



STÄNDIGE MISSION
DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA PRINCIPAUTÉ DE LIECHTENSTEIN

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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33th Session of the Human Rights Council

14 September 2016

General debate

Intervention by H.E. Mr. Peter Matt,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President

Liechtenstein would like to thank the High Commissioner for presenting his oral update to the Human Rights Council.

We fully support the important and indispensable work of the High Commissioner and his Office. It is of vital importance that the High Commissioner and his staff can fulfill their mandate unhindered and independently. We call on all states to positively respond to requests of the High Commissioner, his Office and of Special Procedures for access to the country or certain areas without unnecessary delay. We encourage all states to issue standing invitations for country visits to the HRC special procedures as many have already done and to fully cooperate with the mandate holders.

Mr. President

Liechtenstein is very concerned about increasing reprisals against human rights defenders and the ever more shrinking space for civil society in many countries. It is the genuine responsibility of a state to protect its people and their fundamental rights and freedoms. Civil society is an essential partner in making that all happen. It is in all our very own interest to engage in a constructive dialogue and cooperation with them. We urge all states to refrain from intimidation of and reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society in whatever circumstances.

Mr. President

We are worried about reports on gross violations of human rights and International humanitarian law in many conflict regions. In this regard we commend the important work of the OHCHR and the HRC Commissions of Inquiry and Special Procedures in documenting and investigating cases of human rights violations. Those violations must not go unpunished. Perpetrators have to be prosecuted; those responsible for violations and abuses have to be held to account. We highlight the important role of the International Criminal Court in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. President.