

UPR Intervention for Switzerland, 14th Session October 29, 2012
(as read)

The United States warmly welcomes [head of delegation] and the Swiss delegation.

We appreciate the Government's creation of initiatives to give support to unaccompanied minors seeking immigration protection. However, outside groups have reported that care is insufficient, detention is lengthy, and detention facilities separate from adults are not provided.

We also remain concerned about the treatment of adult migrants held in immigration detention while seeking protection and during repatriation. The National Commission for the Prevention of Torture has identified numerous areas for improvement, including providing clearer information to prospective deportees and assigning specially trained police to handle immigration, asylum and deportation issues.

We praise your government's commitment to promptly prosecute any individual or group who has committed hate crimes. However, we remain concerned that members of minority groups may be deprived of their right to express their cultural and religious traditions fully. One example of this is the national ban on construction of minarets.

The United States makes the following recommendations:

1. Provide access for all asylum and repatriation detainees to attorneys, as well as consular notification and access consistent with applicable international legal obligations, including Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to detained foreign nationals.
2. Build or designate detention facilities for unaccompanied minors seeking immigration protection separate from adult facilities.