

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ERITREA

GERMANY

- Germany is deeply concerned about the detention of the group “G15” as well as the Djiboutian prisoners of war and – with a special regard to freedom of opinion and expression - the ongoing detention of journalists. Germany would like to know how Eritrea justifies their length of imprisonment, the refusal of appropriate legal representation of those detainees and the lack of information provided to the families of the detainees? Further, we would like to inquire when Eritrea will grant access for the International Committee of the Red Cross and representatives of the international community?
- In 2009, Germany has recommended to remove any legal and other difficulties that restrict the effectiveness and independence of the work of international non-governmental organizations. In this regard, Eritrea replied that NGOs were welcome to conduct their programs and activities and that Eritrea would “continue to engage with civil societies in the spirit of partnership and dialogue aimed at helping them contribute to the welfare of the Eritrean people in a more meaningful and effective manner” (Report of the Working Group, Addendum, Nr. 34). To Germany’s knowledge, apart from few exceptions NGOs are still not allowed to operate in the country. Why has Eritrea not taken any measures to allow for international non-governmental organizations, including labor unions, to operate without interference in Eritrea? And what steps does the government intend to take to remove any legal and other difficulties that restrict the effectiveness and independence of the work of non-governmental organizations?

LIECHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein is deeply concerned at the failure of the Government of Eritrea to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea. Since her appointment in November 2012, the Special Rapporteur has made several requests to visit Eritrea, which have so far not been granted.

- How is the Government of Eritrea collaborating with the Special Rapporteur in implementing her mandate and measures have been adopted by the Government of Eritrea to address the assessment of the Special Rapporteur?

NETHERLANDS

- Can the government of Eritrea indicate how it will improve the rule of law, prison conditions and counter impunity? Could the government of Eritrea give the ICRC access to assess prison conditions?

- Will the government of Eritrea consider changing the legal conditions of military service in order to counter impunity, alleged life-long conscription and severe punishment for alleged infringements?
- Could the government of Eritrea indicate how it has implemented the 2009 recommendations of the UPR, and specifically, whether the freedom of expression, association and religion have improved and how efforts will be continued in this regard?
- How can the international community effectively partner with the Eritrean government to support the implementation of the UPR recommendations with a view to improve basic human rights, especially the rule of law, detention facilities and freedom of expression, association and religion?