

14th Session of the Working Group of the UPR

UPR of Argentina

Statement by Austria

Austria welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Argentina to the UPR and thanks for the submission of their national report.

We commend the Government of Argentina for having taken a series of positive steps since the last review and for its continuous efforts in regard to the investigation, trial and punishment of persons who committed crimes against humanity during the military dictatorship.

Austria is however concerned about the continuing reports on inhuman or degrading conditions and cases of torture or ill-treatment in prisons and detention centers in various Argentine provinces.

Furthermore, several UN Committees have expressed concern about the excessively prolonged period of preventive detention.

Austria is also concerned about the reported high number of children living below the poverty line especially in the northern provinces of Argentina. In that respect we commend the introduction of the 'Universal Child Allowance' by Presidential decree in 2009 which represents a major step forward towards meeting the challenges involved in solving problems of child poverty in Argentina. It is however unfortunate that the "universal child allowance" does not cover or reach all children in need and is not established by a national law.

Austria would therefore like to offer the following recommendations:

- to incorporate the social protection scheme, the 'Universal Child Allowance' into law and extend it to cover children of marginalized groups including migrant workers and children of parents deprived of their liberty;
- to improve conditions in all prisons and other detention facilities to ensure compliance with international standards, including the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and to promptly and effectively address the issue of prison overcrowding;
- to ensure that all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment in detention are thoroughly and impartially investigated, and that alleged perpetrators are brought to justice;

Thank You