



## Calls For Input

REPORT

# Call for inputs for the report on biopsychosocial dynamics conducive to torture and ill-treatment

ISSUED BY

**Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

PUBLISHED

**20 July 2020**

## Report

Issued by Special Procedures

SUBJECT

**Torture and inhuman treatment**

SYMBOL NUMBER

**A/75/179**



## Version

[See available official languages](#) 

[View full document record](#)

---

## Background

Although torture and ill-treatment remain pervasive in all regions of the world (see A/73/207), the investigation and prosecution of such abuse remains comparatively rare. Even in the face of compelling evidence, disciplinary or judicial repression tends to be exceptional, media interest muted or short-lived and public complacency widespread, not only under authoritarian regimes, but also in liberal democracies.

Throughout his thematic research, country visits and individual communications, the Special Rapporteur has consistently found that: (a) all States, to a greater or lesser extent, are plagued by insufficient governmental transparency and accountability; (b) those shortcomings undermine the effective prevention, investigation, prosecution and redress of torture and ill-treatment; and (c) in all regions of the world, there is widespread public and institutional complacency with regard to governmental secrecy and impunity and the resulting risks and prevalence of torture and ill-treatment.

## Summary

In the present report, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Nils Melzer, explores the root causes of the current worldwide complacency with regard to torture and ill-treatment, based on well- documented biopsychosocial patterns of self-deception and denial, and recommends the urgent and proactive

incorporation of his science-based conclusions into ongoing, policy-based global governance reform processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In his report, which reflects his conclusions and recommendations, the Special Rapporteur:

- a) Outlines the predominant biological, psychological and socio-environmental (“biopsychosocial”) factors governing human decision-making;
- b) Identifies well-documented patterns of individual and collective self-deception and denial that are conducive to the current worldwide complacency with regard to torture and ill-treatment;
- c) Demonstrates that any global governance system seeking to fully realize the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be based on an empirical, science-based conception of human behaviour, devoid of moral idealization or judgmentalism, and build normative and institutional frameworks specifically designed to overcome the increasingly existential risks arising from human self-sabotage; and
- d) Recommends the urgent and proactive incorporation of those science-based conclusions into ongoing, policy-based national and international governance reform processes, including, most notably, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Special Rapporteur concludes that the root cause of the systemic governance failure is not a lack of expertise, resources or normative consensus, nor generalized malicious intent, but lies in generic biopsychosocial factors of:

- (a) self-preservation (need for safety and security);
- (b) self-determination (need for autonomy and control);
- (c) self-affirmation (need for worth and dignity);
- (d) self-justification (need for justice); and

(e) self-gratification (need for reward and stimulation), that have shaped human decision-making throughout history, irrespective of national, cultural, religious or other distinctive influences.

The Special Rapporteur recommends States to take national rigorous measures towards mitigating generic patterns of denial throughout political, administrative, judicial and legislative processes of decision-making aiming at enhancing transparency and accountability of public institutions, empowering the role of free media and civil society organizations, as well as enhance the cooperation with international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

## Additional information

- Special Rapporteur's [statement](#) to the General Assembly
- [Press release](#) of the report: UN expert: The most important obstacle to the universal eradication of torture is wilful ignorance

---

## Inputs Received



### Member States

#### NHRIs

- [La Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos](#)

#### NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

- Advocacy for Humankind [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#)
- [Victimas de Acoso y Tortura Electronica](#) | [Annex](#)
- [Accion de los Cristianos Para la Abolicion de la Tortura](#)
- [Asociacion de Victimas de Corrupcion Judicial](#)

- **Comision de Derechos Humanos de la Ciudad De Mexico**
- **Centre of Human Rights Fray Matias de Cordova**
- **The Committee of Family Members of the Events of February and March 1989 and the World Organization against Torture**
- **Confederation Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Comision Ejecutiva de Atencion a Victimas**
- **Equal Rights Trust**
- **Freedom for Targeted Individuals**
- **International Federation of ACAT- Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture**
- **France Disability**
- **Hungarian Helsinki Committee**
- **Human Rights Defenders**
- **International Association for Human Rights Advocacy**
- **Independent Medico Legal Unit**
- **ITHACA**
- **Justice Project Pakistan**
- **Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights**
- **Medical Action Group**
- **Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha**
- **Odhikar**

- [People against Covert Torture and Surveillance](#)
- [Targeted America](#)
- [Trennungsvater e.V.](#)

## Individuals

- [Electromagnetic Torture](#)
  - [Energy weapons](#)
  - [Military grade](#)
  - [Mind control technology](#)
  - [Harrassment techniques](#)
  - [OAS](#)
  - [WW](#)
- 

### Global Social Channels



### Latest

[Feature Stories](#)

[Media Center](#)

[Meetings & Events](#)

### Resources

[Databases](#)

[Library](#)

[Publications](#)

**Connect**

[Contact Us](#)

[Follow us](#)

[Work With Us](#)



**Donate**

---

Contact

Copyrights

Privacy Policy

Terms of use