had the opportunity to observe prison conditions in Latin America, Europe and a few countries in Asia and Africa

Educational background:

- *Licenciada* (title obtained on completion of second-level university studies) in law from the Autonomous University of Madrid (1989–1994)
- Master in European law from the Autonomous University of Madrid (1996–1997)
- Specialized course on the prevention of torture (2006) at the University of Oxford, organized by the Association for the Prevention of Torture

Other relevant courses:

- Specialized course on supervising operations to return migrants in irregular situations (International Conference on Population and Development-European Union-European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)). Lisbon, 2017
- Course on observing elections (Diplomatic School of Spain, 2009)

Current position/function:

- Elected member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture for the period 2019–2022. Elected Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee from 2021 to 2022
- Director of international relations, Office of the Ombudsman
- Technical secretary of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen

Main professional activities:

- Responsible for the preparation of international cooperation projects. Led four European Union Twinning projects to strengthen the Offices of the Ombudsman of Kazakhstan, Armenia, the Republic of North Macedonia (where I helped set up the national preventive mechanism) and Turkey. Participated in more than twenty European Union Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Programmes to provide training to other Ombudsmen and the staff members of national preventive mechanisms and national human rights institutions.
- Implement the Ombudsman's international policies through the relations of the Ombudsman with international institutions (United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe), with its counterparts and with networks such as the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen, an association of which the Ombudsman is first Vice-President
- As technical secretary of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, implement all the Federation's activities for the promotion of human rights in Latin America and the strengthening of Ombudsman's Offices and national human rights institutions in the region. The Federation is a forum for cooperation and the application of policies for the promotion and dissemination of human rights; it brings together more than 100 Ombudsman's Offices, some of which are national preventive mechanisms

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- I was elected Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture for the period 2021–2022, with responsibility for organizing visits
- Within the Subcommittee, I am on the regional team on the Americas and have carried out missions to Senegal (2019) and Argentina, where I was head of mission (2022). I serve as the Subcommittee's rapporteur for Argentina, Mexico and Panama
- I was appointed by the Bureau to be the Subcommittee's focal point for liaising with the Committee against Torture
- I was a member of the committee that drafted the Subcommittee's protocols for the monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty
- I am responsible for monitoring FRONTEX migrant repatriation flights organized by Spain and act as one of the European pool of monitors for FRONTEX return operations conducted by Spain
- I have dealt with the situation of Spanish prisoners abroad since 2001, when I began visiting prisons in other countries to improve the situation of particular vulnerability of imprisoned foreigners

Most recent publications and talks in the field:

- "La efectividad de los dictámenes de los órganos de seguimiento de tratados de Derechos Humanos en el ordenamiento jurídico español; examen particular de la discapacidad", in *Nuevas fronteras del derecho de la discapacidad*, de Lorenzo, Rafael and Cayo Luis, eds. (Thonson Reuters, Aranzadi 2021)
- "La situación de los presos españoles en el extranjero", *Servicios Sociales y Política Social*, vol. XXXII (109), 7–8 (December 2015), pp. 63 ff.
- "Cooperación internacional. El trabajo de las defensorías del pueblo en colaboración con otros actores", *La protección de los derechos humanos por las defensorías del pueblo*, Guillermo Escobar, ed. (Dykinson, Madrid 2011)

Several talks given as a member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, including:

- Sexual violence as a method of torture. Chiapas State Human Rights Commission, March 2022
- Immigration detention under the scrutiny of international bodies. Oxford University, May 2021
- The Convention against Torture and its relevance for women and girls with disabilities. “Human rights classroom” of Fundación CERMI Mujeres, April 2021
- Due observance of international human rights standards by the State of Spain. Conference on human rights under the future housing law, Grupo de Monitoreo DESC, March 2021
- Presentation of the national register of cases of torture. Organized by the national preventive mechanism of Argentina. October 2020
- The importance of local mechanisms for the prevention of torture in the universal and inter-American systems. Recommendations for strengthening the national system. Organized by the national preventive mechanism of Argentina. September 2020

Represented the Ombudsman at more than 50 conferences, including:

- How to sustain and expand the use of alternatives to immigration detention in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic? UN Migration Working Group. November 2020
- Actuación de las INDH como MNPs (National Human Rights Institutions Acting as National Preventive Mechanisms). Zacatecas, Mexico, July 2016

Other achievements and awards:

Member of the faculty steering committee on democracy and human rights (University of Alcalá) from 2010 to 2017

Police medal

Hamet Saloum DIAKHATE (Sénégal)

[Original: French]

Date and place of birth:

12 March 1958, in Dakar, Senegal

Working languages:

French

Professional background:

Psychiatrist and psychotherapist

Educational background:

- Monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty
- Provision of psychological care, counselling and support to victims of torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (Istanbul Protocol reference manual)
- Diagnosis of trauma and post-traumatic stress and psychoeducation services
- Quality control and team management

Current position/function:

- Member of Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
- Under contract at the Thiaroye National Psychiatric Hospital in Senegal: care, counselling and support for patients
- Consultant at the rehabilitation unit for victims of torture at the African Centre for the Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts (CAPREC)
- Consultant at the National Observatory of Places of Deprivation of Liberty (national preventive mechanism)

Main professional activities:

- In the Subcommittee's working group on the health aspects of torture prevention, development of strategies for visiting places of deprivation of liberty when health emergencies are in effect and when no such emergencies are in effect
- Country rapporteur for Rwanda, Cabo Verde and Liberia
- Planning of visits to African countries that are parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
- Support for States parties that have not yet established a national preventive mechanism
- Rehabilitation of torture victims spanning 23 different nationalities since 2005, ref. UNVFVT-P374-DA
- Consultant to the Observer at the National Observatory of Places of Deprivation of Liberty since 2013: monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty
- Mental health care: Providing hospital care to persons living with mental disorders

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Strategies and planning for visits to African countries that are parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention
- Support to States parties in the establishment of an operational national preventive mechanism
- Contribution to the Subcommittee's visit reports on Cabo Verde and Tunisia (2022)
- Workshop held in Côte d'Ivoire in May 2022 by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the establishment of an alert mechanism for cases of torture
- Workshop held in Senegal in May 2022 by the Office of the Ombudsman, on the updating of Act No. 75-80 of 1975 on mental health services in Senegal
- High-level missions to Togo in April 2019 and 2022, organized by Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (World Organisation against Torture)
- Online workshop in November 2021 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the World Organisation Against Torture on the establishment of a national preventive mechanism
- Participation in webinars organized by the International Ombudsman Association

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

- Report on the proposed renovation of the Emile Badiane mental health facility in Ziguinchor, Senegal

Suzanne JABBOUR (Lebanon)**Date and place of birth:**

1 February 1960 in Ardé, Zgharta, North Lebanon

Working languages:

Arabic, English and French

Professional background:

Clinical psychologist

Current position/function:

Since 2005 Chief Executive Officer

Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and Violence

Since 2020 Chairperson

UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)

Educational background:

1985–1987

Master's degree in Psychology

Lebanese University, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences – Beirut, Lebanon

1981–1985

Clinical Psychology

Lebanese University, Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences – Beirut, Lebanon

Main professional activities:

2010–Present Key expert in the MENA region in lobbying for and training on the UN-CAT, the OPCAT, the Istanbul Protocol, the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Bangkok Rules, monitoring places of detention

2007–Present Manager of projects focusing, among others, on detention monitoring, rehabilitation of victims of torture and violence, capacity building of law enforcement and penitentiary personnel

1989–Present Clinical psychologist, in direct contact with torture victims and survivors, refugees and prisoners

2012–2016 President

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

2010–2016 Member and Vice-Chairperson

UN Subcommittee on prevention of torture (SPT)

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Conducts tailored training programs for law enforcement personnel, notably the National Security Forces – on prison management, human rights instruments and conventions related to persons deprived of their liberty, the Lebanese NHRI and NPM, the monitoring places of detention, etc.

- Advocates with key national decision-makers within Lebanese State agencies for the improvement of living conditions in places of detentions and of prevention of torture in Lebanon

- Member of the Advisory Council for the drafting of the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing, launched in 2021
- Consultant for the DIGNITY Danish Institute against Torture on Detention monitoring in the MENA region (since 2011)

Consulting and drafting expert on:

- The Code of Conduct for the Lebanese General Directorate for State Security (2021)
- The Code of Conduct for forensic doctors associated with the Lebanese Ministry of Justice (2018)
- The Lebanese laws on the creation of the NHRI and NPM (2016), and on criminalization of torture (2017)
- A unified medical protocol for medical centers in Lebanese prisons (2016)
- Established an Independent Forensic and Psychological Unit at the Tripoli Justice Palace, which guarantees the right to a comprehensive medical examination for every person under investigation (2015)

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Three policy papers on 1) the right of persons deprived of their liberty to have access to equitable, quality medical care in places of detention, 2) Law No. 65/2017 on the criminalization of torture, and 3) Law No. 62/2016 on the establishment of the Lebanese National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), which includes a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), 2021
- Guidelines on how to support COVID-19 patients during quarantine, 2020
- Tool on the means of reducing COVID-19 risk in prisons and detention centers, 2020
- Mapping study of the existing monitoring mechanisms in places of detention in Lebanon, 2019
- Analytical and legal study on the role of the Lebanese ISF anti-torture committee, Community Security and Access to Justice, UNDP Lebanon, 2018
- Steps in the right direction: the establishment of the Lebanese National Human Rights Institution and the National Preventive Mechanism, Legal Agenda, 2017
- Guidelines on monitoring of places of detention without access, 2015

Julia KOZMA (Austria)**Date and place of birth:**

12 July 1976 in Salzburg, Austria

Working languages:

German, English, French, Italian

Professional background:

International human rights lawyer with 18 years of professional experience in the field of preventing and combatting torture; former member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) for three consecutive terms

Educational background:

2004: LL.M in International Human Rights Law, National University of Ireland, Irish Centre of Human Rights, Galway, Ireland

2001: Doctor iuris/PhD in International Criminal Law, University of Salzburg, Faculty of Law, Austria

2000: Magistra iuris/Law degree, University of Salzburg, Faculty of Law, Austria

Current position/function:

Since 2016: Independent Human Rights Consultant, Strasbourg, France: Expert contributions to various projects aimed at enhancing human rights protection in police custody and prisons

Since 2017: Senior lecturer and course coordinator in human rights law with focus on prevention of torture, University of Strasbourg, France

Main professional activities:

2009–2021: Member, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), Council of Europe: 36 state visits; monitoring of the treatment and conditions in police custody, prisons, immigration detention, psychiatry and care homes

2008–2016: Senior legal researcher, project manager and expert, team leader, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights/University of Vienna, Austria: Legal research and publications on human rights related matters

2005–2010: Assistant to the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

2005: Coordinator of two visiting commissions, Austrian Human Rights Advisory Board

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Analysis and drafting of:

- criminal law provisions on the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment
- diverse laws and rulebooks on police powers and police custody
- laws on NPMs and other monitoring mechanisms
- Action Plans for penal systems; training manuals for law enforcement officials
- practical handbooks on monitoring police work and prison monitoring

- manuals for investigators and prosecutors on effective investigations of torture and ill-treatment
- Training of police officers, NPM members and other monitors (prison inspectorates etc.), judges and prosecutors
- Development of independent systems of investigation of torture or ill-treatment

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Developments in the Portuguese Prison System as Observed by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, in D. Fink (ed.), *Monitoring of Prisons and Regimes of Monitoring*, gefo.ch/U.Porto Press (2021)
- Incident management and independent investigations – Addressing risk factors to prevent torture and ill-treatment, *Detention Monitoring Tool*, Penal Reform International (PRI), (2018)
- Combatting Torture during Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention, Discussion Paper, Danish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (2018)
- The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), in M. Nowak, K. Januszewski und T. Hofstätter (eds.), *All Human Rights for All – Vienna Manual on Human Rights*, NWV (2012)
- Contributions to M. Nowak and E. McArthur, *The United Nations Convention against Torture. A Commentary*, Oxford University Press (2008)

Nika KVARATSKHELIA (Georgia)

Date and place of birth:

15/12/1982, Sokhumi, Georgia

Working languages:

Georgian (native), English, Russian

Professional Background:

Lawyer

Educational background:

- 2007/2008 – LLM in international and European law, Riga Graduate School of Law (OSI scholarship)

- 2000/2005 – Bachelor degree in international law, Tbilisi State University; 2004/2005 - training course in

- international law, Georgian Young Lawyers Association; Among other, training courses in management

- torture prevention, recording bodily injuries, forensic photography, mental health, report writing

communication skills, monitoring security sector, discrimination, sexual orientation and gender identity

Current position/function:

Head of the National Preventive Mechanism Department at the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia (PDO), responsible for coordinating and supervising proper discharge of functions of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) of Georgia; member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), member of the SPT's Working Group on Health Aspects of Prevention of Torture; Head of the SPT's regional team for Asia and the Pacific; Member (expert) of the OMCT's Covid-19 Crisis Action Group

Main professional activities:

Since December 2013, the Head of the National Preventive Mechanism Department, PDO; member of the Sounding Board for the NPM toolkit project (APT); July-December 2013, Member of the Special Preventive Group; 2010/2013 - CSO "Youth for Justice - Georgia", co-founder, lawyer; July-December 2013, "University Research Co." Legal adviser (USAID Tuberculosis Prevention Project); June–November 2013, Embassy of Sweden in Georgia, adviser on the right to fair trial; 2010/2013 – Translation Bureau of International Treaties of Georgia, translator/proofreader; January-February 2012, "Latvian Centre for Human Rights", researcher on the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; 2010/2013 – Member of the Georgian Bar Association (public, criminal and civil law); 2008/2010 – "Human Rights Priority", lawyer (litigation before ECtHR). Certified trainer

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

OMCT's Covid-19 Crisis Action Group's speaker on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic related restrictions on persons deprived of their liberty

speaker on the risk factors of torture during the pandemic, EU NGO Human Rights Forum

panelist, Global Prison Trends: During and Beyond the Global Pandemic - ancillary meeting at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

speaker on the role of human rights education - expert workshop organized pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 33/6 (OHCHR)

panelist, the role of national oversight mechanisms, seminar on the implementation of effective safeguards to prevent torture during police custody and pre-trial detention (OHCHR); speaker on the issue of overcrowding, PRI/CAT workshop

panelist, OPCAT ten years of preventing torture; added value and lessons learnt, 10th anniversary of the OPCAT

Speaker on assessment of treatment and the risk of overmedication, Symposium on monitoring psychiatric institutions (APT)

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Supervisor and co-author of 9 NPM annual reports

8 special reports on childcare, eldercare, homes for persons with disabilities, mental health institutions, police custody and the Covid-19 quarantine spaces

3 thematic study reports on the complaints mechanism in the penitentiary system, the impact of detention conditions on the health of prisoners and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on prisoners and prison staff

30 reports following regular, preventive visits to places of deprivation of liberty (these reports are available at: <https://ombudsman.ge/geo/preventsiiis-erovnuli-mekanizmis-angarishebi>)

Bibata NEBIE OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)

[Original: French]

Date and place of birth:

29 March 1973 in Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso

Working languages:

French

Professional background:

Senior judicial official with a strong command of judicial procedure and proven knowledge of human rights

- October 2021–April 2022: Counsellor at the Court of Auditors
- 2017–October 2021: Presiding judge of the Ouagadougou Court of Appeal
- 2015–2017: Chief of staff to the Minister responsible for the areas of justice, human rights and civic participation, Keeper of the Seals

Educational background:

2022: Certificate of Advanced Studies in International Competition Law, Regulatory and Compliance

1999: Graduated from the National Civil Service and Judiciary Training School, in judicial studies, with high honours

1997: *Maîtrise* (master's degree) in law, with a specialization in business law, from the University of Ouagadougou

Current position/function:

Secretary-general for institutional relations, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

Main professional activities:

- Coordinate the work of the various programme heads at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, responsible for institutional relations
- Enable administrative and technical coordination among centralized bodies, decentralized bodies and entities under the Ministry
- Train stakeholders in the criminal justice system (judicial officials, persons working in the area of human rights, prison security guards) on judicial procedures, the promotion and protection of human rights, including through the prevention of torture, and the provision of assistance to victims

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

As secretary-general of the ministry responsible for human rights, I coordinate the human rights work of the Directorate-General for Human Rights and the regional human rights directorates and the criminal justice work of the Directorate-General responsible for criminal justice. I also contribute to the preparation of periodic reports to the treaty bodies, including the periodic report due under the Convention against Torture

I coordinate the implementation of recommendations issued in connection with the universal periodic review and by treaty bodies, the efforts to humanize places of detention and the preparation of a guide on the rights and duties of persons deprived of liberty

In 2017, as chief of staff, I oversaw the drafting and validation of the Criminal Code and, in this connection, contributed to the domestic application of the Convention against Torture

As presiding judge, I was involved in the deciding of criminal cases

As a trainer, I have, since 2003, been helping to train people studying to become judicial officials in the conduct of correctional hearings and criminal proceedings and to train students in procedural law (the law relating to trials; the basic principles that govern all trials, whether they are civil, criminal or of another type), civil procedure

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Droit Judiciaire Privé: l'Instance, in the collection *Précis de Droit Burkinabè* (December 2008), 686 pages. Supplemented and updated in August 2015 under the title *Droit judiciaire privé*

Ohini Kwao Didi SANVEE (Togo)

[Original: French]

Date and place of birth:

4 August 1963 in Aného, Lacs Prefecture, Togo

Working languages:

French

Professional background:

- Promotion and protection of human rights and prevention of torture and other ill-treatment
- Legal representation and assistance
- Criminal defence and legal counselling

Educational background:

- *Baccalauréat A4* (secondary school leaving certificate, series A4) in philosophy, Lomé-Togo, 1986
- *Maitrise* (master's degree) in private law, University of Benin, Togo, 1993
- *Certificat d'aptitude à la Profession d'Avocat* (certificate of aptitude for exercising the legal profession), University of Benin, Togo, 2000
- *Certificat de formation des formateurs aux droits de l'homme* (certificate in training human rights trainers) (Norbert Kenne programme), 2002: Catholic University of Central Africa/Human Rights Institute/Lyon/International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) 2002
- *Diplôme d'Etude approfondies* (diploma in advanced studies) in human rights and democracy. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair in human rights, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, 2002–2003

Current position/function:

- Member and Vice-Chair of the National Human Rights Commission of Togo
- Chair of the torture prevention subcommission (national preventive mechanism)
- Lawyer admitted to the Bar of Togo

Main professional activities:

- Protection of human rights in prisons
- Representation of and assistance to clients before civil, social and commercial courts
- Criminal defence in criminal courts
- Defence of human rights before the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States
- Legal counselling on human rights and justice

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Training on mechanisms for the prevention of and protection against torture in connection with capacity-building for stakeholders in the criminal justice system

- Visits for the prevention of torture in places of deprivation of liberty throughout Togo (the country's 13 prisons, police and gendarmerie stations, border and airport detention centres, psychiatric hospitals, detention centres for minors, follow-up on recommendations)
- Research on laws on torture

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- L'emprisonnement, l'essentiel de ce qu'il faut savoir
- "Présentation sommaire du nouveau code pénal", *Journal Reflet du Palais*
- "L'accès au droit et à la Justice au Togo", *Journal Focus Info*
- "Conséquences du confinement général dû à la Pandémie de la Covid 19: Plaidoyer pour plus d'humanisme vers les détenus", opinion piece, 30 April 2019

Andrew Christoffel NISSEN (South Africa)

Date and place of birth:

28 June 1958, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

Working languages:

English and Afrikaans

Educational background:

- Master of Arts: with an emphasis on Indigenous religion and culture - University of Cape Town (1990)
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) - University of Cape Town (1988)
- Diploma in Theology with emphasis on contextual theology and black theology - Federal Theological Seminary, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (1980)

Professional background:

Have held executive and managerial positions in both private and public sectors in the Republic of South Africa. As a social justice activist, Chris has worked with civil society across South African communities and is active as a minister of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of South Africa

Current position/function:

Part-time Commissioner of the national human rights institution of the Republic of South Africa (NHRI) responsible for Civil and Political Rights and the National Preventive Mechanism

Main professional activities:

As the Commissioner responsible for civil and political rights, Chris Nissen is often involved in issues relating to migration and refugees, policing and human rights, decriminalisation of petty offences and the status of human rights defenders. These issues have policy implications which often require submissions to and interaction with national authorities such relevant parliamentary portfolio committees and government departments

With the ratification of the OPCAT, Chris Nissen has been the lead Commissioner at the SAHRC overseeing the full implementation of the OPCAT by establishing its National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). On that basis, he has undertaken numerous visits to places of deprivation of liberty in South Africa. These places include, inter alia, correctional centres, police stations, immigration detention centres and secure care facilities for children in conflict with the law

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

As the lead Commissioner in the implementation of the OPCAT in South Africa, Chris Nissen is involved in publicizing the mandate of the NPM through continuous stakeholder engagements with relevant stakeholders such as the bodies designated to undertake the NPM functions, heads of institutions where persons are or may be deprived of their liberty and civil society and regional and international treaty body mechanisms

Since South Africa adopted a multi-body NPM, Chris leads the coordinating body. However, since the NHRI has a functional role in South Africa's NPM, Chris Nissen also leads the programmatic work of the NPM. He also leads the NHRI's work concerning the conduct of law enforcement and security personnel through regular meetings and capacity development initiatives.

Over the past two years, he has also led an extensive grassroots level monitoring network in response to the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is similarly involved in mediation – at own initiative and court-appointed – in community disputes on policing and law enforcement, refugees and asylum seekers and protest action emanating from service delivery related complaints

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- NHRI Shadow Report to the Committee against Torture
- 2019/20 and 2020/21 National Preventive Mechanism Annual Reports
- Oversight of the Submission to Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture on the Development for a General Comment on Article 4 of the OPCAT
- Oversight of the Submissions to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

Elīna ŠTEINERTE (Latvia)**Date and place of birth:**

9 June 1978 in Riga, Latvia.

Working Languages:

Latvian (native); English and Russian (excellent); French (basic).

Professional Background:

International human rights lawyer, academic and expert.

Educational background:

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, 2006); Master of Laws (LLM) in Human Rights Law (University of Nottingham, 2002); Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) and Lawyers' Diploma (University of Latvia, 2001)

Current position/function:

Expert, lawyer, academic with 20 years of experience in international human rights law and specialising in the prevention of torture including with significant practical expertise in inspecting, assessing and monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty. Since 2016, I have been a expert member of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) on behalf of the Eastern European States and elected the Group's first Chair Rapporteur from this region in 2021

Main professional activities:

The prime focus of my work and research has always been international human rights law and torture prevention with a strong focus on the implementation of the UNCAT and OPCAT

Over the last 20 years, I have advised numerous States on varying aspects of the effective implementation of OPCAT, especially in calibrating domestic legislation and policy to the ensure compliance. I have also acquired extensive experience in practical monitoring and visiting of detention facilities worldwide

Additionally, I have delivered expert advice and training on variety of issues including strengthening the capacity of NHRIs; the designation and effectiveness of NPMS; various aspects of criminal justice reform such as pre-trial detention and overcrowding as well as immigration detention and child justice

Whilst serving the WGAD mandate, my practical knowledge and experience has been further strengthened by numerous State visits, including to a wide spectrum of detention facilities and providing cogent advice to States

Other main activities in the field relevant to the Mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

I have internationally recognised competence in human rights law and torture prevention specifically. Additionally to my practical detention facilities oversight experience, I have produced a series of high quality scholarly and general publications in this area and have regularly presented at international and national conferences and events in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including, for example, [Scotland's progress in the prevention of ill-treatment in places of detention: An assessment of the implementation of recommendations made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture](#) (2021)

I have been and continue to be approached by a variety of stakeholders for advice on a wide range of issues surrounding torture prevention including OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO, CoE, OSCE and ODIHR as well as international and national NGOs

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the Mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

[The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture \(OPCAT\)](#), Oxford University Press (2011)

[Ireland and the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture](#) (2017);

[The Jewel in the Crown and its Three Guardians: Independence of National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the UN Torture Convention](#)

[Human Rights Law Review](#) (2014); [The Changing Nature of Relationship between the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and National Preventive Mechanisms: in Search for Equilibrium](#); [Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights](#) (2013)

Anica TOMSIC (Croatia)**Date and place of birth:**

01.12.1975, Skopje, North Macedonia

Citizenship: Croatian

Address: Vinkovacka 5, Split, Croatia

Working languages:

English, Croatian, Macedonian

Professional background:

Legal adviser, member of the National preventive mechanism against torture, free legal aid for potential victims of torture

Educational background:

- PhD student at the Faculty of Security, Skopje, North Macedonia, Human rights and police powers
- LLM Master of Law, Law Faculty, University "St. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, North Macedonia
- Bachelor of Law Faculty, University "St. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, North Macedonia

Current position/function:

Legal Affairs Advisor to the Ombudswoman/ Member of the National preventive mechanism in Republic of Croatia (2015 - on going)

Main professional activities:

- Member of the Croatian National preventive mechanism, legal affairs advisor to the Ombudswoman/: As a member of the Croatian NPM since 2015, I have carried out numerous regular, follow-up and ad hoc visits to places for deprivation of liberty (police stations, prisons, and psychiatric institutions), as well places where there is de facto deprivation (open institutions for children, border crossings, homes for elderly) and places where migrants and asylum seekers are held
- Member of Macedonian National preventive mechanism, advisor for prevention of torture: As a member of the Macedonian NPM from 2011 to 2015, I have carried out numerous regular, follow-up and ad hoc visits to places for deprivation of liberty (police stations, prisons, and psychiatric institutions), as well places where there is de facto deprivation (open institutions for children, border crossings, homes for elderly) and places where migrants and asylum seekers are held
- Co-founder and member of the SEE NPM Network: I am also involved in international activities on the South-East European NPM Network and have visited detention places in other countries like Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, and Austria. Through study visits I had the possibility to visit prisons and other detention places in Spain, Denmark, Poland and other countries
- Project coordinator and Executive director of the NGO Coalition "All for Fair Trials in North Macedonia: Managing a Human Rights Support Project supported by the UN Fund for victims of torture; free legal aid for victims of torture (2008–2011)

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

2021/2022, North Macedonia, International consultant for the Council of Europe/EU Joint Project “Enhancing the capacities of the penitentiary system and the external oversight mechanism in North Macedonia”

2021, Shortlisted as candidate for CPT membership on behalf Croatia (list of three candidate)

2021, Turkey, International consultant for the Council of Europe Project “Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Civil Monitoring Boards in Turkey in line with European Standards”

2021, Moldova, International consultant for the Council of Europe Project “Strengthening the human rights compliant criminal justice system in the Republic of Moldova”

2019, Trainer, International expert for the OSCE Mission in Skopje, Training on Prisoners human rights for prison staff in North Macedonia

2018, International expert of the Council of Europe for capacity building of Montenegrin NPM, Trainer for Monitoring of Psychiatrist Institutions and Homes for elderly persons, as well police treatment of people with mental illness, Kotor, Montenegro

2018, International expert, Trainer for International Law and standards for migrants and refugees, Macedonia, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA)

2016, International consultant of the Council of Europe, Russian Next Generation PMC Project, trainer for the Leading Russian Experts on the topic “Cell and Body Search and Means of restraints”, Kazan, Russia

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

2021, “Proportionality and reasonableness in the use of coercive means by police officers”, International yearbook Faculty of Security 2021/2, Skopje North Macedonia, <https://fb.uklo.edu.mk/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2022/02/GODISNIK-2021-2-konecen.pdf>

2020, “Procedural safeguards in the first hours of police detention in Republic of Croatia in context of the article 3 of the ECHR”, Annual International Conference on the Law Faculty in Skopje, North Macedonia, <http://lawreview.pf.ukim.edu.mk/>, Special issue 2020

2019, Legal analysis on „Respect for the rights of detained foreigners for immigration reasons in North Macedonia”, published by MYLA

2010, Legal analysis on “Mechanism for human rights protection in cases where police powers have been exceeded”, published by Coalition All for fair trials, North Macedonia

Juan Pablo VEGAS (Peru)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth:

Lima, Peru, 16 August 1965

Working languages:

Fluent in Spanish, French and English. Passive knowledge of Portuguese. Basic knowledge of Russian

Professional background:

2019–2022: Member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

2018–2021: Minister-Counsellor for political affairs at the Embassy of Peru in Chile. Deputy consul general of Peru in Geneva, Switzerland

2010–2016: Civil servant, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

2007–2009: Director of Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru

2006–2007: Deputy Director for the United Nations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, responsible for the team set up in Lima when Peru was a member of the United Nations Security Council

2001–2006: Human rights adviser, Permanent Mission of Peru, Geneva. Previously served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in the cabinets of the Minister and the Deputy Minister, the Planning Directorate and the Environment Directorate) and at the Embassy of Peru in the United States

Current position/function:

Minister in the diplomatic corps of Peru. Director for Multilateral Organizations and Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru. The contractual terms of my position in the Peruvian foreign service would allow me to devote the time necessary to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture while also affording me total independence for my work as a Subcommittee member

Educational background:

2008: Specialization course – Protection of Human Rights. National School of Administration, Strasbourg/Paris. 1997: Master of Arts in liberal studies with a concentration in international affairs, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

1990: Degree in foreign affairs, Diplomatic Academy of Peru. 1983

1988: Law studies at the Catholic University of Peru

Main professional activities:

I have gained considerable experience with the international (United Nations) and regional (Organization of American States) mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights over the course of a career that has spanned 30 years. I have been a member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture since 2019

I have taken part in several of the Subcommittee's visits to places of deprivation of liberty in Latin America. In 2021, the Subcommittee's Bureau appointed me head of the regional team on the Americas. I have represented Peru before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, a number of United Nations treaty bodies and other similar bodies

In particular, I represented Peru on the working group that negotiated the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and was responsible for Human Rights Council resolution 2006/2, whereby the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted

I have the experience and skills to conduct negotiations in sensitive situations. I have entered into dialogue and negotiations with senior government officials and diplomats from all parts of the world, as well as with representatives of civil society and academia, at the international, regional, national and local levels

My commitment to human rights led me to work at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for seven years (2010–2016). In that capacity, and as a member of the first universal periodic review team, I drafted dozens of widely disseminated reports in English, French and Spanish. Most of the reports have sections relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee. I have considerable experience promoting tolerance, respect for diversity and gender equality, in line with the values of the United Nations

As a member of the Subcommittee, I have participated in seminars, conferences, workshops and round tables organized by various international and national bodies related to the prevention of torture and the work of the Subcommittee and of the national preventive mechanisms in various Latin American countries, particularly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Furthermore, in addition to my work in my official capacity, I have taught courses on international law, international human rights law, diplomacy and international relations in universities in Peru, given press conferences and interviews and participated in discussion panels in various parts of the world

Mushegh YEKMALYAN (Armenia)

Date and place of birth:

19 April 1974

Working languages:

English, Russian

Professional background:

Over 20 years of professional experience in torture prevention. As a Human Rights Officer of the OSCE Office in Yerevan was one of the main experts advising the government on establishment of the Civil Society Monitoring Group for penitentiary system and later in 2006 became one of the leading experts in the campaign for OPCAT ratification and establishment of the NPM in Armenia

Worked as a legal consultant on torture prevention with the ICRC delegation in Armenia. Championed the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in Armenia organizing the first Istanbul Protocol training for multidisciplinary team of experts

As Head of the European Affairs Office of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims in Brussels was the main adviser to the EU External Action Service on Torture Prevention for the EU-third country human rights dialogues

Managed the largest EU funded three-year project on Torture Prevention and Penitentiary reform with Penal Reform International in nine countries (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan). For more than six years worked for the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims starting as a Regional Coordinator for Eurasia region and then as a Director of the EU Office of IRCT and Head of European Affairs

Educational background:

2010: Advanced Human Rights Course, Abo Academy, Finland

2001–2002: Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Law & International Relations, Lancaster University, School of Law, United Kingdom

1991–1996: Honors Diploma (with distinction) in International Relations, Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia

Current position/function:

Torture Prevention expert, Member of the European Commission Experts Group for the Implementation of the EU 'Anti-Torture Regulation

Since 2014 is the Chairman of Torture Prevention Working Group of the Civic Solidarity Platform. Since 2021 works as an EU Expert on Evaluation of Torture Prevention programmes of National Action Plans on Human Rights

Main professional activities:

EU Expert on evaluation of torture prevention activities within justice sector reform (police and penitentiary reforms)

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) Regional Coordinator for two years

Head of European Affairs office of IRCT, Istanbul Protocol trainer, five years

IRCT Torture Prevention Project Manager in Western Balkans, three years

Penal Reform International, Manager of Torture Prevention and Rehabilitation EU funded multiregional project, Member of the UK FCO Torture Prevention Subcommittee, three years

World Organisation on Prevention of Torture (OMCT), Senior Human Rights Adviser, two years

OSCE Office in Yerevan, Human Rights Officer, criminal justice sector reform and torture prevention three years,

ICRC, Legal Adviser on Torture Prevention matters, one year

OSCE ODIHR, Human Dimension Officer, three years

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

Participated in the NHRI forum organized by the APT and OHCHR in Geneva as a speaker

As a Chairman of the Torture Prevention Working Group of the Civic Solidarity Platform was invited by the Swiss Chairmanship to present the victim centered holistic rehabilitation for torture victims at the OSCE Permanent Council Meeting in Vienna in 2015

On June 26, 2017 was invited by the EU Parliament DROI committee as a key note speaker on the torture prevention in light of the migration crisis in EU

Participated in the European Asylum Support Office's (EASO) annual meeting in Malta (2015) and Trapani, Italy (2017), visited the detention facility for migrants in Trapani (the hot spot) and monitored the material conditions and health care service

As a certified Mandela Rules Expert was invited by the OSCE Mission in Skopje to train the prison staff and review the prison house rules of North Macedonia

Trained the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission monitors in Ukraine on monitoring and reporting human rights related issues in the closed institutions

Member of the Council of Europe Roster of Penitentiary experts

List of most recent publications in the field relevant to the mandate of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture:

- Mechanisms for the prevention of torture in the Western Balkans sub region: Albania, Montenegro and Serbia <http://www.yihr.me/eng/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Publikacija-Eng.pdf>

- Mechanisms for prevention of torture in nine CIS states

- https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/MECHANISMS-FOR-THE-PREVENTION_Full-1.pdf

- Torture in Asia: The law and practice (section on Kazakhstan) <http://www.redress.org/downloads/publications/130729asia-report.pdf>

- How institutional culture and 'alternative management' in prisons contribute to torture and ill-treatment <https://www.penalreform.org/blog/institutional-culture-alternative-management-prisons-contribute-torture-illtreatment/>

- Institutional culture in detention: a framework for preventive monitoring <https://www.penalreform.org/blog/institutional-culture-detention-framework-preventive-monitoring/>

Victor ZAHARIA (Moldova)**Date and place of birth:**

21/08/1978, Republic of Moldova

Working languages:

English, Russian, French (basic knowledge), Romanian (native)

Current position/function:

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), member (2013-2017, 2022-present); National Legal Aid Council, Chairperson (2008-2016, 2020-present); Moldova State University, Law Department, university associate professor (2000-present)

Previous positions/functions

UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), member (2013-2020), vice-chair (2017-2020); Institute for Penal Reform (2009-2018 Director, deputy Director 2001-2009)

Main professional activities:

Monitoring visits to places of detention (SPT, 2013-2020; CPT, 2013-2017; IRP, 2003-2018; OSCE 2011-2012; CoE 2018-2022); Coordination of Penitentiary Reform Program (IRP, 2001-2018)

Training NPM members, police and prison employees, medical doctors and forensic experts, prosecutors, lawyers, judges in torture prevention (UNDP, 2005-2012, 2015-2022; CoE 2018-2022; NIJ 2021)

Drafting legislation / NPM regulatory frameworks, Criminal Codes, Criminal Procedure Codes on torture prevention in various countries (with UNDP, CoE, SPT 2009-2022)

Performing evaluation and research, expert in Criminal Justice and Human Rights with UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, OSCE, CoE, PRI, NHRIs, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Internal Affairs, Prison Services, 2005-2022)

Educational background:

Moldova State University: Doctor of Law (2006), LLM (2001), university degree (2000)

Specialized trainings: "UN treaty monitoring bodies", Geneva, ISHR (2008)

"International Human Rights Training Program", Montreal, EQUITAS, (2008); "Client oriented defense in criminal proceedings", UK, OSI (2007); "Education in prison", Bergen, CoE (2005)

"International School on Protection of Human Rights", Warsaw, PHC (2001).

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Preparation of alternative reports to UN TBs (UN CAT, 2003)

Development, evaluation of human rights and torture prevention programs (Baseline Study on Preventing and combating Torture, Prisoners' rights, Rights of children in custody, National Mechanisms of HR protection, Functioning of the local commission of monitoring places of detention, 2006-2022)

Monitoring the activity of NHRIs (2008-2022); Monitoring implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy

Participation as international expert, trainer, consultant in more than 500 conferences, workshops in criminal justice and human rights (2001-2022)

List of most recent publications in the field:

Baseline Study into Criminal Subculture in prisons in the Republic of Moldova, CoE, 2018
Psychological judicial evaluation of torture victims in the Republic of Moldova, UNDP, 2015
Methodology of documenting and reporting current country situation on torture and ill treatment, 2014
Personal security in prisons, 2012
Research on retainment in the Republic of Moldova, 2011
Baseline Study on Preventing and combating Torture in Moldova, UNDP 2010
Monitoring report of Respect of the rights of the persons under pretrial arrest, 2010
Guide for Local Committees of monitoring Places of Detention, UNDP 2010
Complaints Committee. Guide for detainees and prison administration, 2007
