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Dominican Republic: Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Dominican Republic: Amnesty International welcomes commitment to strengthen action to combat violence against women and encourages the Government to enhance investigation of violations committed by security forces

Amnesty International welcomes the Dominican Republic's commitment to promptly designate the person who will occupy the position of Ombudsman (Defensor del Pueblo).¹ This appointment, outstanding since 2001, should help improve the national system of protection and promotion of human rights.

The organization notes the Dominican Republic's support of recommendations related to improving the legislative and policy framework for the protection of women and girls from violence and urges their early and full implementation.² Amnesty International also welcomes the government's commitment to adopt comprehensive strategies to combat racism, including specific measures on the status and protection of persons of Haitian origin, and further action to protect the rights of migrants.³ It believes that these commitments would be strengthened by the prompt ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention, as recommended by several states.⁴ Amnesty International regrets however, that the Dominican Republic did not support the recommendation to adopt measures to ensure that Dominicans of Haitian descent are not denied citizenship or access to civil and birth registration procedures and not arbitrarily subjected to retroactive cancellation of birth and identity documents.⁵ It urges the government to reconsider this important recommendation.

Given the high number of allegations of human rights violations committed by members of the security forces, Amnesty International welcomes the Dominican Republic's support of a recommendation to invest in and upgrade human rights training of the police and staff in penal institutions.⁶ It urges the government to support related recommendations, currently under consideration, to investigate all reports of human rights violations and to suspend persons suspected of such violations from active duty; to establish an independent body to deal with complaints of abuse by police; and to ratify the Convention against Torture and the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.⁷

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Dominican Republic on 17 March 2010 during its 13th 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 for the review through its submission on Dominican Republic: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR27/002/2009/en>

¹ A/HRC/13/3, paragraph 87, recommendation 2.

² Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

³ Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendations 9, 10 and 42.

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 88, recommendations 8, 9 and 10.

⁵ Ibid, paragraph 89, recommendation 4.

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 87, recommendation 27.

⁷ Ibid, paragraph 88, recommendations 1, 6, 17, 18 and 23.

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