

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-sixth session, 10-27 June 2014**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

URUGUAY

Mr. President,

Amnesty International acknowledges efforts by Uruguay to promote and protect human rights and welcomes its acceptance of a range of recommendations. We also welcome Uruguay's rejection of the recommendation, proposed by Bangladesh, to protect a very narrow concept of "family",¹ which would have been incompatible with both national law² and international human rights standards.³

Mr. President,

Amnesty International reiterates its call to Uruguay to overcome obstacles to ensuring justice, truth and reparation for the victims of past crimes, including by abolishing the 1986 Amnesty Law⁴ and ensuring that amnesties, statute of limitations, non-retroactivity of the criminal law, or other similar measures are not applied to crimes under international law or human rights violations committed during the past military and civilian regimes (1973-1985). We welcome recommendations to continue investigations into past human rights violations,⁵ and for the executive and judicial authorities to cooperate with the investigations into cases of enforced disappearances.⁶

1 A/HRC/26/7, paragraph 124.1 (Bangladesh)

2 Law 19.075 on same sex marriage

3 A/HRC/RES/17/19 – Human Rights, sexual orientation and gender identity.

4 Ley 15.848, de Caducidad de la Pretención Punitiva del Estado

5 A/HRC/26/7, paragraph 123.71 (Argentina)

6 *Ibid*, paragraph 123.143 (Ghana)

Many states raised the need for reform of the prison system.⁷ While the authorities have taken steps in recent years to tackle the deplorable conditions in detention, we urge Uruguay to urgently address overcrowding and poor conditions for inmates, while taking specific measures to support women prisoners. We also welcome recommendations to strengthen the National Preventive Mechanism, established under Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and urge Uruguay to ensure that it has the required autonomy, funds and resources to carry out its mandate.⁸

Mr. President,

Amnesty International is concerned about the lack of justice in recent killings of transsexual women in Uruguay. We note that a large number of states raised concerns about gender based violence⁹ and we urge the government to take all necessary measures to prevent and provide protection against all forms of discrimination, violence and harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity, and to investigate these killings as hate crimes driven by transphobia.¹⁰

Finally, Mr. President,

We encourage the government to take immediate measures to implement the recommendations arising from this review and to continue to work closely with civil society organizations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

7 *Ibid*, paragraphs 123.72-123.87 (France, Greece, Maldives, Morocco, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, USA, Uzbekistan, Australia, Iran, Thailand, Hungary)

8 Recommendations 123.17 (Serbia), 123.72 (France), 123.76 (Portugal), 123.79 (Sweedden), 123.80 (Turkey), 123.81 (United States of America), 123.83 (Australia), 123.88 (Ireland) I think should FN should be restricted to rec 123.17-18 as these specifically refer to the NPM. I think the other recs belong under FN 8

9 A/HRC/26/7, paragraph 123.96 (Ireland), 123.97 (Maldives), 123.98 (Norway), 123.99 (Paraguay), 123.100 (Tunisia), 123.102 (Senegal), 123.105 (Sri Lanka), 123.106 (Algeria)

10 A/HRC/26/7, paragraph 123.9 (Norway), 123.67 (UK), 123.102 (Senegal)