



16th Session of the Human Rights Council

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UPR report of Honduras

Intervention by : Ms. Folake Idowu

Mr President,

Honduras has, in recent years, endured major political upheaval which has had a marked effect on the political credibility and stability of the country following the ousting of their former President (Manuel Zelaya) in 2009.

Several problems remain today which must be addressed in a cohesive manner. Cases of torture, enforced disappearance, as well as the sexual and commercial exploitation of children remain of particular concern. It is our view that in order to effectively address these issues, national legislation must be brought in line with the international norms on human rights.

While we congratulate the Government of Honduras on the creation of a Secretariat for the Development of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples, RADDHO would like to see more being done to combat racial discrimination. In particular, alleviating the high levels of poverty and improving literacy among indigenous groups and people of African descent must become a principal priority.

RADDHO supports any concrete measures which the government is undertaking to strengthen its human rights mechanisms. In the future, we hope more will be done to address impunity, prosecute cases of extrajudicial killings and better assure the protection of human rights defenders against acts of violence.

In conclusion, we would like to encourage Honduras to strengthen the role of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights as well as its institutional frameworks by ratifying the International Convention on the Economic Social and Cultural Rights (and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Torture).

Thank you.