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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue with the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MUST PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY IN YEMEN BY SUPPORTING THE GROUP OF EMINENT EXPERTS

UN Human Rights Council
Forty-fifth session
14 September – 7 October 2020

Madam President,

Amnesty International welcomes the GEE's strong third report and joins it in its call for accountability.

With the conflict in its sixth year, and in the midst of the COVID pandemic and floods destroying homes and livelihoods, millions of Yemenis are without adequate food, water, shelter or health care. Yet still, all parties to the conflict continue to commit serious violations of international law too many to name here, but including enforced disappearance, unlawful killing, torture and other ill-treatment amounting to war crimes. Scores of human rights defenders and journalists are arbitrarily detained or missing. The perpetrators are not held to account, and victims and survivors receive no justice or reparation for these violations.

We join the GEE in its warning against the pandemic of impunity in Yemen which facilitates these violations. We welcome indications that the Council will renew and bolster the mandate of the GEE, including to support its work of collecting, preserving and analyzing evidence of crimes and of mapping out accountability options. We urge the GEE, and the international community, to be ambitious in the context of this mapping.

We welcome the attention given by both the GEE and this Council to the issue of arms transfers. We call on all states to stop supplying arms to all parties to the conflict in Yemen. The arms and related munitions, logistics, and finance must all stop until there is no longer a substantial risk that they would be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Thank you.