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ORAL STATEMENT

Item 10: Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya

UN Human Rights Council
50th session
6 June 2022 – 8 July 2022

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the third report of the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, which found there to be reasonable grounds to believe that crimes against humanity and other crimes under international law have been committed across Libya since 2016 with impunity.

In the past few days, public anger at power cuts, the control wielded by militias and armed groups and the failure of political elites to deliver on the long-promised elections has spilled over into protests across the country, including in Benghazi, Tripoli and Sabha.

Amnesty International has repeatedly documented, including during a visit to Libya earlier this year, how successive governments have rewarded and integrated abusive and unaccountable militias and armed groups into state institutions, facilitating the repetition of similar crimes with impunity.

Meanwhile, the criminal justice system remains dysfunctional and unable and unwilling to deliver justice to survivors and families of victims. Judges and prosecutors face abductions and threats by those seeking to pervert the course of justice. Court hearings are now held inside the fortified Mitiga base controlled by the Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism, notorious for its involvement in mass arbitrary detentions, torture, enforced disappearances and forced labour. Among those on trial there are four young men targeted for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Draconian regulations and targeted attacks through arbitrary detention, smear campaigns and threats have led to further shrinking of civic space.

We welcome the Libyan delegation's leadership in establishing and extending the Fact-Finding Mission. We believe it is premature to predict now, though, as the tabled resolution seeks to do, when the Fact-Finding Mission should end. Libya and members of the international community should continue to support the Fact-Finding Mission until its vital work is complete and there have been significant improvements in the human rights situation on the ground.