

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Gambia: Amnesty international calls for investigation of human rights violations committed by security forces and for freedom of expression to be guaranteed

United Nations Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Gambia

Amnesty International welcomes the engagement by the Gambian government in the UPR and its stated commitment to ensure an inclusive follow-up process.¹

The organization also welcomes the Gambia's support for recommendations to promote and protect women's rights² and to cooperate more with the Special Procedures.³

Amnesty International emphasizes the importance of the government urgently implementing recommendation 24, which stresses the need to investigate reports of human rights violations committed by the police, the army and the National Intelligence Agency, and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Furthermore, Amnesty International emphasizes the importance of government support for recommendations:

- To domesticate international treaties that have been ratified;⁴
- To establish a national human rights institution;⁵
- To issue an open invitation to the UN Special Procedures;⁶
- To establish a moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty;⁷
- To investigate and punish cases of unlawful arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearances, including the death of Deyda Hydera and the disappearance of Chief Ebrima Manneh;⁸
- To strengthen the independence of the judiciary;⁹ and
- To protect human rights defenders.¹⁰

Many of the recommendations rejected by Gambia call for guarantees for freedom of expression and an end to intimidation of the media.¹¹ These recommendations mirror Gambia's

¹ A/HRC/14/6, paragraph 97, recommendation 59 (Norway).

² Ibid, paragraph 97, recommendations 6 and 15 (Venezuela and Cote d'Ivoire)

³ Ibid, paragraph 97, recommendation 13 (Burkina Faso).

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendation 9 (Kazakhstan)

⁵ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 16, 17, 18 and 19 (Libya, Spain, France, Niger, Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt, Mauritius)

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 23,24, 25, 26 (Chile, Argentina, Latvia, Canada, Spain)

⁷ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 32, 33, 34, 35 (Brazil, Spain, Italy, Argentina)

⁸ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 37, 38, 39, 47 (Spain, Ghana, Slovakia, UK)

⁹ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 45, 46 (Netherlands, Ghana)

¹⁰ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 48, 49 (Slovakia, France)

¹¹ Ibid, paragraph 100, recommendations 15-26.

obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Amnesty International urges the Gambian government to honour these obligations.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of the Gambia on 11 June 2010 during its 14th session. Prior to this Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. You can watch the webcast of AI's oral statement by clicking on this link: <http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/archive.asp?go=100611#Gam>

Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis for the review through its submission on the Gambia: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR27/006/2009/en>

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