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UN Human Rights Council  
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**Item 4:** Human rights situations that require the Council's attention  
*General Debate*

Delivered by Peter Splinter - **Video link:** <http://goo.gl/CWjjNe> (statement number 32)

Mr. President,

Thousands of civilians have died and over a million have been displaced in the past six months of conflict in South Sudan. Amnesty International has documented atrocities committed by both government and opposition forces that constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and other grave human rights violations and abuses. The widespread attacks on civilians include targeted killings based on ethnicity, abduction and sexual assault of women and young girls, disappearances, destruction of homes and other civilian property, attacks on medical facilities and places of sanctuary, and looting of resources of humanitarian agencies. Soldiers *hors de combat*, have been executed.

To date the Human Rights Council has fallen badly short in its contribution to preventing violations and abuses and to addressing the situation in South Sudan. It has missed opportunities to establish regular public reporting on the situation -- an important element of prevention and ensuring accountability.

Amnesty International urges the Human Rights Council, its members and observers to respond robustly to the human rights situation in South Sudan, including by:

- condemning attacks on civilians and against humanitarian personnel and assets, and obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian assistance;
- establishing a mechanism to report regularly to the Council on the human rights situation;
- remaining actively seized of the situation in South Sudan and ready to respond promptly to any further deterioration of the human rights situation; and
- providing support for the African Union Commission of Inquiry.

The inauguration of a new president in Egypt does not wipe clean the country's human rights record. The facts speak for themselves. Since July 2013, over 1,400

people have died in protests and political violence with up to 1000 persons killed on 14 August 2013. At least 16,000 have been detained as part of the authorities' sweeping crackdown on dissent. There are new reports of enforced disappearances in military camps. By all accounts, torture and ill-treatment are once again rife in Egypt's prisons and police stations.

This is not the promised "roadmap" to democracy and human rights. This is a return to the darkest days of Hosni Mubarak's rule. Few hope for truth and justice. In the past year, not one member of the security forces has been held to account for violations linked to the political unrest. Instead, judicial authorities have jailed government critics, journalists and supporters of Mohamed Morsi.

Time and time again, the families of those killed, jailed or sentenced to death tell us, "There is no justice in this country anymore".

Credible national investigations are needed. If Egypt's National Fact Finding Committee does not deliver effective, independent and impartial investigations by 21 September, the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council should be used to pursue an international investigation.

The Human Rights Council must be alert and responsive to deteriorating human rights conditions in Sri Lanka, particularly increasing violence against religious minorities committed with impunity.

Thank you Mr. President.