



*Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review*
<http://www.upr-info.org>

Statements made by other stakeholders under review at the HRC under item 6 after the adoption of the UPR report

Country: Benin (First Cycle, 2008)

Organisation: Franciscans International

Date of the statement: 16th HRC session - 18 March 2011

“For Benin, FI continues to be deeply concerned about the ritual infanticide of so-called ‘witch children’ and the lack of concrete action by the Government, to address traditional beliefs which result in the death of innocent children. The issue of ‘witch children’ was already raised during the UPR of Benin in 2008, resulting in recommendations accepted by the Government. However, we deplore that, after almost three years from the review, the Government has not yet made any progress to effectively address this issue. We urge the Government of Benin to reinforce measures to prevent and eliminate ritual infanticide by_ recognizing the importance of the issue; ensuring stringer presence of state authorities in the areas affected; address infanticide based on witchcraft as a separate crime.”