



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

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Geneva, 24 September 2021

Item 4 – General Debate

German Statement

Madam President,

In **Afghanistan**, we call on the Taliban appointed caretaker cabinet to respect human rights, including women's and girls' rights.

In **Belarus**, violence and repression against opposition and civil society must end now. Justice for the perpetrators must be served. Democratic reforms and new, free and fair elections must be realized. We condemn the political instrumentalisation of migrants and refugees by the Lukashenka-Regime.

In **China**, we are gravely concerned about systematic human rights violations, especially against ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet. The High Commissioner must be granted unfettered access to Xinjiang. We welcome her announcement to present her findings to date and encourage an early publication.

In **SAR Hong Kong**, we are gravely concerned about the application of the National Security Law. We deplore a trend towards less respect of human rights, less pluralism and an erosion of democratic principles.

In **Egypt**, we condemn the continued application of the death penalty. Civil society organisations must be able to work freely and independently. We welcome the priority given to the universality of human rights in the new National Human Rights Strategy – its comprehensive implementation is key.

In **Iran**, violations of women's rights, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly persist. We strongly condemn detention conditions and Iran's continued use of the death penalty, including against juvenile offenders.

In **Myanmar**, the human rights and humanitarian situation deteriorates. We call for the immediate release of those arbitrarily detained.

In **Russia**, the deterioration of the human rights situation continues. The recently tightened NGO legislation and extremism charges are misused to outlaw opposition and human rights defenders, exacerbated by the lack of access to fair trials. We call for the release of all political prisoners and of those arrested for their religious beliefs.

In the illegally-annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as in those areas of eastern **Ukraine** currently not under the control of the Ukrainian Government, we call on Russia to immediately stop systematic human rights violations.

Thank you, Madam President.