

UPR Intervention for Djibouti, 16th Session April 25, 2013

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

We congratulate the Djiboutian people for conducting peaceful legislative elections in February 2013, which included participation by opposition parties and independent media coverage.

We are concerned, however, by the detentions and arrests of opposition members and supporters that occurred throughout the pre- and post-electoral period and government interference in peaceful demonstrations.

We are also concerned by the government's failure to release full election results broken down by polling station—a notable change from prior practice.

Finally, we recognize government efforts to raise awareness of female genital mutilation/cutting throughout the country, but remain concerned that the practice continues and that the government has not enforced existing laws.

The United States makes the following recommendations:

1. Release detainees whose arrests are linked to their support for the opposition;
2. Return to the government's previous practice of announcing full election results within days of the election, broken down by polling station;
3. Enforce Djibouti's existing laws to prosecute perpetrators of female genital mutilation.

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