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Universal periodic review of Palau

UPR-Info pre-session

12th of March 2021

Dear fellow human beings,

Madam president,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear UPR-Info team,

Thank you all for being here and for working at the betterment of the human condition.

The Center for Global Nonkilling is a congregation of scholars.

We work, using statistics and other means, to establish societies that do not kill.

We use UPR cycles to measure progresses made for life and for the right to life.

Palau is a small beautiful country with a clear environmental policy. We would be very happy to see Palau, similarly, adopt a life enhancing and life protecting policy.

With due diligence, the country could easily become a nonkilling country. However, for that to be, as every life counts, we need much better data collection and reporting.

Most likely technical help is needed for that.

In our submission, we focused only on the legal international infrastructure available and needed for the full protection of life: the genocide convention, the ratifications of CCPR and its second protocol, the Enforced Disappearances convention.

Regarding the Genocide Convention, Palau noted recommendations made by Armenia and Ghana in the previous cycle. We sincerely hope that Palau will reconsider its position and change its policy in this cycle and swiftly ratify the convention. Ratifying the Convention is not complicated to do: a small change in the criminal code to criminalize genocide; may be a parliamentary decision ... and a certified letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations to confirm the ratification of the Convention.

Thank you for do it. There has been no ratification of the convention for more than a year. Palau could the next one.

They are other legal requirements for Palau to meet minimum legal standards regarding the right to life. We are well aware of the limitations due to the size of country. Nevertheless, we think and feel that these ratifications are essential, for the country itself – and for its people indeed – as for the progress of dignity, well-being and democracy, locally as worldwide.

We reiterate our call for the ratification of the Covenant on civil and political rights and its second protocol, of the Convention on enforced disappearances.

Finally, as we do for all countries in the Pacific region, we call for the establishment of a regional human rights institution. Such an institution will also help with these ratifications. And it could also integrate Custom, its habits and practices, as long as they fit with international human rights standards.

Thank you for your attention and more than not, for your work in favor of life.

Have a good day and a good life !