

I am gravely concerned with the Shari'a bylaw that the Aceh parliament has passed and that would criminalize, among other things, same-sex sexual relations and consensual sex outside marriage, punishable by caning. The governor of Aceh and central government have powers to block its implementation.

I respectfully urge the authorities to repeal or revise provisions of the bylaw which violate human rights.

I would like to express my grave concern that the bylaw would violate Indonesia's international human rights obligations, particularly by providing for caning, which is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and by criminalizing consensual sexual relations in violation of the rights to privacy and non-discrimination.

I strongly call on the authorities both at Aceh and national level to undertake a review of all local regulations that have been put in place in the last decade in Aceh, to ensure that they are in full conformity with international human rights law and standards, as well as with human rights provisions set out in Indonesia's Constitution and the 1999 Law on Human Rights.

Sincerely yours,