

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

6 June 2013

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**UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-third session, 27 May – 14 June 2013**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

BARBADOS

Mr. President,

Twelve states made recommendations to Barbados related to the death penalty, including to remove mandatory death sentences, to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment, and to abolish the death penalty in law.¹ While we recognize that no executions have been carried out in Barbados for the last 29 years, we are nonetheless concerned that death sentences continue to be handed down and that six people were on death row at the end of 2012.

We welcome that new legislation has been drafted to provide for the abolition of mandatory death sentences,² and hope the government will move swiftly to enact it. We also urge Barbados to commute all death sentences to prison terms, and as the country approaches three decades without executions, we call on the government to declare a formal moratorium on executions, with a view towards abolition of the death penalty.

Mr. President,

Nine states made recommendations during the review pertaining to discrimination based on sexual orientation, in particular to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations.³

During the review, the government stated that although the law on "buggery" remains on the statute books, no one is in fact prosecuted for their sexual

¹ A/HRC/23/11, paragraphs 102.57-102.70 (Australia, Brazil, France, Italy, Argentina, Norway, Namibia, Chile, Slovakia, Spain, Germany, Hungary)

² *Ibid*, paragraph 20

³ *Ibid*, paragraphs 102.94-102.102 (Estonia, Australia, Canada, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay)

preferences in Barbados.⁴ We are concerned, however, that the continued existence of legislation that criminalizes consensual same-sex relationships between adults may contribute to creating a discriminatory environment in which LGBT people are unable to fully enjoy their human rights. Moreover, by continuing to criminalize consensual same-sex conduct Barbados is in violation of its international obligations to non-discrimination under the treaties to which it is a party. Amnesty International therefore urges the government to repeal this legislation as part of steps towards combating discrimination against LGBT persons and the stigma surrounding same-sex relations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁴ *Ibid*, paragraph 21