

CANADA
Advance written questions to States under review (SuR)
Session 1 of the UPR (7 to 18 April 2008)

SuR	ISSUE	QUESTION
Bahrain		NONE
Ecuador	Detention conditions	The prison situation is of concern, with prisons currently at more than double overcapacity, and poor conditions. Further, delays in the legal system are a concern. What measures is the government taking to address these concerns?
	Refugees/Integration	Ecuador has been generous in accommodating Colombian refugees and dealing with spillover consequences from Colombia's internal conflict, but Ecuadorian capacity to absorb this may be reaching its limit. How will the government address this problem?
	Indigenous peoples (Discrimination)	Reports suggest aboriginal groups may have poorer access to education, and instances may have occurred where aboriginal territory has been violated to access natural resource wealth. What measures are being taken to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination by indigenous people, including access to education and property rights?
Tunisia	Freedom of opinion and expression	Les Tunisiens ne jouissent pas des libertés d'expression et d'association telles que décrites dans les conventions internationales. L'État exerce un contrôle serré sur les moyens de communication et d'information. Les quelques organisations non-gouvernementales et associations indépendantes, qui existent encore, font souvent face à diverses mesures de harcèlement et de déstabilisation, si elles dévient de la ligne officielle. SVP disposez le cadre juridique dans votre pays pour promouvoir et protéger le droit de la liberté d'opinion et d'expression.
Morocco		NONE
Indonesia	Right to a fair trial	How can the Indonesian government guarantee that both law and practice implement international law and standards on the right to a fair trial and to ensure the protection of all suspects, victims, and witnesses?
	Human Rights Defenders	What can be done to ensure that members of the security forces are made aware of the role of human rights defenders and of their responsibility to protect them (set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups, and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)?
	Women's rights and religious minorities	What can be done specifically to ensure that the rights of women and minority faith groups, outlined in Indonesia's Constitution, are protected, especially at the local level?
	Freedom of opinion and expression (Papua)	What is being done to ensure that legitimate democratic activity by civil society, including peaceful public protest and criticism, are not stigmatized as 'separatist' in regions of heightened security and intelligence activity such as Papua?

Finland		NONE
UK		NONE
India		NONE
Brazil		NONE
Philippines	Extra-judicial killings and impunity	The ongoing extra-judicial killings in the Philippines is a key concern as it spans a range of human rights abuses and creates an apparent culture of impunity.
	Witnesses protection	What measures is the government taking to improve the protection of witnesses (highlighted in both Alston Report and EU Needs Assessment Mission) and the conviction of perpetrators?
Algeria	Freedom of opinion and expression	Les Algériens jouissent d'une grande liberté d'expression, n'hésitant pas à critiquer le gouvernement, les forces armées et le président. L'accès à l'internet et la réception de chaînes de télévision étrangères sont libres. La presse écrite est légalement libre, bien que sujette à une certaine autocensure, vu que les journalistes peuvent être condamnés pour diffamation. La télévision et la radio sont contrôlées totalement par les autorités. L'attitude des autorités algériennes à l'endroit des organisations des droits de l'homme continue de se décrier, mais les autorités restent extrêmement sensibles à tout commentaire négatif, surtout provenant de l'étranger. SVP disposez le cadre juridique dans votre pays pour promouvoir et protéger le droit de la liberté d'opinion et d'expression.
	Freedom of religion	Depuis près de deux ans, et surtout durant les derniers mois, la liberté de religion semble être sur la sellette. Les églises chrétiennes (catholique, protestante, évangélique) ont subi de nombreuses attaques de la part du ministère de l'Intérieur, qui a pris notamment plusieurs mesures d'expulsion apparemment arbitraires. SVP disposez le cadre juridique dans votre pays pour promouvoir et protéger le droit de la liberté de pensée, conscience et religion. SVP expliquez pourquoi ces mesures ont été prises par le Ministère de l'Intérieur et s'ils sont en accord avec le cadre juridique décrit.
Poland		NONE
Netherlands		NONE
South Africa	Violence against women	We would be grateful if you could indicate what specific steps the government and South African Police Services are taking or intend to take to improve the latter's handling of cases of sexual and domestic violence.
	Violence against women	We are pleased to see that certain sections of the long-awaited Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 came into operation this past December. However, we note that many of the measures initially proposed by the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) in the draft legislation with a view to supporting and protecting complainants in court and to providing comprehensive state-funded post-sexual assault medical care and treatment services have been removed.

	Violence against women	Given that the Act's stated objective is "to afford complainants of sexual offences the maximum and least traumatizing protection that the law can provide", we would be grateful if you could explain why the SALRC's recommendations were not followed on these important points.
	HIV/AIDS	We would be grateful if you could indicate what South Africa is doing to address inequities in access to HIV/AIDS treatment and support, particularly as they concern the rural South African.
	Criminal Justice System	Given the widespread perception that political agendas are compromising the integrity of the South African criminal justice process, and the need for justice to be done as well as be seen to be done, we would be grateful if you would indicate whether the government of South Africa intends to take any steps to address these concerns.
	Freedom of expression	We consider post-Apartheid South Africa to have a relatively free, independent and dynamic media that is willing and able to hold the government and any other institution or individual to account in the face of evidence of corruption, illegality or a failure to discharge responsibilities. However, a number of developments and controversies over the past year or so have raised some concerns that the level of press and media freedom in South Africa may be declining. These notably include the rash of controversies surrounding the government's Film and Publications Amendment Bill, the appointment of public broadcaster SABC's new board and the ANC's Polokwane Conference resolution regarding the establishment of a Media Appeals Tribunal. Controversies have also arisen concerning the reported bid by an investment consortium involving several of President Mbeki's closest allies to purchase Johncom, the company which owns or enjoys a controlling stake in a number of South Africa's most influential papers, including The Sunday Times, one of the papers most critical of the current administration. This same paper saw members of its editorial staff arrested last year.
	Freedom of expression	All of these issues raise the specter of state interference with that freedom of expression currently enjoyed by the South African media and we would be grateful if you could indicate whether such concerns are justified and what steps, if any, the government intends to take in the near future to protect and promote the freedom of expression, notably as it concerns the freedom of the press and other media, that it is constitutionally obligated to respect.
Czech Republic	NONE	
Argentina	NONE	