

Check against delivery

Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America

Questions and Recommendations of Fiji

1. Fiji notes that the United States has taken steps to limit the number of children sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for offences other than murder. However, ~~life imprisonment is more likely to be imposed in cases of homicide.~~ Fiji notes with concern that life imprisonment without the possibility of parole is still a sentencing option in cases of children who are convicted of murder. ~~This is in breach of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically Articles 10(3) and 14(4) in that such a sentence fails to take into account the special needs of children and the need to pass rehabilitation-based sentences for children in conflict with the law.~~ Fiji notes with concern that the US has not ratified the CRC.

Fiji recommends;

That the United States pass legislation domestically to prohibit the passing of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole on offenders who were children at the time of offending, and that the United States ratify without any further delay the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. Fiji notes that although the United States is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the United States has been prepared to support the court's prosecutions and provide assistance in response to specific requests from the I.C.C. prosecutor and other court officials, when it is in U.S. national interest to do so. However the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was drafted to end impunity for crimes against humanity worldwide. ~~Fiji notes with concern that the United States has not ratified the Rome Statute, that an initial signature was withdrawn by the United States and that currently it is not a State party of the International Criminal Court.~~

Fiji recommends;

That the United States ratify without delay, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.