



HRC26
Item6

Consideration of UPR reports:
Eritrea
Delivered by Suleiman Hussien

Thank you Mr President,

This is a joint statement by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and our partner Citizens for Democratic Rights in Eritrea.

We welcome Eritrea's examination under the UPR as an essential opportunity to address pressing human rights concerns in the country and express our strong support for the effective implementation of the recommendations.

However, despite the government's acceptance of a number of progressive recommendations, there is little to suggest that Eritrea's behaviour before the international community today will result in substantive change at the national level.

As evidenced by the UN Special Rapporteurs recent report, the human rights situation in Eritrea remains one of world's most dire.

A culture of systemic human rights abuses in Eritrea continues to be sustained with state rhetoric that places national unity and the social harmony of the country above individual rights. Impunity for security forces and the lack of any kind of dialogue between the state and the Eritrean people remain imperative issues for redress by the Government.

Persistent imprisonment, disappearance and attacks against human rights defenders, dissenters and journalists contribute to the fact that Eritreans make up one of the largest refugee populations in the world, with at least 300,000 people in exile.

In light of the systematic and grave human rights violations in the country, we urge the Human Rights Council to establish a Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea.

Thank you Mr. President