



association for the prevention of torture
association pour la prévention de la torture
asociación para la prevención de la tortura

Burkina Faso

Updated 20.03.2019

OPCAT status

OPCAT Ratification : July 7, 2010

UNCAT Ratification : January 4, 1999

NPM Designated :

National Observer for the Prevention of Torture

NPM Type :

New Specialised Institution

NPM Legal Framework :

[Law N° 022-2014/AN](#) (27 May 2014)

Information



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Quick Links

CAT: [Concluding Observations](#) (January 2014)

African Commission on Human and People's Rights: [Periodic Report](#) (2011-2015)

Documents relating to other UN human rights mechanisms are available [here](#)

OPCAT Situation

Burkina Faso ratified the OPCAT in July 2010. The National Observer for the Prevention of Torture has been designated as NPM but is yet to be established.

The Government expressed its intention to ratify the OPCAT during its December 2008 Universal Periodic Review examination, following advocacy from national and international stakeholders. An OPCAT ratification bill was examined and adopted by Cabinet in 2009 and finally adopted by Parliament in December 2009. Burkina Faso deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations on 7 July 2010.

Following OPCAT ratification in 2010, different NPM options were considered, including designating the National Human Rights Commission as the NPM. However, as the NHRI was not fully compliant with the Paris Principles and the requirements of the OPCAT, the authorities eventually decided to set-up a new specialised institution as the NPM. In this regard, on the 27th of May 2014, Parliament adopted Law N. 022-2014/AN criminalising torture and creating a new institution – the National Observer for the Prevention of Torture (Observatoire national de prévention de la torture et autres pratiques assimilées) – as the NPM (see Articles 20-39 of the law). An implementing decree determining the structure, composition and functioning of the NPM is still pending.



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In June 2014, during a meeting organised by the OIF, OHCHR and the SPT, the government of Burkina Faso stated that the delay in NPM establishment is due to the challenge of conducting consultations among all relevant stakeholders and determining both NPM composition and budget.

The SPT visited Burkina Faso in December 2017.

The SPT member who is the SPT Focal Point for Burkina Faso is available [here](#)

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