



Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Director-General for Legal Affairs

The Special Rapporteurs
signatories to the Joint
Communication
AL SWE 1/2025

Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Palace of Nations
CH-1211 GENEVA 10
Switzerland

Communication from Special Procedures

Reference: AL SWE 1/2025

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

1. I have the honour of referring to your letter of 25 February 2025 in which the Swedish Government is invited to submit observations regarding certain matters relating to the Truth Commission for the Sami People (henceforth the Truth Commission or the Commission). On behalf of the Swedish Government, I have the privilege to submit the following in response to the invitation.

1. The appointment of the Truth Commission for the Sami People

2. In the Swedish constitutional system, the Government usually appoints a commission or committee of inquiry to investigate complex political issues or prepare legislative reforms. The Government issues terms of reference setting out the mandate for such inquiries. Committees of inquiry receive an annual budget allocation from the Government. The conclusions of the inquiry are published in a report which is made available to the public.

3. At the request of the Sami Parliament, and following a feasibility study carried out by the Sami Parliament, the Truth Commission was appointed as a committee of inquiry by the Government in November 2021. The aim is to survey and examine the policies pursued towards the Sami in a historical perspective and their consequences for the Sami people. Further tasks include to highlight and disseminate knowledge of the Sami's experiences and the Commission's

conclusions, as well as to propose measures that contribute to redress and promote reconciliation.

4. The Sami Parliament was closely involved in the establishment of the Truth Commission and in developing its terms of reference. Furthermore, experiences from other processes of reconciliation were taken into consideration. The Sami Parliament was consulted in the appointment of the members of the Commission, and the members represent a wide array of competencies. The importance of involving those concerned is emphasised in the terms of reference.

2. The Truth Commission's request to extend its mandate

5. On 28 January 2025, the Government Offices (Ministry of Culture) received a request from the Truth Commission for an extension of its mandate until 1 October 2026. This request is currently under consideration by the Government Offices.

3. The budget allocation and the Truth Commission's independent mandate

6. The Truth Commission acts as an independent body. Its work is guided by the terms of reference and the annual budget. The Commission is free to determine which activities to prioritise to fulfil the terms of reference within the allocated budget. The Government may not interfere in the internal proceedings of the Truth Commission.

7. The budget allocated to the Truth Commission for 2025 is 9 900 000 SEK. Since the Commission is to present its findings on 1 December 2025, the allocated budget for 2025 corresponds to eleven months. The Truth Commission had requested a budget of 14 400 000 SEK. The assessment has been made that the allocated budget is sufficient to fulfil the terms of reference. In 2024 the allocated budget was 10 200 000 SEK. From 2022 to 2025, the Truth Commission has received a budget of approximately 35 000 000 SEK in total.

8. It follows from the terms of reference that the Truth Commission has a broad mandate, which allows it to determine more precisely which areas to examine and how its work is to be carried out. The terms of reference lay out the guidelines for the work but does not direct the Truth Commission in a detailed way on specific

activities that must be carried out within its mandate. As stated above, the Government may not intervene in the internal proceedings of the Truth Commission and can therefore not decide on which activities that are to be given priority.

4. Current composition of the Truth Commission and its secretariat

9. On 31 March 2025, the lawyer Lena Nyberg was appointed as the new chairperson of the Truth Commission. As in the appointment of all members of the Commission, the Sami Parliament was consulted in this process.

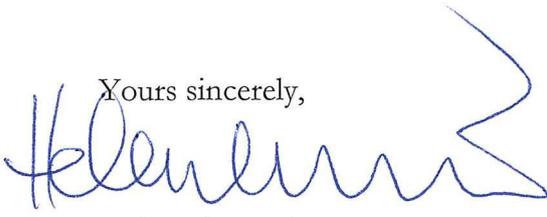
10. The Truth Commission is currently composed of nine members (excluding the chairperson) as three members chose to leave the Commission at their own request in the autumn of 2024.

11. A secretariat assists in carrying out the work of the Commission. The Government Offices appoint members of staff in the secretariat of the Truth Commission. This is done in close dialogue with the Truth Commission, as it has detailed knowledge of the need for staffing and competences necessary for the completion of the mandate.

12. Recently, the Truth Commission has experienced a turnover in staffing which has put a strain on the organisation. In the beginning of 2025, several decisions regarding staffing have been made. A new principal secretary has been employed as well as several members of staff thereby strengthening the work of the Truth Commission.

13. The Truth Commission has an important mandate and the Government's ambition is of course for the Commission to have good conditions to carry out its work.

14. The Government remains at the disposal of the Special Rapporteurs, should any further information be requested.

Yours sincerely,


Helena Swenzén

Acting Director-General for Legal Affairs