

**IRELAND**  
**Advance written questions to States under Review (SuR)**  
**Session 2: 5 – 19 May 2008**

SuR	ISSUES	QUESTIONS
<b>Gabon</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Ghana</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Peru</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>Human Rights Defenders</b>	The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) has noted a significant increase in the number and intensity of attacks against human rights defenders in the last five years, including a high number of killings. What measures have been taken to improve the investigation of such cases, particularly with regard to coordination between the police and the office of the Attorney General?
	<b>Human Rights Defenders</b>	What progress has been made on the recommendation of the SRSG on HRDs to develop Government policy for the protection of human rights defenders?
<b>Benin</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>South Korea</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Switzerland</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Zambia</b>	<b>National Human Rights Institution</b>	Ireland welcomes the existence of the Zambian Human Rights Commission however we note concerns that a number of factors including budgetary constraints and lack of political support have adversely affected the effectiveness of the Commission. Have any measures been taken to improve the way in which the Commission carries out its work? Does the Commission have sufficient independence to address politically sensitive issues?
	<b>Human Rights Defenders</b>	In 2005-2006 the Government of Zambia informed the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) that it intended to develop a legally binding code of conduct to guide the activities of human rights defenders. Has this initiative been advanced and if so does it improve the enabling environment for human rights defenders?
	<b>Women Human Rights Defenders</b>	There have been reports that women human rights defenders in Zambia have been subjected to stigmatization, discrimination and intimidation. What measures are in place to support women human rights defenders?
	<b>Freedom of press</b>	The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on HRDs has noted that libel and security laws have reportedly been used to intimidate journalists. The Human Rights Committee has also noted that defamation against the President as well as publication of false news are still considered criminal offences under the Penal Code. Have these provisions in the Penal Code been repealed, as requested by the Human Rights Committee?
	<b>Detention and prison conditions</b>	The Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture (CAT), among others, have expressed concern at poor conditions in places of detention, including prison overcrowding. The Committee on

		Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and CAT have also urged the Government to strengthen measures aimed at improving the living conditions of prisoners and detainees. Ireland notes that Zambia has acknowledged this situation and that some progress has been made. What measures have been taken to address the situation in prisons?
<b>Japan</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>Freedom of opinion and expression, Freedom of press</b>	The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) have sent communications to the Government of Sri Lanka relating to alleged murders, attacks, threats to, and harassment of journalists. In addition, in 2003 the Human Rights Committee recommended, inter alia, to protect media pluralism and raised concern about persistent reports of harassment against media personnel and journalists, and that the majority of such allegations had been ignored or rejected by competent authorities. What measures has the Government put in place to uphold its responsibility to guarantee the right to freedom of expression?
	<b>Human Rights Defenders</b>	The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the SRSG on Human Rights Defenders have also referred to alleged murders, attacks, threats to and harassment of human rights defenders. What measures has the Government taken to ensure that those who carry out such attacks are brought to justice? What measures are in place to protect human rights defenders from such attacks?
	<b>National Human Rights Institutions</b>	What is the current status of the National Human Rights Commission?
	<b>Civil society</b>	In 2005, the SRSG on Human Rights Defenders expressed concern about new administrative orders in relation to the registration of NGOs. Have these concerns been addressed?
	<b>Cooperation with the OHCHR</b>	The High Commissioner for Human Rights has emphasised the critical need for independent public reporting on the human rights situation. Has the Government given further consideration to establishing an independent OHCHR presence in Sri Lanka?
	<b>Humanitarian Workers</b>	Humanitarian actors have expressed concern regarding difficulties in accessing certain vulnerable populations, in particular the effect that this has had on the provision of essential services for children. The SRSG on IDPs also expressed concern in December 2007 about cases of threats, abductions and killings of humanitarian workers. The 2008 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Sri Lanka notes that a total of 16 humanitarian workers were killed in 2007. What measures is the Government taking to facilitate and improve humanitarian access?
<b>France</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Tonga</b>		<b>NONE</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>Minorities</b>	UN Special Procedures, such as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, and UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee, CEDAW and CRC, have all remarked upon the systematic discrimination faced by <b>Roma people</b> in Romania. What measures has the Government taken to ensure equal enjoyment of human rights by Roma people, with particular regard to allegations of police brutality and to the implementation of the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015)?
	<b>Torture</b>	The Human Rights Committee and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have raised concerns about

	<b>Torture</b>	The Human Rights Committee and the Special Rapporteur on Torture have raised concerns about substandard living conditions and allegations of torture in <b>places of detention</b> , such as prisons and psychiatric hospitals. What steps has the Government taken to address these concerns and to ensure that detainees' rights are fully respected?
	<b>Women's rights</b>	In spite of an extensive framework on gender equality and non-discrimination, CEDAW has noted the inability of many <b>women</b> to effectively vindicate their human rights. In particular, the low representation of women in politics, their situation in the labour market and the lack of sufficient measures to tackle domestic violence have been highlighted. What measures has the Government taken to address these issues?
	<b>Health</b>	The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health has noted with concern the ineffective implementation of the right to <b>mental health</b> and the inadequate provision of mental health care in psychiatric institutions. What measures has the Government taken to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to mental health and the proper provision of mental health care?
	<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	CRC and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health have raised concerns about the prevalence of <b>HIV/AIDS</b> in Romania, with particular regard to the incidence of HIV/AIDS among children, the lack of adequate treatment and discrimination of HIV/AIDS sufferers. What measures has the Government taken to address these concerns?
	<b>Rights of the Child</b>	CRC has expressed concern that <b>disabled children</b> remain disadvantaged in the enjoyment of their rights guaranteed by the Convention and UNICEF indicates that in addition to difficult physical access to health services and other public health services, many children with disabilities are also confronted with negative attitudes from health care staff and a high proportion of children with disabilities have dropped out of school despite efforts to integrate them. What measures has the government taken to ensure the rights of children and young people with disabilities?