

United Nations Human Rights Council

25th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Tanzania

Geneva, 9 May 2016

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria welcomes H.E. ... and the delegation of Tanzania to the UPR and thanks for the submission of its national report.

We welcome Tanzania's efforts to create a new Constitution, although this process has been interrupted and has to be continued in the near future. Especially Articles 39 and 40 of the proposed Constitution to protect freedom of expression and the media are pointing in the right direction. However Austria is deeply concerned by a number of oppressive laws introduced by the government over the last years like the Cyber Crime Act 2015 and the Statistics Act 2013, which were passed under the certificate of urgency. There have also been increased reports of journalists that face harassment, death and torture.

Eventhough we recognize that efforts have been made to reform the justice system and prison conditions there is still only one juvenile court and one spokesperson in the whole country. Are there any plans to install a child sensitive justice system in the near future?

Austria would like to make the following recommendations:

- (1) The government should continue with the constitution making process, which should be transparent and include consultations with civil society.
- (2) Consider adapting the Marriage Act of 1971 and set a minimum marriage age at 18 years for boys and girls according to international standards.
- (3) Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- (4) Enforce the implementation of the National Prison Policy on all levels and work towards establishing more juvenile courts and juvenile retention homes especially on Zanzibar

I thank you