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ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 4: General Debate

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S ATTENTION: EGYPT, CHINA, NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-ninth session
10-28 September 2018

Mr. President,

At this moment Amal Fathy sits in a jail in **Egypt** and on trial. Why? Because she complained in a video on Facebook that a policeman sexually harassed her outside a bank in Cairo. Put plainly, because she peacefully expressed her opinions about the vital issue of women's safety. Ms. Fathy's home was raided in the early hours, her husband was arrested also; they were brought to the police station along with their three-year-old child. Meanwhile, her harasser remains free. As with the authorities' response to protests in Rabaa al-Adawiya and al-Nahda squares, victims are targeted while perpetrators are ignored, even granted immunity. We urge the government of Egypt to abandon this perverse and destructive path. Release Amal Fathy, and those like her who have done nothing but peacefully assemble, protest, or express their views.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about reports of intrusive surveillance, arbitrary detention and forced indoctrination targeting Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in **China's** Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The secretive and undocumented way in which up to one million people are being detained indefinitely for so-called "transformation-through-education" creates conditions in which numerous human rights violations are taking place. We call on China to provide access to OHCHR and other independent human rights experts to investigate the situation and urge the Council to do the same.

Mr President,

We are gravely concerned by the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in **Nicaragua**. We regret the Government of Nicaragua's failure to cooperate with the Inter American Commission on Human Rights and OHCHR to address human rights concerns over the crackdown on peaceful protesters and violations of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association. We urge the Council to do more to address this crisis as it unfolds, and to hold an Urgent Debate. We welcome the delivery of a joint statement of concern earlier this session but urge the Council to do more to address this crisis as it unfolds.

Given the lack of access to justice and accountability at national and regional levels, we call on the Council to take urgent action to meaningfully address the human rights crisis in **Venezuela**, where we have documented a wide range of serious human rights violations, including politically motivated arbitrary detentions, torture and other ill treatment, unlawful killings, abusive use of force, enforced disappearances and violations to the rights to food and health, leading to more than 2.3 million Venezuelans fleeing the country in recent years.

Thank you, Mr. President.