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UN Human Rights Council  
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Item 6  
Consideration of UPR outcome reports  
Equatorial Guinea

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Equatorial Guinea's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and its support for a number of important recommendations,<sup>1</sup> including:

- to end torture and ill-treatment;
- to end incommunicado and secret detention and enforced disappearances;
- to end the practice of abducting Equatorial Guineans exiled in neighbouring countries and secretly transferring them to places of detention in Equatorial Guinea; and
- to bring perpetrators of such human rights violations to justice.

These recommendations are particularly pertinent in light of reports of the abduction in late January 2010 of four Equatorial Guineans from Benin. We urge the government to ensure the prompt implementation of these recommendations.

Amnesty International acknowledges the decrease, over the past two years, in reported instances of torture. The practice, however, continues and only one medium-ranking police officer appears to have been prosecuted for such crimes.

Mr President,

We welcome Equatorial Guinea's support for recommendations calling for an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and to improve conditions of detention.<sup>2</sup> We acknowledge the resumption of family visits, as well as recent visits to places of detention by the ICRC. We urge the government to allow immediate access to places of detention for lawyers and national and international human rights monitors, including the UN Special Rapporteur on torture.

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/13/16, paragraph 70, recommendations 34-39 (USA, UK, Spain, Switzerland, Canada, Chile) and recommendations 27-29 (Italy, France and Ghana). Other relevant recommendations include recommendation 17 (Argentina) and 40 (the Netherlands).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, paragraph 70, recommendations 30-33 (Germany, Czech Republic, Azerbaijan and Switzerland).

We note that Equatorial Guinea took under consideration a further 28 recommendations, including:

- to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;<sup>3</sup> the International Convention on Enforced Disappearance;<sup>4</sup> and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and
- to abolish the death penalty.<sup>5</sup>

Amnesty International encourages Equatorial Guinea to support these recommendations.

We welcome Equatorial Guinea's support for recommendations to respect the freedom of expression, association and assembly, including of political opponents.<sup>6</sup> In this regard, we call on the government to reconsider its rejection of the recommendation to allow political parties and the media to operate freely.<sup>7</sup>

Thank you Mr President.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid paragraph 71, recommendation 1 (UK, France, Chile, Czech Republic, Spain, Argentina).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid paragraph 71, recommendations 5 and 6 (France and Argentina).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid paragraph 71 recommendations 16-22 (Slovenia, Argentina, Sweden, Spain, Azerbaijan, France and Italy).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, paragraph 70, recommendations 55 (Canada), 56 (Netherlands), 58 (Spain), 59 (Switzerland).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, paragraph 72.