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Press release - DC134(2012)

Council of Europe anti-torture committee criticizes 'continued' ill treatment by police and prison overcrowding in Cyprus

Strasbourg, 06.12.2012 – Persons held in police establishments in Cyprus continue to run a 'serious risk' of ill treatment, according to a just-released [report](#) by the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CPT](#)).

The report – based on a visit to Cyprus by a CPT delegation in 2008 – notes insufficient progress since its previous visit in 2004. It calls on Cypriot authorities to ensure 'practical professional training' for police and that 'judicial authorities' be 'sensitised to their obligations to take appropriate action in cases of ill treatment.'

The report also criticises overcrowding at Nicosia Central Prisons and lack of sufficient health-care for inmates at the establishment. In its report on its visit in 2004, the CPT pointed out 'rampant overcrowding' at Nicosia Central Prisons. But since then, the 'situation has further deteriorated,' according to the new report, with an occupancy rate of over 152%.

In its [response](#), the Cypriot Government provided details on measures being taken to address the issues raised in the report. Both documents have been made public at the request of the Cypriot authorities.

The CPT will carry out its next visit to Cyprus in 2013.

Contact: [Panos Kakaviatos](#), Media Officer, Tel. +33 3 90 21 50 27

Council of Europe Directorate of Communications

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax:+33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int