

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ALGERIA – ADDENDUM 2

ITALY

- The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), while recognizing the positive steps undertaken by the Algerian Government to improve the protection and the promotion of the rights of the child, reported that corporal punishment remains widely accepted in society as a form of discipline and called on Algerian authorities to adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment. Have you started to consider how to address this issue?
- Considering the importance of full collaboration with UN human rights mechanisms, is the Algerian Government planning to give a positive response to the requests for visits forwarded by special procedures in the near future?

SWEDEN

- The constitution of Algeria protects the physical integrity of individuals. Algeria is a party to the Convention against Torture, and has recognised the Convention's provisions for individual complaints. Civil society organisations have noted, however, continuing reports of torture and other maltreatment in places of detention, particularly in connection with Algerian authorities' work against terrorism. Could the government of Algeria elaborate on the measures it is taking to eliminate the commitment by state agents of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
- Civil society organisations have reported that women in Algeria continue to face widespread domestic and other violence in addition to some legal and social discrimination. In its concluding observations from its latest consideration in 2007 of Algeria, the Human Rights Committee issued a number of recommendations to Algeria to address the problem. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Algeria stated that a solution to the problem must include public information work as well as institutional measures including review of legislation in the area. Could the government of Algeria elaborate on the measures it is taking to eliminate violence and discrimination against women, including with regard to the possibility of criminalising domestic violence?

NETHERLANDS

- In which way is Algeria considering to further strengthen the rule of law and human rights, and could abolishing the state of emergency - which is maintained since 1992 - be part of such measures?
- In which way will Algeria further improve the position of women and will an amendment of the family code of 2005 be part of such a measure; thus granting the same rights to both genders in cases of divorce and inheritance?

- In its national report, Algeria mentions law no. 90-07 regarding the liberty of expression. Could Algeria elaborate on its considerations for enacting this law and could Algeria give more information about the frequency with which its judiciary actually used it?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you please give us further information about the extent to which civil society were involved in the preparation of your national report?
- We welcome Algeria's public declaration of plans to remove the death penalty from the statute book. Could you update us on progress in doing so, and when you plan to remove it?
- We welcome progress made in respect of women's rights, particularly in the area of divorce law. Do you intend to further amend the family code to make domestic violence, including marital rape, an offence?
- Could you please inform us why the Special Rapporteurs on torture, on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances have not been able to visit and conduct investigations within Algeria despite their requests to do so?
- Could you please tell us more about the existence of a national human rights institution in Algeria, and whether it complies with the Paris Principles?

LATVIA

- According to the information of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 59 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering the cooperation of Algeria with the special procedures (visits of Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in 2002, Special Rapporteur on violence against women in 2007) - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?