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**UN Human Rights Council
Nineteenth session, 27 February - 23 March 2012**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

ZIMBABWE

Madam President,

Amnesty International welcomes Zimbabwe's acceptance of recommendations to ensure the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission is compliant with the Paris Principles¹ and is provided with adequate technical and financial capacity.² We call on Zimbabwe to immediately enact the necessary enabling legislation to allow the Commission to begin its work.

We are disappointed that Zimbabwe rejected recommendations made by eleven States to review and amend the Public Order and Security Act (POSA).³ Police routinely misuse POSA to block meetings of critics of President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, and have used excessive force to break up peaceful demonstrations. Amnesty International and others have documented that the Zimbabwean authorities use the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act⁴ to criminalize the rights to freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. As a result, many human rights defenders currently face criminal prosecution for the legitimate exercise of their internationally guaranteed rights.

Madam President,

We are dismayed that Zimbabwe rejected the recommendation to investigate reports of torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances related to the Presidential elections in 2008.⁵ Amnesty International documented widespread unlawful

¹ A/HRC/19/14, recommendations 93.6 (United Kingdom), 93.9 (New Zealand), 93.10 (Australia), 93.11 (France), 93.14 (Germany), 93.15 (Poland) and 93.17 (Thailand).

² Ibid., recommendations 93.8 (Ghana), 93.9 (New Zealand), 93.10 (Australia), 93.16 (Malaysia) and 93.18 (Denmark).

³ Ibid., recommendations 95.39 (United Kingdom), 95.48 (Austria), 95.41 (New Zealand), 95.43 (United States of America), 95.45 (Australia), 95.46 (Canada), 95.52 (Mexico), 95.53 (Germany), 95.58 (Belgium), 95.59 (Denmark) and 95.62 (Spain).

⁴ Mainly the Public Order and Security Act and the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act.

⁵ Ibid., recommendation 95.18 (South Africa).

killings, torture and other ill-treatment between March and July 2008, . At least 200 people were killed and around 10,000 were injured. The majority of victims were supporters of the former opposition parties. The perpetrators remain free and continue to harass and intimidate the victims of these violations and their families. Many in Zimbabwe fear a repeat of the violence during future elections.

Finally, Madam President, we welcome Zimbabwe's commitment to continue with measures to promote economic, social and cultural rights.⁶ We encourage Zimbabwe to build on this commitment by also providing legal protection to all persons against forced eviction. We urge Zimbabwe to bring Operation Garikai/Hlalani Kuhle, the only government programme launched to address the devastating effects of Operation Murambatsvina in 2005, in line with Zimbabwe's international human rights obligations. We also urge Zimbabwe to develop, in genuine consultation with affected communities, a comprehensive human rights-based housing programme to address the housing needs of all victims of the 2005 mass forced evictions.

Thank you, Madam President.

⁶ Ibid., recommendations 93.24 (Burkina Faso) and 93.56 (Democratic People's Republic of Korea).