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Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
13th Session

Review of the United Kingdom

Intervention made by Egypt
24 May 2012

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes H.E.....and his accompanying delegation, and than; them for the presentation.

While welcoming the efforts exerted in preparing the information provided in the national report, we would have appreciated greater reflection of efforts towards the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

In fulfilment of its international obligation towards the promotion and protection of human rights, including through international cooperation, my delegation recommends the United Kingdom to set up a mechanism to carry out the repatriation of funds of illicit origin and illegally acquired assets to their countries of origin and to ensure cooperation with the requesting states.

The report acknowledges the UK's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights abroad. We take note of information in the report on the inquiry into complicity in torture in overseas counterterrorism operations. My delegation further recommends the UK to ensure full adherence to its international human rights obligations in its overseas operations; and to set up comprehensive legislative and implementation frameworks for the identification, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of perpetrators of human rights violations.

My delegation is concerned about the persistence of racial and religious profiling and negative stereotyping, in particular against Arabs and Muslims in the implementation of domestic counterterrorism measures. We would like to also request clarification on the exceptional

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circumstances referred to in the report under which the police stop and search powers without suspicion can be exercised.

On the situation of migrants and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, my delegation takes note of the UK's efforts in this regard. However, it regrets the fact that the Equality Act of 2010 replicates provisions of the 2000 Racial Relations Act that permit public officials to discriminate on the basis of nationality, ethnic and national origin. We recommend the UK to review national legislation to ensure equality and non-discrimination and guarantee the full enjoyment by migrants and minorities of their human rights, including the right to work and access to the labour market at all levels; and we reiterate our recommendation to the UK government to ratify the international convention on protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

I thank you.