

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ZIMBABWE – ADD.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- The Czech Republic takes note that Zimbabwe has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which provides for strict conditions under which the death penalty may be used. Is the Government of Zimbabwe considering ratification of the second optional protocol, providing for states to commit themselves to permanent abolition of the death penalty?
- The Czech Republic takes note that the Constitution of Zimbabwe forbids torture and that Zimbabwe has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits torture. Is the Government of Zimbabwe willing to ratify the UN Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment? Could you please brief us on what measures have been taken to deter the political violence, including torture of citizens in custody committed by security forces?
- What measures does Zimbabwe plan to take with respect to meeting international standards in prisons and detention facilities?
- The Czech Republic takes note that the constitution of Zimbabwe provides for freedom of speech and of the press. In June 2007 the Interception of Communications Act was passed, which allows authorities to access any communication, private or public in the "interest of defense, public safety, public order, state economic interests, public morality, and public health". Could you please brief us on what measures have been / will be taken to ensure that these freedoms will not be in practice further restricted?
- We welcome that the constitution of Zimbabwe provides for freedom of assembly. Could you please elaborate further on what steps have been taken to enact and implement an appropriate legislation?
- The Czech Republic takes note that the Government of Zimbabwe enacted the Domestic Violence Act (in 2007). Could you please brief us on what measures have been taken to ensure the implementation?
- The Czech Republic expresses its concern about the ongoing land seizures. The Constitutional amendment 17, enacted in 2005, and the Gazetted Land (Consequential Provisions) Act, enacted in 2006, requires farmers whose land was forcibly seized by the government, for purposes of redistribution under the land reform program, to cease to occupy, hold, or use that land within 45 days and to vacate their homes within 90 days. Could you please elaborate further on these issues?
- Could you please brief us on what steps have been taken to ensure the full respect to human rights defenders and to deter acts of threats against human

rights defenders in Zimbabwe, including restrictions to the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression?

UNITED KINGDOM

- What plans does the Government of Zimbabwe have to separate the Attorney General's office from the prosecuting authority?
- What plans does the Government have to move cases through court more quickly and to prevent the over-use of Section 121 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act?
- Given concerns raised by NGOs, what plans does the Government of Zimbabwe have to improve access to food and legal representation for detainees in police custody?
- What plans does the Government of Zimbabwe have for independent civilian oversight of its police forces?
- Please outline your timeframe for acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- Please could you tell us steps you will take to help ensure that Human Rights Commission will operate in accordance with the Paris Principles, particularly regarding independence and funding?
- How does Zimbabwe plan to deal with complaints of human rights abuses that took place. before February 2009?
- Please could Zimbabwe provide an update on the work of the Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration and its future programme of work?