



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

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RUTH TURNER

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Equatorial Guinea April 2014

Thank you Mr President,

The UK thanks Equatorial Guinea for its participation in the Universal Periodic Review Process. We are disappointed by progress on implementing the commitments that Equatorial Guinea undertook during its last UPR and hope it will now act. We are concerned by reports that human rights defenders who addressed the Human Rights Council faced repercussions on their return to Equatorial Guinea.

Equatorial Guinea ranks 163rd on Transparency International's Corruption List and we are concerned by allegations of corruption in government and mismanagement of public funds.

We are concerned by reports of journalists, including foreign journalists invited by the government, being detained and their materials confiscated. We urge Equatorial Guinea to ensure freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are respected, particularly in the run up to Presidential elections in 2016. Funding to political parties should be fair and accessible to all.

Despite Equatorial Guinea's pledges to end torture, arbitrary and secret detentions and assure the independence of the judiciary, we are concerned that allegations persist and the judicial system is unchanged.

We would make the following **recommendations**:

- To increase transparency through the provision of public access to information about financial and other material interests of government ministers.

- To permit journalists, NGOs and human rights experts to enter Equatorial Guinea and carry out their work without hindrance or risk of retaliation against those they meet.