

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION-Addendum**

### **DENMARK**

- The UN Committee against Torture is concerned about the numerous allegations of torture, and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture has not been able to visit Chechnya and North Caucasus under his usual terms of operation, including unhindered access and possibility to interview anyone privately. What is being done to meet the recommendations from CAT, and when will the Special Rapporteur be invited to visit Chechnya and North Caucasus under the usual terms of operation?
- Which initiatives have been launched to ensure the full implementation of Russian legislation protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in Russia?

### **LITHUANIA**

- Lithuania would like to ask, what additional steps are envisaged to ameliorate situation and in particular, in implementing recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to consider adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.
- Lithuania would like to ask about the progress in fighting trafficking in human beings and particular in women and girls.
- Lithuania also would like to ask what further additional measures will be implemented to protect population of Chechnya from human rights violations.

### **NETHERLANDS**

- The past years saw more than 70 rulings of the European Court for Human Rights on cases involving human rights violations in the Northern Caucasus, i.e. Chechnya. Many cases are still pending a decision. We commend that the Russian authorities are committed to execute these rulings. However, the rulings seem to lay bare a shortcoming in the Russian justice system, when it comes to dealing with these cases domestically.

Could Russia indicate what possible measures/actions are considered in this respect?

- Several journalists were killed and harassed in Russia in 2008 (Jevlojev, Alishajev, Abashilov, Beketov, Politkovskaja). With Ms. Baburova being the latest victim in 2009. In the past cases involving the murder of journalists were rarely solved.

Could Russia indicate what measures it has taken to improve the security for journalists?

- Statistics show a rising tendency of extremist violence and hate crimes in Russia especially towards minority groups such as migrants and LGBT, in spite of a tougher attitude of law enforcement and more convictions against these types of crime.

What measures is Russia considering to curb this negative trend, especially in light of the vulnerable position of migrants as a result of the financial crisis?

- NGO's have indicated that they are overly burdened by the administrative requirements set by the so-called NGO-law.

Does Russia intend to review the NGO-law and make adjustments to relieve the administrative burdens?

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- Could you please elaborate further on the role that civil society in Russia played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- We would be grateful for further information about the steps Russia is taking in promoting President Medvedev's Rule of Law agenda, particularly in regard to tackling corruption, promoting judicial independence and reducing bureaucracy? In this regard, we would welcome more information regarding the introduction of restrictions on jury trials and how this fits with the President's Rule of Law agenda?
- Could you tell us what Russia is doing to combat the increasing numbers of xenophobic attacks and what plans the government has for a more comprehensive approach to combating racism and discrimination?
- Could you please explain what steps Russia is taking to protect the democratic space and independent checks on government actions, given the concerns over amendments to the Anti-extremism law and possible use of this law to silence dissenting views?
- Could you tell us how Russia is trying to promote broad participation in the country's political life, and in particular provide information on regulations governing the registration of political parties; the ability of political parties, other groups and individuals to run for election; and the handling of any procedural or other concerns that arise during elections?
- What steps is Russia taking to tackle penal reform, particularly the issues of independent monitoring of prisons, over-crowding; abuse of prisoners; and the prevalence of serious health problems, such as hepatitis, TB and HIV/Aids?
- Could you tell us how Russia is working to protect media freedom, particularly on the issues of journalists' safety and the protection of media from administrative pressure?

- Could you please elaborate on the independence and jurisdiction of the human rights institutions in Russia and the extent to which these are in compliance with the Paris Principles?

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