

18 March 2015

**Human Rights Council
28th Session
Universal Periodic Review**

Review and passing of the final outcomes of the UPR of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
Oral Statement

Franciscans International and the Franciscan Movement of "Justice and Peace" Bolivia recognize the advanced laws that protect human rights and the rights of mother earth in Bolivia. Noticing the lack of many mechanisms and resources to enforce laws, we urge the Government to make greater effort to enact them so that the most vulnerable citizens are protected not only on paper, but in their everyday lives.

We appreciate that the Government has accepted at least 40 recommendations about women, and at the same time we urge the Government to comply with these recommendations. It is essential to reinforce the primary instances of attention (the FELCV and SLIM) with sufficient resources to provide adequate spaces to attend to the victims of violence, and permanent contracts for professionals trained to provide quality care to all.

We welcome the steps taken that show interest in improving the judicial system. We implore the Government to urgently restructure the judicial system, ensuring access to justice and due process for all without discrimination or impunity. In addition, we ask that the Government implement conditions in prisons that ensure compliance with fundamental human rights and respect the human dignity of all inmates.

We highlight the accepted recommendation to advance on participation and consultation of indigenous peoples, especially on mining. It is crucial that the world leader on the rights of indigenous peoples ensure prior consultation for all extractive or development activities, which may affect them, as well as the self-determination of all indigenous peoples without interference in their organic organizations and without discrimination by some public officials. It is essential that mother earth be respected, especially against the intense water contamination in some areas due to mining, for example Lake Poopó in Oruro with over 300 mining operators, most of whom do not comply with approved environmental legislation and **communities suffer the consequences.**

In conclusion, we thank and congratulate the Government for their disposition to work towards a binding treaty to prevent human rights abuses by companies. Thank you, Mr President.