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UN Human Rights Council
Eleventh Session, 2 – 18 June 2009

Item 6
“Consideration of UPR reports”

Oral Intervention by Amnesty International on China

Mr. President,

If the Universal Period Review (UPR) is to lead to improved respect for human rights, governments must frankly address their own human rights records and be responsive to other states' recommendations. By rejecting a large number of recommendations covering a broad range of human rights, the Chinese authorities have effectively undermined the value of the UPR for China.

The success of the UPR also depends on a frank discussion within each State reviewed, including with civil society. This puts an important responsibility on representatives of civil society to vigorously address human rights shortcomings. They must not be accomplices in government efforts to present a sanitized picture of their national human rights situation. China's manipulation of civil society's contributions to the process seriously undermines the UPR and the credibility of the outcome for China.

Recommendations that did not enjoy the support of China, but which Amnesty International would urge the government to re-consider, include:

- To regularly publish figures on the use of the death penalty and to establish a moratorium on executions and eventually abolish the death penalty.ⁱ
- To end the use of punitive administrative detention.ⁱⁱ
- To end the persecution of individuals who exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.ⁱⁱⁱ
- To end the on-going repression of national ethnic minorities, including Tibetans and Uighurs, and the persecution of other religious practitioners.^{iv}

▪ To implement the November 2008 recommendations of the Committee against Torture and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.^v

Amnesty International is concerned that no state raised the issue of Macao's National Security Law during the dialogue in the UPR Working Group. The vague and broad provisions in the law could be used to imprison individuals merely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association in that special administrative region.

Finally, as recommended by eight states during the review, Amnesty International reiterates its call on China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ⁱ A/HRC/11/25, paragraphs 27(b), 28(c), 31(b) and (c), 38, 42(b), 56(c), 83(c), 86(b), 95(d) and 96(a).

ⁱⁱ A/HRC/11/25, paragraphs 28(d), 43(a), 82(e), 92(c) and (d).

ⁱⁱⁱ A/HRC/11/25, paragraphs 27(g), 31(a), 79(a), 82(b) and (c), 84(a), 92 (b) and 97.

^{iv} A/HRC/11/25, paragraphs 31(d), 42(d), 43(g) and (h), 82 (f), (g), (h) and (i), 83(e) and 96(b).

^v A/HRC/11/25, paragraphs 28(g), 38 and 82(a).