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Universal periodic review of Nauru

UPR-Info pre-session

7th of December 2020

Ladies and gentlemen,
Excellencies,
Dear human beings,
Dear UPR-Info team, thank you!

Thank you all for being here and for working at the betterment of the human condition.

1° The Center for Global Nonkilling is a congregation of scholars. We work to establish societies that do not kill. We use UPR cycles to measure progresses made for life and for the right to life.

2° In our submission, we focused only on the legal international infrastructure available for the protection of life: the genocide convention, the ratifications of CCPR and the Enforced Disappearances convention. Here, we also focus on a clause in the Constitution of Nauru – and of other countries – that is too wide and allows in some circumstances for State killings.

3° Regarding the ratification of the Genocide Convention, Nauru accepted a recommendation from Armenia in the previous cycle. It would be highly appreciated if this ratification would be done before passing before the UPR working group.
Thank you.

4° Nauru is a small island with a complicated history and a strong need to value the quality of life. Suicide among refugees has been a problem and we lack recent statistics regarding the Nauruan population itself. Similarly, we have no known statistics on homicides and deaths related to traffic.
As a small country, it would be easy for Nauru to become a nonkilling country.

5° The Constitution of Nauru largely permits the taking of life in cases of arrest, escape, riot and so forth (article 4)¹. This clause urgently needs a change.
Use of force, moreover of killing force is always a failure of prevention and of training for public servants.

Killing is the worst example a Nation and law enforcement agents can give of their respect for life and of their work for the good of the people.

If force must be used, it shall be used with utmost care, restraint and respect. It shall be nonkilling, non-maiming and non-violent: force is not violence.

The Constitution of Nauru must be changed. It can be easily done and it would give a feeling of importance and value to the people, it will enhance civic participation to have this done through a fully participative processes.

Nauru, as other countries, should request the help of the United Kingdom as this killing clause is only found in former British colonies.

Please make recommendations regarding the banning of permissive killing clauses in constitutions.

5° One of the possible ways to facilitate the upgrading of human rights standards and ratifications, in respect when possible with custom, will be to establish a regional human rights institution and a Human Rights Charter for the Pacific region.

We recommend it.

Thank you for your attention and more than not, for your work in favor of life.

Have a good day and a good life !

¹ https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Nauru_2015?lang=en