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## **Statement at the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Agenda item: 5 – Interactive dialogue on the Secretary-General’s report on  
cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms  
in the field of human rights**

**29. September 2022**

**H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Secretary-General for his annual report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

We are greatly concerned about the practice of several countries around the world, as mentioned in the report, of continually abusing restrictive laws, such as counterterrorism or national security laws, to prevent human rights defenders and other activists from cooperating with the United Nations.

We are worried about the impact of reprisals and intimidation on the physical and mental health of human rights defenders.

Mister President,

We are particularly troubled by the case of **Mr. Ebrahim Metwally Hegazy in Egypt**, who is being held in solitary confinement without access to medical aid for his serious health problems as well as the unjustified prosecution of several representatives, staff members and collaborators of the **NGO *Human Rights Center Viasna* in Belarus**. Both governments should take immediate action to resolve these urgent situations.

All States should commit to creating a safe environment for human rights defenders since they play a crucial role in advancing the protection and promotion of human rights.

I thank you, Mister President.