



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

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Geneva, 3.02.2014

**German questions and recommendations to
Eritrea**

German National Statement

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the delegation of Eritrea for the report presented today.

While we welcome the recent visit of the OHCHR to Eritrea, Germany deplores the lack of progress in the human rights situation since the first UPR cycle.

None of the accepted recommendations made by the German government have been implemented. We remain gravely concerned that there continue to be reports of forced labour of conscripts.

Germany would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To immediately lift the state of emergency, implement the '97 Constitution and hold free and fair elections with international monitoring;
2. To bring to an end inhumane detention conditions and ensure that all detainees are treated in accordance with international human rights standards;
3. To immediately end arbitrary detention and to guarantee effective legal representation in accordance with international fair trial standards;
4. To establish provisions for conscientious objections to military service and to bring an end to indefinite, involuntary conscription of national service – a severe form of forced labor, in particular of children;
5. To extend a standing invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Eritrea and to all other UN special procedures mandate holders, and to cooperate fully with the OHCHR.
6. To ensure safe repatriation and reintegration of Eritrean nationals without any fear of persecution in accordance with Eritrea's obligations under international human rights law and to allow for international monitoring.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Question submitted to Eritrea in advance:

1. Germany is deeply concerned about the detention of the group "G15" as well as the Djiboutian prisoners of war and – with a special regard to freedom of opinion and expression - the ongoing detention of journalists. Germany would like to know how Eritrea justifies their length of imprisonment, the refusal of appropriate legal representation of those detainees and the lack of information provided to the families of the detainees? Further, we would like to inquire when Eritrea will grant access for the International Committee of the Red Cross and representatives of the international community?
2. In 2009, Germany has recommended to remove any legal and other difficulties that restrict the effectiveness and independence of the work of international non-governmental organizations. In this regard, Eritrea replied that NGOs were welcome to conduct their programs and activities and that Eritrea would "continue to engage with civil societies in the spirit of partnership and dialogue aimed at helping them contribute to the welfare of the Eritrean people in a more meaningful and effective manner" (Report of the Working Group, Addendum, Nr. 34). To Germany's knowledge, apart from few exceptions NROs are still not allowed to operate in the country. Why has Eritrea not taken any measures to allow for international non-governmental organizations, including labor unions, to operate without interference in Eritrea? And what steps does the government intend to take to remove any legal and other difficulties that restrict the effectiveness and independence of the work of non-governmental organizations?

