

**INTER-SESSION ACTIVITY REPORT (NOVEMBER 2015 to
APRIL 2016)
AND
ANNUAL SITUATION OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT IN
AFRICA REPORT**

Presented to the 58th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and
Peoples' Rights

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I: Introduction

1. This Report is prepared pursuant to Rule 23 (3) and 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights which requires each Subsidiary Mechanism of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission) to present a report on its work at each Ordinary Session of the African Commission and each Commissioner to submit a report similarly on promotion activities undertaken during the inter-session. I submit this Report in my capacity as a Member of the African Commission, the Chairperson of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa ('CPTA' or 'the Committee'), Member of the Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities, and Member of the Working Group on Specific Issues Related to the work of the African Commission.
2. This Report covers the inter-session between the 57th and the 58th Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission during the period November 2015 to April 2016. It also provides an analysis of the general situation of torture and ill-treatment in Africa in the period May 2015 - April 2016.
3. The Report is divided into this introduction; my inter-sessional activities; a general analysis of the situation of torture in Africa; and recommendations.

II: Inter-sessional Activities

A. Activities as Chairperson of the CPTA

4. I undertook the following activities as Chairperson of CPTA:
 - a. From 14 to 15 December 2015, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, I participated in an experts meeting hosted by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, to discuss the link between torture and enforced disappearances and explore the possibility of developing guidelines on enforced disappearances.
 - b. From 26 to 27 January 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya, I participated in a Pan-African Conference on Promoting the Adoption and Effective

Implementation of Anti-torture Legislation, hosted by REDRESS and the Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU).

- c. From 1 to 3 February 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa, I participated in a drafting retreat convened by the CPTA, in collaboration with REDRESS and Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative (CSPRI).¹ The Meeting brought together 16 participants including Members of the CPTA and other experts in the area of redress for victims of torture and ill-treatment. The Retreat generated a zero draft of the General Comment.
- d. On 2 February 2016, in Cape Town, South Africa, I chaired an internal meeting of CPTA.
- e. During the intersession, I also led preparation of the 2016 issue of Africa Torture Watch.

B. Activities as Member of the Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

5. I undertook the following activities as member of the Working Group on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa:
 - a. From 9 to 12 December 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, I participated in a Regional Consultative Meeting convened by the African Union Commission and partner North African states, where I made a presentation of the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.
 - b. On 16 March 2016, in Pretoria, South Africa, I gave a guest lecture at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, on the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.
 - c. During the intersession, I also finalised the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with

¹ See Press Release on the Drafting Retreat, available at <http://www.achpr.org/press/2016/02/d289/>.

Disabilities in Africa, which was adopted by the Commission at its 19th Extra-Ordinary Session, held from 16 to 25 February 2016, in Banjul, The Gambia.

C. Other activities as Member of the African Commission

6. From 16 to 25 February 2016, I attended the 19th Extra-ordinary Session of the African Commission, held in Banjul, The Gambia.

D. Letters of Appeal

7. On 21 March 2016, in my capacity as Commissioner-Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Republic of The Sudan, I sent a letter of appeal to His Excellency Omar Hassan al-Bashir, President of the Republic of The Sudan, regarding the alleged raids of a centre for training and human development called TRACKS, and the alleged confiscation of its property by officials of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). The Government of the Republic of The Sudan has not responded to the letter of appeal.

III: Situation of Torture and Ill-Treatment in Africa

A: Normative context

8. This section of the Report is prepared pursuant to one of the terms of reference of the CPTA which mandates the Committee to report to each Ordinary Session of the African Commission on the status of implementation of the Robben Island Guidelines for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture in Africa (the Robben Island Guidelines).
9. The Robben Island Guidelines provide concrete directions to African State and non-state actors on how to implement the provisions in Article 5 of the African Charter which provides that:

'Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man, particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.'

10. Article 5 therefore protects individuals from violation of the respect of human dignity and all forms of exploitation and degradation of the human being, including slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment.
11. The Robben Island Guidelines is an unprecedented instrument for preventing and eradicating torture and ill treatment in Africa. It is an essential tool for States in fulfilling their national, regional and international obligations to strengthen and implement the prohibition and prevention of torture. The African Commission and other stakeholders can also use the Guidelines as a basis for reminding States and other parties of what actions they should take to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment.

B: Positive developments in the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment in Africa

12. The United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT) principally calls for States to criminalise torture. To date, the following forty six (46) African States have ratified CAT: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.
13. South Sudan ratified CAT on 30 April 2015.²
14. The Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT) seeks the establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), and emphasises prevention rather than

² Status of ratification available at http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?Treaty=CAT&Lang=en

reaction, and cooperation with national authorities rather than condemnation.³ Eighteen (18) African States have ratified OP-CAT: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

15. Rwanda ratified OP-CAT on 30 June 2015,⁴ And Cape Verde did so in April 2016.

16. In line with OP-CAT, nine (9) African States- Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania,⁵ Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia⁶ - have designated their National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs).⁷ Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique and Togo have designated their National Human Rights Institutions as NPMs, while the other countries have established completely new institutions.⁸

17. The Constitutions or criminal statutes of the following forty-six African States include provisions prohibiting torture and ill-treatment: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

18. *During the inter-session the following notable domestic anti-torture steps were taken:*

³ Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) *What is the OPCAT?* available at <http://www.apr.ch/en/what-is-the-opcat/>.

⁴ Note 2 above.

⁵ See APT *Mauritania - OPCAT Situation* 15 March 2016, available at http://www.apr.ch/en/opcat_pages/opcat-situation-44/. Mauritania adopted Law N° 2015-034 of 30 September 2015, which established its NPM.

⁶ See UN News Centre *UN rights office welcomes Tunisian law on national anti-torture body* 11 October 2013, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46247#.VvQUu-RzvIU>.

⁷ See APT *List of Designated NPM by regions & countries*, available at http://www.apr.ch/en/list-of-designated-npm-by-regions-and-countries/?pdf=list_designated_npm.

⁸ Ibid.

- i. On 17 September 2015, the High Court of *Kenya* held that detaining two women in a maternity hospital after child birth over unpaid maternity fees was arbitrary, unlawful, and unconstitutional and was a violation of their freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The Court awarded them monetary damages amounting to 1.5 Million Kenyan Shillings (15,000 USD) for Millicent who was detained for 24 days, and 500, 000 Kenyan Shillings (5000 USD) for Margaret who was detained for 6 days. To ensure other women in Kenya do not have similar experiences, the Court mandated the Kenyan Government to undertake both legislative and policy measures to end these detentions.⁹
- ii. In *Zimbabwe*, the Friendship Bench, a network of community health workers, volunteers and specialists, is using talking therapy to help thousands of people with psychosocial disabilities that would otherwise have been left untreated and subjected to various forms of ill-treatment.¹⁰ The programme works by training non-professional carers in talking therapy techniques, so that they can provide treatment.¹¹ Similarly, Saint Camille Association in *Benin* has helped thousands of West Africans affected by mental illnesses, caring for them in residential centres.¹² The Association has more than a dozen centres across Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, and Burkina Faso.¹³
- iii. In *Nigeria*, a man was charged over the abduction and sexual exploitation of a 13 year old girl he allegedly married in the Northern city of Kano.¹⁴ Two other people were charged in absentia for conspiring to abduct the girl.¹⁵ Similarly, in *Niger*, the Centre for Judicial Assistance and Civic Action, successfully brought

⁹ Petition No. 562 of 2012 *Millicent Awour Omuya & Another v The Attorney General & 4 Others*.

¹⁰ BBC News Using talk to tackle Zimbabwe's mental health crisis 23 February 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35597558>.

¹¹ As above.

¹² BBC News *Gregoire Ahongbonon: Freeing people chained for being ill* 17 February 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35586177>.

¹³ As above.

¹⁴ BBC News *Nigerian man charged over abduction of 13-year-old girl* 8 March 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35753446>.

¹⁵ As above.

legal action on behalf of a young girl, Balkissa Chaibou and was able to prevent her forcible marriage.¹⁶

19. Finally, the African Commission undertook a number of interventions during the inter-session period towards protection against torture and ill-treatment:

- i. During its 57th Ordinary Session, held from 4 to 18 November 2015, the African Commission in *Communication 341/2007 – Equality Now and Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) v. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*, found in favour of the Complainant and held that the rape of the Victim “constituted a serious violation of her dignity, integrity, and personal security as guaranteed under Articles 5, 4 and 6 of the Charter, respectively. Further, mutatis mutandis, by keeping Ms Negash captive against her will, by compelling her to sign a purported marriage certificate under pain of physical assault and threats, her autonomy, control and volition over her body and life were seriously infringed, and thus her dignity was also violated.”¹⁷ The African Commission further held that “even though not expressly listed under Article 5 of the Charter, rape is one of the most repugnant affronts to human dignity and the range of dignity-related rights, such as security of the person and integrity of the person, respectively guaranteed under Articles 6 and 4 of the Charter.”¹⁸
- ii. In *Communication 317/06 – The Nubian Community in Kenya vs The Republic of Kenya*, adopted at the African Commission’s 17th Extra-Ordinary Session, held from 19 to 28 February 2015, the Commission held that “by failing to take measures to prevent members of the Nubian Community from becoming stateless and by failing to put in place fair processes, devoid of discrimination and arbitrariness for the acquisition of identity documents, the Commission

¹⁶ BBC News *The girl who said ‘no’ to marriage* 19 February 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35464262>.

¹⁷ *Communication 341/2007 – Equality Now and Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) v. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia*, para 121.

¹⁸ As above, para 120.

considers that Kenya has failed to recognize the legal status of Nubians, in violation of Article 5 of the Charter.”¹⁹

- iii. Following discussions with various stakeholders during the 56th Ordinary Session, held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 21 April to 7 May 2015, the CPTA decided to develop a general comment on *the right to redress* due to the extensive gap identified in the area. The zero draft of the General Comment on the Right to Redress for Victims of Torture and Ill-treatment is available on the African Commission’s website, for further inputs from stakeholders.

C: Negative developments in the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment in Africa

20. The violation of human dignity and the exploitation and degradation of the individual, in particular through the use of torture and ill-treatment by state and non-state actors, continued during the period May 2015 to April 2016 in violation of Article 5 of the African Charter and the Robben Island Guidelines, as illustrated here.

i. Places of detention

21. Torture or ill-treatment in places of detention remains widespread and deeply-rooted throughout the continent. Persons in detention are often tortured by law enforcement officials to extract confessions. For example, *Tunisia’s* counter-terrorism law passed in July 2015 gives security forces wide-ranging monitoring and surveillance powers, and extends the period during which security forces can hold suspects incommunicado from six to 15 days, which significantly increases the risk of torture.²⁰

ii. Enforced disappearance

¹⁹ Communication 317/06 – *The Nubian Community in Kenya vs The Republic of Kenya*, para 151.

²⁰ Amnesty International *Tunisia: Evidence of torture and deaths in custody suggest gains of the uprising sliding into reverse gear*, 14 January 2016, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2016/01/tunisia-evidence-of-torture-and-deaths-in-custody/> and BBC News *Tunisia parliament passes new anti-terror law* 25 July 2015, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33662633>.

22. Enforced disappearance may entail torture not only of the disappeared persons but also of their families. In *Zimbabwe*, despite a High Court Ruling ordering state security agents to investigate the disappearance of former journalist and pro-democracy activist Itai Dzamara, there is no evidence that the State has taken steps to comply with the court order.²¹

iii. Terrorism

23. Torture has been used against persons suspected of terrorism or against persons allegedly associated with persons suspected of terrorism, to obtain information and to punish them for their alleged roles in the terrorist acts. Terrorist groups have also used means akin to torture on populations. During the inter-session, terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Shabaab and Islamic State have carried out attacks on innocent civilians, killing and injuring many, committing acts which in some instances could amount to torture or ill-treatment. Some of these attacks took place in *Nigeria, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Tunisia, Somalia* and *Kenya*.²² States have in turn reacted with the use of excessive force, including torture and ill-treatment to combat the scourge of terrorism in their territories.

iv. Violations in the course of civil strife

24. Rape and sexual violence have been used as forms of torture especially in conflict situations in Africa. Rape and sexual violence have monumental effects on victims, including: isolation from the community, sexually transmitted diseases,

²¹ BBC News *Zimbabwe urged to find missing anti-Mugabe activist* 8 May 2015, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-32654607>.

²² See UN News Centre *Terrorism remains major threat in West Africa despite electoral progress – senior UN official* 14 January 2016, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53005#.VvK6EuRzvIU>; BBC News *Ivory Coast: 16 dead in Grand Bassam beach resort attack* 14 March 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35798502>; BBC News *Somalia's al-Shabab claims Baidoa attack killing 30* 29 February 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35685648>; UN News Centre *Senior UN officials condemn terrorist attack against Kenyan university* 2 April 2015, available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50492#.VvK22eRzvIU>; BBC News *Why Tunisia has been targeted* 29 June 2015, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33320898>.

unwanted pregnancies, and forced abortion or denial of abortion. In *South Sudan* rape has been used as an instrument of terror and a weapon of war perpetrated by both sides of the conflict. In addition to sexual assault and abduction of women and girls, sexual slavery has been documented²³ There have been reported deaths in custody due to deplorable conditions of custody, starvation of civilians as a result of the scorched earth policy²⁴ and conscription of children soldiers during the conflict in South Sudan, all which amount to torture or ill-treatment.²⁵

v. *Elections*

25. In *Burundi*, demonstrations broke out in response to news that President Pierre Nkurunziza would seek re-election for a third term in April 2015. Police used excessive force and in some instances shot at demonstrators indiscriminately, killing and injuring several people. Further, following a failed *coup d'etat* in May 2015, police officers arrested demonstrators and opposition members often arbitrarily and held them for long periods without trial. In addition, members of the ruling party's youth wing, *Imbonerakure*, took to the streets, arrested and beat people, although they had no legal arresting powers. Reports received by the Commission allege the use of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention as detainees were beaten by electric cables, wooden sticks or metal bars; made to

²³ Assessment mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve human rights, accountability, reconciliation and capacity in South Sudan. See A/HRC/31/CRP.6, para 160 and the Report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, para 809.

²⁴ The practice of razing entire villages by burning down homes while pillaging and destroying resources constitutes a deliberate deprivation of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

²⁵ BBC News *Many South Sudan boys 'kidnapped to be child soldiers'* 1 March 2015, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31681302>; Reuters *Forced cannibalism, child soldiers scar South Sudan war: African Union* 28 October 2016, available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-unrest-idUSKCN0SM2F320151028>; Report of the African Union Commission of Inquiry on South Sudan, October 2015, available at <http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/auciss.final.report.pdf>, paras 784 & 789.

stand on their heads; submerged in dirty water; and others were detained in rooms full of shards of glass.²⁶

26. In *Uganda*, preparations for the country's general elections held on 18 and 19 February 2016 were marred by arbitrary arrests of opposition party leaders including the Forum for Democratic Change presidential candidate, Kizza Besigye,²⁷ and the use of excessive force including tear gas and live ammunition to disperse demonstrators before and after the elections.²⁸

27. During the inter-session, demonstrations broke out in the *Republic of Congo* following news of proposed changes to the Constitution which would allow the president to run for another term in Office in the March 2016 elections. Security forces used live ammunition and fired tear gas at protestors which led to deaths and injuries.²⁹

vi. Demonstrations

28. In *Ethiopia*, protests broke out after plans were announced to expand the capital's administrative control into the Oromia region. Security forces reacted with a crackdown on protestors which left many dead or injured.³⁰

vii. Vulnerable groups

29. Persons with albinism continued to be hunted and physically attacked due to prevailing myths such as the misbelief that their body parts, when used in witchcraft rituals and potions or amulets, induce wealth, good luck and political

²⁶ Human Rights Watch *World Report 2016*, available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/country-chapters/burundi> and Amnesty International *World Report 2015/2016: State of the World's Human Rights*, available at <https://www.aivl.be/sites/default/files/bijlagen/pol1025522016english.pdf>, p. 103.

²⁷ Uganda Human Rights Commission *Preliminary Report on National Elections 23 February 2016*, available at <http://www.uhrc.ug/>, p. 9.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ BBC News *Congo votes over Denis Sassou Nguesso third-term* 25 October 2015, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-34630366>.

³⁰ BBC News *Ethiopia's Oromo protests: PM Hailemariam Desalegn apologises*, 10 March 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35773888>.

success. In *Kenya, Malawi* and *Tanzania*³¹ there have been abductions, maiming and killings of persons with albinism,³² And these acts violate the right to life, the right to security of person and the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment of these persons.³³

30. Persons with psychosocial disabilities continue to be held in centers where they face abuse including: arbitrary detention, chaining, physical and verbal abuse, receiving treatment without their free, prior and informed consent and overcrowding in the facilities. This is the case in *Somaliland*;³⁴ in Benin, where persons with mental illnesses are kept in chains or subjected to other forms of ill-treatment;³⁵ and in Zambia, where ill-treatment against people with psychosocial disabilities has been uncovered.³⁶

31. In *Rwanda*, the Gikondo Transit Centre meant to be a rehabilitation centre holds street children, street vendors, sex workers and other vulnerable members of society arbitrarily detained in a bid to keep the streets of Kigali clean. Reports indicate that the detainees are held in deplorable conditions and are subjected to severe beatings which amount to ill-treatment.³⁷

³¹ See Daily Nation *Gang attacks albino 'for organs'*, 13 September 2015, available at <http://www.nation.co.ke/news/Gang-attacks-albino-for-organs/-/1056/2869110/-/4sj7nlz/-/index.html>; Nyasa Times *Albinos in Malawi 'hunted like animals' for body parts* 3 March 2015, available at <http://www.nyasatimes.com/2015/03/03/albinos-in-malawi-hunted-like-animals-for-body-parts/>; Amnesty International *Malawi: Ritual murders of people with albinism must end* 3 February 2016, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/02/malawi-ritual-murders-of-people-with-albinism-must-end/>; Information available at Daily Nation *Witch doctors banned to stem albino killings* 14 January 2016, available at <http://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Albino-Killings-Tanzania-Witch-Doctors/-/1066/2589612/-/rya0yz/-/index.html>.

³² Report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the study of the situation of human rights of persons living with albinism, A/HRC/28/75, para 14.

³³ Human Rights Council *Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism*, A/HRC/31/63, 18 January 2016, paras 16 & 16.

³⁴ Human Rights Watch *Chained Like Prisoners- Abuses Against People with Psychosocial Disabilities in Somaliland* 25 October 2015, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/10/25/chained-prisoners/abuses-against-people-psychosocial-disabilities-somaliland>.

³⁵ BBC News *Gregoire Ahongbonon: Freeing people chained for being ill* 17 February 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35586177>.

³⁶ Mental Health Users Network of Zambia *Human rights and mental health in Zambia* 2014, page 20.

³⁷ Human Rights Watch *Why not call this place prison- unlawful detention and ill-treatment in Rwanda's Gikondo Transit Centre* 24 September 2015, available at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/09/24/why-not-call-place-prison/unlawful-detention-and-ill->

32. The CPTA understands that the Government of Egypt has allegedly ordered the closure of El Nadeem Rehabilitation Centre which provided counselling and legal assistance among other rehabilitative services to victims and survivors of torture and their families.³⁸

IV: Recommendations

32. In view of the foregoing, I wish to make the following recommendations particularly in relation to the CPTA's work of ensuring protection against torture and ill-treatment:

- i. States should avoid the use of vague or broadly interpreted anti-terrorism legislation or other state security legislation to detain individuals beyond internationally accepted periods;
- ii. States and non-State actors should review national and regional instruments to ensure effective protection of individuals against enforced disappearance;
- iii. The Committee calls on the Republic of South Sudan to immediately ratify and domesticate the African Charter, as well as investigate all cases of torture and ill-treatment and hold perpetrators accountable;
- iv. Human dignity should be respected, and torture and ill-treatment should not be perpetrated on individuals undertaking Charter-guaranteed rights such as the right to vote and the right to demonstrate;
- v. States should provide adequate protection to persons or groups vulnerable to acts of torture and ill-treatment, including persons with albinism and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

[treatment-rwandas-gikondo](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/rwanda/11885919/Rwanda-sends-vagrants-to-detention-camp-to-keep-capital-Kigali-clean.html); and The Telegraph *Rwanda 'sends vagrants to detention camp' to keep capital Kigali clean* 24 September 2015, available at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/rwanda/11885919/Rwanda-sends-vagrants-to-detention-camp-to-keep-capital-Kigali-clean.html>.

³⁸ BBC News *Egypt to shut prominent centre that documents torture* 18 February 2016, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35600227>; and Amnesty International *Egypt: attempt to close torture rehabilitation centre condemned* 17 February 2016, available at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/egypt-attempt-close-torture-rehabilitation-centre-condemned>.

- vi. The Committee calls on State Parties that have not done so, to expedite the ratification and domestication of CAT and OP-CAT; and
- vii. Finally, the Committee invites all stakeholders to provide their inputs on the zero draft of the General Comment on the Right to Redress for Victims of Torture and Ill-treatment, which is available on the African Commission's website: <http://www.achpr.org/>.