



16th March 2012

Statement for the final adoption of the UPR recommendations by the GOU,

Madam President,

I speak on behalf of CIVICUS, HURINET-U and the members of the civil society stakeholders forum on UPR in Uganda. We wish to refer to those issues of concern that the GOU still needs to address:

GOU should reconsider its decision not to extend an invitation to the special rapporteurs on promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and on the right to peaceful assembly and association.

In addition to committing to withdrawing the public order management bill for redrafting, GOU should investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of human rights abuses during the September 2009 riots and Walk to Work demonstrations in 2011, many of which are yet to be held to account.

We are concerned that GOU has only agreed to consider ratifying the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, and reiterate our call to GOU to ratify and fully domesticate the convention.

GOU should ensure that proposed legislations do not interfere with the state's international human rights obligations. To this end GOU should consider setting up a separate committee of parliament on human rights; and revisit, review and redraft current bills to ensure they are compliant with the international human rights standards. Bills in this category include but not limited to the public order management bill, the press and journalist amendment bill, and the anti-homosexuality bill.

On the death penalty, we are of the view that the right to life is not a matter of opinion polls. It is the state's duty to protect the right to life, regardless of public opinion.

The state has stated its commitment to end torture and to pass the Torture Bill into law. It should demonstrate this commitment by adopting this private members Bill as a government Bill and expedite the process of its passing into law. The state should also reconsider the recommendation to ratify the optional protocol of CAT.

We remain open to constructive engagement with GOU on these and other issues affecting the enjoyment of human rights in Uganda.

Thank you Madam President