



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Fifteenth special session

25 February 2011

### **Joint written statement\* submitted by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, the Arab NGO Network for Development, a non-governmental organization 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.

[24 February 2011]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **The situation of human rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya\*\***

The world is witnessing gross and systematic human rights violations committed by the government of Libya. The inertness of the international community and the United Nations is contributing to perpetuation of violations to the rights of the Libyan people and this ongoing humanitarian crime. The international community, through the United Nations, should immediately take action with its core responsibility to use all appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian, and other peaceful means to stop this massacre in Libya.

The recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa region and the people's revolutions we are witnessing there are a reflection of the escalation of violations of human rights which are guaranteed by the core international human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Citizens of the region are simply in need of protection and promotion of their rights and are seeking to regain their human dignity.

The urgency of an immediate and effective international response becomes obvious taking into consideration that Colonel Gaddafi directly threatened the demonstrators, referring to a "violent and thunderous response" and calling upon his supporters to attack and "cleanse Libya house by house" until protestors give up. The international community should immediately turn expression of grave concern into action and the UN member states must endorse their "Responsibility to Protect" commitment without any further delay.

The session convening today is the right space to reiterate the UN member states' commitment to their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil their citizen's freedom of assembly and association to freely express their opinions through non-violent rallies and demonstrations and provide protection for human rights defenders. It is an occasion to remind states of their obligations under article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections".

We further urge the Council:

- To suspend Libya's Council membership, pursuant to Article 8 of Resolution 60/251, due to its commission of gross and systematic violations of human rights.
- To dispatch immediately an international mission of independent experts to collect relevant facts and document violations of international human rights law and crimes against humanity.
- To establish a mandate of the special procedures with regards to the human rights violations taking place in Libya.
- To call upon the UN Security Council for creation of commission on inquiry to investigate what has been referred to by Libyan UN officials as "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity".
- To call for the immediate release of people arbitrarily detained during the ongoing protests, and assert that there should be no reprisals against people who have taken part in demonstrations.

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\*\* Global Call to Action against Poverty, an NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

- To condemn restrictions which undermine access to information and violate freedom of expression, such as the blocking of internet services and telecommunications and attacks against media professionals.
  - To address the Libyan situation at its upcoming 16th regular session in March.
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