

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO PAKISTAN Add.1

GERMANY

- With regard to part B 1 and 2 of the OHCHR's compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/2/PAK/2) Germany notes the concerns expressed by CEDAW, but also by CERD, on the discrimination against women which still persists in a number of Pakistani laws. It also notes the various cases reported on violence against women inter alia by the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions. CEDAW also called for
- prompt action to counteract the influence of non-State actors which undermine women's enjoyment of their human rights. Which measures does the Pakistani government envisage to protect women from all sorts of violence and to fully implement its obligations under CEDAW and CERD with regard to non-discrimination of women and which measures are taken to prevent non-State actors to infringe upon women's rights ?
- With regard to para. 13 of the OHCHR's compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/2/PAK/2), the Working Group on enforced disappearances expressed concern on a number of cases of disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on torture reported on cases of incommunicado detention. How is the government of Pakistan tackling the issue of enforced disappearances and is it willing to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention against enforced disappearances ?
- With regard to para 33 of the stakeholders submission (A/HRC/WG.6/2/PAK3), several non-governmental organizations express their concern with regard to situation of minorities in Pakistan. According to the Asian Centre for human rights (ACHR), quoted in this para 33, religious minorities face discrimination by the State and
- non-State actors. For the recent elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies, members of the Ahmadi community were obliged to register in a separate voter registry - singling them out from all other religious communities in Pakistan, which led to a boycott of elections by Ahmadis. How does Pakistan envisage to provide equal opportunity to all its citizens to exercise and enjoy their civil rights? Furthermore, which measures is the Pakistani Government taking to effectively protect minorities, including religious minorities, in the country, especially against all forms of violence and discrimination, and how are the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of minorities guaranteed ?
- Non-governmental organizations express their concern at the situation in Pakistani prisons, in particular regarding the lack of adequate facilities for female detainees (and their children) as well as juvenile detainees, the condition of "under-trial prisoners" (UTP), the quality of medical facilities and the problem of overcrowding (according to the Pakistani Ministry of Interior, overcrowding amounted to a country-wide average of 133% in June 2007). What measures is the government of Pakistan taking to protect the rights of prisoners?

- Some observers have expressed concern at Jum'a (Friday) Sermons in some Pakistani mosques inciting to hatred and violence against various groups inside and outside of Pakistan. Which measures does the Government take to ensure Pakistani law banning this kind of incitement is effectively and universally respected in the country?