

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ERITREA

GERMANY

- There have been several reports about the issue of forcibly returned Eritreans. The 2009 UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines indicated in this respect that Eritreans who are forcibly returned may face arrest without charge, detention, ill-treatment, torture or sometimes death. They are reportedly held incommunicado, in over-crowded and unhygienic conditions, with little access to medical care, sometimes for extended periods of time (para. 13 of the OHCHR compilation A/HRC/WG.6/6ERI/2, citing UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Eritrea, Geneva, April 2009, p. 33). Germany would like to ask how Eritrea has responded in order to address these issues.
- There exist deep concerns with regards to the right to life, liberty and security of the person of underage persons. While welcoming that the minimum age for recruitment into the military was set to 18, CRC was concerned over reports of forced underage recruitment, detention, and ill-treatment of boys under age when they were required to serve their compulsory military service (para. 15 of the OHCHR compilation A/HRC/WG.6/6ERI/2, citing CRC/C/ERI/CO/3, para. 70).
- Which measures does Eritrea undertake in this regard in order to address this issue?

SWEDEN

- Although Eritrean law provides for freedom of speech and of the press, widespread violations are reported in practice. Following the closure of all independent media in 2001, no independent or private press has been permitted by the Eritrean authorities to operate. Several journalists and other persons remain in detention without having their cases presented before a court of law.
- Could the Government of Eritrea elaborate on the measures it is taking to ensure full respect for freedom of expression and of the press in accordance with its international obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Eritrea is a party?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We would welcome elaboration on the difficulties faced by the Government which prevented it from producing a National Report for the UPR?
- Please could you inform us whether the Government foresees the need to issue clear, public orders to the security forces which would prevent arbitrary arrest, detention, and torture of individuals based on their religious beliefs?

- In welcoming the Government's participation in the UPR process we would be interested to hear if the Government would consider issuing a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures to independently investigate allegations made about serious human right violations in Eritrea?
- We would welcome the Government's view on the need to invite independent and impartial humanitarian agencies to Eritrea to assist the Government in the assessment of humanitarian needs, and also information on the Government's policy of facilitating agencies unhindered access to civilians in order to provide assistance?
- We are keen to hear of the Government's intentions regarding signature and ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention Against Torture?
- We would be grateful for information on the steps taken by the Government to promote freedom of expression and more specifically whether the Government will consider rescinding the suspension of the private press and permitting the establishment of independent media outlets?
- We would welcome elaboration from the Government on steps taken to respect international standards of law in the treatment of prisoners, and whether it will allow independent monitors access to all forms of Eritrean detention facilities?
