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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
Fourteenth Session, 31 May – 18 June 2010**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Gambia

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the engagement by the Gambian government in the UPR and its stated commitment to ensure an inclusive follow-up process.¹

We also welcome the Gambia's support for recommendations to promote and protect women's rights² and to cooperate more with the Special Procedures.³

We emphasize the importance of the government to urgently implement recommendation 24, which highlights the need to investigate reports of human rights violations committed by the police, the army and the National Intelligence Agency, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

Furthermore, we note that the Gambian government took a number of important recommendations under consideration. We emphasize the importance of support for recommendations:

- To domesticate international treaties that have been ratified;⁴
- To establish a national human rights institution;⁵
- To issue an open invitation to the UN Special Procedures;⁶
- To establish a moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty;⁷

¹ A/HRC/14/6, paragraph 97, recommendation 59 (Norway).

² Ibid, paragraph 97, recommendations 6 and 15 (Venezuela and Cote d'Ivoire)

³ Ibid, paragraph 97, recommendation 13 (Burkina Faso).

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendation 9 (Kazakhstan)

⁵ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 16, 17, 18 and 19 (Libya, Spain, France, Niger, Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt, Mauritius)

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 23, 24, 25, 26 (Chile, Argentina, Latvia, Canada, Spain)

- To investigate and punish cases of unlawful arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment and enforced disappearances, including the death of Deyda Hydera and the disappearance of Chief Ebrima Manneh;⁸
- To strengthen the independence of the judiciary;⁹ and
- To protect human rights defenders.¹⁰

Finally, Mr President, many of the recommendations rejected by Gambia call for guarantees for freedom of expression and an end to intimidation of media institutions.¹¹ These recommendations mirror Gambia's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. We urge the Gambian government to honour these obligations.

Thank you Mr President.

⁷ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 32, 33, 34, 35 (Brazil, Spain, Italy, Argentina)

⁸ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 37, 38, 39, 47 (Spain, Ghana, Slovakia, UK)

⁹ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 45, 46 (Netherlands, Ghana)

¹⁰ Ibid, paragraph 99, recommendations 48, 49 (Slovakia, France)

¹¹ Ibid, paragraph 100, recommendations 15-26.