

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: EUR 56/003/2011

8 June 2011

Georgia: Amnesty International raises concerns on lack of effective and independent investigation into reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials and urges respect for the rights of internally displaced persons to adequate housing, healthcare and education

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Georgia

A number of States raised the issue of the independence of the judiciary and expressed concern about the lack of effective and independent investigation into reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials.¹ Amnesty International shares these concerns and welcomes Georgia's support of recommendations to strengthen the independence of the judiciary² and to carry out effective and independent investigations into cases of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials in order to bring to justice those responsible.³

In its input to the review the organization raised concerns about the situation of internally displaced persons and forced evictions carried out in June-August 2010 and January 2011. It is concerned that large numbers of persons evicted have not yet been provided with durable housing that meets the standards of adequacy under international law.

Amnesty International welcomes the large number of recommendations, made to Georgia during the review, to address the situation of internally displaced persons. It notes those calling for implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; ensuring that resettlement areas meet adequate living standards, in particular with regard to access to drinking water and basic sanitation; and that internally displaced persons have access to employment, education and healthcare.⁴ The organization also welcomes the recommendations to guarantee that evictions of displaced persons are carried out in accordance with international standards and to respect the rights to decent housing, work, and access to health services and education.⁵ It urges Georgia to act promptly to give effect to these important recommendations.

Background

¹ A/HRC/17/11, paragraphs 41 (Switzerland), 50 (USA), 51 (Slovakia), 63 (Austria), 64 (Norway), 66 (Sri Lanka), 77 (Denmark), and 97 (Australia).

² Ibid, recommendations 105.48 (Australia), 105.49 (Greece), 105.51 (Lithuania), 105.52 (Chile), 105.53 (Hungary), 106.39 (USA), and 106.40 (Switzerland).

³ Ibid, recommendation 105.56 (Switzerland)

⁴ Ibid, recommendations 105.82 – 105.91.

⁵ Ibid, recommendations 105.92 – 105.95.

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Georgia on 8 June 2011 its 17th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Public Document
International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW,
UK www.amnesty.org
