

*Check against delivery***22nd Session of the UPR Working Group – Review of HONDURAS****Statement by AUSTRIA**8<sup>th</sup> May 2015*Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro*

Austria warmly welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Honduras and thanks them for their presentation and the national report.

We commend Honduras for certain positive results in combating violence and crime and for approving the Human Rights Public Policy and National Action Plan.

Although Honduras has accepted all of our recommendations in the first review, most of the concerns highlighted in 2010 still persist. Austria is seriously concerned about the rising number of attacks against journalists. UNESCO reported that it had recorded 23 killings of journalists or media professional between 2008 and 2013. According to the information provided by the Government to UNESCO, the perpetrator had been convicted in only one case so far. We take note of the important efforts in this respect, such as the drafting of a law establishing a protection mechanism for journalists, human rights defenders and justice system workers and hope that it will be enacted swiftly. We remain concerned, however, about continuing attacks against human rights defenders and a persistent climate of impunity, organized crime and corruption, as well as the high ~~rates~~ *rates* of femicide.

Following up on the first UPR, Austria is worried about continued shortcomings in the administration of justice as well as the ongoing, widespread discrimination against indigenous persons, Afro-Honduran people and LGBTI persons.

Austria offers the following recommendations

1. Promptly and impartially investigate any allegations of violence or reprisals against journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;
2. Take effective measures to bring conditions of detention in line with international standards, in particular by reducing overcrowding and inter-prisoner violence;
3. End discrimination in law and practice against indigenous and Afro-Honduran people and strengthen protection for LGBTI persons;
4. Ratify ~~CEDAW~~ *the Optional Protocol to CEDAW* to ensure the protection of women's rights.

I thank you. *the Optional Protocol to CEDAW*