



**Convention against Torture
and Other Cruel, Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment
or Punishment**

Distr.: General
8 September 2025
English
Original: Spanish
English and Spanish only

Committee against Torture

**Information received from Ecuador on follow-up
to the concluding observations on its eighth
periodic report***

[Date received: 24 July 2025]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. Follow-up to paragraphs 16 (a) and (e), 20 (i) and 42 of the concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ecuador, issued on 16 August 2024.

II. Additional information relating to the concluding observations (CAT/C/ECU/CO/8)

A. Information relating to paragraph 16 (a)

2. The National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders is the public entity responsible for managing, supervising and monitoring the implementation of policies in the prison system. It acts as the technical body of the National Social Rehabilitation System and, in accordance with the Constitution and the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, administers detention centres and oversees, at the national level, the custody of persons deprived of liberty.

3. National legislation regulates the enforcement of sentences and the rights of persons deprived of liberty, who are considered a priority group according to the Constitution. The National Social Rehabilitation System, led by the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders as the technical body, is aimed at ensuring comprehensive rehabilitation and protecting and upholding rights. Sentences are served and precautionary and coercive measures are enforced solely in facilities administered by the System, in accordance with the constitutional and legal framework in force.

4. In recent years, the National Social Rehabilitation System has experienced serious violent incidents, leading to the declaration of a state of emergency on numerous occasions between 2019 and 2025. These measures, adopted by the executive branch in response to internal disturbances, were reviewed by the Constitutional Court, which, in judgment No. 4-20-EE/20, ordered the President to prepare a medium- and long-term action plan to address, under the ordinary regime and in accordance with international human rights standards, structural issues giving rise to the crisis in prisons.

5. The action plan laid bare the fact that the structural causes of the prison crisis in Ecuador require comprehensive intervention that goes beyond prison administration measures. Five main areas for action were defined: institutional framework, living conditions, human talent management, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and prison security. These areas were incorporated into the Public Policy on Social Rehabilitation 2022–2025, which was prepared under the leadership of the former Secretariat for Human Rights, now the Ministry for Women’s Affairs and Human Rights, in compliance with the ruling of the Constitutional Court. The Policy, which is aligned with the National Development Plan, was designed using a rights-based approach.

6. In order to strengthen the National Social Rehabilitation System, on 29 March 2023, an Organic Act was enacted amending legislation on building institutional capacity and improving comprehensive security. The Act, which was published in Official Gazette No. 279, amended key pieces of legislation such as the Public and State Security Act and the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, making significant changes to the structure, competencies and operation of the System and its technical body.

7. Pursuant to the amendments made to the Public and State Security Act, the head of the technical body of the National Social Rehabilitation System became a member of the Public and State Security Council, as well as of the newly created National Criminal Policy Council. The status of the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders was thus changed from a service to a ministry with responsibility for the leadership, planning, coordination and oversight of the National Social Rehabilitation System, and a new lead agency was established for criminal policy and human rights.

8. The amendment to article 38 of the Public and State Security Act designated detention centres as State security zones, reflecting their strategic importance. Between 8 and

25 October 2024, inter-agency technical meetings were held to define the boundaries and areas of influence of the security zones, as well as arrangements for control of the relevant airspace. The regulations make clear that such a designation does not mean that the armed forces assume custody of persons deprived of liberty, who continue to be under the responsibility of the prison guards service.

9. Following the reforms and inter-agency efforts, consideration should also be given to the recommendations set out in the technical report on defining the relevant area of influence for detention centres designated as security zones, which provide key considerations in ensuring that human rights are upheld in an adequate and respectful manner. The principal recommendations include:

- Conceptual differences: detention centres designated as security zones or areas should not be assumed to be restricted locations, and clear restrictions and limitations should therefore be established in accordance with the regulations in force, especially in aspects related to prison oversight and guarantees of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty as a priority group.
- Differentiated security responsibilities: at detention centres, internal security should remain under the responsibility of the prison guards service, while perimeter security is ordinarily the responsibility of the National Police. The declaration of a state of emergency is regulated by the legislation in force and the rulings of the Constitutional Court. Areas of influence – the area surrounding a detention centre – must be regulated by executive decree.
- Regulation of operations and participation of decentralized autonomous governments: it is recommended that the limitations of military and police operations in the areas of influence are clearly established and that the decentralized metropolitan and municipal autonomous governments are included in the regulatory process, taking due account of their competencies and autonomy. It should be noted that the report was endorsed by delegates from the Armed Forces Joint Command and was officially reviewed and approved by its representatives, according greater technical and institutional legitimacy to the recommendations contained therein.

10. Article 104 of the Act concerning reforms to a number of legal bodies in the area of comprehensive security amended article 674 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code and accorded the technical body of the National Social Rehabilitation System the status of ministry, with its own legal personality and technical, administrative, financial and operational autonomy. This new entity is responsible for:

- Acting as the lead agency for the National Social Rehabilitation System and overseeing its organization and administration
- Taking the lead role in shaping the policy for the comprehensive development of adolescent offenders
- Formulating the national plan or public policy for the social rehabilitation and comprehensive development of adolescent offenders
- Ensuring the administration and enforcement of non-custodial measures and penalties within its competence and verifying compliance with them
- Designing and implementing prison management models in accordance with international standards in the areas of human rights, security and good prison management
- Designing and implementing management models for the comprehensive development of adolescent offenders in accordance with international standards in the areas of human rights and specialized treatment for this group
- Conducting planning, regulatory and oversight efforts in connection with the administration, evaluation and security of detention centres
- Defining the functional and organizational structure of the various types of detention centres and managing the social rehabilitation centres, temporary detention centres

and temporary holding units within the National Social Rehabilitation System, as well as any new detention centres created

11. The highest authority in the ministry is a civilian minister with experience in the areas of human rights, social rehabilitation and prison security.

12. Article 105 of the same Act replaces article 675 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code. The article concerns the Board of Directors of the technical body of the National Social Rehabilitation System, which is the body responsible for coordinating the social institutions involved in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons deprived of liberty. Its purpose is to design and formulate policies for the comprehensive care of persons deprived of liberty and the comprehensive development of adolescent offenders.

13. The Board of Directors of the technical body of the National Social Rehabilitation System is responsible for the coordination and evaluation of policies concerning the rehabilitation and comprehensive care of persons deprived of liberty and adolescent offenders, without exercising jurisdiction over the direct administration of prisons.

14. It is made up of the following members, who have the right to voice their opinion and to vote:

1. The Minister responsible for the technical body (Chair of the Board)
2. The Minister responsible for criminal policy and human rights
3. The Minister of Public Health
4. The Minister of Labour Relations
5. The Minister of Education
6. The Minister of Social and Economic Inclusion
7. The Minister of Culture
8. The Minister of Sport
9. The Minister of Security or a representative

10–12. Three professional experts in social rehabilitation, the comprehensive treatment of adolescent offenders and prison management and security, with a minimum of 10 years of experience, appointed through a public competitive examination for a four-year term, with the possibility of re-election

15. Representatives of the judiciary, the Attorney General's Office, the National Court of Justice, the Public Defence Service, the Ombudsman's Office and the national preventive mechanism participate as guests. They are permitted to voice their opinion but not to vote.

16. The Board of Directors can invite experts, academics, social organizations and representatives of international organizations to provide advisory services. They are permitted to voice their opinion but not to vote.

17. In application of the regulations in force, the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders has put forward legislative proposals to align the National Social Rehabilitation System with the legal reforms that have been put in place.

18. The proposals include those described below.

Draft Regulations of the National Social Rehabilitation System

19. A working group formed to prepare the draft regulations held technical meetings with delegates responsible for the reforms. The final draft was submitted to the Assistant Director-General and is in the process of being approved.

Draft Executive Decree for the Ministry of Social Rehabilitation and Socioeducational Measures

20. In response to a request from the Legal Secretariat of the Office of the President, the draft decree and the expert legal report were prepared and sent. The document must undergo a thorough feasibility analysis by several State institutions.

Provisions to guarantee respect for the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty

21. In coordination with the National Police and in compliance with the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms, in particular those set out in the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture and in the report on the visit to Ecuador of the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture conducted from 25 September to 1 October 2022, the Ministry of the Interior has adopted a series of operational provisions aimed at ensuring respect for the human rights of persons deprived of liberty and other persons linked to the National Social Rehabilitation System.

22. Some of the main actions taken include the following:

- Prohibition of practices that violate rights: Institutional provisions have been issued that expressly prohibit invasive searches of persons entering detention centres, as well as illegal deprivation of liberty and the transfer of persons under arrest to police stations. Persons who are under arrest must be taken only to centres that are part of the National Social Rehabilitation System, in accordance with the terms of article 674 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code.
- Strengthening of perimeter security as a preventive measure: The Chiefs of the Prison Support Units at the national level have been instructed to reinforce police support for perimeter security in prisons in order to prevent escapes, riots and other events that may affect order in the facilities.
- Training prior to entering the special regime: Before beginning service in the special prison regime, police personnel must undergo mandatory human rights training. The training is delivered in coordination with the Ombudsman's Office, the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders and specialized police subsystems.
- Institutional measures for the relocation of the temporary holding units: In line with the national regulatory framework and international recommendations, formal requests have been submitted by the General Coordinator of Perimeter Security for the relocation of the temporary holding units currently located within police facilities to ensure that deprivation of liberty occurs only in centres that are part of the National Social Rehabilitation System, in accordance with article 674 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code.

23. These actions represent concrete progress in aligning law enforcement operational procedures with the legal framework and ensuring they are respectful of human rights, as required by the international system for the protection of human rights and the international commitments assumed by the State.

24. Similarly, the National Directorate of Special Operations and Specialized Services, through the National Intervention and Rescue Unit, has taken steps to strengthen its operational, preventive and training activities, using a human rights-based approach, as detailed below:

Strengthening of perimeter security in detention centres

25. In order to reinforce external surveillance and prevent the entry of prohibited items, weapons or explosives, non-stop patrols are conducted, accompanied by technological tools. Between January and June 2025, the following operations took place:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Police Unit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Patrols in social rehabilitation centres	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z9	23
	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z8	77
	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z4	5

Interinstitutional operational and preventive actions

26. In coordination with the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders, the Ministry of Defence and other State entities, the National Intervention and Rescue Unit has carried out coordinated actions with preventive, investigative and intelligence units, as described below.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Police Unit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Operational support and patrols in social rehabilitation centres	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z9	3
	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z8	7
	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z4	0
Weapons, ammunition and explosives control operations	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z9	15
	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z8	15
	National Intervention and Rescue Unit Z4	1

Ongoing human rights training for police personnel

27. All police officers serving in the National Intervention and Rescue Unit participate annually in the in-service education and training programme, which includes specific modules on the legitimate use of force, the prohibition of torture and the management of crisis situations in prisons. In addition, all institutional training incorporates a cross-cutting human rights approach, in line with the international instruments ratified by the State.

Documented operational actions

28. Operations by the National Intervention and Rescue Unit are conducted under duly documented operational guidelines and orders, which ensures the traceability and legality of its actions. Its actions are regulated by, inter alia, the instruments listed below:

- Operational Order No. PN-Z8-DCO-2024-001-OOP “Force”
- Operational Plan No. PN-SCG-DCEO-2023-005-POP “Tactical shield”
- Operational Plan No. PN-SCG-DCEO-2023-006-POP “Prison control”
- Directive No. 2022-003-DGSCOP-PNE “Crisis management”
- Directive No. 2023-001-SCG-PN “Crisis situations in prisons”
- Directive No. 2023-003-SCG-PN “Attacks”

29. The Directorate conducts its activities in line with the principle of legality, in compliance with the fundamental rights of persons deprived of liberty and in observance of international recommendations addressed to Ecuador.

30. Activities of specialized police units in detention centres.

31. The National Special Operations Unit is a tactical rapid response unit and has provided operational support in high-risk situations such as riots, crises in prisons and other emergencies. While its role is not directly linked to the Committee’s recommendations, the Unit collaborates in the maintenance of public order and the prevention of serious violence in detention centres. Its intervention is a last resort and is guided by operational protocols and the regulations in force.

32. The National Special Mobile Anti-Drug Unit conducted 229 operational activities between August 2024 and July 2025 in the area of prison security. These activities included

the provision of tactical security in social rehabilitation centres and during the transfer of persons deprived of liberty and contributed directly to preventing the entry of prohibited items and strengthening perimeter control.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>
Aug–Dec 2024	Tactical security in social rehabilitation centres	48
Aug–Dec 2024	Security during the transfer of persons deprived of liberty	45
Jan–Jul 2025	Tactical security in social rehabilitation centres	89
Jan–Jul 2025	Security during the transfer of persons deprived of liberty	47
Total		229

33. Between August 2024 and June 2025, the National Law Enforcement Unit carried out 969 interventions in social rehabilitation centres, detention centres and centres for adolescent offenders. The interventions contributed to maintaining order, preventing disturbances and strengthening surveillance of prison perimeters. No cases of acts of torture or other prohibited treatment were recorded, demonstrating compliance with the Committee’s recommendations.

34. The Air Support Unit within the National Police conducted 24 overflights between August 2024 and June 2025, providing tactical and logistical support for prison security operations from the air and strengthening the capacity to respond to crises and high-risk events.

35. The National Mounted Police Unit has conducted preventive patrols outside the Azuay No. 1 detention centre. Between August 2024 and June 2025, 153 patrols were conducted to reinforce perimeter surveillance and deter external threats.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Patrols</i>
Aug–Dec 2024	93
Jan–Jun 2025	60
Total	153

36. In addition, between 15 August 2024 and 15 June 2025, 87 mounted preventive patrols were conducted, reflecting constant surveillance of prisons.

37. The units operating in areas close to detention centres conduct non-stop patrols, preventive operations and training sessions on human rights, legitimate use of force and prohibition of torture, with the aim of ensuring an institutional culture focused on the protection of fundamental rights. These actions are in line with the commitments assumed by Ecuador in the framework of international human rights treaties.

38. In compliance with the recommendations of the Committee against Torture, the State, through the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police, has strengthened its intervention and oversight mechanisms in detention centres. Specific actions have been taken to strengthen perimeter security, entry control and the use of non-invasive screening mechanisms such as body scanners, in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules. In addition, joint operational drills have been conducted with institutions such as the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders, the Ministry of Defence and other competent entities, with the aim of optimizing capacity to respond to high-risk events. These activities have been accompanied by ongoing training for police personnel on human rights, legitimate use of force, torture prevention and prison crisis management.

39. Confidential complaints channels and documented monitoring mechanisms have been put in place to strengthen operational transparency, prevent abuse and ensure the effective monitoring of conditions of detention. The guidelines on humane treatment during transfers and the elimination of invasive practices during searches reflect the institutional commitment to respecting the dignity and integrity of persons deprived of their liberty. Taken together,

these actions demonstrate concrete progress in the implementation of structural measures that promote safe and coordinated prison management that is respectful of human rights, in accordance with international treaties ratified by Ecuador.

Demilitarization of prison control

40. The Ministry of Defence reports that the armed forces intervene in the prison system pursuant solely to orders from the executive branch, as established in articles 158, 164 and 165 of the Constitution, which relate to states of emergency and the recognition of internal armed conflicts.

41. Since January 2024, by means of Executive Decrees No. 110 of 8 January 2024, No. 111 of 9 January 2024, No. 193 of 7 March 2024, No. 218 of 7 April 2024, No. 318 of 2 July 2024, No. 599 of 12 April 2025 and No. 23 of 10 June 2025, signed by the President, the intervention of the armed forces in detention centres has been ordered as part of the institutional response to the serious internal disturbances and the internal armed conflict declared in the country. Their intervention has been carried out in strict compliance with the constitutional and legal framework in force.

42. Military involvement is not a standing policy of the Ministry of Defence; it is an exceptional and temporary measure decided by the executive branch. The demilitarization process is therefore dependent on the progressive strengthening of the National Social Rehabilitation System and the decisions taken by the Office of the President, which is not an autonomous body of the Ministry of Defence.

Violence prevention and capacity-building

43. In compliance with its institutional functions and as a violence prevention measure, the Ministry of Defence has developed an extensive training programme for professional military personnel, focusing on key human rights issues and applicable international norms. This training is conducted on an ongoing basis by the Directorate of Human Rights, Gender and International Humanitarian Law and the Armed Forces Joint Command.

44. Between August 2024 and June 2025, a total of 33,354 members of the Armed Forces have been trained on topics such as human rights, international humanitarian law, the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Bangkok Rules, the Convention against Torture, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Organic Act regulating the legitimate use of force. These actions have been carried out in coordination with institutions such as the Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Human Rights, the National Equality Council and the National Police.

45. Additionally, in application of the Organic Act regulating the legitimate use of force, the Joint Command has formed an operational technical advisory team on human rights, which is responsible for preparing and disseminating protocols and rules of conduct applicable to military personnel deployed in detention centres, in order to ensure respect for human rights and observance of the proportionate use of force.

46. These actions reaffirm the commitment of the Ministry of Defence to respecting international standards in the exercise of its functions in support of the country's internal security.

B. Information relating to paragraph 16 (e)

47. In compliance with the human rights obligations of Ecuador and in order to strengthen accountability mechanisms for any violations committed by State agents, on 20 September 2023, the Attorney General's Office, in Resolution No. 063-FGE-2023, created the Specialized Unit for the Investigation of Illegitimate Use of Force. The Unit is comprised of eight prosecutors' offices, six located in the Province of Pichincha and one each located in the Provinces of Guayas and Azuay. The offices have exclusive jurisdiction to investigate crimes such as genocide, ethnocide, extermination, slavery, forcible transfer, enforced disappearance, extrajudicial executions, persecution, apartheid, aggression, crimes against humanity, torture and abuse of authority in the line of duty.

48. As part of their mandate, most of the offices were formed out of the specialized human rights offices that previously heard cases emanating from the Truth Commission, with the exception of the office in Guayas, which was newly created. The Unit's creation represents a milestone in the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Ecuadorian criminal justice system to deal with serious human rights violations.

49. The Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation within the Attorney General's Office is responsible for coordinating the Specialized Unit, as set out in article 5 of the Resolution. Its responsibilities include the provision of guidance, advice and technical follow-up in investigations on the illegitimate use of force, as well as coordination with State entities, civil society organizations and international actors, in strict application of a human rights-based approach.

50. In the exercise of these responsibilities, the Directorate has taken follow-up measures including monitoring media outlets and receiving complaints from human rights organizations, in order to launch or support investigations into the possible involvement of State agents.

51. In accordance with international standards, the Unit's work is based on the Minnesota Protocol, a directly applicable instrument pursuant to article 11 of the Constitution. The Protocol establishes the importance of guaranteeing the independence of investigations into alleged unlawful killings committed by members of the National Police, the armed forces or the prison guards service, which has been integrated into the guiding principles for the actions of the Specialized Unit.

52. As part of efforts aimed at institutional strengthening, the Human Rights Department of the Investigations Unit was established with the Attorney General's Office, in coordination with the National Police, to assign specialized investigators. The aim is to improve the operational and technical capacity to investigate cases of human rights violations related to the illegitimate use of force.

53. The new Department is staffed by personnel with a technical background in human rights and the use of force, which ensures that criminal investigations involving State agents can be conducted with greater rigour and specialization and using a victim-centered approach. Although the assigned investigators are attached to the National Police for administrative purposes, they operate under the direct direction of the Attorney General's Office, which represents significant progress in terms of operational independence and is in line with the international commitments of Ecuador in the areas of due diligence and impartiality in investigations.

54. The implementation of this organizational model partially complies with the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, which establishes the principle that investigations should be conducted by civilian personnel. Given the current budgetary restrictions, provision has been made for assigned personnel to be part of the National Police, with the following institutional guarantees which are designed to be similar to the required standard:

(a) The agents do not have direct delegation of functions nor do they operate autonomously – they participate solely in the proceedings ordered by the competent prosecutor;

(b) All officials in the Department are required to pass trustworthiness assessments in addition to those required for other police personnel and receive ongoing training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The training is supported by civilian experts and specialized international organizations, as part of the institutional commitment to guaranteeing non-repetition.

55. The Department's creation reflects the State's systematic and progressive efforts to ensure that criminal investigations of serious human rights violations are conducted in accordance with the principles of independence, transparency and compliance with international standards, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and the human rights treaties ratified by Ecuador.

56. In compliance with the State's obligations in connection with respecting, guaranteeing and protecting the human rights of persons deprived of liberty, the Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation within the Attorney General's Office has strengthened its capacity to respond to the alerts and requests sent by the Ombudsman's Office in connection with military control of detention centres.

57. Since the entry into force of Executive Decrees No. 110 and No. 111, in January 2024, which declared a state of emergency and authorized the participation of the armed forces in prison control duties, the Ombudsman's Office has issued multiple alerts regarding alleged human rights violations, including cases of torture and excessive use of force by State agents. In response, between January and December 2024, the Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation dealt with 56 official letters sent by the Ombudsman's Office, taking follow-up action to guarantee the prompt and impartial investigation of the facts reported.

58. As part of this activity, the Directorate has ordered the opening of ex officio preliminary investigations, the referral of requests to the Provincial Prosecutor's Offices, the performance of forensic examinations and autopsies, as well as requests for additional information to support the launch of investigations, ensuring legality and respect for due process. These actions have been taken in accordance with the guidelines established in international human rights instruments, particularly in relation to due diligence in the investigation of serious violations.

59. Details of the requests dealt with are set out below:

Table 1

Follow-up given to letters and alerts from the Ombudsman's Office, relating to use of force

<i>Response from the Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation</i>	<i>Number</i>
Initiation of preliminary investigation ex officio	20
Request for additional information	12
Arrangement of forensic examinations or autopsies	2
Performance of forensic examinations	2
Identification of connection with ongoing preliminary investigation	2
Amalgamation with preliminary investigations	1
Request in progress	16
Sharing of guidelines for receiving complaints from persons deprived of liberty	1
Total number of requests received and followed up	56

Source: Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation – Attorney General's Office, based on alerts from the Ombudsman's Office, 2024.

60. The institution's actions provide evidence of the State's sustained commitment to guaranteeing the independent, exhaustive and diligent investigation of all allegations of illegitimate use of force in detention centres, as established by international standards, in particular the Istanbul Protocol and the Minnesota Protocol.

61. Lastly, the Attorney General's Office, through the Directorate of Human Rights and Citizen Participation, has prepared activities designed to strengthen the institutional response to potentially unlawful deaths and other serious human rights violations in detention centres. These activities have been implemented through the issuance of guidelines for the Provincial Prosecutor's Offices that are rooted in the principles of due diligence, legality and respect for due process.

Request for information on alleged violent deaths in detention centres

62. In Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-00201-M, dated 5 February 2024, all Provincial Prosecutor's Offices were requested to submit detailed information on violent or non-violent deaths in detention centres in order to identify potential criminal acts and, if

necessary, launch a preliminary investigation. It was emphasized that such information should include police reports, even when no formal investigation had been opened.

Guidelines on mandatory autopsies

63. On 21 June 2024, in Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-00991-M, the Provincial Prosecutor's Offices were reminded of the legal obligation to perform autopsies in all cases of deaths in State custody, including those from natural, sudden or undetermined causes, in order to ensure impartial and transparent investigations. The guidelines were communicated again on 5 September 2024 in Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-01386-M, which also reaffirmed the direct application of the Minnesota Protocol as a guide for forensic investigations.

Investigation of alleged criminal acts of a sexual nature in detention centres

64. In Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-00990-M, dated 21 June 2024, the Provincial Prosecutor's Offices were requested to provide an executive report on all the crime reports concerning alleged sexual offences committed in detention centres filed between 8 January 2024 and the date of the request. The aim was to identify patterns, ensure protection for victims and strengthen institutional capacity to deal with such crimes.

Second request for information on violent deaths and deaths from natural causes

65. On 21 June 2024, in Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-00992-M, the relevant bodies were reminded of the requirement to submit documentary information regarding all deaths in detention centres, including police reports, cadaver reports and autopsy procedures, as essential components for ensuring the conduct of criminal investigations in accordance with the law and using a human rights-based approach.

Obligation to receive complaints from family members or representatives of persons deprived of liberty

66. On 8 July 2024, in Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-01066-M, the Provincial Prosecutor's Offices were reminded of the obligation to receive complaints from relatives or legal representatives of persons deprived of liberty concerning acts of violence, torture or deaths in detention centres. They were also reminded that such complaints must be assessed against the criminal offences set out in articles 85, 151 (2) and 293 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code. The instructions were reiterated on 30 October 2024 in Memorandum No. FGE-CGAJP-DDHPC-2024-01761-M.

67. These measures reinforce the State's institutional commitment to the effective implementation of international standards in the prevention, investigation and punishment of human rights violations in contexts of deprivation of liberty. Coordination among prosecutors' offices, traceability of cases and emphasis on transparency and accountability are key elements in advancing towards effective justice focused on respecting the dignity of persons deprived of liberty.

68. In terms of the registration of deaths of persons deprived of liberty, the Directorate of Legal Advice in the National Service for Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders reports that complaints of criminal acts committed against persons deprived of liberty have been followed up. Details are set out below.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Information request form No.</i>	<i>Detention centre</i>	<i>Type of offence</i>	<i>Date of event</i>	<i>Observations</i>
		Cuenca centre for adolescent offenders	Assault and resistance (young adult), no charges filed	20/4/2025	Rehabilitation to continue at the centre for adolescent offenders
		Sucumbíos detention centre	Contract killing of prison guard Patricio Carrillo Moncada	12/2/2025	The complaint is being followed up

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Information request form No.</i>	<i>Detention centre</i>	<i>Type of offence</i>	<i>Date of event</i>	<i>Observations</i>
			GYE 1 detention centre	Death from natural causes of prisoner <i>Ciro Sánchez Zambrano</i>	1/4/2025	Report to the subunit responsible for measures
			Manabí 2 social rehabilitation centre	Contract killing of prison guard <i>Miguel Ángel Tambaco</i>	1/4/2025	The complaint is being followed up
		SNAI-DAJ-2025-0343-M 7/04/2025	El Oro 1 detention centre	Contract killing of <i>Daniel Alejandro Tinirana Gonzáles</i>		The complaint is being followed up
		SNAI-DAJ-2025-0344-M 7/04/2025	GYE 1 detention centre	Contract killing of <i>Jorge Adrián Carranza Morales</i>		The complaint is being followed up
		SNAI-DAJ-2025-0398-M 11/04/2025	Special Group	Contract killing of prison guard <i>Cristopher Alexander Loor Farias</i>	9/4/2025	Police report No. 240101625040079 (murder)
		SNAI-DAJ-2025-0574-M 12/05/2025	Pichincha 2 social rehabilitation centre	Extortion of prison guard <i>Ángel David Quispe Curicho</i>	26/4/2025	The complaint is being followed up
			Manabí 1 detention centre	Rape of prisoner <i>Simuy Lozano</i>	8/5/2025	The complaint is being followed up
			Manabí 1 detention centre	Intimidation of <i>Mileyde Santana Saltos</i>	8/5/2025	The complaint is being followed up
			Loja 1 detention centre	Murder of prisoner <i>Roger Chuquimarca García</i>	1/5/2025	Powers set out in Memorandum No. SNAI-CPLL-2025-0509-M, 6/05/2025
12		SNAI-STPSP-2025-0991-M 20/05/2025	Cotopaxi 1 detention centre	Torture of prisoners	Unknown	The complaint is being followed up
13		SNAI-DAJ-2025-0644-M 28/05/2025	Guayas 4 social rehabilitation centre	Death from natural causes of <i>Roberto Rolando Jurado</i>	25/5/2025	Request report on the prisoner's medical care. SNAI-CRSMG4-2025-1943-M additional information was requested.
14			Loja 1 detention centre	Death from natural causes	4/6/2025	Informed. SNAI-CPLL-2025-0651-M of 5/06/2025
15			Guayas 4 social rehabilitation centre	Death from natural causes	6/6/2025	The complaint is being followed up
16			Cotopaxi 1 detention centre	Torture of prisoners	10/6/2025	Complaint of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment is being followed up
17			Guayas 4 social rehabilitation centre	Death from natural causes, request for repatriation	12/6/2025	The complaint is being followed up
18			Loja 1 detention centre	Death from natural causes of prisoner <i>Jhonny Qhuizpe</i>	12/6/2025	The complaint is being followed up

<i>Number</i>	<i>Information request form No.</i>	<i>Detention centre</i>	<i>Type of offence</i>	<i>Date of event</i>	<i>Observations</i>
19	SNAI-DAJ-2025-0505-M 24/04/2025	Guayas 1 social rehabilitation centre	Conduct of prison guard Adonis Macías, reported by the Ministry of Defence	21/4/2025	Administrative process ongoing
20	SNAI-DAJ-2025-0504-M 24/04/2025	Guayas 3 social rehabilitation centre	Conduct of prison guard Bryan Arroyo Mina, reported by the Ministry of Defence	27/3/2025	Administrative process ongoing
21		Pichincha 1 detention centre	Complaint filed by former official at Pichincha 1 detention centre	NA	Administrative process ongoing
22		Guayas 3 social rehabilitation centre	Report of prisoners caught leaving the facility and of prohibited items entering the facility	4/6/2025	The complaint is being followed up
23		Manabí 1 detention centre	Complaint of rape of prisoners	21/6/2025	The complaint is being followed up
24		Chimborazo 1 detention centre	Report of charges laid for the attempted murders of Noe and Daniel Salcedo	25/6/2025	Verification of the facts

C. Information relating to paragraph 20 (i)

69. The Government is working to provide the necessary funds to comply with this recommendation.

D. Information relating to paragraph 42

70. With regard to the Committee's recommendation on amending articles 149 and 150 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code and amending the Organic Act on the Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy in Cases of Rape, the State Party recognizes the importance of moving towards a regulatory framework that guarantees effective, safe and unpunished access to voluntary termination of pregnancy, in accordance with the World Health Organization guidelines on abortion, as updated in 2022, and international human rights standards.

71. The Ministry for Women's Affairs and Human Rights is working to strengthen coordination with the National Assembly to work towards compliance with this recommendation. The State will continue to promote opportunities for dialogue and coordination to make progress in this area.

72. With regard to guaranteeing access to safe abortions for victims of rape and ensuring that conscientious objection by health professionals does not limit access to voluntary termination of pregnancy, the Ministry of Health has a National Directorate for Health Promotion. The Directorate has made internal efforts in the area of sexual and reproductive health and has made progress in designing the regulatory framework and offering training activities on voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape or legal grounds relating to health and life. Noteworthy points include the following:

- Between July 2024 and June 2025, approximately 520 health professionals who provide direct care in cases of voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape or legal grounds related to health and life have been trained. After voluntary termination of pregnancy, the health professional provides family planning advice and contraception, on the basis of eligibility criteria and according to the patient's wishes.
- The draft regulation for the application of the Organic Act on the Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy in Cases of Rape has been prepared. It has been forwarded to the highest authority for communication to the Legal Secretariat of the Office of the President for analysis and review.
- The Clinical Practice Guide for Therapeutic Abortion has been drafted. It is currently being reviewed by experts and is expected to be issued by the end of August 2025.

73. The Ministry of Health handled 4,669 cases between August and December 2024 and 5,319 cases between January and June 2025.

74. Other statistical data on care provided following voluntary termination of pregnancy are set out in the tables below.

Outpatient care for voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
10	2

Outpatient abortion care

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
166	102

Outpatient provision of post-abortion family planning advice

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
54	40

Outpatient provision of post-abortion contraception

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
9	6

Voluntary termination of pregnancy in cases of rape, discharge from a public hospital

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
8	2

Provision of post-abortion family planning advice, discharge from a public hospital

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
35	2

Provision of post-abortion contraception, discharge from a public hospital

2024	Jan–Jun 2025
4	2

75. Lastly, it is important to mention that the services provided by the Ministry of Health are accessible to all residents of Ecuador. Health professionals provide comprehensive care aimed at ensuring the physical, mental and social well-being of patients with respect to sexual and reproductive health. The services provided by the Ministry of Health include information, education, counselling, contraception and prenatal and postnatal care, as well as the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
