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Special Rapporteur on torture, Dr. Alice Jill Edwards
Human Rights Council (HRC)
United Nations

Reference - "Call for input: The nature, scope and regulation of the production and trade of law enforcement equipment and weapons and the relationship with torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" [\[URL\]](#)

Dear Dr. Edwards,

The association ADVHER, Association de Défense de Victimes de Harcèlement Électromagnétique et en Réseau, which is an association, registered with the French state, for the defense of victims of electromagnetic and networked harassment, would like to address to your attention a contribution on the subject of directed-energy weapons and equipment used for remote torturous and degrading manipulation.

Many thousands of people internationally claim that they are victims of directed-energy weapon attacks with torturous patterns. They attest that they are experiencing remote **directed-energy torture**, which has been cited as "cybernetic torture" or "**cybertorture**". The element "cyber" linked to "cybernetics" may refer to the notion of "control" over a biological system [\[*\]](#) or alternatively to the cyberspace-electromagnetic domain of operations.

There is evidence that the phenomenon affects a certain percentage of individuals of all nations. It is related to directed-energy attacks linked to symptoms and injuries known as "Havana Syndrome"[\[*\]](#), which have affected more than 1500 U.S. and Canada officials [\[*\]](#) [\[*\]](#). It represents a case where a torture-associated crime related to new technologies is recognized by the U.S. government only when affecting officials, while the complaints of thousands of people internationally are not recognized by any government.

The U.S. government uses the term "Anomalous Health Incidents" (AHI) [\[*\]](#) to describe the above occurrences which have affected approximately 1500 U.S. government employees from the CIA, State Department, Pentagon and FBI. President Biden has stated that his "administration is coordinating a government-wide effort to respond to the incidents, because this challenge demands that departments and agencies, including the entire intelligence community, work together with urgency" [\[*\]](#) [\[*\]](#). Statements have been also provided by the State Department, including its Health Incident Task Force [\[*\]](#), the CIA director [\[*\]](#), the Director of National Intelligence [\[*\]](#), as well as Congress that has introduced [\[*\]](#) [\[*\]](#) and voted legislation [\[*\]](#) [\[*\]](#).

According to the report by the U.S National Academies of Science [\[*\]](#) requested by the U.S. State Department, diplomats and intelligence officers that had been targeted had reported hearing sounds followed by ear pain or head pain and in some cases head pressure or vibration and dizziness, followed in some cases by tinnitus, visual problems, vertigo and cognitive difficulties. Similar symptoms are experienced by targeted individuals internationally, in addition to complex torturous neuromodulation and neurostimulation routines, including mental and behavioral manipulation.

We are currently in a situation where the United States officially acknowledges directed-energy attacks of U.S. governmental personnel, internationally, while many thousands of people in the U.S. and worldwide cannot prove that they experience similar torturous directed-energy attacks. U.S. victims of these torturous attacks have provided comment to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues (created by President Obama) in March and May 2011 [1],[2]. In Europe, the Ministry of Defense of Poland conducted a geographical analysis of complaints of Polish victims for electromagnetic attacks in 2016 [3]. Following correspondence with the Ministry [4], Polish victims have been heard by the Inspectorate of Innovative Defense Technologies, the equivalent of the U.S. DARPA.

International protest events, such as the “Targeted Individual Day” (“TI day”) held annually on the 29th August since 2018 (except during the COVID19 pandemic) demonstrate the extent of the problem globally. An international demonstration termed “Havana Syndrome in Europe” will take place in Brussels, near the European Parliament on 10th June 2023, with the support of many European and international associations and non-governmental organizations.

The community of victims of directed-energy torture (cf. cybertorture) has appreciated the initiatives of the former and current UN Special Rapporteurs on Torture, Dr. Melzer and Dr. Edwards respectively. The community has provided input in all the following calls.

Calls by Dr. Edwards

- A/HRC/52/30 Report: [Good practices in national criminalization, investigation, prosecution and sentencing for offences of torture](#) (Published: 16 February 2023)
Call for input to a report: "[The duty to investigate crimes of torture in national law and practice](#)" (Closing date: 25 November 2022)

Calls by Dr. Melzer

- A/76/168 [Report on accountability for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment](#) (Published: 16 July 2021)
[Call for input to a report: Accountability for Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#) (Published: 15 May 2021)
- A/75/179 [Report on biopsychosocial dynamics conducive to torture and ill-treatment](#) (Published: 20 July 2020)
[Call for inputs for the report on biopsychosocial dynamics conducive to torture and ill-treatment](#) (Published: 20 July 2020) **PLEASE REFER TO INPUTS RECEIVED**
- A/HRC/43/49: [Report on psychological torture and ill-treatment](#) (Published: 20 March 2020)
Responses were provided to Questionnaire on "[Psychological Torture and Ill-Treatment](#)" (Closing date: 25 November 2019)

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that among inputs received and published on the OHCHR site for [call A/75/179](#) above, four out of twenty five inputs of section “NGOs and Civil Society Organizations” are related to directed energy harassment and cybertorture as shown below, including in Figure 1. The same applies to six out of seven inputs of section “Individuals”.

NGOs: Victimias de Acoso y Tortura Electronica (VIATEC), Freedom for Targeted Individuals, People Against Covert Torture and Surveillance (PACTS), Targeted America

Individuals: Electromagnetic Torture, Energy weapons, Military grade, Mind control technology, Harassment techniques, WW

It is noted that the input “Electromagnetic Torture” was provided by the author of this document.

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- NGOs and Civil Society Organizations
 - Advocacy for Humankind 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
 - **Victimas de Acoso y Tortura Electronica | Annex**
 - **Freedom for Targeted Individuals**
 - Individuals
 - **People against Covert Torture and Surveillance**
 - **Targeted America**
 - **Trennungsvater e.V.**
 - **Electromagnetic Torture**
 - **Energy weapons**
 - **Military grade**
 - **Mind control technology**
 - **Harrassment techniques**
 - **OAS**
 - **WW**

Figure 1: Inputs received for [call A/75/179](#) which are related to directed-energy harassment and cybertorture

The community of individuals targeted with directed-energy torture had greatly appreciated the prior reference of the UN Special Rapporteur Prof. Melzer to technological challenges that need to be taken into account concerning torture, cited in the report A/HRC/43/49 [4] on psychological torture, chapter “Cybertorture” (paragraphs 32, 76, 87). As mentioned in the above report by Prof. Melzer:

“Challenges of new technologies: In order to ensure the adequate implementation of the prohibition of torture and related international legal obligations in present and future circumstances, its interpretation should evolve in line with new challenges and capabilities arising in relation to emerging technologies not only in cyber space, but also in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, nano- and neurotechnology, or pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences including so-called “human enhancement”.”

Prof. Melzer also refers to cybertechnology as already playing the role of an “enabler” in acts of torture of remote nature including potentially with the use of nanotechnological or neurotechnological devices (paragraph 73, p.19).

In the case of directed-energy torture, we tend to consider that we have a technological capability developed by covert research - admittedly very advanced compared to civilian research - which allows to perpetrate attacks with low probability of detection and with transient medical effects, unlikely to be easily documented by a medical examination.

The ensuing legal challenge linked to such a technological capability consists of the difficulty to prove that a torture-related incident occurred. Moreover, such technologically-challenging issues are not represented in the criminal code by an offense or provision. There are no related laws internationally, with the exception of a few states in the U.S.:

- a) Maine: [LD 1271 \(HP 868\) "An Act Regarding the Possession of an Electronic Weapon"](#)
- b) Massachusetts: [Act 2004, Chapter 170, "An Act Relative To The Possession Of Electronic Weapons"](#)
- c) Michigan: Public Act 257 of 2003

It is important to cite a petition to the European Parliament against the derivatives of directed-energy weapons and the response of the European Commission received in October 2004:

"Petition to the European Parliament n° 1168/2003, presented by Ms Nathalie Luthold, of French nationality, on behalf of the Collective "Against the abuse of psycho-technologies", accompanied by 115 signatures, against the derivatives of directed energy weapons."

Excerpts from the Commission's reply, received on 19 October 2004 and published at the following link: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/cm/544/544077/544077fr.pdf

Summary: "According to the petitioners, the development and circulation of anti-personnel directed energy technologies and weapons, incorrectly called "non-lethal", is a largely underestimated danger. The military and civilian purposes of this technology, which could even be used as a weapon to prevent disorder caused by crowds during demonstrations or other public events, are unknown. Expert reports (for example the report STOA PE 166.499, on the evaluation of techniques of political control) reveal that there is no effective legislation to protect citizens from the pernicious effects of this arsenal, should it fall into the hands of aggressive and intolerant public officials or simply to terrorist networks or criminal organizations. Potential victims would further have to bear the burden of proof, aggravated by the fact that their injuries or disabilities were caused by weapons that operate at a distance and are almost invisible and unrecognized. This is why they ask that the EP (European Parliament) takes measures to prevent this danger and manage, through debate, to obtain recognition of this scourge and the establishment of the necessary safeguards".

Excerpts from the information section:

(From point 1) "The "Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons" contains provisions for the restriction of the use of certain weapons which have indiscriminate effects or which cause unnecessary injury. Directed-energy weapons are not included in these provisions. With regard to implications of these technologies on human rights, it should be noted that torture and all other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments or punishments are prohibited, without exception, under several international treaties, including the United Nations "Convention against Torture".

(From point 2) "Weapons whose exports are controlled by the (EU) Code of Conduct are defined in the "Common Military List of the European Union". Directed-energy weapons are also mentioned on this list and their export is therefore covered by provisions of this Code. An excerpt from the relevant list is attached hereto. However, the definitions used do not cover the full range of technologies cited in the petition."

It is also explained in the document why the Commission is no longer competent on conducting revisions to the [Common Military List of the European Union](#).

"3. In addition, European Council Regulation No 1334/2000 establishes a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use arms and technologies which can be used for civilian and military purposes and which are detailed in the list of dual-use weapons and technologies."

"4. More specifically, the EU's concern about the trade in instruments that could be used for torture is reflected in the support that has been extended, within the framework of the "European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights", to a project to monitor and detect the trade in such instruments, including instruments using new technologies to inflict torture."

"6. However, export controls will not protect people within the EU. Necessary protective measures for EU citizens (e.g., ban on production, ban on research or research funding, ban on use of new weapons by police and authorities responsible for applying the law, technical standards [maximum production or similar measure], prohibition of sales to minors or any citizen, license requirements for buyers, etc.) would appear in responses from other DGs."

(DG: Directorate-General)

Given the extremely advanced nature of the symptoms reported by victims of directed-energy attacks and torture e.g., mental manipulation, the associated capability is considered to belong to the category of "neuroweapons", which constitute "weapons of mass disruption" and should be thought as equivalent, in terms of national security, to "weapons of mass destruction". It is expected that these would be top secret, would be handled only by few people in the highest military ranks, and in compartmentalized intelligence settings and would probably be subject to limited or non-existent parliamentary/congressional supervision. This setting would cancel institutional controls, thereby creating environments conducive to corruption.

We would like to request your help for the acknowledgement of directed-energy torture or cybertorture in the general population similarly to the cases of directed-energy attacks on U.S. officials acknowledged by the U.S. government. These torturous attacks constitute a human rights issue with severe risks on the health, well-being and the life of sufferers. It should be also mentioned that while targeted individuals are being tortured silently, certain phenomena such as "hearing the global Hum" which affects 4% of the world population [*] may be indicative of the fact that the effects are being experienced by a much larger population than that of targeted individuals. While debilitating attacks represent undoubtedly an evident existential risk, it would be also important to comprehend the implications, as the complaints of the targeted individuals, referring to both torture as well as mental manipulation, may be indicative of a future where mental interference below distinguishable thresholds might pose an undetectable risk for societies. It is urgent to address this human rights issue of international scale.