



AI Index: ASA 28/8269/2024
5 July 2024

Oral Statement

Item 6: Consideration of UPR reports: Malaysia

UN Human Rights Council
56th session
18 June – 12 July 2024

Mr President,

While Amnesty International is pleased by the government's abolition of the mandatory death penalty in 2023, we regret that it failed to accept recommendations to take steps towards its full abolition. We urge the government to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, and pending this, to extend the official moratorium on executions and ensure that this will be observed until the death penalty is fully abolished.

Regrettably, the government also rejected recommendations to end judicial corporal punishment, which violates the prohibition on torture or other ill-treatment, and to review or repeal legislation restricting freedom of expression. Investigations and arrests to suppress free speech continue, including under the Sedition Act, Communications and Multimedia Act, and Peaceful Assembly Act.

Mr President,

While Malaysia insists that it respects the principle of non-refoulement, the rights of refugees and migrants are threatened by the rejection of recommendations to respect this principle and end the discrimination of these groups.

We urge the government to end discriminatory laws and practices against refugees and migrants, end indefinite immigration detention and ensure protection for asylum seekers

We welcome the government's support for recommendations to consider ratifying the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, improve treatment of prisoners and prevent deaths in custody. We also welcome support for recommendations to respect and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples, but are disappointed that those on free, prior and informed consent are only partially accepted.

Regrettably, the government also rejected recommendations to ratify other core human rights treaties and to protect the rights of LGBTI people. We urge the government to reconsider its position on these recommendations.

Finally, we encourage Malaysia to implement supported recommendations as soon as possible and urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation of such recommendations and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Thank you.