

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

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### **Kiribati: Amnesty International welcomes efforts to address violence against women and willingness to consider establishing a national or regional human rights institution**

#### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Kiribati***

Amnesty International notes with concern the difficulties experienced by Kiribati which prevented its delegation from attending the current session. This situation is a reminder that arrangements to support smaller countries to participate in the UPR need to be reinforced.

Amnesty International welcomes the Kiribati government's forthrightness in outlining its human rights situation and its very positive engagement in the dialogue with other States in the Working Group.

The organization regrets that the government considers that it is not feasible to consider ratifying the International Covenants and other standards Kiribati has not yet ratified.<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International notes the government's preparedness to consider the establishment of a national or regional human rights institution pending the provision of capacity building and financial support.<sup>2</sup>

Amnesty International welcomes the government's efforts to address violence against women, particularly through its partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in conducting a survey on partner violence.<sup>3</sup> The 2009 survey showed that 68% of women in Kiribati experienced physical and or sexual violence by their partners and illustrates how women and girls continue to suffer from violence, discrimination and stereotyping due to pervading cultural notions. The organization urges the government to endeavour to implement in full its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect women and children from violence, as recommended in the review,<sup>4</sup> and to eradicate cultural practices that contribute to discrimination against women and girls.

Amnesty International urges the government to take steps to realize plans to develop specific legislation on eliminating violence against women.<sup>5</sup> Adequate resources are required for a specific domestic violence unit within the police, for a women's crisis centre, and for awareness-raising activities on eliminating violence against women in communities. In this regard, Amnesty International also encourages UN Member States and regional bodies to support the government's efforts in the protection of women and children.

#### **Background**

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/15/3, paragraphs 66.6, 66.7, 66.8, and 66.9 (France, Spain, Argentina, and Canada).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, paragraphs 7 and 8 and Addendum.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, paragraphs 11 and 12.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, paragraphs 66.12, 66.13, 66.14, and 66.15 (France, Slovakia, Algeria, and Philippines).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, paragraph 41.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Kiribati on 1 October 2010 during its 15<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Kiribati:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA46/001/2009/en>

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