

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: AMR 18/1256/2015

19 March 2015

Amnesty International calls on Bolivia to implement recommendations on impunity for past abuses, the judiciary and sexual and reproductive rights

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Amnesty International welcomes the support by the Plurinational State of Bolivia of the majority of the recommendations made during its review in the UPR Working Group.¹ The organization calls on the authorities to fully and promptly implement these, in particular the recommendations that the government maintains have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. Many of these recommendations concern issues where more needs to be done in order to improve the human rights situation in Bolivia.

Bolivia has supported recommendations to end impunity for human rights violations committed between 1964 and 1982, and to strengthen efforts to create an independent truth commission.² Concrete steps must be taken without further delays to establish the fate and whereabouts of those who were forcibly disappeared – approximately 150 victims. More needs to be done urgently to ensure justice for human rights violations which occurred during this period, including enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary detentions. The failure by the authorities to fully implement Law 2640 to provide reparation to victims of political violence is unjustifiable. Amnesty International urges Bolivia to ensure full and effective reparation for victims of past human rights violations in accordance with international obligations.

Access to justice is hampered by long-standing structural problems within the judiciary, such as delays, corruption and lack of capacity. Amnesty International notes that Bolivia accepted some but not all of the recommendations in this regard,³ and calls on the government to reconsider and to implement all recommendations to strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

Amnesty International is pleased that Bolivia has accepted recommendations to protect sexual and reproductive rights.⁴ Maternal mortality rates in Bolivia remain one of the highest in the region and the rate of unwanted pregnancy continues to increase, affecting mainly young women from the poorest sectors of society. Amnesty International welcomes the 2014 decision of the Constitutional Court to remove the requirement for judicial authorisation for women

¹ *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Plurinational State of Bolivia*, A/HRC/28/7, 17 December 2014. Bolivia has accepted 178 recommendations, of which the government claims 132 have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. Sixteen recommendations were rejected.

² A/HRC/28/7, recommendations 113.26 (Ireland) and 114.70 (Uruguay).

³ A/HRC/28/7. Bolivia accepted recommendations 113.20 (Denmark), 113.21 (Australia), 113.22 (Switzerland), 113.23 (Brazil), 113.24 (Austria) –and 114.57 (UK), 114.58 (Costa Rica), 114.59 (Chile), 114.60 (France), 114.61 (USA), 114.62 (Croatia), 114.63 (Germany), 114.64 (Italy), 114.65 (India) and 114.66 (Canada) , but rejected recommendations 115.2 (Croatia), 115.11 (Croatia), 115.12 (Hungary) and 115.13 (Israel).

⁴ A/HRC/28/7, recommendations 113.30-113.31 (Uruguay), 114.21 (Finland), 114.76-114.77 (Slovenia, Mexico), 114.111-114.112 (Netherlands, Israel).

seeking an abortion in cases of rape, and urges Bolivia to ensure this decision is implemented in practice. The organization also urges the prompt adoption of the bill on sexual and reproductive rights, in line with Bolivia's international obligations.

Finally, Amnesty International also welcomes Bolivia's acceptance of recommendations to improve prison conditions,⁵ as well as recommendations to strengthen the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁶ The organization urges Bolivia to guarantee the right of Indigenous Peoples to consultation and free, prior and informed consent, and the effective participation of all indigenous groups in the consultation bill currently before parliament.⁷ Amnesty International calls for the immediate and full implementation of these recommendations.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on 18 March 2015 during its 28th 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 the Plurinational State of Bolivia: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr18/005/2014/en/>

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⁵ A/HRC/28/7, recommendations 113.16 (Poland), 112.17 (UK), 113.18 (Switzerland), 113.19 (Uruguay), and 113.23 (Brazil).

⁶ A/HRC/28/7, recommendations 113.46 (Australia), 114.35 (Republic of Korea), 114.37 (Trinidad and Tobago), 114.67 (Ireland), 114.124 (Palestine), 114.126-114.127 (Angola, Finland), 114.129 (Iran), 114.131-114.132 (Spain, Dominican Republic).

⁷ A/HRC/28/7, recommendations 113.46 (Australia) and 114.131 (Spain).