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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF DETAINED CIVILIANS IN YEMEN

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth session
22 February - 23 March 2021

Madame President

Amnesty International welcomes the oral update of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen. To this date, we continue to document serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict with impunity, including indiscriminate attacks, arbitrary and incommunicado detention, and torture and other ill-treatment. We are particularly concerned about the ongoing fighting in Ma'arib and its impact on civilians.

Huthi authorities are arbitrarily detaining scores of individuals in squalid and overcrowded conditions with inadequate access to health care, food and clean water, and sanitation– conditions that facilitate the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19. We again urge the unconditional release of all individuals imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their rights.

Given the absence of domestic pathways for accountability, Amnesty International joins the Group of Eminent Experts in calling on the UN Security Council to refer the situation in Yemen to the International Criminal Court. We call on member states to support and pave the way for accountability in Yemen to ensure justice for victims and their families. In September 2020, the Human Rights Council asked the Group of Eminent Experts to “explore and report on recommended approaches and practical mechanisms of accountability to secure truth, justice and redress for victims, in coordination with relevant mandates of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.” We ask the Group [of Eminent Experts to update us on their work in this regard, and what steps this Council may take to support accountability until we see a Security Council referral.