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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Trinidad and Tobago

AMR 49/5385/2022
24 March 2022

UN Human Rights Council
49th Session
28 February – 1 April 2022

Mr President,

Amnesty International remains concerned about pushbacks by Trinidad and Tobago of Venezuelans in need of international protection, especially Venezuelan women asylum seekers who experience a range of human rights violations including gender-based violence, discrimination, trafficking, rape and other forms of sexual violence, labour exploitation and debt bondage.

We urge Trinidad and Tobago to report back to the Human Rights Council on progress towards implementation of recommendations through submission of a mid-term report and a statement in the Item 6 General Debate.

Mr President,

Amnesty International welcomes Trinidad and Tobago's acceptance of numerous recommendations to address gender-based violence,¹ and human trafficking of women and girls,² including trafficking by the police,³ and to "ensure the provision of adequate assistance to victims."⁴

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Trinidad and Tobago, A/HRC/49/16, Recommendations: 108.39 (Australia), 108.40 (Canada), 108.41 (Indonesia).

² Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Trinidad and Tobago, A/HRC/49/16, Recommendations: 108.6 (Botswana), 108.16 (Mexico), 108.17 (Costa Rica), 108.18 (Serbia), 108.19 (Peru), 108.22 (Senegal), 108.23 (Togo).

³ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Trinidad and Tobago, A/HRC/49/16, Recommendation: 108.15 (United States of America).

⁴ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Trinidad and Tobago, A/HRC/49/16,

However, we regret Trinidad and Tobago's rejection of multiple recommendations to develop national refugee legislation in line with international standards, to implement the existing national policy on asylum, and to set up a national refugee status determination procedure.⁵

We take this opportunity to reiterate our call on Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that Venezuelans are not deported or otherwise forcibly returned to Venezuela, especially as a UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission found reasonable grounds to believe that Venezuelan authorities have committed grave crimes under international law that could amount to crimes against humanity.

Thank you.

108.20 (Philippines), 108.21 (Portugal).

⁵ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Trinidad and Tobago, A/HRC/49/16, Recommendation: 109.90 (Australia), 109.91 (France), 109.92 (Italy), 109.93 (Paraguay), 109.94 (Brazil), 109.95 (Ireland), 109.96 (Austria), 109.97 (Germany); 109.98 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 109.99 (Mexico), 109.100 (Togo), 109.101 (Canada).