



IOR 40/0654/2019
3 July 2019

-Check against delivery-
ORAL STATEMENT

Item 4 General Debate

THE HRC MUST ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS IN CHINA, ERITREA AND EGYPT

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-First session
24 June – 12 July 2019

Mr. President,

Amnesty International remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

Last session, we called on this Council to take urgent action to respond to credible allegations that up to one million predominantly Muslim people are being arbitrarily detained in internment camps across the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. We were disappointed to see the Council fail to take meaningful joint action, and China fail to engage with the concerns in a credible manner. We reiterate our call on the Council to launch an independent and impartial investigation to separate fact from fiction and urge China to allow full and unfettered access to independent human rights monitors, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Procedures.

At the same time, we have been deeply alarmed by the unnecessary and excessive use of force in Hong Kong against a largely peaceful protest calling for the withdrawal of an extradition bill that constitutes a direct threat to human rights. In particular, we condemn the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, batons and pepper spray by police in a largely peaceful protest on 12 June and urge the Hong Kong government to withdraw the extradition bill and launch an independent and effective investigation into the use of force against protesters.

Mr. President,

The human rights situation in Eritrea remains dire. A recent Amnesty briefing, [Repression without borders](#), highlights the routine and widespread use of harassment and threats by the Eritrean government and its supporters against Eritrean human rights defenders (HRDs) in the diaspora, in an apparent bid to muzzle criticism of its human rights record— including in Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – subjecting them to spreading of rumours, physical assault and death threats.

As noted by the Special Rapporteur yesterday, there has been no tangible improvement of the human rights situation on the ground and hundreds continue to flee the country every month. Meanwhile, despite its membership of this Council, Eritrea continues to refuse to cooperate with the Special

Rapporteur.

In this context, the importance of continued monitoring and reporting by the Special Rapporteur is clear, and we call on States at this Council to renew the Rapporteur's mandate.

We are deeply concerned about the conditions in Egyptian prisons, including the adequate provision of health care to detainees. In this regard, the Egyptian Authorities must order an impartial, thorough and transparent investigation into the death of former Egyptian President Mohammad Morsi. We are also worried about the recent wave of arrest and defamation campaign against former MP Zyad el-Elaimy and other politicians from across the spectrum as well as journalists and activists in a fabricated terrorism case. The ongoing crackdown on civil society threatens, and will eventually eliminate, the chance for independent Egypt based human rights defenders to participate in Egypt's upcoming UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.