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Statement at the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 4: ID on the interim oral update of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in Belarus

22 September 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his oral update.

We are concerned about the unabated continuation of the shrinking of civic space. Civil society organizations and trade unions have been forced to shut down, and human rights defenders are arrested, and frequently held in incommunicado detention.

Torture and ill-treatment in detention remain widespread and perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity for their crimes. This lack of accountability creates fear among the victims and families, and the wider population alike.

We once again urge the Belarussian authorities to conduct independent, impartial and credible investigations into all alleged serious human rights violations, release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally and fully cooperate with the OSCE and UN mandates and mechanisms on the situation in Belarus.

In this respect, we stress the need for an independent investigative mechanism into the situation in Belarus which has a broader mandate and is sufficiently funded.

I thank you, Mister President.