



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: G/SO CED-UA LTU (I)
APP/AB/AH 569/2019

5 March 2019

Dear Mr. Stanislovas Tomas,

I have the honour to acknowledge your request for urgent action under article 30 of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance submitted to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on 23 January 2019 as well as your supplemental information dated 5 February and 15 February, with regard to the alleged enforced disappearance of **Mr. Deimante Stankunaite**.

Your request was registered on 5 March 2019 by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, in compliance with article 30 of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance under the reference number **UA No. 569/2019**.

In view of the information provided, the Committee sent a note verbale to the State party on 5 March 2019 requesting its immediate urgent action in compliance with article 30 of the Convention, in the following terms:

“The Secretary General of the United Nations (High Commissioner for Human Rights) presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to transmit herewith the requests for Urgent Action of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, in compliance with article 30 of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance, with regard to the alleged enforced disappearance of Ms. Deimantė Stankūnaitė (Kedytė), on 14 October 2014. This request for Urgent Action have been registered by the Committee under the reference numbers **UA No. 569/2019**.

The following information has been provided to the Committee and is communicated to the State party to facilitate the search and location of Ms. Deimante Stankunaite:

Urgent Action No. 569/2019

Full name in English: Deimante Stankunaite

Full name in Lithuanian: Deimantė Stankūnaitė (Kedytė)

Date and place of birth: 19 February 2004, Kaunas, Lithuania

Father's name: Drasius Kedys

Mother's name: Laima Stankūnaitė

Usual address of the alleged victim: NA.

National ID Card: Personal identification number -----

The Committee was informed that on 17 May 2012, Deimante, an 8 year-old girl who had allegedly been abused by her mother and recognized as the victim of sexual abuse, was forcefully removed by the police from the place of her aunt (her father's sister, Ms. Neringa Venckiene) and brought to her mother, Ms. Laima Stankunaite. It is alleged that her mother,

Ms. Laima Stankunaite, sold her into sexual servitude when Deimante was 4 years old and she had been sexually abused by several men, including Mr. Andrius Usas, State Security Department agent and assistant to the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament. Judge Jonas Furmanavicius at the Kaunas Regional Court. Psychiatric and psychological experts confirmed the sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder of Deimante.¹ It is also alleged that the mother was aware of the sexual relations between the girl and several men and that she was receiving money for these.

According to the information provided to the Committee, Deimante had lived with her aunt Ms. Neringa Venckiene since 2007, but it is alleged that her mother forcibly attempted to take her back. On 22 March 2012, the District Court of the Kedainiai Region issued an order to return the girl to the mother. On 17 May 2012, police officers took the girl and transferred her to the mother. It is alleged that about 40 protesters and anti-paedophilia activists who tried to support Deimante were violently repressed by the police and arrested.²

After she was transferred to her mother, Deimante did not contact any of her friends. She was last seen via Skype on 14 October 2014 at the hearing of the Kaunas District Court.

The Committee was also informed of the existence of approximately 15 deaths related to this case, including alleged paedophile Judge Jonas Furmanavicius in 2009 and Deimante's father, Mr. Drasius Kedys, in 2010 after he revealed a video accusing Mr. Usas and Mr. Furmanavicius of having sexual relations with Deimante,³ as well as the deaths of several anti-paedophilia protestors, and some witnesses.

According to information provided to the Committee, some friends of the family have inquired about Deimante's fate and whereabouts, but to no avail. They informed the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Prime Minister and Speaker of the Parliament of Lithuania of the disappearance of Deimante in January 2018. The Committee was also informed that Mr. Kazimieras Juraitis, a friend of the father of Deimante, lodged a complaint with the police on 31 January 2019, but that the police did not take any action as the complainant was not a family member of the disappeared person. As of today, no information has been provided as to the fate and whereabouts of Deimante.

In view of the urgency of the situation, the Committee requests the State party to take immediate action to seek, find and protect Deimante, in compliance with article 30 of the Convention. In this perspective, the Committee requests the State party:

- **To take all the necessary measures to clarify the location of Ms. Deimante Stankunaite. In case her location is unknown, to take all measures that are necessary to search for her, locate and protect her.**
- **In case the location of Ms. Deimante Stankunaite can be confirmed, the Committee requests the State party to ensure that she is under the protection of the law, to officially inform the Committee as to her whereabouts and to take all the actions necessary to enable her immediate and periodic contact with her counsel or any other person of her choice.**

¹ Opinions of psychiatrists have been submitted as evidence. The video recorded by the father in which the girl describes in detail the forms of sexual abuse used against her is still available on Youtube; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=td53XyXwyEk>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1freD1ZLPCA>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1td7U_P1pj0.

² The event detail is available online news articles and video materials; <https://www.foxnews.com/world/lithuania-vigilante-case-exposes-social-divides>; <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/lithuanian-police-arrest-39-in-child-custody-case-7762952.html>; <http://alkas.lt/2018/07/16/zinomi-visuomenes-veikejai-praso-jav-neisduoti-n-venckienes-lietuvos-teisesaugai-video/>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXGVaQj-8AM>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmuYUDkCCYg>.

³ It is reported as natural death but suspected to be a murder according to the news article in Lithuania. (Kriminaloge: smurto zymes akivaizdzios, minis nenaturali (papild~ta) (English translation: Criminologists: Marks of Violence are Obvious; the Death is Unnatural (amended)), 28 April 2010).



- **In case the location of Ms. Deimante Stankunaite cannot be confirmed, to inform the representatives of Ms. Deimante Stankunaite and the Committee about the actions taken by the competent authorities to search for her, to clarify her alleged enforced disappearance, to guarantee her placement under the protection of the law, and the result of these actions.**
- **In compliance with the State party's obligations under articles 12 and 24 of the Convention, the State party is also requested to take all measures that are necessary to identify the perpetrators of the alleged disappearance of Ms. Deimante Stankunaite, taking into account that the identification of the perpetrator(s) can result paramount for the search and location of the disappeared person.**
- **To provide the Committee with information as to the measures taken to implement each of these recommendations, and about the result of these actions.**

In compliance with article 30, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the Committee requests the State party to send information on these issues, by **20 March 2019**. The information submitted by the State party will be transmitted to the authors of the referred requests for urgent action for their comments.

The Committee also draws the attention of the State party to article 30, paragraph 4 of the Convention according to which "the Committee shall continue its efforts to work with the State party concerned for as long as the fate of the person sought remains unresolved".

The State party's observations will be sent to you upon receipt, for your comments. In the meantime, the Committee remains pending of any additional information you may wish to provide with regard to the referred Urgent Action.

Sincerely,


P. P.
Ibrahim Salama
Chief

Human Rights Treaties Branch

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