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PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

UPR of Eritrea, February 2014

Norway welcomes the delegation of Eritrea.

We are deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Eritrea. The continuing excessive militarization of Eritrean society and its reported effect on the daily lives of the Eritrean population are of great concern. As reported by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation, basic tenets of the rule of law and fundamental freedoms are still not respected in Eritrea.

Norway notes recent signs of cooperation with the UN and the OHCHR. We recommend that the Eritrean Government cooperates with the international community, including by providing access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, in a transparent manner for the benefit of the human rights of the Eritrean people.

Norway is concerned about the lack of freedom of expression in Eritrea. Norway recommends that those imprisoned, suspected of holding dissenting opinions, including human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists should be unconditionally released. We further recommend that Eritrea immediately respect international standards of law in the treatment of prisoners including providing prisoners adequate food, water, and medical assistance and ending overcrowding; allow independent monitors access to all known and secret Eritrean detention facilities; notify family members of the whereabouts of detainees; and restore visiting rights and access to legal representation.

Finally, we recommend ending indefinite national service and beginning a phased demobilization for those serving for more than the statutory 18 months, and allow substitute service for conscientious objectors.

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