

**Universal Periodic Review– 22<sup>nd</sup> session**  
**Statement by Ireland on the review of Honduras**

Friday, 8 May 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Honduras and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland remains deeply concerned at the climate of violence and insecurity in which human rights defenders operate in Honduras. We are seriously concerned at reports that human rights defenders continue to be subject to serious physical assault and that impunity for human rights violations remains pervasive. We welcome the fact that a law on protecting human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials was approved by Congress on 15 April, following consultations with civil society. However, we note that some concerns remain, for instance regarding the involvement of the Ministry of Defence in the protection Council which will be established under the new law.

Ireland **recommends** that Honduras ensure provision of adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of the Law on protecting human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and justice officials and commit to reviewing its operation, including its consistency with international human rights standards, after a period of initial implementation.

While we note the development of legislative measures to tackle violence against women, including the amendments to the Penal Code to incorporate gender-related killings of women as a specific crime, Ireland remains concerned at widespread and systematic violence against women and girls in Honduras. We share the concern of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women at the failure of Honduran authorities to exercise due diligence in investigating, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence against women.

Ireland **recommends** that Honduras take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Criminal Code offence of gender-related killings of women and to guarantee effective access to justice for women who are victims of violence, as well as their protection.