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OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

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## **Statement at the 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Agenda item 5: ID on the UNSG's report on reprisals**

**28 September 2023**

**H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mister President,

Liechtenstein thanks the Secretary-General for the submission of his report on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.

It is most disturbing that online and offline surveillance during or after engagement with the United Nations has become widespread. In extreme cases, human rights defenders, activists and media workers have been subjected to arbitrary arrests, torture or even rape.

As mentioned previously, we are particularly worried about the continued oppression of the NGO **Human Rights Centre Viasna** in Belarus where several members are still imprisoned while some others face criminal charges.

Furthermore, we share the Secretary-General's concern about the negative impact which restrictive laws like the "foreign agent" and the "undesirable organizations" legislation in the Russian Federation have on the willingness and ability of civil society actors to engage with international bodies, including the United Nations.

All States should commit to creating a safe environment for human rights defenders since they play a crucial role in advancing the protection and promotion of human rights.

I thank you, Mister President.