

## **UPR: Making it work**

### ***Implementing Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights situation in the Netherlands***

#### **15 April 2008**

The Netherlands' UPR will take place during the first UPR session, on April 15. Directly after the UPR session of the Netherlands, two Dutch NGO's, Justice and Peace and NJCM (the Dutch section of the ICJ) will organize a panel discussion, focusing on NGO participation and the implementation of recommendations in the Netherlands.

Justice and Peace is currently the chair of the Dutch human rights coalition, a coalition of 15 human rights organizations that regularly meet with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss its human rights policy. NJCM, on behalf of a coalition of 13 Dutch NGOs, submitted the only Dutch NGO report for the first Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Netherlands. Together we feel a responsibility to make a connection between the human rights discussions in Geneva and human rights practice in the Netherlands.

Justice and Peace and NJCM warmly welcome the UPR as a balanced, non-political, new procedure. NGO's, governments and the Human Rights Council all have their role in making the UPR work.

#### **Recommendations towards HRC:**

- Transparency and openness
- Early troika announcement
- Early schedule and time-table announcement
- List of Questions publicly available
- Web cast all UPR proceedings
- NGO-participation

#### **Recommendations towards Dutch government:**

- Transparency and openness
- National midterm review with civil society and various ministries
- Human rights representation in every ministry
- Human rights not only as integral part of foreign policy, but also of national and EU policy
- National Institution for the protection and promotion of human rights according to Paris Principles
- Include Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations in national process and follow-up

#### **Initiatives from NGO's:**

- Facilitating a midterm review in 2010
- Consultation on new laws and effective policies to implement UPR-recommendations
- Collective support for follow up of UPR-recommendations
- Widely spread information on UPR outcomes in the Netherlands
- Contact the Dutch Caribbean Human Rights Committee on UPR