

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

BELGIUM

- Does the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ?
- Does the Government of Lao PDR consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC ?
- Is the Government of Lao PDR considering issuing a standing invitation to the UN special procedures?
- Is the Government of Lao PDR considering responding positively to the outstanding requests of UN special rapporteurs to visit the country, and more specifically the requests of the special rapporteurs on summary executions and on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association ?
- Does the Government of Lao PDR have a schedule with regards to presenting its overdue reports to the UN Treaty bodies, namely to CESCR, ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT and CRPD?
- Is the Government of Lao PDR considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under all the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Is the Government of Lao PDR considering to establish a *de jure* moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and to commute all death sentences?
- For possible death penalty cases, is the Government of Lao PDR considering developing systems to take into account the best interests of the child at all stages in criminal proceedings concerning their parent?
- Which concrete steps has the Government of the Lao PDR taken to ensure compliance of the conditions of its detention facilities with international standards, including the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners?
- Which concrete measures have been taken by the Government to improve the independence of the judiciary and to ensure the enforcement of judicial decisions?
- What is the Government's strategy to implement its regulations addressing corruption? Which concrete measures have been taken by the Government to address impunity for instances of corruption?

GERMANY

- Which steps have been taken to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances?
- What progress has been made in the protection of the Right to Housing in connection with agricultural investments? What is the further process for the adoption of the National Land Policy?
- How does the government ensure that in the pursuit of its land and relocation policy no ethnic group is discriminated against and that areas of traditional settlement are protected?
- How does the Decree on Internet of 2014 regulate freedom of opinion on the internet? Does it provide for the control of and blocking of access to content?
- What has the government done to clear up the disappearance of the civil society activist Sombath Somphone?

NETHERLANDS

Enforced disappearances

Could the government of the Lao PDR specify its efforts to combat enforced disappearances, and inform the HRC about the status of the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)?

Sombath Somphone

What has the Lao PDR government done in the investigation of the disappearance of environment activist Sombath Somphone? Are there any new developments in the investigation? What new efforts have been undertaken to solve this case?

UN Special Rapporteurs

Will the government of the Lao PDR allow UN Special Rapporteurs to the Lao PDR in order to monitor the human rights situation in the country and provide valuable advice to further improve this situation?

SLOVENIA

- What measures have been introduced for combatting infant, child and maternal mortality and malnutrition rates that remain among the highest in the region?

- What normative measures are being taken to prevent and address all forms of violence against children and encourage the inclusion of children with disabilities in society?
- What measures are being taken to lift restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in national legislation?
- How is Lao People's Democratic Republic addressing the enforced disappearance of human rights defender Sombath Somphone?
- What specific measures have been taken in view of ratification and full alignment of national legislation with the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance?

SWEDEN

- Is the special committee that was appointed to look into the disappearance of Mr Sombath still working and what are the findings so far?
- Will the Lao PDR undertake a thorough, impartial, and effective investigation into all allegations of enforced disappearances?
- How does the Lao PDR ensure civil and political rights, including freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly to guarantee protection of all human rights defenders and members of civil society?
- How is the Lao PDR protecting the civil society organizations and community groups who make righteous claims, including when seeking fair compensation related to land concessions?
- Is the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic considering any steps to evolve from a de facto abolitionist country into a de jure abolitionist country?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Please could you set out how you are conducting a thorough, transparent and credible investigation into the disappearance of Sombath Somphone following his detention by Traffic Police (as captured in Police CCTV footage) and your response to the recent call from three of the UN's Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights for an international investigation to be established?

- Please could you tell us how you involved civil society, including human rights NGOs, in the follow-up to the 2010 UPR review, how civil society was involved in preparation for the 2015 UPR and how you will facilitate the future role of civil society in assisting Lao social and economic development.
- How do the government plan to provide a robust grievance and compensation mechanism for citizens affected by land expropriated for concessions?
- When will the government ratify ILO Convention No. 87 (Freedom of Association); ILO Convention No.98 (Right to Organise and Collectively Bargain); and, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court?
- Which religious groups and stakeholders did you consult with on amending the Decree on Management and Protection of Religious Activities (Decree 92) and to what extent will that consultation be reflected in the amended Decree?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- As a signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, what steps is the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) currently taking to investigate the disappearance of Sombath Somphone? Have there been any recent breakthroughs in the investigation and does the LPDR plan to ensure a successful resolution to the case, including the investigation, prosecution and appropriate punishment of any persons responsible for his disappearance and the safe return of Sombath to his family?
- What steps is the LPDR taking to speed up the registration process for nonprofit associations, approve MOUs with NGOs and international organizations in a timely manner, and foster an environment where they can operate freely and independently without fear of intimidation and harassment?
- How does the LPDR intend to reconcile the internet decree issued earlier this year, which broadly criminalizes posting or sharing information which could be deemed as misleading, divisive, or harmful to the state, with its obligations under Article 19 of the ICCPR related to respect for freedom of expression? How will citizens freely be able to bring attention to corruption and other issues of governance?
- How does the Lao PDR plan to amend the Prime Minister's decree on Religious Practice (Decree 92) and current religion policy to protect true religious freedom for all individuals, free of cumbersome approval processes and strict registration requirements, in a manner consistent with its obligations under Article 18 of the ICCPR??

