

The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners under Review: Preventing Torture and Ill-treatment

Tuesday 11 March

15.00 – 17.00

Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva

In the run-up to the 3rd intergovernmental expert meeting on the Review of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners from 25 to 28 March in Vienna, this side event seeks to provide a platform for discussion on substantive issues of any revision of the Rules.

The process has been called the ‘most important standard-setting process currently underway’ due to its impact on both criminal justice and human rights. Various Rules identified for review are highly relevant with regard to the implementation of the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.

The Special Rapporteur on torture’s report to the General Assembly in December 2013 reflected on these areas and made recommendations on elements which need to be incorporated into the Standard Minimum Rules.

Based on a resolution of the General Assembly, in 2012 the open-ended intergovernmental expert group met in Vienna and in Argentina, and made substantive progress on the revision process. The intergovernmental expert meeting in Vienna is a crucial next step and will involve concrete negotiations on how the Rules under review should be revised.

Welcome and introduction

H.E. Mr Thani Thongphakdi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Updating the Standard Minimum Rules in light of the prohibition of torture

Juan E. Méndez, Special Rapporteur on torture

Deaths and serious injuries in custody

Robert Husbands, OHCHR, Rule of Law and Democracy section

Complaints, independent inspections & solitary confinement

Jamil Dakwar, Director of the Human Rights Program, American Civil Liberties Union

Right to dignity and security

Lorna McGregor, Director Human Rights Centre, Essex University

Perspectives in view of the next Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting in Vienna

Jean-Daniel Vigny, Senior Human Rights Adviser, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

Moderation: Andrea Huber, Policy Director, Penal Reform International



CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
& HUMANITARIAN LAW

UN Special Rapporteur on torture



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Permanent Mission of Thailand

