

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
14th Session

Review of the Czech Republic

Intervention made by Egypt

22 October 2012

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of the Czech Republic and thanks it for the updated information on the human rights situation in the country since the 1st UPR cycle.

We took note of the information provided in the report and would like to make the following comments and recommendations:

- Despite national legislative and policy measures to fight discrimination and social exclusion, there is persistent discrimination and racism against migrants and minorities, in particular the Roma, amounting to violence, and continued segregation and discrimination in the world of work, quality education, health care, and housing, to cite a few areas. In addition, and among other manifestations of discrimination and racism against Arabs and Muslims, there is widespread opposition to the opening of new mosques, including through petitions and media campaigns involving the use of xenophobic and racist statements. We recommend the Czech Republic to:
 1. Set up national mechanisms to monitor, investigate, prosecute and punish incitement to and acts of hatred, intolerance, racism and xenophobia, including hate speech and racist and xenophobic acts committed on the internet and through political platforms;
 2. Establish dedicated mechanisms for the provision of remedies to victims of racial discrimination and facilitate their access to the justice system, and to ensure the reporting of hate crimes;
 3. Develop a national action plan against racism in line with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

- On the prevention of torture, we recommend the Czech government to review its national legislation with a view to bring the definition of torture to be in line with the Convention Against Torture.
- On the rights of the child, we recommend the Czech government to include in its national legislation a clear definition of child pornography; and to review legislation with a view to criminalise child prostitution, including the adoption of a victim-oriented approach towards children victims of sexual exploitation.
- Finally, we recommend the government of the Czech Republic to sign and ratify the following international instruments: the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

I thank you.