

NGO Intervention in Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

by:

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Other Minorities

Thank you, Mr. President.

We commend the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for his consistent attention to extrajudicial executions based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's affirmation, in the strongest possible terms, that "it is difficult to imagine an issue which should be less controversial" than the killings of those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Earlier this afternoon, we heard a Member State of this Council express the view that the death penalty might be considered an "appropriate and just punishment" for homosexuality and lesbianism.

Member States are required to "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights". A statement by a Member State effectively endorsing the killing of a vulnerable group demands swift and unequivocal condemnation by this Council.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights recently referred to laws imposing the death penalty for consensual homosexuality, underlining "there is no doubt that these laws violate international human rights standards", a position also confirmed by treaty bodies.

We also note that the Special Rapporteur in his report indicated that he had not yet received a response to an allegation letter expressing concern about specific cases of executions of persons in the Islamic Republic of Iran allegedly based on their sexual orientation, and requesting statistics as to the number of persons executed for homosexuality in the past 3 years. We wondered if the Special Rapporteur could indicate whether a response has now been received to that request?

More generally, we commend the Special Rapporteur for his efforts to secure a country visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran to facilitate further investigation into allegations received relating to the imposition of death penalty, and would welcome his views on how the Council can best support such efforts?

Thank you.