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Contact: Clare Ovey
Tel: 03 88 41 36 45

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Meeting: 1259 meeting (7-9 June 2016) (DH)

Item reference: Updated action plan (13/05/2016)

Communication from Poland concerning the Al Nashiri group of cases against Poland (Application No. 28761/11)

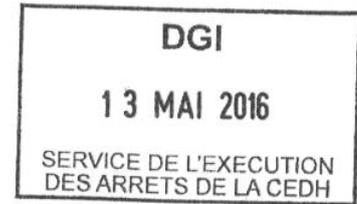
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Réunion : 1259 réunion (7-9 juin 2016) (DH)

Référence du point : Plan d'action mis à jour

Communication de la Pologne concernant le groupe d'affaires Al Nashiri contre Pologne (Requête n° 28761/11) (**anglais uniquement**)



Updated action plan¹
as to the measures to comply with the judgments
in the cases of *Al Nashiri and Abu Zubaydah v. Poland*

Cases

Al Nashiri, application no. 28761/11, judgment of 24/07/2014, final on 16/02/2015

Abu Zubaydah, application no. 7511/13, judgment of 24/07/2014, final on 16/02/2015

Description of the cases

The cases concern allegations of torture, ill-treatment and secret detention of two men suspected of terrorist acts. The applicants alleged that they were held at a CIA “black site” at the respondent state’s territory.

The applicants in the two cases are Abd Al Rahim Hussayn Muhammad Al Nashiri, a Saudi Arabian national of Yemeni descent who was born in 1965; and Zayn Al-Abidin Muhammad Husayn, also known as Abu Zubaydah, a stateless Palestinian, who was born in 1971 in Saudi Arabia. Both men are currently detained in the Internment Facility at the United States (the U.S.) Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

Mr. Al Nashiri has been suspected of the terrorist attack on the U.S. Navy ship USS Cole in the harbour of Aden, Yemen, in October 2000. He has also been suspected of playing a role in the attack on the French oil tanker MV Limburg in the Gulf of Aden in October 2002.

At the time of his capture, Mr. Husayn was considered by the U.S. authorities to be one of the key members of the terrorist network Al’ Qaeda, who allegedly played a role in several terrorist operations, including planning the 11 September 2001 attacks. Since his capture in March 2002, he has not been charged with any criminal offence and remains in “indefinite detention” in Guantanamo. The only review of his detention was carried out by a panel of officials of a U.S. military tribunal in March 2007, which found that he was to remain in detention.

Both applicants alleged that they were victims of an “extraordinary rendition” by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), that is, of apprehension and extrajudicial transfer to a secret detention site in Poland with the knowledge of the Polish authorities for the purpose of interrogation, during which they were tortured. Both men stated that in December 2002 they were taken to Poland on board of the same “rendition plane”.

Mr. Al Nashiri submitted that, having been captured in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, in October 2002, and subsequently transferred to secret CIA detention facilities in Afghanistan and Thailand, he was brought to Poland on 5 December 2002. He was placed in a CIA secret detention facility and held there until 6 June 2003, when he was secretly transferred on board the rendition plane – with the assistance of the Polish authorities – to Morocco and, in September 2003, to the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay. He was subsequently transferred to two other sites before eventually being moved back to Guantanamo Bay.

¹ Updated information submitted by Polish authorities on 13 May 2016 including new information, obtained after submission of the updated action plan of 19 February 2016, which are presented in a bold type

According to Mr. Al Nashiri, he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment while being held in unacknowledged detention in Poland. In particular, so-called “enhanced interrogation techniques” (EITs) were used against him. He alleged that he was also subjected to “unauthorized” interrogation methods.

Mr. Al Nashiri maintained that, when he was transferred from Poland, there was no attempt by the Polish Government to seek diplomatic assurances from the United States to avert the risk of his being subjected to further torture, incommunicado detention, an unfair trial and the death penalty when in U.S. custody. The US Government brought charges against Mr. Al Nashiri in June 2008 for trial before a military commission, but so far he has not been convicted and he remains in detention in Guantanamo Bay. The proceedings against the applicant already stated and all the documents related to the proceedings are available on the Military Commission’s website: <http://www.mc.mil/CASES/Militarycommissions.aspx>

Mr. Husayn submitted that, having been seized in Pakistan in March 2002 and subsequently transferred to a secret CIA detention facility in Thailand, he was brought to Poland on 5 December 2002 where he was held in a secret CIA detention facility until 22 September 2003. He was then taken to Guantanamo Bay and subsequently to several secret detention facilities in a number of countries before being eventually transferred back to Guantanamo Bay.

According to his submission, Mr. Husayn was subjected to various forms of abuse and ill-treatment during his detention in Poland. According to Mr. Husayn’s lawyers, communication with him is extremely restricted, making it impossible to pass on information or evidence directly from him to the European Court of Human Rights. The presentation of his case is principally based on publicly available sources.

Both Mr. Al Nashiri and Mr. Husayn noted, in support of their submissions, that the circumstances surrounding their extraordinary rendition have been the subject of various reports and investigations, including reports prepared by the Swiss Senator Dick Marty, in 2006, 2007 and 2011, as rapporteur for the investigation conducted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe into allegations of secret detention facilities being run by the CIA in several Member States (the “Marty Reports”). The Marty Reports detail an intricate network of CIA detention and transfer in certain Council of Europe Member States. Among other things, the reports identify the secret detention center in Poland as being located in the Stare Kiejkuty intelligence training base near the town of Szczytno in Northern Poland.

The submissions by Mr. Al Nashiri and Mr. Husayn were also based on various CIA documents that were disclosed to the public. In particular, the applicants relied on a report prepared by the CIA Inspector General in 2004 – “Special Review Counterterrorism Detention and Interrogation Activities September 2001-October 2003”. The report, previously classified as “top secret”, was released by the U.S. authorities in August 2009 with large parts being blackened out. It shows that Mr. Al Nashiri and Mr. Husayn fell into the category of “High-Value Detainees” (HVD) – terrorist suspects likely to be able to provide information about current terrorist threats against the United States – against whom the “enhanced interrogation techniques” (EITs) were being used.

The applicants' submissions also referred to a 2007 report by the International Committee for the Red Cross on the treatment of "High-Value Detainees" in CIA custody, based on interviews with 14 such detainees, including Mr. Al Nashiri and Mr. Husayn, which described the treatment to which they were subjected in CIA custody.

A criminal investigation in Poland against persons unknown concerning secret CIA prisons on Polish territory was opened in March 2008. It has been extended a number of times and remains pending.

Having regard to the evidence before it, the Court came to the conclusion that the applicants' allegations mentioned above were sufficiently convincing.

The Court found that the respondent state had cooperated in the preparation and execution of the CIA rendition, secret detention and interrogation operations on its territory and it ought to have known that by enabling the CIA to detain the applicants on its territory, it was exposing them to a serious risk of treatment contrary to the Convention.

Therefore the Court held in both cases, that there had been:

- a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment) of the Convention, in both its substantive and procedural aspects;
- a violation of Article 5 (right to liberty and security);
- a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life);
- a violation of Article 13 (right to an effective remedy); and,
- a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial).

As regards Mr. Al Nashiri, the Court further held that there had been a violation of Article 2 (right to life) and Article 3 of the Convention taken together with Article 1 of Protocol No. 6 (abolition of the death penalty).

The Court also held that the respondent state did not comply with the Court's requests for the submission of evidence and, in consequence, failed to discharge its obligations under Article 38 – to furnish all necessary facilities for the effective conduct of an investigation.

I. Individual measures

1. Urgent individual measures concerning violation of Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention taken together with Article 1 of the Protocol No. 6 to the Convention in the *Al Nashiri* case and violation of Article 6§1 of the Convention in both cases.

A. Talks with U.S. authorities' representatives

The Polish Government undertook rapid individual measures in connection with the Court's judgment in case of *Al Nashiri v. Poland* even before the judgment became final.

Acting pursuant to Article 46 of the Convention and on the basis of paragraph 589 of the Court's judgment in the above case, the issue of providing guarantees by the Government of the U.S. that Mr. Al Nashiri would not be subjected to the death penalty was raised during a

meeting between Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (hereinafter MFA), Mr. Artur Nowak-Far and Principal Deputy Legal Adviser of the Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of state, Ms. Mary McLeod, which took place on 9 October 2014.

Subsequently, on 6 March 2015, when Polish MFA submitted a diplomatic note to the Embassy of the U.S. in Warsaw, a representative of the U.S. authorities assured Polish authorities that the requests expressed in the note would be taken into consideration.

On 13 May 2015 during a meeting at which a second diplomatic note was submitted by Polish MFA to the U.S. Embassy (please see below), Polish Government Co-Agent, Ms. Aleksandra Mężykowska in talks with Deputy Head of U.S. Mission to Poland, Mr. Douglas Greene, underlined the importance of the execution of the Court's judgments in both cases in particular with regard to urgent individual measures.

B. Diplomatic notes.

Soon after the Court's judgments became final, the Polish Government has immediately undertaken further measures aiming at the execution of the obligations stemming from the Court's judgments.

On 6 March 2015, the Polish MFA, by a diplomatic note submitted to the Embassy of the U.S. in Warsaw, requested the U.S. Department of State to provide guarantees that the death penalty would not be imposed or carried out with respect to the applicant Mr. Al Nashiri who is under the U.S. jurisdiction.

On 2 April 2015, the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw by a diplomatic note sent to the Polish MFA confirmed that Poland's request of 6 March 2015 was transmitted to the relevant U.S. authorities.

On 13 May 2015, the Polish MFA submitted to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw another diplomatic note. In this note the MFA requested the relevant U.S. authorities to provide guarantees that the death penalty would not be ruled or carried out with respect to applicant - Mr. Al Nashiri who is under the U.S. jurisdiction. The MFA also recalled that the issue of providing guarantees by the U.S. authorities was the subject of its previous diplomatic note (note no. DPOPC 432.390.2013 of 6 March 2015) and was also raised during bilateral consultations.

Moreover the MFA requested the relevant US authorities to provide guarantees that applicants Mr. Al Nashiri and Mr. Abu Zubaydah who find themselves under the jurisdiction of the U.S., will not be deprived of the right to a fair trial while being exposed to the flagrant denial of justice.

C. A letter to American Ambassador to Warsaw

On 14 October 2015 Undersecretary of State at the Polish MFA, Mr. Artur Nowak-Far sent a letter to the Ambassador of the United States of America in Warsaw, M. Paul W. Jones, concerning the execution of the urgent individual measures stemmed from the above judgments.

In this letter Polish Minister reminded the U.S. Ambassador of the two diplomatic notes which were submitted to the U.S. Embassy in March and May 2015 respectively. He also informed the Ambassador that Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had already adopted three decisions on the state of execution of the urgent individual measures in the Al Nashiri group of cases.

In his letter Polish Minister highlighted that in its latest decision the Committee of Ministers had expressed its serious concern about the lack of response to these requests from the American side and had urged the Polish authorities to continue their efforts to obtain the necessary assurances, taking all possible steps in this respect and keeping the Committee informed of all developments. The Committee had also invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to transmit its decision to the Permanent Observer of the United States to the Council of Europe.

Moreover the Polish Minister informed the American Ambassador on the date of the next DH meeting to be held in December 2015 and asked him to cause action to ensure American authorities' cooperation with Polish authorities aimed at execution of the above judgments in accordance with the Committee's decisions.

Finally the Polish Minister once again requested the American Ambassador to cause the relevant U.S. authorities' action to provide guarantees that the death penalty would not be ruled or carried out with respect to applicant - Mr. Al Nashiri and that the applicants Mr. Al Nashiri and Mr. Abu Zubaydah who find themselves under the jurisdiction of the U.S., will not be deprived of the right to a fair trial while being exposed to the flagrant denial of justice.

Information obtained by the Government after submission of the updated action plan of 17 November 2015

D. Reply from the U.S. authorities

In response to the above letter the U.S. authorities confirmed that Polish authorities' request for diplomatic assurances related to a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights cannot be supported. According to the U.S. authorities the European Convention on Human Rights and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights do not necessarily reflect the obligations of the United States under international law.

Moreover the U.S. authorities informed that in their view both the military commissions and federal courts are appropriate for addressing the cases of Guantanamo Bay detainees in a manner that comports with all applicable international and domestic law.

Moreover the military commission proceedings at Guantanamo Bay incorporate fundamental procedural guarantees that meet or exceed the fair trial safeguards required by Common Article 3, Article 15 of *the Convention against Torture*, and other applicable law and are further consistent with those in Additional Protocol II of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Additionally the 2009 Military Commissions Act (MCA) provides for a number of safeguards including the presumption of innocence, the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt burden of proof standard, the right to counsel at government expense, the right to counsel "learned" in death penalty law and practice when the military commission is one empowered to adjudge the death penalty and the right to appeal final judgments rendered by a military commission to the U.S. Court of Military Commissions Review (USCMCR). A defendant also has a right to appeal a USCMCR decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and may ultimately seek review from the U.S. Supreme Court. The MCA prohibits the use of statements obtained by either torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (10 U.S.C. § 948r (a)).

Additionally, international law does not prohibit capital punishment when imposed and carried out in a manner that is consistent with a state's international obligations.

The U.S. authorities informed also that the U.S. has many additional procedural protections for individuals facing capital punishment.

Moreover the U.S. authorities recalled that the US continues to have legal authority under the law of war to detain individuals who are part of or substantially supported Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces until the end of hostilities, consistent with U.S. law and applicable international law.

Finally, detainees have the right to challenge the legality of their detention in the U.S. court through a petition for the writ of habeas corpus.

The Polish Government, having regard to the above information transmitted by the U.S. authorities as well as the judgments in the cases of Al Nashiri and Abu Zubaydah v. Poland, declares its readiness to repeat its requests to the Government of the U.S.

2. Violation of Article 3 of the Convention in its substantive aspect as well as violations of Articles 5 and 8 of the Convention

A. Current situation of the applicants

1) *Information obtained by the Government on 2 April 2015 are the following:*

with regard to Mr. Abu Zubaydah

- the Combatant Status Review Tribunal (hereinafter the "CSRT") decided that the applicant fulfilled the criteria for being designated enemy combatant. In this context it should be underlined that this decision is of administrative nature and it is not a court judgment,
- since the applicant's detention no court proceedings have been conducted, no charges against him have been presented, no military legal-aid lawyer has been appointed for him,

with regard to Mr. Al Nashiri

- the applicant was detained in 2002 and transferred to Guantanamo in 2006. He was charged with: treachery and perfidy, wilful homicide of 17 US soldiers, terrorism, conspiracy for terrorism and homicide, wilful grievous bodily harm, attack on civilians, attack on civilian targets, hijacking of ship or aircraft,
- according to US regulations, civil as well as military legal-aid lawyers were appointed for the applicant and at least one of them is a qualified counsel in cases where the accused face the death penalty,
- the applicant was served an indictment in English and Arabian,
- the proceedings against the applicant are continued and all the documents related to the proceedings are available on the Military Commissions' website: <http://www.mc.mil/CASES/Militarycommissions.aspx>
- hearings are public and broadcast live for: media and victims and their families in two spots at the US territory.

2) *Information obtained by the Government on 30 October 2015 are the following:*

In January 2015 American authorities changed the rules governing the recognition of proceedings before the military commissions as classified. According to the new rules information on tortures of the CIA prisoners are no longer classified. According to the Pentagon speaker information on the interrogation techniques of the former CIA prisoners and the conditions of their detention are no longer subject of the military commissions judges' decisions („military commission judges' protective orders").

But not all the prisoners' diaries will be declassified at the same time. The diaries will be declassified only at the prisoners' lawyers' requests. According to the information obtained, in the Guantanamo prisoners' lawyers opinion declassification of their clients' diaries is of a crucial importance for the proper preparation of the proceedings including motions for expert opinions or witnesses.

In April 2015 the judge, col. Vance Spath, conducting Mr. Al Nashiri's case ordered a brain magnetic resonance imaging test to be performed. However he did not indicate the date of the test and the Guantanamo base is not equipped with adequate medical equipment to perform such test. According to information obtained Mr. Al Nashiri's lawyers are of the opinion that as a consequence of several years in CIA prison the applicant has suffered a severe brain injury. Proving that could – according to one of the applicant's lawyers – exclude the possibility of execution of capital punishment in military conditions in case of such sentence will be issued.

On 15 April 2015 American authorities informed military commission on the possibility of quarterly talks of Mr. Al Nashiri with his family by „Direct Interactive Communication Experience” (DICE) system. The applicant availed himself of such opportunity on 18 January 2015 talking with his parents and three other family members for 30 minutes. But he did not take the advantage of the opportunities of subsequent talks which have been offered to him.

With reference to Mr. Abu Zubaydah according to information obtained by Polish authorities, as it was already stated above, since the applicant's detention no court proceedings have been conducted, no charges against him have been presented, no military legal-aid lawyer has been appointed for him.

3) Information obtained by the Government on 9 February 2016 are the following:

with regard to Mr. Abu Zubaydah

- since the applicant's detention no court proceedings have been conducted, no charges against him have been presented, no military legal-aid lawyer has been appointed for him;

with regard to Mr. Al Nashiri

- on 9 April 2015, as it was already presented above, the Military Commission ordered the Convening Authority, i.e. the detention facility authority, to provide Mr. Al Nashiri a magnetic resonance image (hereinafter the MIRI) of his brain for mitigation purposes;

- on 18 September 2015 the applicant's defense counsel requested the Commission to compel the Convening Authority (hereinafter the CA) to administer the previously ordered MIRI of the applicant's brain with the following requirements:

- the MIRI be conducted in the defense counsel's presence and only after the defense counsel and Dr. Sondra S. Crosby meet with the applicant to prepare him for the MIRI,
- the CA direct the MIRI technician adhere to specific, defense suggested methods and techniques of MIRI imaging, as listed in a memorandum to the CA,
- the CA limit distribution of the results of the MIRI to the defense;

- on 2 October 2015 the U.S. Government requested the Commission to deny the defense counsel's motion as unripe, since when making a request for expert witnesses or specific resources, the defense must request the resources from the CA; if the request is denied by the CA, the defense can renew the request before the military judge, if the Commission finds the expert assistance or resources are relevant and necessary, the military judge can order the CA to provide the requested expert or resources; in the instant case the CA has not denied the defense's constructive request for specific resources, thus the issue is not ripe for resolution by the Commission, moreover in the Commission's opinion the defense's request to limit the distribution of the MIRI results to the defense is moot;

- on 20 January 2016 the defense counsel submitted the petitioner-appellant's brief in which it questioned a right to conduct a judicial proceedings against Mr. Al Nashiri before a Military Commission on the basis of *the Military Commissions Act*; the defense argued that the alleged offence took place before 9 September 2001; the above-mentioned document does

not refer to the detention of Mr. Al Nashiri at the Guantanamo base, but to the place and authority which is competent to judge in the applicant's case; this request has been advocated by two amicus briefs: 1) from 14 retired generals and admirals of the US Army and 2) from Mr. David Glazier – law professor and commentator of military commissions.

4) Information obtained by the Government after submission of the updated action plan of 19 February 2016

with regard to Mr. Abu Zubaydah

- since the applicant's detention no court proceedings have been conducted, no charges against him have been presented, no military legal-aid lawyer has been appointed for him;

with regard to Mr. Al Nashiri

- since February 2016 there were no changes concerning the applicant's situation in the proceedings before the military commission;
- on 17 February 2016 three D.C. Circuit Court judges considered the question whether the proceedings against Mr. Al Nashiri should be continued before the military commission or the federal court. During the court's sitting the judges heard oral arguments in favor of the proceedings transfer to the federal court. There were indicated other cases of the proceedings concerning terrorists which were pending before the federal courts. There were arguments presented that at the time of the terrorists attacks in question the USA were not at war. The judges asked the government party for the grounds of conducting the proceedings before the military commission. Until May no decision has been made.

3. Violation of Article 13 of the Convention on account of the lack of effective remedies in respect of the applicants' grievances under Articles 3, 5 and 8 of the Convention

The applicants were awarded just satisfaction in the significant amounts by the Court.

Moreover Polish authorities instituted an investigation which is still pending inter alia due to the complexity of the case and obstacles to obtaining evidence. The subject will be developed under the section concerning effective investigation, below.

4. Violation of Article 3 of the Convention in its procedural aspect.

Domestic criminal proceedings.

a) Information on the activities already undertaken and the activities planned for the future.

- Information available until the beginning of August 2015:

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In the course of a domestic investigation, the relevant prosecution authorities have recently conducted a number of activities, some of which are described below.

The authorities have procured Polish translations of numerous documents, in particular the available versions of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program, the so-called Minority Report - Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program – Minority and Additional Minority Views, the CIA Comments on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report on the Rendition, Detention and Interrogation Program, as well as English and French versions of the documents obtained from the Italian Party by way of international legal assistance.

Moreover, the Polish prosecution authorities have obtained media materials which were used for the purposes of the investigation. These materials may be important for ensuring the investigation is on the right track, and could prove useful in preparing further procedural activities planned for August and September.

Consultations with experts in various fields (including IT) have also continued.

The prosecution authorities have maintained contact and exchanged correspondence with numerous institutions and bodies.

It should be underlined that the four elements mentioned above do not reflect all efforts to collect full evidence in the case, which will allow taking the decision to move criminal proceedings to the next stage. In particular it is not possible to list all procedural activities that have been held in camera.

Neither it is possible to provide information about all procedural activities planned for the future together with their dates and nature, given the interest of the proceedings, practical considerations as well as the need to maintain discretion (for example, persons to be interviewed by the prosecution authorities should be the first to receive such information).

What can be reported is that the following procedural activities are planned for August and September 2015:

- further interviews witnesses including public officials ,
- soliciting opinions from experts in various fields,
- submission of further motions for international legal assistance,
- issuing reminders to the relevant foreign authorities about the submitted motions for international legal assistance,
- issuing reminders to the relevant entities about translations which are important for the investigation.

As was already stated in the initial information submitted to the Committee of Ministers on 15 May 2015, the prosecutor's assistant already started his work. His assistance will certainly increase the efficiency of the investigation.

- Information available until the beginning of November 2015:

Between the August and November 2015 two other witnesses were interviewed with the participation of the applicants' lawyers.

Consultations with experts in various fields (including IT) have been continued. Some data from the Police and mobile phones operators have been acquired.

Further translations of documents have been acquired.

The prosecution authorities have also maintained contact and exchange of correspondence with numerous institutions and bodies.

- Information available until the 26 January 2016:

- cooperation with the applicants' lawyers has been continued inter alia with regard to consideration of another evidence request submitted by Mr. Al Nashiri's lawyer on 10 December 2015;

- in January 2016 the prosecution requested the relevant authorities to submit whole documentation concerning the high-profile meetings between the representatives of the U.S. and Poland held in the years 2001-2003;

- the prosecution authorities have been in touch with numerous institutions and organs, f. ex. they submitted the reply to the Ombudsman's letter of 7 December 2015;

- the prosecution authorities have been assessing the materials which were submitted to them in terms of their usefulness for the investigation purposes, moreover on 7 and 20 January 2016 the prosecution replied to the persons who submitted letters containing information related to the subject of the proceedings;

- the prosecution authorities made a comprehensive analysis of the evidence requests submitted by the applicants' lawyers for their final evaluation;

- the prosecution authorities started preparations to submission to the relevant U.S. authorities the next comprehensive motion for international legal assistance;

- the prosecution authorities have been continuing activities aiming at obtainment a reply to the motion for international legal assistance addressed to Romania;

- the prosecution authorities have taken steps aiming at execution of the foreign motion for international legal assistance which is related to the subject of the proceedings.

- Information available until the 26 April 2016:

Between 22 January and 26 April 2016 the prosecution authorities conducted among others the following activities:

The prosecution authorities maintained contact and exchanged correspondence with institutions and organizations interested in monitoring the course of the proceedings including Polish Branch of Amnesty International.

The prosecution authorities submitted also a motion to the President of the Republic of Poland's Office for delivery of further documents concerning international relations and

cooperation from the period of time connected to the subject of the proceedings. This request led to selecting of another group of materials. Currently there are un-going arrangements concerning the mode and timing of procedural use of these materials.

The investigation is currently pending in the Prosecutor Regional Office in Cracow which in accordance with the Law of 28 January 2016 on Prosecution (Journal of Laws of 2016 item 177) amending the structure of prosecution organizational units had replaced the former Cracow Appeal Prosecution. The investigation is prolonged until 11 October 2016.

According to information obtained from the prosecution authorities every effort is made in order to conduct the investigation thoroughly, timely and effectively despite the difficulties related to unprecedented nature of the matter of investigation as well as hitherto refusal of cooperation from the American side.

Concrete developments of the investigation to which refers the Committee of Ministers decision adopted during the DH meeting held between 8 – 10 March 2016 are dependent on the effects of the prosecution activities presented above as well as other activities planned for the further course of the proceedings.

More information about individual measures can be found in the Government's replies to the communications submitted to the Committee of Ministers by the Open Society Justice Initiative and Human Rights in Practice (DD(2015)585 and DD(2015)586.

b) Difficulties in obtaining legal assistance.

- Information available until the beginning of August 2015:

The prosecution authorities have submitted numerous motions for international legal assistance to the following parties:

1. Italy - the motion of 5 February 2014 concerning hearing of a witness, Mr. C. Fava and the securing of documents. The hearing was held on 18 November 2014; some materials were sent to the Polish party right afterwards, while remainder was received by the Polish prosecution authority conducting the investigation on 7 April 2015 through Italian and Polish central authorities (reminders were addressed by central authorities – inquiries of 23 April and 1 July 2014 concerning the hearing and reminder of February 2015 concerning the documents).

2. Lithuania - the motion of January 2014 for sharing the findings of a Lithuanian domestic investigation into same subject matter as the Polish one. Feedback was received on 10 March 2014, with more information exchanged at a meeting held on 16 April 2015.

3. Romania - the motion of January 2014 for sharing the findings of a Romanian domestic investigation into the same subject matter as the Polish one. To date no feedback was received. A reminder was addressed to the Romanian party in July 2015.

4. Switzerland - the motion of 26 March 2014 concerning among other things the hearing of a witness, Mr. Dick Marty. On 14 July 2014, the Cracow Appeal Prosecution was informed that Mr. Dick Marty took advantage of the immunity provided for in article 14 of *the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe of 2 September 1949*. The above mentioned motion was re-filed on 12 November 2014, this time supplemented by possible interpretations of immunities enjoyed by the Council of Europe's parliamentarians, as well as by clear and concrete reasons for the Polish party's legitimate intentions. On 18 March 2015 the Cracow Appeal Prosecution received negative reply to its motion, identical with the previous reply.

5. United States - the following motions concerning international legal assistance were submitted to the US authorities:

- the motion of 18 March 2009 with questions about companies operating flights to Poland that are of interest to the investigation. A negative reply to this motion was received on 7 October 2009;
- the motion of 9 March 2011 for the hearing as witnesses of both applicants. To date no reply has been received;
- the motion of 24 May 2013 for the hearing of persons, believed to have been present in the Polish territory, as well as the release of documents. To date no reply has been received;
- the motion of 27 May 2013 for the delivery of documents and information that would enable the initial authentication of documents available on the Internet. To date no reply has been received;
- the motion of 2 September 2014 on basic issues related to the subject matter of the investigation. To date no reply has been received;
- the motion of 22 December 2014 requesting for the purposes of the domestic investigation - access to the original, full and uncensored version of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program and to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program - Minority and Additional Minority Views, as well as to the CIA Comments on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report on the Rendition, Detention and Interrogation Program. To date no reply has been received;

The following reminders have been submitted to the US party with reference to the above-mentioned motions:

- letters of 25 July and 11 October 2012 concerning the motion of 9 March 2011 for international legal assistance; the matter was further discussed during the Polish-US consultations on 7-8 November 2012, at which the Polish party was told that proceedings concerning that motion were pending;
- subsequent reminders were sent by the letters of 30 January, 28 May, 5 December 2013 and 14 October 2014. To date no reply has been received;
- the matter of the above motions was discussed during bilateral consultations on 14-15 January 2014 with the participation of lawyers from the US Department of Justice and

Department of State. The Polish party was assured that proceedings concerning the motions were pending;

- subsequent reminders were sent by the letter of 9 June 2014 and concerned the third motion of 24 May 2013, and the fourth motion of 27 May 2013;
- the matter of the above motions was also discussed during bilateral consultations on 2-3 December 2014. The Polish party was assured that proceedings concerning the motions were pending „at the highest level”;
- once again the General Prosecution requested implementation of the five reminders (nos. 2 to 6) by the letter of 24 March 2015;
- the issue of implementation of all the motions was discussed at a videoconference with the US party on 23 April 2015;
- the subsequent reminder, sent by the letter of 22 June 2015, concerned the implementation of the five motions (nos. 2 to 6).

- Information available until the beginning of November 2015:

Polish prosecution authorities obtained feedback from American side to all its motions for international legal assistance. The feedback was negative.

- Information available until the end of April 2016:

The prosecution authorities submitted another, comprehensive application for international legal assistance to the relevant US authorities. This motion also includes the applicants' lawyers evidence initiative in a possible extent. The motion is also aimed at wide verifying the data on conducting the US HVD program outside the US operating in a public space. The motion includes also a postulate of admission to the activities apart Polish prosecutors also the applicants' lawyers.

The prosecution authorities conducted activities aimed at obtainment of reply from Romanian authorities to the motion for international legal assistance.

In connection with the execution of the motion for international legal assistance addressed to the United Kingdom (hereinafter the UK), Scotland, hearings of two witnesses were conducted. The hearings concerned functioning of the Szymany airport. Further hearings on this subject are already planned.

Moreover two new motions for international legal assistance were elaborated. The motions are addressed to the UK and the United Arab Emirates authorities. These motions concerned hearings of the witnesses, who could have information important for the case, in particular concerning American aircrafts, for which it was established that they used the Szymany airport in the period covered by investigation.

c) Information on the applicants' lawyers acquaintance with the case-file

- Information available until the beginning of August 2015:

The Government would like to state that cooperation with the applicants' lawyers continues. They have access to the unclassified case-file of the proceedings, while the classified case-file is successively being made available to them. In recent months – May and June 2015 the applicants' lawyers had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the case-file at the meetings held on the following dates:

- 6 May 2015 – Mr. Abu Zubaydah's lawyer, Mr. Bartłomiej Jankowski and agent substitute, Ms. Edyta Zalewska,
- 3 June 2015 – Mr. Bartłomiej Jankowski and Ms. Edyta Zalewska as well as Mr. Al Nashiri's lawyer, Mr. Mikołaj Pietrzak, and agent substitute, Mr. Paweł Osik (during that meeting the lawyers could also acquaint themselves with the classified materials),
- 30 June 2015 – Mr. Bartłomiej Jankowski and Ms. Edyta Zalewska (during that meeting the lawyers could also acquaint themselves with the classified materials);
- the next meeting was scheduled for 6 August 2015 for Mr. Mikołaj Pietrzak.

Moreover for 11 August 2015 one of the proceedings' activities with participation of the applicants' lawyers was scheduled.

- Information available until the beginning of November 2015:

The cooperation of the prosecution authorities with the applicants' lawyers was continued:

- at the meeting held on 6 August 2015 – Mr. Al Nashiri's lawyer, Mr. Mikołaj Pietrzak, and agent substitute, Mr. Paweł Osik acquainted themselves with the case-file including some parts of the classified materials,
- the applicants' lawyers did not appear at the above-mentioned meeting scheduled for 11 August 2015,
- on 18 August 2015 Mr. Abu Zubaydah's lawyer, Mr. Bartłomiej Jankowski acquainted himself with the case-file including some parts of the classified materials,
- in response to Mr. Al Nashiri lawyer's motion of 2 October 2015 the prosecution authorities copied and sent to him 7541 pages of documents which constituted almost whole unclassified part of the case-files,
- on 28 October 2015 a copy of the minutes of one of the witnesses' interview was also sent to one the applicants' lawyers.

- Information available until the end of April 2016:

Cooperation with the applicants' lawyers has been continued. On 18 February and 15 April 2016 the lawyers were granted access to further parts of the classified case-file. Moreover the prosecution authorities have been proceeded also procedural and formal motions filed by the applicants' lawyers.

d) Information to the Polish public on the investigation

In response to the Committee of Ministers' decision adopted in December 2015 the Polish Government would like to inform that on 28 January 2016 new *Law on Prosecution Office* was adopted.

Pursuant to Article 12 § 2 of the new law General Prosecutor and heads of prosecution organizational units or other empowered by them prosecutors may submit to the media information on pending preparatory proceedings or information concerning prosecution activities, excluding classified information, with a view to an important public interest.

The above law entered into force on 4 March 2016.

5. Payment of just satisfaction.

A. Internal consultations concerning payment to Mr. Abu Zubaydah.

On 3 March 2015 at Polish MFA took place a meeting aimed at determination of the question of payment to Mr. Abu Zubaydah. According to the UN Security Council 1333 (2000) resolution the applicant was listed as being associated with Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf, or in support of", "supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to" or "otherwise supporting acts or activities of" Al-Qaida (QE.A.4.01) and Usama bin Laden. The decisions taken by the UN bodies were implemented by European Union through the Council Regulation (EC) No. 881/2002 of 27 May 2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with the Al-Qaida network. In light of the above information it should be assumed that Mr. Abu Zubaydah was placed on the sanction list which prevents him currently from receiving the money awarded by the Court.

According to the above meeting's conclusions the Government Agent asked Ms. Geneviève Mayer, Head of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, whether there was a possibility to consider depositing the just satisfaction awarded to the applicant by the Court in a designated Council of Europe's account.

On 20 March 2015 the Government received a reply from the Execution Department with some advice concerning the possible ways of payment the awarded sum to the applicant without creating a designated account at the Council of Europe.

B. Payment details.

The Government fulfilled its obligations concerning payment of the sums awarded by the Court in the above-mentioned judgments.

Mr. Al Nashiri

Pecuniary damage	Non-pecuniary damage	Costs and expenses	Total amount
-	100,000 EUR	-	100,000 EUR
Due on 16/05/2015			Paid on 11/05/2015

Mr. Abu Zubaydah

Pecuniary damage	Non-pecuniary damage	Costs and expenses	Total amount
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-	100,000 EUR	30,000 EUR	130,000 EUR
<p>Due on 16/05/2015</p> <p>The amount of 30,000 EUR awarded as costs and expenses was paid on 11/05/2015 to the applicant's lawyer.</p> <p>With regard to the remaining amount of 100,000 EUR awarded by the Court as non-pecuniary damage, on 13 May 2015 Polish MFA submitted a motion to the relevant domestic court to create a deposit account for the above amount with the court since domestic regulations do not permit payment of the awarded money to the applicant who is on the UN and EU sanction lists pursuant to paragraph 8(c) of Resolution 1333 (2000) as being associated with Al-Qaida, Usama bin Laden or the Taliban for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf, or in support of", "supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to" or "otherwise supporting acts or activities of" Al-Qaida (QE.A.4.01) and Usama bin Laden. The decisions taken by the UN bodies were implemented by the European Union through the Council Regulation (EC) No. 881/2002 of 27 May 2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with the Al-Qaida network. On 12 October 2015 the Warsaw-Śródmieście District Court issued a decision allowing the MFA's motion for payment of the just satisfaction awarded to the applicant to the court deposit account. However for this decision to become final the necessary condition is to serve it on the participant to the proceedings – i.e. Mr Abu Zubaydah in a language which he understands. Therefore the court's decision was translated into English. Subsequently the domestic court has started its efforts aiming at serving the decision on Mr. Abu Zubaydah. Because of the unusual status of the applicant's whereabouts – the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, the domestic court needed to establish the proper way of serving the decision on the applicant. For this reason the domestic court through Polish Embassy in Washington tried to obtain the answer on this issue from the relevant U.S. authorities. Polish Embassy in Washington contacted the U.S. authorities via diplomatic channels and subsequently by sending two diplomatic notes on 4 February and on 15 March 2016 respectively. In response to the above diplomatic notes on 6 April 2016 the U.S. Department of State informed Polish Embassy that American party is not entitled to forward of such documents to the applicant. The American party also advised that Polish court's decision should be delivered to the applicant's lawyer and indicated that in the proceedings before the European Court the applicant's lawyer was Ms. Helen Duffy. The Polish MFA immediately forwarded the above-mentioned lawyer's contact data to the relevant domestic court. However this lawyer does not represent the applicant in the relevant domestic proceedings.</p>			

II. General measures

1. Violation of Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention taken together with Article 1 of Protocol No. 6 to the Convention in the *Al Nashiri* case and violation of Article 6§1 of the Convention in both cases.

Legislative measures

Taking into account the Committee of Ministers decision adopted at its 1243rd meeting held on 8-9 December 2015 which in para. 5 stated that:

"as regards the general measures, considered that most of the measures set out in the action plan do not address the root causes of the issues identified in the Court's judgments, namely the blatant disregard of the legal framework governing the actions of State agents, and urged the authorities to address these issues;"

The Government would like to present the following information.

Democratic control over Poland's special services is exercised by the Commission for Special Services of the Sejm, i.e. lower chamber of Polish Parliament as well as by domestic courts and prosecution offices.

- Parliamentary control

Basing on Article 95 par. 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland Article 3.3 of the *Law of 24 May 2002 on the Internal Security Agency and the Intelligence Agency* (hereinafter the "ISAIA Act"), Article 3.3 of the *Law of 9 June 2006 on Military Counter-Intelligence Agency* (hereinafter the "MCA Act") and Article 5.2a of the *Law of 9 June 2006 on the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau* (hereinafter the "CAB Act"), so-called "pragmatic acts", provide that the activities of the heads of the special services – respectively – the Internal Security Agency (hereinafter the ISA), the Intelligence Agency (hereinafter the IA), the Military Counter-Intelligence Agency (hereinafter the MCA) and Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (hereinafter CAB) are controlled by Sejm.

The Sejm exercises its control via its Commission for Special Services (hereinafter the "CSS"). The Commission has among others the following control rights:

- acquaintance with information on particularly important events in the special services activities including those concerning suspicions of irregularities and violations of law by special services,
- giving its opinions on draft legislation concerning special services,
- giving its opinions on directions for special services' activities,
- consideration of annual reports by the heads of these services.

- Court and prosecution control

The court and prosecution control over special services is guaranteed by law. Its purpose is to prevent these services from abusing their powers with respect to individual civil rights and freedoms in connection with their duties and operations.

In this context it should be mentioned that on 15 January 2016 the amendment law on Police and some other acts was adopted by Sejm. This amendment was adopted in accordance with the Constitutional Court's judgment of 30 July 2014. In this judgment the Constitutional Court ruled that some legislative provisions regulating the collection of information on individuals in connection with operational activities carried out by the prosecution are unconstitutional.

This amendment introduced enhanced judicial and prosecution oversight of the operational activities of special services and increased the protection of the rights of individuals. In accordance with the new provisions the supervision is held from the initial stage of acquiring the consent to conduct operational control. Such operational control could be ordered or prolonged by court after the prior consent of prosecutor. Such oversight is executed by the obligation of informing the relevant prosecutor on the course and results of the control. There is also an obligation to inform on the control both chambers of the Parliament.

Moreover new provisions made more precise the catalogue of the offences justifying launching of operational control and determined the maximum time of such control. In order to execute the Constitutional Court's judgment the amendment law made also more precise the provisions governing destruction of the telecommunication and postal data which do not have any meaning for the authority conducting the proceedings and introduced unified rules of conduct of such data.

With regard to access of the entitled entities to the telecommunication data a judicial control was introduced. The entities entitled to acquire such data are now obliged to report to the court every six months the following information:

- number of cases involving acquiring of telecommunication, postal or Internet data during the last six months,
- a kind of such data,
- a kind of offences justifying requesting access to such data,
- number and kinds of cases justifying requesting access to such data.

In the frames of such control impartial court can acquaint itself with the materials justifying access to such data (judicial control includes also postal and Internet data).

Additionally, in accordance with the Constitutional Court's judgment there were introduced into the pragmatic acts some rules of conduct concerning treatment of the materials (which could include professional secrets) acquired in the frames of operational activities. The new provisions provide that in case of suspicion that materials acquired in the frames of operational control include information which constitute secrets relating to profession or professional position the court shall decide on its use or destruction.

In the opinion of the Government the above mentioned amendment act significantly elevates the standards of independent control of special services activities.

In addition to the above it is worth to mention the post of Coordinator of Special Services which is the Minister – a member of the Council of Ministers. One of the fundamental tasks and at the same time rights of the Coordinator is conducting a supervision and control over special services activities. The Coordinator is entitled to analyze and evaluate the execution by the special services their rights to interfere in the civil rights and freedoms in particular in the frames of conducting operational activities.

Moreover the new Coordinator who started his post on 18 November 2015 ordered the heads of the special services to hold the audit of the services also with regard to respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The results of this audit will be analyzed and this analysis will be the basis for further works in order to broaden the real control over the special services activities.

Other measures

In order to avoid similar violations in future the Polish language versions of both judgments in the above cases have been disseminated through:

DH-DD(2016)627 : distributed at the request of Poland / distribué à la demande de la Pologne.

Documents distributed at the request of a Representative shall be under the sole responsibility of the said Representative, without prejudice to the legal or political position of the Committee of Ministers. / Les documents distribués à la demande d'un/e Représentant/e le sont sous la seule responsabilité dudit/de ladite Représentant/e, sans préjuger de la position juridique ou politique du Comité des Ministres.

- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website

http://www.ms.gov.pl/pl/polityka_zagraniczna/europejski_trybunal_praw_czlowieka/wybrane_orzeczenia_eptcz/tlumaczenie_na_jezyk_polski_wyrokow_w_sprawach_husayn_abu_zubaydah_oraz_al_nashiri_p_polsce

- the Ministry of Justice's website

<http://bip.ms.gov.pl/pl/prawa-czlowieka/europejski-trybunal-praw-czlowieka/orzecznictwo-europejskiego-trybunalu-praw-czlowieka/index.html?ComplainantName=Al.%20Nashiri&ComplainantYear=0&CaseType=Decision%2cSentence>

[http://bip.ms.gov.pl/pl/prawa-czlowieka/europejski-trybunal-praw-czlowieka/orzecznictwo-europejskiego-trybunalu-praw-czlowieka/index.html?ComplainantName=Husayn%20\(Abu%20Zubaydah\)&ComplainantYear=0&CaseType=Decision%2cSentence](http://bip.ms.gov.pl/pl/prawa-czlowieka/europejski-trybunal-praw-czlowieka/orzecznictwo-europejskiego-trybunalu-praw-czlowieka/index.html?ComplainantName=Husayn%20(Abu%20Zubaydah)&ComplainantYear=0&CaseType=Decision%2cSentence)

5. Violation of Article 3 of the Convention in its substantive aspect as well as violations of Articles 5 and 8 of the Convention

In order to avoid similar violations in future the Polish language versions of both judgments in the above cases have been disseminated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice's websites under the above mentioned links.

6. Violation of Article 3 of the Convention in its procedural aspect.

The Government would like to inform that all the general measures undertaken in order to avoid in future similar violations of Article 3 of the Convention in its procedural aspect presented in the action plans concerning the *Kudła* group of cases and the *Dzwonkowski* group of cases are valid also for the *Al Nashiri* group of cases.

In order to avoid similar violations in future the Polish language versions of both judgments in the above cases have been disseminated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice's websites under the above mentioned links.

7. Violation of Article 38 of the Convention

In order to avoid similar violations in future the Polish language versions of both judgments in the above cases have been disseminated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice's websites under the above mentioned links.

Moreover, since the European Court's judgment states that Article 38 implies putting in place any such procedures as would be necessary for unhindered communication and exchange of documents with the Court, the Government started reflections on the possible solution of this issue.

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III. Conclusions of the respondent state

With regard to the individual and the general measures the Government undertakes to inform the Committee of Ministers about progress made in this field.