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**UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session, 3 – 28 March 2014**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

CHINA

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes China's commitment to ensure that all citizens can engage freely in the UPR process¹ and reiterates its call to China to create an environment in which such participation can take place without fear of reprisals or physical harm. As such the organization deeply mourns the death of Chinese activist Cao Shunli who paid the ultimate price for campaigning for greater transparency and civil society participation in the UPR process. On 14 March 2014, she died in a hospital in Beijing after being denied proper medical treatment for months while in detention. Her death demands that China give full and immediate effect to these recommendations.

Mr. President,

The trials of members of the "New Citizens Movement" have shown numerous procedural flaws. Chinese citizens' legitimate and peaceful public participation has been criminalized, under charges such as "disturbing public order" and "illegal assembly". We urge China reconsider its rejection of the recommendation to remove obstacles to freedom of information on the Internet and to guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association for all.²

¹ A/HRC/25/5, paragraph 186.61-62 (Czech Republic, Switzerland) and A/HRC/25/5/Add.1, page 5

² A/HRC/25/5, para 186.159, (France)

Amnesty International is encouraged that China is "actively preparing for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights".³ We urge the government to speed up these efforts and announce a timeline.

The abolition of the *Re-education Through Labour* system is indeed a welcome step; however, Amnesty International questions the government's claim that "there are no arbitrary or extrajudicial detentions in China".⁴ Rather, evidence points to the continued use of various forms of arbitrary detention – including in legal education centres, "abnormal petitioning" centres, and house detention.

Amnesty International is concerned that no state raised the issue of forced evictions in China. Forced eviction of people from their homes and farmland has become a routine occurrence in China and represents a gross violation of human rights.

Finally, Mr. President,

Ethnic minorities in China, including Tibetans, Uighurs and Mongolians, continue to experience severe discrimination. We therefore regret that China did not accept the recommendation to fully respect the rights of ethnic minorities, including peaceful political and religious practices and expressions of cultural identity.⁵ We call on China to immediately release Karma Tsewang, Illham Tohti, and all other prisoners of conscience.

Thank you, Mr. President.

³ A/HRC/25/5/Add.1, 186.1

⁴ A/HRC/25/5/Add.1, 186.115

⁵ A/HRC/25/5/Add.1, 186.230