

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO JAMAICA – Add.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What steps the Government of Jamaica takes to combat criminality, with a view of the highest murder rates, how the police, judiciary and other authorities are strengthened to provide an effective response to address and prevent violence?
- How the rights of persons belonging to sexual minorities are ensured with a view of criminalization of same sex relationships?
- What steps towards abolishing of the death penalty the Government of Jamaica has taken/is planning to take?

GERMANY

- In 2010, while commending the banning of corporal punishment in schools, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture noted that there were no legal provisions banning corporal punishment in the domestic sphere. He was concerned that the use of corporal punishment appeared to be deeply entrenched in Jamaican society. Germany would like to know if Jamaica has implemented any measures to ban corporal punishment in the domestic sphere?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 72 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of Jamaica with special procedures mandate holders (Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (17-27 February 2003); Special Rapporteur on torture (13-21 February 2010)) - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- **Police reform**
In light of the Strategic Review of the Jamaica Constabulary Force elaborated on in paragraph 63, 64, and 65 of the national report, and with reference to the concerns of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture on the rise in fatal shootings by the police which often allegedly amounted to extrajudicial killings and the apparent lack of investigation and accountability for those responsible, and the concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in a similar vein, what concrete measures does the

Government of Jamaica intend to take measures to strengthen accountability for the use of force, in particular lethal force, by the security forces? Moreover in this regard, does the Government of Jamaica see possibilities to speed up the establishment of the Independent Commission of Investigations and the Office of the Coroner ?

- **Judicial reform**

In light of the concerns expressed in paragraph 25 of the stakeholder report which implies that there exists an urgent need to reform the administration of justice since this is considered inefficient in responding to the needs of the people and allegedly contributed to the perpetration of crime by failing to hold alleged perpetrators accountable, and along with concerns raised in paragraph 26 of the stakeholder report which alleges that institutions involved in the administration of justice lack the necessary resources to perform their work, and that the system and procedures required major reform, and with reference to paragraph 53 of the national report detailing the Jamaican Justice System Reform Project, what further possibilities does the Government of Jamaica see ways to further enhance its efforts in this respect? Also pertaining to this, does the Government of Jamaica see ways to bring the establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor forward?

- **Combating poverty**

Considering the reference in paragraph 85 of the national report to the Poverty Reduction Programme as a means of crime prevention, along with the reference in paragraph 16 of the national report to the Programme of Advancement through Health and Education and the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture recalled in paragraph 42 of the OHCHR compilation to break the cycle of violence by addressing the root causes of violent crime such as poverty and socio-economic disparities, does the Government of Jamaica intend to adopt structural income policies to tackle the problem of social inequality as well as to fight crime and enhance the country's record in realising economic, social and cultural rights?

- **LGBT**

In accordance with the fact that the Government of Jamaica does not condone discrimination or violence against any person or group because of their sexual orientation, as is recalled in paragraph 10 of the national report, and with reference to paragraph 6, 7, 11, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40 of the stakeholder report which imply that there exists a culture of homophobia in Jamaica, that LGBT persons are on occasion arbitrarily detained and harassed by the police, that there have been cases of mob related killings of LGBT persons, that LGBT persons are regularly discriminated against when it comes to access to employment, housing and education, and that consenting sex between adult men is criminalized, is the Government of Jamaica willing to take legislative and other concrete measures to ensure the full respect of the rights of LGBT persons in line with international human rights law?

- **Violence against women**

The Netherlands acknowledges the efforts by the Government of Jamaica to fight gender-based violence. With reference to paragraph 29 of the national report

which states that the level of violence against women and girls remain unacceptably high, and paragraph 9 of the stakeholder report which attests to this fact, does the Government of Jamaica intend to enhance its efforts to combat gender-based violence by means awareness-raising programmes, more attention to gender-equality in education, and direct support to victims.

- **Death penalty**

Concerning the fact that no death sentence has been carried out since 1998 as the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture has noted, would the Government of Jamaica be willing to declare a moratorium on all executions?