



AI Index: IOR 40/8060/2018
14 MARCH 2018

-Check against delivery-

ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 4: GENERAL DEBATE

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-sixth session
26 February – 23 March 2018

Mr. President,

Amnesty International would like to draw the Council's attention to three situations not currently on its agenda.

Amnesty is alarmed by the resumption of police anti-drug operations in the Philippines. In the prevailing climate of impunity, these operations are resulting in further extrajudicial executions of the urban poor. In the absence of independent, impartial and effective investigations at national level, we urge the Council to launch its own investigation into extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations committed in the context of the war on drugs.

Venezuela is experiencing a human rights crisis unprecedented in its history. We have documented a wide range of human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, torture and other ill-treatment, unlawful killings, abusive use of force, enforced disappearances, lack of an independent judiciary, and violations to the rights to food, health, and adequate housing. Amnesty International calls for this Council to examine this crisis based solely on human rights standards, not divisive politics, and focus on the rights and needs of those impacted.

We remain deeply concerned by the ongoing human rights crisis in Egypt, which has included enforced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings, and has taken on new dimensions in the run up to the presidential elections. Journalists, activists, and lawyers are arrested solely for peaceful expression of ideas; civil society continues to face unprecedented pressure through repressive laws, detentions, interrogations, travel bans, and asset freezes. We call on the Egyptian authorities to end this crackdown, beginning with the immediate and unconditional release of those detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression.

Thank you, Mr. President.