



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

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Item 2: Oral intervention – ID with HC
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Delivered by: Jeremie Smith

Thank you Mr President,

CIHRS welcomes the High Commissioner's update to the Council and echoes his conclusion that: "extremism - however repugnant - is nurtured by ideology, and by alienation fed by years of tyranny, corruption, repression, discrimination, deprivation and neglect of the legitimate rights of communities."

This is particularly true of the horrifying and cruel acts by *takfiri* and other terrorist groups currently operating in a number of countries across the Arab region.

Violent extremism and terrorism are a threat to the security of the entire MENA region. In turn, one of the main causes of the growth of terrorism in the Arab world must also be seen as a primary threat to the stability of the region. Decades of brutal authoritarian and totalitarian policies adopted by governments in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere as well as the failure of the international community to have the political will to act on the implementation of UN resolutions on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, serve as the primary recruitment tool of extremist groups

Accordingly, any policies adopted now to counter terrorism in the MENA region can only be effective if at the heart of it lies concrete measures to advance human rights and the rule of law and guarantee accountability for past and present abuses. The rights violations of governments feed the ideology of extremist groups, and in turn the brutality of such groups is used to further justify repression. Unless a way is found to break free from this ever worsening cycle, the Arab region will continue to face crises after crises.

To rephrase: the only way forward to bring to an end the gross human rights violations and humanitarian law breaches is to take concrete and effective measures to bring perpetrators to justice. Any ongoing political discussions on the situation in the Arab Region should have human rights at the heart of it. Impunity equals instability and conflict. As the high Commissioner said, "terrorist attacks cannot destroy the values on which our societies are grounded - but laws and policies can."

Mr. High Commissioner how will your office tackle this immense task?

Thank you Mr President