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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

HIGH COMMISSIONER'S FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA

UN Human Rights Council
Fiftieth session
13 June – 08 July 2022

Mr President, Madam High Commissioner,

The recent visit by the High Commissioner to China has failed victims of repression, their families, and communities.

By refusing to accurately describe the scale and gravity of the violations committed by the Chinese government, the High Commissioner's statement at the end of her visit has undermined efforts to advance accountability. It has tarnished the mandate of the Office and betrayed the confidence of everyone who looks to the UN for justice after their rights have been abused.

The visit and the statement raise many troubling issues and they demand answers including Why was this judged to be appropriate? Why was the Chinese government protected and advantaged?

We are shocked by the High Commissioner's failure to publicly condemn crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, even after her office had access to so much irrefutable evidence.

As for the references to "counter-terrorism and deradicalization efforts" and "vocational education and training," they amount to endorsing the government's cover-up of massive and systematic violations carried out against Muslims in Xinjiang.

Also apparent is the failure to meaningfully and accurately address the broad range of serious human rights violations committed elsewhere in China, including Tibet and Hong Kong.

Amnesty International calls for the immediate release of the long-awaited report on Xinjiang, and for the High Commissioner to present it for discussion.

In view of the urgency in Xinjiang and other parts of China, we support the joint call by UN experts to establish an independent, impartial and international mechanism.

Finally, the High Commissioner and this Council must call on the Chinese government to stop persecuting ethnic minorities and immediately release all people forcibly disappeared or arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang.

We urge swift action on these recommendations. Anything less will amount to betrayal of the victims and their families.

Thank you.