



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

United Nations Human Rights Council: 24nd Session

Item 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and the guarantees of non-recurrence

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) –Oral Intervention

12 September 2013

Delivered by: Mr. Jeremie Smith

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies welcomes the Special Rapporteur's report, particularly in light of the urgent need to establish mechanisms of accountability and reconciliation in Arab countries attempting to transition to democratic rule.

Although Tunisia has taken steps towards transitional justice as noted in this report, we emphasize that any process of transitional justice must include mechanisms to address the serious civil and political rights violations of Tunisia's past. We urge this Council and the Rapporteur to support Tunisian efforts to ensure an inclusive transitional process and to achieve justice for past and ongoing rights violations, including recent acts of political violence.

In his report, the Rapporteur noted the failure of some states to fulfill their responsibilities to implement truth commissions' recommendations or even to appoint members to such investigative commissions. The continued refusal of the Bahraini government to implement the vast majority of recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and the Yemeni government's ongoing failure to appoint members to its national Commission of Inquiry a year after it was established are two prominent examples of these challenges noted by the Rapporteur.

In Egypt, the political will to adopt mechanisms to seek the truth about abuses committed under Mubarak and following the revolution, and to administer justice in a manner that is not selective or retributive, is clearly lacking. No measures have been taken to ensure non-recurrence of grave violations including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, military trials of civilians, and torture. Recent protests were dispersed with unprecedented levels of lethal force, and the government has failed to halt sectarian violence. We therefore repeat our call for representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner to be allowed into Egypt so they can carry out impartial inquiries into recent violations and abuses, noting that their acquisition of visas has been stalled for several weeks, thus once more undermining the right of the Egyptian people to truth. We urge the government of Egypt to ensure that truth-seeking, accountability for past and present violations, and inclusivity define the transition, particularly with regards to the new constitution.

Thank you, Mr. President.