



Human Rights Council: 30th Session
Oral Intervention: Item 10 (Libya)
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
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Thank you Mr. President,

CIHRS would like to thank the Human Rights Council for the adoption in March 2015 of the resolution 28/30 establishing an investigation mission with the mandate to investigate violations and abuses of international law that have been committed in Libya since January 2014.

The cycle of violence in Libya has been fed by impunity for serious violations and the lack sufficient progress to reform and strengthen the country's security institutions. Unless progress is made on these two issues instability and conflict will continue to plague the Libyan people.

Militias and paramilitary groups on all sides have been responsible for wide spread violations throughout Libya. Attacks against civilians are a common occurrence, including the targeting of human rights defenders, women, children, minorities, and non-nationals, as well as attacks against vital civilian infrastructure and key state institutions. This includes documented attacks on medical facilities, ministries, courts, airports used for civil aviation, schools, media institutions and oil fields. The ongoing violent confrontations between the different militias in Libya has allowed ISIS to gain ground and attack a number of Libyan cities, including Benghazi, Misrata, Derna and Tripoli.

The escalation of violence has also lead to a large number of internally displaced, and a growing humanitarian crises. According to recent figures relayed by the UN envoy on Libya, 1.9 million Libyans remain in need of access to basic health care, while 1.2 million face challenges to access food.

The findings of the current OHCHR investigation mission that will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council next March, should be followed up on vigilantly, with the view of ensuring accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations from all sides. This could happen through several venues, including the ICC, which has an open mandate to investigate alleged international crimes committed in Libya since 2011, as well as through the use of universal jurisdiction in domestic courts.

Thank you Mr. President