

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SENEGAL-Addendum

DENMARK

- Which steps are taken to ensure systematic legal proceedings against perpetrators of torture? Senegal signed OPCAT in 2003 – when does Senegal intend to ratify the Protocol and establish an independent and effective national preventive mechanism?
- Which steps are taken to eliminate discrimination against certain groups of children, including children with disabilities, children born outside marriage, children affected by HIV/AIDS and street children?
- Denmark has with great concern noted the January 2009 prison sentences to nine men apparently convicted of homosexual acts. In light of the progress in terms of legal recognition in international human rights law of the rights of homosexuals (as interpreted by the Human Rights Committee), what does plan Senegal to do to live up to international standards in this area?

GERMANY

Freedom of expression, freedom of press and peaceful assembly

- With regard to the above mentioned reports by AI, Germany asks the Government of Senegal to provide more information on its policy with regard to the full implementation of freedom of expression, press and peaceful assembly.

Female genital mutilation

- Which concrete legislative and other measures does the Senegalese Government envisage to fight and eradicate these forms of practices harmful to the health, survival and development of children?
- Which concrete measures is the Senegalese Government taking to prevent children from sexual and economic exploitation?

IRELAND

Women's Rights

- Ireland welcomes the good progress underway in Senegal on women's rights, including the adoption of legislation eliminating discrimination against women and protecting women against female genital mutilation and sexual and gender-based violence. However, we are concerned that legislation does not always translate into concrete results for women and girls. Female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages remain common in Senegal. What activities are the government undertaking with regard to the effective enforcement of law 99-03 which prohibits female genital mutilation and are there any plans proposed which would seek to raise public awareness about the practice?

Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Association

- Senegal has a strong tradition of democracy, good governance, and press freedom. In this context, Ireland is worried by reports that constraints on the freedom of expression appear to be growing in Senegal, and that journalists in particular have been the targets of harassment. We note cases of opposition activists being arrested or harassed, and the banning of some peaceful demonstrations. Ensuring that political differences can be expressed freely and peacefully is vital to the continued strength of Senegal's democracy. What action is the Government taking to ensure that Senegal's tradition of pluralistic public debate is maintained and built upon? Ireland would like to know what actions have been taken to act on the promise made by the President in 2004 to reform the press law and eliminate prison terms for press offences?

Hissène Habré

- Ireland attaches great importance to the fight against impunity for those who violate human rights. Ireland welcomes the action taken by Senegal in reforming some aspects of its legal system and amending its constitution to enable it to proceed with the trial of Hissène Habré, the former Chadian president. However, we note with disappointment that more than two years have now passed since the African Union mandated Senegal to prosecute Mr. Habré, and still he has not faced justice. Can Senegal confirm that Habré's trial will soon proceed?

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

- Ireland is concerned by the sentencing of nine Senegalese citizens to eight years' imprisonment in January 2009 on charges including 'acts contrary to nature', apparently because of their sexual orientation. We note with concern that homosexuality remains a criminal offence in Senegal. The criminalisation of homosexuality is also a public health issue, as it hampers the ability of governments to effectively respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Ireland would like to know whether there are any proposals to take action to decriminalise homosexuality in Senegal?