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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-Ninth Session, 10-28 September 2018**

**Item 10:
Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's Oral Update on Libya**

Mr. Vice President,

As this Council devotes needed attention to crises, and accountability for crimes and violations, in countries such as Myanmar, Syria, and Yemen, it cannot afford to lose sight of the ongoing crisis and urgent need for accountability in Libya. Seven years on from the fall of Gaddafi, the country remains in turmoil and civilians are paying the price.

Militias and armed groups affiliated to Libya's rival governments have been responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses throughout the country, including arbitrary detentions, abductions, enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment, unlawful killings, indiscriminate attacks and forced displacement of the civilian population.

In Tripoli, power and wealth has been consolidated in the hands of four main militias, leaving the already fragile UN-recognized government paralyzed. These groups, operating entirely outside the rule of law, have terrorized the civilian population.

In late August, conflict erupted in Tripoli as armed groups from surrounding cities marched on the capital. The ensuing clashes and the use of heavy weaponry in urban areas and other indiscriminate attacks have left 115 civilians dead and 383 injured and a line of destruction in their wake, while the collapse of the UN brokered cease-fire only indicates that more destruction will follow.

As Libyan and international actors work towards solutions for Libya's future, they must remember that justice and accountability are essential components of sustainable peace.

This March, the Council had an opportunity to establish an independent investigative body for Libya. This body could have, among other things, investigated and documented violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and identified the perpetrators as a step towards ensuring those responsible are held accountable. Tragically, the opportunity was missed and the violations and crimes have continued with total impunity. We urge members of this Council not to repeat this mistake next March, and instead establish such an independent investigative body as the first step towards justice.

Thank you Mr. Vice President.