



AI Index: IOR 40/0083/2019
20 March 2019

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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2 General Debate: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

UN Human Rights Council
Fortieth session
25 February – 22 March 2019

Mr. President,

Amnesty International would like to thank the High Commissioner for her update on the unprecedented human rights crisis that continues in **Venezuela**, which we also documented with concern in February.

Given the scale and gravity of the crisis, and the severe obstacles to justice we have observed in the country, we call on this Council to move towards the creation of a Commission of Inquiry to monitor and report on the increasingly serious human rights situation in the country and to clarify responsibility for crimes under international law and gross human rights violations. This would be an important step towards access to justice, truth and reparation for victims that is so sorely absent in Venezuela.

Mr. President,

We would also like to thank the High Commissioner for her report on the situation of human rights of Rohingya in Rakhine State, **Myanmar**.

We are seriously concerned about the estimated 600,000 Rohingya who remain in Rakhine State, where their rights continue to be routinely and systematically violated. Their safety – and the safety of other communities in Rakhine State – is at further risk due to the recent escalation of fighting between the Tatmadaw and the Arakan Army, which further makes clear that it is not yet safe for Rohingya refugees to return to Myanmar.

The Myanmar authorities, meanwhile, remain unable and unwilling to bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials before civilian ordinary courts. The government-established Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) and recently announced military “investigation court” are neither independent nor impartial. Let us be clear: there is a need for international justice mechanisms to provide for the delivery of justice for the people of Myanmar.

Thank you, Mr. President.