

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GAMBIA**

### **DENMARK**

- Will Gambia ensure that all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated and those responsible brought to justice? What is the reason Gambia has not adhered to UNCAT, and when will it take steps to do so? Does Gambia intend to invite the Special Rapporteur on Torture and accommodate other outstanding visit requests from Special Procedures?
- Denmark notes with concern the reports of harassment, detention and persecution in Gambia of members of the political opposition, independent journalists and human rights defenders who peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression.
- What will be done to ensure that all members of Gambian society are allowed to exercise their right to freedom of expression in accordance with international human rights conventions?
- Gambia has failed to honour reporting obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. No report has been submitted to the Human Rights Committee since 1983.
- When will Gambia submit the second report which has been overdue since 1985?

### **HUNGARY**

- Hungary regrets that The Gambia does not comply with her reporting obligations vis-à-vis different treaty bodies such as CERD, CRC. In this connection we wish to invite The Gambia to meet its commitments, in the spirit of cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.
- When does The Gambia plan to establish a separate institution responsible for dealing with human rights violations in accordance with the assessment of the Committee on the Rights of the Child?
- In 2002, the Human Rights Committee noted with concern that the death penalty was reintroduced in August 1995, after its abolition in 1993. Does The Gambia plan to abolish the capital punishment or at least introduce official moratorium to suspend executions?
- UNICEF stated that female genital mutilation is widely practiced in The Gambia. CEDAW, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Gambia to adopt and implement legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation, and to ensure that offenders

are prosecuted and punished; they also recommended taking legal and educational measures to combat this practice. Does Gambia plan to adopt and implement legislation to combat violence against women and commercial sexual exploitation in accordance with the reports and requests of various international organizations, treaty bodies and special procedures?

## **LATVIA**

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 65 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering some still pending requests by several special rapporteurs to visit Gambia - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

## **SWEDEN**

- Consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex is forbidden by law in the Gambia and punishable by 14 years imprisonment. Government representatives have publicly called for violence and discrimination against homosexuals.
- Are there any initiatives by the government of the Gambia predicted to repeal the law that forbids sexual activity among persons of the same sex? What initiatives does the government of the Gambia intend to take to end discrimination against LGBT persons?
- During the past few years legislative acts have restricted freedom of expression and of the media, freedoms which are guaranteed by the Gambian constitution and protected under the country's international obligations. Credible reports have indicated severe difficulties facing journalists in the exercise of their profession. Several radio stations and newspapers have been shut down or banned, and several journalists have disappeared. Reports also show an increase in the past two years of journalists leaving the country to seek asylum elsewhere.
- What measures is the Government of Gambia taking to ensure freedom of expression and of the media?

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND**

- Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society in The Gambia played in the preparation of your national report for this process? What plans are there to involve them in the follow up to the review?
- Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris principles?

- What is the position of The Government of The Gambia on Freedom of Expression, given the arrest and detention (and subsequent pardoning) of six journalists in 2009 and on Freedom of Assembly, given the recent arrest and charging of the spokesperson for the opposition United Democratic Party, Femi Peters.
- What investigations have taken place or are due to take place into the circumstances of the death of the prominent journalist Deyda Hydara in 2004 and the disappearance of the journalist Chief Ebrima Manneh in 2006.
- Could you please clarify The Government of The Gambia's position on policies and practices to ensure non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation?
- What steps is The Government of The Gambia taking to ensure that the presidential elections in 2011, National Assembly elections in 2012 and Local Elections in 2013 will be free and fair?

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