



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Fifty-third session

19 June–14 July 2023

Agenda item 2

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 July 2023

53/2. Situation of human rights in Eritrea

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2, both of 18 June 2007, resolution 91 and decisions 250/2002, 275/2003 and 428/12 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and all previous Council resolutions on the situation of human rights in Eritrea,

Noting the regional developments and their implications, including for human rights in Eritrea,

Expressing grave concern at the ongoing human rights violations and abuses, as outlined by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea in his report,¹ including those involving arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention, enforced disappearance and torture, violation of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association,

Expressing grave concern also at the policy of forced and indefinite conscription into national/military service and at the grave human rights violations committed in the context of national service,

Expressing grave concern further at the lack of transparency and accountability to date of the Government of Eritrea regarding reported violations and abuses committed by Eritrean military forces,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea² and his conclusions therein, and urges the Government of Eritrea to take immediate and concrete steps to implement all recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur;

2. *Reiterates* that all those responsible for human rights violations and abuses must be held accountable;

¹ A/HRC/53/20.

² Ibid.



3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea for a further period of one year;
4. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit and present a report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;
5. *Decides* to hold an enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Eritrea at its fifty-fifth session, with the participation of, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, civil society and other relevant stakeholders;
6. *Calls upon* the Government of Eritrea to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur, including by granting him access to the country and committing to making progress on the recommendations included in his reports and on the benchmarks and associated indicators proposed in 2019,³ namely:
 - (a) Improvement in the promotion of the rule of law and strengthening of domestic judicial and law enforcement institutions;
 - (b) A demonstrated commitment to introducing reforms to the national/military service;
 - (c) Extended efforts to respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of religion or belief, peaceful assembly, association, opinion and expression, including for members of the press, and extended efforts to end religious and ethnic discrimination;
 - (d) A demonstrated commitment to addressing all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and to promoting the rights of women and girls and gender equality;
 - (e) Strengthened cooperation with specialized United Nations human rights bodies, international agencies and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
7. *Encourages* the Government of Eritrea to implement the recommendations accepted by the State during the third cycle of the universal periodic review;
8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the information and resources necessary to fulfil the mandate;
9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*34th meeting
12 July 2023*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 18 to 7, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Paraguay, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

Against:

China, Cuba, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam]

³ See A/HRC/41/53, paras. 78–82.