



UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture concludes seventh session, announces programme of work in the field for 2009

GENEVA -- The United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) has announced its programme of work in the field for 2009.

During its seventh session held from 9 to 13 February 2009, the SPT notified the authorities of Honduras and Cambodia of its plans to carry out visits to these two States Parties. [...] The countries to receive the visits during 2009 have been chosen in accordance with the Optional Protocol. [...]

The SPT consists of ten independent expert members carrying out preventive visits to places of detention in all States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The SPT has a mandate to visit all State Parties, with a view to strengthening, if necessary, the protection of persons deprived of liberty against torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Every State Party is obliged under the Optional Protocol to grant the SPT unrestricted access to any place of detention and to provide all the relevant information the SPT may request. The SPT may have private interviews with persons deprived of liberty and any other person believed by the SPT to be able to provide relevant information.

In the framework of the close cooperation between the SPT and the State parties, the SPT would like to make itself available for an ongoing dialogue concerning the NPMs, which State Parties undertake to establish and maintain. Advising and assisting in the development of effective and independent national preventive mechanisms is a key element in the SPT's work and will form an important part of each in-country engagement.

Cambodia became a full party to OPCAT in April 2007 and should have created its NPM by April 2008.

For further information, contact the OHCHR Cambodia Office on 023 987 671, email cambodia@ohchr.org, or visit cambodia.ohchr.org. For information on the work of the SPT, please consult the SPT website www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/opcat