



AI INDEX: AFR 64/7680/2023  
19, JUNE 2023

## ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA

### **THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO HOLD ERITREAN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

UN Human Rights Council  
Fifty-third session  
19 JUNE to 14 JULY 2023

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur and call on this Council to support the continuation of his mandate.

We remain concerned by the continuing lack of tangible progress regarding the human rights situation in Eritrea and at the Eritrean government persistent failure to address serious concerns. The government has focused its efforts on continuing the practice of forced conscription of Eritreans into indefinite and compulsory national military service. We note with concern, the Special Rapporteur's findings of gross human rights violations, including torture, sexual and gender-based violence and forced labour in the context of the national military service. Eritrea must immediately end forced conscription into indefinite compulsory national military service.

The government should further disclose the fate and the whereabouts of 11 politicians who were arrested and forcibly disappeared by the government 22 years ago for merely criticizing President Isaias Afeworki and the political system in Eritrea.

Where are Dawit Isaak, Jimi'ie Kimeil, Hamid Mohamed Said, and [13 other journalists who were also forcibly disappeared?](#)

Special Rapporteur, your recent report has also underscored the lack of accountability for human rights violations in Ethiopia's Tigray region, particularly by Eritrean forces. Can you elaborate on what this Council must do to address justice and accountability for crimes under international law committed in Northern Ethiopia by the Eritrean Defence Force.

Thank you