



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN GENEVA

HRC 52 – Item 4 – General Debate 22 March 2023

Statement by H.E. Christopher Grima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the UN and Other International Organisations in Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Malta aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union.

We remain seriously concerned about the deterioration of human rights situations in various countries.

In Iran, protestors, notably women and children, are still being targeted for exercising their right to peaceful protest. We urge Iran to cooperate with HRC mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur and the Fact-Finding Mission, and to uphold their international obligations.

We fully support the work of the International Independent Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine which has documented disturbing violations carried out during Russia's invasion. These violations are appalling, and merit serious action for justice and accountability.

The human rights situations in Belarus and Russia continue to further deteriorate. We call upon both states to cooperate fully with HRC mechanisms, allow Special Rapporteurs to visit their countries, and release all those detained for protesting their governments' policies.

After more than a decade, people in Syria remain trapped in a deteriorating situation leading to serious violations to their human rights. The Commission of Inquiry's findings on torture, forced disappearances and other violations underline the need for Syria to uphold its international obligations and for perpetrators to be held accountable.

Thank you.