



16 March 2011  
Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council  
Sixteenth session, 28 February – 25 March 2011**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**LIBERIA**

Mr. President,

Many states raised the issue of the death penalty and expressed concern about the introduction in 2008 of legislation reintroducing the death penalty for persons convicted of armed robbery, terrorism or hijacking offences, if these crimes result in death.<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International shares these concerns and considers that this legislation directly violates Liberia's obligations under the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, to which it acceded in 2005. While welcoming Liberia's acknowledgement of its obligations under the Protocol,<sup>2</sup> we urge Liberia to abolish the Armed Robbery Act and, pending the abolition in law of the death penalty, to maintain the *de facto* moratorium on executions, which has been in place since 1979. Such action would also be in accordance with the 2008 resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights calling on States to observe a moratorium on the death penalty.<sup>3</sup>

Mr President,

In our submission of information for the UPR of Liberia we raised concerns about the vast number of women who were raped, held in sexual slavery and otherwise sexually tortured during the past wars. We are concerned that rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls remain widespread, as does domestic violence and forced and under-age marriage. The majority of reported rape cases involve girls under the age of 16. We therefore welcome the large number of recommendations made to Liberia during the review to investigate and prosecute cases of gender-based and sexual violence; to ensure effective access to justice for women victims of such violence; and to develop and implement education campaigns to prevent such

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/16/3, recommendations 78.14-87.20 (France, Germany, Sweden, Brazil, Norway, Italy, Portugal)

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/16/3/Add.1, paragraph 8

<sup>3</sup> ACHPR/Res.136(XXXVIII).08

violence.<sup>4</sup> We urge Liberia to act promptly to give effect to these important recommendations.<sup>5</sup>

Finally Mr President,

We welcome the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission by the government and hope that it will be well resourced and supported to enable it to operate in accordance with the Paris Principles.<sup>6</sup>

Thank you, Mr President.

---

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/16/3, recommendations 77.31 (Canada), 77.32 (Sweden), 77.35 (Brazil).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, recommendations 77.5 (South Africa), 77.6 (Slovakia), 77.7 (Australia), 77.31 (Canada), 77.32 (Sweden), 77.35 (Brazil), 77.36 (Bangladesh), 77.37 (USA), 78.28 (Brazil), 78.29 (Portugal), and 78.30 (Slovenia).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, recommendations 77.15-77.17 (Bangladesh, Morocco, Algeria).