



Cairo Institute
for Human Rights Studies
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

UN Human Rights Council - 55th Session
Item 10: General Debate – Oral Intervention
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
Oral Intervention
3 April 2024
Delivered by: Mayassa Achek

The Libyan authorities must take urgent measures to combat repression and targeting of civil society to ensure the success of the upcoming elections

Madame Vice president,

Systemic and widespread human rights violations CONTINUE to occur throughout Libya. Impunity for crimes committed by armed groups continues to thwart the peace process and a transition to stable, democratic governance.

In order to ensure upcoming elections are successful, the Libyan authorities MUST take urgent action to combat attacks and repression of civil society, including by enacting regulations and laws concerning freedom of association that conform to international standards and the Libyan constitutional declaration. In a letter last year and a recently hosted roundtable, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association has provided a roadmap to the Libyan government on HOW: TO : ACHEIVE this goal.

In line with the Special Rapporteurs recommendations, members of Libyan civil society have recently proposed a set of legal measures to the Libyan authorities that would provide the required protection to allow them to fulfill their critical role before, during and after the elections. It is now incumbent on the government of Libya to act on this matter. Failure to do so will only further entrench lawlessness and disenfranchise the citizens of Libya.

Finally, we highlight the continued need for Libyan authorities and the international community to ensure investigations and accountability for past and ongoing crimes against humanity, war crimes and other grave violations of international law committed throughout the country.

Thank you.