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Item 4
General Debate

Mr. President,

On 9 December 2014, the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) published the summary report of its review of the secret detention programme operated by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) after the attacks of 11 September 2001.

While that is a welcome first step, the USA must now act to end the impunity and festering injustices associated with that programme in which the crimes under international law of torture and enforced disappearance and multiple other human rights violations were committed.

The SSCI summary report adds to the substantial information that has been in the public domain for years. The full report, which contains additional details of the treatment of detainees, should be declassified and published as soon as possible.

In the CIA programme, the USA subjected more than 100 detainees to the horrors of enforced disappearance and conditions of detention and interrogation techniques that violated the international prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Among other things, the SSCI summary report reconfirmed that the CIA programme was operated under authority granted by President George W. Bush on 17 September 2001. It reconfirmed that many Administration officials, including at senior levels, were involved in this CIA programme in which crimes under international law were committed. The SSCI review of CIA documents shows that many individuals were aware of the possibly criminal nature of the programme.

The USA must end impunity for the systematic crimes under international law committed in this now terminated CIA programme. As a country that maintains that it is committed to international human rights law and the rule of law, nothing less is acceptable. Otherwise, what example does the USA set for the world?

Absence of full truth and justice for the crimes committed further risks their recurrence should the US Government decide once again that torture and enforced disappearance are required for national security.

For the states that decry double standards in the Human Rights Council, this is an opportunity to match actions with words by encouraging the USA to pursue accountability for torture and other crimes. The UPR examination of the USA on 11 May 2015 offers an occasion to do that.

Other states must also be held accountable and take responsibility for their complicity in the CIA programme.

Thank you Mr. President.