



**Defence for
Children International**
the worldwide movement for children's rights

Human Rights Council (31st regular session)
Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on Torture
Delivered by: Defence for Children International (DCI)

Thank you Mr / Madam Chairperson

We thank the Human Rights Council for the chance to make this statement and we commend the work being carried out by the Special Rapporteur on Torture.

It is well known that regular, external and independent monitoring visits to places of deprivation of liberty is key in protecting human rights and preventing torture. Research carried out by the “Children Behind Bars” project – led by DCI-Belgium - provides evidence that although a number of national and international mechanisms lead monitoring visits to such places, it is rare for them to focus on child detention facilities and a child-rights approach is not integrated into the monitoring policy and methodology.

Moreover, the monitoring bodies that lead visits to adult detention facilities are the same ones leading visits to child detention facilities – so they lack specific knowledge and training on issues, standards and indicators that apply to children deprived of liberty, as well as appropriate communication methods to be used when interviewing children.

- ✓ DCI calls on Member States to establish independent mechanisms to monitor places of child detention and child detention facilities, and train staff accordingly;
- ✓ DCI invites relevant actors use of the Practical Guide on monitoring places where children are deprived of liberty, product of the “Children’s Rights Behind Bars” project;
- ✓ Finally, DCI calls on member States to support the realization of the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, commissioned by the UN General Assembly in December 2014, which foresees the collection of quantitative and qualitative data on the situation of children deprived of liberty, including the monitoring of such places and on the complaints mechanisms.

Thank you Mr / Madam Chairperson
