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Statement at the 53rd Session of the Human Rights Council

Agenda item 2: Interactive dialogue with the COI on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel

20 June 2023

H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger

Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Thank you, Ms. Vice-President,

We thank the Commission of Inquiry for the presentation of its report.

An active and vibrant civil society is a key component for an inclusive and democratic State and for the promotion and protection of human rights.

We are very concerned about any attempts to silence civil society actors, *inter alia* by using legislation targeting civil society, for example by the misuse of legislation on foreign agents or counter-terrorism.

Moreover, we strongly condemn any threats, attacks and harassment against civil society actors working in the field of human rights, both online and offline. There is no justification for punitive measures, criminalization or arbitrary arrests for actions that are based on grounds protected by human rights law.

Particularly worrisome is the targeting of journalists and other media workers as well as women human rights defenders.

We call on all duty bearers to refrain from any measures targeting civil society actors and to uphold respect for human rights in order to enable civil society actors to conduct their activities safely, freely and without harassment or retribution.

I thank you, Ms. Vice-President.