

Amnesty International

Oral statement on the outcome on Poland under the UPR

*10 June 2008
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Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the focus, in the UPR Working Group, by many delegations on identity-based violence and discrimination. As raised by states during the review, Amnesty International shares a deep concern at the climate of fear that increasingly threatens the basic human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Poland.

Amnesty International urges the Polish authorities to endorse and act upon the recommendations in the outcome report to take effective measures to combat discrimination, in particular by adopting legislation to combat discrimination on any ground, including sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, and in line with these recommendations, Polish authorities should refrain from making public statements which could be interpreted as encouraging discrimination. Rather, the authorities must ensure that thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of attacks and threats against individuals targeted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity are carried out and that those responsible are brought to justice.

Mr. President,

The alleged involvement of authorities in Poland in the US-led programme of secret detentions and rendition was raised during the interactive dialogue; however,

regrettably no specific recommendations to the Polish government were included in the outcome report. Amnesty International believes there is strong evidence to suggest that Poland may have hosted US-controlled detention facilities on its territory in which individuals were secretly detained, outside the rule of law. Such views are supported by the UN Committee against Torture, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe.

During the review, Poland argued that the allegations had been dealt with, including through a private meeting, on 21 December 2005, between the Polish Special Services Committee, the Minister Coordinator of Special Services and the heads of the intelligence services. The outcome of this meeting was not made public. Amnesty International is concerned that this does not constitute the independent and impartial investigation needed and urges the Polish authorities to take action on this concern as a matter of priority.

Thank you Mr. President.

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