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The culture of excessive use of force threatens civil and political rights ahead of the presidential elections

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Guinea

Amnesty International appreciates efforts by the Guinean authorities to protect and promote human rights in Guinea despite the challenging conditions brought on by the Ebola outbreak. The organization welcomes Guinea's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and their initial acceptance of key recommendations, including to protect the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;¹ to provide human rights training to law enforcement agencies;² and to ensure that human rights violations are independently investigated and suspected perpetrators brought to trial.³

Ahead of the presidential elections scheduled for October 2015, Amnesty International remains extremely concerned at the ongoing violations committed by the security forces. Over the past decade, at least 357 people have died and thousands have been wounded during demonstrations. The security forces are responsible for the vast majority of these violations, using firearms, tear-gas, batons and sling shots. While some demonstrators may have resorted to violence, the use of force by law enforcement officials is often excessive and indiscriminate. The failure by the government to hold perpetrators to account encourages more violations. Since the adoption of the electoral calendar in March 2015, at least six people have died and 57 wounded during demonstrations, and reports of rapes and sexual violence are starting to emerge.

The authorities must immediately act to implement the recommendations they have accepted to end excessive use of force and impunity ahead of the presidential elections. In doing so they must repeal or amend laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression and assembly, including laws adopted by the National Assembly on 2 June on maintaining public order and criminalizing offenses to the president. Amnesty International also reiterates our call for an independent complaints mechanism to investigate human rights violations by police officers, members of the armed forces and the gendarmerie and for prompt legal action against members of the security forces suspected of committing human rights violations.

In closing, Amnesty International wishes to express regret at the reluctance by Guinea to accept recommendations to abolish the death penalty⁴ and to decriminalize consensual same-

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Guinea*, A/HRC/29/6, recommendations 118.161 (Uruguay), 118.162 (Czech Republic), 118.163 (Czech Republic), 118.164 (France), 118.165 (Germany), 118.166 (Ireland).

² A/HRC/29/6, recommendations 118.98 (Egypt), 118.99 (Ethiopia), 118.100 (France), 118.101 (Germany) and 118.103 (Norway).

³ A/HRC/29/6, recommendations 118.95 (Chile), 118.96 (Germany), 118.97 (Italy), 118.100 (France), 118.102 (Ghana), 118.141 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 118.142 (United States of America), 118.145 (Australia), 118.146 (Botswana), 118.147 (Canada), 118.148 (Canada), 118.149 (France), 118.150 (France), 118.151 (Germany), 118.152 (Germany), 118.153 (Japan), 118.154 (Luxembourg), 118.155 (Luxembourg), 118.157 (Norway), 118.158 (Republic of Korea), 118.159 (Spain), 118.160 (Sweden).

⁴ A/HRC/29/6, recommendations 118.4 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 118.5 (Benin), 118.6 (Uruguay), 118.7 (Australia), 118.8 (Italy), 118.9 (Luxembourg), 118.10 (Montenegro),

sex sexual activities.⁵ The organization encourages the authorities to continue to work towards abolishing the death penalty and repealing homophobic laws, including through the ongoing revision of the penal code.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Guinea on 24 June 2015 during its 29th session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

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118.11 (Namibia), 118.24 (Portugal), 118.91(France), 118.92 (Timor-Leste), 118.93 (Uruguay), 118.94 (Rwanda).

⁵ A/HRC/29/6, recommendations 118.88 (Italy), 118.89 (Argentina).