



ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 4: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA

EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR'S MANDATE

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fifth session
6- 23 June 2017

Amnesty International welcomes the Special Rapporteur's calls for international accountability regarding the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Since the beginning of the mandate in 2012, the Special Rapporteur has monitored and highlighted the crimes of enslavement, persecution, enforced disappearance, rape, torture, and murder, which have occurred in Eritrea since 1991. The mandate has been instrumental in monitoring the human rights emergency on the ground, and its reports are consistent with Amnesty International's findings. It is deeply disappointing that Eritrea has been uncooperative with the Special Rapporteur.

Grave, systematic and widespread human rights violations continue to take place in Eritrea, while the government continues to frustrate attempts to ensure accountability. Eritrea's compulsory national service programme has yet to conform with international labour rights standards and essentially amounts to forced labour. Despite assurances from the government that the programme will end, it remains place.¹ Amnesty International also continues to receive reports of enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests. These reports are concerning and illustrate the Eritrean government's unwillingness to address its human rights failures.

Amnesty International urges the Human Rights Council to:

- Extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and keep the human rights situation of Eritrea on its agenda; and
- Continue to assist the Special Rapporteur to encourage the implementation of recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea and, specifically, to ensure that all those against whom sufficient admissible evidence of criminal responsibility for human rights violations exists are brought to justice in trials that comply with international human rights standards.

¹ Statement by Ms Sheila B Keetharuth, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Eritrea, at the 31st session of the Human Rights Council, Agenda Item 4, 14 March 2016, Geneva.