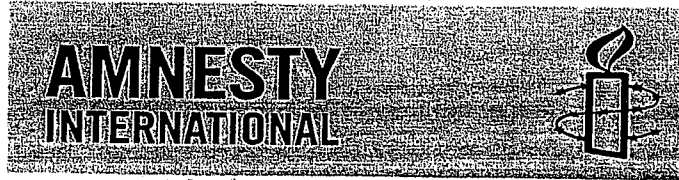


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Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. President,

It is disappointing that a range of important recommendations concerning the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association have been rejected by the Russian Federation.¹ Since we submitted information for the UPR last October we have seen these rights being continually encroached upon.

Some of the recommendations addressed recently introduced legislation restricting these freedoms, and since the review in April two additional laws were adopted in June 2013. One outlaws blasphemy with considerable penalties, including imprisonment, and the other introduces a legal framework for the discrimination of members of the LGBTI community by imposing fines and other sanctions for "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations amongst minors". Those who took to the streets on 11 June to peacefully protest against the adoption of these laws by parliament, were assaulted by counter-protesters and then dispersed and detained by police with the use of force.

Another new law obliges NGOs that receive foreign funding to join a register of "organizations performing the functions of foreign agents" and engaging in what the law vaguely defines as "political activities". Regrettably, the Russian Federation rejected the many recommendations to revise or repeal this requirement.² As a consequence of this law there has been a series of unannounced "inspections" to the offices of several hundred NGOs by members of the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Justice and the tax authorities, followed by formal warnings if they fail to join the

¹ A/HRC/24/14, recommendations 140.151 (Norway), 140.153 (Austria), 140.158 (Czech Republic), 140.161 (Austria), 140.163 (Romania), 140.165 (Slovakia), 140.169 (Sweden), 140.183 (USA)

² A/HRC/24/14/Add1, pages 21-23.

register. Several NGOs staff have been summoned to appear before the court and have been issued with extortionate fines if they failed to do so.

Amnesty International welcomes Russia's acceptance of recommendations to protect human rights defenders and to investigate and prosecute all allegations of violence and intimidation against them.³ However, harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and criminal defence lawyers continues, and their cases remain unresolved.

Thank you, Mr. President.

³ A/HRC/24/14, recommendations 140.148-150, 140.157, 140.159, 140.166-167.