

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – Add.2

JAPAN

- As the United States itself acknowledges, there still exist disparities in the treatment of African-American and Native-American persons in the areas of employment, housing, education, and health care (A/HRC/WG6/9/USA/1 paragraphs 31 and 71), and treaty bodies continue to comment on this issue (A/HRC/WG6/9/USA/2 paragraphs 57-63). We hope that the measures outlined in the National Report will bring favorable results. We would like to know if there has been any additional action taken beyond that covered in the Report as well as what measures have been given priority in abolishing such disparities.
- Concerns have been raised about allegations of the use of excessive force by law enforcement officials against, inter alia, Latino and African-American persons and undocumented migrants (A/HRC/WG6/9/USA/2 paragraphs 30 and 41). We would like to know what legal action (A/HRC/WG6/9/USA/1 paragraph 58) and other measures, i.e. training of officials in law enforcement entities on the protection of human rights, public awareness campaigns, etc., have been taken to address this.
- We would like to know the prospects for the ratification of the human rights treaties to which the United States is not a party, such as ICESCR (signature in 1977), CEDAW (signature in 1980) and CRC (signature in 1995), and, if there exist(s) a treaty(ies) with little possibility of ratification, the reason thereof.

NORWAY

- To what extent, and through which practices, does the Federal Government hold the individual states accountable for implementing international human rights law? Will the need for human rights institutions at the federal level be reviewed in order to further ensure that human rights are being implemented in all states in line with the relevant international treaty obligations?
- To what extent will there be a renewed initiative in order to gather political support for signing and ratifying more treaties related to human rights, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court?
- Several UN Treaty Bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, the CERD and the Committee against Torture, have raised concern about the application of the death penalty in the US. What steps has the US Government taken to implement the recommendation to review federal and state legislation with a view to restricting the number of offences carrying the death penalty? Does the US Government intend to take steps to ensure that state and federal

authorities impose a moratorium on executions with the view to abolish death penalty nationwide?

- The UN Committee against Torture has expressed concern about acts of torture or ill-treatment committed by certain members of the State's military or civilian personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq, and recommended that the State take immediate measures to eradicate all forms of torture and ill-treatment of detainees by military or civilian personnel, in any territory under its jurisdiction, and thoroughly investigate such acts. What steps have the US government taken to implement these recommendations?
- We have noted UNHCR's concerns regarding the amended immigration and asylum laws. Is there an intention to revise these laws, including the immigration detention system?
- We have noted concerns that it remains legal in several states to discriminate in employment based on sexual orientation as well as gender identity or expression. What steps will the US government take to eradicate such discrimination? Will the government consider prohibiting discrimination against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity by federal law?
- The Center for Reproductive rights has brought to our attention that African American women and Latinas have a significantly higher risk of maternal mortality, sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. What steps does the U.S. government plan to take to address the disparities in reproductive and sexual health?
- The Global Justice Center (GJC) filed a shadow report for the universal periodic review of the US expressing concern with regard to US blanket abortion restriction on humanitarian aid and abortion speech restrictions on US rule of law and democracy programs. Does the US have any plans to remove its blanket abortion restrictions on humanitarian aid covering the medical care given women and girls who are raped and impregnated in situations of armed conflict? Does the US government apply abortion speech restrictions on its rule of law and democracy programs?
- The Rebuilding Alliance has brought to our attention the model framework expressed by the Leahy Laws. What steps are taken to ensure that these are applied with respect to all countries receiving US' security assistance? To what extent are the human rights records of all units receiving such assistance documented, evaluated, made available and followed up upon in cases of abuses?
- What is the scope for endorsement of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ratification of ILO Convention 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries? Could a national human rights institution, established in accordance with the Paris Principles, help advance indigenous issues in the United States?