



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

36th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, 19 September 2017

Item 4 – General Debate

German Statement

Mr President,

Germany aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

The growing number of detained journalists, opposition members and human rights defenders in Turkey is a source of great concern. Since last year, more than 50.000 people were detained. They must have access to swift legal remedy and a fair trial. Turkey also needs to address the numerous concerns expressed by international bodies, especially regarding the situation in South Eastern Turkey.

Germany remains deeply worried about widespread human rights abuses in China, especially in Tibet, Xinjiang and neighboring regions, including infringements of the freedom of religion as witnessed in Larung Gar. We urge China to immediately release all detained human rights defenders, including Jiang Tianyong, Wang Quanzhang, Wu Gan, Liu Feiyue, Huang Qi, Li Tingyu, Lu Yuyu and Tashi Wangchuk, and to allow visits of the UN Special Procedures.

Germany is deeply concerned about numerous killings in the Philippines. President Duterte confirmed that law enforcement must act in accordance with the law. These words need to be heeded: all killings must be investigated independently, and the perpetrators brought to justice. Government must ensure that civil society can operate freely and that those threatened receive adequate protection.

We are also concerned about ongoing repression against civil society actors and their international cooperation in Russia. We are deeply disturbed by the lack of results following the officially announced investigations into the persecution of homosexuals in Chechnya. Those responsible for grave human rights abuses, particularly torture, must no longer enjoy impunity.

Recognizing the challenges Egypt is facing, Germany nonetheless remains seriously concerned about its human rights situation. Under the guise of countering terrorism, the repression against and systematic silencing of civil society is increasing, inter alia through arbitrary detention, travel bans, asset freezes, black-listing, intimidation and the blocking

of websites. Germany is deeply concerned about the growing number of reported cases of torture in detention, enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings.

Regarding Venezuela we remain deeply concerned by the dismantling of the democratic order by the Constituent Assembly, the intimidation and threatening of deputies of the Asamblea Nacional and the persecution of political opponents. Arbitrary detentions and systematic use of disproportionate force during demonstrations also give cause for great concern.

I thank you, Mr. President.