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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 10 General Debate: Technical assistance and capacity-building

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

Mr. President,

We would like to address two situations currently being addressed by the Council under Item 10.

Libya is in an ongoing state of armed conflict and crisis. Militias, armed groups and security forces commit serious violations, including war crimes, with total impunity. Abductions, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, torture and attacks on civilian property continue. Thousands of refugees and migrants face automatic and indefinite detention, torture, extortion and sexual violence. Indiscriminate shelling is killing and injuring civilians and destroying vital infrastructure; almost two hundred thousand remain internally displaced. The Libyan justice system is broken.

Meanwhile in the Mediterranean Sea, European support has enabled the Libyan Coast Guard to intercept boats and return thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants to Libya where they are unlawfully detained, tortured, raped and extorted.

We have repeatedly called on this Council to do more to promote justice and accountability in Libya, which are desperately needed to address the scale and gravity of ongoing human rights violations. We are deeply disappointed that the resolution tabled under Item 10 this session lacks any meaningful accountability mechanism or mandate. Once again, we urge the Libyan authorities, other governments, as well as this Council to do more to end impunity in Libya.

Mr. President,

We welcome the attention given by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the alarming deterioration of the human rights situation in Sudan, amid ongoing nationwide protests in the country, and join her call on the Government to protect the exercise of all individuals' rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, regardless of their political affiliations.

Amnesty International has verified and recorded more than 45 deaths and over 180 people injured since mass anti-government protests began in mid-December 2018. Government officials say over 2,600 people have been arrested and detained during the ongoing protests. The Sudanese authorities must end measures taken under the state of emergency to violently crush protest.

Thank you.