

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BENIN Add. 1

### NETHERLANDS

- How does the Beninese government try to solve the the issue of actually obtaining access to justice in general and more particularly on where to claim one's human rights? E.g. how does it raise the awareness of the public about the possibility of starting an individual complaint procedure before the Constitutional Court?
- The national report mentions the improvement of the conditions of detainees in prisons as one of the challenges that Benin is facing (pt. 92 'Défis à relever', p.17). As concerns about the conditions in the overcrowded prisons and the excessive duration of police custody have been noted before by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture, we would be like to know which measures have been taken to meet this challenge so far?
- The Netherlands welcomes the several new projects, programmes and laws to protect the vulnerable, being women, children and handicapped persons which the national report mentions (pt. 77, p. 16), but still practices such as child abuse, child trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation and sexual harrassment of girls at school and university persist. To what extent is the said legislation applied? For example, how many reports of such crimes have effectively led to prosecution and eventually to sentences?
- The Netherlands welcomes the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty which has been observed by Benin since 1987 and calls on the Beninese government to permanently abolish the death penalty. In this light, The Netherlands would be like to know more about the (preliminary) findings of the multidisciplinary committee which reflects on the possibilities of abolition.