

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Human Rights Council
Fifty fifth Regular Session
March 20, 2024

Item 4: General Debate - Human rights situations that require the Council's attention.

Statement delivered by Kai Müller on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Mr. President,

We welcome the growing number of states raising grave human rights violations in the People's Republic of China during the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. Specifically, a twofold number of states expressed distress pertaining to the policies of the Chinese Communist Party vis a vis the Tibetan people.

Multiple States emphasized the main pillars of the CCP's policies in Tibet, affecting religious freedom, language rights, and cultural rights. This is encouraging and we applaud States for returning these pressing issues to the Human Rights Council. Doing so supports the integrity of the Council. However, more must and can be done.

If the Chinese government, despite repeated claims to the contrary, fails to genuinely cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms it stands to further lose credibility. For example, since 2005, no Special Mandate Holder has been allowed to visit Tibet. Moreover, the Chinese government until today did not submit its mandated 2019 state report to the Committee Against Torture.

In this context, we commend the UN High Commissioner for raising the rights of the Tibetan people in his oral update. However, time is running out for the Tibetan people. Collectively, the world must act now, and it must move beyond the mere continuation of approaches that already have proven unproductive.

I thank you.