

NAMIBIA

OMI 30.

Link to docs: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/PAGES/NASession10.aspx>

The review of Namibia was held on the 31st of January 2011. The delegation of Namibia was headed by Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, MP, Minister of Justice. At its 16th meeting held on 2 February 2011, the Working Group adopted the report on Namibia.

The three reports written in preparation for the Review of Namibia can be accessed at the weblink given above.

A list of questions prepared in advance by Czech Republic, France, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, was transmitted to Namibia through the troika. **These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.**

Namibia noted that it had become independent only in 1990, after more than 100 years of oppressive apartheid rule, and that its history had been characterized by widespread human rights violations and brutal repression. At independence, Namibia had put in place a framework to promote and protect human rights.

Namibia has made significant strides in gender equality, education, law reform, land reform and the transformation of the public service and economic sector. Significant progress has also been made in enabling Namibians to share in its natural resources. A food security strategy had been adopted.

There are approximately 60,000 San people in Namibia, but only about 2,000 of them still followed a traditional way of life.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration employed mobile teams in all 13 regions to go to the remote areas and assist citizens, and especially the formally marginalised groups, in obtaining national identity documents. Parliament had passed legislation to enable members of the formally marginalised groups to actively take part in economic activities without being discriminated against as was the case before independence.

Violence against women and children is a serious problem and had increased in recent years.

During the interactive dialogue, 48 delegations made statements.

The following are some of the issues that were highlighted during the inter-active debate.

1. National Reconciliation.
2. Women's Rights. Rape and gender violence/
3. HIV/AIDS.
4. Capacity and technical assistance needs.
5. Indigenous Minority groups and marginalized communities. Khosian groups.
6. Traditional Judges.
7. Safe drinking water.
8. International exploitation and pillaging of resources. Trade in conflict diamonds.
9. Income Distribution Inequalities and Social welfare.
10. Gender equality.
11. Human trafficking and child labour.

12. Intimidation of journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs.
13. Undue delay for trials.
14. Limitations to Press freedom.
15. Migrants, child labour and criminalizing torture.
16. Human Rights education.
17. Torture in Prisons.
18. Discriminatory traditional practices.
19. Violence against children.
20. National Human Rights Institution.

In conclusion, Namibia stressed that it would continue its efforts to eliminate obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights by all Namibians. Namibia would take into consideration all concerns expressed during the review. Its main priorities at this time are food security, education and health, which took up much of its budget.

Seventy two recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue enjoy the support of Namibia. Namibia considers that Eighteen recommendations made by States are already implemented or in the process of implementation.

Twenty seven recommendations will be examined by Namibia, and they will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 17th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2011.

Three recommendations did not enjoy the support of Namibia.

The full draft report can be read on the following website:

http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session10/NA/Namibia-A_HRC_WG.6_10_L.12-eng.pdf