

UPR22

HONDURAS

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic warmly welcomes the delegation of Honduras. We appreciate the delegation's response to some of our advance questions.

The Czech Republic has the following **recommendations to Honduras**:

First, we **recommend** that Honduras improve the effectiveness of prevention, investigation and prosecution of all forms of attacks against human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and judges in order to lower their incidence and to tackle impunity for these crimes. In this regard, we further **recommend** that the Government ensure that a robust law protecting human rights defenders, journalists and justice officials is adopted and effectively implemented and that its impact is regularly assessed.

The Czech Republic also **recommends** that Honduras strengthen independence and transparency of the judiciary and step up efforts to fight impunity by, *inter alia*, establishing a merit system of selecting and appointing judges and preventing political and other interference into their work, including arbitrary dismissals.

In the field of torture prevention, we **recommend** Honduras raise the capacity and effectiveness of investigation and prosecution of all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by members of both state security forces and private companies and strengthen legal safeguards available for victims of torture and ill-treatment.

Finally, the Czech Republic **recommends** that Honduras cooperate closely with the OHCHR office to be soon established in the country while implementing UPR recommendations.

Thank you.