



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

77th Session of the General Assembly

Third Committee - General discussion on item 69

Statement by

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Permanent Representative

New York, October 19th, 2022

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Czechia aligns itself with the EU statement.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says, disregard and contempt for human rights result in barbarous acts. Drafted after one of the worst armed conflicts the humankind had seen, the message of this milestone document remains as valid as ever. After a period of stability and prosperity, a war is raging in Europe again and its negative impact extends far beyond the continent's borders. Fundamental human rights are being trampled upon across the globe. And the impunity of the perpetrators unfortunately often seems to prevail.

That is why Czechia is a steadfast advocate of all universal internationally recognized human rights. We are determined to uphold the values enshrined in the UN Charter. We are committed to international human rights mechanisms and we also want to use this opportunity to reiterate our support to the newly appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights who is taking up his office in these challenging times.

We remain concerned about the state of human rights in several countries.

At the outset, let me reiterate that we continue to condemn in the strongest terms Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. We will never recognize the illegal annexation of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts of Ukraine, just as we have not recognized the illegal annexation of Crimea. Russia must immediately cease its military attacks and withdraw its forces from the entire territory of Ukraine. We are horrified by the atrocities committed by the Russian troops against civilians in Mariupol, Bucha, Izyum and elsewhere in Ukraine. Those responsible for the countless human rights violations must be held to account. We strongly support the establishment of a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

We strongly condemn the escalating repressions against political oppositions, civil society, human rights defenders, and independent journalists in Russia. There is a clear systematic crackdown on civil society, human rights defenders, independent media outlets, political opposition and persons belonging to minorities. We welcome the recent adoption of a Human Rights Council resolution establishing a mandate of a Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in the country.

We welcome the release of the OHCHR report regarding the human rights concerns in Xinjiang, China, which highlights the serious human rights violations against minorities in the region. We regret the decision not to hold a thorough discussion on the substance of the report at the upcoming session of the Human Rights Council. We remain seriously concerned about the existence of the political re-education camps and we urge the Chinese authorities to close

them down. We reiterate our call for an immediate release of all human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers who have been detained for exercising their basic rights. We are also worried about the situation in Hong Kong, including the impact of the National Security Law.

We are gravely worried about the staggering human rights violations in Afghanistan, especially of women and girls. We call on the Taliban to reverse its decisions impacting on women and girl's rights, to persecute and properly try and punish the perpetrators of domestic violence, and cease stigmatization and penalization of the victims.

The excessive and widespread use of force against protestors in Iran is very concerning. We urge Iran to end this violent crackdown which has led to a large number of casualties. We remain deeply concerned about suppression of the freedom of expression and opinion, of peaceful assembly and association and the lack of free flow of information, including restrictions on Internet access.

We remain very concerned about the serious human rights violations in Venezuela. We condemn the continued persecution of members of the opposition, human rights defenders and media workers. We express our full support to the Fact Finding Mission established by the Human Rights Council and regret that it has not been granted access to the country.

With regard to other situations, such as in Belarus, the DPRK or Myanmar, we refer to our statements in the respective interactive dialogues with the special procedure mandate-holders.