HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Sixth Resumed Session - Agenda item 4

Follow-up to Resolution S 5/1 on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar

Intervention of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Mr. President

Liechtenstein commends the Special Rapporteur Paulo Sergio Pinheiro for his comprehensive report on the assessment of the human Rights situation in Myanmar and the monitoring of the implementation of resolution 5/1, which was adopted by consensus. We welcome his recent visit to Myanmar and the cooperation extended to him by the Government.

However, the substantive demands of the Council, as set out in resolution 5/1, have not yet been met and human rights violations are continuing. The report of the Special Rapporteur reflects these disturbing findings.

We are particularly concerned by the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force against civilians and peaceful protestors, including lethal force. It has also been confirmed that the authorities have resorted to arbitrary and unlawful arrest and detention – including of family members of protestors, which constitutes hostage taking in clear violation of fundamental rules of international law. We are also deeply worried about the reported practice of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and torture in detention centers.

Liechtenstein joins other delegations in the strong appeal to the Government of Myanmar to fully investigate these grave human rights violations, to end impunity by bringing the perpetrators to justice and provide the victims and their families with effective remedies. The Government should also provide the Special Rapporteur with the required lists of people arrested, those released and those still in detention, including information on their whereabouts, their detention conditions and their charges for detention.

Liechtenstein fully supports the immediate and transitional recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, in particular those that call for an immediate stop to ongoing arrests related to the peaceful protests, for unhindered access by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other independent humanitarian personnel to all detention facilities and for the release of all political prisoners. We also welcome the Rapporteur's recommendation that the State and its agents must seek to identify and address the underlying causes which led to the demonstrations.

It is unfortunate that the Special Rapporteur was not able to access all places and people to independently and confidentially verify information. The mission should therefore be seen as an initial part of a process of genuine cooperation of the Government of Myanmar and of a constructive and transparent dialogue in the framework of a follow-up mission. The Special Rapporteur should continue to discharge his mandate in coordination with the Special Envoy to Myanmar of the UN Secretary-General as well as with other human rights mechanisms, including other Special Procedures, and report back to the Council.

I thank you.