



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

**Joint written statement\* submitted by International Youth  
and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-  
governmental organization in general consultative status,  
Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme,  
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies,  
Association PANAFRICA, Centre du Commerce  
International pour le Développement., Guinee Humanitaire,  
Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation, Interfaith  
International, International Human Rights Council, Maloca  
Internationale, Nord-Sud XXI - North-South XXI, Rwanda  
Women Community Development Network, non-  
governmental organizations in special consultative status,  
Indian Council of South America (CISA), International  
Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic,  
Religious, Linguistic & Other Minorities, non-governmental  
organizations on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Horror and Fatal Destination that Asylum Seekers Face When Seeking Refuge in Europe**

On 24 June 2022, a boarder fence between Morocco and Spain, in the Spanish enclave of Melilla, becomes the difference between life and death as between 23 to 37 asylum seekers die (according to figures respectively provided by Moroccan authorities and several NGOs) as a result of a stampede and being beaten by Moroccan police while attempting to cross from Morocco to Spain. This deplorable situation represents the tragic reality facing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers seeking refuge in Europe.

The actions of Moroccan authorities constitute grave violations and abuses of the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants and refugees. These atrocities are incompatible with Morocco's responsibilities under international law and the country's commitments under international human rights treaties and agreements to which it is party, namely the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM); the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their families.

### **Our Organisations:**

Firmly condemns these grave violations and abuses of the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants and refugees;

Expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims;

Calls on Morocco and Spanish Governments to respect and honor its responsibilities and commitments under international law to treat migrants and refugees humanely for their dignity as human beings;

Invites the Morocco and Spanish Governments to conduct prompt, thorough, independent, impartial and transparent investigations into these deaths and to determine the corresponding responsibilities.

Urges Morocco to take immediate measures, in collaboration and cooperation with its international partners, to improve the deplorable situation of migrants and refugees on its territory and ensure their safety, including through the effective implementation of the humanistic approach stipulated in the Kingdom's National Strategy on Immigration and Asylum (NSIA).

Reminds Morocco of its obligations, following its reintegration in the African Union (AU) and in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to adhere to the promotion and protection of human rights and basic freedoms on the African continent.

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Afrika Jom Center, Comité pour les 50 Ans de l'Union Africaine, Africa Cominter, BanGwe et Dialogue, Conseil Mondial de la Diaspora Panafricaine (CMDP), Darfur Relief and Documentation Centre, Forum de la Radiotélévision des Droits de l'Homme (FRTDH), Four For Free Forum (FFF) Coopera Sweden Association, Forum de Dialogue Interreligieux et Interculturel (FICIR), Organisation de l'Unité Syndicale Africaine (OUSA), Omar El Mokhtar Institute for Human Rights Association, Réseau de Formation, de Recherche et d'Action sur les Migrations Africaines (REFORMAF), Université Populaire Africaine (UPAF), Sudan Documentation Centre, Union Inter-Africaine des Droits de l'Homme (UIDH), NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.