

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (QUAKERS)



**Quaker United Nations
Office**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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Agenda item 3: Inter-Active Dialogue with Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Joint oral statement of Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers) and Amnesty International

Delivered by Rachel Brett, Quaker UN Office, Geneva, on Friday 6 March 2009

FWCC (Quakers) and Amnesty International welcome the report of the WGAD (A/HRC/10/21) and the cases in which they have addressed the arbitrary detention, imprisonment and repeated punishment of conscientious objectors to military service.

We agree with the Working Group's analysis that although a number of the existing thematic special procedures mandates could address aspects of the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty, there is no current means of considering the entirety of the human rights of this particularly vulnerable group of people. The State bears special responsibility for them because it has deprived them of liberty and therefore has direct responsibility for protecting and fulfilling their economic and social rights, as well as their civil and political ones.

Furthermore, such persons are subjected to restrictions on their rights because of their deprivation of liberty, and have particular aspects or issues relating to rights. The scope of the enjoyment of the whole range of human rights by persons deprived of their liberty and its practical application would benefit from expert examination.

We would like to ask the Chair of the Working Group to expand on their recommendation that the experience of the Special Rapporteur on prisons and conditions of detention in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and of the Rapporteur on the rights of persons deprived of liberty of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights should guide the UN's consideration of how best to address this gap in the UN special procedures system?