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ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 2: GENERAL DEBATE

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

Mr. President,

Amnesty International echoes the High Commissioner's alarm about recent attacks against minorities in Sri Lanka, and his call for those responsible to be held to account. As detailed in our written statement, we also share his deep concern regarding the lack of progress in the implementation of resolution 30/1, and call on the government to provide a clear and definitive timeline in this regard. The rights of victims and their families to truth, justice and accountability must be upheld.

Amnesty has continued to document crimes under international law and human rights violations in Colombia, even after the signing of the peace agreement. As civilians, especially Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant and peasant farmer communities, and human rights defenders, continue to be the main victims of the ongoing armed conflict, we urge the authorities to implement effective measures to guarantee their protection. We also call on the government to dismantle all paramilitary groups which continue to operate and to investigate their links with state security forces.

Finally, Mr. President, we are alarmed by the expanding assault on civil society in Hungary. We are particularly concerned by draft laws targeting groups that "support migration," proposed under the guise of securing Hungary's borders that would require NGOs to obtain a license to operate from the Minister of Interior, seek national security clearance and pay a 25% tax on foreign funding. We urge the government to withdraw these draft laws, as they would contravene their obligation to protect the rights to freedom of association, expression and movement.

Thank you, Mr. President.