

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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UN Human Rights Council

Item 6: Consideration of UPR reports

Haiti

Madam President,

Amnesty International recognizes the challenge Haiti faces in protecting and promoting human rights following the January 2010 earthquake. We welcome Haiti's engagement with the UPR, and its efforts in producing a national report. We further welcome the National Assembly's adoption of legislation for the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.¹ We urge Haiti to strengthen its efforts, with the support of other state parties and the international community, to make the rights enshrined in this Covenant, and other universal and regional human rights instruments ratified by the Haitian state, a reality for the Haitian people.

Some states made recommendations to Haiti to strengthen its justice system and the rule of law.² Amnesty International is concerned at a recent judicial decision to drop criminal charges against Jean-Claude Duvalier for grave human rights violations committed under his government, some of which might amount to crimes against humanity. This decision reinforces prevailing impunity and is a clear setback in terms of strengthening the rule of law in Haiti. We urge the government to ensure that alleged crimes committed under the rule of Jean-Claude Duvalier are investigated and those responsible brought to justice in full conformity with international standards for fair trial.

Madam President,

The earthquake of January 2010 left tens of thousands of families homeless, although the number of people living in makeshift camps is now below half a million. The issue of housing rights has remained largely unaddressed by the reconstruction process.³ Thousands of people have been forcibly evicted or relocated, without adequate safeguards

¹ A/HRC/19/19, recommendations 88.1 (Algeria), 88.2 (South Africa), 88.3 (Ghana), 88.4 (France), 88.5 (Poland) and 88.6 (Spain).

² Ibid., recommendations 88.98 (Spain), 88.99 (United Kingdom), 88.100 (United States), 88.101 (Norway), 88.102 (Slovakia), 88.103 (Barbados), 88.104 (Turkey), 88.105 (Belgium), 88.106 (United States), 88.108 (Mexico), 88.110 (Switzerland), 88.111 (Canada) and 88.112 (France).

³ Ibid., recommendations 88.49 (United Kingdom), 88.123 (Mexico) and 88.124 (Thailand).

or consultation, from the private or public spaces they were occupying since the earthquake. Evictions should be a measure of last resort, and must be carried out in accordance with international human rights standards and respect for human dignity.

Violence against women and girls remains a serious problem, and impunity for such crimes prevails.⁴ We urge the government to complete the drafting, adoption and implementation of new legislation to combat violence against women and girls, and protect their rights.

Thank you, Madam President.

⁴ Ibid., recommendation 88.35 (Australia), 88.74 (Sri Lanka), 88.75 (Luxembourg), 88.76 (Argentina), 88.77 (Maldives), 88.78 (Canada), 88.79 (Colombia), 88.80 (Norway), 88.81 (United Kingdom) and 88.82 (Djibouti).