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41st session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary
executions and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education
26 June 2019

Intervention by H.E. Ambassador Peter Matt
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. (Vice-) President,

We thank both mandate holders for their reports and their presentation.

We welcome that the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions took on this challenging task that did warrant a report by the UN system. Liechtenstein is deeply concerned about the findings and looks forward to engaging in possible follow-ups.

We are worried by ongoing intimidations and reprisals against journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society actors by States - exactly those actors who should protect them and their rights.

A very shocking example was the unlawful killing of Saudi journalist Mr. Khashoqgi. We welcome that the Special Rapporteur started an inquiry on that case. This is in full compliance with her mandate.

The Special Rapporteur is concerned that the investigations and the ongoing trial conducted by Saudi Arabia do not meet required international standards. We share the concern that legal accountability for the execution of Mr. Khashoqqi is difficult to obtain.

As a possible way to achieve justice, the Special Rapporteur finds that the killing constitutes an international crime over which States could claim universal jurisdiction.

Madame Special Rapporteur,

We would be interested in hearing more about the possible role of universal jurisdiction, particularly in regard to the mentioned characteristics of international crimes. Furthermore, the report addresses recommendations to several actors. In this regards, we would like to understand which actor or UN body should, according to the Special Rapporteur, be in the lead for possible follow-ups.

I thank you.