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**UN Human Rights Council
Eighteenth session, 12-30 September 2011**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Madame President,

Amnesty International shares the concerns raised by 18 States with regard to discrimination and violence against women in Papua New Guinea.¹ We welcome the government's support of recommendations to eliminate gender-based violence, including by addressing impunity for such violations;² to reinforce the legal framework for the prevention of violence against women;³ and to extend an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.⁴ We call on Papua New Guinea to put in place coherent plans at the national, provincial and local levels for the prevention of violence against women, to ensure women's access to emergency accommodation, healthcare services, counseling and legal advice, and to ensure that professionals are trained to respond to female survivors of gender-based violence in a manner which respects women's human rights and prioritizes their safety and welfare.

Madame President,

¹ A/HRC/18/18, paragraphs 78.3 (United Kingdom), 78.4 (Argentina), 78.13 (Poland), 78.14 (Mexico), 78.15 (Hungary), 78.16 (Brazil), 78.17 (Argentina), 78.18 (Canada), 78.19 (Norway), 78.20 (Republic of Korea), 78.44 (Slovenia), 78.45 (Norway), 78.46 (Canada), 78.51 (Australia), 78.52 (Malaysia), 79.16 (Slovenia), 79.21 (Germany), 79.22 (Poland), 79.23 (France), 79.24 (Spain), 79.27 (Thailand), 79.28 (Haiti), 79.48 (Maldives).

² Ibid., recommendation 78.52 (Malaysia).

³ Ibid., recommendations 78.16 (Brazil), 78.17 (Argentina), 78.18 (Canada), 78.19 (Norway), 78.20 (Republic of Korea).

⁴ Ibid., recommendations 78.44 (Slovenia), 78.45 (Norway), 78.46 (Canada).

In Papua New Guinea sorcery is sometimes blamed for a sudden or explained death or illness and the person thought to be responsible may be killed. Women are more likely to be accused of sorcery, especially if they are suffering from HIV/AIDS. In one case from January 2009, a group of men stripped a woman naked, gagged, tortured and burned her alive at Kerebug rubbish dump because they suspected her of practicing witchcraft. We urge Papua New Guinea to review the law on sorcery and sorcery-related killings as recommended in the review,⁵ to investigate all sorcery-related killings to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice, to develop and implement strategies to prevent further sorcery-related killings, and to challenge any link between women with HIV/AIDS and the notion of sorcery.

Madame President,

In 2009, Amnesty investigated circumstances surrounding the forced evictions in Porgera, Western Highlands. We found that aspects of the police's conduct violated both domestic and international human rights law when they burned down houses and destroyed personal belongings, gardens and livestock. We call on Papua New Guinea to implement the recommendation to increase scrutiny over extractive and logging industries to reduce the negative effect on the enjoyment of human rights.⁶ We also urge the government to investigate forced evictions in Porgera, to hold to account those responsible for human rights abuses, and to provide remedies to those affected, including alternative accommodation and compensation.

Finally, Madame President, [we regret that Papua New Guinea has rejected/welcome that Papua New Guinea has accepted] recommendations to confirm the de facto moratorium on executions towards the total abolition of the death penalty.⁷

Thank you, Madame President.

⁵ Ibid., recommendations 78.21 (Czech Republic), 78.22 (Poland).

⁶ Ibid., recommendation 79.58 (Maldives)

⁷ Ibid., recommendations 80.1 (Switzerland), 80.2 (France)