

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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**UN Human Rights Council
Fortieth session, 25 February – 22 March 2019**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR outcomes**

Malaysia

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Malaysia's accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and calls on the government to strengthen human rights protections by ratifying the remaining core international treaties and removing reservations to treaties it has already ratified.

We are pleased that the government will strengthen legislation to prevent torture and that it has accepted a recommendation to put an end to torture in prisons. We are disappointed, however, that the government has rejected recommendations to end the practices of caning of children in schools and of whipping under Shariah and common law. These practices constitute ill-treatment and must be promptly abolished.

We also call on the government to abolish laws that restrict freedom of expression, such as the Sedition Act, and to repeal or amend laws and provisions that allow for preventive detention, such as the Prevention of Crime Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, and the Dangerous Drugs (Special Measures) Act. These laws are rooted in the now-abolished Internal Security Act and contain provisions that are in contravention of international law.

Amnesty International acknowledges that the government has pledged to amend death penalty legislation; but is deeply disappointed that it has rejected recommendations to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, contrary to promises made in 2018. We are concerned that the government appears to have bowed to political and public pressure to retain the death penalty, and urges it to reconsider.

We are also concerned that the government has once again rejected recommendations to protect the rights of LGBTI people and Indigenous Peoples in law and practice. We call on the government to adopt legislation to recognize the rights of these groups and to end discriminatory practices towards minorities.

Thank you, Mr. President.