

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Amnesty International calls on Saint Lucia to ratify key human rights treaties, to protect LGBTI rights and to abolish the death penalty

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Saint Lucia

Amnesty International welcomes Saint Lucia's acceptance of recommendations to ratify a number of core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol.¹ The organization is concerned to note, however, that Saint Lucia accepted similar recommendations during its first UPR in 2011 and failed to implement them. Saint Lucia should act promptly to ratify these core international human rights treaties.

Amnesty International is pleased to note Saint Lucia's acceptance of recommendations to enact comprehensive legislation to guarantee the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society.²

The organization is concerned, however, that local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) activists continue to report discrimination and violence. According to the Saint Lucia NGO *United and Strong*, there is a history of murders of LGBTI persons on the island which bear the characteristics of hate crimes. In 2015, according to news reports, a 17 year old male was stabbed over 50 times and had his throat slit. Human rights activists believe he was targeted because of his perceived sexual orientation, and report that while an investigation was started no one was brought to justice for the crime. Amnesty International therefore welcomes Saint Lucia's acceptance of recommendations to strengthen the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity³ and to implement human rights education and anti-discrimination awareness-raising programs.⁴ It is regrettable, however, that Saint Lucia rejected recommendations to repeal all legal provisions prohibiting and punishing same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults.⁵

While Saint Lucia has observed a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty for 20 years, the government has failed to draw attention to the very serious human rights concerns inherent in

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review - Saint Lucia*, A/HRC/31/10, 18 November 2015, recommendations 88.4-88.12, (Spain, Sierra Leone, France, Ghana, Chile, Germany, Slovenia, Portugal, Georgia, Paraguay Montenegro, Uruguay, Australia and Portugal) and recommendations 88.20-88.25 (Algeria, Paraguay, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Uruguay, Denmark, Montenegro and Indonesia); Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Saint Lucia (Addendum), A/HRC/31/10/Add.1, 14 March 2016, p. 2-3.

² A/HRC/31/10, 18 November 2015, recommendation 88.53 (South Africa); A/HRC/31/10/Add.1, p. 4.

³ A/HRC/31/10, recommendation 88.59 (France); A/HRC/31/10/Add.1, p. 4.

⁴ A/HRC/31/10, recommendations 88.64 (Netherlands) and 88.70-88.71 (Spain, Uruguay); A/HRC/31/10/Add.1, pp. 4-5.

⁵ A/HRC/31/10, recommendations 88.60-88.62 (Slovenia, Australia, Germany) and 88.66-88.69 (Spain, USA, Uruguay, Chile); A/HRC/31/10/Add.1, pp. 4-5.

the death penalty and to promote its abolition. Amnesty International regrets Saint Lucia's decision to reject recommendations to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.⁶

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Saint Lucia on 17 March 2016 during its 31st session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International also submitted information in advance of the review in November 2015: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr56/2241/2015/en/>

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International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK
www.amnesty.org

⁶ A/HRC/31/10, recommendations 88.13-88.16 (Montenegro, Uruguay, Australia, Portugal) and 88.72-88.78 (Spain, France, Brazil, Mexico, Netherlands, Paraguay, Costa Rica); A/HRC/31/10/Add.1, pp. 2 and 5.