

Human Rights Council 36th session

ITEM 5 - GENERAL DEBATE, SEPTEMBER 2017

Mr President,

The SG report stresses that any act of intimidation or reprisal is absolutely unacceptable; such acts systematically undermine UN action on human rights.

The report includes an increased number of cases – 39 from 29 countries – including a ‘broader’ range of actions, by increasingly ‘blunt’ means.

The report again documents cases by Council members and candidates, including India, Burundi, UAE, Venezuela, China, Cuba, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Pakistan. We urge GA members to consider these cases before voting in Council elections.

We echo the SG’s call for all stakeholders to cooperate with the ASG in his mandate; and his call on States to end acts of reprisal, investigate allegations, provide effective remedies and prevent reoccurrence.

We call on the Council to discharge its legal and moral duty to address reprisals and:

- (1) Implement the SG’s recommendations to ‘devote sufficient time to discuss the report’;
- (2) Seek information on State action in the report to ensure accountability for reprisals; and
- (3) Ensure States regularly inform this Council of steps taken to investigate, prosecute, and remedy cases.

We urge Egypt and the President to respond to the recent detention of Ibrahim Metwally, and deeply regret that four years since the detention and subsequent death of Cao Shunli, we continue to call on the President, this Council, the ASG and Chin to take action on her case.

Finally, we urge all States to take a strong stance on reprisals by supporting the resolution being negotiated at this session. The council must finally put in place the necessary processes to prevent and ensure accountability for reprisals.

Thank you.