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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 10: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Report on Libya

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-third regular session

Madam President,

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about the complete disregard for international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in Libya and the absolute lack of accountability for those responsible for violations and crimes, which has led to the continued suffering of hundreds of thousands in Libya.

Since the dramatic escalation of fighting in April 2019, repeated indiscriminate shelling of residential neighborhoods and other violations of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict led to hundreds of civilian casualties and the displacement of at least 200,000. Allegations of unlawful deprivation of liberty, enforced disappearances, torture, use of child soldiers, desecration of corpses, and extrajudicial executions have gone uninvestigated and the perpetrators unpunished. Just recently, horrific news emerged about the discovery of eight mass graves in Tarhuna and surrounding areas.

At a time of an ongoing pandemic, the fighting has further undermined Libya's already overstretched healthcare system. Medical resources have been targeted and damaged, while the warring parties have taken minimal steps to protect those at higher risk from the pandemic, including detainees and those from groups facing discrimination. Migrants, refugees, IDPs, women and girls remain at higher risk of violence and discrimination.

Further, fighters affiliated with the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LNA) have used banned anti-personnel landmines leading to civilian casualties, while fighters affiliated with the Government of National Accord (GNA) have been involved in retributive crimes against perceived opponents. The lack of accountability will only serve to spur further crimes. This situation demands urgent collective action to ensure that these crimes cease and that those responsible are held accountable.

We welcome the High Commissioner's call for the establishment of an accountability mechanism for Libya and the constructive posture of the Libyan delegation in Geneva. We welcome the tabling of a resolution to establish a factfinding mission. It could be stronger but is an important step and we support its adoption. We urge all states to support the High Commissioner's office as it works to establish and dispatch the mission with all haste; and we urge all relevant parties in Libya to fully cooperate with this mechanism once established.

Thank you, Madam President.