



FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Quaker United Nations Office



UN Human Rights Council
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Agenda item 6

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), an international non-governmental organisation in General Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council and Amnesty International, an international non-governmental organisation in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council

Delivered by Rachel Brett, Quaker UN Office, Geneva, on Monday 9 June 2008

Universal Periodic Review: Finland

Amnesty International and Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) welcome the serious and open way in which Finland approached its participation in the Universal Periodic Review.

However, we note that Finland was one of the first States to be reviewed. In consequence not all the questions raised and comments made were phrased as 'recommendations' and, therefore, did not get reflected as such in the report of the Working Group, for example, the issue of the excessive length of alternative civilian service in comparison to the military service addressed in paragraph 36 of the report of the Working Group. We hope that Finland will, nevertheless, treat this issue as though a specific recommendation had been made and give effect to that recommendation.

Thank you, Mr President