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Statement at the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 4: ID with the SR on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation

21 September 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her first report.

We deplore the continuous deterioration of the human rights situation in the Russian Federation. The development over the past years has had a severe negative impact on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as well as the freedom to peaceful assembly and association.

Several legislative amendments, such as the Foreign Agents Law, or the Foreign Influence Law have restricted the functioning of Russian civil society to the extent that many organizations, human rights defenders, journalists and human rights lawyers have been shut down, silenced, detained or forced to exile.

With large-scale disinformation campaigns, a non-independent justice system as well as legislation aimed at silencing dissenting voices, the Russian authorities persecute everyone who speaks up against Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The Special Rapporteur's report shows only the tip of the iceberg of oppression and human rights violations committed by the Russian Federation. The extension of her mandate is of utmost importance.

I thank you, Mister President.