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Human Rights Council

Item 6.

Universal Periodic Review of
Eritrea

Geneva, 4th of July 2019

Dear Human Beings,
Mister President,
Excellency's,
Dear delegation of Eritrea,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear webcasters
Good afternoon,

The Rule of law is the solid ground upon which a government can freely, safely and efficiently serve the public good. The Universal Periodic Review is fully part of the Rule of Law. The commitments taken herein are official State commitments and need to be fulfilled in good faith.

We congratulate the Authorities of Eritrea for accepting all the recommendations made regarding Freedom of Religion. We sometimes heard Eritrea use in this room the wording "double standards". We do hope that these new commitments regarding freedom of religion are made in good faith. There is a lot of work to be done, people and religious leaders to be freed, health care centres to be reopened. Such change in respect for religious diversity would meet one of the benchmarks suggested by the Special Rapporteur *of Human Rights in Eritrea*.

Serving in the Public or Military service is a great and very honourable task. However, if not of voluntary nature, whatever its nature, the service must be of limited duration to avoid befalling under the prohibition of slavery. We do encourage the Government of Eritrea to swiftly review its position regarding the National and Military services and to report on these changes.

Finally, the rule of law is made of principles, sometimes unwritten but always brought to practice by institutions designed by, and accountable, to the people. The progress of democracy is needed worldwide and Eritrea is as responsible as any other State to see this happen.

Thank you for your sound and effective efforts.
Thank you Mister President.