

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

### **GERMANY**

- Deep concerns have been expressed at the substantiated accusations of systematic torture and ill-treatment. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture found that torture was used systematically by the police against persons who refuse to “cooperate”, such as persons suspected of political as well as ordinary crimes (para. 20 of the OHCHR compilation A/HRC/WG.6/GNQ/2, referencing A/HRC/10/44/Add. 1, paras. 7, 8 and 17(e)). Germany would like to know which measures Equatorial Guinea has undertaken in order to ensure the required adequate prevention and penalization of torture.
- The issue of child labour has given cause for concern. CRC was concerned at the significant number of children, especially girls, working on the street and as domestic servants, and about the lack of effective implementation of the labour laws and mechanisms to control child labour (para. 30 of the OHCHR compilation A/HRC/WG.6/GNQ/2, referencing CRC/C/15/Add. 245, para. 56). What efforts has Equatorial Guinea undertaken in order to achieve improvements on this issue?

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

- The UK would be grateful if you could please outline the extent of the involvement of civil society in the preparation of your national report?
- Would you please outline what progress the National Human Rights Commission has made towards becoming accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris principles?
- Could you please tell us what steps Equatorial Guinea is taking to eliminate torture as a means of extracting confessions from detainees by the police, and to end the practice of ‘secret detentions’?
- Could you please provide more information about what measures Equatorial Guinea takes to ensure respect for freedom of expression and whether Equatorial Guinea intends to remove the legal requirement for government censorship of all publications?
- We would be grateful for further information about what measures Equatorial Guinea put in place to ensure open and transparent president elections in November 2009, including on establishing an independent electoral commission and voter registration?
- Could you please outline what measures in terms of budgetary transparency Equatorial Guinea has put in place to ensure that the 1997 commitment to allocate 40% of public investment funds to the social sector is being met?

- Could you comment on whether Equatorial Guinea intends to ensure full independence of the judiciary, such as by removing Article 86 of the Constitution which provides that the President is the first Magistrate of the Nation?

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