

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Equatorial Guinea

Statement by Australia

13 May 2019

Australia is deeply concerned at the narrowing political space in Equatorial Guinea.

Australia recommends that Equatorial Guinea:

1. Repeal or amend legislation that infringes upon the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly and institute a legal framework that protects these fundamental freedoms and punishes those who violate them.
2. Release any political dissidents, human rights defenders or journalists that have been detained for legitimately exercising their freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly.
3. Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with a view to ensuring full accountability and preventing recurrence.
4. Amend Law No 1/1999 to facilitate the swift registration of Civil Society Organisations that have submitted applications and evaluate all applications on their merits.
5. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and take all necessary steps to abolish the death penalty.

We urge Equatorial Guinea to institute legislative change, and bring domestic law into compliance with their international human rights obligations.

164 Words