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## **Statement at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Agenda item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders**

**15 March 2023**

**Mr. Daniel Batliner**

**Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of her report.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders is a good moment to express our appreciation to all human rights defenders for their valuable work. As the report highlights, many human rights defenders achieve extraordinary results in very challenging circumstances.

Unfortunately, human rights defenders often still face threats, attacks and reprisals, both online and offline, as well as operational and legislative impediments to their work. Some human rights defenders are even imprisoned or killed as a consequence of their work. Restrictive measures against civil society actors are often an early-warning sign for a deteriorating human rights situation.

Liechtenstein strongly appreciates the work of human rights defenders and condemns all forms of threats, attacks and reprisals against them.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

What can States do to support human rights defenders who are imprisoned due to politically motivated charges related to their work?

I thank you, Mister President.