

Canada – HRC14**Item 3: Joint interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, and Trafficking in Persons
June 3, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Canada would like to thank the three Special Rapporteurs for their presentations and reports. In particular, we take this opportunity to thank Mr. Philip Alston for his tireless efforts to promote his mandate and address the numerous issues relating to unlawful killings over the past six years. His report provides a valuable summary of these issues as well as a practical outline of other issues which need to be examined further.

Canada considers that the suggestions in the report about how to improve communication within the overall context of the Special Procedures, to enable more effective use of the information, including through better coordination and more efficient use of technology, are important to advance human rights situations around the world.

Canada notes with interest the suggestion that further research is necessary on the subject of sexual violence and unlawful killings.

Question: What other actions in the view of the Special Rapporteur are necessary from the international community to address the problem of sexual violence and unlawful killings in situations of conflict?

The report also suggests the Council should devise procedures to ensure that the reforms recommended to States following country visits by Special Procedures are addressed.

Question: What concrete suggestions would the Special Rapporteur have on the type of procedures needed to ensure that States address the recommendations?

The report's conclusion mentions that more can be done to prevent unlawful killings and improve accountability.

Question: What actions would the Special Rapporteur suggest should be considered priorities by the Council in order to do so?

Canada also thanks Mr. Frank LaRue, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, for his comprehensive report addressing the many aspects of freedom of expression and access to information. We appreciate the attention the Special Rapporteur devotes to the challenges faced by particular groups in exercising their right to freedom of expression, such as women, persons living in extreme poverty, minorities, and indigenous peoples.

Canada also appreciates the in-depth treatment accorded in the report to the issue of permissible limitations on freedom of expression. The Special Rapporteur provides a useful set of principles and standards for laws restricting freedom of expression. They provide a sound basis for evaluating the legitimacy of domestic restrictions, based on accepted legal principles such as necessity, proportionality, and legitimate public need.

Question: Would the Special Rapporteur consider elaborating, in future reports, on examples of national laws or practices that conform to these principles, and those that limit or restrict freedom of expression arbitrarily?

Canada is alarmed by the increase in the number of journalists killed in the exercise of their profession. Canada calls upon states to ensure that all attacks on journalists are investigated promptly and exhaustively, and that those found responsible are brought to justice in accordance with international fair trial standards. Too many cases of attacks on journalists remain unsolved around the world. **Question:** What measures can the international community take to combat the culture of impunity in relation to extrajudicial killings, kidnappings and assaults against journalists?

Finally, Canada welcomes the Special Rapporteur's announcement that his next annual report will focus primarily on the issue of freedom of expression on the Internet. This is a complex and emerging issue, which continues to increase rapidly in importance. The work of the Special Rapporteur, and other experts, in addressing this issue will help to ensure that states and the international community employ a human rights based approach to internet regulation and governance.

Thank you, Mr. President.