

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Human Rights Council**

Fifty-fourth Regular Session

September 19, 2023

**Item 3: ID With the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances**

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

Mr. President,

We thank the Working Group for its report A/HRC 54/22 and its activities undertaken, in particular detailed in its report A/HRC/WGEID/129/1 on communications transmitted and cases examined.<sup>1</sup> According to the report, during its 129<sup>th</sup> session, the Working Group raised the cases of 16 “disappeared” Tibetans.

Tibetans are being persecuted and “disappeared” when they peacefully express their opinions and beliefs, and when they protest against government policies. For example, Sherab Dorjee was arbitrarily detained on 16 August 2021 by the Chinese local police in Trotsik Township, Ngawa, Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture; it is believed that his detention was related to his involvement in student organizations and his opposition to the county government’s mandatory Chinese language policy in his school.

Tibetans continue to fall victim to this deeply disturbing pattern of enforced disappearances. Those who have been abducted to unknown locations often face torture and ill-treatment, while their families do not know where they are, what exactly they are accused of, whether they have access to a lawyer or whether they will receive appropriate medical care.

We urge the members states of the Human Rights Council to use the upcoming UPR of China to urge the Chinese government to disclose the whereabouts of “disappeared” Tibetans, to end this deeply concerning pattern and to hold accountable those responsible for torture or ill-treatment.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/wgeid/A\\_HRC\\_WGEID\\_129\\_1-AEV.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/wgeid/A_HRC_WGEID_129_1-AEV.docx).