

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does the Government of the Central African Republic intend to accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto?
- Has the Government of the Central African Republic considered issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council?

GERMANY

- Documentations of the UN and NGO stakeholders report on discrimination against women with regard to political rights, education, employment and marriage, as well as on violence against women, inter alia, domestic violence, sexual violence and genital mutilation. Germany would like to know how the Government plans to address this alarming situation.

THE NETHERLANDS

- What does the Government of the CAR see as the most important Human Rights challenges that can be addressed at the short term?
- How does the Government of the CAR uphold the rights of the IDP's and refugees, particularly those coming from Sudan?
- The Netherlands is concerned about the detention conditions in CAR. Can the government indicate what measures it will take to bring the prison conditions in line with international standards?

SWEDEN

- Credible reports show that between 2005 and mid 2007, the Presidential Guard (*Gard Présidentielle*, GP) was responsible for numerous serious rights violations in the north of the country, where hundreds of civilians were summarily executed and many thousands of homes were burned. Many of the Presidential Guard who are responsible for these rights violations have not yet been brought to justice. Since mid 2007 the FACA (Central African Armed Forces – *Forces Armées Centrafricaines*) assumed primary responsibility for the security of the region. Credible reports from 2008 show, however, that the FACA is ineffective in protecting civilians and has also resorted to use of indiscriminate lethal force, resulting in preventable civilian deaths and injuries. As a result, civilians in the northwest of the country continue to suffer

serious abuses at the hands of other armed groups and loosely organized criminal gangs which the Government has not been able to control.

- Could the Government of CAR elaborate on the measures it is taking to investigate and prosecute those individuals known to be responsible for serious human rights abuses during 2005-2007? Could the Government of CAR also elaborate on the measures it is taking to guarantee remedy, including the right to compensation and reparation, to the victims of human rights and international humanitarian law violations?
 - What steps is the Government of CAR taking to improve the protection for the civilian protection?
- Sweden welcomes the efforts of the Government of CAR to mobilize public opinion against female genital mutilation. The practice persists, however, and is not criminalized by the Criminal Code.
 - What further steps is the Government of CAR preparing to implement in order to stop the practice of female genital mutilation?
 - Is the Government of CAR taking measures to criminalize the female genital mutilation and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you tell us which sections or organizations civil society were consulted by the Government of the Central African Republic when preparing the national report?
- Does the Central African Republic have any plans to establish a national human rights institution that meets the standards set out in the Paris principles, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions following his 2008 mission?
- While we note that the death penalty has not been implemented since 1981, does the Government have any plans to abolish the death penalty in the Central African Republic?
- Could the Government of the Central African Republic inform us of whether or not it intends to decriminalise witchcraft, in line with the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions?
- What systems are currently in place to ensure that the armed forces (FACA) are aware of and implement international human rights standards?
- Does the Government of the Central African Republic have any plans to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol Against Torture (OPCAT)?

- What are the current periods that suspects can be held in custody and pretrial detention without charge? Does the Government of the Central African Republic agree with the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee that the new code of criminal procedure should alter such limits, and also include the right of persons held in custody or pretrial detention access to a defence counsel, a doctor and their families?
- What provisions are made in the Central African Republic prison system to provide inmates with water, food, sanitation and health care, and are there any planned reforms to the prison system?
