



1 May 2015

United Nations: Amnesty International oral, written statements and open letters to the 28th regular session of the Human Rights Council (2 -27 March 2015)

Amnesty International delivered the oral and written statements available at the links below at the 28th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which took place in Geneva from 2 – 27 March 2015. The links are organized by agenda item. This document also includes NGO letters joined by Amnesty International and addressed to Council members and observer states and other statements relating to the session. All links were last accessed on 29 April 2015.

The statements in this document were tweeted from the account [@AmnestyUN](#) .

Item 1- Organizational and procedural matters

- High-level panel on the question of the death penalty (held during the High Level Segment)

Regional efforts aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the challenges faced in that regard. Oral statement (AI Index: IOR 40/1332/2015, 4 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/1132/2015/en/>

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

Colombia: Victims’ right to justice must take centre stage in the peace process. Oral statement (AI Index: AMR 23/1283/2015, 25 March 2015)

English: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr23/1283/2015/en/>

Spanish: <https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr23/1283/2015/es/>

- Written statement

The Human Rights Situation in Colombia: Amnesty International’s written statement to the 28th session of the UN Human Rights Council (AI Index: AMR 23/0004/2015, 6 February 2015)

English: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/0004/2015/en>

Spanish: <http://www.amnesty.org/es/library/info/AMR23/0004/2015/es>

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

- Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Oral statement on Mexico, Gambia and whistleblowers during interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders

(AI Index: IOR 40/1169/2015, 10 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/1169/2015/en/>

- Written statements

Mexico: Adequate Medical-forensic examinations can be first step to combat torture and end impunity (AI Index: AMR 41/007/2015, 18 February 2015)

English <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr41/0007/2015/en/>

Spanish: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr41/0007/2015/es/>

- General Debate

Call to establish a UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy: Joint NGO oral statement. (AI Index: IOR 40/1207/2015, 13 March 2015)

Delivered by Article 19 on behalf of 92 NGOs <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/IO41/008/2014/en>

- Written statement

Privacy in the digital age: Call to establish a UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy (AI Index: IOR 40/1039/2015, 16 February 2015)

Joint NGO written statement submitted by Amnesty International, Access, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), American Civil Liberties Union, Article 19 - International Centre Against Censorship, Brennan Center for Justice, Center for Democracy and Technology, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues and Privacy International

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/1039/2015/en/>

- Open letters

Amnesty International joined an NGO letter addressed to HRC members and observer states calling for amendments to the draft resolution on **'Effects of Terrorism on the Enjoyment of Human Rights'** to ensure that it did not undermine civil society and respect for human rights.

<http://www.ishr.ch/news/human-rights-council-reject-draft-counter-terrorism-resolution-which-would-undermine-civil>

"JIU report": Amnesty International joined an NGO letter urging HRC members and observer states to reject attempts to micromanage and fetter the **independence of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**. The letter reflected the contents of the joint NGO statement available at this link: <http://www.ishr.ch/news/human-rights-council-reject-attempts-limit-office-high-commissioner#sthash.EcWTpK7z.dpuf>

Item 4 – Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

- Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

Syria: Interactive dialogue with the International Commission of Inquiry. Oral statement (AI Index: MDE 24/1244/2015, 18 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/1244/2015/en/>

- Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea

Eritrea: Follow-up measures needed to address systematic human rights violations. Oral statement (AI Index: AFR 64/1210/2015, 16 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr64/1210/2015/en/>

- Interactive dialogue the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Myanmar: Urgent measures needed to ensure that extractive and other large projects do not infringe on human rights. Oral statement for the Interactive dialogue the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (AI Index: ASA 16/12122015, 16 March 2015): <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/1212/2015/en/>

- General debate

USA: act to end the impunity and festering injustices associated with the CIA's detention programme. Oral statement (AI Index: AMR 51/1246/2015, 18 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/1246/2015/en/>

- Written statements

Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories: Accountability is the only way to prevent further war crimes in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (AI Index: MDE 15/1044/2015, 23 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/1044/2015/en/>

Myanmar: Human rights reforms under threat (AI Index: ASA 16/010/2015, 18 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/0010/2015/en/>

Myanmar: Human Rights must address the need for stronger safeguards to ensure business respects human rights (AI Index: ASA 16/0011/2015, 19 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/0011/2015/en/>

Nigeria: Boko Haram and Nigerian military committing crimes under international law in north east Nigeria (AI Index: AFR 44/1033/2015, 20 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/1033/2015/en/>

Saudi Arabia: is this what is to be expected of a UN Human Rights Council member (Part 1)? (AI Index: MDE 23/1054/2015, 24 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/1054/2015/en/>

Syria: The UN Human Rights Council must prioritize the situation of persons arbitrary detained, abducted and disappeared in Syria (AI Index: MDE 24/1038/2015, 23 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/1038/2015/en/>

Thailand: Post-coup violations continue: is a “temporary situation” becoming chronic? (AI Index: ASA 39/1042/2015, 20 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa39/1042/2015/en/>

- Open letter

South Sudan: Amnesty International joined an NGO letter urging HRC members and observer states to ensure that the Council addresses the situation in South Sudan in a manner which reflects the gravity of the situation in the country (AI Index: Index number: AFR 65/1175/2015, 11 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr65/1175/2015/en/>

Item 5 – Human rights bodies and mechanisms

- General debate

The need for effective measures to evaluate and follow up on non-cooperation with Special Procedures: oral statement to the 28th session of the UN Human Rights Council (AI Index: IOR 40/1280/2015, 20 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/1280/2015/en/>

- Written statement

The UN Human Rights Council needs to put in place effective measures to evaluate and follow up on non-cooperation with Special Procedures (AI Index: IOR 40/1269/2015, 20 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/1269/2015/en/>

Item 6 – Universal Periodic Review

Angola: Amnesty International calls on Angola to repeal criminal defamation laws and allow peaceful demonstrations to take place (AFR 12/1259/2015, 19 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr12/1259/2015/en/>

Bolivia: Amnesty International calls on Bolivia to implement recommendations on impunity for past abuses, the judiciary and sexual and reproductive rights (AMR 18/1256/2015, 18 March 2015)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr18/1256/2015/en/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Amnesty International calls on Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure access to justice for war crimes, including for victims of sexual violence, and provide adequate witness protection (EUR 63/1263/2015, 20 March 2015)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur63/1263/2015/en/>

Egypt must take immediate measures to address the systemic violations of human rights and end impunity (MDE 12/1262/2015, 20 March 2015)
Amnesty International had intended to deliver the statement available this link however, it did not succeed in securing a speaking slot.
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/1262/2015/en/>

El Salvador: Amnesty International calls on El Salvador to decriminalize abortion and immediately release all women imprisoned for pregnancy-related complications (AMR 29/1254/2015, 18 March 2015)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr29/1254/2015/en/>

Fiji: Amnesty International welcomes the government's efforts to recognise economic and social rights, but regrets the rejection of recommendations on freedom of expression, assembly and association (ASA 18/1257/2015, 18 March 2015)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa18/1257/2015/en/>

Gambia: Deteriorating human rights situation and lack of cooperation with UN mechanisms: Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Gambia (AFR 27/1255/2015, 26 March 2015)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr27/1255/2015/en/>

Iraq: Amnesty International calls on Iraq to uphold human rights during the current crisis (MDE 14/1260/2015, 19 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde14/1260/2015/en/>

Italy: Amnesty International highlights risk of further deaths of refugees and migrants at sea and urges Italy to stop violating the human rights of Roma (EUR 30/1253/2015, 19 March 2015)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur30/1253/2015/en/>

Kazakhstan: Amnesty International calls on Kazakhstan to strengthen safeguards on torture, end harassment of free media and remove restrictions on peaceful assembly: Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Kazakhstan (EUR 57/1258/2015, 19 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur57/1258/2015/en/>

Slovenia: Amnesty International calls on Slovenia to take immediate measures to combat discrimination against Roma and ensure their equal enjoyment of human rights: Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Slovenia (EUR 68/1261/2015, 19 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur68/1261/2015/en/>

Item 8: Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

■ General debate

Saudi Arabia's dizzying crackdown on human rights activism must be reversed immediately: Oral statement (AI Index: MDE 23/1287/2015, 23 March 2015)
(see also above-mentioned written statement on Saudi Arabia submitted under item 4)
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde23/1287/2015/en/>

Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building

- Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic

Central African Republic: Impunity must be ended, MINUSCA must be strengthened (AI Index: AFR 19/1299/2015, 24 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr19/1299/2015/en/>

- General Debate

Sri Lanka: use the time until HRC considers OISL report to take specific measures to improve human rights situation. Oral statement (AI Index: ASA 37/1316/2015, 25 March 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa37/1316/2015/en/>

- Written Statement

Sri Lanka: Promises of a new beginning - international cooperation is essential to ensure justice, accountability and an end to impunity (AI Index: ASA/37/002/2015, 16 February 2015) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA37/002/2015/en>