



15 March 2018  
Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council  
Thirty-seventh session, 26 February – 23 March 2018**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**GUATEMALA**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Guatemala's support of 21 recommendations related to strengthening protection measures for human rights defenders.<sup>1</sup> Defenders operate in an extremely hostile environment in Guatemala, with 483 attacks against them recorded in 2017 by local NGOs. We urge Guatemala to implement these recommendations and to adopt a public policy for their protection, in line with Guatemala's international obligations.<sup>2</sup>

We are deeply concerned about intimidation and attacks against judges and prosecutors. The recent attempt to expel the Head of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) shows that efforts to fight impunity may be at risk. Amnesty International welcomes Guatemala's acceptance of nine recommendations<sup>3</sup> to strengthen the effectiveness and independence of the justice system and urges their full and early implementation.

---

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/37/9, recommendations 111.40 (El Salvador), 111.42-111.45 (Georgia, Germany, Greece), 111.48-111.50 (Ireland, Italy, Lithuania), 111.52 (Luxembourg), 111.54-65 (Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Canada), 111.67 (Chile).

<sup>2</sup> Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Human Rights Defender et al vs Guatemala*, 28 August 2014.

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/37/9, recommendations 111.68-111.70 (Germany, Netherlands, Republic of Korea), 111.72-111.77 (Venezuela, Canada, UK, Lithuania, Sweden, Australia).

Amnesty International regrets Guatemala's rejection of the six recommendations addressing enforced disappearances.<sup>4</sup> In the vast majority of the 45,000 disappearances perpetrated during the internal armed conflict, the families have not been able to locate their relatives, and those responsible have yet to be brought to justice. We urge Guatemala to create a National Commission for the Search for Victims of Enforced Disappearance.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons face high levels of attacks and discrimination in Guatemala based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Amnesty International is disappointed at Guatemala's rejection of eight recommendations to end discrimination against LGBTI persons,<sup>5</sup> and strongly urges the State to adopt and implement policies to prevent all forms of violence against them.

The level of violence against women in Guatemala remains alarming, with high numbers of violent deaths of women reported each year. We welcome Guatemala's acceptance of 29 recommendations to prevent such violence and to ensure adequate protection of children,<sup>6</sup> and urge their early implementation.

Amnesty International regrets Guatemala's rejection of 15 recommendations related to the abolition of the death penalty.<sup>7</sup> This is despite the decision by the Constitutional Court in November 2017 to *de facto* abolish the death penalty for all crimes; we strongly encourage Guatemala to abolish the death penalty in law.

Thank you, Mr. President,

---

<sup>4</sup>A/HRC/37/9, recommendations 112.4 (Ukraine), 112.8-10 (Iraq, Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Uruguay, Ecuador), 112.14 (El Salvador), 112.34 (Mexico).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/37/9, recommendations 112.16-20 (Israel, Uruguay, France, New Zealand, Slovenia, Chile), 112.50-51 (New Zealand, Australia).

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/37/9, recommendations 111.103-104, 111.106-110, 111.112, 111.114-116, 111.20, 111.122-123, 111.126-127, 111.129-131, 111.137-146 (Uruguay, Bahrain, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Ecuador, Maldives, Morocco, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, France, Greece, Holy See, Libya, Panama, Slovakia).

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/37/9, recommendations 112.1-112.5 (Montenegro, Georgia, Spain, Ukraine, Venezuela), 112.24-112.33 (Iceland, Italy, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Slovakia, Slovenia, Timor-Leste, Angola, Australia, Cote d'Ivoire).