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Statement at the 53rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 4: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus

4 July 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of her report.

Liechtenstein remains concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus. Torture and ill treatment, arbitrary arrests and detention, including of human rights defenders and protesters, continue unabatedly.

Additionally, several legislative amendments in recent years have deliberately limited the right to freedom of expression and exacerbated the shrinking of civil society and media space. We urge the government of Belarus to immediately repeal all such legislation and to conduct credible and independent investigations into these incidents.

We are also concerned that the deployment of nuclear weapons to Belarus could lead to a further escalation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, with potentially devastating consequences for the whole world.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

Could you elaborate on what impact the crackdown on civil society in Belarus has for the upcoming parliamentary election in the country?

I thank you, Mister President.