



AI Index: IOR 40/5708/2022  
17 June 2022

## ORAL STATEMENT

### Item 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

#### Freedom of association and peaceful assembly under siege

UN Human Rights Council  
50<sup>th</sup> session  
13 June-8 July 2022

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the reports by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Mr. Rapporteur,

We share your concern over the widespread attacks on the right of human rights defenders and civil society organizations to access resources and the ongoing crackdown on peaceful protests.

As you have detailed, the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association are under sustained attack by states that are consistently curbing, relativizing and trivializing these rights worldwide, and are introducing measures in direct contradiction with international human rights law and standards, including the many resolutions that this Council has adopted over the years.

We agree with you that State and non-state actors use the tactic of branding peaceful protesters as “trouble-makers”, “rioters”, and even “terrorists”, to delegitimize their demands. The same stigmatizing tactic is at play when independent civil society organizations are labelled as “foreign agents” or as working “against traditional values”. As you make clear, this is part of a strategy to silence criticism, crackdown on dissent, obstruct scrutiny, gag and punish people who dare to speak up and starve organizations out of resources.

Mr. Rapporteur,

At a time when the world is becoming more polarized, posing even greater risks for individuals that raise critical views, what measures should the international community, and this Council in particular - take to counter the stigmatizing labels that disparage peaceful protesters?

Thank you.