

STATE PARTY EXAMINATION OF MOROCCO'S INITIAL REPORT ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

67TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
1 SEPTEMBER – 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

Content

Opening Comments.....	1
General Measures of Implementation.....	1
Prevention.....	2
Protection, recovery and reintegration.....	2
Concluding remarks.....	2

Morocco ratified the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) on 22 May 2002. On 4 September 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) examined the initial periodic report of Morocco.

Opening Comments

The delegation of Morocco was led by H.E. Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui, Minister for Solidarity, Women, the Family and Social Development. She was supported by representatives from an Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the Ministry for Solidarity, Women, the Family and Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Habous and Islamic Affairs.

Ms. Hakkaoui underlined the continuous interaction of the State party with the Committee. She added that the dialogue would be an opportunity to draw on the expertise of the Committee.

Ms. Amal Aldoseri and Ms. Sara Oviedo, the Country Rapporteurs for the OPAC, welcomed the delegation and the legislative developments.

General Measures of Implementation

Legislation

The Committee asked if the recruitment of minors was criminalised. The delegation acknowledged that the national legislation did not criminalise the recruitment but underlined

Note: This report is prepared at the discretion of Child Rights Connect. The content is designed to give a summary of the key discussions during the session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child but it is neither an official nor fully comprehensive report. More reports and further information can be found at www.childrightsconnect.org/index.php/publications-resources/crc#countrysum 1

that there was a draft law from the Ministry of Justice and Freedoms which would criminalise and penalise such an act.

The Committee also asked if the recruitment by private security forces was prohibited and sanctioned. The delegation recognised that there might be such cases and added that if they were proven the concerned companies would be prosecuted.

Dissemination and training

The Committee enquired about awareness raising and training on the OPAC among the military and the police. The delegation explained that a basic training on human rights was given to all personnel and officials and that seminars as well as workshops were organised. It also said that 200 police officers had been trained between 2011 and 2013.

Prevention

The Committee enquired about the inspections undertaken to prevent the enrolment of children. The delegation responded that the proof used was a legalised identity card and the original copy of the birth certificate.

The Committee asked about the screening and rehabilitation of child refugees who had been involved in armed conflicts. The delegation did not respond to this question.

The Committee took note that no military training was provided in military schools and asked about their status. The delegation explained that military schools followed the same curriculum as public schools. The teachers of military schools belonged to the Ministry of Education and the only difference was that the infrastructure of military schools was provided by the defence budget. The delegation added that pupils of military schools had the choice to continue their education in public settings or join militaries academies.

Prohibition and related matters

The Committee enquired about a case of sexual abuse committed by members of the Peacekeeping mission in Côte d'Ivoire, in 2007. The delegation responded that the State party had cooperated fully with the United Nations in the above mentioned case. The army had taken specific measures that led to 4 indictments and sanctions up to 2 years of imprisonment.

The Committee underlined the need to criminalise and sanction the involvement of children in armed conflicts and asked if the State party had prosecuted cases of recruitment done abroad by nationals or residents. The delegation did not respond to this question.

The Committee mentioned the situation in the Western Sahara and raised concerns about the deaths of children during demonstrations. It also underlined the lack of access to education in refugee camps. The delegation emphasised that there were no refugee camps in the State party and that human rights were respected in all parts of the country. It recognised the fact that there had been demonstrations but it insisted that protesters had been dealt with proportionality like in any other province. The delegation further said that, in the southern territories, services had been improved and the State party ensured the development of the region.

Concluding remarks

Ms. Amal Aldoseri and Ms. Sara Oviedo, the Rapporteurs for the OPAC, thanked the delegation for its contributions and highlighted that major challenges remained with the monitoring of the situation of refugee children.

The delegation concluded by stating that the State party was gathering experience on refugee management, though it remained an area of ongoing investment.