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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
14 September – 2 October 2015**

Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance

Mr President,

Sri Lanka must deliver on promises to account for alleged crimes under international law and build the domestic culture of human rights necessary to prevent the recurrence of past violations.¹

Broad consultations are necessary. Victims' input is essential to ensure that measures taken are meaningful, to gain their confidence to participate in the accountability process, and to defend these efforts against forces who may be intent on preventing the exposure of truth and accountability of perpetrators.

The Government must also win public confidence by taking prompt measures to demonstrate its commitment to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Impunity must end for high profile cases such as the January 2006 extrajudicial executions of five students in Trincomalee by Sri Lankan security personnel and the killing of 17 aid workers with Action Contre La Faim in Muttur in August 2006.

The Government should ensure the speedy conclusion of prosecutions and bring about essential legal and institutional reform, including criminalization of enforced disappearances, legal recognition of command responsibility and the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

¹ "Time for Sri Lanka to act on justice, accountability and the protection of human rights " at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa37/2420/2015/en/>

Sri Lanka has promised that domestic investigative and judicial mechanisms under development will take into account the findings of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Investigation (OISL) report. Close international attention, technical support and monitoring of this process remains essential, and Sri Lanka must accept and facilitate this involvement.

The HRC should adopt a resolution supporting the implementation of the investigation's recommendations aimed at ending impunity, accounting for the past and reforming systems, and ensuring ongoing Human Rights Council engagement including by calling for regular updates to monitor the implementation of the report and the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

Member and observer states should offer, urge and support Sri Lanka's acceptance of international cooperation and expertise to end impunity and ensure that any assistance provided emphasizes the centrality of victims and their special status in the design and implementation of mechanisms to deliver truth, justice, reparation and non-recurrence of violations.

Amnesty International has also addressed the deteriorating human rights situation in Burundi in a written statement to this session of the Human Rights Council.²

Mr. de Greiff: What contribution would you recommend that the Human Rights Council make to the process of truth justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in Sri Lanka?

Thank you Mr President.

² "The Human Rights Council should help prevent a human rights crisis in Burundi" at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/2447/2015/en/>