

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TUNISIA

### **CANADA**

- Les Tunisiens ne jouissent pas des libertés d'expression et d'association telles que décrites dans les conventions internationales. L'État exerce un contrôle serré sur les moyens de communication et d'information. Les quelques organisations non-gouvernementales et associations indépendantes, qui existent encore, font souvent face à diverses mesures de harcèlement et de déstabilisation, si elles dévient de la ligne officielle. *SVP disposez le cadre juridique dans votre pays pour promouvoir et protéger le droit de la liberté d'opinion et d'expression.*

### **DENMARK**

- Several Human Rights activists have been denied freedom of assembly and freedom of organisation, and there have been arrests and arbitrary detainments of human rights activists. Among these the League of Human Rights has been prevented from organizing its national congress since 2006. Could Tunisia explain the reasons for these measures?
- While acknowledging a certain freedom of the press in Tunisia, there are still examples of intimidation of journalists and their families. How will Tunisia ensure, that further progress is made in this area?

### **DJIBOUTI**

- It is stated in the report that poverty rate in Tunisia is 3.8% in 2007. Would you like to explain the approach adopted by your country in order to fight poverty and what are the factors that contributed to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals?
- Among the recommendations of the civil society actors stated in the report, it is mentioned “the consolidation of enlightened and modernist trends”. We enquire on the actions taken in order to consolidate these trends?
- As part of the paragraph dedicated to major challenges and threats to the promotion and protection of human rights, Tunisia underlines the threat of terrorism. Would you like to be more explicit on this matter?

### **IRELAND**

- What measures have been taken to ensure full enjoyment of the freedoms of expression, assembly and association, with particular regard to the right to protest?
- What measures have been taken to promote the role of human rights defenders, through education and inclusion in decision-making, in particular amongst national authorities, law enforcement officials and security officers?

- What measures have been put in place to support the work of human rights defenders?

## **FINLAND**

- We acknowledge that the Government of Tunisia has made commitments to protect children from violence, including by establishing a national committee with representatives of various ministries to elaborate a national action plan on violence against children<sup>1</sup>.
- With regard to the United Nations study on violence against children<sup>2</sup>, which states that "no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable", we would appreciate to receive further information on legislative, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Study's overarching and setting-specific recommendations in Tunisia. In particular, we would greatly appreciate if the Government of Tunisia could share with us good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children.

## **FRANCE**

- Quelles mesures la Tunisie a-t-elle mises en œuvre pour assurer le respect et la protection des droits de l'enfant sur son territoire ?
- De quelle manière la Tunisie s'assure-t-elle que toutes les ONG de défense des droits de l'Homme ainsi que leurs membres peuvent exercer leurs activités sans restriction ?

## **GERMANY**

- Germany is concerned about repeated reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment against suspects which are held in the custody of the security forces. How does the GoT address these concerns?

## **ITALY**

- No capital executions have been carried out in Tunisia since 1991. We have also learnt that a group of Tunisian parliamentarians recently presented a draft law for the abolition of the death penalty. What is the position of Tunisia on the application of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty after the adoption of the recent resolution by the United Nations General Assembly?
- We have learnt that a draft law aimed at withdrawing all reservations and declarations formulated to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is under elaboration. Is Tunisia planning to also consider withdrawing the reservations made to some articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?

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<sup>1</sup> Report (which provides information on the dissemination of the United Nations study on violence against children and on progress made in the initial phase of follow-up to the study) of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/62/209, see footnote 16).

<sup>2</sup> Report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299).

## **JORDAN**

- According to the report, Tunisia, in its social policy, takes great care on gender equality. What are the actions taken by the Tunisian government in order to promote women's access to posts of responsibility and decision?

## **LATVIA**

- According to the information of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 59 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In the document „New measures taken by Tunisia as part of its active cooperation with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism” circulated by the Note No 0159 of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the UN in Geneva of 25 March 2008, among the new measures that have been adopted „Tunisia’s decision to receive Special Rapporteurs from the Human Rights Council as well as from the African Commission on Human Rights.” is announced. Considering this announcement and the cooperation of Tunisia with the special procedures (visit of Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression in 1999) - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?
- What are the actions taken by Tunisia in order to diffuse the culture of human rights?

## **NETHERLANDS**

- How does the Tunisian government intend to ensure that the safeguards available under Tunisian law against torture and ill-treatment are fully implemented in practice? In particular, how does the government intend to ensure that detainees are permitted access to medical examinations while being detained in *garde à vue* detention by the DSS or being examined by forensic medical doctors at the end of their DSS detention, when there are allegations of torture or ill-treatment?
- President Ben Ali has recently stated that death penalty will no longer be executed in Tunisia. Does the government intend to introduce legislation in the foreseeable future to give effect to this statement?
- In its report Tunisia suggests some new measures to strengthen the Comité supérieur des Droits de l'Homme et des libertés fondamentales. The aim is to increase the independence of this Committee based on the Paris Principles. To which extent can the independence of this Committee be guaranteed? Will the reports of the Committee be freely available to the (Tunisian) public?
- Tunisia’s initiative to offer Human Rights Watch access to detention centres and prisons is commendable. Does the Tunisian government intend to increase its cooperation with l’Association de lutte contre la torture en Tunisie ( ALTT)?

## **SWEDEN**

- Article 8 of the Tunisian constitution guarantees the freedom of expression. The use of the Internet has expanded in the country in the past several years. Civil society organizations report, however, that certain Internet content is prohibited and that individual websites carrying politically critical material are blocked. What measures is the government of Tunisia taking to ensure that restrictions on the Internet do not contradict the purpose and principle of the freedom of expression as upheld by international standards?
- Civil society organisations take active part in public debate on human rights issues in Tunisia. Several organisations, however, have reported difficulties in obtaining registration and thus gaining legal status. Article 8 of the constitution of Tunisia guarantees the freedom of association. What measures is the government of Tunisia taking to ensure full respect for the freedom of association in accordance with international standards?

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- Could you please elaborate further on the extent to which civil society in Tunisia was involved in the preparation of your national report?
- Could you tell us when Tunisia will relax its requirements for registration of political parties and civil society organizations, and on the holding of public meetings?
- We would like to know when Tunisia plans to ratify the OPCAT?
- Could you please elaborate further on the existence and status of a National Human Rights Institution in Tunisia, and whether it complies fully with the Paris Principles?

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