

**Statement at 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council****Item 5: ID on SG report on reprisals****Speaker: Salma El Hosseiny**

Thank you, Madame President.

Once again, we are appalled by the Secretary-General's report on reprisals, with 45 States cited, including 13 current Council members (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Libya, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Venezuela).

We are disappointed that, unlike the two previous reports, this report does not include any mention of communications sent by your office to States exhibiting 'patterns' of intimidation and reprisals. States that systematically perpetrate reprisals should be called out. This was an important step taken by your office to increase accountability for the worst offenders and noting where 'multiple UN actors have addressed a situation' is not the same.

We are also deeply disturbed that the case of **Hui-Jung Chi**, a well-known Taiwanese activist, was left out of the SG's report. Chi was blocked by UN Women from participating in a virtual meeting held by UN Women's Asia Pacific Regional Office. For the SG report to be credible, it needs to include all relevant cases submitted.

We urge you to implement recommendations stemming from recent ISHR studies, which demonstrate the importance of public statements, reporting and sustained follow up by a range of UN actors, as well as the imperative of tracking cooperation and improving monitoring and reporting on the impact of intimidation on engagement with the UN.

We urge all States to put an immediate end to all acts of intimidation and reprisals, investigate allegations, and push for accountability by raising specific cases of victims at the HRC. We congratulate Germany, the UK, and the Benelux countries for doing so in the past. Others should follow their lead.

In **Egypt**, multiple UN actors [addressed](#) the targeting and prolonged detention of victims of reprisals for cooperation with the UN, including based on the abuse of overbroad counter-terrorism and national security legislation. These include: **Ibrahim Metwally** has been arbitrarily detained since 2017, and **Mohamed Al-Baqer** and **Ramy Kamel** have been arbitrarily detained since 2019. They must be immediately and unconditionally released.

The **International Dalit Solidarity Network** has been waiting 14 years for ECOSOC accreditation and has received 100 overwhelmingly irrelevant questions for the sole purpose of indefinitely delaying their access and participation at the UN. The member States on the Committee on NGOs are in a position to put an end to this blatant discrimination and it is long past time for them to act.

Finally, during this session, Ghana, Fiji, Hungary, Ireland and Uruguay are presenting a draft resolution on cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. The draft resolution aims to strengthen the responses by the UN and States to put an end to acts of intimidation and reprisals. **ISHR urges all States to support the adoption of the draft resolution and resist any efforts to undermine and weaken it.**



Thank you Madame President.