

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

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### **Guyana must strengthen the protection of LGBTI rights and move towards abolition of the death penalty.**

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

Amnesty International is concerned that death sentences continue to be imposed in Guyana. At least five people were sentenced to death in 2013, and as of June 2014 there were reportedly 14 people on death row.

During the review of Guyana, a large number of recommendations called for the abolition of the death penalty.<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International welcomes Guyana's acceptance of some of those recommendations<sup>2</sup> and urges their full and early implementation.

Amnesty International also welcomes Guyana's acceptance of recommendations to strengthen the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, including by taking measures to ensure that hate crimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity are vigorously investigated and appropriately prosecuted.<sup>3</sup> Currently, national legislation does not provide protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, Guyana continues to criminalize consensual same-sex conduct. This creates a discriminatory environment in which LGBTI persons are not able to fully enjoy their human rights. Amnesty International urges the government to implement with immediate effect the numerous recommendations to repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including those that criminalise consensual same-sex relations among adult.<sup>4</sup>

Amnesty International continues to receive allegations of excessive use of force by the Guyana Police Force during arrests and detentions. The organization welcomes Guyana's acceptance of recommendations to increase the capacity and strengthen the independence of the Police Complaints Authority to undertake prompt and impartial investigations of police abuse.<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International urges the government to implement these recommendations as a matter of priority.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Guyana*, A/HRC/29/16, 13 April 2015, recommendations 130.28 (Spain), 130.29 (Italy), 130.30 (Slovenia), 131.3 (Australia), 132.1 (Italy, Paraguay, Uruguay), 132.2 (Namibia), 132.3 (Switzerland), 132.4 (Timor-Leste), 132.5 (Australia), 132.6 (Germany, Portugal), 132.43 (Panama), 132.44 (Montenegro), 132.45 (Uruguay), 132.46 (Brazil), 132.47 (Chile), 132.48 (Costa Rica), and 132.49 (France).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/29/16, recommendations 130.28 (Spain), 130.29 (Italy), 130.30 (Slovenia), 131.3 (Australia),

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/29/16, recommendations 130.25 (Brazil), 130.26 (United States of America), and 130.27 (Thailand).

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/29/16, recommendations 132.30 (Italy), 132.31 (Netherlands), 132.32 (Slovenia), 132.33 (Switzerland), 132.34 (United States of America), 132.35 (Argentina), 132.36 (Canada), 132.37 (Chile), 132.38 (Norway), 132.39 (Spain), 132.40 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 132.41 (Uruguay) and 132.42 (Colombia).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/29/16, recommendations 130.31 (Italy), 130.55 (Italy) and 130.57 (United States of America).

**Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Guyana on 2 July 2015 during its 29<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Guyana:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr35/001/2014/en/>

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