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PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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Statement at the 57th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 5 – Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on reprisals

27 September 2024

Mr. Daniel Batliner

Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein condemns any act of intimidation or reprisal for cooperation with the United Nations and expresses concern over a growing number of cases that remain unresolved, some of which paid the ultimate price.

In this respect, we have noted the press release by several Special Procedures mandate holders and UN experts on 14 March 2024¹ renewing their call to the Chinese authorities to investigate the circumstances that led to the death of **Cao Shunli**², who had been detained on her way to Geneva to attend a session of this Council.

In previous statements we have raised the case of the Egyptian human rights lawyer **Ebrahim Metwally Hegazy**³ who remains arbitrarily detained and whose situation has been addressed by several mandate holders and treaty bodies⁴.

And even when released from prison, reprisals might continue, as the case of Saudi women human rights defender **Loujain Al-Hathloul**⁵ shows, who still is subjected to an arbitrary travel ban after several years of detention⁶ for cooperating with the UN.

Furthermore, we share concerns about systematic legal impediments to the engagement with the UN, including concerns raised by the High Commissioner and Special Procedures mandate holders in relation to the **Safeguarding National Security Ordinance**⁷ in Hong Kong.⁸

We welcome the good practices outlined in the report and call on States to carefully look at the recommendations.

I thank you, Mister President.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/china-un-experts-renew-calls-accountability-cao-shunlis-death>

² A/HRC/57/60, p. 46, para. 58.

³ A/HRC/57/60, p. 50, para. 77.

⁴ E.g. Human Rights Committee in CCPR/C/RR.3959, para. 19, and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/03/dialogue-egypt-experts-human-rights-committee-commend-measures-combatting>

⁵ A/HRC/57/60, p. 64, para. 157-159.

⁶ E.g. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in A/HRC/WGAD/2020/33.

⁷ A/HRC/57/60, p. 23, para. 35-40.

⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/rushed-adoption-national-security-bill-regressive-step-human-rights-hong>