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## **43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders**

**5 March 2020**

Intervention by Mr. Daniel Batliner,  
Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Madam President,

Liechtenstein would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders for the presentation of his report but also for the work carried out throughout the years.

Human rights defenders are a crucial part of the domestic and international human rights architecture. For this reason, it is even more alarming to hear about on-going wide-ranging and cumulative violations of their rights, including threats and reprisals against them.

States have an obligation to protect all its citizens, in particular those who tirelessly work to speak out on violations of human rights. It is unacceptable to consider civil society

actors as terrorists, just for the peaceful expression of opinions Governments would not agree with or for criticizing the Government. This is the very essence of their existence.

The report on the situation of human rights defenders operating in conflict and post-conflict situations is as timely as it is concerning since many of these situations go along a deteriorating setting for human rights defenders. We are concerned about impunity for those who violate the defenders' rights, both in conflict but also in situations not related to conflicts.

We reiterate our position that we condemn in the strongest term possible all acts of reprisals and threats against human rights defenders and call on all States to protect human rights defenders and to hold perpetrators of violations accountable.

I thank you.