



AI Index: IOR 40/8674/2018
27 June 2018

ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 4 General Debate

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-eighth session
18 June - 6 July 2018

Mr. President,

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned that killings of suspected drug offenders, many of which we believe to be unlawful, continue to be reported daily in the **Philippines**.

Given the absence of independent, impartial and efficient investigations at the national level, and the Government's refusal to cooperate with the Special Procedures and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Amnesty International urges this Council to mandate an independent investigation into extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations committed in the context of anti-drug operations in order to prevent further killings, deliver justice to victims, and ensure reparations.

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the recent OHCHR report on **Venezuela**, and shares the High Commissioner's grave concern over the unprecedented human rights crisis unfolding in the country.

We have documented a policy of repression that consists of arbitrary detentions, abusive and excessive use of force, and a wide range of other serious human rights violations, such as torture and other ill treatment, unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, lack of an independent judiciary and due process guarantees; and violations of the rights to health and food and other economic and social rights.

Amnesty International calls on this Council to take meaningful action to address the crisis documented in the OHCHR report, and the repeated requests by the High Commissioner for it to mandate an investigation into the situation, using any of the mechanisms at its disposal.

Mr. President,

The attack on civil society, human rights defenders, and independent journalism continues in **Bahrain, Egypt, Russia, and Turkey**.

While we welcome this week's lifting of the driving ban on women in **Saudi Arabia**, we note with concern and irony that the very women who have campaigned over decades for this ban to be lifted are today behind bars and risk 20 years in prison. In **Egypt**, human rights defenders face travel bans, asset freezes, and the risk of up to 25 years in prison, while activists and journalists are held in endless pre-trial detention over unfounded charges.

Sadly, it bears reiterating that expressing opinions or seeking to hold governments to account for their obligations owed their people is not extremism, treachery, or terrorism, as so often labelled by governments and state-aligned media.

Thank you, Mr. President.