

Human Rights Council 55th Regular Session 26 to 5 April 2024

Agenda Item 3

Oral Statement in the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Thank you, Mr. President.

Madam Rapporteur,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) commends the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to this Council.

In Egypt, clear patterns emerge from the torture and other ill-treatment inflicted in places of detention, including punitive denial of medical care to detainees; solitary confinement in punishment cells; and detention in overcrowded prisons with limited sanitary facilities. Furthermore, the ICJ considers that the widespread and systematic use of torture in Egypt amounts to a crime against humanity and calls for accountability and the creation of a system of monitoring of places of detention by an independent and impartial entity.

In Myanmar, various torture practices – including rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – and even unlawful custodial deaths resulting from such practices, are a daily reality for detainees being held in prisons and other detention facilities. The authorities regularly subject detainees to severe beatings with sticks and wire ropes, as well as pistol-whipping, electrocution, mock executions, and burying alive as methods of interrogation, punishment or intimidation. Women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender detainees, in particular, are subjected to targeted forms of cruelty and violence, such as rape, mutilation of genitalia, invasive strip searches and sexual harassment. Access to justice for such abuses is virtually non-existent.

Madam Rapporteur, how do you envisage to address contexts in which torture amounts to a crime against humanity and, its perpetration in armed conflicts in your future work?

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