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Haiti must take immediate action to prevent forced evictions and relocate internally-displaced persons: Amnesty International oral statement to the 25th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (3 – 28 March 2014)

25 March 2014

Item 10
Interactive dialogue with the
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti

Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti. We share the Expert's analysis in relation to the five key problems contributing to human rights violations in Haiti which need to be immediately addressed.

Regarding the lack of enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, Amnesty International would like to draw the Council's attention to the right to adequate housing considering that, as the Expert states, the housing crisis has been exacerbated by the 2010 earthquake.

Approximately 146,000 internally-displaced persons (IDPs) are estimated to still be living in displacement camps, the majority in appalling conditions. Most people relocated from camps have not benefitted from durable housing solutions.

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of forced evictions of IDPs, condoned if not carried out by the authorities and often with excessive use of force by the police. Approximately 60,000 people have been forcibly evicted since in July 2010.

In October 2013, the government announced the adoption of Haiti's first National Housing Policy. While the full document is not yet published, previous drafts seen by Amnesty International failed to establish concrete plans for those living in poverty to access adequate and affordable housing and did not include measures to prevent forced evictions and provide durable solutions to displaced people.

We urge the Council and the Independent Expert to encourage the government of Haiti to take immediate and effective measures to prevent forced evictions, investigate cases of forced evictions and relocate IDPs from camps in compliance with the durable solutions framework.

Thank you Mr. President.