

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ETHIOPIA-Add.2

SWEDEN

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, both of which Ethiopia is party to, as well as the Ethiopian Constitution, guarantee freedom of association and assembly. Concerns have been raised by civil society organizations and others that the Charities and Societies Proclamation, also known as the CSO law, passed by the Ethiopian parliament in January 2009 violates these freedoms. The CSO law imposes restrictions on international organizations and local nongovernmental organizations, NGO's, and will render human rights monitoring more difficult and challenge the ability of human rights organizations and human rights defenders in Ethiopia to operate.
Question: Could the Government of Ethiopia elaborate on what measures it is taking to ensure that human rights organizations are still able to actively work in Ethiopia and that its laws are in line with its international obligations?
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, both of which Ethiopia is party to, as well as the Ethiopian Constitution, guarantee freedom of expression and assembly as well as rights of due process. In July 2009 the Ethiopian parliament passed an Anti-Terror Proclamation which restricts these freedoms and rights. Against the background of a broad definition of terrorism, the police are allowed to search a person's body or property without a warrant to and to conduct surveillance on communications and a person taken into custody can be held up to four months before being brought before a court.
Question: What measures is Ethiopia taking to ensure that any efforts to counter terrorism are carried out in full compliance with its human rights obligations, including by way to ensuring respect for due process, and freedom of expression and assembly?

THE NETHERLANDS

- How can the Government of Ethiopia ensure the independence of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) during the coming Parliamentary elections in May 2010?
- Does the Government of Ethiopia have the intention to revise the recently adopted law on Civil Society Organisations in line with recommendation made by CERD earlier this year? How will the government ensure that NGOs involved in national programmes are not in any way hindered in their participation in such programmes by the application of the CSO law.
- The Netherlands is concerned about certain provisions of the recently adopted Anti-terrorism Proclamation such as the broad definition that is used for terrorism as well as the high sentences for offenders including the death penalty. Would the Government of Ethiopia be willing to amend the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, in particular with a view to lower the sentences for offenders and narrow the definition of terrorism used?

- Referring to the ILO Committee report of the 2009 session, would the Government of Ethiopia be willing to conduct a full and independent inquiry into the allegations of arrests, torture and mistreatment of trade unionists? Could the Government of Ethiopia resolve the issue of registration of the National Teachers' Association?
- The Netherlands notes that Ethiopia ratified most of the important human rights treaties. However, there are several outstanding requests from Special Procedures on human rights to Ethiopia, amongst others the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the Working Group on arbitrary detention, the Special Rapporteur on torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. Would the Government of Ethiopia be willing to grant outstanding requests for visits by Special Procedures as soon as possible?

HUNGARY

- Did the „National Plan of Action for Children (2003-2010)” elaborate any concrete measures against the social acceptance of child labor and corporal punishment and for the elimination of child prostitution and if so, how does the government evaluate their implementation? What kind of preventive measures are planned to be taken by the government to significantly reduce the high number of children living in the streets and how does Ethiopia wish to improve this situation?
- How does the government evaluate the efficiency of the measures taken against the violence within marriage? How would the government promote the prevention of impunity?
- We encourage the Ethiopian government to cooperate with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council (e.g. with the special rapporteur on arbitrary detentions or with the special rapporteur on the right to food), and we would appreciate detailed information about the concrete plans, modalities in this regard.
