

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
46th session

General Debate Item 4

Thursday, 11 March 2021

Madame High Commissioner,

Thank you for your presentation.

Regarding **Myanmar, Venezuela, Belarus, Yemen and Syria** we refer to our statements in the respective interactive dialogues

Austria is concerned by violations and abuses of international human rights and international humanitarian law in **South Sudan**. We urge the government as well as opposition groups to allow and facilitate full access for the Commission of Human Rights. We call on the government to adopt the Statute of the Hybrid Court and sign the MoU to formally establish and operationalise the Hybrid Court.

Austria continues to be gravely concerned about “*political re-education*” camps in the **Xinjiang** autonomous region of China. Credible reports indicate severe human rights violations disproportionately targeting Uyghurs and other minorities as well as restrictions on freedom of religion or belief and freedoms of movement, association, and expression. We call for meaningful access for independent observers, including the High Commissioner, and to respect the rights of minorities, including in Xinjiang, and Tibet.

Austria is also deeply worried about human rights in **Hong Kong**, in particular the use of the National Security Law to restrict political pluralism, human rights and political freedoms of its citizens. We call on the authorities to respect Hong Kong’s rule of law, democratic principles and autonomy under the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ framework and legally guaranteed rights and freedoms of the people.

We call on **Iran** to guarantee the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, including their right to equal participation in public life. Human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists must not be subjected to intimidation, arbitrary arrest, deprivation of liberty or life or other arbitrary sanctions. We call for an immediate moratorium on the death penalty.

Check against delivery

Austria remains deeply concerned about human rights in **Turkey**, particularly targeting and arrests of journalists, media workers, lawyers and judges, human rights defenders, opposition politicians and activists, often based on vaguely defined terrorism charges. Any anti-terror operation must comply with international human rights law. We call on Turkey to respect media freedom, freedom of expression and the independence of the judiciary.

Thank you.