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ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6
Consideration of UPR reports: People's Republic of China

UN Human Rights Council
56th session
18 June – 12 July

Mr President,

China's rejection of nearly a quarter of recommendations made during its January UPR session undermines China's efforts to portray itself as credible human rights actor. Such a stance casts doubt on the integrity of China's engagement in the UPR mechanism.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned at the ongoing and severe human rights abuses in the country.

Since January, judicial independence has continued to be critically undermined by political interference, resulting in ongoing arbitrary detentions and other lack of fair trial guarantees. The partial acceptance of recommendations related to judicial reforms is insufficient to address these systemic problems.

Notably, on 14 June, #MeToo activist Sophia Huang Xueqin and labour activist Wang Jianbing were unjustly sentenced to five years and three years and six months in prison, respectively. Their cases reflect a broader pattern of harassment, intimidation, and unlawful detention of human rights defenders.

On Xinjiang, the Chinese government has continued to arbitrarily imprison hundreds of thousands of Uyghurs and to erase expressions of Uyghur identity as part of its crackdown on the region. China's rejection of recommendations addressing these issues is alarming and underscores the state's disregard for accountability.

In Hong Kong, the National Security Law remains in effect, despite the Human Rights Committee's call for the law's abolition. In May, 45 pro-democracy activists were convicted under this law, which exemplifies the suppression of political dissent. More alarmingly, the government expanded the repressive framework by enacting the Article 23 legislation in March, which imposes harsh penalties on any criticism of the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities.

Amnesty International urges China to reconsider its position on rejected, noted and partially accepted recommendations, and engage genuinely with international human rights mechanisms.

UN Member States should continue to press China for progress and hold China accountable for its human rights record.

Thank you.