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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation at the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council As violations in Russia reach colossal scale and impact, it is vital that scrutiny remains

UN Human Rights Council
54th session
11 September – 13 October

Mr. President, Special Rapporteur,

We welcome the comprehensive first report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, which was produced despite significant time constraints.

The human rights situation in Russia has been deteriorating for decades. As this report demonstrates, this deterioration escalated prior to and particularly in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are under grave threat. For those within Russia, any public criticism of the authorities, especially in the context of the war, risks severe punishment.

Tens of thousands have been arrested for peacefully expressing their views or reporting war crimes committed by Russian forces in Ukraine, and hundreds are facing long prison terms. Detainees are subjected to torture and other ill-treatment with almost complete impunity. Protests are banned and dispersed. Journalists and critics of the authorities are labelled "foreign agents." Non-governmental organizations are systematically disbanded and outlawed, turning Russia's once-thriving civil society landscape to scorched earth.

In these dark days, it is crucial for the international community to continue to shed light on the human rights situation in Russia. The scale of violations, the pace of events and their impact in the region and beyond are colossal. We call on the Council to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and to ensure that the Special Rapporteur has all necessary resources to effectively monitor these developments and inform the world.

Thank you, Mr. President and Special Rapporteur.