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**UN Human Rights Council
Twelfth Session, 14 September – 2 October 2009**

Item 6: Consideration of UPR outcome reports

Yemen

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Yemen's engagement with the Universal Periodic Review and its support for a number of important recommendations.

Among these are recommendations to promote and protect women's human rights, including prohibiting any practice of forced marriage of girls.¹ We urge Yemen to implement this recommendation without delay to ensure an end to early marriage and its harmful effects on young women and girls.

Mr. President,

Amnesty International regrets Yemen's rejection of recommendations made by 11 states to establish a moratorium on all executions and to reduce the use of the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition.² We strongly encourage the government to reconsider its position on these recommendations without delay. We welcome that Yemen supported the recommendation to ensure compliance with its obligation under Article 37 (a) of the Convention of the Rights of the Child³ and urge the government to urgently commute all outstanding death sentences imposed on individuals convicted of having committed a capital offence while under the age of 18.

Finally Mr. President, we note Yemen's support of recommendations to ensure the effective enforcement of human rights-related laws throughout its territory at all administrative and judiciary levels and to fulfil its international human rights

¹ A/HRC/12/13, paragraph 91, recommendations 41 (Tunisia) and 63 (Israel). Other recommendations relevant to this issue include: recommendation 1 (Netherlands), 4 (Nigeria), 31 (UK), 32 (Libya), 33 (Canada), 45 (Germany).

² *Ibid*, paragraph 94, recommendation 1 (Portugal), 3 (Sweden, Italy, Netherlands), 4 (UK), 5 (Canada), 6 (Mexico), 7 (Hungary), 8 (Netherlands, Brazil), 11 (Austria).

³ *Ibid*, paragraph 91, recommendation 55 (Canada).

commitments and obligations.⁴ In this regard, we call for the government to immediately end violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the context of the conflict in the Sa'da region. The authorities must urgently investigate all allegations of serious violations by their forces, such as the reported bombing raid on Adi village, on 16 September 2009, in which some 80 civilians are reported to have been killed. The government must also release all prisoners of conscience detained for taking part in peaceful protests, including those held in connection with the demonstrations in southern Yemen.

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁴ *Ibid*, paragraph 91, recommendations 13 (Italy) and 25 (Algeria).