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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN AND ITS MEMBER STATES MUST ADDRESS ALLEGED CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, ETHIOPIA AND CHINA; AND ENSURE CLOSER SCRUTINY OF VIOLATIONS OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-seventh session
21 June – 13 July 2021

Thank you, Madam President.

We thank you, Madam High Commissioner, for your report and update.

Patterns of grave human rights violations in the **Philippines** you reported to this Council last year, including unlawful killings and the targeting and harassment of human rights defenders and government critics continue unabated, fuelled by near total impunity and public endorsement by the President. Now that the Prosecutor of the ICC has [formally requested](#) to open an investigation into suspected crimes against humanity,¹ we urge this Council to take the only credible next step that will address the gravity of the situation by launching its own long-overdue comprehensive investigation.

In the **Tigray** region of Ethiopia, Amnesty International has documented crimes which appear to include war crimes and crimes against humanity² – as you have also indicated.³ There are also numerous credible reports of women and girls being subjected to sexual violence, including gang rape by Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers. We welcome the important resolution adopted by the African Commission on 12 May, establishing a Commission of Inquiry, and urge this Council to take action to support, bolster and create synergies with these efforts.

We remain deeply concerned by the human rights situation in **China** and support the joint statement delivered by ISHR in this regard. A major new report released by Amnesty International earlier this month documents the mass internment, torture and persecution of Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which appear to meet the threshold of crimes against humanity. We are also concerned by wider rights violations across the country, in particular the erosion of rights protections in Hong Kong through the application of the National Security Law for Hong Kong. We urge you to fulfil your independent mandate to closely monitor and publicly report on China's sweeping rights violations, which appear to include crimes under

¹ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=210614-prosecutor-statement-philippines>.

² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/ethiopia- tepid-international-response-to-tigray-conflict-fuels-horrific-violations-over-past-six-months/>.

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26838&LangID=E>.

international law, and on member states to take long-overdue concrete action to address the situation.

On **migrant routes** throughout the world, we continue to document what you have characterized as a “lethal disregard for desperate people,” people that are “in no way less valuable or less deserving of dignity – than you or I.”⁴ The report submitted to this Session by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants concludes that “[t]he practice of ‘pushbacks’ is widespread and exists along most migration routes.” Pushbacks and collective expulsions are illegal, and have grave consequences for the lives and rights of migrants, including refugees and children. We urge this Council to take the opportunity this session to establish a mechanism for independent monitoring and verification of pushbacks and collective expulsions, and the accompanying violations used to enact them.

Thank you.

⁴ Opening Statement of High Commissioner Michele Bachelet to the 42d Session of the Human Rights Council, 9 September 2019, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24956&LangID=E>.