

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
Fifteenth, 13 September – 1 October 2010**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Guyana

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Guyana's commitment to expedite implementation of the Law against Sexual Offences, and to ensure coordinated implementation of the National Domestic Violence Policy.¹

We also note Guyana's support of recommendations to improve the training of the security forces,² and to investigate allegations of human rights violations committed by the security forces, including torture, extrajudicial killings and the use of excessive force.³ We regret that Guyana did not commit to establish an independent enquiry into torture, enforced disappearances and killings allegedly committed by "death squads" between 2002 and 2006, and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.⁴

Mr. President,

Amnesty International is disappointed that Guyana rejected recommendations by many states to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.⁵ It is nonetheless encouraging that there have been no executions for more than 10 years, and that an amendment to the Criminal Law (Offences) Act removing the mandatory death sentence for murder was tabled in the National Assembly. We welcome the government's commitment, announced in the

¹ A/HRC/15/14, paragraphs 68.14 and 68.15.

² *Ibid*, paragraphs 69.4, 69.5, and 69.6.

³ *Ibid*, paragraph 68.19 and paragraphs 69.6, 69.19, 69.20, 69.21, and 69.22.

⁴ *Ibid*, paragraphs 70.44, 70.45, and 70.46 and A/HRC/15/14/Add.1, paragraphs 58-63.

⁵ *Ibid*, paragraph 70.23-70.35 and A/HRC/15/14/Add.1, paragraphs

Addendum, to continue consideration of the issue of the death penalty over the next two years and to report its findings to this Council.⁶

Finally Mr. President,

We urge Guyana to remove legislation that discriminates against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to repeal laws that criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex.⁷ We welcome Guyana's commitment, announced in the Addendum, to hold consultations, over the next two year period, on the issue of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.⁸ Such consultations should be broad, inclusive and well-prepared. We encourage Guyana to report their findings to this Council.

Thank you, Mr President.

⁶ A/HRC/15/14/Add.1, paragraph 34.

⁷ A/HRC/15/14, paragraphs 70.48-70.53 and A/HRC/15/14/Add.1, paragraphs 66-68.

⁸ A/HRC/15/14/Add.1, paragraph 69.