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47th Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

1 July 2021

Intervention by Ambassador Kurt Jäger,
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Madam President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for his report.

Civil society is an integral part of every democratic society and it plays a crucial role in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as accountability efforts in this context. It is therefore vital for States to enable civil society actors to carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment, including by respecting and protecting the effective enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Accountability for human rights violations plays another important role in upholding democracy. Especially violations of democratic rights, such as the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, seriously threaten this. States need to take effective measures to create an enabling environment for civil society, the political opposition and other actors to make use of their freedoms of peaceful assembly and association. In order

to protect the rights of those involved, it is vital for states to provide unobstructed access to justice and hold perpetrators of violations to account. Accountability not only breaks the cycle of impunity but also prevents further violations or a further escalation of the situation from happening, possibly threatening the lives and bodily integrity of those involved.

Liechtenstein would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his work and reiterate its support for the mandate.

I thank you.