



Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

UN Human Rights Council: 62nd Session

Item 3: ID on the report of the SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Oral Intervention

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

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States must prohibit transfer of information technology to governments with proven record of human rights violations

Mr President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for a report that precisely names what we witness across the MENA region.

In Egypt, CIHRS and partners repeatedly sounded the alarm about the 2018 Cybercrime Law institutionalizing mass surveillance, granting national security bodies warrantless access. CIHRS supported a criminal complaint filed in France against a European company that sold surveillance technology to Egyptian authorities, / a direct illustration of the public-private complicity the Special Rapporteur identifies.

In Algeria, CIHRS's 2024 report documented 21 cases of cross-border targeting of exiled activists through surveillance, harassment, confirming that digital monitoring enables transnational repression that reaches defenders even in countries of asylum. The 2021 abduction of Slimane Bouhafis, a UNHCR-recognized refugee, from Tunis shows how security cooperation between states can weaponize asylum spaces.

In Palestine, CSOs confirmed Pegasus spyware was used against six Palestinian civil society defenders, three from organizations whose terrorist designation by Israel we publicly condemned before this Council.

We call on States to ban transfers of surveillance technology to governments with a record of violations, embed assembly rights in all cybercrime frameworks, and close the legal gap on transnational digital repression.

Thank you.