



24 March 2026

ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 10: Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner with the participation of the Designated Expert

UN Human Rights Council
61st session
23 February - 31 March 2026

Mr President,

A human rights crisis of the scale seen in Haiti cannot be normalized or ignored. According to BINUH, at least 5,915 people were killed and 2,708 injured in 2025 due to gang violence. Many of the victims were children. Amnesty International documented the devastating impact of this violence on children, including trafficking, exploitation, sexual violence, and killings. The testimonies were harrowing.

A recent report by BINUH and OHCHR reinforced these findings. Children continue to be recruited by the gangs, while others remain in pretrial detention in inhuman conditions with little to no access to rehabilitation services in CERMICOL, the only operational detention facility in Port-au-Prince. The child justice system remains collapsed.

More broadly, the operationalization of specialized judicial chambers to combat serious crimes, including sexual violence and child trafficking remains stalled. As highlighted in Amnesty International's report, access to basic rights, including education, health care, and recreation is extremely limited for many children, particularly those living in areas under gang control.

Mr. President, the very future of the country is at stake.

Amnesty International urges the Haitian government to implement the recommendations of the BINUH and OHCHR report and to adopt and implement a comprehensive child protection plan, as called for by the organization.

Authorities must also ensure the meaningful participation of Haitian civil society in the design and implementation of these measures.

We ask the High Commissioner and the Designated Expert how the international community can best support the Haitian state and civil society to this end.

Thank you.