

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GUYANA**

### **DENMARK**

- What is being done to promote the rights of indigenous people, including land rights?
- What will the government of Guyana do to stop the harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT)?
- Which measures will be taken to prevent and investigate excessive use of force by the Police and Defense Force of Guyana?
- Denmark would very much appreciate an indication as to whether Guyana is considering adhering to OPCAT in the near future?

### **LATVIA**

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 67 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

Considering previous cooperation of Guyana with special procedures mandate holders (Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (14-25 July 2003); Independent expert on minority issues (28 July - 1 August 2008)) - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

### **NORWAY**

- Please explain how the Government of Guyana involved civil society organizations, included indigenous organizations, in the elaboration of its national report.
- What steps will the Government take in terms of engaging such actors in the process of following up and implementing the recommendations from members of the Human Rights Council?
- Please elaborate on the key steps taken by the government to reduce the level of violence and crime in Guyana.
- Legislation has been passed to create the statutory legitimacy of an independent National Human Rights Commission and an independent National Indigenous Peoples Commission. What steps have been taken to make them operational?
- Norway takes due note of Guyana's commitment to promote the rights of indigenous peoples. What are the measures taken to date to establish mechanisms

to fulfill the rights of indigenous peoples to be consulted in accordance with international human rights law?

- What judicial and legislative measures are being taken in order to ensure fair and equal treatment and safeguarding the human rights of prisoners in Guyana?

## **SLOVENIA**

- The revised constitution of Guyana foresees the establishment of five Human Rights Commissions, the majority of which is not yet fully functioning. When does the government of Guyana anticipate their full functioning?
- Since 1998, the Human Rights Committee has adopted Views on nine individual communications, where it found that Guyana was in violation of various provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We would like to ask Guyana to provide information regarding the follow-up to these nine cases.
- In 2004, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the age of criminal responsibility in Guyana, fixed at 10 years, was too low. Can you tell us of any changes in this respect?
- We acknowledge that Guyana is generally considered a Free Press country. However, we are concerned by the persisting government monopoly over radio broadcasts. Does the government intend to remedy this situation with its draft Broadcasting Bill, which is on the legislative agenda for this year?

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report.
- Please could you inform us when you would expect the national Human Rights Commission to become operational, and whether it will operate in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions?
- Serious allegations of Government links to a “Phantom Squad” in 2002-6, led by a convicted drug trafficker, have been a regular focus of political and media concern and debate in recent years. Does the Government of Guyana feel it has addressed these allegations sufficiently and would it consider an independent investigation to bring to justice those responsible and bring closure to this issue, including for the relatives of the numerous victims?
- Could you please outline what concrete institutional steps within security agencies are being implemented or considered to ensure that recent cases of torture and mistreatment, such as that of Twyon Thomas in October 2009, will be prevented in future?

- Can you tell us please to what extent the Government of Guyana believes ethnic discrimination and alienation are significant problems in your country?
- Could you please elaborate on how the Guyanese Government is working to develop awareness of, and reduce the incidence of, violence against women? And can you explain why Sexual Offences legislation has yet to be passed by the National Assembly?
- Please can you indicate when Guyana will end its state monopoly on radio broadcasts?
- Could you indicate whether the Government has plans to decriminalise consensual homosexual sex and remove legal provisions which discriminate in any way against lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender persons?

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