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21 March 2023

Oral Statement
Item [4]: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH ICHREE ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
ETHIOPIA

MEMBER STATES MUST ENSURE JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-second session

21 March 2023

Mr President,

Amnesty International expresses its full support for the work carried out by the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE).

Despite constant attacks on its mandate and funding, the Commission was able to deliver its initial report in September 2022. It remains the only credible investigation on one of the world's worst human rights and humanitarian situations.

We express deep concern over Ethiopia's refusal to grant access to the commission and its continued attempts to subvert the ICHREE.

Mr President,

On February 15, Ethiopia informed the African Union's executive council that it sought to terminate the mandate given by this Council to the ICHREE.

This is an indication of the Ethiopian government's readiness to shutdown credible accountability efforts, even if it means prematurely ending a mandate and seriously undermining the credibility of this Council.

The Council should protect the mandate of the ICHREE and send a clear message to Ethiopian authorities that it will not abandon victims and survivors in Ethiopia in their quest for justice and accountability.

The human rights situation in Ethiopia's Tigray region continues to be deeply concerning. In this region reports of conflict-related sexual violence, extrajudicial executions, torture and abduction by Eritrean forces continue despite the Cessation of Hostilities agreement,

Finally, we ask members of the Commission the following questions.

- Given the government's repeated denial of credible allegations of international crimes committed by all actors (including by the Eritrean government), deep rooted culture of impunity and weak domestic legal infrastructure (such as the absence of a provision on crime against humanity), what prospects do you see for justice and accountability at the domestic level?

Thank you.