

Universal Periodic Review 18 – Eritrea

Intervention by the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Mr. President,

The Netherlands welcomes the increased collaboration of Eritrea with the UN during the preparation of its second cycle. We would also wish to commend Eritrea on its efforts towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals. We welcome the economic reforms to increase development and attract Foreign Direct Investment.

Nonetheless, the Netherlands remains deeply concerned about the severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association and religion. Also the prolonging of military service, which is one of the root causes of young Eritreans leaving the country and poses them at a severe risk of being trafficked, raises our concern. We continue to receive serious allegations of arbitrary detention, the use of torture, maltreatment of prisoners, extra-judicial killings and the existence of secret prisons. Therefore, we urge the Eritrean Government to provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with unrestricted access to prison facilities to verify these claims.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recommends Eritrea:

1. to adopt and implement the previous recommendations of the Human Rights Council and its Special Rapporteurs, and to grant access to Special Procedures mandate holders.
2. To ratify the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Thank you, Mr. President.